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In today's competitive global environment, the use of logistics companies to carry items between countries within set time parameters is becoming increasingly necessary.

Throughout Africa, the capabilities of logistics companies have also evolved exponentially over the past 20 years and it is today commonplace to transport

packages such as live animals, specially prepared foods or the latest car models across the continent.

Looking back on 2012, Charles Brewer, managing director of DHL Express Sub-Saharan Africa, says that the increase in requests to transport various endangered animals as well as some unique personal client requests was particularly noteworthy.

"A highlight in 2012 was moving three endangered Black Rhinos from the UK

to the Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania. The 10-hour journey from Manston, UK airport to Tanzania included a refueling stop in Italy and took place aboard a specially outfitted Boeing 757. Special accommodation included rhino-sized life-saving devices and temperature controlled conditions in the cabin, and the transport team included two rhino keepers, two aircraft engineers and a specialist veterinarian.

"It's very special that we

can use our core capability of logistics to support such valuable conservation efforts," says Brewer in a statement issued by DHL Express.

On a global front, DHL also announced that it recently delivered two Sumatran tigers, one from the USA and one from Australia, to take part in an international breeding program.

With fewer than 300 Sumatran tigers now in the wild, ZSL London Zoo is hoping to breed the tigers as

mentioned requests, DHL noted that it has also recently come across various strange personal requests:

"A particularly unique personal request," according to the company, "came from Nigeria, whereby a client also paid the airfare of one of our onboard couriers to travel with a birthday cake from Abuja to Lagos, which was about three times the value of the cake."

The client, name withheld, put a significant premium

Brewer explained that although the company has fulfilled many strange delivery requests, there are certain restrictions when it comes to global couriering.

"Jewelries, precious metals, firearms, parts thereof and ammunition cannot to be couriered at all costs, and we find that as so many outlandish and strange requests can be accommodated these days, many consumers are not aware of these restrictions."

Solar Energy Cardinal to Liberia

-Says German Consul to Liberia

By Joaquin Sendolo

The Honorary Consul of Liberia in Germany, Herr Michael Kolsch, said that solar power should be considered as a potential source of energy in Liberia.

According to Mr. Kolsch, Germany leads the world in photovoltaic technology and has committed itself in supporting its population to supply their own electricity.

He told Liberian government officials at a reception organized by German Ambassador to Liberia, Bodo Schaff that, because Liberia does not have a big grid for the technology, it must support island stations for solar, wind, and hydro power plants.

German business tycoons



(l-r) Honorary Consul Kolsch, Amb. Schaff and his wife at the reception

under the name, Saxony Consortium, are currently in Liberia to assess the business climate for possible investment.

Mr. Kolsch said the German businessmen have noticed that Liberia, because of its democratic principles, is a gateway to entering the

ECOWAS market.

Some companies whose heads travelled with the Honorary Consul include VINCI (experts in road building), ALGATEC (solar plant builders), Peace Power (engaged in construction of hydro plants) and Station 5 (involved with housing construction).

The diplomat described these companies as solid, sustainable and willing to realize and add value to business in Liberia.

"What is most impressive here in Liberia is that many Liberians are optimistic about their country - which visitors can feel. Also, our conversations with representatives of stakeholders in Liberia were very friendly and promising," Mr. Kolsch noted.

This is the second time that Mr. Kolsch has brought German investors to Liberia

to explore investment possibilities. In 2012, Mr. Kolsch led a delegation of business tycoons to Liberia. Some of them have already established businesses in the country.

For his part, Ambassador Bodo Schaff reflected on the historical connection between Liberia and Germany as far back as in 1855, when the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation was established and ratified in 1856. That, he recalled, led Germany to become the second European power to recognize Liberia as a sovereign State. The first was Great Britain, in 1848.

He also recalled that since then, Germany has been doing business with Liberia. He cited the Bong Mining Company as a German-oriented company that mined iron ore in the Bong Mountain range in the 1960s through the 80s. The company closed during the war and China Union is currently investing US\$2.6 billion in that concession area,

the Bong Range.

DHL, Access Bank, Cemenco, and B&T Wood Trading Company were named as some German companies presently doing business in Liberia.

Ambassador Schaff noted that Germany has been contributing to the reconstruction effort of Liberia, including the improvement of road infrastructure, energy and other interventions.

The German Agro Action (Welthungerhilfe) has been working in Liberia to help reduce poverty through the empowerment of local farmers to increase food production.

Moreover, the German envoy further noted that the construction of the Mount Coffee Hydro electric plant is financially supported by his country.

He commended Honorary Consul Kolsch for leading the delegation to Liberia, and urged that visit be done bi-annually to attract foreign investors to the country.