

## "Big Mama" Redux: Last Female Rhino in South African Game Reserve Killed for Horn

n July 14 the last female rhinoceros in the Krugersdorp Game Reserve near Johannesburg bled to death after a gang of armed poachers cut off her horn. The gang that killed the cow rhino shot her with tranquillizer guns from a helicopter, then moved to the ground where they stabbed her and cut off her horn.

The rhino's nine-month old calf was by her side. Named Vuma, by his rescuers, which means "acceptance," the calf has been relocated to the nearby Rhino and Lion Reserve, joining two other orphans who survived their respective attacks only because their horns were too small to command top-dollar.

Rhinos are such social animals that they can actually die from loneliness if left isolated from a herd, a fate that has befallen countless young rhino orphans.

Approximately 150 rhinos have been killed so far this year, up from the 129 slaughtered in 2009.

Demand for the horns from China and the Middle East fuels the increase in poaching across South Africa. In the Middle East, horns are fashioned into ornamental handles for swords and knives, while in China, powdered rhino horn is believed to be an aphrodisiac. Scientific research has proved that the keratin in rhino horns, the same substance that's in human hair and nails, has no medicinal value. But the myth of its properties continues to drive the trade.

Wanda Mkutshulwa, a spokeswoman for South Africa National Parks explained in an interview with *The Guardian* how the attacks occur: "The exercise takes them very little time. They first fly over the park in the late afternoon to locate where the rhino is grazing. Then they return at night and dart the animal from the air. The tranquillizer takes less than seven minutes to act. They

saw off the horns with a chainsaw. They do not even need to stop the rotors of the helicopter. We do not hear anything because our houses are too far away. The animal dies either from an overdose of tranquilizer or bleeds to death," she said.

In the past, poachers used home-made weapons, but experts now claim that international organized crime cartels are taking over the lucrative trade by equipping poachers with guns, bullet-proof vests, night vision goggles, helicopters and specialized veterinary drugs.

The Wildlife Reserves in South Africa are ill-equipped to handle this type of aggressive poaching. In several parts of the country, police and organized crime units are helping, but some wildlife parks are turning to extreme measures to protect their rhinos: surgically removing their horns.

There are now only 18,000 black and white rhinos in Africa. In the 1970's their population reached 65,000.

One controversial solution proposed by Ed Hern, owner of the Rhino and Lion Reserve, has conservationists wary that his "cure" may be more deadly than the "disease." He plans to inject the horns of his rhinos with poison, hoping to deter poachers and halt the booming black market by making the horns toxic to humans.

"The aim would be to make anyone who consumes the horn seriously ill," he said. "If someone in China eats it and gets violently sick, they are not going to buy it again." Hern says the animals will not be harmed. "We are experimenting by injecting a little of the substance every day into one of the rhino, and monitoring him carefully for any effects," he said. "It may seem outrageous, but what's really outrageous is the sight of a dead rhino with its horn sawn off." he added.

For more information, visit the International Rhino Foundation http://www.rhinos-irf.org/



Dear Friends,

Due to my work commitments this past year I've been unable to make my traditional three visits to Kenya. Nevertheless, in my absence, staff under the direction of David McConnell and our education our officers under the direction of Michael Ng'ang'a have done exceptionally well.

We continue to update and improve our teaching curricula as well as our onsite displays, and the response from our students has been very positive indeed.

On Sept. 19, we had a small fundraising event surrounding the debut of "Hart of My Heart" a Tribute to Lorenz Hart, which is my attempt at a cabaret show. Response to the event and the foundation was very positive and I wish to thank all who attended for their generosity.

In these difficult times we at the foundation are grateful to all of you who continue to make personal sacrifices to support our work. With the increased pressure on Kenya's wildlife, your help is crucial to our ongoing programs and to being able to keep our doors open. So we all thank you again and again

Warmest regards,

Stefanie Powers
President

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## Education Center News

he rains have returned to Kenya, and with a vengeance.

Record rainfall amounts have battered the country since the first of the year, causing the Nanyuki River to overflow its banks in spectacular fashion twice! Kenya typically receives 31 inches of rainfall annually in Nairobi and its surrounding areas, but this year they have seen almost their annual average fall in just the months of March (11.3"), April (8.44") and May (9.84"). Things returned closer to normal in June, when less than 1" fell. Kenya's long rain season occurs from April to June, and the short rain season from October to December.

