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# VISION

An Africa where sustainable development includes thriving wildlife and wild lands as cultural and economic assets 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 STRATEGIC EVOLUTION FOR AWF



#### Dear AWF Friends,

Conservation work happens in many spheres. There is the work on the front lines, where rangers risk their lives to protect wildlife from poachers, where the AWF-trained sniffer-dog teams ferret out illegal products, where communities use skills and knowledge provided by AWF to manage human-wildlife conflict. And then, there is the work that happens in meeting spaces, board rooms, and policy forums.

Given that one of AWF's primary strategic goals is to promote African conservation leadership, it's not surprising that some of our most impactful work happens behind the scenes. Advancing African-led conservation requires a seat at the table where development and investment decisions are made, and AWF has never been more frequently and meaningfully engaged with those who can make a critical difference for conservation in Africa. In places as varied as the African Union, U.S. Congress, and African village centers, we provide information, technical guidance, conservation perspectives, and knowledge gained over 60 years of work and innovation on the continent.

# "IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT SOME OF OUR MOST IMPACTFUL WORK HAPPENS BEHIND THE SCENES."

Likewise, we're continuing to elevate our profile as a convener of parties that impact conservation in Africa. For example, we're currently coorganizing the continent's first pan-African protected-areas conference. This landmark event should help create a unified conservation vision for Africa and new ideas for shaping global conservation investment and action.

We recently welcomed two former heads of state to our Board of Trustees: H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, former prime

minister of Ethiopia, and H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou, former president of Niger. Not only are they supporting AWF and its mission as trustees, but they also are stepping up to be champions for the continent, as patrons for the Africa Protected Areas Congress. In this they join another esteemed AWF trustee, H.E. Festus Mogae, former president of Botswana.

There is no doubt, it is an exciting time to be at AWF. We're delighted that our sphere of influence and network of collaborators is evolving



Kaddu (left) and AWF Trustee H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou (far right), with a translator, visit land-restoration sites in President Issoufou's hometown in Niger. ©AWF

in new ways. This evolution is in line with our vision to help mobilize an African-led conservation movement that will model for the world how conservation and development can be achieved in harmony.

I hope you'll feel inspired by the stories in this report that expand on the ways in which AWF is working—on the front lines and behind the scenes—to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa. Thank you for being part of our vital community of supporters. Together you are a linchpin in our fight to protect Africa's priceless natural heritage.

Sincerely,

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Kaddu Sebunya AWF Chief Executive Officer

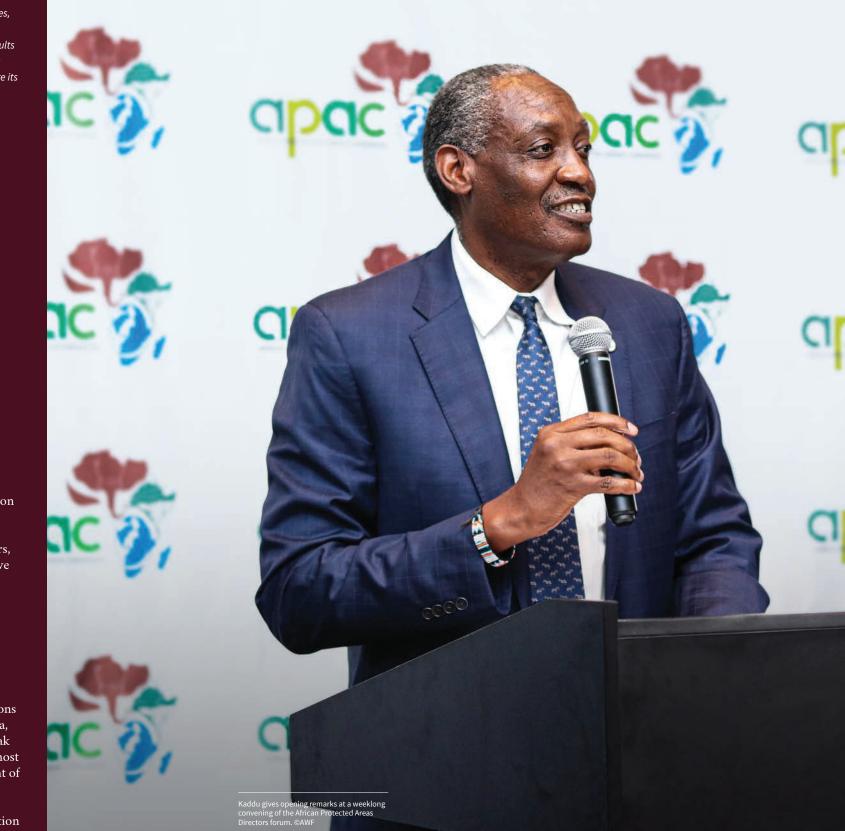
AWF engages leaders from all levels of government, civil society, and the private sector to ensure African perspectives, from the community level on up, help shape global conservation agendas, and that those agendas lead to results on the ground. Our efforts include partnerships with young people, who represent Africa's largest demographic and are its most energized conservation champions.

