

# AWI Quarterly

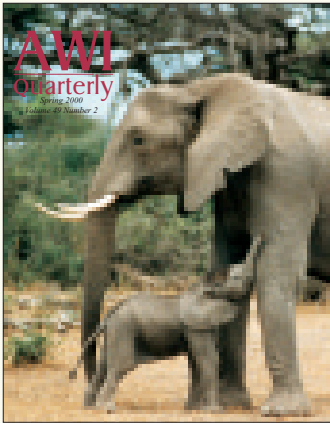
*Summer 2000*

*Volume 49 Number 3*



ABOUT THE COVER

Katy Payne, who initiated the study of infrasound elephant communication, photographed this mother and infant elephant. Katy is profoundly committed to the protection of elephants as individuals, and she suffers with them when they are culled or poached for their ivory. She is conducting her studies now in the Central African Republic. Her book, “Silent Thunder—In the Presence of Elephants,” which was reviewed in the Spring 2000 *AWI Quarterly*, concludes sorrowfully. After Katy and five colleagues returned to the U.S., a cull by the Zimbabwe Parks Department killed many of the elephants whose voices she had recorded and grown to know.



Judge Strikes Down Phony “Dolphin-Safe” Label

On April 11, 2000, Judge Thelton Henderson of the U.S. District Court in San Francisco ruled against the blatant defrauding of consumers by the U.S. government. The judge struck down the new “dolphin-safe” label for canned tuna fish—a label that is distinctly dolphin unsafe. Judge Henderson questioned the diligence of the Department of Commerce in adequately studying the reason for the lack of recovery of several species of dolphins, hard hit for decades in the eastern tropical Pacific.

Despite the death of over seven million dolphins who were chased, exhausted and netted to catch the tuna schools beneath them, Secretary of Commerce William Daley made a preliminary finding last year that there was no proof that this technique of fishing caused “significant adverse impact.” His finding triggered the release of a new, official Department of Commerce “dolphin-safe” label for canned tuna fish. The new label would have been used on cans of tuna caught by harassing dolphins. Judge Henderson essentially voided this fraud and sent the government back to the drawing board. His ruling came in the nick of time, with Mexico poised to flood the U.S. with tons of dolphin-deadly tuna.

Thanks to especially vocal consumers, all canned tuna now sold in the United States is caught without netting dolphins. All three major American tuna importers have vowed to continue the present definition of dolphin-safe and reject the phony label. 🐾



Spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*) are one of the two species most heavily impacted by being chased and encircled by tuna nets in the Eastern Tropical Pacific ocean.

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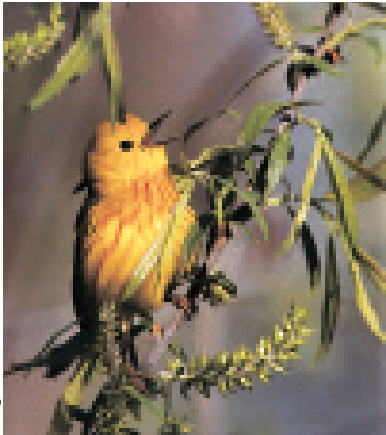
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Chimpanzees in laboratories can never be returned to the wild to live free as the infant pictured here. Dr. Jane Goodall testified before Congress on a bill to enable retirement for chimpanzees in laboratories: “...free from cages they can live in a way that will allow them to socialize, feel the breeze in their faces, climb trees, and groom with their friends. That is surely the least we can do for them in return for their sacrifice.” See story page 5.



The Yellow Warbler, one of many birds Lang Elliot portrays in his book, *Music of the Birds, A Celebration of Bird Song*. “The birds pour forth their souls in notes of rapture from a thousand throats,” William Wordsworth. See review page 17.

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Cathy Acherman

Note the fresh surgical scars on Biscuit and Saucy, who were among the first greyhounds released by Guidant Research Laboratory. Having survived the ordeal, they are now together in a loving home.

### Animal Dealers Arrested and Convicted

Special Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Division perform invaluable services in capturing criminal animal dealers and following each case to its conclusion. “Operation Chameleon” has resulted in the conviction of over 20 smugglers and reptile dealers in three countries. In 1992, a major Florida reptile dealer, Tom Crutchfield, was arrested and convicted.

Meantime, the prestigious San Diego Zoo had been augmenting its collection through trafficking in rare and endangered reptiles. Earl Thomas Schultz, former Curator of Reptiles, admitted he had misappropriated more than \$100,000 of the zoo’s money, but used it to “the zoo’s benefit and to enhance its reptile collection. Much of the money was used for gifts to dealers.” According to *The San Diego Union Tribune*, “He conducted all transactions in cash, some of which he kept at home.” Schultz testified, “I was following directions... I did not take [the money] from the San Diego Zoo.”

The Special Agents of FWS Law Enforcement Division have earned the appreciation of all of us who strive to protect endangered species, and they deserve strong support from the Congress and the Administration. 🐾

### Canadian Bear Parts Traders Jailed

Two brothers have been jailed and fined for illegal trafficking, possession and transportation of bear parts in Canada. Both men were fined \$7,000 and will serve 31 days in jail. “These tough penalties send a clear message that illegal trafficking in wildlife parts will not be tolerated in British Columbia,” said Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Joan Sawicki. Both men were apprehended when they delivered 10 bear gall bladders to undercover officers posing as customers. The value of the bear parts seized was estimated at \$13,000 on the illegal market. This is reportedly the first time anyone has been convicted and imprisoned in Canada for the interprovincial transportation of bear parts under the federal act as the result of an undercover investigation. 🐾

— Information from British Columbia, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks News Release, May 31, 2000

## Another Dealer is Exposed for Illegally Acquiring Dogs for Experimentation

As many as 1,000 former racing greyhounds may have been acquired fraudulently by a USDA-licensed Class B, random source, dealer and sold for experimental purposes. The owners of the dogs were led to believe the animals would be adopted to homes; instead the dealer, Daniel Shonka, sold them to laboratories for \$300-400 each.

Allegedly most of the dogs were sold to *Guidant Corporation*, a cardiac research facility and manufacturer of implantable pace-makers and defibrillators. The dogs were used for experimental purposes at the company’s site in St. Paul, Minnesota. Research facilities that want to ensure they do not get stolen or fraudulently acquired dogs and cats should not use Class B random source dealers.

Most of the dogs Shonka sold for experimentation have been killed, but approximately 100 may still be alive at Guidant. The laboratory is reversing the experimental procedures it conducted on the dogs and is releasing them. Some of the dogs have had surgically implanted wires removed and after recovering from the surgery, the greyhounds will be adopted to good homes as initially anticipated by their owners.

Shonka, a long-time scout for the National Football League’s Philadelphia Eagles, runs a kennel for racing dogs at St. Croix Meadows Greyhound Racing Track in Hudson, Wisconsin and operates his so-called adoption program from his home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Since 1996 he has held a USDA license for his Cedar Rapids location to sell animals to laboratories, but the license does not entitle him to acquire animals by deceit. When the allegations against Shonka surfaced in April, he disconnected his home and business telephone.

No charges have been filed yet, but the USDA, Wisconsin Division of Gaming and the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Division of Criminal Investigation are investigating Shonka. Adoption of the Pet Safety and Protection Act, currently pending in Congress, would prevent this illicit supply of dogs and cats for experimentation. 🐾

### \$10,000 Reward for Stolen Labrador Retriever

My name is Dewayne Eubanks. I am no animal rights activist—I am a neurosurgeon, an avid hunter, conservationist, dog lover, horseman and all-around country boy. I was brought up to believe in caring for the animals that we own and I love my 4 year old black Lab, Rebel, second only to my kids. He was stolen from my home on December 18, 1999. I have solid information that he was taken by (or for) a nearby “buncher” who sells dogs to research facilities.

Rebel is a 70 pound male, has a tattoo on inner thigh (but it is extremely hard to see), and a *Home Again Microchip* implanted. He had cut his left rear leg (inside “knee”) about two weeks before being stolen and had two staples in place when he was taken.

He was taken from my home on County Road 464 in Jonesboro, AR. The thieves are believed to have been in an older car, dilapidated, and probably 2 men. They were seen in an old, grayish midsize car working this area again a few days later.

I would appreciate it if you could keep your eyes open for my friend. I will pay \$3,000 dollars for his safe return, no questions asked. I will pay \$7,000 more for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the thieves and others involved in the conspiracy.

As a neurosurgeon, I support animal research for worthwhile purposes when the data cannot be acquired any other way and when the animals are properly procured and properly cared for—but NOT WHEN THEY ARE OUR PETS THAT HAVE BEEN STOLEN. 🐾

Thank You, K. Dewayne Eubanks, M.D.

— Excerpted from a letter posted on the internet

## A Power Struggle on Capitol Hill Over Chimpanzees’ Future

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

*On May 18, 2000, Dr. Jane Goodall brought 40 years of primatological knowledge to Congress, strenuously advocating passage of legislation to enable retirement for chimpanzees formerly utilized in biomedical research, the “Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act” (H.R. 3514). In Dr. Goodall’s words: “This legislation is the only humane hope for chimpanzees that will never be used in research again.”*

Pennsylvania Congressman Jim Greenwood’s bill, pending before the House Commerce Committee, would appropriate up to \$30 million to create a national chimpanzee sanctuary system. When researchers decide that any of the approximately 1,500 captive research chimpanzees in the U.S. are no longer needed, they can be released permanently to the sanctuary to live out the remainder of their natural lives in peace.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) opposes this well-deserved retirement. Dr. John Strandberg, testifying for NIH, said “NIH cannot support proposed legislation that would require it to establish sanctuaries for chimpanzees and would make the animals permanently unavailable for study and monitoring.” The bill does no such thing. It establishes an independent non-profit sanctuary system; it does not require NIH to start one. It does not make the animals unavailable for study and monitoring. Actually, H.R. 3514 specifically allows for “noninvasive behavioral studies” and “medical studies conducted during the course of normal veterinary care that is provided for the benefit of the chimpanzees.” It also requires necropsy reports to be made available to researchers.

