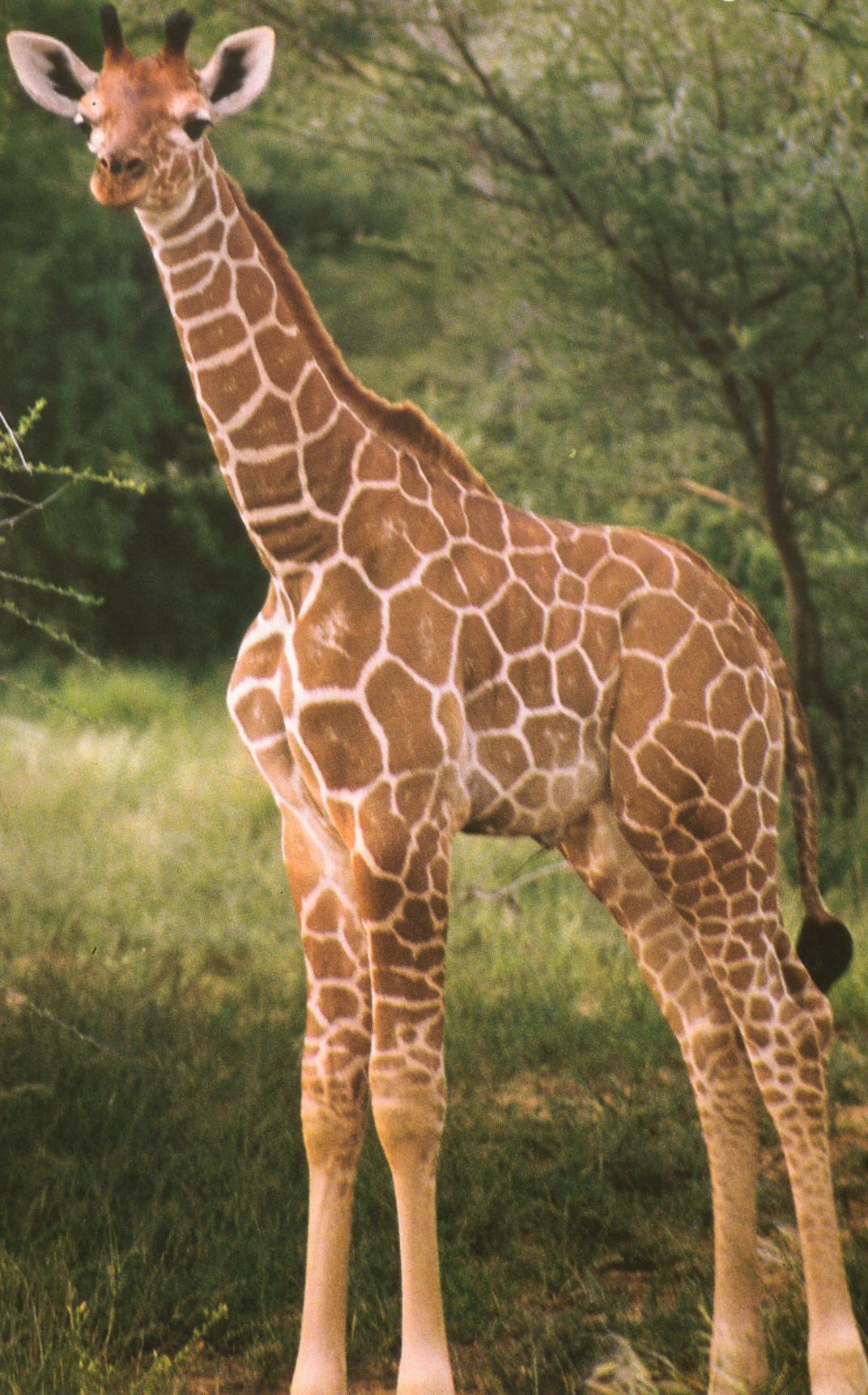


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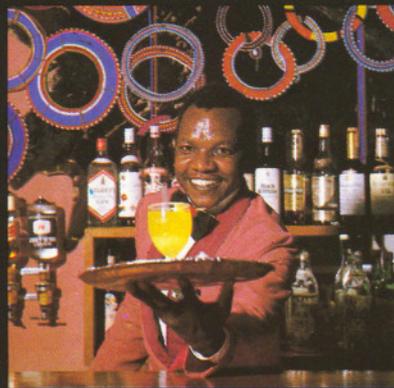
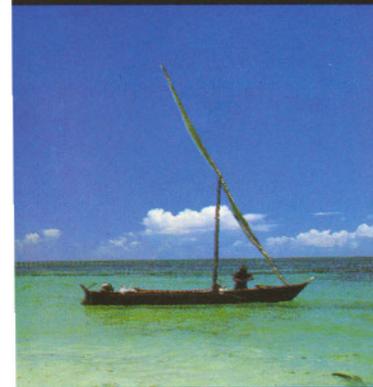
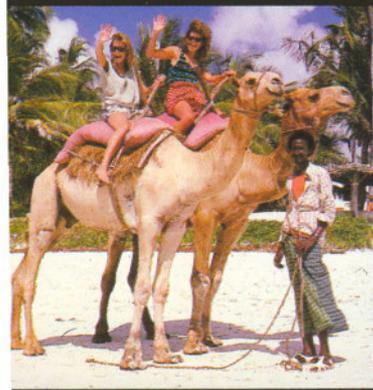
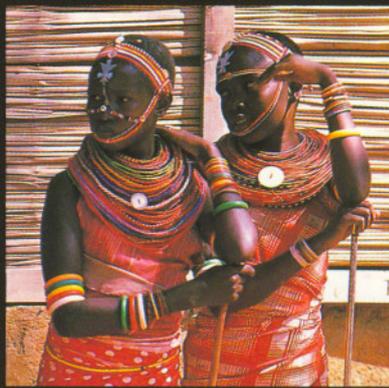
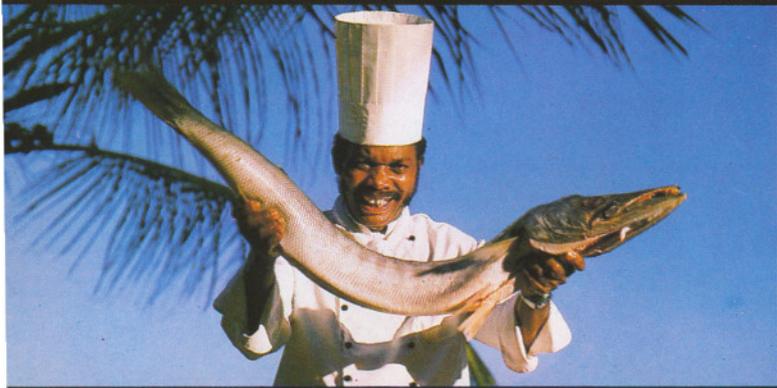


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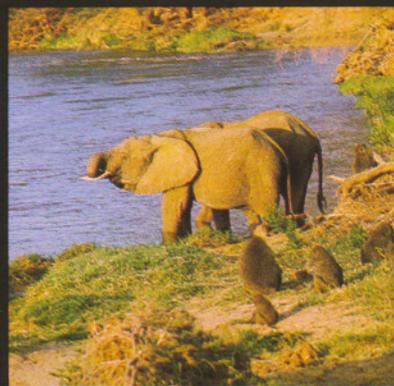


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Koinange Street  
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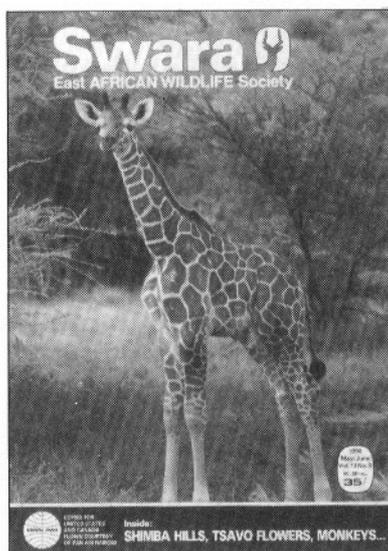
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Cover photo:  
Young reticulated giraffe  
*Carla Signorini Jones*

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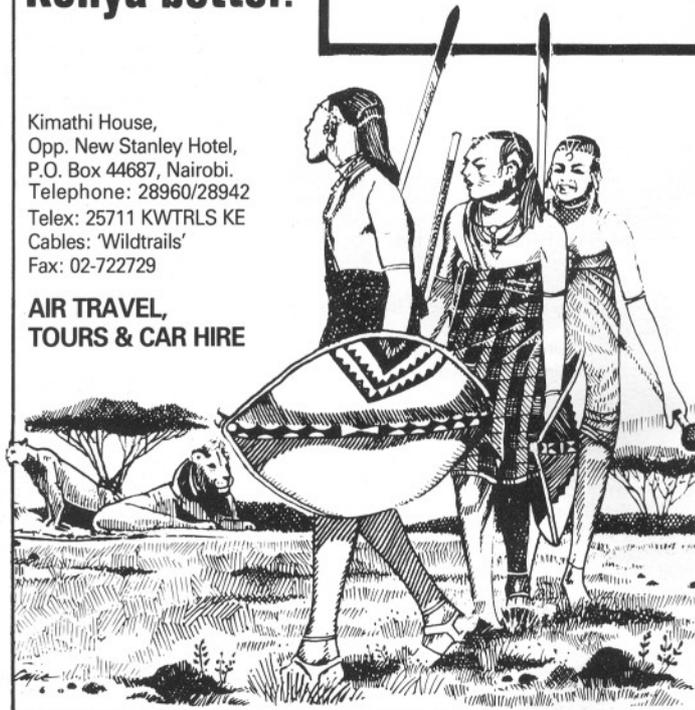
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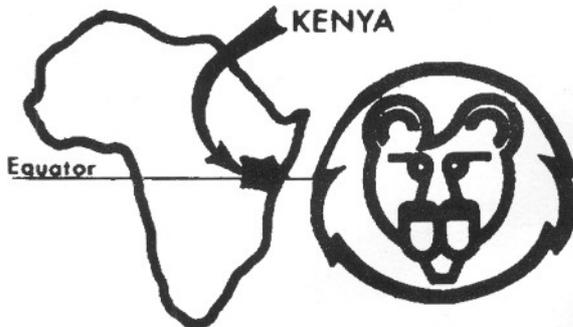
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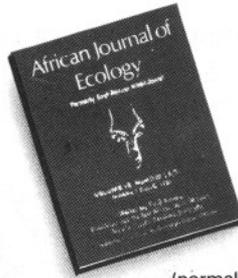


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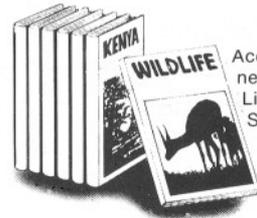
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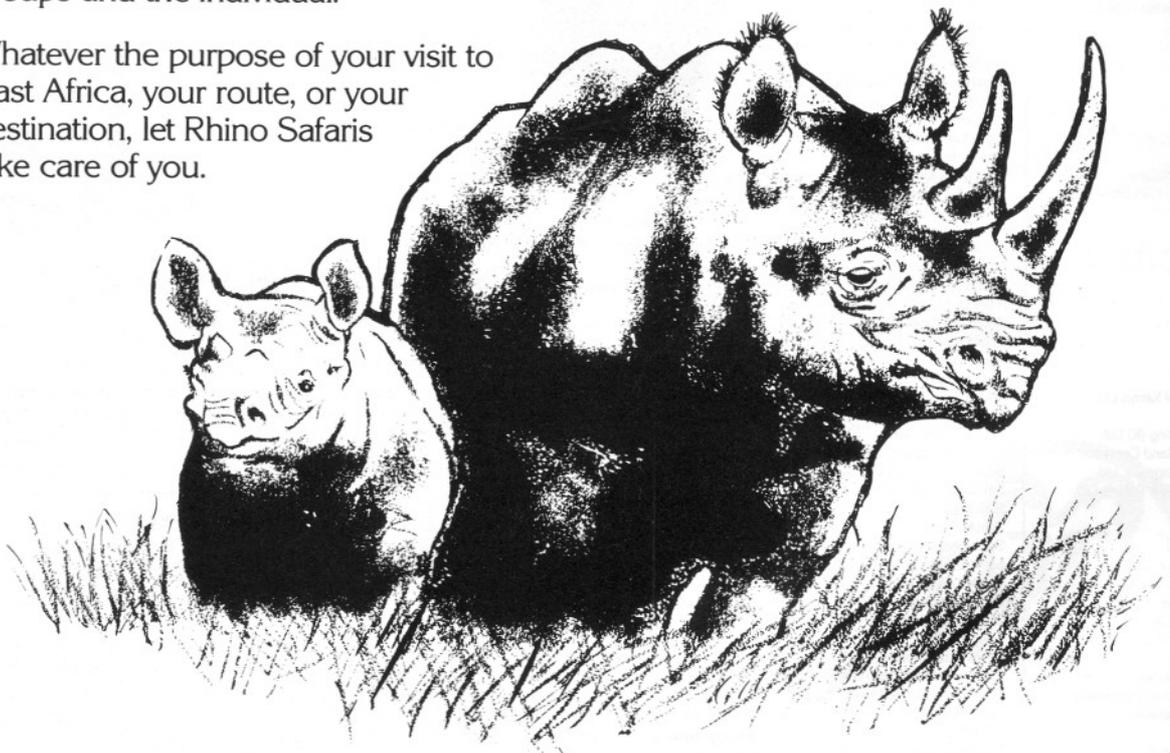
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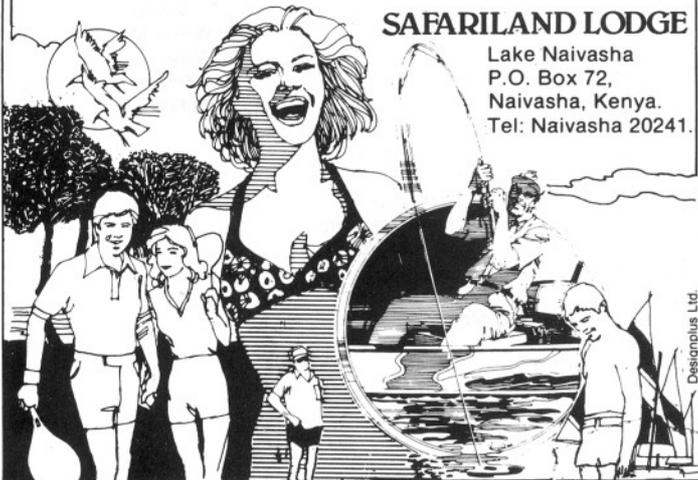
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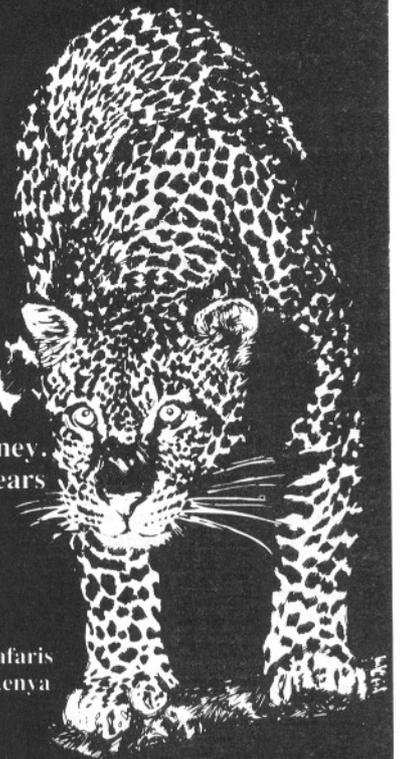
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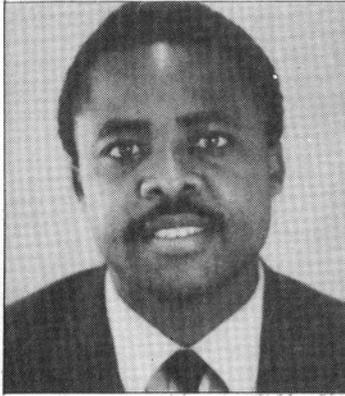
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## Expanding the resource base

by Mwamba Shete  
Assistant Director, East African Wild Life Society

**T**he creation of a ministry in charge of arid and semi-arid lands could not have come at a better time. More than two-thirds of Kenya is covered by these marginal or rangelands. A majority of the animal and plant species are to be found here and so are the parks and reserves. The establishment of this new ministry gives hope that the undeveloped potential of these areas for economic activities besides livestock ranching has been recognised. What should be done with the wildlife abundant in the arid and semi-arid lands? Do we leave things as they are or should we now venture down new avenues in wildlife utilisation rather as our engineers have pioneered the manufacture of a Kenyan car?

