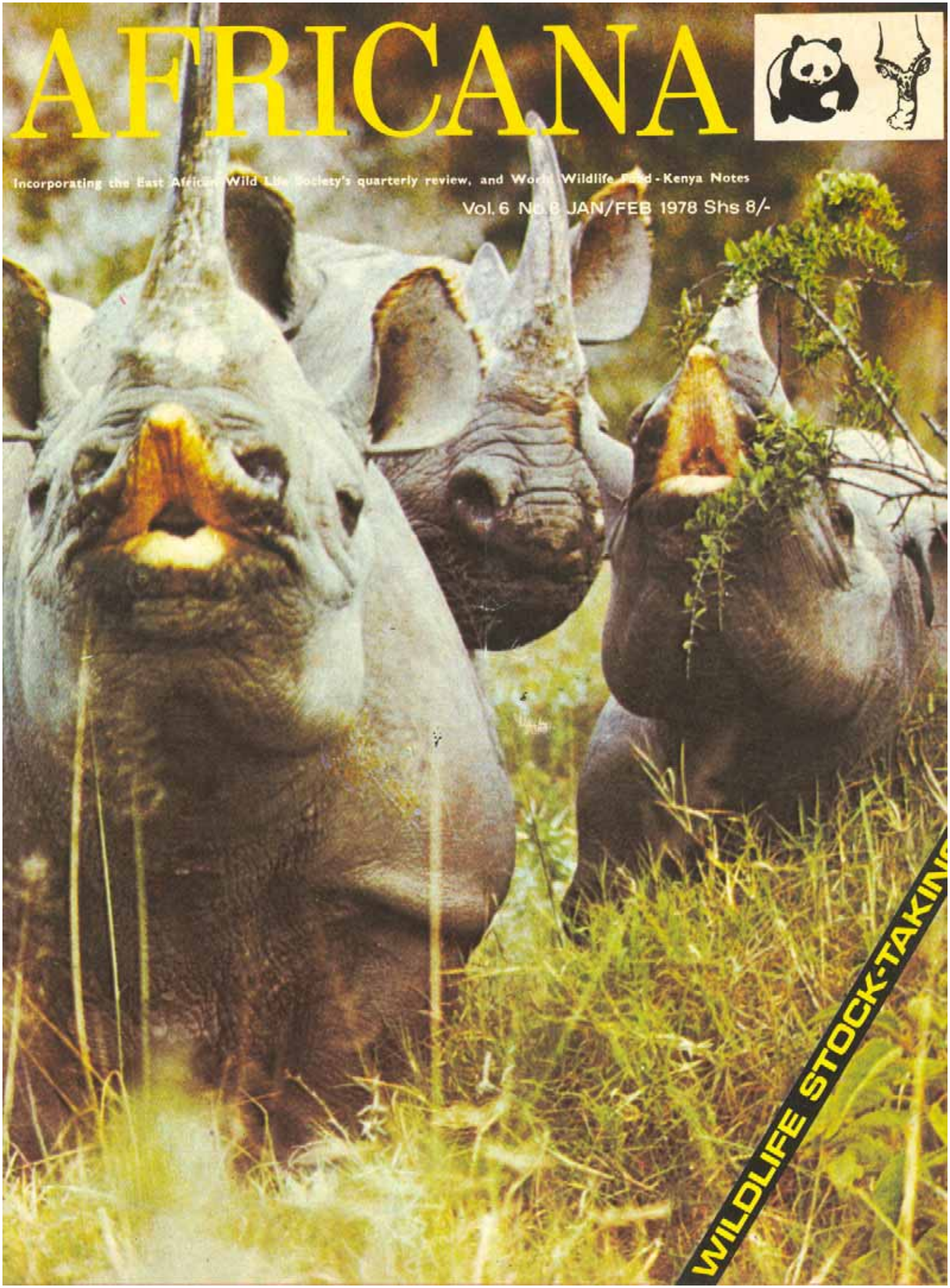
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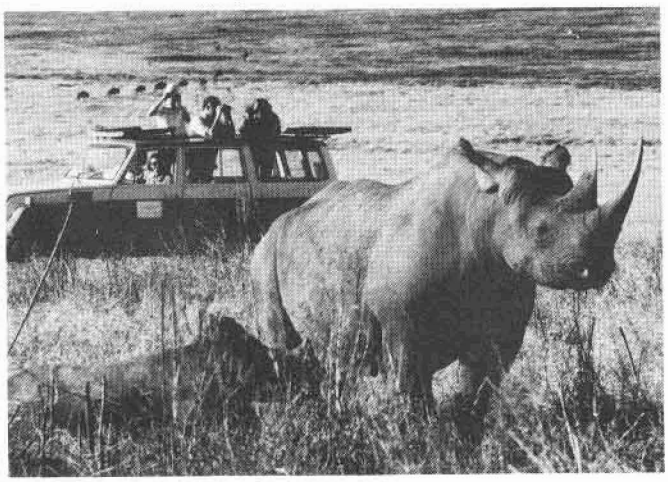
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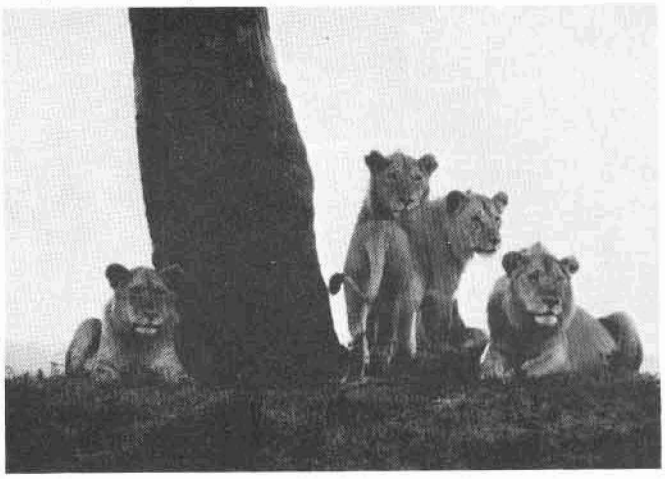
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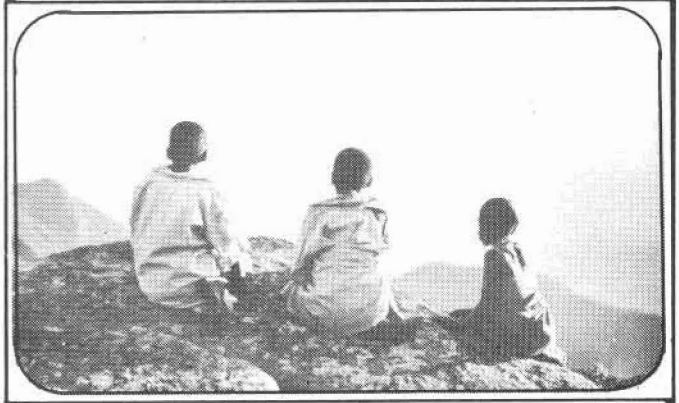
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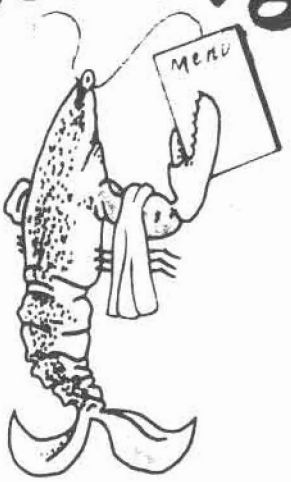
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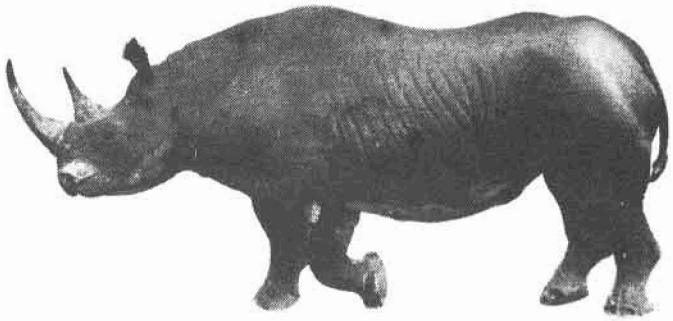
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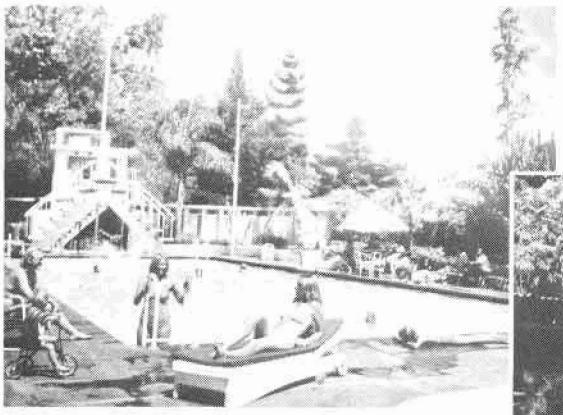
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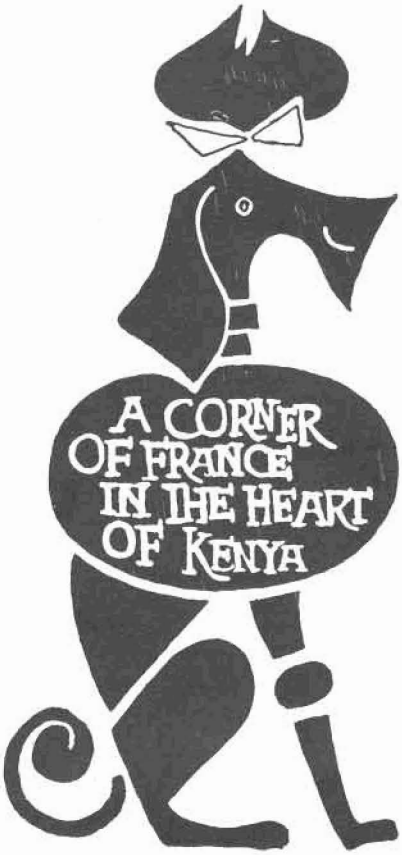
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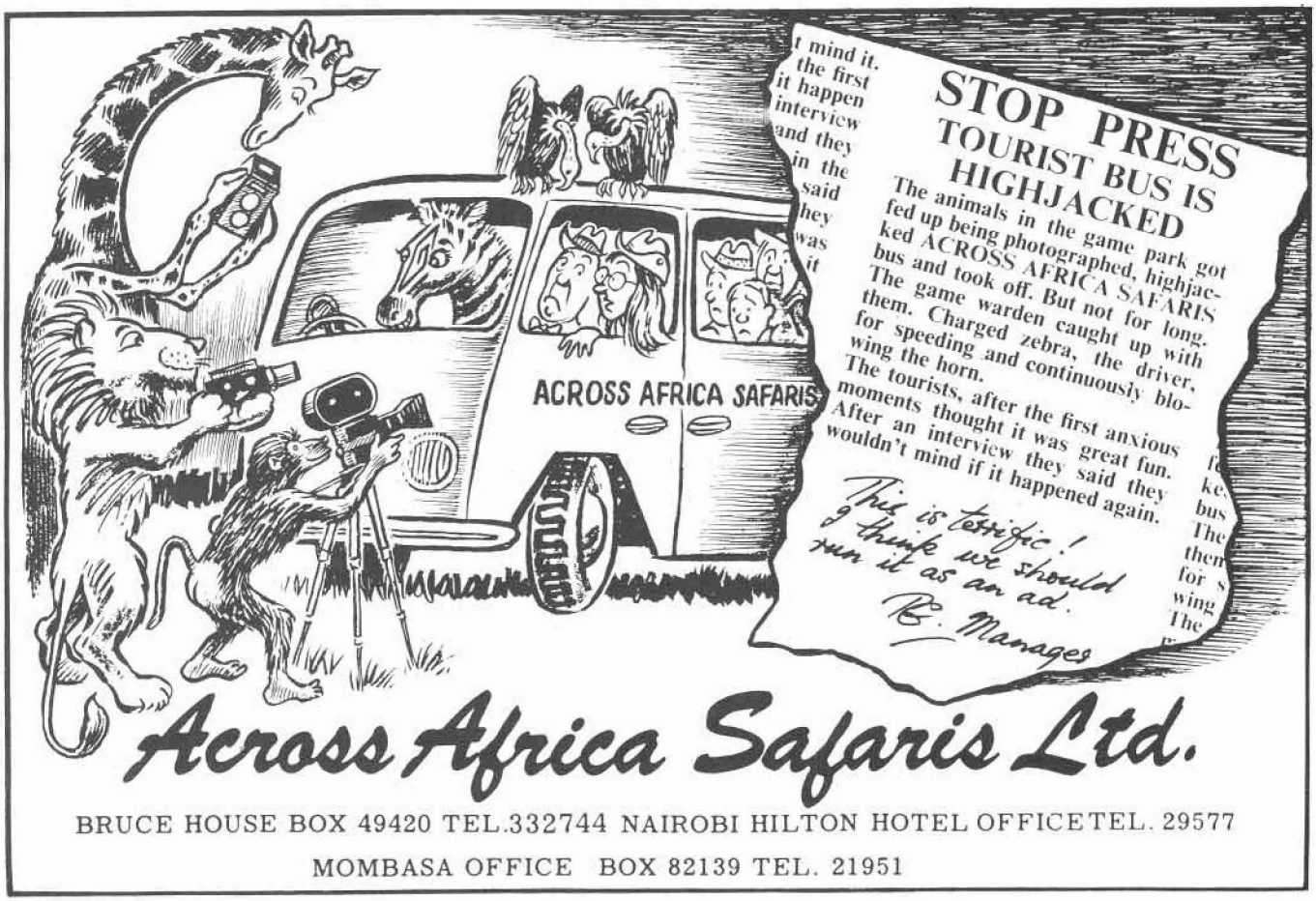
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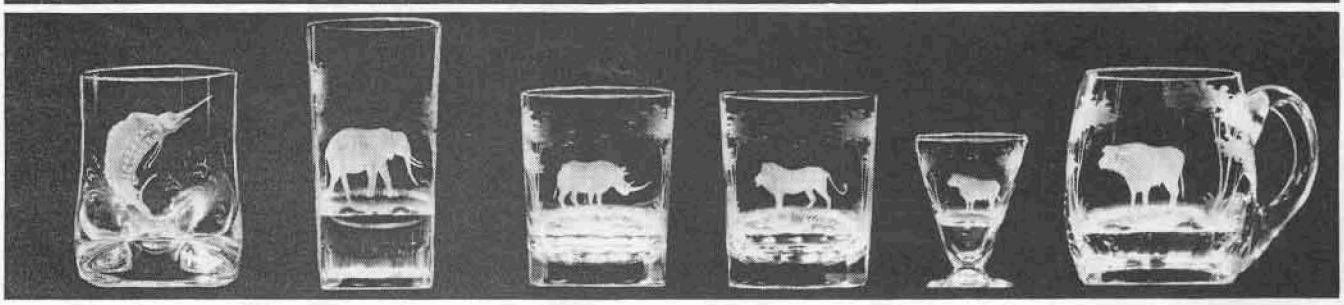
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AFRICANA

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VOL. 6 No. 8 Jan./Feb., 1978

Editor : JOHN EAMES; **Production Editor:** ELAINE MWANGO; **publisher:** Marketing & Publishing Ltd.; **editorial offices:** Kenya Litho Ltd., Changamwe Rd., P.O. Box 40775, Nairobi, Kenya; **Tel. 555244; advertising and accounts:** Nation House, Tom Mboya St. P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi, **Tel. 337691/2; Cables:** Nationwise, Nairobi.

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EDITORIAL

Why, hopefully, Kenya banned the curio trade

by JOHN EAMES

THERE has been an interesting debate here recently on the subject of *"The Kenya We Want"*. This was the government reviewing fourteen years of remarkable progress since Independence and deciding to keep it going in the same economic and political directions.

Every Kenyan is doing well, more or less, and the suggestion is that all the country needs is an improved social "ethic" —presumably a fairer distribution of wealth but also more integrity, conscience, decency, honour, etc. in the national character.

For which reason—or so we like to think—the government has banned the blatantly corrupt trade in wildlife "products" as from March 12th. Around 230 dealers in skins, ivory and wild animal "curios" are currently off-loading at up to sixty percent discounts since any remaining stocks are liable to be confiscated.

It could be that before the deadline they'll be giving the stuff away—if they can find any takers for remnant bits of the national elephant herd, for instance, which has been reduced from 167,000 in 1973 to about 65,000 at the end of last year.

Most of this die-off is said to be from a poaching-export enterprise estimated to have robbed the Kenya economy of as much as K£3.5 million (about 8.75 million dollars) a year in foreign exchange.

A few conservationists have been keeping private books on the trade, or specifically the activities of certain main dealers operating—as one American environmental lawyer put it—"with the complicity of government officials in circumventing government laws on wildlife conservation and foreign trade".

THE IVORY ACCOUNT

The ivory account for the four years, 1973–1976, showed an export of a minimum 1,218 metric tons, recorded as imports mostly by Hong Kong and Japan.

But the figures on Kenya's Customs and Excise books add up to 564 tons which means that documents for well over six hundred tons went missing from the files and, more to the point, were also lost on the way to the Central Bank of Kenya.

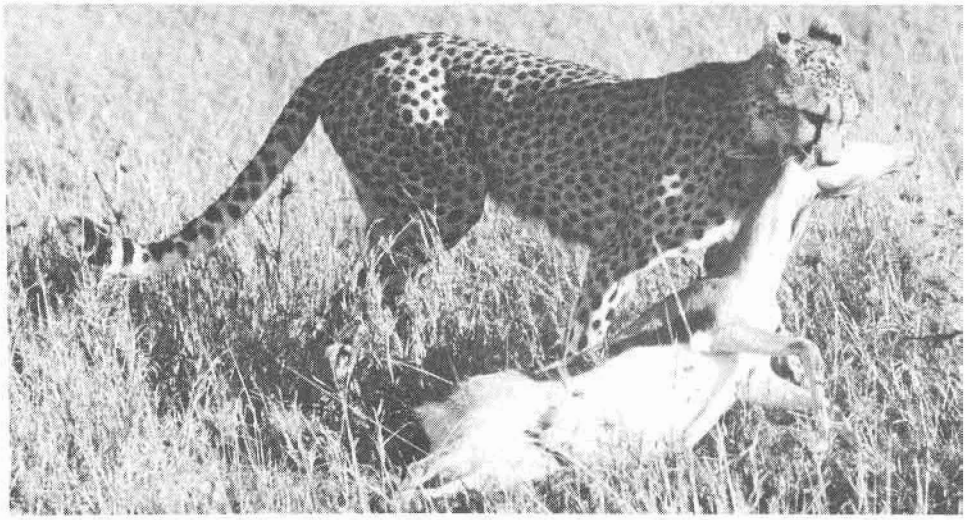
It could be that the cash received from the sale of this unrecorded export, say $17 million, was repatriated. But this would have depended on the integrity, social conscience, etc. of the dealers.

However, most of the ivory consignment from Kenya since 1973 was legal in the sense that it almost certainly wasn't smuggled out. It was shipped openly by reputable carriers like British Airways and Sabena on the basis of full export documentation from, among others, the Chief Licencing Officer at the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife.

In theory, and by virtue of the export permits, all the ivory had been properly obtained from government stocks amassed from natural elephant mortality, anti-poaching and game control operations. There was no other source since the government banned private commerce in ivory from 1973.

The difficulty for conservationists was in reconciling this with their own calculations of the elephant die-off.

continued on page 32



CHEETAH—Photo: George W. and Lory Herbison Frame.

ALL'S WELL AT T

ANY visitor wishing to see large carnivores will not be disappointed by a tour of Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park. But which ones are seen—and how many—depends on a number of factors.

The picture is complex and illustrates the importance of looking at more than one species in more than one habitat over a long period. One might call the predator picture the view from the top of the ecological pyramid, and the entire pyramid must be considered if one is to understand how they perch there.

The situation in Ngorongoro Crater provides a clear example. The caldera floor has many springs, swamps, pools, open plains, some forest and small river. It is a small but varied and rich habitat that supports a dense permanent population of wildebeest, zebra, gazelles, buffalo, kongoni, eland and reedbuck, plus small numbers of a variety of other grazers such as warthog and waterbuck. With cover, water and abundant prey, it is a perfect situation for predators. Indeed, one can see many lions and hyenas on the Crater floor, but some other large carnivores are conspicuously absent, namely cheetah and wild dogs.

This is because predators not only have to catch their prey, they must also be able to eat it, and some predators are especially adept at saving themselves some work by stealing kills from others. Lions and hyenas are the most successful predators in the crater because they are so big or well-organized that they can take kills from all other predators, including one another. They are also fully capable of hunting and killing any of the ungulate species that live in the crater. The other predators found there, such as leopard, serval, jackals and bat-eared foxes, survive either by being solitary and secretive, or by living on small prey and thus avoiding competition with lions and hyenas.

At present the crater holds about 100 lions and 480 hyenas. The first number comes from our two year study of the lion population, all of whose members we can recognize individually. The estimate for hyenas comes from a recent census (August, 1977) and differs little from the 470 estimated to live in the crater during Hans Kruuk's study there in 1965–67. Their number seems to have been fairly constant over the past decade, and lions have remained around 100 in number for at least two years. However, in 1963 the lion population was reduced to about 20 individuals by a plague of bloodsucking flies (*Stomoxys calcitrans*); since then they have built up their population to what may be close to the maximum density.

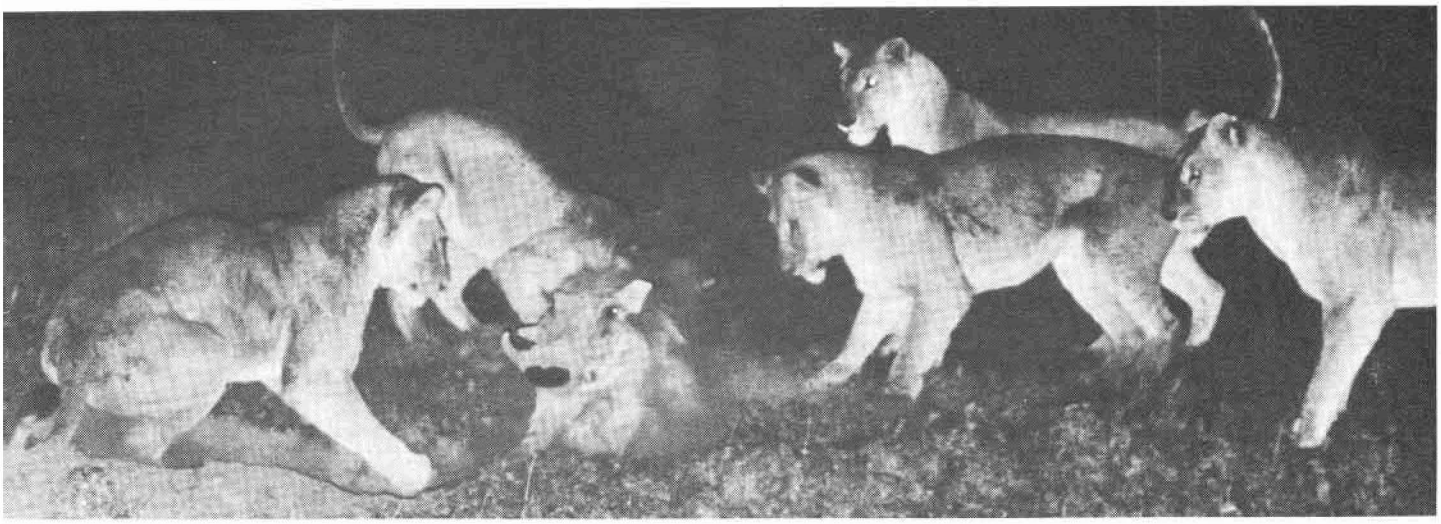
The small predators that prey on insects (e.g. bat-eared foxes) or small rodents (e.g. servals) are quite easy to see in the crater as they are very tame, but the few leopards are seldom seen for they are nocturnal and avoid open country where their kills could be taken by lions and hyenas. For the same reason the few cheetahs and wild dogs that visit the crater seldom stay long; they cannot compete successfully with the lions and hyenas for long.