NIH is as delusional about the legislation’s language as it is about the conditions

at The Coulston Foundation (TCF), the world’s largest and most disgraceful captive chimpanzee colony. Quoted in *The Washington Post*, Strandberg blames “Coulston’s troubles on bad public relations.” He told the reporter, “If you look at USDA concerns, they are looking at wall surfaces, and record-keeping.”

Eric Kleiman of In Defense of Animals, who has maintained an unrelenting eye on Coulston’s maneuverings, paints a vastly different picture of TCF’s problems: “Since March 1998, the USDA has cited Coulston four separate times for failing to provide adequate veterinary care, involving the deaths of nine chimpanzees. Since August 1997, the USDA has cited TCF five separate times for research oversight committee violations, involving four chimpanzees’ deaths. Strandberg’s characterization of these grave violations as mere public relations problems demonstrates the NIH’s cavalier attitude toward the humane treatment of animals, the conduct of quality science, and compliance with federal law.”

On May 10, 2000, NIH took title to 288 of Coulston’s chimps, but when questioned in the hearing by Congressman Greenwood about the standards of chimpanzee care at TCF, Strandberg refused to admit that TCF persistently treats chimpanzees inhumanely. *Commerce Business Daily* has announced that NIH is seeking a Contractor to care

for these chimpanzees and “operate and maintain a chimpanzee facility located at the Holloman Air Force base in Alamogordo, New Mexico” – part of TCF’s operation. A mandatory qualification is that the bidders “have previously demonstrated the ability to provide high quality care for chimpanzees.” Despite FDA investigations revealing over 270 violations of Good Laboratory Practice regulations and despite all the chimpanzee deaths, USDA investigations and citations against Coulston, the scientific journal *Nature* reported on May 18, 2000, that Coulston “is still in the running to bid for contracts to care for the animals.”

The *Nature* article notes that TCF “...lost two such contracts last year after USDA investigations ruled that the facility had violated the Animal Welfare Act. USDA inspectors reported that Coulston’s chimp housing was dirty, infested and poorly ventilated.” It further highlights Coulston’s loss of over \$10 million in contracts in the last six years. Internal NIH documents indicate that TCF is on the verge of bankruptcy, and is effectively being propped up by the U.S. government, which awarded \$1.1 million in supplemental awards to the lab since June 11, 1999; NIH has directed an estimated \$30 million in Public Health Service funds to Coulston’s operation since 1993.

Astonishingly, NIH’s answer to all this is to pay TCF to care temporarily for the very animals to whom NIH just took title. Worse, TCF may ultimately be the recipient, by default, of NIH’s forthcoming five-year contract to provide care for the chimps. So, if you’re keeping track: chimpanzees die at The Coulston Foundation; TCF settles charges with USDA by agreeing to divest itself of 300 chimpanzees; NIH takes title to those chimpanzees; and now, TCF may get them right back.

Dr. Strandberg and others at NIH are like addicts who cannot help solve a problem until they admit that there is a problem. Thankfully, with Jane Goodall urging passage of Congressman Greenwood’s bill, there is a real chance that all chimpanzees will be appropriately rewarded when their forced service to humans is finished. The chimps at TCF and elsewhere should have this opportunity for safe-haven. 🐾

*Dr. Jane Goodall went from observing playful chimps at the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania to testifying before Congress on behalf of their captive cousins in America.*



Michael Nichols, Brutal Kinship, Aperture, New York, 1999



# U.S. Navy Kills Whales In The Bahamas

BY BEN WHITE

In early 1998, the U.S. Navy was testing an anti-submarine device called Low Frequency Active (LFA) sonar off the Kona coast of Hawaii, intentionally hitting humpback whales with up to 155 decibels. AWI led the interference to the testing for a month, putting human swimmers in the water to force the Navy to turn off its huge noisemaker. We warned that the consequences of bombarding sensitive sonic creatures with intense sound could be devastating, even though not necessarily readily apparent.

In 1999, the Navy issued a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) covering its LFA sonar. The thick document announced that the Navy was in the process of building four ships that would carry LFA sonar into 80% of the world's oceans for thousands of hours a year, ostensibly to find quiet enemy submarines. The operational limit of the LFA sonar would be about 240 decibels, over a hundred million times more intense than the level used on the Hawaiian humpbacks. And this would be completely safe, the Navy asserts, because it would keep a close lookout for passing whales and turn off the LFA sonar if whales swam within 1.5 kilometers of the vessel. Outside that distance, the whales would "only" receive 180 decibels or less, a level the Navy argued caused no damage at all. This was a staggering assertion, since the well-established level at which whales start avoiding an area is about 120 decibels—a million times less intense. Based on tests on its own divers, the Navy has set 140 decibels as the maximum level to which a human can safely be subjected.

In researching active sonar devices, AWI and others discovered that they had been tested for at least a decade, often without the required "incidental take" permits, and that on several occasions mass strandings of cetaceans occurred just on the heels of Navy exercises. Dr. Alexandros Frantzis of the University of Athens has tied a very unusual stranding of Cuvier's Beaked Whales along the coast of Greece in 1995 directly to the coincidental NATO testing of LFA sonar. Similar incidents occurred in the Canary Islands and off Bonaire. But there was never a trained biologist on hand to inspect immediately the stranded whales and preserve evidence of their cause of death.

That is why the mass stranding of four different species of whales and dolphins that began on March 15 in the Bahamas is so critical. Biologist Ken Balcomb, who not only has studied whales for more than three decades, but also worked with passive sonar in the Navy for five years, just happened to be on hand when beaked whales started washing ashore. These were not any-

mous victims. For nine years Ken and his colleague Dianne Claridge had been studying these extremely rare deep diving whales and had developed a data base of photo identification.

From the first stranded whale that washed up in front of their research station, it was clear that something was very wrong. They pushed the whale back out into deep water but it was clearly unbalanced and disoriented. All day, reports of additional stranded whales came in. By the time it was over, at least fifteen whales and dolphins had stranded and nine were dead, including two species of beaked whales, a minke whale and a spotted dolphin. With Harvard biologist Dr. Darlene Ketton, Ken performed necropsies on several of the whales, immediately noticing ears full of blood and, in one case, hemorrhages striping the lungs consistent with pressure from the ribs. Upon inspection of a beaked whale head with a CAT-SCAN machine at Harvard, it was discovered that the creature had suffered a concussion, further proof of an acute trauma brought on by a pressure wave.

Those of us fighting the Navy's testing and deployment of active sonar knew almost

immediately that it was involved in some sort of exercises exactly at the same place and time as the Bahamas strandings. The Navy at first denied any link whatsoever. Subsequently the Navy has been very careful with its response, issuing a statement asserting that seven Navy ships and three submarines were in the area, five of which were operating "their normal array of active sonar" as they passed the Bahamas, not LFA sonar.

On May 10, AWI held a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., to blow the whistle on the Navy for killing the whales and dolphins in the Bahamas and to call for an immediate halt in further testing or deployment of active sonar devices until Congress convenes oversight hearings into the safety and necessity of these very real threats to ocean life. Speakers were Joel Reynolds of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Ken Balcomb of the Center for Whale Research, Dr. Naomi Rose of the Humane Society of the United States, Dr. Marsha Green of the Ocean Mammal Institute, and Dr. Charles Bernard, retired Navy officer and designer of weapons systems for thirty years. The message was delivered to a bank of TV cameras and a packed room: active sonar, especially LFA, is reckless, unnecessary, and is already killing whales at a level far less intense than that planned for a globally deployed LFA sonar.

## Just In At Press Time:

The Navy, bowing to pressure from the environmental and animal protection community, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Marine Mammal Commission, cancelled the testing of active sonar devices as part of its LWAD (Littoral Warfare Advanced Development) trial off New Jersey. This is the first time the Navy has altered its schedule for active sonar development.

We have also just learned, in papers the Navy filed in a new Hawaii LFA court challenge to be heard on June 13, that the planned testing of the LFA on sperm whales in the Azores "will not be carried out this year." This obviously leaves open the possibility of next year, but for now, both of the immediate demands of our press conference have been met. 🐾

## Elephant Seals Hot Iron Branded

Hot iron branding has caused terrible pain to animals, both wild and domestic. Photographs of branded elephant seals, with hot iron brand marks covering a significant part of the animals' sides (both sides so scientists can read the number easily) were published in the Sydney, Australia *Mercury*.

According to the March 29th *Mercury*, "The evidence collected shows the brands have created large weeping and infected wounds on many seals." The Parks and Wildlife Director, Max Kitchell, said, "a significant number of seals were left with horrific injuries which could be life-threatening."

The brandings, part of a 10 year population study, have now been mercifully stopped by the Macquarie Island government. 🐾

## The Environment Comes Second

At the recent meeting of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Alexey Yablokov, the distinguished Russian Scientist who is a member of AWI's International Committee, and was an advisor to former President Boris Yeltsin, presented a letter, with several other scientists, to President of Russia, Vladimir Putin protesting his termination of the State Committee on the Environment.

According to the report in *The New York Times* (May 24, 2000), there is a deep seated belief in the Kremlin that the wide-spread pollution is not important and that economic recovery must come first, and afterwards, the environment can be given attention.

