



YEARS OF VISIONARY
CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP



AFRICAN WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

AWF LEGACY & IMPACT REPORT VOLUME 1
**CHAMPIONING AFRICAN CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT**



The African Wildlife Foundation engages and supports African leadership at all levels to ensure development in Africa is sustainable and protects wildlife and wild lands. This publication is the first in a series of four chronicling AWF's evolution and impact over 60 years of innovative and pioneering work in Africa. Subsequent publications in the series will address the three other thematic pillars of AWF's work: holistic and participatory large-landscape conservation; sustainable-livelihood development and community benefit in conservation; and multifaceted, interlinked species protection efforts.



A view of the Mwaka College campus in August, 2021



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Vesting Conservation Ownership Where it Belongs

The African Wildlife Foundation 60 years ago pioneered conservation that emphasizes African leadership and ownership, and this approach is the cornerstone of our work today. We're committed to helping Africa's governments and people navigate the continent's rapid development with their magnificent wildlife and wild lands conserved, restored, and contributing to sustainable green growth.

Whether we're supporting the creation of a conservancy, investing in ranger training, mobilizing youth to demand meaningful conservation commitments, or elevating the voices of African leaders to negotiate for sustainable development, our goal is consistent: conservation success that is lasting because it represents the will of Africa's people and supports sustainable livelihoods over the long term.

Conservation ownership must reside with those who bear conservation's costs and benefits: protected-area authorities; governments (local through national); communities living with wildlife; and all Africa's citizens,

especially women and youth. The private sector, too, has an increasingly important role. AWF strives to ensure these vested owners have meaningful opportunities to voice their interests — shaping conversations, debates, financing, development strategies, and policy.

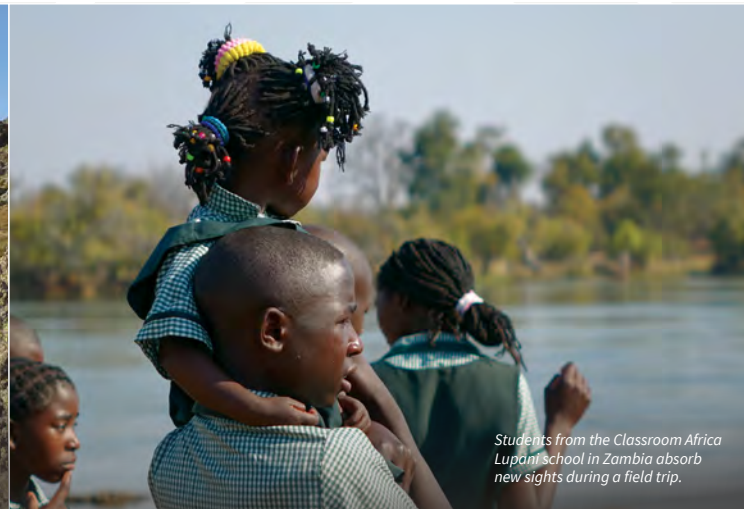
These inclusive approaches are inherently right, but also pragmatic. Because in the end, if Africa's leaders don't pursue conservation, then conservation won't happen.

A commitment to indigenous conservation leadership is in AWF's DNA. The organization was born as the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation (AWLF) in 1961, not coincidentally amid Africa's independence movement, when African nations *en masse* emerged free from European colonialism. It was then (as now) vitally important to inspire and support the development of African conservation leaders.

AWF's founders stepped up with a plan, and from that inception, through six decades of growth in an ever-evolving conservation landscape, our guiding star has



AWF supports protected-area authorities and their rangers throughout Africa. Here, a ranger looks out over Simien Mountains National Park.



Students from the Classroom Africa Lupani school in Zambia absorb new sights during a field trip.

been African conservation leadership. AWF believes in the incredible potential of Africans to develop and model conservation solutions for the continent and world.

Over the years, we've learned much about the interests, arguments, and contending forces related to conservation in Africa. One overarching lesson? The future of African wildlife and lands depends on how well we link the conservation agenda to aspirations and mindsets driving change on the continent. But "conservation versus development" is an old paradigm. We must accept modern Africa. The Africa that can build cities and can keep wildlife and wild lands secure. Africa does not have to sacrifice one for the other.

There is an old saying: "If you don't know where you come from, then you don't know where you are, and if you

don't know where you are, then you don't know where you're going." By highlighting our past efforts to foster and promote African conservation leadership, we illuminate our path forward and provide essential information to practitioners, investors, and partners in conservation. It will take all of us to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa.

Many thanks, always, to our dedicated allies who make our work possible.

Sincerely,

Kaddu Sebunya
Chief Executive Officer

“AWF believes in the incredible potential of Africans to develop and model conservation solutions for the continent and world.”



This early photo shows Mweka College's stunning backdrop.

“Africans, particularly the young, are realizing that conservation is and has been part of our lives, traditions, and beliefs. I wholeheartedly believe our challenge and success with conservation rest in making it part of young Africans' economic aspirations.”

EDWIN TAMBARA
AWF Director, Global Leadership

COLLEGE OF AFRICAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, MWEKA

In 1962, AWF embarked on its first major funding project — establishing Africa's original training school for wildlife and parks personnel. With US\$ 41,000 in seed funds from AWF, the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, Tanzania opened its doors to an inaugural class of 25 students from parks authorities in Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and Uganda.

AWF funding for curricula development, new dormitory construction, campus expansion, vehicles, and supplies ensured the institution's success in the early years and allowed Mweka to broaden its operations. In 1965, the school — known informally as Mweka College — graduated its first students, a milestone not just for the institution but also for conservation in Africa.

Over the decades, students from all over would enroll in the unique college on Mount Kilimanjaro's southern slopes. To date, more than 9,000 students have graduated, and Mweka alumni are found in parks authorities, wildlife ministries, NGOs, and other conservation enterprises throughout the world. “Mweka really shaped me,” says William Mwakilema, deputy conservation commissioner at

Tanzania National Parks. “Acquiring skills at Mweka made my work easier. Because as a warden, you have to be a jack of all trades; you have to do all the activities in the parks. And those skills you can never acquire anywhere else, apart from Mweka.”

“The impact of Mweka in wildlife conservation in Africa has been immense,” says Freddie Manongi, a commissioner with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority and Mweka's rector from 2011 to 2013. “Wherever you go in Africa, you find Mweka alumni heading the wildlife sectors. And they have made a big impact in these countries.”

Some Mweka graduates find their calling in politics. “Our current speaker of the (Tanzania) national assembly, Honorable Job Ndugai, was a graduate of this college,” says Mweka's current rector, Jafari R. Kideghesho. “He is very, very tough in defending the interest of conservation. I tell my students that they shouldn't be shy about going into politics, because as conservationists we have critical interests.”





AWF funding for curricula, dormitory construction, campus expansion, and more ensured Mweka's early success.

Throughout the years, AWF and Mweka College collaborated on a variety of programs that were influential beyond the classroom. In the 1990s, for example, Mweka offered a popular workshop on “wildlife and man” that helped develop and promulgate the concept of community conservation and wildlife management areas (WMAs). (The latter are communal lands that villages set aside as protected habitat; combined with tourism, WMAs help create an economic incentive to safeguard wildlife. Today, there are 38 wildlife management areas in Tanzania.) AWF also commissioned Mweka to prepare land-management plans in support of our conservation work in the Kilimanjaro and Maasai Steppe AWF Heartlands.

Mweka today offers a range of academic programs in wildlife management and wildlife tourism, including

technical courses, bachelor's degree programs, and graduate programs. The college has received several awards, including the United Nations Environment Programme's Sasakawa Environment Prize for contributions to conservation.

“I thank AWF for the great work for the college,” says David Manyanza, who was Mweka principal from 1990 to 1999 and currently runs a management consultancy firm in Arusha. “AWF took the college far — took African conservation far.”

MWEKA GRADUATES IN CONSERVATION

Thousands of wildlife managers have graduated from Mweka, and the institution's alumni were or are conservation leaders in numerous capacities. Below is a sampling.

DAVID BABU, senior warden at Serengeti National Park and later head of Tanzania National Parks

H. SAID, served as warden, Nairobi National Park

MARIETTA LOHAY, founded Malihai Wildlife Clubs in Tanzania

NATHANIEL ARAP CHUMO, served as national organizer of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya

GEOFFREYS MATIPANO, deputy director-general for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority

FREDDY MANONGI, conservation commissioner, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority

JIM JUSTUS NYAMU, wildlife activist and researcher known for long-distance walking campaigns on behalf of elephants. Between 2013 and 2018, he walked over 15,411 kilometers to raise anti-poaching awareness.

