

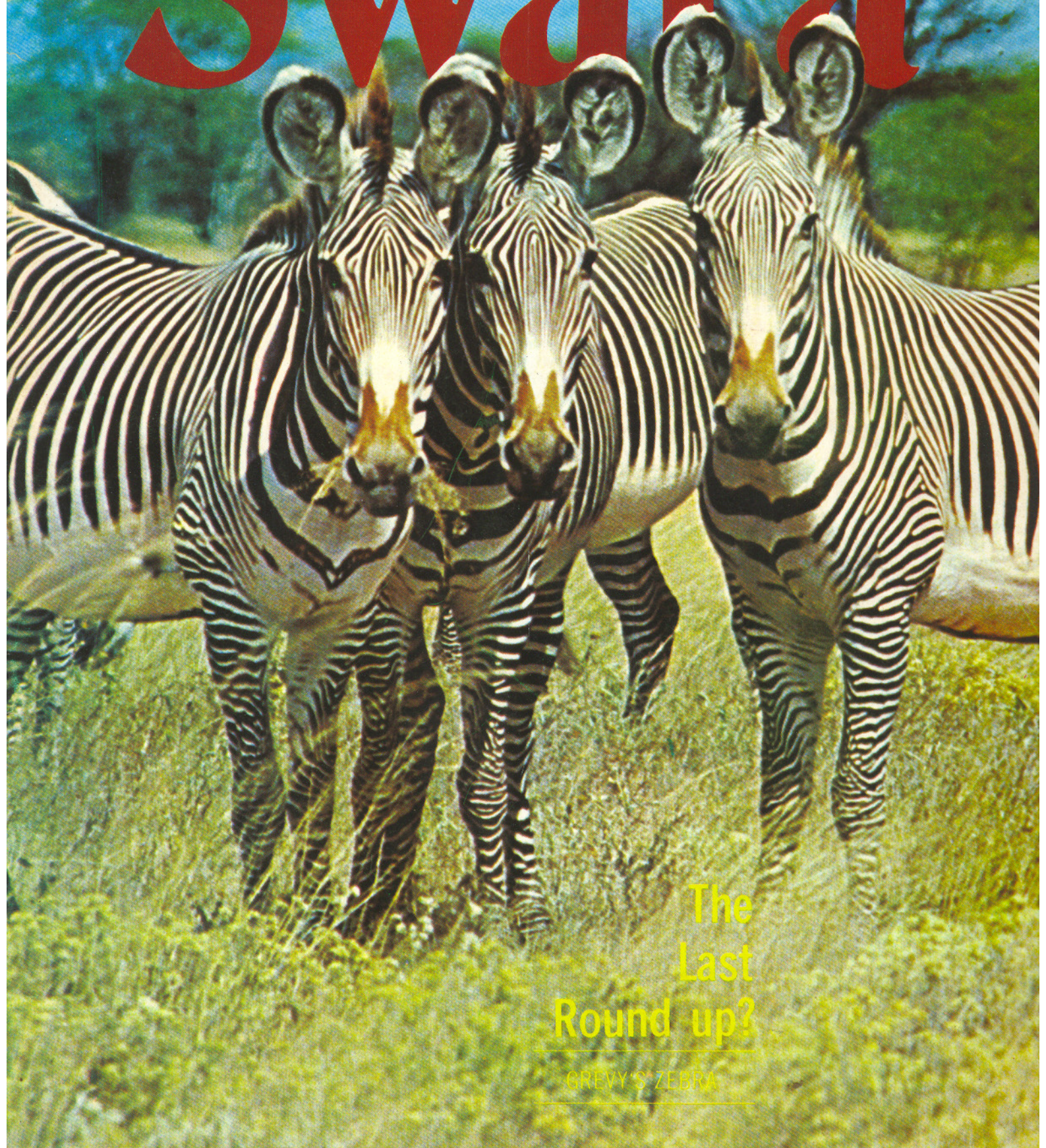
15!



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1978

East African Wild Life Society

Swara



The
Last
Round up?

GREVY'S ZEBRA



East
African
Wild
Life
Society

PRIVATE BAG NAIROBI KENYA
TELEPHONE: NAIROBI 27047
OFFICES IN NAIROBI HILTON HOTEL

THE object of the Society is to safeguard wild life in all its forms. In order to achieve its object, the Society may promote, foster and maintain interest in the protection and prevention of the progressive destruction of all species of Fauna and Flora and their habitat, and, wherever possible, to conserve wild life intact in its natural environment in East Africa. Provide a forum for the distribution, expression or consideration of information and opinion relating either directly or indirectly to wild life and its natural environment. Support or advise the East African Governments or any of their departments and the Trustees of the various National Parks in East Africa in any policy action, decision or endeavour which the Council consider to be in or towards the fulfilment of the Society's object. Support the Trustees of the various National Parks in East Africa in all efforts to safeguard the security and permanence of such National Parks and to promote their reasonable and proper development and maintenance as national assets for the benefit of all people both present and future. Promote or support the improvement of any existing National Parks, National Reserves and other wild life protection areas, and sponsor the establishment of any such areas. Support or advise the Game Wardens in any action, decision or endeavour which, in the opinion of the Council, would be in or towards the fulfilment of the Society's object. Recommend any laws, regulations or rules or any changes in laws, regulations and rules, which, in the opinion of the Council, will achieve the better protection of wild life and reduce cruelty to or unnecessary destruction of wild animals. Take lawful steps to achieve the proper and effective enforcement of legislation designed to protect wild life and its habitat. Encourage the recognition of the importance of safeguarding wild life either for its cultural, scientific and amenity value or for its economic value in attracting tourists and visitors and otherwise. Arrange, acquire, use, make, publish or prepare films, photographs, press articles, publications, exhibitions, lectures, functions, or entertainments designed to promote interest in the protection of wild life, or to raise funds for the furtherance of the Society's object. Promote an interest in the life histories of all forms of animal life and to co-operate with other Societies and institutions which have similar aims and objects. Affiliate, co-operate or join with any bodies, corporate or unincorporate, associations, societies or organisations wherever situated, whose objects and activities are similar or related to the object of the Society.

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East African Wild Life Society
Swara

THE HON CHARLES NJONJO, EGH, MP, *Chairman of the Society*
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Cover Picture: Peter Davey

Grevy's zebra in Samburu, Kenya.

A message from the Society's new Executive Director of Conservation

Dear

I HAVE been asked by the Council of the East African Wild Life Society to fill the post of Executive Director of Conservation which was created recently. After working for the Republic of Kenya as a Wild Life Biologist 1964/65, Deputy Director of Kenya's National Parks, 1965/66 and subsequently as Director of the same system 1966/1976, I feel that, given the full support and co-operation of the entire membership of the Society, there is no question whatsoever that the East African Wild Life Society has the capacity to become the most effective and influential Non-Governmental Organization on the African Continent.

In the belief that the foregoing aspiration can be achieved, I have retired from the position of Science Secretary with the National Council for Science and Technology (Kenya) to accept the above position which will have effect in all Society matters in East Africa, i.e., Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The East African Wild Life Society has recently been reorganized to serve better the cause of Wild Life Conservation with specific emphasis on Nature Protection in East Africa. This move goes a long way to support the East African governments which have taken very firm stands on the issues of 'Game Hunting' and 'Trade in Wild Life Trophies' at considerable initial disadvantage to their respective economies. I am a firm believer that the final outcome to this far-sighted action is going to be reflected in a great realization of the usefulness of wild life.

Kenya and Uganda have banned all dealings in game trophies. Two of the three sister nations have also banned hunting and are actively involved in comprehensive programmes of Wild Life census and research to determine the accurate status of each animal species before their respective policies may be modified on a case by case and species by species basis. I trust that we can count on the full support of our entire membership in this positive approach to Wild Life Conservation in East Africa.

It is gratifying to note that the consultative Regional Wild Life Conferences for Central and Eastern Africa initiated in 1969 to present a forum through which the Directors of National Parks, Game Departments and their senior officers do discuss conservation issues of common interest with a view to

Members,

harmonizing their policies and operations, continue to grow from strength to strength. It is good news, too, to note that the Fifth Regional Wild Life Conference, held in Gaborone, Botswana in July attracted the active participation of a number of major International Organizations, including IUCN (the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme), UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization), and OAU (the Organization of African Unity). It is hoped that Mozambique will host the next meeting in 1980.

Elsewhere in the region, the World Bank has taken a keen interest in the Conservation of wild life with visible material and financial support for the governments. The fact that all these organizations have independently looked at the wild life situation in East Africa, supported it in the past and continue to support it today is conclusive evidence that the cause we have freely elected to support, from year to year is fully justified.

On behalf of the East African Wild Life Society Council, it is my pleasure to inform members, both active and potential, and friends of the East African Wild Life Society, that the Council has decided to launch its own magazine, whose name *Swara* is the Swahili equivalent of the Society's emblem. Six issues of this magazine will be published yearly commencing in July 1978 and all fully paid up members will receive it in place of *Africana*.

Our overseas members will be pleased to hear that we are in the process of identifying reliable distribution centres in each country around the world, to which we will air-freight these magazines duly addressed for local mailing. Suggestions towards this end are now invited while we investigate the cost.

The Council strongly encourages the formation of Chapters of the East African Wild Life Society in functional geographical areas around the world, e.g. San Diego, Los Angeles and the Great Lakes Chapters in the USA and in Toronto Canada, through which the Society magazines may be reliably distri-



Dr Perez M Olindo, Executive Director (Conservation)

buted. Through these Chapters, various Society events will be organised, including lectures on current conservation topical issues in East Africa, yearly dinners, membership and fund raising drives.

Notable activities of all Chapters will be published in *Swara* and, through this magazine, we encourage members to express their views on all aspects of Wild Life Conservation in East Africa to the end that the future of African Wild Life may be guaranteed for all time.

In my new capacity, I would like to extend an open and warm welcome to new members to join the East African Wild Life Society; I wish to direct a personal appeal to the former members of the Society whose membership may have lapsed for one reason or another to renew their membership. To the active members I seek your active support in making this society grow.

Enlist one new member each into the society every year! Maybe at Christmas, Easter, Thanks Giving or Idd or a gift membership.

I welcome suggestions from our members as to how they think the Society may best serve the cause of Nature Conservation with specific emphasis on wild life in East Africa; and finally hope that every time our members plan to visit East Africa, they will avail themselves of our new Members' Free Tours Advisory Services through which animal migrations and the most up-to-date wild life status reports will be given. I very much wish to maintain contact with each member of the Society and I trust you will feel the same way.

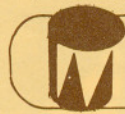
My colleague, Michael Sawyer, has taken up the newly created position of Executive Director of Trading. His wide experience in the commercial sphere has over the years been put to work to earn all the money required for the administrative costs of the Society with a substantial surplus which is regularly credited to the conservation account.

Our joint effort should lead to a stronger East African Wild Life Society.

I remain at your service.

P M Olindo.

The Voice for the Wilderness



Peter Moll Africa Publications

In this issue

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The Last Round up?

GREVY'S ZEBRA

A rationale is examined and new thinking evolved in a cover story that reports on an extraordinary magnum opus of conservation. Of 50 Grevy's zebra translocated to Tsavo West, 43 survive. The project was mounted because in the last but one count it was

assumed only 1500 of these unique creatures survived in Kenya. In the event, the last count showed somewhere in the region of 15000. Swara experts report on an issue which has been disproportionately enlarged by some observers.



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A Final Tribute

The natural resources of this country — its wild life which offers such an attraction to visitors from all over the world, the beautiful places in which these animals live, the mighty forests which guard the water catchment areas so vital to the survival of man and beast — are the priceless heritage for the future: the words of the late Kenya President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta.

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SLOW STEPS THRU' EDEN

by Brian Tetley

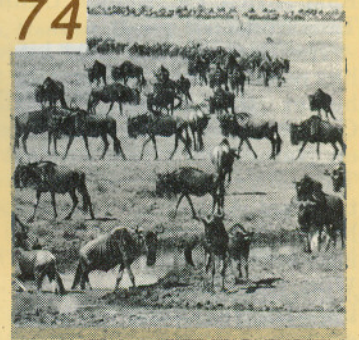
Beginning a long African journey of discovery, Brian Tetley recalls the wonder and the joy of a weekend in the rolling grasslands of a Kenya Shangri La, the Masai Mara.

Where Eagles Dare

by Leslie Brown

Land of mountain and thorn, plain and desert, beast and bird: East Africa. Most of all, a land of the eagle and in an avian essay of enchanting imagery Leslie Brown demonstrates a supreme knowledge of East Africa's graceful but deadly feathered predators.

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STIRRED, NOT SHAKEN


by Alison Davey

Tiny and loveable, the hyrax is the elephant's closest relative. Alison Davey recounts with delight the innocent mischief of a much-loved pet.

**PLUS 53 LETTERS. 73 AGM
81 HORIZONS**

Overseas members who wish to receive Swara by air mail may do so for the following additional charges:-
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\$16.25 p.a; Europe: K.Shs 82.00 p.a; US \$11.00 p.a; Stg.£ 5.65 p.a; Africa, Middle East: K.Shs 72.00 p.a; US \$9.55 p.a; Stg.£ 4.95 p.a.



East African Wild Life Society

Swara

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1978 VOL 1 No 2

Conservation begins at home

CONTRIBUTORS in this issue place the Grevy's problem historical and numerical perspective, tell of the translocation operation, the biology of the beast and sum up the tally at the end of the operation.

And what of Grevy's zebra? Presumably they will continue to decline at a rate which will see the last of them in 1984.

What to do? Kenya's Ministry of Tourism and Wild Life were goaded into quick action by inspired, if hysterical, guesses that only 1500 of the species remained in Kenya, guesses which were circulated by the World Wild Life Fund.

Translocation is an act of desperation: animals (or plants) are moved, usually at great expense, from A to B — from Samburu to Tsavo West in this case. The argument is that in A the last few will soon be picked off; in B they will be safe and thrive.

It is a legitimate operation and will regrettably become more and more necessary as open rangelands disappear.

In view of what appeared to be a crisis situation, the Ministry responded with crisis management and decided it would be more expedient to deal with the symptoms rather than tackle the cause of the malignancy.

It is ironic that the Ministry's own Kenya Rangeland Ecological Monitoring Unit (KREMU, to its friends) produced the data which could have led to a rational approach.

Instead of 1500 Grevy's there are closer to 15,000. Which means, we are delighted to say, that with the helpful injection of World Bank anti-poaching cash there is time to hammer the illegal hunting in A. There is also time to look very carefully at the suitability of the habitat in B for supporting a zebra evolved to live in semi-arid grasslands.

A bone of contention, particularly to those not initiated into the deep and hoary mysteries of sampling theory, is the reliability of the KREMU estimate. 'But they only saw 300 Grevys! We hear, 'How can they tell us there are 15,000.' Supposing your daughter has chicken pox. You stand her in front of you, back towards you, and count the bumps. You count 7,500. How many would you guess she has on her whole body? Well, most of us would, knowing that we had only looked at half of our daughter, reckon that the other half would be about the same, and say, two times 7500 equals 15,000.

The KREMU observers only eyeballed one-fiftieth of the possible Grevy's range in Kenya, so they were not being too rash when they multiplied (to use round numbers) 300 by 50 to get an estimate of around 15,000.

That's the easy part. If you don't believe us, read what David Western has to say. We next hear: 'Not only did they see just a handful of zebras, but they give us 'confidence limits' of plus or minus 5,000. What kind of sloppy methodology tells us that the numbers of zebras are somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000.?'

Confidence limits tell us not so much about the numbers of animals, but rather how they are distributed both statistically and actually on the ground.

Wide confidence limits suggest to the animal enumerator that the beasts occur at low densities and are clumped into groups, which happens to be the case with Grevy's.

An estimate of 15,000 plus or minus 5,000 does not mean there are as likely to be 10,000 as there are to be 20,000. If the bush wasn't too thick or the observers asleep, then there are 15,000. (Notice that if the bush were thick or if the observers did doze off, then the estimate would err on the low side.)

The confidence limits say, in this case, that if we were to repeat the count 20 times, 19 of our 20 estimates would fall between 10,000 and 20,000, most likely in the middle.

If we are suspicious about the estimate, and it's always safe to be suspicious of wide confidence limits, we do the count again, to lower the chance that our first estimate was a one in 20 type error.

Irrespective of the theory behind it, we now, thanks to KREMU and the Wild Life Conservation and Management Department, have a rational basis for solving the Grevy's problem.

It is highly unlikely that there are only 1,500 Grevys left (if the next KREMU survey shows closer to 1,500 than 15,000, we'll hang up our calculators.)

But this doesn't let the Department off the hook; it shows them the way they must go, before the Grevys go the way of the elephants on the Galana Ranch.

A full-fledged assault must be launched now on the actions of the poachers as well as the minds of the people, before we are forced into the ignominious tactics of translocation.

HARVEY CROZE
September 1978.

IF choosing a name for a new magazine was traumatic, the production of the first issue provided fuel for a nervous breakdown.

For Jo Cheffings, the photographer of the first cover illustration, it was a transmutation of glory into anonymity. His well earned credit for the fine reproduction got lost in a maze of printer's pies.

And Warren Garst was given credit for excellent colour transparencies which were the work of author Cynthia Moss.

Worse still, some of the duotone effects chosen by the undersigned proclaimed a host of sins — the royal blue of 'Castles of Clay' effectively blinded the reader to Stephen Cobb's lyrical paean; the soft brown on this page meant the editorials were unreadable by candlelight, firelight or soft light.

The post-mortem, as expected, has been lengthy, volatile, and

INSIDE OUT

wounding. It continues.

In this issue we essay a regeneration of our ideals: we consider the problem of the Grevy's zebra, introduce a feature for the younger readers, recreate a weekend of charm, happiness and adventure, publish Leslie Brown's informed and enchanting introduction to East Africa's eagles and finally pay tribute to the founding father of the Kenya nation, the late President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, one of the greatest figures in world history; humanitarian and advocate of peace, justice and individual liberty — one of the few who could truly claim the universal brotherhood of all mankind.

Brian Tetley
The Editor

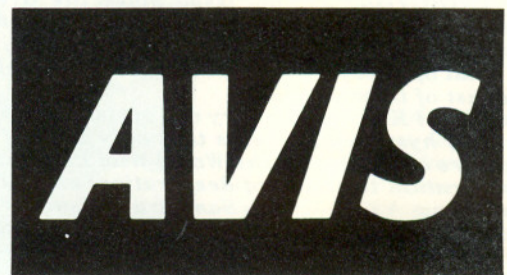


**The harder your day,
the harder we try.**

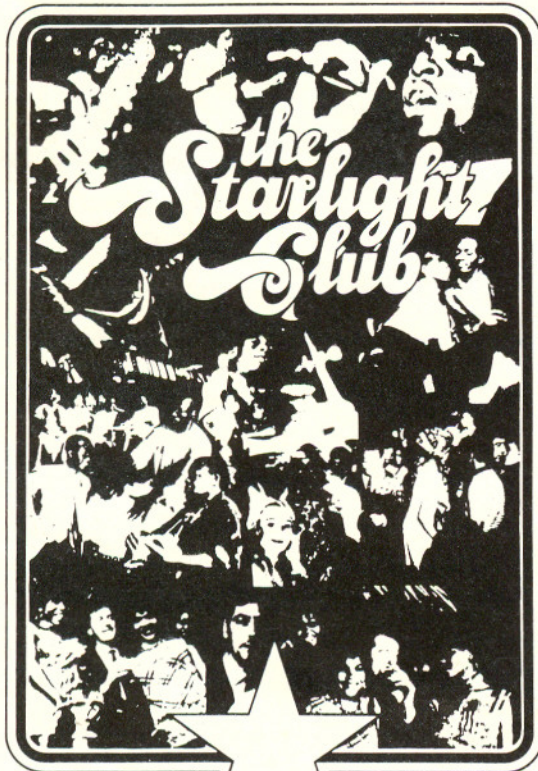
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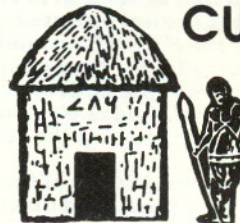


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Going forward to nature

READER FORUM READER FORUM READER FORUM READER FORUM



THANK you very much for sending me the first issue of *Swara* which, I must say, is a good publication which compares very well with its competitor *Africana*. Incidentally, *Swala* (for antelope), or *palahala* or even *Impala* (for impala) would have been more accurate, and it would sound better in Kiswahili — especially, if it is to reflect its East African authenticity.

