



Charles blames inept Tories for floods 'tragedy'

SEE PAGES 6&7

SHOCK INVESTIGATION



BARBARIC
Kenyan ranger with elephant slaughtered for its tusks

THE ELEPHANT SLAYER

EXCLUSIVE

BY TOM PARRY in Kenya

A KENYAN poacher boasted how he brutally slaughtered more than 70 elephants for their valuable tusks.

John Sumokwo, 33, is part of a sickening £12billion-a-year ivory trade which is funding terrorism - and endangering the species.

The father-of-six said: "They screamed as they died. But to me it was just business."

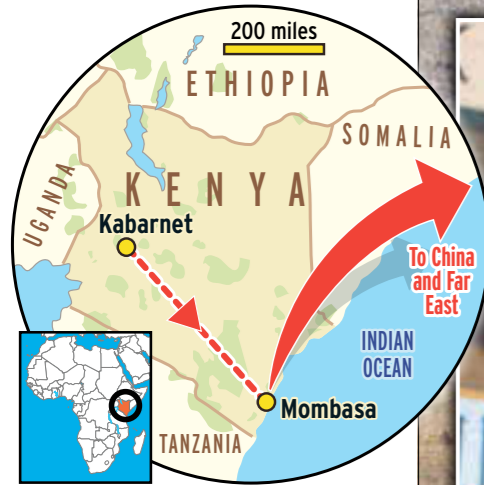
FULL STORY: PAGES 4&5



BUTCHER
Heartless Sumokwo

» Poacher boasts of 70 kills » £12bn ivory trade funds terrorism

MIRROR INVESTIGATES: IVORY TRADE FUNDING TERRORISTS



EXCLUSIVE
BY TOM PARRY
in Kabarnet, Kenya

It has been dubbed "the white gold of jihad" – and the brutal slaughter of African elephants for their ivory is helping extremists to bankroll terrorism around the world.

The sickening trade is said to be worth around £4.5 billion to some of the most feared international groups, including those linked to the ruthless al-Shabaab network.

But to dirt-poor Kenyans like John Sumokwo it is just a heartless way to make a bit of quick cash – no matter where the big profits end up.

The convicted poacher boasted how he has butchered more than 70 elephants for their tusks – selling them on to shadowy dealers for a fraction of what they can fetch on the black market.

He described how he speared the magnificent beasts through the heart before hacking off their trunks, skinning their heads and cutting off the ivory with an axe.

Sumokwo's revelations come just days before Britain hosts world leaders for an international summit on how to combat the barbaric killings and end the illegal trafficking.

Motivated by the massive demand for ivory trinkets and jewellery in China and



POACHER

Sumokwo boasts that he has slaughtered more than 70 elephants in 10 years

» Elephant slaying brings in £4.5bn for feared extremists

» Species at risk as cruel poachers kill 60,000 in two years



HORRIFIC
Elephant lies butchered for "white gold"



KILLERS

Al-Shabaab terror gang brings carnage to Nairobi mall last year, killing 67

We must save wildlife before it is too late

COMMENT
BY JOHAN BERGENAS, Author of Killing Animals, Buying Arms report

IN the last few years, poachers killed around 60,000 elephants and over 1,600 rhinos. At the same time the link between African criminals and terrorist activities – such as the Nairobi shopping mall attack – grew stronger.

It is impossible to know for sure the extent of the connection between wildlife crime and terrorist organisations, but the UN Secretary-General, the Kenya Wildlife Service and a number of non governmental organisations have identified links to al-Shabaab and the Lord's Resistance Army.

This deadly connection presents an opportunity for an unusual but necessary marriage. Military, security, development and conservation organisations must find uncharted common ground to effectively combat this issue.

Next week, world leaders will gather to raise awareness of this complex issue and, hopefully, come up with a plan of action to fix it.

Currently, the poachers have more sophisticated equipment than wildlife services and this discrepancy must be fixed.

Second, the effort should enlist the private sector. The security technology needed to protect wildlife is similar to the protection of other economic infrastructures.

Let's hope that the London Summit will be a platform to defeat criminals and save wildlife in Africa before it is too late.

“To me this was just business. The buyer paid me & then sold it”

JOHN SUMOKWO
POACHER IN KENYA



BUTCHERY & BLOODBATHS

the Far East, poachers like Sumokwo, 33, are bringing the world's elephant population to the brink of extinction.

So great is the threat, British troops from the Parachute Regiment have been training Kenyan wildlife rangers involved in fight back.

