



迫力いっぱいの象の群れ。ゴナレジョウ国立公園には推定1万1000頭が生息している



国立公園北部にあるチロジョクリフと呼ばれる崖の上から眺めるルンデ川



密猟されたと思われる象の骨



ブチハイエナは優秀なハンターでもある



らせん状の立派な角を持つレイヨウの一種、クーズー

Gonarezhou: The place of elephants

Story and photos by Stephen Cunliffe
ジンバブエ ゴナレジョウ国立公園

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■ 1万1000頭もが生息する「象の土地」



From Chilolo to Chipinda, Chamuluvati and Chamachinzu, the alliterative place names in Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe promise an exotic safari adventure. Gonarezhou, meaning “the place of elephants,” is an about 5,000-square-kilometer wilderness with an estimated 11,000 elephants.

Sitting near a campfire in the park, I heard the roars of a lion growing louder as they echoed off the Chilolo Cliffs across the river. With no moon or stars, it was pitch black beyond our campfire. My safari companion and I pulled our chairs a little closer to the flames. The hairs on the back of my neck bristled and my heart beat a little faster as the king of the beasts proclaimed his territory. This was the wild Gonarezhou at its very best.

We had begun exploring Gonarezhou five days earlier. By entering the park from Mozambique at the Sango border post, we could explore the less-visited southern part of the park. We had been advised to focus on the Muwatomba Pools and Rossi Pools. These are two of the park’s finest campsites, overlooking the scenic Mwanezi River, with dry-season water that attracts herds of elephants.

The remote southern and central sections don’t have as much

wildlife, but their wild atmosphere with few other vehicles more than makes up for that. Incidentally, off-roading is not an option, as the last of the Mozambican border minefield still awaits clearing in the southeast!

From Rossi Pools we headed north through the center of the national park. This is the least explored section, so the animals here are scared easily. We saw herds of impalas, elephants and even giraffes, but none of these creatures stayed for long.

■ 水辺に集まるさまざまな動物

As we neared the Runde River in the north of the park, I noticed a change. The feeling of true remoteness began to fade, and the wildlife became more plentiful and less timid. Our campsite for the next couple of nights was the beautiful Chamuluvati in the northeast, renowned for its elephants.

Not far from our campsite was Machaniwa Pan, where the water was rapidly receding. Storks, herons, warthogs, waterbuck, baboons and impalas drank the water while jackals called soulfully as they walked around the edge of the waterhole. It was a great place to enjoy a picnic lunch before heading further east to the Save-Runde river confluence.

In this northeastern region, particularly near the Save River boundary, we sadly began to see signs of elephant poaching.

Old skeletons with bleached bones and broken skulls remained from previous elephant massacres, but there were also worrying signs of recent poaching: a fresh carcass right next to the road between the Save-Runde Gate and Gayiseni campsite.

■ 密猟対策が奏功 象、ライオン、リカオンは増加傾向に

The next day, we drove through the mountainous north to Chipinda, where we met the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) project manager, Hugo.

“That elephant carcass you saw near Gayiseni yesterday was shot by Mozambican poachers,” he said, noting that the park has more elephants than the entire population of the animals in neighboring Mozambique.

“To make matters worse,” Hugo added, “they’re not only using guns but also poisoning fruit and leaving it on the major elephant trails.”

The result has been a steady rise in elephant deaths; currently around 100 elephants a year are being lost to poaching. To fight the problem, FZS boosted its anti-poaching force, acquiring an aircraft and sniffer dogs. As a result, there is still hope for the elephants. Hugo said the elephant population has been increasing at an annual rate of 5.9 percent over the past five years.

Other key wildlife species are doing even better. The lion

population, down to only 20 animals when FZS arrived, has quadrupled in the past 10 years. And there are now over 200 wild dogs in eight to 10 packs across the park. Herbivore populations have also rebounded.

Back at our Chilolo Cliffs campsite, a relaxed male elephant greeted our arrival and spent the entire night feeding noisily around the camp. I found his branch-breaking and noisy chewing reassuring, and drifted off into a deep sleep. I dreamt of the Gonarezhou: a place rich in wildlife and wilderness where its former glory is rapidly being recovered and rediscovered.

Gonarezhou National Park, Zimbabwe

ジンバブエで第2の面積を誇る、1975年に設立された国立公園。多種の野生動物の他、砂岩が作る地形の美しさでも知られる。公園内にキャンプ場はいくつもあるが店は無いので、公園外の町でキャンプに必要な道具や食料・水などを購入しておく必要がある。同公園には1年を通じて入れるが、雨期(11月~翌4月)にはアクセスできない場所もあるので、公園の事務所で詳しい情報を確認すること。



THE WILD LIFE

KEYWORDS

alliterative 頭韻を踏んだ
safari (ここでは)動物観察旅行
wilderness 未開地
roar ほえ声

echo off ~ ~に響く
cliff 崖
pitch black 真っ暗な
flame 炎
bristle 逆立つ
proclaim はっきりと示す
border (post) 国境(の検問所)

pool 水場(後出 waterhole も同意)
overlook 見下ろす
scenic 景色の良い
a herd of ~ ~の群れ(後出 pack も群れ)
remote 人里離れた(後出

remoteness は名詞)
wildlife 野生動物
make up for ~ ~を補う
incidentally ちなみに
off-roading 道を外れること
minefield 地雷原
(be) scared 怖がる

fade 消えていく
plentiful たくさんの
timid 臆病な
renowned for ~ ~で有名な
pan 皿状のくぼ地
recede 引く
stork コウノトリ

heron サギ
warthog イボイノシシ
waterbuck レイヨウの一種
baboon ヒビ
confluence 合流点
boundary 境界
poaching 密猟(後出

poacher は密猟者)
skeleton 骨格(ここでは死骸。後出 carcass も死骸)
bleached bone 白骨
skull 頭骨
massacre 大虐殺
mountainous 山地の

zoological 動物学の
boost 強化する
anti-poaching force 密猟対策チームのこと
sniffer dog 捜索犬
species (生物の)種
quadruple 4倍になる

wild dog リカオン
herbivore 草食動物
feed 餌を食べる
reassuring 安心させる
drift off into a sleep いつの間にか眠る
glory 全盛

Photojournalist Stephen Cunliffe’s love of adventure and wildlife has taken him to over 75 countries, and his stories and photographs have been published widely. He lives with his wife and two sons in the world-renowned Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, where the wilds of Africa are a stone’s throw from his doorstep. Website: www.stevecunliffe.com



多読チャレンジ ゴナレジョウ国立公園で年間に密猟される象の数は? [本文 - 694 words]