

African Wildlife News

Billy Dodson

1961-2011

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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The numbers are in!

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Turning 50:

AWF gathers with its 'founding fathers.'



TWO THUMBS UP!

Disneynature and AWF Celebrate Release of "African Cats"



The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) proudly announces that Disneynature, the creator of such movie blockbusters as "Oceans" and "Earth," has selected AWF as its partner in a program celebrating the release of its next feature film "African Cats." A moving story about two lion prides and a cheetah family struggling to survive, "African Cats" dramatically illuminates the majesty of Africa's great cats.

The program, *See African Cats, Save the Savanna*, begins with the film's release on Earth Day (April 22) and is designed to raise public awareness and greater public support for programs that protect the future of all of Africa's great savanna species. Disneynature will make a donation on behalf of every moviegoer who sees the film during opening week (April 22-28). As the featured partner of *See African Cats, Save the Savanna*, AWF will receive funds through the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund to ensure the future of lions, cheetahs, elephants, zebras, giraffes, and a host of other animals that depend on the vibrant African savanna. See pp. 4-5 for full details.

We'll see you at the movies!



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Machache

Don't think 2010 could have ended on a more exciting note. The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) moved to a permanent new home, opening the AWF Conservation Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. That same week we kicked off our 50th Anniversary Year. A day after heavy rains, in an informal ceremony held under clearing

We are proud of everything we have achieved and eager to tackle the challenges ahead.

skies, AWF President Helen Gichohi and I joined with AWF Trustee The Honorable Benjamin Mkapa, former president of Tanzania; AWF Trustee The Honorable Ketumile Masire, former president of Botswana; and AWF Board Chair Dennis Keller to look toward the next 50 years of conservation in Africa. Mr. Mkapa put it best: "Wildlife is as much an African asset as its people, so let us — African governments and their development partners — work together to ensure a symbiotic existence."

That was exciting enough; then AWF learned movie giant DisneyNature had selected us to collaborate on a program celebrating the upcoming release of "African Cats," the stunning next film by the creators of such blockbusters as "Earth" and "Oceans." The full details of that are on pp. 4-5.

Noor Khamis



AWF Trustee and former President of Tanzania Benjamin W. Mkapa at AWF's 50th Anniversary kickoff celebration.

There's other exciting news to report too. AWF has just learned the results of a mountain gorilla census conducted by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (a coalition of AWF, Fauna & Flora International, and the World Wide Fund for Nature). The full results are on the opposite page – but let me just say gorilla lovers will be thrilled by the news.



AWF/Paul Thomson

Also in these pages we profile a special 50th AWF Anniversary luncheon held recently for a distinguished group that included AWF founders Russell Train, James Bugg, and Nick Arundel, along with early AWF board chair John Heminway and presidents Gordon Wilson and Paul Schindler. This prestigious group gathered with current AWF staff in Washington, D.C., to reflect on our organization's beginnings, examine the trajectory of its strategic growth, and ponder the future and AWF's role in protecting Africa's wildlife and wild lands.

As we turn the page on a new year, it is important to look back at all we accomplished in 2010: We launched our first Heartland in West Africa, forged a large new conservation area in the Kazungula Heartland, crafted an innovative lease program in the Kilimanjaro Heartland, and launched new climate change projects in the Kilimanjaro and Virunga Heartlands, among many other conservation wins. We are proud of everything we have achieved and eager to tackle the challenges ahead. Only with your continued contributions and heartfelt support can we fully carry out the important mission we have set out to do across Africa.

Patrick Bergin

Patrick J. Bergin
Chief Executive Officer

Mountain Gorilla Population Increases in the Virunga Massif

AWF with the International Gorilla Conservation Programme Celebrates Conservation Win

AWF with its friends and supporters has been eagerly awaiting the results of a mountain gorilla census recently carried out in the Virunga massif—and now the numbers are in!

The analysis of the March-April 2010 census indicates that a total of 480 mountain gorillas are found in the Virunga massif, an area that comprises three contiguous national parks: Parc National des Virunga in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda. The only other location where mountain gorillas exist is Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda. Along with the 302 mountain gorillas censused in Bwindi in 2006 and four orphaned mountain gorillas in a sanctuary in DRC, **this brings the world's total mountain gorilla population to 786 individuals.**

“[The Virunga population] has made an absolutely remarkable recovery from the approximately 250 individuals that existed only three decades ago. This recovery is due to the relentless collaborative efforts of many organizations and institutions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda,” says Augustin Basabose, Coordinator of Species at the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), a coalition of AWF, Fauna & Flora International (FFI), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The Virunga massif mountain gorilla census was conducted by the protected area authorities in the three countries—L'Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, the Rwanda Development Board, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority—with support from IGCP and other partners.



