

Microchips and drones: Kenyan conservationists' high-tech fight against poachers

- 1 Kenyan wildlife officials are planning to implant microchips into the horns of every rhino in the country in order to combat poaching. It's hoped that the chips will not only allow the rhinos to be more effectively monitored, but that the ability to track horns individually will help crack down on illegal smuggling and provide evidence for prosecutors. "With poachers getting more sophisticated in their approach it is vital that conservation efforts embrace the use of more sophisticated technology to counter the killing of wildlife", said the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS).
- 2 The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has donated chips and five scanners for the project at a cost of 1.3 million Kenyan shillings, but tracking and fitting the devices in the country's 1,000 plus rhino population will cost much more than this.
- 3 Poaching in Kenya has increased significantly in recent years, with hunters targeting elephants as well as rhinos. Since the beginning of 2013 poachers have killed 34 rhinos, a 17 per cent increase from the whole of 2012 and in August this year a rhino was even killed in Nairobi's national park, one of the most guarded sites in the country.
- 4 The demand for rhino horns comes mainly from other countries where people believe the horn to be an effective medicine. Rhino horns are made from keratin, the same material as human fingernails and hair, and although the animals can survive having their horn chopped off, poachers often kill them to make the collection of the horn easier. The KWS has said that the project's success would not only safeguard Kenya's rhino population but help combat the groups of organized criminals that profit from the illegal trade and secure Kenya's economically vital tourism industry.
- 5 Other high-tech conservation efforts in Kenya include a project launched last year by Google and the WWF using drones to track endangered species including rhinos and elephants. A \$5 million grant from Google's Global Impact Award program is funding the operation, with conservationists controlling autonomous aircraft with tablet computers. Although the drones' intended use was to provide aerial coverage, it's been reported that they have a secondary use in herding elephants away from danger—be that poachers or areas where conflict with humans is possible. Wildlife researchers believe that the elephants confuse the buzzing noise produced by the drones for a swarm of bees, and run away whenever they hear the devices approaching.



Text A — Microchips and drones: Kenyan conservationists' high-tech fight against poachers

Find the word or phrase in paragraph 1 which means the following:

1. insert

2. observed

3. proof

4. accept

Answer the following questions.

5. Which parts of the microchip project mentioned in the text are the most expensive?

6. How has the number of rhinos killed between 2012 and 2013 changed?

7. Where are rhinos believed to be well protected in Kenya?

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Choose the correct answer.

8. According to the text, why do poachers often kill rhinos instead of just removing their horns?

☐

A. To prevent being injured by the rhinos

B. To make money from the rhino meat

C. To avoid detection by authorities

D. To simplify removal of the horn
9. According to the Kenyan Wildlife Service, what is one of the primary goals of the microchip project?

☐

A. Giving poachers alternative employment

B. Safeguarding Kenya's elephant population

C. Tackling criminal organizations

D. Promoting the trade in rhino horn
10. Rhinos...

☐

A. are important for tourism.

B. only live inside the national park.

C. grew in number in 2013.

D. have horns made of bone.

Choose the appropriate word from the list that completes each gap in the following text.

The article discusses a high-tech project involving drones to [- 11 -] animals at risk. The drones can take photographs from the air, but they can also [- 12 -] elephants away from dangerous areas. Researchers think that the elephants [- 13 -] the sound made by the drones for a swarm of insects, and [- 14 -] whenever they hear the machines arrive.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11. [- 11 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> A. flee |
| 12. [- 12 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> B. treat |
| 13. [- 13 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> C. mistake |
| 14. [- 14 -] | <input type="checkbox"/> D. fight |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> E. chase |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> F. transport |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> G. fear |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> H. protect |

Be our guest: Welcome to London’s greenest hotel

5 The opening of The Corner London City in Aldgate last autumn brought something different to this part of east London. Formerly the Qbic, transformed from a derelict office block into an eco-minded hotel, the rebrand brings changes, both architectural—knocking down walls to create an open-plan space—and sustainable, with multiple measures taken to give the hotel an even greener lease of life. I’m keen to learn how green a 183-room urban hotel can really be.



15 The hotel’s greenery is in good hands. French manager Mohamed Mezaga is passionate about plants. He’s so green-fingered, the hotel’s gardener even turns to him for tips, he adds with a smile. He explains how he takes cuttings from existing plants to add to the growing collection. Some guests ask to take the plants from their room home or even bring in their own, less-pampered versions for the hotel to tend. Mohamed plans to install beehives on the rooftop, with 250 plants and flowers for the bees to feed on, so expect sweet, home-harvested honey on future menus and in cocktails.

20 The hotel’s dazzling eco achievements are colourfully illustrated on a wall near the lift. The Corner produces 67 per cent fewer CO2 emissions than the UK industry average, thanks to sensor LED lighting and 40 solar panels tucked up on the roof. Not only that, but they use 41 per cent less water due to airdrop shower heads, which mix air with water to reduce consumption by 25 per cent, plus water filtration, among other measures. They’re currently awaiting confirmation of B Corp status, a stringent certification that measures a company’s social and environmental performance.

What’s also different here from any other hotel I have stayed in is that everyone multitasks. It’s part of the hotel’s ethos, meaning increased skill sets for all and includes English lessons for foreign-born cleaners, on the house. As a guest, it feels homely to have the same person who checked you in bringing you your dinner.

