

The African parks were created as a cover for destabilization

by Joseph Brewda

Examining a map of Africa which outlines the national park systems, is a most instructive experience. The sheer size of these parks and park complexes is striking. South Africa's Kruger park, for example, is the size of the state of Massachusetts, while the vast park complex of Zambia is larger than Great Britain. What is also striking is the fact that a high percentage of Africa's parks and reserves are sited on national borders. In many cases, these parks come together to form binational and trinational parks that straddle these borders.

These parks are not located in such border regions for aesthetic purposes. Unlike Europe, for example, where most borders are naturally demarcated by often beautiful mountain ranges and rivers, the boundaries of Africa's states were arbitrarily drawn by the European powers at their imperial conferences. There is nothing particularly singular on the borders of these states that might not be found in the interior. The placement of parks in such regions has a different purpose: mass murder and the destabilization of Africa.

Who set up the park movement?

There were two distinct phases in the national park and game reserve movement in imperial Africa. In the first phase, the preservation phase, access to hunting was restricted to the white colonial elite, allegedly to preserve dwindling stocks of favored game. Colonial authorities often evicted native populations from their forest and pasture lands, in order to establish "game reserves," while restricting the native populations from hunting. This policy was a parody of what had been the practice in medieval Europe. As far back as 1130, the Norman lords of England had classified certain lands as forest reserves, where only the king and his delegated officers could hunt.

The second phase, which took off after World War II, was the conservation phase, in which hunting was increasingly forbidden to everyone and the ritualized hunting obsession of the colonial elite was gradually replaced by a Gaia-worshipping "ecological consciousness." The "national park" replaced the "game reserve," and the camera largely replaced the carbine.

There were various regulations restricting access to game in Africa dating as far back as the Dutch colonial decrees in the Cape in 1657. But the movement to lock up vast tracts of

land as reserves only began in earnest in 1896 under the leadership of British Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister the Marquess of Salisbury, when he called for the introduction of checks on hunting throughout British Africa. In 1900, Salisbury convened a conference of the European imperial powers on the issue in London.

The conference's agreements virtually eliminated the native ability to hunt, even outside the reserves, by outlawing the use of traditional snares and pitfalls as "inhumane." At the same time, it reaffirmed an earlier joint agreement among the British, French, German, and Portuguese colonies' authorities banning the native use of the firearm.

The Society for the Preservation of Fauna in the Empire, which later spawned the World Wildlife Fund, was formed to ensure that the 1900 convention was implemented. From the beginning, the society, affectionately known as "the Fauna," was associated with the British Museum, specifically the Natural History division that had been created by Charles Darwin's "bulldog," Thomas H. Huxley.

In 1933, another conference, following up the 1900 conference, was convened in London. The British delegation was led by the Earl of Onslow, who was also the head of the Fauna. The most important result of the conference was a provision for the establishment of national parks in Africa. The enabling legislation of most countries' game parks in Africa today, dates back to colonial decrees enacted in the aftermath of the 1933 conference.

