

AWI Quarterly

Winter 2002 Volume 51 Number 1





DIRECTORS
Marjorie Cooke
Roger Fouts, Ph.D.
David O. Hill
Fredrick Hutchison
Cathy Liss
Christine Stevens
Cynthia Wilson

OFFICERS
Christine Stevens, *President*
Cynthia Wilson, *Vice President*
Fredrick Hutchison, CPA, *Treasurer*
Marjorie Cooke, *Secretary*

SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE
Marjorie Anchel, Ph.D.
Gerard Bertrand, Ph.D.
F. Barbara Orlans, Ph.D.
Roger Payne, Ph.D.
Samuel Peacock, M.D.
John Walsh, M.D.

INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE
Aline de Aluja, D.M.V., *Mexico*
Ambassador Tabarak Husain, *Bangladesh*
Angela King, *United Kingdom*
Simon Muchiru, *Kenya*
Godofredo Stutzin, *Chile*
Agnes Van Volkenburgh, D.M.V., *Poland*
Alexey Yablokov, Ph.D., *Russia*

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS
Ava Armendariz, *Publications Coordinator*
Amy Conklin, *Editorial Assistant*
John Gleiber, *Assistant to the Officers*
Diane Halverson, *Farm Animal Advisor*
Christopher J. Heyde, *Research Associate*
Lynne Hutchison, *Executive Secretary*
Cathy Liss, *Executive Director*
Nell Naughton, *Mail Order Secretary*
Greta Nilsson, *Wildlife Consultant*
Viktor Reinhardt, D.M.V., Ph.D.,
Laboratory Animal Advisor
Jennifer Rinick, *Research Assistant*
Adam M. Roberts, *Senior Research Associate*
Wendy Swann, *Research Associate*
Ben White, *International Coordinator*

ABOUT THE COVER

Emmy award winning cinematographer Ginger Kathrens has dedicated her life to documenting the lives of animals. Kathrens founded the Wild Horse and Burro Freedom Alliance, of which AWI is a member, to protect and preserve wild horses through education and advocacy. One issue currently of major importance to the Alliance is horse slaughter. In 1971 Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, championed by Velma Johnson, better known as “Wild Horse Annie,” specifically to protect the wild horse. However, 31 years later, horses are still being removed overzealously from their land by the very agency tasked to protect them (the Bureau of Land Management) with many subsequently sent to slaughter by individuals who adopted them under false pretences. The fate of this filly (Mahogany), her mother, and all other horses will remain precarious unless action is taken immediately to ensure no more horses are slaughtered (see story pages 4-5).

Songbirds for food!

Songbirds for food! Compared with this, making kindlings of pianos and violins would be pious economy.—*Our National Parks* by John Muir

Trying to sneak legislation through Michigan’s State Legislature repealing its 92 year-old ban on dove hunting has become more of an annual tradition for the US Sportsmen’s Alliance (formerly the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America), National Rifle Association (NRA), and guns and ammunition lobby than their claim about dove hunting itself.

As the Michigan legislature recessed for its 2001 year-end break, the most recent bill (HB 5478) introduced by Representative Cameron Brown (R-Sturgis) was put on hold. This bill would allow the unelected, politically appointed Natural Resources Commission to decide which animals and birds can be hunted, taking the authority away from the legislature whose members answer to voters.

Preventing dove hunting has broad public support. The *Detroit Free Press* reports that Representative Susan Tabor (R-Lansing), sponsor of last year’s failed attempt to repeal the ban on dove hunting, has her “fingerprints on Brown’s bill.” Chris Christoff, a reporter for the newspaper, said in his latest column that “no other single issue—not abortion, taxes, pay raises for politicians, *nothing*—elicits the outpouring of public outrage that shooting doves does. Lawmakers will tell you that. I’ll attest, too.”

In Wisconsin, the state’s symbol of peace lost a very important legal battle this January when Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser upheld the Department of Natural Resources establishment of a hunting season. Groups that filed the suit have not decided if they will appeal. The first 60-day dove-hunting season was cancelled pending this decision. 🐾



Roughly 30,000 lions remain in the wild. Individual populations are small, isolated, and decreasing (see story page 13).



Colored Wild Muscovies are drastically different than their domestic cousins raised for food (see story page 7).

Animal Welfare Institute
QUARTERLY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FARM ANIMALS

Necessary Evil or Blind Eye? Putting an End to the Cruel Practice of Horse Slaughter, *by Christopher J. Heyde*...4-5

Whistlestop Tour Unites Soldiers in the Fight Against Animal Factories...6

Ducks—Yet Another Animal Factory Victim...7

Grimaud—Full of Foie Gras...7

WILDLIFE AND FORESTS

Songbirds for food!...2

Ebola Strikes in Gabon...8

Not Just GRASping at Straws...8

UN Speaks Out Again on Illegal Exploitation in the DRC...9

Nyiragongo Erupts!...9

Coexisting in Kenya, The Human-Elephant Conflict, *by Meitamei Ole Dapash*...10-12

An Elephantine Question:
How Many Elephant Species are There?...12

Lions on the Brink?...13

Nine Charged with Illegal Trade in Exotic Cats...13

2002—The International Year of Ecotourism...14

Robber Baron Ravages the Redwoods, *by Ben White*...15

Polar Bears Suffer in the Suarez Brothers Circus, *by Adam M. Roberts*...16-17

China Still Jails Bears...17

Dead Grizzlies Not Welcome in the EU...17

Wildlife and Drug Smuggling: A Tangled Tale...20

MARINE MAMMALS

Navy Admits to Killing Whales, but LFAS Steams Ahead...19

Capture/Recapture Study Kills Dolphins...19

Mexican Tuna Super-Seiner Busted with 10.5 Tons of Cocaine...19

IN REMEMBRANCE

Saying Goodbye and a Profound Thank You to Astrid Lindgren...18

Contact AWI at: PO Box 3650, Washington, DC 20007, phone: (202) 337-2332, facsimile: (202) 338-9478, email: awi@awionline.org or visit AWI’s website at: <http://www.awionline.org>



Necessary Evil or Blind Eye? Putting an End to the Cruel Practice of Horse Slaughter

BY CHRISTOPHER J. HEYDE

To most Americans the horse slaughter industry exists only in the phrase “to be taken to the glue factory,” but this antiquated phrase is off the mark. Neglected, surplus, or discarded horses considered burdensome are currently more likely to fall victim to slaughtering in the United States for human consumption abroad.

AWI has long fought against the cruel and inhumane conditions within livestock slaughterhouses. Horse slaughter facilities are no different and may, in fact, be worse. Since horses in the US are not raised or consumed for their meat, the horse slaughter industry manages to avoid much of what little oversight exists. Until

December 7, 2001 no regulations even existed in the US governing the treatment and care of horses during transport to slaughter.

Horses end up in slaughter in a variety of ways, all unlucky. Sometimes they are sent to slaughter by individuals or groups no longer able or willing to care for them. Sometimes they are retired or injured race horses, riding school or show horses, federally protected wild horses, foals born as a by-product of the Premarin© industry, or stolen horses. Auction houses provide an easy out for irresponsible equine owners to discard an animal they no longer want while getting some cash in return. Those purchased at auctions by individuals known as “killer buyers” are then shipped on double-deck trailers for as long as several days without adequate water, food, or rest only to

arrive at the slaughterhouse where workers abuse them right up to the actual slaughter.

To better understand the cruelty perpetrated by the horse slaughter industry I went to one of the three remaining US-based, foreign-owned horse slaughterhouses (two in Texas and one in Illinois) to witness what takes place. It didn’t take long to realize that all of the horrible stories were going to prove true before my eyes within the 45 minutes I was there.

Located at the rear of the nondescript facility was a double-deck trailer fully loaded with horses. They filled both rows and were unable to stand normally, forced to keep their heads low. Despite the fact that several of the horses I could see had cuts and blood trailing from their mouths and noses, all looked healthy and fairly young. Only a few horses at a time were removed from the truck so many were still on board when I left. When some were moved off the trailer, workers poked them with long fiberglass rods through holes on the side of the trailer. The horses, typically very sensitive animals, slid and fell down the ramp only to be whipped by another worker’s rod. All of the horses at the facility exhibited fear typical of “flight” behavior in horses, pacing in prance-like movements with their ears pinned back against their heads and eyes wide open.

