the LEAF

Newsletter of the
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Field Report from the Zambezi Valley

This report is a result of our most recent trip to Zimbabwe, in March 1989, when IWLF President Vance Martin and PROJECT RHINO partners, John and Melody Taft of the African Conservation Trust, visited the Zambezi Valley.

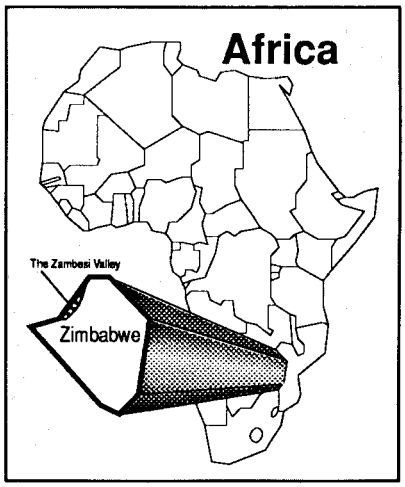
The voice on the other end of the telephone line was friendly yet business-like, with a military manner. "We're battling daily incursions of armed poachers from the north into the Zambezi Valley. The situation is very tense, but you can accompany me when you are here in Zimbabwe. No problem." Glenn Tatham, Chief Warden (Operations), Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management proved as competent, energetic and friendly in person as he was over the telephone.

One month later, Glenn was at the controls as our light aircraft headed north out of Harare. As we flew into the Valley, the early morning sun reflected brightly in the Zambezi River. The Valley had done well by the recent rains. The vegetation was lush, green and wet, and elephant grazed in belly-high grass.

We criss-crossed the Valley at about 150 feet in altitude, spotting wildlife and getting the lay of the land. We then flew low up the river, with water splashing up onto the wind screen. Banking steeply to the north, we looked squarely into the green hills of Zambia. After circling, we settled down on the grass-covered strip at Mana Pools National Park (carefully avoiding an old bull elephant who seemed to think that the landing strip was his own private hay field), where we were met by Francis Buyeye, head warden of Mana Pools.

We headed straight to the Operations Room. From there, a dedicated, courageous and overworked team of rangers and technicians coordinate Operation Stronghold, struggling to protect the Zambezi's herd of black rhino and other wildlife from further slaughter by increasingly bold gangs of poachers. We were thoroughly briefed by the staff for most of that day, and our admiration for the job they are doing grew by the hour. The remainder of our stay in the Valley was spent in the bush, and in meeting those who are doing the work on the ground. They face a formidable task (Please see pp 2 & 3 for more details).

Our experience there left an indelible memory, not only of the Valley's beauty but also of the incredible job being done by those protecting it. As we left the valley, with Glenn again at the controls, our aircraft skimmed across the river. We could hear hippos snort and watch them plunge underwater. We saw an elephant matriarch leading her family to the river for a drink. It was reminiscent of the Africa of yesteryear, and inspired us with a faith that all is not yet lost in the Africa of today.



Extra Effort in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has one of the best wildlife management and anti-poaching programs in all of Africa. One of the most important signs of success is already evident--well over 90% of the poaching is done by outsiders, especially from Zambia in the north, and there is very little poaching by Zimbabwe citizens.

Anti-poaching

Poaching "incursions" occur almost daily in the Zambezi Valley. Gangs of four to five poachers, armed with automatic weapons, cross the River into Zimbabwe under cover of darkness, do their dirty work and scamper back into Zambia with their illicit load of rhino horn and, occasionally, ivory. Considering that the valley is 225 km long, with thick bush for cover, it is no wonder that there are sometimes 10 or 12 incursions in a single week.

Game rangers, risking their lives, are deployed in squads and equipped like combat troops. They take to the field for seven-day patrols in the heat, mud and dust of the Zambezi Valley. In the five years of Operation Stronghold, these squads have grown from groups of rag-tag, local villagers to become well-drilled and outfitted professionals. But more equipment is sorely needed and the situation is becoming ever more perilous, despite the brave and committed effort by some of Zimbabwe's finest. The battle is on behalf of all of us. They are fighting for wildlife, the innocent victim of the combined forces of greed and poverty.

The facts are grim. In 1989 alone, one senior game ranger has been killed and two seriously wounded in the line of duty; at least ten poachers have been killed and many weapons seized. Operation Stronghold has reduced the poaching, but there still has been approximately a 5% per year decline of black rhino due to poaching. This amounts to over 500 rhino known killed in the last 5 years. Without Operation Stronghold, however, all would undoubtedly be gone by now.

