



Barbara von Helldorn / vonhelldornphotography.com



Martin Harvey

## AWF's Urgent Response Fund

AWF has launched the Urgent Response Fund to address the illegal poaching and wildlife trafficking that is now decimating some of Africa's most iconic species. The fund commits US\$10 million over three years, and targets three areas of concern: Stop the Killing, Stop the Trafficking, and Stop the Demand. Combined, these efforts provide a comprehensive, full-scale response that will halt, and ultimately reverse, these troubling population declines across Africa's species.

### Stop the Killing

Rangers and community scouts often lack even the most basic equipment to protect the animals and themselves. AWF provides funding to partners on the ground that are protecting critical wildlife populations. Funding is distributed across four species categories.



#### Elephants

Every year, between **20,000** and **35,000** elephants are illegally killed for their ivory, due to high demand from Asia.



#### Rhinoceros

The poaching of Africa's rhinos has increased by **9,200%** between 2007 and 2014. In 2014, 1,215 rhinos were killed in South Africa alone.



#### Large carnivores

The African lion population has **declined by almost a third** in the past 20 years—and other carnivores are under similar threat.



#### African apes

All four of Africa's great ape species are **endangered or critically endangered**, in part because of the illegal pet trade.

### Stop the Trafficking

While on-the-ground protections have been shown to help reduce poaching, it's necessary to disrupt the criminal trade at all points along the trafficking route. Our efforts work to strengthen detection of illegal wildlife shipments at key African ports and boost prosecutorial efforts.



#### Canine detection units

AWF will provide **trained sniffer dogs** and handlers to trafficking hotspots in Africa, including Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mombasa in Kenya, and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.



#### Prosecutorial training

AWF has already conducted some **workshops with magistrates** and prosecutors in Kenya and Tanzania on how to increase their rate of successful prosecutions. We will be expanding this training to the same poaching centers where sniffer dogs will be placed.

### Stop the Demand

No matter how much you strengthen boots on the ground or enhance law enforcement the crisis will remain so long as demand for ivory, rhino horn, and other wildlife parts remains. AWF is thus addressing the demand side of the equation to shut down this illicit trade.



#### Say 'no' in Asia

AWF has partnered with WildAid and others to conduct a public awareness **campaign in Asia**. The campaign stars Asian celebrities such as Jackie Chan.



#### China-Africa dialog

AWF and the Aspen Institute are conducting a series of **Track II dialogs** on natural resource management, involving Chinese and African policy influencers.



#### Giving voice to Africans

AWF is implementing a public awareness **campaign on the African continent**, to convince Africans to act on the theft of their natural resources.

## A Clear Need for Urgent Action

AWF creates US\$10 million Urgent Response Fund to combat poaching and wildlife trafficking

**W**hen research came out in August about the rate of elephant poaching in Africa, it created a stir in the conservation community—primarily because of the bleak numbers it reported. According to the research, which was led by Colorado State University, some 100,000 elephants had been killed for their ivory between 2010 and 2012 in Africa, an average of more than 33,000 per year.

This was in contrast to a report released two months prior by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (or CITES), which claimed elephant poaching in Africa had come down—albeit only slightly—for the second straight year. According to CITES, about 20,000 elephants were poached in 2013, down from 22,000 in 2012.

While we don't yet know which report more accurately reflects the reality on the ground, what is clear is that the poaching and wildlife trafficking crisis in Africa remains just that: a crisis. Elephant mortality, after all, is still exceeding the natural birth rate.

The same holds true for Africa's rhinos. The African Rhino Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (or IUCN) pegs the desired annual increase of the rhino population at 5 percent. "Most rhino populations across the continent are below that," says Philip

Muruthi, AWF's senior director of conservation science. "The overall growth rate is expected to be negative within the next year if the poaching continues."

#### Protection against poaching

Two years ago, when elephant and rhino poaching was rising precipitously across the continent, AWF launched the Species Protection Grants (SPG) program in an effort to more directly address the continent's anti-poaching needs.

SPG provides grants—typically between US\$50,000 to US\$100,000—to established partners on the ground to support their wildlife protection efforts, thereby quickly and efficiently expanding our impact. The grants typically fund the purchase of practical equipment that would facilitate anti-poaching work, such as GPS units and motorbikes.

All grants are carefully considered by an AWF species committee, and Muruthi ensures they align with AWF's existing conservation strategies around four key species groups: elephants, rhinos, large carnivores, and great apes. The existing strategies evaluated each species from a continental perspective and prioritized the 10 local populations that would contribute the most to sustaining and maintaining the biological diversity of the larger "continental herd."