I know that in a number of bantu languages, such as Bahaya, Baganda and Kikuyu for instance, the letter 'L' is invariably mispronounced as 'R'. Hence the confusion. The Bahaya in Tanzania and to some extent the Kikuyu in Kenya, are overcoming this pronunciation problem, thanks to the popular Kiswahili newspapers *Baraza* and *Uhuru*. They both deserve credit for the improvement.

Regarding your write up about the *State of the Game* in East Africa, I share the optimistic view of course. There is no cause for undue alarm, but also we have to keep a close watch and count of some of the threatened species.

Also, I expect that most conservationists will not accept the view that the mere expansion of the city of Nairobi should wipe out the well known Nairobi Park. It is an opportunity for recreation to the city dwellers of today, and tomorrow, which no other city has on earth. The city masterplan should provide for expansion in all other directions away from the park.

We are planning an open air zoo for Dar es Salaam at considerable expense because we do not have a similar opportunity within easy reach from this fast growing city.

On the Kenya, I beg your

pardon, East African Wild Life Society, of which I am a life member, you say only a part of what I had said, which is not a very good start for your publication.

My view is that just as the fifth Regional Wild Life Conference for Central and Eastern Africa has unanimously agreed to change its name to the African Wild Life Conference, so should we seek to establish an African Wild Life Society consisting of national wild life institutions as its members.

Our Wild Life Protection Fund would definitely be a member of such a society. Perhaps a Kenya (EA) Wild Life Society would also find it appropriate to join in such a wider society. Of course, in that case, the leadership of the African Wild Life Society will be determined by its Constitution and Membership.

The illusory East African Community is gone, and if ever we are going to have regional co-operation, which I am sure will come with the maturity of the politics of our African region, the almost arbitrary limitation of such co-operation to East Africa rather than Eastern Africa will disappear.

So I am only conforming to my kind, the sub-species of conservationists who look to the future, rather than yearn for the past or the passing present, and hope that in that future nature will still dominate our culture.

Solomon Ole Saibull,
Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism:
DAR ES SALAAM,
Tanzania.

Colour problem

I very much enjoyed my first issue of *Swara*. My only criticism is that I find

the coloured backgrounds, some with black print and other pages with both coloured background and print other than black, most confusing, and frankly I can only describe page 23 as almost illegible.

My remarks may, of course, be due to advancing years and not such good sight, but I do wear spectacles to read!

Anthony Scott
Mango Farm,
P.O. Kikambala,
Mombasa.

Credit and debit

Congratulations on the first issue of *Swara*. The purpose is noble and the photography is excellent. There is also a 'debit side'! The few candid comments that follow are not intended to be unkind.

Presentation: Pages 2, 3, 23 and 27 are difficult to read; they are hard on the eyes for 'colour' reasons. Black text on blend of white and blue (p 23) is painful. White text on black (p 27) is tedious.

The type-face of the editorial (p 3) is too small.

The unbroken wall of print — pp 14, 15, 22, 31 — tends to repel and discourage the reader.

Content: The features are far too long; they 'protest too much'! Associate editor Stephen Cobb assures us that 'in every issue there will be articles that are quite fun to read...' I have read the first issue and searched in vain for a spot of light reading. 'Castles of Clay' almost qualifies, but it is to be faulted because most of the text is an unnecessary repetition of what is already said more vividly by the glorious colour pix and captions.

Briefly, *Swara* must do more than inform; it must also interest and entertain.

Old issues of *Africana* — I'm thinking back quite a few years now — are still a delight to pick up and browse through. Maybe their format and content have a lesson for *Swara*?

Frank Comerford
Box 33,
THIKA

Pining away

I am writing in connection with the *Reserved for what?* published in the May-June issue of *Africana*. Since those articles had been written, more information has been obtained on the extent of pine plantations in the Shimba Hills and future planting plans.

Today, 798 hectares of open grassland is under pines. This includes the top of the plateau once preferred sable habitat. According to the Forest Officer-in-Charge, the planting program for 1978 is 80 ha and the Forest Department intends to continue planting at the same rate for the coming years.

Less than 60 sq km of the reserve could be considered suitable sable habitat, the rest being heavy bush or forest. The actual pastures utilised regularly by the sable and the roan are much smaller and these are the areas where the Forest Department has been extending their plantations.

Suitable sites for planting of pines exist outside the reserve and this needless destruction of the Shimba Hills should be a concern of everyone interested in wild life conservation in East Africa.

Ranka Sekulic,
Office of Zoological Research
National Zoological Park
Smithsonian Institution
WASHINGTON, DC 20008
USA.

More please!

I have just received the first edition of *Swara* and I am most impressed. The high standard of writing and the excellent photographic reproductions certainly augur well for the future of this magazine. It is obvious that a lot of thought and extremely hard work has gone into it's preparation and for this, as a member of the Society, I am very grateful.

In future issues I should like to see more readers' letters and therefore opinions and possibly

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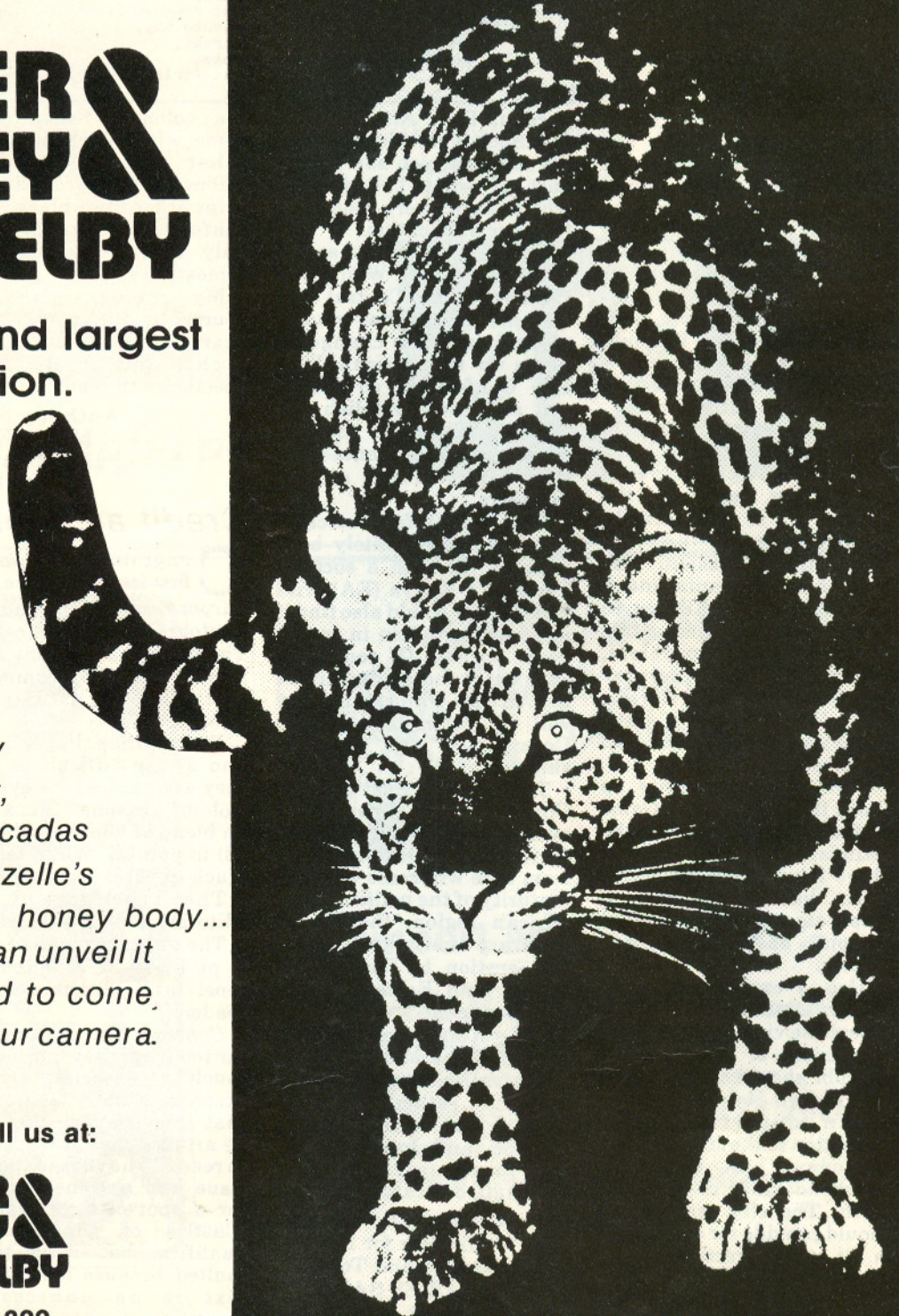
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P.O. BOX 41822
Nairobi.
Tel: 556466
556373
556164



articles on the way of life in general in East Africa.

One item that I particularly missed when it was dropped from *Africana* was 'News from the National Parks.'

I realise that due to weather, poor communications and other factors it must be very difficult to obtain accurate and up-to-date information from the various sources but feel that it would enhance the magazine no end if something along these lines could be included.

It would also give members further incentive to support the Society in its work as after all, it is to the Parks and Reserves that most donations are intended.

Well, once again congratulations on your first issue and keep up the good work!

Tim Piccolo

26, Cherry Tree Close,
RAINHAM,
Essex,
England.

First class news

I have just received the first copy of *Swara*. Congratulations! It is first class and, believe it or not, when I first browsed through it, I thought 'I'd like to keep this and further issues.' Then to my delight I read that you may issue leather covers. Please, please could you send me one and, of course, let me know the cost.

On page seven is a photo of mum elephant and toto. Is there any chance of obtaining a copy?

L T Baker (Mrs),
Weston Turville,
AYLESBURY,
Buckinghamshire,
United Kingdom.

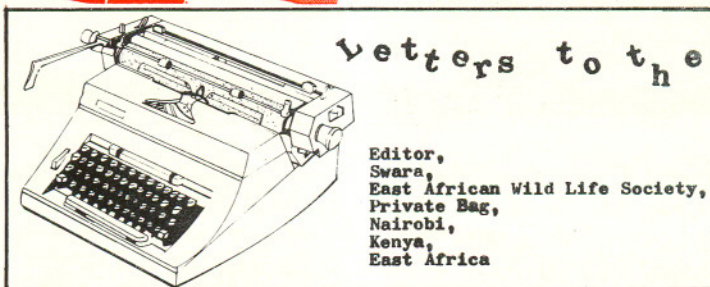
The picture was taken by Norman Myers and we'll pass on your request to him — Editor.

Clear view

At the end of your A Statement of Policy in your first issue *Swara* you ask for comments and I hope the following will be accepted as constructive criticism of your new venture of having your own magazine:

1 I cannot find a subscription form to join the EA Wild Life Society in it. Would this not be a good idea?

2 It is good to see gayer pages but I found your pages 2 and 3 very difficult to read. If the print had been black it would have been ideal. Similarly on page 23 I found



Editor,
Swara,
East African Wild Life Society,
Private Bag,
Nairobi,
Kenya,
East Africa

that article very difficult to read because of the colour schemes.

3 Pages 26 and 27. I would have liked the heading of the article — 'Scrap-book History and Implied Ecology' on the other page, i.e. P 26 and let it follow on P 27. It took me a few minutes to sort out what these two pages were all about. Could there not be a clear heading: Book Review?

4 I found page 7 muddling. 'On the next two pages Paul Ssali ...' and on the same page the title 'The State of the Game an essay in hope'. Actually one might say there are three essays? Could the name of the person being interviewed be printed at the head of P 12? Similarly on P 16 (unnumbered in your issue).

5 Contents (on P 2) I found the numbers 7, 23, 26, 29, 33, 34 muddling at first and 10 or 11 different types of types! Also, 'Wuthering Heights by Harvey Croze' — where does that title appear (as stated) on P 26?

6 Could not members receive a notice about the AGM in future? I know it was in the press but some people do not always have time to read the advertisements in the daily papers. The notice in *Swara* gave little time for travelling arrangements for those lying far from Nairobi.

7 Our Mombasa Shop. The photograph is good but could the address be given — Ambalal House, Nkrumah Road, Mombasa, Tel 312995, P O Box 90005.

8 Re one above, you talk about the subscriptions on the inside of the cover and there is a blank space below. If this page could be switched to P 1, and P 1 to the inner cover, then anybody wishing to fill in the subscription form could cut it out without spoiling the cover. Also, could it be added that

members will receive six copies of *Swara* each year? I believe I read this somewhere. This would explain the higher subscription to *Swara* (of 60/- pa) in comparison with the lower subscription of 45/- for *Africana*. It should also be made clear that it also entitles (I believe) shoppers at your two shops to a ten per cent discount. If this is true, would it not be a good idea to publicise the fact?

These views are from somebody who has little time to read magazines and for this reason needs everything to be absolutely clear cut and easy to read.

I write in the hope that my comments are taken in the spirit in which they are intended.

Lorna Hayes,
Box 83783,
MOMBASA.

They are indeed taken in the right spirit. They stand almost as a record of what the Editorial Board agreed at the 'inquest' which followed publication. Editor.

Team spirit

MAY I take this opportunity to congratulate yourself and the rest of your team in the production and presentation of Vol 1 number 2.

You have set your standards extremely high and I look forward to receiving Vol 1 Number 2.

In the past I have had some involvement in the production of a 'glossy magazine' and am well aware of the difficulties that appear from nowhere at the last moment. I am certain that you and your team are fired with a great enthusiasm which is a credit to the Society.

I think that at the moment it would be extremely difficult for me to suggest any ways to assist you in further

editions of the magazine.

I liked the format and have the highest praise for the quality of the photographs. The cover is absolutely beautiful.

Each article was about the right length and I found particularly pleasurable that hope for the future of wild life pervaded throughout.

I paid a return visit to Kenya last October and was pleased to see plenty of elephants and other plains game but a shortage of rhinoceros and cheetah.

I do not despair because I saw plenty of rhinoceros in the Aberdares and feel that the ban on game curios and an increased anti-poaching campaign will in time prove to be effective. The problem cannot be solved overnight.

Please do not think that I am complacent about the wild life problem. I am as concerned as others and will do my part in helping in conservation.

Once again many congratulations for producing an excellent magazine and I will certainly let you know in future if I can suggest any way that the high standard can be maintained.

Alan Y Ivers,
51, Melbourne Way,
Bush Hill Park,
ENFIELD,
Middlesex,
England

Days are gone

NOT SINCE the first issue of *Africana* have I had so much joy from a wild life magazine. But I would like to make one or two comments about your excellent publication.

Gone are the days when wild life could be treated simply as picture postcard material.

The present scenario demands that today's ongoing situation is covered in the manner in which you examined the *State of the Game*.

However, it is my experience that other articles in your publication are too flippant, and reminiscent of a Fitzgerald travelogue.

What we must know — in much more detail — is the relevant data concerning East Africa's fauna, before the lengthening shadows of the sun heralds their extinction.

Science must dominate and not romance.

A Hun, Snr,
RUARAKA,
Kenya.

A Final Tribute

THE conservation world was astounded in 1973 when President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya created history by taking the unprecedented step of issuing a Presidential decree for the special protection of an individual, specific animal.

The great bull-elephant of Marsabit — Ahmed — became famous overnight as being the only animal ever to enjoy such an exclusive privilege. He had captured the imagination of all mankind and, it was typical of Mzee to take immediate and forthright action to safeguard him.

Never before had such a move been taken and it was an action that endeared Mzee Jomo Kenyatta to the hearts of conservationists throughout the world.

Ten years earlier, in 1963, President Kenyatta had pledged to safeguard the wildlife of Kenya — not only for contemporary Kenyans but, as a world-wide heritage for the future enjoyment of generations to come.

The natural resources of this country — its wild life which offers such an attraction to visitors from all over the world, the beautiful places in which these animals live, the mighty forests which guard the water catchment areas so vital to the survival of man and beast — are the priceless heritage for the future. The Government of Kenya fully realising the value of its natural resources, pledges itself to conserve them for posterity with all the means at its disposal.

President Kenyatta continued to show practical interest in the welfare of wild life so much that the Prince of the Netherlands, who was also the President of the World Wild Life Fund conferred upon him the highest honour available to conservationist anywhere in the world 'the Most Excellent Order of the Golden Ark'.

By the mid-seventies, Kenya had earned herself an enviable place in the eyes of the world as one of the leading countries in the field of Wild Life conservation.

Under his leadership, President Kenyatta earned the assistance of the European Economic Countries (under the EEC/ACP LOME Agreement) to finance an extensive soil and water conservation programme on the Athi/Sabaki river — the second largest water catchment area in the country.

In a dispute concerning the future of the present Amboseli National Park, it was Kenyatta as President of Kenya and Patron of the National Parks who mediated and succeeded in declaring the present 150 sq miles a National Park.

The consistent positive decisions and actions of the late President leave no doubt in our minds that

the world has lost a staunch supporter of the cause of wild life conservation.

Many times, the late President used to say that wild life was Kenya's biggest foreign exchange earner and a valuable heritage which must be accorded the same protection as that afforded human beings.

Lake Nakuru National Park always had a soft spot in Mzee's heart. The vast number of flamingoes fascinated him so much it was not unusual for him to break away from scheduled State functions to spend many quiet hours in communion with nature.

It was therefore an occasion of much joy when, in 1974, Prince Bernard of the Netherlands as President of the World Wild Life Fund travelled to Kenya to hand to him a donation of more than £175,000, raised by school children from eight European countries, for extending the area of Lake Nakuru National Park by some 30,000 acres.

In his attempt to crush the menace of poaching, President Kenyatta responded to this problem by condemning the indiscriminate killing of wild life for commercial purposes.

He continued to insist that Kenya was fully committed to the preservation of wild life and, as such, no mercy would be shown to poachers — indeed, he pledged intensification of the war against poaching.

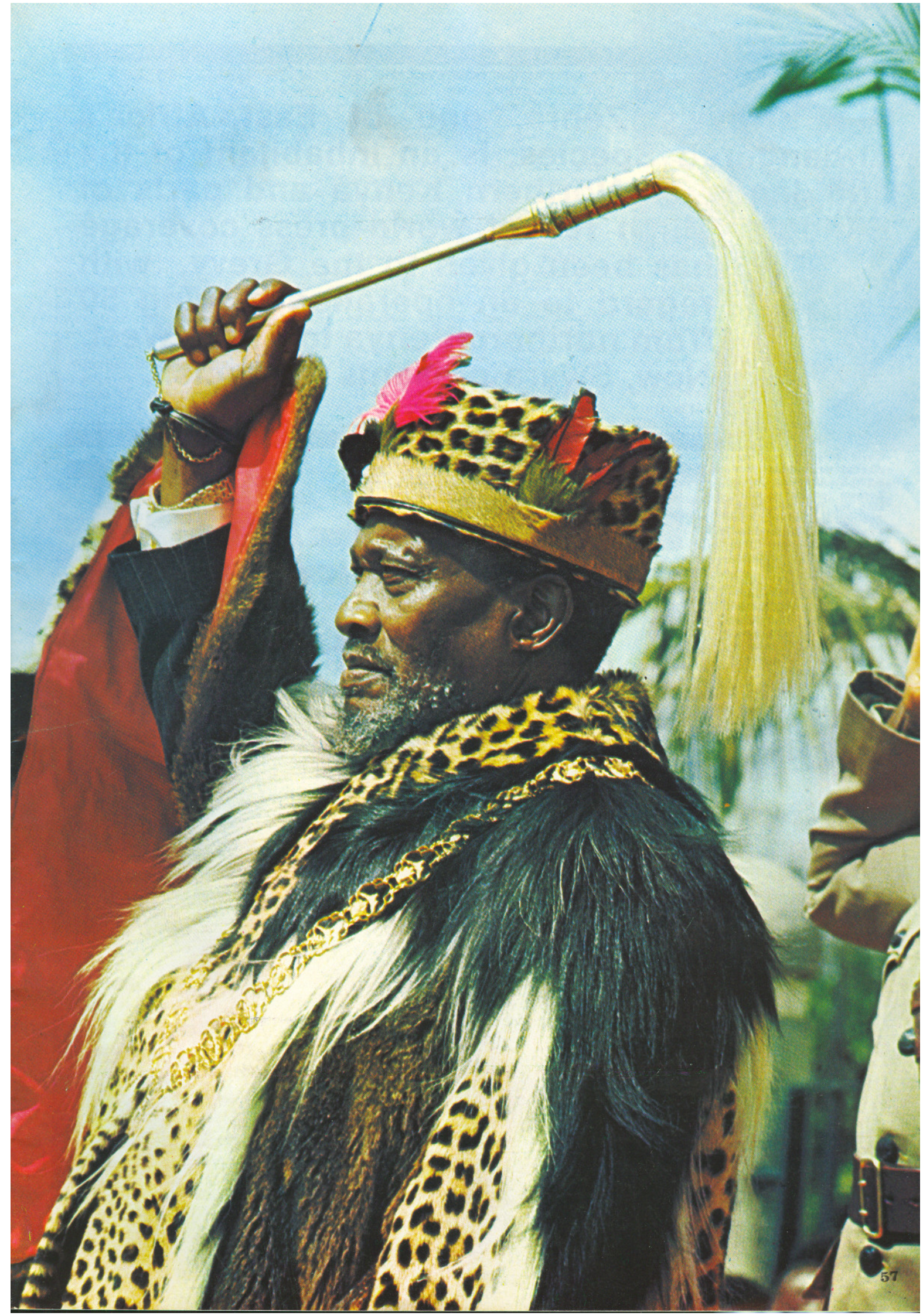
This policy was translated into action when the Government announced that the World Bank has agreed to finance Kenya's anti-poaching programme for achieving this objective.