The predator picture in Ngorongoro Crater is one of high density of certain species, vigorous competition and relative stability. In contrast, Serengeti presents a most intriguing puzzle. The balance of the different species varies more between areas and across time than in Ngorongoro. Fortunately the studies of many scientists past and present at the Serengeti Research Institute have provided pieces of the puzzle. We will refer particularly to information collected by Schaller (*The Serengeti Lion, 1972*), Kruuk (*The Spotted Hyena, 1972*) L. Frame, J. Malcolm and H. van Lawick (unpublished data on wild dogs), G. Frame (data on the cheetah population) and our own lion studies, but we wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to all other members of the Institute, particularly those who were involved in the Ecological Monitoring Programme and collected data on herbivore numbers and burning and rainfall.

Several grazing ungulates in Serengeti have shown dramatic population increases over the past ten years, as Jeremy Grimsdell has described elsewhere in this issue. Increases in the numbers of wildebeest and buffalo might seduce one into the conclusion that there would be an automatic increase in the number of large Serengeti predators. It is not so simple. More than eighty per cent of Serengeti's ungulates are migratory; this means that such animals as wildebeest, zebra, eland and tommies are simply not available for about half the year to resident predators such as lions. Even the nomadic



HANBY AND DAVID BYGOTT



WARTHOG: an important dry-season prey for Serengeti lion. Photo: David Bygott.

HE TOP OF THE PYRAMID

lions (not attached to a resident pride) do not follow the migratory prey species throughout the whole of their range. Hyenas are known to follow the migratory herds for up to 40 km then return to their dens, but hyenas are primarily plains dwellers and do not choose to follow the prey far into the tsetse ridden woodlands. Both cheetah and wild dogs have huge ranges and follow certain migratory prey to some extent. Thus, different predators depend on different prey species at different times of year.

In order to clarify the picture for lions and to determine their population trends we tried to find all the lions in the area around the middle of the Park (Seronera) and on plains and adjacent strips of woodland. We essentially covered the same area that Schaller did when he studied lions here in 1966–1969. We found that the number of resident prides (that is, the breeding unit made up of related females and their young and any attached adult males) had increased from about 18 ten years ago to about 28 now. The most intriguing finding was that there were several new prides living out on the Serengeti plains, where no prides lived all year round 10 years ago.

We carefully examined the possible reasons why resident lions have increased and colonised new areas and found two major factors operating:—

- There are now more prey resident on both the plains and in the woodlands; and
- There has been an extension of resident prey and even some migratory prey animals onto the plains during dry season. This latter factor is due to an increase in rainfall on the plains during dry season over the last five years. Thus the increases in resident prey (such as topi, warthog, buffalo) provide lions with more food all year around and this has led to an increase in cubs surviving to sub-adulthood (2–4 years) and to more sub-adults staying with the pride for a longer period. Also the spread of animals onto the plains during dry season due to increased rainfall has allowed more lions to live there as resident breeding units rather than as nomads.

Finding these increases in lion numbers we were eager to learn of any changes in the hyena population over the past years. A sample count of hyenas on the plains in May (the end of wet season) gave a population estimate of around 3,300. Ten years ago Kruuk estimated that there were just over 2,000 hyenas on the plains during the wet season (and up to 3,000 for the entire Serengeti ecosystem). Thus there are now more hyenas than in the past.

The increases and extended distribution of lions and hyenas has coincided with the increase in dry season rainfall which has allowed both resident and migratory herbivore species to live in small numbers on the plain all year round. Lions have probably benefited most from the changes in resident prey, hyenas from increases in both resident and migratory prey.

The healthy population of cheetahs on the Serengeti plains reported by G. Frame (*pers. comm.*) is probably due to similar reasons. Increased survival of cheetah cubs and adults may result not only from an expanded population of gazelles but also from a greater availabity of cover and less loss of litters due to the reduction in grass-burning over the past 10 years.

Decreased burning has also promoted regeneration of woodland and brush which provides cover for leopards and small carnivores such as serval. We have not noticed any change in the number of leopards around Seronera, but the thick brush definitely makes them harder to see. More brush and presumably more small rodents and browsers may well have benefited medium and small woodland carnivores (*A. Geertsema, pers. comm for servals; R. Senzota, small mammals*). There is some indication that the numbers of silver-backed jackals has increased at Ndutu where there has been no burning for approximately 5 years (*P. D. Moehlman, pers. comm.*)

The only predators which seem to have suffered a decrease over the past ten years are wild dogs living on the plains. (*There are no reliable figures for woodland living dogs.*) The numbers of adults living on the plains has shown a decline from around 110 in 1970 to only 30 at present. Packs are fewer and smaller and pup survival has been very low. This decrease is due in part to shooting and canine distemper in the past but recent hardships have been imposed by competition with other large carnivores, particularly hyenas. With an average of only three adults per pack, hunting is more difficult, especially when there are pups in a den requiring constant protection from hyenas. During wet season when there is plenty of migratory prey the hyena density on the plains almost equals the high density in Ngorongoro where wild dogs also cannot compete successfully.

At present, visitors to Serengeti can see a marvellous variety and abundance of prey and predator species, but scattered over and sometimes hidden in the unique and varied habitats: open grasslands, kopjes, river systems, hills, woodlands. Away from tourist areas some predators are shy but all glimpses are worthwhile in the context of understanding the fascinating balances in the environment. If the climate reverts to drier dry seasons, or burning is resumed on a large scale, or the ungulates are diminished by disease or habitat destruction, the picture will surely change. Such a complex and dynamic puzzle is a challenge for all persons concerned with the understanding and conservation of wildlife.

◀ *HYENA: Fierce competition in the dry season with wild dog. Photo George W. and Lory Herbison Frame.*

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"BIGGER than the State of Maryland, the Principality of Wales or the Kingdom of Denmark".

These lines from a tourist camp brochure leave the visitor in no doubt that the Selous Game Reserve of some 45,000 square kilometres is Africa's largest wildlife sanctuary. Not only is it Africa's largest but also one of its oldest, least accessible and least known game area.

Part of the western Selous was declared a Game Sanctuary by the German Colonial Administration in 1905. Since then the Selous has been added to piece by piece with the latest boundary amendments being gazetted in 1974. The present boundaries which take in parts of four regions and ten administrative districts can be considered as a virtual ecological unit with no major game movements across the borders.

Recent estimates show the Reserve to contain about 750,000 game animals giving the Selous second place after the Serengeti National Park in terms of animal numbers. But history relates that the Reserve was not created for its game populations at all. Large parts of it were gazetted in the 1930s so that the increasing elephant control operation in south-east Tanzania could have somewhere to drive the marauding elephant into. In the 1940s a sleeping sickness epidemic forced the administration to move scattered settlements out of what is now the Selous and into large permanent villages with medical facilities. The vacated areas were then declared a game reserve to prevent the people returning to their homes! Happily there has not been a case of sleeping sickness for over 30 years and natural increases in the game populations have slowly created an extremely rich and diverse wilderness area.

These events would have been to no avail if the Selous had been readily accessible or suitable for agriculture or livestock. Luckily, most of the soils are old infertile red sands and tsetse flies prevent cattle-raising. Although rainfall varies from some 750mm. to 1250mm. p.a. (30 to 50 inches) across the Selous, this falls in a single 5–6 month rainy seasons, leaving a virtual 6–7 month drought. To complete the area's isolation the Rufiji River system, East Africa's larget river basin, with its massive tributaries, the Great Ruaha, Kilombero and Luwegu, flow through the centre of the Selous making effective communications almost impossible.

As is to be expected with such a large area there is a considerable variety of habitat, even though the altitude range of 110m. to 1250m. is quite small. Much of the area is dominated by "miombo" woodland so typical of western Tanzania and central Africa. For the uninitiated, miombo is characterised by species of *Brachystegia*, a leguminous tree of up to 15m., with tall coarse grass layer and a variable shrub layer. It is maintained in this open condition by periodic dry season fires. After burning, the landscape looks desolate but in most areas the perennial grasses rapidly flush and the deciduous trees put out new leaf well before the rains break in late November. The leaf flush of all shades of green, red, copper, brown and purple makes the vegetation reminscent of an English parkland in autumn. Unbroken miombo can be very dreary and a poor wildlife habitat, but the Selous is criss-crossed by many small streams and valleys and intervening ridges with patches (often extensive) of climax thicket or forest. These areas are important for water conservation and also form the home of three small antelope, the suni, red duiker and very rare blue duiker.

To the east the woodlands descend to more open scattered tree and short grass plains dotted with innumerable small water holes. These areas provide a wet season habitat for large numbers of zebra, impala, eland, warthog and the very restricted Nyasa wildebeest. This is a larger and lighter coloured animal than its northern counterpart and conspicuous by a broad white chevron across its forehead.

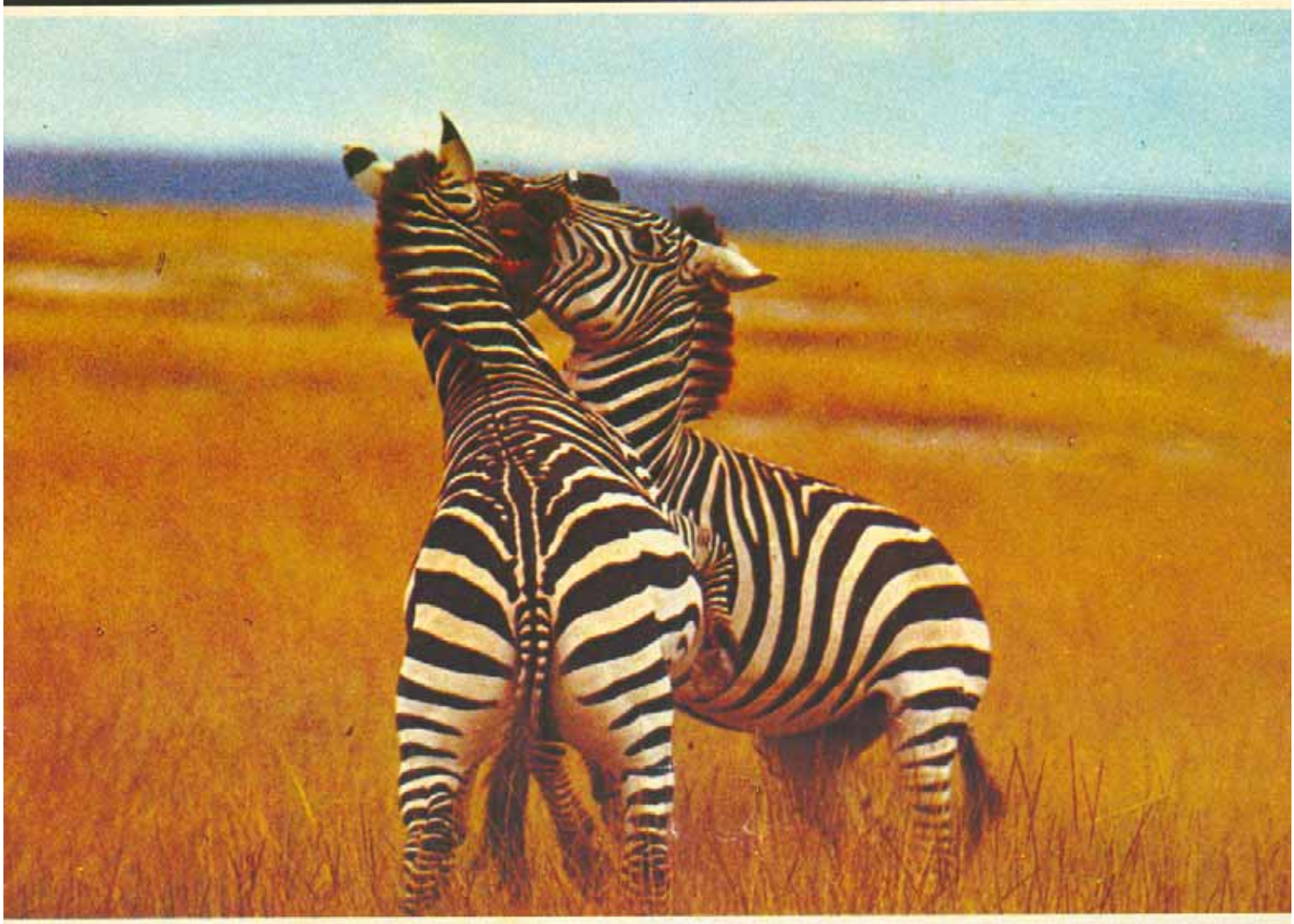
On the western boundary the Kilombero river forms a large flood plain, home to innumerable hippopotamus and crocodile but also for the puku antelope, a southern relative of the Uganda Kob. In the north-east the Rufiji, by changing its course along its flood plain, has created five lakes and associated swamps which abound with elephant, buffalo, hippo, crocodile and water fowl. For the fisherman there are tiger fish and a catfish which runs up to 50 kilos. Fishing is possible from the two adjacent tourist camps.

But for many people the most attractive part of the Selous is the far south, along the Luwegu river and its tributaries the Mbarangandu, Njenje and Lukula. Here the rivers form broad sand rivers with water varying from a few inches to a few feet in depth and flowing between white sand banks and fringing Borassus palm forests. Adjacent alluvial flats and swamps provide food for the high concentrations of elephants and buffalo and a river drive virtually always produces sable, antelope, rhino and lion in the river valley. Away from the river the ground either rises in a gentle series of miombo ridges or abruptly in huge cliffs with inaccessible patches of forest awaiting the more intrepid field botanist.

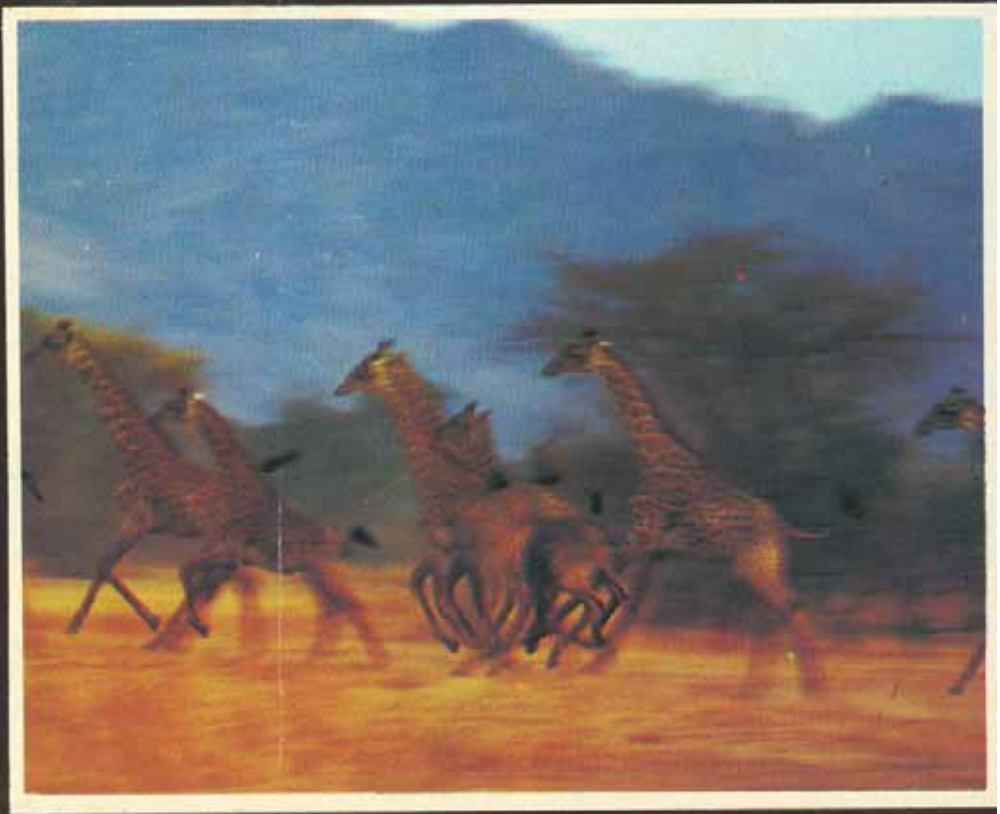
Botanically the area is very rich with collections to date totalling some 1700 species with many more to come. New genera, new species and many new East African records add to the enjoyment of plant collecting but having to deal with some 180 grass species can make ecological studies very tedious! Geographically the flora has links with the north and the south. Riverine and clay soil thickets have many similarities with the Kenya

Continued on page 16

(P. 13): Zebra challenge; giraffe in flight; (P. 14/15): Wildebeeste in the Serengeti; (above): heron at Lake Naivasha —photos: Dieter Blum.



THE rhino cover picture and the portfolio in this four-page colour section are from probably the most expensive book on Africa produced in recent years—selling, and selling well, for a hundred dollars or more. The book is called "AFRICA" and is the distinctive, stylish and often brilliant record of a full continental photo-safari by the German photographer DIETER BLUM. The rhino shot won the 1977 Federal German Government's "photo of the year award" and the technical and interpretive quality of the rest of the work won for Mr. Blum a commission from the Soviet Government to photograph the USSR for the Moscow Olympics. The book, in a large format and printed full gravure colour on fine paper, is published in German by Econ-Verlag of Dusseldorf; in French by Claude Draeger of Montrouge and in English by Times-Mirror, Harry N. Abrams BV of New York and Amsterdam. In association with the English publisher, "Africana" hopes to offer the book to subscribers for about seventy dollars a copy plus postage—if there is sufficient interest. So please write to "Africa" Book, Africana Magazine, P.O. Box 40775, Nairobi, Kenya and we will reply with precise cost, delivery and payment information.



AT A TIME when many wild animals are declining in number throughout the African continent, the large ungulates of the Serengeti present a notable exception.

As will be explained, many of the larger hoofed animals of the Serengeti ecosystem have increased in number over the last 15 years, resulting in a most impressive assemblage of around two and a half million large ungulates existing at this time. The Serengeti ecosystem, an area of about 15,000 square miles, includes the Serengeti National Park, the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, and other surrounding areas.

Fluctuations in the numbers of animals are common in African ecosystems, owing to such factors as variations in rainfall, habitat change and human influences, but in the Serengeti various elements have combined to provide very favourable conditions for large animals, especially the grazing ungulates.

The most abundant of the grazing species of the Serengeti is the wildebeest, mainly represented by an unusually large nomadic population that circulates around the ecosystem in response to rainfall and grazing conditions. In addition to the nomadic population, there are several resident populations of wildebeest (such as those in the Loliondo area, the western Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater) but these are relatively insignificant in terms of numbers.

From aerial photographic counts of the nomadic population it is known that it numbered about 260,000 in 1961; but from then onwards all subsequent counts showed a steady increase of the population at a rate of about 10 per cent a year. The most recent aerial count, that of May 1977, is in complete agreement with the projected trend. This count, carried out by Dr. Tony Sinclair and others, came up with a figure of around 1.3 million wildebeest.

Why should the wildebeest population have increased so steadily for the last 16 years? Like many ecological questions, the answer cannot be attributed to one factor alone, although in this case it seems likely that the major reason for the increase was the elimination of rinderpest from the region in the early 1960s. Rinderpest is a virus disease that kills both cattle and certain species of wild animals, wildebeest and buffalo being particularly susceptible.

RINDERPEST

Dr. Tony Sinclair in his recent book on the African Buffalo (*Chicago University Press, 1977*) has carefully documented the history of rinderpest in northern Tanzania. The disease, which was introduced into Africa in 1889, was eventually stamped out in the Serengeti region by 1962/3 as a result of a successful cattle inoculation programme. It is very probable that as a consequence of the removal of rinderpest the wildebeest population began this current phase of increase, because the death rate would have been lowered from 1962/3 onwards.

Yet disease is not the only factor operating in this situation, for considerable habitat change has occured in the northern Serengeti and Mara areas during the last two decades. In these areas, the once heavily wooded country has been thinned out to a large degree—probably owing to a combination of fire and elephant damage. Consequently, there is now more available grassland than there was 15–20 years ago; this change must have favoured the nomadic wildebeest, especially as the northern Serengeti/Mara region is the dry season refuge of the population, as anyone who has visited this area will know.

Another factor to consider is rainfall. Records from the Serengeti region shows that rainfall has generally been very favourable for grazing animals in recent years. There have been no severe dry seasons since 1969, when a mild die-off of wildebeest (and buffalo) occured but not sufficiently to check the population to any great extent.

The picture for buffalo is rather similar to that for wildebeest. Trends in buffalo numbers have been followed regularly since 1958, when there was a population within the Serengeti National Park of about 27,000; but by 1975 this population had increased to 74,000. The growth rate of the buffalo population has been slightly lower than the wildebeest, averaging about six per cent a year. Again, the chief reason for the burst in numbers is probably due to the absence of rinderpest. Habitat change may have been much less important to the buffalo, a species which is dependent on riverine grasslands during the dry seasons; these riverine areas have probably changed less than the hill tops and hill slopes which the wildebeest graze.

Another reason for thinking that habitat change has had little to do with the increase of buffalo, is that this species is



a resident animal and all parts of the Serengeti Park have shown similar rates of increase, even in areas where little habitat change has taken place. I think this may partly explain why the buffalo population has shown a lower rate of increase compared to wildebeest. There is also evidence (*given in Dr. Sinclair's book*) that buffalo suffer competition for food from wildebeest during dry seasons, and this would depress the population growth of buffalo compared with wildebeest.

It is intriguing, especially from a biologist's point of view, to know what will happen to these populations. Clearly, the populations cannot continue growing for long at their present rates. Dr. Sinclair has modelled the population growth of buffalo and believes that the population may stabilize near the present level, achieving an equilibrium set by the available food. The same could happen to the wildebeest, although it is quite likely that the population will experience a major check during the next severe dry season. Die-offs of this kind are of normal occurrence in ungulates population, serving to bring the population into equilibrium with the environment.

Fears have been expressed that the enlarged wildebeest population may be causing serious habitat damage through trampling and overgrazing. Evidence for this is lacking, however, and it seems most probable that checks to population growth will occur well before any significant habitat damage takes place.

Although wildebeest and buffalo are the best studied of the Serengeti ungulates, there is a certain amount of information on the other species.

Of the other nomadic species—the zebra, the gazelles and the eland—only limited records are available and recent trends are less well known. Zebra probably number around 200,000, Thomson's and Grant's gazelles probably exceed 900,000 and eland number some 18,000 for the whole ecosystem.

As Jeannette Hanby and David Bygott stress in their article, it is the resident ungulates which are most important as prey species. Apart from the buffalo population, several other residents have increased in number. In the western Serengeti, topi have increased from around 13,000 in 1968 to approximately 50,000 in 1976 at a rate of about 16 per cent a year. As topi are only slightly susceptible to rinderpest it is unlikely that their increase is due to the elimination of the disease.

SETTLEMENT

Probably of much greater importance is the fact that their available range has been increased owing to recent shifts in human settlement. This was brought about by a widening of the boundaries of the western Serengeti in the late 1960s, and by settlement consolidation during 1974/75 as a result of Tanzania's "Ujamaa" policy. As the people moved so did their cattle, and this may have been the major factor responsible for the increase of topi because competition for food between the topi and cattle populations has been greatly reduced.

