



AWI Quarterly

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For subscription inquiries or other information, contact AWI at 900 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003
Phone: (202) 337-2332 Facsimile: (202) 446-2131
Email: awi@awionline.org Website: awionline.org

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About the Cover

Face to enormous face with an African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) in Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya. Increasingly, protected areas offer elephants scant sanctuary against ivory hunters. On January 5, poachers wiped out a 12-member elephant family in Kenya's Tsavo National Park. Less than two weeks later, police in Kenya seized more than two tons of ivory. According to a government source, the confiscated ivory was taken from elephants in Rwanda and Tanzania, and bound for Indonesia. As the brief on ivory trade in the United States (below) and the article on the global ivory trade (page 6) attest, ivory lust is driving an escalating assault on elephants. While some countries, like Kenya, battle the poachers and smugglers, others seek to profit from the slaughter. As nations gather in March in Bangkok for the 16th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (see page 16), the illicit ivory trade—and whether the global community is fully committed to combatting its ruinous effects—will once again be on the agenda.

Photo by Elliott Neep/Minden Pictures

ELEPHANT IVORY TRADE IN THE U.S.

In the article beginning on page 6, we discuss the unrelenting slaughter of African elephants for their ivory. In the United States, import of African elephant ivory has been prohibited—via the African Elephant Conservation Act—since 1989, the same year that countries around the world enacted similar import bans.

You can, however, import raw ivory into the United States from sport-hunted trophies. You can also import *worked* (carved) ivory acquired before Feb 4, 1977, but not for commercial purposes. If, on the other hand, the worked ivory was *imported* prior to the 1989 ban, you are free to buy and sell it here. Import and sale of antique ivory (over 100 years old) represents another exception to the ban. The rules for importation of Asian elephant ivory are different still. (Confused yet?)

Last September, Victor Gordon, the owner of an African art shop in Philadelphia, pleaded guilty to smuggling after federal agents seized over a ton of African elephant ivory from his shop and from customers across the country. Gordon purchased ivory from West and Central Africa, where poaching is rampant. After the ivory was worked and stained to appear antique, it was imported openly through John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Of course, it would be simpler to clamp down on the illicit ivory trade if *all* ivory sales were banned, here and abroad. Certainly, given the stakes, consumers should avoid the purchase of *any* ivory, no matter the age, pedigree, or condition. That fine old carving in a curio shop may well be contributing to the conversion of an entire species into something of an “antique.” 🐾

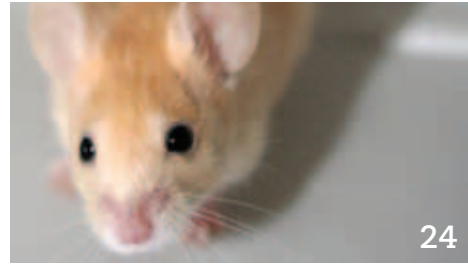


Dead elephants on display:
carved ivory objects seized
from Victor Gordon's
Philadelphia shop.

Bill Butcher/USFWS



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Above Left: An Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin group off the coast of Kenya. The Watamu Marine Association seeks to better understand and protect marine mammal populations inhabiting these waters. (Yatin Patel)

Top Right: A Houston couple may land in prison under a new federal law aimed at stopping the sale and distribution of crush videos, which depict the torture and killing of mice and other animals to satisfy sick fetishes. (Larissa)

Bottom Right: Piglets are free to frolic at Courtyard Farm near England's Norfolk Coast. Such behavior isn't possible in a factory farm setting. (Peter Melchett)



COYOTE HUNT HALTED IN RED WOLF TERRITORY

Since the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) approved a temporary rule in August 2012 to allow night hunting of coyotes in the state, at least nine critically endangered red wolves have been shot. This was entirely to be expected. Red wolves and coyotes are similar in size, coats, and coloring, so red wolves are frequently mistaken for coyotes, even in daylight. Gunshot deaths are a significant threat to red wolf recovery and a leading cause of red wolf mortality.

AWI, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Red Wolf Coalition took the NCWRC to court in October, when a preliminary injunction motion was filed on our behalf by

the Southern Environmental Law Center. On November 21, the motion was granted and the night hunt halted in the five-county area of eastern North Carolina inhabited by 100 or so red wolves—the world’s only wild population of the species.

Though the temporary rule was suspended, an identical permanent rule could still go into effect if it is not blocked by the state legislature by mid-February. Should the legislature fail to act, we will again seek an injunction to stop the hunt, and subsequently file a federal enforcement action under the Endangered Species Act. 🐾

AWI Calls on USDA to Investigate Wildlife Services Cruelty

REPORTS SURFACED in late October that a trapper employed by the USDA’s Wildlife Services (WS) program in Wyoming had posted graphic images and commentary online indicating he allowed his dogs to menace, maul, and disembowel coyotes, raccoons, and other wild animals caught in his steel-jaw leghold traps. In so doing, he inflicted even greater fear and pain on already-suffering animals. AWI and Project Coyote called upon the Wyoming state director of WS

to address this sadistic behavior, and started an online petition to Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, demanding termination of the trapper’s employment and an investigation not only into this incident but also other reports of intentional cruelty by USDA employees.

To view and sign the petition, visit: <http://chn.ge/XHIQHR>. 🐾



Trapper Jamie Olson, holding up the savaged body of a trapped coyote—the apparent victim of his dogs.



Matt Knoth

Court Rules Against Indiana Penning Operation

AWI, Project Coyote, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund obtained a default ruling in December declaring that the possession of coyotes by WCI Foxhound Training Preserve, a penning facility in Linton, Indiana, is unlawful. “Penning” involves setting packs of hunting dogs loose to chase wild coyotes and foxes within enclosed areas, supposedly as a training exercise. Often, the dogs are allowed to corner and tear the wild canids apart. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had cavalierly waived the required permit for possession of wild animals, arguing (rather disingenuously) that WCI didn’t really “possess” the animals because they could possibly escape through holes in the ill-kept fence. (See Summer 2011 *AWI Quarterly*.) Even after the verdict, however, the state has not indicated it will actually enforce the permitting laws. If the state refuses to do so, AWI and the other plaintiff organizations will seek a court order compelling enforcement. 🐾



Long lived and intelligent, the African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) is a popular pet—and a favorite target of wildlife traffickers, contributing to declines in wild populations.

State Department Plans to Combat Wildlife Trafficking

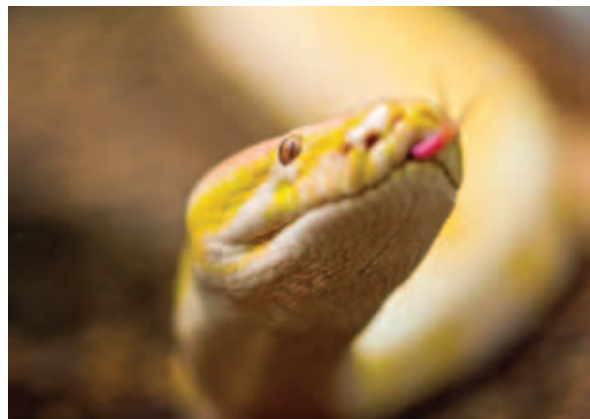
AT LAST NOVEMBER'S Partnership Meeting on Wildlife Trafficking hosted at the U.S. State Department, outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton noted that over the past few years, wildlife trafficking has become more organized, lucrative, widespread, and dangerous than ever before, rivaled in size only by trade in illegal arms and drugs. Clinton characterized protecting wildlife as a stewardship responsibility for this and future generations and an issue of national security, public health, and economic stability affecting countries around the world. She also observed that the United States is the second-largest destination market for illegally trafficked wildlife, and that conservation groups ultimately require the assistance of governments, civil society, businesses, scientists, and activists to help combat the growing problem.

To tackle the issue of wildlife trafficking, the State Department plans to pursue a four-part strategy which includes (1) developing a global consensus on wildlife protection and pressing forward with efforts to protect marine life and marine protected areas; (2) strengthening the ability of the United States to engage diplomatically on these and other scientific issues by deploying three new science envoys; (3) launching new initiatives to strengthen and expand enforcement areas; and (4) encouraging governments and organizations to join the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT) in order to put forth a concerted global response and share information on poaching and illicit trade. Finally, Clinton asked the intelligence community to produce an assessment of the impact of large-scale wildlife trafficking on our security interests in order to more fully understand the players, interests, and forces aligned against us in this uphill battle. 🐾

FL FISH AND WILDLIFE SPONSORS PYTHON KILLING CONTEST

Florida's Everglades region has a rather big problem: Burmese pythons, one of the world's largest snakes, are having a devastating effect on the ecosystem. As this non-native species—released into the wild accidentally or intentionally by pet owners—thrives and multiplies, it has proven nearly impossible for wildlife officials to rein in the population.

In its desperation, however, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), has turned to a control method likely to vastly increase the amount of animal suffering: Beginning in mid-January, the FWC's "Python Challenge 2013" set the public loose, armed with guns and machetes, to hunt down the snakes in areas outside Everglades National Park. The persons who kill the most and biggest snakes get cash prizes. Decapitation is allowed, though it is "not the recommended method of euthanizing pythons" according to the official Challenge website, which adds that "the brain of a python can remain active for up to an hour even after decapitation, thus allowing the snake to experience pain." AWI Wildlife Biologist D.J. Schubert says the snakes themselves should be treated humanely and not be cast as the villains: "They are merely trying to survive after either being ripped out of their native lands or born in captivity to feed the voracious snake trade." 🐾



Tambako the Jaguar

Burmese pythons don't belong in the Everglades—but don't deserve to be slaughtered in an inhumane free-for-all.

ELEPHANT SLAUGHTER ESCALATES AS ILLEGAL IVORY MARKET THRIVES

The siege is getting worse. African elephants are being killed at a greater rate than at any time since the worldwide ban on the ivory trade was adopted in 1989. Every 15 minutes, on average, an elephant is killed illegally in Africa to feed an insatiable demand for ivory, principally from Asia. This kill rate exceeds the birth rate—a trend that, if not reversed, inevitably leads to extinction.