Yablokov has testified before the U.S. Congress on the radiation, as well as air and water pollution, that desperately needs to be addressed in Russia. President Putin said he will think about it. 🐾

## "Report: Japan is Top Importer of Endangered Species"

According to Kyodo News Service, February 8, 2000, "Japan in 1996 was the world's top importer of endangered tortoises and birds whose trading is restricted by an international convention, a survey by a Japanese group monitoring wildlife trafficking showed Tuesday.

"Japan also ranked second as an importer of live primates and orchid-type plants listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

"...According to the survey, Japan bought 29,051 tortoises from abroad, absorbing some 55% of the species traded worldwide, and purchased 136,179 wild and bred birds, or 43% of all birds trafficked globally.

"...A total of 5,374 live primates such as cynomolgus monkeys and common squirrel monkeys were brought to Japan, the world's second largest amount for trade. Japan was also the second largest importer of furs of animals belonging to the cat family..." 🐾

## A Fur Promotion Frenzy

Saga Furs of Scandinavia is desperately attempting to invigorate abysmal fur sales. In the hope of manipulating consumer demand, Saga is offering promotions to designers including giving designers free fur, offering free trips to Copenhagen to learn about fur, sponsoring fashion shows of designers who feature Saga Furs, and providing designers with access to their factories for production of fur fashions. 🐾

— Information from the San Francisco Chronicle, Trish Donnally, on March 14, 2000

## The Farm Bureau Prediction on China

According to the May 2000 issue of *Multinational Monitor*, Alex Jackson speaking for the American Farm Bureau says, "China is our number one growth market in the world." Wheat, corn, soybeans and meat are expected to be the biggest "market gainers." Jackson claims that by 2020 "China could account for a quarter of all U.S. agricultural exports." 🐾



Above: Dead male dense-beaked whale bruised and internally damaged; found March 16, 2000, Cross Harbor, Abaco.



Left: Dead spotted dolphin stranded March 15, 2000, Powell Cay, Abaco. Photos: Ken Balcomb



# “The Voice of the Turtle is Heard in Our Land”

BY BEN WHITE

## *The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund—What They Do*

Just at the close of World War II, a conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire created the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the monster that eventually morphed into the more binding World Trade Organization (WTO).

The World Bank is the largest lender in the world to poor countries, supported in part by almost a billion dollars a year of U.S. tax dollars. The type of development funded is often disastrous: megaprojects such as dams that flood habitats, villages and fertile valleys, huge deforestation schemes, and the conversion of grasslands to trampled cattle farms. When countries cannot meet their payments on the World Bank loans, they borrow from the IMF. The IMF is very willing to make the payments if, and only if, the countries are willing to take its “advice” on how to “improve” their economies. This advice comes in the form of “SAP’s,” short for Structural Adjustment Programs, in exchange for helping meet their payments. Thus the IMF is able to dictate the economic policies of the debtor countries. Its influence is vast and draconian. If the debtor countries refuse to go along, all international sources of money dry up.

Once in the debt cycle, very few countries are ever able to pay off their debts. Almost two-thirds of the recipients have become more dependent. From 1984 to 1990 alone, the cash flow from third world countries to commercial banks was over 178 billion dollars, prompting one former World Bank official to say: “Not since the Conquistadors plundered Latin America has the world experienced a flow in the direction we see today.”

## *The World Bank and the IMF and Wildlife*

This is where animal suffering comes in. Beside the damage wreaked by the megaprojects funded by the World Bank, the “austerity measures” imposed by SAP’s continue the pain. The IMF conditions are oriented to opening up the country to foreign investment and development, converting farmland from subsistence agriculture to export crops and cashing in any “resource” available that can earn money on the global market. These “expendable resources” include ancient forests, fisheries and wildlife for the exotic food and pet trade.

The World Bank funded Livestock 1, 2 and 3 to encourage the construction of new cattle farms in Botswana. To sell the meat to the European market it had to be certified as free of hoof-and-mouth disease. Over 900 miles of fencing were strung across Botswana to separate the cattle from indigenous fauna. Tens of thousands of wildebeest died of thirst along the fences trying to reach their traditional watering places.

— Song of Solomon 2:12 (King James Version Bible)

The World Bank is currently funding construction of an oil pipeline between Chad and Cameroon, through pristine elephant and gorilla forest habitat. To comply with IMF pressure to raise export revenue, Indonesia clearcut and burnt millions of acres of ancient forests to convert into farmland for palm oil and other export crops. Great expanses of forest that the orangutans depend upon have been destroyed.

The World Bank funded construction of a fishing jetty and prawn culture area in the Bhitarkanika Sanctuary, home of the largest population of Olive Ridley sea turtles in India and refuge for sea eagles, and smooth-coated Indian otters.

The shocking result of this World Bank largesse was reported by *Reuters*, February 18, 2000, as a “Major Endangered Turtle Die Off.” The article states that hundreds of

endangered Olive Ridley turtles mysteriously died after crawling onto East Indian beaches to nest.

## *Why We Marched as Turtles*

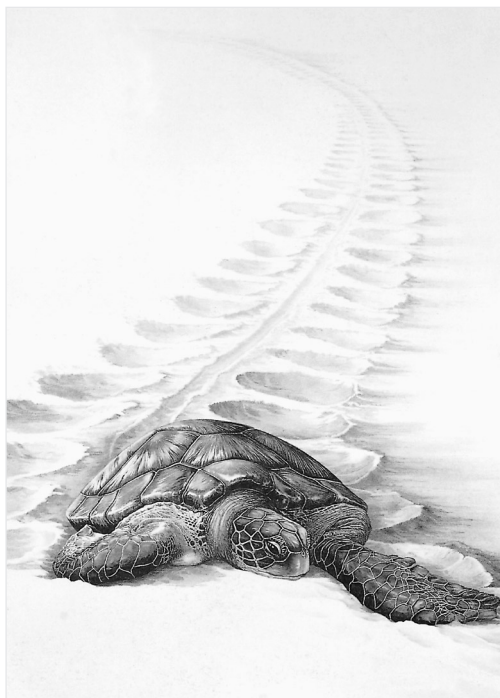
At the WTO meeting in Seattle, AWI helped lead 240 people dressed as sea turtles in protest against the WTO’s rejection of U.S. law requiring turtle excluder devices on boats of any country wishing to export shrimp to America. Several countries refused employing these inexpensive devices, insisting that our law unfairly restricted trade. The WTO struck down our law.

Turtles are also globally imperiled by rapacious development and fishing policies promoted by the IMF and World Bank. So, the turtle demonstrators resurfaced for a protest in D.C. against these institutions. The turtles have been a tremendous hit—symbolically protesting the WTO’s usurpation of American sovereignty, including enforcement of our animal protection laws, and the ecological destruction wrought by the World Bank and IMF. 🐢



*Sea turtles march against the World Bank and IMF in Washington, D.C.*

Gary Hodges



# World Bank vs. Tigers in India

## Green mining threatens precious habitat

BY BITTU SAHGAL, *editor of Sanctuary Asia, India’s largest circulation wildlife magazine* and DAPHNE WYSHAM, *research fellow of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies.*

While the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) met in Washington behind closed doors and police barricaded this week, citizen protesters pressed environmental social justice priorities from without. World Bank and IMF officials assured the public they have these issues at heart in their internal decision-making. But skeptics counter that their lack of transparency is symptomatic of a deeper top-down elitism that promotes unsustainable development for the well to do at the cost of environmental destruction and social upheaval for the poorest.

Who is right? Who is in a position to judge? Do ordinary citizens even have a legitimate role in policing international financial institutions? U.S. taxpayers, who contribute the largest portion of World Bank funds, deserve concrete information for themselves. So here is one illustrative case study: a World Bank coal mining expansion scheme in India.

U.S. companies see a hot prospective market in India, where \$250 billion will be spent on power-generating equipment in coming years. Coal is India’s cheapens and most abundant power source, and until recently India’s coal sector was the top recipient of World Bank development dollars.

The World Bank justifies expended coal mining in India as not only good for the economy but also for then environment. Some planned mines it is backing are even touted as “environmental showcases.” But these would-be “green” mines are sited in ultrasensitive habitats India’s tigers and other endangered wildlife can’t live without.

In the Indian stats of Bihar, Grissa, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, some 400 new open-cast coal mines are planned. The World Bank in collaboration with Coal India, and with the tactic acceptance of the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), is financing 25 such mines in ecologically sensitive areas as models of what it calls “good environmental practice.” But the label is Orwellian; environmental devastation in the vicinity of open cast coal mines is total.

These regions of India contain many of the last remaining wild tigers on Earth, as well as other endangered species including the Asiatic elephant. Its forests contain areas identified by the World Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society as Level One Tiger Conservation Unit warranting the highest level of environmental protection. The forests are unique because they are still connected by fragile but working corridors that allow large mammals the range they need. The planned mines will cut off the corridors, reducing the forests to islands surrounded by human activity. Stranded tiger populations inside these “forest islands” become inbred and die out.

After initially calling the mine sites “degraded” forest unimportant to wildlife, the World Bank was joined by MOEF in eventually admitting the vital function of the corridors and that the matter “merited serious consideration.” It promised local groups that it would send experts to assess the situation, but never followed through. The Environmental Impact Assessments prepared by the World Bank and the MOEF gloss over the impact of the mines on the corridors and the wildlife they host.