JOSEPH MBURAGU, assistant director, Kenya National Parks

JAMES OKWARE, senior warden at the Uganda Wildlife Authority

KORES SAMPARSIMEI, director of tourism & wildlife, county government of Kajiado, Kenya



Students marching in formation at Mweka College, August 2021.

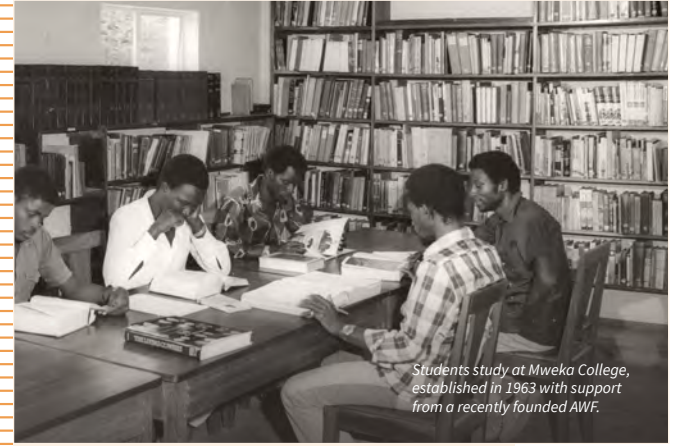


TRAINING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES

Various field training programs complemented AWF's investment in Mweka College. In 1964, AWF approved a grant for an in-service program in Serengeti National Park. The program gave participants a six-month training as park guides, with the most successful students going on to study at Mweka College.

Fast forward to today, and we see there has been a continuous thread of AWF support and training for Africa's rangers and scouts. We seek to ensure these dedicated frontline heroes have the best possible knowledge and skills in areas such as

anti-poaching surveillance and response. We also provide training for rangers in law enforcement topics: managing a crime scene, storing evidence, serving as effective witnesses in court, and more. Finally, our geospatial team conducts regular trainings in state-of-the-art tracking technology (CyberTracker/SMART) that helps rangers efficiently capture, collate, and analyze data such as locations and numbers of poaching snares or wildlife nests. Equipping personnel with these tools is at the center of AWF's strategy to improve protected-area management and sharpen conservation planning.



Students study at Mweka College, established in 1963 with support from a recently founded AWF.

SUPPORT FOR POSTGRADS

From the start, AWF fostered student success through scholarships and grants for study at Mweka and beyond. In 1976, aware that young African conservationists found it difficult to raise funds for field studies once they completed their coursework, AWF established the Advanced Ecological Training Program, which awarded grants for postgraduate research projects. The program supported scores of students and was a precursor to future AWF fellowship and management training programs that would help create a corps of dedicated African conservation researchers, practitioners, and managers. (See pages 10-13.)



MODEL INSTITUTION

As a pioneering institution, Mweka College served as a model for the creation of wildlife colleges in other countries. In 1970, a French-speaking school opened at Garoua, Cameroon — the *Ecole pour la Formation de Spécialistes de la Faune Sauvage*. The school was conceived in a resolution drafted by AWF’s then-president Russell Train and presented to an assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in September 1963, uniting support from the world’s conservation movement for a francophone college for wildlife conservation in west and central Africa.



Garoua continues to play a central role in fostering generations of conservationists on the continent and is a strategic partner for our work in places like Dja Faunal Reserve, Campo Ma’an and Faro national parks in Cameroon, and Bili-Uele and Lomako landscapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Africa’s original training school for wildlife and parks personnel opened in 1963.

AWF IS BORN

The African Wildlife Leadership Foundation (now AWF) was founded during Africa’s independence movement by five American friends who loved Africa and often went on safari: Russell Train, Nick Arundel, Jim Bugg, Kermit Roosevelt (Teddy Roosevelt’s grandson), and Maurice Stans (President Eisenhower’s budget director). At the first meeting, Train wrote, it did not take the friends long to agree on a mission. “Training was a niche that no one else was filling and it was vitally important.”

AWLF was founded on three premises that resonate today:

- The future of Africa’s wildlife resources is in the hands of Africans themselves
- Sound economic reasons exist for the conservation of wildlife
- [AWF] can contribute by providing the equipment and techniques for effective wildlife conservation and management



The Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, which AWF founded in partnership with Kenyan students, organized safaris and other field trips for their members.

THE WILDLIFE CLUBS OF KENYA

In 1968, students at Kagumo High School in Nyeri, Kenya wrote to the national Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and asked how they might learn more about Kenyan wildlife. This simple query started an unprecedented youth movement, first within Kenya and eventually across the continent.

The Ministry asked AWF to assist the students, and soon these exceptional youths were organizing a countrywide wildlife seminar, which led to the formation of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. The clubs would offer their members field trips to see wildlife, mobile education programs, and, in later years, activities such as tree-planting and invasive plant removal. By 1979, there were 439 Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, boasting a total of 20,000 members.

Club members were passionate about conservation and unafraid to challenge powerful people. In 1973, in an inspiring display of civic engagement and concern for wildlife, over 300 young members peacefully marched and presented an anti-poaching petition signed by over 7,000 to the office of President Jomo Kenyatta. In 1977,

“We’ve always believed that Africans are the proper and best custodians of their wealth, and that AWF’s work, chiefly, is to empower and support governments and communities in their conservation efforts. We help the African people realize their conservation visions.”

KADDU SEBUNYA
AWF CEO





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Wildlife Clubs of Kenya estimates it has helped educate **over 1 million** young Kenyans. Many alumni have achieved positions of influence in government, conservation, and other sectors.

the young people again marched to urge a ban on the sale of animal products in curio shops.

Other countries soon took note of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and requested help from AWF to establish programs. Eventually, wildlife clubs formed in Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, Cameroon, Sudan, and Zambia. In later years, club programs formed in Asia and Latin America as well.

Still active today, the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya has played a significant role in inspiring future conservationists and cultivating a corps of environmentally-minded citizens who care about Africa's precious wildlife.

"AWF recognized an idea whose time had come, that of giving young Kenyans a chance to see and learn about their country's world famous wildlife," says Sandra Price, who, at AWF's request, organized the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya in 1969. "This early, consistent AWF support strengthened a fledgling staff and their outreach capacities, and the Clubs' consequently spread like wildfire."

AWF TODAY



(top) Students at the #Iam4Nature Youth Summit held at AWF headquarters in 2019. (bottom) Members of the Zimbabwe Youth Biodiversity Network.

MOBILIZING YOUTH

One of AWF's primary objectives for the next decade is to radically increase the engagement of young people in conservation. Wildlife clubs are a proven approach — around the world, they've succeeded in bringing wildlife, wild lands, and sustainable development knowledge to students. AWF has already started developing new clubs and providing guidance to educators and youth leaders on projects, curricula, and outdoor activities that engage and inspire youth. No doubt, many of the teachers, counselors, and mentors who heed our call-to-action and help lead our environmental education campaigns will have been shaped by their early experiences with wildlife clubs!



Charlotte Fellowship alum
(2008) Lona Nalurit Darius Gore

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION HIGHER EDUCATION

Tackling conservation challenges holistically, in a way that benefits communities and accounts for the uniqueness of any given landscape, requires skilled program staff and leaders, well-trained in conservation methodologies and ready to take on new challenges. AWF's Charles R. Wall Conservation Leadership and Management Program helps develop this capacity while expanding the ranks of Africans in conservation.

The program, launched in 2012, is a competitive and intensive on-the-job training for recent master's degree recipients. Over two years, students gain real-world experience working in AWF's field programs and at our Nairobi headquarters, and they emerge ready to serve as experienced conservation professionals.

To date, the program has graduated leaders from 14 countries; many of the graduates go on to join AWF as

full-time staff members. Today, five program graduates work on staff in various teams, including global leadership and counter-wildlife trafficking. Other alumni have worked in organizations such as BirdLife International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association, and the United Nations Development Programme.

"This program changed the trajectory of my story and many others," says Jia Qiao, Wall Fellow and AWF Manager of External Relations, China. "No other conservation program on the continent affords one the room to learn and exposure to conservation. CLMP entrusts practical responsibilities that propelled me and others to contribute to conservation in a way we could have never imagined."