More ivory is being smuggled than at any time since the 1989 trade ban, as well. A record-breaking 24 metric tons of contraband ivory were seized in 2011. The totals for 2012 are not yet available, but almost certainly will exceed the 2011 levels.

African elephants live in highly cohesive, multi-generational, matriarchal groups. Poachers may ruthlessly obliterate entire families, or kill matriarchs, leaving descendants bereft.

Customs officers in industrialized countries candidly acknowledge that a seizure rate of 10 percent is considered good for “general goods” contraband—which includes ivory. (Higher success rates are recorded in intercepting targeted contraband, such as drugs and weapons, which have dedicated teams with specialized training and high-tech detection equipment.) Thus, the seizure of 24 tons of ivory would indicate 240 tons actually in trade. That’s the ivory of 24,000 elephants. It is likely, however, that even more illegal ivory is traded, because 10 percent seizure is optimum for a developed country that is serious about intercepting contraband. Much ivory today is going to countries that are not very serious about intercepting it.

More African park rangers are being killed in the line of duty than ever before, most often via ambush. Five Chadian rangers were massacred during their early morning prayers near Zakouma National Park a few months ago. Kenya Wildlife Service suffered eight recent fatalities. More than 100 rangers are killed each year because they stand between the elephants and the poachers. Nearly every African country with elephant populations has been hit.

INTERPOL has acknowledged the involvement of organized crime syndicates in the ivory trade. U.S. officials have cited “credible reports” of the infamous Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) being involved in both poaching and trafficking. There is also very substantial evidence implicating various other genocidal militias and terror groups, such as the Somali Al Shabaab and Sudan’s





Janjaweed and Abu Tira organizations. They are enriching and arming themselves with the profits of contraband ivory.

The motive behind all the carnage, of course, is money. An African poacher can get \$80 for a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of ivory. That's \$800 for the 10 kilograms of ivory carried by a typical elephant. That's a lot of money in most African countries. But the big profit is made in Asia. Thai Customs recently evaluated smuggled ivory as being worth \$1,800 per kilogram—\$18,000 per elephant—wholesale. The “street value” retail price of 10 kilograms of carved ivory now runs about \$60,000. In fact, the price of ivory is increasing so rapidly that some people apparently are buying it as an investment commodity.

For contraband ivory to have any value, however, it needs to be laundered—made “clean” and slipped into a legal system. This is not particularly difficult because there is a lot of legal ivory in marketplaces around the world. All a trafficker needs to do is to smuggle the ivory through customs, and a 10 percent loss to customs seizures is clearly acceptable to most traffickers. (In fact, it's cheaper than sales tax in many countries.) Once past customs, the ivory needs to enter a clandestine industrial process of being inventoried, graded, processed in factories, marketed, distributed, and then mixed with existing legal ivory that can be found openly on sale from Zhonghua Road in Shanghai to Fifth Avenue in New York.

This already volatile situation was thrown into crisis this past October when Tanzania announced its proposal to legalize 101 tons of stockpiled ivory and sell it to Asian buyers—a move that would further stimulate the fashion for ivory and provide an even larger legal umbrella under which an expanding volume of poached contraband ivory could be laundered. Clearly, such an outcome would result in more killing of elephants and park rangers. The Tanzanian proposal was made to the Convention

on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the United Nations-administered endangered species treaty which has the authority to make decisions regarding the legalization of ivory and other wildlife products.

The proposal drew a storm of criticism, with vocal protests from conservation and animal welfare advocates both inside Tanzania and abroad. Tanzanian government officers had acknowledged that the country was suffering the loss of at least 10,000 elephants annually to commercial poaching gangs. How could Tanzania, a country which suffers more elephant poaching than any other country on earth, a country which has exported more illegal ivory than any other country on earth, make a proposal that was certain to fuel even greater poaching and trafficking? At the end of December, after 10 weeks of furious uproar, the Government of Tanzania tactfully withdrew its proposal.

The fight behind closed doors within the Tanzanian government certainly was intense. But ultimately, the voices who opposed the sale—which likely could have brought Tanzania more than 50 million dollars—prevailed. Local newspapers report that the decision to withdraw the proposal was announced by Professor Alexander Songorwa,



A massive stack of seized ivory tusks in Kenya bears monumental witness to the tens of thousands of elephants who die each year to feed the ivory trade.

Tanzania's Director of Wildlife, who simply said that the country was unable to meet some of the 24 conditions for legalized sale required by CITES. But the Tanzanians knew they could never meet the CITES conditions long before they made their proposal. And they also knew that such specific conditions had never before been a determining factor at CITES, where hard and fast politics have long run roughshod over the most flawless of scientific arguments. The only things that really count at CITES are the votes.

rest of the world? That should depend upon how long Tanzania might be expected to hold out an olive branch.

Tanzania has a checkered history with elephant politics. In 1989, the country was a very conspicuous leader in the campaign to abolish all trade in elephant ivory. Domestic actions, such as Operation Uhai, established very high standards for other countries to emulate. But later shifts within ministries and departments resulted in Tanzania becoming a champion of renewed trade in



Kenya Wildlife Service

Fallen family: carcasses from a dozen elephants massacred in early January within Kenya's Tsavo National Park. In other assaults within protected areas, park rangers have also been gunned down.

Many observers think Ambassador Khamis Kagasheki, recently appointed as Tanzania's Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, is the principal architect of Tanzania's about-face. Within days of announcing the withdrawal of Tanzania's proposal to sell its ivory stockpile, Kagasheki's ministry announced a series of commendable new initiatives targeting ivory poachers and dealers in Tanzania and abroad:

- A national law enforcement campaign to crack down on poaching gangs and smuggling syndicates;
- A readiness to participate in a UN effort to act against the LRA;
- The dismissal of several senior officers from the ministry's Wildlife Department for poor performance;
- An offer to host an international conference on elephant poaching and ivory trafficking in 2013, with the intention of creating a new plan of cooperative action against the ivory syndicates.

That's surely an ambitious agenda, and a major turn-about for Tanzania. But how should it be received by the

elephant ivory, persistently seeking to overturn the CITES ban. Much, of course, depends upon the person appointed as minister responsible for wildlife conservation.

Nevertheless, decisions made today will influence the security of elephants tomorrow. Thus, people who want to protect the great pachyderms should applaud Ambassador Kagasheki's initiatives and extend enthusiastic support. Tanzania needs to understand that its recent decisions are very much welcomed and admired.

Applause for Tanzania, however, will not fundamentally alter the existing dynamics of the ivory trade. If something is to be done, the markets in Asia ultimately must be addressed. These markets provide the financial incentives for all of the shooting and tragedy.

The United States has recently been very conspicuous in expressing concern over the ivory issue. Outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited African countries to assess the situation, and promised a new surge of American support. During his time in the Senate, incoming Secretary of State John Kerry led Foreign Relations Committee hearings on elephant poaching and trafficking

in ivory. And other activity in Washington indicates new resolve to address the ivory issue.

But the conspicuous part of the U.S. effort appears focused on Africa. Certainly, Africans do need help. Modestly trained and equipped African rangers are facing very sophisticated poaching gangs that are armed to the teeth with assault rifles and equipped with aircraft, satellite telephones, GPS units, and other sophisticated gadgets. It is unfair, and absolutely unreasonable, to expect developing countries in Africa to have the resources needed to contend with criminal abuses that are fueled by very dynamic and wealthy markets of Asia.

Someone needs to start talking to the Asian nations. The media has been flooded with articles reporting ivory seizures in Asia over the past couple of years. Tons of ivory have been seized in the ports of Bangkok and Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur and elsewhere. But there have been no reports of any kingpins being arrested, or any syndicates broken. Nor have there been reports of stockpiles being seized or factories being shut down.

Yet these stockpiles and factories must exist. With hundreds of tons of ivory being smuggled into Asia annually, the stuff must be somewhere. With carved ivory available in retail shops in virtually every Asian city, there must be ample carving factories working hard to produce a flood of contraband finished products.

Let's do the financial math, using the signature seal—also known as a “chop” or a “hanko”—as our example. We could use other products in our exercise—anything from bracelets to fancy carvings. And those expensive items certainly would drive our price estimates higher. But the signature seal business is a fairly typical example and serves as a good baseline estimate.

The signature seal is a very common product that many Asians use in their daily lives. They are used in place of a handwritten signature on a check, and on all sorts of other documents, from bank loans to taxi receipts. Any place an American would write a signature, many Asians would use their personal signature seals. Certainly, most Asians use signature seals made of plastic, or wood, or carved stone, or some other material. But some see ivory as being more fashionable or prestigious.

A typical ivory signature seal weighs about 30 grams, (a bit more than one ounce) and retails for about \$200. About 30 signature seals (with total weight 900 grams) can be fashioned from one kilogram of raw ivory (estimating about 10 percent wastage during the carving process). Thirty

signature seals at \$200 each indicates that one kilogram of worked ivory retails for about \$6,000.

There are at least 240 metric tons in annual trade. At \$200 an ounce, a conservative evaluation of the trade in illegal ivory comes in around \$1.44 billion a year—enough to motivate some people to kill. And they do.

All of this money finances the most horrific crimes. It is the money that purchases the AK-47s and G3s and even M16s used to kill elephants and any rangers who get in the way. It is the money used to pay smugglers and middlemen. It is the money used to corrupt officials and bribe freight forwarding agents. It is the money used to pay the LRA, Janjaweed and others in exchange for ivory so they can continue with their genocides and child soldier recruitments and abductions.

It is “dirty money”—the proceeds of crime—and subject to seizure by law enforcement authorities anywhere. The United States needs to talk with Asian nations about matters such as targeting the big dealers, their factories, and distribution systems. They need to discuss money laundering. They need to discuss criminal asset recovery and other tools that can be used to break the syndicates and arrest the godfathers.

But while doing this, America needs also to look inward. There is an illegal ivory business in the United States, and there is a legal ivory business. As it is so easy to disguise the illegal as being legal, isn't it time to simplify matters and make all sale of ivory illegal? 🐾



Environmental Investigation Agency

An elephant lingers over the body of long-time matriarch, “Resilience.” Resilience escaped from the poachers, but could not escape her many gunshot wounds, and later was euthanized.

