

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL™



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Wildlife smugglers arrested – bear cubs rescued

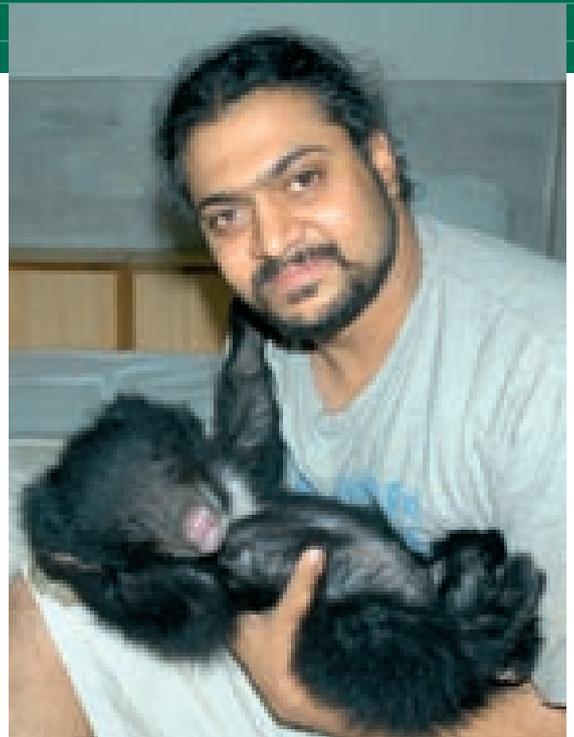
It is both criminal and tragic that, as part of the illegal practice of bear dancing, sloth bear cubs are stolen from caves after their mothers are killed by poachers. These cubs are then sold for a pittance to their future masters, who will brutally insert a rope through their muzzle and then use the bears to entertain tourists.

Thankfully progress is being made by Wildlife SOS, our project partners in India who are using rehabilitated poachers as informers to help fight future crime. Just this week two sloth bear

cubs were rescued and two wildlife smugglers were sent to jail. The cubs were just 3 months old when their mothers were killed.

Rescued bear cubs suffer from trauma and stress as a result of separation from their mother at a very young age, and require extensive care and attention. These cubs will be shifted to the specialised bear cub weaning centre at the Agra Bear Rescue Centre run by Wildlife SOS in collaboration with the Forest Department.

Kartick Satyanarayan, of Wildlife SOS said, "The cooperation we received from the police and Forest Department was excellent. Such seizures will create awareness as well as deter further crimes of this nature. It is upsetting to see how these bear cubs are exploited in such a brutal manner for a few rupees."



Kartick Satyanarayan of Wildlife SOS with one of the rescued bear cubs.

Wildlife SOS has now rescued 363 bears and we would like to thank our members for their significant contributions to this project. ■



Wildlife SOS, Police and Forest Department staff with the 2 arrested poachers and the rescued cubs.

Wildlife Land Trust comes to Australia

Humane Society International has launched the Wildlife Land Trust (WLT) in Australia in an effort to preserve and protect our vital native habitats and the animals that depend on them. There has never been a more critical time for preserving our natural heritage. The program was initiated by The Humane Society of the United States in 1993 and is now protecting

habitats in Canada, South Africa, United States, Belize and Indonesia and we are now adding Australia to this global network.

The Wildlife Land Trust protects wildlife by preserving natural habitats and permanent sanctuaries. Working under the guiding principle of "humane stewardship", the Trust protects

not only vast and impressive landscapes, but also the smaller, humbler places that provide for the needs of all wildlife, rare and common species alike. In the few minutes that it will take to read this article thousands of acres of critical wildlife habitat across Australia will have been lost. Protecting and preserving our country's streams, grasslands, forests and wetlands

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Message from the Directors

Dear Supporters

Climate Change and Water Conservation

Since we spoke to you last, the national and international issue of climate change has taken the centre political stage, and there can be little doubt of the looming and negative impacts upon our society in general and on the environment in particular.

HSI has been working on the issue of climate change since its inception in Australia in 1994. In 1996, as a member of the Commonwealth Government's State of the Environment Report Council, which produced Australia's very first National State of the Environment (SOE) Report, HSI helped draw attention to the climate change dilemma and the lack of progress in dealing with it. Similarly, the report warned of the dangers facing our inland waters.

In that same decade, HSI was successful in having climate change recognised as a "key threatening process" to wildlife and habitats across Australia, gaining official recognition in

federal and state law. This legal recognition/ acknowledgment gave both federal and state governments the opportunity to develop climate change "threat abatement plans" but none rose to the responsibility.

We did subsequently work with the office of Senator Robert Hill, the then Minister for the Environment, to prioritise the development of a National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan, but its recent lack of implementation and resources remains a serious problem.

