



YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN THE HEARTLANDS



Gosiame Neo-Mahupeleng / AWF

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Machache ~ a few words

AWF president Patrick J. Bergin talks about the key role the people of Africa play in protecting and conserving the uniqueness of the continent.



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Field Report: The Heartlands

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Wildlife Watch

This majestic-looking bird can fly as fast as 52 mph and even outrun humans if necessary.

Saving the Big Cats

OF CHOBE RIVER

Lions and other large predators have been eliminated from most of their original range. And today they are seriously threatened in much of their remaining habitat.

AWF has several predator conservation projects across Africa. In the Four Corners Heartland, AWF is focusing on the lion, wild dog, and spotted hyena populations along the Chobe River in Botswana. In this area, lions have experienced a rapid decline in the past few years. That's why AWF is implementing a comprehensive conservation project to ensure their continued

survival. This project was created with the support of the Behrman family, who donated funds in memory of Darryl Behrman.

Predators are central to the conservation of a healthy ecosystem. If an area supports predators, it also supports healthy populations of other large mammals (their prey) and smaller species, as well as the vegetation these animals require. And predators, especially lions, are vital to tourism.

Gosiame Neo-Mahupeleng is the lead researcher for the Four Corners predator project. His mission is, first, to identify

what factors are causing the decline. Then he will recommend innovative ways to protect the lions, other wildlife, domestic animals, and people of the area.

Currently Gosiame is working on a lion population inventory of the landscape along the Chobe River. He is also learning about the threats to predators in the area. Gosiame has seen one of the problems firsthand: lions go from the protected area in Botswana across the river into Namibia onto private lands where local people raise cattle.

"Livestock is much easier to catch. Carnivores will tend to go for the predator-naïve cattle," explains Gosiame. "Then it goes into a cycle where people go out and kill the carnivores, as they are an

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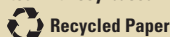
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Machache A FEW WORDS

The key to conservation: partnering with the people of Africa

Since the founding of AWF more than 40 years ago, we have recognized that conservation in Africa has to be of, by, and for the people. That's why our mission statement says "The African Wildlife Foundation, *together with the people of Africa*, works to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever."

In fact, AWF's very first project was to help establish the College of African Wildlife Management in Mweka, Tanzania. Forty years ago there were few African professionals in wildlife conservation and management. Today there are thousands – including many of our AWF staff like Gosiambe Neo-Mahupeleng. Eighty-two percent of our staff are citizens of African countries. They are working hard to protect and conserve the animals and landscapes

of their home countries.

In addition to serving as wildlife professionals, the people of Africa play other key roles in conservation.

Local communities have developed commercially viable enterprises in the Heartlands. These ventures include local handicrafts for tourists, the export of products, and concessions and lodges for safari guests.

One example is the Babukakhwae san community (or "River Bushman" ethnic group) in northern Botswana. The people of this community have set up a wildlife reserve and promote conservation and tourism over the Internet. These enterprises make wildlife resources a welcome benefit rather than a costly nuisance to the people of Africa.

Local citizens often work with AWF staff to better monitor wildlife, providing



PATRICK BERGIN, PH.D.

invaluable help. For our Grevy Zebra Project in Kenya, local Samburu herdsman assist our research scientist by sharing important sighting data.

AWF has a proven track record of partnering with the people of Africa to protect their wildlife and landscapes. Supporters like you make these vital partnerships possible. And because of your support, we can set aggressive goals to continue this life-changing work and keep AWF at the forefront of conservation in Africa. Thank you.

Patrick Bergin
AWF President & CEO

New York fundraising dinner a big success

A capacity crowd of nearly 300 people enjoyed a gala fundraising dinner for the African Wildlife Foundation. The dinner was held on May 8 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City.

Through a silent and live auction, supporters made this gala the most successful fundraising event in AWF's history.

Renowned author and journalist George Plimpton served as host for the



ABC's Peter Jennings visits with AWF's Communications Officer Elodie Sampéré.

evening. He shared highlights from AWF's more than 40 years of work in Africa.

Philanthropist David H. Koch was honored for his

commitment to AWF with a special award. AWF president Patrick Bergin presented Koch with a beautiful Bart Walters elephant sculpture. Koch was one of AWF's initial philanthropic investors in the Heartlands program.