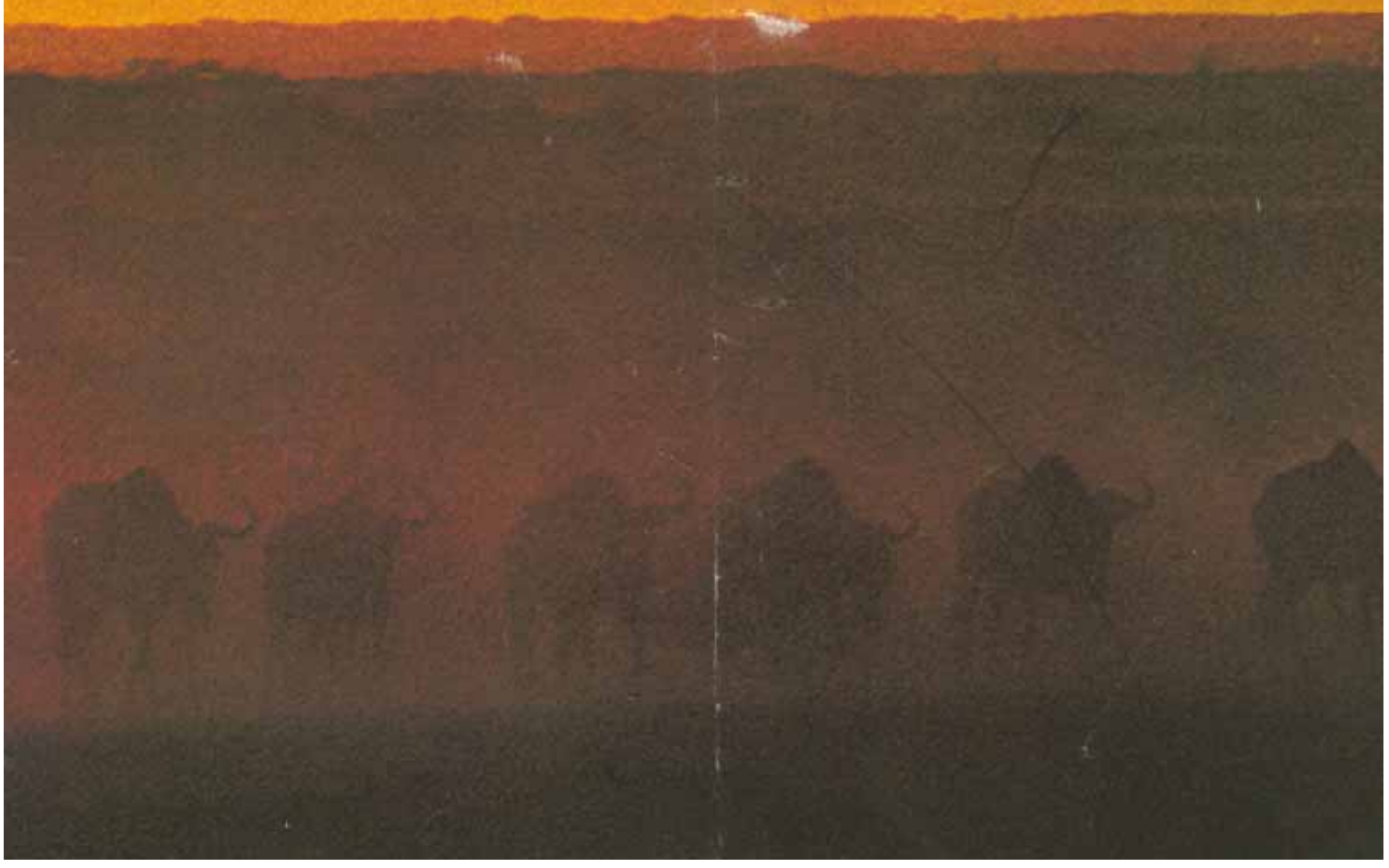
Records of giraffe numbers suggest that this species has shown a slight increase between 1971 and 1976, most of the increase having taken place in the woodlands of the central Serengeti. A possible reason for this change may have been due to a general reduction in wildfires during the last five years; this has allowed better regeneration of young trees, which in turn provide a good source of food to giraffe. According to a count carried out in 1977, the giraffe population is around 17,000 for the whole ecosystem.

Other species such as impala, kongoni and waterbuck have either shown increases or remained stable between 1971 and 1976.

As a whole, then, the resident prey species have increased in abundance, and this together with the longer time spent by prey species on the Serengeti plains (*see predator article*) has allowed the observed increases in the hyena, lion and possibly cheetah populations.

At present, the Serengeti is in an ascendant phase as far as animal populations are concerned. However, the situation could alter rapidly if human pressures and settlement increase, thereby cramping the range of both nomadic and resident species, or if rinderpest were to reappear. In the meantime, visitors to the Serengeti/Mara region are fortunate in being able to view an area seemingly bursting at the seams with large mammals.

●*Acknowledgements: The information on which this article is based was mainly collected by past or present members of the Serengeti Research Institute; many of the records were collected by the Serengeti Ecological Monitoring Programme, funded by the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation.*





THE SELOUS

from page 12.

coast, the sand soil thickets resembling the Mozambique flora and the woodlands having many species in common with Zambia. To confuse matters more we have collected species previously known only from Somalia and North Kenya, Zaire and more recently from Angola!

But what of the larger mammals? The fauna is dominated by the elephant. An aerial census in 1976 estimated 120,000 animals in a 76,000 sq. km. block including the Selous and the adjacent Mikumi National Park and Kilombero Valley Controlled Area. This is the largest known elephant population in Africa with the Selous containing almost 90,000 animals. Luckily the population is evenly spread with a mean group size of under five, so the impact on the vegetation is minimal. The miombo woodlands can withstand considerable elephant use, and the high rainfall produces abundant grass growth. Crop protection control in S.E. Tanzania has accounted for over 2,500 elephant per year since the 1930s. The Selous acts as a reservoir for this continual cull, which must slow down population growth in the reserve as well.

Buffalo are most the numerous animal with an estimated population of some 150,000. Herd sizes range up to 1,200 animals, and there is a tendency to concentrate in the river valleys and swamps. Populations of impala, warthog, wildebeest and zebra are all over 75,000 strong and concentrated on the short grasslands of the east; wildebeest and impala being completely absent from the far south and west. The woodland fauna is represented by over 70,000 Lichtenstein's hartebeest and some 14,000 sable antelope. Other rarities are the Greater Kudu, a possible 5,000 rhinoceros and widespread southern reedbuck. Primates are represented by yellow baboon, vervet and blue monkeys and, on the north western border small populations of black and white colobus and a very rare subspecies of red colobus.

The predators are well represented, with large populations of lion, leopard and wild dog. A dog pack of 62 animals was sighted a few months ago near the eastern boundary. Cheetah are very rarely seen, and probably only permanently resident on the more open plains of the north east. Hyaena are common, but rarely seen during daylight; they do not seem to form large packs or clans in this area. Crocodile are found in all rivers and even some of the smaller pools. The swamps extension in the north east has allowed the population to increase and more and more young crocodile are seen every year.

There are geographical oddities in the fauna. Roan antelope, so typical of miombo woodland is completely absent as are ostrich and dik dik, both of which can be found in western Tanzania woodlands. Giraffe are restricted to the north-eastern corner, not crossing the Rufiji river. The river also acts as a barrier for wildebeest, animals north of the river having no chevron. Side striped jackal are associated with human settlement all around the Selous but have only been sighted three or four times in the reserve, a very strange distribution pattern.

As a full game reserve there are no human rights within the Selous and border pressures in the most areas are very slight. Indeed to the south you have to travel some 60 kms. to reach the closest village. Resttlement into Ujamaa villages has in many cases moved people away from the Selous, both to reduce elephant damage and to bring people closer to schools, dispensaries and district centres. As a result of its rich natural resources, its size and remoteness the Selous must count as one of Africa's most viable and natural wildlife wilderness areas.

But in some ways, size has its draw backs as well. The Selous is almost six per cent of Tanzania's land surface, and at the moment is a drain, not an asset to the country's finances, as there is no utilisation of the areas resources at present. Such a huge chunk of country can also act as a barrier to human development in terms of transportation. Residents of Liwale district wishing to go to nearby Mahenge only some 80 km. away across a narrow waist of the Reserve, have to make a detour of some 1,000 km. via Dar es Salaam! As a result, there is now

a railway passing through the northern boundary and plans for two roads through the southern areas. The pristine wilderness of the Selous is slowly being opened up! This can benefit tourist access but could also bring settlement and easy movement of poachers!

I have mentioned the huge Rufiji River which flows through the Selous. In the north of the Reserve it makes a right angle bend to turn to the coast and rushes through a narrow chasm—Steigler's Gorge. A perfect site for a dam, and now, after years of study a dam is due to be built before 1990. This will create a lake of some 1,500 sq. kms. in a dry rocky area of the Selous and could well be a major asset for tourist development and for the diversity of habitats and animals. But, without careful planning, there could be a mass of fishing villages and attendant settlement down the back bone of the Selous, and the wilderness as I have seen privileged to know it, will be finished.

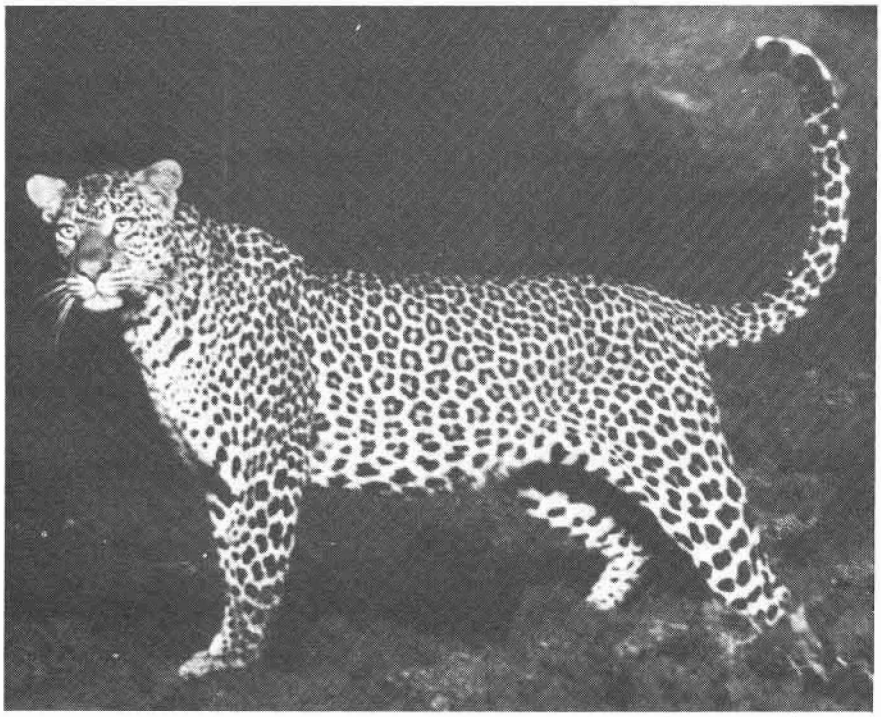
Planning should take account of the resources of the Selous, both the real and the potential values; ecological, scientific and financial. The Selous, with its size and diversity of habitats and species acts as a huge ecological reservoir and genetic store house. It is a land and resource bank for the future. Ecologically and scientifically it is unique and large enough to take experimental ecological studies. The Selous acts as a wildlife reservoir for surrounding villagers, who could crop animals in adjacent buffer areas. With efficient ivory collection, the Selous could yield some 20 million shillings worth of ivory per year from natural mortality alone. Experiments with helicopters in 1974 showed we could recover over 10,000/- worth every hour! The potential for tourism is immense, the North-east corner being close to Dar es Salaam and containing some of the most magnificent wildlife country in East Africa. Two tourist camps exist at present, but there is a potential demand for much more. Up until 1973 the Selous was utilised for tourist sport hunting, providing considerable revenue fo very little capital outlay.

As hunting was organised on a strict block and quota system, off-take rates were neglible. More animals were killed by vehicles and trains in National Parks than were shot in the Selous in 1972! As much of the Reserve is inaccessible to ordinary tourism such as hunting, land use is perfectly suited to the Selous, indeed there is little alternative! If hunting were restored, the network of tracks, airstrips and ferries that used to crisscross the reserve could be maintained again and management and unti-pooching could be more effective.

Although the Selous is six per cent of Tanzania, nobody expects it to contribute six per cent of the country's income, but it should pay its way. Conservation is becoming expensive with vast increases in salaries, fuel and vehicle costs in the last few years. Only when the Selous Game Reserve is self-supporting can it be judged to be really viable and able to hold its own with competing forms of land use. Until then the future of this magnificent and unique game area remains unsecured.

W. A. RODGERS
Department of Zoology,
University of Dar es Salaam,
formerly Game Research Officer,
Selous Game Reserve,
1966–1976.

STOCK-TAKING 4 NIGHT ANIMALS **DR. PETER WASER**



A NEW DIMENSION TO THE SERENGETI

ABOVE the horizon, too many stars shed a greenish glow; below it, gray termite mounds sit lumpish on the plains. Into the edge of small screen, two hyenas trot with tails raised, then two more; one pauses and mouths a wildebeest skull, which gleams dully in the short grass. I release the trigger, and the image fades. The stars return to their normal number and the plains to blackness, and the crunch of bones is the only clue to the reality outside the Landrover.



The instrument is an image intensifier, or starlight scope. It amplifies existing light tens of thousands of times, producing a small television-like image on all but completely overcast nights. When the instrument was first declassified, some models came with instructions detailing how to destroy them to prevent their falling into enemy hands; now; they come without crosshairs, and an increasing number of biologists are using them for less bellicose purposes.

A decade ago, any nocturnal event less obvious than a wildebeests herd stampeded on a moonlit night was nearly impossible to document. Now it is possible to watch the hunts which fail—the bushbuck lying in tall grass, undetected by the searching hyena—or to concentrate on the great array of inconspicuous animals, such as (*in my own studies*) the bat-eared fox, the aardwolf, and the white-tailed mongoose. Now it is the availability of caffeine, not light, which limits the collection of field data at night.

Night adds a new dimension to the Serengeti, emphasising even more than the day its vast diversity and richness. This year 1.3 million wildebeest—the largest number ever recorded—are migrating through the short-grass plains, and other large herbivores continue to increase in number as well. These animals are all active and visible at night,

continued overleaf

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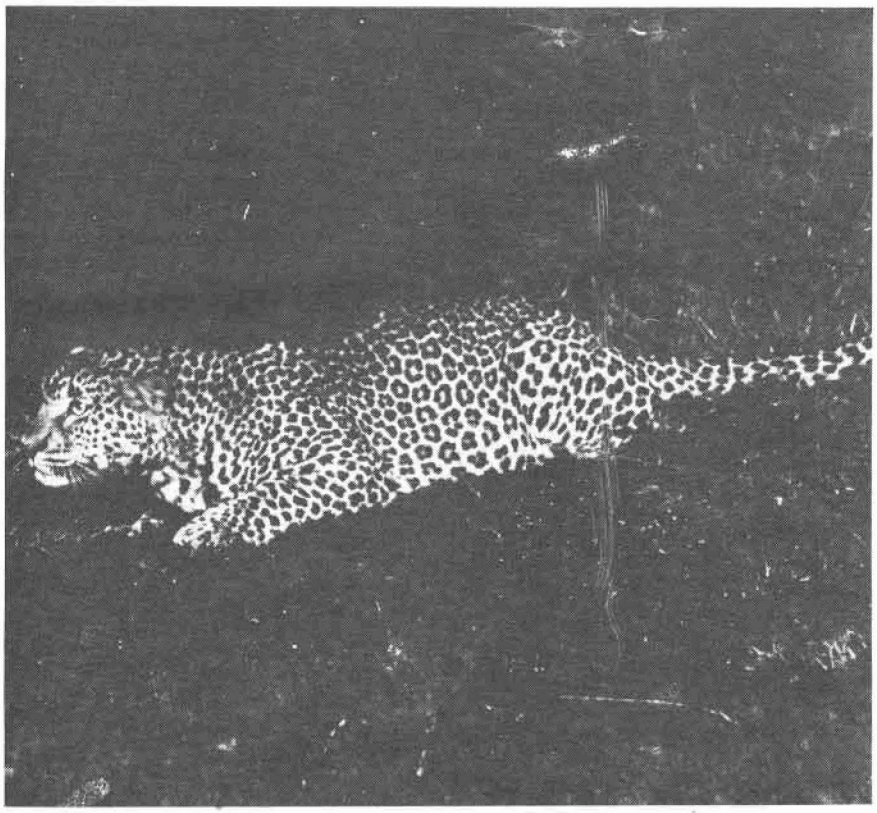
and many actually prefer to graze then, for they are less subject to heat stress, and may obtain water from dew condensing on the grass.

While some Serengeti herbivores, like oryx, have physiological adaptations which allow them to remain active through the heat of midday, most do not. Some like the eland, prefer to graze at night; and only at night do hippos and spring hares emerge from the cool of their wallows or burrows.

Darkness also favours the hunter. Hans Kruuk and George Schaller, working at the Serengeti Reseach Institute in the late 1960s, first demonstrated that large predators, too, are more active at night—that hyenas can be efficient and deadly noctunal hunters, and that stalks by lions are more common and more successful by night. Continued studies of these and others carnivores in the Serengeti have confirmed this picture of nocturnal activity (and social interaction), which contrasts sharply with the daytime lethargy so often witnessed by tourists.

Yet it may be less conspicuous nocturnal events which are ecologically the most crucial ones. An apparent paradox involving the current record wildebeest numbers may illustrate that this year's long rainy season produced a record grass crop, far more than herbivores were able to eat. How can the Serengeti continue to support expanding wildebeest populations *and* oceans of grass?

The key to this great productivity lies not so much in unusual soil fertility or favourable climate as in the existence in the Serengeti of means for the rapid and efficient transfer of nutrients between organisms, their recycling from plant to animal and back again. Tall grass does not remain standing, dry and unpalatable, and thus unavailable to antelope and zebra. Termites come out at night and harvest the dead grass stalks, while mice and gerbils find the seeds. Dung does not lie on the surface, an unexploited and unexploitable fertilizer; dung beetles find and bury it. Nutrients are thus returned either to the soil—where they can again be converted to plant growth—or directly to animals, such as the small carnivores which eat mice, termites and beetles. Most insects and small mammals involved in this recycling process are active primarily at night. So, too, are the small carnivores which eat them, and these form an enormously diverse array: the small cats, such as servals and caracal, which stalk mice and other small prey in tall grass and bush; the subtly-marked African wild cat which does the same in open areas; the bat-eared fox and the fox-like white-tailed mongoose, which track down crickets or snatch beetles from the air; omnivorous masked-and spotted civet; the graceful, elongated genets, which hunt like cats but are related to the mongooses; the aardwolf, related to the hyena but with teeth and build specialized for hunting surface-foraging termites, and the aardvark, with massive claws for the destruction of termite mounds and related to nothing at all. These and other small animals provide the pathways and control the rates of nutrient recycling within the Serengeti ecosystem.



WILDLIFE BY NIGHT for the average visitor is confined to the miniature drama of a floodlit water-hole at a lodge like The Ark in Kenya's Aberdares National Park. But the photographic results are often spectacular, like this sequence of an unsuccessful stalk of a bushbuck by a young leopard. The photographer was Clifford L. Jones who used a Canon F 1 camera (100-2000 mm zoom), exposing at 1/15th second on Ilford HP4 film, rated A S A 125. The distance from the camera to the subject was about 25 yards—**R. J. Prickett.**

STOCK-TAKING

THE article below is comprised of extracts from an "Interim Report on the Status of Elephants in Kenya" by Dr KES HILLMAN. This report was prepared for the IUCN "Elephant Group," directed in Africa by Drs Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Harvey Croze.

About a fifty percent die-off since 1973

"PEOPLE talk as if the ivory trade of Africa were inexhaustable . . . . . Let me simply mention a fact. In my sojourn of 14 months during which I passed over an immense area of the Great Lakes region—I never once saw a single elephant. Twenty years ago they roamed over those countries unmolested and now they have been almost utterly exterminated". (Thomson, 1879–80).

Thus fears of elephant exterminations have been expressed before!

It would seem that at the end of the last century, elephant numbers in East Africa were at a low ebb after which—with the introduction of protective legislation—the records indicate an overall increase until 1970. Since then, however, the elephant population in Kenya has declined rapidly.

A baseline figure of between 150,000 and 167,000 in 1973 has been used to compare with recent figures as this was an official estimate proposed at a seminar under the auspices of the Kenya Game Department, then the national wildlife authority.

To an extent, the estimate may have been based on 1970 data, but allowing for this our present count of between 65,000 and 75,000 elephant left in Kenya represents at least a fifty per cent die off in five years.

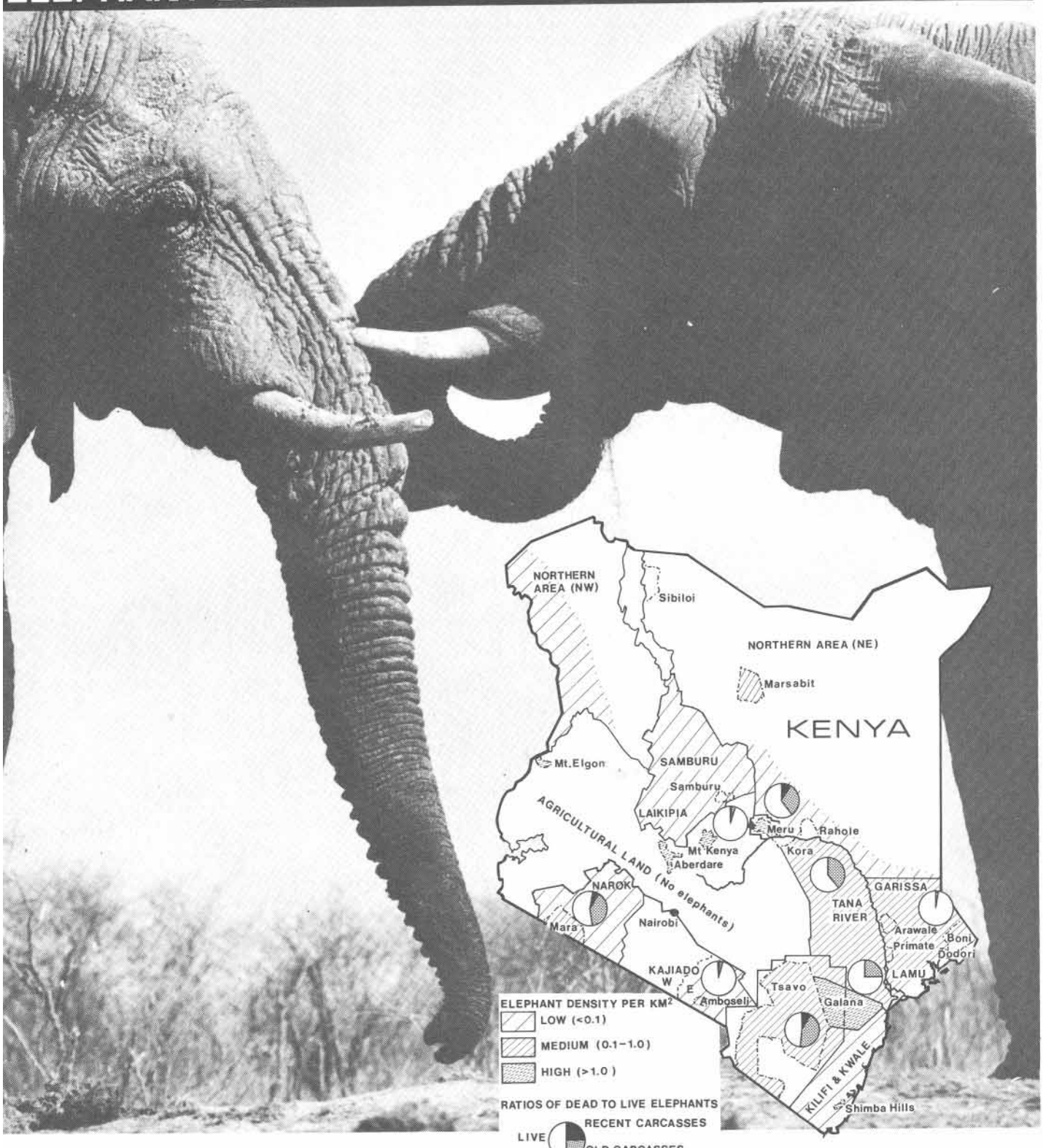
A number of factors are potential causes of the decline:

Increased human activities in areas bordering national parks and reserves can have the effect of confining too many elephants in too small space. In this situation, aggravated by climatic stress such as droughts, they may use vegetation faster than it can regenerate, thus destroying their own food resource. Tsavo is the classic example, where more than 6,000 elephant died in these conditions of over-compression and habitat degeneration in 1970/1.

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ELEPHANT SURVEY IN KENYA

KES HILLMAN



ELEPHANT NUMBERS IN KENYA CURRENTLY ESTIMATED, 1976/7

CONSERVED AREAS	EST. NO.	DENSITY (E/km²)	AREA (km²)
National Parks			
Mt. Elgon + Forest	(1,200–1,500	(2.40–3.00)	500
Mt. Kenya + Forest	(3,000)–	(1.50)	2,000
Aberdares + Forest	(3,000)+	(1.50)	2,000
Meru Park	1,328–2,122	1.57–2.52	844
Tsavo Park + Galana ecosystem	19,350	0.45	43,300
Amboseli & dispersal area	613	0.07	8,700
National Reserves			
Marsabit	(300)	(0.14)	2,088
Shimba Hills	(200)	(1.04)	192
Game Reserves			
Masai Mara	703	0.19	3,780
Samburu — Isiolo Reserves	531	0.05	10,500
Total under conserved Status	24,825–25,819		

CONSERVED AREAS DISTRICTS (excluding conserved status areas)	EST. NO.	DENSITY (E/km²)	AREA (km²)
Mandera	(225)	0.01	26,470
Wajir	(450)	0.01	56,501
Garissa & Lamu	19,350	0.38	50,437
Tana River	13,000–15,000	0.34–0.39	38,695
Kilifi	(450)	0.04	12,414
Kwale	(900)	0.11	8,065
Kitui, Machakos, Embu and Meru	(450)	0.01	46,926
Isiolo	(100)	0.04	25,605
Marsabit	(450)	0.01	70,284
Turkana	(675)	0.01	60,824
Samburu	(4,050)	0.20	20,209
Laikipia	(450)	0.05	9,702
Narok	(2,250)	0.13	16,847
Total unconserved	43,600–45,600		
COMBINED TOTAL	68,425–71,419		

Brackets indicate guessed estimates based on extrapolation of average measured rates of decline from 1973 basic line.

