



PHOTO BY ART WOLFE

Mission

The African Wildlife Foundation recognizes that the wildlife and wild lands of Africa have no equal. We work with people - our supporters worldwide and our partners in Africa - to craft and deliver creative solutions for the long-term well being of Africa's remarkable species, their habitats and the people who depend upon them.

Focus Africa

For more than 40 years, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has focused exclusively on the continent of Africa.

Through these years AWF has played a major role in ensuring the continued existence of some of Africa's most rare and treasured species such as the elephant, the mountain gorilla, rhinoceros and cheetah. AWF has invested training and resources in African individuals and institutions that have gone on to play critical roles in conservation. We have significantly increased scientific understanding of Africa's extraordinary ecosystems through research. We have pioneered the use of community conservation and conservation enterprise to demonstrate that wildlife can be conserved while people's well being is also improved. We have provided crucial assistance to national parks and reserves and promoted international cooperation to protect important sites and populations that stretch across national boundaries.

PROGRAMS

African Heartlands Program

The essential need to conserve Africa's remaining vital ecosystems inspired AWF to mark a new era in African conservation by establishing the African Heartlands Program.

Heartlands are large, cohesive conservation landscapes which are biologically important and have the scope to maintain healthy populations of wild species and natural processes well into the future. They also form a sizeable economic unit in which tourism or other natural resource-based activities can contribute significantly to the livelihoods of people living in the area. Most of the African Heartlands include a combination of government lands (like national parks) community-owned lands, and lands owned by individuals or the private sector.

AWF has performed extensive scientific research and feasibility studies to select and prioritize Africa's most viable conservation landscapes. In these vast conservation landscapes, which frequently cross national boundaries, AWF works with local partners to undertake concrete activities that protect more land for conservation while mitigating threats to these valuable resources.

Seven Heartlands have been initially identified: **Four Corners** (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia); **Kilimanjaro** (Kenya and Tanzania); **Limpopo** (Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe); **Maasai Steppe** (Tanzania); **Samburu** (Kenya); **Virunga** (Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo); and **Zambezi** (Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique).

AWF's crucial work in the Heartlands is making a difference. In the Maasai Steppe Heartland in Northern Tanzania, AWF joined two national parks, a forest reserve, a large former ranch and a number of smaller community parcels into a much larger continuous conservation landscape. In southern Africa fences are coming down and being moved back as more private landowners decide to use their land for wildlife and tourism rather than marginal beef production. Even in the densely populated lands of central Africa surrounding mountain gorilla habitat, AWF partners have recently negotiated the purchase of small land holdings that extend the safe habitat for gorillas.

Support the African Wildlife Foundation

Please visit awf.org or write or call:

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AWF's Earth Share number is 919.



Education and African Leadership Program

From the beginning, AWF has believed that Africans are the ideal stewards of Africa's natural resources. This core belief led AWF to found the first school to train African wildlife managers in Tanzania in 1961. During its early decades, AWF helped to establish and support wildlife clubs in several African countries to help raise the awareness and interest of a new generation in the importance of conservation. AWF has also provided scholarships and educated hundreds of Africans in conservation studies to assure the survival of Africa's wildlife heritage.

Today over 80% of AWF's staff are African professionals. Dr. Helen Gichohi, a Kenyan woman and an ecologist from the highlands of Kenya is head of AWF's conservation programs in Africa; Dr. Philip Muruthi, a Princeton educated zoologist, is AWF's chief scientist; Mr. Alfred Kikoti, a former park warden, is now extending Cynthia Moss's elephant research across the border into the west Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania; Mr. Eugene Rutagarama, working under the AWF-funded International Gorilla Conservation Program, risked his life during civil war in Rwanda to secure the safety of the Virungas' fragile mountain gorilla population, a distinction acknowledged when he recently received the prestigious Goldman Award.

AWF's commitment to developing and supporting Africa's future conservation leaders, led to the creation of the Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program. This scholarship program honors the memory of long-time AWF supporter Charlotte Kidder Ramsay by providing educational grants to Africans pursuing advanced degree studies in conservation-related fields.

Critical Species Research and Conservation Program

Over the past four decades, AWF has supported some of the most respected and important research projects on the continent including those of Dian Fossey, Jane Goodall and Cynthia Moss. AWF continues its tradition of support to important research with an emphasis on research projects which directly address conservation management problems and human-wildlife conflicts. These projects include:

- **Elephants.** AWF supports important elephant research and conservation in many of the savanna Heartlands where they occur. Recent research has focused on the use of the landscape and corridors by elephants.
- **International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP).** A joint initiative of AWF, Fauna and Flora International and the World Wildlife Fund aimed at conservation and research of mountain gorillas and their afro-montane habitat. This acclaimed effort is largely credited for having saved this critically endangered species despite the tragic civil disturbances of recent years in the region.
- **Rhino Conservation.** AWF has provided support for rhino conservation in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Namibia. Priority has been given to testing different strategies and technologies such as sanctuaries and radio collars for protecting and increasing the numbers of this highly endangered animal.
- **Predators.** AWF provides support to a number of projects for the protection of endangered predators including the cheetah, the African hunting dog and the Ethiopian wolf. We also support a several studies that take a unique approach to understanding how communities of predators such as lion, leopard and hyena co-exist in the same ecosystems.

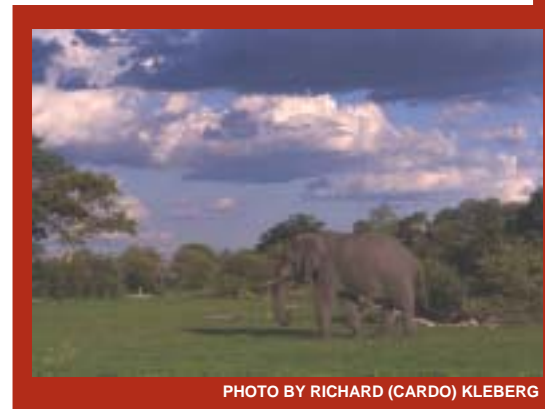


PHOTO BY RICHARD (CARDO) KLEBERG

Conservation Enterprise

AWF has established strategically located Conservation Centers throughout Africa. Staffed with an unparalleled team of enterprise specialists, these specialists offer expertise in business planning, law and community development. Overall, AWF specialists assist rural communities who live with wildlife to establish enterprises related to conservation. Wildlife then becomes a welcome asset rather than a costly nuisance to local people.

Conservation related enterprises in Africa are frequently concessions for wildlife safaris, ecotourism lodges, walking safaris and camps. Other enterprises that AWF has fostered include the production of honey from protected forests, sale of local handicrafts to tourists and the marketing and export of bush products.