

AWI

Quarterly

Spring 2000

Volume 49 Number 2

ABOUT THE COVER

For 25 years, the tiger (*Panthera tigris*) has been on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), but an illegal trade in tiger skins and bones (which are used in traditional Chinese medicines) persists. Roughly 5,000 to 7,000 tigers have survived to the new millennium. Without heightened vigilance to stop habitat destruction, poaching and illegal commercialization of tiger parts in consuming countries across the globe, the tiger may be lost forever. *Tiger Photos: Robin Hamilton/EIA*



CITES 2000

The Future of Wildlife In a New Millennium

The Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from April 10 - 20, 2000. Delegates from 150 nations will convene to decide the fate of myriad species across the globe, from American spotted turtles to Zimbabwean elephants. They will also examine ways in which the Treaty can best prevent overexploitation due to international trade by discussing issues such as the trade in bears, bushmeat, rhinos, seahorses and tigers.

Adam M. Roberts and Ben White will represent the Animal Welfare Institute at the meeting and will work on a variety of issues of importance to the Institute and its members. Pages 8-13 of this issue of the *AWI Quarterly*, written by Adam M. Roberts (unless noted otherwise), outline our perspectives on a few of the vital issues for consideration at the CITES meeting.

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Animal Welfare Institute

QUARTERLY

Spring 2000 Volume 49 Number 2



Amy Conklin/AWI

Japan and Norway continually try to use CITES to reopen international commercial trade in whale meat. See story page 11.



French customs

On December 1, 1999, an estimated 420 kg of worked ivory pieces were seized at Paris/Roissy airport, apparently en route from Rwanda to Japan. See story page 8-9.



Sidney Hughes Brisbane

Clockwise: Eclectus Parrots, Blue Eyed Cockatoos and a Blythe's Hornbill — a few of the species of birds in Papua New Guinea's remaining rain forest. See story page 4-5.

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TROUBLE IN *Paradise*

An Angry Report from Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea's treasures are being destroyed by foreign corporations but Gundu and his cohorts have mounted Environmental Awareness Campaigns in remote provinces and are bringing much needed information to the Papua New Guinea populace.

*Postcards from
Papua New Guinea*



Waterfall near Passam,
East Sepik Province

Karl Stockinger



Rufous Fantail, a bird of the low-land forests



Superb Bird of Paradise

La Galano Books



Peter Gundu, Program
Coordinator, Guiye Waiye
Environment and
Conservation Group

After graduating from the University of Papua New Guinea, Peter Gundu taught high school students in different parts of Papua New Guinea (PNG) for 15 years. He resigned in order to set up the Guiye Waiye Environment and Conservation Group (GWECG) where he wrote, "We saw there was a need for education of the local people on the importance of conservation. We saw lots of foreigners coming into Papua New Guinea, bribing our politicians, landowners, local chiefs and exploiting our natural resources particularly timber, minerals, and fish. Foreign companies exploit our resources at a very fast rate, leaving nothing behind but pollution. A large proportion of people in Papua New Guinea are illiterate so they really don't understand and know what is going on.

"Our group's awareness campaign is very important to inform the people of Papua New Guinea what the foreign firms are doing here with regard to foreign investments"

According to the *PNG Post Courier*, the Environment Minister called the country's forests "green goldmines" and said "investment interest in our forests and trees is coming from big pharmaceutical companies which spend millions annually in drug research programs while other companies are seeking herbal medicine for natural health cures."

Papua New Guinea Magazine did a feature story on Minnie

Bate, "a qualified medical technologist from Milne Bay [who] has the unique distinction of being the first Papua New Guinean to make an attempt at promoting PNG herbal products on a commercial scale... 'The jungle is my pharmacy,' Minnie declared."

Conservation of traditional medicinal plants in one of GWECG's aims as is the conservation of traditional cultures. The majority of Papua New Guineans are subsistence farmers dependent on the land. The rapid increase in population puts pressure on the land. Land that used to be left alone to regain its nutrients, as practiced traditionally, is disappearing, according to Gundu. Topsoil erosion is causing soil degradation, and the clearing of virgin forest destroys water containment areas leading to dried up creeks and streams.

The environment awareness campaigns cover many of the nation's provinces, traveling to high schools, landowner groups, developers, unions, NGOs, women's groups, community leaders, and churches, stressing the consequences if they fail to look after the environment they're living in and enjoying today. "We also pointed out," writes Gundu, "the damage and destruction already done to our forest and the birds and other creatures that inhabit it, by foreigners namely, Singaporean Malaysians and companies from Taiwan, Japan and Korea who are cutting our forest rapidly without following the proper agreements set out by the landowners, provincial governments, and the national government.

"These Asians don't even plant trees to replace the ones they have cut down; mining companies don't even show respect for the landowners but dump chemical waste in rivers depriving those who depend on the river for food of their livelihood.... Most of the educational institutions we visited told us they're worried that there will be nothing left for future generations. They said the Papua New Guinea government should try to control the flow of foreigners who only come to exploit our resources for their own benefit.

"In March 1999, we conducted our awareness campaign in three districts of Morobe Province; all have logging firms there cutting timber. These companies have recently gone over the boundary and have not paid the landowner's royalties. Nearly everyone, including the village chiefs, landowners, councillors and some educated elites in the area supported our campaign and even talked about taking the Asian companies to court to get them deported from Papua New Guinea!"

Next GWECG went to Madang, a province known for its beautiful beach island, rivers and forest, but now the beach has been polluted, their forests cut down and their rivers polluted. The giant Japanese Wood Chin Mill generates unhealthy amounts of smoke and dust and pressures their workers to labor long hours for low wages, in bad conditions.

"We spent four weeks in Madang," Gundu continues, "because the local land owners invited us to their villages to do campaigns for the rural villagers and give them advice on how to protect their environment before it's used up by foreigners. We conducted our awareness campaign in Gogol where they're doing a reforestation and nursery project, and at Sagalau Teachers' College, Madang Market, Divine Word Institute, Tusbab High School, Sek Station, Fidelis College, Madang Paramedical College, Yumba Health Science College, Plantation Hotel, North Coast Madang and Bogia Station. The NGO's in the area provided accommodation for our group during our stay.

"We would like to go back to Madang Province this year as soon as we get some funding for this program. We want to bring the attention of the Provincial Government, local level government, resource developers, landowners, and NGO's to our campaign for protection of the environment." In conclusion, Peter Gundu writes, "I have seen great damage done to Papua New Guinea's rivers, wildlife, ocean, and forests with my own eyes, and I will still speak out against this destruction until the foreigners listen and do the right thing. Today they are aware of our environment group; the community is also with us so our efforts will have weight." 🐾



La Galano Books

Trumpet Manucode



La Galano Books

Goldie's Bird of Paradise



FOTOFAST

The Madang Coast has already been polluted and the environment has completely changed. It is no longer the same.

Please send contributions for Papua New Guinea's excellent and strongly motivated grass-roots campaign to the Animal Welfare Institute. We'll forward your donations to GWECG to save the fabulous Birds of Paradise, the endangered Eclectus Parrots, the charming cockatoos and many other birds and mammals who can't survive if their habitat is destroyed by the greed of transnational corporations.

Checks may be written to the Animal Welfare Institute, please indicate that the donation should be sent to GWECG.



Dave Currey/EIA

Mother and Baby Orangutans in Tanjung Puting National Park.

Kidnap and Violence Echoes the Plight of Orangutans

By Dave Currey, Environmental Investigation Agency

“We’ve been badly beaten and now we’re with the police” was the opening line from Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) investigator Faith Doherty’s call from the town of Pangkalan Bun in Central Kalimantan on the Indonesian part of Borneo. This was the start of a three-day kidnap drama that involved logging company-hired thugs, corrupt senior police, helpful and

supportive detectives, orangutans, diplomats and the destruction of one of the world’s most famous and important National Parks – Tanjung Puting.