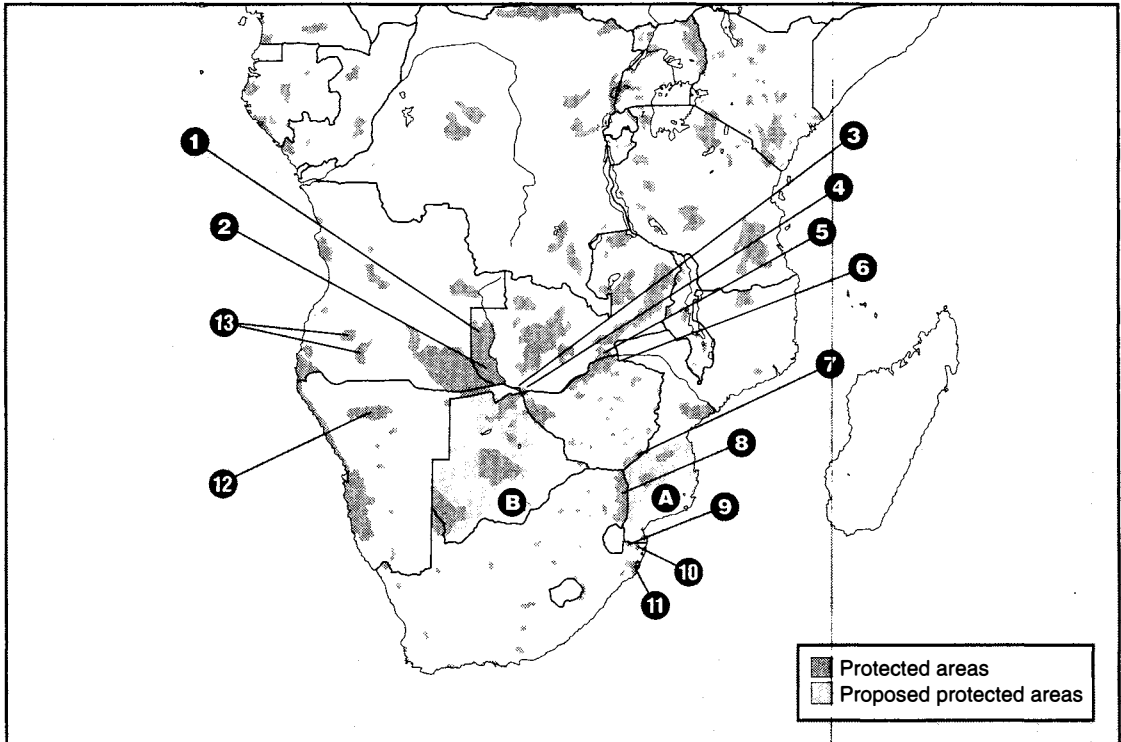
The national parks and reserves constituted by the 1900 and 1933 agreements legally established internal frontiers within the African colonies that could not be crossed by the native population, on the pretext of protecting wildlife. These internal frontiers, forming colonial enclaves, continued in effect after the colonies gained independence.

The Kruger precedent

The first reserves in Africa predated the 1900 London conference. They were created by South African President Paul Kruger in 1889. One of the reserves was the Sabi reserve, now Kruger park, which was created along the border with the Portuguese colony of Mozambique.

Kruger created the parks, but the Boer War between Britain and the Afrikaners intervened. In the process, the park region was subjected to a brutal campaign by Lord Kitchener

MAP 4
**Southern
 Africa
 protected
 areas and
 insurgency**



* See page 32 for definitions of protected areas and sources.

KEY TO MAP 4 Southern Africa protected areas

Zambia: Zambia was the forward base of operations and safe haven for all the "liberation movements" operating in southern Africa contesting white minority or colonial rule in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s.

The Angolan UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the MPLA (Popular Movement of the Liberation of Angola) were both based in the huge Zambian park complex that borders Angola, specifically the West Zambezi game management area 1, in the 1960s and 1970s. The park was used as a safe-haven and point of infiltration of Angola. After the abandonment of colonial rule in 1975 and the coming to power of the MPLA, UNITA continued to use the park as the base for its 17-year civil war with the MPLA government.

The Namibian SWAPO was based in the Sioma Ngwezi national park 2, contiguous with the West Zambezi game management area.

The ANC of South Africa was based just east of the Sioma Ngwezi national park 3. There was another ANC base just east of the Mosi-pa-Tunya national park 4, on the bor-

der with Rhodesia.

The ZANU and ZAPU (Zimbabwean liberation movements) were also based just east of the Mosi-pa-Tunya park in the same area as the ANC 4. ZANU later set up a base over the border in Mozambique, opposite Zambia's Lower Zambezi park 6.

The Frelimo (of Mozambique) had a base of operations in Zambia's Luana and West Petauke park, contiguous with the Lower Zambezi park 5.