All the rain, as well as the graveling of the main Safari Club road has resulted in a number of school buses visiting the Education Center becoming stuck in the mud, or skidding off the road, requiring a combined effort by Safari Club and Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy tractors to get them back on the road.

The Conservancy closed the Animal Orphanage mid-May, due to the low level of tourism, which caused some groups with bookings to cancel. Group leaders have commented that the tour is not complete without a visit to the orphanage. It also forces EC staff to fill up the time allotted to the orphanage with some other activity.

The Kenya Ministry of Forest and Wildlife has embarked on an ambitious, nationwide tree-planting program to improve the environment at schools. The Forest Department has donated thousands of indigenous tree seedlings to most of the schools in the country, and is supervising the planting to ensure that all donated trees are planted and cared for.

In May, the Education Center hosted a group of 30 Secondary school Principals from Meru South district, accompanied by two District Education officers. Hosting such a group ensures that the

the WHWF message of conservation of natural resources and bongo awareness will reach almost all the students in the district.

Another group that visited the EC were the employees of the Likii River Flower Farm. This is the group's second visit for conservation training. Last year, their focus was on bio-gas production, and this year, they learned how to recycle the waste from their farm. As part of the standard program, all visitors to the EC are now given hands-on experience in making and using briquettes to recycle their waste, in an effort to foster that practice.

From drought to deluge: Education Center area records highest rainfall in five years and gets almost 30% of its annual rainfall in a single month! In May, over 9" fell.

In June, the Education Center hosted its annual group of students from the Rift Valley Academy, which was accompanied by their Head Master, and Mr. Shel Arnensen, the editor of *Old Africa* magazine, and his wife, who was previously a teacher at the school. A regular part of their annual visit includes a trip to Mlima Kenya Primary school, where the Rift Valley students socialize with the Mlima students and present the used books they have brought to donate to the school. Mr. Arnensen, also an author of children's books, spoke to the students about the books he was donating to the school, and promised to send more next year through the Rift Valley students.

The Bongo Repatriation Project presented a press briefing on the project earlier this year and received good coverage from local radio and television stations, in addition to stories in two local newspapers, the Star and the Mt. Kenya Post.

## Thanks for Joining Us!

To all of you who attended our event September 18, we extend our sincere gratitude for your generosity & support!



#### Alexander Street School Principal Retires

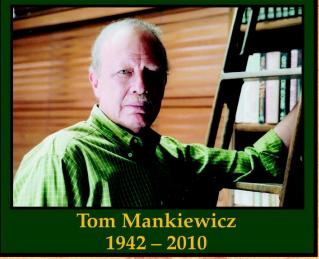


Mrs. Jacquelyn Blamo-Hawthorne is retiring after 25 years in education. In spearheading the school's participation in the WHWF Pen Pai Program, she ignited a flame of curiosity and cross-cultural understanding that will never be extinguished. The students and teachers involved in the program have shown such enthusiasm that not only have they embraced the students of Guara Primary School and their studies about Kenya, they have even started learning Swahili! We thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her retirement and in any future endeavors!

# In Memorium: Director Tom Mankiewicz

t is with great sadness that I must report the loss of our great friend, supporter and Foundation director, **Tom Mankiewicz**. Tom was well known for his exceptional wit and for his talents as both writer and director of films and of Hart to Hart, which he created.

Although the creation credit goes to Sidney Sheldon, Mank re-wrote Sheldon's idea and gave birth to Jonathan, Jennifer, Max and Freeway. He further insured the criteria for the style of the show by directing the pilot and many of the one-hour episodes.



More recently, Mank served as chairman of the board of GLAZA, the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association, helping to bring the zoo and their facilities into the modern age and well on its way to privatization.

He was the proud owner of several winning race horses and he was given a full professorship at Chapman College in Orange, CA, where he taught film to a grateful student body for the past five years.

He will be adoringly remembered by all of his friends, to whom his loss is enormous. For my part, I have lost a piece of myself.