Once inside the building more callous workers, standing high on the railing that lined the stalls, beat the horses on the nose, forehead, neck, back, or hindquarters to get them to move. This continued until they entered the kill chute. Two egregious acts of cruelty took place right in front of me. Running across the floor of the barn was a grate-covered drain about three feet deep. A section of the grate was missing in one of the stalls through which horses were being forced. Because they were crammed into a space and panicking, each horse fell into

the open hole, unable to get out since the floor was wet and slippery. Workers continued to beat the horses until they were able to throw their bodies out of this hole. Due to the overcrowding and panic, a large male got his leg hooked over one of the upper rails. Again, workers proceeded to beat him continually until the horse lunged forward gouging his leg open on the solid metal fence, which forced his leg free of the rail. Federal law requires the presence of a US Department of Agriculture inspector during slaughter, but an inspector was nowhere to be found.

I left the facility with a sense of utter disbelief at the magnitude of the brutal treatment. These horses were not old, sick, or past recovery. They were adoptable. One can only imagine how many more horrific incidents take place at this and other slaughterhouses each day without any oversight.

Many of those aware of this practice simply say the industry is a “necessary evil,” that slaughtering horses is a responsible way to dispose of those who are either sick, abused, or no longer wanted. However, these people stand to gain from the industry. Selling horses to slaughter provides additional money to purchase another horse or

At the end of his life he should be retired, adopted, or humanely euthanized if no better solution can be found. Anything else makes a mockery of the words which for centuries have been used to describe our game...

Sport of Kings.

—John Hettinger, Trustee, New York Racing Association

extra cash to those stealing them. These horses are being slaughtered simply because the option exists, and money can be gained. There can be no defense of this industry.

John Hettinger, a Thoroughbred owner well known in the Thoroughbred community, has taken the issue head on. He received several awards from the Thoroughbred industry for his tireless campaign to educate owners and push for a ban on slaughter. Mr. Hettinger, in a letter strongly refuting a statement issued by the “Horse Industry,” rebuffed its claim that the “Horse Industry” is opposed to a ban on horse slaughter. He said, “I doubt if there is complete

unanimity on this issue, but have NO doubt that if ALL horse owners were polled the slaughter of horses would be a thing of the past.” Mr. Hettinger further said that, “The only people with a stake in this game are a handful of people called

(throughout the ‘Horse Industry’) killer buyers and the callous and irresponsible people who dump their horses at the end of their usefulness.”

Allowing slaughter to continue is simply turning a blind eye to the larger problem of cruelty, neglect, and complete irresponsibility. Horses should not be abused whether they are at a racetrack or on a farm. Anti-cruelty laws exist in every state and should be enforced when animals are being abused. Simply exchanging one form of cruelty for another is not the answer.

Mr. Hettinger summed up the need for a total ban when he noted, “Absent legislation those of us involved in this work are doing what we can to remedy a shameful situation. With a ban on slaughter we could concentrate all our efforts on making sure that the other quality of life problems of horses will receive more and better attention than they ever have before.”

AWI’s companion organization, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, together with the Doris Day Animal League, is working with Congresswoman Constance Morella (R-MD), who introduced legislation called the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, to ban the domestic and international transport of live horses or horse meat for human consumption. 🐾



Opposite page: Two terrified horses await their fate at a US slaughterhouse. Photo by Gail Eisnitz/Humane Farming Association.

Left: Retired horse lives at peace on one of the many horse sanctuaries throughout the US.

Whistlestop Tour Unites Soldiers in the Fight Against Animal Factories

Community buildings across the Midwest filled with farmers and concerned citizens in early December when Friends of Rural America and Illinois Stewardship Alliance organized a whistlestop tour through Iowa and Illinois for Waterkeeper Alliance Senior Attorney Nicolette Hahn and Southeast Representative Rick Dove. AWI's Farm Animal Advisor, Diane Halverson, organized a Minnesota whistlestop for Waterkeeper Alliance Founder and President Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

The tour galvanized various groups to fight corporate hog factories and led to massive press attention, including the *Omaha World Herald* and *Des Moines Register*. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* proclaimed "Factory farms face threat of legal action;" while in Northfield, Minnesota, the *Northfield News'* headline read: "Kennedy: 'Day of reckoning coming.'" In Red Wing, Minnesota, the *Red Wing Republican Eagle*

proclaimed "Kennedy warns audience of factory farms." The goal of the tour was to warn people living in regions burdened by animal factories about their dangers, identify citizens in need of legal support in their fight against factories, and provide details of Waterkeeper's legal actions against Smithfield Foods, Inc., the world's largest hog raiser and processor.

Waterkeeper Alliance has filed multiple legal actions against Smithfield under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), the federal Clean Water Act, the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (the federal solid and hazardous waste law), and North Carolina state law. RICO is a powerful tool to rein in outlaw industries. One of the themes of the RICO complaint is that Smithfield's operation is funded by its illegal pollution-based profits. In violating environmental laws, which is an intended part of its business strategy, it is unlawfully shifting the cost of handling its pollution to the American public.

The tour culminated with Mr. Kennedy's stirring speech to an overflow crowd, including a dozen state legislators, attorneys from Minnesota's Office of Attorney General, family farmers, public interest activists, and interested citizens from seven states, at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota on December 7. Preceding the meeting, AWI organized a press conference that included Waterkeeper Alliance, AWI and environmental, public health, and family farm activists, and a reception for Minnesota citizens who suffer from living in

the shadow of animal factory pollution, stench and cruelty and who have organized to fight industrial farming.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Kennedy's presentation:

"Instead of raising hogs on farms they shoehorn thousands of animals into a building where they live in unspeakable misery in tiny confinement crates. They live without straw bedding, without rooting opportunities, without sunshine, without the social interactions that are critical to the happiness of these animals.

"What polluters do is make themselves rich by making other people poor. They raise standards of living for themselves by lowering quality of life for everybody else. And they do that by escaping the discipline of the free market, by forcing the public to pay part of their costs of production.

"I want to make one last point and it's probably the most important point, but I think it takes a higher level of understanding: the most important issue that we're dealing with here is not the environmental democracy issue but the issue of how we treat these animals...at some level, we begin treating these sentient beings with such unspeakable cruelty that it has to come back and hurt us and it's going to destroy our humanity.

"I'm going to close with a proverb from the Lakota people, appropriated to some extent by the environmental movement, where they said 'We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.' If we don't return to them something roughly equivalent to what we received, they have a right to ask us some very difficult questions....Thank you for joining us in this fistfight. As long as we don't give up, we can never lose." 🐾

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaks about the cruelty and environmental dangers of factory farming at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota.



Part of the ducks' sensitive upper bills are cut off, as shown above at Grimaud Farms, causing excruciating life-long suffering.

bill trimming and confinement as a "carefully planned program for duck husbandry that considers the welfare of the ducks under their care." Mr. Ernst's writings clearly demonstrate his support and promotion of the cruel methods employed by those in the intensive animal factory industry.

Based on the initial review and findings at Grimaud, Mr. Ernst is developing a set of guidelines for raising ducks. AWI received a draft copy of the UC Davis study from Grimaud for review and comments after requesting to discuss the issue. Following consultations with avian veterinarians from the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights and the Muscovy duck expert at the University of Miami, AWI determined that the study, if enacted as written, is far from humane.

If you shop in any of the following stores please urge them to stop selling ducks raised in cruel and inhumane duck factories such as Maple Leaf and Grimaud Farms: Wal-Mart SuperCenter, Kroger's, Albertson's, Safeway, Trader Joe's, and Whole Foods/Fresh Fields. 🐾

Ducks—Yet Another Animal Factory Victim

As the old adage puts it, ducks are not adapted to exist without access to water, but that is exactly what 24 million ducks being raised in deplorably inhumane conditions on duck factories throughout the US are being forced to do each year.

The most common ducks in these factories descend from the largely aquatic Mallard. They can never fly or swim and live in filthy sheds crammed together with hundreds of other ducks. They are denied access to sufficient water for bathing and preening, which is essential to their health. Such deprivation often results in serious eye problems and eventual blindness. They can barely walk because of bone deformities caused by slatted or wire mesh floors.

One of the cruelest practices is bill trimming or "debilling," which destroys the ducks' ability to fulfill their natural instincts to preen and forage for food. The very sensitive top portion of the bill is burned off with a stationary blade or cut off with a knife or scissors without anesthesia, in an attempt to prevent pecking and cannibalizing of other ducks in the overcrowded shed. According to Sarah Stai, a Muscovy duck expert from the University of Miami, this practice does not necessar-

ily address confrontation among Muscovy ducks, which are known to fight with their feet and wings.

According to Lauren Ornelas of Viva!USA, the organization responsible for exposing the cruelty perpetrated on ducks, the largest supplier of factory raised ducks in the US is Maple Leaf Farms headquartered in Indiana, which produces about 15 million ducks a year. Grimaud Farms, located in California and is a major producer of Muscovy factory-raised ducks, processes as many as 8,000 ducks a week. Muscovy ducks are the only modern domestic duck not descended from the Mallard. Their wild counterparts are strong flying birds that inhabit wetlands near wooded areas, using trees for roosting and nesting. Despite misrepresentations by duck factory operators, the Muscovy duck is indeed a species of waterfowl and does require full body access to water.