# Toward a unified conservation voice in Africa

WF seeks to elevate African conservation voices in order to ensure successful and lasting conservation outcomes. Africa's governments, protected-area managers, communities, and private-sector members have the most at stake when it comes to the loss of African wildlife; therefore, it is Africans who must own and be meaningfully engaged in conservation work.

As an African organization, AWF is best positioned to convene key constituencies to advance conservation goals. In 2021, we were central to developing new conservation coalitions that herald a new day for conservation in Africa, one in which diverse parties collaborate to speak to the global community with one voice. The most notable of these initiatives was the development of the first-ever Africa Protected Areas Congress.

In 2019, the International Union for Conservation of Nature invited AWF and the Rwandan





government to co-host and co-organize the Congress. The event will be the first continentwide gathering of African leaders, citizens, businesses, and interest groups to discuss the vital role of protected and conserved areas in safeguarding nature and promoting sustainable development in Africa.

The Congress's primary objective is to define a **unified vision** for the role protected and conserved areas play in Africa's future. "We seek to deepen the understanding of the role that national parks and other protected areas play in protecting biodiversity and vital ecosystem services. The water we drink, the forests and their plants that provide our medicines, Africa's cultural legacy—all reside with protected and conserved areas," said Fred Kumah, AWF's vice president for global leadership.

One hoped-for outcome of the Congress is a commitment by governments to ensure ecological connectivity across Africa's protected areas as a critical strategy for long-term biodiversity protection and, ultimately, human well-being.

The Congress is set to be held in Kigali, Rwanda, July 18-23, 2022. With this inaugural gathering, Africa joins other regions and the global community in coalescing around protected



areas. Similar congresses in other parts of the world and the IUCN World Parks Congress help set conservation agendas for decades and provide valuable opportunities for protected-area authorities to unite around shared interests. 1,2: Preparatory event for inaugural Africa Protected Areas Congress @AWF 3: H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn is a patron for the Congress, along with two other former heads of state and fellow AWF trustees, H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou and H.E. Festus Mogae. @AWF 4: Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda Minister of the Environment @AWF 5: Protectedarea directors workshop @AWF



## Africa Protected Area Directors

The Africa Protected Area Directors forum brings together the leaders of the national park systems of every African country to:

- Support protected-area managers as they address loss of revenue due to tourism stoppages and other challenges presented by COVID
- Develop a common agenda for protected areas
- Support protected-area directors' engagement with the Africa Protected Areas Congress
- Facilitate collaboration and information sharing, especially regarding best practices in protected-area management

The forum includes members from all 54 African countries and is currently co-chaired by Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Members have identified a lack of sustained funding as their primary challenge, a lack that was especially acute during COVID. They've rallied behind a revolutionary step, the creation of a Pan-African Conservation Trust (A-PACT), which would create sustainable financing means for all 8,552 protected and conserved areas. The mechanism proposed is a hybrid trust fund with an endowment to cover essential management costs, a revolving or sinking fund to support innovation and emergency responses, and an investment vehicle to support business plans that deliver a return such as tourism developments or access to carbon markets.

