



2018

ANNUAL REPORT



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VISION

An Africa where human development includes thriving wildlife and extensive wild lands as a cultural and economic asset for Africa's future generations.

MISSION

To ensure that wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa.

APPROACH

To engage and support leadership at all levels, in their efforts to stabilize Africa's wildlife habitats, protect wildlife and wild lands, eliminate illegal wildlife trade and ensure the development of Africa is inclusive and green.

Letter from the CEO: A RADICAL PROPOSITION



Dear AWF family,

I am honored to write my first letter to you as chief executive officer of the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and most enthusiastic about doing so at an important time, as AWF is devising a new, 10-year strategic plan.

To understand what we wanted out of the next 10 years, we had to be clear about who we are as an organization. As that conversation shaped up, a few themes emerged: We are the voice of African wildlife; we believe in African leadership and integrity; we recognize and empower youth and women, and we promote prosperity. Going forward, these pillars will guide much of our work explicitly.

As the voice of wildlife in Africa, we recognize the inherent value of the elephant, the rhinoceros, the giraffe, and all of Africa's myriad species. We also recognize that these species and their habitats are essential to Africa's natural heritage and identity. When we protect wild animals and wild lands, we protect a vital part of Africa.

We know intuitively (and have seen demonstrated time and again) that conservation success relies on African ownership of the work at hand—the vision, the strategies, the efforts on the ground. No one can speak for African places better than the people who occupy them. We shall, therefore, continue to support African governments as they chart futures that embrace wildlife and wild lands. We shall raise

the voices of the local communities who live in wildlife-rich areas and ensure that their needs guide our interventions.

AWF values inclusivity and recognizes the need to break down barriers that lock certain groups out of critical discourse and deny them a chance to contribute. We will continue to reach out to women, young people, and other marginalized groups to build their capacity, not as token representatives, but as forces of change.

**“CONSERVATION SUCCESS
RELIES ON AFRICAN
OWNERSHIP OF THE VISION,
STRATEGIES, AND EFFORTS
ON THE GROUND.”**

And finally, we believe in a prosperous Africa. Supporting growth does not have to mean robbing Africa of her iconic wildlife or vital natural resources. We can keep our forests as we develop our economies. Not the least because functioning, healthy ecosystems are critical for long-term stability and prosperity.



Jeff Vanuga (Photo)

Our radical proposition is that Africa can have it all. We want to change the debate: Don't ask whether our priority lies in conservation or development. That question is obsolete because we do not have to choose. The correct question is how to embrace the future and create an Africa that shines as a model of green growth and green economies. An Africa that makes wildlife and wild lands a centerpiece of sustainable development while recognizing their inherent value.

As we prepare to take on the challenges ahead, we are keenly aware that the most crucial factor in AWF's work is people. People like you. Without you, our grand vision, strategic plans, and work on the ground wouldn't be possible. You have given your money, time, and dedication to ensuring that AWF grows from strength to strength and is equal to any challenge that comes our way. Together we've created an organization that is chomping at the bit and raring to go—a trendsetter that prioritizes African ownership of her future and her identity, as well as the policies that govern them. This fight is ours to win.

Sincerely,



Kaddu Sebunya
Chief Executive Officer

Fighting for the giraffe

The population of the world's tallest land mammal is shrinking. Over the last three decades, giraffe numbers have dropped 38 percent—from 157,000 in 1985 to an estimated 97,500 in 2015. This decline led the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2016 to heighten giraffes' endangered status from "least concern" to "vulnerable." More recently, IUCN uplisted multiple giraffe subspecies even further: The Kordofan and Nubian giraffes, who together have around 4,500 mature adults, are now classified as critically endangered, while the reticulated giraffe is classified as endangered.

The leading threats to giraffe populations are habitat loss and, perhaps lesser-known, hunting and poaching. AWF helped add to the body of knowledge about giraffes and the bushmeat trade in 2018 when it worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to investigate samples of meat sold in the country's butcher shops. DNA analysis showed that Kenyans often unknowingly eat giraffe bushmeat disguised as beef. These

Piper Mackay / 2017 Windland Smith Rice International Awards (Photo)



1 results and the diminishing number of giraffes tell us stronger laws are needed to halt the illegal bushmeat trade (as well as poaching for body parts—giraffe tails are status symbols in some places and used in dowries.)

Recognizing the need for urgent action, AWF, KWS, and other partners collaborated on a first-ever giraffe conservation strategy, the “Recovery and Action Plan for Giraffe in Kenya.” The plan, launched in November 2018, runs through 2022. It calls for a holistic strategy including enhanced species protection, improved land management, coordinated research and monitoring of giraffe populations, as well as education and awareness. AWF is a member of the National Giraffe Conservation Task Force in Kenya.

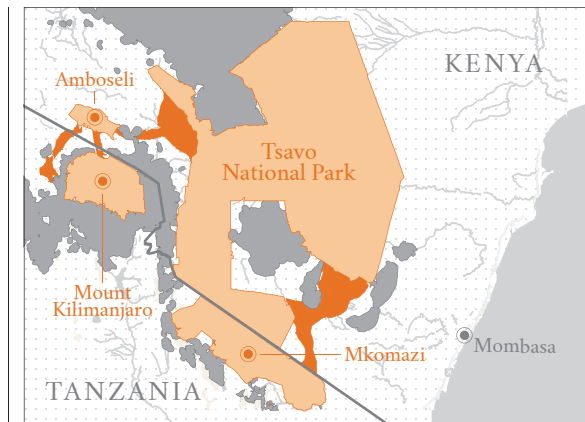
Reviving a destroyed landscape

AWF fights for the giraffe in the field as well as in the investigative and policy realms. In Tanzania, between Tarangire and Lake Manyara national parks lies Manyara Ranch, a critical corridor where giraffe, elephant, and other iconic wildlife roam and forage. A few years ago, the ranch was in bad shape. For one thing, poachers had put the area’s elephants and other wildlife under siege. “It was poaching from corner to corner, one day over here, another day over there,” says Fidelis Olekashe, AWF’s Manyara Ranch manager. To stem the carnage, AWF partnered with the Arusha-based Honeyguide Foundation, known for its anti-poaching field work. AWF and Honeyguide trained a team of nine rangers and deployed them at the ranch, along with skilled tracker dogs. The Canines for Conservation program has proven to be an effective poaching deterrent, especially when combined with other protection tactics. Our skilled dogs and handlers can track down even those offenders who’ve fled the scene to hide out in neighboring settlements. (See pages 16-17.)

The second problem at Manyara Ranch was overgrazing that had badly degraded the habitat. AWF works persistently with communities to improve grazing practices. Our support of community services such as the clinic and schools helped forge good relations, as did our provision of veterinary services and superior breeding bulls for the Maasai’s all-important livestock herds. We also trained Maasai communities in the use of predator-proof bomas to protect their livestock from lions and hyenas. (See page 14.)

“The communities have learned, and they see what we do for them,” says Olekashe. He extends his arm to indicate the Manyara Ranch grounds, where grasses now flourish and giraffe, elephant, eland, and other wildlife have returned in good numbers. “They support us, and they support protection of the wildlife. And that’s why the ranch looks like this now.”

The best news? Since 2015 inside the ranch, there have been no poaching incidents.



- NATIONAL RESERVES & PROTECTED AREAS
- WILDLIFE CORRIDORS
- CULTIVATION & SETTLEMENT

Future giraffe protection

Long-term giraffe conservation requires working in large landscapes, which is AWF’s specialty. In the Tsavo-Mkomazi (Kenya and Tanzania) transboundary area—one of the Maasai giraffe’s last strongholds—AWF is implementing a holistic conservation strategy.

Although the Tsavo-Mkomazi giraffe population doubled from an estimated 2,891 in 2014 to 4,323 in 2017, data also show giraffes are struggling outside the protected zone. As in many parts of East Africa, human settlement is expanding, transforming vital buffer zones and habitat into farmland and putting enormous pressure on wildlife food resources.

With support from our partners, AWF recently launched a project to support giraffe populations in this critical landscape. Objectives include:

- Establishing baseline population data
- Mitigating poaching and human-wildlife conflict
- Engaging communities in conservation and compatible development
- Helping secure a future for giraffe through proven strategies including tourism

Concerted and well-planned efforts like these will help ensure that the giraffe remains a vital and iconic part of African landscapes.

1-3 — AWF implemented a holistic giraffe conservation strategy in the Tsavo-Mkomazi transboundary landscape of Kenya and Tanzania, and giraffe populations increased from 2,891 individuals to 4,323 individuals in a three-year period.

1 — Alison Langevad (Photo)
2 — Chuck Cascio (Photo)
3 — Billy Dodson (Photo)



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GREAT STRIDES FOR ELEPHANTS & RHINOS

While ivory and rhino horn traffickers around the world profit, elephants and rhinos are disappearing at alarming rates. Adults are killed, babies are orphaned, and Africa is robbed of its natural heritage. All so that someone, somewhere can buy an ivory collectible or an ineffectual tonic made with rhino horn.

But in 2018 people and their governments said, “No more.” This progress was due in no small part to awareness and advocacy efforts by leading NGOs including AWF.

China kicked off the year by implementing a comprehensive ban on trade in elephant ivory. A few weeks later, Hong Kong said it would ban all ivory trade by 2021. In April, UK citizens—recognizing that sanctioned markets provide cover for illegal goods—voted overwhelmingly to disallow trade in legal (old) ivory. The UK government responded with the world’s strictest ban, which became law in December 2018.

In March 2018, the world mourned the death of the last male northern white rhino, Sudan.

This extinction event galvanized attention to the plight of all rhinos, and millions spoke out on social media. On AWF’s own platforms, nearly 90,000 people reacted, many saying they fear losing rhinos forever. Such public awareness is critical to ending trade, especially in countries where demand for rhino horn remains high.

In October, protection and trafficking issues took center stage at the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Conference in London. As the global community discussed solutions and committed to new partnerships against IWT, AWF made its own commitment: a \$25-million, four-year investment to support African governments and local communities in protecting wildlife and wild lands. (See page 19.)

This investment bolsters AWF’s species protection work, which includes supporting 14 elephant populations (46 percent of the continental total) and 10 rhino populations (about 5,000 rhinos) in their ranges throughout Africa. (See “A holistic approach,” right.)