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The butterfly trade in Papua New Guinea is controlled by the government and monitored under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered



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Species. Villagers in this country have developed butterfly ranches by cultivating the types of plants on which swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs. These butterflies are in a better condition than those caught from natural populations; they fetch higher prices when sold to museums, students, collectors, and manufacturers of decorative objects and jewellery.

Successful wildlife cropping has been carried out in Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Game departments have established quotas on private ranches and state land and the animal products are sold commercially. The cropping prevents the animals from overpopulating their habitats and provides meat and other animal products for the local people.

These are just a few examples of sustained wildlife utilisation uncommon in East Africa. Currently in East Africa we mainly make use of our wildlife to attract tourists, but this is not enough. Some of our people regard wild animals as pests that spread disease and compete with livestock for food. Our human population has continued to grow, habitats have been destroyed and the need for agricultural land is greater than before. Inappropriate agricultural practices and species have been introduced into some areas.

Our country therefore needs to develop policies that will enhance the utilisation of certain wildlife species through well managed trade, sport hunting, taming, cropping and game ranching in addition to tourism. The establishment of these enterprises would involve many people and would make for a brighter future for wildlife as the people living in marginal lands would realise greater rewards from these new forms of land use.

The relevant government and non-governmental organisations should start research on the appropriate methods for enhancing wildlife utilisation in our rangelands in order to be ready to meet the challenges of the future. Although we should not justify conservation for economic reasons alone, snake, crocodile, ostrich and butterfly farms are long overdue in Kenya

*The views expressed in this 'Comment' are the personal ones of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the position of the East African Wild Life Society.*

## EAST AFRICAN WILD LIFE SOCIETY

# REPRESENTATIVES WORLDWIDE

**ARGENTINA**  
Miguel A. Tauszjg  
Av Libertador 17066  
1643 Beccar  
PCIA. BUENOS AIRES

**AUSTRALIA**  
Mr D. Wood  
786 Pacific Highway  
Gordon  
NSW 2072

Mr K.W. Wiltshire  
31 Vaughan St  
Mount Gravatt  
QUEENSLAND

Mr Chandra Patel  
21 Stirling St  
Tosmore  
Adelaide 5065

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
Mr D.M. Luckin  
12 Hillside Crescent  
West Hobart  
TASMANIA 7000

Mrs E. Moore  
16 Nearwater Way  
Shelley 6155

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
Mr Stephen Cameron  
Suite 408, 4th floor  
343 Little Collins St  
Melbourne  
VICTORIA

Paul Ashton & Liz Bentley  
P.O. Box 4388 QQ  
Melbourne 3001  
VICTORIA

**AUSTRIA**  
Prof Dr Hans Norbert Roissl  
Uhplatz 5/8  
A-1080 WIEN

**BURUNDI**  
Mr O.J. Connell  
BP 810  
BUJUMBURA

**CANADA**  
Mr T. Lopes  
574 Parliament Street  
Toronto  
ONTARIO M4X 1P8

Miss Laura Friis  
2245 Victor St  
Victoria  
BRITISH COLUMBIA V8R 4C6

Mr G. Noor Mohamed  
Apt 903 - 1816 Harrow St  
Vancouver  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Robert R. Taylor  
944 Windermere Ave  
Winnipeg  
MANITOBA R3T 1A1

**CHILE**  
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Casila 4  
SAN FRANCISCO DE MOSTAZAL

**DENMARK**  
Carsten Laage-Petersen  
Skovvej 13  
4330 HVALSO

**ETHIOPIA**  
Dr J.C. Hillman  
Wildlife Conservation Organisation  
P.O. Box 386  
ADDIS ABABA

**FINLAND**  
Mr Tom Kumlin  
Munkkiluodonkuta 6A3  
SF-02160 ESTOO

**GREAT BRITAIN**  
Mr David Keith Jones  
11 The Windings  
LICHFIELD WS13 7EX

Mrs P. Stobbs  
Sloane Square House  
LONDON SW1X 9LU

Lee E. Edwards  
43 Brays Mead  
Harlow  
ESSEX CM18 6PD

Mr Andrew C. Fentiman  
83 Gloucester Place  
LONDON W1H 3PG

**GREECE**  
Mr Solomon Githinji  
6 Tychis St  
ATHENS 11253

**HOLLAND**  
Mr J.W. Eizenga  
Burg Verheullaan 59  
2396 EP Koudekerk  
A/D RIJN

**ISRAEL**  
Dr Avner A. Shargil  
11 Shapira St  
PO Box 765  
PETAH-TIKVA

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Mr Nicolao Giorgini  
Via Pietro Calvi 19  
20129 MILANO

**JAPAN**  
Mr Matsuo Tsukazaki  
2-9-2 Shibuya Shibuya-Ku  
TOKYO 150

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Mr Mark Easterbrook  
PO Box 208  
MALINDI

Mr Edwin Koskei  
PO Box 76  
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DUBAI

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Chief American Rep  
PO Box 82002  
San Diego  
CALIFORNIA 92138

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PO Box 85800  
San Diego  
CALIFORNIA 92138

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Mvurwi

# Shimba Hills

by Imre Loeffler

***The opening of an attractive lodge in this little-visited reserve south of Mombasa should help to ensure the continued survival of the only protected area in Kenya where the sable antelope occurs.***

The Shimba Hills National Reserve is a beautiful little reserve. Thanks to the warden, it is well kept, it is well protected and worth a visit. Established in the main to provide protection for the sable antelope, this being the only location in Kenya where this handsome beast occurs, it provides a setting for an interesting excursion.

Everything in the Shimba Hills is different. There are many beautiful vistas: whether of the sea, the Usambaras, the many small volcanoes to the south-west or even Mombasa. There are many puzzles of geology to solve. The botany of the indigenous species is varied. The failure of the pine plantations to provide a satisfactory forestry base in the Shimba climate and their role in promoting the sad triumph of lantana bushes, the latter giving a niche for tsetse fly to breed, are yet more lessons. Bird-watching in the dense forest is a challenge: to sort out all the warblers and the greenbuls one sees for only a second requires much experience – or imagination. There are large flocks of crowned hornbill for consolation and Shimba is the best place to see the silvery-cheeked hornbill. There are many buffalo and about 350 elephant, some with very large tusks. All in all, a lot to see and a lot to do.

Until recently, Shimba was difficult to explore: the best hours of the day, the early morning and the late evenings, were only within reach of the camper. Now there is a lodge. Conceived in the manner of our mountain lodges Shimba Lodge is hidden away in a secluded little valley on the steep west slope of the range in a most intimate setting, suggesting a tree house. The concealment of a rather large structure is so successful that one cannot see very far and from some spots one can admire trees only. Part of the tree house impression is the result of the materials used: timber skilfully camouflages the structural elements of concrete and steel. The design is interesting and provides for space and comfort. Decorative art blends well with functionality: there are some very nice wall rugs and there is an excellent 'mural' on planks of

wood on the dining-room wall derived from cave and rock paintings, of many ages and places.

In front of the lodge there is a little dammed up lake supplied by a cheerfully murmuring river. The lake is home to vociferous frogs of at least three varieties and of many large monitor lizards, these two being the most audible and visible of the doubtless numerous inhabitants.

The routine is similar to that of the other mountain lodges: one is supposed to arrive in the afternoon with little luggage, and, leaving the motor car at the gate, one is driven in a lodge vehicle to the lodge. Parts of the road resemble a tunnel driven through the dense forest. By the time one arrives the sugar cane bait for the elephants has been artfully distributed, the joint suspended on a suitable wire so that the cats are obliged to remain in view and the leftovers from the kitchen heaped up in strategic locations ready for pig and mongoose – by courtesy of monitor lizards. The guests now relax and can have their sundowners in one of the annex tree houses, and then the vigil begins. The lodge is new and the habituation of the visitors (human and non-humans alike) has only begun.

How far the habituation of the animals has succeeded is meticulously recorded. There is opportunity to peruse the book kept by the resident naturalist/warden in which the sightings are recorded. According to this book bushpig, genet, and white-tailed and marsh mongoose are regulars, the elephants fairly reliable yet capricious visitors. With the lizards, the birds and the frogs, an odd monkey and civet, perhaps the opportunity for excitement is so far modest. True, the elephants are likely to include the lodge on their circuit, which will induce the tour companies to do likewise. There may be some bushbuck and buffalo to come and sooner or later there will be leopard and hyena. Bushbaby and smaller forest animals can be expected. The very intimacy of the look-out precludes viewing large assemblies of game at any one time

though, and the acoustics of the narrow valley are such that the human visitor needs to be well disciplined so that the game is not put off by noise. This requires the management to provide more education and restraint than I observed.

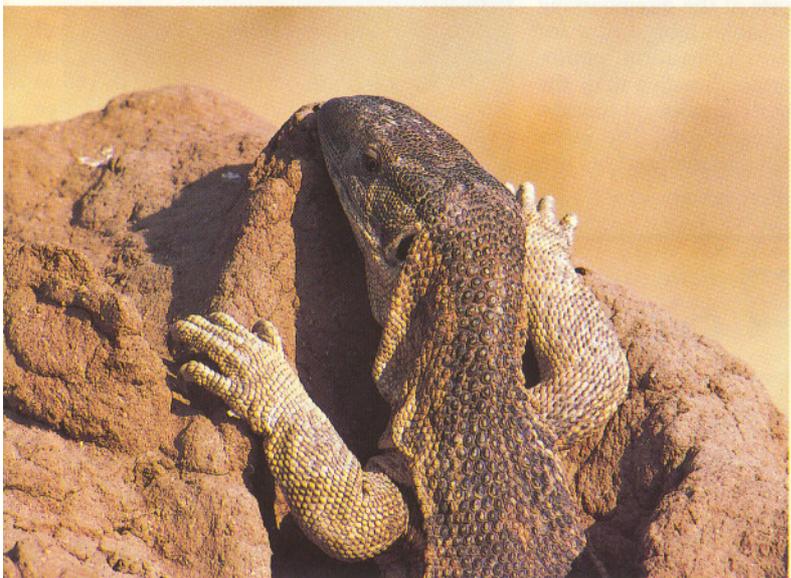
On New Year's eve, in addition to the funny hats, crackers were provided and the New Year was greeted with drunken song and the flicker of lights – not surprising that the game record for the night was meagre.

The plan is to translocate some hippo to the site and should this be possible, considering the unusual habitat, much restraint will be required at sundowner time so that the hippo do not take fright. The popularity of the lodge will largely depend on the number and variety of game sighted at night. This is so notwithstanding the delights of early morning and late evening drives.

Like elsewhere in our parks and reserves, the future of the game and its habitat will depend on the successful sale of the viewing opportunity. In the long run the viability of Shimba Hills National Reserve will depend on the lodge thriving. For as the surrounds become populated the people and their *shambas* (farms) will need to be protected from elephant, buffalo and baboon even more than the animals will need to be protected from the people. The protection of the forest is more urgent. For whilst there are no signs of game poaching at Shimba Hills, trees are being poached, and this practice is bound to increase until such time as the reserve is fenced. The lodge, although quite expensive, allows the local nature lover to plan a good and comfortable visit to the reserve.

The tourist has the opportunity to spend a night in an African forest in some luxury and to be in the open without freezing so

*Regular visitors to the lodge include crowned and silvery-cheeked hornbill (top row), and monitor lizard and marsh mongoose (bottom row), but game drives assure sightings of buffalo and sable antelope.*





*Genet: another reliable caller.*

that he can hear and smell as well as see. At present, because of the vagaries of air circulation within the lodge – and the valley – the predominant smell is that of the kitchen. This might attract bushpig and hyena but may put off less robust visitors.

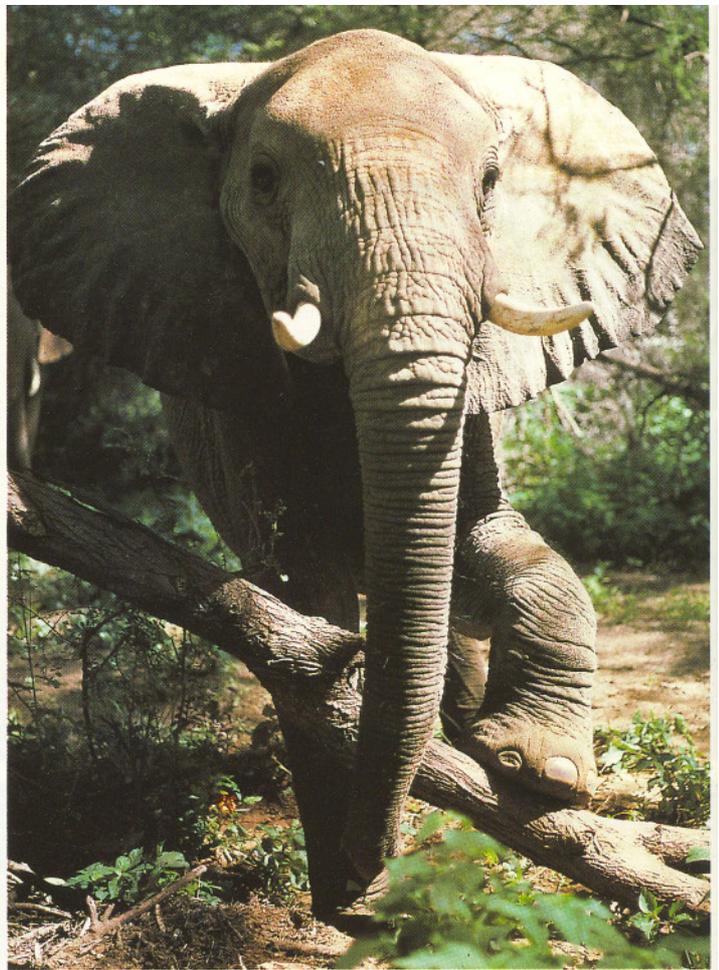
If the lodge is a success, and this I ardently hope, not because I am in the business of advertising for the tourist industry, but because I believe that the judicious blending of tourism and conservation is the basis for the future of our parks – then all temptation must be resisted to make it larger. For that other features can and should be developed. Already now, unlike other mountain lodges, Shimba Lodge does offer game drives. An evening and a morning drive would guarantee the sighting of sable, elephant, and buffalo. A bird-watching drive could be developed,

perhaps even a nature trail walk. And education should be on the menu for the boozers.

The airfield on top of the hills makes matters easy for those who lack the time or courage to drive. The field is quite good. There are two runways and the warden has made some further improvements recently. If the grass is left growing, and then cut, Shimba Hills will have a nice airfield and will become more popular with tour companies.

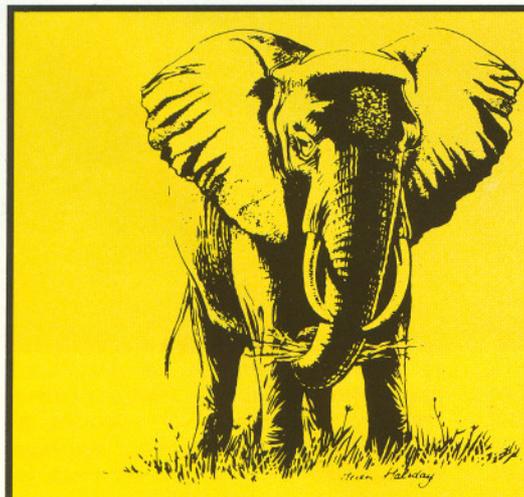
The sable, the quintessence of the Shimba Hills, will gaze at the disembarking guests. The Shimba sable, inbred now for generations is amazingly beautiful, photogenic, tame and fertile. Smaller than the sable in more southerly regions, at Shimba they live in a few large herds. The herds consist of one bull, his harem and his off-

spring. Solitary bulls or either suitors in waiting or retired patriarchs. As there are far fewer adult male sable about than females at Shimba it suggests that to be a male is a big gamble. There are perhaps 200 adult sable altogether (the honorary warden reckons), about as many as 20 years ago. Predation by leopard may be the limiting factor, rather than the availability of food – although the spacing of the bulls might conceivably control total numbers. One hopes that with the increase of lantana and the subsequent rise in numbers of tsetse flies the parasites which cause sleeping sickness will not become a threat. In a small reserve like Shimba, the fortunes of its habitat and its game will quickly become linked to that of the lodge. Let's hope that the lodge succeeds so that it saves the reserve from oblivion.