Rhodesia/Zimbabwe: During the period of white minority rule, Rhodesia's Ghonarezhou Game Reserve, which borders Mozambique 7, was the base from which the Selous Scouts, an irregular formation put together by the top ecologist of the Rhodesian park system, launched raids into Zambia and Mozambique.

Following the creation of Zimbabwe in 1980, the park continued to be used as a military base, but this time to block Renamo's raids. Renamo is an insurgent movement operating primarily against Mozambique that was created by the former head of Rhodesian intelligence.

In 1984, the Zimbabwe parks department created Operation Stronghold (with WWF funding), allegedly to stop rhino poaching. A least 145 "poachers" were killed, reportedly including officers of the ANC military wing.

South Africa: Renamo safe-haven; reportedly trained

in which crops were destroyed, cattle butchered, and wildlife killed, in order to deny the Boers food. This "ecological warfare" left the region devastated.

In 1902, the park was reestablished by Britain's Lord Milner, an associate of African empire-builder Cecil Rhodes, after South Africa became a British colony. The park's first warden, Maj. James Stevenson-Hamilton, had seen active duty in the Boer War in 6th Dragoon guards. Lord Milner instructed him to clean up the park of "kaffirs" and white shareholders, and to "make himself thoroughly unpleasant to everyone."

Over the next 45 years, until his retirement in 1946, Stevenson-Hamilton carried out these instructions ruthlessly, clearing 11,000 square miles of countryside of its original inhabitants and implementing a military "anti-poaching campaign." Even those natives who were not evicted had to leave, as hunting had been their major source of meat; they poured into the cities and mines, where they became virtual slave labor for the new British regime. As a result of this policy, the major earned the epithet "skukuza" ("he who sweeps clean"). The headquarters, Skukuza, of Kruger park today is named in his honor.

Stevenson-Hamilton's system of warfare against the native population, in the guise of wildlife protection, in which

he and his game wardens constituted themselves as virtual dictators, was explicitly cited as the basis of all subsequent national parks policy in Britain's African colonies by Col. Mervyn Cowie, who created the first colonial park in Kenya in 1946. Cowie ran the parks system there for 20 years. On his retirement, he reported how he had confiscated tens of thousands of square miles of land from the native inhabitants, implemented a mass-resettlement scheme, and turned native property into 30 parks. "I copied every idea in Stevenson-Hamilton's book *South African Eden*," which lays out his system, he reported.

The Mau Mau model for genocide

From 1952 to 1960, the British colonial authorities in Kenya, led by park warden Colonel Cowie, oversaw a state of emergency allegedly dedicated to combatting a native revolution. The methods employed against the Kenyan people under the guise of combatting this alleged revolution became the model for all subsequent British efforts to destabilize the continent, and, as in Kenya, these destabilization efforts continue to be run out of the game parks.

The supposed focus of this Kenyan revolutionary conspiracy was the Mau Mau, an alleged secret society within the Kikuyu tribe, the largest and then dominant tribe of the

there by the World Wildlife Fund's Operation Lock. Similar training is being used to create a civil war in South Africa through "black on black" terrorism.

Renamo's HQ is at Phalambora, one mile from the gate of Kruger national park, which borders Mozambique **8**. The park is also Renamo's training area.

Kruger is bordered by several privately administered game parks which have also reportedly been used for Renamo training and safe-haven, including the Bongani Mountain Lodge, the Kapama Game reserve, the Timbavati Nature reserve, and the Sabi-Sand reserve.

Renamo also has a base in Ndumu park on the border with Mozambique **9**; in the Muzuli reserve in Natal; and in the parks of the former KaNgwane homeland.

Reportedly, the Maputoland game reserve **10** and the Mkuze game park **11** in Kwazulu, have also been used as bases for launching "black on black," so-called "Third force" terrorism, intended to provoke tribal war throughout South Africa.

Namibia: The "Koevoet," "crowbar squad," allegedly trained to counter poaching in Namibia's Etosha park **12**, was later used to run black-on-black killings in South Africa.