EIA and Telapak Indonesia launched a campaign to stop the illegal logging in Tanjung Puting National Park last August. This swamp forest is home to wild and rehabilitated orangutans and has been made famous by the work of Biruté Galdikas. In the EIA/Telapak campaign report “The Final Cut” the names of companies and illegal sawmills were made public. At the top of the list came Tanjung Lingga, a company that EIA and Telapak had infiltrated undercover as businessmen in June 1999. This company is owned by a local timber baron, member of the Indonesian Parliament, Abdul Rasyid.

The campaign gained momentum with pressure building from the international community, disillusioned by Indonesia’s forestry sector. Our campaign message: *“If you can’t stop illegal logging in Tanjung Puting, then Indonesia’s forests have no future.”* A newly elected Government was sworn in at the end of October 1999, and the EIA/Telapak campaign was presented to some members of the Parliament.

The international donors to Indonesia are represented in the Consultative Group on Indonesia, bringing forestry issues to the fore. A seminar was organised by the Indonesian Co-ordinating Ministry of Finance and sponsored by the World Bank. The EIA/Telapak campaign video was to be presented by Ruwi, Telapak’s Executive Director. Faith and Ruwi were in Tanjung Puting to update the information before the seminar.

Lured to the offices of logging company Tanjung Lingga, Faith and Ruwi were viciously beaten. “They wanted to kill Ruwi” explained Faith. Ruwi was punched to the ground and kicked in the head while Faith’s finger was wrenched from its socket and finger ligaments and a tendon broken in a struggle with company officials. A gun was used to threaten them both. Police were called and Faith and Ruwi were taken to hospital, allowed a phone call, and then taken to the detectives’ office for statements. They were to stay there under the protection of the detectives for the next two days.

The next morning, a more senior policeman, clearly in cahoots with the logging company, prevented their departure on a scheduled plane. The company unsuccessfully attempted to separate Ruwi from Faith and a hired mob of 50-80 men prevented their departure from the office. Intense action was going on behind the scenes. Telapak sought support in Jakarta through high-level government and military officials, and EIA kept in touch with UK Government officials and the White House. The press was asked to keep quiet during the siege because of fear of endangering Faith and Ruwi.

On Saturday January 22nd, following intense pressure from Jakarta and the personal intervention of the British Ambassador, both Ruwi and Faith were flown to the South Kalimantan city of Banjarmasin in a plane chartered by EIA and Telapak. They were warned that Tanjung Lingga thugs were on their way to Banjarmasin so another plane was chartered to fly them to Jakarta. A last minute attempt by Tanjung Lingga to “buy off” this plane to prevent their departure, failed.

The campaign presentation to the Government of Indonesia and international donors took place on January 26th. The problem of illegal logging under the control of timber barons has been emphasised by this incident. The area is out of control and until the central government can reinstate law and order there can be no hope for the forests, the people and the remarkable creatures so dependent on them.

Will this young orangutan survive the ferocious illegal logging in Tanjung Puting?

Dave Currey/EIA



The Government of Indonesia has promised to deal with illegal logging, but so far the logging continues in Tanjung Puting. The Park headquarters have been destroyed and rangers have evacuated the Park. The latest report is that the Head and Deputy Head of the Park have resigned.

It is difficult for this democratically elected government at a time of economic crisis and civil unrest, but it is vital that they act courageously to defeat the powerful interests destroying Indonesia's priceless forest heritage. This case in Tanjung Puting is complex and politically difficult, but it is clear what must be done. Efforts to investigate this timber baron's fiefdom have so far failed following coercion. But the Government has to follow up while the world is watching.

Tanjung Puting National Park must be saved from the illegal loggers. Please urge His Excellency, the Ambassador of Indonesia, to do everything in his power to stop the destruction.

His address is:
2020 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

For more information on the campaign contact EIA,
1330 New Hampshire Avenue, Apt 507, Washington D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 452 8661 or visit EIA's website at
www.eia-international.org 🐾

Tanjung Puting National Park is supposedly a protected area for all Wildlife. Please help to bring back protection.



Dave Currey/EIA

“Thief Caught at Camp Leakey”

This charming account of orangutan intelligence and enterprise is excerpted from Pongo Quest (Fall/Winter 1999, magazine of Orangutan Foundation International). Orangutans never swim, but they love to eat flowers from big flowering trees. One of the orangutans in Biruté Galdikas' sanctuary in Indonesia found a way to cross the river that bounds Camp Leakey so she and her young son could feast on such flowers.

“We had been told that there was a thief on the premises, but we thought the term too harsh. Perhaps ‘borrow’ is more accurate, for Princess never takes the canoe permanently, and only when it is urgently needed. Lured by the tempting white blossoms that cover a glossy-leaved tree across the Sekonyer Kanan River from the Camp, she borrowed the canoe again today...”

“We saw her purposefully striding down the dock toward Camp, son Pan clutching the hair on her back as he struggled to keep up. Where the swamp becomes land she disappeared under the dock, to reappear with the canoe in tow. Lowering Pan inside, she moved the canoe to the river by pulling herself, hand over hand, along the dock. When she reached the river, she launched the canoe out into the current, paddling with her hands, one side and then the other around the tethered speedboat...”

“My last glimpse was of her sitting in the front of the canoe, an arm on each side, paddling with determination to get

to her next destination. Later, when the assistants inquired as to the location of their canoe, we silently pointed downriver...”

“They swam out to the speedboat (since there was no canoe) and headed downriver, where in a mile or so they came upon Princess and Pan sampling blossoms from another tree. Knowing the jig was up, Princess took her son and climbed up into the canopy, and the assistants reclaimed the canoe. By the next morning Princess and Pan had made their way back to Camp, but on the wrong side of the river...” She had to be helped into the canoe.

“Princess lifted Pan onto her back and climbed in, settled herself right in the middle and with arms resting on the gunwales, calmly, patiently waited for Mr. Yattra to deliver them back to the dock. There Princess and Pan disembarked and went on their way, looking back only once to see where the canoe would be tethered the next time it was needed.” 🐾



Pongo Quest

Princess with her little son, Pan, “borrowing” the Camp Leakey canoe for a foraging expedition.

A Deadly Experiment Gone Wrong

“Thereafter, under experimental quotas for raw ivory not exceeding 25.3 tonnes (Botswana), 13.8 tonnes (Namibia) and 20 tonnes (Zimbabwe), raw ivory may be exported to Japan...”

— Annotation accompanying the 1997 downlisting of three African elephant populations

An “experiment” is generally defined as “any action or process undertaken to discover something not yet known.” When the CITES Parties voted to open an “experimental” ivory trade from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe in 1997, the outcome was easily deduced. Before all African elephants were placed on CITES Appendix I and international commercial ivory trade was prohibited, the continent’s elephants were decimated, from approximately 1.3 million to about 600,000. With the 1989 ban, populations stabilized, poaching dropped dramatically, and ivory smuggling routes and the global market all but dried up. After this remarkable success, CITES Parties turned back the clock on elephant conservation and took a giant risk with the protection of these majestic creatures.

However, there is an opportunity at COP 11 for Parties to make amends for their grievous error by voting for Kenya’s and India’s proposal to put all elephants back on Appendix I. As Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, told the *Associated Press (AP)*, “If there was a total ban, it (poaching) would be easier to control.”

In 1997, AWI and other organizations warned that reopening the ivory trade, even on limited basis, would cause barbaric elephant poaching to escalate. At a press conference in Washington, D.C.,

Nehemiah Rotich, Director of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), warned that the elephant poaching “holocaust is coming back again” and that he hasn’t seen poaching of this magnitude in the last 10 years. A January 2000 KWS press release grimly notes: “In 1999, KWS seized over 2,000 kg of ivory from illegal dealers, this was four times the average for the previous 6 years.” In a letter to European Union nations urging support for the uplisting proposal, Director Rotich added: “Elephant poaching for ivory has also increased five fold in our elephant

stronghold, the Tsavo National Park where thirty percent of our elephants occur.” New images of massacred elephants, brutally cut down by poachers’ bullets and their faces sawed off for the coveted ivory, bring back horrific images from decades past.