## United Nations Declares Access to Clean Water a Human Right

he United Nations General Assembly has declared for the first time on July 28 that access to clean water and sanitation is a fundamental human right. In the historic vote, 122 countries supported the resolution; over 40 countries abstained from voting, including the USA, Canada and several European and other industrialized countries. There were no votes against the resolution.

Globally, approximately one out of every eight people do not have drinking water. In just one day, more than 200 million hours are spent by women collecting and transporting water for their homes. Nearly two billion people live in water-stressed areas of the world and three billion have no running water within a mile of their homes. Worse, the lack of sanitation affects 2.6 billion people, or approximately 40% of the global population.

Every day, 24,000 children die in developing countries due to preventable causes, such as diarrhea (which is caused by contaminated water) according to a 2009 report from the World Health Organization and UNICEF titled "Diarrhea: Why Children Are [Still] Dying and What We Can Do:" Those numbers equate to a child dying every three-and-a-half seconds. One, two, three.

There had been no declaration of a human right to water. It was not included in the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, which included the right to food, shelter, education, among others.

Back then, the thought that the earth could run out of fresh water was laughable. More recently, even with overwhelming evidence of the growing need to address water insecurity, very powerful countries and corporate interests (eyeing profits) stood against making it a human right.

Led by Bolivia, which faces its own fresh water shortages, several developing nations from the global south decided that time is running out and it was time to press the issue. The United Nations General Assembly finally debated and recognized the right of every human being on earth to water and sanitation.

When asked about the significance of the declaration, Maude Barlow, a longtime water justice advocate, told the radio program *Democracy Now:* "This matters because—we are a planet running out of water. A A new World Bank study says that demand is going to exceed supply by 40 percent in twenty years...a phenomenal statement. And the human suffering behind that is just unbelievable. What this did was basically say that the United Nations has decided it's not going to let huge populations leave them (developing ones) behind as this crisis unfolds; that the new priority is these populations without water and sanitation."

Without clean water, people and other living things die. That's fact. It's not a luxury item, but a necessity of life. One we must never allow to become a rare commodity to which only those with money have access. We privatize our remaining water supplies at our peril. Stay informed!

# Kenya Adopts Historic New Constitution

n August 4, voters in Kenya took a step toward a promising new era in government when they approved a new constitution that limits presidential power, cedes greater control to communities, revamps the justice system, and reforms land ownership practices.

Of the country's 12.4 million voters, 67% cast ballots in support of the constitution, which is said to include, for the first time in Kenya's history, a bill of rights.

The current constitution, in place since 1963, when the country gained independence from Britain, has been blamed for enabling a political environment in which a leader could utilize their powers to their advantage and the benefit of their ethnic group.

The new constitution institutes a series of checks on presidential authority, including provisions for impeachment. It establishes 47 new counties across the nation, to be ruled by governors, and adds a second chamber of parliament, to which each county will send a representative.

The total overhaul of the judicial system requires sitting judges to re-apply for their posts. A new National Lands Commission is charged with land distribution and examining land disputes and allegations of illegal allocations.

Thousands of security forces were sent to areas that experienced the most violence in the aftermath of the 2007 elections, in which tribal hostilities claimed more than 1,100 lives. Though there were some incidents at rallies in the weeks preceding the election, the memory of the previous election violence was still fresh in their collective memory, and there was no repeat of the ethnic bloodshed.

Proponents of the new constitution were led by former opponents President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga, whose power-sharing agreement brought an end to the violence in 2008.

Opposition leader and education minister William Ruto's graceful acceptance of defeat, recognizing that the people had spoken, is hoped to ease concerns in his Rift Valley district, which voted decisively against adoption of the new charter.

A mountain of work remains before implementation of the new constitution, with some experts predicting that more than 50 separate laws will have to be passed.

Most Kenyans feel optimistic about their new constitution, and we wish them well as they work to build a promising future for their nation and its citizens.

## Nearly 80 percent of oil from Gulf spill remains

report released in August by the Georgia Sea Grant and the University of Georgia concludes that up to 79 percent of the oil released into the Gulf of Mexico from the Deepwater Horizon well has not been recovered and remains a threat to the ecosystem.

The report, authored by five prominent marine scientists, strongly contradicts government and media reports that suggest that only 25 percent of the oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill remains.

