

THE ALL-AFRICA HUMANE EDUCATION SUMMIT 2003. SPOTLIGHT ON WHAT THE SPEAKERS SAID.....



Shirley Glynn, Executive Director, the Jane Goodall Institute, South Africa. She told the Summit: "We at the Jane Goodall Institute believe that deforestation and the bushmeat crisis is the biggest crisis facing not only the African continent but the

world in general... In the Congo basin alone, five million metric tons of bushmeat are taken from the forest each year. Amongst the species targeted are the Great Apes, man's closest living relative, who now face imminent extinction. The traditional and sustainable consumption of bushmeat has turned into a multi-million industry. Not only is the meat sold in the markets in Africa but it is also exported to European countries. Education is part of the solution."



Ranjini Pillay, Deputy Director, Gauteng Institute for Educational Development (Curriculum materials) said: "The development of materials (for South Africa's Revised National Curriculum) acknowledges that no educational process is value free. The attitudes and

values that the activities are designed to encourage include a sense of compassion, respect for other living things, and a sense of social justice and equity."



Isaac Mujaasi, Education Officer for the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Uganda. He said: "The problem is that within the next five to 10 years, if nothing is done, there will be no great apes left in the wild."



Kim Bartlett, Publisher of Animal People Newspaper, USA. She said: "It is our belief that the *sustainable use* philosophy for wildlife management, has been a total failure when it comes to protecting wildlife. And now there is a call in the UK for a

sustainable bushmeat trade and it sounds to me like that's the death knell of wildlife in Central Africa."

Phil Arkow, Chairman of the Animal Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Project at the Latham Foundation, USA, said:



"While being kind to animals is certainly a nice thing to do, is certainly the right thing to do, it is only when people in

leadership positions recognise that animal abuse has adverse effects on humans, that animal maltreatment will become culturally unacceptable and real, lasting changes will be made...

"The abuse of animals is often the first step on the slippery slope of desensitization, the first step down that slope of a lack of empathy.... and violence...

"All too often animals are the first victims and what should be seen as a red flag or warning marker, is readily dismissed by parents and teachers as 'oh well, boys will be boys' or 'it's only a rabbit, what's the big deal?'

"We are all extremely fortunate to be here for this conference. South Africa is truly leading the way worldwide by incorporating empathy-based education and the links between animal abuse and interpersonal violence into the school curriculum. I applaud South Africa for taking this great step."

Former President Mandela put it this way:

What's needed is 'the Reconstruction and Development of the Soul — the RDP of the soul.'

Dr Theophilus Kamupingene, Regional Director, Ministry of Education, Namibia, asked Ms Jozana the following question: "I am interested to note that former President Mandela called a summit to discuss the issue of morality in the country. Can you say something about the impact of that?" Ms Jozana replied:



"The former State President initiated the process of moral regeneration by calling together leaders of political parties and religious communities to look at what he called the need for the Reconstruction and Development of the Soul. The RDP of the soul."