A young mountain gorilla photographed during the census.

Census Snippets

The Virunga count

According to the census analysis, 480 mountain gorillas live in the Virunga massif. Previously censused at 380 individuals in 2003, this represents a more than 26 percent rise in the population (a 3.7 percent annual growth rate) over seven years. This encouraging news—realized despite the killing of no less than nine mountain gorillas in four separate incidences over those years—is thanks to the country park authorities, the strong group of dedicated conservationists working in the region, and the communities that live near the gorillas. AWF is proud to be part of this ongoing transboundary success story.

On land and by foot

Over 1,000 kilometers were systematically walked by 6 trained teams totaling 72 people from DRC, Rwanda, and Uganda. Teams covered the entire range and meticulously documented fresh signs of mountain gorilla groups. Genetic analyses of fecal samples collected were analyzed to identify and correct for any double counting of individuals or groups, ensuring the most accurate estimates.



Christopher Masaba of the Uganda Wildlife Authority assists with the 2010 Virunga massif mountain gorilla census.

The big picture

The census aimed to assess not only the population of mountain gorillas but also their health. Analyses conducted on fecal samples will contribute to one of the most comprehensive health screenings of any wild ape population. The results will also be extremely valuable in order to make comparisons between populations, and between habituated and unhabituated groups. The full results, along with those on large mammal populations and human activity, will be available later this year. We'll keep you posted at awf.org.



IGCP's Dr. Augustin Basabose (left) measures fecal samples before collecting them for genetic analysis.

Ranger risk

Commenting on the census results, Rwanda's Head of Tourism and Conservation at the Rwanda Development Board, Rica Rwigamba, commended the often unsung heroes of mountain gorilla conservation: “We acknowledge the selfless efforts by the rangers that has ensured safety of the wildlife and their habitat. We pledge our renewed commitment to ensure our dream of scrapping the mountain gorillas off the endangered species list will be realised.”



Learn more census tidbits and view photos taken by census workers at awf.org/twitter.

Two Thumb

AWF with Disneynature Leaps into Theaters This Earth Day

Details:

Disneynature has selected AWF to celebrate the release of its new Disneynature feature film "African Cats" through a special program called *See African Cats, Save the Savanna*. Disneynature will make a donation on behalf of every moviegoer who sees the film during opening week (April 22-28). As the featured partner of *See African Cats, Save the Savanna*, AWF will receive funds through the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund to ensure the future of lions, cheetahs, elephants, zebras, giraffes and a host of other animals in the vibrant African savanna (see opposite page).

The story:

An epic true story set against the backdrop of one of the wildest places on Earth, "African Cats" captures the real-life love, humor, and determination of the majestic kings of the savanna. The story features Mara, an endearing lion cub who strives to grow up with her mother's strength, spirit, and wisdom; Sita, a fearless cheetah and single mother of five mischievous newborns; and Fang, a proud leader of the pride who must defend his family from a once banished lion. Disneynature brings "The Lion King" to life on the big screen in this True Life Adventure directed by Keith Scholey and Alastair Fothergill ("Earth").



Disneynature
AFRICAN
CATS

Special Features:



Watch the trailer for "African Cats" at www.awf.org/africancats.



Tickets for groups of 20 or more are already available in the United States. Call 1-888-DISNEY6.



Download an 8-page educational activity guide about the science and geographical themes presented in "African Cats" at awf.org/africancats.

s Up!

Showtimes:

“African Cats” opens Earth Day (April 22)—check theater listings near you! The *See African Cats, Save the Savanna* program runs April 22-28.

