News in Brief

RHINOS IN TEXAS

Five black rhinos which were bought from the Natal Parks Board, South Africa, were transported to Texas in March 1984 (See *Newsletter 3).* Three of these were taken by Game Coin to a ranch outside Brownsville. Their oldest female died reportedly from a tick disease acquired in South Africa. All three rhinos were found with ticks carried from South Africa and the ranch is under quarantine for a year. The remaining pair has been observed mating and the female is suspected to be pregnant.

The two rhinos received by the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) were brought to a ranch near Fort Worth. They proved to be immature which has set the breeding programme back for a year. These rhinos were checked for ticks, but in this case none was found.

In both cases the rhinos are being kept in secure paddocks since they must be kept under observation in case they become sick.

As Game Coin's intentions regarding its acquisition of more rhinos are at present uncertain, AFEW plans to ship more of its own. It hopes to take mature animals, three females and one male from South Africa or Zimbabwe. Shipment to the States should take place next August.

Rick Anderson
Vice President, AFEW

IUCN PROJECT UNDERWAY IN GARAMBA, ZAIRE

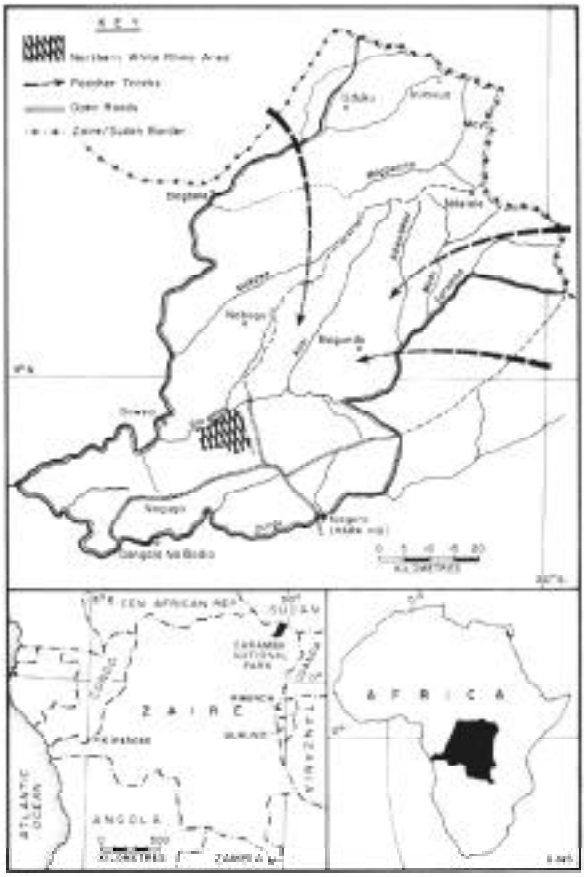
Since the brief report in the last *Newsletter* two more northern white rhinos have been found, bringing the total number of positively identified animals in Garamba to 13.

Also since the last publication, we now know that five rhinos have been poached since last year's survey. Park staff know about one, the other cases came to light after two poachers were arrested, who admitted to killing four rhinos, selling the horn locally for 1,4000 Zaires (about $35).

Patrols are now going out into the park, and at least six poachers have been apprehended carrying automatic weapons. We feel as though we are now getting results. The rhino population, however, has declined some 30% in one year, and if we take a 10% decline over the next two years as deciding the end point before translocation, we will be too late. By the time we get down to catching the rhinos we might lose several more.

The recovery of the southern white rhinos was originally believed to be from about ten animals, but Brooks says, "Less than 100 survived in Zululand by 1900" (EWT's Pilanesberg Rhino Workshop Report February''84). Therefore we cannot use this as evidence of a white rhino population recovering from such small numbers as we are dealing with. We also face many more logistical problems. The habitat is long grass reach≠ing five metres in places at the end of the rains, and the park is extremely difficult to administer. In the whole 5000 km^2 area there is only about 150 kms of passable road. On many occasions we cannot enter the park because of the difficulties involved in crossing the river (see map). There are two perennial rivers and this one is negotiated by ferry. The park has been totally neglected for 24 years since independence and no vehicles have crossed the Garamba River since then.