Sumokwo, who was finally caught red-handed after running an ivory poaching gang for a decade, was released from prison two months ago after serving just over a year behind bars. But he recalled little remorse as he showed his kills in horrific detail. "I remember

SEIZED Two tusks confiscated by wildlife rangers in Kenya

the way the elephants scream when they die," said the father of six, vibrating his tongue against the roof of his mouth to imitate the sound.

"When I killed the elephants, the others would shout. They were extremely distressed.

"They would run around looking for ways of defending the one I had attacked. I remember one young calf saw me kill her mum.

"She ran off for protection from other animals. My attacks were so

frequent that the elephants could not mate and have calves. There were not enough male bull elephants left.

"To me, this was just business – I didn't think about it any other way. The buyer gave me money and then sold it off to the big syndicates in Mombasa."

With his primitive weapons, Sumokwo slaughtered one in seven of the elephants in the idyllic Lake Kamnarok Game Reserve.

We spoke to him in the town of Kabarnet, high above the Kerio Valley, which were his killing fields.

Shielded by dense vegetation, the valley floor was once a place where herds of elephants roamed undisturbed. Now there are only 500 left. He explained: "We killed them with spears. They were

extremely sharp. I would always have two spears because if you did not kill the elephant with the first one he would try to kill me.

"Elephants are not easy. If they see you they can run after you and kill you. I was chased several times, but I got more experience.

"I knew exactly where to put the spear. It has to go in near the heart, and then the elephant dies immediately.

"I would climb up a tree and I would wait for them to come to that area to graze. I studied their movements, so I knew exactly where they went.

"The more I killed the longer it would take to get the next one because the elephants would remember where I hid and go a different way. As they

approached, other men in my gang would push the animals and kick them, so they came in my direction. We targeted the old bull elephants because they have the longest tusks."

Sumokwo said he and his gang were paid £80 a kilo for the ivory – about £9,600 for an average bull elephant.

In China the tusks can fetch more than £2,000 a kilo. It is this massive profit margin that has led to the involvement of terrorist organisations.

Andrea Crosta, of pressure group the Elephant Action League said ivory trafficking funded "up to 40% of the cost of al-Shabaab's army of 5,000 people".

He estimated the jihadists made up to £365,000 a month from ivory alone. The tusks Sumokwo hacked off with an

axe were sold in Mombasa – then some will have been sold on to al-Shabaab. The terror gang last year killed more than 60 people in the Westgate mall massacre in Nairobi.

A key figure among the jihadists is White Widow Samantha Lewthwaite.

The mum of four, from Aylesbury, Bucks, is the widow of one of the 7/7 bombers, and is wanted for seven murders in Kenya.

The lethal combination of wildlife destruction and terrorism is the reason 50 world leaders have been invited to next week's London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, hosted by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Prince Charles and Prince William are also due to attend. Yesterday Foreign

Secretary William Hague, who will chair the conference, said: "We know that the trade feeds corruption and organised crime and creates regional instability.

"I know that the challenge we face is significant and that the threat is highly organised and ruthless. But it can be defeated and we can reverse the decline in species. I am determined we do so before it is too late."

Recent figures estimate the worldwide illegal wildlife trade is worth

a total £12 billion each year – making it the fourth most lucrative illegal activity behind only drugs, counterfeiting and human trafficking

Kenyan organisation Wildlife Direct has described the trade as being "the same as the previous blood diamond crisis in West Africa".

Analysts believe terrorists are ultimately behind a surge in poaching which has seen up to 60,000 elephants and 1,650 rhinos killed in the last two years.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

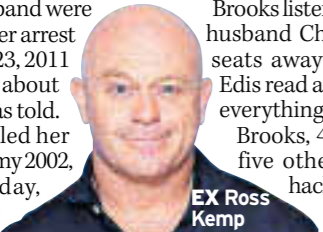
AHEAD of next week's summit in London on the illegal wildlife trade, the International Fund for Animal Welfare asked the British public to donate any

unwanted ivory items so they can be removed from the marketplace and destroyed. There is still time to donate to the charity. If you have unwanted

ivory please call IFAW on 020 7587 6700. To find out more about IFAW's essential work and how you can get involved visit www.ifaw.org

