

The trade in horn must stop

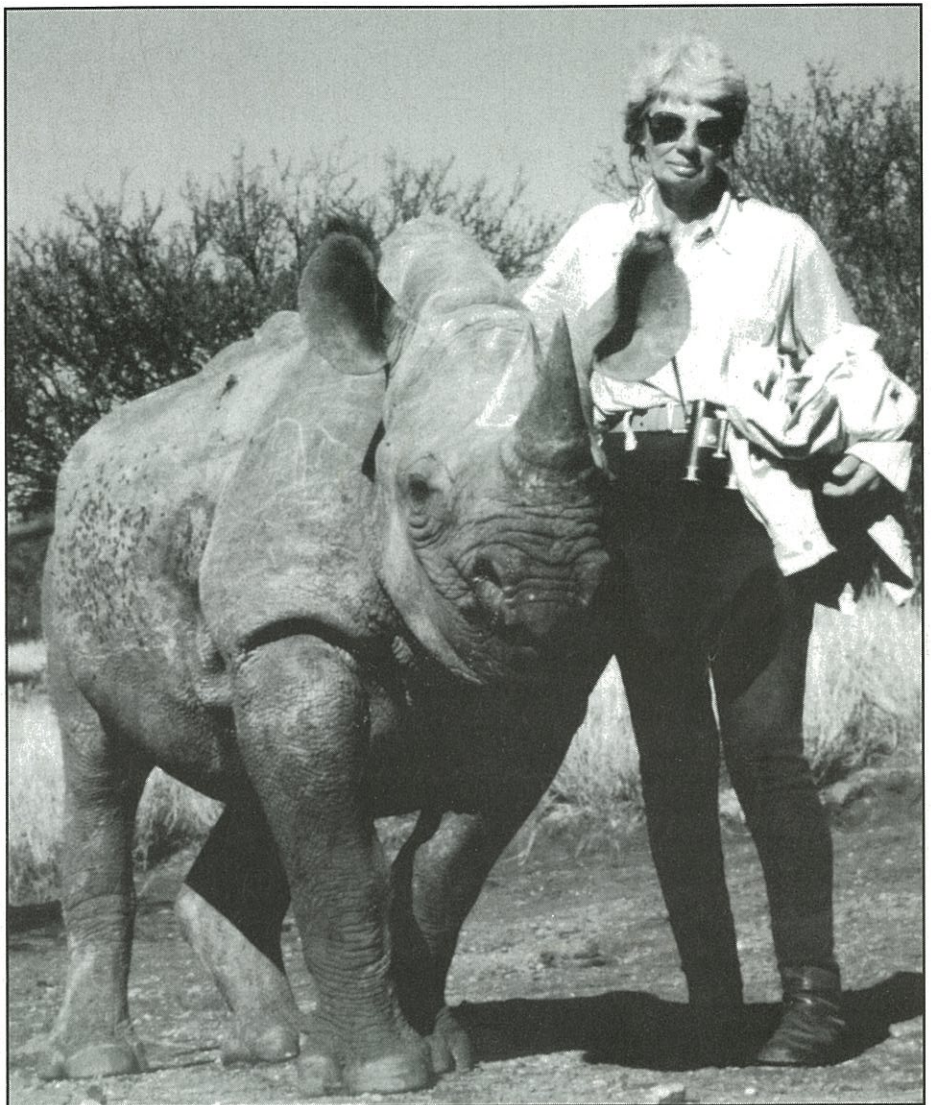
By ANNA MERZ

OVER the past decade Lewa Downs has become an ever increasingly important sanctuary for the beleaguered wildlife of the north-east of Kenya – not only rhinos but also for elephants, the beautiful Grevy Zebra of which about 10% of the world population are living on Lewa Downs, and now even sitatunga. A small population of these rare antelopes were translocated to the Lewa Swamp when their habitat on the shores of Lake Victoria was taken for development. They have settled down well and are breeding.

In April 1993 the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy came into existence, of which the Rhino Sanctuary is an important and integral part. The idea behind the creation of the Conservancy is to safeguard both the land and the wildlife on it and to prove that cattle and wildlife can exist together and that multiple land use for semi arid rangelands is best for the land, the soil, the animals and the people, both those who depend on it directly and those who live on the circumference.