As the map shows, Garamba National Park juts into the Sudan. Any park on an international boundary faces added problems. There is easy access for Sudanese poachers and three well defined poachers tracks have been seen from the air. Illegal hunters can quickly escape across the border if they are detected before the Anti Poaching Unit has time to stop them.



Garamba National Park, Zaire

What is in the best interest of the few remaining northern white rhinos? The decision lies with the Zairean authorities, but the conservation advisers should speak with one voice. It is not good if one group recommends captive breeding whilst another group says survival in the wild is possible. If, as I hope, captive breeding is decided upon, preparations for capture, which will take a year (in order to build gates, pens, roads, river crossings and airstrips) should be started immediately. Plans are further complicated by the fact that capture can only take place between February and June.

I would finally like **to** point out that the project aims at rehabilitating Garamba and rhino conservation is part and parcel of that effort. To concentrate all efforts and funds on rhino conservation alone makes poor sense. What would there be to show for such a project? Possibly fewer rhinos anyway? They may be declining due to causes other than poaching. We would also be at square one with the same non-functional infrastruc≠ture. Garamba is an incredible park in many other ways and was nominated a world heritage site for more than just one reason.

Charles Mackie
Project Adviser IUCN Garamba Rehabilitation Project

ELEPHANT AND RHINO POPULATION TRENDS IN SELOUS, TANZANIA

The first aerial surveys of the Selous Game Reserve, made on behalf of the Wildlife Division, took place in the wet and dry seasons of 1976, and covered a census zone of some 73,000 km^2. Later counts were made in 1979 along the Rufiji river by Ecosystems Ltd, covering a 6,354 **km^2** zone, and in 1981 in the north-east Selous by Borner, covering a 19,550 km^2 zone. Both the later counts were contained within the original 1976 census area. All counts used the same methods of counting and analysis (Norton-Griffiths, '78 Counting Animals) with similar aircraft, speeds, counting heights and strip widths. Trends can be elicited by reanalysing the earlier results to conform with the later census zones.

Methods

Uncorrected estimates and variances of all the large mammals were obtained from reports of the later counts.

Estimates and variances were calculated from the original 1976 data for each of the later census zones, and wet and dry season estimates were merged. Uncorrected estimates were used for comparison, since different correction factors had been used by the various parties.

The 1976 estimates were then compared with the 1979 and 1981 estimates and differences in population estimates were tested for significance with a D Test (Norton-Griffiths, 1978).

Results

The results are presented in the tables below. Where the D value is greater than 1.96 the estimates are significantly differ≠ent at the 5% level, and the percentage difference has been entered.

It will be noted that in the Rufiji area, eland and giraffe both showed significant increases between 1976 and 1979, while the only animals to show significant decreases were elephants (d **=** 2.02) which were 30% lower, and rhinos (d **=** 2.56) which were 49% lower.

Table 1 – RUFIJI

	1976	1979	D value	%Diff.
Buffalo	21151	19917	.21	
Eland	655	1957	4.45	+199
Elephant	14417	10081	2.02	—30
Dead Elephant	767			
Giraffe	134	572	6.52	+327
Hippo	6292	8783	1.9	
Rhino	571	290	2.56	–≠49
Waterbuck	2032	1700	.64	
Wildebeest	20608	17131	.66	
Zebra	7778	6781	.73	

Table 2 – NE SELOUS

	1976	1981	D value	%Change
Buffalo	28788	37649	.7	
Eland	2862	4575	1.08	
Elephant	29026	22589	1.71	—22
Dead Elephant	1326			
Giraffe	123	1385	2.87	+1026
Hippo	5354	3320	1.42	
Rhino	1173	298	4.18	—75
Waterbuck	2644	1459	1.33	
Wildebeest	42009	42364	0.3	
Zebra	24909	18076	1.6	

In north-east Selous there was once again a significant increase between 1976 and 1981 of giraffe, but the elephant estimate although 22% lower was not statistically significant (d = 1.71). Rhinos on the other hand showed a highly signifi≠cant and drastic decrease of 75% in five years (d **=** 4.1 8).