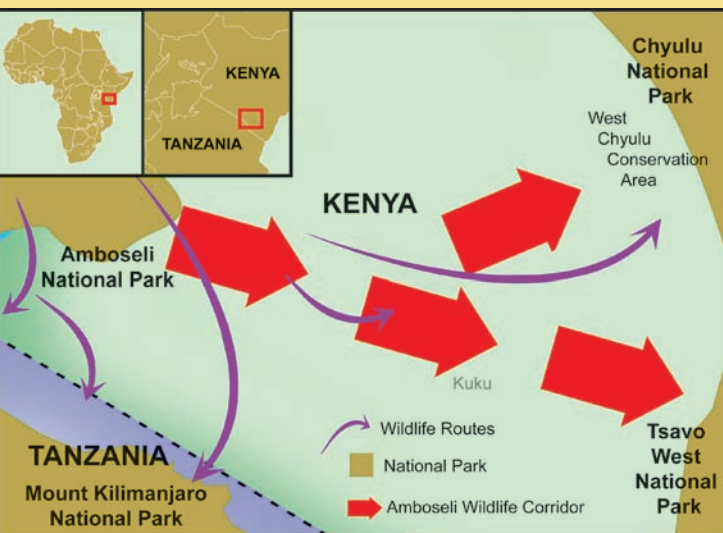
What Disney and AWF are saying:

With its honest, often funny, yet very real portrayal of life on the African savanna, ‘African Cats’ has really opened our hearts to the brilliance of the animals who live there. We are committed to helping the African Wildlife Foundation establish this protective corridor, and building upon our past conservation efforts from our Disneynature label.

—Alan Bergman, President,
The Walt Disney Studios

The African Wildlife Foundation is proud to work so closely with Disneynature on the release of “African Cats.” We are celebrating our 50th anniversary of working with the people of Africa to ensure the wildlife and these wild lands endure forever; extending the Amboseli Wildlife Corridor will be a great step forward in these efforts.

—Patrick Bergin, CEO, AWF



The Disneynature-AWF program will support AWF’s work to protect the Amboseli Wildlife Corridor, a critical crossing point for lions, cheetah, elephants, zebra, giraffe, and a host of other species.

The Vision Behind *See African Cats, Save the Savanna*



In southern Kenya, where AWF has partnered with local communities for more than four decades, AWF is securing key lands that connect Amboseli, Chyulu Hills, and Tsavo National Parks (see map). Centered on an area of vast open plains, the Amboseli Wildlife Corridor is one of the last great natural strongholds of the lion, zebra, elephant, giraffe, and other charismatic mammals. Because of population growth and changing lifestyles, however, land parcels in this region are increasingly being converted to agricultural plots or sold off to developers. These forces have led to both a rapid reduction in wildlife habitat and increased human-wildlife conflict.

Through an innovative land-lease program in the Amboseli region, AWF is working with local landowners to both reduce human-wildlife conflict and expand the amount of land conserved for wildlife. AWF negotiates with local landowners to form “land-lease” partnerships, under which it pays the landowners a fee for every acre set aside for conservation and safeguarded against poaching, subdivision, and other activities that degrade habitat. AWF also works with participating communities to employ local scouts who will help patrol the land and uphold the land use restrictions. AWF will ultimately work with multiple communities to set up larger conservancies and build conservation enterprises that are economically self-sustaining.

Thousands of acres of community lands have already been protected through this innovative AWF program. **And you can help AWF conserve thousands more—see “African Cats” during its opening week! ■**

Spotlight on AWF Member Candace Ritz

Candace Ritz is not your average 29-year-old. A busy financial analyst at a corporate law firm, Ritz has just bought her first home, volunteers for animal welfare organizations all over the world, and is now starting her own eco-friendly greeting-card business.

She is also one of the youngest members of AWF's Kilimanjaro Society, a select group of supporters who have chosen to continue their support of Africa's wildlife and wild lands beyond their own lifetimes.

What prompted this young professional to join this esteemed group of mostly older wildlife enthusiasts?

Ritz sought out AWF after a stay at a safari lodge in South Africa changed her life. The lodge, in addition to offering an amazing safari experience, worked with and benefited a nearby community. Ritz befriended a member of the staff who taught her about the relationship between wildlife conservation and community development.

When she returned home, Ritz began looking for a conservation organization focused on Africa which understood that communities must be part of the dialogue and part of the solution in order to protect wildlife over the long term.

"I decided I was going to find an organization dedicated to Africa that doesn't sacrifice people's needs for the well-being of animals," says Ritz. "I saw how important that connection was while I was in South Africa. People need to be able to care for their family and make a living. I set out to find an organization that understood that, and I found the African Wildlife Foundation."

While many people are inspired to join AWF after seeing Africa's wildlife firsthand, Ritz's choice to become a legacy giver set her apart. She said the decision was much easier than she thought it would be.

