

# African Wildlife News

WINTER 2014

1961–2014



AWF works in conservation landscapes large enough to sustain a diversity of species, such as elephants, rhinos, and other iconic African wildlife, for centuries to come. In these landscapes—places like Kilimanjaro, Congo, and Kazungula—AWF and its partners are pioneering lasting conservation strategies that benefit wildlife and people alike.

## Inside THIS ISSUE



page 3

**U.S. and China recently crushed their ivory stockpiles in support of Africa's elephants.**



page 5

**A new class of conservation management trainees comes on board with AWF.**



page 8

**Get closer to some of Africa's most elusive creatures.**

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN AFRICA'S LANDSCAPES



Billy Dodson

Perrin Banks

AWF's holistic approach to conservation in the Kazungula landscape has increased the amount of protected land for the continent's largest population of elephants and led to more job and educational opportunities for the communities that live alongside them.

## The Sum of its Parts

*AWF's holistic conservation approach serves wildlife, people alike*

**A**frica is big. Not only is it big, but it's also made up of a patchwork of different countries, each with its own diverse ecosystems, ethnic groups, and economies. Wildlife, too, lives in a patchwork of spaces, from parks and reserves to community lands and remote forests—meaning Africa's wildlife doesn't face just one conservation threat but rather a variety of threats with their own drivers. The battle for space and resources drives human-wildlife conflict. Poverty, lack of job opportunities, and demand for wildlife products drive subsistence and commercial poaching. Poor land-use planning and management lead to unnecessary habitat destruction.

Wherever the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) works, all of these issues must be considered, weighed, and ultimately factored into a holistic approach to conservation, one that seeks to meet the needs of wildlife and the people living near wildlife.

"We cannot simply focus on wildlife in isolation," explained AWF's Nasson Tembo. "We have to take into account the people who live in the landscape, too, and recognize that addressing their needs is necessary to achieve our overall conservation goals."

Take the Kazungula landscape in Southern Africa, where Tembo oversees AWF's conservation efforts. This transborder area, which spans Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana, is home to the largest concentration of elephants on the continent. Lions, wild dogs, rhinos, and other wildlife also reside in Kazungula, which, at more than 33,000 sq. mi, is similar in size to the U.S. state of South Carolina.

*(continued on page 6)*



AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Thomson  
CHAIRBenjamin W. Mkapa  
VICE-CHAIRMarleen Groen  
TREASURERMyma Belo-Osagie  
SECRETARY

Patrick Bergin  
Robin Berkeley  
Payson Coleman  
Lynn Dolnick  
Lisa Firestone  
Helen Gichohi  
Larry Green  
Philipp H. Gutsche  
Heather Sturt Haaga  
Mona Hamilton  
Christine Hemrick  
William E. James  
Adrian M. Jay  
Kristina M. Johnson  
Stephen Juelsgaard  
Rahim Khan  
Robert E. King  
Denise Koopmans  
Shana Laursen  
Christopher Lee  
Victoria Leslie  
Festus G. Mogae  
Razan K. Al Mubarak  
Wilfred Murungi  
Kristina Persson  
Stuart Scott  
Aggie Skirball  
Veronica Varekova  
Warren Walker  
Charles R. Wall  
Maria Wilhelm

TRUSTEES EMERITI  
E.U. Curtis Bohlen  
Joan Donner  
Leila S. Green  
John H. Heminway  
George C. Hixon  
Dennis Keller  
Henry P. McIntosh IV  
Sally Pingree  
Stuart T. Saunders, Jr.

## AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

1400 16th Street, N.W.

Suite 120

Washington, D.C. 20036

Toll Free +1 888 494 5354

Phone +1 202 939 3333

Fax +1 202 939 3332

AWF Conservation Centre

Ngong Road, Karen

P.O. Box 310, 00502

Nairobi, Kenya

Phone +254 20 2765000

Fax +254 20 2765030

email: africanwildlife@awf.org

*African Wildlife News*

is published four times a year.