Nor do they official assessments include an analysis of the atmospheric impact of mining and burning more coal, impacts whose brunt is inevitably borne by developing countries as climate change accelerates. Coal is the dirtiest and more carbon-intensive of fossil fuels, releasing more greenhouse gases into the earth’s atmosphere than any other source. The World Bank admits the poorest will suffer the most in a warming world.

The mines’ impacts on local residents have also gone unheeded. The project sites are home to tribal communities and Neolithic art now marked for eradication. To make way for the mines, entire villages have been forcibly evicted and resettled under conditions that ensure their pauperization. Those who do benefit from the mines will do so temporarily. When the

coal and the money run out, vast areas of the region will be laid waste, devoid of the indigenous communities and wildlife, and all too soon, the short-lived mining economy. Coal expansion also effectively preempts development of affordable, clean, renewable forms of energy which are desperately needed and would be of sustainable economic benefit to the region.

During his March trip to India, President Clinton visited Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve where he discussed the threats to the tiger’s survival and spotted two tigers in the wild. In subsequent speeches he called on business leaders to help preserve the tiger populations as part of India’s heritage. But it is U.S. eagerness for Indian economic development which encourages such perverse effects as extinguishing India’s tigers and pre-empting sustainable energy development.

Whether Mr. Clinton’s enthusiasm for the tiger or development bankers’ professed environmentalism are sincere or not is known only to themselves. But the actual track records of the institutions involved suggest a global pattern of perverse effects, like the ones that loom in India.

Nothing about globalization is simple, but it doesn’t take a policy sophisticate like Mr. Clinton or World Bank President James Wolfensohn to know that devastating forests, extinguishing wildlife and dislocating and denying sustainable livelihoods to local populations are bad things. More than one million Indian children who signed an immense “Save the Tiger” scroll know it, and have a perfect right to demand the World Bank adopt an environmentally and socially responsible energy investment strategy in India. If they can do it, U.S. taxpayers can do it, too, and hopefully, make world leaders and development bankers listen. 🐾

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Vivek R. Sinha/Sanctuary Photo Library



*World Bank-sponsored mining projects in India could destroy thousands of acres of essential wildlife habitat and wipe out endangered species such as tigers, a symbol of India’s robust ecological heritage. This tiger was photographed in Kanha National park in Madhya Pradesh in Central India.*



# Political “Spin” and Wildlife Conservation

## CITES 2000

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

**T**he Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) concluded in Nairobi, Kenya on April 20, 2000. The 151 nations that are signatories to the Convention considered over sixty proposals regarding levels of protection for wildlife threatened by consumption for international trade.\* AWT’s positions on these proposals were supported in over half the votes—clear victories; in about a third of the votes we clearly lost; and the remaining proposals were amended in some compromise fashion (for instance, not changing the species’ status, but specifically disallowing trade in specimens, known as a “zero quota”).

Did animal advocates or wildlife exploiters prevail overall at this CITES Meeting? It depends on whose reports you read. Politics and political debate in Washington, DC is often dominated by political “spin” — when policy debates end, each side attempts to portray itself the victor in the press and to the public. 8,000 miles away from Washington in Nairobi, molded media messages bombarded the news on a daily basis as opposing forces claimed triumph on a host of issues.

In 1997, CITES Parties undermined the nearly decade-long ban on the global trade in elephant ivory by downlisting from Appendix I to Appendix II the elephant populations of Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe to allow sale of hunting trophies, live animals, hides and leather goods (for Zimbabwe), and a total of 59.1 tons of raw ivory to Japan.

Elephant poaching escalated once the ivory trade was reopened. Numerous reports circulated in Nairobi revealing the carnage. The Born Free Foundation’s *Stop the Clock Report* analyzed elephant poaching and ivory confiscation data for a number of countries. While the CITES Secretariat’s official figures claim “235 elephants poached” in 1998 and 1999, Born Free’s analysis shows a conservative figure of 6,159 elephants poached in 1998 and 1999 — 26.2 times the “official” record. Considering potential for underreporting, Born Free estimates the actual kill may be up to five times higher.

But despite reported rampant poaching across Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe petitioned to open the ivory trade further to allow a combined 24 tons of ivory to be exported annually and for all three countries to trade in elephant hides, leather goods, trophies, and live animals. In addition, South Africa proposed to downlist its elephant population to allow 30 tons of ivory to be sold as well as other elephant parts and live animals.



Katy Payne

Kenya and India, both facing an upsurge in elephant poaching since 1997 and desperately underfunded and understaffed in their anti-poaching efforts, proposed putting all elephants back on Appendix I and opposed South Africa’s new weakening proposal.

“Consensus building” was a clear theme of the Meeting — especially regarding African elephant range state opinions on the future of elephants and the trade in elephant ivory. Anticipation of an explosive debate evaporated when Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe all withdrew their proposals (thus leaving their elephants on Appendix II but not allowing further trade in ivory); Kenya withdrew its uplisting proposal; and South Africa’s proposal, which was amended to remove the ivory sale, was adopted by consensus.

This is where the biggest media “spin” begins. If one reads pro-ivory trade organizations’ literature, such as a press release from the International Wildlife Managers Consortium -World Conservation Trust (IWMC) the compromise was a “Win for Sustainable Conservation of Elephants and Patience of Southern African Nations.” The President of this pro-use organization is actually Eugène Lapointe, former Secretary-General of CITES. But for us, the clear message is that the ivory experiment failed once more and bloody ivory is again illegal in international trade.

A disturbing element of the elephant debate (or ultimate lack thereof) was America’s impotence. Historically a vocal opponent of the ivory trade, the U.S. voice was silent throughout. In fact, the “final” U.S. negotiating position on the elephant proposals was not final at all — it was “pending.” The U.S. would

have opposed proposals that permitted any ivory trade but would have abstained on the proposal by Kenya and India to put elephants back on Appendix I.

In another example of political spin, when President Clinton issued a one-paragraph statement saying that the U.S. would oppose proposals “to reopen trade in elephant ivory,” the IWMC’s pro-use propaganda reported: “U.S. Congress, President Clash Over Elephants.” Why this supposed “clash?” Six Members of Congress sent a letter to the head of the U.S. Delegation urging support for the expanded ivory sale. What’s purposely excluded from this report is reference to other letters from the Legislative Branch to the same Head of Delegation urging opposition to the ivory trade and support for Kenya and India -- not one meager letter signed by six Congressmen, but 4 separate letters: one signed by Congressman George Miller, the Ranking Minority Member of the House Resources Committee, one signed by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the House International Relations Committee, one signed

*The bond of wild elephant families is incredibly strong. Jeheskel Shoshani writes in the book, Elephants, The Deciding Decade, that elephants seem to have “displayed compassion and awareness of death. There are stories of elephants using leaves and grass to bury elephant and human remains, and shattering the tusks of dead elephants against trees or rocks.” Although CITES has reinstated the international prohibition on ivory commercialization, the elephants of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe may still be hunted as trophies, for meat and other non-ivory products, and sold live to zoos and circuses across the globe. Continued vigilance is needed to save elephants for future generations.*

by 20 Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and one signed by 25 Members of the United States Senate. The Senate letter concluded: “At this critical juncture, we believe it will take the full energy and commitment of the United States delegation to return to elephant populations the protections they still need.” Unfortunately, the U.S. exerted little energy and displayed little commitment toward the legislators’ laudable goal.

Shutting down the ivory trade again — even without U.S. help — was vital, but the tone of the dialogue makes it clear that the issue will resurface repeatedly. Over the next two years, much time, effort, and money will be devoted to establishing a monitoring system to examine illegal killing of elephants, and when the “system” appears to work, in all likelihood, legal ivory will flow again. The problems with

this approach are too numerous to detail here, but in brief, the millions of dollars spent establishing this system would be better spent on anti-poaching efforts in elephant range states. Instead of *monitoring* elephant killing, why not try to *stop* elephant killing? There will never be a legal ivory trade that does not result in the illegal slaughter of elephants; machinations to find ways of facilitating such trade are a waste of time and resources that could be better focused on conserving wild, live elephants.

Clearer hard-fought victories came for whales and sea turtles. But reading the “spin” from the High North Alliance, a pro-whaling organization, one might think the whales were doomed: “A majority of government delegates to [CITES] today voted in support of Norway’s proposal to open international trade in minke whale products.” Although the vote was 53 in favor, 52 opposed, and 8 abstentions, CITES requires a 2/3 vote to approve a change in a species’ status — not a simple majority.

Three other whale downlisting proposals by Japan regarding gray and minke whales were all soundly rejected with the closest vote still having 18 more nations opposed than in favor — far from even a simple majority. Together, Japan and Norway consistently try to weaken protection for these whale species and undermine the current moratorium on commercial whaling. There is no enforcement regime in place to control international trade in whale products and illegal whale meat recently has been found for sale in Japa-

\* Appendix I species are threatened with extinction and are or may be affected by international trade and are subject to a prohibition on international commercial trade; Appendix II species are not yet threatened with extinction but may be at risk without strict regulation of the legal international commercial trafficking in these species’ parts and products made from them; Appendix III species are identified by individual Parties as subject to internal regulation to prevent over-exploitation.

*A young elephant at Daphne Sheldrick’s wildlife orphanage in Nairobi, Kenya. Daphne and her committed corps of specialized animal handlers help rear young orphaned wildlife including elephants, rhinos, and zebras with the ultimate goal of reintroduction in the wild.*

Adam M. Roberts/AWI



nese markets. Downlisting any of these whale populations would pose an enormous threat to all whale species.

