

**FIRST BLACK RHINO BORN IN 25 YEARS**

Conservationists in northern Kenya have celebrated the birth of a female black rhino in Sera Community Rhino Sanctuary, the first in the region in more than 25 years. The calf, born in mid-March, represents the community's hopes that the sanctuary can nurture a viable breeding population of black rhino that could eventually help repopulate other conservation areas. Northern Rangelands Trust's senior research and monitoring officer Antony Wandera said the rare birth demonstrates the strength of the growing community conservation movement.



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**SEVENTY HECTARES OF FOREST LOST ANNUALLY TO ILLEGAL LOGGING - UN**

A recent United Nations-sponsored study shows that Kenya loses 70,000 hectares of forest each year to illegal loggers. The report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) blames the problem on loopholes in Kenya's law on forests. While individuals cut down numerous trees to make charcoal, the report's author, Christian Nellemann, says organized crime is the main culprit. According to INTERPOL, the Kenyan port of Mombasa is a major transit point for illegally harvested wood. The Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the government agency responsible for the conservation of the country's woodlands, disputed the findings of the report and stressed that it was effectively carrying out its mandate.

**NEW FUNDRAISING RECORD SET AT 2016 RHINO CHARGE EVENT**



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A total of 139,402,565 Kenyan shillings (nearly \$1.4 million) was raised at this year's Rhino Charge, the annual off-road motorsport competition held in Kenya to raise funds for conservation projects. Some 108 million was realized last year. Prizes were awarded at a colourful ceremony held at the Charge venue in Naikara and Olderkesi group ranches, Narok County. The top three fundraisers were Stanley Kinyanjui of car number 62 (Magneate Chargers) who raised 14,500,000 shillings. Peter Kinyua of car number 23 brought in 11,215,000 shillings, while Alan McKittrick of car number 5 raised 10,315,243 shillings.

**KENYA SETS UP AIRPORT COURT TO TRY WILDLIFE AND DRUG TRAFFICKING CASES**

Kenya has set up a court at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi (JKIA) in a bid to speed up trials of suspects arrested for offences related to the trafficking of illegal wildlife products and narcotics. The court will be open 24 hours every day of the week. It will be manned by a magistrate and six other members of staff. Seventeen per cent of illegal ivory seized globally during the past seven years were confiscated at JKIA, according to a report by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).