2008 Charlotte Fellow Paul Demetry

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

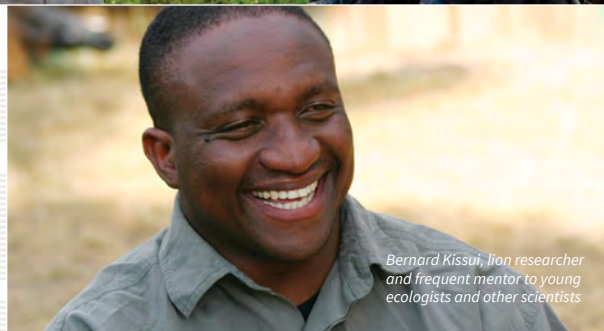
When AWF was founded, there were 3,000 young Africans studying medicine, law, and other subjects at U.S. universities, but not one African student was preparing for a career in conservation. AWF initiated a program of scholarships to enable young Africans to study wildlife management and biology at U.S. universities. One of the first three to receive a grant, Perez Olinda, would go on to become chief director of Kenya National Parks.

Our current iteration of this initiative is the **Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program**, which supports postgraduate study. To date, the program has assisted 71 students from 19 African countries. Alums include conservation luminaries such as Eugène Rutaragama, internationally recognized for his role in saving mountain gorillas shortly after the Rwandan genocide, and Paula Kahumbu, CEO of WildlifeDirect.

Bernard Kissui won AWF's Charlotte Fellowship in 2003, which allowed him to study lions in and around Tarangire National Park, with a special focus on demography and human-lion conflicts. Today, he is on the faculty of the School for Field Studies and a leading lion researcher. He has helped to identify and develop conflict-mitigation strategies such as predator-proof *bomas*, which protect lions while preventing Maasai farmers from losing



Charlotte Fellowship alum Eugène Rutaragama (left), internationally recognized for his role in helping to save mountain gorillas



Bernard Kissui, lion researcher and frequent mentor to young ecologists and other scientists

livestock. "I think my research, my community efforts, all of it can be ascribed to the impact of the Charlotte Fellowship Program," he says.

As a dedicated mentor to his students, Kissui has helped advance the careers of numerous African researchers and conservationists — illustrating how an investment in even one dedicated individual can have a significant multiplier effect.

“Participating with teams in landscape management and community development processes gave me a deeper understanding of conservation issues. I gained capacity in managing situations not as an onlooker, but as a member of that community, to the benefit of the habitat, wildlife, and people.”

HENRIATHA CHE
Wall Fellow, 2016



“I wholeheartedly believe our success with conservation rests in making it part of Africans’ aspirations.”

EDWIN TAMBARA

Wall Fellow & AWF Global Leadership Director

In 2013, Edwin Tambara passed up a scholarship for doctorate studies to participate in AWF’s Charles R. Wall Conservation Leadership Management Program. Then 28, Tambara quickly found himself at the front lines of conservation. He was, for example, put in charge of developing the first management plan for any national park in South Sudan, and he helped create tourism plans for Campo Ma’an and Mt. Cameroon parks, among other important conservation areas across the continent.

Recently relocated to the U.S. with his family, Tambara now serves as AWF’s Director of Global Leadership. In this role, he works with the governments, multilateral institutions, and other stakeholders to influence conservation policies and encourage development financing that supports rather than degrades wildlife and habitats.

AWF’s status as an organization deeply embedded in Africa is a key factor in his government engagements, he says. Sharing stories, successes, and insights from the ground with policymakers in Washington, DC and around the world ensures African voices and perspectives are heard. “Building relationships is the chief currency for engagement and for influencing policy outcomes,” he says.

Tambara is optimistic about the future. Historically, many conservation approaches were prescriptive and disenfranchised local people, which led Africans to view conservation as a Western priority, he says. But that is changing. “Young Africans, especially, are realizing that conservation has always been part of their lives and traditions,” he says. “I wholeheartedly believe our success with conservation rests in making it part of Africans’ aspirations.”



AWF TODAY



TAKING THE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TO SCALE

In August 2021, AWF renamed the Conservation Leadership Management Program to honor the extraordinary leadership service and generosity of AWF Trustee Chuck Wall, who helped develop and strengthen AWF’s conservation education and leadership-development efforts. He also has been formative in establishing AWF offices in our focal countries. AWF today is evolving the **Charles R. Wall Conservation Leadership Management Program** to extend its reach and hone critical elements such as mentorship. We plan to enroll 25 young African leaders every year for each of the next 10 years. The

program will offer bespoke leadership training, intense mentorship and coaching support, and the development of problem-solving skills gained through tackling real-life problems within organizations and projects. The Wall Fellows will be drawn from AWF and across the spectrum of AWF’s partners. Candidates are expected to have the ambition to impact conservation and the aptitude for increased leadership roles and responsibilities. Over the next 10 years, the program seeks to empower this group of 250 young Africans to take leadership roles within conservation institutions, AWF included.

AWF LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

- African Conservation Voices Media Labs
- Young African Policy Fellows Program
- Charles R. Wall Conservation Leadership Management Program
- Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program

A NEW NETWORK FOR AWF ALUMS

Over the last three decades, AWF has contributed to the development of hundreds of leaders who today are driving and influencing conservation and development on the continent. AWF is excited to launch an alumni program that will support and engage the talented pool of conservation leaders who have participated in AWF’s training and educational initiatives. Initially drawing from the beneficiaries of AWF programs like the Charles R. Wall Conservation Leadership Management Program, the alumni program will connect emerging young leaders with mentorship opportunities, forge spaces for interdisciplinary dialogue, and be an invaluable platform for the mobilization of conservation action across the continent.

RIGHT: (left) Kahembo Odera, conservation management alum; (middle) AWF staff members discuss an ecological vulnerability assessment of the Samburu landscape in Kenya; (right) conservation management trainees learn eco-monitoring skills.



Classroom Africa takes students on field trips to help engender interest in nature and conservation.

CLASSROOM AFRICA: INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT CONSERVATION

From its earliest years, AWF believed in education as a way forward for conservation. Early efforts focused on developing a cadre of trained conservation technicians and leaders at the graduate and postgraduate levels and fostering wildlife clubs for middle and high-school students. Many years later, AWF expanded this focus to even younger students through our flagship Classroom Africa program.

Since rebuilding the first school in 2011, **Classroom Africa** has built six bright, airy, modern schools in areas of critical conservation concern: Ethiopia's Simien Mountains, Kidepo Valley in Uganda, Zambia's Lupani District, the Manyara corridor in Tanzania, and the DRC's Equator Province. In return for conservation commitments by communities, Classroom Africa not only

upgraded the primary schools and campuses, but also offered extracurricular conservation activities for students and continuing education and housing to attract the brightest teachers to rural areas.

These schools have not only helped improve the lives of over 2,000 students annually, but they have also supported the professional development of scores of teachers. Through training and mentorship in collaboration with governmental and other local actors, we've helped these Classroom Africa teachers build pedagogical skills, technology know-how, and facility in incorporating conservation into learning. On the conservation side, Classroom Africa's land-use covenants with communities have protected more than 223,000 acres of forest and other wild lands.



Ilima Primary School in the DRC is one of six schools AWF's Classroom Africa program built or refurbished.

GROWING OUR IMPACT

Based on our decade of learning, AWF in its Strategic Vision, 2020-2030 set a new course for Classroom Africa. The program is evolving from solely brick-and-mortar projects to more dispersed conservation education centered on AWF focal landscapes. New program elements are designed to identify and nurture future conservationists, elevate community support for protected areas, and build or strengthen community efforts to fight the illegal wildlife trade:

- THE SIX SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTED BY AWF WILL SERVE AS HUBS FOR COMMUNITY CONSERVATION OUTREACH AND A PLATFORM FOR TRAINING TEACHERS FROM SCHOOLS ACROSS ENTIRE LANDSCAPES.
- SCHOOLS WILL BE LINKED WITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE CLUBS AND OTHER LOCAL CONSERVATION-FOCUSED GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS WHILE IMPLEMENTING CONSERVATION EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS.
- THE PROGRAM WILL SEEK TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS THROUGH PROVISION OF BOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING SOLAR POWER WHERE IT WILL ENHANCE THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.