But Kenya is not alone in bearing the painful burdens of the renewed ivory trade. In October 1999, a consultative meeting among

African elephant range states (including the Asian elephant range state of India) was held in Amboseli, Kenya. The meeting’s *Proceedings* note that most Parties reported “insignificant” elephant poaching in their countries when elephants were on Appendix I and that “there has been a notable increase in illegal hunting” since the 1997 downlisting. Congo, for instance, reported an “incredible upsurge in illegal killing of elephants,” and Cameroon reported “seizures of large quantities [of ivory] confiscated from diplomats.” In India, 222 poached elephant carcasses were discovered between 1997 and the 1999 consultative meeting. A majority of African elephant range states attending the consultative meeting supports the effort to put all elephants back on Appendix I.

Zimbabwe, which (with Namibia and Botswana) now proposes to expand its ivory exports further, has witnessed increased elephant poaching since the ban was relaxed. *Panafrican News Agency* reported on December 8, 1999 that “Zimbabwean wildlife officials” suspected that poachers from Zambia “had killed more than 80 elephants in the country’s game parks in 1999 alone.”

So what happens to the ivory from these poached elephants? It’s a worldwide free for all. In February 2000, Portuguese



Kenya Wildlife Service

Recently poached female elephant whose face was hacked away for her ivory tusks.



Kenya Wildlife Service

Poached ivory recently seized by Kenya Wildlife Service.

Jumbo Thieves

A further concession of the 1997 elephant downlisting was facilitation of “export of live animals to appropriate and acceptable destinations.” The problem is that there is no clear definition of what an “appropriate and acceptable destination” really is. As a result, insidious animal dealers such as Riccardo Ghiazza can literally steal baby elephants from their mothers and transport them internationally for commercial gain.

According to the London *Mail and Guardian*, Ghiazza was recently arrested on charges of fraud and falsely obtaining South African citizenship when he allegedly failed to declare that he is wanted for a drug conviction in Italy. He is also the culprit in the Tuli elephant fiasco in which his company removed 30 baby elephants from Botswana and transported them to South Africa where they suffered beatings to “train” them in preparation for international transport to zoos and circuses abroad. The National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals brought cruelty charges against Ghiazza and after lengthy and expensive court procedures was awarded custody of the animals. Most of the Tuli elephants have been freed in national parks and private reserves in South Africa. 🐾



©1998 James Balog/Jupiter Pictures

(Continued from previous page)

officials uncovered “around 375 pounds of ivory, including 24 elephant tusks and seven statues” allegedly smuggled from Angola (AP). On September 18, 1999 two tons of ivory was seized in Dubai Airport, “one of the largest ivory seizures since the ban on trade in ivory was implemented,” according to KWS. The accompanying table, “REPORTED IVORY SEIZURES SINCE JUNE 1997” shows how this illegal activity has grown again. KWS Director Rotich contends that the traditional ivory smuggling routes have been reopened.

Without a market, all this ivory is worthless. Japan, a major lobbying force behind the evisceration of the ivory ban, is an enormous ivory market. Despite the overwhelming evidence of elephant poaching and ivory smuggling, Japan’s CITES position

on elephants leading to COP 11 is that the “experimental trade of ivory in 1999 did not create any problem.”

There is a tremendous opportunity for illegal ivory smuggling into Japan and sale on the Japanese market, even with the new amendments to Japan’s laws regarding domestic management of ivory. Once it gets into Japan and is carved into signature stamps called *hankos* it is almost impossible to ascertain whether the ivory is from the legal shipment authorized by CITES or from an illegally smuggled consignment. As Kenya’s and India’s proposal notes, “although certification seals are available for attachment to carvings ‘recognised as having been produced from legally obtained tusks,’ and there is a penalty for affixing a seal to a carving other than the one for which it was issued, it is neither mandatory for such seals to be affixed nor illegal to sell a carving without a seal. Thus, though the certification system can be used to identify a legal carving by a dealer wishing to do so, it would appear to be of little or no use in preventing the sale of illegally-acquired ivory on the Japanese retail market.”

Since 1997, elephant poaching has increased substantially across Africa and illegal ivory seizures have occurred with greater frequency across the globe. The ivory experiment has failed - again. We must restore the rational reverence for elephants embodied in the Appendix I listing of all African and Asian elephants and the complete ban on the global trade in elephant ivory.

KWS Director Rotich tells of an ecotourism group whose vehicle was held up for some time while a small herd of elephants crossed before them. When one wildlife watcher asked the guide why they were waiting so long the guide responded, because the elephants have the Right of Way. And so it should be. 🐾

REPORTED IVORY SEIZURES SINCE JUNE 1997

Date	Place Seized	Origin	Destination	Quantity
July 1997	South Korea	Benin		83 kg, 2140 blocks
August 1997 “Late” 1997	France Netherlands	Nigeria	Hong Kong	“huge quantity” 500 pieces, One whole tusk
December 1997	USA	Cameroon		32 pieces
April 1998	Taiwan	Nigeria		1,400 kg
October 1998	France	Cameroon	China	600 kg
November 1998	China	“Africa”		1,600 kg
January 1999	Kenya	DRC		200 kg
April 1999	Russia	Nigeria	China	500 kg
July 1999	Kenya			350 kg
August 1999	Kenya		China	700 kg
August 1999	China	South Africa		2,100 kg
October 1999	Portugal			150 tusks
October 1999	UAE	Kenya	“Far East”	1,845 kg
November 1999	Zambia	Zambia		390 pieces
December 1999	Paris	Rwanda	Japan	420 kg
January 2000	India			16 tusks
February 2000	Portugal	Angola		24 tusks

— Compiled by the Humane Society of the United States

Ivory of the Sea?

Many conservationists argued that the downlisting of certain populations of African elephants to allow an “experimental” sale of ivory would set a dangerous precedent that CITES Parties would use to open up trade in other listed species. This blueprint has been followed in Cuba’s proposal to downlist Hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) from Appendix I to Appendix II to sell its stockpiled turtle shell to Japan in a one-time sale and to allow further annual sales of up to 500 sea turtles a year.

Allowing trade in sea turtle shells is as grievous an error as allowing trade in ivory. This is especially true when one acknowledges that sea turtles are shared wildlife with great ecotourism value for a number of nations. Although the proposal calls for downlisting the “Caribbean population of Hawksbill Turtles... inhabiting Cuban waters,” there is clearly no definitive Cuban population of a migratory marine species such as turtles. For example, the species’ distribution includes the waters of the Seychelles, a nation that burned two and a half tonnes of confiscated sea turtle shell in 1998 in a clear message of defiance toward those who would profit by killing these animals and selling their parts.

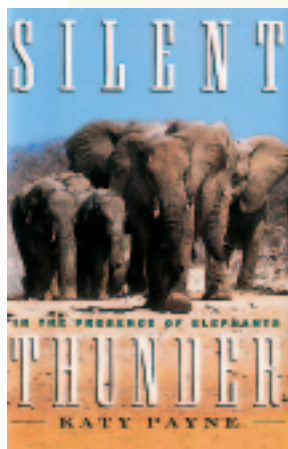
The IUCN considers Hawksbills to be “critically endangered.” Anne Meylan of the Florida Marine Research Institute and Marydele Donnelly of the IUCN / SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, wrote in an article in *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* that “Of all the species of marine turtles, the hawksbill has endured the longest and most sustained history of exploitation,” and that “individual populations from around the world will continue to disappear under the current regime of exploitation...” CITES Parties would send a very clear and exceedingly dangerous message to the world if they mistakenly open up trade in parts of “critically endangered” wildlife such as hawksbills. 🐾



© Doug Perrine

Tortoiseshell of the “critically endangered” Hawksbill Sea Turtle, *Eretmochelys Imbricata*, is crafted into jewelry, cigarette cases and other ornaments for international commercial trade.