Discussion

The reanalysis of the 1976 results modifies previous conclu≠sions about elephant and rhino trends in the Selous. Borner ('83 Selous Census), by extrapolating from his census zone to the whole Selous, concluded that the elephant population of the Selous remained at about the same level between 1976 and 1981. Unfortunately, the reanalysis does not support this conclusion. His sample area, lying in the north–east of the Reserve was a high density area in 1976 relative to the rest of the Selous and it is invalid to extrapolate the 1981 results from a portion of the whole 1976 census zone.

Borner also throws doubt on any serious decrease of rhino, and quotes hunters and Wildlife Division personnel who claimed that rhino poaching was only occasional and had not reached an alarming level. The reanalysis shows that the negative trend of rhinos was higher than Banner estimated.

In fact the rate of decline of rhinos is consistent both in Rufiji and north-east Selous, lying almost on a straight line.

If these trends have continued, rhinos by 1984 may have suffered a severe reduction in the Selous. Unfortunately, rhino and elephant poachers are often the same people and even when rhinos become scarce, the poachers may be sustained by taking elephants as their staple prey and rhinos only when the oppor≠tunity occurs. There must be grave doubts as to the current status of rhinos in the Selous.

Douglas-Hamilton

SOUTHERN SUDAN ELEPHANTS STILL SUFFER

Ivory poaching is still very much alive in southern Sudan and became particularly intense between 1982 and 1984. Illegal hunting has increased in western Equatoria, eastern Equatonia and also the Upper Nile Province and parts of Bahr≠el-Gazal Province. The wildlife is in jeopardy where rebels of the Anyanya movement are operating. Rebel groups totaling more than 1,000 people walk long distances and kill elephants whenever they come across them. Ivory is used as currency **to** buy automatic weapons and it has generally become the currency for personal monetary advancement in Sudan.

According to Watson et al (1976) elephants occurred throughout the southern Sudan. Their range covered about 650,000 km^2. Ivory poaching and uncontrolled hunting has steadily driven the elephant range down. Today their area extends only 500,000 km^2, representing a decline of about 23% within eight years.

If the decline in elephant numbers is not stopped and if the Sudanese government does not make a real effort to prevent the trade in ivory, there may be no elephants left in Sudan by the year 2000.

Günter Merz
Lecturer in Wildlife Management, University of Juba

REFERENCE

Watson, R M , Thackway, R M , Tippett, C I , and Scholes, V A D (1976) Sudan National Livestock Census and Resource Inventory (Typescript, 20 Vols)

JAPANESE IVORY TRADERS CO-OPERATE

In August 1984 under the auspices of the NYZS and the IUCN African Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group, Esmond Bradley Martin went to Japan for the purpose of discussing certain irregularities in the importation of raw ivory into Japan. He first had meetings with the Tokyo Ivory Arts and Crafts Association, the largest group of ivory traders and carvers in the country. The main discussions concerned Japan's imports of raw ivory from Burma, Burundi and Zaire.

Although Japan has signed and ratified CITES, it has continued to import raw ivory from Burma despite the fact that commercial trade in all Asian ivory is prohibited by CITES since the Asian elephant is on Appendix 1. Martin met one trader in Tokyo who was importing Asian ivory from Rangoon in 1983 and 1984. After some debate, this trader agreed to stop all future imports of Burmese ivory. The Association then declared that its members would not import any Asian elephant ivory whatsoever.

The CITES Secretariat in Switzerland has requested member states not to import any ivory from Burundi. That country has only one elephant but exports ivory as its own produce. Most of this comes from Tanzania, Zambia and Zaire and often leaves these countries illegally. The Tokyo Association will stop all future imports of Burundi ivory.

The CITES Secretariat has also instructed member states not to import Zaire ivory directly from Zaire without consulting the CITES Secretariat, as there have been few legal exports directly from this country for the last few years. The Tokyo Association agreed to be more careful concerning imports of raw ivory from Zaire.

The Tokyo Association expressed extreme concern about the illegal killing of elephants in Africa. Members stated that wide-scale poaching is detrimental not only to their own Assoc≠iation, but also to governments in Africa. The Association wishes to obtain a steady supply of raw ivory for many years to come , and it is in its own interest that certain conservation measures are adopted.