1-4 — AWF’s species protection program supports 14 elephant populations and 10 rhino populations throughout their ranges in Africa. 1 — Billy Dodson (Photo) 3, 4 — Laura Hannusch (Photos)

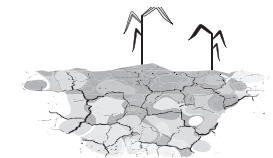
We also help improve wildlife surveillance and management systems. In the Tsavo-Mkomazi ecosystem stretching across Kenya and Tanzania, for example, AWF worked with wildlife authorities to facilitate cross-border coordination between anti-poaching teams. These efforts have paid off: A recent aerial wildlife count showed that between 2014 and 2017 elephant populations in the ecosystem increased by 14.7 percent.

Such results demonstrate the value of AWF’s approach, which is not proscriptive or exclusionary but seeks to support and empower the people and organizations that safeguard wildlife.

A holistic approach



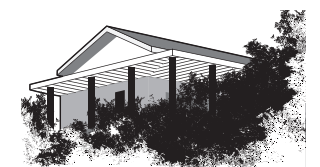
We provide rangers and scouts the anti-poaching skills, latest knowledge, and equipment they need to do their often dangerous and challenging jobs.



We work with communities to minimize habitat loss caused by unsustainable practices such as overgrazing and charcoal production.



We train farmers in conservation-friendly agriculture.



We help create community conservancies to secure more space for wildlife to range freely.



We facilitate local ownership of eco-lodges and other nature-based enterprises to help build local economies based on wildlife tourism, not wildlife destruction.



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1 — Larry Traxler (Photo)
 2-3 — *Kwita Izina*, a Rwandan tradition of naming baby gorillas, is one of the world's largest conservation celebrations. In 2018, Alexa Gray (left), daughter of AWF Trustee Donald Gray, had the honor of naming a baby mountain gorilla. She chose the name "Kuneshu," meaning "to win." Shawn Smith (Photos)
 4 — Billy Dodson (Photo)



4

A CONSERVATION MILESTONE FOR MOUNTAIN GORILLAS

Mountain gorillas continued to be a source of tremendous hope for wildlife conservation in 2018. Census results released last May revealed that the mountain gorilla population—once nearly wiped out—had edged past 1,000 for the first time in decades.

AWF's role in this remarkable recovery has included supporting the late Dian Fossey's early gorilla research and training rangers in protective measures such as snare removal and gorilla population monitoring. We also facilitated new partnerships between tourism operators and local communities near gorilla habitat. The resulting collaborations led to the development of several high-end, community-owned ecolodges that have generated millions of dollars for communities.

AWF continues to achieve new milestones in gorilla conservation. In January, we donated 28 hectares to the Rwandan government for expansion of Volcanoes National Park. The added acreage eases pressure in the narrowest part of the park, where gorillas tend to cross the

protected-area boundary. When outside the park, gorillas risk potentially hazardous human contact.

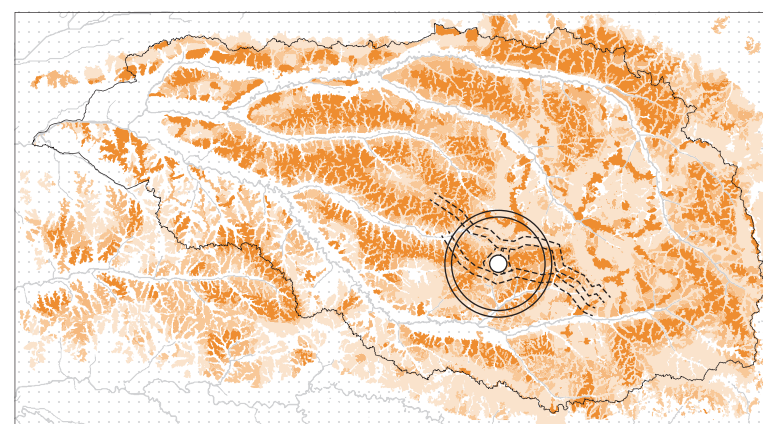
Despite rare incidents of human-wildlife conflict, Rwanda and its people are fiercely protective of mountain gorillas. The iconic great apes are a point of national pride and heritage, as well as a vital tourism-revenue generator. Rwanda's commitment to the mountain gorilla is evidenced each year in *Kwita Izina*, a baby-naming ceremony and one of the world's largest conservation celebrations. Since the first *Kwita Izina* in 2005, almost 260 mountain gorillas have received names. In 2008, AWF's then-CEO Patrick Bergin named a newborn "Sacola" after the community trust that owns Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge. This past September, Alexa Gray, daughter of AWF Trustee Donald Gray, named a baby "Kuneshu," which means "to win." Alexa's choice was especially appropriate given that the Volcanoes expansion, partly funded by the Gray family, was a big win for mountain gorillas!

Protecting the rare bonobo

Throughout its range in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the shy bonobo—famous for its matriarchy and tendency to resolve conflict through sex—is increasingly at risk from habitat loss and bushmeat hunting. To combat these threats, AWF created two reserves in a critical bonobo stronghold, the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape. Here, we support rangers with training and equipment. We also habituate bonobos to the presence of humans as groundwork for future wildlife tourism.

AWF uses satellite imagery and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software to map trends in habitat use and human encroachment. David Williams, AWF's senior director of conservation geography, identified forest areas likely to support bonobo populations and vital linkages between habitat blocks. This information can help inform communities as they make land-use plans that 1) include conservation areas and 2) seek to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. The ultimate goal is to ensure economic development never comes at the expense of these peaceable apes.

Bonobo Suitability in Maringa-Lopori-Wamba (MLW)



- HIGH SUITABILITY
- LOW SUITABILITY
- ANIMAL TRAFFIC AREA
- ◎ EXAMPLE OF AWF TARGET AREAS

Map developed by AWF's GIS team shows areas of the MLW landscape that bonobos are likely to use for nesting and foraging—in other words, as habitat. Such projections are useful for our meetings with communities to discuss and develop land-use plans.



“UNLIKE BEFORE, I SLEEP WELL AND I HAVE NOT LOST ANY OF MY GOATS AND SHEEP AGAIN.”

- 1 — African elephants are keystone species, meaning they keep an entire ecosystem in check, but they can do critical damage to farmers' crops. Billy Dodson (Photo)
- 2 — Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) farmers harvest groundnuts in Zambia.
- 3 — Chilies are an effective elephant deterrent; the acrid smoke from burning chilies repels elephants.
- 4,5 — AWF helps pastoralist farmers implement strategies to keep cattle safe from lions and other predators.
- 4 — Laura Nannusch (Photo)

KEEPING THE PEACE

When it comes to human-wildlife conflict in Africa, the stakes are high. A visiting elephant family can wipe out an entire crop—a whole year's labor and, more importantly, critical market goods or food stores for the family table. When villagers retaliate against the elephants, lions, hyenas, and other animals that just destroyed their crops or killed their livestock, wildlife are the losers, felled by spear or poisons.

Generally, habitat loss and wildlife trafficking are the leading threats to wildlife. But in some places, human-wildlife conflict is the top threat. Big cats are often involved, as in Uganda last year when eight lion cubs and three lionesses were poisoned in Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The African Wildlife Poison Database has recorded nearly 15,000 poisonings to date (based on records dating back to 1961). The problem

will only intensify with increasing population pressure and as new roads, railways, and other infrastructure put people and wildlife into ever closer and more frequent contact.

To help mitigate human-wildlife conflict, AWF uses a variety of proven strategies in landscapes throughout Africa. (See pages 14-15.) The strategies are used independently or in combination, depending on the situation. Most are designed to keep wildlife away from crops and livestock, although a few require humans to take proactive steps such as adjusting their routines to avoid wildlife run-ins.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

Here are the leading strategies AWF has helped develop and implement across African landscapes to help keep the peace between people and wildlife.

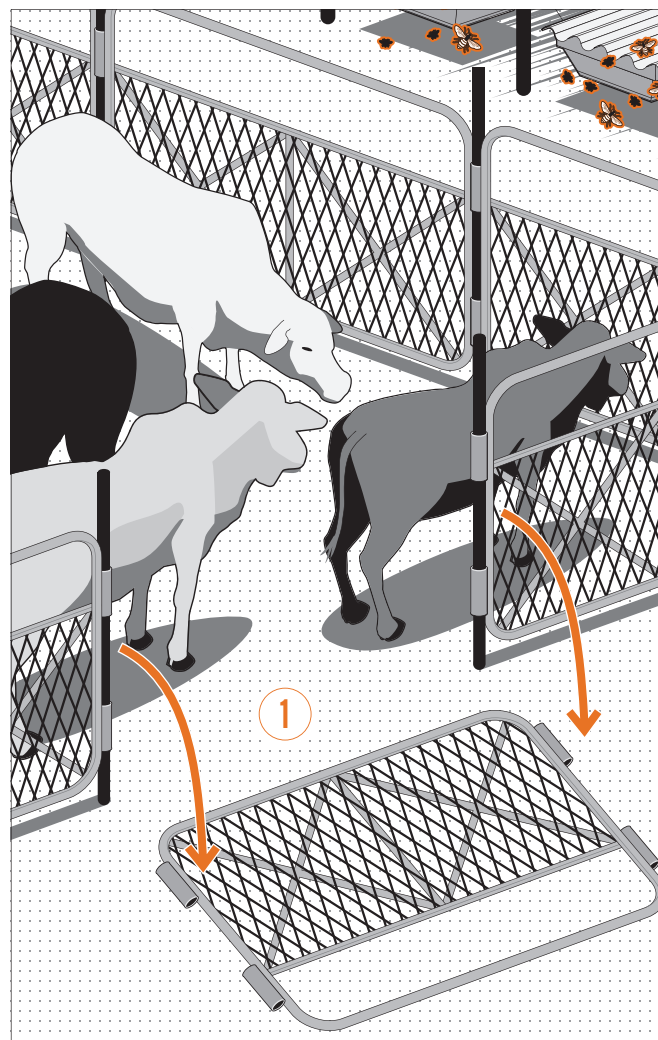
1

Predator-proof bomas

Bomas are traditional wooden or thorn-bush/wire mesh enclosures designed to keep cattle in and predators out. With AWF's help, Tanzanian Maasai pastoralists living around Manyara Ranch have benefited from an upgrade: mobile, predator-proof, metal bomas.

