



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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VISION

An Africa where sustainable development includes thriving wildlife and wild lands as a cultural and economic asset for Africa's future generations.

MISSION

To ensure that wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa.

APPROACH

To engage and support leadership at all levels in their efforts to stabilize Africa's wildlife habitats, protect wildlife and wild lands, eliminate illegal wildlife trade, and ensure the development of Africa is inclusive and green.

Letter from the CEO: A NEW VISION



Dear AWF friends,

Africa is seeing revolutionary change, influenced by economic growth and infrastructure development, new international investment, and increasing democratization and urbanization. Population growth on the continent may have the most far-reaching impact, as the number of people in Africa is expected to double to 2.5 billion by 2050.

These changes inevitably affect the vision, plans, and work of any organization that holds an authentic relationship to Africa. In light of the new realities on the continent and to ensure our continued effectiveness, AWF last year refocused and reworked our strategic vision. At times it was a difficult undertaking, but it proved extremely worthwhile. The resulting 10-year strategy confirms AWF's commitment to its mission while reflecting the evolving context in which we work.

Going forward, we seek to eradicate a belief in false choices. We can't say it often enough: African governments don't have to choose conservation over development, they should embrace both. We want to replace the old "conservation versus development" paradigm with a new vision: wildlife and wild lands as a cultural and economic asset for Africa's future generations.

We recognize the need to link the conservation agenda to the aspirations and mindsets driving change on the continent. We must bring African leaders to the table to help establish an inclusive conservation agenda. And we must support and mobilize efforts to encourage African people—particularly young people—to become passionate about wildlife and wild lands.

Solutions that are imposed are not sustainable. Our strategic vision calls for conservation solutions that emphasize African leadership. We will raise a voice for local communities in wildlife-rich areas and ensure that their needs guide our interventions. We'll strengthen our efforts to empower youth and women, especially.

**“AWF RECOGNIZES
THE NEED TO LINK THE
CONSERVATION AGENDA
TO THE ASPIRATIONS AND
MINDSETS DRIVING CHANGE
ON THE CONTINENT.”**

Underlying all elements of the strategic vision, of course, is a steadfast commitment to wildlife. AWF is, first and foremost, the voice of African wildlife—on the continent as well as globally. We strive to



instill the understanding that wildlife are citizens of Africa, too, with a right to exist in their natural habitats and an integral role in Africa's future success.

As you review our achievements in this annual report, you'll see we are committed to protecting critical wildlife populations through creative strategies benefiting communities and endangered species alike. Our approach is holistic, collaborative, and pragmatic—whether we're partnering with Maasai communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict or helping Zimbabwean rangers use tracking technology to fight poaching. You'll find information about these projects in this report, and so much more.

Above all, I must express my gratitude for your commitment to the African Wildlife Foundation. Over the next 10 years and beyond, we'll continue to work and dream together as we realize a bright future for Africa's irreplaceable wildlife and wild lands. The elephants, rhinos, and giraffe can't thank you, but we know they would if they could.

Sincerely,



Kaddu Sebunya
Chief Executive Officer

Safeguarding Africa's Elephants & Rhinos

AWF conserves elephant and rhino populations by supporting the work of rangers and scouts—the “boots on the ground” who shield highly endangered animals from poachers’ guns. We provide and facilitate training in surveillance, tracking, wilderness survival, and other essential skills. Likewise, we support the purchase of equipment such as patrol vehicles and radios so that rangers have a better chance against organized poachers equipped with high-tech gear—automatic weapons, night-vision goggles, even helicopters. We also help make infrastructure improvements such as new ranger stations and kennels for detection dogs.

Just as critical to elephant survival, if not more so, are community projects that alleviate human-wildlife conflict and improve livelihoods in the process.

© Billy Dodson



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PREVENTING CONFLICT

Our interventions on behalf of elephants are as varied as the human factors that threaten wildlife. In the Kenya/Tanzania transboundary Tsavo-Mkomazi landscape, for example, we recently facilitated cross-border anti-poaching patrols in a vital elephant migration corridor, whereas in Benin we trained officers in drone surveillance.

But *much* of the time, effective conservation means keeping the peace. As wildlife habitat

is increasingly converted to agricultural use, humans and elephants are in closer, more frequent contact. When a herd tramples all-important food crops, farmers sometimes kill elephants in retaliation.

To help mitigate human-elephant conflict (HEC), AWF provides a toolkit of strategies including chili crops, beehive fencing, noisemakers, and lights—all deployed to repel or frighten off invading elephants.



Chilies

Chili peppers offer a ready, versatile solution to crop-raiding pachyderms: When planted or burned in compacted blocks, the plants' acrid vapors repel elephants.



Beehive Fencing

Agricultural expansion in Southern Tanzania has driven elephants even into montane forests, where their crop-raiding can devastate smallholder farms. Enter a biological solution—

beehive fences. Hives suspended on wires are placed at 10-meter intervals. If elephants cross, they snag the cable, which triggers the bees to swarm. The solution not only ended retaliatory killings of elephants, it gave rise to new livelihoods. Bee farmers deliver elephant-friendly honey to tourist camps, then pool their profits into village savings & loans, which provide dividends as well as loans for new businesses such as restaurants. Parents are better able to pay school fees, and over time residents can purchase more livestock or equipment to grow their businesses.

In 2018-2019, AWF helped farming communities around Murchison Falls, Uganda, to not only use chili crops for HEC but to scale up sustainable chili-farming enterprises. We provided seeds of the "bird's eye" chili—a pungent, hardy variety—as well as extension services and market linkages. More than 200 farmers participated in our training focused on increasing yields and adopting smart business practices. AWF operates a similar program in lower Zambezi, and last year we distributed more than 75,500 chili seedlings to 1,500 families.

Improving Facilities

AWF provides anti-poaching protection of rhino populations and conducts community outreach to raise conservation awareness. We also invest in rhino sanctuaries, which are indispensable to the survival of this highly threatened African icon. In 2018-2019, we made significant contributions to two Kenya sanctuaries—the 140-square mile Ol Pejeta Conservancy and the smaller Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in the Tsavo ecosystem.

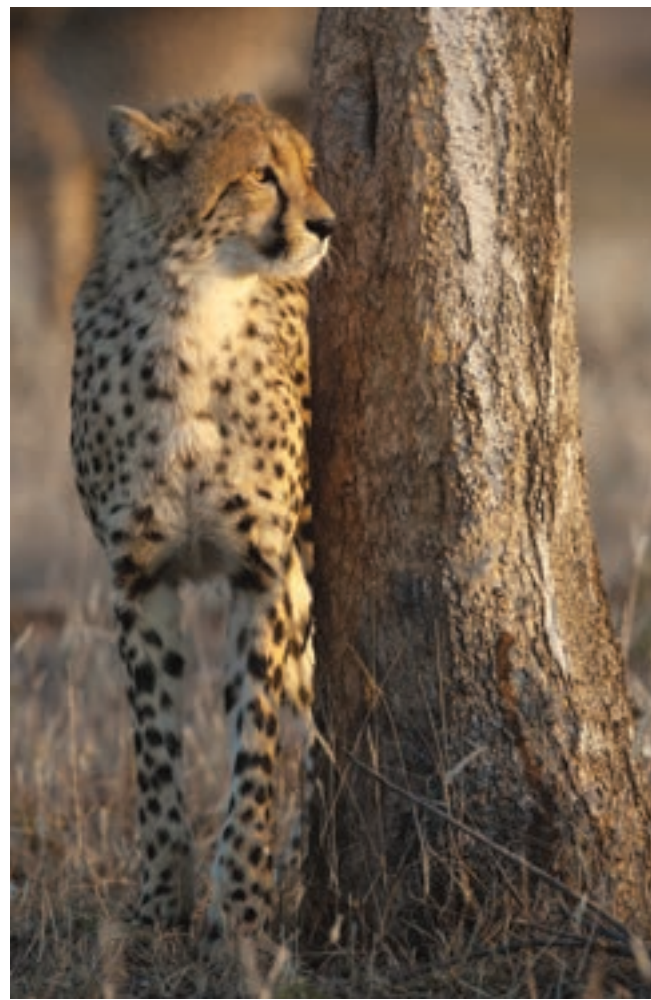
At Ol Pejeta, we supported improvements to roads, communications equipment, and staff housing. We also provided funds for fencing to expand the sanctuary and better accommodate the growing rhino population. (Because they are territorial, rhinos must have enough space; individuals will become stressed and even aggressive when populations become too dense.)

At Ngulia, AWF supported the Kenya Wildlife Service in completing upgrades that better secured the sanctuary's rhinos, keeping out poachers as well as the elephants that compete with rhinos for food. We also funded the conversion of a substandard, diesel-powered water pump to a more efficient solar-powered one.

Given the intensity of rhino poaching and the threat of extinction, it's critical to promote awareness. That's why we partner with AWF Council member and filmmaker Toby Woskow to advance rhino conservation through screenings worldwide of his award-winning short film *Sides of a Horn* (www.rhinomovie.com). The 17-minute, thought-provoking film follows the divergent paths of a South African park ranger and his impoverished brother-in-law, who is tempted by the payouts of poaching. We hope greater conversation around the film will help change perspectives and ultimately benefit rhinos as well as communities affected by the illegal wildlife trade.



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LARGE CARNIVORE CONSERVATION

As top predators, large carnivores are critical to their ecosystems, their status a marker of ecosystem health. AWF prioritizes the conservation of large-carnivore species, including cheetahs, lions, and painted dogs, all of whom are threatened by habitat destruction, poaching, and other human activities.

In northeastern Tanzania, AWF tracks the status of lions who've recently returned to the 35,000-acre Manyara Ranch Conservancy. Working with partners, AWF has fitted several of the lions with radio collars, allowing us to gather baseline population data and follow the big cats' travel. The data tells us about range, habitat use, disease outbreaks, and predator-prey interaction. Perhaps most significantly—lion prides with

collared individuals are better protected, as scouts can intervene if lions approach human settlements.

Through these efforts as well as conflict mitigation and a comprehensive community program that includes school outreach, our large-carnivore program is helping to secure lions in the Manyara-Tarangire landscape.