Elephant Survey

continued from page 18

A few other populations were similarly reduced in Amboseli and elsewhere as a direct result of drought in 1973/4. But there is no evidence to suggest that these pressures are sufficient to account for the recent drastic elephant decline over the country as a whole. The main cause appears to be predation by man induced by a spiralling rise in the international market price for ivory—from Kshs 68.5 a kilo in 1972, for instance, to Kshs 223.4 the following year.

If strictly controlled, legal hunting can be an efficient way of using elephants as a self-sustaining economic resource. However, since legal, licensed hunting was banned in 1973, the decline since then must have been the result of greatly increased illegal hunting to supply a greatly increased demand for ivory. Distributions of dead elephants counted on surveys correlates with areas where poaching has been reported heaviest (*see Map*).

The impact of this on Kenya's elephants was primarily a numerical decline—but also a disruption of social organisation. In some areas of heavy poaching, traditional migration routes were dislocated. Social grouping were disturbed by the selective killing of older animals for their large ivory, leaving young inexperienced animals alone and at a disadvantage. Poaching pressure also created elephant compression in protected areas—an irony, in a situation of overall decline, since this could lead to the necessity of culling elephants to avoid intolerable habitat destruction.

However, with the government's recent ban on private trade in wildlife products, including ivory; with the imminent reinforcement of the anti-poaching unit and the planned investment in developing a comprehensive management plan for elephants and other large herbivores, the trend of destruction may well be reversed. Kenya has the potential to improve on her present elephant situation —which, region by region, is as follows:

Kajiado District/Amboseli National Park

THERE are virtually no elephants in the western half of Kajiado District. But the eastern half is a wet-season dispersal area for elephants which use the Amboseli Basin in the dry season. These and other herbivores including domestic stock, are dependent on the swamps at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro in an otherwise semi-arid to arid *acacia commiphora* scrubland.

A detailed ecological study and monitoring of the area has been carried out by Dr. Western since 1967. Regular aerial counts of 8,700 km^2 since 1973 give a mean estimate of about 600 elephants using the area (overall density 0.07 E/km^2). There has been no significant change in numbers during that time. More detailed surveys of the Amboseli Basin indicate that 200 to 300 elephants use the Park swamps in the dry season at a density of 0.3–0.5 E/km^2.

The elephant population has suffered very little recent compression, still occupying its former range and using ancient elephant tracks. Human land use is primarily pastoralism, but the creation of Amboseli National Park (600 km^2) in 1974 involved prohibiting use of the swamp area in the dry season by Maasai stock. Some elephants have been speared in protest and to prove manhood, but poaching for financial gain is minimal. Areas of swamps for the use of the Maasai elsewhere have been increased, however, and the development plans for the area are based on ensuring returns from wildlife to local land-owners and users. This should have long-term conservation value and may provide a working example for use elsewhere.

Narok District/Maasai Mara Game Reserve

THE Game Reserve is an area of 1,667 km^2 of scattered tree/grassland (*Acacia/Themeda*) in the south of Narok District and is contiguous with the Serengeti Plains to the south and the Loita Plains to the north and north east, bounded by wooded high-lands including the Mau Forest. The climate is semi-arid to sub-humid. Human land use is mainly pastoralism with some agriculture and forestry.

Elephant counts have been made irregularly since 1958 and numbers have apparently fluctuated, probably due to differences in census methods and the movement of elephants back and forward across the border with Tanzania. However, a count in January last year by our IUCN Elephant Survey estimated 703 elephants in the area, with (plus or minus) 553 in the Mara Reserve. None were seen out of the reserve at that time, but groups are known to move out in the wet season. It is not known how many elephants occupy the forested highlands.

The land surrounding the Reserve used to be Hunting and Photographic blocks and considerable poaching of elephants was reported there. Our recent census showed a ratio of all dead to live elephants was 82:100 compared with a ratio of 23:100 found on the Tanzania side of the border.

Tsavo National Park/Galana Game & Ranching Area

TSAVO National Park (East and West) covers an area of 20,813 km^2. It is mostly arid, sparse *Acacia/Commiphora* woodlands and grassland.

To the east, Tsavo is contiguous with the Galana game and ranching land which together with Mkomazi Game Reserve in Tanzania and other peripheral areas form a complete ecological unit for elephants. Human land use in this unit, other than tourism in the National Park (Tsavo) and Game Reserve (Mkomazi), includes small-holder agriculture, large-scale ranching and sisal growing, charcoal manufacture and mixed wildlife and livestock ranching with tourist development (Galana and Bura).

Reports of travellers in the area at the end of the nineteenth century made very little mention of elephants, but in the 1960s the density of these animals had increased to such an extent that their damage to the habitat caused a controversy as to whether or not they should be culled. However, the matter was settled in the drought of 1970/1 in which about 6,000 elephants died in the core area of Tsavo alone (*Corfield*). A systematic series of aerial counts by Cobb in 1973/4 put the population then at 35,000 in 43,300 km^2.

Poaching has always been a problem in the Park since it is a huge area to patrol and is open in the north and east particularly to Wakamba people who are expert traditional hunters. There has been a recent reduction in the effectiveness of anti-poaching operations, with no air support in Tsavo East, for instance, since the Warden, the late David Sheldrick was transferred early last year.

Recent counts indicate that the present population is in the region of 20,000 elephants, a decline of at least 10,000 since 1973/4. A few elephants may have moved onto the Galana ranch where two censuses in 1977 estimated the population at about 5,500, up from 2,000 in 1972.

Tana River District

THE Tana River District is an area of 38,395 km^2 whose climate varies from sub-humid through semi-arid to arid in a progression inland from the coast. The vegetation includes bushland, grassland and riverine forest; human land use is pastoralism, small-holding and some large-scale irrigated agriculture along the river.

In 1973 a guessed estimate of the elephant population made at the Kenya Game Department seminar was 32,000. However, the only systematic aerial censuses, by the Game Department and Allaway in 1974/5, put the population between 13,000 and 15,000.

It has been reported that since then illegal hunting has been heavy and where there were once known seasonal movements of large groups of elephants, there are now none.

Officially protected areas, including a primate reserve, Kora and Rahole Game Reserves are small and are not extensively patrolled—although plans have been put forward for amalgamating some of the reserves into a park which may make a more viable and controllable unit.

Meru National Park and Conservation Area

MERU National Park is a semi-arid area of 844 km^2 of acacia woodlands, grasslands and *Commiphora* scrub intersected by numerous permanent rivers. It is distinguished by having been set aside as a conservation area by the Wameru people themselves in 1957.

In the 1960s elephant numbers were in the region of 500–600, increasing to 1,520 in 1974, according to a total count by the Warden, Peter Jenkins. Our own IUCN Elephant Group census, in August 1976, put the park population at between 1,320 (total count) and 2,122 (sample count).

Associated with the increase in elephant density, vegetation damage was noted. During the census in 1976, the distribution of the highest percentages of recumbent trees was closely correlated with the distribution of highest elephant density. However, in the recent heavy rains most of the elephants have moved out of the Park and relieved the pressure on the habitat.

To the west there is some conflict of elephants with agriculture, and various types of elephant barriers are being tested.

To the east in the conservation area and beyond, there is harrassment due to competition with livestock and from poachers. The overall ratio of dead to live elephants counted here in August 1976 was 19:100, and although a few may have died as a result of the exceptionally dry conditions at the time, the distribution of dead elephants, with ratios of 6 dead: 100 live in the park and 78:100 out of the park suggests the cause to be primarily poaching. This even occurs inside the park and large bull, with tusks of 121 and 117 lbs, who had long been known to the Warden died last March of an arrow wound.

The planned merging or linking of Meru National Park with the nearby Game Reserves of Kora and Rahole might ease the situation if proper supervision and control of the area were possible.

Lamu/Garissa Districts

LAMU and Garissa Districts cover a total area of 50,327 km^2 of which 20,000

continued on page 32

The East African Wild Life Society, Private Bag, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 27047. Trading Department P.O. Box 20110. Tel: 331888
OUR AIMS AND OBJECTS ARE TO SAFEGUARD WILDLIFE AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

Patrons: H.E. The President of Kenya, H.E. The President of Tanzania, H.E. The President of Uganda. Chairman: The Hon. C. Njonjo, E.G.H., M.P. Chief U.S.A. Representatives—Keith Tucker, P.O. Box 82002, San Diego, California 92138 Canada—Tony Lopez, East African Travel Consultants, 55 Bloor Street East, Suite 300, Toronto M4W 1A9 England—Primrose Stobbs, Abercrombie & Kent, 4 Pont Street, London SW1.X9EL. Australia. Mr. David Wood, Gordon Travel Centre, 786 Pacific Highway, Gordon, N.S.W. 2072, Australia. For addresses of other representatives, please write to the above or to the Society. The offices and shop of the Society are located in the Nairobi Hilton and also at Ambalal House, Box 90005, Mombasa.

THE SOCIETY'S NOTES

Compiled by
Stephen Cobb

KENYA BANS TRADE IN WILDLIFE CURIOS

IN his Independence Day speech, the President of Kenya, His Excellency Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, surprised Kenyan conservationists with his decision to give the curio shops three months to wind up their trade in all wildlife products.

Since professional hunting was banned in May 1977, the Kenyan Press has been bursting with letters and editorials urging this move. It is what everyone seemed to want and the President is to be congratulated most warmly on the decision. A major loophole is now closed.

The combination of the hunting ban and the cessation in trade in wildlife products does not make for an entirely straightforward conservation situation however.

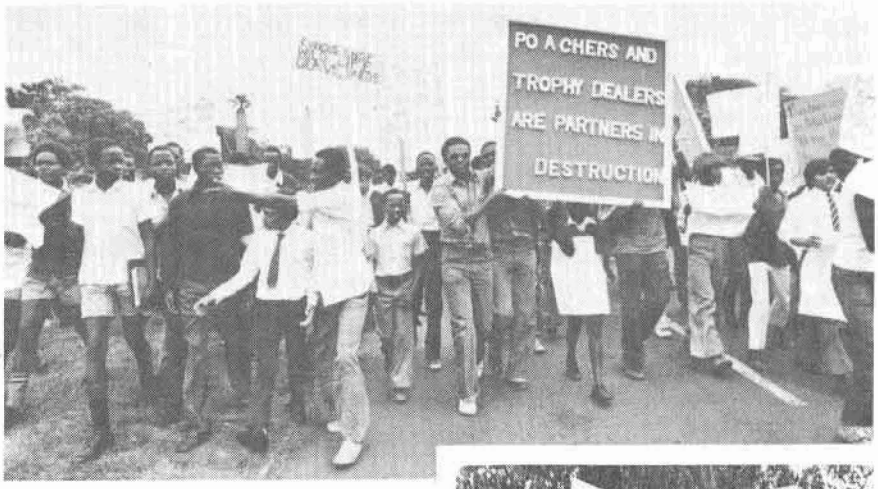
In many areas, particularly on private ranches and on group ranches in Maasailand, wildlife exploitation, in the form of hunting, was an important and intregral part of multiple land-use plans. Hunting concessions were for many ranchers a major source of revenue. As this source of revenue dried up, so too has any incentive to keep the game alive.

On Galana ranch, for example, for which hunting was an extremely lucrative form of land-use in addition to cattle ranching, it used to be worthwhile to employ a fair-sized anti-poaching force. Wildlife is now worth nothing to the ranch, so there has been no incentive to keep up the expensive anti-poaching operation. Far from being the way to save the game, the hunting ban may be the quickest way, on places like Galana Ranch, of wiping it out altogether.

With the countless contrary pressures facing it, wildlife clearly has to pay its way, particularly in an economy such as Kenya's. Tourist viewing activities are clearly not the only way in which it can do so.

Let us hope that the current dual ban is used by the Government not only as time to clamp down on the widespread poaching in the country and on the illegal trading activities which will doubtless now be forced underground and abroad, but also as time to plan integrated ways of using wildlife outside the National Parks.

●*There is also, of course a strong counter-argument to all this put forward many times in the magazine—in members' letters and editorial contributions.*

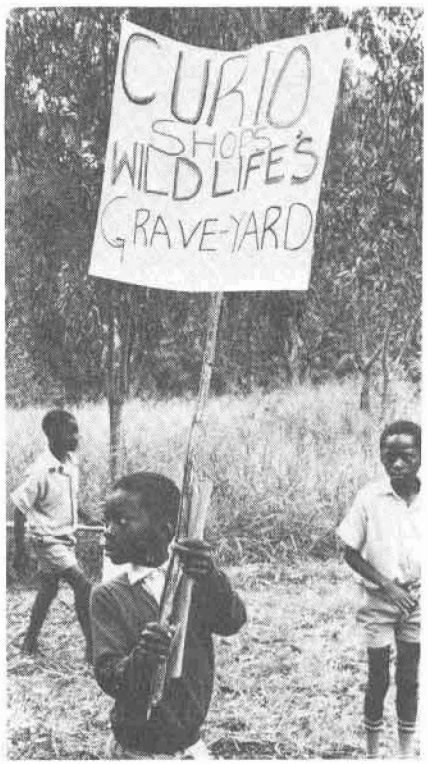




Essentially this is the view that wildlife "utilisation"—other than using it for the relatively harmless business of tourism—reduces to more wildlife "killing". This may not necessarily be a bad thing, provided that the killing for "practical" or "ecomomic" benefit is strictly controlled, strictly in the national (rather than any minority) interest.

If these conditions could be assured, all but the most sentimental conservationists would support the principle of wildlife paying its way even with carcasses. However, the views of people fundamentally against wildlife utilisation is that perhaps the game animals should be left alone in Kenya for a while: as the Minister said they need a "breathing space" before another bout of "man-management".

Editor



SUCCESS for the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya protest march last July (see page viii)—pictures: Marion Kaplan. Above left: The knock-down clearance of "curios"—a sample ad.

New Life members

The Society has pleasure in welcoming the following new Life members.

Life Donor Members
Australia
Dr. J. Holt
Mrs. J. Holt

Life Ordinary Members
Australia
Paul Roeseler
Mr. and Mrs. H. C. A. Simpson

Botswana
Mrs. E. E. Briddes

Canada
Robert H. Wood

West Germany
Mr. Wolfgang Doering

Italy
Prof. Paolo Gaio & Family

Kenya
M. S. J. Collins

United Kingdom
Mr. F. Beeftink
Col. Tom Hall
Dr. John Henshaw

United States of America
Mrs. Helen Aprea
Ms. Mary Baclitt
Mr. Chris McBride
Mr. Donald E. Plorde
Richard B. Russell
Mr. C. L. Wainwright, Jr.
Mr. Richard S. Westerman

NEWS FROM AMERICA

Fund-raising for the Society

ASSORTED small sums have been received by the Society from the dedicated and energetic efforts of Members in various parts of the States. These include:

● $260.75 raised by Mr. Ernie Chew, Director of the Botanical Gardens at San Diego Zoo. He led an EAWLS tour in East Africa and as a result joined the Society. He used to give plants from the Zoo to its employees, but now he sells them at 25 cents each and gives the profit to the Society. The next step is to sell them at a dollar each!

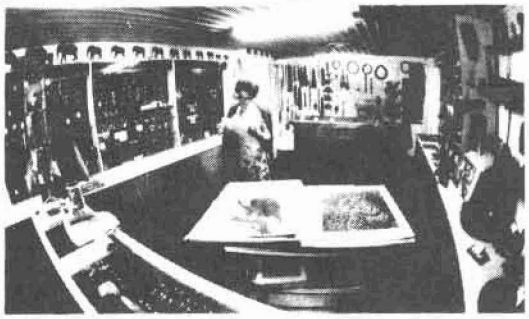
● $200.00 raised at a special showing of slides by the Travel Agencies of Greenwich, Connecticut. The meeting, organised by Bud Lazareth and Bea Lipp of TAG and attended by David Schaeffer (British Airways) and Peter Muiruri (Kenya Tourist Office) was a great success and the money was raised in the form of a one dollar contribution given to the Society by each person present at the meeting.

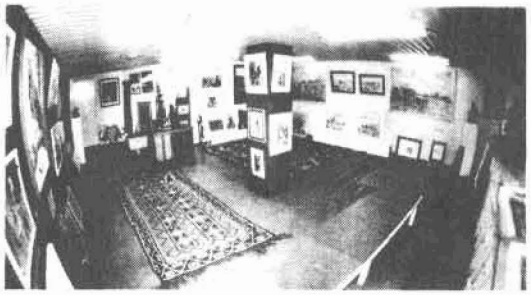
● $50.00 received through the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal, from a contributor to that organisation anxious to ensure the "protection of the African lions". There are several lion projects in East Africa at present (Amboseli, Serengeti and Ruwenzori) and maybe the Society will channel the money into one of those. (The future of the lions in Africa is currently fairly secure, whilst overseas it is mind-boggling. Safari Parks in Britain have had such success in breeding captive lions that there is now a glut of them: fully grown lions are changing hands at £5 each.)

To all these contributors, of both time and money, the Society remains extremely grateful.

G. S. P.

U.S. residents visiting East Africa may wish to take advantage of the U.S.Customs Service's Generalised Sytem of Preferences Scheme. This is designed to encourage purchases in developing countries to assist the foreign exchange situations in those countries. In a word, almost anything you may wish to buy as a tourist in East Africa (*except certain wildlife curios, of course*) may be imported duty-free back into the States. Your nearest U.S. Customs Office, or U.S. Embassy will have details, as does the Society's Office in Nairobi.





The Society's Gift Shop and Art Gallery in the Nairobi Hilton.

There's a wealth of choice items on sale in the Society's Gift Shop and Art Gallery.
Everything from jewellery for the most sophisticated taste to the popular key rings, ties and decals; carvings, batiks and artifacts; prints paintings and sculptures by leading national and international artists; wildlife books, journals and magazines; Christmas cards and calendars.
Original paintings and reproductions by David Shepherd, Guy Coheleach, Ralph Thompson, Talbot Kelly, Iris Darnton, Joy Adamson, Rena Fennessy, Bob Kuhn, Philip Lasz, Kim Brooks etc. Send for brochure/s on Christmas Cards Calendars; Prints; David Shepherd prints; and gift items for sale.

Annual Subscriptions

	KShs.	US$	£
Resident E.A.	60/-		
Ordinary Overseas	120/-	15.00	8.
Family Membership	160/-	20.00	11.
Corporate	1,000/-	125.00	67.

Life Membership Fees

Ordinary	1,000/-	125.00	67.
Donor	3,000/-	375.00	200.

As a member of the Society, you will receive a years' subscription to the Society's East African wildlife magazine.

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EAST AFRICAN WILD LIFE SOCIETY

OFFICES, ART GALLERY & GIFT SHOP IN NAIROBI HILTON
PRIVATE BAG, NAIROBI, KENYA

Somali poaching gangs still a menace

ONE of the most persistent and disturbing items of news in the Kenya Press has been a running battle with Somali gangs. Every couple of weeks there is a shoot-out of some kind, with as many as seven Somalis reported killed on one occasion.

The reports come from all over North-eastern Kenya, but Tsavo National Park has also been a main battle-ground. The sophisticated weapons of the gangs indicate a purpose other than the killing of wildlife, but the deliberate destruction of animals by these people has been a cause for great concern.

The Wildlife Conservation and Management Department's anti-poaching unit at Isiolo is doing what it can within the limits of its modest strength and fire-power. It works of course in co-operation with the Kenyan armed forces which, without a great deal of publicity for obvious reasons, is fully operational against the gangs. However, solely on the basis of the Press reports—the activities of these gangs is still a cause for concern.

A case in point is the death of Ken Clark who was first a professional hunter at the million-acre Galana Ranch along the eastern border of Tsavo East. After the hunting ban in May last year, he turned his attention to the gangs moving across the ranch. A shoot-out in which at least one Somali was killed led to a reprisal ambush and a bullet in the stomach cost Ken Clark his life.

More fortunate was Major Eggers who survived two bullet wounds received after a contact with a car-load of poachers on Kurase ranch south-west of Tsavo West.

Traditional poaching with poisoned arrows was—and is—bad enough, but this recent offensive with high-velocity automatic weapons is another more tragic story. Apart from the cost in human life, it has left only a remnant game population over most of Northern Kenya.

However, with all the present counteraction of government—the ban on curios as well as increasing action in the field—the tide may be turning. The recent short rains have been good and providing that wildlife ceases to be a pawn in a political "power game in the north, we might expect a slow regeneration there.



"It's not my factory that's polluting the lake. . . . It's all those dead flamingos."

NAKURU
PROBLEM FACTORY TO BE MOVED

UNDER strong pressure from the German loan agency (*Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau*) which is financing Nakuru's new municipal sewage works—and also from the World Wildlife Fund—the Kenya Government is engineering the movement of the copal pesticide factory from Nakuru to a site at the Coast.

With the assurance, the German money, which had been withheld, is now being released. So the construction of the sewage works is proceding and the threat of dust pollution or of accidental spillage of copper oxychloride into Lake Nakuru is at least moved.

Some news is good news.

ANOTHER 'PARADISE' AT RUKWA

A typographical error in the last issue of "Africana" indicated that Iain Douglas-Hamilton had just counted 41,000 elephants in "both parks". The identity of the parks was not disclosed. The two in question were Ruaha and Rungwa, next to one another in Central Tanzania.

More recently, a census of the entire Rukwa and Katavi region, in Southern Tanzania, has confirmed the existence of yet another Tanzanian wildlife paradise: enormous populations of a wide range of species in extremely beautiful, if rather inaccessible surroundings.

The famous topi populations of the Rukwa flats have, however, almost disappeared. Lake Rukwa appears to go through a cyclical sequence of flooding and drying, each cycle taking approximately 30 years to complete. The lake level is currently extremely high, following a succession of exceptional rains, and the water has driven the topi away from the seasonally flooded grasslands into adjacent areas on which they do not thrive and where, presumably, they have been dying in large numbers.

Their good time will come again: if the evidence of the last hundred years is anything to go by. The Lake will soon start to dry up and the topi will thrive once more.

**AVAILABLE FROM THE EAST AFRICAN WILD LIFE SOCIETY.
P.O. Box 20110, NAIROBI, KENYA. BROCHURES ON:
DAVID SHEPHERD'S PRINTS BIRD AND ANIMAL PRINTS CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE**

The unregretted death of a project

OCTOBER 1977 saw the end of Kenya's largest-ever wildlife research project. It took 6½ years, cost the Government and UNDP/FAO in excess of three million dollars and was called the Kenya Wildlife Management Project.

Like so many U.N. projects, it had troubles. The original idea was to demonstrate to the Maasai of Kajiado District, which includes both Nairobi National Park and Amboseli, that cropping of wildlife on a sustained-yield basis was a profitable and therefore desirable way of utilising wildlife. Unfortunately, while there were a number of people in Nairobi who might have demonstrated just this, the personnel actually employed to do the job of field butchery and meat-marketing had little experience in making such an operation pay. It didn't.

At the same time, other forms of wildlife utilisation—such as tourism in the area—were largely ignored by the Project.

Then after three years and a massive capital expenditure, the Project had a change of heart—and of staff—and the emphasis shifted to "economic appraisals of various utilisation activities" and studies of the wildlife and livestock populations of Kajiado.

At a recent Wildlife Research Priorities Workshop in Nairobi, the final results of the Project were summarised. And it was sad to note that, after so much time and money had been spent on the Project, a major thrust of the talk at the workshop was the identification of important future research needs.



A five-foot mural photograph of elephants crossing the Uaso Nyiro River was auctioned by Kenya's Attorney-General, Charles Njonjo, at the opening of David Kieth Jones's exhibition to launch his book, "Faces of Kenya." £175 was raised for the Society, which is selling the book at their Nairobi and Mombasa shops.

GREVY STATUS

A full (KREMU) report on the status of Grevy's Zebra in Kenya, which indicates this is not so tenuous as people had feared, will appear in the next issue of "Africana". So too will a further report on the experimental translocation of the animals from the Samburu area to Tsavo West.