Peter Davey ARPS

*Elephant: attracted by artfully distributed sugar cane bait.*



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# SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

## Conservation Fund

The East African Wild Life Society is very pleased to have received over Ksh 120,000 in donations to the Conservation Fund over the last two months. Of this amount, Ksh 59,000 is being spent on anti-poaching, surveillance and other special operations in support of the Kenya Wildlife Service. We are extremely grateful to our many donors and in particular to the Kenya Hospital Association for their donation of over Ksh 10,000.

## African Ele-Fund

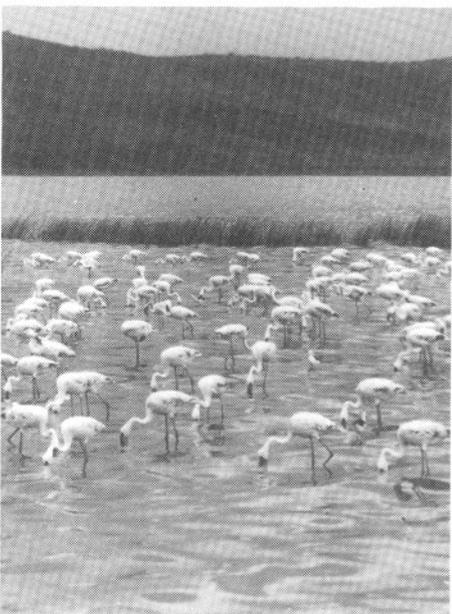
Donations to the African Ele-Fund during the last two months have totalled over Ksh 16,000. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and in particular H.J. Koons, J.C. Walker and Lara D. Zibarras, who each gave over Ksh 1,000.

## Save the Rhino Fund

Donations worth over Ksh 11,000 have come into this fund over the last two months. Our thanks go to all our supporters for their help and in particular to Javina Commercial Agencies Ltd and H.J. Koons for their donations of over Ksh 1,000.

## Kora National Park

We would like to express our very sincere thanks to Mr G.A.G. Adamson for a magnificent donation of Ksh 100,000, which is to be spent specifically on Kora National Park.



## Flamingoes in Lake Nakuru

A study is to be conducted by John Ngiri of the Kenya Wildlife Service on the micro-flora and flamingo populations of Lake Nakuru. The Society has agreed to give him a grant of Ksh 18,400 to cover some of his costs.



## Keith Tucker – the EAWLS Chief Representative in the USA

Keith Tucker graduated from university with a degree in television production. Having long had a love of travel, he then joined the airline SAS and after 13 years made his first visit to Africa in 1970. As with so many people, he fell in love with the two nations he visited – Kenya and Tanzania. Since then he has been back 31 times to 12 countries.

On leaving SAS, Keith started his own travel company, Acacia Travel, in San Diego, California. His speciality was, and still is, Africa, though he does send people to all wildlife destinations around the world. He is known for keeping his prices as low as possible and for emphasising quality and reliability. He works with many Nairobi safari firms and sends out his travellers in small groups. He has operated safaris in the past for San Diego Zoo, National Zoo, St Louis Zoo, the EAWLS and a variety of educational institutions. At least one safari a year is lead by him.

Keith has been Chief American Representative of the Society for 17 years now, and is very active in promoting the Society. One thing he prides himself on is making all his group travellers members

of the Society for one year. He is also very active in persuading other safari firms to do the same things. Acacia Travel, his own firm, is now a corporate member of the Society. He recruits many new members each year, and some renewals come his way too.

Keith brings in donations mostly through promotional ideas such as the recent discount sale of the book African Safari – the Complete Guide to 10 Top Game Viewing Countries (see Swara, May/June 1988, page 13), which raised a donation of over \$500 in sales. A recent \$2,000 he sent will go to help pay for the electric fence around the new rhino sanctuary in the Aberdare Salient.

In the past he had what he called an active chapter of the Society in Southern California, whereby he held two banquets a year for members and friends, one in San Diego and the other in the Los Angeles area. They were enjoyed enormously and well attended, but there have not been any recently due to lack of speakers and new films.

If any readers would like to contact Keith on Society or other business, his address can be found on page 7.

It is hoped that the data collected during the study will provide valuable information on the changes which have occurred in the lake since a similar study was carried out 15 years ago. In particular the findings might help to explain the frequent disappearance of the flamingoes from the lake, which has been attributed to the effects of pollution.

## Kenyan aloes

The Society has given a grant of Ksh 21,000

to Ms Hellen Oketch, a post-graduate student at Kenyatta University, for a phytochemical study she is doing on Kenyan aloes. Of the 350 species of aloes, 37 are recognised in Kenya. Aloes have been used for centuries to make human and animal medicaments. They have been found to be effective in treating radiation burns and other skins disorders and are also used as a base in cosmetics.

Some Kenyan species – all are wild – have been over-exploited in the past so in

## ... Society

The Society's Executive Director, Nehemiah arap Rotich, and the World Wide Fund for Nature's Regional Representative for Eastern Africa, Ed Wilson, shake hands in front of the monument put up in Nairobi National Park to commemorate the burning by Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi of 12 tonnes of poached ivory last July. As the plaque says, the monument was made possible by the generosity of the EAWLS and WWF (see Swara, March/April, page 21).

1986 all aloes were given presidential protection. This means that only plantation grown aloes can be used commercially.

To date, no particular aloe species has been singled out for commercial cultivation so it is hoped that this study will identify the most suitable species for large-scale cultivation and exploitation, based on leaf size and chemical composition. Successful cultivation should help relieve the pressure on wild-grown species. 



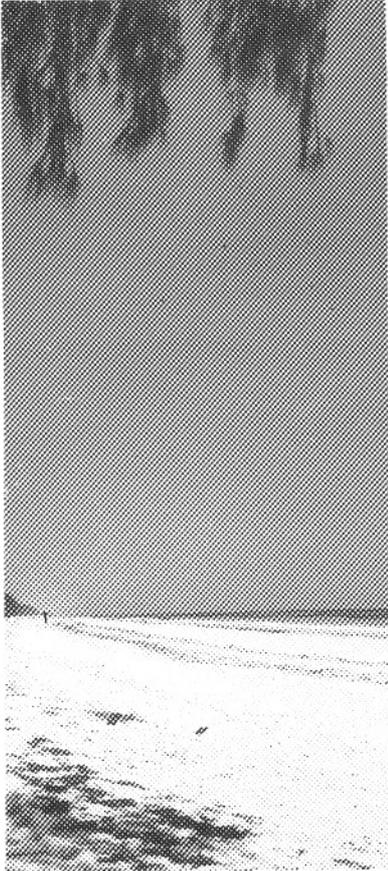
Richard Lamprey

The Society's Membership Officer, Jeremiah Munai (second from left), stands with actress Rula Lenska, two members of the British Parliament and other conservationists outside No 10 Downing Street. They were there to deliver a letter of protest to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher against the British government's decision to allow Hong Kong to dispose of her ivory stockpile (see the March/April issue of Swara, page 21).



David Giles/PA

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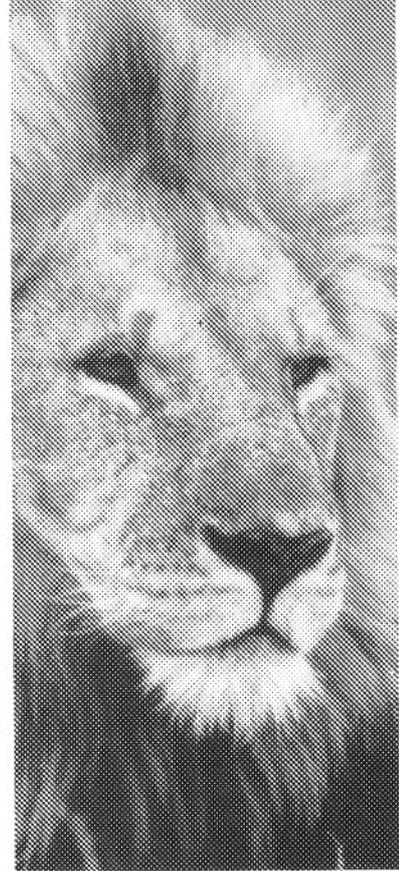
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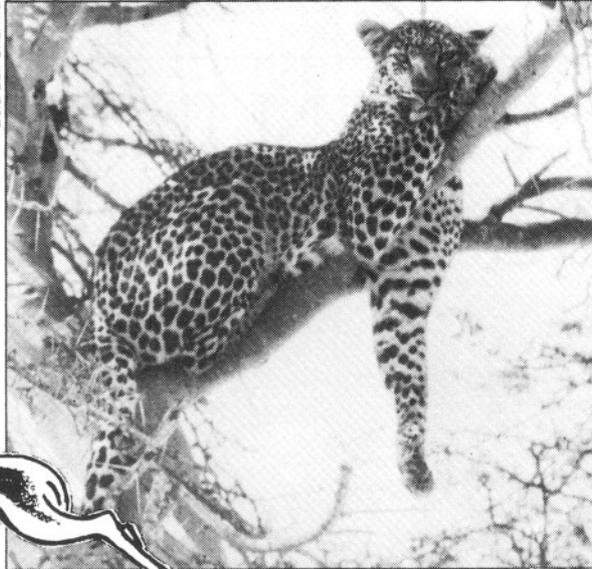
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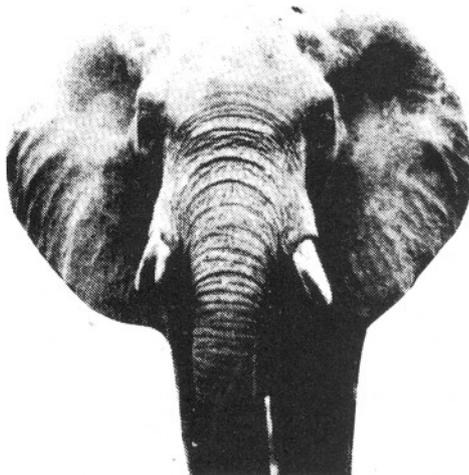


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# East African cultures and wildlife conservation

by Daniel Stiles

*Could a re-awakening of traditional cultural beliefs about animals help make modern man more appreciative of the wildlife in which so much of East Africa still abounds?*



Wildlife and people in eastern Africa have lived intimately together since time immemorial. The wild animals and birds of the forests, plains and mountains have always been an integral part of eastern African cultural and economic life. There is no place on earth where humans still live so closely with large numbers of free-roaming animals, which is both a curse and a blessing for the governments and people concerned.

Survival of wildlife in Africa depends on peoples' attitudes towards conservation, which is largely based on traditional values regarding wildlife. It is also based on practical considerations of making a living. Both of these factors need to be understood and used well by conservation organisations and governments to create the necessary conditions that will at least give wildlife a fighting chance against people.

Cultural attitudes towards wild animals by any particular East African group vary depending on the group's historical background and current situation. The region is culturally very complex, but things can be simplified by classifying the groups according to their 'profession'. The oldest profession is that of hunter-gatherer, followed by livestock pastoralist and agriculturalist, and finally the modern town and city dweller.

## **Hunter-gatherer**

Hunter-gatherers, not surprisingly, have a very positive attitude towards wildlife. There are no pure hunter-gatherers surviving in eastern Africa, but there are many groups that until recently depended on game and wild plants for survival, and they still retain many of the traditional cultural attitudes and beliefs – including the occasional hunt, which today is illegal in most eastern African countries. These people never threatened any animal species with

*This Dorobo from the Mathews Range of Kenya, here out to collect honey, views wildlife as an integral part of his society's existence.*

Daniel Stiles

## ... cultures

extinction, however. Wild animals were never killed indiscriminately *en masse* by hunter-gatherers as they are by poachers today.

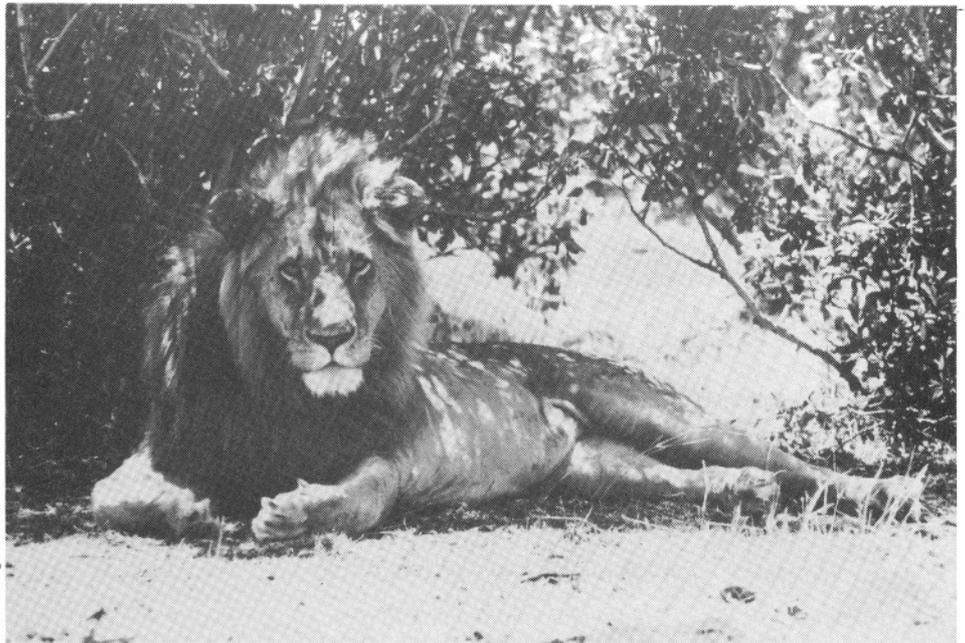
Traditional hunters killed animals for a reason, whether it was for food, ritual or a product to sell. Each species of animal or bird represented something unique and valued in an interlinking cosmology of the natural and spiritual worlds, and to kill an animal with no reason would be to violate all which was sacred. The hunter lived in nature as one small cog in the ecological machine, operating in small bands, and living an existence that fitted in with everything else.

This is not to say, however, that traditional hunters were not effective in killing game. In the 1950s in Kenya the warden of Tsavo National Park, the late David Sheldrick, launched an anti-poaching campaign against the Waliungulo (Wata) hunters. A survey in the park showed that large numbers of tuskless elephant bodies had been killed with poisoned arrows. The Waliungulo poaching seems tame by today's standards, but it alarmed the wildlife authorities of the time. Many hunting groups with connections to the coast have been highly effective elephant and rhino hunters for centuries, supplying Swahili coastal towns with ivory, horn and skins for the overseas trade. They have never posed a serious threat to population survival, however.

Up to about 5,000 years ago everybody in eastern Africa depended on hunting and gathering. Then groups began to migrate in from the Ethiopian Rift Valley and the Nile Valley, bringing cattle, sheep and goats and domestic crops with them (sorghum and millet). The migrations continued for thousands of years, displacing and absorbing the hunter-gatherers. The immigrants were the ancestors of today's pastoralist peoples – and some who have since disappeared – the Pokot, Somali, Rendille, Maasai/Samburu, Turkana, Boran, etc.