"I literally picked up the phone and called. I explained my situation, and said I wanted to leave a legacy gift to the African Wildlife Foundation and asked what I needed to do."

Although there are different ways to structure a legacy gift, Ritz opted to designate AWF a beneficiary in her Will. A planner by nature, Ritz concedes she is the exception among people her age. "Many people don't want to contemplate the finality of their existence," she says. "They also think estate planning is complicated and expensive, when in fact, it's usually fairly easy to do."

To Ritz, the alternative is even scarier. "Think about it, do



Candace Ritz

you want to risk having the dollars you've worked so hard for go to something you don't believe in?" she asks. "I want all that hard work to support something important to me, something that will truly make a difference," she says.

"Think about it, do you want to risk having the dollars you've worked so hard for go to something you don't believe in?"

Ritz is already making a difference in more ways than one. In addition to being an active AWF member, she volunteers with several animal rescue organizations around the world, from a mom and daughter duo rescuing street dogs in Romania to a wildlife rescue team in Zimbabwe in need of veterinary supplies. And recently, Ritz founded a stationery company called Furkids, Inc. (furkidsinc.com), which will sell eco-friendly greeting cards to raise money for a network of animal welfare and wildlife conservation organizations, dubbed the "Furkids family." While the Furkids online store is still under development, Ritz has already arranged for local artists to design the greeting cards.

At home, Ritz lavishes her love of animals on her canine housemates—Asia, Bruno, Maxwell, and Oscar—rescued from a backyard breeder, a puppy mill, animal control, and an abandoned junkyard, respectively. Oscar the junkyard dog survived for weeks on scraps before Ritz rescued him.

"I picked him up, and he's acted as if he died and went to heaven ever since," she beams. ■

View some of Ritz's photos from Africa at awf.org/facebook



To find out more about AWF's Legacy Giving Program, visit www.awf.org/legacygifts or call Kathleen Graham at 1-888-4WILDLIFE.

FUN for the Whole Family

In response to popular demand, AWF is excited to offer an exclusive family safari to northern Tanzania. AWF experts have designed an intimate wildlife experience where families can discover the wildlife and wild lands of Africa together. During this 11-day safari, participants will explore the unspoiled landscapes of Tarangire National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, and the Serengeti, and meet some of these areas' most celebrated residents,



Andy Blogs

including its lions, elephants, cheetah, giraffes, rhinos, and more. Accompanied by an AWF expert and local naturalist guides, you will get an exclusive look at wildlife with the experts. The safari runs from June 16-26, 2011. Space is limited, so secure your spot soon.

Email Stephen Ham at sham@awf.org or call him at (202) 939-3318.

A Never-Ending Story

Luncheon celebrates founders, AWF's enduring mission



Craig R. Stolley

Paul Schindler (former AWF president), April Wilson, Gordon Wilson (former AWF Executive Director), Aileen Train, Russell Train (AWF founder), Nick Arundel (AWF founder), Jim Bugg (AWF founder), Carol Bugg, and John Heminway (former AWF Board Chair) at a special 50th Anniversary luncheon honoring AWF's founders.

AWF launched our 50th Anniversary year with a series of events that included a very special luncheon for founders Russell Train, James Bugg, and Nick Arundel, along with former board chair John Heminway and early AWF heads Gordon Wilson and Paul Schindler. These VIPs gathered with other early contributors and current staff for a special luncheon in Washington, D.C. The event brought together the old guard and the new. "It is important for every organization to stay in touch with the wisdom of its 'founding fathers'," commented AWF's current chairman Dennis Keller.

Keller, together with AWF CEO Patrick Bergin, showcased videos of AWF's flagship projects and its new permanent home in Nairobi, Kenya. At one point, an AWF staffer turned to Margaret Arundel and asked, "Do you feel connected to the work you are hearing about?" "Of course," replied Arundel, the wife of AWF Founder Nick Arundel, a former correspondent for CBS News. "It's amazing what this organization has grown into." ■

A Member Invitation



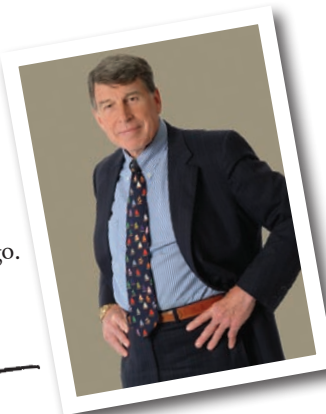
What: A special 50th Anniversary barbecue at the Brookfield Zoo, held in honor of all the wonderful AWF supporters who make our work possible. **The event is free for all members!**

When: July 23, details to come.