# African civil society

In 2020, AWF initiated a pan-African leadership platform, the African Civil Society Organization Biodiversity Alliance, to define an African **civil society agenda** for upcoming negotiations at the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** and the **World Conservation Congress.** AWF's policy team under VP Fred Kumah's leadership played a significant role in forming and coordinating the group, which consists of over 80 African organizations.

Throughout FY21, the Alliance facilitated dialogues with CBD negotiators from the African Union, European Union, the Chinese Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation, Africa Development Bank, and the Green Environment Facility of the World Bank, among others. The overarching goal of these and similar convenings is to develop and promote an African vision for protected and conserved areas and biodiversity protection that will **help shape conservation policy and practice on the continent as well as global investment**.

The African civil society groups are also helping to directly shape conservation policy. In FY21 they gave feedback on bills such as the U.S. Global Wildlife Health and Pandemic Prevention Act legislation that may originate outside Africa but ultimately impacts conservation on the continent.







1: African CSOS Biodiversity Alliance members at the World Conservation Congress 2: Andrea Athanas represents AWF at the Congress. 3: Najib Balada, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, speaks to Kenyan delegation. 6: Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and AWF's Jia Qiao at the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention. All photos ©AWF



# ENGAGING CHINA

s Africa's leading foreign investor, China significantly impacts the continent's economy and environment. To help ensure that Africa's relationship with China benefits the African people and promotes conservation, AWF engages Chinese entities working in Africa and links them with African conservation leaders. Our networking and outreach extend to **Chinese and African governmental representatives, civil society organizations, youth, private-sector operations, and the Chinese public.** 

In FY21, AWF facilitated dialogues between Chinese negotiators to the Convention on **Biological Diversity (CBD)**—a treaty that significantly influences global conservation policy and investment—and the African Group of Negotiators. The latter is an alliance of African member states representing the continent's interests in international environmental negotiations. The Chinese team of about 20 negotiators engaged with representatives from South Africa, Eswatini, Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi, and other countries. We also linked African and Chinese civil society groups in critical discussions about outcomes they would like integrated into the Global Biodiversity Framework, which is the updated CBD strategy. "By fostering conservation-led

dialogues and exchanges among African and Chinese policy makers, civil societies, and youth, we hope to reinforce a shared vision that embraces conservation for sustainable development in modern Africa," said AWF's Jia Qiao, manager, external relations, China.

In October 2021, Qiao represented AWF during the first phase of the **Conference of Parties** to the Convention on Biodiversity in Kunming, China, where the world's leaders affirmed their political commitments to reversing biodiversity loss.

Since April 2020, AWF and Friends of Nature, a leading Chinese environmental civil society organization, have held three virtual dialogues between African and Chinese youth, gathering their perspectives on a range of conservation topics. (See page 12.) "With COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, we now hope to hold face-to-face conversations," said Qiao. "I see a lot of potential for building out this dialogue platform. We can come up with initiatives to help influence policymakers' decisions or strategies on conservation to positively impact Chinese investment in Africa, and to collaborate on capacity-building through, for example, training youth."

# Sensitizing consumers to the realities of wildlife trade

China is one of the world's leading markets for trafficked products such as pangolin scales, ivory, and rhino horn. AWF works to generate greater awareness of the potentially irreversible destruction caused by illegal wildlife trade. Since 2018, we've reached the Chinese public through partnerships with zoos, beginning with the Beijing Zoo, which receives millions of visitors each year. We also organized an exhibition at the Shanghai Zoo, China's second largest. Building a Shared Future for You and Me: Safeguarding Africa's Threatened Biodiversity has a compelling message - that every individual can help secure a positive future for African wildlife by refusing to buy illegal wildlife products and spreading the word about species endangerment. Alongside the initial exhibition. AWF staff members have visited Shanghai schools and led conservation awareness sessions with over 1.000 Chinese youth. Back at our Nairobi headquarters, we regularly host visiting Chinese high school and college students interested in conservation and African wildlife.