HSI is also joined in legal action in the United States against the Environment Protection Authority for not adequately controlling greenhouse gases, and we are likely to engage in, or support legal action in, Australia where it will contribute to a reduction in gas emissions. Many of you may have heard our climate change radio advert which was launched last year, and during 2007, please watch out for our climate change TV adverts, that will be playing across the country. We are also continuing our campaign to see the protection of Australia's wild and least regulated rivers through their inclusion in the National Heritage List.

We will be continuing to review how best we can contribute to the climate change and water conservation issues, and we will keep you informed of our activities through this newsletter and our website. You can of course visit HSI's website www.hsi.org.au to view suggestions on how to reduce your own energy use and to better conserve water.

Meanwhile, may we convey our great thanks to you all for your continuing financial and moral support of HSI. Please be assured that we strive daily to make the very best and most effective use of the help that you critically provide.

Michael & Verna

PS: Please make a special effort to write to the major political parties, seeking particular commitments at this year's federal election (see back page).

Polar Bears battle for survival



Polar bears in the Arctic are facing increasing pressures to their survival. Rising sea temperatures and solar radiation from global warming are melting the Arctic ice sheet, with recent research suggesting this habitat could be completely gone by the year 2080. This melting sea ice has increased access to their habitat and resulted in a growing tourism industry and oil and gas exploration. Pollutants and chemicals that are moved by air and water currents accumulate in high concentrations in the Arctic and contaminate their food sources. Polar bears are also hunted for sport and food in Canada and Greenland, and populations are seriously threatened by over-hunting resulting from quotas that

are either too high, or non-existent.

Despite the growing threats to the already declining polar bear populations, hunters from the United States are still allowed to import the trophies from sport hunted polar bears from six Canadian populations. While this approval is currently under review by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, polar bears continue to be killed and imported into the US.

HSI is campaigning for the immediate suspension of imports of sport hunted polar bear trophies while this legislation is under review, and is looking for greater national and international protection. ■



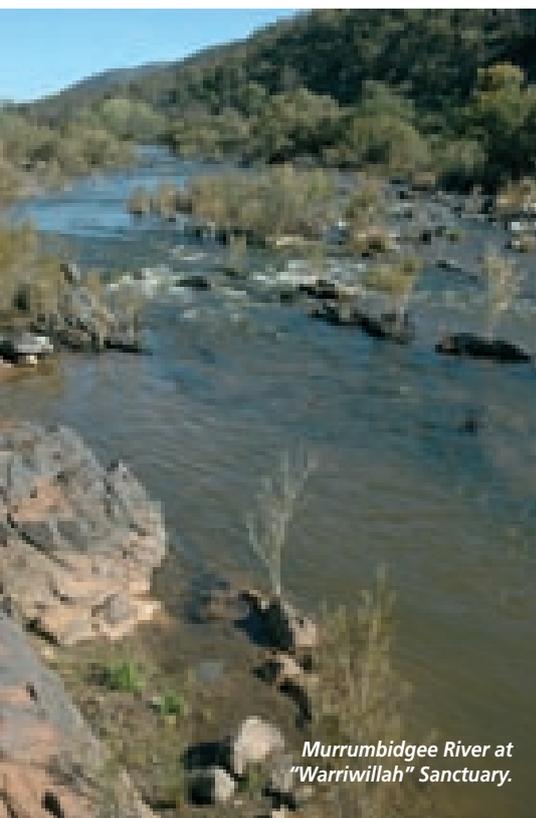
“Warrivillah” Sanctuary, south of Canberra.

is essential to wildlife’s survival. Every acre protected safeguards wildlife that desperately needs our help to survive.

The Directors of HSI Australia and the Wildlife Land Trust are asking you to join us in the vital mission to create a global sanctuary system based on the principle of humane stewardship.

The Wildlife Land Trust in Australia

The first two Australian sanctuaries to become a part of the WLT’s global sanctuary system are “Warrivillah” and “Curricabark”.



Murrumbidgee River at “Warrivillah” Sanctuary.

Warrivillah is a spectacular 300 acre property less than an hour’s drive south of Canberra. It is situated only 3km from Namadgi National Park and 8km from Tinderry Nature Reserve, and is subject to a “Voluntary Conservation Agreement” with the NSW Minister for the Environment. Curricabark is a “Wildlife Refuge” registered with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, situated about an hour north-west of Gloucester and a few hours north of Sydney. This 600 acre sanctuary is owned by two of HSI’s Directors and their family and friends.

In New South Wales, the Wildlife Land Trust has developed a partnership with the Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) to promote conservation on private land.

An invitation to join us

Whether you currently have an agreement with a state government wildlife authority, or your land is designated through a voluntary wildlife refuge scheme of some kind, we would very much like to invite you to join us at the Wildlife Land Trust, and become part of a global sanctuary system. If you are not yet involved in any form of voluntary or formal program to protect your land, but would like to be, we would be especially glad to hear from you.