Students are eager to answer questions in class at Lupani Primary School in Kazungula, Zambia.

Our larger goal is to positively engage schools and children for long-term impacts on conservation success in a landscape. Serving more students and teachers will enable us to reach many more young people at a time when Africa is experiencing dramatic growth in population as well as economic development, including new infrastructure. We seek to help mobilize a new generation of young conservationists who will demand meaningful conservation change and commitments from their elders.



“*In order to bring about meaningful change in any community, children’s participation in decision-making is critical, and the only way to ensure that children effectively participate in this is to ensure that they have access to an education.*”

TONKEI KESERY
Classroom Africa’s Senior Manager



Mary Acan

HELPING STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

Mary Acan is a student at Sacred Heart Girls Secondary School in Gulu, Uganda, which is in the Murchison landscape where AWF has a variety of community conservation projects. She lives with her parents, Phillip and Christine, her three siblings, and her grandmother. With an income below a dollar a day, the family was unable to afford Mary's secondary-school tuition and boarding fees. However, through an AWF scholarship, Mary enrolled in her school of choice in January 2020, making her dream of a secondary education a reality.

Mary's favorite subjects are mathematics, English, Swahili, and biology. She says she has been inspired by her multiple interactions with AWF staff and hopes to work toward a career in conservation once she completes her secondary education.



CLASSROOM AFRICA

Schools Open

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| 1 Adisge | 4 Lupani |
| 2 Ilima | 5 Manyara Ranch |
| 3 Kidepo | 6 Sarachom |

Potential Future Landscapes

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 7 Dja Reserve | 10 Murchison Falls NP |
| 8 Mana Pools NP | 11 Tsavo |
| 9 Maasai Mara | |

BIG PLANS

Classroom Africa today seeks to expand services to 45 areas in five landscapes, including Tsavo and Maasai Mara in Kenya, Murchison in Uganda, Mid-Zambezi Valley in Zimbabwe, and the Dja landscape in Cameroon. Our goal is to reach 36 schools every year, impacting more than 15,000 children.



Decades of conservation work has seen the severely depleted mountain gorilla population grow to more than 1,000 individuals today.

PROTECTING RWANDA'S MOUNTAIN GORILLAS

The rebound of the world's precious mountain gorilla population from only a few hundred at the lowest point to over 1,000 today is one of conservation's most celebrated victories and a testament to the value of decades of investment in conservation leadership. Although the iconic great apes' conservation status remains fragile, AWF's role in this success story — intricately linked to our leadership mission — represents one of our proudest chapters.

The chapter begins with Dian Fossey. “One of the basic steps in saving a threatened species,” she wrote as a young researcher, “is to learn more about it — its diet, its mating and reproductive processes, its range patterns, its social behavior.” AWF was of the same mind, and in the late 1960s, we expanded our programmatic focus to begin supporting long-term ecological and behavioral studies like Fossey’s (mountain gorillas) and Cynthia Moss’s (elephants; See page 20). Both Fossey and Moss would become pivotal conservation figures, not only as scientists who increased the world’s knowledge of (and

enthusiasm about) mountain gorillas and elephants, but also as individuals driven by the realities of poaching to become conservationists on the global stage.

Fossey was a proud and passionate protector of the apes she came to regard as family and shared glimpses of their personalities and daily lives through *National Geographic Magazine* and other media. When poachers killed the beloved silverback Digit and then two other males, there was an international outcry. In response, Rwandan President Habyarimana challenged the leading conservation NGOs working in Africa to come up with methods and funding to protect the gorillas.

Ultimately, AWF, the Fauna Preservation Society, and the World Wildlife Fund formed a consortium to bring various funds and initiatives under one tent and help fulfill the Rwandan request. The Mountain Gorilla Project, with AWF at the helm, focused on capacity-building, anti-poaching, and awareness-building. The project also worked to habituate mountain gorillas to tourist groups, training Rwandan rangers in the latest habituation methods. *(Continued, next page)*



Dian Fossey



Craig Sholley, who today is AWF senior vice president

Fossey's tragic murder in 1986 did not stop the concerted gorilla protection efforts. Anti-poaching forces continued to patrol the park every day, collecting and destroying the deadly snares that threatened gorillas. This constant vigilance proved worthwhile. A 1989 census showed the gorilla population to be increasing. Moreover, the Mountain Gorilla Project tourism program was infusing badly needed tourist dollars into the Rwandan economy. By the end of the decade, tourism income was Rwanda's largest earner of foreign exchange, making gorilla protection a national priority.

During this time, a young conservationist and former Peace Corps volunteer, Craig Sholley (today AWF senior vice president) joined the project. In collaboration with the park's chief warden, Sholley coordinated park protection and anti-poaching activities, supervised conservation education, and monitored the gorillas' well-being. He also traveled to Kigali frequently to meet with government leaders and maintain a productive working relationship.



In 1990, the Mountain Gorilla Project would move where it belonged — under the stewardship of the Rwandan government, fulfilling AWF's vision of investing leadership and ownership of conservation programs with African governments and people. Gorilla protection and tourism would now be integral to Rwanda's daily park management and the country's economic plans.

Says Sholley today: "The course of our early mountain gorilla conservation efforts, from the first days, through the transfer of the Mountain Gorilla Project to the Rwandan government, through today, a time in which the Rwandan government is arguably leading the way in African wildlife conservation — all of this I believe proves the wisdom of AWF's founding vision, that conservation, to be successful, must be led by and owned by Africa's people and governments."

AWF continues to provide technical guidance, create educational materials, and support anti-poaching patrols. We also helped form a new initiative, the International Gorilla Conservation Program, a regional collaborative focused on protecting gorillas and their habitat in all range countries — Rwanda, Uganda, and Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

The gorilla program and gorilla conservation generally were greatly challenged in the 1990s, during Rwanda's civil war and genocide. But quite remarkably, few gorillas were killed during the region's worst violence and

the displacement of thousands of Rwandans. As Rwanda rebuilt from this terrible time, gorilla protection would see great developments.

In all three range nations the program enhanced the conservation of mountain gorillas living in the Virunga mountains and Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The project became a model for international cooperation, as wardens and rangers from countries in conflict worked together so closely that they became friends as well as respected colleagues.

The International Gorilla Conservation Program facilitated this regional cooperation, including joint border patrols by Rwandan, Congolese, and Ugandan rangers. It also put in place coordinated ecological monitoring, tourism development, and community engagement activities.



Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge



Patience Dusabimana, a guide in Volcanoes National Park, is also a member of the SACOLA executive committee.

PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In the 2000s, AWF would be farsighted in recognizing that engaging with the private sector could be a plus for conservation. Working with wildlife-adjacent communities and private-sector operators, we created private-community partnerships that led the development of several beautiful, community-owned eco-lodges. One of these was adjacent to Volcanoes National Park in the mist-shrouded Virunga mountains. The Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge and associated tourism ventures strengthened the position of mountain gorillas (and other wildlife) as income producers in the region, ensuring local communities saw economic benefits from conservation.

Sabyinyo Lodge is operated and managed by the Governors' Camp Collection but owned by a community trust, the Sabyinyo

Community Livelihood Association, or SACOLA. The association started with 34 founding members representing communities surrounding Volcanoes National Park. A three-year impact statement SACOLA released in July 2020 highlighted a remarkable array of benefits accrued from this pioneering conservation enterprise, including over US\$ 3.3 million distributed to communities, with more than 60,000 community beneficiaries.

SACOLA also promotes conservation awareness and helps create future leaders through youth-oriented activities such as sports and arts competitions tied to Rwanda's annual Kwita Izina gorilla baby-naming festival.

AWF TODAY



AWF CEO Kaddy Sebunya and the late H.E. Benjamin Muka during Volcanoes National Park expansion ceremony



IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress relaunched in Kigali, Rwanda.

GIVING GORILLAS MORE ROOM TO ROAM

In 2018, in a moving display of AWF's longevity in the region and its commitment to mountain gorillas, AWF, with support from the Annenberg Foundation, supported the expansion of mountain gorilla habitat. To secure badly needed space for the Virunga gorillas, who were too frequently crossing park boundaries in a narrow southern portion, AWF donated 27.8 hectares to the Rwandan government to expand Volcanoes National Park.

