

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are delighted to bring you this Summer A issue of the JSDA. For many of you who have taken a look at the JSDA website, you should have noticed the new policies that we have put in place in the processing of papers submitted for consideration for possible publication and fees for publishing articles in the JSDA. The new policies are to assist in the management of the journal in order to get more assistance from those who work for the journal. The quality of the journal is bound to improve as a result of the added help which, by the way, cost money.

As far as this issue is concerned, the emphasis is on the environmental matter. We continue to see the threats to the ecosystems of the continent as a result of mismanagement and hap-hazard development without careful planning and environmental protection. On the species levels, the big games such as elephants, lions, cheetahs, rhinos, and gorillas continue to be threatened by poachers. Research findings in western Mahanashtra, India show that leopards and humans can co-exist under careful planning and management of parks. There is no doubt that the planners and managers of African parks must incorporate such perspectives into their work. The most vulnerable big cats such as cheetahs, lions and tigers are threatened because enough conservation and preservation efforts are not in place and insufficient funds are not available to provide the best protection that is necessary. To appreciate this problem the plight of the cheetah can be placed under the microscope in order to understand the magnitude of the problem. Writing for the November 2012:12 issue of the *National Geographic*, Roff Smith makes the following observation:

In Africa cheetah numbers plummeted by more than 90 percent during the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as farmers, ranchers, and herdsmen crowded the cats out of their habitat, hunters shot them for sport, and poachers captured cubs for the lucrative trade in exotic pets. In all, fewer than 10, 000 cheetahs survive in the wild today.

Even within Africa's great game parks, cheetahs are under heavy pressure. Shy and delicately built, the only big cats that cannot roar, they are bullied into the margins by lions, which are far stronger both in body and number. Consider Tanzania's Serengeti National Park and the adjoining Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. Taken together the two parks are home to more than 3,000 lions, an estimated 1,000 leopards, and a mere 300 cheetahs.



Oil exploration is an excellent venture when it is done properly with regard to sound environmental protection and conservation of the integrity of the natural/ecological systems. The papers in this issue focus on theoretical and applied aspects of environmental management matters. Policies and strategies for rectifying the problem are offered.

We thank our loyal supporters for their constructive suggestions over the years.

Sincerely,

Valentine Udoh James, Ph.D.; CEI; CAQS  
Professor of Environmental Management, Planning and Policy  
Certified Environmental Inspector  
Certified Air Quality Specialist  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania