

# African Wildlife News

1961-2010

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN THE AFRICAN HEARTLANDS



Home to elephants, rhinos and more, **African Heartlands** are conservation landscapes large enough to sustain a diversity of species for centuries to come. In these landscapes—places like Kilimanjaro and Samburu—AWF and its partners are pioneering lasting conservation strategies that benefit wildlife and people alike.

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Glassmaker Steuben partners with AWF to benefit Africa's wildlife.

[www.awf.org](http://www.awf.org)



When AWF chose the elephant as its logo 50 years ago, it was for its enduring power as a unique symbol of wild nature in Africa. Today, the conservation needs of elephants shape the scope and reach of many AWF programs.

This issue of *African Wildlife News* marks the beginning of AWF's 50th year of working with the people of Africa to ensure that Africa's wildlife and wild lands endure forever. In honor of our Golden Anniversary, over the next year we will reflect on AWF's past accomplishments and look ahead to next steps in conservation in Africa.

There's no way to summarize 50 years of conservation impact in the next two pages; so we've selected just a few highlights we think are indicative of how much we've accomplished. (You can view more [awf.org/scrapbook](http://awf.org/scrapbook).)

AWF's founders had an important, resonant idea. Carried out successfully over five decades by staff, partners, and members like you, the premise on which AWF was established has yielded conservation triumphs that have saved hundreds of wildlife populations, improved thousands of people's lives, and secured millions of acres of vital land.

So what about the next 50 years? How is AWF going to withstand the challenges presented by a rapidly developing continent and natural phenomena such as biodiversity loss and climate change?

Like Africa itself, AWF is adapting and growing in new and important ways. We recently adopted a strategy that organizes our Heartlands into three main regions: East Africa, Central/West Africa, and Southern Africa. Within each, we have scoped large landscapes that are crucial to the survival of endangered species at a regional level. It is AWF's belief that if a critical mass of large conservation landscapes can be secured, the wildlife and wild places of Africa will become a lasting driver of human well being and a natural legacy that the entire world is proud of.

Thank you for celebrating with us.

*Patrick Bergin*  
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Chief Executive Officer

*Helen W. Gichohi*  
Helen W. Gichohi, Ph.D.  
President



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# Celebrating 50 Years of Pages from the AWF Scrapbook

## The Heartlands

Science shows that securing large landscapes that give wildlife the space and resources it needs to thrive—and in ways that enhance rather than competes with human needs—is the best way to protect the greatest number and diversity of Africa's natural resources. AWF's Heartlands Program pieces together parks and private and community lands with a single overarching goal in mind: to halt and reverse the fragmentation of land and habitat for the benefit of wildlife and people.

*AWF understands that the future of wildlife and people is intimately interconnected. This West African giraffe, for example, shares much of its range in Niger with people and is unlikely to survive if the costs of its existence outweigh the benefits.*



JP. Surand/GCF



AWF

*Students learn how to harvest honey from a bee-hive as an alternative to activities that destroy forests. AWF continues to educate people about sustainable natural resource-based activities such as beekeeping and mushroom farming, but has taken that work to scale through initiatives such as its coffee farming project, pursued in partnership with Starbucks.*



Craig R. Sholley

*AWF's capacity-building support in Africa today spans the entire educational spectrum, from young students attending primary school and living in wildlife-rich areas to African scholars pursuing advanced conservation degrees.*



AWF

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

## Conservation Leadership in Africa

AWF's first project was to help establish the Mweka College of Wildlife Management in Tanzania, an institution known today as a major center for conservation training in Africa. Having begun with the sponsoring of a single school, AWF's education and capacity-building work now extends across the continent. AWF has also extended its assistance across the education spectrum, offering skills training at all levels, backing for secondary education and, most recently, support to children in elementary schools that goes hand in hand with teaching them about the importance of conservation.

In 1961, AWF was founded by a group of westerners passionate about conservation. Today, AWF is staffed mostly by African nationals working in landscapes that reach into 14 African countries.