Operation Stronghold is the most visible part of a multi-tiered program that Zimbabwe has implemented to protect its wildlife and wildlands. In addition to outright defense and protection afforded by Operation Stronghold, there are two other key elements - translocation and education.

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Now is the time to help. The IWLF is committed to helping Zimbabwe through PROJECT RHINO (see page 3 for details). Your help is needed.

Moving the Animals ...

Translocation is a major part of Zimbabwe's national plan to save the rhino. Breeding-groups of rhino are being established away from the volatile border areas, in the interior of the country on private wildlife parks and commercial ranches. Old friends Andre and Sally Holland hosted us at their farm, "Imba Ya Chapungu" (Place of the Eagle), in the Mvurwi Hills. The Holland family exemplifies the best of the spirit and practical commitment to conservation one finds throughout Zimbabwe. They are game-fencing 6000 acres, at the center of which is a hill of sacred power to the Shona tribal people, in order to set up a secure habitat for black rhino and other animals.

Rhino are also being moved internationally, in much the same way that Operation Rhino saved the white rhinoceros 25 years ago in Zululand. Two have just gone to the Frankfurt Zoo, and ten to a private Texas ranch as part of the GameCOIN breeding project.

... Training the People

One of the most effective educational efforts in all of Africa is Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE program (Communal Areas Management Programme For Indigenous Resources). This program develops ways in which village and tribal authorities can utilize wildlife on their own communal lands and receive the financial and ecological benefits from sound environmental management. Implementation of CAMPFIRE is being assisted by the Zimbabwe Trust, and pilot projects are underway. In the long run, this is the key - local people taking responsibility for their wildlife and wildlands, and directly benefiting from doing so.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to George Pangeti (Assistant Director), Glenn Tatham and others at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management for their help on our productive and enjoyable visit.

Wilderness Declared in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has become the first developing nation to utilize the wilderness concept in its sustainable development program. The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism officially opened the **Mavuradona Wilderness Area** early in 1989.

Remarkably, the Mavuradona Wilderness Area was entirely conceived at a local level. The District Council in Mzarabani, assisted by local commercial farmers, moved on their own initiative to protect this wilderness area within their communal lands. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management carried out an ecological survey of the area and calculated the economic potential of the scheme. The 500 square kilometer area may be enlarged by adding state land and, if so, opportunities will exist for sport hunting, bow hunting, wilderness trails and wildlife cropping which could total no less than US$225,000 income per year in the near future.

Wilderness designation has not heretofore been associated with some of the usages envisioned in this plan. However, as all advocates of the concept know, wilderness is culturally derived and is a relative term.

This is an important step because the wilderness concept has often been identified solely with aesthetic, non-economic and elitist use of natural resources in developed countries. The IWLF commends the National Government of Zimbabwe, the District Council and private citizens for taking this initiative and making a statement to the world that wilderness, in addition to providing beauty and solitude, can also fulfill the requirements of sustainable development programs in developing nations.

The IWLF

In recognition of the biological, economic, cultural and spiritual value of wildlands, the IWLF was established in 1974. Our primary goals are to promote understanding and protection of wilderness areas and values, and to inspire and strengthen an ecological consciousness among current and future leaders.

Board of Directors: Michael Sweatman (Chairman), Michael Casey, Robert Cleaves, Dielle Fleischmann, Norma Foster, John Hendee, Vance G. Martin (President), Ian Player, James Stewart.
Advisors: Mr. & Mrs Gerrit Van de Bovenkamp, Anne Cooley, Susan Storey Lyman, Verne McLaren, Genevieve di San Faustino, Partha Sarathy.

