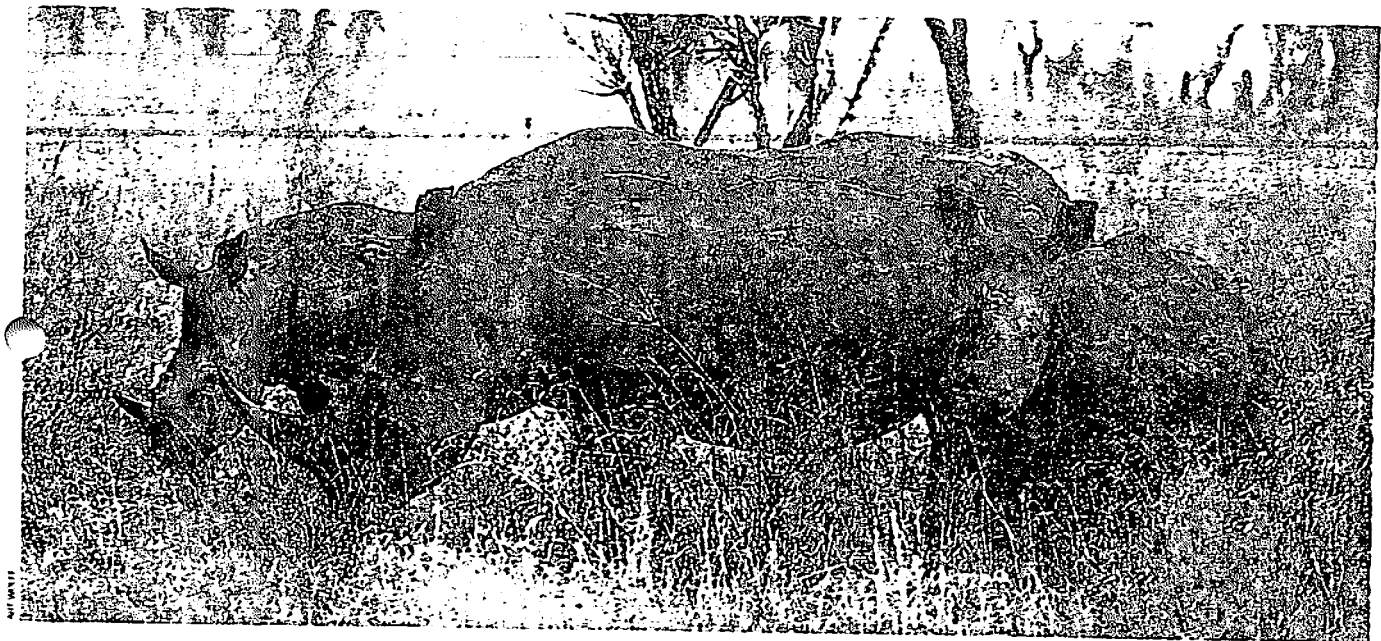


CONSERVATION HOTLINE



Tiger and Rhino Conservation

LAST FALL, CONGRESS PASSED THE RHINOCEROS AND TIGER Conservation Act, which establishes a \$10 million a year fund for five years, beginning in 1996. The funds will go toward research, conservation, and law enforcement efforts.

Legislation shows a commitment by the United States to back up its strong stance against countries that continue to illegally trade in rhino and tiger parts and products," says Irene Bolze, policy analyst for the Wildlife Conservation Society. "Many countries with tigers and rhinos do not have the resources to protect these species and need both financial and technical assistance. . . . This bill shows the United States

is willing to back up its policy with dollars."

Tigers and rhinos (above, white rhinos) are endangered because of habitat loss and the demand for body parts used in traditional Asian medicines. Although international trade in tiger and rhino parts has been banned since the mid-1970s, demand for these products in China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, and elsewhere has fueled relentless poaching. In the summer of 1993, President Clinton imposed an import embargo on wildlife products from Taiwan under the Pelly Amendment. The administration also cited China but did not impose any import embargos.

In Memoriam

THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN RWANDA HAS HIT VERY CLOSE TO HOME with the death of Shaban Turikunkiko, forest conservateur (warden) of the Nyungwe Forest Reserve. Shaban was reportedly killed in a random act of banditry on August 17. His death has been keenly felt by all who knew him as the most dedicated wildlife conservationist in the region. Shaban had survived arrow and gunshot wounds while performing his daily work, and we had come to believe he was invincible. We were wrong.

As forest conservateur, Shaban worked hand-in-hand with the Society's Nyungwe Forest Conservation Project. This close relationship began in 1987, when the project was initiated by Amy Vedder, WCS director for Africa. Shaban helped to organize research and anti-poaching patrols and to develop tourist facilities, and he participated in management decisions on schemes for controlled use of the forest. WCS personnel depended heavily on his experience and knowledge of the forest. Unfortunately, most field conservationists do not garner even casual recognition for attending to the everyday tasks, yet Shaban understood the importance of "being there." He regularly met with his guards and local authorities, went on patrols, and worked closely with local landowners. In fact, the only place one seldom searched for Shaban was at his home, for he was usually on the job. His only regret was that choosing a conservation career limited his financial ability to educate his three children. Shaban's death is a loss to all—both as forest conservateur and as a friend.

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