Joining the Wildlife Land Trust imparts no legal obligations upon landholders, and we would simply seek a non-binding letter of agreement in relation to your commitment to protect wildlife and habitats. Joining the WLT would not conflict with any of your current arrangements, legal or otherwise, and aims to entirely complement

existing protection measures in cooperation with ongoing government or non-government schemes.

The benefits of registering with the Trust

The Trust provides an opportunity to become a part of a continually growing international network of sanctuaries, promoting best conservation practices, and protecting wildlife and habitats around the world.

Your property will be highlighted in a special Australian section of the global Wildlife Land Trust website www.wlt.org and you will receive a regular copy of the “Wildlife Lands” newsletter. You will also be provided with a Wildlife Land Trust sign to erect on your property if you wish. In the future, we will be exploring working with other partners, to offer advice on managing for climate change; helping you to benefit from future climate trading/credits programs; establishing a small grants program to help with small management tasks; the longer-term potential for a loyalty discount card through a national sponsor; and offering help to those property owners who would like to “step up” their current non-binding arrangements and seek stronger legal protection.

We would very much like to hear your views on these ideas, which can be sent through the contact details below.

What can I do now?

You can immediately go to www.wlt.org and have a look at what many like-minded people have been doing around the world to protect wildlife and habitats. From this site, if you have an interest in registering your property with the WLT, you can download a PDF application form that you can send directly to us in Sydney. We are still working on an on-line registration process. We very much hope that this new initiative will be attractive to you, enabling you to let the wider-world know what good conservation work you are undertaking for wildlife and habitats in Australia.

If you would like to talk about this invitation directly, please call Michael Kennedy on 1800 333 737 or email him at michael@hsi.org.au.

Good and bad news for Orange Roughy

HSI has succeeded in bringing an end to the chronic over-exploitation of orange roughy after a 3 year campaign. It is now the first commercially fished marine species to be given protection under threatened species laws in the world.

In June 2003, HSI nominated orange roughy for protection under Australia's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Finally, after several delays and strong industry lobbying, the Federal Environment Minister gave the species protection in November last year.

However, the bad news is that the Minister has only listed orange roughy as 'conservation dependent' which is the lowest level of protection available for a threatened species under the EPBC Act. Caving in to industry pressure, the Minister did not follow formal

advice from his Threatened Species Scientific Committee that orange roughy meets the criteria for much tougher protection as 'endangered', since only 7% of its unfished biomass remains. If the orange roughy had been listed as endangered the commercial fishery would have been stopped overnight.

The Conservation Dependent category requires the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to design and implement a Conservation Programme to recover the species. Under this programme 540 tonnes of orange roughy is still allowed to be fished – 400 tonnes as targeted catch and 150 tonnes in bycatch in other fishing areas.

HSI will be monitoring the effectiveness of the Conservation Programme, ready to pressure the government into strengthening its protection if the numbers of orange roughy fall any lower. ■

ACTION NEEDED:

Firstly, please avoid buying orange roughy or deep-sea perch. Secondly, please write to **Ministers Turnbull (Environment and Water Resources) and Abetz (Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation)** (copy to **Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage**) c/o **Parliament House Canberra ACT, 2600**, calling for the total allowable catch (TAC) for orange roughy (400 tonnes of targeted quota and 150 tonnes of bycatch) to be reduced to zero. Please include in your letter a request for all areas below 700m depth to be closed to fishing, including the Cascade Plateau, which is currently still open.

Please send your replies to us.

Palm Oil – the destructive oil

With surging global demand for vegetable oils and the burgeoning biofuel industry, vast areas of rainforest and peat-swamp forests are being cleared in South East Asia, often illegally, to make way for industrial oil palm plantations. Endangered Sumatran and Bornean orangutans, Asian elephants and Sumatran tigers and rhinoceroses are losing their habitats and increasingly becoming the victims of illegal hunting as they are forced out of the forests and into human settlements. This deforestation is also contributing to global climate change, and this

impact is further exacerbated by the long burning methane rich peatland fires that are commonplace where the soils have been drained during clearing. Greenhouse emissions from these fires currently burning across Borneo, Sumatra and Java, are emitting the equivalent of 15% of all global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels, and the toll of these fires on wildlife is also increasing, with thousands of orangutans believed to have been killed in the most recent fires alone.