Meanwhile, the U.S.D.I.'s Fish and Wildlife Service is considering putting Grevy's and Hartmann's Zebras (*from South-West Africa*) on its official Endangered Species list. The KREMU report, plus work from independent biologists, should help to make it clear whether or not this is an appropriate move.

FOR SALE

"An Artist in Africa" by David Shepherd

Limited Edition Copy

available @ $375.

Write East African Wild Life Society.

Box 20110, Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa.

A livelier life for lions in the suburbs

SHORTLY before Christmas, at least eight lions apparently concluded that life in Nairobi National Park was either too dull or too lean—the majority of the herbivores migrate out of the Park in the rains.

Presumably they climbed over the fence that protects the city side of the Park, and then set about stirring things up in the adjacent suburb of Langata.

After a prize cow and two, no doubt equally prized, horses had been killed and eaten by the lions, action was called for. It came in the form of a team headed by the Wildlife Department's Veterinarian who over a number of days and nights, succeeded in tranquillising six of the lions, five of which were later released back into the Park and into Mara Game Reserve (one died).

So it seems life can still be quite exciting in Nairobi.

Official Shop-talk

DOCUMENTS sent out by the Kenya Government's Tourism and Wildlife Ministry in recent months have borne a covering note, saying:

With the Compliments of the Director
Wildlife *Conversation* and
Management Department

All talk and no *conservation*—Surely not?

Ngurumans: A case for conservation planning

VINCE and CHRIS FAYAD, whose work on an ecological survey of the Nguruman Escarpment is partially funded by a grant from the Society, have just submitted their first, extremely detailed Progress Report. An extensive range of plants has already been collected and identified from a wide range of habitats; over 1,000 birds of 80 species have been netted and ringed and more general ecological investigations have been begun. It is hoped that the study will lead to practical suggestion for the conservation and management of the area. And this would be especially relevant since the area is likely to be opened up to tourism in the fairly near future—after the construction of a road over the Nguruman Escarpment to link the Mara with Magadi.

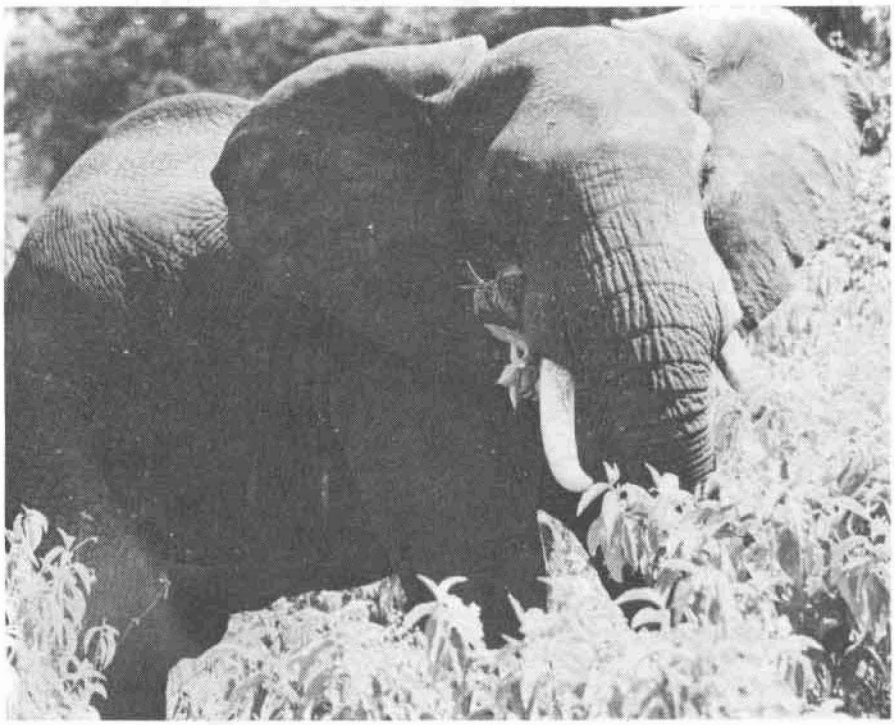
Air crash set-back for the KREMU project

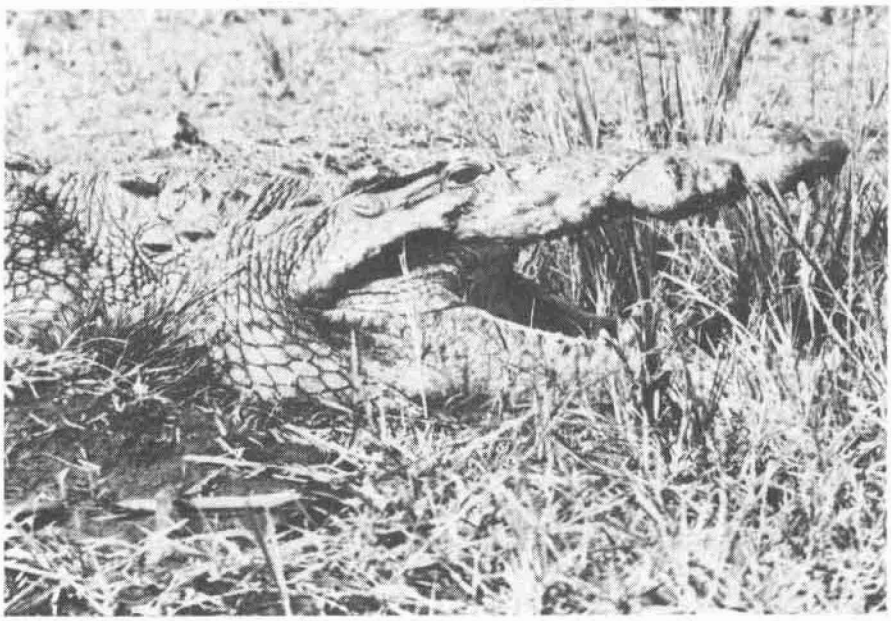
KENYA'S most costly wildlife research project, the Canadian-sponsored Kenya Rangeland Ecological Monitoring Unit (KREMU) suffered a tragic setback when one of its three Cessna 185 aircraft crashed in the Rift Valley near Mt. Longonot in November. The Canadian pilot, a Kenyan trainee pilot, a driver and a mechanic were all killed instantly. Quite apart from the personal tragedies involved, it has put yet another brake on a Project that has never really achieved full momentum. We hope that the fortunes of the Project will improve in the coming year since the results expected of it could be of crucial importance to our understanding of the overall wildlife situation in Kenya.

Elephant 'happening'

Between the 1st and 8th March 1978 the staff of the WWF/New York Zoological Society's "Elephant Project" is organising a series of wildlife-oriented "happenings" most of which will take place at the French Cultural Centre in Nairobi. Despite the somewhat off-putting description, the event promises to be full of interest—particularly if it catches the imaginations as is planned, of local Kenyan artists, sculptors, song-writers and school-children. The "happenings" will extend over a week and will include exhibitions, concerts, lectures, discussions, films and assorted bartering. Wildlife, particularly elephants, will be the theme.

UGANDA PARKS — 'ALIVE AND WELL'





Pictures: by Peter Davey

WHATEVER you may think of Uganda's volatile political affairs, her National Parks and tourist infrastructure are still very much alive and well. Recent visitors to Uganda have been impressed by the friendly and enthusiastic reception they have received, both by National Parks staff and in the tourist lodges. Recently opened in Kabalega Falls N.P. is the Grand Pakuba Lodge, said to be one of the most dramatic and beautiful hotels in Africa. With the exception of elephants, the wildlife in Kabalega and Ruwenzori National Parks is still there in profusion, in physical surroundings that—for some—remain unrivalled in East Africa. Police and Army are neither offensive nor obtrusive. If you care for the wildlife of Uganda, the best thing you could possibly do for it would be to go and see it.

Open for business

We are pleased to announce that the Society has opened a new shop in Ambalal House, Nkrumah Road, Mombasa. We hope that many of our local and coastal members will visit it.

KENYA COULD HELP BY SUPPORTING U.S. PRESSURE FOR AN IVORY BAN

THE Society has been kept fully informed of spontaneous and much appreciated back-up action in the United States on the conservation of the African elephant. This includes the introduction and progress of a Bill to ban or restrict ivory imports into America from California Congressman Anthony Beilenson and subsequent Federal Government debate on listing the elephant as "threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Craig van Note, executive vice-president of a consortium of U.S. conservation agencies called "Monitor", summarises the situation as at the time of going to Press in mid-February:—

"The notice issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, lists several options for reducing or halting the trade in ivory and other elephant products, ranging from a total ban to little more than we have now. They are to:—

1. "Impose a total ban on the importation and utilization of elephant products in the U.S.; individual permits would be required for all exceptions.

2. "Prohibit the importation and utilization of all elephant products except for those which originated in a nation that had ratified the treaty of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Importation would require an Appendix II permit.

3. "Authorize importation only from nations that could provide satisfactory certification and evidence that they had an adequate conservation program for the elephant. The U.S. would decide on each individual country.

4. "Allow importation only from nations that could provide satisfactory certification and evidence that their products had originated in a country which was a signatory of CITES or had an adequate elephant conservation program. This would apply to transient countries which had worked the ivory—as opposed to (2) and (3) which covered raw elephant products from countries which have native elephant populations. Transient countries would guarantee country of origin.

"There is now a 60 day public comment period on the proposed threatened designation for elephants and the four options. The U.S. conservation community will be pushing hard for a total cut-off of ivory imports because we feel the trafficking in ivory is totally out of control and there is not presently any foolproof means of guaranteeing legal ivory. As long as any legal trade exists, the poachers and smugglers will find loopholes to keep their ghastly business going.

"We would welcome comments from the African conservation community on the proposed U.S. action. They should be sent to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington D.C. 20240. Please send "Monitor" a copy—1522 Connecticut Avenue, Washington D.C. 20036.

"It would be enormously helpful if the Kenya Government would call on all importing nations to halt the trade in African wildlife. Such an appeal from the people who are losing their natural heritage would have a profound impact on the consumer nations, particularly the U.S.

"If Kenya has the courage to shut down its largely illegal trade in wildlife, the consumer nations should do same. . . ."

The IUCN "Elephant Group," however, prefers stringent controls by the U.S. rates than a permanent ban.

At the recent hearing on the proposed U.S. Federal Government action, before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, key evidence was given by Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton who flew to Washington from Nairobi especially for the purpose. Extracts from his testimony are as follows:—

. . . ."*Elephants today face three threats to their survival:—*

"Firstly, they are losing their range in the face of human expansion. This cannot be avoided until the distant time when human population is controlled.

"Secondly, they are being compressed within the few protected islands of wilderness, where often they may destroy trees and shrubs faster than they can regenerate; in extreme cases, to the point where the elephants themselves can starve.

"Thirdly, they suffer from straightforward human predation, sometimes in defense of crops, and sometimes for meat, as happens in West Africa; but mainly for ivory. Killing for ivory is the major threat to elephants right now, and has increased greatly since the price of ivory leapt up by a factor of ten in the early 1970s . . . .

. . . ."*Bearing in mind that our estimates are low, our tentative total of 1.3 million elephants in Africa is a minimun, which might yet have to be revised upwards, even though we know that the real trend is an overall decline. This may appear high. . . but I must stress that high numbers in themselves are no more protection for elephants than they were for the passenger pigeon or the American buffalo.*

"Historically, the ivory trade has been responsible for the extinction of elephants in North Africa, in classical times, and for the massive destruction of elephants in South Africa in the late nineteenth century, from which slaughter only a few pockets survived, now happily well protected.

"Nor have high numbers been protected from excessive killing in recent years. For example, the elephant population of Kabalega (National Park) in Uganda was decimated by poachers between 1973 and 1976 after it had been considered to be grossly overcrowded. The same is true of the Tsavo National Park in Kenya, when first drought and later poachers caused a dense elephant population to crash.

"In this connection I should like to welcome very much indeed, President Kenyatta's initiative in banning the trade in wildlife products by the curio shops. The Kenyan President's action closed an important loophole for the illicit ivory trade and provides the sort of leadership which can influence people at all levels in Kenya society to conserve elephants and wildlife. . . ."

Dr Douglas-Hamilton then outlined the status of the elephant country by country, demonstrating a decline in 18 of the 33 African nations where it still exists and an increase in only two of them. . . .He recommended that the U.S. lists the elephant as "threatened" rather than "endangered".

He then turned back to the main cause of the decline. . . .

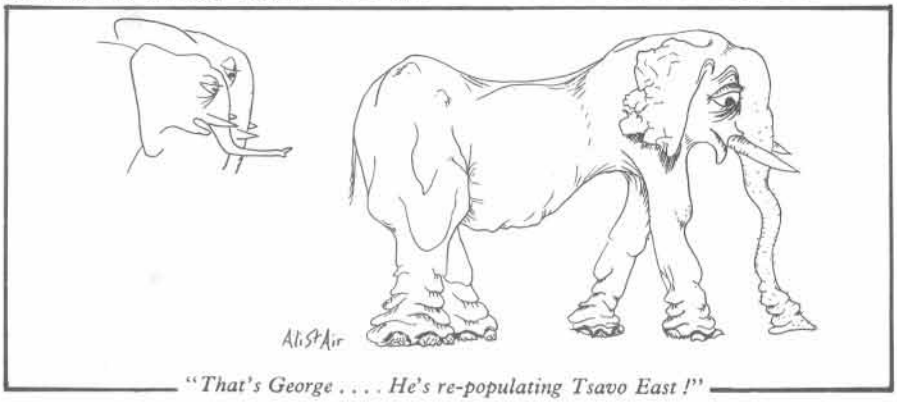
"Now, one of the biggest gaps in our knowledge concerns the ivory trade. So far with extremely small resources, in conjunction with the TRAFFIC group of IUCN, we have been able to uncover the broad dimensions of this Trade, but we still know very little. . . .This sort of data is very hard to get.

"I have been lobbying conservation groups to sponsor an in-depth study of the ivory trade for about a year and a half. . . . But, it is sad that we still have to debate measures for controlling the trade in such a vacuum of knowledge.

"Data as yet untapped are aircraft and ship manifests, cargo insurance documents, and most important of all, sources within the trade itself. I believe that we should ask whether there is either the will or the ability within the ivory trade for effective self-regulation".

●On Feb. 20, the IUCN African Elephant Group met in Nairobi to discuss the four options offered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. By consensus opinion option (iv) was selected for three main reasons:–

1. It implies that the U.S. must remain involved in monitoring and regulating the international ivory trade.
2. It strengthens the relevance of the CITES convention.
3. It leaves the door open for the ivory dealers to undertake self-regulation.



"That's George . . . . He's re-populating Tsavo East !"

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND – KENYA
Notes compiled by Ellis Monks

WWF WILDLIFE NEWS ROUND THE WORLD

A YEAR OF BATTLES WON FOR CONSERVATION

WHILST there is no place for complacency, the year 1977 has shown some progress in the conservation of wildlife.

On the National scene the decision was taken to remove the copper oxy-chloride factory from Nakuru, where it constituted a threat to the Lake Nakuru National Park, to a site near Mombasa. The factory has still to be re-sited but it is hoped that this will take place during 1978. The hunting ban brought to an end an era of killing wildlife for sport which commenced in Kenya before the turn of the century. It was also the precursor of the ban on the sale of game trophies announced by President Kenyatta in December.

Along-needed Wildlife Planning Unit, has been formed in Government. Hitherto there has been no detailed planning, but merely what appeared to be a drifting on from one year to the next. Optimistically there will now be long-range planning embracing not only the ideas of wildlife utilisation and management, which have never been in short supply, but the actual implementation of the ideas.

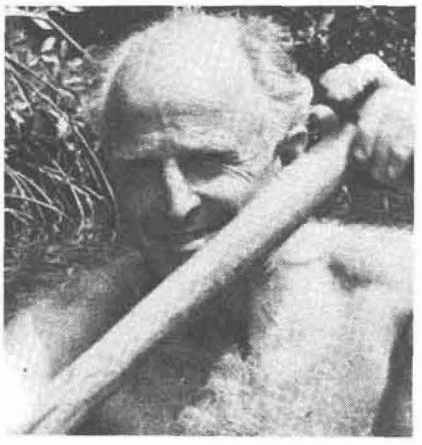
Education in conservation and the training of wardens and rangers is now included in the budget and it is hoped that the new ranger training school at Naivasha will be set up in the not too distant future.

Internationally, steps have been taken to protect the elephant and to control the trade in ivory. Hong Kong is to control the importation of ivory and the U.S. is actively considering the banning of importation of ivory into that country.

The black rhinoceros has joined the other species of Asian and white rhinoceros in being declared an endangered species. The U.S., again in the forefront of conservation, is in process of enacting legislation to ban the importation of Grevy's zebra skins.

To those involved in conservation, the processes seem depressingly slow and at times many of us feel that the safeguarding of wild places and wild creatures is a losing battle. But the destruction—if not stopped altogether—is at least being slowed down. There is also, quite obviously, an increasing awareness in Kenya of what has taken place over the past four or five years.

Although final decisions on conservation will be political at the top level it is the ordinary individual who will ultimately be responsible for the implementation of conservation policies. Although we can all press for action—organisations can appeal to governments and governments can pass laws—without the co-operation of the people such laws will be meaningless.



Prof. Schenkel.

GOLD MEDAL

THIS has been awarded to PROF. RUDOLF SCHENKEL of Basel University in recognition of his life is work on the study and preservation of rhinoceroses in Africa and Asia—in particular his outstanding contribution to successful conservation of the worlds' only known surviving population of the Javan Rhinoceros at Ujung Kulon Nature Reserve in Indonesia. Professor Schenkel was visiting professor at the then University of East Africa in Nairobi in 1963 when, with his wife Lotte, they studied the black rhino in Tsavo.

A million dollar pledge for Indonesia

THE WWF has pledged one million dollars for a five-year Joint Conservation Programme with the Government of Indonesia to ensure the future of the country's unique natural heritage and resources.

Orang utan, Sumatran and Javan rhinoceros, tiger, elephant, banteng, Kuhl's deer and gibbons are among the species threatened with severe depletion or extinction and which are covered by the projects.

The projects include the establishment of new Reserve and National Parks and safeguarding the integrity of existing reserves. Indonesia's Director General of Forests stated that "the Government of Indonesia is now fully concious of the need for more effective environmental management."

THE WALDRAPP IBIS

WORK has started on the construction of special cages for captive breeding of the last Waldrapp ibises (*Geronticus eremita*) in Eurasia at the village of Birecik in Turkey.

The Waldrapp or Bald Ibis once bred extensively throughout Europe but disappeared during the 17th century. Now, apart from a few hundred breeding in Morocco, the only other known breeding area is a cliff in the middle of Birecik. In 1953 there were about 1,300 ibis here, this year the number has dwindled to 34, of which 13 pairs produced 17 fledglings.

CATTLE THREATENED

THE WWF has asked the Thailand government to take urgent action to save the KOUPREY (*Bos sauveli*) from threatened extinction by destruction of habitat. The forests which are inhabited by this rarest of wild cattle are being exploited for timber and agricultural settlement.

David Sheldrick honoured

The Board of Trustees of the World Wildlife Fund have posthumously honoured ten distinguished conservationists; included is DAVID SHELDRICK, Warden of Tsavo National Park who died in June 1977.

Others are:

- *Patrick D. Stracey*, Geologist and Zoologist from India.
- *Andries Hoogerwerf*, eminent naturalist, ornithologist and conservationist from the Netherlands.
- *Dr. Samuel Schweizer*, of Switzerland who was a Member of the Board of Trustees of the WWF since 1964 and Honorary Treasurer from 1965 to 1971
- *Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson*, a founder of WWF (U.S.) and the first President of WWF (U.S.). Member of WWF International Board of Trustees from 1961 1973

continued on page viii

SUPPORT WWF—KENYA

IT IS proposed to invite "Annual-Supporters" to WWF Kenya. A donation of 60/- will bring "Africana" quarterly; Panda Newsletters as published; a Panda car sticker and the knowledge that you are supporting a voluntary organisation, with your donation going entirely to the conservation projects here in Kenya.

Annual Supporter Donations of K.Shs. 60/- (S.8) should be sent to World Wildlife Fund, Kenya, Box 40075 Nairobi, Kenya. Please note: This offer does not include membership to the E.A. Wild Life Societies.

WWF Roll of Honour

from page vii

- *Ernest Kleinwort* a benefactor of conservation from the U.K.
- *Sir Landsborough Thomson*, naturalist & ornithologist
- *Prof. W. H. Pearsall*, conservationist & ecologist
- *Capt. Charles Pitman*, one of the first three game wardens in East Africa in 1925, stationed in Uganda.
- *Prof. B. N. Bogdanov*, the noted USSR conservationist.



Orang-Outan, threatened in Indonesia.

PAUL GETTY AWARD ADDRESS

IN HIS address on receipt of the J. Paul Getty Award of $50,000 on the 28th October, MAJOR IAN GRIMWOOD, one time Chief Game Warden Kenya, said "I am convinced that every country's conservation programme must be based on a hard-core pattern of national parks or wholly protected areas which cover all examples of the country's different biomes". He cited human population growth as a main obstacle to conservation.

U.N. CONFERENCE

AT the *U.N. Conference on Desertification* held in Nairobi, however, the recommendation dealing with health care called for "*particulars emphasis on family planning*". But the section was later diluted to read —"*including family planning where necessary.*" In other words, a recommendation to do nothing.

This is hardly encouraging as over-population is the underlying cause of virtually every problem concerned with the environment and its conservation.

CROCODILE SKINS

AN indication of the importance of the signing of the Convention by both France and Kenya is indicated by the 1976 sale of Crocodile skins to France by Kenya. During this period 3,000 kgms of skins were traded. The crocodile is currently listed as an Endangered Species.

IVORY INTO BRITAIN

DURING the first six months of 1976 Britain imported 42,871 kgms of ivory of which 31,960 kgms emanated from Kenya. The Kenya export statistics during the whole of 1976 gave a figure of only 637 kgms.

WILDLIFE CLUBS OF KENYA

by Sandy Price

800 YOUNG PEOPLE ESPECIALLY WELCOME THE CURIO BAN

WILDLIFE CLUB members in the Nairobi area feel particularly gratified about The President's announcement that curio shops must unload all wild animal products by a three-month deadline. The reason for their pride is that they staged a public demonstration in late July, for the purpose of congratulating the Government on the hunting ban and also to draw attention to the horrendous number of wildlife curios on sale in Nairobi.

Carrying handmade placards, 800 students marched peacefully for several miles down the main thoroughfares of Nairobi on a Saturday morning. Escorted by police and press photographers, they were photographed marching past the most prominent curio shops in Nairobi, and news of their march went subsequently to at least 96 points around the globe.

The Wildlife Clubs were started nearly nine years ago, and by now, past and present Club members are showing interest in more than viewing wildlife films and visiting Kenya's parks. Not that these are less than top priority activities, but they now ask "what can we do to show the Government that we are committed and concerned about the problems and solutions to conservation issues ?"

The demonstration against wildlife curios was one answer, and it is likely that, as a growing pressure group, WCK members will continue to be heard from. For now, they submit an unqualified congratulatory message to the Kenya Government; and the WCK Headquarters, on behalf of 18,000 Wildlife Club members, presented a special photographic review of Club activities and conservation efforts to H.E. The President of Kenya.

AWARD

Late in 1977, WCK Headquarters staff decided to initiate a new award to be presented annually to several of the "Best Wildlife Clubs of Kenya".

Three Clubs, at Kericho High School, Kangaru Boys' School and Kisumu Girls' High School, will receive trophies which are being presented by Kenya's National Environmental Secretariat, The Department of Wildlife Conservation and Management, and WCK Headquarters. As an indication of how much can be accomplished by an active Wildlife Club group, the following are examples of some of the achievements of the above school groups: Nature Trail, Fish and Frog Pond, Club Museum, Botanical Garden, Bird Study Groups, Debates and Discussions, an average of 5 trips per school year to Kenya's National Parks, Inter-Club Quiz Competitions, Production of a regular Wildlife Club Magazine, an Anti-Poaching Demonstration, several Wildlife Club rallies involving up to 1,000 students each time, painting contest, Tree labelling project, research project on ceremonial, edible and medical uses of plants, petitioning for transferral of wild animals (e.g. leopard) from populated areas to game reserves, and several thousand shillings contributed to the WCK Hostel Project in Nairobi.

Another Wildlife Club consisting of 35 girls succeeded in planting 3,000 tree seedlings near their school compound in a three month period. WCK Headquarters staff, through their visits to schools and frequent correspondence, try to keep in close touch with what the various Clubs are doing, and where they could use some extra advice or assistance.