We want Lewa to become a shining example for dry rangeland management. We wish to develop the tourist potential of this place ourselves instead of letting out camping concessions. We want people to stay here long enough to learn about what we are trying to do – to not just go on game drives but to enjoy the wonderful experience of viewing wild animals on foot, on horseback and with camels – to not just see, but also to learn about what they are seeing, so when they leave, they leave not just as friends but also as ambassadors for what we are trying to achieve.

Equally important is our desire that those who live on our periphery should also benefit from our efforts. To this end we want to develop cottage industries and handicrafts which will, in particular, help the women of the area. We want to increase our help to local schools and clinics. We want to bring school children in for game drives and talks. To educate some of our rangers in English so that they can share with our guests their great knowledge of the local plants and animals so that all



Anna Merz with her beloved Samia, the rhino she raised from birth

expeditions become more of an exciting experience. Needless to say, to get this underway means money, but if we are successful in raising the required capital we all believe that, with a great deal of hard work from us all, within five years the Conservancy could be financially independent, and that is our aim and ambition.

been without you? Please continue to help us for a few more years and then I hope that we can not only stand alone, but also join with you to help other rhinos in other places.

The whole of Lewa Downs and the Ngare Ndare Forest Reserve is now a rhino sanctuary. For being able to do this we are mainly indebted to AAZK and the Support Group. We have also received the wholehearted support of the Kenya Wildlife Service, who recently brought us four more male black rhinos and who have promised a further four female black rhinos. As of now we have 18 black rhinos and 11 whites.

But please do not feel for one minute complacent about the future of the world's rhinos. The population in Zimbabwe has experienced the most appalling crash – it is now believed that fewer than 200 black rhinos exist from 2,000 just 2 years ago. Dehorning in Zimbabwe has not worked – even the stub of horn left is worth killing the animal for. I have heard recently that between



'In Taiwan the big dealers are gambling on the rhino becoming extinct so that their stockpiles of horn will become even more valuable'

My big thanks are to the many people from the Ngare Sergoi Support Group and the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK) who have helped us in any and every way – financially, with their ideas and encouragement. Thank you for all I have learned from you. I frequently ask myself: Where would we have

I WAS delighted to receive the Global 500 Award in London this year for a number of reasons. In addition to the satisfaction of knowing that the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand is recognized and honoured by UNEP, being part of a network of people who have made their own personal contributions to the cause of the environment opens up a range of possibilities that will add inspiration and effectiveness to my work. Being a Global 500 Laureate will help the suffering wild animals of Thailand in a number of ways:

1. Focussing attention on murderous practices that can only be stopped by action at the point of sale.
2. Giving the cause access to international decision makers.
3. Knowing that we are part of a global network of people and organizations committed to sound environmental practices.

Being rather a naive person I went into wild animal rescue with an open mind believing that any good person would agree that wild animals in captivity are entitled to a decent life. But that's not true. I have learned that there are people who claim to be conservationists who are completely without sympathy for wild animals once they have been removed from their native habitat. Their attitude is that wild animals in captivity are peripheral to conservation and should be killed, with a few kept for educational purposes. This is a common attitude among certain people who claim to be "conservationists." To me and the members of my Committee, the wild animals to which we give sanctuary are all precious. Almost every animal in our care with the exception of

How did LEONIE VEJJAJIVA become involved in the fight to protect and rescue wild animals in Thailand? She took action simply because she saw that...

'SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE'



WAR
The Wild Animal Rescue
Foundation of Thailand

Pattaya Beach gibbons rescued

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the cruel exploitation. Your letters certainly helped him decide that something should be done.

Unfortunately, though, this photo racket still continues in Phuket in Southern Thailand. Here there are many baby gibbons tied to the beach bars where they are constantly tormented by the staff and drunken patrons.

The people caught at Pattaya with the baby primates said they had permits for them.

However on inspection the permits were found to be for adult animals registered two years ago under the new wildlife laws, and not for the small ones being carried round in the streets. The owners were charged With illegally possessing wildlife.