By creatively managing human-carnivore conflict in the Manyara region, AWF demonstrates that wildlife conservation can be compatible with livestock land use. Our model is based on simple technology: predator-proof, mobile livestock corrals known as *bomas*. Traditional bomas, often made of wood and thorn-bush, can be vulnerable to predator break-ins. The AWF-

1: © Laura Hannusch 2: © Kim Wolhuter 3: Bomas at Manyara Ranch, Tanzania © AWF 4: © Billy Dodson

distributed metal upgrades, which we introduced to Manyara's Maasai pastoralist communities several years ago, are close to impossible to breach and can be quickly dismantled and reassembled. Research that we helped fund has shown that the fortified bomas are a cost-effective solution to lion predation. And by strategically rotating the bomas, herders help overgrazed areas regenerate grasses and restore ecosystem health. Bomas keep herds healthier, too, because they are not standing for long periods in mud and manure. Given these results and the fact AWF pays partial costs of bomas for families around Manyara, the program has become popular with local herders.

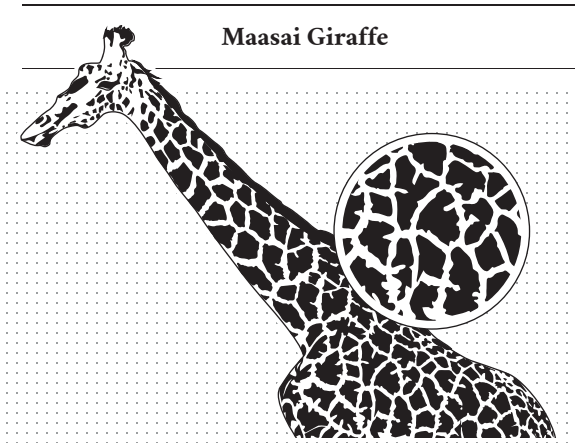
Snare Removal

In Zimbabwe, AWF provides funds to the Painted Dog Conservation group to support African wild dogs, one of Africa's most endangered species, known for their large ears and spotted coats. Threats to these rare canids are numerous: habitat loss, poaching, road traffic, rabies and distemper, and humans who are hostile to the canids. The activities we support, in and around Hwange National Park, include wire snare removal, emergency veterinary care/rehabilitation for dogs who become trapped in the snares, and disease monitoring and treatment.

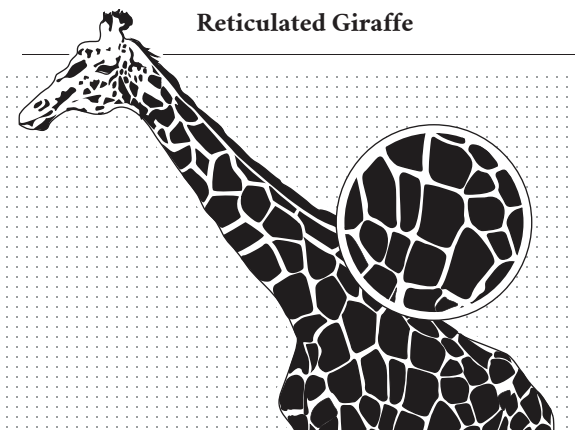
The team has pulled hundreds of snares (primarily set for antelopes) that mercilessly trap dogs, causing tremendous suffering if not death. The project also conducts community outreach, sharing information about the elusive dogs and the value of caring for wildlife and ecosystems. Through training and other capacity-building, AWF has helped Zimbabwe park authorities strengthen Hwange operations. Within months, the park saw an uptick in poacher arrests and dismantling of poachers' camps. Thanks to these concerted efforts, the dog population in Hwange is now stable.



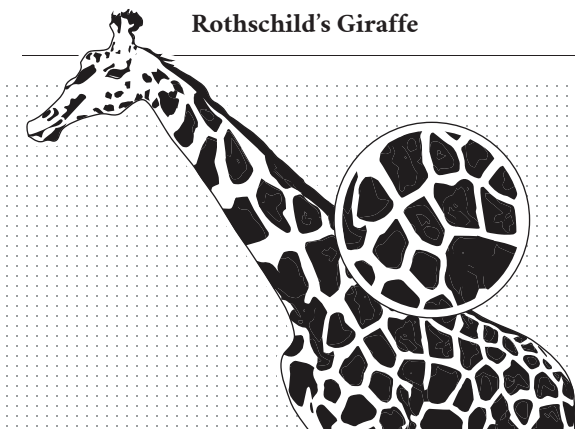
1: © Billy Dodson 2: © AWF
3: © AWF/Cheryl-Samantha Owen



Maasai Giraffe



Reticulated Giraffe



Rothschild's Giraffe



Bushmeat Investigation

In 2018, AWF provided technical and financial support for KWS's undercover investigation of trade in giraffe bushmeat. Members of our team visited butcher shops in the Tsavo landscape and collected meat samples being sold as beef. Then, KWS's Forensic and Genetics Laboratory analyzed the samples and found evidence of meat from wild antelope as well as giraffe. Trading in such bushmeat is illegal, and authorities arrested two suspects, who were later indicted.

KWS and AWF continue to partner on wildlife law enforcement through butcheries' monitoring as well as our Canines for Conservation program, which deploys detection- and tracking-dog units to deter poaching and trafficking while uncovering contraband. (See pages 12-13.) And, we are implementing a comprehensive program to ensure long-term giraffe survival in one of the species' strongholds, the cross-border Tsavo-Mkomazi landscape. Like KWS, AWF is determined that the iconic giraffe will remain a familiar sight on the African savanna.

GIRAFFE RECOVERY IN KENYA

Kenya is a giraffe stronghold, with three subspecies: the Maasai, reticulated, and Rothschild's giraffe. But, where the stately giraffe used to travel freely across the country's savannas and woodlands, today its range is shrinking and increasingly fragmented. Giraffe numbers have declined 67 percent since the 1970s.

The leading threats are habitat destruction resulting from incompatible agriculture and infrastructure development, climate-change effects, human settlements that encroach upon protected areas, and, sadly, poaching. Collisions with road vehicles are a growing problem, too. To reverse the giraffe's decline, the Kenyan government—specifically the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)—charged a special task force with developing a national recovery and action plan. The specific goal? To mitigate threats and

reverse giraffe declines while ensuring benefits accrue to communities.

TASK FORCE STRATEGIES



SECURING HABITAT AND STOPPING POACHING



IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS AND GIRAFFE POPULATIONS



INSPIRING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR GIRAFFE CONSERVATION

AWF was integral to this work, providing technical guidance and strategic expertise under the leadership of our own Vice President of Conservation Science & Planning Philip Muruthi, who is a member of the national task force and spoke at the plan's launch in late 2018. This project excellently illustrates AWF's values and approach—not dictating solutions but working strategically with governments and other partners to help countries' realize their own conservation vision. AWF will work closely with KWS, communities, and private partners in the coming years to implement the recovery strategy in crucial landscapes.



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CANINES FOR CONSERVATION: TALENTED TEAMS

AWF's Canines for Conservation program continues to serve as a powerful deterrent and law enforcement asset in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade. Our partner countries are broadening their reach, sharing information and resources, increasing seizures, and strengthening prosecution.

Last year saw significant expansion of the program, which trains carefully selected handlers and dogs to detect ivory, rhino horns, pangolin scales, and other contraband. Together, the units are disrupting illegal trafficking at airports, seaports, and border crossings; in some areas, they also track down poachers who are at large, and they serve as deterrents.

Last fall, AWF and our partners in Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas and the Peace Parks Foundation deployed teams to a new base in Maputo. Botswana, too, is now home to a canine unit, which helps protect the world's largest elephant population. And our efforts

grew in Tanzania, where canine operations are interrupting trafficking in the northern landscapes, in partnership with the government and local anti-poaching group Honeyguide.

AWF also handed over new kennels to the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS) in Mombasa and Naivasha. "Detection dogs have proven to us that they are a big part of the conservation agenda in Kenya," said then-KWS Director-General Charles Musyoki. "These dogs are true heroes, and we thank AWF for ensuring that the canine unit is now better equipped to end the illegal wildlife trade."

Since the program's inception in 2015, Canines for Conservation teams have recorded more than 300 finds. "These confiscations represent millions of dollars and also hundreds of animals killed," says Philip Muruthi, AWF's vice president of conservation science & planning. Even a single bangle bracelet means at least one elephant lost, possibly more.

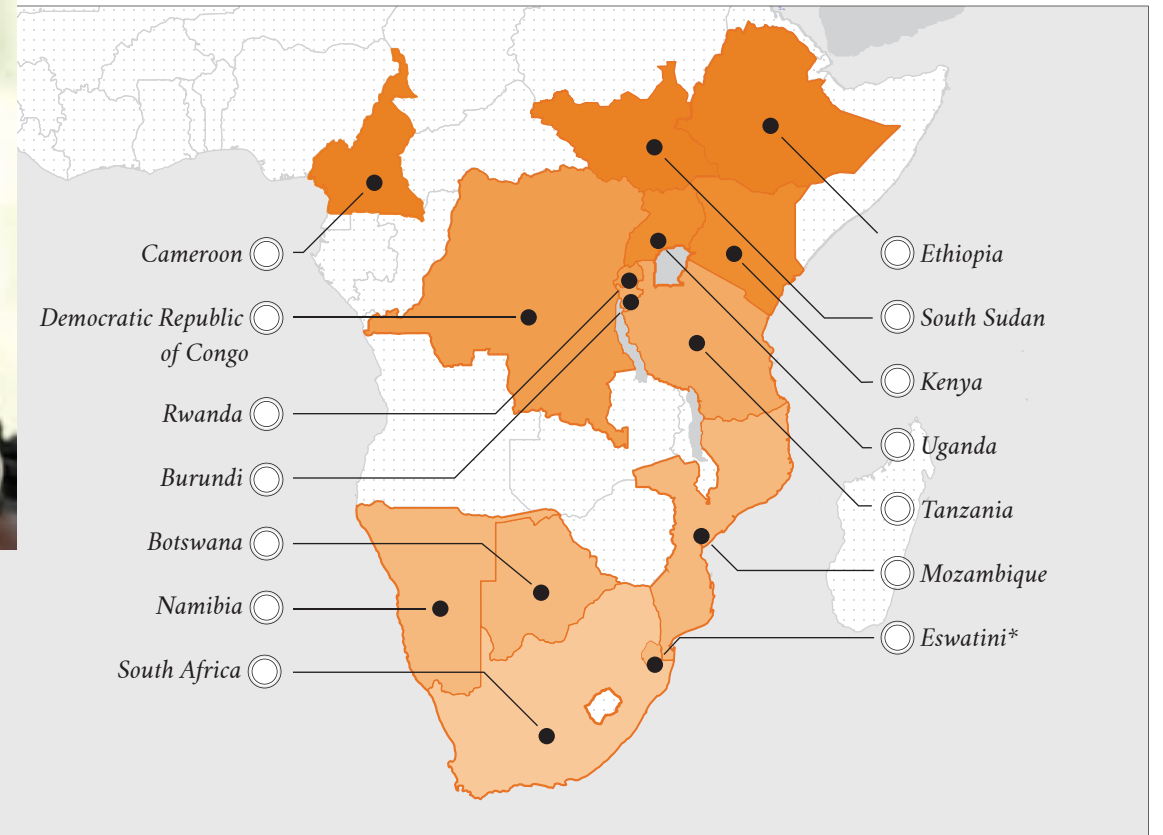
AWF also helps authorities use best practices in evidence collection. This year, we donated crime scene kits, forensic supplies, and handbooks to KWS and helped fund the first-ever East African regional workshop for prosecutors. The latter drew 51 participants to Rwanda to discuss wildlife law enforcement and led to the creation of a regional coalition that will promote inter-agency training and resource sharing.

"We try to help with arrests, enhance detection programs, and follow up with enhanced prosecution, which translates to education and deterrence," Muruthi says. "When an arrest happens, that is a success for us. The message has been sent, and that's what we want."

1: © AWF 2: Graduation ceremony for canine handlers from Tanzania and Cameroon © AWF 3-4: © AWF 5: AWF's Manager of Species Protection, Nathan Gichohi © AWF 6: KWS kennel handover © AWF 7: KWS exhibit building handover © AWF



Countries where AWF has led or helped organize wildlife judicial and prosecutorial assistance trainings



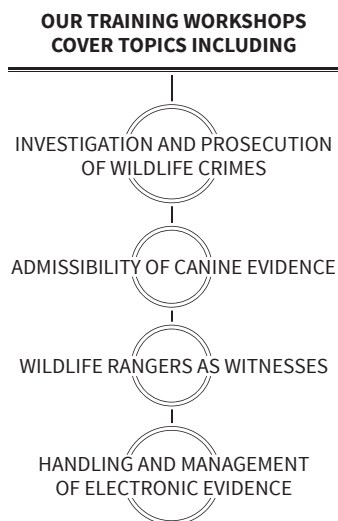
1-2: Training session (left) and AWF's Senior Manager of Wildlife Law Enforcement, Didi Wamukoya (right) © AWF

*formerly Swaziland

BUILDING LEGAL STRENGTH

In 2010, new public prosecutor Didi Wamukoya watched in dismay as a Tanzanian man found with a half-ton of ivory in his Nairobi apartment walked away as a free individual, most likely intending to traffic again. Police had uncovered the stash while the man was out of the country, and once in custody, he claimed the ivory wasn't his. Because his name wasn't on the apartment lease, the prosecutor's case disintegrated.

This outcome was one of many that revealed to Didi an array of factors militating against successful wildlife-crime prosecution: weak legislative frameworks, including token punishments; ignorance of applicable law; inadequate crime detection and investigation; errors in evidence collection and handling; and inadequate training in how to be an effective court witness.



Today Didi manages AWF's Wildlife Law Enforcement Program, which helps to build the capacity of prosecutors, investigators, judicial officers, and other law enforcers. Through training, long-term mentorships, and sensitization to the costs of wildlife crime, AWF is helping to strengthen wildlife law enforcement in Africa.

To date, we've trained 1,370 individuals from 16 countries—prosecutors, rangers, airport personnel, anti-corruption officers, and others. After students have completed the training program, we provide on-the-job support, via a program that pairs experienced prosecutors as mentors to junior ones.

The results are clear. "We have sensitized courts to the magnitude of wildlife crime," Didi says. "In Kenya, for instance,

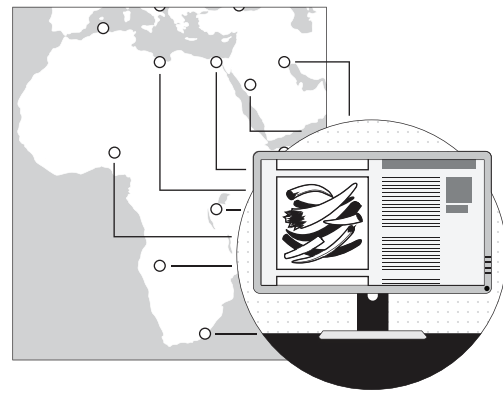
wildlife criminals used to receive light sentences, including community service. But now they are serving jail terms."

Encouraging collaboration among agencies is essential, given the dynamic and cross-boundary nature of wildlife crime. That's why the program works to enhance partnership and networking—including transnationally—to increase success in apprehending and prosecuting violators.

AWF also influences the development of laws and policies that can help deter wildlife crime. To date, Didi's team has delivered analyses of national laws to Botswana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Eswatini, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Other support is more tangible. In 2019, AWF constructed an evidence-storage room at the Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters to ensure security and admissibility of evidence. If such rooms are poorly managed, evidence can be misplaced and the chain of custody compromised, jeopardizing cases.

AWF's still-growing law enforcement program highlights our commitment to delivering organic, holistic solutions that support African-led conservation.



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NEW CYBERCRIME PARTNERSHIP

AWF's on-the-ground work against poachers and smugglers is expanding into cyberspace through a promising new alliance with Irdeto, a world leader in digital platform security uniquely positioned to help fight the illegal wildlife trade online.

The sale of live animals and animal parts is a thriving part of the digital economy, helping make environmental crime the fourth-largest illicit industry in the world, behind drugs, counterfeit goods, and human trafficking.

The Irdeto partnership, announced last December and now ramping up, aligns with AWF's *Strategic Vision 2020-2030*, which calls for using technology and innovative approaches to combat wildlife trafficking, as well as promote conservation and sustainable development solutions.

"We seek to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa. If the illegal wildlife trade thrives, then our mission is in jeopardy," said AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya. "This new partnership is for us an unprecedented opportunity to disrupt illegal operations closer to the source."

Headquartered in The Netherlands, Irdeto's powerful suite of software security technologies protects more than 5 billion devices and applications worldwide.

Those technologies will help AWF identify illegal wildlife trade activities on the Internet,

including the Dark Web. As Irdeto uncovers illicit activity, AWF will work with law enforcement agencies to locate the criminals and build cases for apprehension and prosecution. The work will focus on AWF partner countries, including Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, but will cross the globe as necessary. To bolster investigations, AWF will provide equipment and in-depth cybertraining for law enforcement agencies in those countries.

AWF's goal is to complete at least 10 cybercrime investigations in the first five years. Philip Muruthi, AWF's vice president of conservation science & planning; Didi Wamukoya, senior manager, wildlife law enforcement; and Ernest Agina, manager, cybercrime investigations, will lend their collective expertise to develop and implement the program.

Speaking when the partnership was announced, Doug Lowther, Irdeto's CEO, said the project had been greeted by an outpouring of support from employees eager to get involved in this cause. "I am proud that we can harness our expertise and technology for a good and just cause," he said.

Many Irdeto employees offered to support the AWF project and are being trained to engage in this new endeavor.



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1: © Irdeto 2: Village scouts, Toloha, Tanzania © AWF 3: Wildlife scout in Kilimanjaro landscape © AWF 4: Scouts at Manyara Ranch Conservancy, Tanzania © AWF

BUILDING BETTER RANGER FORCES

Consider the African wildlife ranger's job—the long periods away from family and home, low pay, challenging physical conditions, and significant risk of armed confrontations. In 2018, more than 50 African rangers died in the line of duty, killed by poachers, elephant attacks, snakebites, and a myriad of other causes. The International Ranger Federation's annually released roster of fatalities paints only a sliver of the picture, omitting the many rangers who suffered severe injuries during the year.

What drives these brave frontline soldiers in Africa's war against poaching? Often, they are

motivated by a deep love of wildlife and wild lands. "We, the people who work here, this job is in our blood," said Philbert Mwasi, a scout at Kenya's LUMO Wildlife Conservancy. "If we were to take a leave of absence from our work, we would not be at peace with ourselves."

"I really like the work of rangers," says another LUMO scout, Ludovika Malemba. "I was a game scout when I was in primary school—conservation is in my blood."

Although risk and hardship are part of the job description, rangers throughout Africa are under-resourced, especially compared to poachers



1: Manyara Ranch ranger, Tanzania © AWF 2: LUMO scouts using SMART CyberTracker © AWF

working for international wildlife-trafficking networks. “In most confrontations, we face heavily armed, highly trained, and organized poachers—most of whom have a military background,” says Simon Muchatibaya, ranger and AWF technical advisor in Zimbabwe’s Mana Pools National Park. Patrol units are most often teams of three, facing off against poaching groups of 10 or more. Sometimes lacking even essential resources such as reliable radios, “[w]e frequently find ourselves at a disadvantage and facing very real danger,” Muchatibaya said.

AWF supports training in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and other African countries to ensure rangers and scouts have the best possible knowledge and skills. We also help wildlife authorities source new uniforms and state-of-the-art equipment such as satellite-based tracking devices and ruggedized smartphones. Our goal is for rangers and scouts to be safe, well-equipped, fairly compensated, and quartered in safe, useful ranger stations and barracks.



Capacity-Building

Much of our training focuses on improved anti-poaching surveillance and response. In 2018, AWF and the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority coordinated a 30-day community-ranger training program at Mushandike College of Wildlife Management. Forty-six students, including four women, learned a variety of new skills: basic wildlife crime investigation, ecological monitoring, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and community engagement among them. During a jubilant graduation ceremony, graduates received new field equipment, including uniforms, boots, and camping gear.

AWF also sponsored training for community scouts from LUMO and other conservancies. The training focused on wilderness skills and first aid as well as localized topics such as grazing laws and group-conservancy regulations. The scouts learned how to effectively communicate and resolve conflicts with pastoralists who were illegally and persistently grazing livestock on LUMO land. Illegal entry into LUMO has since fallen off, scout Malemba said.

In September 2018, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni was on hand for the graduation of 487 ranger recruits at Paraa Training Wing in Murchison Falls National Park. AWF worked with the Uganda Wildlife Authority to train and equip the agency’s recruits to collect field data and conduct ecological monitoring using the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and CyberTracker technology.

Support Through Technology

Cybertracker/SMART training is one of AWF’s most vital programs, the centerpiece of our strategy to improve protected-area management and conservation planning. Cybertracker is an app that allows rangers to capture critical field observations on a ruggedized smartphone. Notes are downloaded to SMART, a spatial software designed to manage patrol observation data.

