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A review of the international conservation projects supported by WWF
in 1984 and 1985, and a selection of reports
from WWF National Organizations

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measures restricting collection and trade in plants. This, obviously, is not sufficient and should be coupled with measures relating to land use planning, as well as with measures providing incentives of various sorts, in particular with regard to the conservation of endangered plant communities on private property.

The project started with an analysis of existing plant conservation legislation, taking into account, in particular, the following aspects:

- effects of the designation of protected species with regard to private activities on private and public lands; and activities requiring permits on private and public lands;
- the extent to which all potential threats to plant species can be taken meaningfully into consideration in the context of national legislation; "threats" entail not only excessive collection, but also threats to habitats and to pollinators and seed dispersing agents, as well as the introduction of alien species;
- effects of designation with regard to, e.g. the preparation of environmental impact assessments, the granting of permits, the designation of critical habitats, the establishment of reserves, the development of recovery plans, the conclusion of management agreements, etc.

It is planned, in a second phase, to ascertain the effectiveness of the available mechanisms through contacts by correspondence and interviews in the key countries concerned. A final phase will entail the development of recommendations, in the form of guidelines, for the elaboration of comprehensive national legislation related to plant species conservation and protection, and submission of these proposals to a group of selected specialists for comments, prior to publication.

This project is still in its first phase, and extensive efforts are being made to gather the information necessary to complete the review mentioned above. The information available at the IUCN Environmental Law Centre has served as a basis for this undertaking. Through correspondence with the competent authorities of some 29 countries (from Europe, North America, Australia) an attempt is being made to check this information and supplement it.

It is planned to implement the project further in 1986 by visiting key countries in order to study further some of the most interesting legal techniques reviewed. A first draft report will then be written.

Project 3637

Closing Down the International Trade in Rhino Products

WWF Expenditure 1985 — \$15,995

Project Executants: Dr Esmond Bradley Martin and Lucy Vigne.

Participating Organizations: New York Zoological Society; African Fund for Endangered Wildlife; African Wildlife Foundation; British and American Embassy assistance.

Objectives: To curtail the international trade in rhino products and reduce the demand for the horn throughout the world by encouraging appropriate government officials to enforce a ban on rhino products, and traders to deal in substitutes.

Rhinos have declined in numbers in the last fifteen years from a world population of 70,000 to fewer than 16,000 today. The reason for this is that rhino products are in excessive demand, firstly in South East Asia for traditional medicine (mainly for lowering fever) and secondly in North Yemen which imports 50% of Africa's rhino horn for carving into dagger handles. Prices for African horn have soared from US\$30 a kg wholesale in 1970 to about US\$700 today, and for Asian horn from US\$2000 to US\$9000.

Millions of dollars have been spent largely to no avail trying to protect rhinos from poachers and, recently, efforts have been focused, in Kenya, on enclosing the last rhino strongholds with electric fences. In conjunction with these projects to protect rhinos in the wild or in enclosed areas, attempts to reduce the demand for rhino horn by curtailing the trade in rhino products is vital if the rhino is to have a future in Africa and Asia, which is one of the major objectives of this project.



Pharmacies in Asia continue to sell rhino horn derivatives despite recent findings showing they have no medicinal properties.

Photo: WWF/Mark Halle

Dr Esmond Bradley Martin has been carrying out investigative research on the international trade in rhino products since 1979, with the support of WWF, and is now involved in further efforts to have the trade closed down.

A five month visit to South East Asia has been organized for Dr Martin. Appointments have been arranged, and briefing documents written (translated into Chinese, Korean and Malaysian) and circulated to political decision makers, importers, wholesalers, doctors' associations and associations of pharmacists. Dr Martin will visit a dozen different countries paying special attention to countries which still legally import rhino horn, namely Brunei, Macao, Singapore and South Korea. Dr Martin will approach the governments concerned to encourage the ban of rhino horn imports and will ask dealers in rhino products to use substitutes such as Saiga antelope horn which is an acceptable substitute for rhino horn in Chinese traditional medicine. Posters are being designed to be displayed in pharmacies portraying the same message to customers, and a general public awareness programme is being initiated in South East Asia through the media of newspapers, radio and television. American and British diplomatic missions are being very helpful towards the project and Dr Martin's visit has been well received.