Angola: The East Germans trained the Cubans at the Bicuan and Mupa national parks during the late 1960s and early 1970s **13**, to help the MPLA government counter UNITA

forces. The East Germans also trained the West German Baader Meinhof terrorists there.

Expansion plans

The vast complex of parks straddling the borders of southern African countries is growing. According to understated IUCN figures, already 30% of Zambia; 13% of Zimbabwe; 17% of Botswana; 6% of Angola; 13% of Namibia; 9% of Mozambique; and 5% of South Africa is locked up in national parks and game reserves. These existing parks are arrayed in large complexes which often cross several borders, constituting huge transnational park complexes outside the control of any government. The total land area of the contiguous park system of Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Angola is 259,000 sq km, slightly larger than the United Kingdom.

Farther south we see the Kruger national park of South Africa bordering Mozambique, 20,000 sq km by itself, about the size of Massachusetts.

There are two vast new additions to this overall system being planned: a huge complex in Mozambique across the border from South Africa Kruger's park **A**, and a massive expansion of Botswana's park system **B**. The Republic of South Africa is now negotiating with Mozambique to integrate their border park systems into a single binational authority. The WWF is negotiating with Mozambique to privatize its park system, making this South African takeover easier.

colony. The existence of the Mau Mau had been discovered by anthropologist and British agent Louis Leakey. As far back as the 1930s, Leakey had done a 1 million-word study of the Kikuyu for British intelligence.

Allegedly to combat this conspiracy, the colonial authorities forced the mass resettlement of Kikuyu and other peoples from their lands and, in their efforts to crush the conspiracy, burnt down whole forests. This assault was largely led by the paramilitary personnel of the game park system established by Cowie.

The Mau Mau conspiracy proved to be a strange one. Whereas only 22 whites were killed in the insurrection, an estimated 18-30,000 natives were killed, primarily in fighting among Kikuyu factions and with other tribes. Agriculture in the white regions was untouched, and the Mau Mau failed to even attack the vulnerable transportation network or any key facility in the cities.

Col. Frank Kitson, in his 1960 book *Gangs and Countergangs*, revealed that the British were leading large-scale Mau Mau units, and that many (if not all) Mau Mau units were synthetically created by the colonial authorities. Through orchestrating violence between their "gangs" and "countergangs," the British ensured that only native slaughter, and not revolution, would result.

The Mau Mau gangs and countergangs were directed by Gen. Sir George Erskine, who had been responsible for civilian food distribution in occupied postwar Germany. Erskine was aided by Colonel Cowie, the manager of the parks system, and Bill Woodley, his intelligence chief who largely developed the gang-countergang doctrine described by Kitson and later systematically applied throughout Africa.

Cowie, Woodley, and Leakey were veterans of the World War II Kenya regiment, whose top intelligence officer, Charles Pittman, was the chief warden of the Ugandan park system. The Kenyan regiment was an elite unit within the British Commonwealth Armies in Africa, commanded by Gen. Jan Smuts, who was also the President of the British Union of South Africa. Smuts had once called for creating a single park system stretching from Kenya to South Africa.

Several of Woodley's subordinates later found work in Kenya's game parks after the emergency, including Stan Bleazard, who took over the Marsabit National Reserve, and Maj. Temple Boreham, who became chief warden at Masai Mara park. David Sheldrick, a former Kenyan regiment intelligence officer who had served directly under Pittman, took over "anti-poaching" operations in Tsavo elephant park. Woodley himself became chief warden at Aberdares Mountain park, while Cowie remained in charge of the entire Kenya park system until the 1960s.

Guerrillas in the mist

In the 1960s, the British initiated their "winds of change" policy, whereby the peoples of Africa achieved nominal independence. "The wind of change is blowing throughout the

continent," visiting Prime Minister Harold Macmillan said in Cape Town, South Africa in 1960. "Whether we like it or not this growth of national consciousness is a political fact. Our national policies must take account of it."