Sea Change Afloat for Chimpanzees in Laboratories

MOST OF THE 360 National Institutes of Health (NIH)-owned chimpanzees currently in laboratories should be permanently retired from research and moved to sanctuaries—which need to be expanded to accommodate the animals. Six of nine ongoing invasive biomedical research projects conducted with 81 chimpanzees should be ended.

These are among a long list of steps recommended in a report by a Working Group of the Council of Councils—an advisory body to the NIH—to implement earlier recommendations by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) regarding chimpanzees in experimental laboratories. (See the Winter 2012 AWI *Quarterly*.) The Working Group’s proposed changes are subject to a 60-day public comment period before NIH Director Francis Collins makes a final decision.

The Working Group’s report, released on January 22, called for “ethologically appropriate physical and social environments” for about 50 chimpanzees who would still be held for possible future research, with that number reassessed every five years or so. However, for these chimpanzees, the report stressed the need to “promote the full range of natural chimpanzee behaviors” [emphasis theirs] rather than just allow them. The Working Group

called for maintaining social groups of seven or more chimpanzees, with 1,000 square feet of space per individual, a vertical height of at least 20 feet for climbing, and year-round outdoor access. In addition, the primates should have foraging opportunities, material to construct new nests daily, and environmental enrichment programs that provide “opportunities for choice and self-determination.”

The Working Group also recommended establishment of an independent oversight committee to advise on proposed chimpanzee research, as the existing “Interagency Animal Models Committee is not considered independent,” and contains no members of the public.

Sign up for AWI’s eAlert list or our “Dear Humanitarian” postal mailing list to receive updates on actions you can take to support these significant reforms, as well as other actions to promote stronger animal welfare laws and policies. 🐾

...as New Iberia Chimpanzees Set Sail for Sanctuary

IN SEPTEMBER, the NIH announced its plan to move 110 chimpanzees from the New Iberia Research Center—10 to Chimp Haven, a lush 200-acre sanctuary, and 100 to Texas Biomedical Research Institute (TBRI), which experiments on thousands of nonhuman primates annually and uses NIH-funds for “educating the public” on the “importance of chimpanzees in biomedical research.”

The NIH declared that the animals going to TBRI would be “permanently ineligible” for experimentation; however, the agency admitted this was not legally binding. AWI and other animal protection organizations pressed the NIH to send all 110 chimpanzees to permanent sanctuary at Chimp Haven—a move that would also reduce care costs by an amount estimated to exceed \$10 million.

On December 18, the NIH announced that all 110 chimpanzees would indeed go to Chimp Haven—half over the next several months, with the remainder after \$2.3 million is raised privately for new buildings. Though AWI believes that all funds should be provided by the NIH, AWI applauds the agency’s quick reversal of course. 🐾



Chimp Haven

The NIH may be taking steps to reduce the number of chimpanzees subject to medical research, and vastly improve conditions for those who remain in research.

Big Biotech Has Big Animal Care Problems: A Multitude of Citations by USDA

Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc. (SCBT), one of the world's largest suppliers of antibodies derived from the blood of animals (goats and rabbits), has been cited by USDA veterinary inspectors for apparent egregious violations of the Animal Welfare Act, dating back to at least July 2007. There have been 78 separate citations over the past five years, many of which appear to have resulted in needless animal suffering.

USDA inspectors report goats who were lame, including those suffering from broken legs; some had respiratory conditions and nasal discharge; many were anemic; a number were extremely thin, with “protruding hips, ribs and spinal processes”; others had skin conditions, including large areas of hair loss. Despite the terrible state of some of the goats, SCBT persisted in drawing their blood. Quoting from the inspection reports: “Continuing to use these animals for antibody production with their history of medical conditions caused them unnecessary discomfort, distress, and pain.... Animals with chronic and significant medical conditions are not suitable subjects for antibody production.” [May 5, 2010] “Inadequate numbers of staff at this facility, including veterinarians, have resulted in animals receiving inadequate medical care and thus experiencing unnecessary pain and distress.” [May 2, 2012].

Among other instances found in the reports: An animal with multiple tumors slated for euthanasia was left alive for at least three weeks [May 5, 2010]. A goat was found lying in an empty food bunker—SCBT staff had put food out of reach of the goat, who could not stand. When offered food by the inspector, the animal ate [July 13, 2010]. A goat with a painful broken leg and a lost cast went untreated for at least three days because the veterinarian didn't have time to provide care [April 19, 2012].

The USDA filed a complaint against the company for having “willfully violated the Animal Welfare Act” in July of 2012, yet citations continued. The USDA's inspection of October 31, 2012, in fact, reported that SCBT had *willfully* hidden from the USDA the existence of a site housing 841 goats. “Several staff members as well as management at this facility failed to inform APHIS officials of the location of a site where regulated



Higher ground: These goats at a research facility in the eastern United States receive proper care and conscientious oversight.

animals were housed and regulated activities (blood collection for antibody production) were taking place. The existence of the site was denied even when directly asked during APHIS inspections.” Apparently the site had gone unreported to the USDA for at least two-and-a-half years and, according to an inspector, “veterinary staff does not visit this herd.”

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please send letters to two government officials addressing SCBT's apparent appalling violations of the Animal Welfare Act and serious systemic failure to provide animals with much-needed veterinary care. The first letter should go to the Secretary of Agriculture, respectfully requesting that the USDA seek revocation of SCBT's license as a dealer and the largest fine possible. The second letter, to the NIH Director, should encourage the agency to close a loophole that exempts facilities that sell “off the shelf” antibodies (as does SCBT) from filing a Public Health Service Animal Welfare Assurance. To view AWI's letters to these two officials, as well as the full inspection reports and an article on the issue from the journal *Nature*, please visit: awionline.org/SCBT. 🐾

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
agsec@usda.gov

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 126, 1 Center Drive
Bethesda, MD 20892
francis.collins@nih.gov



Editta Magylovicáute, GVI

Watamu Marine Association Aims for Cetacean Safeguards on Kenyan Coast

The Watamu Marine Association (WMA) was established in 2007 in Kenya in order to bring together members from the community, tourism, and environmental sectors in the coastal resort town of Watamu to promote community development and empowerment, and to advocate for the protection and preservation of Watamu Marine National Park and Reserve. The following article by WMA's Jane Spilsbury and others discusses some of the threats to Kenya's marine mammals and reports on WMA's efforts, through the Kenya Marine Mammal Network (KMMN), to establish baseline data to facilitate conservation efforts.

Relatively little is known about marine mammal species inhabiting Kenya's inshore and coastal waters. Disconcertingly, some of these species are believed to be in steady decline in the Western Indian Ocean, facing significant threats such as becoming bycatch in fishing gear, loss of habitat, overfishing, unregulated dolphin/whale watching activities and, in recent years, the oil and gas industry.

For these reasons, there is an urgent need to gain a more comprehensive understanding and data set for these species. As no research has previously been conducted for the north coast region of Kenya, the Watamu Marine Association started studying marine

mammals in 2010 for the first time in Malindi Marine National Park and Watamu Marine National Reserve, in order to collect baseline data about species, distribution and abundance. WMA partnered with Global Vision International (GVI), a marine mammal research organization that has been working on the Kenyan south coast, in Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park, since 2006. The two groups have recorded more than 1,300 sightings from four different cetacean species: Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin, spinner dolphin, and humpback whale.

These data have given us a greater understanding of the animals' distribution and movement, and have

made it possible to estimate the local population size of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, the most common coastal dolphin. The populations were estimated through the creation of photo-identification catalogs, giving a total number so far of 81 animals in the Watamu Reserve and 80 individuals in Kisite Park. Three individuals have been identified as traveling over 140 kilometers between the two protected areas.

Threats to Kenyan Marine Mammals

Bycatch • Accidental capture in fishing gear is probably the most direct threat for Kenyan marine mammals, and reports indicate that an increasing number of marine mammals are being caught as bycatch in the Western Indian Ocean region. Studies from nearby Zanzibar have shown the impact of this problem on the local dolphin populations, with 213 individuals reported entangled in artisanal gillnets (driftnets and bottom-set) from 2000 to 2008. With more than 10,000 fishermen along the Kenya coast and a significant percentage of them using gillnets, this highlights the need for increased research on fishing gear and how it may be impacting local marine mammal populations, as well as the need to conduct awareness programs for fishermen on cetacean conservation.

Oil and gas exploration • A more recent potential threat has come from the dramatic increase in offshore oil and gas exploration in Kenya since 2010, which is now intensifying. The use of seismic survey vessels, air guns, drilling, and explosive blasts can disrupt the behavior of marine mammals. Human-

generated ocean noise, such as that from military active sonar as well as from oil and gas exploration and extraction, has been correlated with a number of stranding deaths of cetaceans. It is also widely accepted that such noise may force marine mammals away from resident areas or change significant biological behaviors, including from preferred migratory routes. To date, no unusual numbers of strandings or obvious changes in migratory or other behaviors have been recorded along the Kenyan coast, but research must continue to fully assess the possible long term effects from oil and gas activities on dolphins and whales and the fish stocks upon which they rely.

Overfishing • WMA research has revealed that the commercial-scale ring net fishery that has been operating in the Watamu Reserve since 2008 has caused the relocation of resident bottlenose dolphin populations from their regular feeding grounds over the past two years. This is most likely due to a combination of disturbance and overfishing, forcing the dolphins to search for fish (their main food source) elsewhere.

Unregulated and intrusive dolphin watching practices • Dolphin watching is an increasingly popular form of ecotourism, becoming economically important to local communities in developing countries. When done irresponsibly, such activities can disturb natural behaviors like breeding and feeding, and threaten young calves if separated from their mothers. In Watamu, community boat operators, hotels, and other tour operators offer dolphin watching excursions. However, until recently, internationally accepted guidelines have not been in place or enforced. To



A humpback whale calf goes airborne in Kenya's Wasini Channel (Chloe Chorne, GVI); two bottlenose dolphins surface, as ring net fishermen ply their trade in the background (Sergi Pérez, GVI); another bottlenose takes time out to play with a piece of seaweed (Sergi Pérez, GVI).

ensure the welfare of dolphins, both WMA and GVI, working with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), have created Good Dolphin Watching Guidelines. Our aim is to promote dolphin watching conducted in accordance with these guidelines as an ecotourism activity that can economically benefit the local community and also protect dolphins from human harassment and disturbance.

