

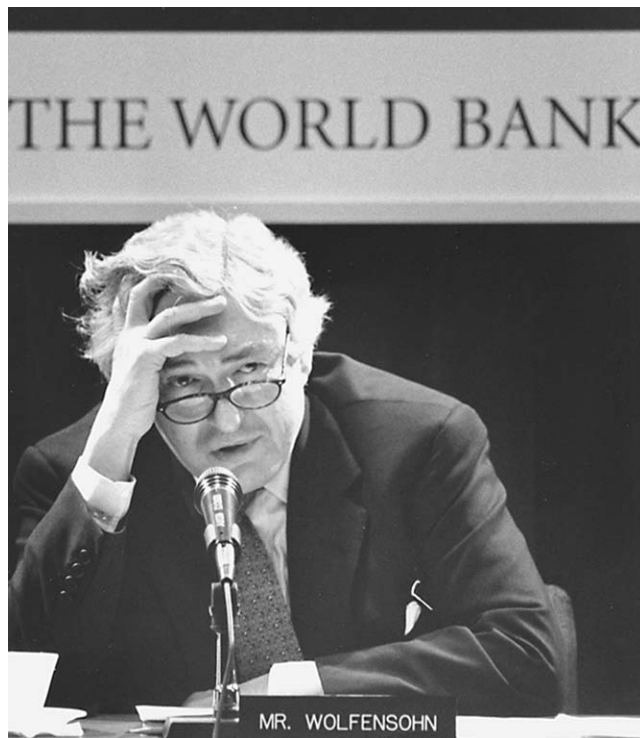
African 'peace parks': the new colonialism

by Roger Moore

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), otherwise known as the World Conservation Union, held a conference in September in South Africa on "peace parks" — animal and nature reserves that are eventually supposed to become transfrontier border zones, outside the control of sovereign nations. At a time when U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson has been stymied in forcing the investigation of the massacres of Hutu refugees in Congo-Zaire, a speaker at the conference obscenely complained that the media had focussed too much on the Rwandan refugees in Zaire, and had hardly taken note of the "massive destruction" of forests, gorillas, elephants, and rare plants in the tri-border area of Uganda, Rwanda, Congo-Zaire, through which the refugees had been driven.

The IUCN wants to create a cross-border park in this area, known as the Virunda volcanic region. Dr. David McDowell, the director-general of the Swiss-based IUCN, told the peace parks conference, paraphrased by the Sept. 22 *Cape Times*, "Population pressures will exacerbate environmental scarcity and the area of high quality agricultural land and forests will decline, as will plant, animal, and marine species. . . . Heightened conflict will arise, at least in part as the consequence of the resource scarcities." Cribbed from Parson Malthus perhaps? National boundaries split ecosystems down the middle, and therefore, the creation of cross-border peace parks "could reduce stress along historically tense borders by giving governments an agenda for mutual action on issues of common concern." In reality, such parks are used for guerrilla warfare and "Third Force" operations designed to halt economic development and eliminate any opposition to reimposition of colonial policies. Elephants, gorillas, and high-brow eco-colonialists, sometimes known as Prima Bwanas, are to get a secure ringside seat, watching Africans kill Africans over scarce resources.

The peace parks are modeled on the Crown Lands, Forests, and Native Reserves of the British Empire. During the heyday of Queen Victoria at the end of the 19th century, Africans, known as "natives" in the Empire's lexicon, were herded like cattle into reserves so that Crown Forests, for example, in South Africa's Zululand, could be declared off-limits and protected by imperial authorities with native armed



World Bank President James Wolfensohn has joined with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature to spark conflict in South Africa over scarce resources, especially water.

recruits, the Native Forest Guards. Under the pretext of anti-poaching operations, most sub-Saharan game preserves in Africa are currently militarized, to one degree or another. With such heavily protected reserves declared by the World Bank to be the basis for Africa's alleged economic renaissance, one merely needs to put this trend in context of the raw materials looting operations of the mining cartels, already protected by largely British-run commercial mercenary armies, and the horror for Africans, who are to be squeezed into a "zone of conflict" between the heavily guarded, cash-rich "zones of stability" around the mining and eco-tourism areas, becomes evident.

World Bank joins the fray

With perfect timing, the World Bank and IUCN appointed South African Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Kader Asmal to a World Commission on Dams. Eco-Guru Maurice Strong, an adviser to World Bank President James Wolfensohn, stated, "It would clearly be counterproductive to undertake large dam projects in which environmental and social costs exceed long-term benefits." Asmal was quoted in the South African press stating, "We must liberate ourselves from the belief that we can only provide water by building new dams, and learn to live within our means." This overturning of the previous apartheid regime's model tradition of dam building, water capture, and irrigation infrastructure, means

that dry South Africa is on a short, 5-6 year fuse of conflict over "scarce resources."