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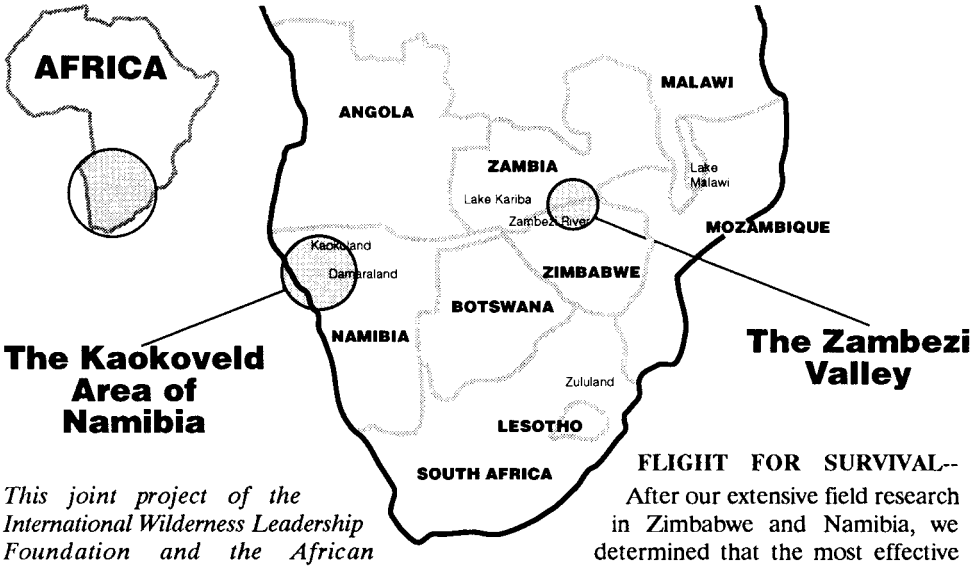
PROJECT RHINO



This joint project of the International Wilderness Leadership Foundation and the African Conservation Trust works with local conservation organizations and government wildlife departments throughout southern Africa.

Gangs of poachers armed with automatic weapons have slaughtered the rhino across Africa. Rhino horns, sold as traditional medicine in the Far East, are worth as much as $65,000 apiece. As recently as 1960, 100,000 black rhinos roamed across southern and eastern Africa. Now, hardly more than 3,000 remain. In the Zambezi Valley alone, 16 rhinos were killed in a recent two week period.

Because wildlife departments suffer from lack of equipment, inadequate staff and difficult operating conditions, the rhino is almost extinct in every African country except South Africa. However, there are a few small populations in Namibia and Zimbabwe that can be saved if we act now.

PROJECT RHINO works on the ground and in the air:

THE DESERT RHINO FUND--The stark but magnificent desert areas of southwestern Africa are the home for unusually adapted subspecies of many animals. Virtually isolated for many years, they are now increasingly under attack by poachers. An endowment fund is being built, to protect the unique desert black rhino and the desert elephant in Namibia, which will:

o Train local Game Guards who will patrol water holes and provide daily protection.
o Establish conservation education programs for school children in Namibia.
o Provide operational costs for four-wheel drive vehicles for game rangers and wardens.

FLIGHT FOR SURVIVAL--After our extensive field research in Zimbabwe and Namibia, we determined that the most effective way to reduce poaching now is to provide the right equipment for use by coordinated air/ground anti-poaching task forces. We will provide:

o Light aircraft for use by the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management. Ownership and oversight of the aircraft will remain with the IWLF.
o Two way radios for ground-based Game Guards, coordinated by the pilots who will direct the task forces towards immediate and effective action against the poachers.

Dr. Robert Cleaves, IWLF Director and Vice President, Special Projects, has considerable experience in tactical flying and aviation matters, and will oversee personally the purchase, transfer and use of the aircraft.

Video to Help Rhino

Filmmaker and IWLF Vice President for Communications, Ms. Norma Foster is videotaping Warren Thomas, Director of the Los Angeles Zoo, and Michael Dee, Curator of Mammals, to help publicize the plight of the black rhino. Footage being shot at the LA Zoo, illustrating how their part in the Rhino Species Survival Program (SSP) is helping save the black rhino, will be combined with on-site material filmed in Africa, showing how PROJECT RHINO provides timely, direct assistance to those working in the field. The LA Zoo has two male and four female black rhino, of which three are on permanent loan from the Zimbabwe government. The SSP was formulated by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) and in 1981 designated the black rhino as a candidate species.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your donations to PROJECT RHINO go directly to work on this project. Please complete the response form on page 8, and help stop the poaching now!

Namibia Poaching

Namibia is one of the major settings in a tidal wave of change occurring in southern Africa. Under the supervision of a United Nations peace-keeping force, the first free elections in Namibia in 40 years will be held in November. This transition is a great step, but these political changes have spawned environmental repercussions in the north of the country, near Ovamboland, and in the Caprivi area, where poaching has increased dramatically since the transition began. At least 12 black rhino and numerous elephant have been poached in the Etosha National Park alone, and recent activity in Caprivi looks to be more serious. A full report will be forthcoming in the next *Leaf*, along with details of new initiatives being undertaken to help save Namibia's unique desert black rhino and desert elephant.