© 2014 African Wildlife Foundation

www.awf.org

CFC# 11219



Printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper

## Adapting to Change, Holistically



Craig R. Sholley

One of the biggest challenges wildlife faces in Africa is the rapid pace at which the continent is developing and changing. AWF regularly evaluates and updates its conservation strategies to stay relevant on the ground. We have also found, however, that one of the most effective ways to achieve large-scale impact in the face of such rapid development is to approach conservation holistically.

Rather than taking a scattershot approach, where we might dabble in a single project in one country and another one elsewhere on the continent, AWF instead focuses our resources into landscapes we deem to be high priority (typically because of their ecological and economic potential). Within each landscape, we implement a number of projects that address the different issues standing in the way of sustainable natural resource management.

**AWF focuses our resources  
into landscapes we deem  
to be high priority**

Our cover story uses the example of the Kazungula landscape—which spans Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and encompasses the largest population of elephants in Africa as well as the world—to demonstrate the soundness and success of this approach. The result, as you will read, is significant benefits for wildlife and people alike, including 10-year-old Josephine Kwalombota (below) and her family.

When done well, such a holistic approach also builds residents' appreciation of the natural environment in which they live, including their wildlife neighbors—helping to prevent illegal wildlife trafficking when it happens in their backyard. Of course, the war against illegal wildlife trafficking is a complex one that necessitates collaboration with a whole spectrum of stakeholders, from local communities to national governments. Look opposite this page to get the latest updates on this truly global challenge.

As these and other stories portray, Africa is a dynamic continent that continues to change—and it's because of you that AWF continues to successfully address the changes and challenges as they arise. Whether we are investing in a new class of Conservation Management Trainees (p. 4) or working to create a culture of conservation in the new country of South Sudan (p. 5), your support is evident throughout this issue and on the ground. As always, thank you for your involvement in conserving the wildlife and wild lands of this continent we all love.

Perin Banks



Patrick J. Bergin, Ph.D.  
CEO

AWF's array of conservation projects in Kazungula has benefited residents such as 10-year-old Josephine Kwalombota, whose father Shadreck says has blossomed academically after AWF rebuilt the school she attends, Lupani Primary Conservation School. See cover story.

# AWF ROUND-UP

## ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

### Asia takes action

Asian demand for ivory and rhino horn is frequently cited as the primary reason for the rise in elephant and rhino poaching in Africa. But Asian governments are doing their part to crack down on illegal wildlife trafficking. In November, customs officials in Xiamen, China, dismantled a transcontinental smuggling ring responsible for importing almost 12 tons of ivory. The following month, authorities in Hong Kong returned a shipment of seized rhino horns and elephant tusks worth US\$2.25 million to South Africa.

Their actions come none too soon: Recent reports indicate that if elephant poaching continues at current rates—as many as 35,000 elephants were estimated to have been killed in Africa in 2012—Africa stands to lose a fifth of its elephant population in the next 10 years. ■



Asher Jay



Barbara von Hoffman

### Crush all ivory

The U.S. government crushed its 6 tons of confiscated ivory in November to highlight the plight of Africa's elephants. AWF took the opportunity to urge other countries around the world to follow suit and destroy their own ivory stockpiles. In a surprise move, the Chinese government crushed 6 tons of its own confiscated ivory in Dongguan this January as well, signaling that the world's largest consumer of ivory recognizes the extent of the illegal wildlife trafficking crisis. ■

### Halting demand for rhino horn

Rhinos remain under assault, with South Africa's Kruger National Park alone having lost nearly 1,500 rhinos to poaching in the past five years. While equipping and increasing boots on the ground continues to be important in the fight to protect rhinos, ultimately demand in Asia for rhino horn must decline to stop the killing. This is why AWF and partner WildAid have distributed PSAs, billboards, and artwork in Asia to raise awareness and educate the main consumers of rhino horn. Last year, AWF and WildAid partnered with artist Asher Jay to produce magazine ads that likened the African rhino and elephant to China's beloved panda. ■