Public Awareness and the Need for a National Conservation Strategy

In May 2011, WMA and GVI established the Kenya Marine Mammal Network, which partners with the KWS and the Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) to provide the first consistent data—collected by sport fishing vessels, diving clubs, artisanal fishers, and non-governmental organizations—on occurrence and abundance of marine mammals along the Kenyan coast. It is also anticipated that this project will help to define areas of “high importance” for marine mammals, which will improve our understanding of these species in the region and do so on a broader temporal scale. More than 300 sightings were reported to KMMN between October 2011 and September 2012, with the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin being the species most frequently encountered.

Reports of humpback whales in Kenyan waters skyrocketed in 2012, with 167 individual sightings documented through the end of November to WMA alone. East African humpback whales are specifically from the Southwest Indian Ocean subpopulation, an estimated 35,000 animals who live in the Southern Hemisphere and are genetically distinct from other humpback whale populations.

KMMN has gathered important scientific information and baseline data and put measures in place to protect dolphins and whales. However, questions remain concerning the future status and welfare of Kenya’s dolphins and whales. As with most wildlife conservation and welfare matters, the issues are human ones and it is up to us to ensure that these magnificent creatures and their environment are given adequate protection, for them to survive and for us to share and enjoy. 🐾



George Allen

Though upside down, this humpback whale off the Kenyan coast appears ready for takeoff. Indeed, the first half of its Latin name—Megaptera—translates to “big winged.”

The Authors

Jane Spilsbury is a former lawyer from the UK and is now an advisor for WMA. She specializes in dolphin and whale identification photography and has helped develop the WMA Dolphin Research, Conservation and Ecotourism Project, which is funded by the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife.

Steve Trott is a marine zoologist and Chairman of WMA, an association of 30 groups and organizations from the community, tourism and conservation sectors in Watamu. WMA runs sustainable tourism and ecotourism projects, community waste management and recycling projects, and marine conservation and research projects.

Sergi Pérez is a marine biologist conducting his Ph.D. on the ecology of the bottlenose dolphin around Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Protected Area and has been involved with GVI since 2008.

Zeno Wijiten is a wildlife biologist, author of several publications on crocodylians and primates, and the director of GVI South Coast. GVI South Coast works with KWS, conducting marine and terrestrial research and supporting community-led integrated conservation.

MARINELAND ORDERED TO STOP DUMPING DEAD ANIMALS INTO MASS GRAVES

MARINELAND, a marine park in Niagara Falls, Canada, has been ordered by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to stop burying animals on its grounds. Former Marineland employees told *The Toronto Star* that the park—without proper permits—had been shoveling animal remains into mass graves for decades, with “two of them containing ‘more than 1,000 animals.’” The graves are said to include “whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals and walrus, as well as bears, bison, deer and other animals at the park.”



Derek P

Resting on a rock, this cinnamon-colored black bear at Marineland shows patches of missing fur. Some of the Marineland bears reportedly suffered severe cases of mange.

Last August, *The Toronto Star* published an exposé on multiple animal welfare issues at Marineland. The paper interviewed eight former employees, who described animal suffering brought on by a pattern of neglect, chronic staff shortages, and poor conditions. Among the incidents alleged to have occurred:

- Five female dolphins swam almost continuously in murky green water in a concrete pool over a period of eight months in 2011-12. “Their skin fell off in chunks, their colour darkened and they refused to eat.” Just before the show season began in May 2012, their water was changed.
- Two sea lions were repeatedly confined in dry cages—once for over two months—in an attempt to limit harm to eyes already damaged by poor water conditions. Video footage reportedly shows them writhing in pain or plunging their heads into a bucket of clean water. One eventually lost the lens from one eye.

- After repeated exposure to unhealthy water, one of the park’s harbor seals went blind.
- When the former land animal supervisor advised the owner that new bears at the park would need to be quarantined to guard against disease, the owner refused, citing a lack of space. Some of the bears turned out to have mange and lost all of their hair.
- The same supervisor was ignored when he advised that newborn bear cubs be separated from older males. One day, staff discovered the cubs gone—devoured, the supervisor believes, by the adult bears.
- A baby beluga died after a brutal two-hour assault by two adult male belugas, while an untrained guide radioed for help that never came.

Last October, AWI protested a move by Georgia Aquarium and its partners SeaWorld and Shedd Aquarium to import 18 belugas taken from the wild in Russian waters. AWI suggested that the U.S. aquariums instead relieve Marineland of some of the 40 or more belugas reported to be languishing in appalling conditions there. (See Fall 2012 *AWI Quarterly*.)

John Holer—who founded Marineland over half a century ago—denies there is any problem with the water quality, staffing, or level of care, and has sued one of the former trainers quoted in *The Star* for a sum in excess of one million dollars, claiming defamation. Meanwhile, concerning the graves, the Environment Ministry has given Marineland a strict timetable to carry out a series of orders, including a comprehensive assessment by an environmental firm. 🐾



Dagwald

Marineland reportedly has more captive beluga whales than any attraction in the world. As to living conditions, however, quantity is not matched by quality.

CONSERVATION AND COMMERCE

Important Decisions on Trade in Endangered Species
Await International Community at 16th CITES Conference

BLANDING'S TURTLE



USFWS/Midwest Region

THREE YEARS AGO 839 delegates from 158 countries and 350 observers from non-parties and NGOs gathered in Doha, Qatar, for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. This March, the parties will descend on Bangkok, Thailand, for the 16th CoP to decide the fate of many species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants subject to international trade as living organisms, their parts, or in products.

AWI will be in Bangkok to advocate for species in need of protection. AWI has worked within CITES since the treaty was first negotiated in the early 1970s, attending every CoP and most meetings of its management and scientific committees (Standing Committee and Animals Committee, respectively) that meet each year between CoPs.

CoP16 will take place at the same conference center that hosted the 13th CoP in 2004. Perhaps this is a good omen, as CoP13 scored several landmark victories for conservation—in contrast to the disappointments of the intervening two meetings, at which several important proposals to better protect marine species were defeated by fierce opposition from Japan and China and a growing lobby in favor of easing

restrictions on trade in wildlife. In contrast, at CoP13, animal protection and conservation NGOs, including AWI, helped parties protect the Irrawaddy dolphin from the Asian aquarium trade (despite Japan's best efforts to defeat the proposal), helped prevent Japan from reopening international trade in northern hemisphere minke whale products, and secured the listing on Appendix II of the great white shark, requiring parties to determine that any commercial trade would be sustainable before allowing exports to proceed.

CITES regulates trade in wildlife by listing species subject to international trade on one of the Convention's three appendices, depending on their biological and trade status: Appendix I includes the most threatened species and imposes the most restrictive trade restrictions (banning international trade for primarily commercial purposes but permitting, for example, transfers between museums or for captive breeding programs). Appendix II regulates commercial trade in species affected, but not yet threatened, by international trade by requiring exporting countries to make determinations of legal origin, sustainability of the trade, and welfare in transit before issuing export permits. Appendix III is used by individual CITES parties seeking assistance in regulating trade in endemic species. Since it entered into force in 1975, CITES has listed over 30,000 species in its appendices, the vast majority on Appendix II, and its membership has expanded to 177 parties, with the newest member, the Republic of Maldives, joining in December 2012.

CITES is often considered one of the more effective multinational environmental treaties primarily because, unlike many others, CITES has teeth in the form of recommended trade sanctions against parties that do not comply with the treaty's provisions. Unfortunately, CITES has significant weaknesses, including—

- a lack of transparency,
- decision-making and trade evaluation processes that are glacially slow despite the urgent need for action to address substantial levels of illegal and legal trade,
- increasingly politicized debate that ignores (contra to the treaty's mandates) the best available scientific evidence,

SALTWATER CROCODILE

Stephen Barnett



- a failure to adhere to the “precautionary principle” (which requires that conservation be prioritized in the face of uncertain outcomes), and
- significant deficiencies in making credible findings as to the sustainability of trade in Appendix I and II species (also referred to as “non-detriment findings”).

Despite these deficiencies, CITES is more progressive than other treaties in that it recognizes the depth and breadth of expertise in the NGO community and welcomes our participation in discussions and input into decision making. For the last twenty years, the majority of conservation and animal welfare groups working on wildlife trade issues have worked together in an advocacy coalition co-founded by AWI called the Species Survival Network (SSN) that now boasts almost 100 members from all corners of the globe.

SSN members cohere around a common commitment to the promotion, enhancement, and strict enforcement of CITES and a shared belief that for international trade in wildlife to be permitted, credible evidence should be presented that such trade will not detrimentally affect survival of the species, subspecies or populations and their role in the ecosystems in which they occur, and that when trade involves live animals, the risk of injury, damage to health, and cruel treatment is minimized. The main function of SSN at a CoP is to coordinate the sharing of its legal and scientific analyses with the parties to help them (and the general public) better understand the proposals and resolutions before them and, most importantly, to recognize the impact that their decisions may have on the survival of species.

In the months leading up to this and every CoP, AWI and other SSN members work together to compile a detailed digest of comments on all issues on the agenda for publication in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic. We also work between meetings to advise friendly parties on proactive measures we believe they should take. Several parties, including the United States and members of the European Union, actively solicit such input. The following are just some of the positions that AWI and our SSN colleagues will be advocating for in Bangkok.