TV ROSS 'GOT PHONE HACK EMAIL' FROM EX

BY RUSSELL MYERS
 REBEKAH Brooks contacted her TV star ex-husband Ross Kemp at the height of the phone-hacking crisis, a jury heard yesterday. Emails between the ex-News International boss and her ex-husband were found on her phone after her arrest – one at 11.30pm on June 23, 2011 said "Need to talk to you about phone hacking", a court was told. An hour later she emailed her personal assistants: "Need my 2002, 2003 diaries." The next day, ex-EastEnders star Kemp



EX Ross Kemp

Jab injects a heart tester

A MAN has become one of the first in Britain to have a tiny heart monitor injected straight into his body. Doctors took less than two minutes to insert it into David Baldock's chest. David, 68, of Uckfield, East Sussex, a retired locksmith, said: "It was less stressful than going to the dentist." He is part of a trial of the new monitors which are a tenth the size of traditional ones and less noticeable under the skin. They can work for up to three years, checking for irregular heart rhythms.

TERROR TRADE DAY 2: HUMAN AND ANIMAL TOLL

Orphaned by evil ivory poachers



ORPHAN ELEPHANT Quanza, now two, with keeper Amos

« Baby saw her mum blasted with AK47 then have her tusks hacked off

7 children of the ranger shot dead as he protected elephants »



ORPHAN FAMILY Grieving relatives of hero ranger Jonathan Mancha, shot dead by ivory poachers

Hear our interview with a poacher
FREE
 mirror.co.uk



LOSING BATTLE Ranger team at the Amboseli National Park

1,000
 Wildlife park rangers in 35 countries have been killed by poachers in the last 10 years

Pictures: ROWAN GRIFFITHS

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EXCLUSIVE
 BY TOM PARRY in Amboseli, Kenya
 Meet Quanza, an elephant orphan who was one year old when she saw her mother shot dead with an assault rifle before her tusks were hacked off by poachers. Quanza's two sisters went the same way and the young calf was spared only because she had no ivory worth wasting a bullet on. She is one of the thousands of African elephants left orphaned as crime syndicates linked to terrorism sell prized "white gold" to the Far East. But the violent massacre of defenceless creatures has a human cost too. More than a thousand wildlife rangers have been murdered by poachers in 35 different countries over the last decade. They include Jonathan Mancha, shot dead by gun-toting Somalis in Kenya's Amboseli National Park where Quanza was born, leaving seven children between 15 and three without a father. Jonathan, 37, had been chief ranger for

15 years when told a poaching gang was at large. He was off duty but that didn't stop him waving goodbye to his family, jumping in his Kenya Wildlife Service jeep and heading for the scene of the massacre. That was the last time they saw him. I meet the family in a tiny, stifling hovel down a rutted mud track. Old newspapers cover the wooden walls. Older brother Tim, who has stepped in to support the children, tells me Jonathan was a hero. Widow Alfonzina, 50, has to go outside as we begin to speak. She can't bear to be reminded of what happened. Tim recalls: "He was told by another ranger that men, he called them butchers, had killed a giraffe and an elephant. He said, 'I'm not going home while poachers are slaughtering animals.' "It was believed these were Somali poachers and I warned him that Somalis shoot to kill, not to scare. "John and the other rangers had to go out into the bush on foot and they spotted the poachers. There were four of them, lying down. The rangers

opened fire but the poachers retaliated and John was shot in the thigh. The bleeding was so bad that he died very quickly. No one could stop the bleeding. The poachers had better weapons." The killing of rangers on the poaching frontline is one issue David Cameron and African heads of state will discuss at a London conference on the £12 billion illegal wildlife trade next week. Gangs linked to al-Shabaab fire their assault rifles indiscriminately at rangers often armed only with wooden batons, then flee over the border to lawless Somalia. In just one national park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, 183 park rangers were killed in 10 years. In Amboseli, where 1,500 elephants roam freely on the dusty plains,

watching 13ft-high bull elephants tear up grass with their trunks as their calves follow meekly behind in an awe-inspiring sight. It seems inconceivable anyone would kill them simply for their ivory. Yet the vast empty space beneath Mount Kilimanjaro is too large to be patrolled adequately, and that makes the animals vulnerable. In October 2012, Quanza was beside her mother Qumquat, the leader of the family, when poachers strafed their herd with AK47 bullets. She was one of three elderly mothers killed, targeted for her long tusks which would fetch up to £80,000 in the Far East. The poachers had lain in wait on the Amboseli herd's migration route to the forests of Tanzania. Rangers found Quanza standing next to her mother's rotting carcass, the family's only survivor. It is stories like this that made me see Quanza risk his life. As I talk to his