"One major misconception is that oil that has dissolved into water is gone and, therefore, harmless," said Charles Hopkinson, director of Georgia Sea Grant and professor of marine sciences in the University of Georgia Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. "The oil is still out there, and it will likely take years to completely degrade. We are far from a complete understanding of what its impacts are."

The group analyzed data from the Aug. 2 National Incident Command Report, which calculated an "oil budget" that was widely interpreted to suggest that only 25 percent of the oil from the spill remained.

Hopkinson notes that the reports arrive at different conclusions largely because the Sea Grant and UGA scientists estimate that the vast majority of the oil classified as dispersed, dissolved or residual is still present, whereas the NIC report has been interpreted to suggest that only the residual form of oil is remains.

Hopkinson said that his group also estimated how much of the oil could have evaporated, degraded or weathered as of the date of the report. Using a range of reasonable evaporation and degradation estimates, the group calculated that 70-79% of oil spilled into the Gulf still remains. The group showed that it was impossible for all the dissolved oil to have evaporated because only oil at the surface of the ocean can evaporate into the atmosphere and a 22-mile long, 700 feet thick plume of oil is trapped 3000 feet below the surface...

Another difference is that the NIC report estimates that 4.9 million barrels of oil were released from the wellhead, while the Sea Grant report uses a figure of 4.1 million barrels since 8 million barrels were piped directly from the well to surface ships and, therefore, never entered Gulf waters.

On a positive note, the group noted that natural processes continue to transform, dilute, degrade and evaporate the oil. They add that a circular current known as the Franklin Eddy is preventing the Loop Current from bringing oil-contaminated water from the Gulf to the Atlantic, which bodes well for the east coast.

Team member Professor Samantha Joye said that both the NIC report and the Sea Grant report are best estimates and emphasizes the need for a sustained and coordinated research effort to better understand the impacts of what has become the world's worst maritime oil spill. She warned that neither report accounted for hydrocarbon gasses such as methane in their oil budgets. "That's a gaping hole," Joye said, "because hydrocarbon gasses are a huge portion of what was ejected from the well."

In a separate study, marine scientists from the University of South Florida found that oil droplets from the spill are scattered on sediment in the DeSoto Canyon, a critical spawning ground for important commercial fish species about 40 miles off the Florida coast. The oil is not spread across the ocean bottom like a blanket, but when the scientists exposed ocean floor samples to ultraviolet light, it revealed large clusters of tiny oil droplets sparkling like constellations of stars,

The scientists determined that the oil droplets are toxic to most plankton, microscopic plants that form the base of the Gulf's food chain.

The oil does not accumulate in the plankton, it simply kills it.

If the droplets kill off enough phytoplankton, it could alter the food supply for larger creatures such as whales, fish and crabs. That's a bleak,

for larger creatures such as whales, fish and crabs. That's a bleak, potentially life-changing prospect for the Gulf's commercial fishing industry and the generations of families who depend on it.

## A whale of a tale, with a happy ending

Editor's Note: Lately, there's been precious little encouraging news on the environmental or wildlife conservation fronts, so the last few issues of our newsletter have had more doom and gloom stories than "feel good" ones. Though a May 2010 successful whale rescue off the coast of southern California gladdened hearts, this story of a similar rescue in 2005 as reported in the Francisco Chronicle is truly one of the most remarkable animal stories I've ever found...the kind that makes you wish you'd been there...the kind of story that lets us know, without doubt, that doing our part to save the environment and the wild things that depend on it is worth every sacrifice. Enjoy!

n article in the December 14, 2005 San Francisco *Chronicle* by Peter Fimrite tells the story of a 40-50 foot female humpback whale that got entangled in crab trap lines east of the Farallon Islands, about 18 miles off the coast of San Francisco.

The whale, estimated to weigh 50 tons, was on its customary migratory route from Northern California to Baja when it became tangled in nylon lines connecting crab pots. A fisherman came across the stranded whale around 8:30 AM and radioed the information to Mick Menigoz, a charter fishing captain who also leads whalewatching excursions. He notified the Marine Mammal Center of the whale's plight. Mick and his crew have assisted The Center with animal responses and releases offshore for many years. Menigoz outlined in detailed information about the whale, the entanglement and exact location.