IPPL is concerned that unless strong action is taken against the owners of the confiscated gibbons they may just go out and buy replacements. Unfortunately IPPL has received a report of gibbons being seen at Pattaya since the recent confiscation. □

some macaques and bears have been taken by hunters from the wild and the mother has been shot to capture the baby for sale. In Thailand the animals that are suffering most are the gibbons, an arboreal ape, and bears which are in great demand for illegal restaurants catering to Korean, Hong Kong and Taiwan tourists. Baby bears are smuggled out of Thailand on ships to horrible deaths in Korea where the people who like to eat bears prefer them to be tortured to death while they watch.

One of the great despoilers of the forests and wild animal populations in Thailand and in similar countries has unfortunately been Christian missionaries. Villagers and hill tribes had taboos against killing wild animals and cutting trees. The forest and its contents were precious to the local inhabitants. The missionaries taught that such taboos were useless, sinful superstitions so now, instead of sustainable use of the forests the hill tribes damage them and kill the animals – a definite case of religion gone wrong.

My husband and I established this foundation with our own money because something needed to be done and because we love animals.

We have just started a 120-acre wildlife sanctuary with the Royal Forest Department of Thailand. A place that will afford a decent home, food, medical care, and loving attention for the hundreds of homeless, abused and crippled wild animals that come to us. Many of these animals are rare species that we hope will breed and can eventually be trained to return to the wild. □

For more information write to Leonie Vejjajiva, The Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand, 29/2 Sukhumvit Soi 33, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Fax: 662-261-0925.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Write to: Khun Pong Leng-ee, Director, Royal Forestry Department, Phahoiyothin Road, Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand, thanking him for confiscating the primates being exploited by Pattaya beach photographers. Emphasise that the confiscation will be futile unless the owners are punished and not allowed to buy replacement animals. Start your letter "Dear Khun Pong," as the Thai custom is to use first names.
- Send donations to IPPL or WARFT at the above addresses.

70 and 90 dehorned rhinos are believed to have been poached in the Hwange Park.

The trade in horn must stop. None of the range states, not even South Africa, are in a position to monitor a controlled trade. The only hope for the rhino is stopping the trade in horn and imposing sanctions on those countries – in particular Taiwan – on the consuming countries, China, South Korea, Thailand, and shamefully, still Hong Kong. In Taiwan the big dealers are gambling on the rhino becoming extinct so that their stock piles of horn will then become even more valuable.

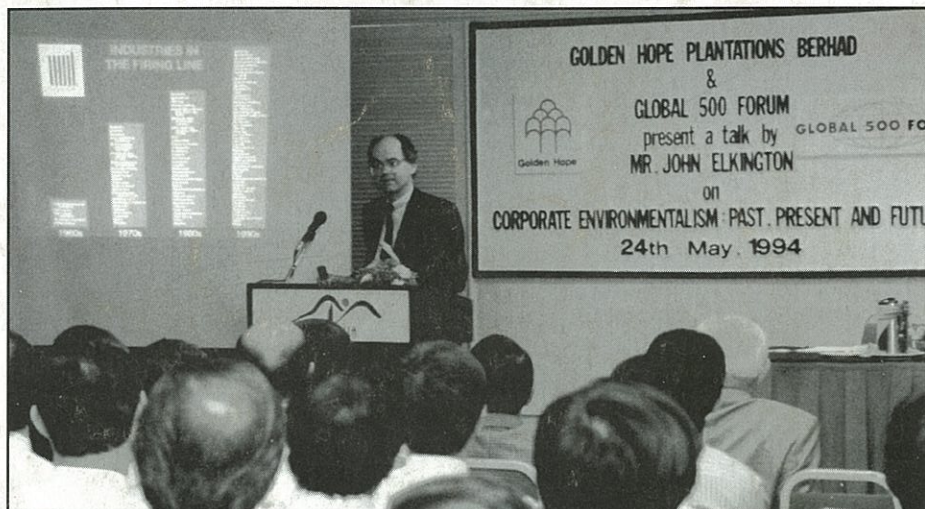
Please everyone who reads this and cares about the rhino becoming extinct, boycott goods made in these countries named above, see your family and friends do likewise and exercise all the political and consumer pressure you can. We in the field can only operate a holding action until such time as the trade in horn is killed.