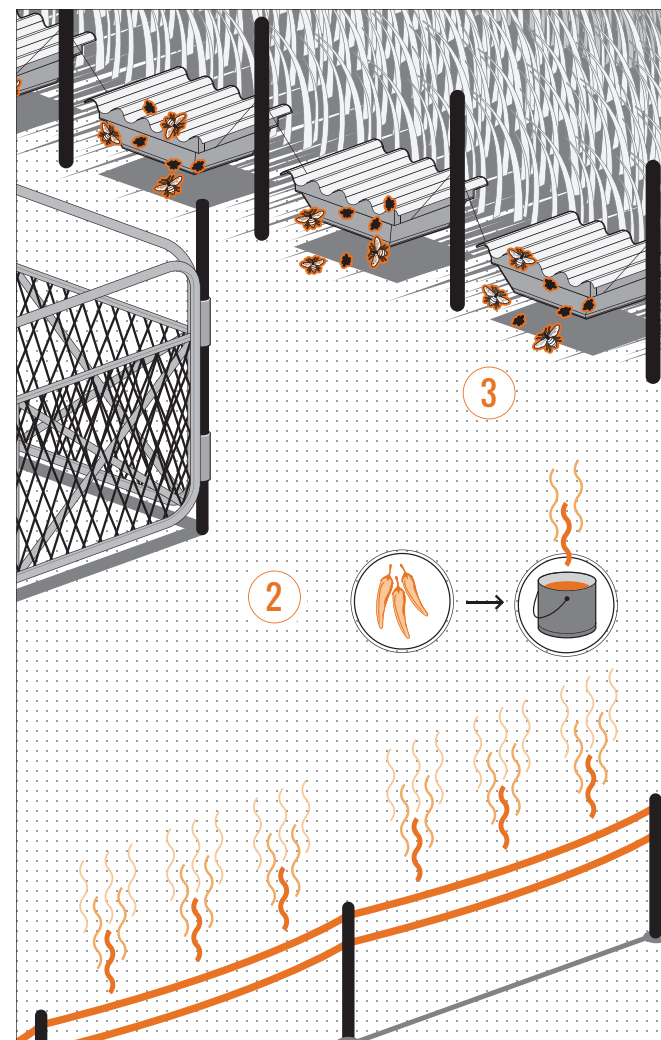
Herders move with these enclosures and their cattle periodically, following water and grass growth. In this way they can help restore degraded habitat—rotating the livestock strategically, the herders help overgrazed areas to regenerate healthy grasses.

AWF supports the construction of bomas for families around Manyara through a cost-sharing program, reducing the financial burden. Even still, when Manyara Ranch's manager Fidelis Olekashe introduced the metal bomas to community members, they weren't interested. They essentially said, "Why do we need this? We have our own bomas." But the old-style wood bomas are not nearly as good at keeping out lions. The metal bomas, which can be dismantled and reassembled in 15 minutes, offer an unprecedented level of livestock protection. "After a while, they see the lion can come around the boma, but he cannot even touch the cow," said Olekashe. "So now everybody says, 'We want that.'" AWF is proud to be the first NGO in Tanzania to introduce the mobile bomas.



In Amboseli National Park in Kenya, a boma project across multiple group ranches led to a sharp decline in livestock killings. Said resident Mzee Sakimba: "I have lived here for over 40 years with lions and hyenas taking away my livestock. ...I have lost 27 goats, 15 sheep and 60 cows to predation over the years. Recently, I decided enough is enough, no more loss. I took a positive action by improving my boma. Unlike before, I sleep well and I have not lost any of my goats and sheep again."

In one study in the Amboseli ecosystem, predator-proof bomas were shown to reduce livestock predation by more than 90 percent. AWF field staff members' own experiences support this finding.



2

Chilies

Around Murchison Falls and Kidepo Valley National Parks, AWF and the Uganda Wildlife Authority introduced chilies as an effective elephant deterrent. Chilies can be used in various ways. Bricks made from chili powder and cow dung produce acrid smoke when burned, while ropes soaked with chili oil and strung up between agricultural plots keep wildlife away with their harsh vapors. Intercropping with chilies is another method. Chilies not only repel elephants, but they are also a lucrative cash crop for farmers.

The continued success of our programs has enabled farmers to purchase additional livestock, make home improvements, and, in some cases, provide school fees for their children.

3

Beehive fences

Research has shown that African elephants respond to the buzzing of bees. They shake their heads, emit low, rumbling alarm calls, and flee. Beehive fences—typically hanging hives spaced out every 10 meters or so—exploit this aversion to bees (or probably more accurately, to being stung). AWF has supported farmer-led beehive fence projects outside of Udzungwa Mountains National Park, Selous Game Reserve, and Magombera Forest. The fences not only deter elephants from raiding crops, they also provide a new revenue source, as the bee farmers can market eco-friendly honey and beeswax.

Other deterrents

The Tsavo-Mkomazi landscape in Kenya and Tanzania is home to more than 12,860 elephants, close to half of Kenya's total population. As unplanned farms and settlements increasingly obstruct the paths of foraging elephants and other wildlife, more farms, people, and elephants are at risk. To help safeguard wildlife and improve crop yields, AWF is working with the Kenya Wildlife Service staff (who respond to villagers when elephants are unwelcome visitors).

In summer 2018, we and KWS led a series of training workshops in farming villages throughout the landscape. Lessons focused on how to prevent conflict with wildlife, using proven deterrents such as noisemakers, fences, trenches, and lights. Trainers also discussed when it might be necessary to use simple avoidance—working around the known schedules and patterns of wild animals—when it's time to gather water or walk somewhere.

Addressing conflict requires solutions that benefit wildlife and people. Then, communities are in a position to recognize the value of living in harmony with their iconic wildlife neighbors.



Canines for Conservation detection and tracker dogs have made hundreds of busts, finding ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, and other illicit wildlife goods at trafficking hubs and in protected areas across Africa.

CANINES FOR CONSERVATION

Since its start in 2014, AWF's Canines for Conservation program has helped authorities identify smugglers and apprehend poachers. We've placed detection dogs at airports, seaports, and border crossings in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, and in late 2018 we sent a new team of handlers and detection dogs to Mozambique's capital city, Maputo. The new team will enhance law enforcement activities at critical points along the country's most notorious trafficking routes. AWF is also expanding Canines for Conservation into Botswana and Cameroon to support anti-trafficking initiatives in those countries.

The canines undergo an intensive three-month training program, during which they are paired with their dedicated handlers (usually from

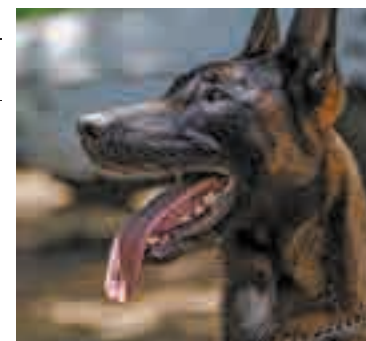
wildlife authorities that partner with AWF.) The goal is to create an inseparable bond and good working relationship through trust-building activities and lots of hard work. Then, in training exercises, the handlers learn to expertly read and lead the dogs. The canines, in turn, use their powerful noses to inspect cargo items and pieces of luggage. (Dog noses are up to 100,000 times more sensitive than a human's.) At deployment sites, the detection dogs are so efficient, they can search an entire vehicle in seconds or warehouse unit in minutes.

Canines for Conservation: By the numbers

Kenya

82

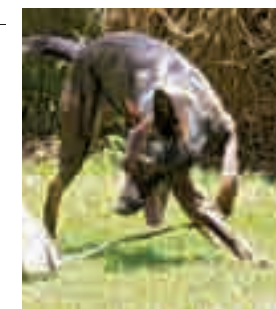
Contraband caches AWF's detection dogs and handlers have found at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and Mombasa's Moi International Airport since 2015



Uganda

161

Finds Canines for Conservation teams have made since the program launched in 2014



10k

Items our units search daily at Jomo Kenyatta, including around 5,000 check-in bags and 5,000 cargo items ranging from parcels to pallets to boxes

700k

Pieces of warehoused cargo and luggage at Entebbe Airport AWF's detection dogs have checked in a single day

1,200

Check-in bags the units search daily at Mombasa



3,500

Single pieces of check-in luggage at Entebbe our detection dogs have inspected in a single day

1,000

Cargo items the units search daily at Mombasa



Tanzania

90%

Canines for Conservation's portion of the larger ivory busts made by all agencies in the country's populous eastern zone



5

Tracker dogs in Tanzania, a new, exciting facet of our work there.

Strategic placement of these talented dogs helps deter poachers and, when there is an incident, helps follow poachers' scents. With their superb skills and abilities, these dogs and handlers are able to follow the trail and apprehend even poachers that have fled the scene to hide out in populated areas nearby.

“DETECTION DOGS HAVE PROVEN TO US THAT THEY ARE A BIG PART OF THE CONSERVATION AGENDA IN KENYA. THESE DOGS ARE TRUE HEROES.”

CHARLES MUSYOKI
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE DIRECTOR GENERAL



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Major commitments to stop the illegal wildlife trade

In October 2018, representatives of more than 50 countries figuratively locked arms in the fight against wildlife crime. Many of the governments and NGOs at the two-day Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Conference in London announced new programs and financial commitments to fight the illegal wildlife trade, which is worth as much as \$23 billion annually and involves international criminal syndicates. The US, for example, said it would invest more than \$90 million in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking work.

AWF itself announced a new investment: \$25 million over the next four years to support African governments and local communities in anti-IWT work. The investment will help protect habitats and critical populations of species through training in capacities such as anti-poaching patrols and ecological monitoring within protected areas. It also will strengthen anti-trafficking efforts through the expansion of our Canines for Conservation program and continued training of a growing cadre of prosecutors and judges who can put perpetrators behind bars. More generally, the fund will help develop African leadership and ownership of the anti-trafficking agenda.

Since 2014, AWF has invested \$13.1 million to counter the illegal wildlife trade in Africa, plus a further \$5.5 million from public-sector partners.

Our continued goal is to prevent poaching, make wildlife products hard to move around, involve local partners, and snuff out demand. We're determined to see elephants, rhinos, and Africa's other magnificent wildlife enjoy a secure future in a modern, thriving Africa.