## Support the Urgent Response Fund

To add your support to the Urgent Response Fund, please contact AWF's Department of Philanthropy: +1 202 939 3333 or africanwildlife@awf.org

Continued from page S1

Since launching SPG, we have successfully disbursed more than US\$1.5 million in funding to partners, protecting some 20 distinct populations of elephants, rhinos, large carnivores, and great apes across East, Southern, Central, and West Africa. We've additionally implemented certain law enforcement and awareness efforts as part of our work.

**Stop the crisis**

Now comes the Urgent Response Fund, launched by AWF this spring to drive even more resources toward combating the wildlife trafficking crisis (see page S4 for more). Think of the Urgent Response Fund as an upgraded version of the SPG that commits US\$10 million to tackle the different parts of the illegal wildlife trade's supply chain—the same amount of money initially committed by the world's two largest economies, the United States and China, to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in Africa. Funding will be released over three years, along three primary areas: Stop the Killing, Stop the Trafficking, and Stop the Demand.

Explains Muruthi, "Stop the Killing" will put more boots on the ground, 'Stop the Trafficking' focuses on strengthening law enforcement and training prosecutors, and 'Stop the Demand' continues and expands our demand-reduction efforts in Asia." Specifically:

- **Stop the Killing.** AWF will continue its anti-poaching activities within the SPG program, but will expand operations with an extra US\$2 million through the Urgent Response Fund for each of the next three years.
- **Stop the Trafficking.** AWF will devote resources to improving interception of illegally trafficked wildlife products at ports, successfully prosecuting wildlife criminals, and enhancing interagency and regional collaboration.
- **Stop the Demand.** Starting in 2012, AWF began conducting a successful public awareness campaign with WildAid and other partners in China and Vietnam. Under the new Urgent Response Fund, AWF and its partners will expand this campaign to Hong Kong and Thailand.

AWF has already seen significant progress from the support we've given organizations (see "Protection Across the Continent," opposite), and we continue to evaluate other at-risk populations in need of protection. Our aim is for this combination of activities to stop, and then reverse, the population declines currently being experienced by some of Africa's most iconic wildlife.

Muruthi, for his part, would be thrilled if the need for AWF's Urgent Response Fund disappeared sooner rather than later. "My hope is that in one to two years, we will no longer have a crisis," he says. ■

# Protection Across the Continent

Thanks to you, AWF has disbursed more than US\$1.5 million in Species Protection Grants (SPGs) to partners since 2012, protecting some 20 distinct populations of elephants, rhinos, large carnivores, and great apes across East, Southern, Central, and West Africa. Now, under the more robust Urgent Response Fund, AWF will be committing upwards of US\$2 million each year for the next three years to protect Africa's core wildlife species from poaching. So far, with your generous support, we have been able to expand our species coverage to the following locations over the past two years.



**Idanre Forest**

The Nigeria–Cameroon chimpanzee is the most endangered of all currently recognized chimpanzee subspecies. AWF initially supported chimpanzee researcher Rachel Ashegbofe Ikemeh in conducting a survey of the chimpanzees living in the Niger Delta. A new round of AWF support will allow all the chimpanzee groups in the core areas of Idanre and Akure–Ofosu Forest Reserve to be identified, in part through the use of several camera traps.



**Dja Biosphere**

This 526,000-hectare reserve hosts both populations of western lowland gorilla and chimpanzees, but has little infrastructure and limited monitoring. In addition to training 33 rangers to use the CyberTracker handheld ecological monitoring device, AWF has worked with reserve authorities to record signs of human and wildlife activity within a 2,000-sq.-km pilot area, through three 10-day patrols last fall.