Grimaud contacted the University of California at Davis to evaluate its duck husbandry practices. A summary of the study released by Ralph Ernst, Extension Poultry Specialist at the UC Davis, confirmed that Grimaud is indeed an industrial duck factory. The report justifies Grimaud's practice of

Grimaud—Full of Foie Gras

Grimaud is not only the leading supplier of Muscovy ducks in the US, it also provides ducklings to Sonoma Valley Foie Gras, one of only two foie gras producers in the US—the other being Hudson Valley Foie Gras. However, this relationship does not end with the ducklings. Grimaud then markets the final Sonoma Valley Foie Gras product. Even though Grimaud claims not to be involved in the inhumane process of force-feeding the ducks, they do handle almost every other aspect of this cruel business. 🐾



Doug McCrae/Faribault Daily News



AP/Wide World Photos

A dead monkey awaits the cooking pot in Gabon.

Ebola Strikes in Gabon

In the West African nations of Gabon and the Republic of Congo, at least 34 people have died in a recent outbreak of the Ebola virus. Gabon's border with the Republic of the Congo has been sealed off and similar restric-

tions are being placed on provinces within the country. While the death toll rises from this disease, which is estimated to kill 90 percent of its victims, rumors swirl about whether the infection is being spread by the consumption of meat from infected primates.

Authorities in Gabon have urged local villagers to abstain from eating bushmeat, but it is unclear whether this sage advice will be heeded. According to a recent *Reuters* report,

a traditional Christmas meal in Gabon could include monkeys, chimpanzees, gazelles, or wild boar. Other mammals in Gabon that have been identified by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as being in the commercial bushmeat trade include the mandrill, Moustached monkey, Black colobus, and Grey-cheeked mangabey.

The CITES Bushmeat Working Group meeting in Cameroon in January 2001 revealed that some 68 species were threatened in Gabon by poaching for the bushmeat trade. However, the infrastructure to combat this poaching does not exist: staff is inadequately trained and the ability to monitor protected areas is lacking. Enforcement of Gabon's ban on bushmeat hunting is poor, and villagers apparently continue to consume the flesh of these wild animals, despite the potentially grave risks.

The Ebola virus (Ebola hemorrhagic fever) is named after a river in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and can be spread through contact with an infected animal such as primates in Africa. According to the Centers for Disease Control, within a few days, patients may suffer flu-like symptoms. Within a week of infection, chest pain, shock, bleeding, blindness, and death may result. 🐾

Not Just GRASPing at Straws

Arguing that "every local extinction is a loss to humanity, a loss to the local community and a hole torn in the ecology of the planet," the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has undertaken an ambitious new venture to save great apes across the globe: the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP).

Across Africa and Asia, great apes (gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and orangutans) survive in 23 countries. But that survival is under constant assault as a result of war, deforestation, mining, capture of live animals for sale, conversion of forestlands for agriculture, and poaching for bushmeat. The billion-dollar-a-year international

commerce in bushmeat has particularly dire implications for these primates. Their meat is not only sold locally and in city centers but is illegally exported for sale in western cities. Recently, a Nigerian couple was arrested for selling bushmeat illegally in London.

The GRASP team will establish survival plans in each great ape range country in an effort to equip wildlife law enforcement officers appropriately, preserve great ape habitat, and educate local people who live with this wildlife about the benefits of ecotourism focusing on great apes.

Dr. Eve Abe, formerly with the Uganda Wildlife Authority and now a co-director of GRASP's technical oper-

ations, noted, "Wildlife tourism is one of the mainstays of Uganda's economy and mountain gorillas are certainly the biggest draw, closely followed by chimpanzees. Uganda has pioneered the sharing of revenues from great ape tourism with local communities, and thousands of families now benefit directly from the presence of their gorilla and chimpanzee neighbors."

As UNEP's Executive Director, Klaus Topfer, said, "The clock is standing at one minute to midnight for the Great Apes." But with the technical and financial resources that come through the collaborative Great Apes Survival Project, the clock may be stopped just long enough to save them. 🐾

UN Speaks Out Again on Illegal Exploitation in the DRC

In a follow-up report on the state of illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) the United Nations Panel of Experts has recommended a moratorium on the purchasing and importing of various products from the region including coltan, diamonds, gold, and timber (see Summer 2001 *AWI Quarterly*, "Militants and Profiteers Wipe Out Wildlife in the DRC"). The Panel notes that the DRC's history "has been one of systematic abuse of its natural and human resources... backed by the brutal use of force and directed to the benefit of a powerful few."

The DRC, home to numerous threatened and endangered species such as gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, elephants, and lions, has become a veritable cookie jar of natural resource pilfering—with several countries and unsavory characters sticking in their hands. The Ugandan army carries out

gold mining in DRC. Zimbabwe, a fierce opponent of the international ban on commercial trade in elephant ivory, is particularly involved in DRC deforestation. A British nongovernmental organization, Global Witness, reported of a deal struck by Zimbabwe's embattled president, Robert Mugabe, to log 33 million hectares in the DRC, 15 percent of the territory. Zimbabwe also is heavily involved in mining for copper and cobalt.

DRC government officials are involved in embezzling diamonds that are allegedly smuggled through South Africa, another proponent of the global ivory trade. Coltan, a metal ore used in hi-tech and communications devices and which is a vital component in cell phones, is removed from DRC by a number of groups, notably the Rwandan army, and exported worldwide.

After publication of the UN Panel's initial report, the price for coltan

(columbo-tantalite), dubbed "blood tantalum," dropped from \$300 a pound in 2000 to an average of \$25 a pound in 2001. Legislation has been introduced in the US Congress by Representative Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) to prohibit the importation of coltan into the US from countries supporting the violent conflict in the DRC (specifically, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and the DRC itself). Said the Congresswoman, "This legislation, supported by the Ambassador of the DRC, would begin to institute the tough measures necessary to end this horrible and deadly conflict." Meanwhile, the Security Council will consider the Panel's recommendation of a trade moratorium with the DRC. If that doesn't work, the Panel has already introduced the idea of imposing sanctions. A new Panel has been convened to follow-up the ongoing work by the United Nations on this matter. 🐾



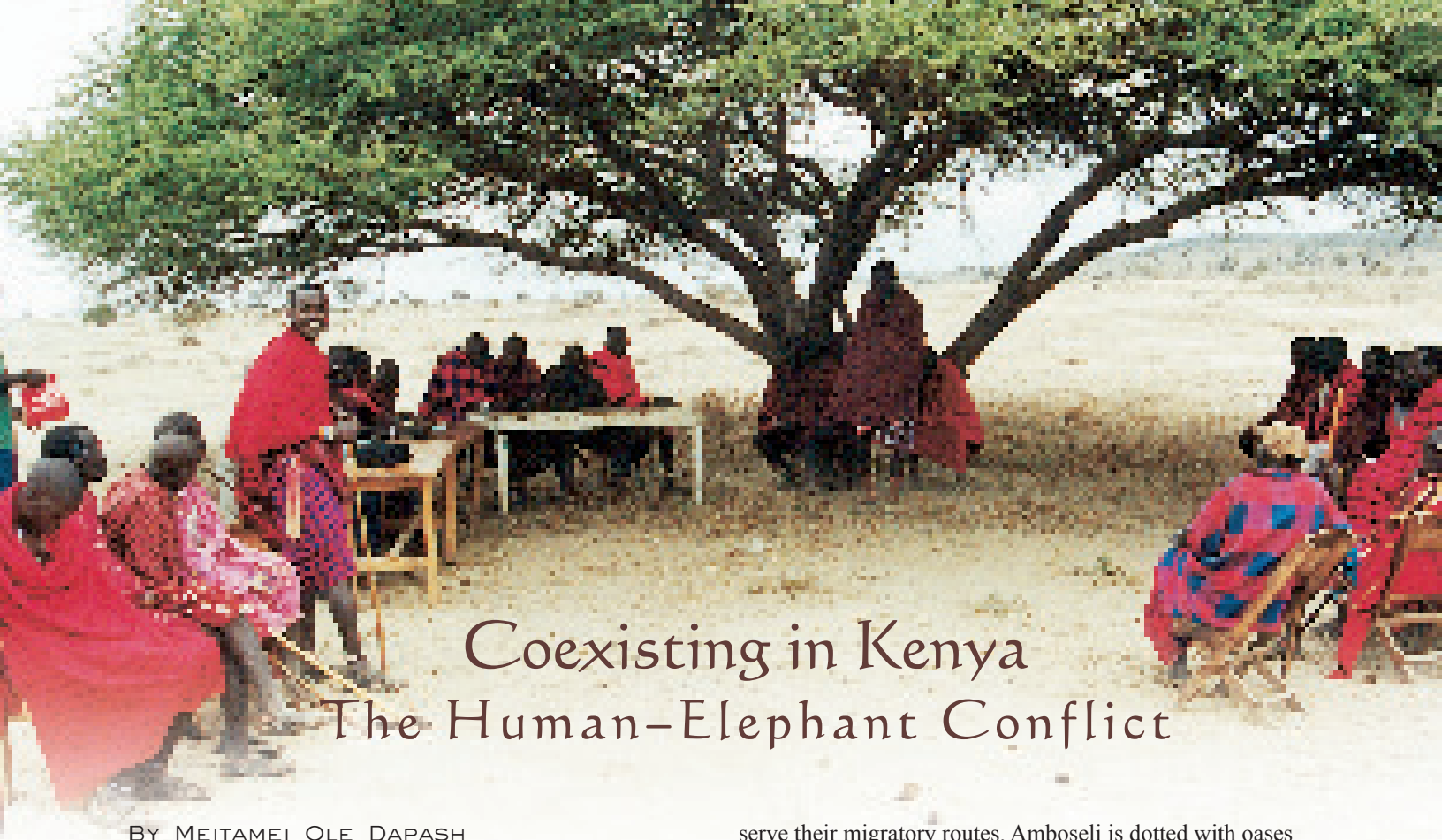
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International