Silent Thunder, In the Presence of Elephants



Katy Payne
New York, Simon and Schuster, 1998,
288 pages, \$25.00
Hardcover ISBN: 0-684-80108-6

Long before Katy Payne’s powerful book, *Silent Thunder, In the Presence of Elephants*, was published, she told us about her experience with elephants in the Portland, Oregon, Washington Park Zoo. She felt, rather than heard, what she later found were sounds — actually infrasound. She remembered feeling the same kind of vibrations from the lowest notes of an organ in the church she attended as a child.

Katy and Roger Payne had recorded “The Songs of the Humpback Whale” from hydrophones in the sea. These marvelous songs by the huge humpback whales were a prelude to Katy Payne’s inspired understanding of the secret communications of the largest land animals: the Asian elephants.

She explains, “We ran the tape recorder at its slowest speed so that in playing back the tapes we could speed them up, raising the pitch of all recorded sounds and bringing the lowest sounds into the range of human hearing.”

Katy Payne has deep empathy for animals in general, and for elephants in particular, and interprets their actions and their feelings and their communication techniques. She had grown to know them so well while in Zimbabwe, that she even dreams about them. The deep attachment formed for the elephants Katy studied during her five separate scientific expeditions in Zimbabwe make the tragedy of the cull of these elephants especially powerful and shocking.

Silent Thunder makes no mention of the major human struggle which took place at the 1989 meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at which the member countries decided to place all elephants on the Treaty’s Appendix I (endangered). African elephant populations were heading for extinction as gangs of poachers decimated them for the ivory trade at the behest of Asian ivory dealers. Zimbabwe fiercely resisted the endangered listing which was so valiantly fought for by Constance Harriman, head of the U.S. Delegation to CITES. At the 1997 CITES meeting Zimbabwe fought back, winning the vote to sell its ivory stockpile to Japan, which effectively started a wave of poaching for ivory all over again.

The book ends sorrowfully with human deaths and elephant deaths and even the seeming death of a river. But there is still hope because in the river’s new channel, the elephants have dug wells, and when they have been counted, the total is 1,000 wells for all animals in the vicinity to drink from!

Katy Payne’s list of acknowledgments finishes with the following words: “Finally, I wish to acknowledge the compassionate animals in whose remembrance I have written all these words. All these greeting rumbles, and all these cries for help.” 🐾

- Christine Stevens

Whales Threatened by Japan and Norway

By Ben White

Japan has proposed the downlisting of the Antarctic population of minke whales, one North Pacific population of minke whales, and one North Pacific population of gray whales. Norway has proposed the downlisting of the Northeast Atlantic and the North Atlantic Central minke whale populations. Downlisting would remove the whales from Appendix I, which prohibits all commercial trade, and place them on Appendix II, which allows limited trade.

The Secretariat of CITES recommends rejection of all the whale downlisting proposals.

Final authority for all whaling matters is now in the hands of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which has an indefinite moratorium in place forbidding all commercial whaling and the sale of whale products between countries. The downlisting effort at CITES is spurred by Norway's and Japan's frustration at their inability to defeat the IWC moratorium. They are hoping for a friendlier reception from CITES in order to execute an "end run" around the IWC prohibition. They will need more than two thirds of the countries present at CITES to vote in favor of the downlisting for it to succeed. The position of the United States is that any decision on international sale of whale meat, whether or not it is cloaked in the temporary guise of a "zero quota", should remain the responsibility of the IWC, not CITES. 🐾

William Rosstiter



Although the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has a moratorium on commercial killing of gray whales, illegal whale meat has been uncovered for sale in Japanese markets. Japan, which is not a range state for the species, is again proposing to downlist the Eastern North Pacific stock of gray whales from Appendix I to Appendix II of CITES.

An Unbearable Trade

The trade in bear gallbladders and bile continues to put pressure on endangered bear populations across the globe. All bear species are listed under the Convention's Appendices, but different CITES Parties have different regulations regarding the bear parts trade. The CITES Secretariat's document for consideration at COP 11 warns that "Differences in national, federal, state or provincial laws allow for confusion and enforcement difficulties; for example, where trade in bear gall bladders is permitted on a domestic market but import or export is banned." Since bear parts such as the gallbladder are visually indistinguishable, allowing some legal trade in some bear species' parts makes strict enforcement of CITES and national bear protection legislation difficult.

The Parties to CITES attempted to address some of the complicating factors in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1997 where they unanimously resolved "that the continued illegal trade in parts and derivatives of bear species undermines the effectiveness of the Convention" and that "poaching may cause declines of wild bears that could lead to the extirpation of certain populations or even species." Parties were urged "to take immediate action in order to demonstrably reduce the illegal trade in bear parts and derivatives" by, among

Asiatic Black Bears like this one are targeted for the trade in their gallbladders and bile for use in traditional medicines and luxury cosmetic items. Bear range states and consuming countries should act now to stop the global trade in bear parts and ensure the long-term viability of all species of bears.



Richard Sobol/IFAW

other actions, "confirming, adopting or improving their national legislation to control the import and export of bear parts and derivatives." Unfortunately, it seems that few countries, including the U.S., have complied.

A global moratorium on the international trade in bear viscera would help individual CITES Parties protect their resident bears from poaching and smuggling of their parts. Pending legislation in the U.S. Congress, the Bear Protection Act, should be passed and used as a model for the rest of the world. 🐾

Call the Fashion Police

Thoughtless western demand for “shahtoosh,” the luxurious fabric made from the fine wool of Tibetan antelopes called chiru and woven into expensive shawls, continues to threaten the survival of the species (see AWI Quarterly, Winter 1998).

As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tries to crack down on illegal shahtoosh commercialization in America, some of the wealthy buyers show ignorance, others resentment. Discussing potential confiscations in a November 1999 *Vanity Fair* story, “O.K. Lady, Drop the Shawl,” one New York socialite is quoted saying “I’m an animal-lover. I don’t want to do anything illegal. I feel duped.” Publicist Peggy Siegal hyperbolically expressed fear of the “closet police,” coming into homes and removing shahtoosh garments. Apparently, at a dinner party with New York Governor George Pataki, one Middle Eastern princess exclaimed, “there are no endangered species. This shahtoosh thing is all fiction of the animal rights fanatics.”



Poacher's camp which was located on the Tibetan plateau.

Fighting to save clearly endangered Tibetan antelopes throughout their range, especially in China, is an enormous and dangerous endeavor. Chinese authorities are waging war against poachers and appear to be aggressively targeting the well-armed bandits who increase chiru kills in order to increase the size of their bank accounts.

A May 13, 1999 report from the Environment News Service highlights the crackdown as one poacher was killed and two were wounded in a shootout with wildlife law enforcement agents that resulted in 42 arrests and “the confiscation of more than 1,000 pieces of Tibetan Antelope skin.”

China Daily reports that the Chinese State Forestry Administration (SFA) “have smashed 17 rings of poachers and apprehended 66 members.” It has also confiscated “a total of 1,685 Tibetan antelope skins and 545 heads.” On May 26, the SFA, in coordination with provincial government representatives, destroyed many of the confiscated items in a huge bonfire. Speaking at the awareness-raising burning, Zhang Jianlong, director of SFA’s department of wild fauna and flora conservation, noted the role that market demand has on driving the trade: “It is a few rich people from these countries, who are blinded by fashion, that are buying cashmere products made from Tibetan antelope hides.”

To enhance the global effort to protect the chiru and end the trade in shahtoosh, an international workshop was held from October 12 to 14, 1999 in Xining, China. The Governments of China, France, India, Italy, Nepal, the United Kingdom and the United States were represented along with representatives from various non-governmental organizations.