Hunter-gatherers, once the egalitarian occupiers of the land, now became subservient to the more powerful newcomers. Over time a kind of caste relationship evolved in many parts of eastern Africa, with the hunters occupying the lowest rungs, sometimes along with potters, iron smiths and tanners. They developed a symbiotic relationship with the pastoralists, or in some cases, as in Zaire, with agriculturalists. They provided certain services (some ritual) and wildlife products in exchange for protection and milk products. For example, hunter-gatherer men are commonly used in ceremonies to butcher animals, as the spilling of blood is considered ritually impure, and gatherer women will oil and braid the hair of pastoralist or agriculturalist women. Hunter-gatherers will also tan hides, make pots, work scrap metal into ornaments, and wash and bury the dead.

All of the hunting groups have strong cultural beliefs and practices regarding



Joe Cheffings

*The lion is one of the traditional Big Four, along with elephant, rhino, and buffalo, and to kill one with traditional weapons and human courage makes one a man in many hunting and pastoralist societies.*

wildlife. Wild animals and birds were important in ceremonies such as initiation, marriage and prayer, divination and prophecy, medicine, clothing and, of course, for food. Without wildlife these cultures would have no meaning and they could not exist.

For example, with the Aweer of Lamu District, Kenya, and southern Somalia, animals are divided up into small ones (*busha*) and large ones (*dua*). They have different arrow types and hunting techniques for different animals, and until a man kills a *dua* (elephant, rhino, buffalo or lion) he is called *munese*, meaning inexperienced hunter and, by implication, not yet a man. When he first kills a *dua* there is a ceremony called *kerar*, in which songs of praise are sung, oil is poured into his hair and on to his shoulders by older women, and he is decorated with ornaments. He now becomes a *miso* and is considered a man. A good hunter is called a *hargon*, or *guwe* in some areas, and is highly respected in the community. With the banning of hunting the Aweer culture is changing – some would say dying.

### Pastoralists

The herding peoples of eastern Africa also tend to have a benign attitude towards most wildlife species. Unlike their European or American counterparts, African livestock herders accept the right of animals other than cattle, sheep and goats to share the range and water resources. Many pastoralist peoples even recognise the Cape buffalo, eland and some of the antelope and gazelle species as honorary cattle. Most other animals, and especially birds and fish, are disdained as not being fit for human consumption.

Just as many of the pastoralist groups have a caste system for people, they have also established one for animals. The 'Big Four' of most of these groups are the

elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo and lion. The Boran of southern Ethiopia and Kenya, for example, put on a great ceremony for a man who kills one of these animals single-handedly for the first time, similar to the *kerar* of the Aweer. Maasai warriors organise formal lion hunts in which one warrior tries to spear to death a cornered lion. The mane of the dead lion would be worn in the war head-dress of the jubilant spearsman. Success results in great prestige for the killer, though this practice is becoming very rare today.

In normal times, pastoralists did little hunting; the livestock were expected to satisfy all needs and it was a loss of prestige to have to resort to wild animals for subsistence. Also, the associated hunting peoples were supposed to be the ones to defile themselves in hunting activities, which were regarded in most cases as being ritually impure. Following large livestock losses due to drought, disease or raids, however, pastoralists had to resort to the wild for survival. Some speculate that elephant and rhino were practically wiped out in the late 1880s in northern Kenya as pastoralists sold tusks and rhino horn to traders coming from the coast in order to rebuild their livestock herds with the proceeds.

Wildlife is important to pastoralists both culturally and economically. Birds and feathers are particularly significant in ritual and dress. Maasai and Samburu boys, for example, make stuffed bird crowns which they wear after circumcision (see *Swara* July/August 1984), and ostrich feathers are worn in ceremonial head-dress by many different peoples.

### Agriculturalists

People who grow crops have a very different attitude towards wildlife from the hunters and herders. Wild animals have a bad and seemingly incurable habit of eating



Daniel Stiles

Wildlife is used in many cultural practices. Here birds are stuffed and made into a head-dress by Samburu boys going through the circumcision ceremony, and ostrich feathers adorn it as well.

and destroying crops. Farmers, not unnaturally, fight back to protect their food supply. They are generally not allowed by the local governments to benefit from wildlife through legal utilisation, so the answer is to get rid of the pests. The clearing of new land for fields also affects wildlife as this destroys habitats. Wildlife have been losing the war on the more watered agricultural lands of eastern Africa.

The first agricultural peoples to reduce wildlife populations to 'controllable' limits were the highly structured states found amongst the Amharic and Tigrinia speakers in highland Ethiopia. From the time of the Axumite empire (300 BC - 1,000 AD) to Emperor Menelik II in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, high population density, deforestation, and lastly firearms, resulted in wildlife annihilation. Internal and overseas trade also stimulated localised extinction of certain species. For example, ivory, rhino horn and leopards skins were being traded overseas through Ethiopian ports as early as the first century AD, as recounted in the *Peryplus of the Erythraean*

*Sea*. This long-term trade, along with increasing population pressures, eradicated these animals from most of the central highlands.

The same fate met most wildlife in highland Rwanda and Burundi, though the highest areas on the volcanoes of Rwanda today provide the last refuge of the mountain gorilla. Until serious tourism and conservation actions were taken, gorillas were rapidly disappearing overseas to zoos, curio shops, or into the cooking pots of the local people. Some lowland gorillas, and quite commonly monkeys, still end up in gourmet meals in eastern Zaire. Colobus skins were very popular in traditional dancing or war attire, and can still be seen in Kenya with people such as the Luo or Kikuyu at 'traditional dancing' events.

As the higher altitude, higher potential agricultural lands have become overpopulated, agriculturalists are now moving into the drier lowland areas, particularly in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. This is putting increased pressure on wildlife, and it is in these ecosystems that most of the game parks and reserves are located. Without habitats, wildlife cannot survive.

### Urban Man

The city dweller is perhaps an even bigger enemy to wildlife than the farmer. The urban rich finance poaching and the landless poor carry out the work. There is no sense of empathy with, or responsibility towards, wildlife in the average modern man burdened with urban concerns of making a living and getting ahead in the world. Often in Africa he also has a farm back home, and he does not want to hear that a herd of elephants has just destroyed his maize crop that he put a good part of his salary into. What happens out in the rural area or bush is of little concern, and if a bit of money can be made from ivory, rhino horn, or skins - why not?

There are now encouraging attempts being made by indigenous African wildlife clubs and conservation organisations to create awareness and respect for wildlife, but without the traditional cultural value and with the increase in human population numbers the future for wildlife in eastern Africa looks precarious.

### Strategies

For the people who were or are hunter-gatherers or pastoralists, an approach stressing the old cultural values could have an impact. These people have to feel that their old ways are not to be denigrated but, rather, are to be respected and supported. For the agriculturalist or urban dweller, however, stronger medicine is needed. If he cannot benefit in some way directly from wildlife, he will think 'why bother keeping the destructive things around?' People who own land on which wildlife live, or invade, need to be able to benefit from these animals. This approach has had rewarding results in Zimbabwe, where landowners can hunt and sell the products from animals. It is in the farmer's interest to manage this resource well and not over-exploit it.

Tourism is a way that the government and, through revenues, the urban population can benefit from wildlife. There needs to be a way of advertising how tourism revenues reach the people, however. Making parks more accessible to the local people can be another way to sensitise them to the aesthetic beauty of their own landscapes and wild animals. Eastern African governments need to develop the policies and programmes that can change rhetoric into actuality. Much has been said recently about allowing people to benefit directly from wildlife, but nothing has actually been done in terms of legislation or implemented policies. Let's hope that the 1990s opens up a new era in wildlife conservation.

(This article was written before the Kenya government announced that from April this year, 25 per cent of the revenue at all park entrances is to be given to rural development throughout the country - see the interview with Richard Leakey in the March/April issue, page 16. Editor.)

Daniel Stiles first came to Kenya in 1971 and again in 1972 as a student assistant on the excavations at Koobi Fora, Lake Turkana. He began living in Kenya in 1977, first as a lecturer at the University of Nairobi and later as a staff member of UNEP. He obtained his PhD in anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, and has conducted research in several countries in Africa, Europe and Asia. He is now an independent writer and consultant.

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## KENYA

The following reports on Kenyan and Tanzanian parks were sent in by David Keith Jones.

### Amboseli National Park

This park remains a crowded but spectacular place. The elephant herds were splendid in January and February with groups of over a hundred animals being commonplace.

### Masai Mara National Reserve

People who know the Mara well have not seen it so wet for very many years. The rain falling here in January and February created conditions wetter even than in the normal rainy seasons of April/May and November/December. Some so-called roads were impassable in a season normally thought of as being the driest time of year. The Mara river was over the bridge near the

Mara River Camp; the access stairways to the ferry boat linking Main and Little Governor's Camps were washed away; and a man was drowned when a car was swept off what is normally an insignificant stream near Kichwa Tembo. Now everyone waits to see if these are merely the usual long rains which started early – or will they continue until June? Certainly the unseasonal rain pointed up the long-standing neglect of roads in the west of the reserve. In particular the route from the Mara Serena Lodge to the Olololo Gate is in a disgraceful condition. Even 4-wheel drive vehicles attempt this so-called road at their peril in wet weather. This tragedy encourages drivers to make their own tracks, ripping up yet more vulnerable muddy ground. A good road through this part of the Mara would help reduce the wear and tear in the Musiara area by giving easy access to an alternative game-viewing area.

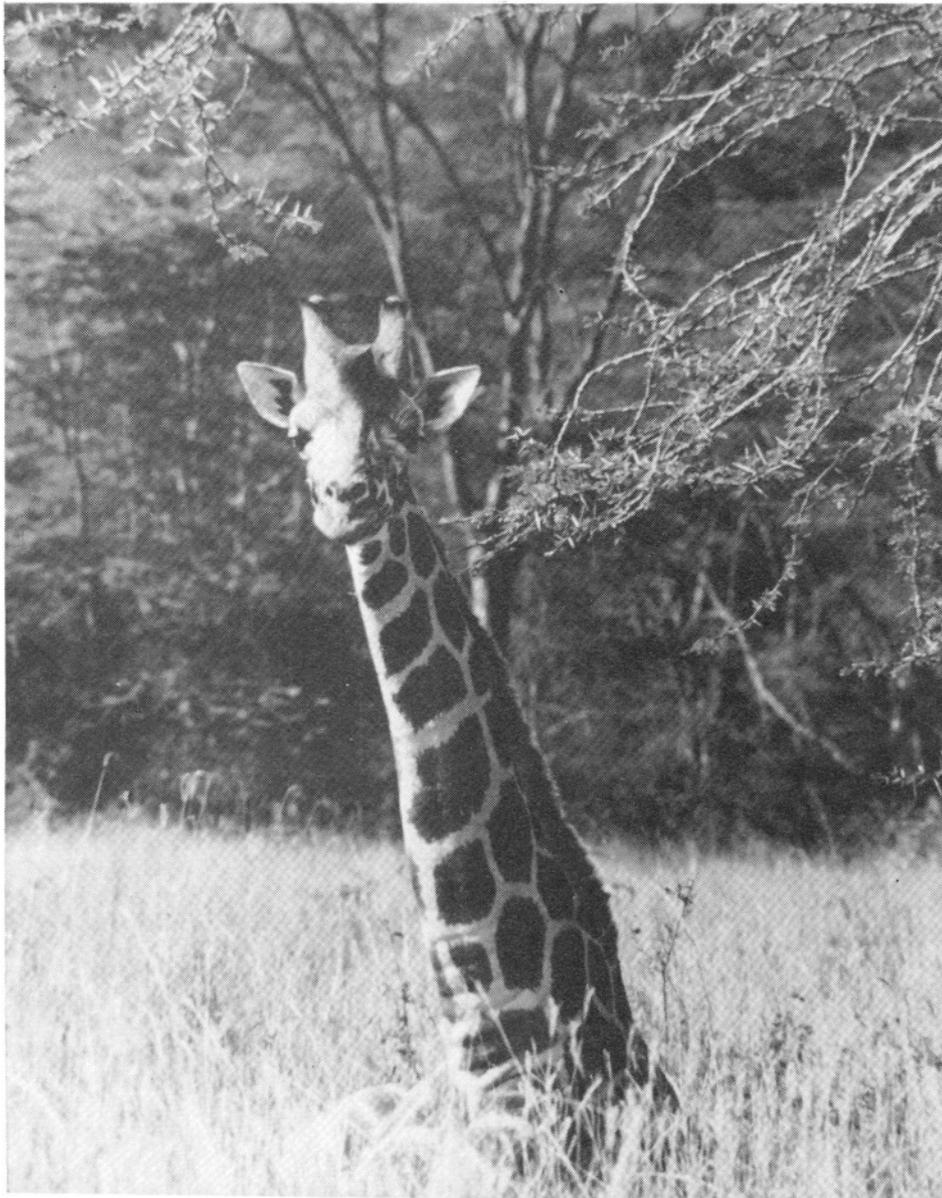
But in spite of the heavy rain visitors to the Masai Mara continue to enjoy wonderful wildlife. The reserve remains East Africa's best sanctuary; its combination of

excellent facilities and consistently reliable game-viewing is unequalled anywhere.

### Samburu National Reserve

Although there were no floods here, on the edge of Kenya's arid north, the grasses were lusher than usual for this time of year. Perhaps because of the better vegetation some animals were more difficult to find; elephants were seen in smaller numbers as were Beisa oryx, Grevy's zebra and reticulated giraffe. But this is normal in Samburu after rain; the animals move out of the relatively small reserve into the surrounding hills whenever there is sufficient rainfall for them to find surface pools. They will be back to drink at the Uaso Nyiro river as soon as the land dries out. In spite of the reduced numbers there was still plenty to see; Samburu's habituated leopards once again delighted many visitors – another example of how, as an area becomes more popular, the animals become more tolerant of cars.

*Reticulated giraffe: less common in Samburu after good rains.*



Johan W. Elzenga

## TANZANIA

Although still not up to the best standards in Kenya most of the lodges and hotels in northern Tanzania continue to improve. The roads are also generally in good condition. The first-class new tarmac road from Arusha to Dodoma has been opened up to the Makuyuni turn off for some time, so the Arusha-Manyara journey is now fast and comfortable.

### Serengeti National Park

Rain, sometimes heavy, in January and February meant that the Serengeti was unusually green in the early part of the year. The mass of wildebeest spent most of February in the eastern end of the Serengeti around Ndutu and to the east of Naabi Hill. As usual the wildebeest in Ngorongoro Crater started calving a week or two before those out on the open plains, but the first calves were being seen in the Naabi Hill area on 20 February.

African hunting dogs, *Lycaon pictus*, were sighted frequently near Naabi Hill at this time; one Japanese TV camera-man had the awe-inspiring task of trying to film the death of a wildebeest which took refuge against the side of his 4-wheel drive vehicle. This pack of dogs are fearless of cars and sometimes walk right up to sniff and mark them. Two females are wearing radio collars, which makes their confidence even more surprising as animals which have been darted often fear vehicles after this (presumably) traumatic experience.

Other predators now seem less shy in the Serengeti, perhaps a result of the definite increase in tourism in northern

Tanzania over the last few years. In a really remote area, where vehicles are rarely seen, much of the game will move away from cars. But as tourism increases and animals become more used to cars they accept vehicles more easily, so close-up viewing and photography become progressively easier. Many cheetah and lion are now more tolerant of their visitors in both the Serengeti and Ngorongoro than they were just a few years ago. But do not expect to have the open plains to yourself any more! Once you have located something which holds your interest for some time other cars will spy you from a vast distance and will descend, vulture like, to share what you have found. On the other hand you will no doubt benefit from the good luck of others and actually see more than if you had the whole of one national park to yourself!

### Ngorongoro Crater

Although the unusually heavy rain in January and February made the crater green there seemed to be smaller herds of wildebeest and common zebra in these months this year. Some local drivers blamed new Maasai manyattas built near the traditional animal tracks; these discourage the wild herds from trekking in and out of the crater.

The crater is still a spectacular experience; but the roads in and out badly need attention. The 'up only' road on the south side of the crater was unusable for some days in February so vehicles had to climb out the way they went in. Perhaps a well sited cable-car is the long term solution for Ngorongoro; this would save enormous

*Newborn wildebeest: the calves in Ngorongoro Crater begin to appear about a fortnight before those on the open plains.*



Clement N. Kariuki

wear and tear on roads, vehicles, drivers (and tourists!) and would be a spectacular and enjoyable way of entering the crater. In many Alpine resorts in Europe cable-cars give access to beautiful mountain regions without creating an eyesore; good design is the key.