By mid-morning, The Center's Director of Veterinary Science, Frances Gulland, was leading the charge to rescue the whale. Joining her were two volunteers with The Center's water rescue team. All were trained for whale disentanglements. In addition, Menigoz donated his boat, the Superfish, and her crew to the mission and he also brought along skilled rescue divers -- private citizens volunteering to help in any way they could.

"I don't know for sure what it was thinking, but it's something that I will always remember. It was just too cool." Rescue diver and Superfish skipper Mick Menigoz

The rescue team reached the whale and assessed her situation around 2:30 PM. The first diver in the water reported his heart sank when he saw that about 20 crab pot ropes, which are 240 feet long with weights every 60 feet, ensnared the animal. Rope was wrapped at least four times around the tail, the back and the left front flipper and there was a line in the whale's mouth. At least a dozen traps weighing 90 pounds each dangled from the whale, and the combined weight of the traps and ropes made it increasingly difficult for her to raise her blow hole out of the water to breathe. The weight also pulled the lines so tightly around the whale's body that it cut deep gashes into her blubber.

The divers had serious doubts about their ability to save her, but knew the only way she could possibly be saved was if they dove in and cut

the ropes off her by hand. Considering that a mere flip of her massive tail or flipper could mean sudden death, it was a very dangerous mission, which is why most disentanglement attempts are executed from the relative safety of large boats.





This rescue diver looks miniscule next to the whale.

Photo Courtesy of Marine Mammal Center.org

Without wasting any time, divers jumped into the water and began cutting the ropes off the leviathan with special curved knives. The giant floated peacefully in the water while emitting what the divers described as a strange vibration. The diver who cut the rope away from the whale's mouth reported that her eye followed his every move, winking at him. He described it as an "epic experience of his life."

By 4 PM, "Lucky the Humpback" as she'd been named, was safely and successfully disentangled.

Rescuers said that when she realized she was free, she circled in the water for about 15 minutes, then swam away free of the debris. One of the divers, James Moskito, later told local media of the freed whale's reaction: "It felt to me like it was thanking us, knowing that it was free and that we had helped it." Moskito says the whale stopped about a foot away from him and playfully nudged him before swimming to each of the other divers in turn.

This was the first successful whale disentanglement that The Marine Mammal Center participated in since it was formed in 1975. The non-profit rescues, rehabilitates and releases injured, sick and orphaned marine mammals (seals, sea lions, dolphins, porpoises, whales and sea otters) along a 600 mile stretch of California coastline, from Mendocino County through San Luis Obispo County. Before the Center was established, stranded marine mammals were either left to die or were destroyed as threats to public health.

An estimated 15,000 humpbacks lived in the North Pacific before the year 1900, but commercial whaling severely reduced their numbers to fewer than 1,000 in the 20th century. An international ban on commercial whaling was instituted in 1964, but humpback whales are still endangered.

Between 5,000 and 7,500 are left in the world's oceans, and many of those survivors migrate through the Gulf of Farallon National Marine Sanctuary.

"You hate to anthropomorphize too much, but the whale was doing little dives and the guys were rubbing shoulders with it," said Menigoz of his experience. "I don't know for sure what it was thinking, but it's something that I will always remember. It was just too cool."

Too cool, indeed. For more information, visit marinemammalcenter.org.

## Goodbye Florida Panthers?

o far in 2010, 10 panthers have been killed by, of all things, CARS! Right now, estimates suggest that only 100 Florida panthers remain in the wild, even though its been listed under the Endangered Species Act for over three decades. In that time, their habitat has shrunk 95%. And it's about to get worse, thanks to global warming.

Over the last few years, the highly endangered Florida panther has lost much of its habitat to strip malls and gated communities. Lack of habitat also creates a tension between other panthers. Traveling alone, a male panther requires about 200 square miles of territory and is likely to kill other males who venture onto its turf. A female requires about 75 square miles of territory.

One of the effects of climate change is sea-level rise, which, due to Florida's low elevation, puts a tremendous strain on its ecosystems and critical habitats. The Florida panther is one species whose habitat would be threatened by an increase in sea level, since the only breeding panthers are at the southernmost tip of the state.

Panthers are also threatened by the inbreeding resulting from an isolated population, mercury poisoning, parasites and disease (such as feline leukemia and feline distemper).