Within five years, most of British Africa was nominally decolonized, and an often bewildered native comprador class was elevated to become the new governing elite. But while the British flag was lowered in one colony after another, much of the old colonial apparatus remained, with key posts in the ministries continuing to be staffed by British nationals.

Nowhere was this more evident than in the parks system, which, by the time of independence, locked up upwards of 20% of the African colonies' lands. The chief game wardens, park police chiefs, and the parks department staff largely continued to be British nationals. Moreover, in a malicious innovation, increasingly large numbers of these parks, and in some cases the entire parks system, were put under the control of private non-governmental organizations, managed by international boards of trustees outside the oversight of the government. Today, the parks systems of Kenya, Tanzania, and Zaire are privately managed by international boards of trustees. Until 1992, Louis Leakey's son, Richard Leakey, was the chairman of the private "Kenya Wildlife Services" which runs Kenya's parks.

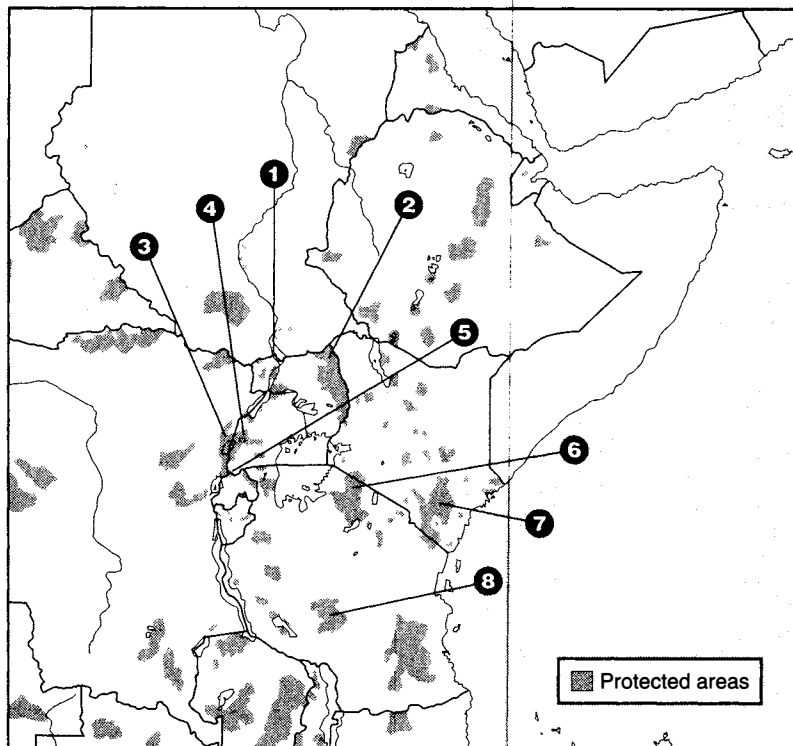
When Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere proclaimed in his 1961 "Arusha Declaration" that the peoples of Africa would preserve the national parks bequeathed to them in perpetuity, he was admitting that the existence of these colonial enclaves would go unchallenged. Some 40% of the land area of Tanzania today is locked up in its national park system, administered by the "Tanzania National Parks" non-governmental organization.

These parks, following the Mau Mau precedent, continue to be the headquarters, training sites, and safe havens of the gang-countergangs. On the one hand, these parks have been the centers of nominally "anti-western" Warsaw Pact-linked subversion targeting white minority or colonial rule. On the other hand, they have been the center of "pro-western" efforts to overthrow alleged Soviet client states radiating revolution throughout the continent. For example:

Rhodesia-Zimbabwe. Beginning in 1961, the Zimbabwe Peoples Union (ZAPU), and two years later, the rival Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), conducted a guerrilla war to overthrow the white minority-ruled Rhodesian regime. The Rhodesian effort to crush the insurgency was carried out by the Rhodesian Army, and its irregular guerrilla formation, the Selous Scouts.

