



IN THIS ISSUE:

- **2 Tonnes of Ivory Intercepted at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport**
- **Draft Bill Seeking to Arm Private Security Guards With Firearms Opposed:**
- **Boost to Kenya's Tourism Sector as Innovative New Product Launched at East Africa E Tourism Conference**
- **New Commandant at The Tourist Police Unit**
- **Total Tourist Arrivals at JKIA for the Month of July 2010**

2 TONNES OF IVORY INTERCEPTED AT JOMO KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:

A joint operation involving the Kenya Police, Kenya Wildlife Service rangers, Lusaka agreement taskforce among others intercepted 2 tonnes of elephant ivory and rhino horns being smuggled out of the country's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on an Emirates flight to Malaysia, last weekend. The Middle and Far East has been the destination for a number of incidences of smuggling of illegal animal trophies - Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong have this year intercepted illegal animal trophies smuggled to the region.

The 2 tonnes of ivory intercepted at JKIA over the weekend was falsely declared as avocados, disguised in black polythene papers and banana leaves and packed among avocados in 12 wooden boxes. It is suspected some of the 312 tusks may have been obtained from dead animals, while the others, which were cut at the edges, were poached. The illegal trophies did not bear the indelible ink used to mark government stocks. It is still unclear the origin of the illegal trophies and DNA tests will be carried out to determine their origin.

KWS reports that incidences of rhino and elephant poaching in Kenya continue to rise, illustrated below:

Year	Elephant	Rhino
2007	47	
2008	94	5
2009	204	13

The figures represent the number of animals poached in Kenya yearly.

Trade in wild flora and fauna is illegal in Kenya. Kenya is a party to the Lusaka Agreement on cooperative enforcement of operations against illegal trade in wild Fauna and Flora. Six southern African states are party to the agreement - Uganda, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia Lesotho and Kenya, while South Africa, Ethiopia and Kingdom of Swaziland are signatories to the agreement.

On Monday 23 August, an unaccompanied cargo containing two pieces of carved and raw ivory of 3.3 kg from Kampala, destined for Hong Kong, was intercepted at JKIA; the following day, a Chinese national was arrested at JKIA with hand luggage containing 10 illegal worked ivory chopping sticks and two bangles. He was charged in court and pleaded guilty to possession of wildlife trophy without a valid permit, to which he was sentenced to 18 months in prison without option of a fine; and fined Shs10, 000 or 12 months in prison on a second count of failure to report the illegal trophies to Kenya Wildlife Service.

The sharp rise in the number of poaching incidences is a source of great concern especially as this is a direct threat to the country's foremost tourism offering - game viewing.

DRAFT BILL SEEKING TO ARM PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS WITH FIREARMS OPPOSED:

A new draft bill, 'Private Security Industry Regulations Bill 2010' proposes that private security firms be armed, under strict supervision, with firearms.

However the proposal has drawn opposition from various segments of society, including the Kenya Police; Kenya Consumer Federation; Kenya Private Sector Alliance and Kenya Security Industry Association.

Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe has voiced the Kenya Police opposition to the proposal, saying it will not be tenable for a number of security concerns. Mr. Kiraithe added that plans are underway to employ Police reservists in urban areas. The reservists will serve to reinforce security provided by private firms should this be required.

A key point raised by voices opposed to the proposal is lack of training of security guards to enable them handle the firearms accordingly. The Consumer Federation says it would be easier to spend more on Police recruitment than arming the guards whose training and integrity are wanting. The federation says 'arming private security guards will likely lead to privatization of public service and increase the cost of doing business.'

Other proposals in the Private Security Industry Regulations Bill 2010' include: The Bill seeks to ban employees of the National Security Intelligence Services, the Police or Prisons departments from registering or operating security firms; The Bill allows former security agents, who left service honourably to be employed by security firms; Guards should possess a minimum of the defunct Certificate of Primary Education (replaced by the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) and will be recruited upon strict investigations by the CID.

BOOST TO KENYA'S TOURISM SECTOR AS INNOVATIVE PRODUCT LAUNCHED AT EAST AFRICA E TOURISM CONFERENCE:

On September 2nd to 3rd this year, the Crowne Plaza Hotel Nairobi hosted the East Africa E Tourism Conference, attended by over 250 players from various segments of the tourism industry.

The successful conference was organized by E Tourism Frontiers, and was graced by prominent international players in e tourism, including Trip advisor, Expedia and WAYN.com, who made presentations at the forum.

KCB has partnered with South Africa based Nightsbridge Software Company to set up the system which allows for real time connectivity.

Kenya Commercial Bank launched at the event a new online payment system for the tourism sector. The new service allows for online payment and real time reservations and bookings.

The new product launched by KCB joins other products currently in the budding e commerce sector in Kenya, such as consumers purchasing products online and paying via Mpesa and Zap. While launching the product, KCB Deputy CEO, Mr Peter Munyiri said 'This is an important platform for KCB that will help ensure the local tourism sector have easy access to a much simplified and affordable payment solution for their services,' said Mr Munyira.

The conference was told that East Africa is increasingly moving the tourism business online. co-CEO of WAYN.com, Mr. Jerome Touze, commenting on the 'Journey Kenya' promotion run on WAYN.com through a partnership between the social media company and a Kenyan tourism company, said 'this was a flagship example of the neat fit between Tourism and Social Media.' Mr. Jerome added 'The Journey Kenya profile not only looks great and engaging, the competition they have come up with is one of the best ways to showcase the best Kenya has to offer. Our members love sharing their experiences and aspirations'.

E Tourism Africa conference will be held in Cape Town on the 25th and 26th of October this year.

For additional information visit www.e-tourismfrontiers.com

NEW COMMANDANT AT THE TOURIST POLICE UNIT:

In a reshuffle of top Police officers announced on Wednesday 8th October by Police Commissioner Mathew Iteere, the Tourism Police Unit commandant was among 143 top officers who were transferred. Former TPU commandant Mrs Jacinta Muthoni heads to Coast as the deputy Provincial Police officer while the new TPU Commandant will be Ms Jostine Machuma. The transferred officers are expected to report to their new stations of work by 17th of this month.

TOTALTOURIST ARRIVALS AT JKIA FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2010:

Data from Kenya Tourist Board on total tourist arrivals at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for the month of July 2010 is shown in the table below:

Purpose	Number of arrivals	Percentage of Total Arrivals
Business	10,434	11%
Conference	2,234	2%
Holiday	61,675	63%
On Transit	7,179	7%
Study	341	0%
Sport	330	0%
VFR	12,601	13%
Others/Not Stated	3,126	3%
Total JKIA	97,920	