EUROPE VISIT

Mika Mukoko, WCK's Deputy Organiser, spent one month in Europe during November, 1977, sponsored by World Wildlife Fund and on behalf of the WCK Association. This was Mika's first journey abroad, and when asked how it was, he replied "very cold". Apart from that, he received a lot of goodwill and encouragement for the work being done by WCK, and he had constructive talks with conservationists in the Netherlands, Switzerland and London

UGANDA SEMINAR

Sandy Price represented WCK for a week in Uganda, to participate in the 2nd Annual Wildlife Clubs of Uganda Seminar. Sponsored by the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation, she presented a slide programme on Wildlife Club projects and supplied wildlife films. The Seminar was attended by 52 enthusiastic students and teachers, and there is no doubt that the potential for this conservation education programme in Uganda is great. Internal unrest aside, Uganda remains a very beautiful country with many wonderful wildlife sights. Visitors are treated with utmost courtesy and friendliness. A three hour launch trip on the Nile to view Kabalega (formerly Murchison) Falls would be hard to surpass for the thrilling spectacle of thousands of hippos, hundreds of basking crocodiles, and unrivalled bird life, all against a back drop of riverine trees festooned with Colobus monkeys.

CONCLUDING MINISTER SAIBULL'S POLICY STATEMENT

A FRESH START FOR TANZANIA

AN EXCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO 'AFRICANA' ON THE BORDER CLOSURE



PICTURE: John Reader from his book with Harvey Croze "Pyramids of Life" (Collins.)

A FINAL FAREWELL TO THE KENYAN PREDATORS

I WOULD LIKE To state clearly that we have no intention whatsoever of reverting to the situation before the border closure when tourists who came to Tanzania were handled by Kenyan tour operators. We do not intend this now, nor in the near future—nor even in the distant future. As far as tourism is concerned, the border is closed permanently.

However, we must now increase our efforts to build up our own tourist industry; to develop our great natural heritage for the benefit of the Tanzanian economy in particular.

There have been doubts expressed in the past as to the priority our party and government gave to this sector development. But I should like to say now that although, in our present circumstances, tourism cannot be given the same emphasis for development as, say, agriculture, industry, water, education or health, it does enjoy quite a high priority in our current development programmes. This is due to the fact that we obtain a fairly large amount of foreign exchange from it, and the prospects for further expansion of the industry are great.



In fact, the Tanzania Tourist Corporation, which is the Government agency in the promotion of tourism, has been instructed to make an all-out promotion effort to attract more tourists. They have already made a number of trips to Europe, America and now in Japan. They have been talking to tour operators, wholesalers, travel agents, and others in the tourist business. They have also invited operators and travel agents to come and see the quality of our tourist attractions. The results have been most encouraging. So encouraging that TTC, in addition to having an office in London, will soon open offices in New York, Milan and in West Germany. Another office in Stockholm will be opened later in the year.

To prepare for the increased number of tourists, TTC is expanding the New Africa Hotel in Dar es Salaam and the New Safari Hotel in Arusha. Other hotel services are being improved.

TTC has acquired more than 120 vehicles and others will be added to the fleet this year. Improvements to our airports are also being made so as to enable tourists to be handled more quickly. There are plans to extend Zanzibar Airport so that it can take bigger aircraft, and thus make it possible for direct flights to the Spice Islands from Europe, America and elsewhere. The Zanzibar authorities also have plans to increase hotel accommodation of international standard to the extent of doubling its present bed capacity within the next three years.

These efforts alone show that the party and government attach great importance to the development of tourism, and is entirely serious about it. It is totally inconceivable that large sums of money are being spent on tourist facilities if this were not the case.

I should also point out in this respect that tourism is one sector where private investment is welcome. It is not, and it has never been, the intention of the party

continued overleaf

by Solomon ole Saibull, Tanzania's Minister for Tourism and Natural Resources

TANZANIA | WE WANT PRIVATE TOURISM INVESTMENT – SAIBULL

and government to monopolise this industry. Contrary to what some ill-informed people believe, the Arusha Declaration did not say that all industries will be put under public control. It merely stated that the major means of production, including big industries upon which a large section of the population depends for their living, or which provide essential components for other industries, must be under the control of the State or peasants and workers. These major means of production are mentioned in the Declaration, which then leaves the residual areas open for private investment. The Declaration did not abolish the Foreign Investments Protection Act of 1963.

Our aim is to make foreign investors in the permitted areas feel that Tanzania is a good safe place for investment, producing good profits which can be taken out of the country without difficulty.

As pointed out earlier, the party and government want this industry to expand in order to bring in more foreign exchange to Tanzania. But government and the TTC's efforts alone cannot expand this industry to the desired level. We therefore call upon private investors, who have so far been rather shy, to be aggressive and take up the challenge to develop tourist facilities, and to bring tourists for their benefit and the benefit of the country as a whole.

They can invest in the industry either alone or with outside private firms, or in partnership with TTC when TTC is able to do so; or with other parastatal institutions, co-operatives, District Development Committees, and others. All this depends on the wishes of the investor, and the magnitude of the investment.

We believe that the potential of the tourist industry is great and the returns will be rewarding. But the influx of tourists we anticipate will require more hotel accommodation than we have at present. A recent study shows that by the end of 1978/9 we shall require 9,930 hotel beds as against 4,930 beds we now have. In other words the challenge to investors is to help us make up the short-fall.

However, I would like to make one thing clear, and that is the building of hotels and lodges by private people is not allowed in the National Parks and Wildlife Reserves for obvious reasons. But private investors are welcome to build hotels in the cities and towns such as Dar es Salaam, Moshi, Arusha, Mwanza Musoma, Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro and others. Vacation villages, especially along the beach, would also be an attractive investment. And one piece of advice when building hotels: Use local materials as far as possible in order to conserve our foreign exchange and boost our local building industry.

Private tour operators are also welcome. In 1976 we had 96 Kenya tour operators operating in Tanzania against 66 Tanzania tour operators. As I have explained, those Kenyans are no longer being licensed. This means that although TTC has acquired, and will expand, her fleet of vehicles, there will be need to increase our transport capacity to fill the gap created by the departure of the Kenyans. So the Tourist Agent Licensing Authority will continue to grant licences to tour operators based in Tanzania, provided, of course, they fulfil the necessary conditions for the grant of such licences.

I know that private investors will require assistance if they are to be successful in establishing and running hotels and other tourist facilities—and so I want to assure them that the Government will try to help as much as it can within the resources available.

One form of assistance is in the training of manpower for tourism since we realize that the existence of qualified tours and hotel staff is a prerequisite for developing a sound tourist industry. For this reason the Government has taken over from TTC the running of the Hotel Training School as from 1st July, 1977. The School, which at present provides basic level courses of three months' duration for the five main hotel occupations—waiters, barmen, receptionists, housekeepers and cooks—is now open to the general public: provided they meet the necessary entry requirements and fees. Moreover a study is being made of the manpower requirements at all levels in the Tourist Industry over the next ten years.

In this way we are preparing for a great demand we are sure exists for some of the world's greatest tourist attractions in Tanzania.

COMMENT | SAIBULL IS RIGHT – AND 'AFRICANA' WRONG

Sir—In reference to your editorial of October/November, 1977, may I record that at least one member of the EAWLS agrees with the majority of what the Tanzanian Minister for Tourism and Natural Resources has to say. He offers a few erroneous facts about the Maasai Mara, and chooses to overlook the point that Kenya's tourist industry has developed to its present position mainly because conditions were made attractive to foreign investors; but most of his points are considerably more plausible than our own.

Long before the collapse of East African Airways, the Kenya newspapers gave a clear impression that Kenya was not playing the part that benefited the richest member of the Community, and her self-interest probably did indeed contribute to the failure of the airline. May I suggest that you, Sir—Kenya-style—are taking your admitted rudeness and your cynicism to the point of counter-productivity, and are benefitting neither the "East African" nor the "Wildlife" aspects of this society.

Tanzania is the country which at present has both the greater assets in wildlife and the better record in conservation, but, at least partly due to her Socialist policies, she is very short of capital.

Kenya has earned some wealth from tourism, but thanks to the profiteering of a few individuals she has witnessed the rapid depletion of the wildlife on which tourism largely depends. There is only some hope that action by the EAWLS can contribute to the saving of a significant part of what remains.

The Society should recognise that the best prospects for the future of wild life in a natural habitat in East Africa, for the benefit both of a host country and of mankind as a whole, lie in the conservation policies of the Government of Tanzania.

Mankind will presumably not pay for conservation except through the medium of tourism, so full support must be given to the development of tourism in Tanzania.

After Tanzania has stood on her own feet she may be willing to re-open the "milk-run", but so long as she is the one likely to be milked, the border will remain closed as the Minister states. It's nonsensical to advocate "control measures" to divert revenue to Tanzania until she has some facilities to offer in return for such revenue: Tanzania National Park fees are already too high!

My political sympathies, apparently like your own, favour the Kenya system; but that is irrelevant to the fact that this Society's interest is "wildlife," and the majority of wildlife now surviving in East Africa is resident in Tanzania.

Political facts should be faced, political mud-slinging stopped and a positive attitude adopted. There are other subjects to which your outspokenness can be applied with good effect.

—Jim Crees,
Vet. Labs.,
P. O. Kabete.

●The recent editorials may also have been positive and productive if, for example, they drew a response from the Tanzanian Government which increased public understanding of the wildlife conservation issues involved in the present political break with Kenya.

Not unimportant issues, perhaps, such as the future of land now a serious economic drain on Tanzania, like the Serengeti, Ngorongoro and fifteen other parks and reserves.

It may be that—right or wrong, plausible or otherwise—the magazine is effective for conservation if the makers of tourism and wildlife policies are persuaded to use it as a principal medium for international discussion of these issues.

Not an unimportant debate, perhaps, led by Tanzania's Tourism Minister and National Parks' Director who dispute the political "facts" as interpreted by the magazine but not its integrity and consistent support of their locally superior conservation performance.

This support is occasionally practical and financial, but mostly it is international promotion—time and again—of almost the same message out correspondent now preaches at us. (*See most of this issue of the magazine*).

But perhaps we are still misunderstood, and should summarise our recent editorial position in the debate with Tanzania—bearing in mind that editorial comment is contributed in "Africana" and like any other contributed material may or may not represent a consensues opinion of the Society. . . .

1. We proposed an immediate reopening of the Kenya-Tanzania border and a resumption of co-operation on tourism for the positive purposes, *inter-al* of substituting tourism revenue for Government subsidies in support of Tanzania's incomparable national parks. It may be that an incidental result of renewed co-operation would be a little of the foreign capital for partnership development that the Government now seeks. (*See page 24*)

2. The magazine positively favours an East African political system—rather than the present separation of the same peoples and resources under systems which are peculiarly Kenyan, Tanzanian and Ugandan. . . .

—Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write to: The Editor, 'AFRICANA', P. O. Box 49010, NAIROBI

KENYA HUNTING BAN
A MISTAKE

Sir—For some time I have been bothered by the acrimonious arguments in the letters to the editor between hunters and anti-hunters and the apparent editorial bias against hunting. It seemed not only counter-productive by alienating one group or another but a waste of space which could be better devoted to more important issues or articles.

As a Society contributor of several years standing, I rather resent the Society's presuming to speak for its entire membership against all hunting and its applause of Kenya's recent ban against sport hunting. If there were only a small number of hunters who were abusing the situation, why not point them out rather than tarring everyone?

I am convinced Kenya's move is a mistake. There need be no conflict between tourism and sport hunting. I have never hunted in Kenya, though I have hunted elsewhere in Africa. I have combined my hunts with sightseeing visits to many of the Parks, including several in Kenya. If I had not hunted, I probably would have made one grand tour of the parks, and that would be it. For that matter, I might never have developed the interest in wildlife which prompted me to visit Africa. If it were not for hunting I very definitely would not have tolerated the travel discomforts, dust and tsetses to spend time as a tourist in unscenic woodlands and nyika where I spent a lot of time, especially when I could view animals more comfortably elsewhere. A relatively small remnant of African wildlife confined to parks will satisfy most tourists. Is that what you really want. I am afraid it's what you'll end up with!

What really prompted this letter, though, is Ellis Monk's article on page (vii) of the July issue. This had little to do with Africa or the welfare of Africa's wildlife. It was solely a gratuitous insult to sport hunters. Is it in the best interest to slap a group in the face who regularly contribute substantial sums to wildlife preservation? Certainly hunters may get something for their money in the way of more game to shoot. Is it necessarily bad if the result is more animals distributed over a greater area?

For that matter, I believe everyone acts in what they consider to be their own self-interest. Probably Mr Monks's ego is boosted by writing the way he does and by the praise he receives from people who think like him.

Over the past decade I have contributed several hundred dollars . . . most of which have probably been spent on non-game wildlife or animals I would never have the opportunity to see, let alone hunt. There are other channels through which I could donate money to the welfare of wildlife . . . but why should I help someone (*Mr Monks—WWF-Kenya*) who feels the way he does about me. Many more articles like that in "Africana" and I shall have to reconsider my support. . .

E. P. Denson,
Billings, Montana, U.S.

●*Not the "Society"; not the editor; not Mr Monks; nor even the magazine itself would presume to speak for the membership. As has been said many times, anyone can sound off in* Africana *on the principle that a "concensus opinion" of the Society—if such a thing could exist—might be formed from a conflict of views a particular conservation issue. Perhaps there has been an editorial bias in favour of the Kenya Government's ban on sport hunting. But perhaps the important issue is not so much the "ethics" of hunting as the "politics" of the ban which—unarguably—is an indication of a greater commitment of the Kenya Government to wildlife conservation. The Society; the editor; Mr Monks and the magazine would of course be in favour of that.* **—Ed.**

E. T. Monks writes: *Sport hunting is a feudalistic anachronism even more objectionable in the 20th century than it was in the 13th. The conservation of wildlife for the purpose of killing it in the name of sport is completely out of keeping with our so-called civilisation. It is a phase which most young men pass through—fortunately to most people the killing and the maiming becomes anathema. Few professional hunters continue killing for sport and often become the most ardent of conservationists. To continue to support conservation only so long as conservationists agree to support hunting is to give the lie to the motives of the those hunters who profess an appreciation and love of wildlife for itself. The views expressed are personal incidentally—the official view of the World Wildlife Fund is contained a Policy Statement on Hunting.*



The Marshall and the Monitor

Sir—While wandering through Samburu Park we chanced upon one of the most unusual sights I have witnessed on six safaris in East Africa over the past 25 years.

An eagle—a Marshall I believe—had just captured a large monitor lizard. The lizard had obviously put up quite a battle, as evidenced by the condition of the surrounding ground, but had been reduced to feeble struggles by the time we arrived on the scene. The eagle had pecked out both the reptiles eyes and was just beginning to tear at the skin in front of the right rear leg.

The bird refused to leave his hard-earned prize even when I approached quite close to take pictures. I was quite surprised that the eagle would tackle such a large victim, which was at least four feet long.

—John H. Halliburton
2 Skyline Drive
Kerrville, Texas, 78028

CORRECTION

SIR—The cover picture in the last issue of *Africana* is certainly NOT that of a "young Sooty Tern.". Surely it's a young Booby

G. R. Cunningham -van Someren
Curator, Dept of Ornithology,
National Museums of Kenya.

. . .Someone must have been suffering from a bad hang-over (or something) when he captioned the Booby chick on the front cover a (presumably red-footed) term.

—Hazel Brittonn,
Nairobi.

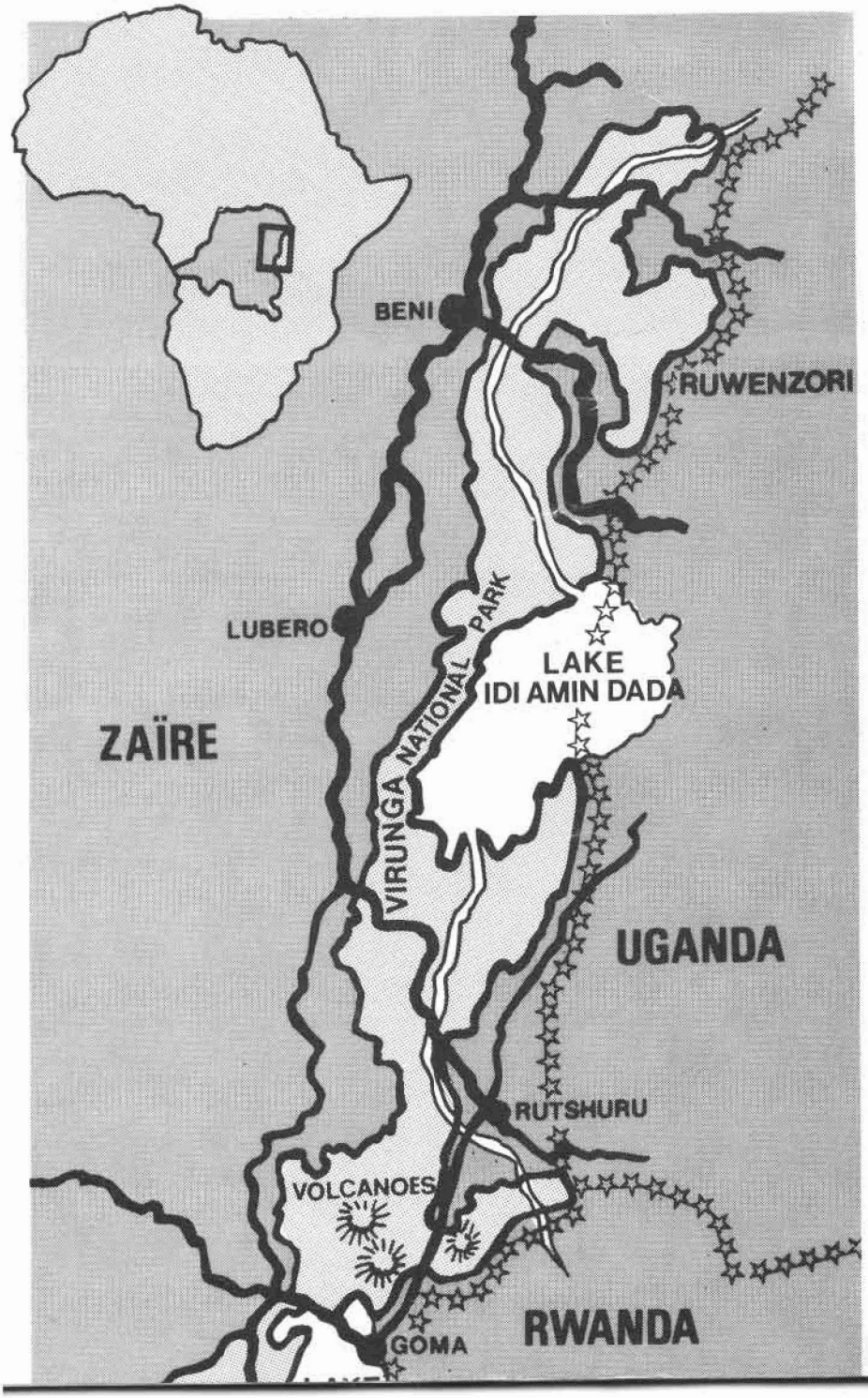
. . . Who boobed?

—Don Turner,
Nairobi.

. . .*Me—ed.*

VIRUNGA

ALMOST A FORGOTTEN WONDER OF THE EARTH



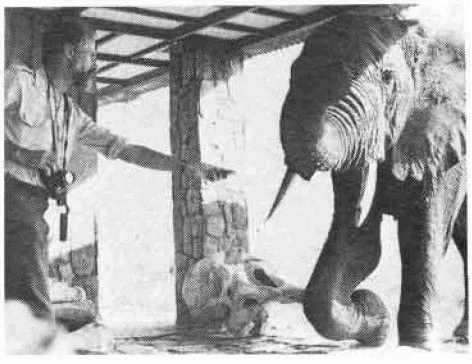
FEW people know where the Virunga National Park is located, yet it is Africa's first wildlife park and among the most beautiful in the world. It is in fact situated in Zaire, the former Belgian Congo, and stretches three hundred kilometres along the borders of Rwanda and Uganda.

The park was set up in 1925 by Albert, then king of the Belgians after whom it was first named. But credit should really go to the great American naturalist, Carl Akeley, who instigated the project after hunting mountain gorilla in the Virunga volcanoes. He realised that these great animals were extremely rare and persuaded King Albert to set aside a protected sanctuary for them. Thereafter he spent the rest of his life conserving the gorilla, and died in 1926 on the flank of the old volcano, *Mikeno*, where his body was buried.

Virunga, as it was called after Independence, is one of seven national parks in Zaire and covers an area of approximately 8,000 square kilometres—about the size of Tsavo West in Kenya. But for diversity of landscapes, it is incomparable. The range includes active and dormant volcanoes; the mysterious Ruwenzori "Mountains of the Moon"; grass plains; tropical forest and Lake Idi Amin, formerly Lake Edward. The park's altitude varies from 916 m. to 5,119 m.—the third highest snow peak in East Africa after Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya.

But perhaps the most attractive aspect of the park is its isolation; the "way off the beaten track" appeal of an essentially wild and beautiful place the tourists have yet to find in any great numbers.

Zaire's basic policy for the Parks is one of non-interference; we allow nature to take its course without imposing any significant man-management. We don't



By J. P. von der Becke



Above: The active volcano "Nyamulagira; below left: the author with a half-tame elephant at Rwindi Camp; below: a prime attraction of the park—26,000 hippo.

import animals which are not indigenous to the areas; for instance there are no giraffe in the park because we don't think there would be enough acacia browse for them. In fact we could introduce one species, wild dog. These are indigenous but were wiped out in a rabies epidemic in 1957—but so far we haven't brought them back, mainly for financial reasons

However, amongst everything else the park offers is the largest concentration of hippo in the world, According to our own census in 1975 there were 26,000 of them, and probably many more by now. The reason for this huge population is that the park is endowed with innumerable rivers, streams and ponds —and more than enough graze for them.

The hippo are of course a prime attraction, but they also support an extremely rich fish-life in Lake Idi Amin and elsewhere. The smaller fish feed on their dropping and in turn feed the much larger tilapia and clarias. The only problem with the hippo is that they are probably the most dangerous animal in the park; capricious, aggressive and liable to charge the incautious at night.

But the park is by no means all raw Africa. For instance at Rwindi Camp there is a first class hotel, complete with swimming pool. Half-tame, or what we call "parasitic" elephant, hang around the camp and visit usually at night with occasional grass-burning, but then only under special circumstances. We don't import animals which are not indigenous other wildlife. But the hotel is attractive perhaps more than anything else as a comfortable base for excursions into the central part of the park where numerous lion compete with the elephant for visitor attention.

Another physical development at Virunga, of which we are quite proud, is the Lulimbi Research Station where Zairean and Belgian scientists study mostly hippos and giant forest hog ecology. We also ring birds there; more than 38,000 of them over the past four years, representing 341 species of which 56 were migrants. In all we have so far recorded 560 bird species in the park, including flamingo which seem to favour Virunga when their blue-green algae food supply falls off at Nakuru and other of the more famous East African lakes.

But perhaps the southern end of the park has the most romantic appeal. This is the area of the great volcanoes and the mountain gorilla which live in the bamboo and hagenia forest up to about 3,660 m. Visitors are allowed to hike in this very wild area, but the chances of seeing a gorilla are relatively slight since they have not become human "habituated" and are extremely shy. Even so, the volcanoes are well worth the safari in themselves and are all accessible apart from Nyarongogo which erupted so spectacularly in January last year. A good alternative, though, is the Nyamulagi volcano with its large and mysterious crater.