BUILDING STRONG LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ACROSS BORDERS

Once strictly the realm of armed poachers and slick trafficking syndicates, wildlife crime is developing a new facet. In early 2018, AWF and Kenya Wildlife Service's forensic laboratory discovered traces of buffalo, giraffe, and dik-dik (among other small mammals) sold as beef in Tsavo. The special investigation targeted butcheries in wildlife-rich landscapes in Kenya to shed light on the illegal and widespread consumption of bushmeat—an insidious threat to Africa's wildlife.

In most jurisdictions throughout the continent, crimes against wildlife are regulatory. As AWF's Wildlife Law Enforcement Senior Manager Didi Wamukoya explains, "They are similar to traffic offenses. There is no criminal stigma attached to persons convicted of wildlife crimes." An example: One suspected bushmeat dealer pleaded guilty in Tsavo and walked away with a fine of \$400. In other countries, penalties are even lower.

Inadequate crime detection and investigative ability, especially across boundaries, also hinder the proper adjudication of wildlife cases. Since 2015, AWF's Wildlife and Judicial Prosecutorial Assistance Trainings have engaged more than 1,100 professionals from 14 African countries—wildlife crime prosecutors, investigators, rangers, and even customs and ports officials—to build skills, streamline information-sharing networks, and develop regional strategies.

Our wildlife detection dog-and-handler units in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania have found hundreds of stashes of illegal wildlife products. (See previous story.) In addition to their specialized detection training, AWF ensures that the dog handlers, rangers, and wildlife scouts who nab offenders know what to do next. With supplementary legal training, they are learning to be strong witnesses in court and to handle and store exhibits properly so the materials can be admitted as evidence.

AWF's new prosecutorial mentorship program pairs experienced and veteran lawyers with junior lawyers working in the challenging arena of wildlife crime, providing consistent on-the-job support. In November 2018, mentor-mentees teams from Uganda and Tanzania visited their Kenyan counterparts in Tsavo to improve interagency communication and regional collaboration.

Whether facilitating partnerships or building skills, AWF is determined to give African governments the advantage in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade in all its forms.

- 1 — AWF's Wildlife and Judicial Prosecutorial Assistance Trainings, led by our own Wildlife Law Enforcement Senior Manager Didi Wamukoya, have engaged over 1,100 wildlife professionals from 14 African countries.
- 2 — Didi Wamukoya leads trainings that focus on building the capacity of wildlife law enforcement including investigators, prosecutors, and judicial officers.
- 3, 4 — AWF provides law enforcement training in capacities that include anti-poaching patrols, ecological monitoring, and we have strengthened anti-trafficking efforts through the expansion of our Canines for Conservation program.
- 5 — AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya at the IWT conference in London, where he announced we will invest \$25 million over four years to fight poaching and trafficking.

AWF IS DETERMINED TO HELP AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST POACHING AND TRAFFICKING

Communities protecting wildlife: AWF-supported conservancies

When we think of designated wildlife areas in Africa, many of us conjure images of official protected places like national parks. But there is growing interest in and use of another category of protected land, the conservancy.

Conservancies are, quite simply, land units actively engaged in wildlife and habitat conservation outside of state-protected areas. They are owned privately or communally and organized singly or in groups. Only Namibia, Uganda, and Kenya have legislation that defines and provides legal status for conservancies; however, you can find them all over the continent.

Conservancies have developed more or less organically across Africa, depending on needs. Some conservancy originators were interested in the best use of their land, some in preserving cultural sites and traditions, and some in security. In northern Kenya, for example, communities



Marius Coetzee / mariuscoetzee.com (Photo)

have organized 39 conservancies across 42,000 square kilometers (with the support of the Northern Rangelands Trust). Their goals were to optimally manage land but also coalesce efforts to improve regional peace and security, especially against terrorists and cattle raiders.

Why are conservancies a good land management solution? They fill in critical gaps. Wildlife such as elephants, the African wild dog, and cheetahs need room to roam and don't recognize park boundaries. Conservancies can help provide missing protection in wildlife migration corridors and in buffer zones between human settlements and protected areas. They can also help address habitat loss and fragmentation caused by human encroachment as well as unplanned, poorly planned, or badly managed development.

Conservancies operating near well-established national parks can benefit tourism economies by diversifying the tourism experience. They offer activities such as horseback riding, walking safaris, or night game drives, and revenue goes directly to the community, thus incentivizing conservation.

AWF has worked to protect wildlife habitat in Africa since the 1960s, and often looks to the conservancy model as a sound conservation strategy. We've worked with local communities and tourism companies to create conservancies in Botswana, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya.



AWF-supported conservancies benefit tourism economies, protect wildlife, and provide revenue that goes directly back to communities, thus incentivizing conservation.

- 1 — Satao Elerai Lodge, Charles Grieves-Cook (Photo)
- 2 — Lions Bluff Lodge, Tsavo West Park, Kenya
- 3 — Manyara Ranch

Kenya & Tanzania

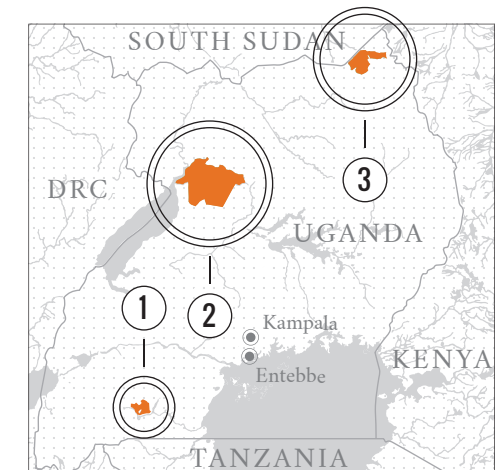
In 2008, AWF partnered with the Entonet/Elerai Maasai community and a leading private safari operator to set aside 5,000 acres of land for wildlife and to establish Satao Elerai, a luxury, community-owned lodge. The lodge operator pays rent to the community as well as a portion of bed fees charged to guests, which helps ensure that more wildlife tourists equals more income for communities. Thus, in community members' eyes, wildlife becomes a resource worth protecting.

The lodge employs about 70 people, 80 percent of whom hail from the local community. In addition, tourism income pays the salaries of conservancy staff and game scouts.

Wildlife benefits, too. Situated in a wildlife corridor between Amboseli National Park (ANP) in Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania, Satao Elerai provides vital habitat. Wildlife numbers have increased since the conservancy and lodge were created, demonstrating a clear connection between well-managed, sustainable tourism and biodiversity conservation.

AWF has developed seven other conservancies in the Amboseli landscape. We remain active with Elerai and the 6,000-acre Kilitome Conservancy adjacent to ANP.

Kenya's LUMO Conservancy is 42,000 hectares and comprised of multiple group ranches. In 2018, AWF received a grant from the US Agency for International Development in Kenya to help improve LUMO's management. We currently are supporting the conservancy as it revamps its governance structure and develops a new land management plan, grazing strategy, and improved training for scouts in ecological monitoring. In addition, we will support LUMO as it develops alternative livelihood ventures.



- ① KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK
- ② MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK
- ③ MBURO NATIONAL PARK

Uganda

In 2014, AWF proposed that the wildlife authority in Uganda, which had no conservancies, use the model to strengthen and expand habitat protection, diversify tourism experiences, and engage landowners and communities directly in wildlife conservation. The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) liked the idea, and AWF has since piloted conservancies in the landscapes surrounding Lake Mburo National Park, Murchison Falls National Park, and Kidepo Valley National Park.

AWF has completed ecological assessments for the conservancies and helped develop constitutions for the participating communities and landowners. We also developed land-use plans that will help establish and clarify permanent protected areas as well as zones where limited natural resource use is permitted.

Uganda is embracing conservancies for a good reason. If African wildlife is going to thrive, there must be a robust, well-managed, network of parks that is complemented by private and community-owned conservancies.

EQUIPPING RANGERS WITH UPDATED MONITORING TOOLS

Tracking wildlife movement and behavior is an ancient human practice, a matter of survival for communities co-existing with native fauna. Now, with high-tech but simple tools, the same kind of surveillance is the basis of conservation science and protected-area management.

Rangers and community scouts patrolling thousands of kilometers collect valuable data every day, using smartphones designed for hard use in the bush and equipped with an app called CyberTracker. With a few clicks, they record wildlife observations such as elephant dung or fresh gorilla nests, and they also track evidence of threats—for example, hunting camps, cartridges, and snares (or poachers themselves). Back at field stations, onsite data managers analyze the CyberTracker patrol data and generate reports using special conservation software known as SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool). These reports inform more tactical and effective deployment of resources.

AWF's Geographical Information Systems (GIS) team takes the data one step further, intersecting patrol observations from particular areas with a host of spatial layers, many derived from satellite imagery, to predict the likelihood of wildlife and related threats across the entire protected area. Vast landscapes often are allocated a fraction of the necessary budget for patrol personnel and equipment. Our projections greatly enhance a warden's ability to deploy appropriate resources to high-risk areas and protect focal species.

At the International Primatological Society Conference in August 2018, AWF highlighted the use of emerging monitoring technologies to improve the surveillance of wildlife as well as increase the likelihood of threat detection. "Ten years ago, drones and acoustic sensors were not on the tips of many tongues," said AWF Senior Director of Conservation Geography David Williams. "But now they are an integral part of our conservation toolbox,"



he said, especially in critical conservation landscapes such as Cameroon's Dja Faunal Reserve, a World Heritage Site.

AWF's first CyberTracker/SMART training in 2014 equipped the wildlife rangers protecting endangered bonobos in the dense tropical forests of Lomako in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Between 2015 and 2018, we conducted this specialized training at 17 sites in seven priority countries total, working with wildlife rangers as well as community scouts. In April 2018, we trained 50 data managers and Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority rangers based in the Lower Zambezi Valley.



Until they received CyberTracker/SMART training and equipment in January 2018, community scouts patrolling the expansive LUMO Conservancy in the Tsavo conservation area lacked a systematic approach to record observations. Since then, the scouts have been able to profile the distribution of wildlife and threats and use that information to curtail illegal grazing.

The law enforcement monitoring tools play an important role in motivating rangers and scouts, who in some cases, risk their lives to do this work. "CyberTracker and SMART provide clear, tangible evidence of wildlife and threat observations," explains Williams, adding, "This evidence can lead to arrests and prosecutions that in many cases would have been far more difficult. It's been a game-changer."