On May 20, 1977, a day after a cabinet meeting, the Kenya Government, without prior notice, banned all hunting in the country.

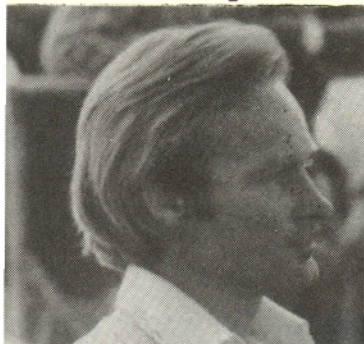
Seven months after this drastic decision, President Kenyatta earned the complete admiration of conservationists everywhere when he announced on December 12, 1977, that three months from that date, all dealings and trading in wild life trophies and by-products of wild life would be totally banned in Kenya.

The ban came into effect on March, 13 1978 and continues to be in force. The greatest wild life conservation tribute the Government of Kenya can pay to all conservation efforts the late President made, would be to make the ban in wild life curio trading a permanent feature in the country's conservation programme.

For this impressive and consistent record and commitment to the cause of conservation, the East African Wild Life Society salutes its departed Patron and prays that the Almighty may grant his soul eternal peace. *DR PEREZ OLINDO.*



The Grevy's Zebra, one of East Africa's Endangered Species, is an inhabitant of the arid lands of Northern Kenya and parts of Ethiopia. Much recent world press coverage has been given to the Grevy, with regard to an operation moving 50 from northern Kenya to Tsavo West. Now, Swara presents the facts...



David Western, just re-elected as one of the EAWLS' directors, is a Kenyan ecologist working for the New York Zoological Society. For 11 years, he has conducted research on the wildlife and nomadic Masai pastoralists of Amboseli. Since January this year, secondment as Acting Director of Kenya's Wild Life Planning Unit has enabled him to take a broader look at Kenya's wild life problems — including those of the Grevy's Zebra.

THE LAST ROUND UP

Dust rises as stampeding Grevy herd romps through wilderness. Picture Frants Hartmann FRPS



THOUGH the extinction of the Dodo, the passenger pigeon and the quagga were indisputably due to human agencies, neither in these cases, or most others in the business of extinction, is the natural history of a species prior to its disappearance, generally well known. Though we can say why a species disappears, we are seldom aware of its biology or ecological importance in the ecosystem.

Unlike its close relative the quagga, the natural history of the Grevy's will not be obscure if the species does recede into the annals of the fossil record. We know more about its status than we do most other animals and so it would be particularly ironic if we were to allow the Grevy's to die out.

Whether the additional knowledge we gain on a species does reduce its chances of extinction remains to be seen, but I believe it does. This therefore begs the question of whether knowledge of the species itself may not be one of the best conservation investments. I believe that the more we know of an animal and understand it as a species the more support it can muster when the odds are against its survival.

However, before we can pursue these issues further, we have to see what we know of Grevy's and how we think that this knowledge, or knowledge of what we should know, can aid the species.

Concern began to be expressed in the mid 1970s when it was obvious to

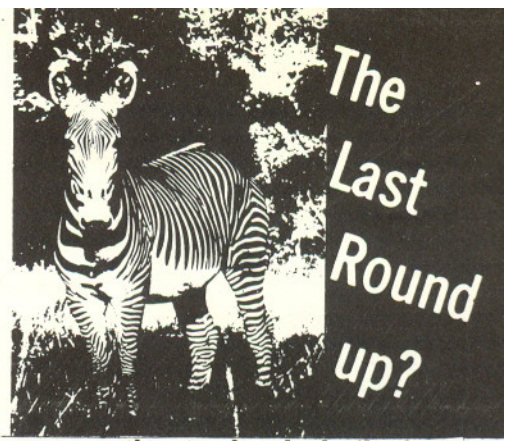
many who knew parts of their range well that the species was in trouble. The concern was highlighted in an advert placed in the *Standard* newspaper, offering a chance to cash in or save the last of the species, since only 1,500 or fewer remained. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was already alerted to the dwindling numbers and was, through Hans Klingel's efforts beginning to assemble what they could on its fate.

However, the dramatic publicity accelerated the concern that was building up and precipitated action that can only be viewed objectively in retrospect. Urgent action was sought to place the species on the endangered species list of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

It was hoped that such action would dry up the international trade in Grevy's skins and therefore the incentives for what was obviously an excessive poaching level within Kenya.

Meanwhile under the pressure of international opinion, emergency measures were taken in Kenya to ensure that a viable breeding population could be established in a safe haven, an aspect covered in other articles in *Swara*.

The area selected was Tsavo West National Park in southern Kenya, abutting the Tanzania border. This was not within the species range and in fact



was more than two hundred miles from the nearest portions of it. Nevertheless, it was felt that the immediacy of the problem outweighed the subtleties of whether the Grevy's should be introduced into an alien ecosystem.

Up to this point it seemed that all that was known with any degree of certainty was the range of the species, which was largely located in Kenya north of the Tana river and East of the Rift Valley, but which spilled over into Somalia with a substantial number located along the eastern rift in Ethiopia. It was feared that the Ethiopia population was more or less extinct and that the Somali population had already suffered extermination.

Within Kenya, where once the Grevy's had been one of the most common species in Samburu Game Reserve, rarely an animal was seen. The price of the pin-striped skins had soared on the open market, and the market was quite literally, wide open. Throughout Nairobi curio shops the unabashed sale of illegally acquired skins was alarming.

By January 1978 the Ministry of Tourism and Wild Life had launched its own investigation into the status and conservation needs of the Grevy's.



*Concern about Grevy's has become an international affair but it seems all the facts are not yet known. KREMU'S new method of enumeration confounds the rumours
Picture Iris Breidenbend*

The Last Round up?



Grazing Grevy. Picture Mohamed Amin

completely undermined by the alarming rate of disappearance.

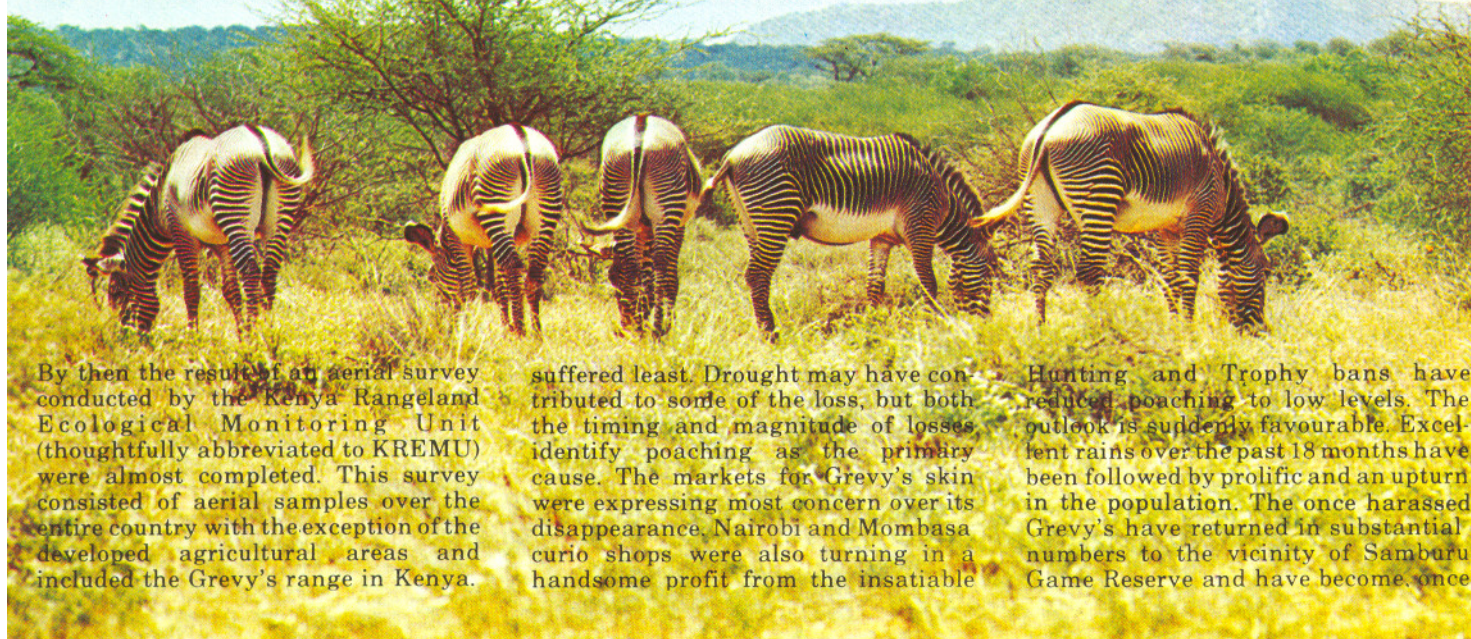
Elsewhere the picture is equally bleak. The species has apparently been more or less exterminated in the eastern portion of its range, from the Somali border across to east-central Kenya. In the south the population of 2000-3000 that regularly occupied the northern slopes of Mount Kenya has all but disappeared.

There can be little doubt that much of the decline can be attributed to poaching. Grevy's in areas adjacent to settlement have suffered the greatest losses, those most distant, in the far reaches of northern Kenya around Lake Turkana and Mount Kulal, have

would be difficult to control the illicit trade.

However, zebra skins are bulky. Despite the considerable loss of revenues it created, Kenya was the first to move towards effective conservation measures. The President, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta announced in December 1977 that a complete ban on all trophies would be imposed on March 12, 1978.

The measure was a sweeping attempt to contain a trade widely out of hand. Unlike the Hunting Ban it was to have a purging influence on the poaching of most species. The wide open trade channels were plugged. For the Grevy's and most other species the



By then the result of an aerial survey conducted by the Kenya Rangeland Ecological Monitoring Unit (thoughtfully abbreviated to KREMU) were almost completed. This survey consisted of aerial samples over the entire country with the exception of the developed agricultural areas and included the Grevy's range in Kenya.

suffered least. Drought may have contributed to some of the loss, but both the timing and magnitude of losses identify poaching as the primary cause. The markets for Grevy's skin were expressing most concern over its disappearance. Nairobi and Mombasa curio shops were also turning in a handsome profit from the insatiable

Hunting and Trophy bans have reduced poaching to low levels. The outlook is suddenly favourable. Excellent rains over the past 18 months have been followed by prolific and an upturn in the population. The once harassed Grevy's have returned in substantial numbers to the vicinity of Samburu Game Reserve and have become, once

From the survey, KREMU were able to produce a special report on the Grevy's showing the range within which it was recorded and the estimated population within Kenya. They estimated that 13,718 animals remained. The number came as a considerable surprise to most people and especially those who had maintained that less than 1,500 remained.

Additional data was to arrive from Ethiopia that perhaps 1500 still existed there, and that there was even a hint of a substantial population in South Eastern Sudan.

In all then, it is probable that 15,000 Grevy's still exist.

The lesson is that we should not use numbers alone to assess the status of a species. This is well exemplified for the Grevy's as for other species. The findings that there were in fact far more animals than poorly-informed guesses had stated, was inevitably used by various sources to disclaim that there was any concern over the fate of the species at all, which made it all the more difficult to draw attention to the crucial fact that the prevailing rate of decline would soon lead to the extermination of the species.

Fortunately information was available from which the change in numbers over the last decade could be assessed. Details of this are covered by Michael Rainy in the following pages.

Any confidence that may have been fostered by the KREMU counts was

tourist trade. Licences, for even the illegally acquired skins, were for the asking, or rather, for a small fee to the appropriate official. There was too much vested interest for any remedial action to be taken, or so it seemed.

In fact, a major change was already underway as Kenya's outlook changed on the prolific trade in wild life products. The first evidence of this was the introduction of the Hunting Ban in 1977.

There is little doubt that this was a cursory measure to contain the onslaught on Kenya's wild life. Cursory because it tackled the least of the problem, legal hunting. Cursory because it shield clear off the greatest problem, the illegal trade in wild life.

However, it did increase the stakes for the poacher; he was now more obviously hunting illegally if he loosed off a shot, so he was more conscious of making sure his target was worth the added risk.

The effect was to raise the premium on the species which brought the greatest reward, elephant and rhino, and to decrease the interest in the less rewarding, including the Grevy's. It was a question of 'in for a penny, in for a pound'. A slight reprieve for a beleaguered Grevy's.

As long as the trophy trade continued in its existing form, little could be done to contain the incessant flow of poached products, and as long as the overseas markets were available, it

again, habituated to vehicles and provide the visitor with one of the most impressive attractions of the northern game reserves.

Further action is also underway to close down the international markets in Grevy's skins. The species is to be placed on the endangered species list of CITES which will prohibit imports into the main consumer countries. Kenya also asked the United States to place the species on the Federal Register as an endangered species, which would legally prohibit imports to this major market. And so, in the course of a year, concerted efforts have reversed the fortunes of what could have been a more dramatic loss than the quagga.

What of the future of the species? Can we assume that the Trophy Ban will continue, that the international markets in skins will be effectively controlled?

The control of the international trade in the species is perhaps the best way to reduce the demand for Grevy's skins because in its particular case the produce is largely sold on the European and American markets, in countries which are by and large party to CITES.

The use within Africa is presently limited though conceivably, even here, the trade could pick up in time. It is likely that Kenya will however retain the trophy ban in some form in the future and that the difficulty of moving skins will remain.

The future of many endangered

species, not simply the Grevy's will hinge on a sensible use of international conventions and trophy restrictions, sensible in not applying so stringent a control that wildlife becomes an increasing burden to the rural, subsistence farmer, and yet sufficiently stringent to regulate the offtake of a species to ensure its continued existence.

Within their natural range there is still a chance that resumption of poaching could rapidly erode the remaining Grevy's stocks. A species as nomadic as the Grevy's is difficult to contain within the existing parks and reserves, which are unfenced and occupy no more than a small portion of the seasonal range of most animals.

What is urgently needed is a closer study of the species to locate areas that can be contained with safe havens, if and when the level of poaching resumes. Perhaps no such areas exist. But there are others, which when fenced, could provide the range of seasonal conditions that Grevy's evidently select in the ephemeral rangelands. Yet another concern should be the relationship with

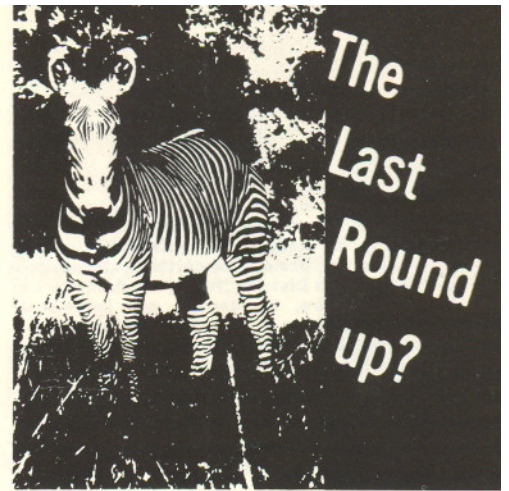
Grevy in the wild. Picture Mohamed Amin

Burchell's zebra, and whether or not the two species can coexist within the confined areas.

From the geographic distribution and seasonal movement of both species, there is reason to suspect that there may be a high level of competition between them. If this is the case the chances of Grevy's surviving in prime Burchell's range such as Tsavo West where a 'breeding herd' was established, must remain dubious. However the least that could be done with the animals already translocated would be to monitor their progress and test some of these hypotheses.

But the real question is not so much whether the species can survive as whether it can survive as a nomadic species in an anti-nomadic world. The arid zone ecosystems are difficult environments in which to make a living, partly because of the variable rainfall.

This tends to be highly seasonal and variable in space. Most of the larger mammals that are common to the arid zone ecosystems tend towards nomadism in order to have access to the localised flush of green forage. But as



the rangelands become 'tamed' and opened up to commercial ranching, nomadic species are less tolerated, partly because they play havoc with disease control.

The tragedy of the Grevy's could be that it will survive only in captivity, or in small parks where the shackled nomad will be as out of place as a wandering albatross in a zoo, and a poignant reminder of lost and grander spaces





MICHAEL Rainy is a research ecologist associated with the Zoology Department at the University of Nairobi. His principal research interest is the ecology of cattle pastoralism in south Samburu District. During the first years of his work there, he carried out large-scale ecological surveys to compare domestic animal migrations with the movement strategies of the community of wild herbivores. It was at this time that Michael began to develop his special interest in zebras, an interest which he has sustained while living continuously in the Samburu area for the whole of the period he talks about, 1970 to the present day.

THE Grevy zebra population has declined dramatically in the last few years, and the species' survival over much of its natural range is now in question.

In this article, I will attempt to provide information about the status of the Grevy in an area which was until recently the centre of its distribution.

This is a 9,000 sq km area border to the west of the edge of the Great Rift Valley. It is centred on the middle portion of the Uaso Nyiro river and extends as far as the newly established Shaba Game Reserve. This is an especially interesting area topographically and therefore ecologically, one where the wetter highlands of southern Kenya meet the arid north. It is also a meeting and mixing place of Kenya's distinct eastern and western rainfall regimes. It includes the southern and western limits of Grevy zebra distribution.

However, my main aim is not simply to add further numerical fuel to the fires of conservationist controversy. It is to provide enough relevant history about the recent Grevy population changes — that we may understand the major causes of its recent decline well enough to stop and finally reverse it.

Before we can do anything to help conserve the remaining Grevys we must know what the Grevy does to help itself, for, despite us the Grevy has adapted to and survived a host of unfavourable environmental odds.

I do not believe that the Grevy will be extinct in one or two years outside a few parks and reserves; and that therefore the only conservation strategy which makes sense today is to transfer as many as possible to safety before they all disappear. Since the reserves within its range are all too limited in size, this attitude is simply a pessimistically self-fulfilling prophecy. The prognosis for Grevy survival is extremely serious, but definitely not terminal.

While there may not be time for more research, there is certainly time to consider what we already know about the Grevy. There is time to use this information to plan and implement less hasty, and more effective strategies. We must learn that survival is far more than just a numbers game.

We must know and interpret migration over the whole annual cycle.

We need to know how the animals derive nutrition and energy from their environment and how, through behaviour, they channel it into continued reproductive success. Only then can we make a clear assessment of factors which have led to a numerical decline, identify which are most important, and attack those which we can effectively control.

Plains or Burchell's zebra, too, have been killed in large numbers to support our country's recently banned curio trade, but as far as I know, no one has raised the question of their survival as a species. What makes the Grevy so special?