Publicity about rhinos and efforts to save them is important worldwide, in order to increase awareness and concern. Major international news services have published and circulated articles to many countries as well as those in South East Asia. In addition, articles are being published in international wildlife journals. Dr Martin has assisted or appeared in TV programmes concerning the plight of the rhino, for Japan, PBS USA and BBC UK as well as radio programmes in USA, UK and elsewhere.

There have already been two major successes since the project started. In August 1985 Taiwan agreed to ban with immediate effect all imports of rhino products, and Hong Kong, which was the major entrepot for rhino horn until its import ban in 1979, will stop all exports of old stocks of rhino horn from March 1986.

The strong demand for rhino horn in North Yemen remains a major problem despite an official ban. There has been a recent devaluation of the *real* from 5 to 8 to the US\$, making rhino horn much more expensive and some traders have consequently gone out of business, so this is an appropriate time to encourage further use of substitutes such as cow and water-buffalo horn.

An advisory body for this project has been set up to help gather information about the trade in rhino products in order to help expose smuggling routes.

Prices of rhino products will be monitored in each country to see whether demand has increased or decreased over the past few years. Dr Martin will be in Asia until early April 1986 after which a thorough follow-up of his efforts will be necessary.

Project 3168
The Ivory Carving Industries of Southern Africa
WWF Expenditure 1984/85 — \$8,910

Project Executant: Dr Esmond Bradley Martin.

Participating Organizations: The Wildlife Departments of Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe; The Tokyo Ivory Arts and Crafts Association; The Osaka Ivory Manufacturers Association and TRAFFIC (Japan).

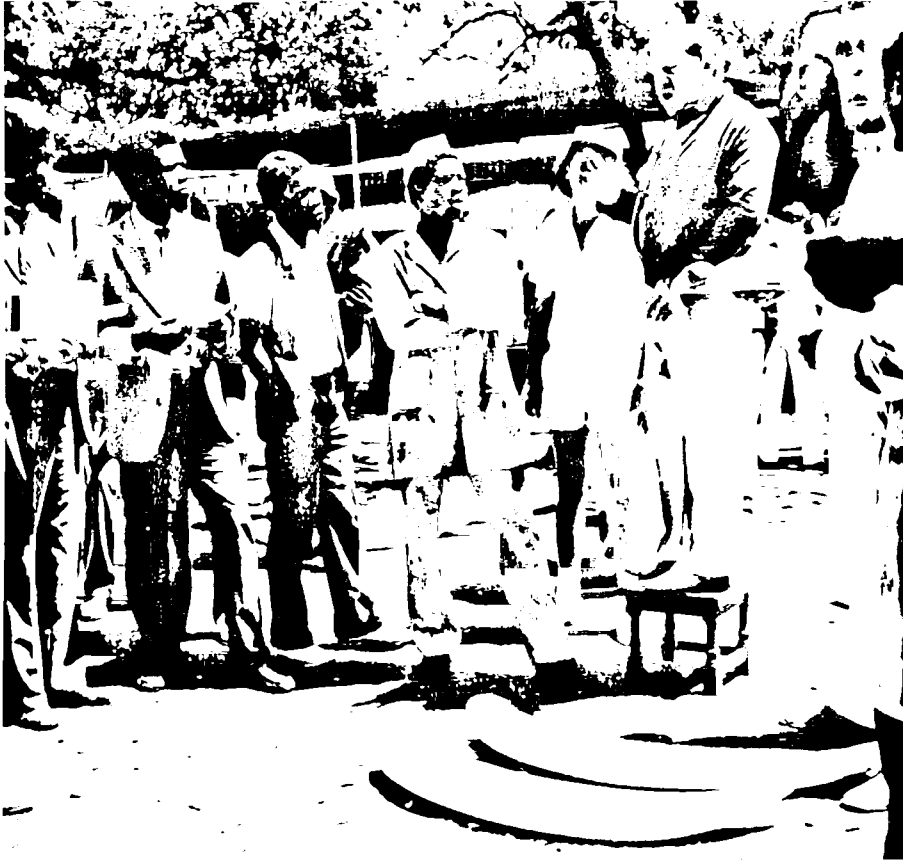
Objectives: To ascertain the amount of raw ivory consumed within the ivory carving businesses of Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the general structure of the industry, in order to help establish a proper management policy for elephants.