Not surprisingly, each attempt to weaken whale protection at this CITES meeting was undertaken by a secret ballot. Nations advocating use of the secret ballot on controversial votes claim it is necessary to prevent retaliation from developed countries and conservation nongovernmental organizations – that somehow if we know who votes for the whale downlisting we will try to eliminate their foreign aid. For instance, during the whale debates, a vociferous delegate from Antigua and Barbuda argued against the “strong-arm tactics of those countries who don’t think we have a right to exploit our natural resources.”

This conspiracy theory is all the more fascinating given that an article in the *London Guardian Weekly* from 18 November 1999 reports, “Japan has admitted for the first time that it is using its overseas aid budget to persuade developing countries to join the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and vote for a resumption of commercial whaling.” The revealing article continues to note that IWC Secretary Ray Gambell alleged that “Japan was using the same tactics” at CITES.

The simple message from CITES is that the IWC has primacy in cetacean protection and that CITES should respect the IWC’s ban on commercial whaling. Of course, Japan and Norway will continue their attempts to profit from slaughtered whales when the IWC meets in Adelaide, Australia this July.

Although elephants and whales dominated the debate, CITES Secretary General Willem Wijnstekers accurately noted in his opening statement “This meeting is not about elephants, it is *also* about elephants, it is not about whales, it is *also* about whales.”

Strong rhetoric surrounded the dialogue on downlisting critically endangered hawksbill sea turtles from Appendix I to Appendix II to allow trade in stockpiled turtle shell from Cuba to Japan and establish an annual quota of not more than 500 specimens. A report from the Japan Wildlife Conservation Society asserts that “Reopening of international trade of “bekko” [tortoiseshell] will also increase the possibility of its smuggling by reactivating Japan’s domestic market for it.”

Even though this proposal claimed to be restricted to the “Cuban population” of hawksbills, there is no discrete Cuban population of this species. Imagine being a poor sea turtle who mistakenly swims through Cuban waters at the wrong time! Already the hawksbill has been subjected to an 80% worldwide population decline. Clearly, as with whales and other species, allowing the sale of sea turtle

Above: Minke whale butchered on a Japanese whaling boat in the Antarctic.

Right: According to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, despite the 1986 IWC ban on commercial whaling, Japan and Norway kill over 1,000 minke whales each year. These incorrigible countries persist in their attempts to create a global commercial trade in whale meat.



Yves Berard/1997 Oceanographical Museum of Monaco

CITES Parties rejected Cuba’s attempt to sell a stockpile of hawksbill turtle shells to the avid wildlife consuming nation of Japan.

shell will encourage sea turtle poaching in other regions and illegal sale of those shells and products made from them.

The debate was filled with high emotions and not-so-subtle political jabs at the U.S. for its embargo on Cuba (an argument that to compensate for lost national revenue as a result of the embargo, Cuba should benefit financially from wildlife exploitation). Ultimately, the proposal was defeated, again by secret ballot.

In addition to preserving the protection for whales and sea turtles, notable increases in protection were given to the manatee-like Australian Dugong, the Horned and Uvea Parakeets of New Caledonia, China’s Melodious Laughing Thrush, Asian Box Turtles, and Madagascar’s Mantella Frogs.

Marine fish species did not quite fare as well. The Parties refused to list three species of sharks: great white sharks, whale sharks, and basking sharks. All three species have low reproductive rates and declining populations, and are killed for their fins and other body parts. Fins float in high-priced Asian “shark fin soup;” basking shark skin is made into leather goods; great white shark livers are used for medicines, and shark meat is sold for human consumption. Unfortunately, all three proposals were defeated on the grounds that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has competency over fisheries management. (The FAO has begun considering shark conservation and has developed an “International Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks.”)

CITES also considered over 50 resolutions and other documents and on many of these issues we had success. On the trade

in bear specimens, the Parties again fell short of advocating a global moratorium on the trade in bear parts such as the gallbladders and bile that are used in traditional Asian medicines. However, it was recognized that the illegal trade in bear parts and derivatives has not been demonstrably reduced, a goal the Parties agreed upon in 1997. This year, the Parties agreed to continue seeking information about national legislation to control the illegal bear parts trade, to share forensic technology to help distinguish bear parts in trade, and to consider introducing measures to implement CITES with respect to the trade in bear parts and derivatives. The issue will be revisited again at the next CITES meeting.

For the first time the Parties have addressed the issue of “bushmeat,” the consumption, and increasingly the cross-border sale, of wild animal flesh including elephants, primates such as gorillas, and other species. What was once an issue of local consumption has become a growing international crisis, fomented by unsympathetic logging companies. In an editorial in *The Washington Post* on April 8, 2000, Dr. Jane Goodall advocated the “simple, straightforward step” of forming “an official working group that would be charged with the development of ways to control the illegal trade in bushmeat.” That is exactly what the Parties agreed to in Nairobi.

The Parties also agreed that immediate action is necessary to save the fewer

than 75,000 remaining Tibetan antelope (chiru) from the trade in their wool known as “shahtoosh.” It is estimated that western demand for this luxurious fabric leads to the illegal slaughter of between ten and twenty thousand chiru annually. At this rate, the species may be gone in just 5 years. The resolution approved by the Parties urges a number of actions including adoption of comprehensive legislation to eliminate the commercial trade in shahtoosh with adequate penalties to deter such illegal commerce. Just after the close of the Conference, the Jammu and Kashmir high court issued a judgment banning the shahtoosh trade in the Indian state of Kashmir. And, here in the U.S., the Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the chiru under the Endangered Species Act. The Service has until October to make its final ruling.

Ultimately, CITES Parties made advancements on important issues of wildlife conservation. Stopping over-exploitation of wild species in international trade is an ongoing process. As we look toward and beyond the next Conference in Chile in 2002, the message to the world is: “no ivory, no whale meat, no sea turtle shell” and substantial protection for scores of other wild species. As always, the lingering question is: “but for how long?” 🐾



John Siddle

A logging vehicle in central Africa transports both hunters and their fresh kill for the bushmeat market. Numerous species are involved in the trade including chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, elephants, duikers (as pictured here) and other antelopes.

## China’s Torture Chambers

The results of an extensive undercover investigation into China’s cruel bear bile farms by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) were revealed in a new report discussed at the recent meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Nairobi, Kenya.

WSPA’s report, *Inside China’s Torture Chambers*, documents how thousands of bears are kept in horrific conditions in hundreds of farms across China, producing approximately 7000 kg of bear bile every year for the traditional Chinese medicine market.

WSPA fears that China will apply to register some of its bear farms with CITES (none currently registered), thereby circumventing the existing international ban on trade in endangered bear parts. Bears from facilities approved by the CITES Secretariat can have their parts sold in global commercial trade while wild bears of the same species ostensibly are protected from such profitable exploitation. Such a move would hasten the demise of bears in the wild, with many taken from the wild each year to restock the farms, and encourage the continued development of this barbaric form of “farming.”

The bears kept on these farms endure the most appalling levels of cruelty and neglect, with many wounded and scarred due to the friction caused by being kept in tiny metal cages suspended above the ground. They have no choice but to lie squashed in their cages on a bed of bars, some with a constant stream of bile seeping from their stomachs, where an open wound allows workers to insert a tube or piece of metal to “tap” the bile twice a day. Bears may stop producing bile after just a few years, after which they outlive their usefulness and are left to die or killed for their paws and gall bladders. A single bear paw may sell for several hundred dollars - almost a year’s salary for the average worker in China. 🐾

— Jonathan Owen



Fisherman/WSPA

Bile seeps from a bear’s abdomen at a Chinese bear farm in Heilongchiang Province.



Robert Pittman



WDCS/Mark Votler



# Wildlife Conservation Heroes

## The 2000 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards

BY ADAM M. ROBERTS

*During the Species Survival Network reception on April 11, 2000, CITES Secretary General Willem Wouter Wijnstekers graciously presented the Animal Welfare Institute's Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards. This honor is named for the late Chief of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Law Enforcement who pioneered the Division's highly effective covert investigations and "sting" operations.*

The evening's featured speaker was Maneka Gandhi, India's Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, whose passionate presentation was entitled, "How we make room for animals as well." Ms. Gandhi spoke eloquently about a variety of animal protection issues including conservation of endangered species such as tigers and elephants.

Ms. Gandhi pointed out:  
*The totally illegal but nevertheless thriving trade in Indian wildlife is directed primarily at the international market. Our tigers go to China in the form of bones, penises and claws for homemade remedies. Our antelopes go to fashionable Western outlets as Shahtoosh shawls. Our butterflies go to Japanese hobbyists. As do our elephants in the form of ivory trinkets. Our bears go to Afghanistan. Our sharks go to Hong Kong soups...*

Of the 1997 CITES decision in Harare to allow an experimental one-off sale of elephant ivory Ms. Gandhi exclaimed, "India cannot afford any experiments." She observed, "if South Africa were to sell its entire existing stock of ivory it would earn 5 million dollars," and questioned, "what is 5 million dollars to the South African economy that they should put the entire world's elephant population at risk?" She noted that "Countries that lack respect to all living beings may not be poor in monetary terms but their moral poverty, their rapaciousness will destroy all of us."

Ms. Gandhi concluded: "Today animals need us more than ever. The past century has been the cruelest in history... It is time to declare the hundred years' war over and stop trading in their pain and blood."