ZANU and ZAPU cadre were trained by Russian KGB instructors at the British-created Queen Elizabeth park and Gorilla park in Uganda. ZAPU was also trained by Chinese military instructors at the Serengeti and Ruana national parks of Tanzania. The ZANU and ZAPU forward bases of operation against Rhodesia were in Zambia, just outside the Mosi-pa-Tunya park, and also in the Lower Zambezi park. The

East African protected areas and insurgency



* See page 32 for definitions of protected areas and sources.

KEY TO MAP 5

East African protected areas

Uganda/Sudan: The only remaining stronghold of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Sudan is in the town of Nimuli, on the border with Uganda. This stronghold is supplied out of adjacent Nimuli national park 1 on the Sudanese border with Uganda. It is also supplied out of the Kidepo valley national park 2 in nearby northern Uganda. Kidepo park is also the SPLA command and training center. Ugandan army personnel often serve as officers of the SPLA.

Since at least the 1960s, several Uganda governments have used Kidepo park as a base for subversive operations in southern Sudan.

The park was created in 1962, over the protests of local conservationists who argued that the siting of the park was unreasonable; some claim that the only reason the park was created was to aid British subversion of Sudan which became independent in 1956. World Wildlife Fund founder Peter Scott was also the long-time chairman of the Ugandan National Parks department.

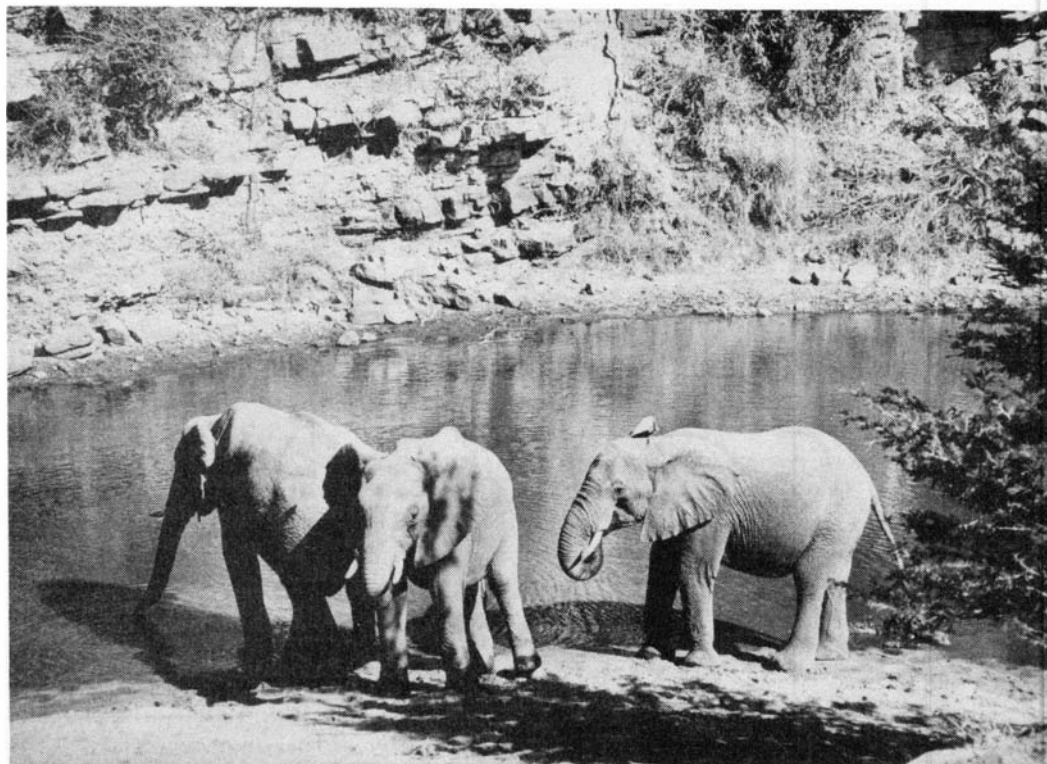
Uganda and Zaire: During the late 1960s and 1970s, the Soviet KGB trained various of the "liberation movements" of

southern Africa in national parks in Uganda and Zaire. Among the movements were Zimbabwe People's Union (ZAPU), and it split-away, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU); the South African National Congress (ANC), and its split-away, the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC).