### Lake Manyara National Park

The unusual January and February rain raised the lake level and encouraged huge flocks of white pelicans, who gathered here for their annual nesting period. Seen from the escarpment above the lake, the trees of the ground-water forest seemed sprinkled with snow, such were the numbers of nesting birds. African spoonbills and black-headed herons were amongst the other species joining the colony. The park now has extraordinary numbers of olive baboons; some troops have several hundred animals.

## WIDER HORIZONS

### Wildlife profits for Zambian villagers

The government of Zambia through its National Parks and Wildlife Service is involving people at the village level in forceful new steps to conserve and develop the country's rich, but threatened, wildlife resources. The United States Agency for International Development and WWF have officially endorsed a project in Zambia known as ADMADE (Administrative Management Design for Game

Management Areas) with a commitment of financial support to help promote the programme's future success.

Under ADMADE, which is now moving well beyond a successful pilot phase, Zambia's game management areas are being managed by a joint partnership between community village leaders and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

These game management areas surround the national parks and serve as buffer zones against disruptive land-use practices while providing local residents with an opportunity to earn income from the wildlife resources in these areas. Taken together, game management areas and national parks comprise almost 30 per cent of Zambia's total land area.

The conception of ADMADE originated in three Lupande Game Management Areas where new methods of wildlife management and revenue generation were tested in the Lupande Development Project. The results were dramatically successful and achieved a 90 per cent reduction in elephant poaching and an almost total halt to rhino poaching in less than three years. As a result of an overall reduction of wildlife poaching, Lupande has now become one of the most economically successful game management areas, bringing income to the people of this remote region.

The success of ADMADE, which was launched two years ago, was underscored on 14 July 1989 when Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda handed over cheques totalling 2.3 million kwacha (US \$230,000) to nine village chiefs, money their people earned through wildlife and returned for village-level development projects under the ADMADE programme.

The ADMADE principle is to involve local residents in the administration and management of wildlife resources and to support the costs of such local involvement through revenues earned from the sustained-yield uses of wildlife. The administrative design for engaging such local involvement supports and recognises the ruling authorities of both traditional African leadership and political and government officials. Such a partnership is greatly strengthened by the allocation of revenue earnings from wildlife to local residents according to the following formula:

- 1) 40 per cent for the wildlife management costs for that particular game management area and approximately 50 per cent of this is used to employ local residents as village scouts to protect and manage the wildlife resources in their own chiefdom.
- 2) 35 per cent for community development projects to improve the welfare of local residents.
- 3) 15 per cent for the management and needs of the adjacent national park.

4) 10 per cent for the Ministry of Tourism to promote international tourism in Zambia.

The revenues are collected and disbursed by the Wildlife Conservation Revolving Fund of Zambia's National Parks and Wildlife Service. Budgets for both 40 per cent and 35 per cent shares are decided on by local leaders of the community. The wildlife management budget is proposed by a national parks officer, called a unit leader, and is presented to the local leaders who form a Wildlife Management Authority for approval and amendment.

The authority must also resolve other issues affecting the planning and development of wildlife resources in their unit. The 35 per cent share is allocated to village headmen under the chairmanship of their chiefs, who form Wildlife Management Sub-Authorities. Projects for this 35 per cent share have already begun in most game management area units and include rural health centres, completion of a secondary school, construction of primary schools, and improvement of roads.

By training and employing residents as village scouts, a great deal of first-hand experience and knowledge of the countryside is incorporated into the management effort with a high level of commitment and interest. This has been the experience of all the unit leaders, who are national parks officers trained specifically for the ADMADE programme to provide technical supervision to the wildlife management programme in each ADMADE unit. Protectionist values among the residents for their wildlife resources is apparent in ADMADE units. This is helping to build greater co-operation between the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the residents in wildlife areas. With the advent of ADMADE, and the improved working relationship that the parks service now has with village communities, poaching levels are decreasing and greater opportunities for legal, sustained-yield uses of wildlife are now being explored.

Mr Leonard Lubinda, unit leader of Mumdwa states, 'I never realised that village scouts would be so effective at stopping poaching. Their knowledge of their home area is a great advantage to law enforcement.'

Mr Dennis Liseli, Warden of Bangweulu Command and Secretary of the Munyamadzi Wildlife Management Authority adds, 'The poaching problem in Munyamadzi is much reduced because local residents have become possessive of their wildlife and quickly report to their village scouts when poachers enter their chiefdom.'

Currently, small-scale wildlife utilisation schemes are being set up in some of the units to provide low cost meat to local residents from those wildlife species able to support an annual off-take. By-products

such as skins, trophies and specialised meat products will help generate additional revenues and employment for the unit.

The experience gained in the three Lupande Game Management Areas enabled a rigorous testing of methods and field procedures appropriate for village scouts and unit leaders. The result has been an improved standard of wildlife management and a set of field manuals for

ADMADE personnel.

With popular support at the village level for ADMADE, seven more ADMADE units were formalised in 1989. Tanzania and Botswana have both expressed interest in learning about ADMADE, which has now become part of the training syllabus at the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka in Tanzania.

*Dale Lewis, WWF News*



## TROPICAL ICE

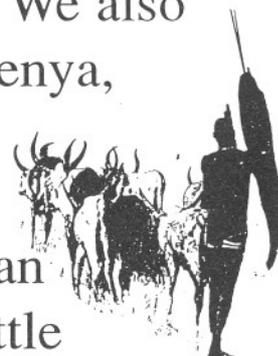
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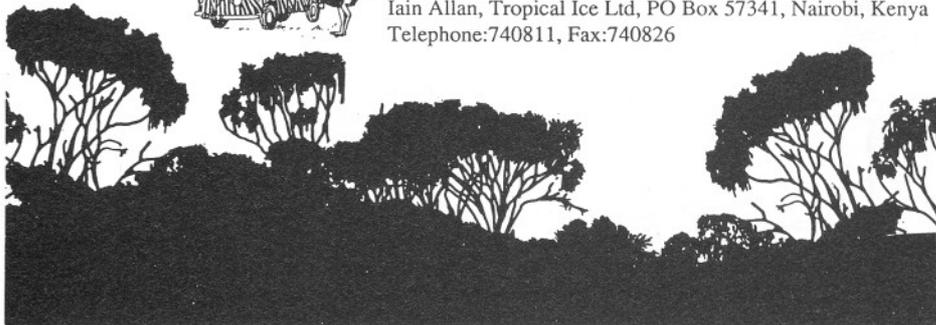
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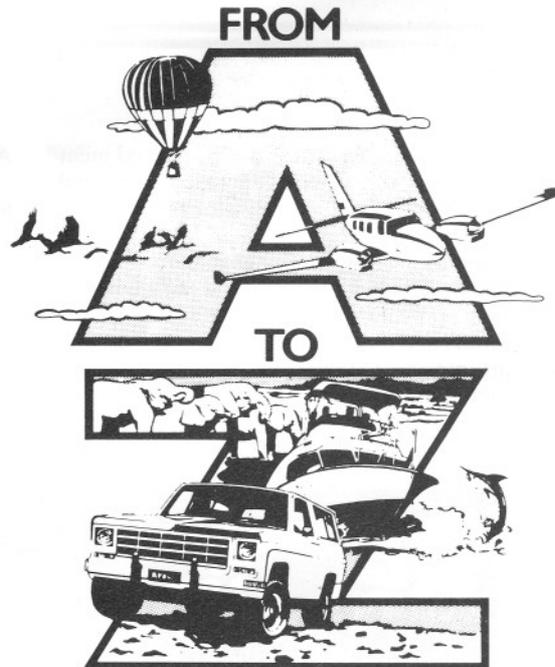


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Charles Ziegler

they have undergone a developmental cycle. The cercariae penetrate through the wet skin of the animal or human host and are carried within the body via the blood circulation to the lungs, from where they migrate to the liver. In the liver the larvae mature into male and female adults. Once mated, the female worms produce numerous eggs. The presence of these eggs in the body elicits an immune response that leads to the main clinical disease, which is characterised by an enlarged liver and spleen. Most of the worm pairs localise in the veins of the intestines (intestinal bilharzia) or urinary bladder (urinary bilharzia). Some eggs are passed out through the faeces or urine and the damage to tissue that results during their passage leads to bloody faeces or urine. When the eggs come into contact with fresh water they hatch to release first stage larvae (miracidia), which seek and penetrate a vector snail in which they undergo further development to become cercariae and so continue the life cycle.

In many developing countries, including Kenya, agriculture and human settlement are rapidly encroaching on well-defined wildlife habitats. This has led to a growing conflict between human activity and wildlife conservation. In many cases wildlife has been exterminated or excluded by fencing, digging game moats, etc, but monkeys have adapted to the changing habitat. They raid crops from the farms and sleep in trees along watercourses where, in addition to drinking water that may be contaminated by humans, they risk contaminating the water if they themselves get infected.

At the Institute of Primate Research, our interest has been to study the current trend of bilharzia infection in monkeys, particularly in areas where the disease is common in people.

In a human population the prevalence of infection is directly related to the activities people perform in and around infected water bodies. The longer or more frequent the activity, the higher the chances of being infected. Similarly, with monkeys, infection will clearly depend on how much activity takes place at the water contact sites. Little knowledge is available on baboon water contact, and observations on such activities are clearly necessary to determine the most likely route(s) of infection (which may include drinking, wading across rivers, playing in water, etc).

In order to gain information on monkey water contact activity from as many people as possible, I have prepared a questionnaire addressed to anybody who may have encountered and observed monkeys by the water. Any response to this questionnaire would be greatly appreciated. ¶

*A loose copy of the questionnaire is included for all members living in East Africa. Any other members who think they have information that would help Dr Muchemi should write to him at the Schistosomiasis Project, Institute of Primate Research, P.O. Box 24481, Karen, Nairobi, Kenya.*

# Monkeys suffer from bilharzia too

by Gerald Muchemi

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***A Kenyan research scientist needs information from Society members who have watched the behaviour of monkeys in and around water.***

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In the evolutionary tree, monkeys and apes are the closest relatives of man since they belong to the same taxonomical order. For this reason they share a variety of common 'human' ailments.

Researchers in Africa, Asia and South America have found natural infections of bilharzia (scientifically referred to as schistosomiasis) in a variety of monkey species. Bilharzia is a debilitating water-

borne disease of tremendous importance in tropical and sub-tropical countries throughout the world. According to recent World Health Organisation estimates, about 200 million people suffer from the disease and 600 million more are at risk as they perform their daily chores in and around water bodies.

In Kenya, bilharzia affects about two million people and the incidence is on the increase as more water areas are made available through man-made dams and irrigation schemes.

Bilharzia worms were first discovered from the intestinal veins of an Egyptian in Cairo in 1851 by Theodor Bilharz, a young German pathologist. Man and animals acquire the infection through contact with water containing the infective larvae (cercariae). These parasite stages are derived from freshwater snails hosts (specific to that particular disease) in which

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# LETTERS

## From Dr Henk Beentje, Castricum, The Netherlands

In the January/February 1989 issue of *Swara*, my article on the rare trees of Kenya pinpointed several patches of forest in danger of destruction. Pangani Rocks, in Kilifi District, was one of these patches, and I stated that it was being mined by Linotic Floors Company.

I have since discovered this statement is wrong. Linotic Floors Company gave up quarrying at Pangani years ago; the true culprit at Pangani Rocks is the Athi River Mining Company. In fact, this company is in the process of requesting permission to build a lime processing factory between Pangani Rocks and Kaya Kambe. None of the forest patches highlighted in my article are yet safe; in fact, Pangani is *still* being destroyed, day by day. At least seven rare tree species are known to occur here. If no action is taken immediately, the Athi River Mining Company will destroy part of Kenya's natural heritage — forever.

## From Dr S. Reuben Shanthikumar, Toronto, Canada

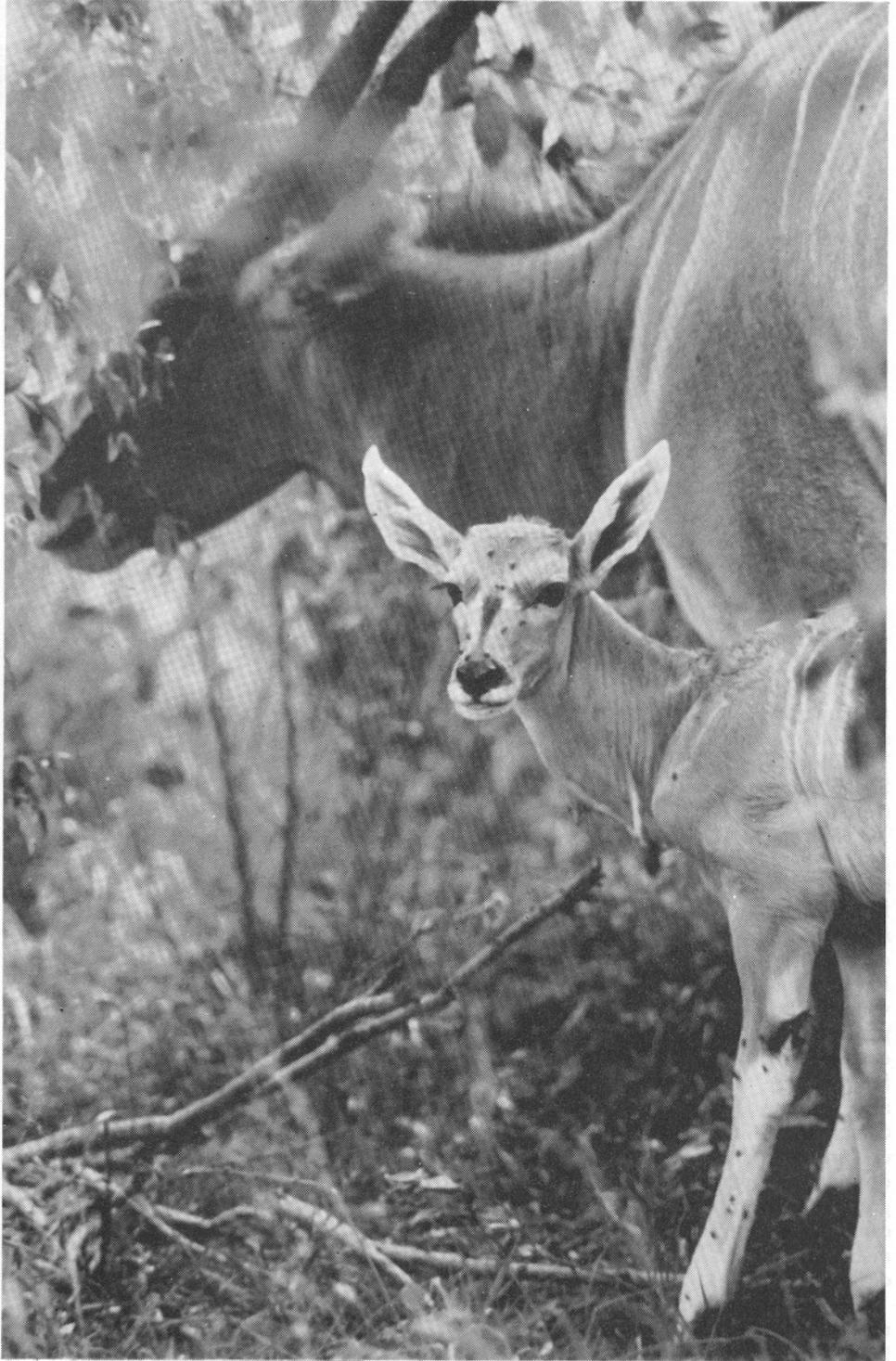
I have been a member of the East African Wild Life Society for some years now. As a veterinary surgeon keenly interested, and with experience, in wildlife work, I have watched with admiration the untiring efforts of the East African Wild Life Society and many people around the world to conserve wildlife, especially in developing countries.

But as land for conservation in developing countries is lost to agriculture and livestock development, and wild animals become more and more crowded into smaller conservation areas, animal diseases as a threat to wildlife conservation are bound to become more and more important.