*This evening was ultimately dedicated to those honorable men and women who spend their lives fighting to stop the illegal killing of wild animals and illicit trade in their parts and products.*

**Mr. Frances Lesilau** is an officer with the Meru National Park unit in Kenya and was responsible for an ivory seizure last year. Since December 24, 1999, his team has made six contacts with bandits and several arrests, recovered 8 weapons, killed three poachers and wounded two others. Lesilau and his colleagues risk their lives daily and their success on the front line has tremendously enhanced the stalwart work of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

**Mr. Clement L. P. Mwale** has served Zambia National Parks and Wildlife since he left school. For several years he



*The 2000 Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award. Artist John Perry created and donated these magnificent panther sculptures that honor significant individual wildlife law enforcement efforts across the globe.*

was an investigating officer with Zambia Anti-Corruption Commission handling wildlife cases and in 1995 he was appointed Warden of Zambia's Investigations and Intelligence Unit (IIU). He has led over 400 successful investigations into illegal ivory trading, poaching and smuggling of rhino horn, wild birds, wildlife skins, bushmeat and reptiles. He has investigated all offenders impartially whether officials in his Department or other law enforcement agencies, or foreign safari hunters.

**Dr. Diwakar Sharma** has spent the last 20 years on control of illegal trade in wildlife in India. Because of his efforts, innumerable wild animals have survived, poaching has been substantially reduced and a large number of poachers, wildlife traders and international wildlife criminals have been arrested and their networks disbanded. In the course of this work he has regularly risked his life. The undercover work undertaken by him has resulted in the arrests of a number of poachers and traders and the recovery of smuggled ivory, 58 tiger skins, a large quantity of tiger bones, 112 leopard skins, and seven rhino horns.

**Mrs. Jytte Ekdahl**, a Danish Police Officer, was seconded to the Interpol General Secretariat in Lyon, France, where she works as a Specialized Officer. For the past three years, Mrs. Ekdahl has coordinated the activities of the Interpol Working Group on Wildlife Crime. She has also been a key participant in projects that have identified criminals trafficking in contraband wildlife and exposed their business relationships and networks. Her work

at Interpol has assisted national law enforcement agencies with information needed to locate and arrest wildlife traffickers.

**Mr. Chung-Shing Lee** has been Head of Taiwan's Wildlife Protection Unit for more than 4 years, during which time 140 cases have been investigated. In one case, he traveled repeatedly to Vietnam to help authorities expose an illegal wildlife dealer. Mr. Lee helped rescue 5 bears in the process. Other arrests involved North American and European nationals who conspired to smuggle commercial quantities of reptiles into Taiwan, a dealer who attempted to bring a ton and a half of elephant ivory from West Africa into Taiwan, and dealers who were trafficking in rhinoceros horns.

**Mr. Adan Ware Dullo** heads the Lusaka Agreement Task Force. The Lusaka Agreement was signed in 1994 as a cooperative enforcement pact between six African nations. Mr. Dullo and his Task Force have participated in a number of stunning operations, identifying, cornering, and arresting several ivory dealers and seizing large quantities of contraband ivory. Mr. Dullo was a wildlife officer for 16 years with KWS before accepting his present position. He is best known for the 10 years he served as head of the KWS Intelligence Unit. During that period, he was responsible for numerous undercover operations that led to the arrest and conviction of many wildlife criminals.

*Four awards were presented posthumously this year.*

**Mr. Soumen Biswas** started the North-Eastern Society for Preservation of Nature and Wildlife (NESPON) in India in 1992. He methodically investigated the illegal trade in wildlife in coordination with the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI). Risking his life on many occasions, he gathered invaluable information on the wildlife trade and helped bust several trade rackets. He kept up this work until the day of his death on October 19, 1997, when armed miscreants murdered him inside his office.

Also from India, **Sanjay Deb Roy** dedicated his life to the conservation of wildlife. He began his career as a Forest Officer in the State of Assam in 1956. Across Assam, forest staff have memories of being led by him through pitched gun-battles with poachers. He served as an advisor to the Environmental Investigation Agency's *Tigers in Crisis* campaign. EIA's Debbie

Banks said of Roy: "His commitment and knowledge meant he never shied from conflict with the politicians and business interests that continue to take apart what remains of India's natural heritage." Deb Roy finally retired from service in 1992 and passed away in August 1999.

Posthumous awards also honored Chadian **Park Ranger Mahamat Abakar** and **Park Ranger Mando** who were ambushed and killed while engaged in an anti-poaching patrol in Zakouma National Park, in southeastern Chad, on the morning of December 3, 1998. For many months preceding the incident there had been intense elephant poaching in the park and small ranger units conducted frequent anti-poaching patrols in an attempt to gain control of the situation. Mahamat was a veteran ranger, who protected wildlife in Zakouma during the Chadian civil war of 1975-1986; Mando, on the other hand, was cut down in his youth.

The Animal Welfare Institute will present the Clark R. Bavin awards again when the Conference of the Parties to CITES meets in Chile in 2002. 🐾



*Part of the 1.5 tonnes of tusks seized in Lisbon, Portugal, October 1999.*

### In Remembrance of Nick Carter

Nick Carter's death on March 16<sup>th</sup> in Zambia marked the loss of a dedicated and passionate conservationist. His work took him all over the world - from London's emergency animal clinics in the 1950s to the Far East and Africa to investigate wildlife smuggling and illegal whaling. His painstaking investigations to expose pirate whaling operations gained him recognition in the 1970s and led to the seizure in South Africa of two whaling ships *before* their maiden voyages. Countless endangered whales were saved.

In 1994, Nick was a recipient of AWI's Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award for his last project, the Lusaka Agreement, a unique African initiative establishing a multinational Task Force to fight cross-border wildlife crime. Working quietly behind the scenes he shepherded the idea from paper to reality over 8 years, winning the Goldman Environmental Award in 1997. Instead of keeping the \$75,000 prize, he gave it away, helping to establish a Fighting Wildlife Crime Fund. This was typical of Nick. He died owning nothing of value but his books. His personal needs came last. Work was his life. His wisdom, strength of purpose and clear sense of right inspired many. His death leaves a vacuum, but the legacy of his work and the motivation he inspired in others will ensure his spirit lives on. 🐾

—Rosalind Reeve

I want to add a note about one of Nick's brilliant ideas: He took a small ad in a journal for maritime engineers asking readers to communicate with him about any information they might have on pirate whalers. Wonderfully, he received a message from the engineer employed by a pirate whaler. The engineer bravely videotaped the piracy, including an endangered humpback whale being dragged up the slipway, butchered, and boxed for the Japanese market. The tape was shown widely on European television to great effect. 🐾

—Christine Stevens



# BioMusic: The Music of Nature and the Nature of Music

## Scientists discuss the Songs of Birds and Whales and Insects

Dr. Patricia Gray, Artistic Director of National Musical Arts, led the 14-year-long planning of the program, which took place February 19-21, 2000. It began with a public symposium at The National Zoo, which filled the Whittell Auditorium, followed by a second symposium at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and then a concert at the National Academy of Sciences. The final event was a workshop for all the presenters and education experts in the fields of science and music for the purpose of developing education materials, specifically a CD-ROM and an interactive website, aimed initially at middle-school children.

National Musical Arts (NMA), the resident ensemble of the National Academy of Sciences, created and nurtured The BioMusic Program which was spawned from NMA's involvement in a Biodiversity conference co-hosted by The National Academy of Sciences and The Smithsonian Institution in 1986. From that momentous inception, The BioMusic Program grew to become a unique conduit between the sciences and arts, as it seeks to examine music in all species—human and non-human—and to explore and understand its powerful role in all living things.

The BioMusic Symposium presenters included: Dr. Roger Payne, President, Ocean Alliance and member of AWI's Scientific Committee; Dr. Bernie Krause, Wild Sanctuary, Inc.; Dr. Mark Jude Tramo, M.D., Ph.D., Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital and Director, Institute for Music and Brain Science; Dr. Jelle Atema, Director, Boston University - Marine Biology Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA; Dr. Luis Baptista, Chair and Curator, Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy, California Academy of Sciences; and Dr. Carol Krumhansl, Professor of Psychology, Cornell University.

Roger Payne's presentation was titled "Whale Songs and Musicality," and stated in part that "The composing of music is a communal bond and a defining element for whales. Each season, the Humpback whales' songs are structured in phrases of balanced lengths which are presented in a specific order, are memorized by all of the group in the area, repeated exactly by all, and are retained after six months of the beginning point for the new season's compositions."

Bernard Krause, an award winning musician, has lived an adventurous life traveling throughout remote regions of the world to record specific sound environments. Using sophisticated audio technology, he theorizes that regions of the world are uniquely "tuned" by the musical sounds of its inhabitants and are readily identified by these musical sounds. He has named this phenomenon a "Biophony," a word created from "symphony" and "biology."

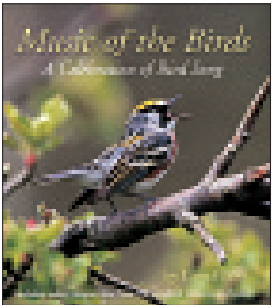
The concert performed by National Musical Arts (NMA) at The National Academy of Sciences featured works based on The BioMusic Symposium presentations. NMA performed Mozart's "Musical Joke" because recent research by Dr. Luis Baptista and Dr. Meredith West (Indiana University) and presented at the AAAS symposium demonstrated that Mozart's musical relationship with his pet starling was so powerful that this famous chamber music work was actually composed as a requiem to the bird and features exact musical quotations from the pet starling. George Crumb's "Vox Balaenae" for electrified flute, electrified cello, and electrified piano concluded the concert. Crumb was so moved after hearing the recording, "The Songs of the Humpback Whale," that he worked with Roger Payne to create this chamber music classic. Recorded by hydrophones in the ocean depths, this famous recording captured the whales' own vocalizations and songs and became a best seller for months. This recording was also distributed by the *National Geographic* to all subscribers.