The consensus statement that came out of the meeting, the “Xining Declaration,” recognizes that the consumer market for shahtoosh is one of “the fundamental reasons leading to the continued large-scale poaching of wild populations of Tibetan antelope;” and the participants agreed “that the total eradication of production of and markets for shahtoosh and its products is the key to the survival of the

In October 1999, the Tibetan Plateau Project (TPP) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) filed a joint “petition” with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to list the Tibetan antelope as an endangered species pursuant to provisions of the Endangered Species Act. A Tibetan antelope ESA listing would restrict the import, export, and interstate transport and commerce of shahtoosh within the U.S.

Implementation of CITES alone is inadequate for preventing the sale of shahtoosh products in the U.S., because the Convention only prohibits the trade (import and re-export) of shahtoosh (CITES 1975). Establishing the case that suspected shahtoosh smugglers are responsible for importing or conspiring to export shahtoosh products that may be in their possession is more difficult than meeting the ESA standard of proving that a suspect may have offered shahtoosh for sale in interstate or foreign commerce.

Tibetan antelope.” To this end, delegates appealed for greater wildlife law enforcement in shahtoosh consumer countries and an expanded program of public awareness and education about the deadly conservation risks of buying shahtoosh. Manufacturing countries are urged to crack down on domestic processing plants and do more to shut down the internal trade and smuggling out of the countries.

But even after this Declaration was signed, antelope poaching for shahtoosh continues. *China Daily* reports on January 18, 2000 that four major poaching cases surfaced between December 1999 and January 2000 involving over 700 pelts. The *Xinhua News Agency* reports that an additional “828 Tibetan antelope furs were seized in Hoh Xil, a nature reserve in far western China, and two poachers were arrested” on February 19, 2000 during an anti-poaching drive. According to Ming Ruixi, an official from Forestry Police Bureau in Qinghai Province, the most important way to stop poaching is to root out the market for shahtoosh that clearly drives the trade. Citizens across the globe must be educated to the plight of the chiru and the devastating impact of purchasing shahtoosh. 🐾

Approximately 75,000 Tibetan Antelope (chiru) in remain in the wild. It takes three slaughtered chiru to make one shahtoosh shawl.



Disappearing Planet of the Apes

A Taste For Extinction

The flesh of species such as chimpanzees, gorillas, elephants, giant pangolins, and other wildlife (“bushmeat”) has historically provided a source of food for people throughout central and western Africa. Today, encroachment of logging companies and destruction of natural forest lands have led to the wholesale decimation of wildlife habitat as well as the escalation of the bushmeat trade. What was once a locally used food source has become an expensive delicacy in commercial trade — a trade that threatens the existence of the species involved. As Richard Leakey, former head of the Kenya Wildlife Service told CNN: “The slaughter of chimpanzees and gorillas, our closest relatives, is absolutely diabolical. I can’t imagine that this can go on much longer before these animals are extinct.”

The number of great apes involved in this unsustainable trade is enormous. The Ape Alliance, an international coalition of over 30 organizations including the Born Free Foundation, the World Society for the Protection of Animals and the Jane Goodall Institute, estimates that in northern Congo “up to 600 lowland gorillas are killed each year to feed the trade” and that one-ton of smoked bushmeat is unloaded every day in Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon.

Karl Ammann, one of the most vocal opponents of the bushmeat trade succinctly averred in a *New York Times Magazine* article that “the DNA of chimpanzees is 98.5 percent the same as that of humans....[E]ating them [is] ‘98.5 percent cannibalism.’”

Timber corporations ripping through wooded areas of Africa have not only destroyed the forests on which wild animals depend, but have cleared logging roads which enable poachers to transport animals’ carcasses to markets in other regions, and sometimes to expensive restaurants in western Europe. Dr. Anthony Rose of The Biosynergy Institute estimates “that bushmeat trade across equatorial Africa is more than a billion dollar business” and that “as logging expands, the number of monkeys and apes killed for the cooking pot increases.”

Currently, killing apes for bushmeat provides a “quick buck” for humans. But when the apes are gone, the buck is too. In countries where the transnational timber corporations are wiping out forests, funds are lacking for enforcement of laws that prohibit killing and selling highly endangered species such as great apes. There is a moral obligation for these exploitative companies to completely cease facilitating the trade in bushmeat on their logging roads using their logging trucks.

Governments in need should receive funds to hire and train competent enforcement agents to fight the bushmeat trade. In some cases, poachers can become protectors and be paid to ensure that the resident wildlife is preserved. Greater availability of alternative food sources and other employment opportunities would be significant additional steps toward positive change. 🐾

CITES and The Great Ape Conservation Act

At the upcoming Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES this April in Kenya, a “Discussion Paper” will be offered by the United Kingdom on “Bushmeat as a Trade and Wildlife Management Issue.” The paper notes “that the loss of animals through the bushmeat trade is having a greater impact on conservation in some areas than habitat loss.” Action by all CITES Parties is essential to stem the decline of bushmeat species.

The U.S. is already well on the way to addressing the issue. United States Senator Jim Jeffords (R, VT) has engaged in a noble effort to elevate America’s role in ending this repugnant bushmeat trade. On May 10, 1999 he introduced in the United States Senate the “Great Ape Conservation Act,” S. 1007, to “perpetuate viable populations of great apes in the wild” and “assist in the conservation and protection of great apes by supporting conservation programs of countries in which great apes are located.”

The legislation would accomplish this by authorizing up to five million dollars to go into a “Great Ape Conservation Fund” each year from 2000 to 2004. Money in this fund could then be disbursed to enhance programs for conservation of great apes, including those to help minimize the conflict between humans and non-human primates over land resources and habitat protection, to monitor great ape populations and threats to those populations, and to enforce CITES restrictions on trade in parts and products of these species.

In Senator Jeffords’ words: “If we do not act now chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos and orangutans may be extinct in the next 50 years.” 🐾



© Karl Ammann/WSPA

Karl Ammann’s award-winning photo of a gorilla head waiting for the cooking pot graphically illustrates the brutal slaughter of primates for the bushmeat trade.



Primarily Primates, Inc.

Coulston on the Ropes Again

The Coulston Foundation (TCF) continually allows the grossly negligent deaths and inhumane treatment of chimpanzees for whom it is responsible. Now TCF is facing a new set of problems from the Food and Drug Administration for violations of Good Laboratory Practice (GLPs) regulations.

GLPs are in place to regulate experiments “to assure the quality and integrity” of the laboratory practices for research involving “food and color additives, animal food additives, human and animal drugs, medical devices for human use, biological products, and electronic products.” Just as TCF repeatedly has violated the Animal Welfare Act, now it has been cited for nearly 300 violations of GLPs.

Infractions from the FDA inspection report include:

- ...not all studies had an approved written protocol that clearly indicated the objectives and all methods for the conduct of the study.
- There is no assurance that all the surgical procedures were approved....
- The identity of a study animal on a [xxx] report dated [xxx] was corrected from [xxx] using a scrap piece of paper. *{[xxx] indicates redacted, or blacked out, information}*
- Temperature monitoring records are incomplete....Humidity is not monitored during the entire study.
- The animals were fasted the day prior to any study activity. There was study activity daily for the first [xxx] days of the study, and weekly thereafter. The animals experienced decreased appetite and diarrhea. No animals were taken off the study for health reasons.

A certified “warning” letter from the Department of Health and Human Services to Dr. Frederick Coulston, TCF’s CEO and Chairman of the Board, concludes that the conditions at his facility “are serious violations of the GLP regulations,” and warns that the results of future studies at TCF would be considered “seriously flawed” if these deficiencies are not corrected. 🐾

United States Air Force’s (USAF) 32nd Retiree, Joshua, was awarded to The Coulston Foundation (TCF) by USAF in August 1998. Joshua was allowed to be retired from a Hepatitis study after negotiations between TCF and Primarily Primates, Inc.

