

first time as a young delegate to the 1950 General Assembly. He started and led the Committee on Legislation in 1960, which soon became the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, which he chaired until 1990. From 1990-94, he served as Legal Advisor to IUCN, and since 1994 he has served as CEL's United Nations Liaison, and as member-at-large on CEL's steering committee. IUCN, through the Commission, became a major actor in the development of the first declarations on and principles of environmental law, but also of several key international conservation treaties from their conception through their adoption. Together with his late wife Dr. Françoise Burhenne-Guilmin he has been directly involved in nearly all the major international conventions concerned with conservation over the past 25 years, and to the development of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Environmental Law Centre in Bonn which has accumulated the world's most extensive collection of environmental legislative texts. Dr. Burhenne was one of 12 signatories to the Morges Manifesto, which established the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in 1961. With his wife Françoise, he assisted the Organization of African Unity (OAU) establish the Algiers Conservation Convention in 1968. The insights and skills of the Burhennes' were essential to the creation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), also known as the Bonn Convention, in 1979; the World Charter for Nature, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982; the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in 1985 and the Rio Convention on Biological Diversity 1992.

Wolfgang Burhenne, a life-long and passionate hunter, is a member of the Bavarian Hunting Association (BJV) and of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC. Within the CIC, and his position as Honorary Legal Advisor, his sharp mind and analytical rationale continues to contribute to innovative and out-of-the-box solution in sustainable use of wild natural resource. Born in 1924, the now 90-year-old Burhenne continues to follow his passion as mountain hunter, especially for chamois. As the grandseigneur of German and European hunters, Dr. Burhenne continues to serve the cause of nature conservation.

Dr. Burhenne's international recognition has been manifested in many awards, which include honoray doctorates from the University of Bhopal (India) and Pace University New York (USA); the Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law; the environmental medal of the Better World Society, New York; the Jefferson Coolidge Memorial Medal from IUCN; together with his wife Françoise, the UNEP Sasakawa Prize; the Order of Merit, Knight Commander's Cross, of the Federal Republic of Germany; the Alpine Award of the German section of International Commission for the Protection of the Alps CIPRA; and many others.

Obituary: Dr. Ian Player 1927-2014

Gerhard Damm

Ian Player died in November 2014, aged 87. The older brother of professional golfer Gary Player became involved in conservation in the 1950s as a game ranger on the *Hluhluwe uMfolozi* Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, Africa's oldest official nature reserve. When it was established in 1897, there were only about 50 southern white rhinos left in the world, all of them on this reserve. By the time Player began working there in 1952, the



Ian Player and Magqubu Ntombela
Photo: Trevor Barrett

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org

population had recovered somewhat to under 500; by 1960 *Umfolozis*' population of white rhinos had grown to 600. Player realized that it was dangerous to keep them restricted to one small park, so he convinced his reluctant superiors into allowing to move some of the animals to other protected parts of their former habitat. The resulting Operation Rhino became one of the most successful wildlife translocation programs ever. The southern white rhino became the first animal to be removed from the IUCN endangered species list and has been reestablished from Zululand over much of its former range in South Africa with a population estimated at over 20,000 today. Player eventually retired from the Natal Parks Board in 1974 as chief conservator in Zululand to devote more time to the wilderness movement.

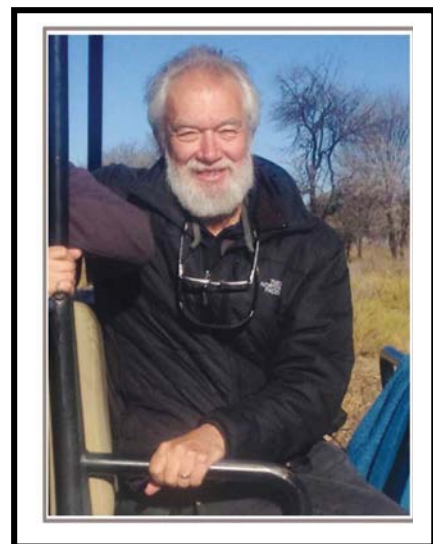
Ian Player learned his belief in the spiritual value of wild places and the principles of *inhlonipho* (respect) and *ubuntu* (compassion) from his fellow ranger Magqubu Ntombela, a charismatic Zulu of royal blood with whom he started working in 1958. "I was steeped in the racial prejudice of my country and Magqubu transformed me," Player recalled. In 1963 Player and Ntombela founded a Wilderness Leadership School with the aim of taking young people with leadership potential into the wilderness to encourage them to "question their place in the great scheme of things". The success of the project eventually led Player to establish an International Wilderness Leadership Foundation in 1974, followed three years later by the World Wilderness Congress, the world's longest-running public environmental forum.

With his practical approach to conservation, Player influenced numerous crucial developments in the conservation field and was honored with honorary doctorates and awards from around the world. More recently, he came out of retirement to campaign for a relaxation of the ban on the trade in rhino horn following the present surge in rhino poaching. Player believed that government-controlled trading in horns from animals that died naturally could force prices down, undermine the illegal trade and provide a source of revenue for conservation. South Africa's natural heritage is richer for his contribution and we thank his family for sharing him with us.

Obituary: Jonathan (Jon) Barnes, PhD, 1950 – 2014

Dr. Jon Barnes died unexpectedly at his home in Windhoek, Namibia on 14th September 2014. A highly respected natural resource economist and leading thinker on the socioeconomic dimensions of conservation in southern Africa, Jon made a huge contribution to his field in Namibia, Botswana and South Africa, set up a national environmental economics program in Namibia running now for 20 years, and trained and mentored local cohorts of young economists.

With postgraduate training in both ecology and economics, Jon spent 12 years as a practicing ecologist, and a further 28 years as an environmental and natural resource economist. He worked from 1986 to 1993 as an advisor to the Government of Botswana on natural resource management matters, and from 1993 to 2008 as advisor on environmental affairs to the Government of Namibia. While in Botswana, he developed and managed a Resource Economics Unit for the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and provided on-the-job training to local, graduate



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