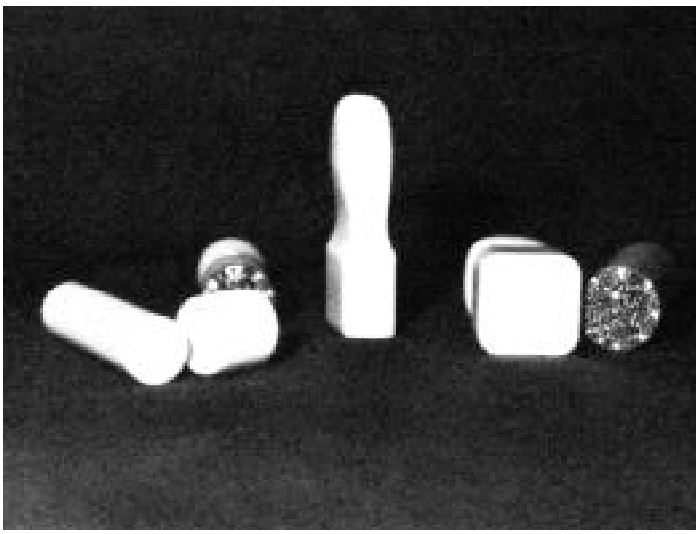
After Martin's meetings with the Tokyo Ivory Arts and Crafts Association, he flew to Osaka to meet with members of the Osaka Ivory Manufacturers Association to explain to them the problems of the international ivory trade. Members of the Osaka Association also showed concern with the illegal move≠ments of ivory. In 1983 the Tokyo and the Osaka Associations demonstrated their commitment in conserving the African elephant by donating $10,000 for a study of the ivory carving industries of southern Africa in order to ascertain how much ivory was going into the local carving and manufacturing indus≠tries. This new information has shown that an additional 25 tonnes or so of raw ivory is consumed within southern Africa, which had not been previously documented. This information will contribute to a more rational policy towards overall ivory management plans. Both Japanese Associations have agreed to support financially further studies on the international ivory trade.

The main problem in Japan has been that the local CITES management authority has not implemented the CITES regulations strictly on the importation of raw ivory into the country. The discussions held by Martin with these two Associations which import most of Japan's raw ivory made it clear to the ivory traders that there were certain irregularities which in the near future would have to be tackled. Fortunately, there was general agreement on these points. Martin also had a meeting with the local CITES management officers who agreed that there were some problems with their implementation of various CITES directives on ivory.

Several months after Martin's visit, a CITES officer went to Japan and pointed out to the management authorities their non-compliance with certain CITES regulations. Soon after≠wards, Prince Philip, when he was visiting Japan, held discus≠sions with senior members of the Japanese government and also requested that the authorities implement CITES correctly.

Due to these external pressures we have heard as this *News≠letter* was going to press that the Japanese government has agreed to implement CITES in a stricter fashion.

Lucy Vigne and
Esmond Bradley Martin



Japanese ivory seals [Esmond Bradley Martin]

CITES IN BRUSSELS

The 24 Parties of CITES from Africa attending the CITES Seminar in Brussels in June 1984 drew up a resolution on the trade in raw African ivory. They resolved to call upon the Management Authorities in all African states that are party to CITES to set annual quotas of the number of tusks to be expor≠ted by the party as raw ivory in any calendar year and to notify the Secretariat of CITES of this quota by December 31st of the preceding year. Also they will endeavour to persuade non-party states to undertake similar actions.

Rowan Martin, an ecologist from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management in Zimbabwe is now on two months leave as a CITES Consultant helping to assist in setting these quotas.

FOURTH AERSG MEETING

Discussions went well at the AERSG meeting in Gaborone Botswana, 22-23 September 1984 with 14 individuals par≠taking and a further six observers. It was a good opportunity to exchange ideas with members of southern Africa, but unfortunate that a number of members from other parts of Africa were unable to attend for financial reasons.

The future recommendations for AERSG made at the meeting will be reviewed and reported by the new Chairman in the next *Newsletter* in June 1985.