One has only to look back a few decades to see how rinderpest (a virus disease of cattle) devastated wildlife populations in Africa to realise the seriousness of animal disease as a threat to wildlife conservation. We can do all the conservation we want to, but if a disease comes and wipes out the last remaining population of an animal, then we will be left with nothing!

Since animal diseases are definitely going to play a vital role in the survival of several species of wildlife in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and other parts of the developing world, I would like to call upon the international community to take action *now*; before we reach the critical stage.

As a first step, I would like to call upon the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), to set up wildlife veterinary units within their organisations *permanently*, to be manned by qualified veterinarians who specialise in wildlife disease, wildlife capture and other veterinary aspects of wildlife conservation. These



Johan W. Eitenga

*Eland are highly susceptible to rinderpest.*

wildlife veterinary units manned by qualified wildlife veterinarians would then be responsible for the veterinary aspects of wildlife conservation efforts around the world. And they would be available to any country or organisation which might need their services to control a disease outbreak, to do capture work or attend to other veterinary matters.

In this respect, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the late Professor Bernard Grzimek (of the Serengeti Research Institute/Frankfurt Zoo), a great veterinarian and ecologist, who was

probably one of the very first veterinarians to get involved in wildlife conservation in Africa. His films of the Serengeti and his encyclopaedias bear witness to his great service to wildlife conservation.

I do hope that WWF and FAO will respond to the dangers I have outlined as early as possible. Then, those of us who really care about the future of our wonderful wildlife heritage can have some peace of mind that one more hurdle towards wildlife conservation has been jumped. ♪

# Birds of the Balcad Nature Reserve

by Christa Schels

*Given official protection only a few years ago, the dry bush, forest and waters of this Somali reserve are home to an impressive variety of birds.*

The Balcad Nature Reserve is managed by the Somali Ecological Society (SES), a voluntary, local organisation, founded in 1983 and actively concerned with the preservation of natural habitats in Somalia and with increasing national conservation awareness. The reserve covers an area of some 190 hectares and consists of a remnant patch of riverine forest with its surrounding hinterland of scrub savannah. The site is along the eastern bank of the Shebelle river, about half an hour by car from the capital city of Mogadishu.

The reserve was first developed in 1985 as a 42-hectare stretch of land, which has since been successfully guarded and kept free from land use pressures such as burning, cutting and grazing. The area has been declared a Forestry, Range and Wildlife Reserve by the National Range Agency, which is also providing reserve guards. The present, extended boundary was officially declared on 20 April 1987 when the Balcad Field Centre at the reserve entrance was also formally acquired. The field centre comprises a little museum and library, cooking and sanitary facilities as well as dormitories, and can be used by interested groups for overnight stays. There is also a camping and picnic site just outside the main gate and next to the river in the shade of large mango trees.

With the recent expansion of the reserve, the appointment of wardens and the establishment of a work-force, Balcad Nature Reserve is developing into a significant operation for Somalia. Since being protected, the forest has shown considerable signs of recovery and an increase in wildlife numbers and bird species has been recorded.

The Balcad Nature Reserve is situated on the main road leading north to the towns of Jowhar and Beled Weyn. Twenty-nine kilometres from the outskirts of Mogadishu and shortly before one reaches the bridge over the Shebelle River and Balcad town, there is a signpost on the left side of the road marking the way to the entrance of the reserve. After driving past farm buildings and the field centre and entering through a

heavy metal gate, the road leads along the eastern fence with dense bush on the left-hand side. Birds to be seen in the trees and bushes around there are, amongst others, red-billed and white-headed buffalo weavers, common bulbuls and variable sunbirds. Little bee-eaters and carmine bee-eaters are watching from the barbed wire fence. Further down the track, where the bush gives way to grassy ground, superb starlings and Fischer's starlings feed in small flocks. Black-faced sandgrouse, usually in pairs, yellow-necked spurfowl and crested francolin in small family parties are to be seen in the open bush and grassland before reaching the entrance to the river area. Also in the drier bush of the sand dune area we have four species of bustard: Hartlaub's, black-bellied, buff-crested and white-bellied.

Access to the forest area along the river is only allowed on foot; vehicles should be left at the gate next to the warden's hut. The way west towards the bend of the river leads through the typical flora of acacia bush and scrub savannah of the river flood plain and sand dune area. Here we find three species of hornbills – Von der Decken's, red-billed and grey – ring-necked dove and mourning dove, red-billed firefinch and cut-throat, chestnut-bellied kingfisher, white-browed coucal, Richard's pipit and golden pipit, and little swift and palm swift, and we can hear the liquid call of the black-headed oriole and the far-carrying cry of the African fish eagle. Masked weavers and golden weavers build their colonial nests, preferably near the water's edge. Black-headed herons are flying over and, soaring in the sky, the majestic martial eagle, bateleur and black-chested snake eagle are to be seen as well as flocks of marabou storks. A rare sight – because of its shy and skulking habits – is the yellow-bill or green coucal.

From September to March, the northern winter months, a number of Palearctic migrants are staying in or just passing through the nature reserve. Some of the more common ones are the Eurasian cuckoo, roller and swallow; the nightin-

gale, more often heard than seen; several species of wheatear; and the spotted flycatcher as well as three species of wagtail: white, grey, and yellow. Another typical passage migrant is the red-backed shrike, seen perched on top of a low bush or on the lower branches of a tree, from where it drops on to its prey of large insects. On the river banks, the common sandpiper bobs along singly or in pairs, probing the mud for food.

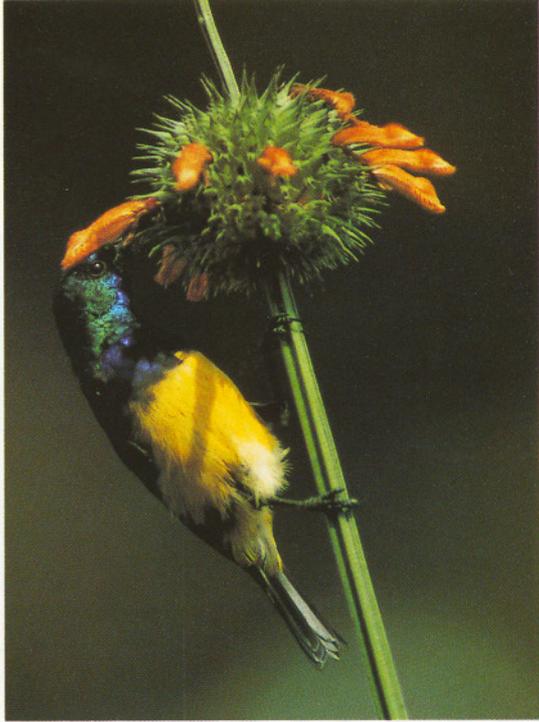
The floral display in the riverine forest is selective. Especially dramatic are the large old degaan and fig trees with liana vines hanging from their upper branches. The nature trail around this forest and its various outlooks over the river are the most promising sites for bird-watching. In the forest we find shikra and gabar goshawk, the Zanzibar sombre greenbul and the northern brownbul. Not to be overlooked is the noisy flock of scaly babblers and the loud, piping call of the sulphur-breasted bush shrike. The graceful play of the, nevertheless pugnacious, paradise flycatcher is beautiful to watch.

Getting to the river bank, the spectacular Goliath heron is a common sight. The green-backed heron, sometimes with its young, can be observed in the lower branches and exposed roots of overhanging trees. Sitting on top of these branches is the malachite kingfisher, intensely watching the water flow by below. One may flush a water thicknee and, if very lucky, even the mainly nocturnal night heron. Frequently present are a pair of Egyptian geese, sacred ibises and plenty of hadada; often a flock of white-faced whistling ducks and a solitary pied kingfisher hovering over the water.

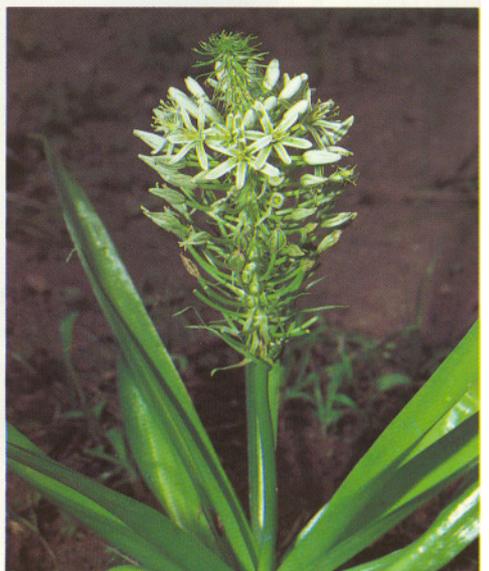
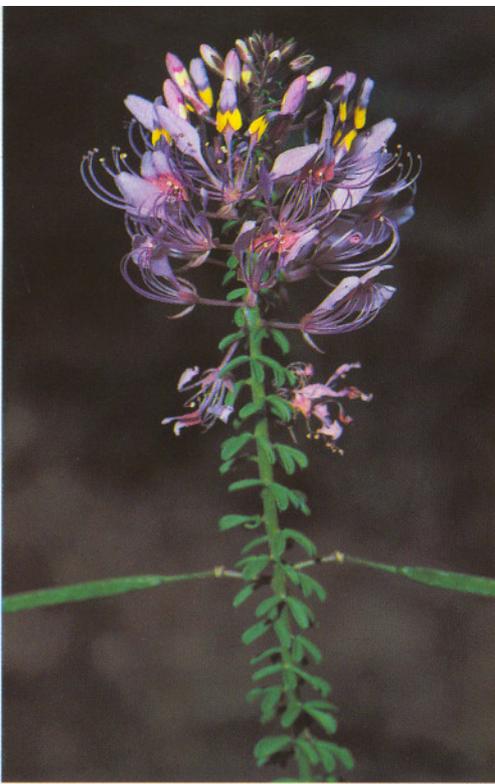
The close to 200 species so far recorded within Balcad Nature Reserve are compiled in the checklist published by the Somali Ecological Society. 

*Clockwise from top left: chestnut-bellied kingfisher; yellow-necked spurfowl; variable sunbird; martial eagle; paradise flycatcher; and white-browed coucal.*

All photos by Dave Richards



*Clockwise from top, far right: Thunbergia guerikiana, Crinum papillosum, Thunbergia holstii, Ornithogalum donaldsonii, Gloriosa superba (yellow form), Scadoxus multiflorus, Hibiscus vitifolius, and Cleome parvipetala.*



# A panoply of flowers

by Michael Blundell

**Often rather grey and dry, Tsavo West National Park was this January covered in a spectacular profusion of wild flowers.**

For New Year 1990 we visited Tsavo West National Park and stayed at the Kitani Safari Lodge for three nights. I have known the park for 40 years and except possibly at the end of 1976 I have never seen such a heavy grass and ground cover. In the north and north-east area of the park the grass was two to three feet high and in the southern portion, where normally rainfall is low and the soil poor with much lava and quartz, the ground cover, both herbs and shrubs, was almost complete. As a result there was very little game to be seen because the water-holes were full and good feed to be had everywhere.

The real glory of the park was the immense carpet of flowers. Never have I seen them in such profusion. Near the Tsavo and Lumi rivers were acres and acres of the pink and purple spiked *Ocimum fischeri* with individual spikes up to eight inches in height. Along the road from Mzima Springs to Kitani were hundreds of yards of *Triumfetta flavescens* with its long, bright-yellow sprays mingled with clumps of the spectacular *Erythroclamys spectabilis* with long purple spikes, far longer and brighter here than across the park near Ngulia Mountain.

Three beautiful blue flowers stood out amongst all the others. *Pentanisia ouranogyne*, a low growing herbaceous plant with flowers of an incredibly pure cerulean blue, likes to grow on sandy soils at the edge of roads where extra run off from the rain can nourish it in semi-arid areas. It must remind visitors from Europe of the garden verbenas. I have grown this plant in my Nairobi garden, but after two years it died out; the climate is probably too cold for it with too much rain. It might thrive in a prepared, sandy, well-drained

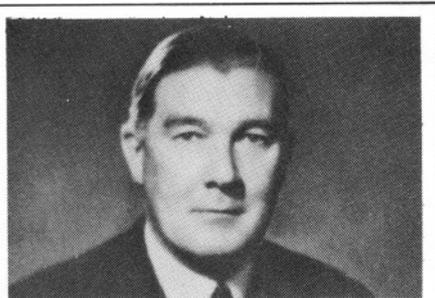
position, perhaps planted in shaley soil. It is worth a trial because of its remarkable colour. The equally blue *Commelina petersii* was seen everywhere – almost continuous along many roadsides and around the Ngulia Bandas was its relative *C. benghalensis*. Normally it is rather unobtrusive but on this occasion it was prominent everywhere. The third outstanding display of blue was provided by *Aneilima petersii* – pale compared with its cousin *Commelina*, but two good clumps of its delightfully fairy-like flowers protruded above the grass.

In this area and down the side of the River Lumi were great drifts of the white *Agathisanthemum bojeri*, three to four feet tall above patches of the delicate *Cleome parvipetala* interspersed with its cousin *Gynandropsis gynandra*. In all this area grey leaved and grey-green or grey-white bushes were prominent – an adaptation to the

normal rather arid climate. Prominent was *Ecobolium amplexicaule* with its unusual grey, lime-green triangular-looking flowers. *Hibiscus cannabinus* was also prominent, as was the incredibly lovely rose-pink coloured *Hibiscus* with long often drooping petals; this is often seen in Tsavo West but is rare elsewhere and has not as yet been given a name, merely classified as Species D in Agnew's *Upland Kenya Wild Flowers* (UKWF).

There were two large patches, up to an acre in size, of a fine yellow *Hibiscus*, without the maroon patch of *H. cannabinus*, which reminded me of *H. ludwigii*, but we were unable to get close enough for a positive identification. Another unusually prolific plant was *Ornithogalum donaldsonii*. Normally this is in small numbers and rather unusual, but this year there were clumps all over the place up to a dozen in number. This also applied to *Cistanche tubulosa*, the magnificent pyramidal shaped parasite coloured like a yellow hyacinth with enormous corollas. It sprang up all along the road past the Kitani bandas almost overnight, pushing through the soil in less than 36 hours to full maturity.

Over towards Ngulia, there was a marked change, less low growing herbs and more climbing and shrub-like plants. I have never seen *Thunbergia guerkeana* in such vigorous growth; in one place it had covered an *Acacia tortilis*, 18 feet high, which was speckled with the long white tubular flowers with their upturned bucket-like ends almost to ground level – a remarkable sight. *Tylosema fassoglense* and *Grewia bicolor* were everywhere in full flower at Chemu and on the climb up to the Ngulia Lodge. On both sides of Ngulia



Sir Michael Blundell arrived in Kenya in 1925 and farmed for 50 years in Solai and Subukia. From 1955 to 1962 he was Minister for Agriculture in the Kenya government. He has also had a varied business career, serving as Chairman of East African Breweries and Director of Barclays Bank Kenya.

A keen gardener, he has a fine garden on the outskirts of Nairobi, and is the author of *Collins Guide to the Wild Flowers of East Africa*.

## ... flowers

Mountain were great numbers of *Gloriosa superba* in its lovely yellow form: on the western side soft primrose yellow and on the east a deeper daffodil shade.

The weather was probably too wet for many *Ipomoea*. There is a magnificent one with a deep frilled corolla, *I. kituensis*, on the road down to the Ngulia Lodge, but it was not in flower. I have grown cuttings in my garden but after three years they have yet to flower. Possibly Nairobi is too cold for it, though *I. spathulata* has flowered well. One other white flower in great profusion was a *Zornia* which I took to be *Z. setasa* ssp. *obovata*, which in places peeped out from almost every large shrub.

The roadsides everywhere from Chemu to Ngulia were gay with the yellow and brown *Crotalaria laburnifolia* and just one or two *C. axillaris* at the top of the road to Ngulia Lodge. Normally they give a great display but on this occasion they were few and far between. Along the lower road in Rhino Valley there are often displays of *Sesamum* and the upstanding *Cycnium volkensii*, but none were in flower as also with *Thunbergia holstii*, which covers the area below the mountain, but which was only sparsely in flower.