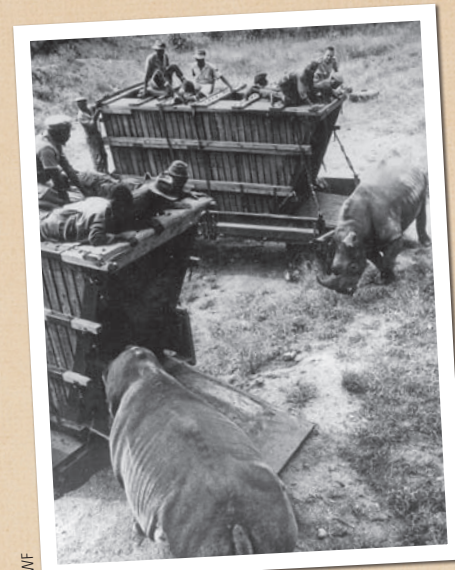
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*Thanks to generous funding from Charlotte Kidder Ramsay, pictured at right, AWF launched its Charlotte Kidder Conservation Fellowship Program, which has helped 50 emerging conservationists across Africa pursue graduate degrees in conservation and conservation-related fields.*

# Conservation in Africa

## Endangered Species

AWF's founders saw species conservation as a central goal of AWF. And while species conservation will always be at the heart of AWF's work, today targeted species are protected in the context of an integrated, large-landscape program. This has a trickle-down effect—the protection of land and habitat allows wildlife to thrive, which in turn establishes the basis for greater conservation investment. AWF also works with communities to plan and design conservation enterprises that depend on wildlife's survival. Over the past decade, AWF has opened more than 30 community-driven enterprises in seven countries; together these businesses are generating more than \$2 million a year in income for our local community partners.



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*Visit [awf.org/scrapbook](http://awf.org/scrapbook) for more photos and program highlights.*

*Species translocations and targeted species work are still core to AWF's mission, but these activities today are carried out under a well-integrated large-landscape planning process.*

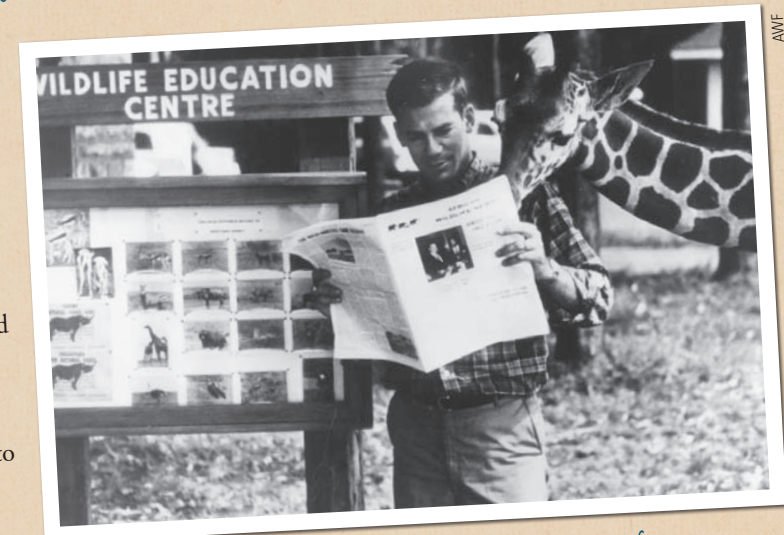


Craig R. Sholley

*AWF has integrated traditional livestock keeping and cutting-edge conservation programs, creating a high-performing mixed-use landscape.*

## The AWF Buzz

AWF has always put a strong emphasis on disseminating our findings and sharing success stories with our many friends and supporters. Over 50 years *African Wildlife News* has been, and continues to be, a mainstay of that conversation. The AWF dialogue today is also taking place on [awf.org](http://awf.org), Facebook, Twitter, and the many blogs and personal sites of members of the AWF community. Far from diluting that conversation, this evolution is making it richer and more dynamic, and has enabled it to extend much further.



*Even the giraffes couldn't wait to get a glimpse of the latest edition of African Wildlife News!*

AWF

## THEN and NOW: Flashbacks at Manyara Ranch

Over its history AWF has worked with its partners to establish national parks and wildlife reserves and to help local people set up community conservancies. We continue that important work, but have always set our sights on something bolder: to expand the acreage being conserved outside traditionally protected areas and to transform such parcels into ecologically sustainable units and drivers of economic growth.