Under the watchful eyes of the male silverback mountain gorilla, his group takes a siesta. All gorillas are threatened by the violent conflict in the DRC.

Nyiragongo Erupts!

Wildlife in the DRC and surrounding regions is imperiled by the January 17 eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano, about six miles outside the city of Goma near the Rwandan border. The lava flow has displaced hundreds of thousands of people in the area.

According to NASA, "biomass burned from Nyiragongo, and nearby Mount Nyamuragira, eruptions tends to create clouds of smoke that adversely affect the Mountain Gorillas living in the adjacent mountain chain." Gorillas are already under pressure in the area from habitat destruction and poaching. Chimpanzees and other wild animals are similarly at risk. 🐾



Coexisting in Kenya The Human–Elephant Conflict

BY MEITAMEI OLE DAPASH

We, the Maasai have never failed in our moral duty as guardians of wildlife. However, those with myopic understanding of our way of life and its interconnectedness with nature have consistently failed both the people and wildlife of Amboseli.
—Lengete Ole Manti, Amboseli resident

The Maasai people name their clans after animals such as lions, elephants, or rhinos to demonstrate the importance of wildlife prosperity in Kenya and Tanzania to the Maasai culture. Each clan advocates for the protection of its particular species, which becomes the clan’s totem and symbol of prestige. Wildlife conservation in Maasailand owes its success to the Maasai traditions that prohibit the killing of wildlife or destruction of forests or any part of the natural ecosystem for commercial or any other form of consumptive use. This is why, even today, wildlife thrives in Maasailand, unlike many other areas where animals have been eliminated either for food or to create land for commercial agriculture.

Kenya’s prolonged droughts in 1999 and 2000, the worst in 25 years, led to widespread competition for water throughout East Africa. Many rivers, swamps, and dams dried up, and the few water sources that survived the droughts immediately became hot spots for human-wildlife conflict. This natural catastrophe caused starvation among wildlife, livestock, and even people in some parts of Kenya.

Amboseli National Park was the most affected protected area in the country. “Empusel” (Amboseli) is a Maasai word for “dry land” and is located on the northern foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the world’s tallest freestanding mountain. Amboseli was established mainly to protect Kenya’s elephants and pre-

serve their migratory routes. Amboseli is dotted with oases (created by the melting snow of Mt. Kilimanjaro) and perennial swamp grass species. These permanent sources of water and green vegetation attracted more wildlife and Maasai livestock into the park during the recent drought period than any other time in the history of Amboseli. Consequently, human-elephant conflicts erupted leading to the spearing of eight elephants—six of whom died from their wounds, while an orphaned baby was reported to have died of starvation. Reports from Maasai indicate that within the same time-frame, two Maasai (including a mother of a three week old infant) and at least 42 livestock had been attacked and killed by elephants.

The Maasai Environmental Resource Coalition (MERC), with support from the Animal Welfare Institute, set out to create a dialogue to discuss human-elephant conflict and related conservation issues in Amboseli and find long-term solutions to the conflicts. On June 30, 2001 the first meeting took place under a huge acacia tree at Meshenani area in the Olgului/Ololarashie group ranch, the largest, most important communal land that almost engulfs the Amboseli National Park. More than 60 people, representing twelve villages within the vicinity of Amboseli National Park, attended the meeting.

Moving testimonies were heard about the peaceful coexistence of Maasai and wildlife in the delicate balance

Above: The Amboseli Maasai-elephant Dialogue is convened under a tree by the roadside to tap the inputs of passersby, who may not be residents of that location. The forum has no chairperson, master of ceremonies, or any form of authority figurehead.

of the ecosystems within which they live. Participants expressed serious concerns over growing threats to the survival of Maasai people, elephants, and their shared habitat in Amboseli and across Maasailand. “These threats,” they said, “come from commercial agricultural expansion; sidelining of the Maasai from mainstream nature conservation; insensitive tourism practices; and continued loss of Maasai traditional lands to other modern economic enterprises. The ongoing destruction of forests, commercial hunting, and loss of wildlife migratory routes and breeding grounds must be stopped now if the future of wildlife in Kenya and Tanzania is to be guaranteed. Moreover, as we lose land and culture, elephants and other wildlife lose habitat.”

Intensifying competition for limited water resources was the single most important factor responsible for human-wildlife conflicts in Amboseli. According to the participants, approximately 80% of the permanent sources of water are located in the center of the park. Additionally, women and children have to endure a 10-15 kilometer daily trudge across the dry, open Amboseli basin into the middle of the park to fetch water for domestic use. This increased human presence in the park, coupled with human-elephant-livestock convergence at the watering points, creates tremendous tension resulting in occasional deadly conflicts.

Maasai communities often are forced to take the law into their own hands by killing rogue elephants when they believe that no help is coming from the park’s office. An act of this nature often escalates friction between wildlife authorities and the communities. According to one elder, “elephants hardly ever attacked people unless provoked, thirsty or instinctively reacting to an experience of past attack.” Although men would sometimes successfully scare away elephants from watering points, elephants in most cases prevail by maintaining their ground and forcing people and livestock to go thirsty. Many participants pointed out that water scarcity outside the park for communities and continued habitat loss to encroaching agricultural communities were some of the serious problems undermining Maasai’s centuries’ old peaceful coexistence with elephants.

Conflict is also exacerbated by the Maasai’s dissatisfaction about the current level of wildlife-derived benefits being extended to the local communities. Currently, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) distributes approximately US\$10,000 among the seven group ranches adjoining Amboseli National Park. The forum heard that the amount was not only meager; it was erratically given, in spite of the fact that Amboseli generates more tourists’ dollars for KWS than any other park in the country. Moreover, lodges in Amboseli employ more than 1,500 people of which Amboseli residents constitute fewer than 100 people, put in the most undignified, poorly paid positions. Amboseli residents feel cheated and are increasingly becoming resentful of tourism and conservation programs alike.

The dialogue revealed that there is also pressure from wildlife consumptive use proponents to persuade and manipulate Maasai into urging the government to allow commercial hunting for trophies, particularly in communal lands,

as a way of enhancing wildlife-derived benefits. Because of the problems mentioned earlier on, and the feeling that the colonial government stole Amboseli to create a wildlife preserve without consultations, the Maasai are very vulnerable to these ideas.

KWS already has expressed unequivocal interest in working with MERC and Amboseli communities to address human-elephant conflicts and a number of specific actions resulted from this valuable dialog. MERC will encourage KWS to include local communities’ participation in the development and implementation of conservation programs in their localities. KWS will review the existing revenue-sharing policy with the view of increasing the community’s share, while job training and placement opportunities in the tourism industry will be extended to the local communities. The Maasai have proposed the establishment of a code of conduct and ethics for the tourism industry to safeguard environmental integrity and the culture of the Maasai people. Finally, MERC is proposing the establishment of a problem animal control unit in Amboseli to respond to reports of animal attacks. This unit will be responsible for rapid response in situations where people or livestock have been attacked by elephants. (Continued on page 12)



Well dug by hand by the Maasai. Maintaining water wells outside Amboseli National Park in Kenya would reduce human competition with elephants for water inside the park.

photos courtesy of MERC

(Continued from page 11)

phants, lions, or buffaloes. It will also discourage people from taking action on their own to address the problem.