Firstly, the range of the Grevy is restricted to survive in northeastern Kenya (and in small parts of Ethiopia and Somalia) where their total range is less than 160,000 sq km. In contrast, the plains zebra occurs as at least five sub-species and is widely distributed from South Africa through to the northeast Kenya rangelands.

If the Grevy fails to survive in Kenya, the world will lose a species, not just a population!

The Grevy is the largest grazer adapted to the sparse hot, harsh, and dry grasslands on northeastern Kenya. Its natural home is semi-arid approaching sub-desert. An average Grevy weighs 320 kilos compared with a 240 kilo plains zebra.

Although a kilo of Grevy costs less energy to keep in working order than a kilo of plains zebra, in each case the energy budget must be balanced every day, or the animal loses weight. The day has the same number of hours for all of us. This means that on a particular rangeland of the same quality the larger Grevy will have to process more grass each day per zebra than the smaller plains zebra. When grass quality is poor this effect becomes even more pronounced.

Any one who has watched plains zebra is struck by the intensity of social interaction between individuals. Infants and sub-adults play; males joust and fight; mutual grooming is common; and various levels of mating behaviour are frequently seen from just 'necking', to a female kick into male teeth, to the consummate act itself. All of these nonfeeding activities consume extra energy. Grevy watchers, on the other hand, observe mainly just standing, walking, and feeding behaviour. Interactions between individuals are rare and brief. Because they are adapted to live on poor grasslands, a high frequency of energy consuming social interactions cannot be part of the Grevys' genetic programme. These considerations account for differences in social organisation and reproductive strategy.

In both zebras, adult females come into oestrus once a year for a short period following foaling. In both species the gestation is about 12 months. But here the similarities end. The plains zebra is born into a stable family group consisting of several mares, their subadult progeny, and a single stallion 'father'. These few individuals define the foal's initial social

More just a of

environment.

Later, females become members of other small families; males join bachelor groups and may finally become family heads themselves. The family group can be seen as an important device for ensuring highly efficient low breeding within dense zebra herds. The plains zebra stallion maximises his breeding success by keeping up



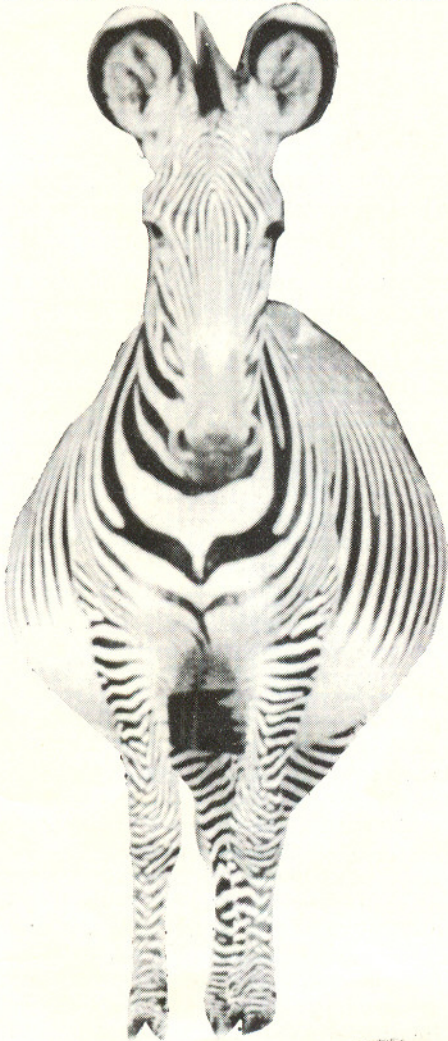
with, living among, and monopolising the few adult females in his family.

In contrast, Grevy are more often widely scattered in small groups and thus occur at much lower densities. The basic unit of Grevy togetherness is a mare and foal. A Grevy foal certainly won't know its father. It will live in loose association with highly mobile and unstable groups of other females and their young. These groups move constantly to find sufficient food to support the extra nutritional and energy demands of gestation, location, and growth.

than game numbers

Instead of using energy to acquire, maintain, and follow a family group of no fixed abode, the strategy of the male Grevy is to acquire a piece of real estate which will maintain him year round and which will be good enough to occasionally attract females.

The ephemeral breeding area is not a true territory because the stallion does not appear to defend it against other



adult males even when it is occupied by females. Grevy stallions do fight other Grevys, but these are serious hard fought battles which are, fortunately, rare. Samburu people have related many accounts of how aggressive Grevy stallions can be.

When attacked by lions, they occasionally kill the attacker and frequently survive the attack.

It is not at all unusual to see a male Grevy with open wounds or well healed scars which could only have come from an unsuccessful lion attack.

Finally, in this comparison, I would

like to look at the distribution and movement strategies of these two species over the part of their range in which I have done ecological research since 1970.

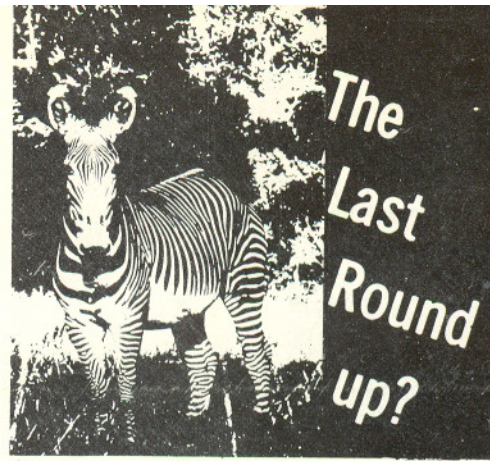
The region includes the area of overlap of the two species. The plains zebra migrate locally, but are primarily resident of the western highlands of both the Leroghi and Laikipia plateau, where they are far more numerous than in lowland Samburu. In contrast, while they occur mainly in the low country, Grevys utilise both highland and lowland parts of the range.

Until 1973 large numbers made use of pastures produced by the July and August rains on the western edge of the Samburu highlands. Between 50 and 100 stallions were year round residents and probably held breeding territories on Leroghi. These were joined by 2-3 thousand females and sub-adults which moved back to the low country again in September in anticipation of the October rainfall.

Grevy also occupied a 1300 sq km unfenced area of the Laikipia Plateau directly south of Leroghi. In this area there were only 5-10 stallions and a yearly average population of only 40-80 in total. Northern Laikipia comprises eight large-scale cattle ranches. Hunting of Grevy was permitted with special licences operating under a rigid quota system. Although the grasslands are much better developed than on Leroghi, the strikingly lower number of Grevys found there is directly attributable to the effects of modest offtake by controlled shooting. In most years, 40-60 special Grevy licences were available on Laikipia issued specifically for male animals. Because the female herds only occupied the range for a few months of the year, this number far exceeded the average number of resident males, and it is unlikely that many survived to effectively establish and use 'territories' as breeding areas. Finally, fully 50 per cent of the Laikipia ranch population was found on the ranch with the longest common boundary with Leroghi. Clearly migratory animals from Leroghi made it impossible for hunters to fill their Grevy quotas from Leroghi migrants.

It is interesting that the same IUCN bulletin which first sounded the alarm about the status of Grevy left in Kenya, estimating only 1,000-2,000 left, suggested that 'prohibition of legal hunting, at the present time, is not recommended because the numbers shot in Kenya are negligible and the presence of professional hunters in the field is a deterrent to poachers.'¹

The presumed beneficial impact of the professional hunter is frequently stated, but little debated. While it may be true in some cases, it simply does not bear close scrutiny in the case of Grevy zebra. Professional hunters did not stop a precipitous Grevy population decline. Although the number of special licences was 'negligible,' this alone does not prove that killing them produced a negligible effect on the



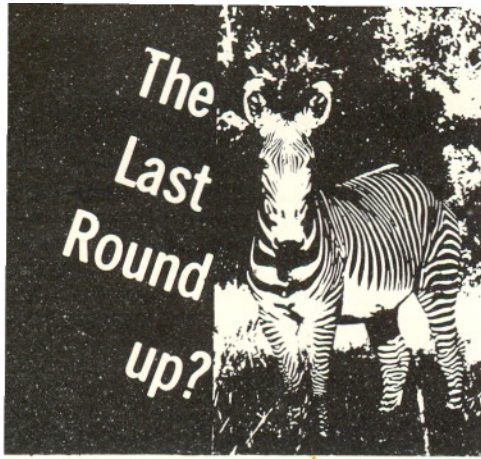
Grevy population. Poaching was negligible when the figures I have just quoted were collected. Controlled hunting took only 40-60 Grevy per year on northern Laikipia, but this was more than sufficient to depress the population there to 60-odd Grevy, compared with 700 on an equal sized area of the 'overgrazed' Leroghi plateau where hunting was not permitted.

Additional direct support for the damage done by hunter harassment comes from one of the ranches of north Laikipia, Colceccio Ltd, which, in mid 1972 adopted a policy of no shooting. This area was censused five times in 1976 and showed a total ranch population of 300 animals, a dramatic increase after three years of protection at a time when in a steep decline elsewhere. If this result can be duplicated by simply not shooting Grevy in North Laikipia, (1500 sq km), it alone should be able to support more Grevy than the *Red Data Book* imagines still exists.

It is crucial to Grevy conservation that we do not think of these areas of traditional and potential Grevy habitat in Kenya as having static boundaries. The movement south onto the ranches of North Laikipia is part of a process which has been well under way for at least several decades.

Elsewhere in this issue, David Western summarises the estimates of Kenya's Grevy population since they were counted in the early 60s and reviews their current status. I will confine my comments to estimating the scale of the population decline of Grevy zebra from ground counts done in my study area between 1971 and the present.

Prior to the decline the average annual Grevy zebra density for highland and lowland Samburu was 0.712 per sq km. By 1976-77, the Grevy density in the same area was 0.055, which is less than 8 per cent of the earlier estimate. Any population loss approaching 90 per cent in four years can only be described as catastrophic. Recently, the Kenya Rangeland Ecological Monitoring Unit (KREMU) published the results of a systematic air count carried out in 1977 for Grevy over the whole of its range in Kenya (163,225 sq km and estimated a population of 13,718 Grevy plus or minus 7,170. For comparison it is helpful to convert these figures to Grevy densities. Over the whole of the Grevy range in Kenya the KREMU Grevy densities are between 0.084 and



0.040, which substantially agree with my 1976-77 estimates. Assuming my 1971-73 figures can be used as a baseline for 'undisturbed' Grevy populations on the Leroghi plateau and in lowland Samburu, I have compared them with the densities found by KREMU for the same areas in 1977, i.e. 0.197 and 0.097. This indicates a decline of between 79 and 89 per cent over four years, in what was previously the most important part of their range!

What has caused Grevy decline of such magnitude in only four years? No statements in the international press have gone beyond indictments of illegal poaching and the now banned curio trade. I do mean to imply that they are not the only very important causes. We must know all the factors contributing to the decline, for only then can we distinguish apparent and reversible losses from real and irreversible ones. We must pay particular attention to those which are man-induced and redouble our efforts to fight them efficiently. It is important first to note that population changes have only been measured in the southern part of the total Grevy distribution area. This is the part of the range where they were most easily seen, and it only includes about 6 per cent of the Grevy's range area.

The lowland part of Samburu District is an area where Grevy compete with large numbers of cattle for scarce grassland resources. Ironically, this competition was increased by well-meaning efforts in colonial times to control cattle numbers. Samburu informants say lowland cattle numbers increased dramatically following forced highland destocking. Rather than face forced disposal by the British administration, the Samburu simply sent their surplus cattle to lowland kinsmen. These cattle displaced Grevy southward at the same time as the first counts of Grevy were being made in these same areas in the early 60s.

Contributing to the southward concentration effect was the prolonged seven-year dry period between 1969 and 1976 when rainfall was 50-60 per cent below average. Several of these years killed cattle. In one, 1970-71, fully 25 per cent of the plains zebra on Leroghi died of starvation. It is clear natural increase of the Grevy population would also have been severely reduced by such a long dry period. The availability of more developed grassland in the southern

highlands and near the perennial rivers of the southern lowlands would have attracted Grevy, particularly prior to the onset of other population disturbances in 1973. The widespread rains of 1977 would have dispersed the Grevy again to the north. However, the Grevy is a drought-adapted animal. A greater threat to the Grevy came from a surprising source.

The very areas where Grevys sought relief from drought were the focus of live capture operations which began in early 1973. Ostensibly, the purpose of these translocations has been in the strictest interest of animal conservation. Between 1973-75, many species — including Grevy — were caught to supply West African game reserves with needed seed stock. It would be informative to have a full accounting of all the animals, including Grevy, which left Leroghi in this way. It would be instructive to know the numbers that actually reached West Africa and which have survived and reproduced themselves there. Unfortunately for the Grevy, Leroghi was selected as a capture area, not because it had a surplus of animals, nor because the animals were endangered there, but simply because they were relatively easy to catch! The animals were tame, the terrain smooth. It may have seemed better than poaching, but the effect on the status of the species in the Samburu ecosystem was the same, a loss for every animal shipped out; further losses due to the cumulative loss of energy spent in flight, day after day, month after month from the six-cylindrical predators. It is ironic that many people have seen this kind of operation as the quintessence of humanitarian help for threatened wild animals. To my knowledge, there was no zebra poaching on Leroghi until 1975 by which time the normal pattern of Grevy migratory use of the highland had been thoroughly disrupted by 24 months of harassment from capture vehicles.

If animal capture saves animals from poachers, what saves them from capture teams.

Because of their fierce loyalties to their potential breeding territories, Grevy stallions have one of the shortest flight distances of any large herbivore. This makes them almost as easy to catch as they are to shoot. In the absence of stallions, a seasonal breeding migration is pretty unproductive and becomes even more so as females and sub-adults are caught. July and August of 1973 was the last time a large seasonal migration of Grevys came onto the Leroghi Plateau. Thus the capture operations on Leroghi may have cost the Grevy population the loss of the natural increase from between one and two thousand migratory females each year for three years! Surely this is to high a price to pay for 'conservation'. These disturbances and captures only added to the problems the Grevy population had in surviving the dry

years.

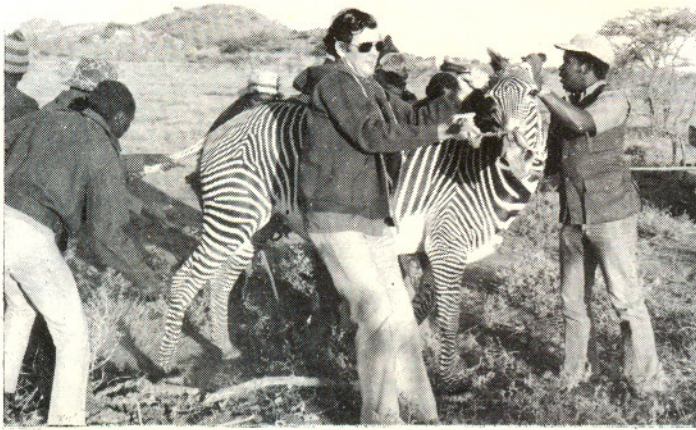
During the last six months of 1977, the same sort of Grevy capture operation was carried out from a base within Samburu Game Reserve, only one kilometre upstream from Samburu Lodge. Much conservationist Press mileage was made of the importance of this operation in getting the 'last Grevy' to safe refuge. No comment was made of the incongruity of capturing migratory Grevy in the immediate vicinity of a well-established and protected game reserve to move them to another where they were not indigenous. In August, 1977, counts of the Samburu Reserve for Grevy totalled only one very skittish stallion. This year, in July, six months after the capture operation stopped, I had the pleasure of counting more Grevy in the reserve (275) than at any time since 1973.

Additional pressures on the Grevy and other animals on Leroghi came in 1975 when legalised hunting was reintroduced after two decades of exclusive photographic use. Given the previous evidence on the effect of small-scale hunting activities on Grevy, it is easy to see how capture and sport hunting of Grevy could combine to quickly reduce numbers. However, it is not yet possible to know how much the current decline is the apparent result of avoiding capture and gun, and how much is their real effect. Poaching was also rampant on Leroghi throughout 1976. In that time, hunting was still in full swing, and these two supposedly incompatible forms of animal exploitation coexisted. However, almost all poached zebras on Leroghi were plains zebra.

In summary, capture, professional hunting and poaching in the period between 1973-1976 were sufficient to drastically reverse the colonisation of the Leroghi Plateau by Grevy zebra that had begun three or four decades earlier. We know the Grevy population has been greatly affected by all three of these forms of human thoughtlessness. By taking firm and farsighted action the Kenya Government has helped immeasurably to alleviate pressure on Grevy from two of these sources. It would be good to know that Grevy were also safe from those who would catch and move them from their natural environment to 'save' them.

The banning of professional hunting and the curio trade — together with the timely cessation of the drought — have given the Grevy another chance. Northern Kenya has not had such a wet year since 1961. In KREMU we now have, for the time, a highly developed capacity to count the Grevy and other large animals over the whole of their range. Repeated counts will reveal the areas now most important to the Grevy. It remains to be seen whether the cessation of poaching, hunting and capture have allowed the once predictable migratory pattern of the Grevy to resume.





Don Hunt, in sun glasses, left, in Grevy trapping project. Picture Iris Breidenbend



The Last Round up?

DON Hunt, for the last 13 years animal trapper and partner in the Mount Kenya Game Ranch, used to be a children's television personality. 'Bwana Don of Jungle-La', in the United States.

He lives in a house on the beautiful northern slopes of Mount Kenya. A paradise of his own making with wild life from the game ranch all around, a purring cheetah at the kitchen door and an impressive array of tribal masks and wild life trophies all on display. A dazzling Grevy's zebra skin is stretched diagonally across the living room wall.

He believes the drastic decline in Grevy's zebra numbers over the past 10 years is due to the skin trade. 'Just a month ago, I was in London shopping around interior decorators' shops and I went into a big department store and what was for sale? Grevy's zebra skin. At £600 each I think. Look at it when the price gets that high on a trophy, you've got a bloody difficult job protecting the animal. If a skin is worth £600, if you kill a thousand Grevy's that's £600,000 profit to somebody; not the poacher, but to the middle man and all the way along the line. It's a lot of money.'

He has noticed the area where the most drastic decline in numbers has occurred is the Leroghi plateau, near Maralal. 'In this area, there was a resident herd of about 150 Grevy's that never left the place and at certain times of the year you would find as many as 1,000 Grevy's zebra in that area. Now you're terribly lucky to find one.'

'Some game wardens and scouts I have talked to, who know the area better than I, report no sightings of Grevy now at Leroghi.'

Five years ago, from 1971 through 1973, Don Hunt was sent by the Government to this area to translocate some game for Nigeria. 'At the time it was planned to set up most of this area in small ranching schemes, and the Government wanted to have most of the animals off what would become smallholdings. So that's why we went in to catch there.'

He was catching many different animals: 'We did a few elephants, we did a few rhino, we did some eland, we did some oryx, we did some common zebra. We did in fact capture Grevy's on the Leroghi plateau, and they would have been for export — probably to the United States.'

He admits he is no expert on translocation. 'The translocation of Grevy

is a Government project and was carried out by the Wild Life Department. My job was to capture the animals. That's all.'

About the constant harassment of the zebra, Hunt says: 'The Grevy's is a plains animal and you rarely see it in thick bush — until the heavy poaching started three or four years ago, when they were pushed by the poachers into thick bush. And of the 50 Grevy's zebra we sent down to Tsavo, about half had

lion scars. This was something you just wouldn't see 10 years ago.'

The operation to capture Grevy's for translocation to Tsavo West lasted from January to November 1977. These animals were caught in two areas: the big plains around Wamba 'where there was a tremendous amount of poaching going on', and the bombing range just outside Archer's

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The HUNT Scenario

Reporter Steve Cobb talks to Don Hunt, former Bwana Don of Jungle-La, now of Mount Kenya Game Ranch about his part in the translocation project which involved 50 Grevy's Zebra.

Fighting mare kicks against restraining rope. Picture Iris Breidenbend



Lair of the eagle is East Africa, land of mountain and thorn, plain and desert. World renowned authority Leslie Brown, in an avian essay, records on the plumage, habits and habitat of varied species which, in down draught or thermal, wing the blue skies in search of prey and fiery protection of their young.