J.L. Kendrick

AUCKLAND GREEN GECKO

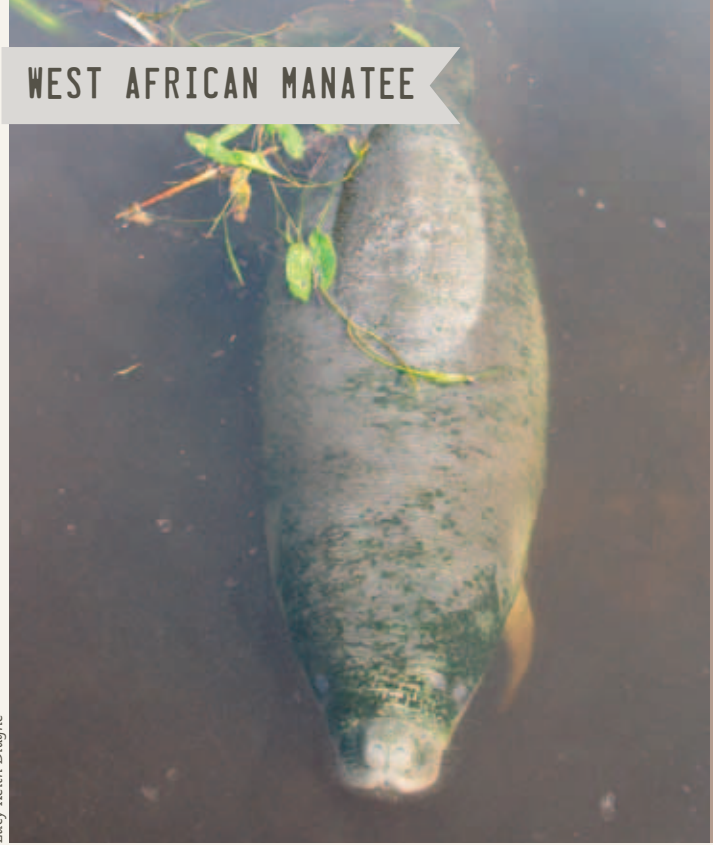
MANATEE

Benin, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, on behalf of other range states, seek the transfer (“uplisting”) of the West African manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*) from Appendix II to Appendix I. The species is found in coastal and estuary habitat, including most river systems from Mauritania to Angola. Although manatees are protected from hunting across their range, poaching of manatees for meat and traditional medicines, and capture of live animals for captive display is increasing. The threat from hunting is compounded by other challenges to the manatee’s survival, including habitat loss exacerbated by development on wetlands and construction of dams, and incidental capture in fishing nets. Although the status of the species across much of its range is poorly understood, manatees are believed to number in the low thousands, with a growing body of evidence indicating a population decline in the majority of range states.

Traditionally, West African manatees were hunted opportunistically for meat and medicinal use of their body parts. Today they are targeted by poachers using harpoons, hooks, baited traps, and poison. As prices for manatee products rise, the incentive to kill these peaceful aquatic mammals escalates. A whole manatee can sell for up to \$4,500 in Chad and manatee oil fetches \$304 per liter. In Sierra Leone, more than 350 manatees were killed by commercial poachers between 2007 and 2010, and authorities refer to the emergence of an organized “manatee mafia.”

WEST AFRICAN MANATEE

Lucy Keith Diagne



While greater effort and resources are clearly needed in the range states to enforce laws against manatee hunting and cross-border trade, a CITES Appendix I listing would play an important role in helping wildlife enforcement officials. AWI has stepped up to champion the manatee proposal on behalf of SSN and is working closely with contacts in the region to prepare documents for the meeting and rally support for the proposal.



Aimee Sanders

ELEPHANT

A clear African priority is the elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), which always stands on center stage at CoPs. Between 1979 and 1989, more than 600,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory, halving the continent's population. CITES stemmed the slaughter by listing the species on Appendix I in 1989, but southern African range states repeatedly sought to overturn the ban and allow exports to continue, primarily to Japan, the main market. In 2007, after a long series of CoPs at which multiple proposals to have various nations' elephant populations downlisted to Appendix II dominated the agenda—including successful efforts by Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa—the parties reached a compromise, agreeing to a nine-year ivory moratorium from further proposals for trade in order to provide a “resting period” from debate on this issue and an opportunity to tighten enforcement relating to poaching, illegal international trade, and domestic ivory markets. In return, the four countries with populations already on Appendix II were permitted a one-off sale of government-stockpiled ivory (the second such one-off sale permitted since 1997).

Sadly, however, the faction intent on easing trade restrictions never gave the ivory moratorium a chance, interpreting it to apply *only* to the four countries with populations on Appendix II, and not the other 33 range states. At the very next CoP in 2010, Tanzania and Zambia sought a downlisting of their national populations and a one-off sale of stockpiled ivory. Their proposals were rejected. The range states of Burkina Faso and Kenya, which are opposed to further trade, are seeking an amendment to a footnote in the appendices to clarify that the nine-year moratorium applies to *all* elephant populations in order to satisfy the original intent of the 2007 compromise and enable the African Elephant Action Plan—adopted by all 37 African elephant range states—to be properly implemented and funded.

The backdrop to this war of words at the CoP is a tragedy on the ground in Africa. Poaching is out of control across most of Africa and has worsened considerably in recent years. AWI, other NGOs, and many scientists believe this is in direct response to the most recent one-off ivory sales to Japan and China. As the CITES Standing Committee noted in mid-2012, “The rise in levels of illegal killing and the dynamics surrounding



Brian Woychuk

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

it are worrying, not only for small and fragmented elephant populations that could face extirpation, but also for previously secure large populations.” AWI strongly supports the Burkina Faso and Kenya proposal and hopes a properly implemented moratorium will bring desperately needed respite.

RHINOCEROS

Another African species in crisis is the southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*), of which the South African and Swaziland populations were downlisted to Appendix II in 1994 and 2004, respectively, to permit trade in live animals and hunting trophies. For almost a decade, the hunting trophy annotation has provided a loophole through which hundreds of horns from southern white rhinos legally hunted in South Africa have been illegally exported to Vietnam for commercial purposes (primarily to be used in traditional Asian medicine). Although South Africa has recently banned sport hunting by Vietnamese nationals, demand from Vietnam is so intense and the value of rhino horn so high that horns attained from sport hunted trophies continue to illegally enter Vietnam and it is even feared that bona fide hunters may come to regard their trophies as tradable commodities.

Furthermore, demand is driving incredible levels of poaching; during 2012, 668 rhinos were reported

WHITE RHINO



Guido Berger

killed illegally for their horns in South Africa. This is the continuation of a bloody trend that claimed 986 rhino lives from 2008 through 2011, compared to 13 rhinos reported killed illegally in 2007. Not all animals are killed; a few have survived the mutilations suffered at the hands of poachers to access their horns. (Despite this demand, the purported medicinal benefits of rhino horn are without scientific basis; rhino horn is made of keratin, the same material in all mammal hair and fingernails.)

To close the sport-hunting loophole, Kenya is proposing an amendment to the Appendix II listing to establish a zero quota on exports of hunting trophies from South Africa and Swaziland from 2013 until at least CoP18. The aim is to allow existing exporting and importing parties, as well as potential importing parties, to ensure that their legal, enforcement, and other frameworks are capable of preventing illegal activity when exports of southern white rhino trophies resume.

POLAR BEAR

Despite the rejection of an uplisting proposal at the last CoP in 2010, the United States (this time supported by Russia), is again proposing the transfer of the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) to Appendix I. As is widely known, this sea ice-dependent top predator is predicted to decline precipitously as a consequence of climate change. CITES cannot prevent that, but it can intervene to mitigate other pressures on the species by banning commercial trade in polar bear specimens, including hunting trophies, most of which come from Canada. Greenland has already established a voluntary export ban on all polar bear products, so would not be affected by the uplisting. Nor would indigenous hunters in Greenland or other range states be prevented from continuing to hunt polar bears for subsistence use, or domestic trade in their parts.

In 2007, polar bear scientists projected that two-thirds of the world's surviving polar bears could disappear by mid-century, but even this shocking statistic is conservative as

recent loss of sea ice has exceeded predictions. As habitat is lost, the polar bear—whose population is estimated to be between 20,000 and 25,000—will not be able to adapt quickly enough to a terrestrial-based life. As a result, populations will be rapidly depleted. Given the species' slow maturation, long interval between births, and small litter sizes, recovery would be slow and extremely precarious, at best. Added to this pressure is the impact on polar bear fertility and health from contaminants accumulating in the food chain, as well as disturbance from increased vessel traffic and oil and gas development as the bear's arctic habitat becomes more accessible to humans.

Hunting polar bears for international trade and sport occurs only in Canada, where about 600 are hunted annually, with most trophies and/or parts traded internationally. Of the estimated 5,000–6,000 polar bears traded internationally between 2001 and 2010, Canada exported over three-quarters, including 3,261 skins, 861 trophies, 284 bodies, and five live animals. Market demand for polar bear skins has strengthened significantly in recent years and is driving up prices paid to hunters as well as retail prices; a hide can fetch as much as \$63,000 in China. Adoption of the Appendix I listing proposal could help to diminish at least one serious threat to this symbol of the Arctic.



Airforce

POLAR BEAR



Jürgen Donauer

OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK

SHARKS

Other than the great white, basking, and whale sharks, which are listed on Appendix II, previous efforts to list commercially exploited fish such as sharks and tuna on the CITES appendices have met fierce opposition from Japan, China, and their allies. Those countries oppose the regulation by an international treaty of such highly valuable species that they believe should be managed on a regional basis. AWI is deeply concerned about voracious demand from Asia for sharks—or more specifically, their fins—for soup and medicine, and has been working hard to persuade CITES parties to provide greater protection at CoP16 for several shark species imperiled by this demand, by listing them on Appendix II. Our efforts are focused on listing proposals for three species of hammerhead sharks (*Sphyrna lewini*, *Sphyrna mokarran*, *Sphyrna zygaena*) and the porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), proposed by the European Union; the oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), proposed by Brazil, Colombia, and the United States; the freshwater sawfish (*Pristis microdon*), proposed by Australia, and all manta rays (*Manta spp.*), proposed by Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador.

OTHER SPECIES AND ISSUES

AWI is also helping other SSN members promote proposals to list on Appendix II, or uplist to Appendix I, more than thirty species of turtles, terrapins, and tortoises that are over-exploited for food or the international pet trade. Other proposals include efforts to protect the Mangshan pit viper (*Protobothrops mangshanensis*) and New Zealand green geckos (*Naultinus spp.*) from the pet trade, and species of ebony and rosewood used to make musical instruments, furniture, souvenirs, and perfume.