HSI is lobbying the federal government to develop policy approaches to tighten the restrictions on palm oil being imported into Australia. It is essential that the source of palm oil can be verified to ensure it comes from plantations that have been established on already cleared land. HSI is recommending that consumer products containing palm oil are labelled accordingly, instead of retaining the ambiguous and widespread generic 'vegetable oil' label and use of prohibitions where necessary. HSI is also supporting increased engagement with domestic food and product manufacturers to encourage the phasing out of palm oil as an indiscriminate additive, and the use of locally sourced alternatives. ■

ACTION NEEDED:

Write to the **Minister for Foreign Affairs The Hon Alexander Downer MP, the Ministers for Environment and Water Resources The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP and Abetz (Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation)** (copy to **Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage**) c/o **Parliament House, Canberra 2600**, urging them to strengthen the import guidelines for palm oil, to use prohibitions where necessary, and to establish a mandatory labelling system for products containing palm oil. You can point out the world's fourth biggest importer of palm oil, the Netherlands, has recently banned its use in biofuels.

Please send your replies to us.



Image by HSI volunteer Dianne Fraser

Stopping the fisheries bycatch carnage



Light-mangled sooty albatross by Nigel Brothers.

All over the world interactions with commercial fishing lines and gear cause the death of thousands of albatrosses and petrels, sharks, whales, dolphins and turtles. Over the years HSI has been highly effective in securing measures to reduce the level of fishing interactions in domestic fisheries. Despite these improvements in Australia's waters, the level of fisheries bycatch in the high seas and internationally remains of grave concern.

High seas fishing is regulated by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) which have jurisdiction for either a particular area

or a species. They have traditionally been managed with a narrow focus on the target species, but are increasingly having to adapt to new requirements to consider impacts on other marine species and on the ecosystem as a whole.

HSI is particularly involved with some of the worst RFMO's, including the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, which oversees a bycatch of around 13,000 albatrosses each year. The single mitigation measure in place under Convention is inadequate and poorly enforced and monitored. The new Western and Central Pacific Fisheries

ACTION NEEDED:

Please write to the **Minister for Environment and Water Resources** **The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP** (copy to **Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage**) asking him to ensure that his department is fully resourced and committed to active participation in RFMOs on the issue of bycatch. Please also ask him to develop a consolidated international bycatch agenda which can inform Government participants at all RFMOs. Please also write to the **Fisheries Minister, Senator Eric Abetz**, asking him to ensure that Government delegations to all RFMOs take a strong position on all bycatch issues, and regard them as an equal priority to that of the target species.

Please send your replies to us.

Commission has passed inadequate resolutions against the practice of shark finning and seabird bycatch that exclude a large proportion of the fishing fleet and will not be required for others for another 2 years.

HSI will continue to work with Government and other NGOs to try to ensure that appropriate and effective measures are passed, and if they are not, to ensure that the issue is re-examined at a later meeting. ■

Help HSI by distributing our Brochures. Do you have a business?



A great way for HSI to reach more people across Australia is through the distribution of our brochures.

We currently have over 500 businesses who have offered to display and/or give out HSI brochures and also have a number of committed supporters who combine exercise with helping us by mail dropping our brochures while they walk. If you are interested in helping us spread the word on animal welfare and conservation, please contact our office on the free call **1800 333 737** or complete the coupon below.

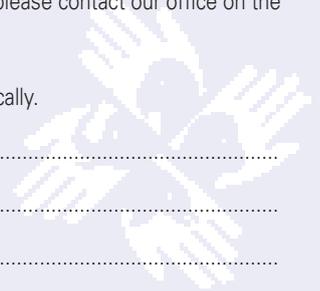
Yes, Please send me(quantity) Counter Packs (50 brochures plus stand) to distribute locally.

Title First Name Last Name.....

Postal Address.....

State Postcode..... Contact Phone ().....

Email.....



Protecting wildlife & habitats...



Image courtesy of Adam Oswell.

In late 2006, the previous Minister for the Environment, Senator Ian Campbell, announced the fourth and final round of the Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP), totalling nearly \$3 million. The grants have been spread throughout South East Asia and the Pacific, helping provide much needed resources for protecting diminishing wildlife and habitats.

The RNHP program has been one of HSI's great campaign successes, working with Senator Meg Lees and Prime Minister Howard to instigate a critical regional conservation program. We understand that Minister Campbell had been seeking a renewal for the program in the lead up to the May budget, and we now need your help to ensure that the Government does indeed maintain this essential program. Please see the Action Box.