Nowhere is this vision more apparent than in the Maasai Steppe Heartland. In its Spring 2010 newsletter, AWF profiled how our programs have evolved within this Heartland in northern Tanzania. Now we focus on our flagship investment there, Manyara Ranch.

This 45,000-acre (18,210-hectare) ranch lies in a critical wildlife corridor and connects Lake Manyara and Tarangire national parks. A paradigm of mixed-use planning, it embodies many of the opportunities and challenges that arise in AWF's vision of large-landscape conservation in a Heartland, where the needs of wildlife for ample space and the aspirations of humans are addressed together. Here we highlight AWF's primary investments in Manyara Ranch—where we started and how things stand today.

As these highlights show, AWF has come a long way in maturing this conservation program—but the story of Manyara Ranch is far from over. Looking ahead, there is every reason to believe that its conservancy will match neighboring parks as a destination in which to experience the wonders of Tanzania's wild areas.

**THEN:** Manyara Ranch was at risk of being bought and fenced by a private investor or subdivided into small, unsustainable agricultural plots. This would have severed the wildlife corridor that connects two of Tanzania's important national parks and further eroded an already fragmenting landscape. AWF helped establish the Tanzania Land Conservation Trust (TLCT), which acquired the ranch and, with assistance from AWF, legally restructured the property, creating a new business and management plan whereby it would function as a mixed-use area.

**THEN:** Manyara was a poorly functioning cattle ranch that had little prospect of turning a profit and no history as a safari destination, despite its location in a wildlife corridor.

**NOW:** AWF and TLCT are working with a private-sector partner to develop two new tourism facilities on the ranch. A semipermanent tented camp has opened at the edge of a picturesque clearing near its center (for details, visit [www.manyararanch.com](http://www.manyararanch.com)). This camp is already accepting bookings and will give visitors exclusive access to Manyara Ranch, as well as a chance to see firsthand the magnificent wildlife that has returned since the property came under AWF's protection. A more permanent ranch-house-style lodge, situated on a ridge with dramatic views of distant Lake Manyara and the Rift Valley escarpment, will open next year.



Manyara Ranch Conservancy

## NOW:

The ranch is a functional mixed-use landscape with a 35,000-acre (14,200-hectare) conservancy owned by TLCT. Once a run-down property where wildlife was skittish, under threat from poachers, and unable to move freely and safely, today it is home to at least 2,000 wildebeest, 1,000 zebras, 200 eland, more than 100 giraffes, a growing population of big cats, and hundreds of itinerant elephants. Managed in partnership with the surrounding communities, the conservancy generates direct income for local families and provides the workforce with jobs, salaries, skills training, and education.



Manyara Ranch Conservancy

**THEN:** The original Manyara Ranch Primary School was overcrowded and dangerously dilapidated. Furthermore, its location in an area heavily used by wildlife not only subjected hundreds of children to the danger of lions, buffaloes, and elephants passing through the schoolyard, but significantly diminished the value of the ranch as a corridor. With the help of friends at the Annenberg Foundation, AWF worked with the local school district and the community to build an entirely new school campus on the perimeter of the ranch.

## NOW:

The children are able to study in brand-new facilities, including fully equipped classrooms, with dormitories and a new cafeteria and infirmary contributing to an environment conducive to learning. The wildlife, meanwhile, has regained the core of the ranch as undisturbed habitat. A new ranch headquarters is being built, like the school, at the edge of the property and is nearing completion. Sensitively designed and located, it lies near the tar road between Arusha and Tarangire National Park. This new facility will provide a fitting base for all the ranch's conservation and community development operations.

**THEN:** Despite the prevalence of stock ranching in the area, many of the lodges and hotels in northern Tanzania import beef for their restaurants. When AWF first began working on Manyara Ranch there was no possibility of sourcing beef locally for the local tourism industry. There was, moreover, a perception that livestock ranching and conservation were incompatible.