Chimp Bill Introduced

On November 22, 1999 Representative James Greenwood (R, PA), introduced H.R.3514, the “Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act” (CHIMP) to create a congressionally-chartered non-profit retirement sanctuary where all chimpanzees formerly used in research could permanently live without the threat of ever returning to an experimental laboratory or being subjected to further invasive experiments or tests.

This bill may create the sanctuary system that could ultimately house the 652 chimps currently in danger at The Coulston Foundation. The CHIMP Act is as timely as it is important.

Commenting on the proposed legislation, Dr. Jane Goodall said: “Never before has there been such a concrete opportunity to work in cooperation with the scientific community, government officials, and the world’s most renowned primate experts to provide chimpanzees who have given so much of themselves to science with a safe, permanent home to live out the remainder of their lives. This is a crucial time for us in our stewardship to define their future with respect, compassion and justice. They deserve nothing less.” 🐾



Carole Noon

Chimpanzees develop and share strong family bonds. Even laboratory chimps, who have been isolated and emotionally deprived for long periods of time, are capable of forming complex relationships with other chimpanzees.

The Three R's: Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of Tests on Animals, A Conference in Bologna

At the third annual meeting of the World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences that took place in Bologna, Italy from August 29 to September 2, 1999, Christine Stevens – founder and president of the *Animal Welfare Institute* (AWI) was honored with the 1999 Henry Spira Award To Improve The Lot Of Laboratory Animals In Academic Institutions And Commercial Laboratories. AWI worked with the British Universities Federation of Animal Welfare led by Major C.W. Hume to bring about publication of “The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique,” by Russell and Burch.

Throughout the conference, the theme of this book that started the whole movement to replace, reduce, or refine experiments on animals, was cited. Co-author, W.M.S. Russell of the University of Reading, UK, spoke to the assembled conference urging the entire body to energetic action. “The tie I am wearing is a gift from my friend Klaus Cussler, of the Paul Ehrlich Institute. It has about 100 tortoises on it, all moving slowly in the same direction. But one of them is saying, “GET A MOVE ON!” So that is my message to this Congress — let’s *get a move on* and see how much we can do together to achieve the 3 R’s revolution by the time we next meet in Boston in 2002.”

Hugh Richardson of the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre praised Russell and Burch’s “seminal book” and reported that “by the middle of the 1980s the Council of Europe had adopted a convention based on the three R’s, and that the EEC had passed a major new Directive....Directive 86/609 is binding on all the member states of the European Union which have now adopted their own legislation to meet or surpass the minimum standards it lays down. Representatives of the Member States meet regularly with the Commission to discuss ways of improving the application of the Directive in promoting the 3 R’s throughout the European Union.” For example, in February the European Commission approved three *in vitro* replacements for laboratory animals in toxicity tests: one to test corrosives, another to test photo toxicity, and the third a topical

toxicity test. Toxicity tests are the most urgently needed for replacement of animals because they are generally extremely stressful and painful.

Valerie Stanley of the *Animal Legal Defense Fund*, known for her pioneering victories for animals in court cases, accepted the award for Mrs. Stevens and read her statement to the conference, as printed here:

“I am happy to accept this award on behalf of Christine Stevens. She has asked me to read her remarks:

“I wish to express my gratitude to this 3rd World Congress. I have long admired the work of European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) for its dedication, energy and commitment to find and implement tests that supplant the cruel methods of testing on animals that have been used for so many years.

“With all the resources the United States has, all of its wealth not only in terms of money, but in intelligence and innovation, in terms of finding and implementing non-animal tests, the United States cannot even begin to compare with the genuine strides and accomplishments of ECVAM and its allies such as the Multicenter Evaluation of In-Vitro Cytotoxicity (MEIC).

“In this regard, ECVAM and the American Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) are more than worlds apart geographically. In the United States, we seem more interested in stating that we are dedicated to finding non-animal methods than in actually producing and validating them. If pharmaceutical and household product manufacturers in the United States are really serious in pressing forward with the necessary research, why haven’t we made breakthroughs that equal MEICs?”

But the U.S. is seriously behind the more enlightened research community in Europe. Our commitment to Henry Spira’s great legacy in furthering elimination of unnecessary animal testing must not falter. 🐾

Bequests to AWI

To any who would like to help assure the Animal Welfare Institute’s future through a provision in your will, this general form of bequest is suggested:

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

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

In Monstrous 20,000 Cow-Factory Farms, Hormone Injections Are Given Regularly— Abnormal Amounts of Milk are the Goal

By Chris Bedford

American's small family dairy farms face extinction. The farm gate price of milk has dropped to below 1978 levels, as a result of market manipulation by large dairy cooperatives which function like giant agribusiness corporations.

As a consequence, many family dairy farmers may be forced into bankruptcy this year. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts farm employment losses will exceed 175,000 in the next five years. And this estimate was released before the current crisis. The impacts from this potential loss for rural communities, the environment and animal welfare are devastating.



Four year old April Donnon milking April, a cow named after her, on her father's farm in Rising Sun, Maryland. Mr. Donnon owns 75 cows.

The same industrialization of food production that has transformed poultry and hog raising is rapidly transforming dairy production. In dairy factory operations, farmers become factory workers, environmentally destructive amounts of manure are produced, animals are confined for most their lives and output is pushed through processes that can damage human and animal health. Milk production is artificially stimulated through injections of a recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) also known as Bovine Somatotropin (BST). BST use can painfully injure lactating cows by draining calcium from bones and tissues, causing ulcers along their backbone and

disfiguring swelling of leg joints (see page 6 of *AWI Quarterly*, Vol.48 No.2). BST has also been implicated in human health problems by causing increased production of another bovine hormone called IGF-1 (Insulin Growth Factor 1). IGF-1 has been proven to increase risk for uterine and breast cancer and heart disease in women. Both BST and IGF-1 are not destroyed by the 15-second pasteurization process used on most commercial milk. FDA approval of Monsanto's version of BST, known by the trade name of Posilac, was based on pasteurization tests of 30 minutes or more, not 15 seconds.

Traditionally, milk has been produced by small, family dairy farms milking 30-100 cows at any one time. Although many of these small farmers experimented in the mid-1990s with (BST) they abandoned the product after seeing what it did to their cows.

"It just wore my neighbors' cows out," said dairy farmer, George Donnon of Rising Sun, Maryland who never used Posi-

lac. "It increased production some during the first lactation. But it didn't work after that. And it caused some serious physical problems for the animals." The dairy factory operations are the principal consumers of Posilac/BST. Heifers are given the drug during their first lactation — forcing them to produce milk for two years or more — increasing per cow output by approximately 15%. After this first artificially extended lactation, the cows are so worn out that they have to be sold for meat. Small family dairy farmers typically keep their cows for five or six lactations.

"Use of BST divides the large operations from the small family farmer," said Eddie Boyer, a dairy farmer from New Oxford, Pennsylvania. "A family farmer cares about his cows. He calls them to the milking parlor by name. He wants to extend their productive lives as long as he can." Ironically, BST use and the expansion of dairy factory operations is behind much of the current crisis facing small family dairy farms. The construction of giant BST-dependent dairy factories, milking 20,000 cows or more, in the desert areas of California, Arizona and Idaho has produced large amounts of cheese at artificially low prices. These new dairy factories create environmental problems/disasters wherever they operate — often spilling millions of gallons of manure into scarce and vulnerable arid land water supplies. Since dairy factories externalize so much of the real environmental impacts, production costs are lower than on family farms. Cheese produced by these dairy factory operations is unloading large dairy cooperatives like Dairy Farmers of America and Land O'Lakes on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Cheese traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange sets the price of all milk sold in the United States through a series of Milk Marketing Orders issued by the federal government. By dumping subsidized, dairy factory produced cheese in Chicago, large dairy cooperatives can drive down the farmgate price of milk — reaping huge windfall profits while impoverishing the small farmers who are members of the coops. In 1978, when farmgate milk prices were higher than they are now, consumers paid a \$1.20 for a gallon of fresh milk. Today that same gallon of milk costs almost \$3.