Francis Buyeye, Head Warden at Mana Pools National Park in the Zambezi Valley, and family. His team needs your help to save the black rhino.

Eco - $ense -- an

The International Conservation Financing Project (ICFP)

There has been considerable progress on the call at the 4th World Wilderness Congress for a World Conservation Bank, or similar mechanism. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), taking its cue from a specific recommendation issued by the Brundtland Commission in "Our Common Future", joined with IWLF Chairman Michael Sweatman to put together a consortium of sponsors (including USAID, CIDA (Canada), The MacArthur Foundation, UNEP, the Pew Charitible Trust, NORAD and OAS) to finance a comprehensive study. The World Resources Institute (WRI) will shortly issue the final report and recommendations on what has become the International Conservation Finance Project (ICFP).

An international panel of 24 advisors, representing the private and public sectors from both the North and South, supported the study. Six workshops held in southern countries (Costa Rica, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, India and Thailand) obtained advice and reactions from a cross-section of people from developing nations.

When the study commenced, multi-lateralism was not high on the international agenda; the thought of "yet another" new international institution was anathema to government and international agencies alike. However, it became increasingly apparent to the study team that some form of a financial catalyst, to intermediate between national governments and NGOS on the one hand, and donor agencies and international institutions on the other, was needed to find sufficient conservation finance to meet even the most basic needs. It is not just a matter of finance, there also exists a serious shortage of properly identified and defined projects.

Accordingly, the study team proposed a new "International Environmental Facility" (IEF) to help prepare, finance and implement conservation projects. IEF would take guidance from the World Conservation Strategy and its national counterparts, as well as from other important global conservation agendas, such as the Tropical Forest Action Plan. Through these mechanisms IEF would assist countries with conservation planning; integration of those plans (over time) into the National Developmental Planning Process; development of local frameworks and institutional capacity with which to implement those plans; and reach the local communities which must be part of the process from beginning to end.

The ICFP study also recommends linking third-world debt-relief with conservation, and proposes a levy on greenhouse gasses - demonstrating ways of annually channeling billions of dollars of new funds into sustainable development.

The next step is for UNDP and WRI to canvas support for the ICFP proposal - in particular for this International Environmental Facility. In order to get backing from governments they will need the support of key members of the development community, including World Bank, UNEP, IUCN and leading international NGOs.

"ECOVEST"

One recommendation of the ICFP is the establishment of a pilot programme to test the commercial viability of different activities which relate directly to the natural resource base. Moreover, since some of these activities can create revenue, and even profits, they should attract the entrepreneurship, management abilities and technical know-how of the private sector.

Since some conservation activities can create revenue, and even profits, they should attract the entrepreneurship, management abilities and technical know-how of the private sector.

However, sustainable resource projects such as game ranching, shrimp mariculture, viable national parks, and economic alternatives to cutting down tropical forests create challenges for private sector funding. Costly up-front research and study, long-term pay-backs and high political/management risks inherent in many projects are enough to frighten off many would-be investors.

In walks ECOVEST, an environmental fund into which major international companies may invest money for further investment into projects with commercial potential. Non-commercial finance would also be sought for pre-investment costs, on the understanding that the fund would invest alongside other comparable investors both from outside and inside the country concerned. Moreover, long-term loans, some on concessional terms, would be negotiated with financial institutions.

The goal would be a financial package tailor-made to suit the project. The involvement of private-sector investors, with technical advice provided from international environmental organizations, could make for interesting investment opportunities.

IWLF Chairman, Michael Sweatman, is currently exploring the possibility of such an environmental fund with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), a development finance arm of the U.S. government. Following the recent, successful launching of the African Growth Fund, OPIC is now interested in researching this new avenue.

IWLF Chairnan, Michael Sweatman, with the President of Botswana, His Excellency Dr. Quett Masire, at recent meetings in Washington, D.C. ►

IWLF Perspective

The Role of Wildlife in Sustainable Development

Wildlife populations have been dwindling in many developing nations. The two main reasons are loss of habitat and "over poaching" for local consumption (although poaching for profit is clearly a serious problem for some species and in some areas).

The problem - making development compatible with wildlife - is aggravated by the fact that cattle interests (often heavily subsidized and operating at a loss) see wildlife as competition and actively discourage development of its true value. Indeed, in many countries (particularly in semi-arid regions) wildlife may prove to be the key to development.

