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[Baby Elephants To Be Exported To Dubai Zoo](#)



SIMON BLOCH

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It was Steyl's second trip to Zambia in a month while out on bail.

'MAJOR PLAYER': Marnus Steyl

In a sensational court trial last year, Steyl, 38, emerged as an alleged major player who

stood to make millions of rands from trading in rhino horn.

Miranda Jordan, from Animals for Activists for Africa and who has attended Steyl's court hearings, is upset that he was given lenient bail conditions that allowed him to travel to a neighbouring state.

"The National Prosecuting Authority dropped the charges against him the first time, and the second time round they have given him very lenient bail conditions, whereas his co-accused was given a 40-year prison sentence," she said.

The Environmental Investi-

gation Agency's Charlotte Davis, based in London, said: "Whilst the EIA congratulates the SA authorities on the conviction and sentencing of Chumlong Lemongthai (Steyl's co-accused), we now expect Steyl's case and the raft of charges against him to be treated with similar rigour."

She warned that South Africa's rhino population faced an increasing threat.

"This is an international issue; let's not forget rhino horn transit and consuming countries including Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and China. The EIA

urges these countries to proactively undertake the targeted enforcement and international cooperation required to disrupt the entire illegal trade chain."

Steyl's advocate, Ahryn Griebenow, said his client's trip was allowed in terms of the bail conditions.

"If and when my client does wish to leave the country, the sum of R10 000 is deposited into my trust account. Proof of payment is sent to the NPA who are then supposed to notify the Hawks," Griebenow said, adding that the visit had nothing to do

with the wildlife industry.

"He went there to pursue certain business options which have nothing to do with the game industry," he said.

In last year's trial, Steyl emerged as an alleged major player in a scheme designed to exploit loopholes in South Africa's conservation system. He allegedly stood to make at least R16 million in 13 weeks by supplying 50 sets of rhino horns to a Laotian company fronting for a southeast Asian wildlife trafficking syndicate, Xaysavang Trading Export-Import company.

After charges against him and five co-accused were controversially withdrawn in November, disturbing video footage of a bloody rhino hunt on a North West game farm was aired around the world.

In the face of mounting public outrage, the NPA announced the availability of additional evidence had led to a decision to re-arrest Steyl and bring fresh charges against him.

Steyl appeared in the Vryburg Regional Court on December 5 and was charged with 23 counts of fraud, five of illegal rhino hunting, one of money

laundering, and one of contravening the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act. He was ordered to pay R100 000 bail and surrender his passport.

Weekend Argus has learned that there is an investigation under way into whether senior Free State and North West conservation officials had helped Steyl secure permits fraudulently.

Steyl Game CC owns or has interests in farms and businesses in the Free State, North West and Eastern Cape, as well as in Abu Dhabi and Canada.

5 'kidnapped' elephants freed in Zim

Victory for wildlife conservationists



FRIENDS: Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force chairman Johnny Rodrigues at Imire Game Ranch.

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A DAY after the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force announced its intention to bring a high court application against the country's wildlife authority for selling baby elephants to zoos in China, the Zimbabwe Parks Wildlife Management Authority caved in to international pressure.

Task force chairman and animal rights campaigner Johnny Rodrigues's announcement to animal welfare activists around the globe, that five "kidnapped" baby elephants were released from captivity at Hwange National Park, was met on Friday with victory signs by conservationists, international supporters and members of the organisation.

Meanwhile an orphan elephant at the same boma in Hwange is believed to have died before it too could be relocated.

"We believe that 11th hour closed-door negotiations between the ZPWMA and the Zimbabwe NSPCA resulted in this upshot. The whole thing has been hushed up because there is so much money involved," Rodrigues said.

On Friday evening the elephants were loaded on to a large truck and transported through the night to Umfuruzi National Park, a 76 000 ha reserve where they will be released into a carefully planned rehabilitation programme.

Hamish Rudland, board member of that park, told Weekend Argus he had been contacted by Zimbabwe's wildlife authority to oversee the elephants' rehabilitation.

They will be released into a series of expanding bomas



STRESSED AND LONELY: This picture taken at China's Taiyan Zoo shows the despair of the surviving African elephant after the death of its companion there last month. Revelations of inappropriate conditions and inadequate animal husbandry and veterinary care at Chinese zoos have enraged conservationists and animal lovers worldwide.

for about three months to settle down until they have adapted to their new surroundings. It will then be suitable to introduce them to other elephants for gradual integration. Within a year they will be living in a fenced area of between 3 000 and 5 000ha," he said.

However, the victory is bitter-sweet for Rodrigues and his supporters, who have called for the return of three young elephants from China which they say "were stolen from Africa".

"These are African animals. They are our wildlife and should remain in Africa, not be sent to some hell-hole circus zoo facilities in sub-zero temperatures in China," he said.

It is the second time in two years that Rodrigues has successfully led a united public campaign against the Zimbabwe government's attempts to sell wildlife in return for foreign exchange.

In 2010, the government was forced to call off a wildlife sale that would have sent two 16-month-old baby elephants, as well as giraffes, zebras,

hyenas, monkeys and birds caught in the wild to a zoo in North Korea.

Conservationist Dr Ian Player, who in the 1960s and 1970s successfully relocated white rhinos to world-class safari parks and zoos across the US, supported Rodrigues's call to have the elephants returned.

"The sale of animals to destinations where it is known the animals will not be properly cared for, and facilities are inadequate, is absolutely and morally wrong. No African government should allow it," he said.