1 — Teeku Patel (Photo)

1-3 — With a few clicks, rangers can record wildlife observations such as elephant dung or fresh gorilla nests, and they can also track evidence of threats and poaching incidents.

4, 5 — AWF first conducted CyberTracker/SMART training in 2014 for rangers protecting endangered bonobos in remote forests of the DRC. Since then, we have trained hundreds of scouts and rangers across Africa.



1

CO-MANAGEMENT: STRENGTHENING AFRICA'S PARKS

The Simien massif in Ethiopia is an extraordinary landscape, rough-hewn and stark, with endless vistas and rare, endemic wildlife species including the Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf, and gelada monkey. Despite its altitude and challenging terrain, this breathtaking landscape, which includes Simien Mountains National Park, has been home to human settlers for thousands of years. By the late 20th century, after generations of uncontrolled cultivation and grazing, the land here was severely degraded. UNESCO named Simiens a World Heritage Site in 1918. Almost 80 years later, in 1996, UNESCO named it a World Heritage Site in Danger.

AWF partnered with the Ethiopian government and local communities in 2012 to develop a tourism plan that would benefit communities, protect wildlife, and guide infrastructure development. The most visible outcomes are a high-end eco-lodge, 60 or so trained tourism guides, and a community-owned trekking business south of the park—all new incentives for communities to protect wildlife.

AWF'S SUCCESSSES HAVE LED SEVERAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO SOLICIT OUR ENGAGEMENT AS PARTNERS

Less visible but just as important is a collaborative-management agreement AWF and the park authority signed in 2014 (and renewed in 2018). The goals: to improve park management, enhance wildlife protection, and develop the park in a way that generates revenue for management and communities.

In addition, AWF supported the wildlife authority in developing a grazing strategy for the park. Together we engaged surrounding communities in a participatory process. Eventually, communities designated 92 percent of the park off-limits to grazing. The remainder is a resource-use zone where some extraction and controlled grazing are allowed.

In just a few years, the ecosystem has rebounded and wildlife populations have rallied. The Walia ibex population grew from 600 in 2006 to nearly 1,000 in 2015. Ethiopian wolves went from 80 to 140. Recognizing the great progress, in 2017, UNESCO removed the park from the list of World Heritage in Danger.



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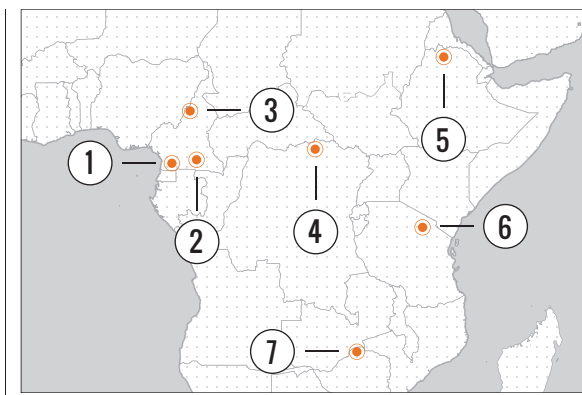
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Through a co-management agreement for Simien Mountains National Park, AWF helped the wildlife authority develop a grazing strategy, and wildlife such as the Ethiopian wolf and Walia ibex rebounded.

- 1— Simien Mountains National Park. Andrew Holt (Photo)
- 2— An endangered Ethiopian wolf. Giedrius Stakauskas (Photo)
- 3— Gelada baboon. Solomon Wonku (Photo)
- 4— Walia ibex. Filipe DeAndrade (Photo)



AWF'S MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

- ① CAMPO MA'AN
- ② DJA
- ③ FARO
- ④ BILI-UELE
- ⑤ SIMIEN MOUNTAINS
- ⑥ MANYARA RANCH
- ⑦ MANA POOLS

AWF is a management partner

Co-management of protected spaces is one of AWF's areas of excellence. It signifies AWF's core belief that conservation, to be successful, must be African-led. Our track record in co-management has led several African governments to solicit our engagement as partners. In 2018, AWF had park co-management agreements in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cameroon, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

In some areas such as Tanzania's Manyara Ranch, AWF is the fully delegated park manager, while in others, such as the Bili-Uele protected-area complex in the DRC, AWF is a management partner. As such, AWF supports park and wildlife authorities to build the capacity of the wildlife authority, often by recruiting, equipping, and training rangers in ecological monitoring and anti-poaching.

Because co-management partnerships can improve the ecological health of protected areas and help ensure badly needed, long-term technical and financial support to critical sites, funders such as the European Union increasingly want to see co-management agreements in place. AWF is always ready to provide unparalleled experience and technical expertise to help governments protect the continent's natural heritage and realize ecosystem benefits for people and wildlife.

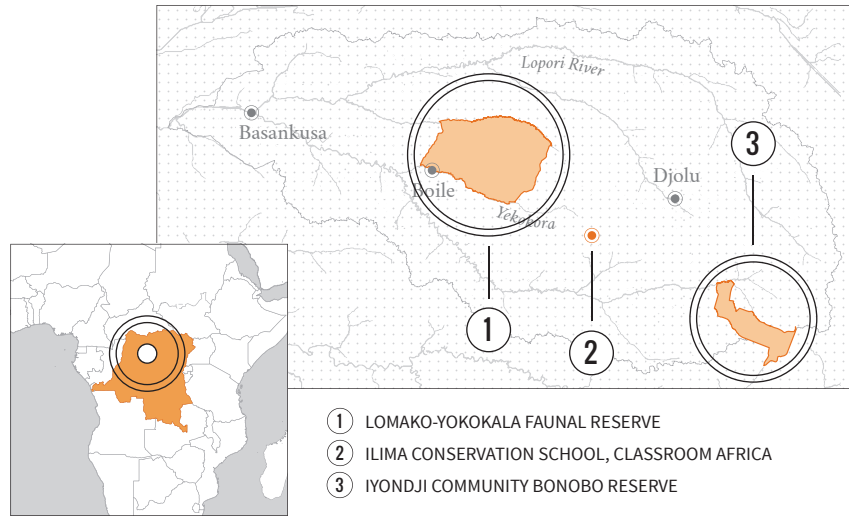
People at the center of conservation in the DRC

The Congo River Basin is known as the globe's second lungs (after the Amazon) and is a critical carbon sink—not to mention home to rare and endangered species including bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas, and Congo peacocks. With support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), AWF has worked in Maringa-Lopori-Wamba (MLW), a remote and ecologically important Congo Basin landscape in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for more than 10 years. Intensively engaging local communities in land-use planning, as well as projects emanating from conservation and sustainable livelihood strategies tailored to the landscape, is a hallmark of the AWF approach.

In the wake of changes the DRC government made to advance the land management rights of forest-dependent communities, AWF in 2017 helped seven MLW communities secure concessions to the land they inhabit. "Today is a special day!" said Kasi Lolango Gustave

Guenter Guni (Photo)

Maringa-Lopori-Wamba Landscape



of Yongoli village. “We are now the legal owner of our forest thanks to our government and AWF who have worked with us since the beginning of the process. We are looking forward to attaining the skills to help us manage the forest in the right way so that the children of our children benefit from it.” It was the first official allocation of local community forestry concessions in the DRC.

One of AWF’s biggest achievements in MLW was developing an ambitious land-use plan that covers 70 percent of the landscape (5.2 million hectares). We collaborated with residents to designate parts of the land as permanent forest and other parts available for extractive uses including sustainable uses.

The Congolese government recognized AWF’s participatory planning process as a model for future land planning in the DRC.

AWF also helped MLW communities establish two reserves that together comprise one of the largest blocks of bonobo habitat in the region. In the 896,000-acre (3,625km²) Lomako–Yokokala Faunal Reserve, we support anti-poaching operations, land-use planning, and wildlife tourism development. Most recently, we completed construction of new ranger bases.

The Iyondji Community Bonobo Reserve (1,100km²) came about at the request of the community, who saw how the Lomako reserve benefited local people. In addition to providing a more secure environment for bonobos, these conservation and tourism projects translate to revenue for the reserves and provide all-important jobs. Just as critically, they help secure an important wildlife corridor.

Creating alternative incomes for community members was another important piece of the puzzle. AWF launched programs designed to educate and empower MLW women who might otherwise hunt for bushmeat. Women enrolled in these programs can learn either sewing or artisanal soap-making. The graduates are making profits—100 trained soapmakers, for example, earned a total of \$10,500 per quarter—and training others in these sustainable trades.

Populations in the MLW landscape also are vulnerable to becoming malnourished. With the development of sustainable agriculture and the introduction of important crops such as beans, soybean meal, and rice, we have contributed to the diversification of food in the area.

**WOMEN TRAINED IN SOAPMAKING
—AN ALTERNATIVE TO BUSHMEAT
HUNTING—GENERATED A TOTAL
OF \$168,000 OVER FOUR YEARS.**

PROTECTING WATER SOURCES IN SOUTHERN TANZANIA

Since 2015 in southern Tanzania, AWF has implemented water conservation programming under the umbrella of the SUSTAIN-Africa program. This program, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, is designed to introduce climate-smart agricultural technologies and techniques as well as improve the livelihoods of thousands of smallholder farmers in the fertile landscape connecting the Udzungwa National Park, Selous Game Reserve, and other protected forests and nature reserves.

Our partnerships under SUSTAIN with local governments, wildlife management authorities, and privately owned commercial growers are all geared toward mobilizing community conservation action and sustainable livelihood enterprise in the breadbasket of Tanzania. Restoring the landscape’s ecological integrity through sound agricultural practices is also bringing life back to tributaries of an important water resource, the River Rufiji.

AWF facilitated the formation of water-user associations and catchment committees, which help ensure that degradation of the river basin—a heightened risk in the face of increased agriculture—is minimized and that river quality is high and flow is reliable.

For the farming villages nestled in the fertile Kilombero Valley, sustainable management of water resources is now a source of pride. Thanks to an effective and low-cost water monitoring tool, launched in conjunction with the Rufiji Basin Water Board and the University of Dar es Salaam, community members can now measure the health of rivers and streams by assessing water samples for aquatic invertebrates.

One user said, “We have conducted assessments in two rivers and the results show that it is no longer natural because of human activities taking place in the upstream areas. As members of the water user association, we have decided to start restoration of Mchombe River.”



AWF empowers local communities through sustainable management of water resources. Farmers can now measure the health of rivers with low-cost water monitoring tools benefiting both communities and wildlife.