The Rhetorical Perspective for all of the BioMusic events addresses: "What is music? How are musical sounds used to communicate within and between species? Is music-making a biological function? Do musical sounds within the natural world reveal a profound bond between all living things?" It is these and related interfaces between art and science, humans and other species that The BioMusic Program cultivates.

The interest in the symposium at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was overwhelming as demonstrated by the standing room only crowds which spilled into the adjoining halls.

The media's response was equally enthusiastic and wide ranging. Television and radio coverage included the CBC, Chilean Public Television, Dutch National Radio and Television, NPR, and the BBC. Internet coverage included, among many others, ABCOnline, Discovery Channel.com, and EarthEar.org. Feature articles appeared in newspapers in Russia, Germany, and Poland. *Science News* made BioMusic its cover story for its April 15<sup>th</sup> edition and two "Perspective" articles will appear soon in *Science Magazine*. On May 6th, *The New York Times* published a most interesting follow-up interview titled "Conversation with Luis F. Baptista" by Claudia Dreifus. Baptista, one of the world's leading experts on bird song, dialect, and language, was asked "What are the parallels between human and bird music?" Baptista replied: "I know of birds who have voices with tonal qualities that sound like real instruments. The strawberry finch has beautiful single notes that come down the scale and sound just like a flute. There is another bird, the diamond firetail from Australia, whose voice sounds like some kind of woodwind, an oboe perhaps. Then, in Costa Rica, I've encountered a wonderful night bird, and it sings four notes coming down the scale, and the quality of its voice is just like bassoon.

"Then, if you look at pitch, scholars have found that certain birds use the same musical scales as human cultures. One scholar has found that the hermit thrush actually sings in the pentatonic scale used in Far Eastern music. One of the most incredible cases is the canyon wren, who sings in the chromatic scale, and his song reminds me of the introduction and finale of Chopin's *Revolutionary Etude*." 🐾



## Music of the Birds A Celebration of Bird Song

Includes audio compact disc featuring songbird concerts and solos by Lang Elliott, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999, 136 pages, \$25.00

A book published a few months before the symposium, *Music of the Birds, A Celebration of Bird Song*, by Lang Elliott, includes a compact disk giving clear reproductions of each of the singers' voices as well as color photographs of each of the bird species captured with open beaks, pouring forth their individual songs. Elliott knows the characteristics of a vast number of bird songs and approaches silently to portray each bird as he sings. Together with the beautiful color photographs, Elliott quotes poets who have written about denizens of North American woods and fields.



Beside a photograph of a Yellow Warbler (photo page 3), William Wordsworth is quoted:

*The birds pour forth their souls in notes  
Of rapture from a thousand throats.*

A photograph of a Scarlet Tanager (photo left) is accompanied by Geoffrey Chaucer's:

*Hard is the hert that loveth nought,  
In May, when al this mirth is wrought,  
When he may on these braunches here  
The smale briddes syngen clere  
Her blesful swete song pitous...*

## Mexican Ecological Group Blockades Logging Road to Save Forest

Under the headline "Jailed Mexican Wins Environmental Prize" Sam Dillon wrote a report of Rodolfo Montiel's heroic struggle to save the forest near his village north of Acapulco (*The New York Times*, April 5, 2000). The transnational Idaho logging company, Boise Cascade, and all the government officials to whom Montiel wrote, were unmoved by his reports that laws were being broken, rivers drying up, and thousands of fish dying.

"Our defense of the forest is a struggle for our way of life," he wrote, "The earth without trees becomes a desert, because the soul of the water lives in the cool of the forest."

Montiel's formal education ended after first grade, but his lyrical plea for the trees was wisely followed up in spring 1998 by his peasant group's blockade of logging roads to stop the timber trucks. According to Dillon's article, "Gunmen have since killed several members of Mr. Montiel's rural ecological organization and last May soldiers seized and tortured Mr. Montiel, he said, accusing him of drug and weapons crimes.

"The charges were riddled with contradictions, but were enough to send him to a penitentiary pending a felony trial. One of the human rights lawyers defending him has been kidnapped, twice."

Now the Goldman Foundation has awarded him its prestigious \$125,000 environmental prize and Amnesty International declared him to be a prisoner of conscience. 🐾



Elliott writes: "Bird song preceded human music. Considered from a scientific perspective, it evolved with the appearance of songbirds during the Pliocene and early Pleistocene periods, several million years ago." His words are illustrated by a photograph of a Wood Thrush.

Elliott chooses Ralph Waldo Emerson's words to illustrate his picture of a Black-capped Chickadee:

*There is no sorrow in thy song, no winter in thy year.*

The Skylark of Europe inspired Shelley's famous poem, "To a Skylark:"

*Higher still and higher  
From the earth thou springest,  
Like a cloud of fire;  
The blue deep thou wingest,  
And singing still dost soar,  
and soaring ever singest.*

Opposite the photograph of another sweet singer, the Gray Catbird (photo right), James Russell Lowell is quoted:

*As a twig trembles, which a bird  
Lights on to sing, then leaves  
unbent, So is my memory thrilled and  
stirred:—I only know she came and went.*

Robert Louis Stevenson was chosen to comment on photographs of Warblers and a Carolina Chickadee:

*My bedroom, when I awoke this morning, was full of bird-songs, which is the greatest pleasure in life.* 🐾

**ACTION** Write to the President of Mexico protesting the mistreatment and imprisonment of Rodolfo Montiel. Address your letters to President Ernesto Zedillo, c/o Embassy of Mexico, 1911 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20006

## 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.*



# rBGH Reconsidered

BY CHRIS BEDFORD

***Recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH)** was the first genetically engineered food product to be sold in the United States. Approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration on November 5, 1994, rBGH has played a significant role in the industrialization of dairy production which has serious implications for animal welfare and poses a serious health threat to consumers. In the last year, new information has come to light on rBGH which raises important questions about the efficacy and the ethics of the FDA approval process itself.*

## What it does

rBGH, also known as BST (for Bovine Somatotropin) and Posilac (Monsanto’s product name), is injected by needle into cows every two weeks to increase individual animal milk production (by weight) from 10 to 15 percent. rBGH can extend lactation periods for up to three times their normal length. The current rBGH record is 1,374 days of milk production during a single lactation.

Bovine growth hormone (BGH) is a normal product of the pituitary gland of cows. rBGH, a synthetic version of BGH, is produced by snipping a piece of cow DNA that carries the code for (r)BGH and inserting it into the DNA of e-coli bacteria.

The unnatural extension of lactation produced by rBGH severely affects the cow by doubling the metabolic stress from the onset of lactation and draining her of needed nutrients, particularly calcium. Use of rBGH also stimulates production of another bovine hormone, Insulin Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1) by up to 80%. In turn, IGF-1 is secreted into the milk in increased levels.

The increased stress combined with the presence of IGF-1 increases the frequency of clinical mastitis, a very painful condition of the cow’s udder. The warning label on Monsanto’s Posilac explicitly states, “Cows injected with Posilac are at increased risk for clinical mastitis.” Increased incidence of mastitis, in turn, necessi-

*Small family dairy farmers, animal welfare activists, environmentalists, consumers and others have focused on this improper approval process in an effort to have rBGH withdrawn from the market.*

tates increased use of antibiotics which can pass through to the milk. Currently, only four out of 82 commercially used antibiotics are tested for on a regular basis. A Wall Street Journal investigation found 20% of milk tested had illegal antibiotics present. Other studies have found 38% higher levels. These antibiotics can contribute to antibiotic resistance in human consumers.

The increased stress combined with IGF-1, a known human health hazard, is at the center of the new information. The Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval is based on an assertion that BST and IGF-1 is destroyed by the pasteurization process.

But normal pasteurization heats milk to 168 degrees for 15 seconds to destroy bacteria and other contaminants. The FDA approval study, conducted by a Canadian undergraduate named Paul Groenewegen from Guelph, Canada, cooked the milk for 30 minutes, *one hundred and twenty times longer than commercial production practice.* According to Groenewegen, only 19% of the



*rBGH makes cows extremely susceptible to mastitis infections. Note the enormously enlarged udder and the cow’s depressed demeanor.*

rBGH and IGF-1 were destroyed in the FDA study’s extended pasteurization process, not the 90% claimed by the agency.

In addition, activist Robert Cohen has uncovered information that suggests that Monsanto’s rBGH formula approved and tested by the FDA was different from the one now on the market. If this is true, it makes the entire FDA approval process invalid. Small family dairy farmers, animal welfare activists, environmentalists, consumers and others have focused on this improper approval process in an effort to have Posilac withdrawn from the market.

## rBGH in the European Union

In November, 1999, the European Commission adopted a measure that would permanently ban the use of rBGH in Europe. This action, announced by Commissioner David Byrne before a European Parliament hearing on November 24, 1999, represents the final act of a six-year struggle over rBGH use.

On December 20, 1994, the European Commission prohibited the marketing and use of rBGH, also in the European Union until December 31, 1999. The prohibition was enacted to give two EC scientific advisory bodies time to study the impact of rBGH use on animal welfare and public health. One of those committees, the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare, examined the effects of rBGH use on (1) the incidence of mastitis and other disorders in dairy cows and (2) the overall effect of rBGH use on dairy production.

On March 10, 1999, the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare issued a 90-page report that concluded, “BST (rBGH) use causes a substantial increase in levels of foot problems and mastitis and leads to injection site reactions in dairy cows. These conditions, especially the first two, are painful and debilitating, leading to significantly poorer welfare in the treated animals. Therefore from the point of view of animal welfare, including health, the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare is of the opinion that BST should not be used in dairy cows.”