MERC continues to promote and sustain the peaceful coexistence necessary for the safety of both human and elephant populations in Amboseli. We need to keep focused on: handling

local communities' complaints and liaising with the wildlife authorities for quick resolution; initiating water projects outside the park to minimize human-elephant contacts inside the park; and initiating community-based ecotourism programs in the Amboseli area. With the active involvement of MERC and the Maasai people, wildlife



MERC

It is possible for the elephants of Amboseli and the Maasai people to coexist peacefully as they have for centuries. But will elephants live free from the ivory-seeking poachers' bullets?

An Elephantine Question: How Many Elephant Species are There?

Arguably the biggest conservation debate concerning elephants in the last decade has been over the international ban on trade in elephant ivory. But a new debate may be arising over how many African elephant species actually exist.

It has long been assumed that there are two elephant species: the Asian elephant (*Elephas Maximus*) and the African elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*). However, in a Report in *Science* magazine (Vol. 293, 24 August 2001) researchers studying DNA sequences from nearly 200 African elephants found genetic distinctions that they argue warrant separation of African elephants into two distinct species: those inhabiting the savannah (*Loxodonta africana*) and the smaller ele-

phants in Africa's tropical forests (*Loxodonta cyclotis*). According to the Report, the two African elephant species began to diverge genetically over two and a half million years ago.

Asian elephants and most African countries' elephants (except Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe) are already listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), thus prohibiting international commercial trade in their parts and products. Recognizing two distinct African elephant species may have interesting conservation implications and political repercussions under CITES. Taken together, the African elephant population may appear relatively strong. But separated into two distinct

in Maasailand will be protected for generations to come.

For more information or to help the work of the Maasai Environmental Resource Coalition, contact Meitamei Ole Dapash at 2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 136, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 785-8787, mercmaasai@aol.com 🐾

genetic populations, there would only be an estimated 400,000 savannah elephants and roughly 150,000 forest elephants.

There is the possibility that some will argue that the forest elephant, taken as its own species, is not yet protected at all. Elephant poachers and ivory traders engage in myriad machinations to engage in their deadly trade. Recent evidence suggests that the relaxation of the worldwide ban on ivory in 1997 was misperceived as sending a message that the ivory trade is soon to be reopened unfettered. In the past few months, ivory seizures have been made across the globe. Reports reveal in September 2001, 20 tusks were impounded in Zurich, Switzerland; in November 2001, 30 tusks were seized at Bangkok's airport; that same month, 230 tusks were confiscated in Egypt; the biggest recent bust came in Tanzania where 1,255 tusks were found in two homes. Ivory traders continue to take advantage of understaffed and underfunded anti-poaching and wildlife law enforcement units.

All elephant species undoubtedly warrant and need complete protection under international conservation Treaties and domestic legislation around the world. Recognizing the forest elephant as a separate, fully protected species may also call greater global attention to the deforestation rampaging Africa by greedy logging companies. Perhaps heightened conservation measures will be taken to protect the forests in which the endangered forest elephant clings to existence.

The great elephant debate just got a little more intriguing; we hope the mighty elephants will get additional protection as a result. 🐾

Lions on the Brink?

If you want to be in the killing club then you've got to kill a lion. Safari Club International, an organization dedicated to promoting the killing of wild animals for sport, has the lion listed on a number of its hunting awards. The lion is one of the "Dangerous Game of Africa," the "African 29," the "Cats of the World," and the grand slam "Africa Big Five" (lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo). Safari Club International's magazine is replete with stories about lion hunts in which hunters hang bait from tree limbs in what one author called "the perfect setup" for an easy ambush and kill. Another author rates the lion as the most dangerous of the Africa Big Five and "perhaps the most difficult of all Africa's great prizes." He contends, "Most parks in Africa hold good numbers of lions, so there need be no concern over the species' survival."

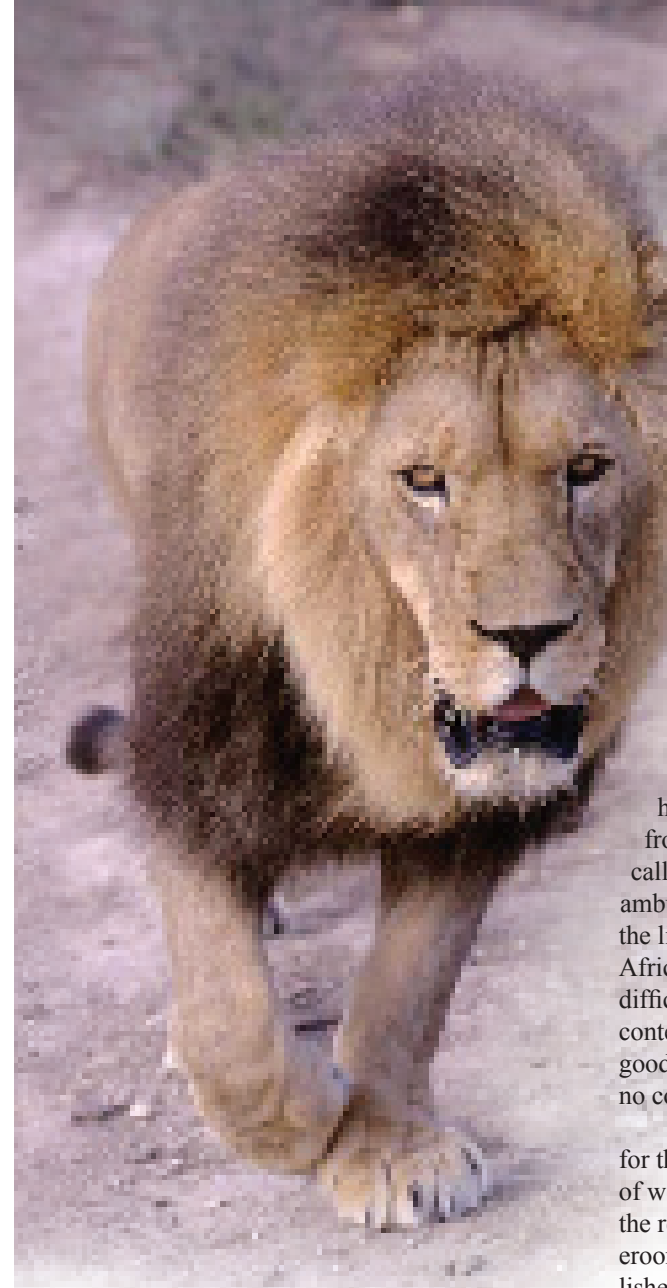
In reality, the future looks bleak for the African lion (*Panthera Leo*) of west and central Africa, based on the results of a workshop held in Cameroon in June 2001. The recently published proceedings from the meeting highlight the pressures placed on these fragmented lion populations and the need to protect them immediately. One participant at the meeting noted that the population estimates of between 1,500 and 2,000 lions "in the entire West Afri-

can region was considered as a shock."

The "information exchange" on "Status and Needs for Conservation of Lions in West and Central Africa" reveals that in west and central Africa, lions in countries such as Senegal, Mali, Benin, Sierra Leone, and Cameroon are threatened by poachers, loss of habitat (especially for conversion of land to agriculture and forest cutting for timber), slaughter for the use of their parts in traditional medicines, and trophy hunting.

The situation seems dire in some parts of southern Africa as well. Researchers Chris and Tilde Stewart in Zambia claim that in the northeastern part of the country, "numbers are critically low and they probably have no future here." Little population data apparently exists for the rest of the country. In Botswana, the Director of Wildlife placed an immediate ban on all hunting of lions in February 2001, as a precautionary measure to prevent further decline of lions there. The temporary ban was praised by conservationists but assailed by trophy hunters.

Will Travers of the Born Free Foundation has stressed the need to respond to the findings of the Cameroon workshop as a matter of urgency. "This latest lion news must serve as a wake up call to all conservationists. Unless we take concerted action to reduce poaching, prevent further habitat loss, stop trade in lion parts and eliminate trophy hunting this serious situation will soon become a crisis." 🐾



"Raffi" was rescued (and photographed) by the Born Free Foundation from a cage atop a bar in the Canary Islands. He now lives happily on 5 acres at the Shamwari Private Game reserve in South Africa.