The following RNHP projects were approved for funding in 2006 and

- Building recognition and pride - the endemic botanic diversity of Tanna Island, Vanuatu
- Community based marine conservation actions in the atoll of Ailuk, Marshall Islands: implementation of two marine sanctuaries through community decision making, capacity building, vocational training, awareness and education
- Consolidating sustainability of the protection of biodiversity and the Golden-headed Langur on Cat Ba Island, Vietnam
- Marine Turtle Conservation in Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
- Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) in South East Asia
- Protecting the Heart of the Coral Triangle: Strengthening Marine Protected Areas in Eastern Indonesia
- Operation Save Coconut Crab 2006 - a community initiative to conserve rapidly declining stocks of coconut crab in Sanma Province, Vanuatu
- Establishing a legislated area for biodiversity conservation in the Torricelli Mountain Range, Sanduan Province, Papua New Guinea
- Conserving biodiversity of the international RAMSAR site Xuan Thuy National Park (Vietnam) through local community and national action
- Integrated human and conservation

in SE Asia and the Pacific

Green turtle image courtesy of Peter Le Gras



are now being implemented:

- development at Tanjung Puting National Park, Kalimantan
- Conservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Threatened Lowland Rainforest Species within the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, Luzon Island, Philippines
- Conserving northern Vietnam's critically endangered primates through community-based initiatives
- Strengthening Protected Area Networks and Management in the ASEAN region
- Effective Management of World Heritage Sites and Capacity Building for Protected Areas in the Marshall Islands
- Bukit Tigapuluh Mega Fauna Survival Project
- Securing the largest population of orangutan on Earth. The Malua Segama (KOCP) Wildlife Survey
- Central Pacific Transboundary Heritage Site
- Saving southern Sumatra's last elephants: mitigating human-elephant conflicts through local community-driven partnerships
- Conservation of Ahnd Atoll and Small Islands near Pohnpei, Pohnpei State, Federated States of Micronesia in the Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot
- South Pacific Humpback Whale Research Project – 2006 synoptic surveys and regional capacity building
- Phoenix Islands Conservation Project, Kiribati

ACTION NEEDED:

Please write to the **Prime Minister John Howard** and to **Malcolm Turnbull MP, Minister for Environment & Water Resources**, (copy to **Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage**) c/o **Parliament House Canberra, ACT 2600**, letting them know that you think this program has been extremely successful in helping protect wildlife and habitats in SE Asia and the Pacific, and that Australia's reputation as a "good neighbour" can only be enhanced by the program's continuation. Ask that \$20 million be set aside for a minimum 3 year program in the coming budget.

Please send your replies to us.

List of Conservation & Animal Welfare Ministers

Federal:

- **Prime Minister**, The Honourable John Howard, MP (Fax 02 6273 4100) www.pm.gov.au/email.cfm
- **Minister for the Environment and Water Resources** (conservation issues) The Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, MP (Fax 02 6273 6101) Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au
- **Minister for Forestry & Conservation** Senator, The Honourable Eric Abetz (Fax 02 6273 7096) senator.abetz@aph.gov.au
- **Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry***, The Honourable Warren Peter McGauran (Fax 02 6273 4120) Peter.McGauran.MP@aph.gov.au

Victoria:

- **VIC Premier**, The Honourable Steve Bracks (Fax 03 9651 5054) steve.bracks@parliament.vic.gov.au
- **Minister for Agriculture*** The Honourable Joe Helper (Fax 03 9658 4631) Joe.Helper@parliament.vic.gov.au
- **Minister for Water, Environment & Climate Change** The Honourable John Thwaites (Fax 03 9651 1188) John.Thwaites@parliament.vic.gov.au

New South Wales:

- **NSW Premier**, The Honourable Morris Iemma (Fax 02 9228 3934) thepremier@www.nsw.gov.au
- **Minister for Natural Resources /**

Minister for Primary Industries*

Senator, The Honourable Ian MacDonald (Fax 02 9228 3452) macdonald.office@macdonald.minister.nsw.gov.au

- **Minister for the Environment**, The Honourable Bob Debus (Fax 02 9228 3166) bob.debus@debus.minister.nsw.gov.au

Queensland:

- **QLD Premier**, The Honourable Peter Beattie (Fax 07 3221 3631) premiers@ministerial.qld.gov.au
- **Minister for Environment & Multiculturalism**, The Honourable Lindel (Lindy) Nelson-Carr (Fax 07 3227 6309) EandM@ministerial.qld.gov.au
- **Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries***, The Timothy Mulherin (Fax 07 3229 8541) dpi@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Western Australia:

- **WA Premier**, The Honourable Alan Carpenter (Fax 08 9322 1213) wa.government@dpc.gov.au
- **Minister for Agriculture and Food / Minister for Forestry**, The Honourable Kimberley (Kim) Maurice Chance (Fax 08 9213 6701) kchance@dpc.wa.gov.au
- **Minister for Environment**, The Honourable Anthony (Tony) McRae (Fax 08 9213 7155) tony.mcrae@dpc.wa.gov.au
- **Minister for Fisheries**, The Honourable Jonathan (Jon) Robert Ford (Fax 08 9213 7201) jon-ford@dpc.wa.gov.au

