

OBITUARIES

EARTH NEGOTIATIONS BULLETIN, IISD



HARALD MARTENS

We are sad to announce that former TRAFFIC and WWF colleague, Harald Martens, passed away on 8 November 2017 after a long illness. Harald worked with TRAFFIC between May 1987 and June 1990, based at the office in Frankfurt, Germany. Since July 1990 Harald had been

working for the Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN)—Germany’s Scientific Authority of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

In his various functions for TRAFFIC, WWF and BfN, Harald advanced a wide and varied range of research issues related to the harvest and trade of wild fauna and flora, including, for example, the unsustainable harvest and trade in *Tillandsia* (Bromeliaceae) plants, the international trade in frogs’ legs from Asia, threats posed to coelacanth (Latimeriidae) populations from unregulated landing and trade, and improved trade regulations for a variety of reptile species threatened by international trade. Harald also supported the examination and revision of the non-detriment finding (NDF) guidance for shark species. His work on the role of Germany’s sport and trophy hunting domestically and abroad was also invaluable and instrumental in bridging the trenches between some of the most polarised positions of the pro- and anti-consumptive use camps in this field of debate. Other conservation issues Harald led on encompassed analysis of the threats posed by invasive alien species, advancing Germany’s *Red List of Threatened Species* as well as the management of larger carnivores in Germany.

Harald’s authority and engagement in the conservation of wildlife was impressive and his expertise significantly influenced the development of CITES well beyond its implementation in Germany and the European Union.

Harald was a much-liked colleague within the science-, NGO- and government-communities, both domestically as well as at EU level, and was well sought after at international conferences—including the various fora of CITES—for his extraordinary expertise and skill for clear analysis.

We deeply regret the untimely death of a very popular colleague and friend and will honour his memory. Our deepest condolences to his family and all those who were close to him.

Roland Melisch,
Senior Director—Africa and Europe,
TRAFFIC

ESMOND MARTIN

TRAFFIC’s close collaboration and friendship with Esmond Martin came to an untimely end with his tragic death in Kenya on 4 February 2018. We are deeply saddened at this sudden loss. Esmond, an American national, was the world’s foremost authority on the ivory and rhino horn trades and a leading expert on the ivory carving industry. A generous supporter of the *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, his extensive and methodical investigative work researching the markets for ivory and rhino horn found form in the many contributions that span this journal’s history. His first piece appeared in 1983 on the horn weights of the five rhino species to assist in the calculation of rhino numbers being killed. The key drivers for horn at this time were demand for use in traditional medicine in East Asia as a cure for fever and in Yemen for making *jambiyas* (traditional daggers handles), the latter accounting for almost half the world’s production of rhino horn until demand decreased in the 1980s.

Almost every *Bulletin* edition since that time featured Esmond’s work (often in collaboration with his fellow investigator Lucy Vigne), examining the global trade in rhino horn and ivory markets in Africa (Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe), Asia (Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam), and elsewhere, most recently in 2014 reporting on Luanda’s role in the ivory trade.

The magnitude of Esmond’s loss to elephant and rhino conservation cannot be underestimated. As far back as 1987, Esmond was sounding the alarm, calling for “efforts to continue to discourage the demand for rhino horn in order to avoid the end for African and Asia rhinos which are not in zoos or well-guarded enclosures”. Sadly, such specimens are now also under threat. While the heavy toll that poaching has taken on the world’s elephants and rhinos currently shows no sign of abating, Esmond’s tenacity to uncover and report on the trade was marked by a stamina and forensic rigour that was admirable. His efforts to keep the world’s attention focused on these issues formed the bedrock of his work, laying down a solid and enduring foundation of knowledge on which to continue these vital efforts which, now, more than ever, are critical if a safer future for the world’s remaining pachyderm populations is to be assured.

Steven Broad, Executive Director, TRAFFIC



Esmond Martin (right), with Daniel Stiles (left) and Tom Milliken, at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, South Africa, 2016.

JAMES COMPTON / TRAFFIC