AFRICA PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS

AWF is proud to serve as a co-host, with the Rwandan government and IUCN, of the first-ever Africa Protected Areas Congress (March 2022). The IUCN Congress is the first ever continent-wide gathering of African leaders, citizens, and interest groups to discuss the role of protected areas in conserving nature, safeguarding Africa's wildlife, delivering life-supporting ecosystem services, and promoting sustainable

development while conserving Africa's cultural heritage and traditions. The initiative will enhance the status of conservation in Africa by engaging leaders at all levels — government, the private sector, civil society, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and academia — in shaping Africa's agenda for protected and conserved areas to better deliver benefits for people and nature.



AWF supported the influential elephant research of Cynthia Moss, who is pictured here. Hers is the longest continuous wild elephant study in the world.

..... UNDERSTANDING & SAFEGUARDING AFRICA'S MOST ICONIC SPECIES — THE ELEPHANT

Much of what we know of elephants today — behaviors that suggest a rich emotional life, lifelong ties among family members, sophisticated communications, high intelligence, and so much more — is due to the groundbreaking field research of Cynthia Moss and the Amboseli Elephant Research Project she founded.

AWF supported Moss's Amboseli project from its beginning in the 1970s. The New York-raised Moss had about a year's worth of experience studying elephants — she'd been an assistant to zoologist Iain Douglas-Hamilton, who photographed and studied elephants in Lake Manyara National Park. Now, she was looking to do her own research. Someone suggested she find a way to study the elephants of Kenya's Amboseli park. These "ellies" seemed to be freer in their behavior, as they were less under the threat of poachers due to the presence of Maasai people, tourists, and researchers. She and fellow researcher Harvey Croze began a part-time study in 1972.

A former *Newsweek* reporter and a gifted writer and editor, Moss worked as editor of AWF's monthly newsletter, *Wildlife News*, and in 1975 published a well-received survey



Cynthia Moss speaking about elephants and conservation at the National Zoo



Gathering elephant specimens at the Amboseli research site



of East African mammals, *Portraits in the Wild*. With her credentials as a scientist bolstered by the book, AWF in 1975 gave Moss a grant to conduct field research full-time. (Croze had left the research the previous year.) Moss was using a little Renault as her off-road vehicle(!), so in 1976, AWF handed over to Moss a used Land Rover as well.

The Amboseli Elephant Project would become one of the longest-running studies of wildlife behavior and ecology and the longest elephant study. It has gathered data on the life histories of more than 2,000 elephants, altering and enriching our understanding of elephant life. Moss also has helped raise awareness of the plight of elephants through award-winning books and documentaries such as *An Apology to Elephants* and *Echo: An Elephant to Remember*.

In 2001, when Moss won a MacArthur Fellowship, she said she was "forever indebted to the support I have received from the African Wildlife Foundation. That support has been more than just financial; it has been a statement of faith in me throughout the years...both the Washington office and the Nairobi field office have backed me up

logistically and administratively, providing a firm base for the project since its onset."

With its many research branches, the Amboseli project also helped serve AWF's mission of training and education. In addition to training park managers from around Africa in elephant-observation techniques, we also supported the careers of individual researchers. In 1990, Kadzo Kangwana, a Kenyan zoologist, joined the project with support from AWF, focusing on the evolution and influence of Maasai culture, land use, and attitudes in relationship to elephant conservation.

In 1991, Hamisi Mutinda, a University of Nairobi graduate student, began a study of reproductive hormone cycles in female elephants. Sponsored by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) with field support from AWF, he collected urine from female elephants in various reproductive states. *(Continued, next page)*

COUNTING & TRAINING

As late as the 1970s, no one knew the number of elephants in Africa. In 1975, AWF supported zoologist Iain Douglas-Hamilton's effort to organize a systematic census of the Selous Game Reserve's elephants and other mammals. Douglas-Hamilton's continent-wide surveys gave the world its first estimate of Africa's elephant population — a minimum of 1.3 million. Equally important, the project trained Tanzanian wildlife staff in the techniques of aerial observation and recording — skills critical to conservation then and now.

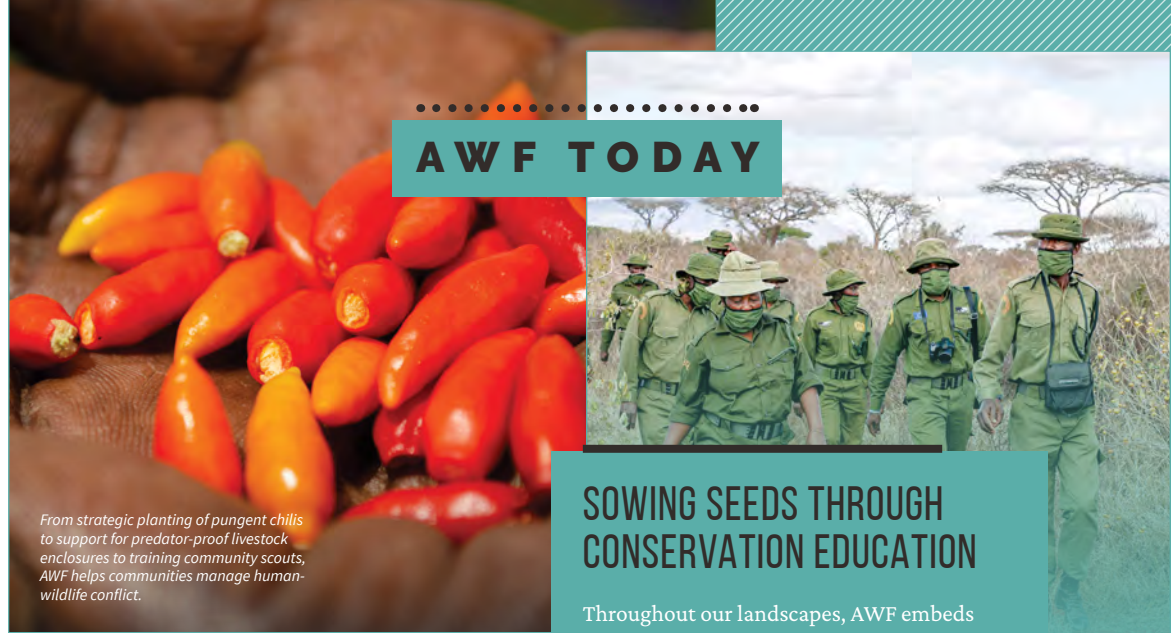


The Amboseli project helped train African students and field staff in long-term research techniques and elephant conservation.

The study was the first to assess contraception as a potential elephant management technique, considered by many scientists at the time as a possible solution to human-elephant conflicts.

The Amboseli work also benefited from the research of Norah Wamaitha and Soila Salyielel, who had started service as assistants to Moss in 1986. Together they conducted in-depth monitoring of the elephants, knowing their whereabouts, condition, and habitat use. In time, like Moss, they knew and could name every elephant in the park.

After the Amboseli project became independent of AWF, around the year 2000, AWF researcher Alfred Kikoti documented the demographic characteristics and movements of elephants on the Tanzanian side of the transboundary Kilimanjaro Heartland. His research helped to fill a gap in knowledge about the travel and behavior of Amboseli elephants outside the park.



From strategic planting of pungent chilis to support for predator-proof livestock enclosures to training community scouts, AWF helps communities manage human-wildlife conflict.

SOWING SEEDS THROUGH CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Throughout our landscapes, AWF embeds capacity development and conservation education in projects that help preserve wildlife corridors while protecting species. In the Tsavo-Mkomazi cross-border landscape, for example, AWF has trained over 3,000 farmers in conflict-mitigation techniques that utilize proven measures such as torches, chili crops, and noise-based repellents (vuvuzelas, whistles, etc.).

To safeguard critical elephant populations in priority landscapes, AWF is assisting wildlife authorities in the development of species action and recovery plans in Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Likewise, we are helping elephant range states implement their national elephant action plans, which address capacity building, anti-poaching, countering wildlife trafficking, mitigating conflicts, securing space, and more.





ENGAGING IN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Since the start, when four men met in a judge's chambers to discuss the need for African conservation ownership and leadership, AWF's agenda has been fueled and advanced by conversations, debates, planning sessions, education, and awareness-building around conservation visions and realities.