Where Eagles Dare

Martial Eagle and chick. Picture Leslie Brown



EAGLES have long fascinated mankind. They have a special combination of grandeur, power, and grace in soaring flight that is all their own. They are associated with many fables and legends, including a timeworn one that they carry away human babies. They appear as heraldic and national emblems; signs for aircraft companies; in advertisements; and in many other ways. Such degrading uses of the eagle as a symbol merely underline their perennial fascination.

On the other hand, eagles have long been mercilessly persecuted by men, sometimes to near or complete extinction, because they may eat lambs, game-birds, fish, or something else to which men think they have a prior right. Of course, a large and powerful bird of prey living in mountain country grazed by sheep is bound to take a few lambs; and some eagles do live largely on fish. However, most of the accounts of damage done are untrue, or at best grossly exaggerated; and in areas where sheep farmers persecute eagles it has been shown they take very few lambs, and that most of these are picked up only when dead.

Such persecution is largely confined to developed countries, Europe, North America and Australia. In working with eagles in Kenya, I have found it refreshing that, among rural people, there is not only no strong prejudice against eagles, but very often a sound working knowledge of the field habits of eagles and what they prey on. My own studies have been greatly enhanced by the work of Africans I have trained to watch nests for me; I found my illiterate but observant helpers often knew quite well which eagles take their young poultry or other livestock. Even then, I have seldom found any deep-rooted determination to exterminate the eagle concerned. Although African fish eagles live on fish I know of no African fishing tribe which persecutes them.

Thus, in East Africa, we not only have a much greater variety of eagles than exist in most temperate countries, but have much better opportunities to watch them in natural conditions. No study of eagles carried out in Europe, the United States or Australia could claim that deliberate human interference had no effect on the results. Yet, on one hill in Embu, Kenya, now in its 30th year of continuous recording, I know of no case where the eggs or young of the eagles have been deliberately molested, though occasionally I have suspected that inadvertent human disturbance may have caused a desertion. In any densely populated part of Europe or North America, such a fortunate situation could not occur.

There are about 59 species of eagles in the world, which can be divided broadly into four groups — fish and sea eagles; snake eagles; harpy eagles and allies; and the typical booted eagles in which the tarsus is feathered to the toes. The harpy eagles and allies occur only in South America and the Far

East; but representatives of the other three groups occur in East Africa. Nineteen species occur in Kenya, and another two, scarcely known, in the forests of Western Uganda. Of these four, the lesser and greater spotted eagles *Aquila pomarina* and *A. clanga* the imperial eagle *A. heliaca*; and the European booted eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* are only migrants here. All the others breed, or are assumed to breed (the nest of the Congo serpent eagle *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*, which occurs in Bwamba, has never been found). Thus, of 21 species in East Africa, 17 are residents, and many of these have become well known through research.

The resident East African eagles vary in size from the diminutive but very swift and dashing Ayres' hawk eagle *Hieraaetus dubius* to the largest of all, the martial eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*. They eat fish, snakes, small and large birds, mammals, and some eat carrion; one, the vulturine fish eagle *Gypohierax angolensis* is even a vegetarian, feeding chiefly on the oily

pericarp of oil palm fruit *Elaeis guineensis*. This valuable palm is not very common in East Africa, so the vulturine fish eagle is not common either. The carrion-eating habit is associated with piracy or robbery, in which the eagle takes prey from another raptor. Fish eagles *Haliaeetus vocifer*, the bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* and the tawny and steppe eagles (two races of *Aquila rapax*) all eat carrion; and the tawny and fish eagles are both compulsive pirates.

The fish eagle is probably better known to most people than any other, and it is common on all larger lakes, along big rivers such as the Nile, and even on the Coast. One of the densest populations known was on Lake Naivasha, before that once beautiful lake was ruined by unwise introductions and invasions of alien creatures, including the water fern *Salvinia (auriculata)*, the coypu, and the Louisiana crayfish, all of which have altered the character of the lake since 1970. There used to be about 90 pairs on

Brown Snake Eagle. Picture Leslie Brown





Lake Naivasha, now reduced; but there were none in the early years of this century because there were at that time no fish in the lake big enough to sustain fish eagles. Equally dense populations, with nests only two to three hundred metres apart, occur on Lake Victoria, where there might be between five and ten thousand pairs. They have been studied in detail at Lake Naivasha and in the Winam Gulf of Lake Victoria and, as a result, are among the three best-known eagles in the world. The potential population has been reduced in some areas by felling the large trees along the lake shores which they need for nesting, but in most areas the birds are not only unmolested but confiding and tame, so are ideal objects for detailed study.



birds such as cormorants that may dive deeper. On the coast they catch fish such as moray eels in pools of the coral reef at low tide, and in rough water at high tide can catch the almost transparent garfish, which swim in shoals on the surface but are extremely hard to see.

Vulturine fish eagles are very different; they are regarded as something between a fish eagle and a vulture, and are sometimes called palm-nut vultures; but they may not actually be closely related to either, and deserve much more thorough study. In West Africa they live almost exclusively on the pericarp of oil palm nuts but in East Africa, where oil palms are scarce, they probably have a more varied diet including crabs, some fish, and, for instance, stranded carcasses of rats washed up at high tide. In Kenya I have seen them far up the Tana River near Kitui and at Lake Jipe, but they are only common near the coast, in southern Tanzania, and in

Fish eagles do eat fish, but apparently inspire no hostile reaction from any fishing tribe. They also feed on the young of water birds which themselves eat far more fish than do the eagles, so they could be called beneficial. Moreover, many of the fish they take are catfish and lungfish,

Western Uganda.

Six East African eagles belong to the snake eagle group, including the almost unknown Congo serpent eagle and the highly specialised and very aberrant bateleur, which many would choose as the emblem that best epitomises the wild African skies. The bateleur, one of the most extraordinary and specialised of all flying birds, has very long, rather narrow, pointed wings, with more secondary feathers than in any other eagle. Bateleurs are specialised for continuous, high-speed gliding, and spend most of the day on the wing, traversing to and fro over the same area, perhaps looking for small dead animals. However, they also eat

which come to the surface to breathe, but are also a nuisance to fishermen, taking the fish caught in gill nets. Even supposing that fish eagles ate nothing but commercially saleable fish, studies have shown that they would only take a minute fraction of the total commercial catch, so in practice they do no harm to human interests. Fish eagles can only catch fish close to the surface, though they also pirate the catch of other water

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gh most eagles are not
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t with care, the bateleur
tly will not tolerate a hide out
ar the nest. All those who have
ve either caused desertion or
tress, and the only good photo-
taken at the nest have been
h remote-controlled motorised
. So, although it is tempting to

try to photograph such a magnificent
creature at the nest, no responsible
photographer should try it. Bateleurs'
behaviour in this respect is very odd,
because they do not seem to mind
human beings in the normal way, and
often build their nests quite close to a
path or road where they see humans
every day.

Typical snake eagles are a very
curious group of birds, and probably
would not be called eagles at all if the
larger species were not eagle-sized —
bigger than a buzzard or a kite in
Europe. All four Kenyan species, the
black-breasted *Circaetus gallicus*
pectoralis, the brown *C cinereus*, the
smaller banded *C cinerascens* and the
southern banded *C fasciolatus* feed
largely or exclusively on snakes and

lizards, with some frogs, and an
occasional larger mammal such as a
hare. Two have been well studied, but
only two nests of the southern banded
snake eagle have been found in East
Africa and none of the smaller banded,
though it is the more common of the
two small species, and quite numerous
in Western Kenya and Uganda.

Although all these eagles eat the
same sort of food, they avoid
competition for the available snakes
by range and ecological preferences.
The southern banded snake eagle is
basically a coastal lowland species,
while the smaller banded snake eagle
occurs along riverine forests and in the
denser woodland in west Kenya; it
does not normally occur in the same
area as the southern banded. The two

larger species, the black-breasted and the brown, prefer respectively open grass plains or light savanna and heavy woodland or thornbush. Though three species can occur in the same district they avoid each other by ecological separation. They all hunt from perches except the black-breasted which, soaring over open country, often makes its own aerial perch by hovering stationary, like a huge kestrel. It is the largest raptor which regularly hovers in this way.

It is not very clear how snake eagles kill their often formidable and venomous prey. They are not immune from snake venom, and would die if bitten. However, when they attack a large snake such as a spitting cobra or a puff adder they may strike it hard, breaking the fragile backbone, so that the snake is immobilised and cannot then strike very effectively. Repeated strikes by the snake — we suppose — can then be harmlessly fended off by wing feathers, or absorbed in rather thick downy plumage, so the fangs do not penetrate, and the venom does not enter the bloodstream. Eventually, the snake eagle gets a grip near the head, and mangles that dangerous end of the snake, whether venomous or not. Small snakes are then swallowed whole, larger ones dismembered and eaten in pieces. A snake is packed straight down into the eagle's interior, not retained in the crop, as most eagles retain their meals before digesting them.

No member of the harpy group occurs in East Africa, and all the other eagles belong to the largest of the four main groups, the 'booted' eagles, whose legs are feathered to the toes. In some other raptors inhabiting the Arctic, such feathering is a protection against cold; but it occurs in tropical and temperate booted eagles alike. Of the 13 species, one, Cassin's hawk eagle *Spizaetus africanus* is an all-but unknown species of dense western forests. Only one nest has ever been found, and the eggs are still unknown.

Of the other 12, four, the greater and lesser spotted, the imperial and the European booted eagles are wholly migrant. They are all rare in Kenya and East Africa generally, though since the lesser spotted apparently winters mainly in south Central Africa it must pass through or over Kenya on the way, unnoticed. One of the few definite records is one collected in the Ithanga Hills, at a grass fire. The commonest of the migrant eagles is the steppe eagle, a European and Asian race of the tawny, which in winter often outnumbers the resident birds. Immature steppe eagles have whitish tips to the feathers of the wing coverts and flight feathers, resulting in broken whitish bars on the wing. Most of the records for 'spotted' eagles are probably of these immatures.

Try as I may, I cannot see a spotted eagle; all turn out, on close examination, to be tawny eagles, which can vary in colour from very dark brown to almost white. The only certain distinction, not always easy to see, is the shape of the nostril — round

in spotted eagles, elliptical and oblique in the tawny and steppe. The legs of spotted eagles are also less heavily 'trousered' and longer, but that is difficult to see on the ground. When in doubt, the bird should be called a steppe or a tawny. Imperial eagles, very rare anyway, are much bigger and relatively longer-winged, while the adults have very distinct white epaulettes, and the immatures are streaky below.

Wahlberg's eagle, *Aquila wahlbergi* is a small and rather aberrant member of its genus which is migratory within tropical Africa. It migrates south into Kenya and as far south as the Transvaal in August-September and migrates north again about February-March after breeding. It used to be thought that it only nested south of the equator, but in recent years it has been found breeding in Ethiopia, in Addis Ababa, in quite a typical habitat. It is normally a bird of thornbush and open savanna, and very common in places (for an eagle). I studied it intensively in Embu many years ago, and further studies in Rhodesia and South Africa have confirmed most of my findings. However, where these East and South African birds go in the non-breeding season is still obscure, for they have been found in Darfur in June.

Another small booted eagle which takes the place of Wahlberg's eagle in better-watered and more heavily wooded country (though the two can occur together) is the very well known and conspicuous long-crested eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* a familiar sight on roadside telephone poles and pylons, and often quite common in heavily populated country. It lives on rats, and is entirely beneficial to man. I always feel it was rather hard done by in creation, because if it were twice as large and more powerful it would undoubtedly be the most spectacular eagle in Africa, perhaps in the world, with its dark plumage, long waving crest and beautiful golden eye. The long crest gives it one of its native names *Njombaini* meaning warrior after the warrior's ostrich plume headress. It is not very warlike; and by most ornithologists is considered rather ignoble, at least sluggish, even if it does eat rats and is useful. Probably because of this it has never really been fully studied.

The most powerful eagle, weight for weight, is the African hawk-eagle *Hieraaetus fasciatus spilogaster*, which may be recognised as a full species in forthcoming systematic revisions. Although adults weigh only 1,500 grams, they can regularly kill dikdik and hares, three or four times their own weight. In most areas their preferred food is gamebirds, notably guinea fowl and francolins; and one is obliged to admit that African hawk-eagles can be persistent and bold chicken thieves. They just find free-ranging chickens the easiest of all gamebirds to catch, and they are consequently among the few eagles that are regularly persecuted to some extent by African tribesmen.

Our other hawk-eagle is the very

small, swift, dashing Ayres *Hieraaetus dubius*. It is something of an enigma, because it is rare throughout its African range, but apparently for no good reason, for it feeds on small birds and doves, with an occasional gamebird or squirrel, all of which abound in its main haunts, forest edges and heavy woodland. Moreover, it is a magnificent flier, combining the powers of a large swift falcon and a goshawk, able to swoop at great speed but surprisingly agile when in and out of branches. One feels it has plenty of food, plenty of good big trees to nest in, and no reason at all for being rare. Yet rare it is; and all we know about it has been discovered in Embu, where I have observed one site for 29 years and another for 11. Observation at both these sites has shown that it seems to be a very inefficient nest-builder, frequently choosing an insecure fork or branch, so the nest often falls down with a young bird in it. A pair rear one young about every three years; and one can calculate that, with expected survival rates to maturity the species could not possibly survive! However, other studies in other parts of this little eagle's range are needed before we can say that it is rare because it is an inefficient nest-builder. And, if such studies do show any such thing, we must wonder how such a bird can manage to escape the normal evolutionary process of natural selection, which ought to eliminate birds that cannot rear enough young to ensure the survival of the species.

The three remaining East African species are all widespread, all large and powerful; and each, at any particular moment may appear to an observer the most magnificent eagle he has ever seen. The largest, but not the most powerful, is the martial eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*, a bird of savanna, open plains and thornbush. It normally feeds on large and medium-sized gamebirds, and is equipped with very long legs and long, grasping toes to catch them; but it can also kill animals as large as an impala calf or monkey. Despite its size, it is normally rather a shy eagle, and much given to soaring at great heights, so is less easy to observe than the other two big eagles. It has been less thoroughly studied in East Africa than either of the other two large eagles; but in one site observed for 29 years a succession of different adults have laid 19 times, and reared 13 young. Other pairs have been more successful — one that I knew bred regularly year after year until its nest and chick were destroyed by a wild fire.

When one sees a martial eagle at close range, with its flashing yellow eye and raised crest as it pins down some luckless animal or bird, one wonders whether any eagle could be more magnificent. But in the same areas, living on rocky hills and in gorges, one can see the coal black and white Verreaux's eagle *Aquila verreauxi*, almost as big, and living almost exclusively on rock hyrax. In flight, Verreaux's has no equal; it is without doubt the most graceful big

eagle in the world. It is the African representative of a species group including the European golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, and is very like that bird in flight. With the golden eagle and the fish eagle it is probably the best-known of all the world's eagles, for it has been very intensively studied in recent years in Rhodesia as well as in East Africa. Yet we still do not really know how it catches the hyrax on which it feeds, and it must be able to do so almost at will, or the act would have been seen more often. I have seen it done once — just a quick jig and a short dive; and a dead hyrax.

We all have our favourites, and mine is the crowned eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*, not the largest, but certainly the most powerful of the three big African eagles, capable of killing mammals up to the size of a well grown young bushbuck weighing at least 20 and possibly 25 kilos. Its staple diet where it has been well studied is the small suni antelope, *Nesotragus moschatus*. But it also takes many tree and rock hyrax and some monkeys. In heavily forested areas it may eat more monkey, but I am always doubtful that it can catch as many of these very alert keen sighted creatures as is supposed. I know that Sykes monkeys *Cercopithecus mitis* are not afraid of it, if they can see it clearly; and adult males will even bait the eagle, running up branches and grabbing at the eagle's feet — playing with fire indeed.

Crowned eagles live in forests, but even quite a small patch may harbour a pair that hunts in surrounding country. They have the short rounded broad wings and long tails typical of all forest raptors, and have the ability to fly almost vertically upwards, carrying prey, to a branch. They are very bold, richly coloured, splendidly crested, and extremely powerful. The grip of a crowned eagle's foot has to be experienced to be believed. One pair nested quite close to my home at Karen (near Nairobi) for many years; and the female became so accustomed to me that she was positively dangerous, attacking me without hesitation when I climbed a neighbouring tree to look into the nest. This female lived for at least 12 years as an adult; bred five times in that time; and reared four of the five young to independence. Crowned eagles in Kenya are unique in that they feed their young for nine to 11 months after it makes its first flight, so that if they rear the young successfully, they cannot breed every year. This does not necessarily occur elsewhere, however. From records of individual life-spans at long-observed sites we estimate that a crowned eagle lives about 11 years as a wild adult and about 15 years altogether, as it takes about four years to become sexually mature.

Research on eagles in East Africa is more advanced, possibly, than anywhere else in the world, certainly in terms of the number of research workers and the amount of money spent on it. It has been complemented more recently by very effective research in Central and South Africa,

so most of our species are very well known, some intimately known, having been watched in the same place for long periods. The species not well known are the two small snake eagles and Cassin's hawk eagle. All studies here have been done by amateur ornithologists, usually with no funds or equipment to aid them, but often with the aid of keen-eyed African honey-hunters who have played a very great part in advancing our knowledge of eagles generally.

One of the earliest and best studies, at that time a uniquely detailed account of breeding behaviour, was done by E G Rowe in Tanzania in the forties, and served as an example to many others, including my own. Although there is still much to learn, and everything on one or two species, our knowledge is already wide, and in some ways deeper than in any other country. This is because, in general, we have the eagles; and they are not just shy, persecuted remnant populations which cannot

behave naturally because they are poisoned by chemical insecticides, but behave as eagles should, as powerful predators relatively little affected by man.



Colour reproductions preceding pages. Bottom left: African Fish Eagle in flight. Picture Peter Davey. Middle left: Captive Bateleur. Picture Peter Davey. Middle: Wahlberg's Eagle. Picture Leslie Brown. Top left: Nesting Ayres Eagle. Picture Peter Davey. Right: Martial Eagle with slain Impala. Picture Peter Davey

Eagles do not normally attack man but the author displays wounds from an attack by a protective Crown Eagle guarding a nest with young chicks.



The way to look at the Range Rover



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we will gladly give you a test drive



Range Rover





Board Chairman Peter Davey

AT THE last annual meeting — 1977 — members approved radical changes in the constitution that resulted in the formation of an almost totally new management structure for the society.

Most of its staunchest workers — all volunteers — 'lost their seats' as it were, and their places were taken by new people. Understandably, but regrettably, a certain amount of bitterness and doubt appeared on the scene — bitterness from those who had spent so many years working for the Society — and who felt they were being thrown out without cause, and doubt that the new board and office bearers knew what the hell they were talking about. The Society, they feared would suffer.

At the first board meeting on August 4, 1977, I walked into an entirely new ring of faces. For some reason known only to you, the members, I was elected chairman, alone among all the 'old timers' and the 'new faces,' the majority of whom I had never met before. Not without trepidation, I accepted.

It has been a year of solid hard work — and although what we have achieved may have been done in an entirely different way from the past, I do not believe the Society has suffered, and I sincerely hope those of you who worked so hard for the Society in the past, will forget the bitterness, and help the Society gain its rightful place — a strong voice of concerted public opinion that will enable it to achieve its aims and objects — the long term conservation of wild life and its habitat.

Even though many of you still may believe the Society has been taken over by a bunch of juvenile radicals — and before any of you comment, you will please remember that you will now be including me in that category! only with your active support, *really active*, can the Society achieve these things. If you do no more than each sign up one new member each year — simple arithmetic says that will double our membership, and each new member gives us that much more raw power!

We sought long and hard to fill the post of Executive Director of Conservation — it had to be the right

Address by Peter Davey
Chairman, Board of Directors, at
the annual general meeting in
August

A YEAR OF SOLID WORK

man — and I am happy to tell you all that we found one eventually, from within our own ranks. He had to be forced into it, but once he had accepted the inevitable, he jumped in with both feet and will tell you about his plans himself — Dr Perez Olindo.

Three years ago, the then management committee of the Society negotiated a further two-year contract with the publishers of *Africana*. This was due to expire in April 1978, so one of our first tasks was to decide exactly what the Society wanted in a magazine which, after all, apart from the pleasure of supporting the Society, is the only thing our members get in return for their subscription. We wanted to produce a quality publication reflecting our aims, that would serve as a forum for all matters pertaining to conservation that would keep our members all over the world truly up to date with the situation, in all its aspects. All the factors were carefully weighed up, and for once, the decision was unanimous. We would produce our own magazine, wholly owned by the Society, which thus could totally control its contents and, of course, be totally responsible for them.