Following are two examples where a pragmatic approach to integrated resource development has allowed local people to benefit directly from wise use of wildlife and protected areas, with no apparent conflict between environment and development. First, in Zambia, the Luangwa Integrated Resources Development Project channels revenues from natural resource use to the 50,000 local people through a revolving fund managed by local chiefs and regional officials. A by-product of this experiment is a marked decrease in poaching in some areas. Second, in Burkina Faso, the Nazinga project has developed a fully integrated and self-financing program whereby local people live in total harmony with nature, including a thriving elephant population.

It is estimated that annual African cereal production amounts to $10 billion; and cattle $8 billion. Little realized is that wildlife is estimated to be worth $5 billion to the African economy when local meat consumption is taken into account. Yet there exists practically no research into wildlife's needs and their potential contribution to sustainable development.

For instance, it is generally thought that most forms of wildlife may carry the dreaded foot and mouth disease. In the absence of knowledge to the contrary, all wildlife is lumped together and excluded from areas which contain disease-free cattle interests. This has caused loss of habitat, and hardships and death for wildlife in some countries. Researching the relationship between wildlife and disease could yield enormous benefits and lucrative export markets for venison. Placing such value on wildlife would open up many possibilities, including mixed wildlife and cattle ranching, which has already demonstrated superior economic returns over cattle-only operations, with less damage to rangeland.

The potential for such "natural ranching" on both private and communal lands (as is currently being undertaken in Zimbabwe) is clearly enormous - if only agreement could be reached on the disease issue.

The Ivory Issue

Kenya burned $3 million worth of illegal tusks; the U.S. banned imports of all ivory, Japan of worked ivory; Hong Kong of raw ivory. Kenya, Tanzania and others are pushing for a total moratorium on ivory trade. In the midst of this unusually united outcry, the African Elephant Working Group of CITES (Committee on International Trade in Endangered Species) met last month in Gaborone, Botswana to develop an ivory policy. A split was immediately apparent between the east and southern African contingents.

Southern Africa still has a healthy, somewhat well-managed elephant population. These countries feel they should not suffer loss of ivory revenue because poaching is out-of-control in east Africa. Although poachers continue to make their presence known in the south, elephants are still present in sufficient numbers to be managed and utilized, and the local people need the income from ivory and other products through sustainable development programs. In opposition to a total moratorium, the southern African contingent is drafting a plan calling for a tightly-controlled regional approach to ivory marketing.

What do you think? Is it possible to stop the ivory trade, or would a moratorium simply create only one - illegal - channel for continuing trade? Should those with elephant populations be able to continue to manage and utilize them legally? If so, how? Write to us!

The Debt Crisis and Conservation

As many developing countries stagger from one economic crisis to another, it becomes increasingly apparent that their ability to service their international debt obligations is increasingly remote. This fact is reflected in the the secondary market price for Third World debt, where discounts of 80-90% are common. Moreover, in many less-developed countries, linkages between debt, increasing poverty and continuing degradation of the environment are becoming better understood.

Unpalatable as it may be for banks (who cannot afford the losses) and governments (who, like the US and Canada, face large deficits), the only solution is debt relief: not the small amount offered up by the Brady Initiative, but half of the outstanding debt! This means two to three hundred billion dollars, shared evenly between private banks and the public sector (including governments and multi-lateral institutions like World Bank and the IMF).

The problem is that banks will not volunteer debt-relief (they are not in that business) and the available multi-lateral institutions, to act as intermediaries, are too small (World Bank is only half the size of Citibank!).

A package deal is clearly in the offing - with Japan and perhaps other countries in surplus making a substantial contribution. This opportunity for a "global bargain", could link debt relief to changes toward policies encouraging sustainable development. Clearly, new money needs to be made available to finance the implementation of more sustainable policies, for instance in the forestry sector. To complete the "bargain", the North would have to agree to put its own house in order regarding pollution, emission of gasses and so on.

The ICFP response, submitted to the Group of Seven meeting in July, made recommendations in this regard.

Other IWLF Programs

5th World Wilderness Congress

As a result of participation in the 4th WWC by a delegation of Soviet scientists, we were contacted by the USSR Academy of Sciences. A committee has been formed within the Academy to handle initial interchanges on how a 5th WWC could occur in Moscow in 1991.