Our formal policy involvement dates back at least to the 1960s, when AWF submitted a resolution to the IUCN for creation of a French-speaking school modeled on Mweka. But one of our most noteworthy engagements came decades later, when AWF officials helped lead the conservation world to make a historic policy change benefiting elephants. As a result of the case made by AWF and other organizations, international policymakers placed African elephants on the endangered list, leading to a ban on international trade in ivory and other elephant products. These decisions came on the heels of a high-profile "Only Elephants Should Wear Ivory" awareness campaign led by AWF. The one-two punch proved effective, and the demand for ivory in the western world dropped.



Accessories To Murder.

70,000 African elephants are killed each year for their ivory. And it doesn't stop at jewelry. More than 80% of the ivory in world circulation is taken from elephants killed by poachers. Since there's no way to tell which ivory is taken legally and which isn't, the only solution is not to buy ivory. After all, you can live without it, an elephant can't. To learn more or do more call (202) 265-8393 or 1-800-344-TUSK.

Stop The Slaughter. Don't Buy Ivory.



SMALL AD. BIG PROBLEM.

In 1992 some countries want to end the worldwide ban on ivory. The end of the ban could mean the end of the elephants—without your help they haven't got a chance. Call the African Wildlife Foundation today. Your voice can help keep the ban in place.

AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
ONLY ELEPHANTS SHOULD WEAR IVORY
1-800-344-TUSK



AWF led training for a youth delegation to the Conference of Parties, 14th Convention on Biological Diversity.



Representing AWF at CITES: Andrea Athanas, senior director, business engagement and Europe; with Philip Muruthi, vice president, species conservation and science.



The inaugural IUCN Africa Protected Areas Congress was relaunched in April 2021.

Today, AWF’s policy efforts fall under the rubric of Global Leadership. This team harnesses AWF’s expertise, longevity, and unique position as Africa’s trusted conservation organization. To help Africa’s leaders deliver a cohesive vision that elevates wildlife and wild lands as central to development in Africa, we:

- CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH GLOBAL LEADERS
- SUPPORT AFRICA’S LEADERS TO DELIVER A COHESIVE AND UNIFIED VISION THAT ELEVATES WILDLIFE AS CENTRAL TO DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
- CHAMPION THE ENGAGEMENT OF AFRICAN VOICES IN GLOBAL DECISION-MAKING

Our Global Leadership team’s engagements are designed to help engender productive partnerships as well as investment, economic activity, sustainable development, and innovative solutions — all informed and led by Africans.

Much of the team’s recent activity has been focused on supporting African organizations’ conservation agendas at a landmark international conference — the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). AWF is helping to unify, elevate, and support African countries’ conservation agendas to have a greater chance of success during CBD negotiations. A united front for conservation and unified goals help determine the level and nature of conservation funding available from

governments such as the EU and U.S. as well as international funders such as the Global Environment Facility.

In a profound indicator of AWF’s increasingly elevated profile on the continent and the trust we have earned over 60 years, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature has asked AWF to co-host the first-ever African Protected-Area Congress (See page 19). In this and other assemblies such as the World Conservation Congress and UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, AWF seeks to help advance dialogue, ensure inclusiveness, and promote consensus on policies that will serve Africans and safeguard healthy, intact ecosystems for the benefit of all.



#IAM4Nature Youth Summit, 2019

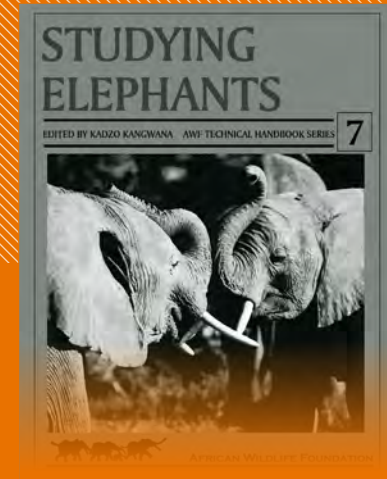
“*We recognize the need to link the conservation agenda to the aspirations and mindsets driving change on the continent. We must bring African leaders to the table to help establish an inclusive conservation agenda. And we must support and mobilize efforts to encourage African people—particularly young people—to become passionate about wildlife and wild lands.*”

KADDU SEBUNYA
AWF CEO

AWF TODAY

POWER OF MEDIA

As part of its education mission, AWF published educational and awareness-building materials for distribution throughout Africa. In August 1965, we financed the first all-Swahili wildlife newspaper— *Urithi Wetu*, or “Our Heritage”— which went to schools, parks agencies, and AWF education centers. And from 1973 until the early 1980s, AWF published *African Heritage* magazine, an English-language graphic (comics-style) book featuring panels demonstrating the whys and hows of conservation. Other publications, such as *Wild Lives: Profiles of East African Mammals*, were written for tourists and tourism. Still others were more scientific or technical and intended for wildlife and park department personnel and students involved in wildlife management. In the 1990s, we published *Studying Elephants*, a handbook with articles by leading conservation biologists and others. It sought to encourage protected-area managers and staff to undertake studies that could inform conservation strategies while expanding the world’s knowledge of elephant biology and behavior. And today we are doing research around wildlife economies with our partner, the African Leadership University, critically important as we advise



African governments on the value of investments in biodiversity, especially in terms of bolstering economies and livelihoods.

In addition, our efforts to foster leadership reflect the current media landscape and media consumption patterns. We’re training African video storytellers through our new African Conservation Voices Media Labs mentorship and training program; we’re increasing awareness and supporting conservation-minded photographers through a new global photography competition named after the late Benjamin Mkapa, former Tanzanian president and AWF trustee. We’re preparing a new ambassadors program that will tap networks of influential individuals on behalf of African wildlife conservation, and we are engaged in discrete training efforts such as conservation-reporting workshops for journalists.



LOOKING AHEAD

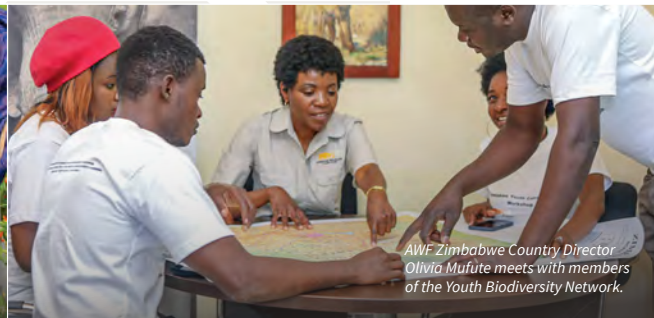
Over 60 years of shifting conservation realities and challenges, AWF never lost sight of the need to foster the best and brightest minds to lead conservation in Africa. Our investments in the college at Mweka, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, Classroom Africa, students' education at all levels, and professional development of African wildlife biologists and other specialists have helped create new generations of people working to protect Africa's wildlife and wild lands. Today, these dedicated professionals can be found in parks authorities, wildlife ministries, NGOs, and other institutions throughout Africa and the world. And many of them are part of AWF — our staff.

The 21st century poses new challenges for conservation in Africa. The continent is experiencing an unprecedented rate of growth in urbanization and population; the latter is projected to grow from 1.37 billion in 2021 to approximately 2.5 billion by 2050, meaning two of every five children born in the world will be born in Africa.

With more people, of course, comes a greater need for food and infrastructure. Poorly planned responses to these



Chili crops are used to deter elephants and mitigate human-wildlife conflict.



AWF Zimbabwe Country Director Olivia Mufute meets with members of the Youth Biodiversity Network.



development needs put wildlife and their habitats at a high risk of being sacrificed in the name of progress.

While there are many indigenous conservation approaches and traditions, over the last century, conservation in Africa was too often shaped and led from outside — often with fortress approaches and tactics that alienated people from nature. Historically, Africans realized minimal returns from traditional conservation; thus, many came to regard conservation as having little value to their lives. AWF has always strived to approach conservation differently, and now, with Africa at a crossroads, we are more determined than ever to share and spread our principles and inclusive approaches.

We're convinced the future of wildlife and wild lands in Africa hinges largely on one factor: linking the conservation agenda in meaningful ways to the aspirations of the African people. We must ensure a diversity of African leaders are at the table to help create an ambitious conservation agenda. Most especially, we must dramatically increase the number of young people who engage in African conservation and mobilize them — and amplify their voices — so their interests are at the heart of conservation

and development. AWF is well-positioned to help Africa's youth, African governments at all levels, policymakers, civil society, and communities realize a future in which wildlife coexists with cities, agriculture, and infrastructure growth. Our repertoire of processes, tools, approaches, and practical experiences — built, refined, and proven through decades of implementation — shows how conservation and development can be delivered in service to each other, shaped by African perspectives.