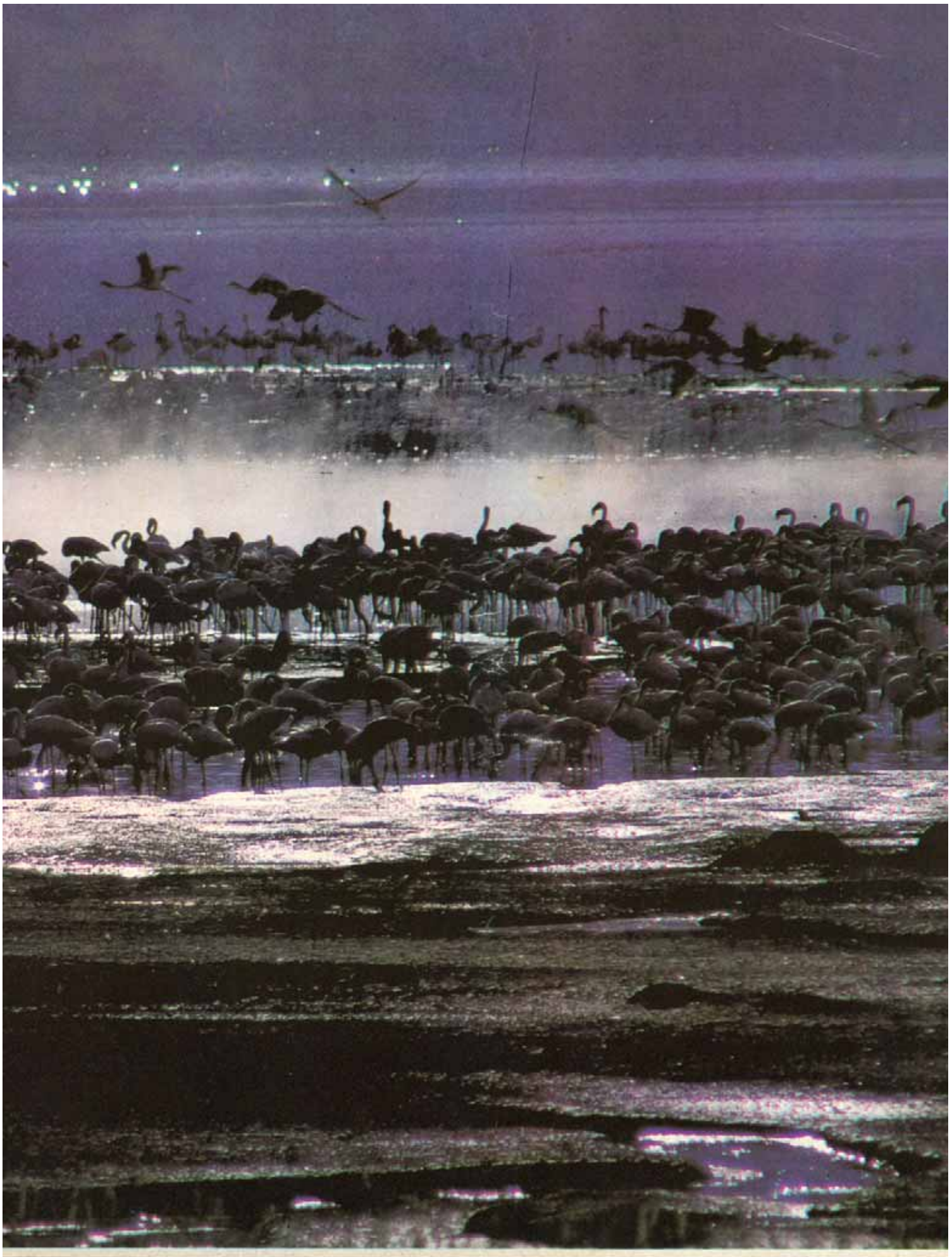
In the other direction, in the north of the park, are the famous Ruwenzoris,

continued on page 34



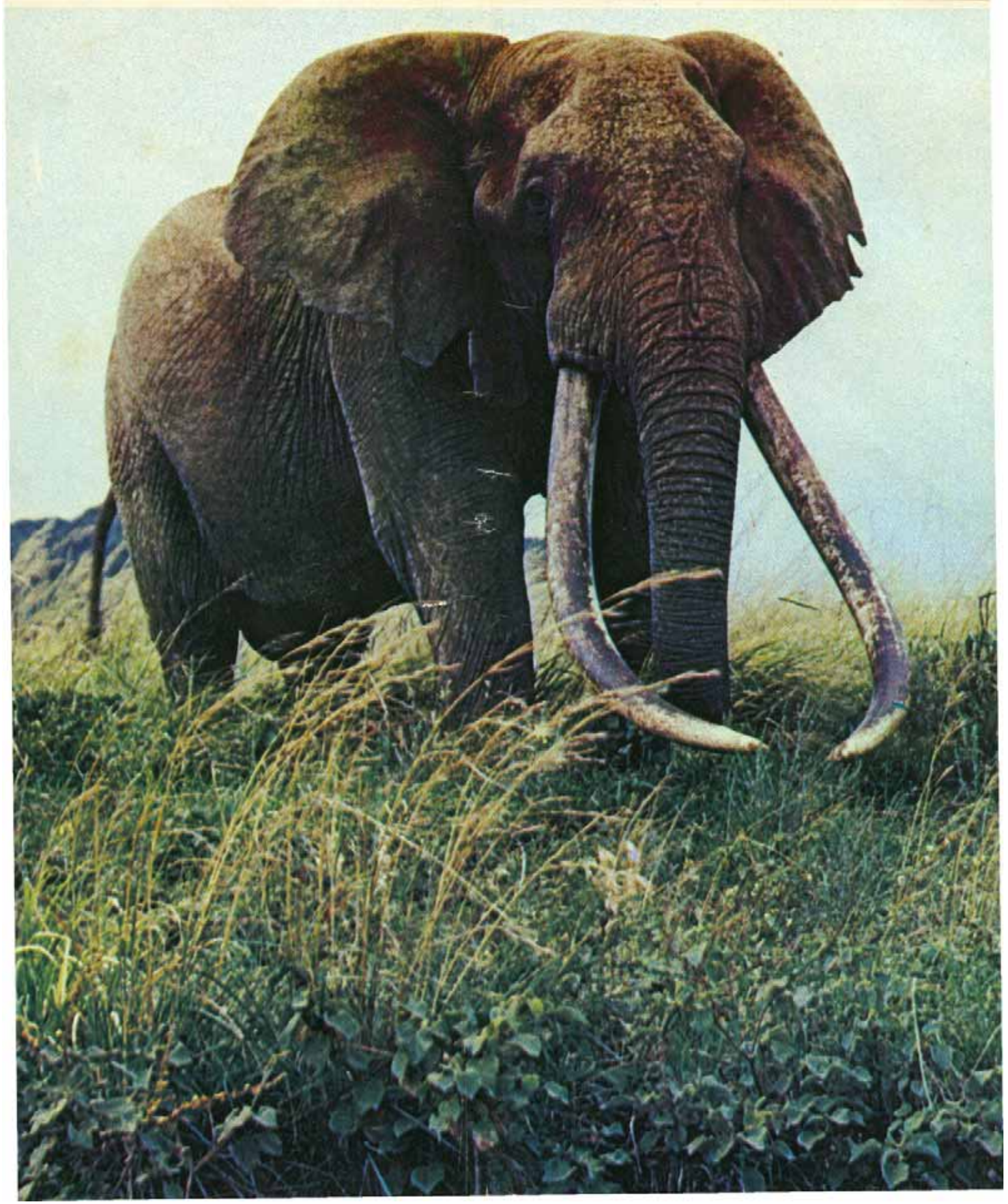
arden, Virunga National Park, Zaïre





Flamingo at Lake Bogoria — from "Faces of Kenya" by David Jones; see book review, page 34.

A SHORT HISTORY OF MARSABIT



PARADISE LOST

This article is contributed by New York's Commissioner of Health, PASCAL JAMES IMPERATO and his wife ELEANOR. Dr Imperato is a trustee of the Martin and Osa Johnson Museum in the U.S. and is currently working with his wife on a book of the Johnsons' Africa pictures. Mrs Imperato is a master's degree candidate at New York University and is writing a thesis on the Johnsons' years in East Africa and specifically on Kenya's Marsabit Mountain.

THE Marsabit National Reserve covers about 1,000 square miles of northern Kenya, 370 miles from Nairobi.

In the centre of this Reserve is Marsabit Mountain, a broad volcanic mound covered by a verdant hardwood forest. There are two craters within the forest and several outside of it around the foothills of the mountain, which itself is a series of gently undulating hills separated by deep ravines. The highest point is 5,684 feet.

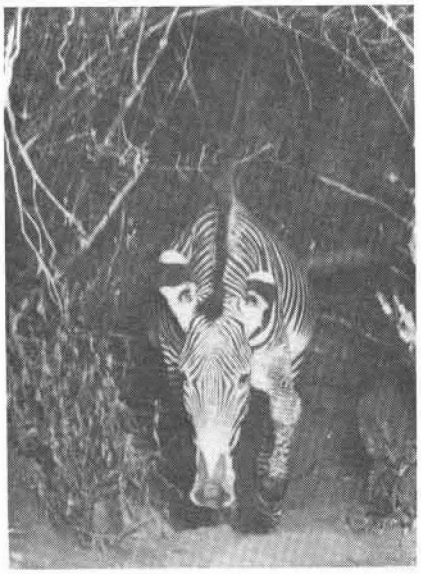
Surrounding this mountain oasis and comprising the rest of the Reserve are desert and scrub bush country. But there are water-holes and dry river beds in the arid terrain around the mountain which fill with water during the rains.

"....*According to European ideas, nothing could be more charming than this Marsabit. Surrounded by a large forest, and lying at the top of the mountain, is a lake a mile square, clear and deep. The jagged walls of crater form a semi-circle about it, while from another side a broad road leads out from the forest to the open meadows beyond....Living on Marsabit are many Masai, enjoying themselves in the possession of large flocks of sheep and goats. In the two days that we remained in Marsabit, Dodson and I collected many rare specimens of birds and mammals, though we could catch no fish whatever in the lake. I also had some good sport with elephants...*"

So wrote Arthur Donaldson Smith, the American physician-explorer in his book *Through Unknown African Countries* (1896). He and his British taxidermist, Edward Dodson, were the the first white men ever to see Marsabit. They arrived at the base of the mountain on September 10, 1895, coming eastward from Lake Turkana (Rudolf) whose shores they had left on August 22, 1895. They left Marsabit on September 13, 1895 and marched south towards the Uaso Nyiro River which they crossed nine days later and then on to the Tana River, traversing what is now part of Meru National Park.

But who was Smith and how and why did he go to Marsabit?

He was born in Andalusia, Pennsylvania, April 27, 1864, attended the University of Pennsylvania from where he graduated in 1885 and Harvard Medical School where he received his M. D. in 1889. In the summer of 1893 he left Philadelphia for Somaliland on a hunting trip. ....*"We had splendid sport, killing six lions, besides many elephants, rhinocerous and other big game..."*, he wrote. This wouldn't be considered splendid sport today by most people, but Smith did it in another era, at a time when Somaliland was a sportsman's paradise full of large game populations. It was while Smith was on this hunting trip that he got the idea of travelling from Berbera to Lake Rudolf via the Galla country. No-one had ever succeeded in doing this before, although some, such as Prince Ruspoli had died in the attempt.





Opposite page left: "Ahmed," once the protected symbol of the Marsabit Game Reserve; above: two Martin Johnson pictures (1925) of animals which have since more or less disappeared from Marsabit, rhino and Grevy zebra.

Smith's trip lasted sixteen months from the time he landed at Berbera until he reached Lamu via Lake Turkana. His expedition consisting of seventy Somalis, scores of camels and donkeys encountered the usual harrowing dangers of the day in that part of the world. They had several pitched battles with local groups, were forced back once by the Amharas, suffered fevers, thirst and exhaustion. But they succeeded in traversing a part of the world never seen before by whites. While all of this was going on, in addition to the usual petty harassments inflicted by local populations, Dodson and Smith collected fishes, mammals, arthropods, geological specimens, ethnographic objects and took pictures. Their march took them in line roughly parallel to the present Kenya-Ethiopia border towards Turkana which at that time swarmed with rhino, Grevy zebra oryx and elephant.

It is surprising that Smith devotes only two pages to Marsabit, especially since he had just marched out of the desolate Chalbi Desert. But he was sick and looking forward to going home.

He wrote "...*On the second day we commenced to ascend the mountain, but did not reach the top until after three marches. I was attacked by fevers on these marches ... before leaving Lake Rudolf I had resigned myself to being placed in dangerous positions, but now there was every hope of my being able to enjoy the fleshpots of Egypt once more...*"

Smith collected a number of birds, butterflies, rocks and mammals on Marsabit, some of which were new species and subsequently named after him. He then returned to the U.S.A., subsequently led an expedition to Mongolia, and died in Kaolin, Pennsylvania, on February 18, 1939.

Hugh Cholmondeley, who became Lord Delamere at the age of seventeen when his father died, was the next white man to see Marsabit. Delamere went on his first hunting trip to Somaliland in 1891. Three more followed and then in 1896 Delamere undertook what was less a hunting trip and more of an expedition of exploration. During his third trip in 1894 he had been badly mauled by a lion and had also contracted typhoid fever at Aden; and it was at his mother's urging that he took a physician with him on the 1896–1897 journey. Dr. Atkinson was very young and as adventurous as Delamere and proved to be an excellent companion.

Delamere's expedition of two hundred camels set out for the interior from Berbera in December, 1896. But it wasn't until August, 1897, eight months later, that they reached Marsabit. They passed through the Ogaden, crossed the Webbe Sheheyli and the Juba River, then marched westwards to Mt. Furoli parallel to the present day Kenya-Ethiopia border and finally down to Marsabit. He encountered few problems from the Amharas because they were preoccupied with an invasion launched by the Italians who were defeated that year at Adowa, but he still had to deal with the Galla and other tribes.

Delamere camped at the crater lake on Marsabit Mountain for three weeks, and Atkinson shot twenty-one elephant during their stay. These elephants for which Marsabit is noted, carried large

continued overleaf

MARSABIT

continued from page 29

tusks presumably because they were rarely hunted at that time as most European ivory hunters of the day operated around Lake Rudolf and to the south and west of it.

When Smith visited Marsabit in 1895, the Rendille and the Samburu shared grazing rights on the mountain's slopes, but in 1897 the Samburu were driven out by the Boran who then came into possession of the mountain. The Masai to whom Smith referred to in his account were actually Samburu.

What is clear from what both Smith and Delamere found at Marsabit is that men, domestic stock and wildlife lived in reasonable harmony together—the numbers in the equation were just right to enable all to thrive. Both describe large herds of cattle, sheep and goats on the slopes of Marsabit, and found large herds of wildlife.

Delamere left Marsabit in September, 1897 and headed south to Laisamis and then across to Lake Rudolf. From there they turned south again and reached Eldama Ravine and the highlands in November, 1897, where he eventually settled.

The mists which still cover Marsabit early in the morning had been lifted by two explorers; but the mountain slept on in a sense for several more years. It was remote and far off the then beaten tracks. Few visited it, and Marsabit was to remain outside of the orbit of effective British administration until 1909.

Just before that, the "Boma Trading Company" sprang up in Kenya, (then the East Africa Protectorate). It had trade routes from as far north as Moyale and Addis Ababa, from which it brought down mainly cattle for sale or exchange with the Masai who refused to sell to the European settlers.

At that time Meru was the northernmost government outpost; but the Boma Trading Company had a fort at Marsabit to protect its caravans en route for Moyale or down to Meru. Permanent human settlement at Marsabit had thus begun.

Then in 1909 a "Northern Frontier District "was drawn up by the new govenor, Sir Percy Girouard and Geoffrey Archer, then a District Commisioner, was assigned the task of setting up government stations in the area.

Archer, a nephew of the Uganda Commissioner Sir Frederick Jackson, set out north from Naivasha in April 1909 with 600 porters, the largest safari ever assembled in that era. He reached the Uaso Nyiro where Arthur Neumann, the South African ivory hunter-poacher had his camp —now the site of the Samburu Game Lodge. But he found "Neumann's Camp" hot, mosquito infested and full of buffalo and so decided to move down river and set up "Archer's Post", where the present day township of the same name is located.

Then, after spending several months setting up the government presence on the Uaso Nyiro, Archer moved on up to Marsabit riding a mule—stopping at Laisamis where he saw large herds of oryx, eventually reaching Marsabit Mountain many weeks later.

He marched on up the slope to "Crater Lake" as he called it in his book *Personal And Historical Memoirs Of An East African Administrator* (1963). There he met Captain Jack Riddell ("Flash Jack"), a former cavalry officer and Managing Director of the Boma Trading Company then in the process of handing over its posts to the government. The two men lunched and then Archer took over the *boma*, with Riddell and his caravan marching out immediately—his chop boxes full of illicit ivory sawed into small pieces to escape detection. The Boma Trading Company staff were therefore the first elephant poachers on Marsabit.

Archer set up his station on a ridge on the south-west of the Gof Sokorte Guda crater which at the time held a permanent lake. His first visitor was an American millionaire, Max Fleischman, who had come for big game hunting. He shot a bull elephant on the edge of the forest—the first of his life and perhaps not such great sport since in spite of the presence of the Boma Trading Company, the elephants of Marsabit were as unafraid as they were when Smith and Delamere saw them. And there were plenty of them on the mountain; as Archer relates, he never took visitors through the forest because there were too many elephant, buffalo, rhino, leopard and lion at close quarters.

After that interlude, a company of the King's African Rifles arrived and Archer began the first survey of Marsabit Mountain. Part of this involved setting up beacons on the top of visible and easy to find landmarks, and in doing so Archer's greatest problem was rhino. "... *Every rocky hill lower down the mountainside was infested with them...*" he wrote.

He charted the water-holes—encountering objections from elephant in the process—and the principal "Gof Sokorte Guda" and "Gof Sokorte Dika" within the forest. The names in Boran mean "small" and "big sweet-water crater" respectively, the first containing a swamp and the other a permanent "Crater Lake".

After serving for three years at Marsabit, Archer went on leave and was replaced by J. O. W. Hope who was given the title Officer-in-Charge, Northern Frontier District. But Archer was back in six months, replacing Hope who had no liking for Marsabit.

Thereafter, he surveyed vast tracts of the Northern Frontier until May, 1913, when he was assigned to British Somaliland and later became Governor.

In time the government station was moved from the edge of the Crater Lake to a site on the northwest edge of the forest where the town of Marsabit is now located. But it still attracted visitors since the only access remained the old camel caravan route from Isiolo which took two weeks to cover.

Then in 1921, Martin Johnson, an American photographer then well-known for his films and photographs of the South Sea islands, decided to move to East Africa. He had been encouraged to do this by Carl Akeley, the American Museum of Natural History's famous naturalist-taxidermist, and formed a corporation for the project with financial backing from friends and family. Through Carl Akeley he also met Blaney Percival, then the Chief Game Warden of British East Africa.

Martin Johnson and his wife Osa were neophytes, but under Percival's guidance they were introduced gently to wildlife on the Athi Plains and in the Ithanga Hills before journeying up to Marsabit. It was a relatively undisturbed area for wildlife, Percival told them, which meant they could get pictures of animals in as wild a state as possible. And the elephant, rhino and buffalo populations were enormous.

The Johnsons moved up to Marsabit slowly, working along the Uaso Nyiro first, and then at Laisamis and other northern water holes. Eventually they reached the government boma at Marsabit and after four days of rest went up to Crater Lake. "*It's Paradise,*" Osa Johnson said on seeing it and thus was the lake renamed.

They set up their first camp six miles from their "Lake Paradise" on the edge of the forest in company with the elephants. These were "truly wild," Martin Johnson wrote in *Camera Trails in Africa* (1924), "... *but although the forest was literally teeming with them, we soon discovered that we had little to fear...*

He also wrote "... *We frequently encountered buffaloes. Sometimes we were not aware of them until we saw their shiny black snouts close by, among the trees. Luckily they were very shy....And we saw rhinos ad nauseam.*"

Martin Johnson also made a prophetic statement on that trip to Marsabit in 1921. He wrote "... *It is only a question of time until the African elephant will have gone to join the other extinct mammoths in some Pleistocene heaven. Civilization has already crowded him out of South Africa. It is busy pushing him into the remote corners of East Africa. Every new sisal plantation is a stroke in the elephant's knell. For as soon as you have settlers and farms, the elephant with the rhinoceros and the hippopotamus must be banished...*"

But he also said of Marsabit, ... "....*We seemed to be in another world, a Garden of Eden, in which it was easy to be good and happy, and in which men and animals lived in peace with one another...*" Smith, Delamere and Archer had seen it that way too. The proportions of man, domestic stock and wildlife were just right to make a balanced equation.

Martin and Osa Johnson arrived back in East Africa in January, 1924, with the intention of making a film record of Africa's wildlife on a scale never before attempted. His films from his first trip won him the financial backing of the American Museum of Natural History and George Eastman of Eastman-Kodak. To this he added the returns from his popular film *Trailing African Wild Animals*. The Johnsons and the American Museum of Natural History planned to preserve Africa's wildlife as best they could, on film.

Blaney Percival had by then retired, but he set off with the Johnsons for Marsabit again in April, 1924, and remained with them for several months while their permanent camp was being built.

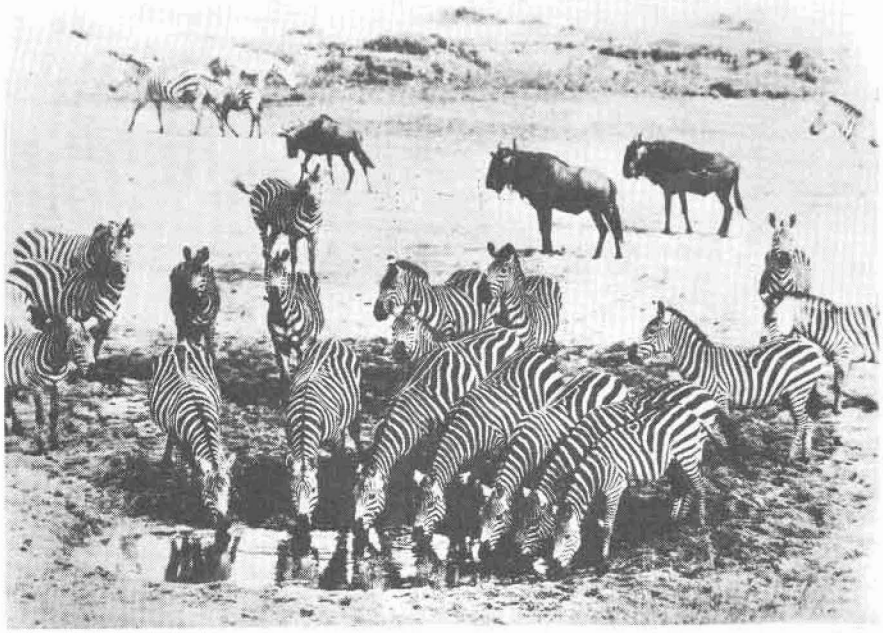
Their plan was to stay at Lake Paradise for four years, and this time they set up their permanent camp on the south-western ridge overlooking the lake, where Archer had his station.

In addition to their four cars, they had ten ox-wagons and 220 men, making the population of their camp larger than that of their Marsabit boma several miles away.

The building of this camp took about six months and there were eight large buildings in all, each built on cement foundations, with thatched roofs and walls made of logs, mud and dung. There was a living room, bedroom, photographic laboratory (with a tin roof), a kitchen, two guest houses, a building for the electric generator and a garage. Below the ridge the forest was cleared for shambas and for the Johnsons' permanent staff housing.

Martin Johnson's entries in his diary





TOP: Martin and Osa Johnson at Marsabit, c. 1925; and one of their pictures of plains game at a waterhole in Northern Kenya. (Reproduced from the book "Early Wildlife Photographers" by C. A. W. Guggisberg, reviewed page 33.)

about Marsabit's wildlife described a Paradise now lost, "... *Leopards are here in big numbers . . . we hear them almost every night. . .the place is alive with baboons. . .some evenings at least a thousand will be drinking at the lake. . .we hear hyenas from five o'clock in the aftrernoon until daybreak. . .every morning we see large herds of buffalo on the opposite side of the lake. . .elephants splash and trumpet in the lake every night, and spend a good part of the day in the forest. . . After dinner we watch the game, first come the hyenas, then wild dogs, then rhino and then elephants come and go all night. . . I figure there are about ten rhino who come nightly. . .*"

For three and a half years, using Lake Paradise as a base, the Johnsons filmed and photographed the wildlife of northern Kenya. They went on camel safaris to the Nyiru (N'Groon) Mountains and the Matthews Range and safaried to the Uaso Nyiro and to all of the water holes around Marsabit. Their motive was expressed by Martin Johnson in his diary "*. . .I have the ambition to make a picture record of the animals of Africa that will show the life of each species from birth to death. There are not many years left for making such a record. . . In another generation, perhaps the animals of Africa will be all but extinct. . .*"

Finally, Johnsons left Marsabit in 1927. They returned to East Africa three more times, the last being in 1933, when they used two Sikorsky amphibians to take aerial photos of wildlife. Then, after a trip to Borneo, Martin Johnson died in 1937 in a commercial air crash in California. But his wife survived and later returned to Kenya as an advisor on the film, *Stanley and Livingstone*. She died in New York in 1953.