## NOW:

With support from our partners at the US Agency for International Development and TLCT, AWF has built an abattoir on the edge of the property to process and market sustainable grass-fed beef from both the ranch and the surrounding pastoralist communities. Construction is now complete and the equipment that will make the facility fully functional is scheduled to be installed soon. The abattoir will make the processing of local beef profitable, lessening the need to ship Tanzanian cattle to neighboring countries at a fraction of the potential financial reward. ■



AWF



Billy Dodson



Mohamed Hashim



Craig R. Sholley

## News in Brief

### Fellow Explorer Causes

AWF thanks everyone who joined our recent Facebook Cause, formed with



**explore.org**, to help both Rwandan High School students and Rwanda's highly endangered mountain gorillas. Led by AWF-supported experts, each year a cohort of Rwandan students will travel to the Virunga Volcanoes, track the gorillas, study the fragile forests, and learn what they can do to ensure the gorillas endure forever. **Explore.org** donated \$1 for each person that joined the Cause, and matched any additional gifts, dollar for dollar, over the course of 60 days. The groundswell of support was inspiring; a top Facebook Cause throughout the campaign, we succeeded in raising \$50,000—the full amount needed to fund this cutting-edge program for generations of students. Look for program updates on Facebook. ■



Kenya Wildlife Service/Charles Ooro

### US VP and AWF Pres in Nairobi

At a June meeting with conservationists in the Nairobi National Park, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden pledged that the U.S. people would support efforts to preserve Kenya's Mau Forest, the largest indigenous montane forest in East Africa and Kenya's largest water catchment area. Biden's pledge came after Kenya's launch earlier this year of a national initiative to increase its forest cover.

At the June Nairobi meeting, AWF President Helen Gichohi had a chance to talk briefly with the Vice President about AWF's integrated conservation work. "It was a great honor to meet Vice President Biden, and also gratifying to learn forest conservation is a high priority for the American people," said Gichohi. ■

# Safari Journal: More chances to travel with AWF

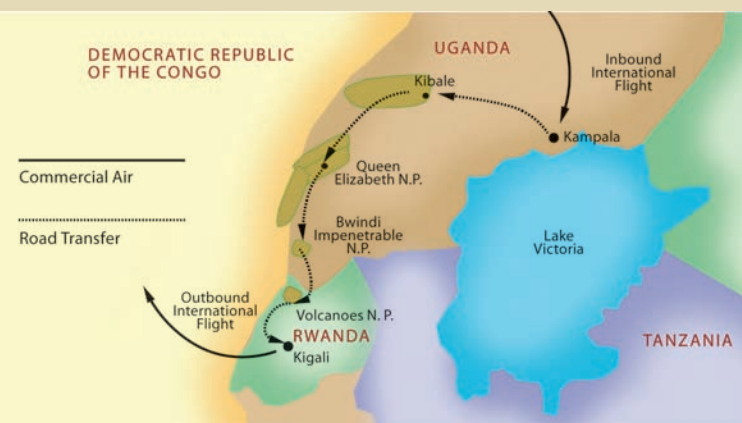


The lion, hippo, and wildebeest were just a few of the hundreds of magnificent species viewed by the members (top right) who joined AWF's Best of Kenya Safari this past August.

Now it's your turn to see Africa with the experts. AWF's next Member Safari (August 6-17, 2011) will showcase the very best of Uganda and Rwanda's wildlife. During this intimate 12-day adventure, you will meet the region's extraordinary mountain gorillas; traverse the Ishasha Plains in search of tree-climbing lions; and trek through pristine rainforests to find humanity's closest living relative, the common chimpanzee.

From the game-rich savannah of Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park to the lush mountain mosaic of Rwanda's famed Volcanoes National Park, travelers will have exceptional wildlife viewing experiences. Accompanied by AWF Safari Leader Stephen Ham, this ultimate central African expedition is limited to 12 guests. Optional pre- and post-safari excursions add to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

**Contact AWF Safari Leader Stephen Ham at [sham@awf.org](mailto:sham@awf.org) or (202) 939-3318.**



## AWF in Action Taking a Stand in the Serengeti

A proposed road through the Serengeti National Park is threatening to bisect the Great Migration, increasing the chance of wildlife deaths, adding to pollution, and advancing habitat degradation in the famed World Heritage site.

**Conservation Threat:** The government of Tanzania is again considering a proposal to construct a road across the Serengeti, one of the most famous national parks on the planet. By cutting through the northern part of the park, the planned road would sever a critical corridor used by hundreds of thousands of wildebeest and zebras in their annual migration, known as one of the greatest spectacles on earth.

**AWF's position:** AWF believes such a road would have a negative impact on conservation, wildlife and human security, as well as park revenues. Most importantly, the road would mar a national and global asset in which the laws of nature still predominate and the footprint of human activities is barely visible.