After 60 years, this is what distinguishes AWF in African wildlife conservation: Our pioneering vision of and commitment to building African conservation leadership, our longevity, and our responsive and adaptive approach. To those who have been with us on this journey, thank you, and we hope you will continue working with us. And to those of you who are new, we hope you will join us as we work to meet the tremendous challenges ahead and ensure that Africa's elephants, rhinos, great apes, and other iconic wildlife have a secure and vital future. There is a role for everyone who cherishes Africa and its wildlife to help achieve our vision.

AWF STRATEGIC VISION 2020 - 2030

- 1 African leaders' commitment to conserve and restore wildlife and wild lands is evidenced in the implementation of economic, political, and social agendas as well as development financing across Africa
- 2 Africa's ecosystems and the services they provide are conserved and restored
- 3 Africa's wildlife is conserved *in situ*

.....

AWF MILESTONES OVER **60** YEARS

In 1961, the African Wildlife Foundation, then known as the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation, was founded to address Africa's unique conservation needs. This chronology highlights important steps in AWF's growth and success over the past 60 years.

1960s

On March 23, 1961, the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation (AWLF) is incorporated

AWLF co-founds the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka, Tanzania (1963)

AWLF scholarships enable young Africans to study wildlife management and biology at American universities

AWLF builds a conservation education center at Nairobi National Park (1963)

Perez Olindo, later the first African director of Kenya's national parks, is the first AWLF scholar to earn a degree in the U.S. (1964)



A milestone for the College at Mweka: the inaugural class graduates (1965)

AWLF opens an office in Nairobi's Embassy House, its first office in Africa (1965)

The first issue of AWLF-financed all-Swahili newspaper, *Urithi wetu*, or *Our Heritage*, is published (1965)

Kenyan students and AWLF start the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (1966)

An AWLF research grant finances the Serengeti Research Institute to support studies of the ecosystem (1967)

AWLF provides funding to Dian Fossey's mountain gorilla study (1967)

AWLF unveils a "Give a Lion a Home" campaign; proceeds help fund expansions of Serengeti and Tarangire national parks (1968)

1970s



AWLF helps establish a school for wildlife management in Garoua, Cameroon (1970)

Having helped Kenya launch 189 wildlife clubs between 1969 and 1971, AWLF is asked to help organize clubs in Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania, Cameroon, Sudan, and Zambia

AWLF begins long-term support of Cynthia Moss's Amboseli Elephant Research Project, which would eventually become the longest-running research study of wild elephants (1975)

AWLF publishes the first of several handbooks on wildlife ecology for wildlife and park personnel (1976)

AWLF establishes the Mountain Gorilla Project in Rwanda to help protect gorillas (1978)

1980s



AWLF officially becomes the African Wildlife Foundation (1983)

AWF helps construct the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in Kenya's Tsavo West National Park (1986)

Responding to an alarming increase in ivory poaching in Africa, AWF launches a "Save the Elephants" campaign (1988)

AWF's landmark "Only Elephants Should Wear Ivory" ad campaign runs on television and in print. AWF staff travel throughout Africa to promote a ban on ivory sales. (1989)

CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, move the African elephant to Appendix I, its "most endangered" category, thus disallowing ivory trade (1989)



1990s



AWF helps Uganda National Park set up a new community-conservation base at Lake Mburo National Park, staffed by a warden and rangers who help sensitize area communities to conservation and ecosystem integrity (1990)



AWF supporter Charlotte Kidder Ramsay, namesake of the Charlotte Fellows Program

AWF, in partnership with Fauna and Flora International and the World Wide Fund for Nature, launches the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (1991)

AWF creates the Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program to help Africans in conservation attain advanced degrees (1996)



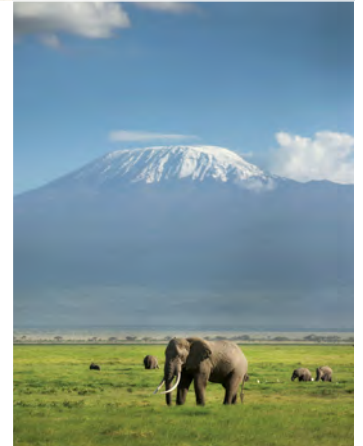
A new era for AWF: Recognizing that habitat loss is the leading threat to African wildlife, AWF launches its African Heartlands Program to identify and conserve large landscapes of exceptional natural value (1998)

AWF launches the flagship Maasai Steppe Heartland, 35,000 square kilometers of protected and community-managed wildlife areas. The USAID-funded program will invest in tourism infrastructure in Tarangire and Manyara National Parks. (1999)



AWF's Amboseli Outreach Program is the first to work with young Maasai warriors; it concentrates on easing tensions between livestock owners and wildlife arising from competition for food and water (1999)

By late 1999, AWF operates in four Africa Heartlands: Kilimanjaro (Kenya), Maasai Steppe (Tanzania), Samburu (Kenya), and Virunga (DRC, Rwanda, Uganda)



2000s

H.E. Ketumile Masire, former Botswana president, joins AWF's Board of Trustees (2004)



H.E. Ketumile Masire

Starbucks and AWF launch the "Coffee for Conservation" project, leveraging the power of the private sector by linking high-quality coffee production and natural-resource conservation in East Africa (2005)

H.E. Benjamin Mkapa, former Tanzanian president, joins AWF's Board of Trustees; he will be instrumental in shaping one of AWF's leading principles — that conservation and development should go hand-in-hand (2006)

AWF completes construction of new park HQ in the Samburu National Reserve to help improve park operations and conservation management (2006)

AWF helps communities in Tanzania establish a mosaic of five wildlife management areas in the Maasai Steppe and Kilimanjaro Heartlands, securing wildlife corridors and land-tenure rights for communities and generating benefits through conservation enterprises (2005-2010)



Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge

AWF pioneers a new model of community-owned eco-lodges, establishing three lodges that benefit local people: Satao Elerai Camp in Kenya, Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge in Uganda, and Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge in Rwanda

The Chiawa Cultural Village, an AWF-supported community enterprise, opens on the banks of the Lower Zambezi in Zambia (2008)



Maasai with livestock in Mount Kilimanjaro landscape

The Livestock for Livelihoods Programs rehabilitates pasture and supports pastoral communities in building climate-resilient livestock systems consistent with conservation efforts in Maasai Steppe, Kilimanjaro, and Samburu Heartlands (2005 - 2010)

The Lomako Conservation Science Center opens and will be a base for scientists from around the world to study bonobos (2009)



Lomako Conservation Science Center

AWF concludes its first-ever comprehensive capital campaign, effectively doubling its investment in Africa in five years (2009)

2010s

H.E. Festus Mogae, former Botswana president, joins AWF's Board of Trustees (2010)

Disneynature collaborates with AWF on a program to celebrate the release of the feature *African Cats* (2010)

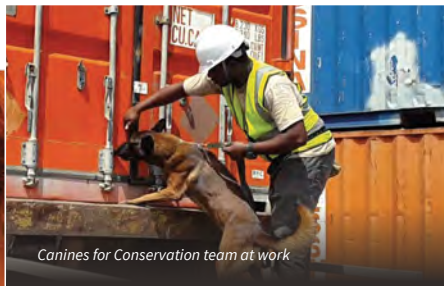
AWF launches its first Heartland in West Africa, Regional Parc W (2010)

AWF launches African Wildlife Capital, Africa's first conservation-focused impact-investment vehicle — a groundbreaking initiative that will invest US\$ 7 million in private capital into tourism and agriculture enterprises in Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Botswana (2011)



The establishment of AWF's Europe office (Gland, Switzerland) marks the beginning of AWF's multi-faceted efforts to strengthen the Africa-EU partnership in the service of conservation (2011)

AWF and WildAid launch a strategic partnership to raise public awareness of the illegal wildlife trade. The first awareness campaign, featuring NBA star Yao Ming, targets rhino horn consumption in China. (2012)



A cash-for-work program in northern Tanzania builds tourism infrastructure for wildlife management areas and provides jobs for pastoral and agro-pastoral communities impacted by drought (2011-2013)

AWF launches its flagship Canines for Conservation program, which partners with authorities to train dog-and-handler teams and deploy them to wildlife trafficking hotspots (2012)