The result most of you will have received by now. It is *Swara*. For those of you who would like to try your hand at producing a brand new magazine from scratch, on such a touchy and tricky subject as wild life in East Africa today, my advice to you is DON'T.

Here I wish to make particular mention of my co-conspirators on the sub-committee that did all the work, David Western and Steve Cobb. Dr Western was elected at the last AGM so he knew what he was getting into (or thought he did), but Dr Cobb was 'shanghaied' — there is no other word for it, though I believe the polite word is 'co-opted'. Without their efforts (and the work has been vast) there would have been no magazine, and you may have all received a 'Guinness Book of Records' — or possibly Ripleys 'Believe It Or Not'.

Our policy is basically 4-fold:

- To produce a magazine of such high quality in the full meaning of that word, that people all over the world will want to join the Society just to get it.
- To make it equally desirable for Kenyan people and enable them to take

a new active role in their own heritage.

- To encourage the young people of East Africa to do the same — as they are tomorrow's influence.

- To maintain a truly East African spirit. We are spending money to increase our membership because only in this way can the Society speak out with the authority it needs.

We are spending money to increase local participation — the Society needs the active support of all local people.

And we are spending money to actively subsidise people under 25 years old — to enable them to receive the magazine and to take the active interest that has been neglected in the past.

Our membership today is 13,076. There is no physical reason why this should not be doubled in a year. The interest is there, all we have to do is generate. We felt it necessary to make certain that our overseas members get the magazine on time and we have negotiated air freight and special delivery in the United States to achieve this. With the aid, moral and financial support, of the more influential of our members, it is hoped that the extra cost to the Society will be minimal, and fully covered by the increase in membership that this will — and must — generate.

We are also going straight into six issues a year, each one with a basic theme, and we need your help on this. We need *material*, and all of you who are interested enough to be members, must have seen something that maintains your interest. Let's have it.

The theme of No 1 speaks for itself. There is a chance for our wild life. But we have accepted that little will be achieved by a series of head-on-collisions with the powers that be. Pressing and criticism will be used when necessary, but we first have to get the Society to the position whereby our pressures and criticism can mean something — and this is where you come in. More members please!

The active advice and assistance of the Scientific and Technical Committee has continued to be invaluable with the Society's journal being published regularly under the able guidance of Prof Karanja. Sawyer, who for the past year has had to cope with not only a new shop, but a new board, with new ideas, a new magazine and all the work that this entailed but also to maintain and amplify all the other activities of the Society, has coped admirably and is a credit to the Society. Sincere thanks also are extended to all the staff.

Possibly our efforts over the past year have not specifically saved a snake or rhino, but it has not been a negative period. The next 12 months will show the Society means business and if it has taken us a while to get into gear, it means we are moving now.

Thank you.





Lion at Masai Mara waterhole. Picture David Keith Jones

NIGHT comes swiftly on the long rolling grasslands. Ahead of us the sun sloped beyond the horizon in a cascade of angry red rimmed dust. Behind, an ancient African moon climbed out of the cloud and cast a pale luminous thread of silver along the rocky track.

Eight beads of pin-shaped light radiated back. A stab on the brakes, a shimmy of the back-end on the loose gravel and four recumbent shapes lazily rose and stretched in the lowering gloom.

Slumbering lions lolling on the road were our welcome to Masai Mara, a timeless and seemingly infinite meadowland high on the Pleistocene spine of Africa, endowed with the magic of

Eden - a 20th century Shangri la filled with mythical and yet so real beasts.

The gnu, of fable; the wildebeest of reality.

Somewhere around the bend, the Olmelepo Gate of the Masai Mara Game Reserve waited with its barrier down. We were 15 minutes late after an enchanting but bone-jolting ride from Narok a flourishing wheat and barley town which nestles at the foot of the Mau escarpment.

But before we reached the gate three more shapes moved with feline grace out of the darkness — lithe but menacing figures. One bounded after the car.

Our destination was Keekorok Lodge and a three-day rendezvous witnessing

the lemming-like spectacle which is unique to this vast rangeland of Africa — the annual wildebeest migration from Serengeti, south of us in Northern Tanzania, into the parklands of the Mara.

All these years in Kenya have neither diminished my interest nor increased my knowledge of East Africa's unique wild life heritage.

Editing a wild life magazine has imposed an extra interest and a need to talk to my knowledgeable colleagues on the Editorial Board with at least some common ground between us.

Keekorok is thus the beginning of a long African adventure of discovery which I hope to share with you in forthcoming issues. It is a layman's adven-

Editor's
Choice
Safari



Editor Tetley and Nyagothii

*Wandering steps
and slow
through Eden*

ture; sensual and spiritual but not academic.

A cheerful ranger greeted us in the velvet night at the gate and shrugged aside excuses for a late arrival with a cheerful greeting and a word to hurry the last six miles so as not to miss dinner at the Lodge.

Missed deadlines, a damaged car and personal affairs had made us a day late in starting out - and the 180-miles to Keekorok, blended into a blur of speed and laughter at small intimate jokes, evoking a nuance of escape from the neurotic manacles of magazine production work.

The high escarpments and volcanoes and plateaus that bound the Great Rift, shredding clouds against the deep blue of a late afternoon sky, added to the elusive happiness.

Freedom is a moment in time: a release from the bonds of work and personal commitment and domestic worries. We left them behind in Nairobi. The moment in time expanded and stretched out before us and finally embraced three days of pure happiness.

Narok came and went, the end of smooth untiring tarmac, a petrol stop before the last leg of 65 miles of unbelievably atrocious road.

The staff of the immaculate Atonyok Service Station prepared us well - five or six helpers checking oil, cleaning windows, showing us where to wash our hands.

Just down the road and the grey insidious dust of Masailand entered every cranny, pervasive but only acting as a stimulant and not an irritant to adventure.

Thirty miles on and suddenly the

sun's fading rays fell upon plains teeming with herds of antelope and zebra and wildebeest.

Tommy's gazelle twitched and stared - and bounded in a desperate zig-zag dance across the front of the car; two accelerated and ran ahead of it before wheeling across the ditch.

Giraffe stooped to drink from patches of water and then loped off in a kind of kinetic form of slow motion. It was as impressive a prelude to discovery as any adventurer could wish.

Beyond the gate - after paying the Sh 50/- fee for two (about \$6.70) - shadows stirred and moved in the darkness, a reminiscence of the infinite centuries which have touched and moved across this wild life epoch, and around the bend the lights of Keekorok Lodge beckoned warmly.

Above, the earth's shadow crossed the moon in eclipse. It was a night of magic enhanced by the 40 or 50 zebra and honey brown antelope grazing on the lawn under the floodlights.

The Lodge, built in 1962 and opened by Kenya's late President Mzee Jomo Kenyatta in 1965, sits on the bend of a river in a slight decline.

Those who fly can taxi their aircraft right up to their luxurious rooms. There are also luxury tents for those who prefer to taste the Africa of the earlier discoverers.

Manager Joseph Mutua, 30, was there to greet us and accord us the traditional and unique hospitality of East Africa. A basket of fresh fruit had been left in the room.

For an all-inclusive charge of Shs 631/- a day (\$80), the standard of catering and service is remarkably high. With room for 130 guests, Block Hotels employ almost that number of staff to look after them.

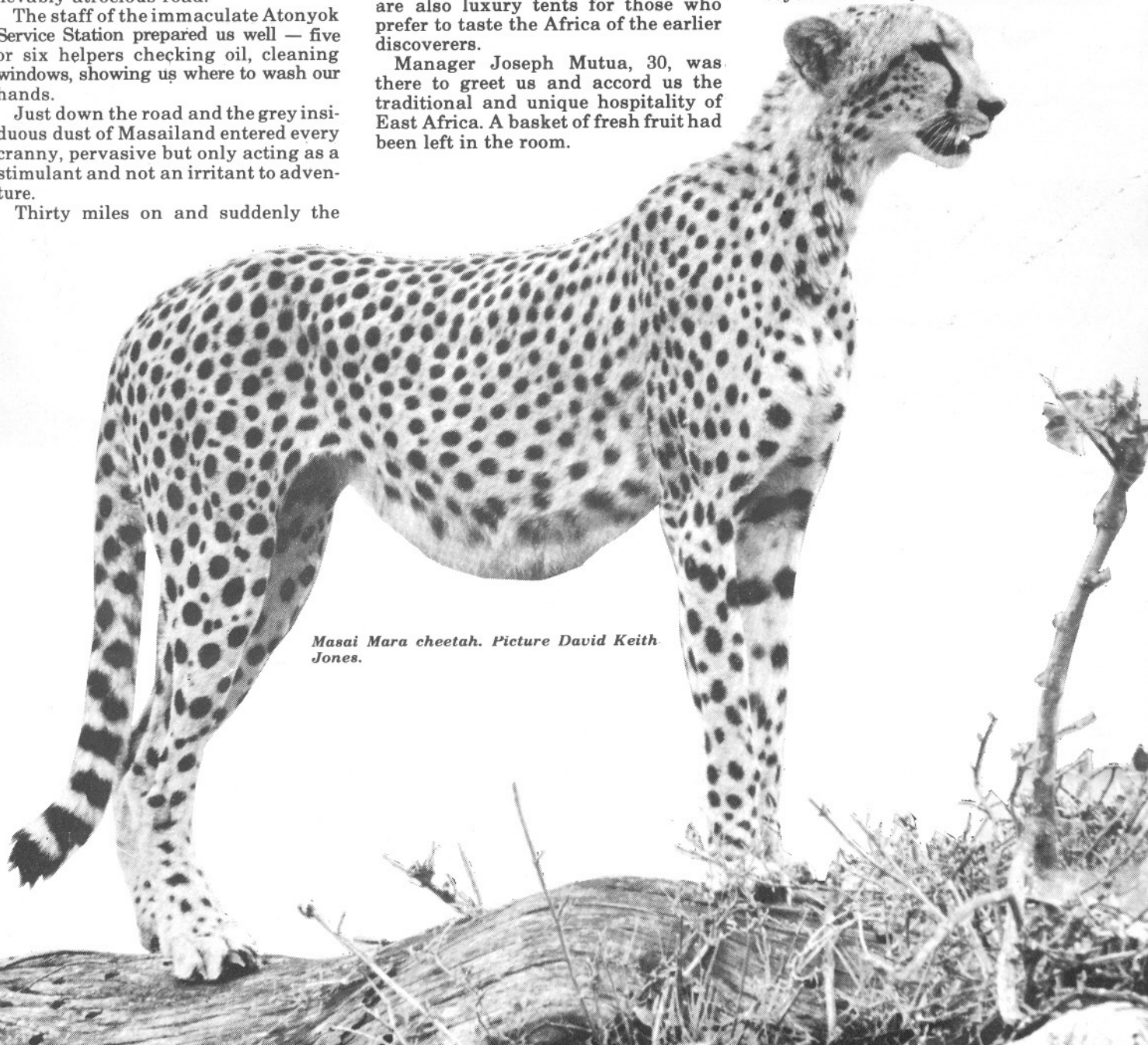
A six-course dinner - the night we arrived it was roast pork - supplemented by tables groaning under the weight of cold joints and salads testified to the skills of chef James Muraya.

Like Muraya, head barman Julius Macharia has been at the Lodge more than 10 years. And so has the head waiter Mathenge.

Smiling waiters at the mellow stone and timber bar demonstrated that the pride of the staff is more than just training. Their welcome is instinctive and like all Kenyans their only wish is to see you leave not only satisfied but happy.

Happiness was the keynote of our adventure from the moment we set out, but here after dinner by the crackling log fire in the bar it seemed to bounce back off the walls and high vaulted ceiling and from our fellow guests.

Dawn came with a sudden, sharp clarity. The light at 5,250ft is often beyond the comprehension of camera



Masai Mara cheetah. Picture David Keith Jones.

or artist's brush — strikingly lucid, the air heady and intoxicating.

It was to be a long, hot African day jolting across plains for close-ups of large herds of pachyderms grazing with rustic tranquillity among the Mara's succulent grass, halting to let literally thousands of wildebeest leap and dart in startled disorder across the dirt road, studying baboons and tentatively edging past a small concrete plinth marking the border into Tanzania to find a herd of hippo basking in a pool on a large bend of the Mara River and watching a small bird pick valiantly at the teeth of basking crocodiles.

Man's intrusive hand has not wrought to much change in the Mara. The roads are little more than the game trails they may have been carved from.

Towards noon, white clouds began to build up and out of the shimmering haze a herd of buffalo — two with magnificent bosses — emerged.

Silence draped the plain. Nairobi and magazines and the 20th century were a million light years away.

Vultures wheeling in the air a mile away indicated a recent kill — they were picking the bones of a wildebeest. Further on, the decomposing carcass of a giraffe marked the site of another of nature's remorseless run-or-be-killed dramas, echoes of an un-

changing past and, we hoped, heralds of an unchanging future.

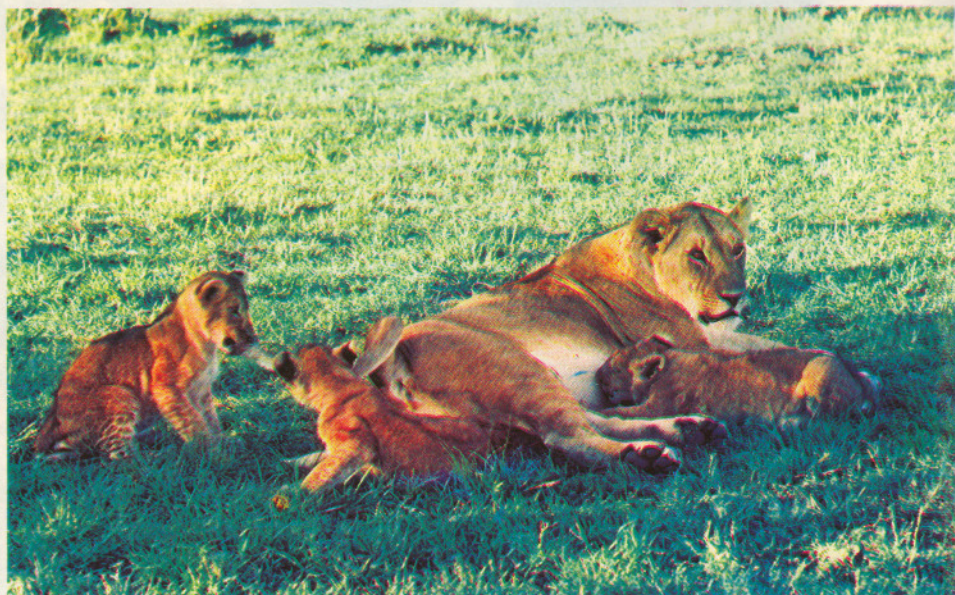
Fifty-seven kilometres beyond Keekorok, atop a bluff, hidden in the trees, the brownly yellow of Masai Mara Serena Lodge gave hope of shade and chilled beer.

The architecture of this lodge is unique — timeless Masai shapes blended with modern comfort. Here too the welcomes were warm and friendly.

Francis Sigi, one of the waiters, has two brothers working at Keekorok and other families share their services between the two.

It was late afternoon when we finally returned to Keekorok to laze in the sun by the swimming pool. A large baboon dog ran by. Vervet monkeys came down inquisitively from the splendid thorn trees and off the roofs in hope of food which the guests are forbidden to give them.

Just off the lawn, by the water hole, zebra and water buck and buffalo and





gazelle, sipped and then brought their heads up, tails erect and twitching, eyes eternally watchful; a frenzy of neurotic intensity, the heritage of being the ageless prey of the ageless predators.

By night, death would have made its choice. Now night descended and out beyond the fringe of light a hyena yelped. Owls hooted. A leopard coughed with the rasping persistence of a wood saw and the zebra ventured closer into the embrace of man's artificial moons.

Across the plains, the vast herds continued to graze and slumber, predator and prey moving always in juxtaposition. The old moon cast its ancient light. Another day was ending.

Dawn would come again across the plains as it had done since the birth of the world.

The pageant we had witnessed would begin again. Nothing has changed and yet all is change, timeless and everlasting.

Africa is a land where the seasons

are divided by the moon, and the rain and the drought. When a wildebeest is born it walks within minutes. It is food for the predator.

The buffalo is also prey but the buffalo has horns and the inclination to rage.

A Thompson's gazelle is a seven-year twitch, a slender black and honey coloured leaping neurotic. It jumps at the flurry of the hare and trembles at the roll of distant thunder. It bounds at the movement of the secretary bird.

And dies at the pounce of the cheetah. It knows no peace. Its metabolism is that of the Pentagon, a network of tautly strung nerves each with its own system, but it has no defence except its hair trigger reflexes.

Seven years is a long time to die.

Africa is the truth and the truth is Africa. In 25 years the elephant move on to new pastures, leaving time to rehabilitate the lot they leave barren or man to exploit it, making it forever sterile.

Old game trails become parched or grown over. The legends become enriched with re-telling, mature as vintage wine with age.

Every year the wildebeest migrate from the Serengeti into Masai Mara, a vast phalanx, mindless as the lemming, seeking new pastures.

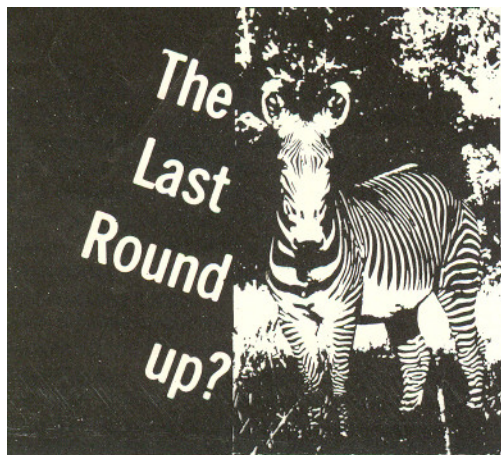
And every year man moves closer to their reserves. When the corridors between one land and another are closed or settled the game trails die. And the game dies, too, the predator and the prey.

Africa is temporal and in Africa time is the only truth.

We had another day and a half left.



Games plain against red-rimmed Mara sunset, top left. Pride of lions rest in noonday sun, above. Playful cubs frolic in shade far left. Familiar zig-zag pattern of the migration, left. Pictures David Keith Jones



□□□ 65 □□□

Post. 'They congregate on the plains that constitute the air force bombing range. Col Kariuki, the commander of the air force, suggested we go in and catch in there, because he was bombing there everyday, so we went in because of the bombing mission.'

'In the entire go-around for Tsavo we caught 50 Grevy's that were sent to Tsavo West. As I recall, 30 were released at Jipe, and Ted Goss consequently made sightings of 27 which is pretty damn good.'

'We also released two stallions and 10 mares into Samburu Game Reserve The Samburu release was purely an experiment. We don't know whether it's going to work, we don't know whether the ones that we think may have imprinted themselves on Samburu by being in our bomas will stay there, or whether they'll go back out with the rest of the zebra when they migrate out of the park.'

No detailed census of Grevy's was made in Samburu by the Government before the translocation operation. But Don Hunt, for his own interest after the translocation, did look up David Sheldrick's records of the original 22 Grevy released into Tsavo East in 1964. He was pleased to discover that 'it was a successful operation. Ten years after the translocations, when David and Daphne (David's wife) left Tsavo East, they still regularly saw up to 20 Grevy in the park'. In other words, the population had maintained itself, but not increased.

Driving around the Mount Kenya Game Ranch with Don Hunt in his Range Rover, one can see what must be one of the biggest, if not *the* biggest herd of Grevy's zebra in captivity in the world. Ten years ago, he introduced 20 Grevy to the ranch; today there are 50. How does he explain the tremendous difference in increase in population between the Tsavo East animals and those of his own Game Ranch? 'This is a controlled situation. We've got a fence. We don't have a poaching problem.'

It was an expensive operation. 'It cost us to capture, on the last operation that we did, for each Grevy's zebra, in the region of £400. For capture, acclimatisation, vehicles, staff, food veterinary expenses, about £400 an animal. The game ranch financed all that part of the operation, and we were compensated 50% by the Wild Life Department issuing us licences to

capture animals other than Grevy.'