A great deal of commitment exists to this project, and our Soviet colleagues have been very forthcoming about changes within the USSR's perestroika which could affect it. Not only are leadership figures changing, but the structure itself is being revamped. On-site discussions may occur in October, pending results of the restructuring.

Negotiations continue with Japan and India. However, the IWLF is enthused about the prospect of a possible Congress in the USSR. Commitments made by Chairman Gorbachev to world environmental matters are both progressive and much-needed in international affairs. More news later ...

World Conservation Service

Following the resolution at the 4th WWC to explore the possibility of a World Conservation Service, a committee was established and several meetings have been held. Tim Rochte, international coordinator for the California Conservation Corps, has chaired this committee and has conducted a survey of similar international efforts. Our priority is that the proposed WCS not duplicate any of these other efforts. For example, there is an innovative proposal being developed by US/Soviet/Finnish students called the "World Service Corps", coordinated by Michael Killigrew of Direct Connections.

Another WCS pilot project is underway this month ("Expedition" in next issue). A final meeting of the committee doing research and fundraising will be in Los Angeles on 30 October 1989. A decision will be made on how the WCS effort can best assist the exchange of innovative and effective practices between environmental managers and community-based conservation and sustainable development practitioners worldwide.

For further information, contact Tim Rochte, California Conservation Corps, P.O. Box 1380, San Luis Obispo, California, USA 93406, FAX (805) 549-6239, Tel (805) 549-3561.

Meeting with President Masire

IWLF Chairman Michael Sweatman and President Vance Martin were invited to submit an agenda and to meet with President Masire of Botswana on his trip to the United States in June. This special meeting was requested by President Masire, emphasizing the strong commitment which Botswana has to sustainable development. Also representated wereU.S. NGO's with special interests in Botswana, including World Wildlife Fund, Sierra Club, National Geographic Society, African Wildlife Foundation, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Humane Society of the United States. During discussions at this meeting, and at more informal sessions, President Masire emphasized:

National Conservation Strategy - The NCS of Botswana is now in the final stages of discussion at the Ministerial level, and is expected to be on the slate for a parliamentary vote early in 1990, following national elections.

Elephant Management - Because of the large number of elephant remaining in northeast Botswana, the country is committed to their sustainable use by local villagers. A management plan is being developed by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (see The Ivory Issue, page 5).

International Participation - Botswana welcomes constructive involvement by international agencies and NGOs in the sustainable development priorities established by the Botswana government.

Thank You!

IWLF programs are supported by a wide range of grants and donations. We especially want to thank the following for their support: Mike & Penny Cook, Magalen Bryant, Gaylord Donnelley, Ann R. Roberts, Paul & Eileen Growald, Mr & Mrs Steve Lundblad, John & Stephanie Christie, John & Melody Taft, Bud Hartman, Susan Storey Lyman; T&H Enterprises, Conservation Endowment Fund, The Three Rivers Foundation, The Ohrstrom Foundation, The Mzuri Wildlife Foundation, The Canadian Wildlife Federation.

The Arts

African Art Exhibition
Our major art exhibition and sale has been rescheduled in order to accommodate a new venue in Los Angeles, California. A project of Charisma Communications, the art show is coordinated by IWLF Vice President for Communications, Ms. Norma Foster.

The show will consist of contemporary artwork and fine tribal craft from throughout southern Africa, featuring Hargreaves Ntukwana, Winston Saouli, Ben Macala, David Mebele and others. In addition to contemporary work, there will be fine wooden carvings, chairs, museum-quality beadwork and Bushman jewelry and hunting instruments.

Ms. Ramona Austin, Assistant Curator of African Art at the Art Institute of Chicago, is helping design the exhibition. The IWLF will in turn loan the Institute a display of antique African beadwork, helping to illustrate the significance of indigenous African culture.

Proceeds from the show will go directly to Project Rhino (page 3). For more information, contact Charisma Communications, 8621 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 204, Beverly Hills, CA 90211, Tel (213) 655-1551.

Artists Assist IWLF
We are pleased to report that two more artists have recently agreed to support the work of the IWLF. Our special thanks to both of them!

David Fischel uses recycled wood to create unique, painted wooden sculptures. His work, displayed in nine galleries, sells across the U.S. In addition to donating part of his sales, David has created "Four Seasons", a major piece on special display in Arizona. When sold, 50% of the proceeds will support IWLF projects.