brother in the half-light of the mud-floored room, Jonathan's children play in the overgrown yard outside. They are too poor to afford school. "I will always believe that he died a gallant soldier," says Tim. "He protected those elephants as though they were people. He was a very dedicated man who was passionate about wildlife." Happily for Quanza, her story has a happier ending. Unable to survive alone, she was sedated and flown to an elephant orphanage in the Kenyan capital Nairobi run by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Now tended by keeper Amos Lakalau, she spends her days with other orphans in woodland and sleeps in a guarded enclosure. Once rehabilitated, she will be returned to the wild. Dame Daphne Sheldrick, 80, who tells me Quanza is likely to have seen her

mother's face hacked apart with an axe to get at the tusks, says: "It takes two years for the gestation of a baby elephant compared to nine months for man. "This means it takes a long time for herds to regenerate if the older adults are targeted. Our anti-snaring teams are always catching poachers and alerting the authorities but the next day they are out again. They are laughing at them." Dame Daphne, honoured in 2006 for her lifetime's work, adds: "There is no doubt that ivory smuggling syndicates are involved in arms and drugs. It is undoubtedly linked to terrorism, to al-Shabaab. The syndicates have become extremely rich through killing elephants. "Corruption has always been a problem. The poachers have the connections to bribe their way out of prison." Prices of more than £100 a kilo for ivory in Kenya mean big money for the poorest people. "The temptation is

enormous," she says. "In Kenya there are no social security benefits so a man has to live by whatever means he can. "The key lies in China. As long as there is a demand for ivory, elephants will be killed. Until the sale of ivory is banned completely there will be a problem, and China will be seen as the villain. "In China ivory is seen as a status symbol. It is considered white gold." I realise the enormity of the challenge when I meet ranger Moses Sinkooi, 30, and his team of three in a simple hut up a rocky hill. It's a far outpost, a small dot on a vast horizon. The team monitor 5,000 acres on foot and the odds are stacked enormously against them. "Three elephants were shot dead near here," Moses tells me. "It's hard. There are only four of us and many of them." But the dedicated rangers will not give up... because, until the politicians take decisive action, they are the last line of defence for the animals they care for. ■ The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) works to improve the welfare of elephants and other animals around the world, with projects in more than 40 countries.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

BEFORE next week's London summit on the illegal wildlife trade, the International Fund for Animal Welfare asks the public to donate any

unwanted ivory items so they can be removed from the marketplace and destroyed. There is still time to donate to the charity. If you have unwanted

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CAMPAIGN Dame Daphne Sheldrick says China is the villain

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TERROR TRADE: THE TUSK FORCE



TRAGIC Anne-Marie Ellement

Hanged Cpl 'was target of bug prank'

BY EUAN STRETCH

COLLEAGUES of a military policewoman who hanged herself released a box of live crickets in her room as part of a bullying campaign, an inquest heard.

Cpl Anne-Marie Ellement, 30, died in 2011, two years after allegedly being raped in Germany.

Her friend Cpl Charlotte Berrill told the inquest in Salisbury, Wilts: "She had two pet bearded dragons.

"After the rape allegation, she left her room to use the bathroom and a box of live crickets had been released and they were everywhere."

Cpl Berrill said Anne-Marie had been accused of crying rape and "felt she couldn't trust anybody".

A 2012 inquest ruled that Anne-Marie, from Bourne-mouth, took her own life.

The High Court later ordered the fresh hearing, which continues.



SHAMEFUL Border Force's Grant Miller with ivory haul



VILE Tusk from young elephant and, below, seized carvings



Take poaching seriously or elephants will die out



PLAY Boy's building bricks

'Sexist' toy shops block career paths

BY JAMES LYONS

TOY shop sexism is damaging the economy, a minister warned yesterday.

Lib Dem Jenny Willott said that marketing different toys to boys and girls leads to fewer women taking up science and engineering.

The Consumer Affairs Minister said the UK will "miss out on vital talent" unless girls are encouraged to take an interest. She added: "It also costs our economy significant amounts."

A large part of the gender pay gap is down to the industries in which women work, she added.

The Westminster Hall debate was organised by Chi Onwurah, who was an engineer before she became a Labour shadow minister.

She said: "Not every girl who plays with Lego is going to be an architect... but why should we limit girls' aspirations at so early an age?"

EXCLUSIVE

BY TOM PARRY



THEY are beautifully ornate sculptures and intricate jewellery – but each of these ivory trinkets represents a dead elephant.