*Asytasia charmian* and the delicate soft pink of *Indigofera volkensii* were nestling along the side of the roads mainly as individual plants, and in Rhino Valley *Vigna praecox*, with its mauve flowers

### Some of the species seen in two short days

*Merremia ampelophylla*, *Justicia flava*, *Triumfetta flavescens*, *T. brachyceras*, *Sida cordifolia*, *Hibiscus cannabinus*, *H. flavifolius*, *H. sp. D.* (UKWF), *Pavonia gallaensis*, *P. glechomifolia*, *Abutilon mauritianum*, *Mollugo nudicaulis*, *Chascanum hildebrandtii*, *Barleria submollis*, *Ocimum fischeri*, *Cleome parvipetala*, *Gynandropsis gynandra*, *Blepharis linariifolia*, *Pentanisia ouranogyne*, *Pentas parvifolia*, *Asytasia charmian*, *A. guttata*, *Ecbolium amplexicaule*, *Cayusea abyssinica*, *Striga latericea*, *Zornia setasa* ssp. *obovata*, *Heliotropium steudneri*, *Astipomoea lachnosperma*, *Ipomoea kituensis*, *I. spathulata*, *I. hildebrandtii* ssp. *hildebrandtii*, *Thunbergia guerkiana*, *T. alata* (white and orange forms), *Delonix elata*, *Polygala abyssinica*, *Sericocomopsis pallida*, *Gardenia volkensii*, *Cistanche tubulosa*, *Ornithogalum donaldsonii*, *Dissotis* sp., *Tribulus cistoides*, *Crossandra stenostachya*, *C. subacaulis*, *Centemopsis kirkii*, *Agathisanthemum bojeri*, *Leucas* sp., *Commelina petersii*, *C. benghalensis*, *Triaspis niedenzuiana*, *Erythrochlamys spectabilis*, *Tylosema fassoglense*, *Indigofera volkensii*, *Vigna praecox*, *Gloriosa superba* (yellow form), *Grewia bicolor*, *Crotalaria laburnifolia*, *C. axillaris*, *Aneilima petersii*.

tinged with a touch of yellow, grew up to eight feet in height with magnificent solitary flowers on pedicels 12 inches long. This is another lovely blue-mauve addition to the bush. We only saw one *Gardenia volkensii*, an enormous bush in full flower on a hillside half a mile away.

The last outstanding flower, which I hesitate to record because of its tongue twisting name, was *Triaspis niedenzuiana*. All down the lava below Chemu it was in stupendous growth, the individual flowers in the corymbs far larger than usual and the corymbs, like arched sprays white and sometimes pinkish in colour, unusually long.

We were able to identify more than 90 per cent of the species we saw from *Collins Guide to the Wild Flowers of East Africa* and to anyone with a slight botanical training, *Upland Kenya Wild Flowers* would be invaluable. It does seem to me that the interest and beauty of this park, especially when conditions disperse the animal life, would be enormously increased if visitors were able to appreciate the wonderful flora more than they do today. I wonder whether tour operators could be advised to run short recognition courses for their drivers with the idea of drawing attention to the extraordinary wealth of flowering herbs, shrubs and trees in this vast park. ♣

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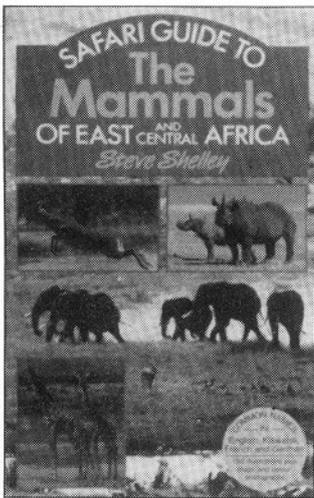
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# BOOK REVIEWS



## Safari Guide to the Mammals of East and Central Africa

Steve Shelley

Macmillan, London, 1989, Ksh 205.

A large amount of information has been assembled within the pages of this book. In addition to descriptions of more than 130 species of mammals there are also chapters on wildlife habitats, conservation and photography. Other sections deal with the major parks and reserves, the classification of mammals, how to go on safari and how to find animals. There are maps, charts, photographs and a checklist of the mammals.

In general the writing is concise and accurate. For example, Amboseli National Park is described perfectly in just over six lines of text. Looking at the broader subjects, the chapter on conservation in East Africa is excellent, and indicates a deep and serious interest on the part of the author.

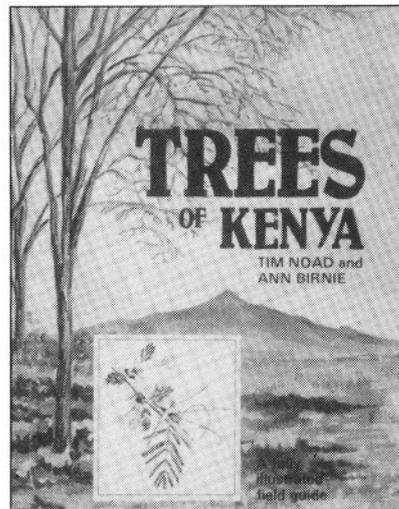
Similarly, the wildlife photography chapter is well laid out and contains much sound, practical advice which the budding photographer would do well to read, especially the sections headed 'Equipment' and 'Practical tips'. There is an error or misprint on page 26, sub-section 'Exposure and film', line 3 where the phrase '200th of a second or less' should read '200th of a second or more'.

More than half the book is taken up with descriptions and sketches of the various mammals. In most cases each species has a page to itself and there are notes on the animal's height, weight, spoor, distribution, habits and preferred habitat. Each page is headed with the mammal's family, generic and specific names. Common names are given in Kiswahili, English, French and German. In some cases the figures given for 'typical weight' may be open to question. For instance I find it hard to believe that a typical wildebeest outweighs a typical bongo by a margin of 170 lbs! Furthermore, a typical mature bushbuck would surely weigh more than 75 lbs. Other authorities quote 130-160 lbs.

The above points are of course relatively minor when set against the consider-

able quantity of accurate information which is available in this book. More important questions which have to be addressed are: Have the author and publisher tried to cram too much material into too small a book? Would a slightly thicker format have been better, with larger print, larger scale maps, and perhaps more colour plates? Alternatively, would the lay-outs have been more attractive if Zambia and Malawi had been covered in a separate volume? The answer to these questions is probably yes. On the other hand, in the competitive world of guidebook publishing, practicalities such as printing cost and selling price obviously play a big role. Taking such factors into account *The Mammals of East and Central Africa* is good value for money. It also reflects credit on the author, who must have put a lot of time and effort into this project.

J.M. Cheffings



## Trees of Kenya

Tim Noad & Ann Birnie

Nairobi, 1989, Ksh 280.

This book is the first fairly comprehensive account to attempt to cover several exotic and indigenous trees in one volume, with indications of their origins or where they are likely to be found in the field. It is a field guide, which is good to have for those interested in knowing trees by their correct names. In 150 or so pages of text, with an equal number of pages containing line drawings, plant names are given with their identifying characteristics as well as notes on locality and known uses. The book goes beyond the botanical representation of name, family name, short description (which one usually encounters in botanical works) to include important information on ethnobotany — the cultural use which people make of the plants around them. Most plants growing near a community of people have been used in various forms, and it is by trial and error that man over the centuries has learnt to distinguish between the useful and harmful flora around him. Most ethnobotanical information even today remains with the people in the rural

areas and unless the information is made use of, it will unfortunately die away with the culture that engendered it.

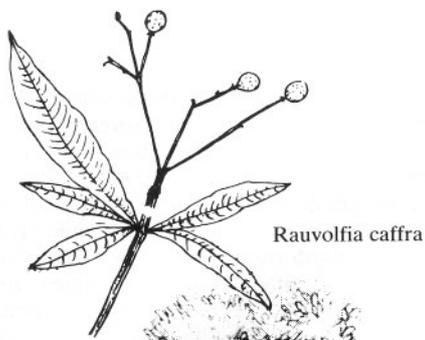
The reader is taken through an explanation of the names as they appear in the text by family, genus and species. In the introduction the authors have attempted to explain why the use of common names of plants can sometimes be confusing. The world over, botanical names have been Latinised with the aim of achieving a universal language of taxonomic botany.

The descriptions presented are concise, avoid technical detail, and emphasise those characteristics that are easily observable — an attribute essential for a field guide. The sequence begins with a general description, then a more detailed description of the bark, leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds. The characteristics highlighted are those fairly universal to the species, and ones that enable quick recognition in the field. The families are arranged in alphabetical order, making the text easier to follow, but the professional who might have liked to see evolutionary affinities exhibited among the various groups stands to be disappointed.

A quick glance at the species represented shows that one-third of the book covers exotic species growing around Nairobi, and the rest are indigenous species spread all over the country. For a book to be called *Trees of Kenya*, it should have covered a substantial percentage of the species therein. This one covers about 11 per cent. Maybe the title more correctly should have been 'Common Trees Around Nairobi', with a few selected from other localities in Kenya.

The information in the practical notes and on the establishment of seedlings and modes of planting is useful especially for the indigenous species because of the current rate at which they are being destroyed. Sources of seeds for the afforestation programme need to be identified, and this is a step in helping the tree planting exercise nation-wide. The details here also include soil preferences. The information on growth rates mainly concentrates on the exotics, and this, as has unfortunately happened in other circles, may perpetuate the erroneous belief that indigenous trees are 'slow growing and take long to reach maturity'. The challenge to those promoting afforestation and agroforestry is to conduct research which will highlight those indigenous species that are fast growing, and so help to dispel this long-standing myth.

A considerable task has been accomplished in preparing the line drawings of the finer structures of leaves, flowers, fruits and even seeds. The inclusion of diagrams of the whole tree is also an extra aid in identifying the species. The job is commendable, and thanks to Ann's expertise, the results have come out very well indeed. The line drawings and the descriptions follow one another in gratifying sequence, being on opposite pages.



Rauvolfia caffra



The authors should have been more generous with colour plates. Most people are more comfortable identifying the trees from a distance, just by the colour of their flowers, but this text will compel the user to get closer and even detach a specimen to compare with the descriptions and the line drawings. The colour plates of the sausage tree and the Nandi flame really serve to illustrate the enormous difference a colour picture makes when it comes to identification of the trees, but then the cost of production becomes prohibitive.

This text treats the family Leguminosae (the legumes or bean family) as one family with three distinct sub-families. However, the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature has given provision for the recognition of the three sub-families as families. This has been adopted in tropical East Africa where the groups are fairly well represented. So Mimosoideae, Papilionoideae and Caesalpinioideae can also be treated as Mimosaceae, Papilionaceae and Caesalpinaceae respectively, thus elevating them to the ranks of families.

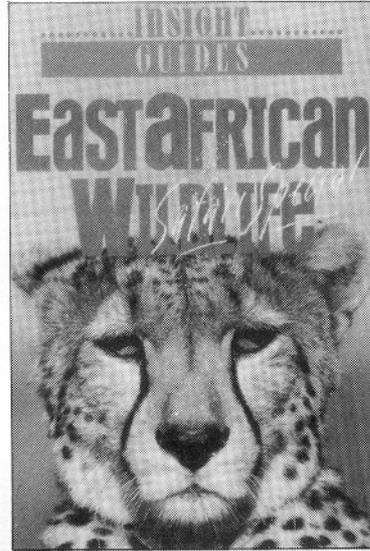
More attention has been given to some common species of acacias, where detailed distinguishing features are presented in a tabular form. This is especially helpful because acacias are usually a frustrating group to try and identify without the fruits and flowers.

A few diagrams of leaf structures and a longitudinal section of a generalised flower together with a short glossary are given. The glossary should have been longer. An exhaustive 16-page index with both common and botanical names appears at the end, together with a selected list of publications for further reading on the subject.

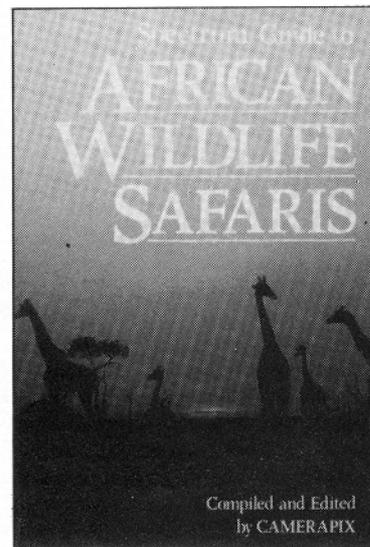
I was, however, disappointed with the use of Kikuyu names, and this stands out throughout the text as a glaring mistake. The names have the same errors as contained in Dale and Greenway's 1961 *Kenya Trees and Shrubs*. For instance, the letters S,L,Z, are commonly used, but they are not part of the Gikuyu alphabet! Other such errors are Mueri instead of Muiri

(*Prunus africanum*) and Mukio for Mukey (Dombeya spp.). Surely the Mugumo (*Ficus natalensis*) should not have been given as Mugumu. A quick cross check with a person well versed in the language and with some botanical knowledge would have eliminated such glaring errors. Maybe it is as well that the use of other local languages was kept to a minimum.

Ndegwa wa Ndiang'ui



**Insight Guides: East African Wildlife**  
Geoffrey Eu and Deborah Appleton (eds)  
APA Publications, Singapore, 1989,  
Ksh 310.



**Spectrum Guide to African Wildlife Safaris**  
Camerapix, Nairobi, 1989, Ksh 375.

These two books are similar: both are recent additions to a series of guidebooks; the pages are the same size, 15 x 22 cm, and there are over 300 in each; externally, both have glossy soft-back covers bearing a wildlife photograph; internally, most of the pages are devoted to information on wildlife, national parks and reserves and other notable wildlife areas, with short sections on other topics (both include local archaeology, vegetation and habitats, a list of mammals and information for travellers). Both books are liberally illustrated with colour photographs, some spread on

to two pages.

The geographical coverage of both books is Eastern Africa, despite their titles. Both cover Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda (usually collectively termed 'East Africa'), Ethiopia and Rwanda. The Spectrum guide, which is slightly shorter, includes also Zambia, Malawi, Burundi and Somalia, though the latter two are scarcely mentioned. The Insight guide contains a little information on Eastern Zaire. The inclusion of Ethiopia is due mainly to accounts in both books from Dr Chris Hillman.

Clear acknowledgements are made to members of 'the dream team' of the Insight guide for their specific contributions. This is not done for the members of the editorial board of the Spectrum guide. Both have knowledgeable and distinguished members, many of whose names and institutions tend to lend authenticity to the content, whether it is attributable to them or not.

Wildlife is the subject of nearly half the Spectrum guide and of one-fifth of the other. For mammals, the Spectrum guide says more about their distribution and covers a greater number of species, while the Insight guide describes their behaviour in more detail. Both have short sections on birds, reptiles and fish (the latter entitled 'Marine Mammals' in the Insight guide!). The Spectrum guide includes some invertebrates: insects and marine shells, the latter written by an avid shell collector, a chapter that conservationists might prefer omitted.

National parks, national reserves and other wildlife areas take up a third of the Insight guide but under one-tenth of the other. The former deals with more parks and in greater detail, while the Spectrum book gives information on accommodation, including campsites. For visiting the chimpanzees in Tanzania, for example, the Insight guide tells one how to reach two national parks, each by boat, but not where one can spend the night, while the Spectrum guide mentions only one of these parks, does not state how to reach it, but does mention 'crude camping facilities at the park's research centre'. Both guides give a map of each country, showing the position of the national parks and some national reserves. The Insight guide shows the main roads as well and gives additional maps on a different scale of the main parks. There is no indication of altitude in the maps of either book.

Wildlife near the beginning, national parks near the end of each guide. The sandwich filling differs. Here the Insight guide is occupied mainly with accounts of eight customised safaris, not the 'conveyor-belt tours of the "today Naivasha, tomorrow the coast" variety'. Compelling descriptions are given of safaris on horseback and by camel, freshwater and deep sea fishing, climbing, a boat and foot safari in the Tana River delta, a one-day excursion to Rusinga Island on Lake Victoria for more fishing, and a balloon ride. Contact addresses are given so that the reader can initiate such a holiday for himself. There is no information about hunting safaris. The Insight guide also contains short sections on 'Wildlife and African Culture', 'A Vast and

## ... books

Varied Land', a history of safaris themselves and a new topic, 'Africa at the Movies', which is a history of the main films made in this part of Africa.