Ciaran Wheeler

### Commitments to act against poaching

At the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Annual Meeting this past October, AWF CEO Patrick Bergin joined other conservation groups, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton, and several African heads of state to announce a Commitment to Action to protect Africa's elephants. The trafficking and poaching of Africa's elephants "is more than a conservation issue," Bergin said. "It's a security issue... a poverty issue... a consumer issue. For this reason, many players—from governments to the private sector—must be involved too." ■

# Meet the New Class

***New Conservation Management Trainees are eager to learn the ins and outs of African conservation from AWF experts***

**A**fter a successful first year of its Conservation Management Training Program (CMTP), AWF this past August welcomed a new class of young professionals. Though the two-year training is rigorous, Sarah Chiles, Yohannes Seifu, and Edwin Tambara have eagerly begun learning about African conservation under the tutelage of AWF's technical experts.

Chiles, who hails from South Africa, has a background in anthropology and urban studies. Her work experience with conservancies in South Africa has sensitized her to the urgent need for diplomatic, community-based approaches, and she continues to try to better understand the social factors involved with conservation development.

With a master's degree in natural resource management and experience in participatory and community-based natural resource management, Seifu has a similar passion for linking community development to conservation. Previously, he worked with Farm Africa and SOS-Sahel, coordinating community development and training programs in remote parts of his native country of Ethiopia. Seifu was reportedly drawn to our training program because of the opportunities for learning the best ways to deal with land conversion and human-wildlife conflict—hot topics in the African conservation environment.

Tambara joins us from the University of Zimbabwe, where he was a researcher. His interests in conservation go beyond research, however, and he hopes to learn more about other cultures and make an impact on conservation on a much broader scale. "I want to widen my knowledge of different lifestyles and work ethics in other cultures," he says. "I believe this will give me a comprehensive perspective on conservation challenges in Africa and how AWF approaches each of the different regions."

**"If you want to learn about how practical conservation is achieved, then you should apply for CMTP."**

—Edwin Tambara, CMTP Class of 2015



Sarah Chiles

As part of their intensive orientation activities, new Conservation Management Trainees Edwin Tambara (second from right), Yohannes Seifu (far right), and Sarah Chiles (not pictured), learned about reforestation activities in the Mau Forest Complex from former trainee George Okwaro (left).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> phase

After an intensive orientation period at AWF's Nairobi headquarters, the three trainees are now in the midst of their nine-month field assignments, with Chiles in Kampala, Uganda, Seifu in the Kilimanjaro landscape in Kenya, and Tambara, working with AWF's conservation planning team in Nairobi. All three trainees are doing well and reportedly getting a lot out of

the program. Says Tambara, "If you aspire to have a meaningful career in conservation management and want to learn about how practical conservation is achieved, then you should apply for CMTP." —Marie Frei ■



Get updates directly from the trainees: Visit their blogs at [awf.org/cmtp](http://awf.org/cmtp)

## CATCHING UP WITH THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS

**A**fter a full year of training and field experience, the first round of AWF Conservation Management Trainees has already amassed a wealth of experience:

**George Okwaro.** In August, George Okwaro (pictured above) transitioned from CMTP trainee to full-time AWF employee, working on the reforestation of the Mau Forest Complex in Kenya's Rift Valley. "I now perceive conservation with a holistic, viable, systems approach and better understand the complexity and the dynamics within and among the different groups of biomes in the landscape," he says.

**Theo Way Nana.** Theo Way Nana, an environmental lawyer from the Democratic Republic of Congo and former Congo landscape community officer for AWF, was first based in the Samburu landscape during the first phase of the CMTP, where he developed land-use plans. Nana is spending a second nine-month placement supporting the implementation of the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity (T4B) program.

# Advising South Sudan

**Former Maasai Steppe Director James Kahurananga, now an AWF technical advisor for the government of South Sudan, offers an insider's perspective on the country's conservation potential**

**A** new country faces any number of challenges, and for the Republic of South Sudan, that includes determining how best to manage its abundance of natural resources. At the request of the government, AWF loaned out a technical advisor—former Maasai Steppe Director James Kahurananga—to South Sudan's Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism. We asked him about the country's conservation potential.

