

Bridget Martin

Survival or Extinction?

How to Save Elephants and Rhinos



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For Sudan, the last male northern white rhino, who, unlike so many other rhinos, was fortunate enough to pass away peacefully, in the company of loving friends and carers.

Sudan 1972–2018. Copyright Daniel Stiles



A great many animals and plants on our planet are, like northern white rhinos, threatened with extinction, even though their future is not quite so bleak. So, the author pledges 80% of all her income from the sales of this book shall go to protecting these animals and plants.

Preface

Elephants and rhinos are in trouble; they need your help. Poaching and illegal trade in ivory and rhino horn have caused their numbers to plummet, and it is debatable whether sustainable use in these commodities is now viable as some species and populations are teetering on the brink of extinction. In recent years, organized crime has not been slow to take advantage of the opportunities offered by skyrocketing prices for elephant ivory and rhino horn, bringing with it death and destruction to both animals and the people who protect them. Law and its enforcement have never been more important.

In this book, I have tried to explain what has gone wrong and how we are trying to put things right. The story, which is made up of material from a great many sources, each footnoted to show its origin and linked together by a guiding narrative, is complicated, so sections signpost the route. You do not need to read the footnotes to follow the story, but I have made them easier to use by adapting OSCOLA. All the material has been selected by me, and although I have done my best to produce as accurate and rounded a picture as possible, if I have failed, I apologize.

People power and the results achieved by working together form a key element, and now that the United Nations has recognized the seriousness of the situation and votes have been taken in the UN General Assembly, it is encouraging to see so many countries keen to face the challenge and try to bring an end to such a cruel and unnecessary trade.

Whether you live in a producer country (e.g. South Africa or Namibia) or a consumer country (e.g. China or Viet Nam), you can see where the problems have arisen and how they are gradually being overcome, because so many people care about these iconic animals, care that elephants and rhinos are

teetering on the edge of extinction and are determined to save them. This book will give you some ideas about how it is being done.

This continues to be a fast-moving story, so a line was drawn not to include most of the reports published after October/November 2018.

Preston, Lancashire, UK

Bridget Martin

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Abbreviations

ACB	(Malawi's) Anti-Corruption Bureau
AfESG	African Elephant Specialist Group
ARC	The Alliance of Religions and Conservation
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CoP	Conference of the Parties
DRC	Congo (Democratic People's Republic)
DEA	South Africa's Department of Environmental Affairs
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK)
DNPW	(Malawi's) Department of National Parks and Wildlife
DSWT	David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
DWNP	(Malaysia's) Department of Wildlife and National Parks
EIA	Environmental Investigation Agency
ENV	Education for Nature Vietnam
EU	European Union
EU-TWIX	The European Union Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange
FARDC	Congolese Armed Forces
GAWPT	George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust
GEC	Great Elephant Census
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GP	Global Programme
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade

xxvi Abbreviations

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KWS	Kenyan Wildlife Service
LATF	The Lusaka Agreement Task Force on Cooperation Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998
NEMBA	National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act [No. 10 of 2004]
NESTs	National Environmental Security Task Forces
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NWCU	National Wildlife Crime Unit
NWEN	Network of the Wildlife Enforcement Networks
PHASA	The Professional Hunter's Association of South Africa
Protect RAPID	Real-time Anti-Poaching Intelligence Device
RATZ	A private anti-poaching unit in Zambia
RhODIS	Rhino DNA Indexing System
RIE	Raw Ivory Equivalent Weight
RUSI	Royal United Services Institute
RWENs	Regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANParks	South African National Parks
SAPA	The Social Assessment of Protected Areas
SAWEN	The South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network
SC	Standing Committee
SLU	Sustainable Livelihoods Unit
SSC	Species Survival Commission
TFCAs	Transfrontier Conservation Areas
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEPWCMC (CITES Trade Database)	United Nations Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (CITES Trade Database)
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
USA	United States of America
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VCCI	Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
WENs	Wildlife Enforcement Networks
WISTs	Wildlife Incident Support Teams

WLFC	Wildlife and Forest Crime
WRAP	The Wilderness Rhino Awareness Programme
WRSA	Wildlife Ranching South Africa
WTA	Wildlife Translocation Association
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
ZAWA	Zambia Wildlife Authority
ZSL	Zoological Society of London

Maps



Map 1 Southern African Range States showing how difficult it is to keep the borders secure from poachers. Some of the national parks are marked, as is the Lilongwe Pipeline. Copyright Maxwell Boardman



Map 2 Central and Eastern African countries, again showing some of the national parks and the problem of securing borders from crime gangs. Copyright Maxwell Boardman



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