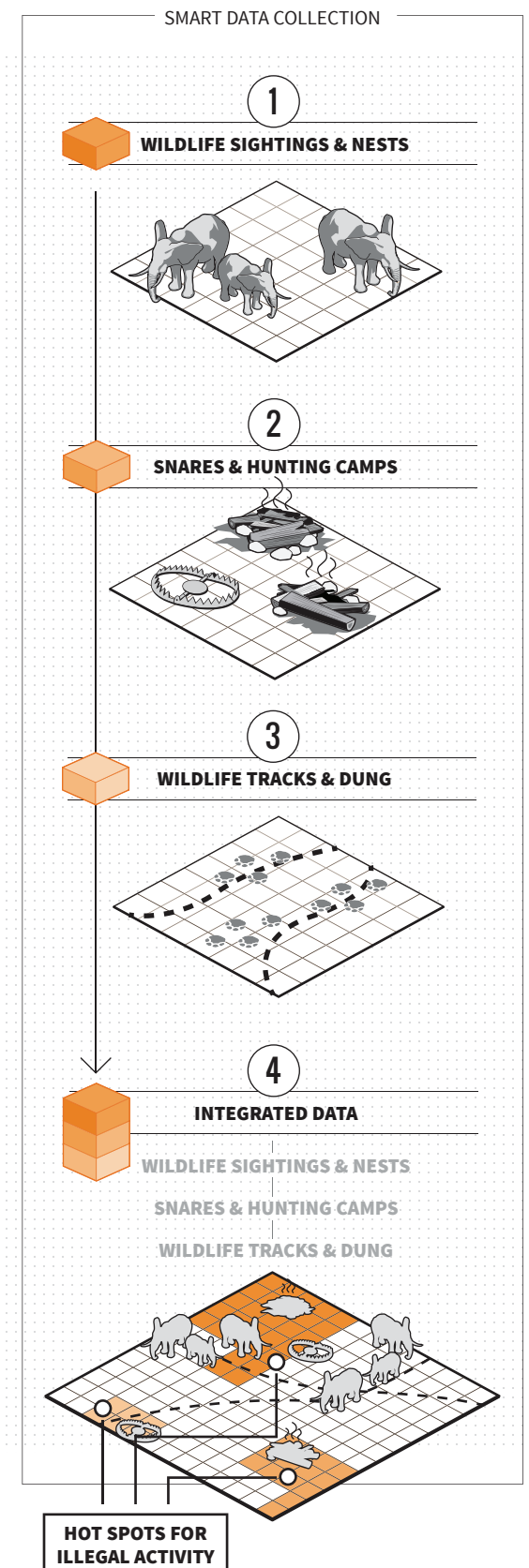
Rangers capture observations with a series of smartphone clicks, automatically recording the location and timestamp of conservation indicators such as wildlife sightings. (See right.)

The knowledge gained informs wildlife law-enforcement strategies and helps authorities better monitor dynamic environmental factors related to habitat loss and wildlife-population health. Maps revealing hotspots of illegal activity (evidenced by ammunition cartridges, poachers’ camps, etc.), inform subsequent patrol routes.

Since 2014, AWF has provided CyberTracker/SMART training (and equipment) in 21 sites across seven countries. With AWF’s support, Uganda’s protected-area authority adopted CyberTracker/SMART nationally, and AWF led orientations to the technology at several locations.

Back at field offices, data managers use the Cybertracker inputs to generate detailed analyses of wildlife and threat distribution and trends. “When they have accurate data from field and sky sources,” says AWF’s Senior Director of Conservation Geography David Williams, “the authorities can deploy their assets more efficiently, and they can track progress.

“The best part is that rangers tell us they can see the impact of their work in maps and charts and how that intelligence positively shapes operations. They feel more empowered and motivated.”





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Improved Facilities

In 2018, AWF invested in a badly needed new field station for river-based, anti-poaching patrols for Zimbabwe’s Mana Pools, a World Heritage Site known for its incredible wildlife. At Tanzania’s Manyara Ranch Conservancy—a wildlife corridor not far from Tarangire National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater—we partnered with Northland Controls to install a new solar power system. The new energy supply helps maintain reliable communications among rangers and other staff members scattered throughout the 35,000-acre protected area.



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Promoting Inclusivity

Another way to build a better ranger force is to ensure women are on the front lines of wildlife conservation. Ensuring that women have access to the conservation field is one of AWF’s explicit and primary goals for the next 10 years. We’re supporting wildlife authorities as they open up their ranks to women rangers and scouts, and we serve as advocates for the women once they enter service. This programmatic emphasis is not only a matter of equality and fairness; it is also a matter of outcomes, as conservation success links to gender inclusivity. (See page 24.)

AWF SUPPORTS TRAINING IN KENYA, UGANDA, ZIMBABWE, AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO ENSURE RANGERS AND SCOUTS HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.



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1: Solar panels © AWF 2: Sara, a UWA ranger based in Kidepo Valley National Park © AWF 3: © Francisco Ahedo 4: © Greg S Garrett 5: © AWF

PROFILE: DJA FAUNAL RESERVE

Dja Faunal Reserve in southeastern Cameroon spans over 5,200 square kilometers of dense, tropical forest. When AWF first began working in this remote locale, our team had little information regarding populations of three of its most intriguing inhabitants—chimpanzees, lowland gorillas, and forest elephants. Satellite imagery indicated that the habitat was mostly intact, but to fill our knowledge gaps, we had to rely on ground surveys and note-taking by eco-guards and rangers.

We decided to supply and train Dja rangers to use smartphones equipped with the CyberTracker app. This would allow them to easily record observations of threats such as snares, ammunition, and hunting camps, as well as evidence of wildlife such as dung or tracks.

With the SMART application, the team produced a wealth of actionable information for Dja

managers, including: maps of wildlife sightings and threat observations, graphs of trends in snares and hunting camps encountered, performance measures (e.g., how long each ranger was in the field; how much ground each ranger covered), and other reports useful for patrol planning.

The data showed that the northern half of Dja was under the most threat. Park managers thus decided to enhance ranger presence in the north via four outposts in hotspots where a high density of wildlife and threats overlap. In 2017, rangers caught over 30 poachers, and removed over 250 traps and snares. In 2018, we continued to see a decline in hunting camps and even early signs of wildlife population recovery.

There are still reaches of the forest left unexplored, but these tools allow the Dja team to be as effective as possible in a critical landscape.

Elevating the Role of Women in Conservation

In April 2019, two women who are influencing the course of conservation in Africa—Fiesta Warinwa and Didi Wamukoya—traveled from Nairobi to visit their AWF colleagues in the US and UK. Over three weeks, they met with AWF partners and supporters who make their work possible and appeared in various forums to discuss their work.

At National Public Radio headquarters in Washington, DC, Wamukoya and Warinwa appeared on a “Women in Conservation” panel, where they discussed the challenges of working in a field that, while changing, is still male-dominated. Wamukoya spoke about her early years as a wildlife crime prosecutor with the Kenya Wildlife Service, traveling all over the country to prosecute cases. Most of the prosecutorial and law enforcement officials with whom she worked weren’t ready to defer to a young woman there to assume some of their caseloads.

They did not want to hear, “I have the authority to take over all the wildlife cases you are handling. So kindly give me the files,” she explained. “And it was very difficult. So after



© AWF

about a week, I went to court in my uniform because I had a higher rank than those officers who were in the courts. And the uniform opened doors for me to be able to navigate my way around the male prosecutors.” Today, Didi is managing AWF’s pioneering effort to strengthen prosecutorial capacities and systems in priority countries. (See page 14.)

Warinwa spoke of similar challenges, when, as a young woman just out of college, she worked in an AWF Kenyan field office and regularly met with rangers, community leaders, and village elders. “It became very difficult because they kind of kept referring to the office in Nairobi and saying ‘You know, can you get somebody else to come and talk to us?’”

“I told them, ‘Nobody in the Nairobi office will come and talk to you. You have to talk to field staff, and that is why we have a field office,’” she said.

Through tenacity and by demonstrating her strategic abilities, communication skills, and problem-solving aptitude, Warinwa gained the men’s cooperation and trust. Today, she works in Nairobi on pan-African conservation program priorities. But even though she thought she left fieldwork, she still receives calls for help from her early-career contacts in villages. “They don’t believe I’m really gone and based at headquarters,” she said, laughing.

WOMEN CONSERVATION PRACTITIONERS ARE VITAL TO CONSERVATION SUCCESS



Engaging Rural Women

Women conservation practitioners like Wamukoya and Warinwa—as well as conservation partners, rural women who live in or close to wildlife areas—are vital to conservation success. That’s why AWF recently made the greater engagement of women in conservation a 10-year strategic objective. The conservation field offers tremendous potential for uplifting women in new and/or more advanced roles as practitioners and advocates. And inclusivity translates to results; for example, according to the UN, countries with a broader parliamentary representation of women are more likely to set aside land for protection.

Engaging rural women in conservation solutions translates to improvements across sectors—increased food supply, improved health and economic security, innovation in forestry, climate-change effects mitigation, better management of ecosystems. Likewise, when rural women participate in conservation and land-use decision-making, resources are more equitably distributed in communities.

“African women are the natural custodians of the environment,” says Warinwa. “They pay



1: © AWF 2: © Albert Bastius 3: AWF’s Country Manager for Zimbabwe, Olivia Mufute © AWF

the price” when it comes to degradation of landscapes, and their livelihoods depend directly on ecosystem health.

AWF is strategically incorporating gender inclusivity into field-based conservation work in priority landscapes. Leading the effort in the wildlife-rich Lower Zambezi Mana Pools Trans-Frontier Conservation area is Zimbabwe country director Olivia Mufute. “Conservation has the potential to uplift and empower rural women in Zimbabwe,” says Mufute. “There is an element of empathy—they balance out the approach with dialogue and an understanding of family dynamics.”



Building Resilience

Before joining AWF, Mufute had served as the first female Chief Ecologist and Multilateral Environmental Agreements Manager at “Zimparks”—the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. She reinvigorated the authority’s research and monitoring capabilities while overseeing the development of national and regional wildlife policies.

Now, she is helping AWF build resilience in rural Zimbabwe communities through the development of ecosystem health. With support from the European Union, Mufute’s team is working with local NGOs to improve farming and fishing practices. The objective is for communities in the transboundary (Zimbabwe and Zambia) landscape to conserve the wildlife and the ecological systems essential for their livelihoods.