South Australia

- **SA Premier**, The Honourable Mike Rann (Fax 08 8463 3168) premier@saugov.sa.gov.au
- **Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries***, The Honourable Rory McEwan MP (Fax 08 8226 0316) Minister.mcewan@state.sa.gov.au
- **Minister for Environment and Conservation**, The Honourable Gail Gago MLC (Fax 08 8463 5681) minister.gago@saugov.sa.gov.au

Northern Territory

- **Minister for Primary Industries & Fisheries***, Mr Christopher (Chris) William (Fax 08 8901 4134) electorate.drysdale@nt.gov.au
- **Minister for Natural Resources, Environment & Heritage**, The Honourable Marion Rose Scrymgeour (Fax 08 8901 4110) Marion.scrymgeour@nt.gov.au

Tasmania

- **TAS Premier**, The Honourable Paul Lennon (Fax 03 6234 1572) paul.lennon@parliament.tas.gov.au
- **Minister for Tourism, Arts and the Environment***, The Honourable Paula Wriedt (Fax 03 6233 4980) paula.wriedt@parliament.tas.gov.au
- **Minister for Primary Industries and Water**, The Honourable David Llewellyn (Fax 03 6233 2272) david.llewellyn@parliament.tas.gov.au

All letters to Federal Ministers should be addressed: C/- Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.
 All letters to State Ministers should be addressed: C/- Parliament House, in your capital city. *Animal Welfare Minister



How can I help animals even when I no longer share their world?

Through your bequest for animal protection to Humane Society International, you can provide for animals after you've gone. Naming HSI in your Will demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal protection and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal protection programs and material that will assist you in planning a Will.

Yes, please send more information on leaving a bequest to HSI.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postcode _____

PLEASE POST TO HSI, PO BOX 439, AVALON NSW 2107 OR PHONE FREECALL 1800 333 737

Controversial proposals for upcoming wildlife trade meeting

Proposals have now been submitted from countries all over the world for animals and plants to be added or removed from the global list of species controlled in trade under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The parties to the convention will be meeting in the Netherlands in June 2007.

Once again, elephants are on the agenda, with African countries in a tussle over the trade in ivory, with Kenya and Mali recommending a total trade ban for the next 20 years, in contrast to the increased trade being proposed by Tanzania. Spotted cats are also the subject of controversial proposals, with the bobcat and leopard both at risk from increased trophy hunting if the proposal to downlist them is successful.

In a controversial move to weaken the protection of whales and dolphins, Japan has submitted a resolution to have the listing of all cetaceans reviewed. These species are currently afforded the highest level of protection under CITES. Numerous attempts to downlist whale species at previous CITES meetings have proved unsuccessful, and this review seeks to challenge the International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whaling by reducing their protection under CITES.

This year is also proving to be a big year for the listing of commercially exploited marine fish, with proposals for protection being submitted for the European eel, porbeagle shark, spiny dogfish, sawfish and Banggai cardinalfish.

HSI has worked hard to get marine fish on the agenda at CITES meetings, and will be present at this year's meeting to increase support for nominated species. Despite the absence this year of any Australian species proposals, it is essential that Australia support those of other countries seeking increased protection for marine and terrestrial species. ■



Image courtesy of HSI supporter Sandy Kelly.

ACTION NEEDED:

Write to **The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Minister for Environment & Water Resources**, (copy to **Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage**) c/o Parliament House, Canberra 2600 urging his government to support all proposals that give increased protection for the animal and plants proposed, and strongly oppose any nominations to down-list animal or plant species under CITES, at the next meeting in June 2007.

Please send your replies to us

Become an HSI regular supporter and spread your donations evenly across the year!

Although our campaigners have many specific targets each year there is also a great need to plan long term strategies for many of the major environmental and animal welfare issues we face. By supporting us with a regular monthly pledge, you empower us to budget with confidence for these projects.

As a regular supporter of HSI, your tax-deductible donations will be deducted from either your credit card (Amex, Mastercard, Visa) or a nominated bank account once per month, and can start with any amount that suits your budget! To receive further information please feel free to contact our office on free call **1800 333 737** or simply complete the coupon below to receive our regular pledge authorisation forms.

Thank you also to all our existing regular supporters – without your help our work for the animals would be greatly diminished.

Yes, please send more information on becoming a regular supporter of HSI.

Title First Name Last Name

Postal Address

State Postcode Contact Phone () Email

The tragedy of Bushmeat

Wildlife in many parts of the world is under serious threat of extinction from the 'bushmeat' crisis; the over-exploitation of wildlife for trade and human consumption. In tropical forests alone, over 1000 species are hunted, including elephants, gorillas, crocodiles, pangolins, porcupines, spotted cats, chimpanzees and many others. Although wildlife is hunted unsustainably throughout the world's tropics, the crisis resulting from the growth of commercial trade is greatest in west and central Africa where species such as leopards, golden cats and elephants are already locally extinct, and 34 mammal species (mostly primates) are threatened with extinction in the wild. The bushmeat trade has reduced Africa's chimpanzee population from well over 1 million to as little as 150,000 individuals today.