The evening ended with acclaimed author Peter Matthiessen sharing about his many travels in Africa. He also highlighted some critical conservation issues facing the continent. ■

Safari Tips FROM CRAIG SHOLLEY

Exploring the home of the mountain gorillas



Uganda and Rwanda are truly exceptional African safari destinations offering distinct wildlife opportunities found in few other places on the continent. Therefore, when planning a safari to these destinations, it is important to keep the following in mind:

1 If the focus of your visit is gorilla trekking, it's important to keep in mind that gorilla treks are strictly regulated. When choosing a tour operator, make certain they have obtained legitimate gorilla permits that correspond with the dates of your travel.

2 Take advantage of the many wonderful national parks in the region. Murchison Falls, Kibale, and Queen Elizabeth National Parks offer exceptional wildlife viewing.

3 Uganda, in particular, is one of the best countries in the world for birding. In excess of 500 avian species are known to reside in or visit Queen Elizabeth National Park alone. Terry Stevenson's relatively new *Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa* contains exceptional information.

4 Uganda and Rwanda are a photographer's playground. Opportunities to "shoot" great images abound. Gorillas, however, are tough to capture well on film. Be prepared for difficult lighting conditions. Make sure you've got film with ASA 200 and above available. And overexpose by a half-stop or more when shooting gorilla profiles.

5 Finally, like most areas in the tropics, central Africa experiences seasonality. If you wish to avoid the possibility of heavy rains, visit Uganda and Rwanda mid-December through early March or June through late October.

AWF's Uganda and Rwanda expedition is scheduled for October 15-30, 2003. The safari includes three gorilla treks. Several spots are still available. Contact Craig Sholley at csholley@awf.org or visit AWF's Safari Planner at www.awf.org/safari for more information.



Photos on this page by: Craig R. Sholley

Big Cats

continued from page 1



Gosiame's team collars a male lion for tracking.

economic cost to them."

Certain equipment is critical to Gosiame's work – and more resources are needed. Two big needs are additional tracking equipment, including GPS collars, and a computer. Plus the salary to hire a research assistant.

Your support helps fund the work of AWF staff like Gosiame and provide the equipment needed to carry out this vital conservation work. To help today, please use the enclosed reply form. Thank you. ■



For more project information, go to www.awf.org

Breaking News

Two Kenya rangers killed

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is mourning the death of two game rangers. The rangers, part of a surveillance team in Tsavo East National Park, were tracking a gang of poachers. The men were killed in two fierce firefights on May 11 and 12. An operation is underway to apprehend and bring the poachers to justice.

A KWS spokesman expressed his sorrow and distress over the loss of the rangers. "So long as there is a market for ivory, the lives of elephants and the rangers who protect these magnificent creatures will always be at risk," he lamented. He particularly noted the rangers' bravery and commitment.

The KWS expends vast resources on security to ward off poachers.

Kenya opposes resumption of the commercial trade of elephant products. Many rangers have been maimed or killed while working to protect Kenya's elephant and rhino herds. ■

Wildlife WATCH

African Crowned Crane



Craig R. Sholley

The grey crowned crane is distinguished from the black crowned crane by the lighter feathers on its neck.

The African crowned crane gets its name from the magnificent golden crown of feathers that adorns the top of its head. Both the black crowned crane and the grey crowned crane are native to Africa.

These colorful cranes stand from three to four feet tall. Cranes can fly as fast as 52 mph, but they prefer to soar. They can also easily outrun humans, although they rarely have reason to run.


Crowned cranes have the unique ability to roost in trees because they are the only cranes with a long hind toe, known as a hallux. This allows them to easily grip tree branches. Despite this ability, these cranes normally nest on the ground.

Crowned cranes typically live in pairs, although larger groups are not uncommon. Once a female lays eggs, the pair shares incubation duties. After the chicks hatch, the male and female also take turns feeding them and keeping them warm.

There are 15 species of cranes throughout the world. Eleven species are vulnerable to extinction, making cranes one of the most threatened families of birds in the world. The numbers of both the black and grey crowned cranes are declining, but the black crowned crane is the more endangered of the two.

The primary threats to the survival of crowned cranes are wetland drainage and overgrazing. Both have a detrimental effect on critical nesting areas. These birds are also hunted and sold to wildlife dealers. ■

Your support of AWF helps protect and conserve African crowned cranes and many other extraordinary animals.