The Spectrum guide fills its middle pages with eight 'Specialist Articles': three on Ethiopia, two on photography, the one already mentioned on mollusc shells, 'Mountain Gorilla' and 'Medicine on Safari'. No reasons are given for the choice of these topics. The articles on photography and medicine are of considerable practical value to visitors, as is one entitled

'Ethiopia: Hunting and Fishing Facts', whose first paragraph summarises the hunting situation in the other countries covered by the book except Somalia. This book also contains short sections on the geological history and climate of the region.

Both books contain some information for travellers. The Insight guide has notes for each of the six countries covered, including Eastern Zaire, on how to get there by air and road, local transport, visas and passports, money, health, climate, language and hotels. This information is most practical. For example on Ethiopia: 'The most efficient way to see the country is to make your arrangements through the

NTO, which is the only official tourist travel agent in Ethiopia. They can do everything . . .' That address and telephone and telex numbers are given in both books, but only the Insight guide explains their importance. For some countries the Insight guide gives additional information, such as on electricity voltage, time, culture, economy and industry. The Spectrum guide confines itself to a list of the addresses and telephone and telex numbers of tour operators, hotels, conservation organisations and airlines in five of the nine countries the book deals with.

Inconsistencies and other carelessness in preparation are more evident in the Spectrum guide, where even the first words of the first paragraph misquote the book title. Another instance concerns the number of national parks in Tanzania: nine are drawn on the map, the number ten is given on page 262 and 11 are listed in 'Appendix III National Park List'; corresponding figures for Malawi are five, six and four. The four-page table of 'What to See and Where' is good in concept but the categories are poorly worded. Fancy indicating that in Tsavo (or anywhere for that matter) the aardwolf is a 'Species Likely to be Seen' and the striped hyena is a 'Species most seen'. The other two categories are 'Endemic in This Park Only' and 'Resident Species' – but the species in the other three categories could also be resident. What about species that are rarely seen?

Lastly, the photographs, all in colour. Mohamed Amin, the internationally recognised photographer and film-maker, was the inspiration of the Spectrum guide and, with Duncan Willetts, was the main photographer. As to be expected, the photos are excellent and quite a number are exceptional. Those in the Insight guide are good, but most are not so memorable. There is a better attempt to correlate photos with the text in the Insight guide (though why a picture of topi under Nairobi and Ol Doinyo Sabuk National Parks?).

In conclusion on these two similar guides, the Insight book has photographs to illustrate the text, while the Spectrum book has a text to accompany its photographs.

*Rosalie Osborn*

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### Gaining Ground: Institutional Innovations in Land-Use Management in Kenya

*Amos Kiriwo and Calestous Juma (Eds)*  
African Centre for Technology Studies Press, Nairobi, 1989, Ksh 100/US \$10.

This is an important and timely book. It goes a long way towards putting the intensifying public debate about appropriate land-use and sustainable natural resource utilisation in Kenya on a more solid factual basis. There is now a widespread and painful awareness among Kenyan analysts and policy makers that their country's high-potential agricultural land – less than 20 per cent of the total land area – can no longer absorb much of the fast growing population. The increasing settlement and population pressure in the Arid and Semi-



Arid Lands (ASAL) and the concomitant necessity to develop them in an environmentally sustainable fashion is therefore appropriately a central concern of the book.

As Amos Kiriro explains in the preface, the book in fact represents the *proceedings* to a Forum on Natural Resources in Kenya which was organised in Nyeri in September 1989 by the African Centre for Technology Studies. This was the first of what are to be regular gatherings of government officials, NGOs, research institutions and others to discuss natural resource issues in an informal setting.

A wealth of information and case study material is organised in six chapters by different authors – all of which, except the last one (by a British author), were presented at the forum. As the subtitle of the book suggests, much emphasis is placed throughout on the role of innovation as a motor behind sustainable development, and on the intimately linked technological aspects.

A number of examples of actual innovations are cited, or described in detail. Many of them share a common feature: based on traditional local practice, they 'vanished' during colonial rule and are now being rediscovered or revived. A central, by now almost familiar, message is that *indigenous* knowledge, conservation strategies and techniques, and forms of social organisation need to be uncovered and fostered systematically; 'exotic' species, modern technologies (e.g. biotechnology) and 'imported' ways of using land should be incorporated and exploited as desirable, but firmly grounded in what has evolved locally over long periods of time.

The book begins with an overview chapter on 'Environment and Economic Policy in Kenya' by Calestous Juma. The starting point is what is described as the stark difference between the concept of (long-term) sustainable development and the present short-term oriented policies guiding resource utilisation and economic development (structural adjustment) in Africa. This sets the stage for the main objective – the presentation of a long-term (research) agenda for sustainable development. The reader is taken on a *tour de force* through a great variety of interrelated subjects, under the sub-headings 'equity

and growth', 'food security', 'biological diversity', 'water resources', and 'energy production'. It is a skillful display of the enormous range of relevant issues, and the connections between issues are brought out very well. But not all data presented seem necessary for the argument and a somewhat greater focus and tighter train of thought might have made the agenda clearer.

Five chapters on specific natural resources or related topics follow. The piece by Betty N. Wamalwa on 'Indigenous Knowledge and Natural Resources' is clearly argued and carefully conceptualised and documented. The case study on Akamba traditional resource management in Machakos District illustrates very well the value of documenting traditional knowledge and drawing on it for improved policy and practice. Much can be learned from the analysis of Akamba expertise and skills in land use, soil management and conservation strategies, as well as prevailing rules and regulations governing land tenure, access to resources, and men and women's rights. The conclusion that the source for innovative approaches to natural resources management lies within the indigenous communities follows naturally.

A historical approach is taken in Gideon Mutiso's chapters 'Managing the ASAL Areas' and 'Managing Wildlife in Kenya' (the latter with E.N. Marekia). The overview of ASAL programmes and innovations from colonial roots to the present day is comprehensive but unfortunately not referenced and somewhat anecdotal. However, among other things, the reader learns that the colonial state had already initiated much research on trees and other plants in the ASALs, but because the resulting innovations were forced upon communities they were not absorbed and later abandoned.

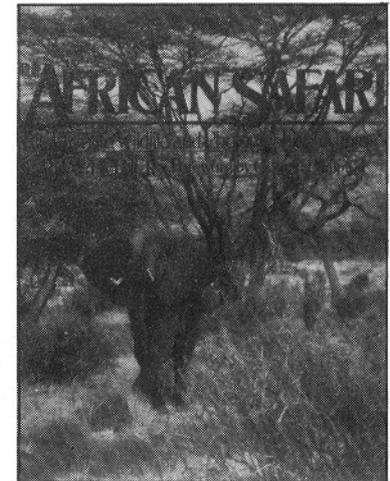
The chapter on wildlife management traces the history of wildlife conservation in the country and identifies associated land-use practice and conflicts. The development of wildlife conservation is discussed in the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial periods. A central concern relates to the need for reconciling wildlife conservation with the needs of the rural poor. The argument is made (convincingly) that the benefits from wildlife conservation must be distributed more widely, in particular to the affected rural poor. Brief reference is made to Zimbabwe and its policy of decentralising wildlife utilisation as well as giving access to related economic benefits. Here again we have confirmation of the general rule that success in natural resource conservation (at a time of land scarcity and rapid population growth) seems possible only when the resource at hand has an economic value to those bearing the brunt at the local level. Some government initiatives and certain policy options to get closer to this principle are discussed. It is worth noting, however, that the chapter is being revised in response to criticism at the Nyeri forum.

Water and forestry are the topics of the last two chapters by H.W.O. Okoth-Ogendo and Margaret I. Evans, respectively. The discussion on watersheds,

including some legal questions, is very useful if somewhat brief and abstract. In contrast, the final chapter explores at length the results of socio-economic surveys undertaken in two distinct areas of the country (Baringo and Machakos Districts). The focus of the surveys is on people and their preferences for species. The latter turn out to be at variance with existing tree planting programmes in several respects. Often the real functions of trees in given communities are not sufficiently understood but here are eloquently outlined.

The impact of the book could have been further enhanced by making the thematic and methodological links between the different chapters more explicit, reducing the differences in approach between authors, and eliminating some repetition across chapters. Specific references in the overview chapter to the contents of the others, and more extensive editing throughout could have added to the cohesion of the book. That the potential for making the whole significantly more than the sum of its chapters was not fully exploited was perhaps the price to pay for the speediness in getting the book out. Notwithstanding these qualifications, the book fills a gap and is definitely worth reading by both specialists and the public.

Hartmut Krugmann



### The African Safari

P. Jay Fetner

St. Martin's Press, New York, 1987, \$60 (USA price only)

This is a massive, expensively produced book of well over 700 pages, 9 inches by 11 inches, printed on high-quality paper, well bound with a hard cloth cover. It is copiously illustrated with colour photographs by the author and is much too heavy to handle with comfort.

On the jacket the book announces itself as 'the definitive work on a fascinating subject – bringing together for the first time the practical elements of planning a safari with a proper appreciation for the animals and their environment. If the reader is considering such a trip in the near future, he will find the text indispensable – where and when to go, what to take, what to expect to see, how to look, and so forth . . .'

Fetner has not met these objectives; his

## ... books

book is sad proof that the best results are not always achieved by spending a lot of money. His style is verbose and boring; often one must read many paragraphs with copious footnotes to find out something extremely simple; one and a half pages and six foot notes is too much to learn that Fetner thinks a zoom lens is worth while!

The book is badly organised; in his maps and tables Fetner lists 13 countries and 56 separate conservation areas. But he has no index and the table of contents merely has ten one line headings; so one cannot find any specific information without reading the whole book!

His third chapter, 'The Literary Setting', consists entirely of quotations from an enormous number of authors on Africa. Fetner is generous in his praise of others but does not make it clear if he has asked permission from the various publishers to fill a total of 136 pages of his own book with quotations!

Photographically, Fetner desperately needs an editor; he has yet to learn that one of the most important differences between amateurs and professionals is that professionals throw their rubbish away. Some of the colour plates are first class. He does not number the photographic pages, so accurate reference is difficult, but between pages 64 and 65 he has an excellent portrait of a leopard and an atrocious picture of a Thompson's gazelle at sunset and several other shots, a few of which have minor illustrative value although most of them degrade his book.

On page 382 there is a full page photograph of an African buffalo – possibly the worst full page photograph of this species I have ever seen published in an expensive book. Between pages 361 and 374 he has 18 pictures of hippo; only the one on pages 370/371 has any real merit. If Fetner had had the courage to throw all the others away and use this one effective photograph bled off across two full pages he would have made far more impact.

This same mistake occurs many times; if he had made a tighter selection of his shots of the birth of a zebra with each picture used more generously; if he had used just one shot of the leaping serval cat across a full page; if he had eliminated the many under-exposed, badly composed, badly focused photographs which he has included, then Fetner would have produced a more manageable work of higher quality at a lower price.

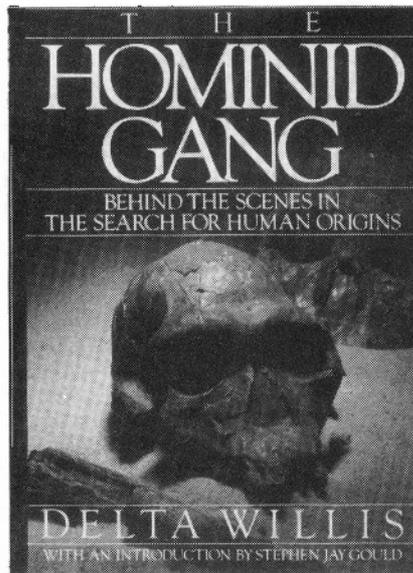
David Keith Jones

### **The Hominid Gang: Behind the Scenes in the Search for Human Origins**

Delta Willis

Viking, New York, 1989, \$21.95 (US price only).

As the author unabashedly admits, 'This is a biased book about biased scientists'. There has been a plethora of books by both scientists and lay writers in recent years on human evolution and the controversies sur-



rounding the piecing together of the human past, the most recent being *Bones of Contention* by Roger Lewin, Richard Leakey's collaborator on *Origins* and *People of the Lake*, and Donald Johanson's *Lucy's Child*.

Another book on the same subject? And by a woman born in Arkansas who was never taught evolution in school as the theory was considered the work of the devil? What makes this book different from the others – and most refreshing – is that the author reports on the actions and personalities involved in palaeoanthropology (the study of human biological and cultural evolution) as a journalist would. Delta Willis has no axe to grind or position to defend, thus she can be somewhat objective – in spite of her disclaimer that she is biased. Her biases are more in the arena of liking some of the personalities, not necessarily their ideas.

Much of the book involves the author being a fly on the wall as the experts do the science of palaeoanthropology. *Hominid Gang* is certainly the best book that I have come across to lift the veils about what goes on behind the scenes. We sit with Richard Leakey and Steven Jay Gould in the Kenya National Museum hominid vault as they handle the original hominid fossils and discuss what they mean. It seems that for many nothing is settled. Is KNM-ER 1813 a *Homo* or *Australopithecus*? Leakey and Gould debate the origins of *Homo sapiens* and upright walking. All of the studied phrases and big words that we see in publications and conferences are gone. For example, Gould, 'I didn't know *afarensis* had a sagittal crest like that!'

We also accompany Richard Leakey to a US university seminar and hear the exchange of ideas with students and professors (which often stimulates new ideas), overhear conversations between Leakey and Alan Walker, one of Leakey's main collaborators, follow people into the field as they actually go about searching for and finding fossils in the searing heat and blasting wind of northern Kenya. We meet Frank Brown, who is working out the stratigraphy and geology of the fossil localities, and follow him across the barren

wastes as he searches for bands of volcanic ash and asks himself what it all means. We watch Meave Leakey reconstruct an ape skull from shattered bits, a three-dimensional puzzle with missing pieces.

We even meet the real 'Hominid Gang', led by Kamoya Kimeu, a 25-year plus veteran of searching for fossils. It is this dedicated and quite extraordinarily hard-working band of individuals that are the ones who actually find most of the fossils. They remain in the field while Leakey and Walker fly in and out.

Because of the journalistic nature of the book – 'I was there and I'm reporting what I heard and saw' – there is an overemphasis on the 1982–1988 period of East African palaeoanthropology, the period when Ms Willis was researching and writing her book. She does give historical background, but there are points of significance to certain debates that are either missed or misconstrued. This will not detract from the value of the book for the non-expert, however, who is the obvious target audience for the book. Most people will enjoy reading this book much more than the more technical ones that endlessly discuss the fossil evidence.

Inevitably, for someone not trained in palaeoanthropology, there are a few mistakes in explanations of some of the more technical subjects, but no real clangers. In fact, for an author who just jumped into the subject with no background, the book is remarkably accurate. I taught much of what Ms Willis is writing about at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Nairobi and, if she were my student, I would give her pretty high marks. I also spent field seasons with the Hominid Gang at Koobi Fora in 1971 and 1972 and have met almost all of the personalities presented in the book – some of them I know or knew very well – and she has done an excellent job of characterising them. I particularly appreciated the laudatory and justified account she gave of the late Glynn Isaac's great contribution to the subject. He was my thesis supervisor.

Unfortunately, there is no room here to discuss the substance of some of the debates about human evolution that arose in the discussions, seminars and conferences that are reported on in the book, but I can tell you that fascinating ideas were raised, and that the author has reported on some of the most up-to-date finds in a detail that is presently impossible to come across anywhere else.

For anyone wanting to know the 'how' of the search for missing links and, to a certain extent, the 'why' (satisfying big egos seems to be a major component), this is the book to start with.

Daniel Stiles

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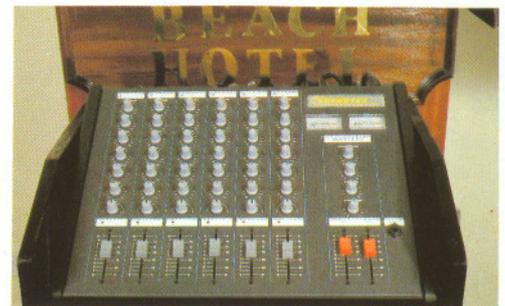
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