Susan Cummings creates beautiful jewelry. Her latest series of African animals is sold through Neiman Marcus stores. She has generously donated a portion of her sales to our work. Her next series will emphasize the culture of indigenous peoples.

The Next *Leaf:*

- International Youth Wilderness Expedition to Botswana.
- Namibia
- Visiting Scholar Program
- Zulu Conservation Training ... and more

Wilderness Leadership School

Africa - A Push for Wilderness

*Noted author, historian and wilderness man, Dr. Rod Nash (Wilderness and the American Mind, The Rights of Nature) recently spent several weeks "on trail" with Ian Player and the Wilderness Leadership School, and surveyed conservation projects throughout South Africa. In light of the growing movement in that country toward national wilderness legislation, Rod offered these new "**Eleven Principles**":*

1. **Statutory protection**: Wilderness is not really protected unless its undeveloped character is guaranteed legally by the highest authority in the nation. A wilderness law must say that an area will be protected from any reduction of wilderness qualities. Existing land managers are fully capable of protecting wilderness provided they are instructed by law to undertake this mission.

2. **A wilderness inventory**: The wilderness that presently exists is all that will ever exist. Wilderness resources should be mapped and inventoried.

3. **Wilderness and wildlife**: Without the extraordinary African wildlife, wilderness is merely scenery. Wilderness and wildlife conservation must go together.

4. **Wilderness preservation as a contribution to world civilization**: Nations that appreciate and protect their natural heritage are admired by the world. South Africa deserves more credit than it has received regarding recognition and protection of wilderness.

5. **The wilderness experience**: Park visitation that emphasizes walking and true camping (such as the wilderness trails programs) should be encouraged. The highest form of a wilderness experience is that obtained by persons who are self-reliant.

6. **Minority rights and responsibilities**: It is unrealistic to expect that wilderness appreciation, like the appreciation of opera or fine art, will ever extend to more than a minority. Moreover, it should be realized that, for this minority, wilderness is a form of religion. Those who find their temples in wild places should confidently assert their right to worship as they please. The corollary to this principle is that if wilderness is a minority interest then the minority should be willing to pay for their specialized taste.

7. **Population control**: Unless basic human needs are met, parks, wildlife reserves and wilderness areas will surely be exploited. Exponential population growth will certainly wipe out any gains made for wilderness preservation.

8. **Wilderness understanding**: The biological and physical characteristics of wilderness and wild animal populations have received the bulk of attention by researchers. What is now needed is a corresponding emphasis on what might be called the cultural significance of wilderness.

9. **Keeping wilderness wild**: There is no denying the fact that wilderness areas are islands in an increasingly disturbed environment. Every effort should be made to minimize human impact on wilderness qualities. This means managing by doing as little as possible and letting natural forces prevail as much as possible.

10. **Peripheral development**: Parks are symbols of restraint, areas where civilization chooses not to inject the controls it has placed on so much of the planet. Make park boundaries mean something. Administrative operations and amenities should be provided outside park boundaries whenever possible.

11. **kwaRhino**: the rights of nature and the revolt against anthropocentricity: Non-human life and ecological processes have intrinsic value. Protected wilderness is a gesture of planetary modesty, a symbol of the human capacity for self-restraint so that other creatures may have a place in the ecosystem.

Mrs. Magalen Bryant, two of her children and one spouse were on trail with the Wilderness Leadership School earlier this year. With their permission we have reproduced for you their moving and insightful note to Ian Player, penned as they emerged from the wilderness.

Dear Ian: There are no words to express our appreciation for all you arranged for us.

Our experiences have been varied and deep. We have laughed, been frightened (by lion and rhino), tired, wet, uncomfortable, and have experienced joy and sadness and felt strongly the power of the veld and of nature. We spent Christmas eve in Nature's Cathedral with the heavens lit up constantly amid the roll of thunder, and we awoke to the carolling of birds and insects. We spent a wonderful Christmas day with some new friends - simple and sharing as it should be. We have been received warmly and were privileged to go to a Zulu party. We have learned an immense amount.

We return to the USA wiser, we hope, and full of hope for the future of your country. We see a peaceful transition if allowed the healing and sagacity of time. Mostly we return excited about the road ahead. You, your coworkers and others have established a model in sustainable development - a great beginning others need to see.

We will do our best to spread the word. You're a great man and have given much. Stay well,

KC, Michael & Beth Crane, Maggie Bryant

Dr. Ian Player and his mentor, Zulu elder Magqubu Ntombela.