And now, a few notes on recent events...

Samia, now nearly nine, was mated by Kenu in April, he was the rhino we captured south of Marsabit in January. He has also mated her several times subsequently, so perhaps next year I will be a rhino grandmum! And the big question is, having been hand-raised herself, will she be able to cope with her offspring? Samia was also filmed last year for David Attenborough's new TV series, so with any luck you may one day see her munching on the dry looking acacia bush on your TV screen. She has also caused a certain amount of consternation by bringing her boyfriend home to visit. On these occasions, fascinating as they are, no one can get either in or out of my compound.

Last September I fielded a kick from a horse that landed me in the hospital with three broken ribs and a punctured spleen. All now are thankfully mended and the credit side of this was a week's holiday on the coast for Pluto and myself. I had forgotten how lovely the Indian Ocean coastline is with its silver sands, palm trees and the lush vegetation. I couldn't swim but Pluto had fun once he got over his puzzlement at strange tasting waves and even stranger scuttering crabs, and his size ensured that no beach boys hassled me. □

Anna Merz is a 1990 Global 500 laureate. This article is taken from Anna's Annual Report to the Ngare Sergoi Support Group and published in H.O.R.N. (Help Save Our Rhinos Now). For membership subscriptions to H.O.R.N. and donations write to: Ngare Sergoi Support Group, PO Box 29503, Columbus, Ohio 43229, Ohio, USA, or to Anna at Lewa Downs Ltd. Private Bag, Isiolo, Kenya.



John Elkington briefs business leaders at the Corporate Environmentalism seminar

Challenges and opportunities

By TEOH CHENG HAI

ON 24th May 1994 Global 500 Forum and Golden Hope Plantations hosted a talk and presentation on "Corporate Environmentalism: Past, Present and Future" by eminent environmentalist and Global 500 laureate, Mr. John Elkington, at a leading hotel in Kuala Lumpur. It was attended by over 100 prominent members of the business community, government sector; research establishments and institutions. Also present were Malaysian Global 500 laureates, Dr. Martin Abraham, Mr. Anwar Faizal and Dr. Yap Son Kheong, representing the Malaysian Nature Society.

In his welcoming address, Encik Abdul Rahman bin Ramli, Golden Hope Group Chief Executive, said that one of the principles in the Company's mission statement is "To maintain a strong orientation towards the environment". "Over the past years, we have developed and adopted several environment-friendly practices, most of these being in agricultural field operations and the treatment of effluents from our processing centres. In view of increasing environmental pressure on businesses locally and worldwide, Golden Hope is reviewing and refocusing its efforts on the environment," elaborated Encik Abdul Rahman.

In December 1993, Golden Hope became a signatory to the International Chamber of Commerce Business Charter for Sustainable Development. "As a signatory, we pledge to uphold the 16 principles for environment management. Particular attention is placed on educating our staff to take measures to protect the environment during the course of conducting our business operations," he continued.

Stressing the need for companies to disclose their environmental goals and performance, Elkington said: "In today's businesses, voluntary environmental reporting by some companies are profoundly changing society's expectations on corporate disclosure. Society's demands for environmental products and services would leave companies with little option but to come clean themselves," elaborated Mr. Elkington.

He called on business leaders to be actively involved in defining corporate environmentalism and managing the process of environmental communications. Failure to do so would increasingly pose the risk of their companies' real present and potential future values being challenged; their positions as responsible corporate citizens being undermined and competitive advantage being drained away as customers and consumers turn to others who are, or are seen to be, more environmentally responsible.

In concluding, Mr. Elkington said that successful companies would have little option but to be involved in this rapidly emerging area of corporate environmentalism. The challenge facing individual companies would be to work out new ways of cooperating with their suppliers, customers and other stakeholders as well as competitors in corporate environmentalism. This would ensure that companies benefit not only in corporate citizenship terms but also in terms of competitive advantage.

As a founding corporate member of the Global 500 Forum, En. Abdul Rahman stated that Golden Hope is committed to support the activities of the Forum and would continue to co-organise talks by Global 500 laureates. □