Just as in her own career, Mufute is a trailblazer for other women in conservation. In 2018, she was instrumental in opening up Mbire District Council ranger forces to women scouts. Edith John, one of the recruits, graduated as the top student in her class of 42 (38 men and four women) who underwent training in fighting poaching and mitigating human-wildlife conflict (HWC). Although a lion killed her ranger father, Edith John is committed to protecting all

endangered wildlife. “I chose to be a ranger in order to protect our wildlife,” she says, “because I understand that we need these animals in our lives.”

Northward in Kenya’s Taita-Taveta landscape, Ludovika Malemba is part of a community scouting unit trained in anti-poaching, HWC, bushcraft, and other skills. The group is based at the LUMO Community Wildlife Sanctuary, an integral wildlife dispersal area between Tsavo East and Tsavo West national parks in Kenya. With other scouts, including two other LUMO women, Malemba is helping to reduce illegal grazing and raise conservation awareness among the densely populated communities outside the conservancy. Malemba admits to the difficulties of juggling a demanding full-time job with being a mother of four. But she is quick to point out that on the job, all scouts are equal. On any given day, one can find Malemba stationed at the conservancy gate, on patrol, or at base handling the radio.

Whatever challenges they encounter, it is clear that Ludovika Malemba, Edith John, Olivia Mufute, Didi Wamukoya, and Fiesta Warinwa are passionate and inspired conservationists. Equally, they are determined to lift up the women who will come after them. “I want younger women to know that they cannot and should not give up,” Malemba says.

For her part, Mufute likes to model what it takes for a woman to succeed in conservation, a demanding field that requires people skills and strategic abilities in equal measure. “Focus on delivery of results,” she says, “and let your work speak for itself.”



1: LUMO Community Wildlife Sanctuary scout Ludovika Malemba © AWF 2: AWF’s Conservation Program Director, Fiesta Warinwa © AWF 3: AWF Zimbabwe Country Director Olivia Mufute © AWF 4: Limalimo Lodge, Ethiopia © AWF 5: LUMO Conservancy, Kenya © AWF



A NEW DEAL FOR AFRICA’S WILDLIFE

Across the continent, natural ecosystems produce essential goods and services that help generations prosper, bearing the economies that shape our world. As African nations achieve economic growth, development often comes at the expense of the rich diversity of plants and animals that occur naturally within their borders. Balancing science, sound policy, and community empowerment, AWF encourages governments to embrace wildlife economies and recognize that wildlife species and their habitats are valuable assets that can improve people’s lives.

Nature-based tourism is a growing industry and contributes significantly to many African economies. But generally, tourism operators return only a fraction of revenues to communities in areas of high biodiversity. With more

inclusive governance frameworks and innovative value chains, AWF has pioneered models whereby communities get a larger stake in tourism enterprises, increasing the return from tourism and ensuring greater environmental sustainability of revenue-generating activities. From development and construction to management, lodges create jobs and thereby incentives for biodiversity protection. The cycle continues when lodges do well and support the direct cost of conservation.

AWF ENCOURAGES GOVERNMENTS TO RECOGNIZE THAT WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS ARE ASSETS THAT CAN IMPROVE PEOPLE’S LIVES

Saving an Endangered Great Ape

In the early 1980s, mountain gorilla numbers in the Virunga Massif area (not including those in Uganda’s Bwindi Impenetrable Forest) were as few as 230 individuals. Today this population has nearly tripled. Rwanda’s Volcanoes National Park now hosts the largest population in the massif and is a world-renowned trekking destination for thousands looking to experience the gentle giant up close. In 2018 alone, the Rwandan government issued over 15,000 gorilla trekking permits worth \$19.2 million to tourists in Volcanoes National Park. Rwanda’s revenue-sharing program is the most generous of any African country, with 10 percent of national tourism profits returned to communities.

Located just outside the protected area and its gorilla habitat, where the majestic Mt. Sabyinyo overlooks the small town of Kinigi, an AWF-initiated luxury lodge supports the region’s ecotourism. Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is owned by the Sabyinyo Community Livelihoods Association (or SACOLA) and operated by Governor’s Camp Collection. SACOLA’s socio-economic development initiatives include an electrification program and an improved water supply system that serves thousands of residents. Since the lodge opened in 2007, SACOLA has delivered over \$3.3 million in lodge revenue to its members, reaching over 5,800 households in the villages outside Volcanoes National Park. This additional income has helped reduce the economic pressure on family members to clear forest for small farms or hunt bushmeat for local markets.

Apart from creating two villages for the area’s most marginalized people, particularly genocide survivors, SACOLA has constructed 44 new houses and, in some cases, donated livestock to families with the greatest needs. Without the burden of rent, homeowners are investing their money collectively through saving cooperatives administered by community banks, two of which SACOLA helped construct.



1: © Bruce Miller 2: © Billy Dodson 3: Grootberg Lodge, Namibia © Andy Austin 4: © AWF



Innovating Conservation Enterprise

Through our conservation enterprises initiative and partnerships, AWF has pioneered community ownership of conservation enterprises such as Grootberg Lodge in northeastern Namibia. More recently, we helped finance renovations at Grootberg, which is the country’s first middle-market tourism entity owned by a community conservancy.

Only one year after making structural improvements and adding more rooms, the lodge grossed nearly \$1 million in revenue and now boasts 90 percent occupancy. Disbursed to the ≠Khoadi-//Hôas Conservancy’s 2,000-plus members, the proceeds are reinvested into local schools and clinics.

In Ethiopian highlands, rare African wildlife like the Ethiopian wolf and Gelada monkey draw tourists to the Simien Mountains National Park. In addition to strengthening the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority’s capacity in this stunning landscape, AWF invested in the construction of the sustainably designed and eco-friendly Limalimo Lodge. Lodge fees generate revenue that supports habitat and wildlife protection in the park and helps maintain Classroom Africa’s Adisge School, maximizing the lodge’s conservation impact.

People from nearby villages were employed in the construction of Limalimo, and some continue as full-time employees. Outside of Simiens, AWF



ECO-LODGE GUESTS TOO ARE MAKING CONSERVATION IMPACTS

works with Village Ways to set up community-owned and -run businesses that offer immersive cultural experiences for tourists.

Developing commercially viable and efficient community-led enterprises ensures long-term conservation impact. In Rwanda, guests at Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge often are so inspired to see the high-end tourism enterprise restoring a critical ecosystem and getting a community back on its feet that they donate funds for local development projects. Like other visitors to AWF-supported eco-lodges and tourism ventures, they too are making conservation-friendly investments for generations to come.

A New Home for Conservancies

In modern Africa, the need for housing and access to arable land, water, and other natural resources places unprecedented pressure on wildlife and their habitats. Governments that invest in conservancies are improving human livelihoods while ensuring wildlife has room to roam.

Conservancies—community and/or privately-owned lands set aside for conservation—complement state-owned protected areas and benefit landowners and communities by generating alternative revenue streams and helping to secure natural-resource utilization rights.

AWF recently supported the development of conservancies across Africa, including in Uganda where previously there was no legislative framework for conservancy development. As with many African countries, the majority of wildlife in Uganda live or roam outside of the protected-area network. Conservancies help

© Sebastian Müller



1

address this problem by facilitating economic and social benefits that incentivize people to voluntarily protect wildlife. In 2014, we proposed conservancies to the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) as a means of expanding habitat protection, diversifying tourism experiences, and engaging communities directly in conservation.

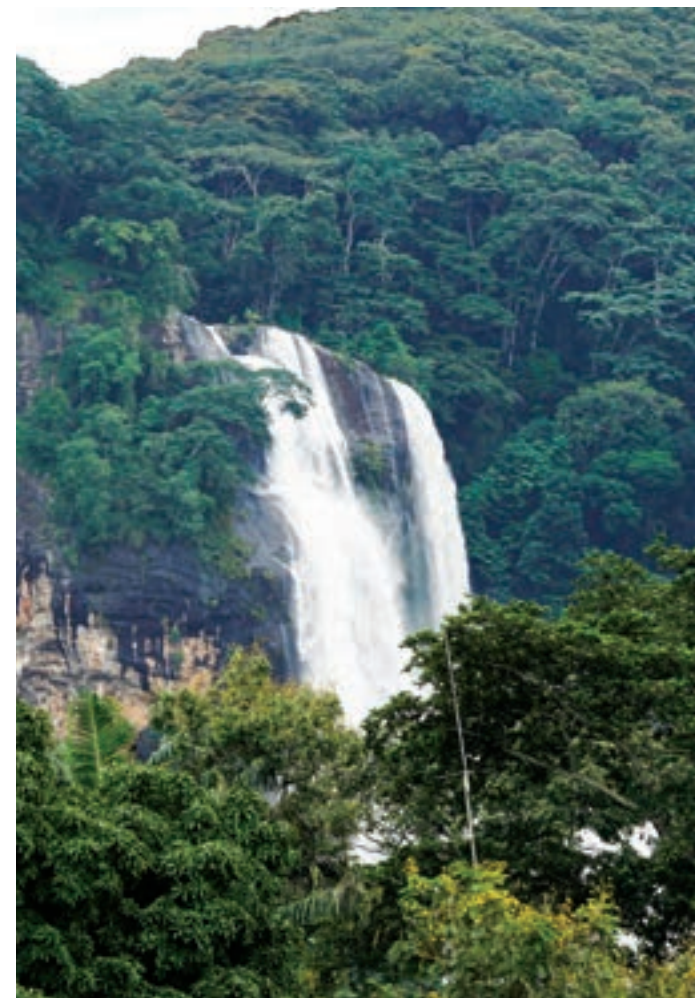
Last year, AWF and UWA piloted three conservancies in the wildlife-rich landscapes surrounding Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls, and Kidepo Valley national parks. To date, we have completed ecological assessments for all three conservancies. In addition, AWF and UWA drafted conservancy development guidelines. The next task is to work with communities to complete conservancy constitutions as well as land-use and general management plans for all three protected areas.

Conservancy creation requires concerted planning and deep engagement with communities, as well as capacity-building in areas such as human-wildlife conflict mitigation. AWF is excited to continue partnering with UWA and local communities to realize new conservancies. These protected areas will safeguard Uganda's wildlife while benefiting local people through eco-tourism and related enterprises that create jobs and revenue.



2

1: Kidepo Valley, Uganda © Eric Nathan 2: Mburo Lake, Uganda © Ivan Vdovin 3-5: Kilombero, Tanzania © AWF



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A MODEL APPROACH IN SOUTHERN TANZANIA

Southern Tanzania is resource-rich, with a wealth of vital water catchments, fertile soil, diverse ecosystems, and many wildlife species. Tanzania's government is investing in agricultural development here, seeking to support the country's breadbasket. But the agriculture corridor runs through three landscapes of conservation importance, known for their significant elephant populations. Intensified land use crowds out wildlife, and human-wildlife conflicts (HWC) occur more frequently. Crucial ecosystem services such as water supply are placed at risk, too.