The IUCN was created in 1948 by Julian Huxley and E.M. Nicholson. To rope in Americans and simultaneously maintain an imperial presence in Africa, where many nations were gaining formal independence, they created in 1961 a public relations and fundraising front, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The Queen of England's consort, Prince Philip, headed the British chapter, and his friend Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands became head of the international division. South African tobacco baron Anton Rupert then founded a highbrow donors' group for the WWF, the 1001 Club.

Death squads

World Bank President Sir James Wolfensohn has friends who come quite close to the problem of "third force" death squads and paramilitary activities which are staged from within South Africa's game reserves and parks. Wolfensohn is chief adviser to Australia's richest man, Kerry Packer. Among Packer's close friends are Jacob Lord Rothschild, intimately linked with George Soros's Quantum Fund; British gambling czar and game reserve owner John Aspinall; and the recently deceased Sir James Goldsmith. As *EIR* and others have documented, in 1990 Goldsmith backed the London ex-SAS (British military special forces) unit KAS Enterprises, which ran "Operation Lock," funded by the WWF and Prince Bernhard. Ostensibly a covert anti-ivory-poaching operation in southern Africa, it was in fact an intelligence interface, retooling covert assets of the surrogate wars in the region, into the future mold of tribalization and nature reserves. When Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi was brought to London in 1990, KAS ran his security out of Lord Rothschild's St. James Place office. John Aspinall has also been accused of financing paramilitary activities in game reserves in South Africa.

In order to implement the IUCN-World Bank peace park plan, a cover-up was necessary to protect the House of Windsor's WWF involvement, so as not to jeopardize the new colonialism being imposed on Africans. In stepped George Soros and his Open Society Foundation-South Africa, which provided the financing in 1995 for the Investigating Task Unit: Civilian Support Component, which, according to the OSF-SA Internet home page, "is investigating the activities of the hit squads in KwaZulu Natal." OSF-SA Founding Trustee Dr. F. van Zly Slabbert happens to also be chairman of the board for the Open Africa Initiative, a major promoter of "contiguous Peace Parks from the Cape to Cairo." It is no accident that investigations have covered for the British intelligence/WWF guiding hand, and have instead focussed on expendable former South African government military covert operations personnel, as if their actions around Operation Lock and Third Force death squads were merely the gory death throes of the old Pretoria regime—and not the colonial new world order of the Prima Bwanas.

U.S. Postal Service
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT
AND CIRCULATION
Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

1. *Publication Title:* EIR
2. *Publication No.:* 0273-6314
3. *Filing Date:* September 25, 1997
4. *Issue Frequency:* Weekly, except for the second week of July and the last week of December
5. *No. of Issues Published Annually:* 50
6. *Annual Subscription Price:* \$396
7. *Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication:* 317 Pennsylvania Ave, SE, 2nd Fl, Washington, D.C. 20003-1148
Contact Person: Stanley Ezrol; *Telephone:* 703-777-9451, x362
8. *Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of Publisher:* POB 17390, Washington, DC 20041-0390
9. *Full Names and Complete Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor*
Publisher: EIR News Service, Inc.; POB 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
Editor: Susan S. Welsh, POB 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
Managing Editor: Ronald S. Kokinda, John W. Sigerson; POB 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
10. *Owner:* EIR News Service, Inc., POB 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
Webster G. Tarpley, POB 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
Hugo Lopez Ochoa, POB 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
Michael Liebig, POB 17390, Washington, D.C. 20041-0390
11. *Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities:* None.
12. *Tax Status: For Completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates:* Not Applicable.
13. *Publication Title:* EIR
14. *Issue Date for Circulation Data Below:* 9/19/97

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a.	Total No. Copies	13,932	13,600
b.	Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
	(1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales	2,433	2,395
	(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions	8,703	8,458
c.	Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	11,136	10,853
d.	Free Distribution by Mail	202	198
e.	Free Distribution Outside the Mail	845	625
f.	Total Free Distribution	1,047	823
g.	Total Distribution	12,183	11,676
h.	Copies Not Distributed		
	(1) Office Use, Leftovers, Spoiled	1,749	1,924
	(2) Return From News Agents	—	—
i.	Total Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	13,932 91.4	13,600 93.0

16. *Publication of Statement of Ownership.* Publication required. Will be printed in the Oct. 10 issue of this publication.
17. *Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner:*
Susan Welsh, Associate Editor 9/30/97
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions and/or civil sanctions.