The Johnsons' Lake Paradise Camp eventually reverted back to the forest, although very slowly. Some of the walls were still standing in the late 1930's. Now only the foundations remain.

Although others had visited Marsabit before the Johnsons and others came after them, it was they who made Marsabit and Lake Paradise known through their films, photographs, books and lectures.

But still it remained a remote and beautiful wildlife sanctuary during the 1930's and 1940's although allied troops en route to Ethiopia camped there during World War II and shot out much of the wildlife—not only at Marsabit but throughout the Northern Frontier District.

In spite of this, Marsabit continued to thrive and in the 1950's a two bedroom lodge, called "Ulanula" was constructed in the Gof Sokorte Dika crater, but it was burned down in the early 1960's by Somali shifta. While it lasted, it provided welcome accommodation, however rudimentary, for a few hardy travellers who braved what was still an arduous trip over a bad trail from Isiolo.

It was still there in 1961 when we first visited Marsabit and recorded in our diary "*. . . The forest is a beautiful place with Spanish moss, flowers and numerous butterflies. Osa and Martin Johnson quite appropriately called it Paradise. . . There are elephant all over the place, we encounter them on almost every trail. . . When we returned to Lake Paradise there were a dozen elephant in the lake, three bulls, seven cows and two totos. . . Dozens of elephant came down to the lake last night and this morning we saw bushbuck, buffalo and giraffe. . .*"

The downward turning point for Marsabit came in the early 1970's. The mountain and its forest were struck almost simultaneously with three distinct but interrelated adverse events.

There was first a serious drought which only terminated with the short rains of 1977, and it is difficult to quantify the direct effect of the catastrophe on Marsabit's wildlife population. It is easier, in fact to assess the impact of other adverse pressures on it generated by the drought.

The people who live around Marsabit are pastoralists and their livestock losses were considerable. So many of them drove their herds on to the mountain for forage and water. In this way, in 1972, the variables in the balanced equation were shifted. Domestic stock in large numbers crowded out the wildlife and some livestock owners, seeking to replace their lost animals, began shooting the elephants. Ivory turned into cash enabled them to purchase replacement domestic stock.

To these pressures was added that of an expanding human population in the town of Marsabit, on the edge of the forest. And a new road north which was completed to Marsabit in the early 1970's brought in with it additional people with essential needs—and further pressure on the reserve.

But in our view these were minor compared to the ecological deterioration caused by the drought, domestic stock grazing in the forest, the cutting down of trees and rampant poaching.

An aerial view of the Marsabit area today presents a vivid picture of this human encroachment. Plots of cultivated land surround the forested mountain, tin-roofed houses dot the landscape here and there, and Boran huts cluster at the very fringe of the town before the desert

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takes over. While walking or driving in the area itself, the change is even more apparent. Where in years past one encountered Rendille and Boran people actively engaged in their every-day pursuits, now one is aware of an additional element of urban dwellers in search of what the town of Marsabit cannot provide.

Marsabit town is crowded now, and its various peoples are asking of the mountain and the earth what they cannot really give.

As the people increased, the animals dwindled. One late afternoon we saw a lonely adolescent elephant eating tree branches in the Gof Sokorte Dika crater, but during our four day stay we saw no others on the mountain. A fleeting glimpse of one bushbuck was afforded us as we drove to the Johnson campsite at Lake Paradise while a herd of fifteen buffalo silently appeared on the rim of the Lake for a brief look at the waterless expanse before them.

The trees at Marsabit look old with the weight of the centuries, the birds call their plaintive songs reminiscent of richer days while a sinister, other-worldly stillness settles over the mountain. A paradise of ghosts, of former lives; it is so very difficult to picture what the Johnsons, Archer, Delamere, Smith, and others saw here.

Can three giraffes on a hill be the forefathers for a future, abudant animal population? And where can the greater Kudu be found to renew a dynasty of forest rulers? Their green mansion is still standing, albeit decaying and despoiled. The rain can help to revitalize it, but that is not the only answer. A conscious effort, a tremendous helping human hand must be extended to stop the death of Marsabit.

Paradise can be regained, revisited and loved anew. The present tourists do not have the vision to imagine it as it was, nor the hope to see the promise of the future. The anger and frustration at the discovery that Marsabit has nothing to offer them in return for the arduous journey undertaken to reach it, is unfortunately discharged to the efficient and responsible staff of the Marsabit Lodge. The 48 bed lodge, managed by the KTDC, is comfortable and well run, but it is an anachronism in view of the lack of interest the area holds for average tourist. In all fairness, visitors should be kept away until such time as Marsabit regains its former beauty.

So Marsabit Mountain today is a "Paradise Lost". And this loss will probably be irreversible if the current Reserve status of the area continues. For Reserve status permits human activities which at present are destroying both the ecology and fauna of the mountain.

Marsabit Mountain and its forest should be made a national park immediately along with other adjacent areas. This change in administrative designation in and of itself will not preserve the mountain and its fauna. But it will at least be a step in the right direction.

Along with it, there must be a concerted effort to prevent poaching, which is already the major problem in other national parks. If these measures are not taken immediately, before long the wind will be the only movement through the trees of Marsabit.

● *Acknowledgements: Thanks are extended to the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum, Chanute, Kansas for permission to reproduce the photographs by Martin Johnson.*

EDITORIAL

continued from page 9

If the average tusk weight was six kilos, then the product of just over 100,000 dead elephant had been collected and distributed by the wildlife authorities since the ban. That is 100,000 elephant which either laid down and died of natural causes, or had been executed for tresspass on farmland, or had been overlooked by their illegal hunters.

It was more probable, the conservationists said, that poached ivory had somehow been included in the export.

An interesting cross-check on their mortality estimate is with figures produced in a survey by Iain Douglas-Hamilton's IUCN "Elephant Group" (*page* 19)**. His researchers and research sources reckoned that a minimum 75,000 and a maximum 102,000 elephant had died in Kenya since September, 1973.**

This was total mortality from all causes, including drought but carcass densities were heaviest in the areas like Tana River, Tsavo and Samburu where large-scale poaching had been indicated in local Press reports.

Thus, if nothing else, the scale and character of the ivory business in Kenya was fairly evident. But not so dealings in skins and the small bodily parts of wild animals, like rhino and dik-dik horn, lion claws and so on. Stock records and trade figures were impossible to obtain, but it was clearly a profitable business judging by the sharp increase of new traders licensed—and unlicensed—since 1973.

Some of them, like the ivory merchants, might not have been entirely straight in the conduct of both retail and export dealings since it seems they had sheafs of signed, but unspecified and undated, official permits required for each sale. Nor did they seem to have much social conscience, etc. about what they were selling—like Grevy zebra skins, in one case, when the government was spending conservation funds on rescuing the species from poachers in the north.

World Wildlife Fund—Kenya was always eloquent on the subject, and reported one example recently of a dealer offering them three fresh pelts from caracals, which are rare in Kenya and totally protected under the Third Schedule of the Wildlife (Conservation and Management) Act.

The shop-keeper offered to procure an export permit for what he would describe as "three baby lions"—with pointed, tufted ears presumably.

In this incident there were several infractions of the law by people who were confident of getting away with it then, but must be worried now.

It could be that any protection these traders and officials might have had will be removed altogether if the Kenya Government continues to restore an international image marred by nothing much else than the extent of wildlife destruction in recent years..

The hunting ban last April was the start of the repair process, although it affected mostly disposable European enterprise. The much more serious declaration of intent was the difficult political decision to prohibit a largely citizen trade in curios.

Somewhat more difficult perhaps than what in logically the next step as Kenya and its supporters finally write off the past as a bad experience. That would be to isolate, identify and finally prosecute at least a token selection of people who would be natural casualties of the brave new "ethic" for Kenya.

Elephant Survey

from page 20

km² has been censused for elephant. The climate grades N.E./S.W. from subhumid to arid, and the habitat varies from forest to bushed grassland.

A mean of two aerial counts in 1973 (*Gwynne*) estimated the elephant population at 31,000 with correction made for poor visibility. In 1976, a mean of six counts estimated an elephant population of 10,000 (*Bunderson*) but since this figure was not corrected upwards for the elephants possibly missed in the forest, the difference is probably not as great as it appears.

The forest is swampy and full of tsetse fly, so the elephants in it are still relatively undisturbed. In August, when the water-holes near the coast are full, the elephants come out of the forest and create a wonderful spectacle of wild elephants on the beaches, sliding down sand dunes and wading through mangrove swamps to wave-lashed coral islands. But when they raid the fields where villagers are struggling to grow crops they are killed and burned and charred elephant skeletons surround each village.

The Dodori Creek and Boni Forest Reserves have been designated, but they have yet to be properly studied, protected and developed.

Mountain National Parks

THE Mountain National Parks include Mt. Kenya, the Aberdares and Mt. Elgon. They are high rainfall, forested

continued page 33

Elephant Survey

from page 32

areas, in which the elephants are apparently relatively safe, and may even be increasing. Accurate counts are almost impossible at present, but informed guesses put the populations of the Mt. Kenya and Aberdare Forests at around 3,000 each (*Woodley*), while a recent guess for Mt. Elgon was 1,200–1,500 (*Boy*).

The elephant densities in these areas are some of the highest in the country; from 1.5 to 24 per km², but the forests are gradually being reduced by cutting. At the human-elephant interfaces, there is conflict, which is largely controlled by the maintenance of ditch and fence barriers.

Samburu/Laikipia

SAMBURU and Laikipia Districts together cover 29,911 km² of which only 633 km² is Game Reserve. The climate varies from sub-humid on the highlands to dry on the lowlands, and the land is mostly, lightly bushed savanna.

Laikipia District is largely private ranches and Samburu was primarily hunting and photographic blocks where elephants have been very hard hit by illegal hunting since 1972. But a count in 1975 and subsequent reports indicate that numbers of elephants in Samburu have been drastically reduced, traditional movement patterns have been disrupted and the remaining elephants are mainly young and inexperienced and hence are threatened. Some elephants have moved out of Samburu and on to Laikipia ranches, where they have not previously been seen.

Northern Province (North-West)

THE area to the west of Lake Turkana includes Turkana District and part of Pokot and Baringo Districts. It is about 100,000 km² of dry lightly bushed grassland, barren lava to the east and sparse *acacia* woodland on the highlands and along rivers, with vegetation and rainfall gradients highest in the west and south.

Most of the area is arid and very arid, but humid in the highlands.

No accurate estimate of numbers is available, but elephant density is extremely low, in the region of 0.01E/Km². A small group of elephants is reported to exist along the Kerio Valley and small groups are reported to move from the Karusuk Hills and along the Turkwell river.

Northern Province (North-East)

THE area to the east of Lake Turkana, which includes Marsabit and Mandera. Isiolo and Wajir Districts is 178,860 km² of largely arid and very arid country. It contains Marsabit National Reserve (2,088 km²) of which the mountain itself is humid to dry sub-humid. A rough estimate of 300 elephants still occur in the Reserve, although illegal hunting and conflict with small pockets of agriculture is reported. Elsewhere elephants have decreased from what was always a very low density to occasional occurrences in a few isolated pockets, such as near Moyale and Bute Helu. The Lorian Swamp area which used to support elephants has dried in recent years and illegal hunting has helped to virtually eliminate elephants. Virtually all the surface water is heavily utilised by pastoralists and is effectively unavailable to elephants.

The survey was in part, based on data kindly provided by a number of different scientists, for which we are very greateful

—K.H.

BOOK REVIEW

FACES OF KENYA

reviewer: Leslie Brown

"Faces of Kenya" by David Keith Jones. (*Hamish Hamilton*) *Price: Shs 240/—$42 or B£24 including p.+p. from the EAWLS*)

AFTER all the gimmickry in recent pictorial books about Kenya, with painted Masai buttocks and grainy, overblown Turkana bosoms, it is nice to see a book of photographs which are just photographs without any tricks, and can stand on their own merits.

This is a collection of always good, often first class, and sometimes brilliant photographs of various places in Kenya, their wild and human inhabitants, flowers and trees. It is probably the finest overall pictorial survey of Kenya yet produced, as it covers all aspects of Kenya's life, whereas most photographers concentrate on one aspect, throwing in a little of others for good measure.

David Jones specialises in the black and white medium, more difficult but in this selection just as satisfying as colour; some of the pictures are superb. His best, to my mind, are those of people, shown in natural attitudes and going about their affairs. There are some splendid portraits, which must in some cases have been posed with a view to perfect lighting for the effect desired.

I would not put it beyond David Jones' skill to take the tarted-up strutting Moran demanding 20/- from the average tourist, and make him look like a splendid specimen of young manhood.

Next to people, the best photographs to my mind are those of the great wide scenes this country can offer, the magnificent space and light, the crowds of birds and animals. The photograph of the Rift Valley opposite p. 154, which we all see every time we drive from Nairobi to Nakuru, is here endowed, with magic by careful composition, lighting, and the right clouds.

At animals and birds, perhaps because these subjects have been more thoroughly done by specialists, he is rather less successful; but again there are some magnificent pictures, such as the one of the old bull elephant resting, his trunk idly dangling over his right tusk. Back or side lighting, highly effective with human subjects, is perhaps less suited to animals and birds. However I doubt if a better picture in black and white exists of the Saddle-billed Stork or Goliaht Heron; if it does I have not seen it.

Again, the wide scene, with animals and birds, is admirably portrayed. The pelicans and other birds all at their ease on pp. 136–7, and the wildebeeste slogging to water in midday heat on pp. 90–93 admirably convey what we have often seen, endowed with photographer's art. I suppose a purist could object to the photographs of ostriches in nuptial display on pp. 56–57, which is "flopped" over both pages; but it makes a striking picture.

The skilled use of back and side lighting and the care given to making first-class prints has evidently posed problems of reproduction, as the detail in shadows is often lost when he knows it is there in the original print. The wrinkles on the face of the old blind Samburu woman

continued page 34

THE FIRST PHOTO-HUNTERS

Early Wildlife Photographers by C. A. W. Guggisberg Published by David and Charles. Hard cover, 128 pages Black and White illustrations.

"CAMERA, Sir? Yes I have a very nice model here. A 12" × 10" wet plate version, complete with a supply of glass plates, chemicals, flash powder, and a wheelbarrow to carry the camera.

Photographic safari? How about this—four months in Kenya, you stay up all night for at least 50 nights, you'll get malaria, mongooses will steal your equipment, and of course you do all your own developing and printing in the bush. . . ."

The year, 1909. Put yourself in Arthur Dugmore's shoes—stout ones they must have been:—and you too can walk 1,500 miles on safari, to come back with passable photos of only 24 species of wild animals.

Into this brief but generously illustrated volume, Charles Gugggisberg has packed a wealth of fascinating information about the efforts and experiments of Arthur Dugmore and more than a hundred other early nature photographers.

From the "waxed paper" pictures taken on David Livingstone's Zambezi expedition in 1858 to Martin and Osa Johnson's showmanlike cine films of Serengeti lions in the 1930s, he traces the tortuous development of wildlife photographer's technique in the face of frustratingly limited camera technology.

A detailed index and bibliography testify to the author's painstaking research, and make this a useful reference book. One can't help feeling, however, that the worldwide treatment of such a rich subject deserved a larger book, more imaginative layout, more critical text. Important topics like "nature faking" have been glossed over, and the development of artistic composition completely ignored. And what book on the history of wildlife photography can be complete without at least one cliché shot of the successful hunter, rifle in hand and one foot on the still-warm beast?

Professor Guggisberg's reluctance to admit the early interdependence of hunter and photographer does him little credit. "When did enthusiasts first drop the gun for the camera, the dust jacket asks? How often did those early photographers drop the camera for the gun, we might ask in return? That charging rhino in Dugmore's most spectacular photo was 'diverted' by a bullet in the shoulder seconds after the shutter clicked. . . .

Simon Fisher

Faces of Kenya

from page 33

have almost disappeared; and those old friends on the Lamu waterfront ought to (and do) have eyes. However, that is the fault of the publisher, not the photographer.

In the colour sections the reproduction is often poor, sometimes bad. I do not know whether the zebras and other animals on plate 9 are supposed to be out of focus, or are just out of register; and Baeleur Eagles are not bottle-green. The yellow and green shades in the colour reproduction have often been overdone, but some are still delightful; a bit of excess yellow does a sunset or dawn little harm, and see skilled use of light again in the Rendille encampment (Plate 34). In the colour there is the only misidentification in the book, and a forgivable one; Plate 11 is a White-faced, not an African Scops Owl, though it is only found in Africa.

The pictures are gathered round five main subjects, the Coast, Game Country, the Lakes, Mountains, and Deserts. The photographer's favourites are the mountains and the deserts, and these are the least likely to change in the future. For each there is an introductory factual page, followed by a chapter written with feeling, insight, knowledge, and imagination. David Jones feels very keenly that it is a privilege for 20th Century Technological Man still to be able to see African tribesmen living their lives much as they used to, little affected by progress". Perhaps in doing so he tends to look at them through rose-coloured spectacles; but maybe that's better than thinking the lives of the poor just nasty, brutish and short. Unfortunately too, there is no doubt that the wonderful wild life he writes of has taken a frightful beating from commercial poachers over the last few years; and before long he may not be able to find a rhino in Amboseli to pose against Kilimanjaro. An educationist himself, who has taught modern technology at several schools in Kenya, he can see the unwisdom of teaching Shakespeare and New Math to a Gabbra nomad's child; but perhaps fails to see the near-impossibility of mantaining an increasing population of such people where they are, in the old way, without providing an outlet for the enterprising youth who might want to look elsewhere for honey.

In short, a splendid book, written by an unassuming but knowledgeable author, illustrated by his own superb photographs, somewhat spoiled in their perfection by the reproduction. His wife, Carla, has played a great part in it, and has helped him on all his safaris. It deserves to succeed, for it is true and factual portrayal, owing nothing to special effects.

Leslie Brown

VIRUNGA

from page 25

the "Mountains of the Moon" which still retain the mystique of the legends associated with them. But these days it's possible to climb among them safely, although the highest peaks challenge specialist alpine climbing groups from Europe. Still, a week's expedition among the giant heathers up to the line of the glaciers at 4,400 m. is by no means difficult and, properly organised, can be a very pleasant safari experience. So too, incidentally, is the equatorial forest section of the park which shelters numerous but elusive Okapi and Bongo.

In all, we have at Virunga what we feel is small paradise of nature—a sample of a principle natural resource of the country which is increasingly cherished by its people.

This awareness of the value of the unique Zairean "wilderness" was once expressed by President Mobutu Sese Seko, and the quotation is perhaps a fitting conclusion to this article:—

"We have certain advantage in being under-equipped. We have to be proud that we have never made errors such as those which are regretted by some countries considered as completely developed. We are never disappointed, not to show our guests our old cathedrals or monuments because the heritage of our ancestors is the natural beauty of our country; our rivers, large streams, forests insects, animals, lakes, volcanoes, mountains and plains. In a word nature is the intergral and real part of our originality and personality.

"It should not surprise you when we declare that our ambition is to make our country, Zaire, the paradise of nature. We have no intention to speculate upon public curiosity by selling the skins of crocodiles for handbags. We want first to study how these animals grow because we do not wish these animals to disappear in our National Parks. When visiting the Parks, tourists must be with the guardians and follow their instructions."

"We desire only that when scientists will have transformed the world into an artificial one that in Zaire an authentic nature will remain."

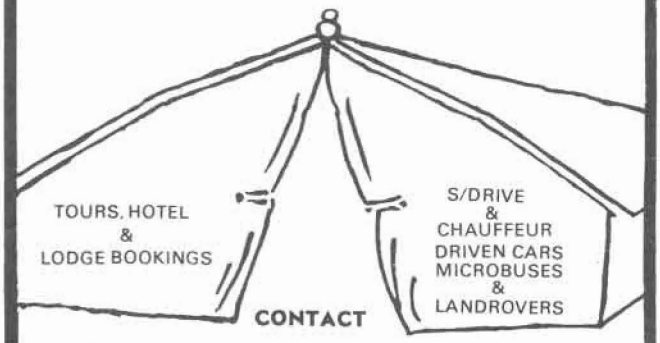
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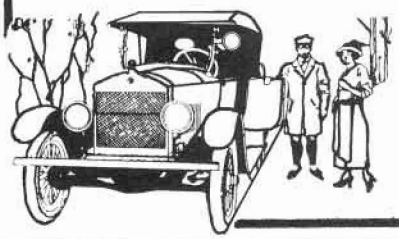
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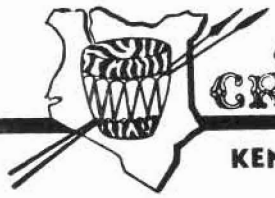


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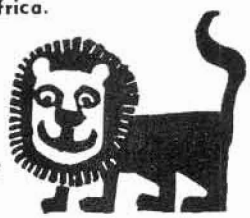
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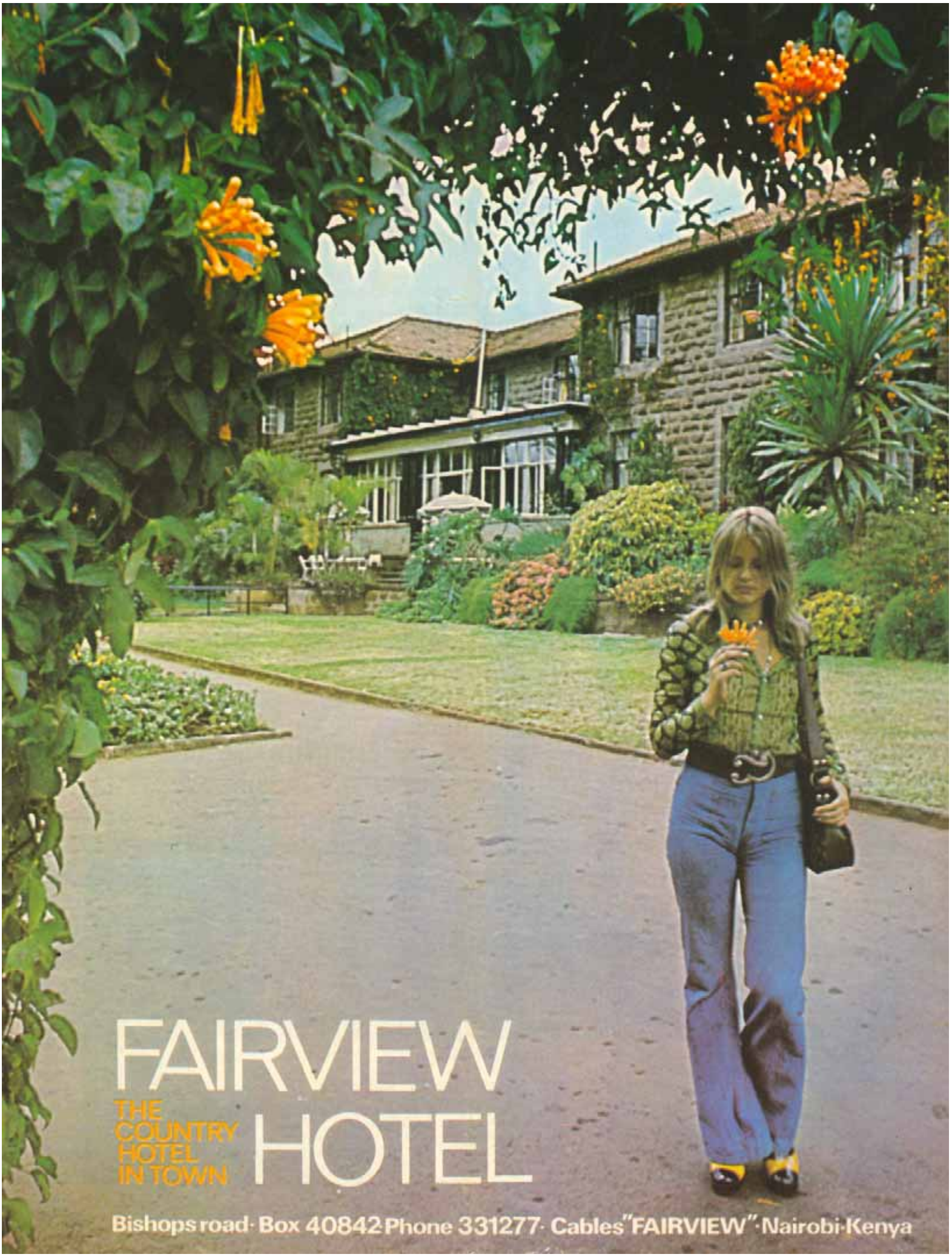
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