Our efforts to address these issues offer a model for conservation throughout Africa. They demonstrate that economic

development can go hand-in-hand with conservation of rivers, wetlands, and other irreplaceable natural resources.

AWF's suite of projects in this region is designed to help deliver:

- sustainable resource management that improves farmer incomes
- agricultural solutions that enhance resilience
- HWC tools
- positive engagement with the private sector to promote sustainability
- new incentives to conserve wild lands



Improving Incomes & Food Security for Small-Scale Farmers

Since 2015, AWF has helped improve incomes for 2,000 smallholder farmers in 13 villages in Ihemi and Kilombero, two “clusters” marked by the Tanzanian government as priorities for agricultural development. We support primarily cocoa and sugar-cane farmers through training in best practices, establishing nurseries, and providing seedlings and equipment.

To help sugarcane operations be more efficient, AWF helped build cane nurseries close to farms—significantly reducing transport costs. We also distributed over 8,000 tons of treated seeds to 735 area farmers, who’ve since nearly doubled agricultural yields, from 44 to 75 tons per hectare. The cane grown from the seeds is a sweeter, drought-tolerant, short-seasoned variety that helps growers build climate resilience.

To reach even more farmers, AWF and Farm Radio International have produced programs that discuss HWC strategies such as beehive fences, sustainability, and critical issues such as climate-smart agriculture. Radio is a fixture in rural Africa, and the farm broadcasts have a reach of over 1 million listeners.



1-6: Kilombero, Tanzania © AWF



5

Smart Water Management

AWF hydrologist Damas Patrick Mbaga oversees community-led river monitoring in Kilombero’s Rufiji Basin. To empower local water-user associations, Mbaga adapted a South African water-monitoring tool for use in Southern Tanzania. The “miniSASS” tool analyzes a sample’s macroinvertebrate load—very few crabs, snails, or flies in a sample signal a water-quality problem. Routine assessments help point to upstream disturbances and thus support long-term catchment and river management decision-making. Case in point: In Lower Mngeta, low water quality prompted an investigation that revealed upstream farms were increasing sedimentation and pollution. The water-user association members raised awareness so that the communities could take action such as planting trees for soil stability and so that authorities could better enforce land-use plans and buffer-zone policies.

In 2018, our team released a national version of miniSASS and training materials, making this water-quality management tool available throughout Tanzania. “Quality water is critical for household, agricultural, and even industrial use,” says Mbaga. “The dangers posed by degraded water sources reach all life forms in the ecosystem, including wildlife.” Add in climate change as an exacerbating factor, he says, and the protection of water sources becomes even more important.

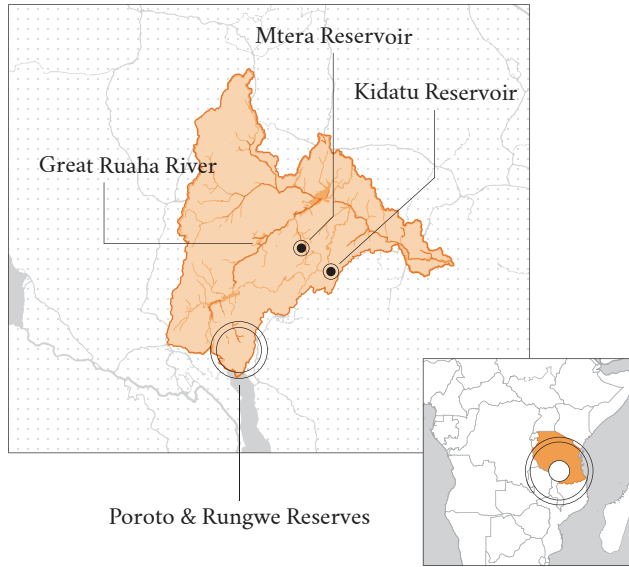


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Reforestation of the Landscape

AWF’s Southern Tanzania effort also includes re-greening. Since 2015, communities have reforested 1,500 hectares, thanks to AWF’s distribution of more than 170,000 seedlings. We also have engaged communities in restoring the Magombera Conservation Area, which secures a critical wildlife corridor. Each village has dedicated 1 hectare for native trees, helping connect the park, Magombera Forest, and Selous Game Reserve.

Great Ruaha River Basin



NEW NATURE RESERVES IN TANZANIA

Population growth, increased farming, overgrazing, and extraction of natural resources such as timber have taken a toll on forest areas in Tanzania's beautiful southern highlands. Two reserves—Poroto Ridge and Sawago—are vitally important to the region's ecological health, as they hold the headwaters of the Great Ruaha River. Feeding two hydroelectric dams, the river provides over half the country's power and waters the largest rice plantation in Tanzania.

In 2018, AWF and its partners celebrated a significant conservation success—the upgrade of the forest reserves to the more protected category of “nature reserve.” This status offers the highest level of protection under Tanzania's National Forest Act. Nature reserves receive larger annual budgets, dedicated staffs, and, because they are more secure, provide longer-term benefits for the communities that depend on the forests for livelihoods.

AWF has long prioritized the protection of Poroto Ridge and Sawago. With the nearby Mount Rungwe Forest Reserve, the forests used to support myriad species including leopards,

numerous kinds of monkeys, honey badgers and bats. Many of these species have disappeared due to human economic activities in the forest. AWF worked with communities and forest authorities to develop land-use and forest management plans that annexed the two forests to the Mount Rungwe reserve. We also led the technical process and supported the completion of legal documentation to help finalize the upgrade proposal.

Our work in the region extends to species protection. In partnership with the Tanzania Forest Service, local government, and community stakeholders, AWF supports ecological monitoring in and around the reserves, and we have equipped village scouts and officers with the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool and CyberTracker technology (See page 19.)

Also exciting is a tourism vision for the reserves; AWF is backing community groups that are developing plans for new ventures based on wildlife tourism.



1: Great Ruaha River © Billy Dodson 2: © Kenneth Whitten 3: © Billy Dodson 4: © Michel Denis-Huot

Influencing Global Impacts

AWF's leadership engages in parliaments, statehouses, boardrooms, and other meeting spaces around the globe to inform decisions that impact wildlife. We consistently encourage African governments and leaders to define an economic future that includes wildlife and wild lands.

Our primary role is to support African-led conservation, offering technical advice and information, facilitating dialogue, and helping empower the institutions responsible for wildlife. Our underlying premise is that governments don't have to choose between conservation and development, for development without conservation strips away Africa's unique heritage and degrades the ecological systems that drive growth. Thus, we may encourage new policies at local or national levels, or we may work to further understanding of the specific ways conservation is in a nation's interest.



AWF CEO, Kaddu Sebunya © AWF



CITES

In 2019, AWF's Vice President of Conservation Science & Planning Philip Muruthi led an AWF delegation participating in the 18th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), one of the largest and most significant conservation gatherings, held every three years.

The CITES parties passed a proposal to increase protection for all nine subspecies of giraffes. The measure gives giraffes unprecedented safeguards under international law for the first time. The timing is critical, as giraffe populations in Africa have decreased by 40 percent over the past 30 years (*See page 10*).

A proposal to allow the one-off sale of stockpiled ivory failed. While this decision was in line with AWF's positions and recommendations, it did not address the issues that the southern countries raised at the convention. It is of great concern that the southern-state governments have threatened to withdraw from CITES. In keeping with our interest in seeing African nations speak with one voice on conservation issues, we are in dialogue with the southern countries to prevent a destabilization of the convention. We also work with the southern states to promote solutions to the genuine problems, especially human-wildlife conflict, that motivated their proposals.

Our policy team's relationship with African leaders distinguishes us from other conservation

CITES Quickfacts



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora



Ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.



Roughly 5,800 species of animals are protected by CITES



Consists of 183 parties

NGOs. We believe the excellence of our working relationships with governments is based on hard-earned trust that we are trying to help them succeed. AWF is committed to linking conservation imperatives to the goals and aspirations of the African people and assisting governments in fulfilling those aspirations.

1: AWF's Program Design Director, Andrea Athanas (*left*) & Vice President of Conservation Science & Planning, Philip Muruthi (*right*) at CITES © AWF **2:** AWF's Director of External Affairs, Edwin Tambara © AWF

A CONSERVATION CAREER ON THE RISE

Edwin Tambara, AWF's director of external affairs, traces his love of nature to his childhood in Zimbabwe, where he helped herd his father's cattle. He and his friends in Domboshava spent their days in the hills, swimming in the rivers, enjoying forest fruits, and observing the wildlife all around them. Going into the woods, he says, "was always an adventure."

But those joys wouldn't last forever. When Edwin returned home from boarding school, he found that people relocating from the nearby city of Harare had transformed his village, clearing trees and vegetation for sprawling new settlements. "We received a lot of people who really didn't have a good connection with and respect for the environment," Tambara says. Today, little is left of those childhood treasures.

The losses he experienced—and a desire to map a better future—led Edwin to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in ecology and conservation at the University of Zimbabwe. In 2013, he passed up a scholarship for doctorate studies so that he could instead attend AWF's rigorous, two-year Conservation & Leadership Management Program.

Then 28 years old, Edwin quickly found himself at the front lines of conservation. He helped shape land use, tourism, and economic development plans for sites across the continent. He was put in charge of developing the first management plan for any national park in South Sudan. He also helped develop management plans for Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe and tourism plans for Campo Ma'an and Mt. Cameroon parks.

Edwin found many communities were skeptical of an outsider. But, he says, they were reassured when they saw AWF's intention: to empower them to support economic development but preserve the natural beauty around them. "Sharing my own personal story and where I come from and what has happened there helped me open doors," he says.



In his current role, Tambara works with the United Nations, the World Bank, and the US and Canadian governments, among others, to influence sound conservation policies and encourage development financing that supports rather than degrades African wildlife.

With as many as 1 billion young Africans expected to join the workforce in the coming decades, Tambara feels a sense of urgency. He wants to help people view conservation as a "solution to economic growth, job creation, and the creation of resilient businesses."

For years, he says, many Africans viewed conservation as a cause for people coming from the West. But the narrative is changing. "People are realizing that conservation is actually part of our lives, part of our economic aspirations," Tambara says. "They are actively looking for ways they can do conservation and generate economic benefits at the same time."