Nine Charged with Illegal Trade in Exotic Cats: Tigers, Leopards, and Other Big Cats Appear to Have Been Killed for Trophies

Following a lengthy investigation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, a series of indictments have been issued against individuals in Michigan, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri for trafficking in protected tigers and leopards. A couple of the individuals involved are licensed as exhibitors under the Animal Welfare Act. Apparently, those charged were buying and kill-

ing tigers, leopards, snow leopards, lions, mountain lions, cougars, mixed breed cats, and black bears with the intention of introducing their meat and skins into the lucrative animal parts trade.

At this point only one individual has been sentenced. Woody Thompson, Jr., owner of the Willow Lake Sportsman's Club in Three Rivers, Michigan, pled

guilty to brokering the interstate sale of three tiger skins. He was sentenced to six months of home detention, two years probation, a \$2,000 fine, and he was ordered to pay \$28,000 to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Save the Tiger Fund."

More indictments are expected soon. 🐾

2002—The International Year of Ecotourism

We should all be lucky enough to experience the exhilaration of driving across the Maasai Mara land in Kenya and seeing a cheetah on the hunt; the surprise of seeing minke whales surface around a boat on a brisk afternoon whale-watching adventure off the coast of Maine; the haunting sounds of the morning calls of endangered lemurs in Madagascar (the indri) from high in the rainforest's treetops; the awesome magnitude of Victoria Falls, dividing Zimbabwe and Zambia, and whitewater rafting down the Zambezi river; or watching vibrantly colored toucans eating bananas from a nearby tree while drinking your morning coffee in Costa Rica.

"Ecotourism"—adventurous trav-

els based on the splendors of the natural world, including wildlife and wild places—is a vital part of the conservation of the environment and the animal species living within it. It is also a fundamental mechanism to assist local communities in their economic development by bringing in foreign visitors, and foreign dollars, to these indigenous peoples. This is why it is so important that the United Nations (UN) declared 2002 the "International Year of Ecotourism."

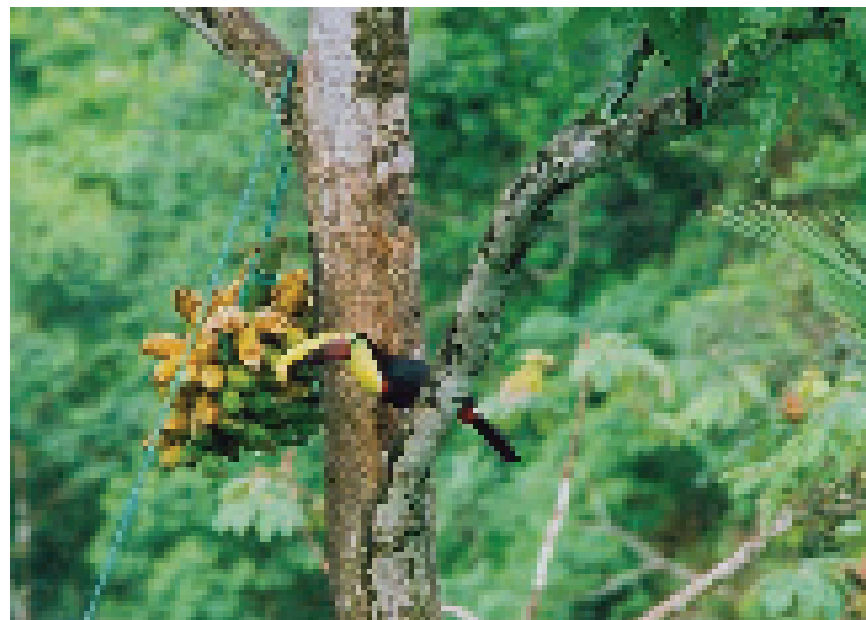
The UN Resolution making the declaration notes "that travel and tourism provide a source of income for many people," and "that travel and tourism contribute to the conservation, protection and restoration of

the Earth's ecosystem." After agriculture, tourism is the biggest benefactor to the development of Kenya's economy. Wildlife-viewing safaris bring about one million visitors to the country annually. Whale-watching alone is thought to bring in a total of more than one billion dollars to the economies of 80 countries across the globe.

But ecotourism must be responsible tourism. On Cat Ba Island in Vietnam, for instance, the near extinct Cat Ba, or golden-headed langur, clings to life (this primate was featured on the cover of the Fall 2001 *AWI Quarterly*). More than 70,000 tourists visit the island each year and while tourism supports the local economy, it also leads to difficulties in waste disposal, which fouls the natural environment, as well as increased pressures to build intrusive roads and bridges to accommodate the visitors. As well, Tilo Nadler of the Endangered Primate Rescue Center in Vietnam reports, "The tourist demand for wild-animal meat increases the hunting pressure inside the national park; the collection of geckoes, snakes, frogs...." Some restaurants in town offer wild animal meat from macaques, civets, birds, and other animals.

Tour operators must tread lightly on the lands used by wildlife and international visitors. It's important to be respectful when watching wildlife and not interfere in their natural way of life. Heed the motto: "Take only photographs; leave only footprints."

Perhaps 2002 is the year for you to visit Kenya's elephants, Costa Rica's black howler monkeys, or any of the other amazing wild animals and places around the globe. 🐾



Ben Dykes/Born Free Foundation

A toucan eats a morning breakfast of bananas at La Laguna del Lagarto Lodge in northern Costa Rica near the Nicaraguan border.

Requests to AWI

If you would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute's future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Animal Welfare Institute, located in Washington, D.C., the sum of \$ _____ and/or (specifically described property).

Donations to AWI, a not-for-profit corporation exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), are tax deductible. We welcome any inquiries you may have. In cases where you have specific wishes about the disposition of your bequest, we suggest you discuss such provisions with your attorney.



These ancient redwoods, some 15 feet in diameter and over 250 feet high, are part of a 142 acre grove of known marbled murrelet habitat threatened with imminent clearcutting.

Robber Baron Ravages the Redwoods

STORY AND PHOTO BY
BEN WHITE

The latest bulletin from behind the Redwood Curtain in Northern California finds Charles Hurwitz' Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) petitioning federal and state government agencies to give final permission to cut the last unprotected groves of the biggest trees in the world and known endangered species' habitat.

The current crisis was set up by the unfortunate deal struck in 1999 among the federal government, the state of California, and PALCO to save the Headwaters Grove in Humboldt County. In trade for a little more than 7,000 acres, about half of it old growth, Hurwitz received a king's ransom: 380 million dollars from the federal government, 100 million dollars from California, and more than seven thousand other acres of additional land that he could plunder.

Worst of all, the deal also included approved "habitat conservation plans" (HCP's) on thousands of acres. These progressive-sounding loopholes in the Endangered Species Act allow the granting of "incidental take permits"

to developers and loggers. These make it legal to destroy endangered species' habitat knowingly as long as other areas are set aside and "mitigations" are conjured up, only to be routinely ignored.

The remaining 3% of the California ancient forests are but a speck on the two million acres that once spread along the coast. Endangered Pacific fishers, Humboldt martins, and spotted owls try to live here, but the primary indicator species is the marbled murrelet. This tiny bird spends much of its time in coastal seas, nesting only in thick moss found in trees more than 150 years old. The murrelet is an auk, a cousin of the Great Auk, which was the first bird pushed to extinction in the New World. With their numbers plummeting at an estimated 13% per year, it is now the murrelet that is facing that ultimate fate.

Under the HCP's approved with the Headwater's deal, murrelet habitat is rated from A to E. An A designates the least valuable trees and habitat. An E stand holds the biggest trees, most intact groves, and most precious murrelet habitat. The idea was that PALCO would slowly whittle away these groves, starting with the A's.

The whittling has not been slow. In two and a half years PALCO has

cut through most of the A through D stands. Now they have asked for the final letters from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game to release the E stands.

The E stands comprise about seven hundred acres of the biggest unprotected trees on earth, an irreplaceable part of America and critical wildlife habitat: trees 15 feet in diameter, some groves have no stumps, they have never even been thinned.

To many, these groves are sacred. Indeed, the first response of a visitor is to be struck dumb, mouth agape gazing up at trees 300 feet high, canopies touching to form a natural cathedral. The oldest have been holding the soil and exhaling oxygen for more than two thousand years.

Using the knowledge I acquired as a professional arborist before joining AWI, I am training climbers for the exceedingly difficult job of ascending to the heights of these monarchs to obstruct their cutting. If permitted, Hurwitz' PALCO plans to level all of the groves before March 24, 2002, the day that marbled murrelets regularly begin building their nests and laying their eggs. 🐾

POLAR BEARS SUFFER IN THE SUAREZ BROTHERS CIRCUS

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

Amidst the cold Arctic snow and ice of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia massive polar bears travel hundreds of kilometers in search of food and mates every year. They swim in frigid waters, eat and sleep in the open, and hunt for their food of meat and blubber, notably from seals. Fewer than 30,000 polar bears exist in the wild today.