"Someone is making money producing milk," said Fred LeClair, a dairy farmer from Watertown, New York. "It's just not us. Right now, I lose about \$6 for every hundred pounds of milk I produce (11.6 gallons = 100 lbs). I don't know any business that can operate long at these kinds of prices."

Some believe the current low prices are an effort by large cooperatives to "rationalize" milk production, make it more "efficient", by driving small producers out-of-business. Large dairy factory operations are protected through special premiums paid by processors and by low-interest loans unavailable to small dairy farmers. "It is time to draw a line between small farmers like myself and large corporate operations," said George Donnon. "Our interests are different. I want to maintain our way of life without having to get bigger. If I get a higher price for my milk, I will milk fewer cows, not more. And that's good for me and the environment, and the cows." 🐾

The Polish Resistance

By Tom Garrett

John Steinbeck once wrote that family farmers are “the soul and the guts of this nation or of any other nation.”

This can be nowhere truer than in Poland. Since Polish peasants armed with scythes overran Russian artillery at Raclawice during the Kosciuszko uprising of 1793, Poland’s most stubborn defenders have been found in the countryside. In the 19th Century, under leaders such as Jacob Szulic, the Polish peasantry threw off serfdom. Their obdurate resistance halted Stalinist attempts, between 1949-54, to consolidate Polish agriculture into state farms. Poland emerged from Communism in 1990 with 80% of its farmland still in private hands and well over a quarter of the population engaged in farming.

Today, having survived Communism, Poland’s peasants, standing athwart the juggernaut of corporate globalization, face a far more implacable enemy. The worldwide crash in grain and hog prices, compounded by a flood of cheap imports from the European Union’s highly subsidized agriculture, has left Poland’s farmers in a desperate plight, creating what Andrew Nagorski, writing in *Newsweek International*, calls “a bumper crop of despair.” Far from coming to Polish farmers’ defense, the country’s deeply unpopular coalition government has capitulated to E.U. demands to “modernize” Polish agriculture as a price for admission. Agricultural Minister Artur Balasz has announced that the number of Polish

farms, in accordance with E.U. requirements, must be reduced from two million to 800,000 by 2003. How will 1.2 million farm families be removed from the land in three years? The answer, beyond the screen of persiflage, seems brutally simple: To maintain an economic climate in which “weaker” farmers cannot survive economically.

As Polish farms suffer what farm wife Ewa Blieska, quoted in *Newsweek*, calls a “slow death,” the great transnational agribusiness corporations, like vultures settling beside a wounded animal, are entering the country. Chicken factories similar to those that swept the U.S. in the 1960s

are taking root in western Poland, pushing out peasant producers. Early last year (see *AWI Quarterly*, Vol. 48/49 No. 4/1) the world’s largest “pork production” company began a drive to take over pork production in Poland. Ignoring warnings by the farm unions, Smithfield is moving aggressively to bring the vertically integrated system that has destroyed family agriculture in states such as Virginia (where Smithfield now owns 95% of all hogs raised) and North Carolina, to Poland. Smithfield Chief counsel Richard Poulson, predicts that Animex, Smithfield’s Polish subsidiary, will become Europe’s largest pork production company with sales in excess of one billion dollars annually.

In Poland, where virtually every farm — no matter how small — raises a few pigs, the corporate drive poises a dagger at the heart of private farming. For pigs, and

Gail Eisnitz/HFA

Gail Eisnitz/HFA



Photos: Palace of Culture and Science where Tom Garrett, Agnes Van Volkenburgh and Gail Eisnitz spoke to 3,000 attendees of the Samoobrona Congress.

for the cause of animal welfare, the implications are horrifying. Today, most of Poland's 18 million pigs are raised in the traditional, relatively humane way, in pastures or on straw, able to interact socially and carry out normal motor patterns. If corporate hog factories supplant family farms, the lives of sows, imprisoned wretchedly in steel crates, will become a parabola of misery and the ghastly American syndrome — miasmatic “lagoons,” dumpsters overflowing with bloated carcasses will spread across eastern and central Europe. If it cannot be stopped in Poland, there is no chance of stopping it in countries like Belarus (where Smithfield is rumored to be negotiating) and the Ukraine.

On January 17, Agnes Van Volkenburgh, *Slaughterhouse* author Gail Eisnitz and I arrived in Warsaw for the Congress of Peasant-National Bloc, an alliance of Samoobrona with independent trade unions and small political parties, and for the opening of Andrzej Lepper's counterattack against Smithfield. The following morning, we walked through a gathering crowd into the monumental Kongressa Hall of Warsaw's huge, Stalinist-era Palace of Culture and Science and were seated in the front row. While folk troupes from the Carpathian and Bieszczady Mountains performed on the stage, thousands of delegates to the Congress — peasants from across Poland, coal miners in black uniforms, pensioners, military veterans aligned with General Tadeuzs Wilicki's National Front — took their seats. We stood for the Polish National Anthem, which begins “While we live Poland shall not die”. Then Lepper rose to speak. After a blistering attack on economic policies that have led to 14% unemployment and a fire sale of state owned assets to foreigners, he turned to the plight of Poland's peasants. He dwelled movingly on animal welfare, contrasting peasant farming where each

“Today, most of Poland's 18 million pigs are raised in the traditional, relatively humane way, in pastures or on straw, able to interact socially and carry out normal motor patterns. If corporate hog factories supplant family farms, the lives of sows, imprisoned wretchedly in steel crates, will become a parabola of misery and the ghastly American syndrome...”

farm animal is named and newborn young are brought into family homes in cold weather, with the mass, mindless cruelty of industrial agriculture. Our turn came after a recess. Agnes spoke briefly and eloquently, gaining thunderous applause. With Agnes translating, I explained what has happened to family farming in America and what lies in store for Poland if Smithfield is allowed to take over. Gail then recounted the appalling situation in American slaughterhouses.

We spent January 19th in Warsaw, meeting government officials and environmentalists. Before dawn on the 20th we joined Andrzej Lepper for a trip to northwestern Poland, lunching with agricultural bankers and touring a small slaughterhouse en route. In Czyluchow, the town's meeting hall was packed with hundreds of farmers waiting for Lepper. The farmers heard Lepper out. Then, for two hours, angry, desperate, sometimes despairing, they poured forth their troubles. There was much talk about hog factories since a Danish firm, Poldanor, has a permit to build a 300,000 feeder pig complex not far away.

January 21 dawned with snow and sleet. We drove westward on roads lined with Lombardy poplar through a part of Poland that was once German territory and had witnessed still another trail of tears when the German population was driven out in 1945. In late morning, we reached the ancient city of Szczecin, on the Odra River which forms today's German border and pulled up in front of the Smithfield owned AGRYF slaughterhouse. Farmers carrying Samoobrona signs were waiting, the press had arrived.

Lepper led us to the entrance where a row of faces peered through the glass. At this point, the manager, acting out his own version of Polish bravado, came outside without a coat and stood for an hour in the bitter wind, shivering violently and arguing, before the press, with the infuriated farmers. The problem, it seemed, was that AGRYF, true to the attitude of its corporate masters, was refusing to buy small lots of hogs because they “lacked uniformity”. Lepper finally heard enough. “Listen well” he said. “If there is any more of this I am coming back to shut you down.”



Gail Eisnitz/HFA

Protestors at the Animex Press Conference.