NEXT GENERATION RISING

From its beginnings in 1961, AWF has invested in the prospects and dreams of young African conservationists. Our efforts initially focused on supporting educational access and attainment to help create a cadre of capable professionals—rangers, environmental scientists, protected-area managers, and others. Then we sharpened our focus on mentorship of young post-graduates, creating a two-year fellowship experience. The AWF Conservation & Leadership Management Program combines time in the field with experience working under AWF’s experienced senior staff at our Nairobi headquarters.

Most recently, as more young Africans enter the fight for environmental action and inclusivity, we’ve devoted a greater part of our resources to building leadership skills in the policy arena. One of our most significant recent successes occurred in November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), the world’s largest biodiversity meeting. The convention is a multilateral treaty that seeks to ensure conservation and the world’s sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity.

Ahead of the negotiations in Egypt, 50 young Africans from 17 countries attended an intensive five-day workshop that AWF hosted in Nairobi. The attendees were representatives from youth

advocacy groups, conservation organizations, research institutions, and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

We facilitated in-depth discussions about young people’s role in Africa’s socio-economic development. We also provided expertise on resource mobilization, lobbying for change, and advocacy campaigns. Perhaps most importantly, the week-long summit helped the students translate large-scale goals into achievable actions.

When the youth representatives got to Egypt, they let it be known that they intended to be part of formulating the convention’s post-2020 biodiversity framework. The delegation urged governments to accelerate the implementation of Africa’s biodiversity conservation commitments. They reminded the ministers that sustainable development strategies must invest in marginalized groups—youth, women, indigenous people, and local communities—and recognize their innovative contributions and unique perspectives.

Said AWF’s CEO Kaddu Sebunya after the event: “Especially after getting to know these young people during the week in Nairobi, it was a thrill to watch that same group in Egypt engage in fierce and fearless debate with the ministers—to see these young people demand their place at the table.”

1-2: Fiesta Warinwa & Olivia Mufute at the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD)
© AWF 3-5: Youth events held at AWF’s Nairobi headquarters, Kenya © AWF

At the close of the CBD conference, Executive Secretary Cristiana Paşca Palmer gave a nod to the young delegation: “Youth might be almost half of the world now, but they are 100 percent of the future.”

By empowering youth in arenas such as the CBD Conference, AWF is not only fulfilling its core principle of inclusivity. We also are recognizing demographic realities on the continent, where almost 70 percent of the total population is under 30. By 2050, the number of people in Africa between 0-24 years old is projected to double.

One of AWF’s accomplished young leaders, Program Design Assistant Liz Kiambi, recently wrote an article on awf.org laying out the context: “For AWF to achieve its mission of

wildlife and wild lands thriving in modern Africa, we require a powerful young African conservation movement behind us.

“By mobilizing this demographic to take ownership of the biodiversity crisis, we are empowering the next generation of leaders and equipping custodians of Africa’s wildlife and wild lands.”

AWF Hosts Youth Leaders

United Nations Event

09/07
2018



Staff and young conservation leaders gather for a "Youth Voices for Wildlife" panel during the UN General Assembly in New York City. Nickelodeon included the event in the final episode of its "Together For Good Wildlife Special"

Orange Carpet series. The episode showed young peoples' questions posed to world leaders at the UN.

09/25
2018

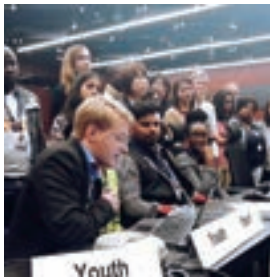
Youth Council

AWF hosts African Conservation Youth Council, led by Kenyan youth who seek to enhance cooperation and coordination of youth conservation efforts.



Global Youth Biodiversity Network Workshop

10/29
2018



AWF helps prepare a delegation to the Conference of the Parties to 14th Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD). The young people travel to the conference and demand to be part of negotiations for the post-2020 CBD framework.

11/07
2018

Africa Youth Commission

AWF hosts youth as they launch a national consortium. The consortium seeks to ensure the implementation of the Africa 2063 Agenda as well as the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.



China Delegation

01/30
2019



AWF hosts a group of Chinese university and high school students in Africa to learn about conservation and species protection.

05/23
2019

#IAM4NATURE Youth Summit

Fifty young people from 24 African countries meet at AWF HQ in Nairobi to discuss how to save Africa's declining biodiversity, in the wake of a recent United Nations report that said the world is on course to lose 1 million species.



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1: Kidepo & Sarachom Primary School field trip © AWF 2: Lupani Community School student © AWF 3: Adisge Primary School teacher © AWF

STRENGTHENING EDUCATION THROUGH CLASSROOM AFRICA

Classroom Africa, one of AWF's flagship programs, partners with schools and communities in areas of high biodiversity value to incentivize community conservation, strengthen education, and raise ecological sensitivity and awareness. In the process, the program is helping to create a new generation of passionate conservationists.

Classroom Africa's most tangible successes are the six eco-friendly, modern, and brightly lit schools that we've built in five countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia). These schools have not only helped improve the lives of over 2,000 students, but they have also supported the professional development of scores of teachers. Through training and mentorship, we've helped

Classroom Africa teachers build pedagogical skills, technology know-how, and facility in incorporating conservation into learning. On the conservation side, Classroom Africa's land-use covenants with communities have protected more than 223,000 acres of forest and other wild lands.

In 2018-2019, Classroom Africa students continued to make their communities proud. The Lupani Community School in Zambia set the standard, with 99 percent of seventh-grade students passing their year-end exams.

In October 2018, former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa, who is also an AWF trustee, AWF Board Chair Heather Haaga, and AWF trustees Maria Wilhelm and Michael Hoffman

visited the Manyara Ranch Primary school to mark the students' long-awaited move into their beautiful new dormitories. With the dorms now comfortably housing the school's 900 students, work has begun on phase three of the campus renovation: classroom construction. Meanwhile, Manyara student performance remains exemplary, with a recent 100-percent pass rate on 7th-grade exams and a rank of second district-wide.

AWF works to promote a conservation ethic among Classroom Africa students and, by extension, their families. After-school eco-clubs tap into students' natural curiosity and desire to have fun while learning. Field trips to national parks give students a chance to fully appreciate the wildlife in their backyards and the natural wonders of their landscapes, which they are not often able to experience on their own. For many students, these are unforgettable, life-changing experiences. (See letter below.)



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IN CHINA, RAISING AWARENESS OF AFRICA'S ENDANGERED SPECIES

China's ban on domestic ivory, implemented in 2018, was a significant development in the battle against the illegal wildlife trade. Like all domestic ivory markets (which allow the buying and selling of old or stockpiled ivory), China's market was used as cover by smugglers selling new ivory. The shuttering of one of the world's most active markets was a significant victory for elephants and elephant advocates.

Sadly, despite the landmark ban, ivory demand has shifted through other countries and still drives poaching. Recognizing the influence of consumer choices in China, AWF engages with strategic partners on the mainland to promote conservation and endangered-species awareness.

In September 2018, AWF launched a two-month exhibit at the Beijing Zoo, one of China's largest zoos, receiving more than 8 million visitors per year. The "Saving Africa's Endangered Species" exhibition featured engaging profiles of some of Africa's most iconic wildlife, complete with unforgettable images. And it detailed AWF's efforts to promote African-led conservation, protect wildlife, and benefit local communities. In September 2019, AWF launched the "Saving Africa's Endangered Species" exhibit at the Shanghai Zoo.

Leveraging the power of information, AWF also works in other spheres to inspire Chinese youth to help endangered wildlife. We share memorable conservation messages, facts, memes, and images with more than 110,000 followers on two of China's most popular social media platforms, Weibo and WeChat. In 2019, we joined forces with Flipboard China, a personalized-news app, in a partnership that has extensive reach among young people. Flipboard works with AWF to promote information about the illegal wildlife trade (including the devastating effects of ivory and rhino horn consumption), African wildlife, and AWF's work.

AWF also plays a significant role in the China-Africa dialogue, facilitating high-level meetings between business and government leaders to emphasize that conservation is essential to economic growth. China is one of the world's largest investors on the African continent, and greater dialogue between Africa and China on a future with wild lands conserved will lead to better outcomes for people and wildlife.

From: Christabel Muhama 4th March 2019
Grade: Seven (7)

I was more than excited to see the Victoria Falls and go to the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. I was excited because I saw different animals. The animals I saw were Zebras, Monkeys, Hippos, Buffalo, Birds, Impalas, Water Buck, and Antelopes and the most interesting part was when we went to the boiling pot it was very fun. I was also happy when I was soaked with water. I really enjoyed the water it was such a wonderful trip indeed and for that I want to thank Mrs. Mouk for sponsoring us. We enjoyed the food. I also want to thank Perin. I really appreciate. Please continue supporting us otherwise without this trip I was not going to see animals.

Thank You Mrs. Mouk and Perrin!



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1-2: Adisge Primary School field trip © AWF 3: Chinese youth engagement © AWF 4: Jia Qiao, AWF's Manager of External Relations, China © AWF

Letter from the Chair: A YEAR OF RENEWAL



Dear Friends,

If I were asked to characterize this past year, it would be with the word “renewal.” Following a complicated transition year (including a change in top leadership) the African Wildlife Foundation is poised for a new chapter. We’ve been working diligently on a new, 10-year strategic plan that encompasses our proven strategies and successful programs while challenging us to grow to the next level. The staff has been reorganized to meet the needs of a new plan, and the trustees have re-thought their committee structure to better support our mission. The upshot: purposeful change, which is a good thing and exciting!

AWF has always considered women and youth as an essential focus. Our CEO, Kaddu Sebunya, refers to women as the “managers of Africa,” and I think he is right. They are key influencers, decision-makers, and they raise the next generation. What women think and do will directly affect the success of the conservation movement. AWF is introducing more programming that will empower and support women as they raise their collective voice and move into leadership roles. Our task is to provide economic as well as leadership possibilities. From eco-lodge jobs to adult education in our community-school classrooms, we are opening doors for women.

Many of you know what a “dog person” I am, and I cannot resist bragging about our Canines for Conservation program...affectionately known as our sniffer dogs. This past year Canines for Conservation has conducted numerous busts in five countries. The dogs do the nose work, but they are accompanied by excellent and hardworking handlers who provide a continuous deterrent to wildlife trafficking. We are not too modest to say that we have the best detection dog program on the continent.

At the end of the day, success depends on the staff, and AWF is blessed to have passionate, committed, smart people who believe we can make a difference, and so we must make a difference. And we are.

Your belief in what we do keeps us going...both spiritually and financially. This is a partnership, and your continued help and commitment are vital. Working together is the only way we will affect the conservation outcome in Africa. Unity makes us stronger, so please know how thankful we are for your faith and support.