In the Suarez Brothers Circus of Mexico, miserable polar bears suffer in confinement and only travel where the circus takes them—even to the warm-weather Caribbean. They live in oppressive heat, exhibit the stereotypic behavior of rocking back and forth insanely in their cages, have little access to water or air conditioning, and eat whatever food is given to them, including dog chow and lettuce. Seven polar bears languish in these horrid conditions.

The circus is currently in Puerto Rico and faces cruelty charges brought by the Puerto Rican Department of Natural Resources—charges the circus has twice tried, and failed, to have dismissed. A separate suit brought by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the Humane Society of Puerto Rico, and private individuals has been filed in a federal court in Washington, DC to keep the bears in the US. Marianne Merritt, co-counsel for the plaintiffs in the federal case, stated: “Allowing these arctic animals to be maintained in a tropical climate in such inhumane and deplorable conditions is an abdication of the government agencies’ legal duties.



PETA



PETA

Maintaining polar bears in Puerto Rico is akin to placing an African elephant on the North Pole.”

Diana Weinhardt, Chair of the American Zoological Association Bear Technical Advisory Group, visited the facility and observed that some bears flinched when the bears’ trainer approached them with a camera and a four and a half foot “fiberglass stick with a blunted point on the end.” She added, “The actions I thought were an indication that they have been hit with this stick possibly on a regular basis as a guide to get a desired behavior.”

A Puerto Rican veterinarian and zoologist, Dr. Pedro E. Nunez, observed bears “caged individually in spaces too small for their size as the lengths of their bodies were practically reaching from one end to the other.” He graphically continued, “They didn’t have access to a pool and you could see that some bottles of drinking water were dirty with tomato, lettuce and carrot. A large quantity of

Dr. Pedro E. Nunez observed: “One of the polar bears had an area of scabs and bald spots in the mouth and face consistent with follicle ursine mange.”

Bears, panting in temperatures over 110°F, are repeatedly whipped and hit in the ear and face with a rod to force them to climb stairs and go down a slide on the other end.

bloody diarrhea, with a lot of mucus, was draining from one of the cages, accumulating on the floor, and several flies, attracted by the apparent bad odor of the blood, were clearly visible.”

According to a Marine Mammal Commission (MMC) review of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection reports for the circus and a video of the facility, Suarez Brothers is repeatedly out of compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. The polar bears have only occasional access to pools of water and fully air-conditioned holding areas and are receiving poor veterinary treatment. In a letter to the acting administrator of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the MMC offers this synopsis of the polar bears’ conditions: “The animals are constantly swaying and panting, suggesting that they are distressed. It appears that neither the air conditioning system nor the fans were operating. The time

and temperature are recorded as being 10 a.m. and 112.8 degrees, respectively. The tape also shows that the bears are being maintained in filthy conditions and that waste products, when they are being removed from the transport enclosures, are being deposited directly on the ground adjacent to the enclosures.”

At least one animal already has died at Suarez Brothers. According to the MMC, “‘Yiopa’ died of heart failure due to dirofilariosis. With proper treatment, this should not have been a life-threatening condition. However, that animal was not provided veterinary care until he was in an advanced stage of deterioration and was not treated in a timely fashion after the diagnosis was made.”

There is also a looming question about whether these polar bears were captive born or taken (illegally) from the wild. Dr. Terry Maple, President and CEO of Zoo Atlanta, notes that the circus’s claim that one of the polar bears was born in Atlanta is false. “These documents are not accurate, since the Atlanta-born bear (“Snowball”) died in a German zoo in 1994,” Dr. Maple wrote. He noted that the bear must have had another origin and that the circus’s records must have been doctored.

While the cruelty case is proceeding, at least 55 Representatives and 16 Senators have weighed in to urge the USDA and the Department of the Interior (DOI) to take appropriate action to ensure the well being of these animals, including confiscating and relocating the polar bears. According to Congressman George Miller (D-CA), “It is

disturbing that the two federal agencies responsible for protecting polar bears would allow arctic animals to be held in tropical climates.” Several bipartisan measures have been introduced in Congress, including an amendment to the contentious annual “farm bill,” to prohibit the exhibition of polar bears by carnivals, circuses, or traveling shows.

There is widespread agreement that it is inhumane and inappropriate for polar bears to be in the Suarez Brothers Circus. Now the Courts, Congress, and the Administration can each take appropriate action to ensure the poor bears’ long-term well-being. 🐾

China Still Jails Bears

Just months after being awarded the 2008 Olympics, two illegal bear bile factories in China were uncovered by undercover journalists for China’s Central Television. Thousands of bears are still kept in cramped cages in China and elsewhere throughout Asia, regularly milked for their bile, which is used in traditional Chinese medicines and can fetch prices higher than gold or heroin on the black market. *Reuters* reports, “footage showed bears yelping in pain as keepers extracted the bright green liquid....At the second factory, the bears have their teeth and claws removed so they are not a threat to their handlers.” 🐾

Dead Grizzlies Not Welcome in the EU

After a partially successful campaign that saw trophy hunting of grizzly bears stopped or reduced in many areas of British Columbia (BC), Canada, last year, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) has announced that the 15 European Union (EU) countries have taken the additional step of banning the importation of grizzly bear trophies into the EU from British Columbia.

According to EIA, “The EU accounts for up to 30% of the 120 BC grizzlies killed on average each year by fee-paying foreign hunters. The total hunt including bears killed by Canadians averaged 300 grizzlies per year during the last decade, from a population which independent biologists [estimate] could be as low as 4–6,000.”

The United Kingdom and Germany called for the ban to stop the unsustainable BC hunt. Daniela Freyer, International Campaigner with the German organization, Pro-Wildlife, said, “More BC grizzlies end up decorating houses in Germany than almost any other country, so it is fitting that along with the UK it was Germany leading the call for an import ban.” 🐾

Saying Goodbye and a Profound Thank You to Astrid Lindgren

Astrid Lindgren, an author of original genius whose appeal was worldwide, has died at 94. She will be mourned by all who seek to protect the billions of animals in animal factories. When she was awarded the Animal Welfare Institute's Albert Schweitzer Medal in 1988 Ambassador Wachtmeister said, "In Sweden, she is not only the most famous lady, she is the most beloved. I am sure that if the animals could vote, the majority would be still greater in her favor."

Her books were translated into 60 languages, and more than 130 million copies were sold. Most famous were her stories of tales about Pippi Longstocking, which she made for her young daughter while nursing her through pneumonia. Then while Astrid herself was confined to her bed by a badly sprained ankle, she wrote them down.

Astrid led the way in forthright correspondence with the Prime Minister. Her letters were always printed in Stockholm's biggest newspaper, *Expressen*—later they were published by AWI in English. Astrid tells of her family's herd of cows who grazed happily on their lush green pasture. When Astrid was a small child, Bessie, one of the cows, lifted Astrid upon her horns

and tossed her across the grass toward the farm house. Far from being frightened, this early experience led Astrid to fiercely defend cows and attack industrial dairy farming, in which cows are confined to stalls year round rather than being allowed outside to eat the grass in summer.

In accepting the Schweitzer Medal Astrid said, "almost 80 years later [after being tossed by Bessie], I wrote an article about cows. About how dreary the life of a cow could be nowadays. A cow didn't get to graze anymore, her calf was taken from her as soon as it was born, and, worst of all, she could no longer be courted by an interested bull. The inseminator came instead, and that was not the same.

"After that article I got a letter from a female veterinarian, Kristina Forslund. She was—and still is—a docent at the Swedish University of Agriculture. She described her experiences as a veterinarian, with full insight in our animal husbandry, and it was a harrowing account about indecent treatment of animals. She succeeded in making me so upset that even now, three years later, I still haven't gotten over it. Kristina asked me to help her in her struggle to bring about better animal husbandry. She thought—optimist that she is—that every-

one would listen to me. At any rate we managed to rouse a massive public reaction, which finally resulted in a new animal protection law in Sweden. The Prime Minister him-



self came to my home to deliver the good news. The new law was supposed to be a kind of birthday present for me! Goodness gracious, what a wonderful present! But it turned out not to be that wonderful—not on every point—not for all animals. There is a great deal more that must be changed, before one can lean back and relax!

"And that is one of the reasons I am so happy to receive this medal. It gives me the guts to continue the struggle! The struggle, yes indeed. There are reactionaries back home, you know, they don't want any changes. It is impossible, they say. It is too expensive they say. But let us hope that we one day can get an animal protection law as kind and decent as people in other countries believe that we already have.

"For your help and encouragement, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

"I am sure that all Swedish cows and bulls and calves and pigs and sheep and chickens and hens are joining me when I say it once more!