Where: Brookfield Zoo, located just outside Chicago.

Your host,

Dennis Keller



P.S. I know only some of you will be able to make it, so AWF staff has promised to share fun photos and highlights of the event in these pages and on Facebook. For those of you who can join me, please plan to share your photos with AWF!

A Permanent Home for AWF

AWF has moved into a home in Kenya that it can truly call its own.

After 50 years of influential and impactful commitment to Africa, AWF has a permanent home on the continent. Late in 2010, just before the annual board meeting in Nairobi, AWF moved into our new headquarters—the African Wildlife Foundation Conservation Centre, located on a beautiful plot of remnant Ngong forest in the Karen district of Nairobi. The Centre consists of a renovated colonial-style residence—where we especially look forward to welcoming our members when they are on safari—a small conference facility, and an adjacent set of offices where the AWF staff works to achieve our critical mission.

Five decades in the making, the African Wildlife Foundation Conservation Centre is serving as the base from which AWF oversees its programs in East, southern, and West/central Africa, as well as an exceptional venue for conversations about conservation that will ensure the future of Africa's wildlife and wild lands. When you are next on safari in East Africa, please plan to visit. It would be a pleasure to brief you about our programs throughout Africa and personally thank you for your support. Contact Carole Mwirigi at cmwirigi@awfke.org for more information.



The African Wildlife Foundation Conservation Centre

Visit awf.org/awfconservationcentre

Wildlife Watch

Congo Peafowl

Although not as widely known as other African wildlife, the Congo peafowl (*Afropavo congensis*) is still as beautiful, mysterious, and fascinating as the country in which it calls home.

Although the species is widely known as “peacock,” only males are peacocks; females are peahens and offspring are peachicks. As the sole member of the genus *Afropavo*, the Congo peafowl also has the distinction of being the only true pheasant native to Africa. Free-living peafowl are found only in the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo, primarily in the east along the Congo River Basin.

As its appearance is so similar to immature Asian peafowl, the Congo peafowl was first classified as Asian peafowl (of which there are two species—the Indian and green peafowl) until scientists realized the peacock was a separate, distinct species. It is also because of its visible similar characteristics to both peafowl and guinea fowl that scientists believe the Congo peafowl may, in fact, be genetically linked to the two families.

The Congo peafowl stands approximately 28 inches in height, 2 feet in length, and weighs an estimated three pounds. It tends to have bronze-green upper parts, black under parts with violet-blue breast and tail feathers, a red throat, a crest of white bristles on the crown, and long spurs on the insides of both legs, possibly used for fighting. Peahens are slightly smaller and tend to have rusty-brown lower feathers and emerald green upper feathers with a short rusty crest. The Congo peafowl is a terrestrial bird capable of flight and maintains a diet of fruit, seeds from local trees, and invertebrate species such as aquatic insects and termites.

As the Congo peafowl was not discovered until 1936 and as its natural habitat tends to be extremely deep, dense forest, it has been little studied and never studied in the wild—only in captivity. Like most other forest-dwelling African species, the Congo peafowl's main threats to its survival are hunting, habitat loss due to mining, logging, and civil conflict within the region. The Congo peafowl is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Endangered Species.



Peafowl Congo

As the sole member of the genus *Afropavo*, the Congo peafowl also has the distinction of being the only true pheasant native to Africa.



IUCN

You Share, We Share, All of Us EarthShare

In the realm of winning combinations, 11219 is the number to know if your goal is to save Africa's wildlife. And this year, thousands of you chose that combination, designating AWF as your EarthShare beneficiary charity during your company's annual workplace giving campaign.

EarthShare is a nonprofit organization that manages public and private sector workplace pledge giving campaigns for 43 environmental and wildlife conservation organizations that work in the United States and internationally. EarthShare also offers green tips and can introduce your employer to the EarthShare @ Work program so you can support the critical programs of AWF and many other respected conservation charities. If you are interested in learning more about EarthShare, visit www.awf.org/earthshare or email us at africanwildlife@awf.org.

Thank you EarthShare and all our loyal members!



Watch a video about EarthShare at www.awf.org/earthshare.