CITES can only successfully protect traded species from over-exploitation if its rules are clear, properly implemented by all parties, and if enforcement actions are taken against those countries that fail to adequately implement the Convention. At each CoP, much of the agenda is devoted

exclusively to issues relating to the functioning of the treaty and this meeting will be no exception. Committee II, which will meet daily for the first week of the conference, will address many issues important to AWI, including the regulation of international trade in hunting trophies, tourist souvenirs, and fish caught on the high seas outside the jurisdiction of any country; the disposal of illegally-traded or confiscated specimens; and the making of “non-detriment findings.”

None of these discussions can proceed, however, until the parties have adopted the rules of procedure for the meeting. Far from a formality, this promises to be a difficult discussion. For years, many parties have taken comfort from a rule allowing votes to be conducted by secret ballot if just 10 other parties agree. With many countries more than



Proposal	AWI's Recommendation	Proposal	AWI's Recommendation		
3	Transfer the polar bear from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support	25	Transfer the Siamese crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero export quota for wild specimens	Oppose
10	Establish a zero export quota for hunting trophies of white rhinoceros from South Africa and Swaziland	Support	26	Include the New Zealand green geckos in Appendix II	Support
12	Prevent any proposals to allow trade in African elephant ivory from any populations before 2017	Support	27	Include the Mangshan pit viper in Appendix II	Support
13	Transfer the West African manatee from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support	28	Transfer the Roti Island snake-necked turtle from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support
15	Delete Sonnerat's junglefowl from Appendix II	Oppose	29	Include the spotted turtle, Blanding's turtle, and diamondback terrapin in Appendix II	Support
23	Transfer the American crocodile population in the Bay of Cispata from Appendix I to Appendix II	Oppose	30		
24	Transfer the saltwater crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II with a zero export quota for wild specimens	Oppose	31		
			32	Include 1 genus (<i>Cyclemys</i>) and 10 species of freshwater turtles in Appendix II and adopt a zero export quota for wild caught turtles from 15 species for commercial purposes	Support

happy to hide their vote from the world at large, or from their constituents in particular, many important decisions, including votes on the most controversial species-listing proposals at recent CoPs, have been taken in secret (including those for elephants, whales, tuna, sharks, and polar bears).

AWI deplores this lack of transparency and accountability and hopes that CITES will take a big step at this meeting to bring it closer to other UN agreements that only allow secret ballots for the election of officers and decisions on meeting venues. The European Union has proposed changing CITES' rules of procedure to require that a motion to conduct a vote by secret ballot must be supported by a simple majority of parties. Mexico has suggested a different change to the rules, proposing that a motion for a secret ballot must be supported

by one-third of the parties. While we appreciate Mexico's effort to find a compromise, AWI will encourage parties to support the EU's proposal.

After the disappointment of CoP15, where efforts to gain protections for a number of species, particularly sharks, were defeated as politics trumped science, AWI hopes for and will be working toward more positive results from CoP16. Though obtaining CITES listing for the species to be debated at CoP16 will not solve all conservation concerns, it would help reduce the threat to these species of unsustainable legal and illegal trade. The highlights (and lowlights) of the meeting will be reported later this year in the *Quarterly*. 🐾



48

36

43

28

Proposal	AWI's Recommendation
33 Transfer the Indochinese box turtle from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support
34 Include the Ryukyu black-breasted leaf turtle in Appendix II with a zero export quota for wild specimens for commercial purposes	Support
35 Transfer the Annam leaf turtle from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support
36 Transfer big-headed turtles from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support
37 Transfer the Burmese star tortoise from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support
38 Include 8 species of softshell turtles in Appendix II and transfer <i>Chitra chitra</i> and <i>Chitra vandijki</i> from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support
39 Include the Machalilla poison dart frog in Appendix II	Support

Proposal	AWI's Recommendation
42 Include the oceanic whitetip shark in Appendix II	Support
43 Include the scalloped, great, and smooth hammerhead sharks in Appendix II	Support
44 Include the porbeagle shark in Appendix II	Support
45 Transfer the freshwater sawfish from Appendix II to Appendix I	Support
46 Include manta rays in Appendix II	Support
47 Include the Ceja river stingray in Appendix II	Support
48 Include the Ocellate river and Rosette river stingrays in Appendix II	Support

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Military Working Dogs Get Brighter Future

ON JANUARY 2, 2013, President Obama signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2013 (H.R. 4310), which authorizes the Secretaries of the various military services to transfer back to Lackland Air Force Base, or another location for adoption, any Military Working Dog (MWD) who is to be retired and for whom “no suitable adoption is available at the military facility where the dog is located.” This language is needed to ensure that the military returns MWDs to the United States for a chance to get the retirement they deserve, and prospective adopters are not faced with the expense of transporting them stateside. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of Defense to create a program to provide veterinary care to adopted retired MWDs. (Such a program will not involve federal funds.) Rep. Walter Jones, Jr. (R-NC) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) sponsored the original legislation on which these new provisions are based. 🐾

Houston Pair Charged Under Anti-Crush Video Law

IN THE FIRST CASE under the 2010 federal crush video law, passed after the Supreme Court struck down a 1999 law against animal cruelty films for being overbroad, the U.S. Attorney in Southern Texas has charged Ashley Nicole Richards and Brent Justice of Houston with “creating and distributing ‘animal crush videos.’” Richards and Justice face five federal animal crush charges and two federal obscenity charges related to eight out of more than 20 videos seized at the time of their felony arrest in August for violating state animal cruelty laws. Richards allegedly admitted to killing hundreds of animals over the years. In proceedings relating to the state charges, the county magistrate, according to the *Houston Chronicle*, “halted the reading of court documents” because the details were too gruesome. The pair face up to seven years in federal prison on each animal crush charge, up to five years on each obscenity charge, and \$250,000 in fines on each count. 🐾



Brittany Horton

Protesters rally in front of the South Korean Embassy in Washington during the International Day of Action for South Korean Dogs and Cats.

AWI Engages Embassies on Ending Dog and Cat Meat Trade

AWI's Rosalyn Morrison and Chris Heyde met in December with Dave Kush from the office of Rep. Chris Smith (D-NJ) and Ariel Penaranda, Minister for Legislative Affairs and Consul at the Embassy of the Philippines, concerning the illegal dog meat industry in that country. AWI is advocating for stronger enforcement of the Philippines' 1998 Animal Welfare Act and 2007 Anti-Rabies Act in order to crack down on the illicit trade. Last August, AWI cosponsored an International Day of Action for South Korean Dogs and Cats and a rally in Washington, D.C., to call attention to the notoriously cruel and borderline-legal dog meat industry in that country, as well. Afterwards, Rosalyn and Cathy Liss met with the veterinary attaché at the South Korean Embassy in Washington for a discussion on potential actions by the national and provincial governments to curtail the industry. 🐾

BATTLEFIELD TRAINING TORTURE TO END

In the Summer 2012 AWI Quarterly, we reported that more than 10,000 animals each year are shot, stabbed, mutilated, and killed in military training exercises, despite the availability of more effective training tools to simulate battlefield trauma. No more. In January, President Obama signed a defense bill that will require the Department of Defense to create a strategy for replacing these gruesome practices with methods that don't involve animals. 🐾

GOOD CALL: SENATE SIDELINES SPORTSMEN'S ACT

An attempt to undermine longstanding wildlife, land conservation, and public health laws was defeated in November, when the Sportsmen's Act of 2012 (S. 3525) was blocked from passage in the U.S. Senate. The Sportsmen's Act would have amended the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to permit importation of polar bear carcasses taken before the species was listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 2008—including those killed despite multiple warnings of an imminent ban on imports. It would also have weakened the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) by eliminating the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate hazardous substances—including lead—released by hunting and fishing gear.

AWI actively opposed this legislation during the 112th Congress, as well as efforts to insert similar provisions into other bills. A subsequent attempt to exempt lead ammunition from the TSCA through an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act also failed. Although Congress came to a close without passing these dangerous amendments to the MMPA and TSCA, the provisions may be reintroduced in 2013. 🐾



Ingrid Taylor

Bald eagles and other raptors ingest poison when they consume prey laden with lead shot. The Sportsmen's Act of 2012 sought to limit EPA oversight of such environmental contaminants.

MoMA Cafe Keeps Horse Meat off the Menu

SHORTLY BEFORE the M. Wells Dinette opened at the Museum of Modern Art's PS1 gallery (MoMA PS1) in Long Island City, New York, in late September, the restaurant's chefs announced that the menu would include horse tartare—or, in less glamorous terms, raw horse meat—in addition to a number of dishes prepared with foie gras, or fattened goose liver. The horse meat was to come from U.S. horses slaughtered in Canada.

AWI has consistently and firmly supported legislation to ban the slaughter of American horses here and abroad for food. Horse meat is not and cannot be produced humanely because traditional livestock transport and slaughter methods are poorly suited to horses. In the United States, horses have never been raised for human consumption, yet for decades, our horses have been bought and slaughtered by a predatory, foreign-owned industry for sale to diners elsewhere.

Production of foie gras is similarly inhumane; to produce foie gras, duck or goose livers are artificially enlarged far beyond their natural size by force-feeding the birds far larger portions of food than they would otherwise consume. Upon learning that the M. Wells Dinette would serve these cruelly produced foods, AWI sent a letter to the MoMA PS1 board of directors urging them to remove the foods from the café's menu.

In response to intense pressure to keep horse meat off the menu, the M. Wells Dinette's chefs have announced that they will not serve horse meat at the gallery restaurant. Disappointingly, however, the Dinette menu does include dishes prepared with foie gras. AWI will continue to encourage chefs and restaurants to make responsible, humane choices in developing their menus. Please let M. Wells Dinette and other restaurants know that you object to foie gras and support humane choices, as well. 🐾



Farm Sanctuary

Ducks force-fed to produce foie gras suffer lifelong abuse, and a premature mortality rate that can be 20 times higher than normal.