**Q: What is the state of South Sudan's wildlife and ecosystems?**

**A:** Surprisingly, even after two decades of civil war, South Sudan still has a large wildlife population. There is a large-scale land migration that rivals that of the Serengeti, numbering about 800,000 white-eared kob, tiang, and other ungulates. This migration occurs between Boma and Badingilo National Parks. The country also has the rare giant eland and the shoebill, a wonderful avian oddity.

South Sudan has the largest wetland in Africa, the Sudd, lying along the Nile and covering 30,000 sq. km. It has a rich biodiversity and supports a myriad of lifestyles, including pastoralism, farming,

A large-scale land migration of nearly 800,000 ungulates (below) is just one of the wildlife resources AWF is working to protect in South Sudan.

and fishing. The Sudd also supports migratory wildlife during the dry season. A proposal to drain this wetland by the Khartoum government was one of the reasons that sparked the civil war.

**Q: What does your role as technical advisor to the Ministry entail?**

**A:** I am providing support in the areas of policy, strategy development, and planning. Additionally, I am advising on how to develop institutional cohesion. I bring to the table my experience from the Maasai Steppe, and am providing linkage to AWF's immense pool of expertise in Nairobi.

**Q: In your view, what are the biggest priorities for the Ministry?**

**A:** The biggest priorities are institutional development and training. The Ministry has absorbed about 18,000 former combatants who have no formal training in wildlife. So one of the major priorities is to get them trained.

Another priority area, as mentioned, is the development of policies and laws to regulate wildlife management and protection. The country is brand new and policies and laws are crucial at this early stage.

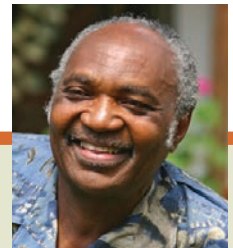
**Q: What are the biggest challenges to conservation in South Sudan?**

**A:** Maintenance of security. There are millions of small arms and a number of groups still opposing the government. One example was a conflict in Boma National Park last year, where infrastructure including a training center, equipment, and other items were destroyed. Most of the ranger force was decimated.

**Q: South Sudan is still such a new country. Why is it important for AWF to get involved right now?**

**A:** The country is at the beginning stage, where they need to start on the right footing. AWF's experience brings lessons learned that will be very applicable to South Sudan. ■

*Editor's note: At time of press, James Kahurananga had been evacuated from South Sudan due to growing conflicts in Juba. Stay tuned for more on how to pursue conservation in conflict zones.*



Paul Thomson

**“The country is still new and policies and laws are crucial at this infant stage.”**

—James Kahurananga, AWF technical advisor to South Sudan

## The Sum of its Parts *(continued from cover)*

Perin Banks



AWF built Machenje Fishing Lodge to provide income and employment for the Sekute Chiefdom—reducing people’s need to rely on natural resource extraction for survival.

Kazungula’s wildlife is threatened by poaching, human–wildlife conflict, unplanned human settlement, and habitat fragmentation. With so many challenges to conservation, how do you safeguard elephants and other wildlife across such a vast area? The answer: By incorporating into the solution wildlife protection, land conservation, community enterprise, and education initiatives—whatever it takes—to get the job done.

### ABCs of conservation

This holistic approach to conservation is best seen through the lens of AWF’s partnership with the Sekute Chiefdom, located at the heart of the Kazungula landscape. Recognizing that the Chiefdom’s land was part of an important gateway for elephants moving from Botswana and Zimbabwe into southern Zambia—a corridor that was at risk of being closed off due to development and human settlement—we began working with the Sekute community in 2004 and established the Sekute Community Development Trust to guide community conservation and sustainable development. In 2009, Sekute residents agreed to set aside 20,000 hectares of community land to be managed as the Sekute Community Conservation Area.

“To ask rural communities to accept wildlife in their backyard or set aside some of their land for conservation is unreasonable without also offering them something in return, something they value very much,” said Tembo. For the Sekute community, as with many rural communities that lack access to basic social and economic services, that “something” was education and jobs.