AWF expands education opportunities for communities in conservation landscapes through its flagship Classroom Africa program, which seeks to strengthen the links between conservation and education (2013)



Mweka Wildlife College, AWF's inaugural investment in educating Africa's conservation leaders, celebrates 50 years, with a student body that has grown from 25 men to 500 men and women from across Africa and the world (2013)

AWF and the Aspen Institute launch a dialogue series to promote biodiversity conservation in China-Africa policy (2013)

AWF establishes a US\$ 10-million Urgent Response Fund to stop wildlife trafficking and end the demand for ivory and rhino horn products in Asia (2010)

AWF and African Union launch historic conservation partnership in support of the AU Agenda 2063 (2016)

AWF and Space for Giants convene the inaugural East African Wildlife Prosecutors Coalition Workshop in Rwanda, promoting interagency cooperation and information-sharing across borders (2016)

Simien Mountains National Park in Ethiopia is removed from UNESCO's list of World Heritage in Danger after AWF works with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority to reduce livestock grazing in the park and provide livelihood alternatives for communities (2017)



AWF launches the Conservation Leadership and Management Program, a 24-month, on-the-job training program for master's degree graduates interested in building practical experience to become African conservation leaders (2017)

AWF, the UN Development Programme Uganda, conservation partners, and the government of Uganda build public-private partnerships at the Giants Club Conservation & Tourism Investment Forum — Africa's first conservation tourism investment forum (2017)



President Mkapa at the Volcanoes National Park land donation ceremony

AWF and Nickelodeon International launch the award-winning educational mini-series, the *Together for Good Wildlife Special* (2018)

AWF expands into Europe, hosting, for the first time, members of the United Kingdom government, media, private sector, and individual donors at the Royal Geographical Society (2018)

AWF and the Beijing Zoo launch a landmark partnership to raise public awareness regarding threatened African wildlife through a special exhibition and an ongoing series of educational activities (2018)

AWF donates 27.8 hectares of land to the Rwandan government, expanding Volcanoes National Park and expanding critical habitat for the growing but still fragile gorilla population (2018)

AWF pledges a US\$ 25-million investment over four years to help end wildlife crime (2018)

AWF joins forces with Okavango Capital Partners to build an impact investment portfolio delivering on conservation returns with the ambition of capitalizing a US\$ 70-million fund channelling debt and equity financing into commercial enterprises in sustainable agriculture, catalytic technology, and nature services (2018)

On January 1, 2019, Kaddu Kiwe Sebunya is named CEO of AWF (See page 34.)

2020s

AWF launches *Strategic Vision 2020-2030*, which renews AWF's commitment to promoting African conservation leadership and focuses on dismantling the false choice between nature and development

As the COVID-19 pandemic shuts down tourism and its vital revenue streams, AWF initiates a US\$ 1.65-million crisis response to support protected-area authorities, wildlife, and communities (2020)

Responding to the threat of increased poaching during COVID-19, AWF's Canines for Conservation program places a new emphasis on tracker dogs (which work in the field as opposed to airports and other transportation hubs) (2020)



AWF donates food to communities in Ethiopia through the COVID Emergency Response Fund

AWF is invited by the International Union for Conservation of Nature to co-chair the first-ever Africa Protected Areas Congress, which is set for March 2022 (2020)

To help African people and institutions build resilience and create solutions to COVID-19-related problems, AWF convenes representatives of numerous sectors, including civil society organizations, protected-area managers, safari operators, and youth leaders (2020-2021)



Benjamin Mkapa at AWF headquarters

AWF initiates pan-African leadership platforms for civil society organizations and protected-area agencies and links them into global and regional policy processes including the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020-2021)

After Benjamin Mkapa's death in 2020, and in honor of his lifelong commitment to the continent's biodiversity, AWF launches the global Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards (2021)

In partnership with AWF, the Uganda Wildlife Authority begins piloting three conservancies in landscapes surrounding Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls, and Kidepo Valley national parks; the three protected areas will be Uganda's first designated conservancies (2021)



AWF inaugurates the Charles R. Wall Conservation Leadership Management Program, expanding and deepening the innovative Conservation Leadership and Management Program, which mentors the next generation of African conservation leaders through on-the-job experience (2021)

AWF opens two new Classroom Africa schools in northern Uganda, Kidepo and Sarachom primary schools. This makes six schools AWF has rebuilt in return for communities' conservation commitments. (2021)

Former Niger president H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou joins AWF's Board of Trustees (2021)



AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya (right) with Rwandan President Paul Kagame (center) and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni



Visiting a facility housing AWF-trained detection dogs (Canines for Conservation) at Entebbe International Airport

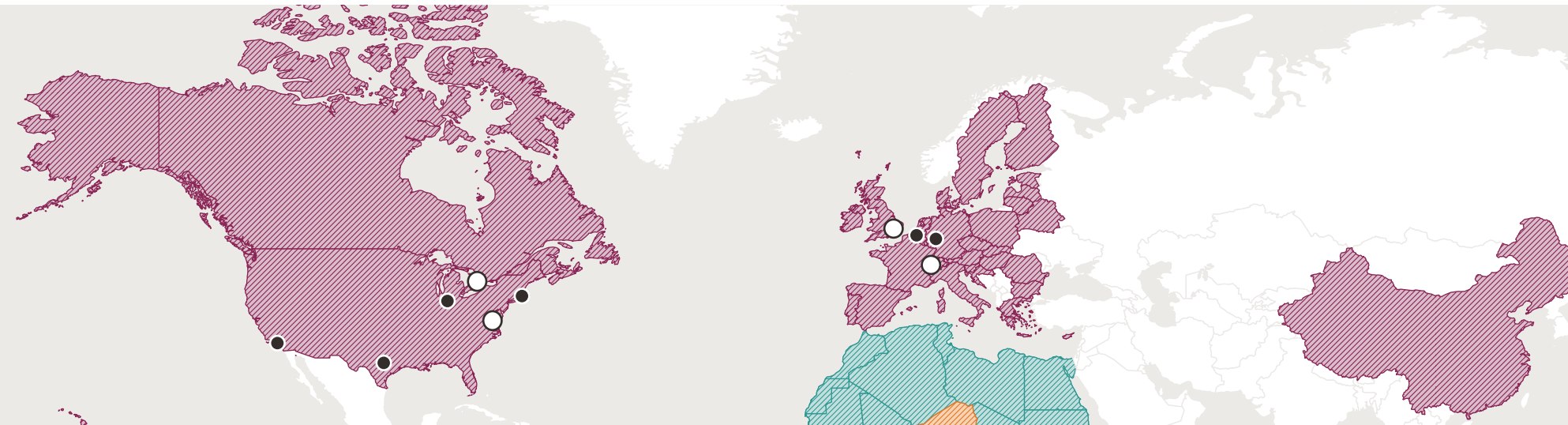
.....
KADDU SEBUNYA

As chief executive officer, Kaddu Kiwe Sebunya leads AWF's global staff and steers its multifaceted efforts to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa. He has worked for over 25 years at all levels of conservation, from community-based projects to pan-African policy development to international partnership-building.

A compelling speaker and prolific writer, Kaddu is one of the world's most visible, respected voices regarding conservation of African wildlife and wild lands. He argues that conservation versus development is a false choice, that the ecosystem services and other benefits associated with healthy forests and savannas translate not only to human well-being but also to the political stability and economic prosperity that African leaders desire. His message has taken on special relevance in light of COVID-19.

Before becoming AWF's CEO in January 2019, Kaddu served as AWF president, working with then-CEO Patrick Bergin. He helped to elevate AWF's profile with international donors such as the EU and China, and he created strategic partnerships with regional economic blocs, national governments and ministries, and international development organizations. Under his leadership, AWF became a conservation technical advisor to the African Union, Africa's leading continental alliance.

Kaddu has a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and two master's degrees: an M.A. in Law, Policy, and Diplomacy from The Fletcher School, Tufts University, and an MSc in Sustainable Resource Management and Policy from Imperial College London.



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Dja Faunal Reserve
Faro National Park

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Field Offices:
Bili-Uele Protected
Area Complex
Maringa-Lopori-Wamba
Landscape

NIGER

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-  AWF OFFICES
-  FIELD OFFICES
-  GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT
-  AWF FOCAL COUNTRIES
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