"Thank you!" 🐾

Above: Astrid Lindgren looking at her Schweitzer Medal.

Left: Swedish children dressed for the Feast of St. Lucia join Astrid in singing some of the many songs she wrote.



Photos courtesy of June Hughes

Navy Admits to Killing Whales, but LFAS Steams Ahead

Two studies released in mid-December provide twin smoking guns linking the killing of whales to the use of active sonar devices by the US Navy. The first was a belated admission jointly issued by the Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The agencies admit that the most plausible source of the "acoustic or impulse trauma" that caused a mass stranding of whales and dolphins in the Bahamas on March 15–16 of 2001 was the Navy testing of mid-range frequency sonar used to find submarines.

The second study was funded by the Office of Navy Research and published by Hauser, Howard and Ridgeway in the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*. It explores the formation of bubbles by sound waves in the supersaturated blood of deep-diving mammals. Three elements of the study are critical in our battle to stop the deployment of Low Frequency Active Sonar (LFAS):

1) Once a sound source causes the formation of bubbles in the blood (a phenomenon in human divers called the bends) they can continue to grow on their own.

2) Bubbles can start growing at relatively low levels of sound (under 150 decibels—ten million times less than the source level of LFAS).

3) The mechanism that causes the bubbles to grow is independent of the frequency of the sound (giving the lie to the Navy argument that even though the Bahamas stranding was most likely caused by the mid-frequency sound they generated, that the low frequency LFAS is totally different and benign).

We are still awaiting a decision by NMFS on whether it is going to ignore all evidence and grant a "small take authorization" to the Navy to kill dolphins, whales, and other marine species by deploying LFAS, with a source level of 240 decibels, in over eighty percent of the world's oceans. 🐾

Capture/Recapture Study Kills Dolphins

After two months at sea, a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) research cruise that had been opposed by its own scientists returned to port in San Diego. A NMFS vessel accompanied a contracted Mexican tuna boat to intentionally harass the dwindling populations of spinner and spotted dolphins to see if the creatures are indeed stressed by being chased and netted repeatedly by boats pursuing tuna. Fifteen hundred dolphins were caught in 27 sets of the net. Some were then subjected to having transmitters bloodily bolted through their dorsal fins.

The idea was to capture dolphins repeatedly and to take blood with each capture in order to see if the stress hormones known to be present in blood would increase with each capture. But only five dolphins were caught more than once. By the time the nets were hung to dry, two dolphins were killed outright and one calf was missing and presumed dead.

As an article explained in the Fall 2001 *AWI Quarterly*, AWI had presented a benign alternative to this expensive, highly invasive and useless study with the help of Dr. Al Myrick, the leading NMFS expert on stress in dolphins for more than ten years. The senior NMFS scientists that we met with agreed that the planned capture/recapture study was unnecessarily invasive and would yield little new information. But they were forced to carry out the study at the insistence of Congressmen Gilchrest (R-MD) and Cunningham (R-CA) and the efforts of Ocean Conservancy's Nina Young.

The study was mandated as part of the International Dolphin Conservation Act of 1997 (dubbed the "Dolphin Death Act") that attempted to drop the trade embargo on dolphin-caught tuna. More than seven million dolphins have died in the tuna fishery in the Eastern Tropical Pacific. Evidence enough, one would think, that the technique causes stress. 🐾

Mexican Tuna Super-Seiner Busted with 10.5 Tons of Cocaine

The drug-tainted Mexican tuna industry, which has killed tens of thousands of dolphins in defiance of US and European bans on dolphin-deadly tuna, was embarrassed once again last December when the US Coast Guard captured a giant Mexican super-seiner that was smuggling 10.5 tons of cocaine in the eastern Pacific.

The 180-foot Macel was boarded off the southwest coast of Mexico on December 21, 2001 after being under surveillance for several weeks by US Navy and Coast Guard ships patrolling the region for gangsters running cocaine and heroin from Colombia to Mexico, which is the major waystation for narcotics on the way to the US and Europe.

A total of 10.5 tons of pure cocaine, with a street value of \$500 million, was found hidden in special compartments under tons of yellow fin tuna. The cocaine, ship, and 19-man crew were turned over to the Mexican Navy.

Colombian and Mexican drug cartels bought up most of the Latin American tuna fleets in the 1980's and early 1990's to smuggle their contraband and to launder billions of narco-dollars. (For the detailed report, "Dolphins Die for Tuna/Cocaine Connection," see the Spring 1999 *AWI Quarterly*.)

The Mexican government has failed to seize the major tuna fleets and canneries that are owned by the murderous Tijuana Cartel in partnership with powerful politicians. Even Colombia's infamous Cali Cartel is a partner in major Mexican tuna companies. And the US government has steadfastly refused to acknowledge that Mexico's tuna industry is a front for drug trafficking. Instead, the Departments of State and Commerce have been actively assisting the Mexican government and tuna industry to overturn the US dolphin-safe standard for imported tuna. 🐾

Wildlife and Drug Smuggling: A Tangled Tale

Customs officials warned Jeffrey Allen Doth, operator of the Texas-based International Exotic Wildlife, of the proper procedures for importing wildlife when, at age 25, he was caught smuggling wildlife into the US. A year later, in 1995, wearing a baggy shirt, Doth boarded a plane with five juvenile green tree pythons concealed in elastic stockings strapped around his waist. The US Customs Service busted him at Los Angeles International Airport for attempting to smuggle the snakes from Indonesia without receiving necessary permits from the Indonesian government or declaring them to Customs.

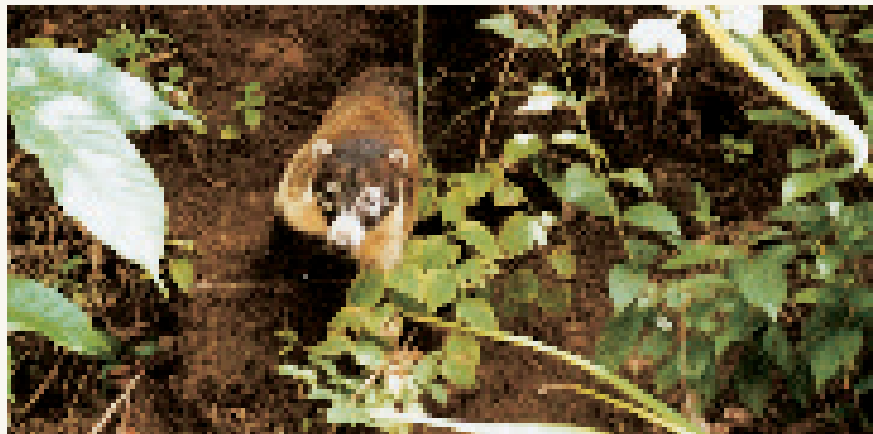
At Doth's trial he argued that rather than hiding the pythons under his clothing to conceal them, he was merely trying to keep them warm and avoid paying extra airline costs. Doth was found guilty of two felony counts and faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison. On October 22, 2001, Doth was sentenced to a lenient four months of home detention, a \$5,100 fine, and three years probation.

Less than four months after sentencing, while apparently still under house arrest in Texas, Doth was making trips to Miami to receive wildlife shipments from Guyana. He arranged to get wholesale shipments of exotic mammals and

reptiles at cut-rate prices and then to sell some of the wildlife to other dealers, including the infamous drug kingpin and convicted felon Mario Tabraue (see Spring 2001 *AWI Quarterly*). Dealers or their representatives would meet at the airport to divide each shipment.

In late November, Doth, Miami Reptiles' Michael Powell, Tabraue's transporter Val Lorente, and a Guyanese man, Rajendra Persaud, were at Miami's Airport to receive a shipment of mammals and one of reptiles. *The reptile shipment also contained over 100 pounds of cocaine hidden in false bottoms of the transport boxes.* Regarding the illegal drugs, Customs is cur-

rently focused only on Persaud and another Guyanese man, Doyle Debutin, both of whom allegedly were house guests of one-time wildlife importer Cyril Lowe. Florida Fish and Game appears to be seeking prosecution of Doth for not possessing a wildlife dealer's license and for receiving 17 dwarf caiman without a permit. Excluding the caiman, the Fish and Wildlife Service has distributed the entire shipment, including 12 kinkajous, four two-toed sloths, 18 agoutis, five prehensile-tailed porcupines, and a coatamundi to the prospective dealers! No word on any action against Doth for his travels while under house arrest. 🐾



A coatamundi in his native habitat.

Adam M. Roberts/AWI



ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 3650, Washington, D.C. 20007

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
**US POSTAGE
PAID**

Washington, DC
Permit No. 2300