In 2011, Sekute students—who once walked miles every day to attend class in a one-room, ramshackle mud building—began attending the new Lupani Primary Conservation School, built by AWF to replace the old school.

“Because the school was run down, there was also a lack of school materials and qualified teachers,” said Daniel Wesonga, program director of AWF’s Conservation Schools program. “These students live in a very rural, remote area—it is not exactly a first choice to live and work for many teachers.”

The rebuilt Lupani now has six classrooms, five on-site houses for teachers, and, in spite of its remoteness, amenities such as solar electricity and running water, all of which have helped attract and retain a full complement of qualified teachers, thereby raising the standard of education at Lupani and in the local area.

### Community’s perception of wildlife

According to Shadreck Kwalombota, vice-chair of the Lupani Parent–Teacher Association, the new school has helped his kids blossom academically. “The children are bettering their skills and are excited to go to school,” he said. He noted that wildlife is also benefiting, as fewer people are cutting trees for charcoal, while animals such as kudu and impala are beginning to return to the area.

“Changing perceptions and behavior is hard and takes time,” he explained. “But these small changes say something about our community’s perception of wildlife and resources.”

To further encourage this evolving conservation mindset, AWF instituted an Easements for Education program, under which qualified Chiefdom students most in need of financial aid receive scholarships to attend secondary school. In return, students and their families agree to certain conservation requirements.

Lupani School is scheduled to receive additional upgrades under AWF’s Conservation Schools initiative, including construction of additional classrooms, nature trails, and a sports field, as well as access to Internet and technology and the provision of water and sanitation facilities.

### Enterprise approach

In addition to our investment in education, AWF worked with the Sekute community to develop a sustainable enterprise. Machenje Fishing Lodge officially opened for business in August 2013.

Bernard Ganzi



AWF’s rebuilding and continuous support of Lupani Primary Conservation School (in background) has increased educational standards, as Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton saw when she visited in August.

Built from locally sourced materials, the community-owned sport fishing lodge is located on the southern edge of the Sekute Community Conservation Area and is now providing employment for Sekute residents and generating much-needed revenue for the community.

“Oftentimes local communities don’t understand the value of what they have. They don’t realize that there is a big tourism market out there for things like sport fishing or wildlife viewing,” said Brian McBrearity, AWF’s conservation enterprise director. “We can help them build an enterprise that exploits the market, not the environment.” Indeed, increased household incomes from lodge employment will ensure that residents don’t have to fell trees to obtain firewood or hunt wildlife to survive. Community revenues from the lodge, meanwhile, will be reinvested in local development projects.

Though operated by a private tour operator—Taonga Safaris—the community retains ownership of the lodge and earns a percentage of revenues from visitors. This type of partnership between a local community and private sector partner has been hailed by Zambia’s Minister of Tourism, the Honorable Ms. Sylvia Masebo, MP, as well as Clinton Foundation Vice Chair Chelsea Clinton, who visited Machenje just before it opened.

“Outside the U.S., ... organizations like the African Wildlife Foundation are creating innovative programs to incentivize and reward local populations in the successful protection of elephant populations,” wrote Clinton in a blog post on the Clinton Foundation website. “Hopefully, it is a true win-win-win, for the private sector partners, the community, and the wildlife.”

### Back to wildlife

This integrated, holistic conservation approach is paying off. Not only has the community set aside 20,000 hectares of its land to reinforce an important wildlife corridor, but local scouts were instrumental in helping the Zambia Wildlife Authority recover 21 pieces of elephant ivory and arrest seven illegal wildlife traffickers in 2012.

“For many years the Sekute area served as a transit point for ivory and rhino horn,” said AWF Kazungula Landscape Ecologist Jones Masonde. “These community scouts, who are being paid to enforce AWF’s conservation agreement with the Sekute community, are now helping to curb this and transform the area back into a safe haven for elephants and other wildlife.”—*Kathleen Garrigan* ■

## Kazungula magnified

Besides Lupani School and Machenje Fishing Lodge, a number of other key AWF projects—made possible through your support—are bringing benefits to wildlife and people in the Kazungula landscape:

### Rhino recovery

In 2010, only one white rhino—a bull named Fwanya, or “rascal”—remained in all of Zambia. That same year, AWF partnered with the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to translocate four white rhinos from South Africa to Zambia’s Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. Today, nine rhinos now inhabit the park, including a male calf born on December 25. A contingent of scouts guard the rhinos 24 hours a day to protect them from poachers, and AWF continues its support of the park.