Gratefully,

Heather Sturt Haaga
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“EnviroKidz is happy to have a partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation and support the impactful work they do for African wildlife. We are proud to support the African Wildlife Foundation in the areas of wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, education of children on environmental issues and supporting children at risk, that’s what EnviroKidz is all about. We are specifically supporting AWF’s Classroom Africa, anti-poaching efforts and protecting cheetahs. For every box of our Cheetah Chomps cereal sold, we are donating part of the proceeds to support these important efforts!”

KELLY LEWIS

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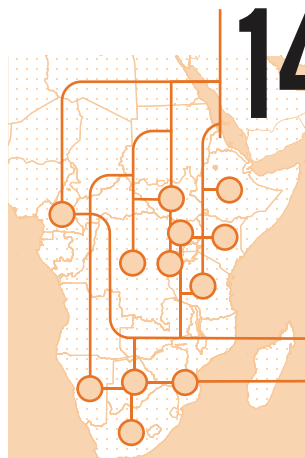
ANTI-TRAFFICKING

59 Years AWF has been leading conservation in Africa



339

Sniffer dog finds since 2016 — representing millions of dollars in contraband



14

Countries that have worked with AWF to bolster judicial and prosecutorial systems and capacities

6

Countries that have deployed AWF Canines for Conservation units



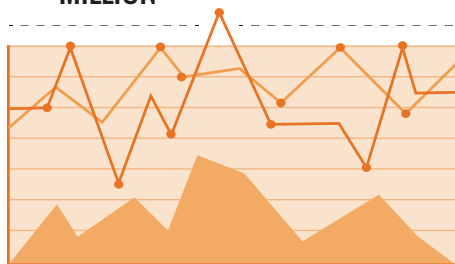
1,370

Participants in AWF's Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance trainings to date

OUTREACH

1.9
MILLION

Audience reach of Nickelodeon's and AWF's 'Together for Good' series in 2019

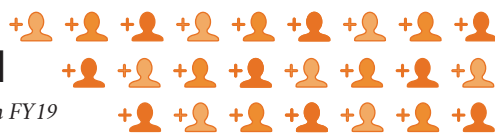


16.9
MILLION

Social media impressions on AWF social networks in China

1.35
MILLION

AWF Facebook followers in FY19



YOUTH



100%

Pass rate (7th-grade exams) at Lupani and Manyara Classroom Africa schools in FY19

SPECIES PROTECTION



88% AWF-supported elephant populations stable or increasing

UNDER 400 Number of mountain gorillas at their lowest point (1980s)

1,069 Number of mountain gorillas today

0 Rhinos lost to poaching in AWF-supported areas in FY19

3,646

Snare removed by AWF-supported scouts in FY19

COMMUNITIES



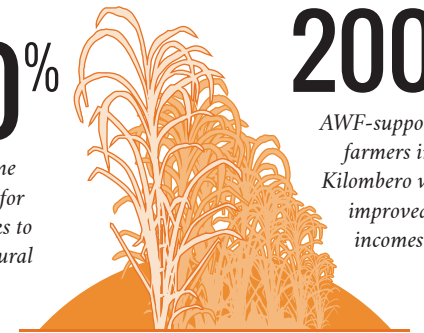
5,800

Rwandan households that benefit from Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge, which AWF helped create

↑20% Average income improvement for farmers thanks to AWF agricultural interventions

2000

AWF-supported farmers in Kilombero with improved incomes



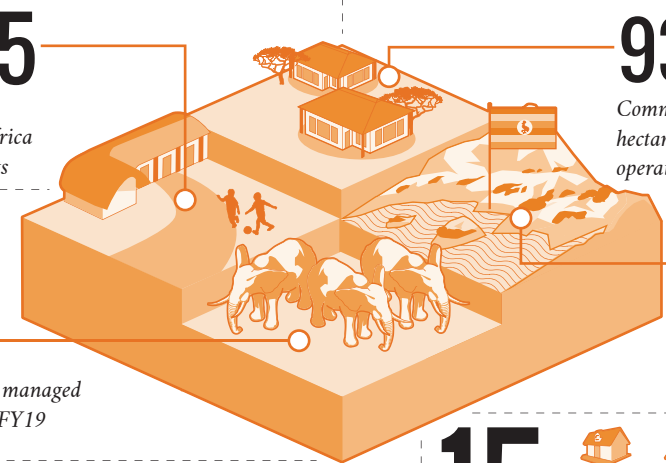
LAND

90,245

Hectares protected through Classroom Africa conservation covenants

2.2
MILLION

Hectares conserved or managed with AWF support in FY19

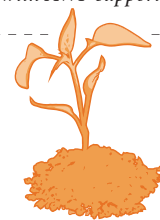


938,870

Community conservancy hectares supported by eco-lodge operations and profits

126,221

Hectares protected under conservancies AWF is piloting in Uganda



38K

Indigenous trees AWF and partners planted in Simien Mountains National Park in FY19

15

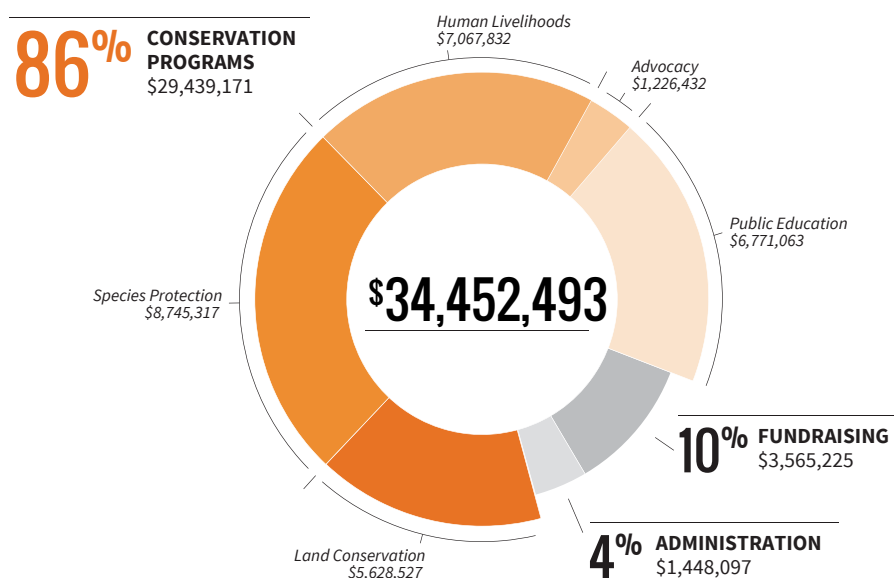
Eco-lodges in 9 countries that AWF has helped create since 2001



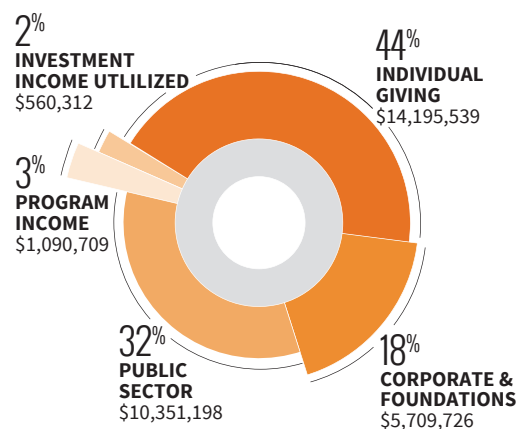
FINANCIALS

Since AWF's beginnings nearly 60 years ago, we've been a responsible steward of your contributions in service to Africa's wildlife and wild lands.

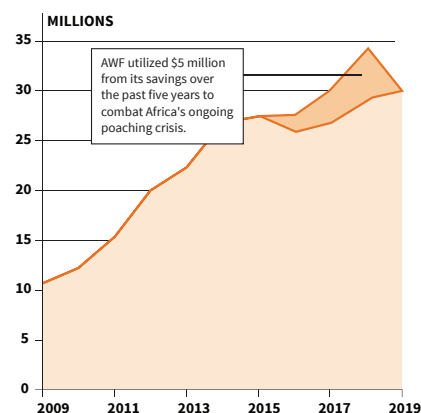
Organizational Efficiency



Revenue Breakout



Invested Reserves



Summary of Activities for the year ended June 30, 2019

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
OPERATING REVENUE			
Gifts from individuals	10,663,243	4,092,608	14,755,851
Corporate & foundation support	1,021,266	1,785,140	2,806,406
Public sector grants	10,351,198	-	10,351,198
Program income	1,049,509	41,200	1,090,709
In-kind contributions	2,903,319	-	2,903,319
Restricted net assets utilized	5,115,133	(5,115,133)	-
Total Operating Revenue	31,103,668	803,815	31,907,483
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Conservation programs	21,441,676	-	21,441,676
Education & outreach	7,997,495	-	7,997,495
<i>Total program expenses</i>	<i>29,439,171</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>29,439,171</i>
Finance & Administration	1,448,097	-	1,448,097
Fundraising	3,565,225	-	3,565,225
<i>Total supporting services</i>	<i>5,013,322</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5,013,322</i>
Total Operating Expenses	34,452,493	-	34,452,493
Non-operating activities	-	-	-
Net investment income	1,483,152	235,936	1,719,088
Total Non-Operating Activities	1,483,152	235,936	1,719,088
Change in Net Assets	(1,865,673)	1,039,751	(825,922)

Financial Position as of June 30

	2019	2018
Cash and equivalents	4,821,219	10,117,402
Investments	30,145,511	28,964,819
Gifts and grants receivable	5,499,487	5,264,599
Accounts receivable	563,221	407,544
Impact loans receivable	4,273,674	5,943,346
Prepaid & other assets	978,732	742,072
Property & equipment, net of depreciation	4,462,010	4,703,211
Total Assets	50,743,854	56,142,993
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	1,624,010	2,092,824
Refundable grant advances	1,309,499	3,980,515
Impact notes payable	4,762,500	6,250,000
Other liabilities	1,835,652	1,781,539
Total Liabilities	9,531,661	14,104,878
Unrestricted net assets	28,533,481	30,399,154
Restricted net assets	12,678,712	11,638,961
Total Net Assets	41,212,193	42,038,115
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	50,743,854	56,142,993



AWF OFFICES

*We accomplished so much — together — for Africa's
wildlife, wild lands, and communities in 2019. Be part
of our success in 2020 by making a special gift to AWF!*

www.awf.org/support-us

Thank you for all you do.

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