PROMOTING WILDLIFE TOURISM IN UGANDA

Over the last three decades, AWF's conservation strategy in Uganda has secured vulnerable wildlife by integrating local economic growth with biodiversity protection. We helped create community-owned conservancies and eco-lodges that deliver long-term benefits. Now, the Ugandan government is incentivizing responsible tourism that benefits communities.

At a Giants Club Conservation and Tourism Investment Forum held in Uganda in October 2017, the government announced a one-stop investment facility, making it easier for operators to invest in sustainable tourism in Uganda, and a range of other positive incentives for smart and sustainable tourism development. AWF is a core partner of the Giant's Club Tourism and Investment Program and has worked closely with the Uganda Wildlife Authority and National Forestry Authority to improve protected-area management and ensure long-term conservation impacts by engaging communities living near national parks and reserves.

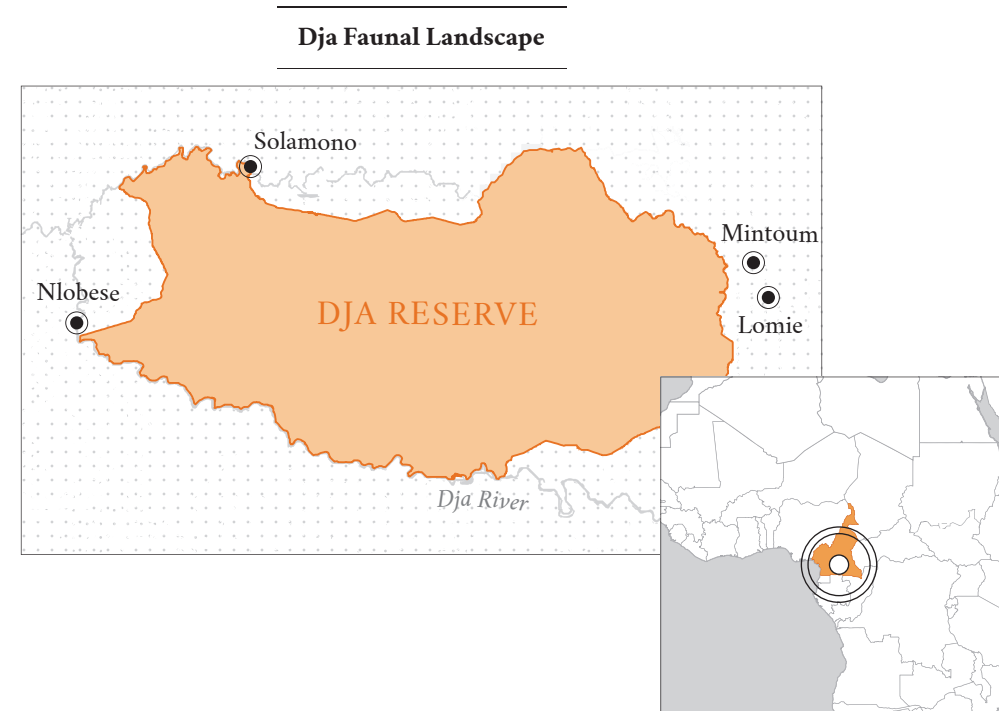
In June 2018, the Mozambique government followed our lead. It organized the International Conference on Nature-Based Tourism to chart a new strategy for conservation-compatible investments within the national economy. As seen in Rwanda—a haven for the endangered mountain gorilla—high-value and low-impact wildlife tourism can transform local livelihoods and advance the national economy.

AWF supports African government initiatives to boost private investment in responsible wildlife tourism. As an innovative mechanism to finance biodiversity protection, this approach secures national parks and reserves, the bedrock of African conservation, as vital assets.

LOW-IMPACT WILDLIFE TOURISM
CAN TRANSFORM LOCAL
LIVELIHOODS AND ADVANCE
NATIONAL ECONOMIES

1-5—Through a partnership with the Giants' Club, AWF works closely with the Uganda Wildlife Authority and National Forestry Authority to engage communities living near national parks. AWF invests in community-owned conservancies and eco-lodges that incentivize responsible tourism while safeguarding wildlife.

1—Timothy Mukoya (Photo)
2—James Kemsey (Photo)



Dja Faunal Reserve in Cameroon is home to vulnerable wildlife species such as pangolins, forest elephants, and western lowland gorillas. AWF works with local communities to develop sustainable, cocoa-based agroforestry as an alternative to bushmeat.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR DJA'S PEOPLE & WILDLIFE

The Dja Faunal Reserve in southeastern Cameroon is one of Africa's most pristine and biodiverse rainforests as well as a World Heritage Site and biosphere reserve. In this irreplaceable landscape, extractive industry is a looming threat. Wildlife populations including the western lowland gorilla, central chimpanzee, giant pangolin, and forest elephant are at risk as logging and poaching activities increase. Among the local Baka people, a reliance on bushmeat hunting—outlawed not only in the protected area but certain buffer zones as well—has stunted both local development and conservation.

But innovative and inclusive agroforestry systems are turning around the fortunes of Baka villagers neighboring the reserve. For the last two years, AWF and a partner, Tropical Forest and Rural Development, alongside the authority in charge of the reserve, have worked with local communities to develop sustainable, cocoa-based

agroforestry, producing tropical forest food and cosmetic products as an exciting and promising alternative to the bushmeat trade.

At the northern periphery, Louma Florence is rehabilitating her three-hectare cocoa farm with AWF's technical support. Her total annual revenue grew almost ten-fold to \$1,720 in 2018.

Like other isolated farmers we support, Florence finally has access to new technologies and guidance based on best practices, as well as better markets and value chains for non-timber products. After many years of damaging forest use, she can now live sustainably and with a higher income. All told, local community members (the majority of them women) generated \$33,000 in 2018 from selling cocoa and other non-timber forest products to buyers, supported by AWF.

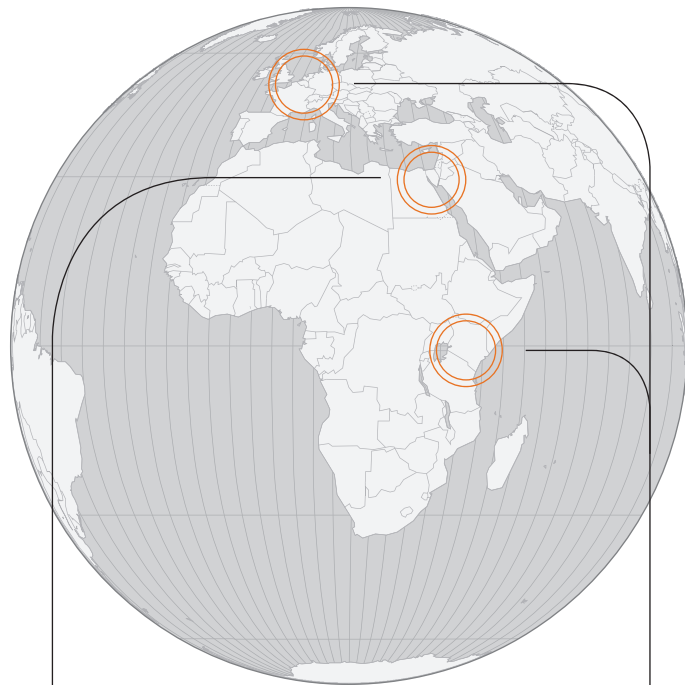
On the global stage

AWF is an essential voice in key forums and meetings where attendees debate conservation challenges and set goals. When leaders and policymakers meet to formulate strategies and negotiate policies related to Africa's wildlife and wild lands, we're at the table. AWF's credibility as a conservation advocate and advisor has led to a rare, perhaps even unmatched, degree of access to high-level officials as they make decisions impacting African wildlife. Since 2016, for example, we've served as the conservation technical advisor to Africa's leading political body, the African Union. We also are working closely with the European Union as it negotiates its next round of development aid with African governments.

In 2018, AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya and other AWF staff members traveled the globe to be a voice for African wildlife at several important gatherings. (See pages 38-39)



ON THE GLOBAL STAGE



United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Conference, November 2018

Members from over 190 countries participated in this conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. In partnership with the African Union, AWF played a significant role, helping to strengthen the African position as attendees negotiated the next global strategic plan for biodiversity conservation.

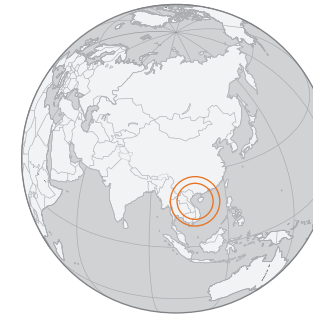
AWF staff members also presented our approaches to large-landscape conservation, community engagement, and youth outreach. More generally, attendees set the global policy agreement for protecting ecosystems and stemming the rapid loss of biodiversity around the world.

African Caribbean Pacific–European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly, April 2018

At this assembly in Nairobi, AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya discussed the significance of Africa’s wildlife and wild lands and the link between conservation and Africa’s economic and cultural future. “Africa and the EU have the opportunity to place conservation at the center of Africa’s economic aspirations, so that the forest, wetlands, grasslands and wildlife provide for people now and for decades to come,” he said.

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, June 2018

For this assembly in Belgium, AWF developed and presented strategies outlining how ecosystems and biodiversity can be incorporated into ACP-EU negotiations, which will guide the EU’s investment in the continent from 2020 to 2025.



Global Environmental Fund (GEF) Forum, June 2018

AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya traveled to this assembly in Da Nang, Vietnam with other AWF senior staff members. They participated in panels and presentations and met with leaders of country delegations to showcase AWF’s work. In addition, as GEF launched its next funding phase, AWF staff members offered counsel on African conservation issues. GEF is the largest funder of biodiversity conservation in the world.



United Nations General Assembly, September 2018

Young conservation leaders took to the world stage last fall, convening during the United Nations General Assembly in New York City to champion and discuss global conservation and wildlife protection. AWF hosted a “Youth Voices for Wildlife” panel in partnership with Nickelodeon International and the permanent U.N. missions of Germany, Gabon, and Uganda. The young people discussed achievable steps to take in their own lives to make a positive difference for the planet’s future.



In China, furthering African conservation

AWF launched an exciting partnership with the Beijing Zoo in 2018, underpinning our efforts to strengthen and support conservation in the face of future economic development on the African continent. The agreement focuses on raising awareness in China of the illegal international trade in wildlife products such as ivory and rhino horn.