Nasson Tembo

### Fisheries management

Communities that live alongside the Zambezi River depend on it for their livelihoods; however, they also run the risk of endangering that livelihood through overfishing. Along a 150-km section of the river, AWF is working with local villages in Zambia to develop a management plan that will allow communities to co-manage and co-police the river’s fisheries resources, for example, by establishing breeding zones as non-fishing areas. In addition, fingerlings raised by the Mwandi Fish Farm, built by AWF and the Inyambo community, are used to restock the river and sold at markets to raise revenue for the community.



### Ngoma Safari Lodge

Northern Botswana’s Chobe National Park is home to a large concentration of wildlife, but it is too small to support its animal residents. This gives elephants, buffalo, and other wildlife no other option but to spill over into community areas. AWF brokered a partnership between a private safari operator and the community to build Ngoma Safari Lodge, a high-end lodge that offers local residents employment and revenue in return for setting aside a portion of their land for conservation. ■



Ngoma Safari Lodge

## Wildlife Watch

### Niger Delta Red Colobus Monkey

Once believed to be a subspecies of the western red colobus, the Niger Delta red colobus was only discovered in 1993 and declared a full species in 2007. Now considered one of the most elusive (pictured at right, in fact, is the Ugandan red colobus) and critically endangered primates in Africa, the red colobus is endemic to the western Niger Delta and the upper canopies of this region's forests. It shares its habitat with a diverse range of other primates, from chimpanzees to other colobus subspecies.

Unlike other red colobus populations, this Niger Delta species spends a large portion of its day traveling. It relies strongly on a diet of young leaves and leaf buds, supplemented with seeds, flowers, and flower buds in the upper canopy. It's up here, though, that the red colobus must always remain alert for its main predator—the crowned eagle, a fearsome raptor whose nests have been found to contain the skulls of the medium-sized primates.

Not much is known about the colobus beyond its tendency to travel in large family groups of about 15 to 80 members. Most groups contain two or more males, with females spending a majority of their time grooming others within the group. With population estimates hovering around 500—due in large part to an 80 percent decrease over the past 30 years—the Niger Delta red colobus faces environmental pressures from deforestation, crude oil harvest, the bushmeat trade, and a lack of government protection, with its swampy habitat bearing the brunt of massive oil spills and logging incursions. The species was recently listed in *The World's Top 25 Most Endangered Primates* by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.



Craig R. Sholley

While its ecology and mating habits are still shrouded in mystery, various researchers have worked to pull back the veil to better protect this species and its environment. One is Nigerian biologist Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh, who is additionally working to protect the Nigerian–Cameroon chimpanzee with grant support from AWF's African Apes Initiative. "There is really nothing that can be compared to observing a large group of monkeys in the wild, feeding, playing, and scurrying off from human view," she said during an interview. —Mike Rooney ■



Philip Muruthi

## Get Up Close and Personal

**Camera traps offer an unobtrusive way to monitor wildlife—and now, another way for AWF supporters to get close to some of Africa's most elusive creatures**

Camera trapping is a popular technology used in ecological research and monitoring. Placed directly in wildlife habitats, these cameras are remotely activated through motion or infrared sensors and record wildlife movement and behaviors.

AWF is happy to share some of our camera trap videos, on various species pages on AWF.org. The footage comes from a remote forest in Central Africa, where, with your help, AWF supported a researcher to monitor and protect chimpanzees. What resulted was the digital capture of a variety of wildlife—including the elusive forest elephant and an adorable elephant shrew, among others. Get up close and personal to Africa's wildlife, and see what our ecologists and field staff see in the course of their day-to-day work. —Gayane Margaryan ■



Get personal at [awf.org/cameratraps](http://awf.org/cameratraps)