30 Each room is different, but all share a similar theme: locally sourced fixtures and fittings and ingenious sleeping/bathing pods that take a nifty, time-saving six hours to assemble. Much of the furniture is made by Dutch designer Sander Bokkinga, who uses reclaimed wood for clothes stands and old hosepipes twisted into funky lamps. So far, so good for the planet. Thirsty? There are glass bottles of filtered water. There’s also a recycling bin—all plastic, paper and glass is recycled—and organic toiletries in reusable containers. And, of course, plenty of plants. The effect is relaxing, energizing and impressive. It silently raises the question: why aren’t all hotels trying this hard? Whichever room type you stay in, choose not to get it cleaned and you’ll be handed a £5 voucher for a drink at the bar. If that’s not an incentive to be eco-friendly, I don’t know what is.

Choose the correct answer.

15. What does the text tell us about the hotel building?

- ☐ A. It is in a rural location.
B. It is unlike other local buildings.
C. It has been painted green.
D. It has an office space within it.

Answer the following questions.

16. Who does the gardener ask for advice?

.....

17. Who asks the hotel to care for their neglected plants?

.....

18. What is currently on the rooftop of the hotel?

.....

19. What are two measures the hotel uses to reduce its water use?

[2]

a)
b)

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The following statements are either true or false. Tick [✓] the correct option, then justify it using words as they appear in the text. Both parts are required for [1 mark].

20. The receptionist might also clean your room.

☐

True Justification:

☐

False

21. Non-English-speaking staff must pay for their language lessons.

☐

True Justification:

☐

False

22. The bathrooms take a long time to put together.

☐

True Justification:

☐

False

23. The bottles of bathroom products are refilled.

☐

True Justification:

☐

False

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What do the following words mean in the text? Choose the appropriate word from the list.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 24. stringent (line 24) | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. local |
| 25. ingenious (line 31) | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. engineered |
| 26. reclaimed (line 32) | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. upcycled |
| | | D. marketing |
| | | E. clever |
| | | F. rigorous |

Choose the correct answer.

27. What does the writer think of this new type of hotel?

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | A. More hotels should follow its example. |
| | B. It should not need to be certified. |
| | C. It is very similar to another eco-friendly chain. |
| | D. Receptionists should not be serving food. |

An extract from *The heart goes last*, by Margaret Atwood

They'd started out so well. They both had jobs then. Charmaine was in the Ruby Slippers Retirement Homes and Clinics chain, doing entertainment and events – she had a special touch with the elderly, said the supervisors – and she was working her way up. He was doing well too: junior quality control at Dimple Robotics, testing the Empathy Module in the automated Customer Fulfillment models. People didn't just want their groceries bagged, he used to explain to Charmaine: they wanted a total shopping experience, and that included a smile. Smiles were hard; they could turn into grimaces or leers, but if you got a smile right, they'd spend extra for it. Amazing to remember, now, what people would once spend extra for.

Back up north, they'd made a down payment on a house, a starter two-bedroom in need of a little love but with room for the growing family, said the agent with a wink. It seemed affordable, but in retrospect the decision to buy was a mistake – there were the renovations and repairs, and that meant extra debt on top of the mortgage. They told themselves they could handle it: they weren't big spenders, they worked hard. That's the killer: the hard work. He'd busted his ass. He might as well not have bothered, in view of the fuck-all he's been left with. It makes him cross-eyed to remember how hard he'd worked.

Then everything went to ratshit. Overnight, it felt like. Not just in his own personal life: the whole card castle, the whole system fell to pieces, trillions of dollars wiped off the balance sheets like fog off a window. There were hordes of two-bit experts on TV pretending to explain why it had happened – demographics, loss of confidence, gigantic Ponzi schemes – but that was all guesswork bullshit. Someone had lied, someone had cheated, someone had shorted the market, someone had inflated the currency. Not enough jobs, too many people. Or not enough jobs for middle-of-the-road people like Stan and Charmaine. The northeast, which was where they were, was the hardest hit.

The Ruby Slippers branch where Charmaine worked ran into trouble: it was upscale, so a lot of families could no longer afford to park their old folks in there. Rooms emptied, overheads were cut. Charmaine applied for a transfer – the chain was still doing well on the West Coast – but that didn't happen, and she was made redundant. Then Dimple Robotics packed up and moved west, and Stan was out without a parachute.

Charmaine got a temporary job waiting tables; when that place went belly up, she got another one. Then another, in a bar. Not high-end places; those were drying up, because anyone who could afford to eat fancy food was gobbling it farther west, or else in exotic countries where the concept of minimum wage had never existed.

No such luck for Stan, with the odd jobs: overqualified, was what they told him at the employment office. He said he wasn't picky – he'd clean floors, he'd mow lawns – and they smirked (what floors? what lawns?), and said they'd keep him on file. But then the employment office itself closed down, because why keep it open if there was no employment?

Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in lines 1–13.

28. Charmaine was good at her job at the care home because...

29. Stan believed that a friendly greeting gave customers...

30. To purchase their new home, the couple had...

31. The new house cost more than expected because of...

32. Choose the three true statements (lines 17–34).

[3]

☐
☐
☐

- A. Stan and Charmaine's life changed gradually.
- B. Employment was hard to find for ordinary people.
- C. The place where Stan and Charmaine lived was worst affected.
- D. The Ruby Slippers was an affordable care home.
- E. Stan decided to relocate to the West Coast.
- F. When the crisis hit, wealthy people moved away or abroad.

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What do the following words mean in the text? Choose the appropriate words from the list.

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 33. out (line 29) | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. luxury |
| 34. belly up (line 30) | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. homeless |
| 35. high-end (line 31) | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. extinct |
| 36. picky (line 35) | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. unreachable |
| | | E. unemployed |
| | | F. lazy |
| | | G. fussy |
| | | H. bankrupt |

Choose the correct answer.

37. This passage is about...
- ☐ A. an economic crisis.
- B. the housing market.
- C. care for the elderly.
- D. a relationship breakdown.