The five young pachyderms had been held in bomas for three months at Hwange National Park as part of a second wave of delivery to fulfil orders from zoos and safari parks in China.

Rodrigues said he suspected a fraudulent and shady deal between inter-government officials, brokered by a corrupt Chinese syndicate member.

The saga has also raised

charges of unethical conduct and a breach of animal welfare standards levelled at the Zimbabwe government and Cites, the watchdog body that oversees the international trade in wildlife and endangered species.

Last month, after the first four elephants landed in

'The whole thing has been hushed up because there is so much money involved'

China, Hong Kong animal welfare NGO Animals Asia reported an infant African elephant had died soon after arrival at Taiyuan Zoo.

Chinese authorities have still not offered an explanation for its death, and have left its lonely companion under stress behind bars in a cold and damp cement cell.

Experts believe the first four animals were too young to make the long journey alone, and were unlikely to have been weaned from their mothers by

the time they were captured at Hwange. Emirates Airlines and the International Air Transport Association (Iata) have also come under fire from animal welfare NGOs for flying the elephants to a life of captivity in China.

An inside source said the animals were left alone in the hold unattended during the 12-hour passenger jet flight from Harare to Dubai.

Emirates spokesman Usman Ally said via e-mail that the elephants were "transported in

compliance with all government regulations and Cites certification, as well as in compliance with Iata's live animal regulations under the strict supervision of live animal experts".

On Friday Rodrigues warned that the battle was far from over.

"We believe a fraud has been committed, and we are calling for the Cites permits to be made public and opened to scrutiny. If we can prove that, then Cites must be held accountable. They should send

a team of investigators to Zimbabwe immediately," he said, adding that he had information that suggested more animals were destined for shipment to zoos.

"We believe there are currently orders for about 50 or more elephants to go overseas. This is out of control, and we are investigating."

ZPWMA public relations manager Caroline Washa Moyo confirmed an agreement had been reached on Friday, but denied the authority had buckled to international pressure.

She said the secretariat at Cites had asked the wildlife authority for a report on the capture and sale of the elephants to China.

"They had been in the bomas too long and we reached a decision to rehabilitate the elephants."

"We assessed the situation on the ground, and the result is that we decided the elephants had grown too big and used to human beings. Hence we felt we needed to release them in order for them to be rehabilitated," she said.

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Exclusive: Footage shows wild elephants locked in cages ... international animal trade will halt the export of live elephants from Zimbabwe and Baby elephants to be exported to Dubai zoo from Namibia. A game farm in Namibia has been issued permits to sell five baby elephants to a zoo in Dubai..... "Condemning these elephants to a life of captivity in Chinese zoos is a ... has previously exported elephants and other animals to China, Dubai, ...

At a time when animal rights activists are demanding an end to the export of wild elephants to zoos and other captive facilities, more than 90 (3/3) We'll continue to call on Zimbabwe to respect the CITES ban on export of wild elephants to zoos & fight for the remaining baby elephants Zimbabwe is making millions of dollars separating baby elephants from their mums and exporting them to China and Dubai for a lifetime ... Zimbabwe: Baby Elephants Separated From Their Mums To Be Sold To Zoos In China ...

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'Condemning these elephants to a life of captivity in Chinese zoos is a ... More than 30 baby Elephants from Zimbabwe to be sent to China ... Zimbabwe has previously exported elephants and other animals to China, Dubai, ... [AnyDesk 5.3.4 Crack + Activation Key Full Free Download { Latest }](#)



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Rhino horn suspect's Zambian visits queried

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Dubai Safari paid \$25,000 to \$30,000 per elephant, and ultimately \$2 ... Dubai; the other into the freakish netherworld of Chinese zoos, to find ... When I explain that my meals in Laos before this trip included blackened whole baby birds, ... In fact, he had heard that some elephants had just been exported to ... [Press Release: Gi Group recruits Nokia Lumia as its business smartphone](#)

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The 30+ elephants are now being held in quarantine pending distribution to amusement parks and other facilities within China. This is the latest in a long line of similar exports by Zimbabwe; since 2012 ZimParks has captured 141 juvenile elephants and exported them to China and Dubai. ... the capture and export of five baby elephants for Dubai were denied. ... The wild animal specialist and zoo keeper was bought in by Dubai A game farm in Namibia has been issued permits to sell five baby elephants, aged four to eight years old, to a zoo in Dubai.. Baby elephants to be exported to Dubai zoo - Africa Geographic. ... ideas about African Elephant. Photos Show Sad Plight for African Elephants Lifted to China.. Zimbabwe embraces lucrative export of baby elephants as more ... A young male elephant stands alone in Taiyuan Zoo, in China's Shanxi Province. ... said some of Zimbabwe's elephants were destined for Dubai, in the Namibia's wild elephants do not belong in a zoo in the UAE. Tell Namibian and UAE officials to stop the export of baby elephants to Dubai Safari Park!. Zimbabwe has exported 108 young elephants to zoos in China since 2012. HSI/Africa has also today released new, exclusive footage of the young elephants taken just days ago, showing them eating dry branches and walking around a small water hole in their fenced boma.. The five wild baby elephants will be taken away from their herd and placed in a zoo in Dubai.. The European Union (EU) is poised to vote in favour of exporting wild baby elephants from Africa to zoos worldwide – a trade condemned as Namibia is letting a game farm to sell five baby elephants to a zoo in Dubai. We demand a stop to the sale of infant elephants! (64617 signatures on petition) eff9728655 [WhatsApp to Begin Showing Ads as Facebook Wants the App to Start Making Money](#)

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