Seized by officials at Heathrow in recent years, the ivory was destined for the highly lucrative Chinese market.

The UK Border Force has become increasingly concerned that Britain is one of the key transit points.

With cartels linked to the al-Shabaab militant network in Somalia and other terror groups looking to fund outrages, blocking the flow of ivory from Africa to the Far East is a global priority.

The Daily Mirror revealed this week that poaching cartels are increasingly using automatic weapons to kill elephants as they cash in on the boom.

Grant Miller, head of the anti-wildlife trafficking team at Heathrow, has seen a massive jump in the quantity of ivory coming through the airport.

More than 80 kilos of ivory was seized in the year to April 2013, worth £400,000 at market prices.

This was a huge leap from the previous year's haul of just three kilos.

In one of the worst cases, 15 kilos of ivory bangles, beads, name seals and pendants was being smuggled from Nigeria via London to importers in Hong Kong and Guangzhou, China.

The discovery, in August 2012, was in a package labelled as "handicraft samples" concealed in tin foil. Some had been made

Evil ivory sales routed via the UK

to look like electrical circuits while one piece from a baby elephant was painted black to make it appear like wood.

As world leaders head for London next week and a summit on the deadly trade in elephant tusks, Mr Miller says: "The increase in seizures is driven by greed and demand in China and the Far East.

"Ivory and rhino horn are seen as status symbols. It allows people to show off their wealth. Workers in Africa are posting smaller consignments in courier packages that get routed through London.

"These are Chinese workers trying to make a fast buck by sending home ivory.

"If you look at the poaching levels, the figures are going through the roof. We are at a critical stage in terms of environmental issues. If we do not take this seriously, we will lose threatened species."

The ivory is usually sent through air freight companies with consignments mis-labelled to avoid detection.

The UK Border Force has sniffer dogs to combat a trade that is bringing elephants

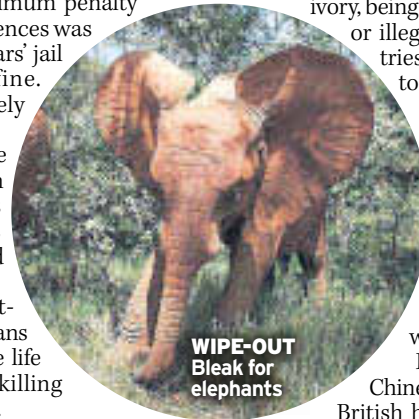
to the point of extinction. But few of those sending packages of ivory from recently killed elephants through Britain are ever prosecuted.

In 2005, the maximum penalty for wildlife trade offences was increased to five years' jail or an unlimited fine. Yet such cases rarely reach court.

The Illegal Wildlife Trade conference in London will discuss strengthening laws against poaching and ivory smuggling.

In Kenya, a tightening of the laws means poachers could face life imprisonment for killing endangered species.

It marks a dramatic step-up from lax sentences, which meant John Sumokwo, who killed 70 elephants, spent little over a year in prison. World leaders will meet



WIPE-OUT Bleak for elephants

with David Cameron as well as the Prince of Wales and Prince William.

Tania McCrear-Steele, of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, says the crisis is made worse by China's growing investment in Africa.

She adds: "We are seeing a significant amount of wildlife products, particularly ivory, being purchased in markets or illegally in African countries and being couriered to China via the UK."

The IFAW conducted a poll in China showing that seven out of 10 people did not realise every piece of ivory comes from a dead elephant. Six in 10 people in Britain were also oblivious.

Police have raided Chinese medicine shops on British high streets in recent years. But the IFAW is also raising concerns about the growing online trade in illegal wildlife products.

Over a two-week period, researchers spotted 104 ivory items and two rhino horns for sale on UK-hosted websites.

LABOUR MP Barry Gardiner "paid tribute" yesterday to the Daily Mirror's series on illegal poaching during a House of Commons debate on international wildlife crime. He added: "The task does remain significant. Illegal wildlife trade continues to generate \$20 billion a year for the criminal gangs and terrorist groups."

tom.parry@mirror.co.uk

HOW YOU CAN HELP JUMBOS

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) works to improve the welfare of elephants and other animals around the world.

Ahead of next week's London summit on illegal wildlife trade, IFAW

is encouraging people to donate any ivory items so they can be removed from the marketplace and destroyed.

There is still time to donate. Please call IFAW on 020 7587 6700 or email info-uk@ifaw.org