**AWF action:** Fully acknowledging the need to balance good conservation planning and economic development, AWF has asked the government of Tanzania to reconsider the construction of any such road through the Serengeti and has proposed alternative routes that would achieve similar commercial goals without degrading this treasured national park. We have issued an official opposition statement to President Kikwete and continue to urge Tanzania to reconsider this proposal.

**Outcome:** At the time of going to press, AWF had not learned of any plans to reroute or abandon the road. AWF continues to urge the Government of Tanzania to reconsider the road proposal and adopt alternative routes that would circumvent the Serengeti.

Follow the #Serengetiroad conversation @ [twitter.com/awf\\_official](https://twitter.com/awf_official)

# Crystal Clear Conservation

Not everyone gets to spend their days working with fire and ice-colored molten liquid. But to the glass-making artisan, fire and liquid are as everyday as the office worker's computer and telephone. Since 1903, Steuben's artisans have been making fine art by hand at the company's factory in Corning, New York, a city nestled in the Finger Lakes region, which is renowned for its glassmaking history. This regular contact with fire and other elemental materials makes for a pretty earthy bunch of people. Consider Taf Lebel Schaefer, a sculptor inspired by childhood memories of Cape Cod, where she developed her lifelong love for nature. She joined Steuben in 1998 as a designer and produces crystal work that is especially appreciated for its eloquence in conveying the movement, tension, and tranquility of animals.

An accomplished artist and a supporter of AWF, Schaefer is the originator of the concept behind Steuben's new Big Five Collection, which comprises glass sculptures of African buffalo, elephant, rhino, lion, and leopard designed exclusively to benefit AWF. 'Big Five', a term coined decades ago by hunters, describes the five mammal species that were hardest to hunt on foot—and most prized. Too often in the past they were centered in the scope of a gun; today they are the focal point for much of AWF's conservation programs in the African Heartlands.

Schaefer took her idea for the Big Five Collection to Robert Nachman, Steuben's Vice President of Design and Marketing. Steuben's sculptures, she explained, could beautifully embody AWF's mission to preserve Africa's wildlife for future generations. Nachman needed little convincing.

For nearly a century, the designers and glassmakers of Steuben have been inspired by animal forms and the powerful legends that surround them. 'Creating a collection that would capture the timeless nature of Africa's large mammals while securing their survival in the wild made perfect sense,' he explains.

Craig Sholley, AWF Vice President for Marketing and Philanthropy, was similarly intrigued by the idea. 'Africa's wildlife is



AWF is pleased to partner with Steuben on the Big Five Collection, glass representations of Africa's best-known large mammals. The sculptures can be purchased individually or as a group at Steuben's store on Madison Avenue in New York City and at other selected fine retailers, or on the company's website. Visit [www.steuben.com](http://www.steuben.com) for more information. Ten percent of all sales in 2010 will support AWF's work in the African Heartlands.

iconic, yet is also a living, breathing legacy,' he says. 'The Steuben glass figurines capture the timelessness of these impressive creatures' physical being. Such is the power of art—or is that the power of wildlife?'

Once the partnership had been formalized, Steuben began working with AWF to create new designs and refine the Big Five Collection. For Schaefer, this is one of the most exciting facets of the creative process. In the blowing room, Steuben's gaffers work from three-dimensional models to create flowing animal forms in hot glass. The collaboration between designer and craftsman produces work that is spontaneous and sculptural, evoking the true magnificence of Africa's large mammals.

Nachman, who recently returned from his first safari in South Africa, agrees. 'The refractive and reflective qualities of the glass give the figures subtle life and movement,' he says. And although reluctant to name a favorite, he reveals which figure sits most prominently on his desk: the buffalo. He remembers coming upon a herd of buffaloes while on safari and noticing the heavy downward curve of the animals' horns and how, despite their similar physical characteristics, each buffalo looked distinctly unique. 'It was majestic and like nothing I had ever seen,' he recalls. 'Every time I look at the glass figure and the whimsical way the designer has rendered the horns, I am transported back to that moment.' ■

[View the collection at awf.org/steuben](http://awf.org/steuben)