 For more profiles of the animals you help protect through the African Wildlife Foundation, please visit www.awf.org/wildlives/guidebook.php.

Enjoy lifetime income while protecting Africa's wildlife



Anita Brown

Anita Brown has been a supporter of the African Wildlife Foundation for more than 20 years. Like other faithful supporters, Brown decided to include AWF in her long-term giving.

"I can't imagine an Africa in the future that is bereft of the animals that make much of the continent a place of great worth," says Brown.

Anyone looking into long-term giving options should consider charitable remainder trusts and charitable gift annuities. These offer AWF supporters several benefits. While making a gift to AWF, you can receive fixed or variable payments and often realize significant tax benefits.

These lifetime income gifts are funded with cash, appreciated securities, or real estate. They can be used to plan for retirement, care for elderly relatives, or cover education expenses. And with the uncertainty of the stock market, gift annuities can be a dependable source of additional income.

For more information on your planned giving options, call 202-939-3333 or 888-4-WILDLIFE and give us your state of residence. We will connect you with your regional planned giving officer. Or visit www.awf.org/act. ■

I want to protect and conserve the wildlife of Africa

I appreciate and value the unique wildlife and wild lands that are Africa. That's why I'm sending a gift of:

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If you have any questions, call us at 202-939-3333.

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The Heartlands



Cardo Kleberg

Creating Safe Places
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The Heartlands

[FOUR CORNERS HEARTLAND]

Rare antelope survives decades of civil war

The giant black sable, a magnificent antelope once feared extinct, has been rediscovered. In August 2002, a group of South African and American scientists set out on an expedition to find the giant sable. They recorded five separate sightings but were unable to take any photographs because the animals fled so quickly.

This is wonderful news because many believed this rare antelope had been wiped out in the more than 25 years of civil war in Angola. Between 1975 and 2002 an estimated 100,000 elephants, thousands of black rhinos, and many herds of buffalo were slaughtered. Some were killed for food, others for their tusks to fund the war efforts.

The giant sable is an amazing animal to behold. It is similar in size to the more commonly found sable antelope, which weighs between 400 and 500 pounds but does not have the full white eye-to-eye nose line. Its most striking characteristic is its horns, which rise vertically to about five feet and curve backwards.

First described in 1909 by Frank Varian, the giant sable was named *Hippotragus niger variani* in his honor in 1916.

There had been no confirmed sightings of the giant sable for 20 years until last August. News of the discovery was well received throughout Angola. The giant sable is the national symbol, gracing postage stamps and banknotes.

AWF president Patrick Bergin visited Angola last year to discuss



The giant sable is similar in size to the sable (pictured here), but has extraordinary horns that reach about five feet in length.

conservation issues with authorities. "Civil war has ravaged the area and decimated wildlife populations. We want to partner with Angola in identifying how we can best protect

the giant sable, the elephant, and many other species," says Bergin. Conservation work in Angola could be incorporated into the Four Corners Heartland programs. ■

[MAASAI STEPPE HEARTLAND]



The Maasai community will benefit from dentist visits.

AWF brings brighter smiles to people who help wildlife

AWF has discovered a unique way to help the employees of Manyara Ranch – many of whom work on behalf of AWF protecting the diverse wildlife that surround the ranch. Thanks to AWF, there will soon be many whiter, brighter, and healthier smiles.

Manyara Ranch employees have been diagnosed with serious tooth-

The Heartlands

[VIRUNGA HEARTLAND]

Interpol probing gorilla poaching



Craig R. Sholley

Unfortunately, gorilla poaching has increased significantly in the past year.

Despite their status as an endangered species, mountain gorillas are being targeted by poachers. AWF experts believe baby gorillas are being illegally kidnapped so they can be sold to public or private zoos. Adult gorillas are killed to get the babies.

The situation is so critical that wildlife authorities in Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have petitioned Interpol to investigate and arrest poaching suspects.

Interpol was formed in 1923 to facilitate cross-border police cooperation in criminal matters. Today it is the largest international police organization in the world, with member countries spread over five continents.

enamel decay resulting from the highly saline water of the single operating well on the property.

To respond to the local community's need for better oral hygiene and dental care, AWF plans to help organize several dental clinics at the ranch.