In January 2018, AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya and Beijing Zoo Director Li Xiaoguang signed a joint MOU, recognizing the need for unified and expressed commitment to African conservation. The Beijing Zoo commemorated the historic partnership with a special exhibit featuring African wildlife. The exhibit, “Save African Endangered Species,” was open for two months in fall 2018 and reached hundreds of thousands of zoo visitors with powerful messages about the plight of elephants, rhinos, great apes, and other threatened African wildlife. AWF Trustee Gordon Cheng represented AWF at the exhibit launch.

Led by AWF’s China Advocacy Officer Jia Qiao, AWF’s visibility and influence in China has grown, furthering our efforts to reduce demand for illicit wildlife products and encourage conservation action by China, a major investor in Africa’s future. Our work to raise awareness includes a robust digital effort that has made great inroads toward raising grassroots awareness on the mainland, including a network of over 100,000 engaged social media followers and high profile partnerships with Cadillac of Cheng Du, *Human & Nature Magazine*, mobile phone manufacturer Gionee, and The Travel Channel.



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FOSTERING AFRICA-BASED CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

Since its earliest days, AWF has been committed to developing conservation leaders as the surest way to secure a hopeful future for wildlife. We not only founded schools such as the College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania, we also have educated and provided scholarships to hundreds of students who've gone on to work as scientists, park managers, rangers, and more.

Today, AWF continues this legacy, fostering leadership through our Conservation Leadership and Management Program (CLMP), a selective and intensive on-the-job training program for recent master's degree recipients. Students gain real-world experience working in AWF's field programs and at our Nairobi headquarters, and they emerge ready to serve as skilled professionals in African conservation.

Having invested two years of training and support in these emerging conservation leaders, and eager to have them continue their field work or other projects, AWF whenever possible hires CLMP graduates as permanent employees. For example, Sylvia Wasige, a Kenyan and former conservation management associate who finished the CLMP

program in 2016, now works with AWF as a species conservation project officer. Program graduate Edwin Tambara has led conservation planning at the landscape and site levels, shepherding the process of developing management, business and tourism plans for protected areas. He also works closely with communities to produce local land-use plans. Program graduate Jia Qiao currently works as an AWF advocacy officer and recently led the development of a wildlife exhibit at the Beijing Zoo, one of the world's largest zoos. The awareness effort reached hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens with a message about the dire plight of African wildlife and the importance of ending consumer demand for illegal wildlife products such as rhino horn. (See page 39)

The current class of two associates has already contributed tangibly to AWF's programs and operations. Jeffrey Dunink most recently worked with AWF's land conservation program on human-wildlife conflict analysis and prevention. He spent the first part of his CLMP program in Ethiopia, supporting AWF's efforts to improve management of Simien Mountains National Park and develop eco-tourism that will benefit communities and be self-sustaining. He also helped AWF produce

“AWF HAS GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GREAT STRIDES IN MY CAREER THAT I'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND ELSEWHERE.”

KAHEMBO ODERA
2016 PROGRAM GRADUATE

a concept note on conservancies for the European Union. Monipher Muasa works with AWF's program design team on visibility and donor engagement. She is an important part of AWF's efforts to support African governments in development finance negotiations, so that parties at the table don't sacrifice vital habitat or create conditions that will lead to human-wildlife conflict. At the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity Conference in November, she helped showcase AWF's large-landscape approach, efforts to end international wildlife trafficking, youth outreach, and community conservation engagement.

AWF's Conservation Leadership and Management Program (CLMP) fosters leadership and offers on-the-job training for recent master's degree recipients in the wildlife conservation field. AWF whenever possible hires recent CLMP graduates as permanent employees.

- 1 — Jia Qiao (Left)
- 2 — Edwin Tambara
- 3 — Kahembo Odera
- 4 — Sylvia Wasige



WRITTEN BY PERRIN BANKS
CLASSROOM AFRICA SENIOR
PROGRAM MANAGER



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“My children now know about conservation”

Today, around this beautiful new school and its forest, if you wish to cut down a tree, you face significant obstacles. You must first seek permission from the appropriate people and demonstrate how you will use the tree.

Loyoko was solely responsible for establishing guard teams to protect the forest. He elected volunteers to make up four units of 10 eco-guards each to conduct weekly anti-poaching patrols. In the past year, the eco-guards on patrol have seen an encouraging array of wildlife: bonobos, Congo peacocks, pangolins, monkeys, and leopards in the forest.

Loyoko has 11 children, and three go to Ilima, members of grades 2 and 5. He wants his children to have strong educational foundations, the opportunity to learn. He’s proud that they are starting to know more than him. They come home from conservation education lessons and explain the behavioral, social, and physical characteristics of bonobos and the importance of protecting their habitat. “My children now know what conservation is,” he says, smiling.

Ilima Primary has a growing and steadily improving conservation education program. In addition to regular after-school lessons, students

see documentary films about conservation, including a locally-produced film about bonobos. Upwards of 100 children from the school and broader Ilima community pile into the classrooms during weekly showings of films such as this.

This progress is all a result of Loyoko’s commitment to protecting the forest and his determination to change behaviors and opinions in the community. Four years after Loyoko first lobbied for a school, the Ilima school is seeing enrollment and attendance increase. Forty-seven out of 50 students graduated in 2017.

With AWF’s help, Loyoko has planted seeds of change in Ilima that will undoubtedly yield beautiful fruit, spreading far beyond the community and its cherished school.

1-5 — The new, sustainable Ilima Conservation Primary School in the remote forest of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the man responsible for introducing conservation to the Ilima community, Loyoko Jean Bayolo (2).

1 — MASS Design Group (Photo)

THE MAN BEHIND THE SCENES

Classroom Africa’s Ilima Conservation Primary School was built up from the forest floor in the remote Lomako Landscape in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The birth of this new school is an oft-told story around the village. But there’s an earlier story about how the new school came to be a possibility largely due to one person’s passion for protecting the forest.

Meet Loyoko Jean Bayolo: the man who introduced conservation to the Ilima community.

Loyoko dreamed of increasing the numbers and species diversity of wildlife around Ilima—“like before [his] parents.” He started learning about conservation and relayed lessons to the Ilima community. If people refused to support or adhere to basic conservation principles,



2

Loyoko would keep pushing and discussing until they agreed. He was adamant.

It took one year of negotiations before Loyoko convinced the Ilima community to work with AWF’s Classroom Africa program. If residents would agree to conserve forest, the village would benefit from the development of a new school.

The school that emerged from that hard-won agreement features two wings with a total of six classrooms, a library, and an administration space. A canopy made of hardwood shingles connects the two wings. Adobe walls go up about a third of the way, allowing breezes through.



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MANYARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

In Tanzania's Maasai Steppe, Manyara Primary School is a Classroom Africa boarding school, serving about 800 mostly Maasai students in grades 1 through 7. Visitors to the school will be delighted to see bright, curious students eager to answer questions and engage with teachers on a variety of subjects.

The original school, located on 45,000-acre Manyara Ranch, was dilapidated, having seen little maintenance or repair in over 20 years. Its buildings lacked electricity and a proper water distribution system. It was at almost double capacity. Also, the school itself was in an important wildlife corridor, which meant that students shared their schoolyard with elephants and other wildlife, disrupting classes and endangering students.

AWF partnered with the Annenberg Foundation as well as many other generous partners, the local school district, and the community to build a new school and campus. In 2018, with additional funding secured from AWF trustees, the Manyara Primary School—now away from the wildlife corridor—saw the first phase of its renovation completed with the opening of beautiful new dormitories. The attractive new buildings, constructed by local laborers and with Tanzanian materials, match the spirit of achievement that characterizes Manyara Primary.

"You can see the kids we are raising are very high-performing," said Head Teacher Epimark Emmay. "We are there to help them realize their potential."

REACHING FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS ON A GLOBAL SCALE



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6

AWF believes long-term conservation success starts with engaging young people. That's why we collaborated with Nickelodeon International and created the educational, Orange Carpet mini-series, the "Together for Good Wildlife Special." The specific goal was to teach kids about African wildlife, inspire them to raise awareness about endangered species, and urge them to be wildlife heroes like those featured in the program.

The show, which was filmed at conservation sites in Uganda, aired in 170 countries and reached a global audience of 3.8 million. A corresponding social media campaign in 2018 received more than 97,000 direct engagements, including over 900,000 video views.

In addition to the mini-series, Nickelodeon International launched a new Tanzania environment, or story setting, in its hit geography app, "Dora's Worldwide Adventure." The app introduces preschoolers to geography, inviting them to learn and celebrate different cultures with Dora, her monkey friend, Boots, the trouble-making fox, Swiper, and other characters.

AWF and Nickelodeon's creative partnership developed entertaining, conservation-themed content, teaching kids about the challenges facing wildlife, but in an entertaining and engaging fashion. All while providing them ideas, platforms, and events to help them raise their voices and get involved.

The partnership reached a pinnacle of success in September 2018 with a special event during the United Nations General Assembly in NYC. (See page 39)

1 — Through AWF's Classroom Africa program, about 800 students now have safe access to an education.

2,3 — AWF completed the first phase of renovations of Manyara Ranch Primary School in 2018.

4-6 — AWF collaborated with Nickelodeon International to inspire kids to be wildlife heroes. In the mini-series, Nickelodeon star Breanna Yde meets with rangers in Uganda to learn the dangers wildlife face firsthand.

Letter from the Chair: EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE, ALL



Dear Friends,

In the past year, AWF has worked on so many projects, affected so many lives, fought wildlife trafficking, trained young leaders, led safaris that showcased our programs in the field...and these were just some of our accomplishments. So where do I begin?

How about by telling you that we have an exceptional staff. They are passionate about conservation; they are committed to their jobs; they are smart and funny. I spent time with our staff in Nairobi and in the field this year as well as several months in Washington, DC when I helped pinch-hit in the CEO position, and I can promise you that, above all, they are good stewards of your gifts.

Our Canines for Conservation program increased our dog presence in ports of entry and made more than 100 “busts” in this past year. AWF’s Wildlife Law Enforcement team, led by Didi Wamukoya, followed up the Canines’ work by training prosecutors across Africa and instructing them in how to collect evidence and make convictions stick. The team to date has trained more than 1,000 prosecutors from 14 countries.