Don Hunt estimates that in all, in the last 10 years, he has exported no more than 40 Grevy's most of them to the US; none to Europe. 'We didn't catch any animals for export past 1975. Those were the last animals — the last Grevy zebra — that to the best of my knowledge were exported from Kenya. They were captured in 1975 and were exported in 1976 to the United States.'

Has the hunting ban affected Don's catching of Grevy? 'No no. We're still allowed to capture animals for zoological parks and scientific purposes, according to the Minister's statement.'

But if Kenya signs the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species you would not be allowed to export Grevy's from Kenya?

'You're not allowed to export them anyway. The Government is not allowing people to go out and catch Grevy's and export them from the country now. The Kenya Government is trying to save the Grevy.'

As to actual numbers, Don Hunt would guess there are now about 4,000 wild Grevy's zebra left. 'Give or take a thousand. And that's a guesstimate.' With all due respect, he says, he doubts the KREMU figure of 13,000. 'How many did they *actually* count?' he asks. Told it was three or four hundred animals, at a 2 per cent sample, he said:



Former Tsavo West Game Warden Ted Goss calls his attempted salvation of the Grevy's Zebra 'a storm in a teacup'. It was provoked by a visit to Switzerland. His story:

UNTIL May, Ted Goss was Warden of Tsavo West National Park. He talked about the Grevy's zebra translocation operation to Stephen Cobb. It was his idea to translocate the zebra from Samburu to Tsavo West. 'I suppose I made this decision because it was the only place at the time where I considered there was adequate sanctuary for the Grevy's which were supposed to be then extremely rare and getting rarer and rarer.'

'In fact it all started as a result of a trip I did to Switzerland. I was in Morges and people said 'We've put the Grevy's zebra on the Endangered Species list, because it's become extremely rare.'

'So I decided that maybe we should have some in Tsavo West. I caused a storm in a teacup by going to the Minister and the Permanent Secretary and saying 'I've got to save the Grevy's zebra' and they went overboard and said, 'Yes, of course, we're going to do what we can.' Accordingly, the operation was carried out by Don Hunt

'I'm only a simple game-trapper, and when somebody tells me they have counted three or four hundred animals, actual animals, and so that means there are 13,000 — in my simple game-trapper's mind I have to doubt that. Period.'

'What has happened is that there has been a tremendous population crash. When this occurs in any species, the species is in trouble. Something should be done. And the Grevy is just too beautiful to lose.'

He believes there is much that can still be done to halt the swift decline of the wild Grevy's population, 'I think the only solution to saving animals is to save them in the field where they exist. All the other measures passed by other countries certainly help a little bit. But the crucial factor in the field of operations for saving animals is where the animals live. If they could fence Samburu Game Reserve, that would be fantastic.'

'Somehow, we must organise a tremendous public relations campaign to stop people from buying Grevy's skins to put on their walls or use as rugs: because obviously that's where it's all gone in the last 10 years.'



THE GOSS FACTOR

and a total of 50 zebras were transported to Tsavo West where they were kept in holding pens at Lake Jipe and at Kilaguni Lodge. Although at first the plan was simply to settle the zebras in these pens after their journey, and then to release them, the plan changed to one in which the Grevy's should stay in these pens and breed there, prior to release some long time in the future.

'Unfortunately the lion problem has become excessive there... In the temporary boma at Kilaguni we had a drama one night; some lions got in and broke the wall and the zebras got out.'

In 1964, 22 Grevy's zebra were released in Tsavo East, because at that time there was no National Park or Game Reserve within the Grevy's range, nor did it seem likely then that new reserves would be created.

'Don Hunt did take extracts from David Sheldrick's report on when they were seen and how many were seen after release.'

'We needed to get some information on all these things because there has

been a hell of a lot of controversy over this issue, rather more than I think is necessary.

There's been a mountain made out of a molehill and a lot of people have been trying to climb on the bandwagon and made a lot of noise about things which don't in fact even concern them.'

Many people in Kenya, and elsewhere, think that the conservation of Grevy's zebra does concern them. And that it is worth very careful planning.

Just what was Ted Goss's plan?

'The plan was that we would breed Grevy's in an area, not necessarily their habitat, but where they're going to be looked after.

'There are some people who have done an awful lot of work on artificial insemination in cattle and I have heard of a Japanese professor who has been inseminating thousands of cows

from eight bulls in Japan. I think that's something that an awful lot of effort could be put into'.

Ted Goss and the other people involved in the Tsavo West operation had ambitious plans for what was, in effect, a captive breeding project centred in the Ngulia valley of Tsavo West.

'If you were breeding successfully in Tsavo you could send the offspring back to Samburu. And what you could breed in Samburu you could send to Lake Nakuru, or anywhere. But we're getting into farming now, or management.'

Whatever the wisdom or outcome of the Tsavo West translocation, Ted Goss, man of action, is unrepentant: 'People talked about the Grevy's zebra, but there was no action.

'At this particular stage we're

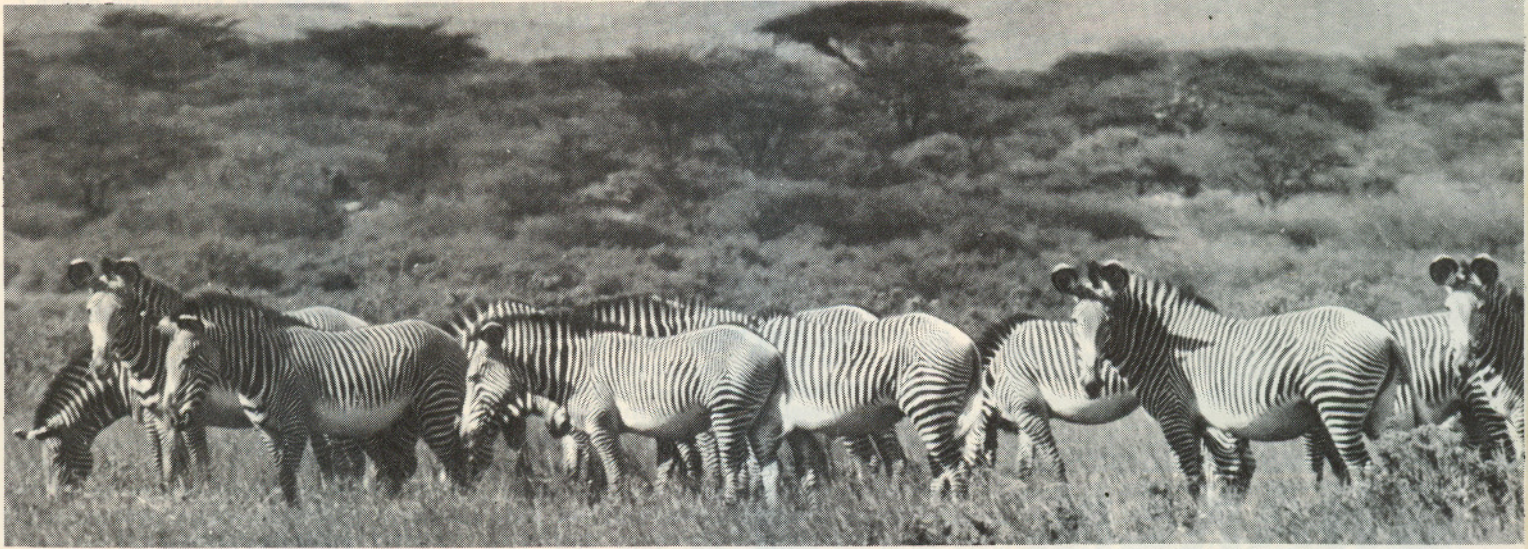


The
Last
Round
up?

worried about the Grevy's zebra, but we should be just as worried about the black rhino, and maybe I should start another storm in a teacup and get some action going somewhere on that.'



Picture Frants Hartmann, FRPS



Some suggested solutions

A wide variety of views have been presented in the foregoing pages in our coverage of the Grevy's zebra problem in East Africa. Not all of the facts have, however, emerged.

John Reader, who has covered the story for the German magazine *Stern* and for the prestigious *Smithsonian* magazine in the USA and in so doing has spent a considerable time both in Samburu and in Tsavo West, unearthed a number of uncomfortable points.

For example, he interviewed Rangers at both Lake Jipe and at Kilaguni in Tsavo West, where the Grevy's were penned prior to their release. Those rangers stated that they had had to shoot a total of six lions in the defence of the Grevy's.

Furthermore, they also reported that a total of nine of the Grevy mares had aborted within a few days of arriving in Tsavo West.

This does not compare particularly favourably with the translocation of 22 Grevy's to Tsavo East in 1964. That operation, organised by the late David Sheldrick and carried out by the catching organisation of John Seago, was unmarred by misadventure: no lions

entered the pens and not a single Grevy's zebra died.

This raises two questions: why was the present translocation, if it had to happen at all, not organised with Tsavo East as the destination, where there are still 20 Grevy's alive and breeding?

And why, after 13 years of experience, did this operation have to be less well executed?

Notwithstanding these facts and the controversy that surrounds them, it seems that there is still a ray of hope for the Grevy's zebra, which has already been highlighted in Michael Rainy's and David Western's articles.

Two things in particular, which are not in the Grevy's best interests, could surely be avoided.

The first is the needless export of one of Kenya's most precious resources, the Grevy's zebra.

Don Hunt, who puts the blame for their decline on poaching, for the skin trade, said: 'I don't see that there is that big an export market for the Grevy's zebra.'

Yet John Knowles, Director of Marwell Zoo in England, the holders of

Britain's largest captive Grevy herd, states that the current market price for a live Grevy stallion in England is £1,000 and for a mare, known to have bred, around £7,000. No export market at that price?

The second avoidable thing is the use of endangered species, such as the Grevy's zebra, for needless wild life glamour. When John Reader was in Samburu, photographing the capture operation, so too were three television teams, from the BBC in London, from Japanese television and also a California TV company.

It was this same California company that had generously raised the money for the helicopter that was hovering overhead, piloted by Ted Goss, as Don Hunt caught the Grevy's on the ground below.

The TV company obviously wants its helicopter to be seen to be doing exciting things. An insidious argument.

Clearly, catching cars hurtling across the plains and helicopters whirring overhead does make good television.

But does it make good conservation?



SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED

A pet hyrax enchants young Alison Davey and her family. Now she shares her experience with *Swara's* younger readers.

ARE you stopping at the duka (shop) Dad?

'No, why, what do you want?'

'Well Dad, Kikami missed out on her *Cinzano* last night, and you know how much she loves the stuff, so please get her some.'

'You know we shouldn't spoil that animal so much. Wild tree hyrax have never even heard of alcohol, let alone *Cinzano*.'

'I know Dad, but she really is rather special.'

Special, yes, really special is our little tree hyrax, *Kikami*. We aquired her as a baby. Literally a ball of grey fluff. She is now grown, and has been with us roughly four years. You can't imagine how much we all love her.

Kikami is supposed to be vegetarian, but, I guess you could say she no longer thinks so. *Cinzano Bianco*, if you please, has to be waiting for her, in a small silver ashtray, in the evenings, when she takes over the sitting room for three to four hours.

If the 'wanted' is nowhere to be seen, well then, we are not spoken to until the *Cinzano* is replaced by *Tia Maria*, or another favourite.

After the evening's drink, *Kikami* perches on the back of mother's chair and patiently waits for us to assemble at the dining table when it's always soup first. *Kikami's* soup has to be blown on to cool it down, and fed to her, the crust of the bread to go with it. Then comes the roast chicken. She really loves that and often tries to help father carve it. She then does a round of the table, begging for scraps of chicken.

Actually, *Kikami* can be embarrassing when we have guests.

You see she has a habit of leaping from knee to knee under the table when she does not like the dish being served, and often we have had guests gasp in horror and choke as they felt *Kikami's* little soft padded feet on their knees.

Then comes bed time. *Kikami* sleeps with Mum and Dad — yes, in their bed! She snuggles up to them and once she's there, there's no chance of moving her. If they try, her little warning sounds become louder, but if they still insist on moving her, well then, it's those sharp little teeth!

If *Kikami* can she will also have her sleep-in as well which she insists upon on Sunday mornings, when there is no sign of movement until about 8 o'clock.

During the week, she is put in her cage precisely at 7 o'clock — much to her disgust.

To remind *Kikami* she is a vegetarian we give her a small amount of food in the morning and evening. This often consists of chopped banana, sometimes raw peas, but she has to be in the mood for eating these.

Also a small bunch of rose leaves and, of course, a rose to give it variety.

But what happens when the family goes on safari?

The obvious answer: *Kikami* comes too. It was in August 1975 that the family decided it was about time we did a 'family safari'. We were not sure whether *Kikami* would like the hot climate at Lake Turkana, but mother insisted on taking her, so that was that.

In circumstances like these *Kikami* starts marking her new territory. She has a gland on her back, which is covered in pure white fur. When closed it looks like a few strands of white fur. But when it is open, the image is that of a flower.

The scent that the gland gives off is a pleasant cinnamon smell, and within minutes she has marked her new territory.

The following morning *Kikami* was allowed to sit in the gap between the fly sheet and the tent. But the problem was getting down again. On the two front corners of the tent we had washbasins.

Kikami, for some odd reason, decided

she was going to come down from the top of the tent. So every step was carefully thought about.

But what neither she nor us realised was that she was right above a full wash basin.

All of a sudden, she lost footing and there was a gigantic splash and one dripping wet hyrax. Raucous laughter from us all, but she did not mind getting wet. She was hot any way. The only thing that really bothered her was our laughter and she sulked for the rest of the day.

Whilst in Marsabit, *Kikami* saw an elephant for the first time. It was from the elephant that the hyrax has evolved. Hyrax and elephant have the same bone structure in the foot. They have four toes in the front and three at the back. On both back feet, *Kikami* has a grooming claw, which she seldom uses, as she has no fleas; at least as far as we know she doesn't.

Once on the tarmac road *Kikami* insisted on having one of her specialities — Wrigley chewing gum. She actually chews on it for long times then, in a lady-like manner, removes it from her mouth.

The crackling of chewing gum paper serves as a good trap at home when she has craftily escaped. Then we all know how to get her back in again.

'After *Kikami* had been with us for about a year, we wondered when she would start making typical hyrax noises. This is like winding up a ten foot square alarm clock and then screaming blue murder.

Well Mum and Dad soon knew all about it, when at 3 o'clock in the morning, she started the noise at the bottom of their bed. They weren't a bit pleased in the morning.

In the evenings, usually after supper, we children play with the dogs but *Kikami* is so possessive that she joins in and tries to get rid of the dogs. She really does go for them.

Kikami is part of our family loved by one and all, and if I was to mention all the little incidents that both her and the family have experienced, I would never end.

Toper Kikami with Cinzano, above left, and with chewing gum below. Pictures Peter Davey.





News and
views of

HORIZONS HORIZONS

wild life in
East Africa

Compiled by
Clare Shorter

Welcome donation from America

THE SOCIETY is delighted to record its sincere appreciation to Mrs Carolyn Pitcairn of La Jolla, California for a substantial donation which she has specially designated to further the anti-poaching campaign in East Africa.

It is customary for the Society to welcome and honour the wishes of donors. We take this opportunity to pass the same assurance to Carolyn with many thanks.

Yet another contribution

WE RECORD for special mention the handsome donation of Shs 1,000/- to the East African Wild Life Society by one of our outstanding life members, Palle Rasmussen, a very strong supporter of the work of the Society.

The East African Wild Life Society welcomes both specific and general donations from its members and the friends of African Wild Life.

Fund raisers

FILMS made in Africa have been earning funds for the East African Wild Life Society in the USA.

In the past 12 years, Charlie and Gladys Allen have raised \$7,821 (approximately Sh 60,613) for wild life conservation projects by showing their own holiday

movies. The Allens enjoy sharing their experiences in various parts of Africa with others, and also supporting the wild life which first inspired them to produce films.

The Allens have a selection of 27 high-quality colour films. The most popular is entitled 'Gateway to East Africa,' and has alone earned more than \$1,200. Other titles include 'Green, Green Uganda', 'Adventure in Tanzania', 'Kenya's Northern Frontier', 'Across the Namib', and 'Botswana'. Last year was the second best year with a total of \$1,381 received from the showings of the films.

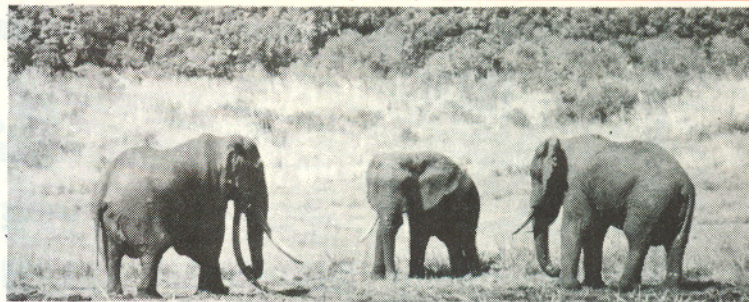
If the titles capture your interest (and you live in the USA) why not take the opportunity to see these fascinating films and simultaneously help the Allens achieve their target of raising \$10,000 for the Society? Write to or, phone Chas G Allen Jr, James Street, Barre, Massachusetts 01005 Area Code 617 355-4465.

Wild life symposium

THE 4th East African Wild Life Symposium will be held at Arusha, Tanzania, from December 11 to 17. The theme will be 'Ecological Islands and their Conservation'. Anyone requiring further information should apply to the Symposium Convener, Department of Zoology, University of Dar es Salaam, Box 35064. DSM, Tanzania

How it all began

ABRIEF history of the East African Wild Life Society would, I am sure, be of interest to both our present and new members. The Society was founded in 1955



as the Kenya Wild Life Society and the first magazine published was *Wild Life* in March 1959. This continued until December 1961.

Then the Society name was changed to the East African Wild Life Society, as it was felt the three countries of Tanganyika and Uganda and Kenya, should come under the same umbrella of one conservation organisation.

In conjunction with African Life Publications, the magazine, *Africana* was published in March 1962, and continued up to April 1978, when the Society decided to publish its own bi-monthly magazine *Swara*.

In 1965, the Society decided to employ a full time executive officer and Michael Sawyer was appointed. The Society offices in those days were out of town at Wilson Airport, and with the advent of increased tourists to Kenya it was felt the Society should move into town, so offices and a shop site were taken in the new Nairobi Hilton Hotel.

The trading activities of the Society have grown considerably and have over the years provided the needs of both tourists and locals in the way of gifts, jewellery, books, paintings, batiks prints ... to name but a few lines — profits finance entirely the administration costs of operating the Society.

The Society has spent on

ABDUL, the third in the line of Kenya's great tuskers, has died. His body was found in Marsabit Mountain Forest at the end of September by Rendille elders.

The first of Kenya's great latter-day elephants was Mohamed, pictured above, whose tusks weighed 141 lbs, left and 117 lbs, right. The Picture was provided by Terence Adamson who does not know the photographer and says 'it must have been taken before 1957' the year Mohamed died.

He was succeeded by Ahmed who became famous as the first African animal to be protected by Presidential decree until he died of natural causes in 1974 and is now preserved in Kenya's National Museum.

Abdul, left tusk 113 lbs, was the final successor. Nobody knows if there is a natural heir.

projects since 1965, \$686,595.00. With the new membership drive and our own magazine, *Swara*, we hope with your help to continue to be an effective organisation to influence wild life conservation policy in all three countries.

Problems discussed

THE problem of how wild life resources can contribute most effectively to the economic and social development of a region was discussed in detail at the fifth Regional Wild Life Conference of Central and Eastern Africa, held in Botswana in July. Traditional hunting, game cropping and trophy dealing were all considered

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as specialised ways of using wild life. The conference recommended the use of wild life as food, subject to specific regulations, and a system of marking trophies to ensure their legality.

The increasing problem of competing land use was discussed and it was recommended that wild life research should be aimed towards, firstly making an inventory of resources and then providing alternative solutions to this problem. Co-operation between adjacent countries was encouraged in the fields of law enforcement and legal protection of conservation areas, by placing adjoining parks and reserves along a common border under a similar status, preferably as national parks. Wild life conservation education was recognised as an important factor in the management of wild life.