## Black Rhino Siren!



A resurgence of rhino poaching in Africa is pushing the black rhino ever closer to extinction, jeopardizing one of Africa's most charismatic mammals and threatening years of dedicated work by AWF and others. Since the start of 2010, more than 230 rhinos have been poached—a staggering number for a population of only 4,100 in all of Africa. AWF has been an international leader in rhino conservation for decades—in the 1970s working to stop Yemen's illegal trade in rhino horn, in the late 1980s establishing a renowned rhino conservancy in Kenya, during the Clinton years fighting for trade sanctions against Taiwan, and more recently supporting rhino surveillance and protection in East Africa and Zimbabwe. But AWF needs your help to combat this latest wave of poaching.

Visit [awf.org/blackrhinos](http://awf.org/blackrhinos)

# Wildlife Watch

## Bats

**T**hrough centuries of folklore, bats (which belong to the order of *chiroptera*, which means ‘hard wing’) have become synonymous with everything from the unknown to the undead. They are primarily depicted as blood-sucking predators when in fact, most bats would love to bite into a juicy piece of fruit rather than your neck.

After rodents, bats are the most numerous mammals on Earth. There are more than 1,000 species of bats on Earth and of these, more than 200 species are endemic to Africa and can be found all over the continent—from the deserts of the Sahara to the jungles of west Africa and from the mountains of Kilimanjaro to the tropical beaches of African islands. In East Africa alone, there are fruit bats, hammer-headed bats, sheath-tailed bats, hollow-faced bats, epauletted bats, horseshoe bats, leaf-nosed bats, butterfly bats, mouse-eared bats, mouse-tailed bats...the list goes on.

African bats can largely be split into two primary categories: large fruit bats and the smaller insect-eating bats. Neither of these types of bats is known to bite the necks of humans, but both are, indeed, creatures of the night. Bats tend to roost during the day on hanging tree branches or within caves in colonies that can range from a few dozen to thousands and even millions.

All bats are incredibly agile, with fruit bats being able to get around via their acute sense of smell and large eyes, which makes for incredible night vision. Insect eating bats, on the other hand, get around a different way, emitting high-pitched squeaks through the nose or mouth while flying. The sounds of the squeaks reverberate off the cave walls or outside surroundings back to the bat, which allows it to locate, capture, and eat insects mid-air, while still being able to detect objects that may hinder its mobility.

With the exception of humans, bats have no known predators but are susceptible to disease (such as the fungal disease decimating bat populations in the northeastern United States). Habitat loss is also a major factor in fluctuating populations; and in many parts of Africa, bats are hunted as a part of the bush-meat trade as their meat is considered a delicacy.

With the advent of more people and wildlife organizations—like AWF—taking a stand for bats, more factual information on these fascinating animals is coming forward and slowly but surely, pushing those old myths into the shadows.



Martin Weiker

**Like most bats, this Rodrigues Flying Fox of Mauritius is a creature of the night.**



Giraffes  
Lions  
Mountain Gorillas  
Conservation Enterprise  
**Make Education Your Heir**  
Zebra  
Wild dogs  
Community Development  
Wildebeest  
Elephants

**The fate of Africa and its wildlife is in their hands. Empower the next generation with your legacy gift.**

**Your legacy. Their education. Africa's future.**

If you're considering a legacy gift to AWF, you might consider naming AWF a beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account.

Not only will your IRA gift support wildlife, land conservation, and community development work in Africa, but its removal from your estate may preclude loved ones from paying income taxes on those account assets. Additionally, in the likely event Congress reinstates the estate tax in 2011, naming AWF as the beneficiary of your retirement account means you will have removed this highly taxable asset from your estate.

To learn more about making a legacy gift to AWF, contact Kathleen Graham at (888) 494-5354 or [kgraham@awf.org](mailto:kgraham@awf.org). You can also visit us at [www.awf.org/legacy](http://www.awf.org/legacy).

- Yes! Please send me information on including the African Wildlife Foundation in my Will and estate plans.
- I have already included AWF in my Will or other estate plan.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: African Wildlife Foundation, Office of Legacy Giving, 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 120, Washington, DC 20036

Photo Credit: Craig R. Shirley



AWF is proud to be part of an elite 1% of charities that have received Charity Navigator's coveted 4-star rating for at least eight consecutive years.