MONITORING LOON POPULATIONS VIA NON-INVASIVE DIGITAL IMAGE ANALYSIS

By Jessica Bridgers & Mark Pokras; a Christine Stevens Wildlife Award study

As many wildlife populations decline, the ability to monitor population sizes and changes is critical to conservation efforts. To determine population trends, researchers often must capture animals and apply unique bands or tags that can be used to identify individuals in the future. While these techniques reward researchers with fascinating and irreplaceable information, the process of capturing and handling is unavoidably intrusive and stressful to the animals.

Common loons are large, aquatic birds that inhabit northern lakes of North America. These birds possess extremely streamlined legs that make them highly efficient at pursuing the fast swimming fish that comprise most of their diet. To identify loons for studies, large bands are applied to the lower leg, and most individuals receive two to four bands. It is speculated that these bands may disrupt the streamlined nature of the legs, making it more difficult for loons to obtain prey. In fact, studies in penguins, another species of aquatic fish-eaters, have shown that bands negatively affect survival and reproductive success because of the extra energy needed to swim with bands.¹ Research is currently underway to determine if bands disrupt the flow of water around loons' legs. However, studying the ecological effects of bands on loons will require the ability to compare foraging ability, mortality, and reproductive success in banded and un-banded wild birds. This poses a challenge, as there are currently no alternative methods to identify un-banded loons.

But this may be changing. Digital image analysis is emerging as an alternative to traditional identification methods in several distinctly patterned species such as whale sharks, manta rays, zebras, cheetahs, and African penguins. Much like facial recognition software for humans, this technique uses a computer algorithm to

analyze images and determine which individuals have been identified previously and which ones are new. Different programs require varying levels of input from biologists, but one unifying theme is the reliance of these technologies on citizen scientists to obtain photographs and location information for individual animals. This approach has been extremely successful for species monitoring projects such as ECOCEAN's whale shark database, which has received 41,000 images from citizen scientists around the world.²

Loons are a charismatic, black and white spotted and striped species that, much like a living bar code, appear ripe for digital image analysis. To assess the utility of this technique in loons, we first identified three body regions of interest: large spots on the animals' backs, "necklaces" and "chinstraps" on the birds' necks, and bill and facial shape and dimensions. To determine the stability and variation of the spot and stripe patterns, we used existing software optimized for manta ray spots and zebra stripes, respectively. Unfortunately, feathers move around as birds change their positions, and our testing yielded poor results. However, bill and facial shape are more stable and will be the focus of our next studies.

Because the analysis of bill and facial measurements presents a novel problem for which no existing programs appear immediately useful, we are obtaining facial measurements from a sample of birds with the goal of assessing which, if any, may distinguish one bird from another. Ideally, we hope to find a series of ratios (for example, bill depth versus length) that will allow us to identify individual birds, since ratios can be standardized for photos taken 10, 20, or 30 feet away, or even from a bird in the hand. If successful, this technique could revolutionize the current methods of loon monitoring, involve the public in conservation efforts, and, most importantly, prevent unnecessary stress and anxiety to individual loons. 🐾

Jessica Bridgers is working toward an M.S. in Animals and Public Policy at the Center for Animals and Public Policy at Tufts University. Mark Pokras, DVM, is an associate professor at Tufts' Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine and co-founder of the Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine.

¹Saroux, C., et al. 2011. Reliability of flipper-banded penguins as indicators of climate change. *Nature*. 469: 203-206.

²<http://www.whaleshark.org/>

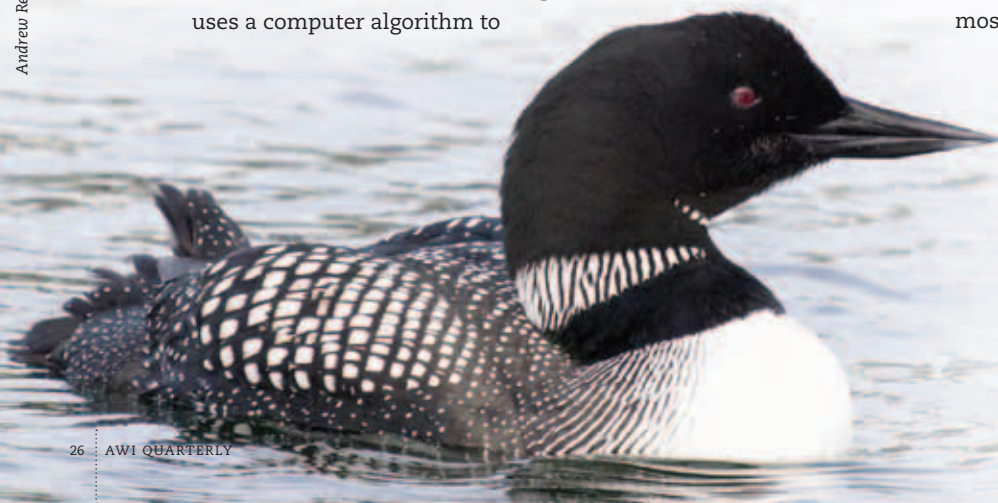




Fig Business

Whether the structures are new or old (such as this row of gestation crates with sows), the factory system maximizes profit at the expense of the animals—who suffer extreme confinement in living areas devoid of stimulation, and are denied the ability to engage in meaningful natural behaviors.

MARGINAL OR RADICAL— WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO END FARM ANIMAL CRUELTY?

by Peter Melchett

ALL OVER THE WORLD, conditions for the overwhelming majority of farm animals are getting worse. Intensive and industrial pig, poultry, and beef/dairy cattle production factories are getting larger, and their tentacles are spreading into countries like Brazil, Thailand and China, which previously knew mainly traditional livestock systems. Economies of labor are being added to economies of scale and economies of care, to produce ever-cheaper meat and dairy products. Against this depressing background of a seemingly unstoppable tide of farm animal cruelty, it is not surprising that many organizations look for any change for the better, however incremental, because small changes will affect the conditions in which billions of animals are kept and killed. Is this right, or does this approach to achieving change risk making matters worse, by entrenching atrocious systems and delaying the fundamental changes that are really required?

There are two key dangers with incremental change. First, that all those involved—for example, campaigners and farmers—become so bound up in the small changes, and any success in implementing them, that they lose sight of the real goal. Second, the implementation of small steps forward may stop or delay real change. For example, in recent years in Europe we have seen steps to expand hens' cages or slightly enlarge farrowing crates for sows, often as the result of long drawn out and, at times, bitter campaigns and arguments. Once the industry has made that incremental change, they feel that they have done all that is needed. If the campaign victory has been achieved through appeals to the public and resulting support, the public will feel they have helped achieve what is needed. Yet in the cases I have mentioned for farm animals, they have not. Particularly for pigs and poultry, industrial systems have moved so far from anything

that can meet the animals' reasonable requirements for a decent or healthy life that most incremental changes are, in reality, insignificant in terms of real animal welfare benefits. Where incremental change is not always insignificant is in the negative impact it can have on others trying to achieve much more radical change.

In the United States, similar battles have taken place. Last year an alliance was announced between the industry body representing the majority of egg producers and an animal welfare group. The agreement between these unlikely allies was to work together to introduce federal legislation to create a moratorium on new construction of battery cages. This seemed a reasonable step forward; ending all caged egg production would have been an enormous welfare advancement. But sadly for the hens, what was actually agreed upon was to work toward taking hens out of standard battery cages and incarcerate them in slightly larger "enriched" cages, with a staggering 15-year time period to phase out standard cages. The industry saw this agreement as a way to avoid the need to go from caged to cage-free egg production, and the reality is that this proposed 15-year period will end up with painfully small changes in the actual welfare of hens.

I farm organically on about 900 acres of largely arable land in Norfolk, in the East of England. After we went organic on our farm in 2000, we started keeping pigs. I learned a huge amount, in particular that sows are social animals who like living, nesting and rearing young together. If families of four or five sows are brought up together, and if they have a reasonable amount of space and a good healthy diet, including food from grass and soil they can root in, they will not fight

or injure each other. Pigs kept this way are naturally healthy and vital: they hardly ever succumb to disease, require no antibiotics or other drugs, and if they go to slaughter together, and are handled quietly and sensitively, can be killed humanely to produce very good quality, healthy food. Under these conditions, the pigs can happily live in a manner similar to how wild boar themselves live. No mutilations or other measures are needed to stop pigs attacking each other. For pigs to live like this, you need a breed which has lost less of the resilient wild boar characteristics, and has not lost the ability to mother and care for young. We are talking about a very different approach from any indoor or intensive system.

These systems also require radical changes from us, and what we eat. For a chicken to live a decent life, I think the bird needs to live in a much smaller group than any yet envisaged. Chickens need to live in circumstances where they have daily access to the outdoors with good levels of cover, ideally of high grasses or similar crops, shrubs and trees, which mimic the habitats where the chicken's ancestors—jungle fowl—live in the forests of the Himalayas. We can only keep animals like chickens and pigs in decent conditions if we eat far fewer of them, and if they cost us more.

As I have noted, farm animal welfare organizations are rightly concerned about the global spread of the U.S. industrial livestock model in pigs and poultry, and also in dairy and beef production, particularly in the southern hemisphere and Eastern Europe. Here, the systems which have the best potential for meeting the needs of farm animals are being wiped out by the mega-factories. I do not believe that there is any coherent argument which can suggest that most minor changes in these industrial systems will help move global



Caters News Agency Ltd



Peter Melchett

Contrasting systems: The sows in Midland Pig Producers farrowing crates (at left) have access to slightly more space, when (and if) staff open side bars for them. Such small alterations to the intensive confinement system, however, pale in comparison to the life pigs lead on the pasture-based farm at right.



NPR, Jan. 26, 2012

Battery cages in a glistening new facility are still battery cages. The “enriched” cages are aligned in vast rows, stacked 4–6 cages high. The laying hens (typically debeaked) have a token amount of additional space over standard cages.

societies to make radical changes in what we eat, how much we pay for meat and dairy products, and how we keep farm animals decently.