No need to worry

DURING the last nine months, rainfall has been generally heavier than usual in Kenya and northern Tanzania. With so much uneaten grass, still standing in many parks and reserves fires are bound to occur as the

dry season progresses. These are not necessarily a bad thing.

Write more

HORIZONS has great visions — of keeping you informed about local wild life events, in the broadest sense. News about national parks and game reserves is invited from game wardens and tourists alike. And don't forget — letters with a variety of views and opinions on topical events will be welcome. Please send to: The Editor, *Swara*, East African Wild Life Society, Private Bag, Nairobi, Kenya.

Tanzania cracks down

STIFFER sentences for poachers in Tanzania are being considered at the current session of the National Assembly. Imprisonment from three to 14 years for nationals and

deportation of aliens is proposed. In addition, anyone connected with poaching in the last three years will be identified and placed on a register. Increases in rewards, up to a maximum of 10,000/-, for people who give information leading to either the conviction of offenders or recovery of poached items are also intended.

The proposed amendments of the Wild Life Conservation Act result from numerous public appeals for stiffer measures against poachers. The National Parks Division estimate more than 30,000 animals are poached each year. Between 1975 and 1977, about 77 million shillings worth of game trophies were poached.

Far East support

HONG Kong's thriving ivory carving industry (worth \$24m a year) has

agreed to use only legally exported ivory, as from June 23, 1978. Since the colony is the major clearing house of ivory from East Africa, this is a significant step towards controlling illegal trade in ivory.

Although Hong Kong previously ratified, but did not enact all the parts of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species it has now listed the African elephant as an endangered species in its Animals and Plants Ordinance. This is a result of the decision of the US Fish and Wild Life Service to list the elephant as only a threatened species, rather than placing a total ban on ivory export into the US, in May this year. As 30% of the ivory re-exported from Hong Kong goes to America, and now the US will permit only the import of legal ivory, the colony was forced to accede to the convention.

Owing to Hong Kong's action, the initiative in controlling ivory poaching and smuggling now lies with the countries of origin. Already, the three East African countries have banned trade in ivory. Uganda and Kenya have a ban on hunting elephant, — under penalty of

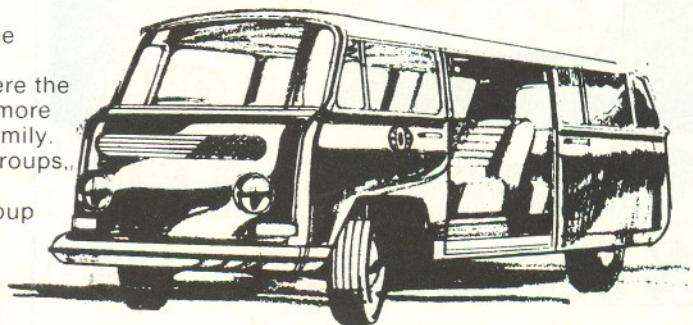
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- Camel Safari – 15 days
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- West Africa Extravaganza – 22 days
- West and East Africa Encounter – 22 days
- Traditional Medicine Tour – 23 days

KENYA/ZAMBIA 78/79

- Kenya Luxury Safari – 16 days
- Kenya Air Safari – 15 days
- Kenya/Zambia Nature Safari – 22 days
- Kenya/Zambia Adventure Safari – 22 days
- Kenya/Seychelles/Tanzania/Zanzibar – 23 days
- Kenya Luxury Tented Safari – 21 days
- Egypt: A Timeless Land – 17 days
- Red Sea Scuba Diving Tour (Port Sudan) – 2 or 3 weeks
- Zambia/Tanzania/Zanzibar Tour – 19 days

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HORIZONS HORIZONS

wild life in
East Africa

death in Uganda! Tanzania is allowing only tourists to hunt and has stated its intention to ratify the convention soon. If the governments of Kenya and Uganda, also, want a market for their legally acquired ivory, derived from natural mortality and confiscation, they will each need to ratify the C.I.T.E.S.

Bearing in mind that the C.I.T.E.S. secretariat is not yet fully established, it calls for scientific authority in each country to advise whether the export of ivory is detrimental to the elephant populations. (If it were, then Hong Kong could not buy the ivory.) However, the three East African countries would still have to hunt down poachers and smugglers, and perhaps concentrate more on export permit forgers.

Inviolable or not?

A REQUEST has been made for the southern part of Tsavo West National Park — lying between the main Taveta-Voi road and the Tanzanian border — to be turned over to cattle ranching.

The M.P. and the council of Taita/Taveta, on behalf of the local people, asked the Minister for Tourism and Wild Life to consider this proposal in May.

To date, no further information is available from the Kenya Press, suggesting that, perhaps, this astonishing request is beyond consideration? Hopefully this issue will fade into obscurity but the factors causing this request illustrate some of the problems facing national parks in developing countries, and are worth discussing.

Are national parks, once established, inviolable? Or should they be regarded as reserve land, to be brought into use for agriculture as the situation requires? In Kenya, for example, the laws which permit the creation and maintenance of national parks also contain one

section allowing their repeal. So far, this part of the legislation has not been used, and as it would be necessary for the National Assembly to approve such a measure, it is unlikely that a national park would be replaced. The aim of the Wild Life Conservation and Management Service, which is responsible for Kenya's national parks, is 'to ensure wild life is managed and conserved to yield to the nation in general and to individual areas in particular, optimum returns in terms of cultural, aesthetic and scientific gains as well as such economic gains as are incidental to proper wild life management...'

Turning part of Tsavo West into second-rate cattle ranches for the benefit of a few people is hardly consistent with this objective! From an aesthetic and scientific point of view, the suggested removal of this part of the park would isolate Mkomazi Game Reserve in Tanzania. A large number of different species move between Tsavo and Mkomazi, the political boundary being of no significance. This would also mean the loss of Lake Jipe, which not only adds another ecological dimension to the park but is also popular with visitors.

The history of Tsavo West may be similar to that of other parks. It was established in 1948 in a sparsely inhabited area of marginal agricultural use. In the last 30 years the protection and development of the park has progressed considerably. From a national point of view, Tsavo helps attract many tourists (and their foreign currency which, last year, totalled approximately Sh 850m, and is popular among both tourists visiting the coast and those visiting other parks and reserves.

Within Tsavo West there are two lodges, two self-help lodges and various campsites, and two other lodges just outside, within their private nature reserve which is populated by animals from the national park. More lodges lie on the Mombasa-Nairobi road and serve as

bases for people visiting either Tsavo East or West. As a result, a large number of people, mainly local, are employed by these lodges directly and through ancillary services. Taking the park staff into account, too, a considerable amount of cash must enter the local economy as a result of the presence of the park.

However, after 30 years, the local situation has changed and an apparent shortage of land is being experienced in the areas outside Tsavo West, namely Taveta and Taita Hills. The human population of these areas has increased and a certain amount of immigration (and emigration) has occurred. This feeling of land shortage has been aggravated by land adjudication which makes traditional use of land less flexible. Insufficient land for traditional agricultural practises is a major grievance of the local people.

In addition, they feel they do not benefit directly from the national park and that furthermore, the park does not really serve their interests. More specifically, the inhabitants of Taita/Taveta feel the park takes up too much of the land in the district and that it cuts the district in two. Although the park, with the southern part of Tsavo East, does cover about three-quarters of the district, this is simply an anomaly created by the coincidence of the park and district boundaries.

As the park does not affect traffic along the Taveta-Voi road the second complaint is hardly valid. A certain amount of conflict between the farmers who live next to the park and wild life does exist although this is, apparently, not an important factor in this request for land.

If the threat to a national park is due to a shortage of land then is all the land outside the park under efficient agricultural use? In the case of Tsavo West, there is room for improvement at the government's own admis-

sion. Areas around Tsavo have already received a loan from the World Bank to develop ranches and this loan has, in fact, stimulated this request for part of the national park to be repealed.

Rangeland areas of low rainfall, such as Tsavo West, are suitable for only two types of land use: cattle ranching or wild life tourism. Ranches already exist in this district but lack of water limits their development. It was precisely this limit which made Tsavo unsuitable for ranching in 1948. No agricultural evaluation of the southern part of the park has been made and there is no reason to suppose conditions have changed or improved since the park's creation. This area of the park can support more wild animals than cattle, who only utilize suitable grass, of which there is not much.

A trend common to most developing countries is also taking place in Kenya — a landless class of people is forming.

Where there is insufficient land to share among the younger generations, intensive and efficient farming must be adopted, but in the future more and more people will have to rely on regular paid employment for their living. In this context, the request for part of Tsavo West is not going to solve the problems of the local people. It would barely provide a temporary reduction in the pressure for land since it is proposed that each of the resulting large ranches would be allocated to only one person.

Undoubtedly, the present use of the park for wild life and tourism is a more efficient and economical use of the land than would be cattle ranching, on both a local and national level. Tsavo (East and West) is well known as one of the largest wild life sanctuaries in Africa and loss of part of it would not only detract from the park but would also reflect badly on Kenya. The loss of the southern part of Tsavo West would be irretrievable — for no benefit whatsoever!

Tanzania forecasts tourism boom

TANZANIA is predicting a boom in tourism over the next three years. New offices of the Tanzania Tourist Corporation have opened in Milan, New York and Frankfurt in the past year, and the London office has been expanded.

The tourists, which come mainly from Italy, USA, West Germany, UK, Holland and Japan at present, will soon be served by specially trained hotel staff and guides. Northern Tanzania has a tremendous variety of beautiful parks such as Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Kilimanjaro ... which are now accessible through Kilimanjaro International Airport. Some of the micro-buses of the proposed TTC fleet of 140 vehicles are already meeting tourists at the airport.

Tanzania only received sh 72 million from tourists in the year following the closure

of the border with Kenya in February 1977. Although about 119,000 tourists flew direct to Tanzania, numbers of tourists to the national parks were very low, partly owing to the border closure. In addition, the cholera outbreak seriously restricted the movement of visitors in late 1977 and early 1978.

In contrast, total revenue from tourism in Kenya in 1977 was the equivalent of Sh 850 million (\$112m). Kenya's well established tourism industry is still increasing with a 7 per cent rise in the first three months of 1978 over the same period in 1977. A third Kenya Tourist Office in North America is soon to open in Toronto, Canada.

MINIBUS ADVENTURE

A new 25-seater minibus has been acquired by the Uganda Tourist Develop-

ment Corporation to take people to national parks. For Sh 1,000 (inclusive of transport) one can spend the weekend at a lodge in Kabalega Falls or Rwenzori parks, and take a boat ride.

Poachers on the run

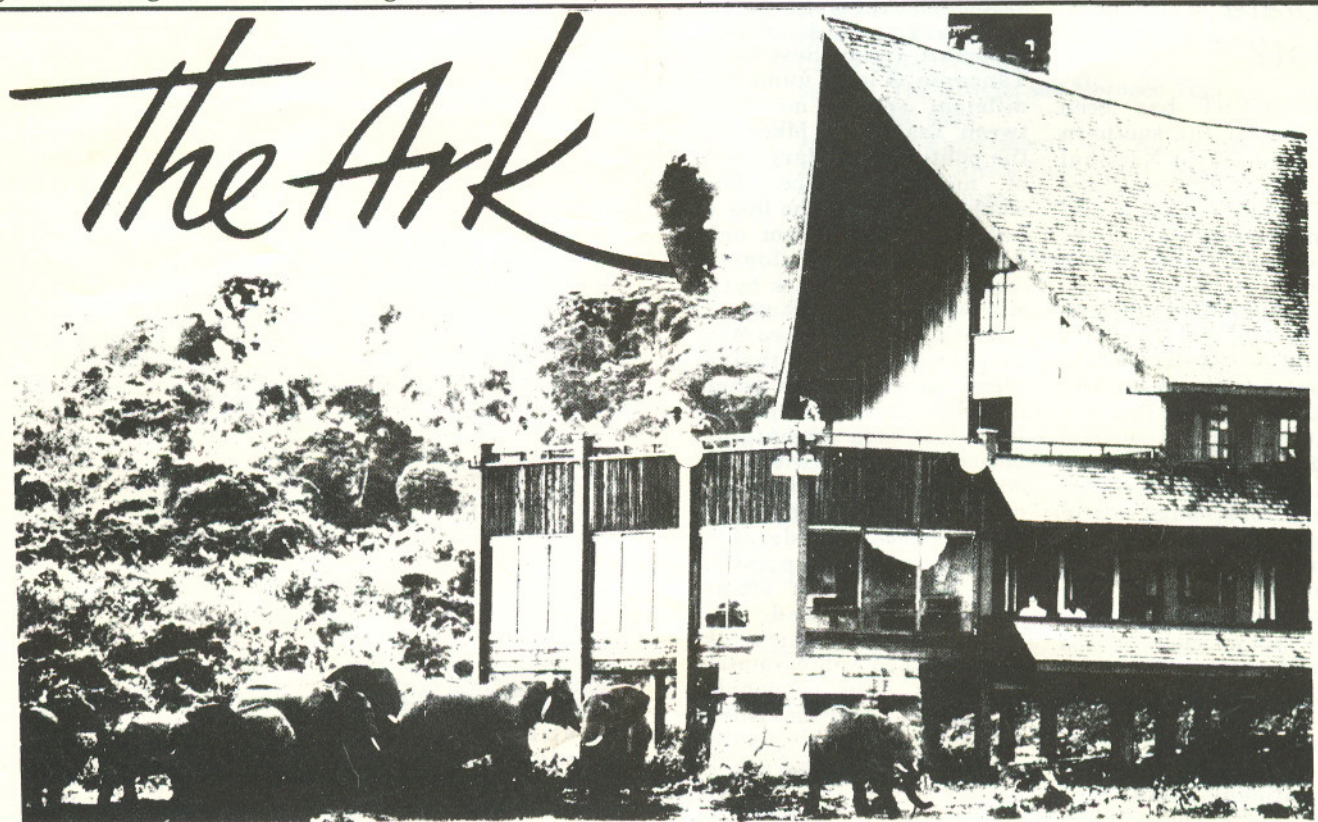
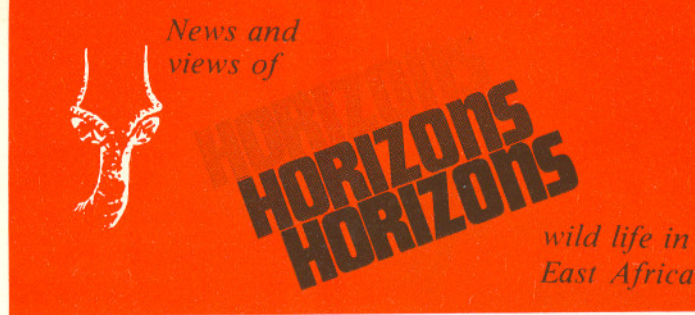
Poachers are being considerably harassed by the recently reorganised game rangers in Uganda's Kabalega Falls National Park. According to the chief warden's report, 29 encounters with poachers, or evidence of poaching, were made in May. Patrols in different sectors of the park resulted in arrests of 15 poachers, although 86 escaped - some with wounds. The major achievement lies in the discovery of evidence of some of the older game rangers' collaboration with

poachers. Action will have been taken against these men by now.

There appeared to be an increasing market for game meat in May since more animals were poached for meat than in previous months. One black rhino was speared for its horns and three elephants were killed for their tusks, but eight buffaloes, four hippos and two warthogs were poached for meat.

An albino member of a troop of baboons was seen near the Falls and some rangers have seen an albino buffalo in the park. In May, the common sighting of a herd of 800 elephants, with older members and calves well represented, was encouraging. Leopard were often seen at Pakuba and Nyamusika. Tambourine Dove and Cabani's Bunting were added to the bird checklist of the park.

Maintenance of two airstrips, fences around the falls, tourist vehicles and boats, and road grading continues. Hopefully, they will be used by an increasing number of tourists, as in May only 708 people visited Kabalega Falls, of which only 22 were foreign tourists.



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THE US Fish and Wild life Service formally listed the African Elephant as a threatened species on May 12. Ivory and other elephant products will be able to enter the US only if exported under specified conditions from countries which are parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora C I T E S. The African Elephant is on Appendix II of the Convention and this specifies that the ivory must have been taken legally and that its export is not detrimental to the survival of the species. The African Elephant is considered threatened because of its history of exploitation, considerable loss of habitat and range, and recent drastic decline in some areas.

As there are a minimum of 1.3 million African elephants in existence, with some large and apparently well protected populations, the

species has not been listed as Endangered.

This decision has been taken after a series of four alternative courses of action issued by the USF & WS, and interested parties were invited to comment on the options over a two month period. Option two as already described, was accepted although its main problems will lie in its implementation. Efforts to implement regulations requiring documentation are difficult and US officials feel that there are, at present, more falsified or inaccurate documents than they can deal with.

However the US decision relies on the good intentions of countries when making pledges to CITES. The Convention calls for the establishment of a scientific authority in the nation of origin, which is to advise on whether export is detrimental, and for the establishment of a management authority to deter-

mine that the laws of the nation are followed. This option was favoured by Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa who all consider their elephant populations to be adequately protected.

Option I would have ended legal commercial imports of ivory into the USA. This total ban was supported by many conservation bodies who felt that the ivory trade is out of control and that any legal trade encourages poaching, smuggling, and false documentation. However rejection of this alternative means that the US still has some control over the ivory trade. Botswana, Mozambique, and Rhodesia all said that a total ban would be detrimental to their economies.

Options three and four both necessitated the US government becoming involved in deciding the effectiveness of individual coun-

try's elephant conservation programmes.

The effect of the US decision on the ivory trade in East Africa will be considerable since none of the three countries are parties to the Convention, although Tanzania has stated her intention to ratify the Convention soon. Since Hong Kong is the major clearing house of ivory from East Africa and 30 per cent of the ivory re-exported from Hong Kong goes to the US, then Kenya and Uganda will feel encouraged, if not pressurised, to also ratify the Convention. As Kenya has already established bans on hunting and trading in wild life products, the joining of CITES would seem the next logical step.


The IUCN African Elephant Specialist Group supported option four for three reasons, which are mainly covered by the eventual listing: the relevance of CITES is strengthened, the US remains involved in monitoring and regulating the ivory trade (albeit through the CITES regulations only), and it is still possible for the ivory dealers to regulate the trade themselves.

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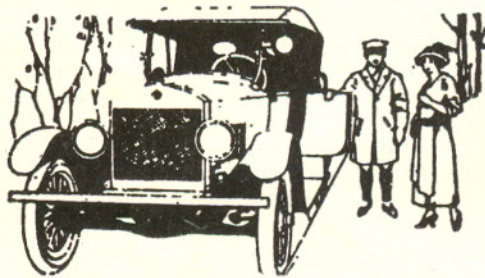
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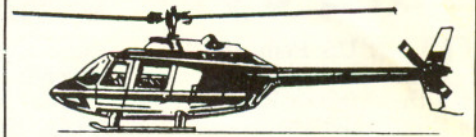


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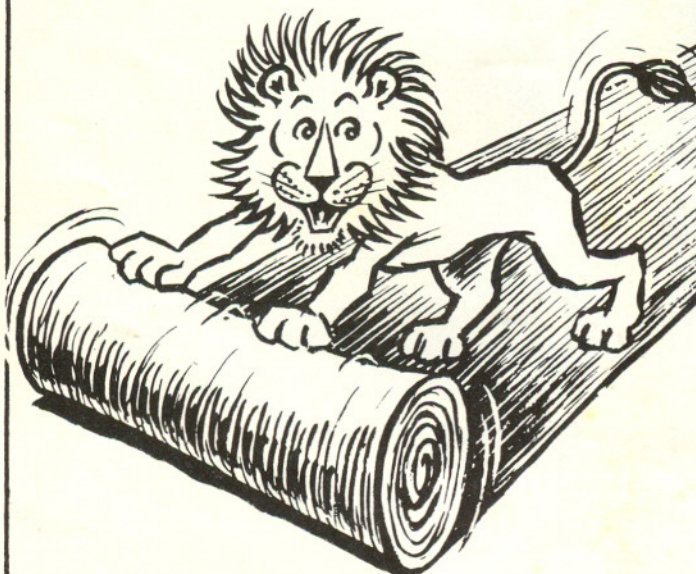
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