HSI has long battled wildlife poaching and the bushmeat trade in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Guinea, and has now joined forces with other concerned organisations, including the Jane Goodall Institute, in an effort to protect chimpanzees and other wildlife on the shared border areas between Guinea and Sierra Leone. During this 2 year project, HSI will work with legislators, law enforcement agencies, educators, community leaders and the general public to develop awareness of the critical importance of chimpanzees and all wildlife. HSI will stage regional workshops to provide training in enforcement, species identification, animal handling and transportation, and develop the foundations for regional and national strategies to curb illegal practices that threaten wildlife and their habitats. ■

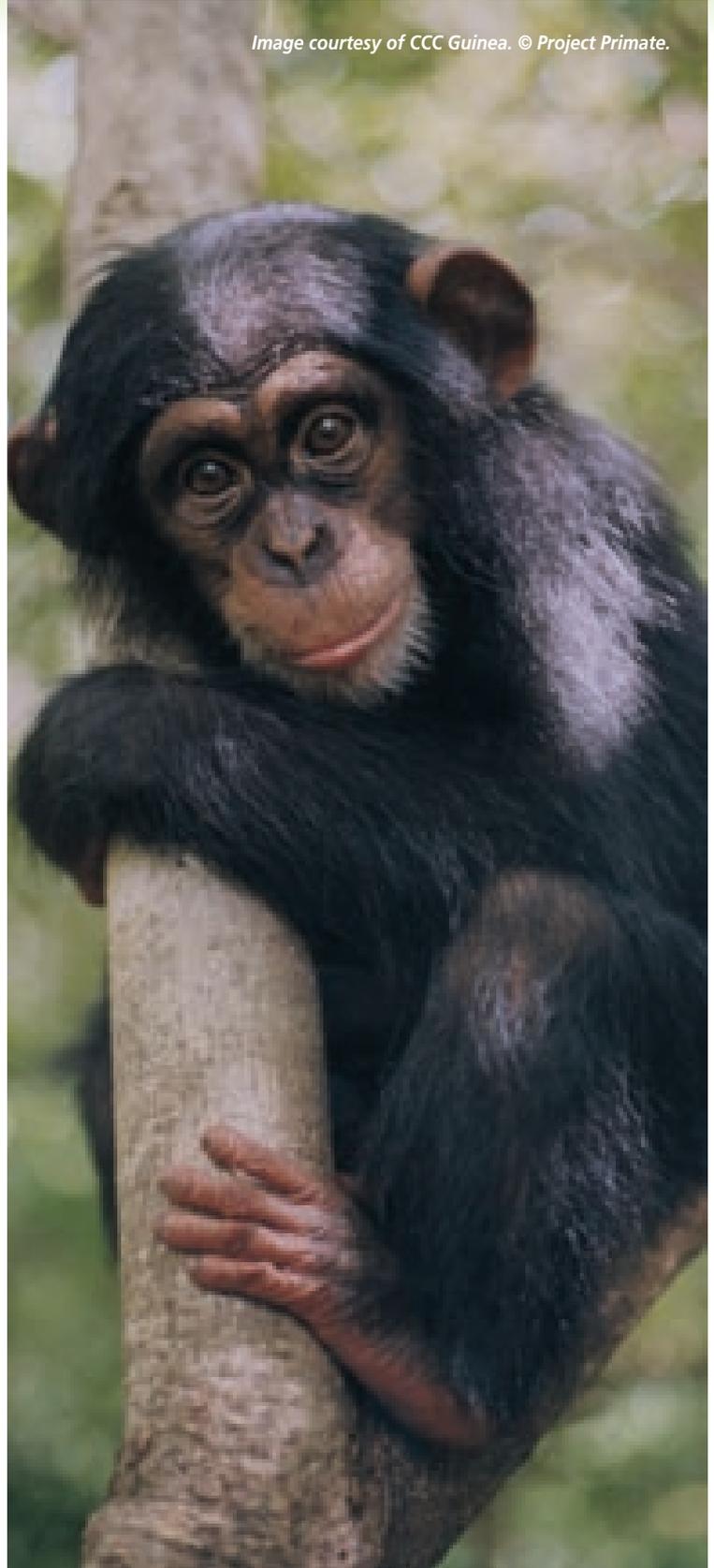


Image courtesy of CCC Guinea. © Project Primate.

ACTION NEEDED:

Please write to **Malcolm Turnbull MP, Minister for Environment & Water Resources, and Alexander Downer MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs**, (copy to **Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage**) c/o Parliament House, Canberra ACT, 2600 asking that the government become a full State member of the UNEP/ UNESCO Great Ape Survival Project (GRASP) and provide a significant donation to the work of GRASP in protecting the great apes in Africa.