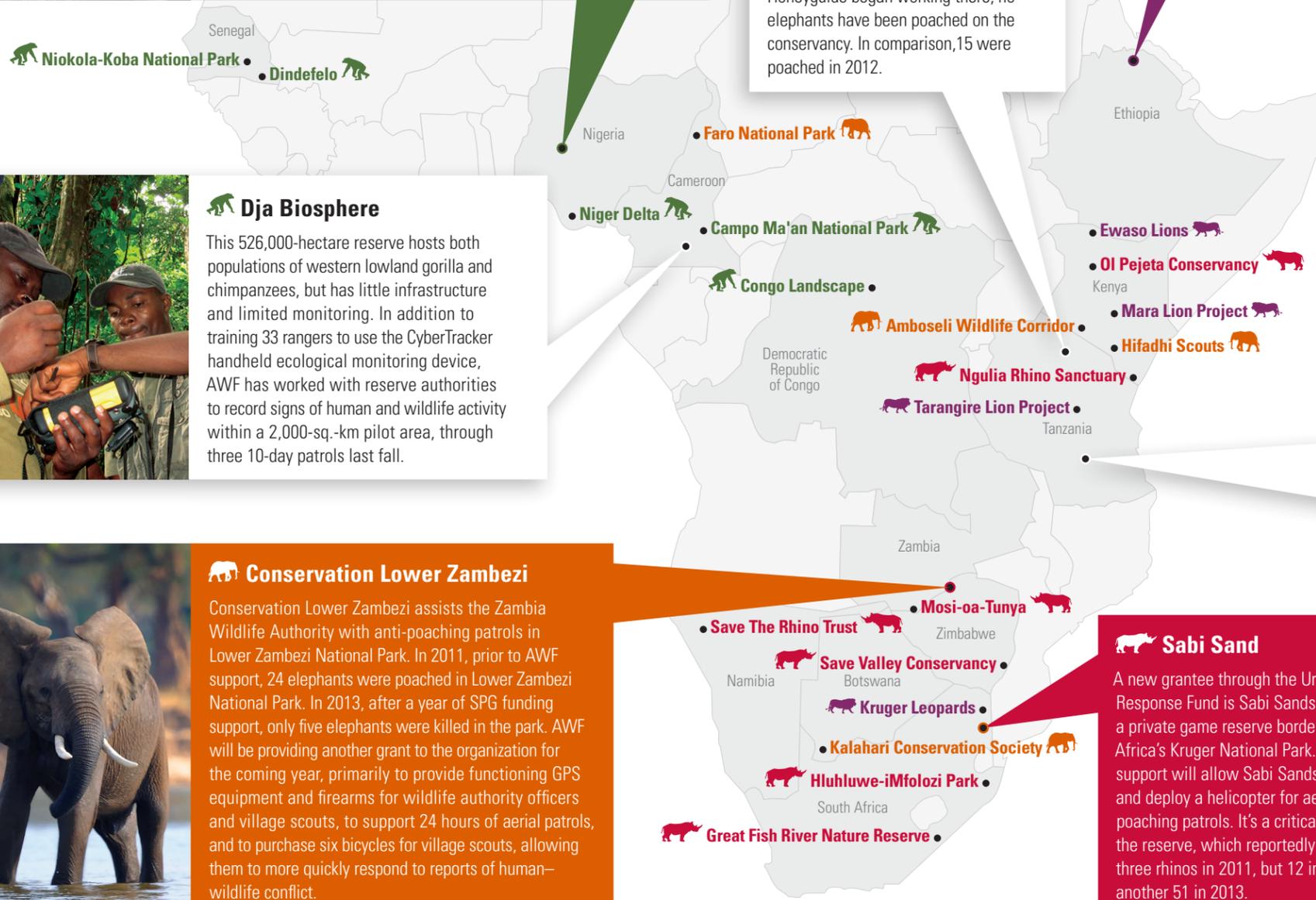
**Conservation Lower Zambezi**

Conservation Lower Zambezi assists the Zambia Wildlife Authority with anti-poaching patrols in Lower Zambezi National Park. In 2011, prior to AWF support, 24 elephants were poached in Lower Zambezi National Park. In 2013, after a year of SPG funding support, only five elephants were killed in the park. AWF will be providing another grant to the organization for the coming year, primarily to provide functioning GPS equipment and firearms for wildlife authority officers and village scouts, to support 24 hours of aerial patrols, and to purchase six bicycles for village scouts, allowing them to more quickly respond to reports of human–wildlife conflict.



**Manyara Ranch Conservancy**

In August 2013, AWF brought in an NGO partner, Honeyguide Foundation, to undertake all anti-poaching patrols within Manyara Ranch Conservancy. Honeyguide uses two tracker dogs, Rocky and Jerry, as part of its patrols. Since Honeyguide began working there, no elephants have been poached on the conservancy. In comparison, 15 were poached in 2012.



**The Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme**

With fewer than 600 adult individuals remaining, the Ethiopian wolf is one of the rarest carnivores in the world. In the Simien Mountains and three other locations in the Ethiopian highlands, the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme will engage local communities as "Wolf Ambassadors" to monitor wolves, introduce a report system to understand the causes of livestock predation by carnivores, and undertake rabies vaccinations for domesticated dogs to prevent disease outbreaks from spreading to the wolves.



**Ruaha Carnivore Project**

Southern Tanzania is thought to support more than a tenth of the world's lions. AWF recently provided an SPG to the Ruaha Carnivore Project, which will use the funding to provide camera traps to eight local villages to place in the best wildlife areas. Once a month, camera trap images will be downloaded and shown to each village at a DVD night; every three months, the winning villages with the most points (based in part on the number of carnivore photos captured by the camera traps) will receive benefits such as school books and access to high-quality veterinary medicines. This effort is aimed at reducing the heavy human–carnivore conflict in the region.

**Sabi Sand**

A new grantee through the Urgent Response Fund is Sabi Sands Wildtuin, a private game reserve bordering South Africa's Kruger National Park. AWF support will allow Sabi Sands to acquire and deploy a helicopter for aerial anti-poaching patrols. It's a critical need for the reserve, which reportedly lost only three rhinos in 2011, but 12 in 2012, and another 51 in 2013.