Minimal changes—for example, in the size of an isolated, metal, noisy, and industrial sow farrowing crate—do all the things which prevent us making the changes we need to make. The breed of sow will not change. The sow and her piglets need never see daylight, or feel sun on their backs. The piglets may have to be mutilated to prevent them attacking each other, and will usually be routinely treated with a range of drugs to keep them alive and putting on weight. The pigs will live on slatted floors over the pits where their urine and manure falls. The bare concrete pens will lead to boredom and aberrant behaviors. Economies of scale will apply, and economics will drive units to get ever larger. There is now clear scientific evidence that larger livestock units give rise to higher risk of disease, not only to the animals incarcerated in them but also to the people working with those animals and to local communities.

I believe that animal welfare organizations should not condone or encourage the development of practices like “enriched” cages or larger sow farrowing crates, which will enable larger and larger livestock factories to be built, because of the animal welfare threat that increased levels of disease pose to the animals—let alone the threat to human beings. These approaches provide at best only marginal improvements in the welfare of the animals themselves, which still cannot engage in any worthwhile natural behaviors, and remain in stressful and unhealthy environments. Also, once industrial farmers have invested in the slightly larger “enriched” cages or larger farrowing crates or other such marginal changes, it becomes particularly hard to expect any further significant change.

These marginal changes can also deceive the public into thinking the problem is solved, increasing the market for cruel meat, dairy products, and eggs. While the changes may cause marginal additional capital costs to new factories, they will rarely add significantly to the key costs of feed and labor—costs which would start to reduce the price gap with genuinely welfare-friendly systems. Indeed, to encourage the marginal change, some will argue that they may *reduce* costs, improve efficiency, or reduce premature deaths—thus further securing the future of the industrial system. Explicit or even implicit animal welfare endorsement of slightly improved, but fundamentally cruel and wrong systems can even encourage further investment and expansion, and ultimately threaten the market for truly welfare-friendly farming.

Of course, all this is definitely not to argue against all marginal changes. Some really will help move an industry along the road to radical change by highlighting shortcomings, increasing costs, and making new investment in cruel systems less likely. For example, restrictions on routine antibiotic and other drug use in industrial livestock systems highlight the fact that such systems rely on drugs to keep farm animals alive and growing. Restrictions on drug use means operators have to change management to try to avoid disease, at greater cost than routinely dosing animals with drugs. Uncertainty about future availability of antibiotics and other drugs makes large industrial livestock factories, with their proven vulnerability to disease, a riskier investment.

There are some changes we can fight for which may appear marginal, but which in reality speed the demise of cruel systems and help the growth of high welfare farming. But in the end, we need radical changes that will start to reduce the cruelty that most livestock farming has embraced over the last 60 years, and reverse the devastating impact that industrial livestock farming has had on the environment and human health. 🐾

Peter Melchett has been Policy Director of the Soil Association, the UK’s main organic food and farming organization, working on campaigns, standards and policy, since 2001. He runs an 890-acre organic farm in Norfolk, with beef cattle and arable seed crops. He is a member of the BBC’s Rural Affairs Committee, and was a member of the Government’s Rural Climate Change Forum and Organic Action Plan Group, and the Department of Education’s School Lunches Review Panel.



Cassandra Wedd

INTERNATIONAL FARM ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS: WILL ISO GO HIGH OR LOW?

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has elected to take on the task of establishing an international technical specification for the raising of animals for food. The concept originated with the food industry and has been supported by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), apparently with the expectation that the OIE's minimal animal welfare guidelines will become the basis of the specification. Whether this initiative ultimately helps or hurts farm animals around the world remains to be seen. AWI, which has two representatives on the U.S. ISO technical advisory group, will attempt to influence the outcome in a way that protects international progress toward higher welfare standards for farm animals. Along the same lines, AWI has offered input on the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's draft "do no harm" document on animal welfare that may be used to assess activities related to global sustainable livestock projects. 🐾



Mike Suarez

Animal Welfare Approved Clover Creek Farm in Jonesborough, TN. Will ISO farm animal standards help or hurt progress toward higher welfare systems like this one?

Pork: The Other Contaminated White Meat

FOR YEARS, American consumers have heard frightening news accounts about the presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and other contaminants in factory-farmed poultry products. Now a warning has been issued regarding dangers that lurk in pork produced from pigs raised on industrial farms. *Consumer Reports* recently analyzed pork products from grocery stores around the country and found significant levels of various bacteria capable of causing serious illnesses in people. More than three-quarters of the samples tested contained bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses, and nearly 90 percent of the bacteria isolated from the samples were found to be resistant to one or more antibiotics. *Consumer Reports* tested dozens of name-brand and store-brand pork products, including Farmer John, Hormel, Smithfield, and Swift, but sample sizes were too small to determine which brands were most contaminated.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria were not the only potentially harmful thing *Consumer Reports* found in pork. One-fifth of 240 pork products sampled in a separate test showed low levels of the drug ractopamine, administered to pigs to promote growth and lean meat. As with other growth hormones, ractopamine causes stress and suffering and should not be used routinely on healthy animals. While legal in the United States, the drug has been banned in the European Union, China, Taiwan, and Thailand. Recently, Russia announced that it will stop accepting meat from animals raised on ractopamine and will require importing countries to certify that their meat is free of the drug.

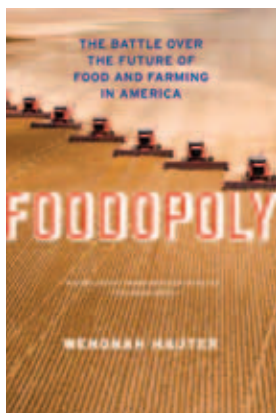
The Russians aren't the only ones raising concerns about the use of ractopamine in U.S. meat production. The Center for Food Safety and the Animal Legal Defense Fund have petitioned the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reduce allowable levels of the drug. The groups said that ractopamine, which has been approved by the FDA for use in cattle and poultry as well as in pigs, has "resulted in more reports of sickened or dead pigs than any other livestock drug on the market." 🐾

BEQUESTS

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

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

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



FOODOPOLY: The Battle over the Future of Food and Farming in America

by Wenonah Hauter
 The New Press
 ISBN: 978-1595587909
 368 pages; \$26.95

Wenonah Hauter's *Foodopoly* weaves nearly every aspect of the food system—from retail and fast food to the indentured nature of farming contracts—into a unique and highly accessible analysis of not just America's food systems, but how they fit into what is now a global corporate food web.

The author shows how the interconnectivity of today's food industry not only influences but often dictates the way farmers interact with the land and how they raise animals for food. With vivid charts and diagrams, Hauter illustrates how the food industry is able to effectively move as one. She explains how increasing centralization of control and profit had led to decreasing control and profit for farmers and ranchers.

As animals raised for food are driven deeper into confinement systems, the animal welfare costs are enormous. The human costs are as well: *Foodopoly* notes how America has become the dominant global user of sub-therapeutic antibiotics to increase growth and stifle illness caused by crowded conditions and poor system design—heedless of the disastrous consequences this has to overall antibiotic effectiveness.

Food industry lobbyists, in Hauter's account, are shown to be ever more potent drivers of agricultural policy—and

outcomes in the world at large. The consequences of the political clout wielded by Cargill, Tyson, Kraft, ConAgra, and the like, she says, range from animal welfare atrocities, economic stagnation in rural communities, and famine overseas, to pronounced limitations on consumer choice and the undermining of antitrust, food safety, and labeling laws.

Hauter, who is executive director of the non-profit Food and Water Watch, grew up on a family farm that her husband now runs as a Community Supported Agriculture project. In *Foodopoly*, she captures the very essence of the challenges consumers face as we struggle to make sense of the barrage of information we receive about our food. She explores the misleading claims that some food manufacturers make, and how the companies exploit regulatory loopholes to deceive and take advantage of consumers' growing concern over the health ramifications of food choices.

Though Hauter is a strong advocate for healthy, ethically raised food, in the end she argues that solving this crisis will require more than consumers making informed choices and supporting local, high-welfare farms. She calls for a complete structural shift—a change grounded in politics, not merely consumer choice. *Foodopoly* will certainly give you a thorough understanding of the mess that has been created, and illuminate what is needed to rein in a system that neglects the very source of its wealth: the animals, the land, the farmers, food workers, and us. 🐾



As indicated in this *Foodopoly* graphic, two decades ago, less than a third of pigs raised for food were kept on factory farms (defined as farms with more than 2,000 animals). One-and-a-half decades later, nearly all were.



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Greenland Plans to Kill Whales Despite Whaling Commission's Veto

AT LAST JUNE'S 64TH MEETING of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Denmark—on behalf of its territory, Greenland—sought not only to renew, but to increase the existing aboriginal subsistence whaling quota for Greenland natives.

The quota request was submitted under an IWC exemption that allows the hunting of large whales to satisfy indigenous peoples' subsistence and cultural needs. In response, many countries raised concerns about the extensive commercial use of whale meat in Greenland, as well as its poor compliance with IWC regulations (see Fall 2012 *AWI Quarterly*). Despite these concerns, Denmark and Greenland refused to compromise at the meeting by reducing the number of whales sought, even to numbers previously approved by IWC parties. Consequently, the entire request was voted down, and when 2012 drew to a close, Greenland's whaling quotas expired.

The IWC rules contain a procedure to deal with such situations—a country can call for a special meeting or request a postal ballot to, in this case, revisit the quota rejection. In 2002 for example, the United States asked for a special meeting of the IWC after its bowhead quota request—on behalf of its Alaskan Inupiat people—was rejected at the regular IWC meeting. At the special meeting, the quota was granted.

Rather than using either of these procedures for resolution, Greenland now prefers to go it alone. Ane Hansen, Greenland's Minister for Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, announced in early January that Greenland plans to self-allocate a whaling quota for 2013 and 2014, and that it will take more humpback and fin whales this year than under its previous IWC quota.

A legal analysis commissioned by AWI concluded that self-allocating an ASW quota in this way clearly violates the IWC's treaty, and that the only way Greenland can legally hunt large whales is by securing the IWC's approval. AWI is engaging with colleagues and IWC parties to demand that Denmark and Greenland follow the IWC rules. Anything else would be pirate whaling. 🐾