Please send your replies to us

“Black Market Media”

- new efforts to help stop wildlife trade in Asia



Image courtesy of Adam Oswell.

HSI is now supporting the development of a new website to provide a new focus point for fighting illegal wildlife trade. Project Coordinator Adam Oswell writes the following:

“**Black Market Media** is a broad, image driven media project focusing on the trade in endangered species. The global trade in wildlife is massive; it is now the single biggest threat to wildlife, worth over US\$7 billion per year and second only to the trade in drugs and arms. The subject matter is highly relevant to the situation facing wildlife at the present time. Wildlife trade, driven by burgeoning human economies, and

the unsustainable demand of consumer tastes, has driven countless species to the verge of extinction, and has led to the collapse of animal food chains across the Asian region.

Black Market Media clearly illustrates how rapidly wild species are becoming critically endangered, and why the issue must be urgently and effectively addressed before it is too late.

The internet presence will gain extensive exposure on the issue and provide an immediate outlet for material being produced. The website will establish a comprehensive news archive

with regular updates as a reference and single dedicated source of information on wildlife conservation in Asia that is accurate and up-to-date. It will provide an on-line forum to involve the public in reporting wildlife crime and relevant information on wildlife trade in the region and provide an outlet to complement the regional exhibitions and promotion of the newly established ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network. Applying a popular medium to reach diverse groups is a unique approach with this issue and this facility will have an enormous impact.” ■

Court case against Japanese whalers stays on track

The Japanese ‘scientific’ whaling fleet have been active again in the Southern Ocean this year, with a target of 935 minke whales and 10 endangered fin whales for the season. Unless they are stopped, next year they will increase the number of fin whales to 50 and also hunt 50 of the iconic humpback whales.

HSI is still fighting the legal battle to keep the whalers out of Australian waters, despite news that the Japanese government had intervened to prevent the service of court documents to the whaling company, Kyodo Senpaku. This intrusion by the Japanese Attorney-General’s office into the normal practice of serving legal documents through diplomatic channels is unprecedented

and illustrates the level of government support for the whalers. Beyond delaying the proceedings, it will however have no impact on the running of the case.

A recent court hearing in Sydney has granted HSI leave to serve the documents via other less orthodox means using friendly contacts we have in Tokyo. The next court appearance is scheduled for August when we will discover how much Kyodo Senpaku respects the Australian legal system.

HSI is ably represented in these legal proceedings by Stephen Gageler QC, Junior Counsel Chris McGrath and the Environment Defender’s Office. ■

STOP PRESS: Papers have now been successfully served on Kyodo.



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ACTION NEEDED:

Please write to **Minister Turnbull** (copy to **Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage**) requesting the government to engage in high level diplomatic talks with their Japanese counterparts objecting to their ‘scientific’ whaling program (JARPA2) and to support HSI’s ongoing legal case against the Japanese whaling company Kyodo Senpaku.
Please send your replies to us.

Urgent federal election action required

As the campaign hots up between the various political parties in the lead-up to the next federal election at the end of the year, it is of paramount importance that we let both the government and opposition know our environmental concerns.

While we will give them a long list of policy requests, the following items are of particular concern to HSI. We would very much like you to take the time in the next few weeks to sit down and convey these election requests to the leaders of both major parties.

Letters should be sent to the **Prime Minister John Howard, Kevin Rudd MP, Leader of the Opposition, Malcolm Turnbull MP, Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Peter Garrett MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Heritage, all c/o Parliament House Canberra, ACT, 2600.** Make sure you ask them to reply specifically to your election requests.

Ask them to:

- Ensure the renewal of the Regional Natural Heritage Program (RNHP) protecting wildlife and habitats in South East Asia and the South Pacific allocating \$20 million over 3 years (see pages 6 and 7 - we would also like you to write a separate letter on this issue)

- Match the RNHP with a program for South East Asia and the South Pacific that provides grants for climate change and biodiversity adaptation programs (\$20 million over 3 years)
- Protect all of Australia's wild and least disturbed rivers by including them in the National Heritage List
- Establish a \$10 billion "National Biodiversity Program" over 5 years, guided by a strengthened Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999, and agreed national priorities
- Full implementation of the "National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan" and renewal of the "National Biodiversity Hotspots Program"
- Investigate further international initiatives to protect Antarctica and list the Australian Antarctic Territory and its Whale Sanctuary under the National Heritage list
- Develop a long-term regional strategy to ensure Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and other relevant fora, implement mandatory regimes to prevent incidental wildlife bycatch and minimise ecosystem impacts

Many thanks for your help and **please send your replies back to us** as soon as you can. ■



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