The next stop was in downtown Szczecin where we met with the local farmers cooperative (which has a minority interest in the Agury plant) to discuss the Smithfield takeover. Then, in a cold, sleeting rain, we went to see a hog factory left over from Communist times at a state farm 20 miles or so outside the city. We passed the workers' quarters, a five story apartment building positioned, incongruously, in a muddy field. But when we reached the hog factory the gates were padlocked and the sole person in attendance was the office manager. Word had come earlier in the day, she said, for the crew to lock everything and leave. The basic operational features, open cesspools and spray fields, seemed similar to U.S. hog factories. "In the summertime the smell hereabout is almost unendurable" one of the farmers said. "As for dead hogs, they dump them in a sump in the woods. The flies practically darken the sun." The last stop in Szczecin was to call on Marian Jurczyk, a towering figure of the anti-communist resistance and bitter rival of Lech Walesa, at the twilight of his political career. Jurczyk, receiving us in his imposing office, announced that he would resign as Mayor of Szczecin the following week.

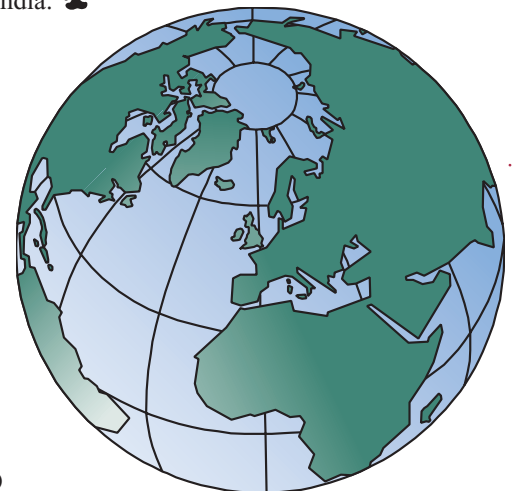
Six inches of snow fell in the night. We left before dawn, driving south through a hushed and peaceful countryside. Morning revealed the Odra valley and a sweep of marshlands and floodplain forests. The tracts of forest and open space in north-western Poland, contrasting with the patchwork of small farms often found elsewhere, are a legacy of numerous landed estates which, with the expulsion of their German owners, remained intact as state farms. We stopped for lunch at an ecotourism resort maintained by one of Lepper's supporters. Hours of tortuous night driving on snow-packed roads brought us to Warsaw, and at noon of the 22nd, after a harried morning of press interviews and meetings with environmentalists, we said goodbye to our friends and returned to the United States.

What has AWI accomplished thus far? Three thousand copies of a forty-minute video developed by Diane Halverson and narrated in Polish by Agnes Van Volkenburgh were delivered to Samoobrona and other Polish NGOs. The tapes are based around the Polish September tour, but they contain additional footage from hog factories and aerial coverage of the North Carolina floods. Along with written material, translated by Agnes, they have been distrib-

uted across Poland providing the sinew for a press and media campaign. Excerpts from the tapes have appeared on two Polish cable channels and numerous television stations. The March 10 issue of *Nie* (circulation 800,000) contains a scathing attack on Smithfield quoting AWI extensively. A similar article appeared in the daily paper *Nasz Dziennik*. The breakthroughs on radio, which is more important in Poland than in the U.S., have been dramatic. Agnes and Lepper were featured on TOK FM, Poland's main talk radio station. Appearing on Radio Zet, which is the most listened to-station in the country, Agriculture Minister Artur Balasz was asked whether he supported Lepper or Smithfield in the battle over pig factories. In a startling turnaround, Balasz announced that he supported Lepper and that pig factories cannot be tolerated in Poland.

In the Polish countryside, Samoobrona's campaign against Smithfield and other multinationals is gaining force. On February 8, for example, 2000 farmers gathered to protest Cargill's failure to pay farmers on time for deliveries of grain. Concurrently, a campaign led by Rural Solidarity head, Roman Wierbicki, has succeeded in blocking a giveaway of Poland's sugar processing capacity to foreign companies. On March 6, farmers will "send a message" by blockading roads and highways for three hours all across Poland. Meantime, an alliance is coalescing between the peasants and the Polish environmentalists. It will have its first test when humane and environmental groups from throughout Poland send cadres to Warsaw to participate in Samoobrona-led protests at German, Danish and U.S. Embassies on March 14.

The Polish campaign has opened the door for AWI to carry its message, that mass abuse of animals is the core evil of industrial agriculture, to an ever wider audience. Agnes and I were invited to address a Congress of Peasant Parties from ten eastern and central European nations in Prague on March 11. On March 26, we will address the World Congress of Trade Unions in New Delhi, India. In attendance will be the leaders of India's 30 million member peasant unions who have given the agribusiness giant, Monsanto, vector of "genetically modified" seeds, an ultimatum to leave India. 🐾



Human Population 6,000,000,000 and Growing

The world has reached a population of six billion, meaning the number of the globe's inhabitants has doubled in less than 40 years.

It took all of human history for the planetary population to reach one billion in 1804, but then little more than 150 years to reach three billion in 1960. Now there's twice the number.

While the world adds another 3,500 humans every 20 minutes it loses an entire plant or animal species in that same time — or about 27,000 species a year.

Despite a gradual slowing in the overall growth rate, world population is still increasing by 78 million a year—the equivalent of adding a city almost the size of San Francisco every three days. 🐾
—Reprinted from *EcoNews*

Dog Nursing Pups Mutilated in So-called “Padded” Trap

Shortly before Christmas, a mother dog was seen limping around the neighborhood in the White Knoll, South Carolina community. Her right front paw was held in the viselike grip of a steel jaw leghold trap. Apparently, the dog wasn't able to pull her foot out of the trap, but she had succeeded in pulling the trap's stake out of the ground to get back to her puppies. Although trappers refer to the device as a “padded” leghold trap, the trap had mangled the dog's paw, and she had lost three of her toes.

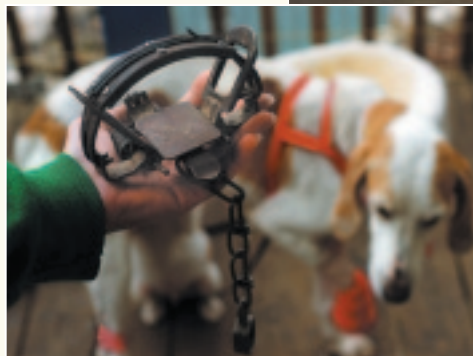
Dave Johnston, a volunteer with Pets, Inc., a local animal rescue organization, lured the emaciated mother dog in with food. “She was quite cooperative,” Johnston said. “She was exhausted. She went sound asleep in the van.” Johnston was only able to catch two of her puppies, but he knew there were more so he returned until he was able to round up all of five of her offspring. The puppies were only weeks old.

Thankfully, this story has a happy ending. The sweet mother dog has been adopted by a loving family and named Honey. After only a few weeks in her new home, Honey has thrived, gaining nearly 25 pounds. She doesn't like taking her twice-a-day antibiotic treatment or having the bandage on her paw changed. But this treatment, along with a trip back to the veterinarian every other day to monitor her progress, appears to be paying off. Honey's maimed paw is healing better than expected, and it probably won't have to be amputated. And all of her puppies have been adopted to good homes.

The owner of the inhumane, indiscriminate trap has not stepped forward to assume responsibility for setting it. Residents of White Knoll are concerned that the steel jaw trap, which had been set near a grade school, could have caught a child.

Meantime, Honey appears to be enjoying her new home, although she is apprehensive of people, following her ordeal. Her new family is very protective of her. When they realized that she hated loud noises, they spent New Year's Eve with her on the floor of their bathroom. Honey is bonding with the two other dogs in the family, and the woman who adopted

Honey acknowledged that she's made great strides, describing a day when “...I caught her playing, jumping around on three legs and her nubby foot. She looked at me like I wasn't supposed to see that.” 🐾



Photos: Takaaki Iwabu/The State

Honey, with one of her puppies at her side, stands on her three good legs. The “padded” steel jaw leghold trap that mutilated Honey's front paw has been condemned by The American Veterinary Medical Association as “inhumane” for obvious reasons.



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