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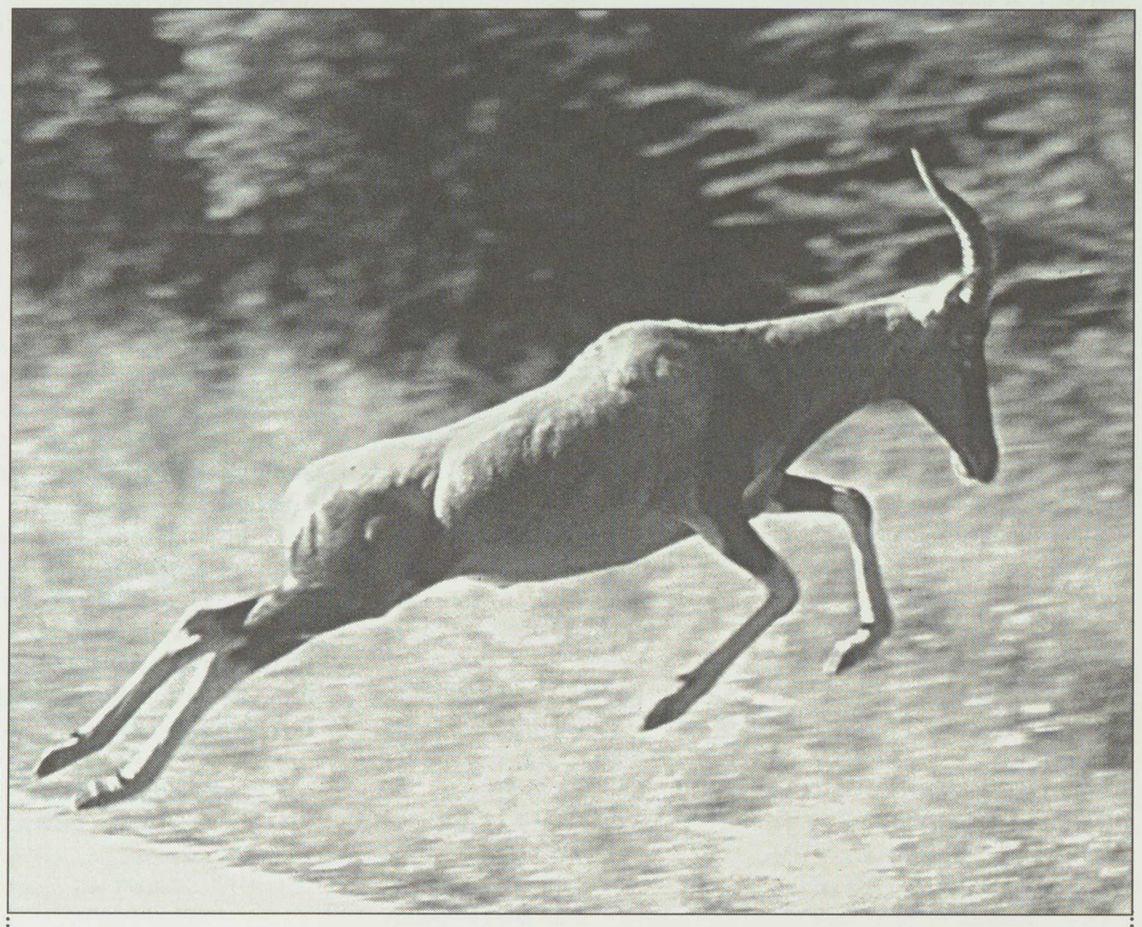

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WLN

WILDLIFE WATCH

ELEPHANT POACHING RISES IN EAST AFRICA

Wildlife authorities from Kenya and Tanzania have arrested a man in connection with the recent slaughter of several elephants from Kenya's Amboseli area.

According to reports from Kenya, the suspect allegedly had a 458 rifle in his possession and has been charged with killing at least 10 elephants, a number that tallies with those found dead or missing in recent months. Poaching occurred on both sides of the Kenya-Tanzania border, in an area frequently used by the elephants.

In related news, 4,600 kilograms of fresh ivory were confiscated in Tanzania in recent weeks. According to conservation experts in Africa, the ivory could have been taken from as many as 1,000 elephants. The Wildlife Department is checking into reports of increased poaching recently in areas of southern Tanzania.

AWF

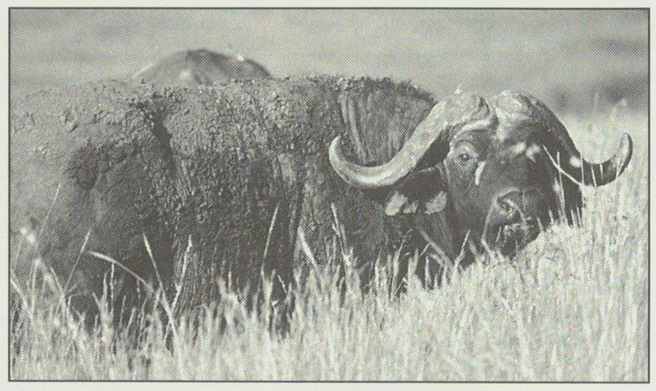
Poached elephant tusks have been discovered in Tanzania and the Congo in recent months.

In the Congo, park authorities are cracking down on ivory trade after the remains of about 200 elephants were discovered at a popular watering hole in the National Park of Odzala last August. The animals, many of them pregnant females or newborns, had been shot and their tusks removed. Authorities to date have recovered 36 tusks.

Despite frequent poaching at the site, observers say the recent slaughter was the most extensive in the Congo's history.

BUFFALOES DIE IN NAMIBIA FIRES

More than 100 buffaloes were killed as the result of a raging bush fire that swept through Namibia's Mamili National Park in August.



AWF

Despite the loss of some 20 percent of the buffaloes in Namibia's Mamili National Park, the population is expected to replenish its numbers naturally.

The cause of the fire is unclear, according to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The blaze could have resulted from spontaneous combustion or have been ignited by sparks from cooking fires in a nearby village. During the dry season swamp grasses and the underlying layer of peat are highly susceptible to fire.

Despite the high level of losses, said a report in the *African Wildlife Update*, the Mamili population—normally 500 to 600 buffalo—is expected to renew its numbers naturally.

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