The parks used for Soviet training were part of the complex of contiguous national parks in western Uganda and eastern Zaire including the Virunga park in Zaire 3, the Queen Elizabeth park complex 4 in Uganda, and the nearby Gorilla park 5 in Uganda—parks which were later used in the Uganda invasion of Rwanda in 1990 and 1994.

Tanzania: The Chinese military carried out extensive terrorist training projects in Tanzania in the 1960s and '70s, including training of the ZAPU, ANC, and PAC. Training was conducted in the British-administered Serengeti National Park, particularly in the Ngorongoro Crater area 6 which is also a major site of World Wildlife Fund operations. These same groups were also trained at the British-administered Ruana National Park 8.

Kenya: The Rhodesian, and then South African-based, Mozambique National Resistance (known as Renamo) had rest and training camps in the Galana area which abuts Tsavo park 7. Renamo had originally been created by the Rhodesian intelligence service, after Portugal achieved its independence.



A waterhole at Kruger National Park in South Africa. The park is the size of the state of Massachusetts; in 1902, it was brutally cleared of its non-white inhabitants to turn it into a game preserve for the oligarchy. That policy is being continued by Prince Philip's "conservation" groups today.

decades-long President of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, has been one of the more important British agents in southern Africa.

The Selous Scouts, the Rhodesian opponents of ZANU and ZAPU, were mustered by the chief ecologist of the Rhodesian park system.

In 1980, ZANU chief Robert Mugabe became head of state of the newly created Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia). But even after black majority rule was established, the civil war continued. The fleeing Rhodesian elite largely emigrated to neighboring South Africa.

The Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo), which had earlier been created by Rhodesian intelligence to destabilize Mozambique after its independence from Portugal, was now deployed against Zimbabwe. The headquarters of Renamo is one mile from South Africa's Kruger park; it was trained in South African regional parks in Natal, and in the parks of the nearby KaNgwane homeland.

In 1984, the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management began an anti-poaching campaign with WWF support, which has killed at least 145 "poachers" since that time. At least some of these poachers are said to have been leaders of the rival African National Congress military wing.

Angola. In 1956, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was formed to overthrow Portuguese colonial rule. In 1966, its rival, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), was also formed.

A civil war against foreign rule began. Following the evacuation of Portuguese forces in 1975, the conflict continued, but this time between the new MPLA government and UNITA. The civil war continued for another 17 years.

The MPLA and UNITA were headquartered in the West Zambezi game management area in Kaunda's Zambia during the period of Portuguese Angolan rule.

After the MPLA took over the Angolan government, UNITA continued to be based in the same park. Meanwhile, Cuban troops were invited into Angola to defend Angola from UNITA. These Cuban troops, and the MPLA, were trained by the East German Stasi at Bicuan and Mupa national parks. (The West German Baader-Meinhof gang was also trained in the same parks.)

Mozambique. The Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) was formed in 1962 to overthrow Portuguese rule in Mozambique. It was headquartered in Luana and West Petauke national parks in Zambia; it also received training from Russian instructors in the park systems of Uganda. In 1975, the Portuguese left and Frelimo formed a government. But the civil war continued, this time under the guise of a struggle between the Frelimo government and Renamo, now based in South Africa's Kruger park. Reportedly, at least one of the major factions of Renamo has been trained by WWF personnel with the aid of British Special Air Services founder Col. David Stirling, who had been a close associate of Mau Mau controller and Kenyan Parks department director Col. Mervyn Cowie since the 1940s.