Another arena in which we train future conservation leaders is our Conservation and Leadership Management Program. You will see on pages 40 and 41 how exciting this program is for us. Nurturing leaders has been an AWF hallmark since our inception in 1961. It is a commitment that differentiates us from most NGOs on the continent.

To sum it up quite simply: We are busy, and we are productive. But we could be neither of these without the generous funding from our donors and friends. You are the lifeblood of the African Wildlife Foundation, and we are grateful to have such committed partners in the cause of preserving wildlife and wild lands in a thriving modern Africa.

We hope you enjoy this annual report, especially because it reflects the things we do together to keep African wildlife and wild lands safe for future generations.

Gratefully,

Heather Sturt Haaga
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"I have supported many charities throughout the years, and when I attended AWF's 50th-anniversary event I knew I found my philanthropic home. I love the people at AWF, and I love that we are committed to Africa. We aren't trying to do it all and all over the world, we are Africa-focused. The absolute heartfelt dedication the organization has to the conservation of the animals is humbling!"

JENNIFER RITMAN

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“We love the natural world—animals, plants, and a clean environment—all of which we must preserve to sustain a world that is in balance. Since we don’t have children, we want to support AWF because it is dedicated to the preservation of this order. How sad the world would be without the beautiful animals that live here. Thank you, AWF, for your tireless efforts on the African continent!”

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Kilimanjaro Society

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OUR SINCEREST THANKS TO THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO HAVE DONATED THEIR IMAGES FOR USE IN THIS REPORT.

AWF BY THE NUMBERS

ANTI-TRAFFICKING

58 Years AWF has been leading conservation in Africa

25 MILLION Dollars AWF will invest over 4 years to help fight the illegal wildlife trade (IWT)

279 Sniffer dog finds since 2014, representing \$ millions in illegal ivory, rhino horn, and other contraband

45,000 Chimpanzees in the Bili-Uele protected area, where AWF helps safeguard wildlife

DEMAND REDUCTION

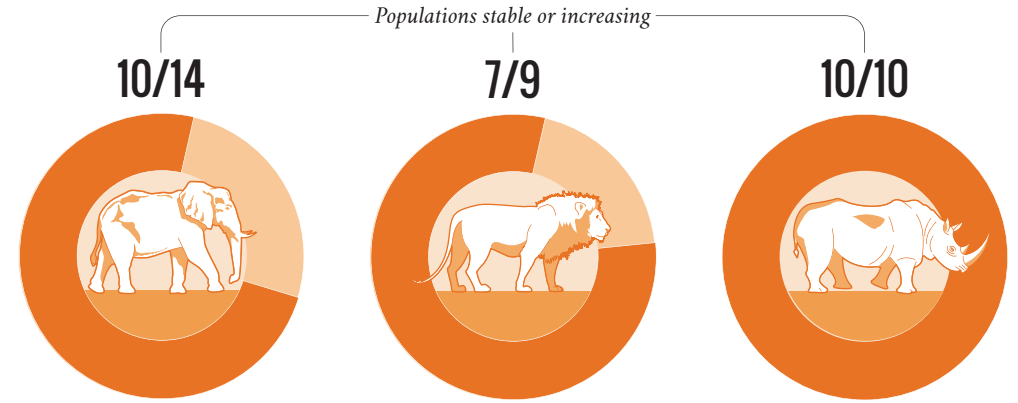
200,000 Daily visitors to Beijing Zoo, where AWF in 2018 highlighted our work and the cost of IWT

100+ Countries airing Nickelodeon International's 'Together for Good Wildlife Special,' an educational mini-series filmed at AWF program sites in Uganda

100K+ AWF social media followers in China, where we work to help end demand for ivory and rhino horn

400K+ Online wildlife advocacy actions by the AWF community in 2018

SPECIES



23 Mountain gorillas named in Rwanda's Kwita Izina 2018

COMMUNITIES

3.5 MILLION Potential audience in Tanzania's Kilombero Valley for 20 Farm Radio/AFW programs addressing sustainability

10,200 Tanzanians reached in AWF demonstrations about climate-smart practices

63,000+ Beneficiaries of AWF sustainable agriculture programs in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape in the DRC

100% Pass rate on Grade 7 national exams at Lupani Primary School, part of Classroom Africa

LAND

27.8 HECTARES Hectares added to Volcanoes National Park after AWF donated land to benefit mountain gorillas

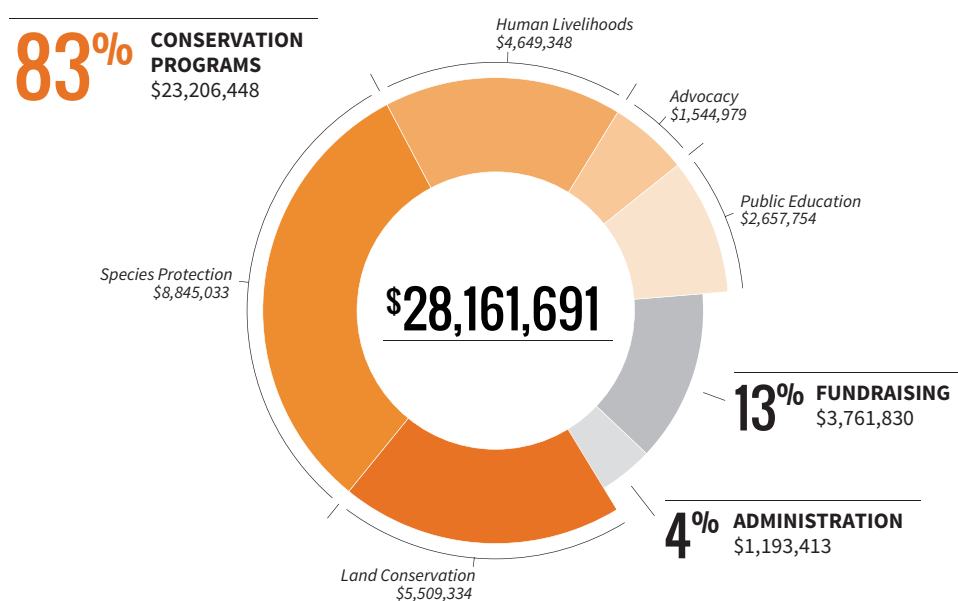
1.8 MILLION Hectares conserved or managed by AWF

7 Park and other protected-area co-management agreements (See page 26-27)

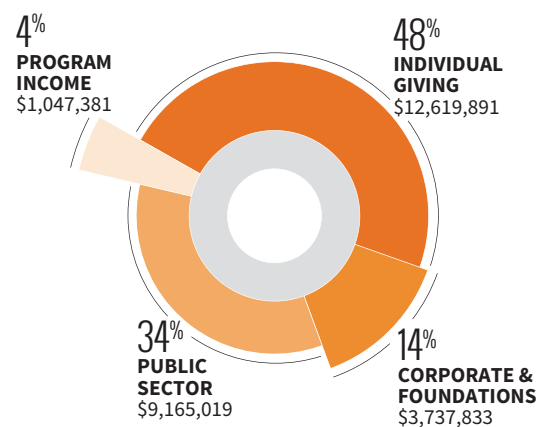
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Since AWF's beginnings nearly 60 years ago, we've been a responsible steward of your contributions in service to Africa's wildlife and wild lands. Particularly noteworthy in FY18 were new investments from funders including the European Union and Millennium Challenge Corporation to support our holistic conservation efforts throughout Africa.

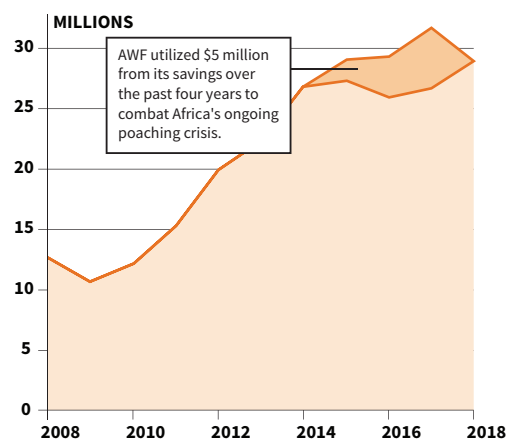
Organizational Efficiency



Revenue Breakout



Invested Reserves



Summary of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2018

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
OPERATING REVENUE			
Gifts from individuals	10,688,957	1,930,934	12,619,891
Corporate & foundation support	1,383,474	2,354,359	3,737,833
Public sector grants	9,165,019	-	9,165,019
Program income	1,042,641	4,740	1,047,381
Investment income utilized	(293,929)	125,500	(168,429)
Restricted net assets utilized	5,241,418	(5,241,418)	-
Total Operating Revenue	27,227,580	(825,885)	26,401,695
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Conservation programs	19,003,715	-	19,003,715
Education & outreach	4,202,733	-	4,202,733
<i>Total program expenses</i>	<i>23,206,448</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>23,206,448</i>
Fundraising	3,761,830	-	3,761,830
Administration	1,193,413	-	1,193,413
<i>Total supporting services</i>	<i>4,955,243</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4,955,243</i>
Total Operating Expenses	28,161,691	-	28,161,691
Non-operating activities			
Net investment income	1,790,342	284,264	2,074,606
Payouts to operations	293,929	(125,500)	168,429
Total Non-Operating Activities	2,084,271	158,764	2,243,035
Change in Net Assets	1,150,160	(667,121)	483,039

Financial Position as of June 30

	2018	2017
Cash and equivalents	10,117,402	7,316,437
Investments	28,964,819	26,715,727
Gifts and grants receivable	5,264,599	6,006,440
Accounts receivable	407,544	390,935
Impact loans receivable	5,943,346	5,584,477
Property & equipment, net of depreciation	4,703,211	3,494,856
Prepaid & other assets	742,072	1,166,405
Total Assets	56,142,993	50,675,277
Impact notes payable	6,250,000	6,250,000
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	2,092,824	1,670,707
Refundable grant advances	3,980,515	954,860
Other liabilities	1,781,539	244,634
Total Liabilities	14,104,878	9,120,201
Unrestricted net assets	30,399,154	29,248,994
Restricted net assets	11,638,961	12,306,082
Total Net Assets	42,038,115	41,555,076
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	56,142,993	50,675,277



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KENYA

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Tsavo West

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