Before this study, there were no statistics concerning the amount of ivory carved in Southern Africa, the number of ivory craftsmen, and the value of the industry. Three major questions were posed.

1. What is the size of these ivory carving industries in Southern Africa? All that was known was the approximate quantity of raw ivory leaving these countries to the main importing countries of Asia and Europe each year. Full documentation, however, was needed on the total amount of raw ivory manufactured in each of these countries. With this information, and statistics on the export of raw ivory, the number of elephants required to produce this total amount of ivory could be ascertained, providing data for the establishment of a proper management policy for elephants.

Dr Martin investigated the ivory carving businesses of these five countries and found that, except for Malawi, ivory carving as an industry was very new, dating only from the 1970s (Malawi's ivory carving started in a small way in the 1920s). In almost every case, the industry has expanded over the last ten years, with a total of 33 tonnes of raw ivory consumed each year in the early 1980s. Modern electric drills and polishers are used to manufacture ivory items except in Malawi where ivory is hand-carved. The craftsmen (who are all male) produce mostly African heads, African animals and jewellery. Dr Martin considers that the highest quality ivory carvings were made in South Africa and Zimbabwe is the most prolific producer; the latest figure for 1984-85 was 21 tonnes of raw ivory used in the local carving industry.

2. What happens to all the carved ivory? Zimbabwean and Zambian businessmen sell ivory carvings mostly abroad in order to externalize their assets and earn convertible foreign exchange, thus often bypassing their overinflated currencies and strict exchange control laws. Most of the carvings in Malawi and South Africa, however, are bought in local currency by tourists visiting the countries. Over 90% of the buyers are Americans, Europeans and Japanese.



Ivory being auctioned for the ivory carving industry in Harare, Zimbabwe. A WWF study has found this is an efficient use of ivory, provided the industry is carefully regulated.

Photo: WWF/Esmond Bradley Martin

3. Are these ivory carving industries an asset to the individual countries, and should they be encouraged? Under proper management, as in South Africa and Zimbabwe, the ivory carving industry is an extremely efficient use of one of the country's natural resources, ivory. A commercial firm can make five times as much money from one kg of carved ivory (US\$300) as opposed to exporting it raw (US\$60). It also provides employment and tax revenues at all levels. It is imperative, however, that the amount of ivory available for carving should be properly regulated in order to maintain a sustainable yield of raw ivory. The ivory carving industries of Southern Africa should be regularly and effectively monitored at various stages from the correct marking of the tusks to adequate

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control on the export of the final product. If such management cannot be provided, the industry will contribute to the over-exploitation of elephants.

The Ivory Carving Industry of Southern Africa in the early 1980s

Country	Estimated average amount of raw ivory consumed per annum in tonnes	Number of craftsmen working more than 1/2 time in ivory	Estimated retail value of ivory output per annum
Botswana	2.5	30	US\$1,000,000
Malawi	2.25	90	n/a
South Africa	6	90	US\$2,000,000
Zambia	8	100	n/a
Zimbabwe	14.5	200	US\$8,000,000

Project 3406

Pilot Project on Training Courses for Conservation Field Officers from North and West Africa

WWF Expenditure 1985 — \$37,796

Project Executant: IWRB.

Participating Organizations: Government of Tunisia; Commission of the European Communities; ICBP.

Objectives: To provide practical on-the-job training for field staff of protected areas, initially in north and west Africa; to promote exchange of information and experiences between staff of protected areas in different countries of the region; to develop teaching materials for use in subsequent courses.

In recent years, it has become apparent (notably in the case of migratory birds) that habitat conservation measures must be carried out in concert in a large number of countries. While habitats in developing countries are often as yet in more or less pristine condition, they are coming under increasing pressure from socio-economic development plans. Despite the desire of many governments of developing countries to establish national parks or protected areas, they are hampered by a lack of trained staff. Furthermore there is rarely in developing