Monsanto, with support from the U.S. government, sought to counter these European actions by having the rBGH ban declared an illegal restraint of trade under GATT. But before such a charge could be brought under the treaty, international standards for rBGH use had to be established. On June 30, 1999, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, meeting in Rome, Italy failed to agree on an international standard for the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) for rBGH in milk. This ruling effectively stopped the GATT complaint by the United States and gave a green light to bans on rBGH by individual countries and the European Union.

Right now, rBGH is licensed for use only in Mexico, the United States and South Africa. 🐾

# Two AWI Missions to Central Europe

BY TOM GARRETT

On March 10, Agnes Van Volkenburgh and I traveled to the ancient Czech city of Prague with Samoobrona Chairman Andrzej Lepper for a meeting of farm unions and agrarian parties from the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Cyprus and Estonia. The meeting, catalyzed by a European Union ultimatum that countries seeking E.U. membership “modernize” their “agriculture sectors” by eliminating peasant farmers, began at Prague University on the 11<sup>th</sup>. By the end of the day the participants had agreed to strengthen farmers’ defenses by forming a European Democratic Rural Union (EDRU) of agrarian parties.

On the following morning, a committee convened to draft the guiding principles of the proposed alliance. Lepper, preoccupied with events in Poland, assigned Agnes (who is his animal welfare consultant) to negotiate for Samoobrona. I was seated as her “adviser” and we brought the session to an impasse by proposing language on environmental protection, animal welfare and clean food. The Czechs objected with particular vehemence. But when Lepper, with his indefinable sense of force, came to the table to ask what the problem was, opposition disintegrated. The final language of the memorandum has the EDRU striving for “preservation of natural environment in the broadest possible sense, increasing production of natural food supply and promoting humane farming methods.”

Whether this rather startling victory will survive the formal inauguration of the new union (probably in October) remains to be seen. Farm animal welfare has never before appeared in a central European political platform.

On March 15, Agnes and I joined Lepper in Warsaw for two more defining events. One, which put to the test our effort to form a peasant-ecologist alliance, was a Samoobrona-led demonstration at the U.S. and German embassies protesting foreign takeover of Polish assets. Fortunately, by the time we reached the main gate of the U.S. Embassy, “locked down” and guarded by scores of Interior Ministry troops wearing black ski masks and carrying sub-machineguns, parties of ecologists had arrived and hoisted their banners. Later, at a boisterous AWI sponsored luncheon of farmers and ecologists, Lepper sat with Green Federation head Olaf Swolkien and other ecologists to hammer out a working alliance. The cover of the latest Green Brigades journal pictures Swolkien and Lepper standing beneath a Green Federation banner.

We also met with Adam Tanski, head of the State Farm Property Agency (AWRS), the agency established to priva-

tize the 20% of Polish farmland that was incorporated into state farms. Tanski came quickly to the point. “I have seen in your video how you raise hogs in Iowa,” Tanski said. “I would like to begin this kind of husbandry on state farms. If you can provide the technical expertise we need to convert to your system, and help us to establish markets, I can supply the land, the buildings and the people. We have 40,000 unemployed former state farm workers who need something to do.” We assured Tanski that we would bring a team of experts to Poland as soon as possible.

On May 15, Agnes flew to Warsaw to complete arrangements for a small AWI sponsored peasant-ecologist conference. She was joined on the 18<sup>th</sup> by AWI’s Farm Animal Advisor Diane Halverson, Iowa farmer and Niman Ranch coordinator Paul Willis, Minnesota farmer Dwight Ault, AWI’s Greek International committee member Dr. Theo Antikas, and Ionos Tsironis, the head of the Greek Hog Farmers Union.

The conference, on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, attracted not only farmers and ecologists, but a substantial cadre of Polish veterinarians. After hearing a powerful presentation by American Riverkeepers’ Kevin Madonna on the hog factory disaster in North Carolina, Dr. Bartosz Winiecki, President of the Polish Veterinary Chamber, denounced industrial hog raising and pledged to mobilize Polish veterinarians against a Smithfield takeover. Winiecki praised the AWI/Niman Ranch system and said that he wants to bring a delegation of Polish vets to the U.S. to see it first hand.

Unfortunately, the AWI team’s arrival in Poland coincided with an acute crisis within Poland’s unstable governing coalition. While we were able to tour state farms in northeastern and central Poland, the planned “nuts and bolts” session with Tanski did not eventuate. Tanski, like other government politicians, was caught up in the scramble trying to keep the foundering coalition afloat. It was not until after the

rest of us had returned home that Agnes, who remained in Poland an additional week, was able to meet Mr. Perycz, Tanski’s deputy, and learn what the AWRS now has in mind.

“If AWI will prepare and translate a brochure with text and pictures explaining what must be done to qualify for the program and why it is profitable to raise pigs in that way” Perycz told Agnes, “AWRS will bear the costs of printing it. We will distribute it to existing state farms and to everyone who is raising pigs on land being leased from us. Then we will collect the names of farmers who are interested in converting and transmit them to you. If you can then investigate on a case by case basis and prepare a blueprint for converting each farm, we will bear the costs of conversion.” Perycz made it clear, however, that his agency would only approve conversions if humanely raised pork could be effectively marketed.

In a last minute blitz, Agnes traveled to Poznan with Andrzej Lepper, spoke at a press conference and visited a private farmer —already raising pigs humanely on deep straw—who is anxious to convert to the AWI system. The Samoobrona office in Poznan has received numerous inquiries from farmers who have seen the AWI video and want to adopt the AWI system. On her final day in Warsaw, Agnes attended a meeting of the Polish Ecological Farming Association, which is involved in marketing Polish organic produce. Its President, Professor Gorny, immediately volunteered to help set up channels for distributing humanely raised pork. It devolved that Gorny was already in conflict with Animex, but that he did not realize that it had been taken over by Smithfield and was being used as the bridgehead for a full-scale invasion.

The next step for AWI is to complete the brochure requested by AWRS. Agnes has already arranged for it to be distributed by Samobroona and by the Polish Federation of Agricultural Employees as well as AWRS and to be reprinted in Trzoda Chlewna, the Polish pig raisers journal. In the meantime, Mr. Tsironis has decided to set up a demonstration project conforming to AWI standards on his property in Greece and has suggested that the brochure be translated into Greek for distribution by his union. As an example of the serendipity inherent in international gatherings, Tsironis has resolved to set up a peasants self defense network, modeled on Samoobroona, in Greece, Cyprus and Macedonia. 🐾



# Join the Fight to End Abuse of Laying Hens

Millions of laying hens are subjected to three shameful cruelties: forced molting, debeaking and battery cages. At last, the industry is listening to the sharp criticism of its routine practices. Now is the time to write to the head of the United Egg Producers with a strong protest against this unnecessary pain and suffering inflicted on the innocent and helpless birds.

- 1.) Forced molting is induced by denying all food and in some cases water, to the caged hens. For 5-14 days all sustenance is withheld. The industry does this to induce a molt. The hen loses her feathers, and when finally given food and water again, the survivors lay bigger eggs.
- 2.) Debeaking requires the hen's beak to be cut through so she can't peck the other hens jammed into a cramped battery cage in which four or five hens are forced to exist. Scientific studies have shown that the cut beak causes permanent pain to the hens.
- 3.) Battery cages are so small that none of the victimized hens can even spread their wings. Their claws sometimes grow around the wires of the cage floor, causing more pain and distress. Hens have a strong urge to dust bathe, to run about and eat natural foods, and to build and lay their eggs in a nest where the chicks can hatch—but every pleasure is denied them, all for the sake of commercial gain.

The United Egg Producers (UEP) is at last realizing that it is being seriously criticized. United Poultry Concerns' Karen Davis and Veterinarians for Animal Rights' Ned Buyukmihci and Teri Barnato have led the fight. Both Karen and Ned have doctorate degrees, and their words carry weight with publications as diverse as *The Washington Post* and *Feedstuffs*, the big agribusiness trade journal. On May 1st, *Feedstuffs* told its readers that UEP "recently named an advisory committee to reconsider the guidelines in view of new scientific and social trends."

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Marc Kaufman's article "Cracks in the Egg Industry" appeared on the front page of *The Washington Post*. He quoted the author of a bill in the California Assembly to outlaw forced molting, Ted Lempert, who said, "I was first shocked by the practice because of the horrible cruelty, but the health issues really demand attention." Kaufman's article states, "Federal statistics show salmonella in eggs was associated with 28,644 illnesses and 79 deaths from 1985 to 1998. Several studies concluded that

there was also a link between the stress of forced molting of hens and salmonella in them and their eggs."

UEP has decided, after receiving thousands of critical letters, that it needed to appoint an animal welfare advisory committee to revise UEP's current guidelines. 🐾



Above: Rescued battery hens view the natural world for the first time.



Left: The same hens a few weeks later!

**ACTION** Please write to the president of the United Egg Producers and tell him you don't want to eat eggs that come from hens who have been debeaked and are in cramped battery cages. Tell him you are appalled that hens are starved for 5 to 14 days in an effort to increase their production. You might mention that you are shocked to learn that hens are starved and deprived of water to save a mere 4 cents on a dozen eggs. Please tell him that you will never eat eggs again unless they come from happy hens on humanely operated farms.

He may be addressed:

Mr. Albert E. Pope, President, UEP  
1303 Hightower Trail, #200  
Atlanta, Georgia 30350  
telephone: (770) 587-5871, fax: (770) 587-0041  
email: [alpope@mindspring.com](mailto:alpope@mindspring.com)  
website: [www.unitedegg.org](http://www.unitedegg.org)



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