If you would like to sign a petition asking U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar to take immediate action to protect the panthers and their habit, The Center for Biological Diversity is sponsoring one, and you can sign the petition and read more about these

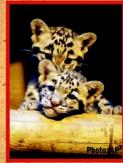


majestic cats at www.care2.com/go/z/e/AFZO3/zKAu/btF1A

### Rare Clouded Lion Cubs Born

pair of reclusive Clouded Leopard cubs were born four months ago in a rare birthin captivity for the species and are doing well, a Paris zoo announced in July.

The two female cubs, Parti and Jaya, were born May 14, 2010 in Paris' Jardin des Plantes Zoo. Named for its cloud-like spots, genetic studies have shown that clouded leopards are a separate species of cat and not just a "type" of leopard. Most closely related to snow leopards, cloudeds



are in the same subfamily as tigers, lions, jaguars, and true leopard species. Cloudeds roam in forests at elevations of up to 8,000 ft, from the rain forests of Indonesia to the foothills of the Nepali Himalayas, to southern China, and they spend most of their lives in trees. Though their populations are difficult to quantify, what evidence does exist suggests they are in sufficient decline outside of protected areas to be listed as "vulnerable" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List and warrant protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

While most cats are good climbers, clouded leopards are masters. Their long, strong tails help them balance while perched on tree branches, and their flexible ankle joints (which can rotate backwards) and large paws allow them to both climb while hanging upside down and climb down trees head-first like squirrels. When they spot prey (birds, rodents, monkeys, wild pigs) on the forest floor, they ambush it from above. Razor-sharp canine teeth, the largest of any wild cat (in porportion to body size), are integral to their success as hunters.

Because they are reclusive, little is known about their breeding habits, so captive breeding is often problematic. Females give birth to a litter of one to five cubs every year (after a 3-month gestation.) A successful gestation and birth do not guarantee survival, at least not without human intervention, because it is not uncommon for the mother to not only reject her cubs, but attempt to harm them.

As is true of all rain forest dwellers, the clouded leopards' main threat to survival is continued habitat loss from human development. Although protected by law, they are still hunted for their beautiful pelts, which have ceremonial significance in Taiwan, and for their bones and teeth, which are believed by the Chinese to have healing powers.

# SUPPORT WHWF WITH A DONATION I want to carry on with the work of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. Enclosed is my contribution of: \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ Please check this box if your donation is for the Julie Powers Memorial Scholarship Fund Name Address City Please make checks payable to the William Holden Wildlife Foundation State Zip Phone

# WHWF Merchandise

# SAFARI CAPS

Adjustable, 100% cotton, unconstructed cap with velcro closure and embroidered WHWF patch Your choice of Navy, White or Khaki

\$20





#### GREETING CARDS

(boxed set of 12)

\$18

#### WHWF BANDANAS \$12



#### WHWF LOGO T-SHIRTS

All of our t-shirts are imprinted with soy-based inks. Our off-white logo t-shirts are made of Fortrel EcoSpun, produced from recycled plastic bottle caps. Our dark green and black t-shirts are 100% cotton.

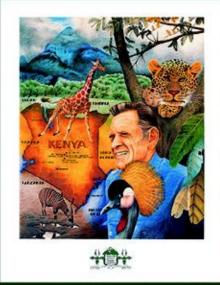
White Imprint on Dark Green



+ shipping

Please specify

color and size



#### **WHWF POSTER \$15**

+\$3 Shipping

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ITEM	PRICE	QTY S/H	TOTAL
WHWF Bandana SMIPPING: S2 US S4 CAN / S6 INTL	\$12	\$2	
Greeting Cards (boxed set) SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL	\$18	\$3	
Greeting Card Brochure	FREE		
WHWF Poster SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL	\$15	\$3	
WHWF Logo T-Shirts SA CAN / SG INIT. (please indicate size/color selection) Recycled Bottle Cap T-shirt (off-White Only) Size: S M L XL	\$20	\$2	
100% Size: OS OM OL OXL COTTON Color: DARK GREEN BLACK	\$20	\$2	
NEW! Color: CNAW CWHITE Safari Caps	\$20	\$3	
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