"Many local people suffer from dental problems created by drinking water with a high mineral content," explains AWF program development officer Lynn Foden. "A series of dental clinics could provide treatment to individuals in dire need and could help resolve underlying dental-health problems experienced by the entire Maasai community."

Manyara Ranch manager Clive Jones agrees. "There is little here in the way of medical facilities," he says. "We're hoping the dental clinics are a first step toward a more sustainable approach to health care for this area."

AWF is holding preliminary discussions with a group of dentists who plan to travel to Arusha this October to provide care at the ranch and at several other locations as part of a dental outreach program. The team will include faculty and alumni of New York University College of Dentistry, members of the National Dental Association Foundation, and private dental practitioners. Henry Schein Inc., a supplier of dental materials and equipment, is supporting the program.

Also in the works – an AWF plan to drill another well on the ranch at a site where the underground water supply is more potable. This will reduce health risks associated with the present drinking water. ■

A poaching incident last May was the first in 17 years. Since then, mountain gorillas have been victims of at least four more poaching attacks. Six adult gorillas were killed in these attacks and one infant gorilla disappeared. A second infant was found and reintroduced to her group, but later died. A third infant was confiscated from poachers but also died. A fourth infant is missing.

Park staff members work on immediate local and cross-border strategies to enhance surveillance and protection. At the same time, AWF, through the work of the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP), has been asked to help coordinate regional and international anti-poaching efforts. IGCP is a joint venture of AWF, Fauna and Flora International, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.

In collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife Authority and partner park departments in the DRC and Rwanda, IGCP organized a meeting in December 2002 to discuss the surge in gorilla poaching with local, regional, and international law-enforcement personnel.

The meeting went beyond local concerns to strengthen ties and improve communication between regional and international investigation and law-enforcement agencies. In addition, follow-up strategies to tackle gorilla poaching were identified.

Twelve poaching suspects have been arrested and are at various stages of prosecution. ■

The Heartlands

[SAMBURU HEARTLAND]

Grevy's zebras threatened

The goal of the Grevy Zebra Project over the past year has been to better understand the population and distribution of these magnificent animals. Found only in Africa north of the equator, Grevy's zebras are highly endangered.

A total of 450 Grevy's zebras have been documented in the communal lands around the Samburu National Reserve. They are on a relatively small part of their traditional range.

The research team discovered that Grevy's zebras are more frequently found with livestock than with other wild mammals. One result is that the zebras must compete with cattle for a restricted water supply.

Poaching and loss of habitat are the two biggest problems facing the Grevy's zebra population in Samburu.

"Because of the increase in the human population, there is a loss of the habitats being used mainly by the

Grevy's zebras," says Fiesta Warinwa, AWF's Heartland Coordinator for Samburu Heartland.

Warinwa and the research team would like to expand their efforts, but are limited by several things. Their only transportation is an old vehicle that often breaks down, costing both money and time. The team's "wish list" includes a new vehicle, handset radios, binoculars, tents, water bottles, and boots.

They also hope to add more team members. This would help them better monitor Grevy's zebras across the whole landscape rather than in the current smaller area. They could also engage more people in the local communities in this critical conservation effort.

When you send a gift today with the enclosed reply form, you help support the Grevy Zebra Project and other key conservation work across Africa. ■



Grevy's zebras are significantly larger and have narrower, more numerous stripes than the common zebra.

Craig R. Sholley

NEWS IN BRIEF

Community to benefit from new ecotourism ventures

LIMPOPO HEARTLAND – Recently AWF helped the Cubo community in Mozambique purchase 70,953 acres of land. This land is on the fringes of the world-famous Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park near Lake Massingir. AWF will assist the community of Cubo by introducing sustainable livelihood strategies. These could include ecotourism ventures such as sport fishing, surfing, boating, and a lodge. Many of the current professions, including subsistence agriculture and livestock grazing, are not profitable.

Community lodge considered in gorilla tourism area

VIRUNGA HEARTLAND – AWF is working with the communities in Nkuringo, Uganda to develop a lodge and other possible tourism enterprises. Nkuringo has been identified as a good potential area because several groups of gorillas live nearby. One of these gorilla groups has been habituated for tourism. AWF is currently working with a firm that has experience in eco-lodge design and construction.

For more information about the animals, people, and habitats of the Heartlands, visit www.awf.org.