1,2: AWF exhibit at Shanghai Zoo 3: Students from Kunming, China visit AWF's Nairobi headquarters. 4, 5: Supported by AWF, the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Youth Network and South African Youth Biodiversity Network host a capacity-building workshop for youth leaders. 6: Workshop and dialogue for youth leaders All photos ©AWF





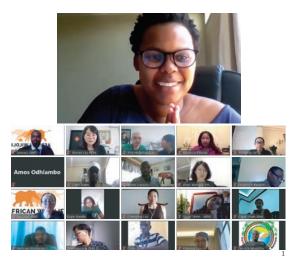


# ENGAGING YOUTH IN CONSERVATION

Tith a median age of 19 and approximately 70 percent of its people under the age of 30, Africa is the world's youngest continent. It's projected that by 2050, two of every five births will be in Africa. In light of such explosive population growth as well as the continent's rapid development, it's imperative that African youth advance conservation and effect inclusive, green development. AWF's Youth Leadership Program works with various groups to increase the influence of young Africans in national, regional, and international biodiversity forums and negotiations. We also help young conservation leaders develop their leadership skills and further some truly innovative conservation projects.

According to Simangele Msweli, senior manager of the program, today's young leaders counter the complexity of conservation issues with diverse and innovative solutions. For instance, the AWF-supported **Top 100 Young African Conservation Leaders** head a wide range of marine and terrestrial projects, from ecotourism businesses in Tanzania to apps that map illegalwaste sites in Kenya to toolkits for wildlife crime prosecution in Zimbabwe.

"The Top 100 contest is connecting these young conservationists to each other and in the process strengthening youth-led conservation in Africa," Msweli says. Importantly, the leaders gain recognition as role models and experts, inspiring others like them. They also receive new funding opportunities to grow their work.



# Creating relationships globally

AWF's efforts to bridge gaps internationally extend to **civil society groups** like Friends of Nature, a China-based organization, and we plan to facilitate similar discussions for youth organizations in North America. In FY21, AWF facilitated several **youth dialogues between African and Chinese youth** on various biodiversity-protection themes, including climate change mitigation, the role of Indigenous people and local communities in conservation, and, critically, the guiding priorities of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (the updated Convention on Biological Diversity strategy).

Bringing young people into international policymaking requires building their technical and leadership capacity, a cornerstone of AWF's youth leadership programming. For Msweli, this precondition helps create a pipeline of skilled and informed young people ready to take up leadership roles in policy. "If we wait until someone has enough experience working for government, for example, it means there is a gap during which they are not being as effective," she says.

Our youth engagement strategy also addresses gaps in conservation education, providing practical experiences designed to trigger active participation and reflection. **Partnering with the African Leadership University**, AWF provides internships for undergraduates and capstone research opportunities for MBA students at the university's School of Wildlife Conservation.





# Elevating voices on the global stage

Through **workshops and forums** with youth networks and civil society groups, AWF links young people from different regions while fostering greater awareness of the factors impacting biodiversity protection on the continent. In the lead-up to one of conservation's most important policy negotiations, the Convention on Biological Diversity (October 2021 and April 2022), this common understanding has been powerful.

Since 2018, AWF has facilitated workshops for country representatives of the **Global Youth Biodiversity Network**, the official youth delegation to the convention, to help them develop regional positions and prepare for deliberations. In 2021, we supported workshops for the network's chapter in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and connected the chapter with the country's leading policymaker, who is chair of the African Group of Negotiators and represents Africa's interests at the convention.

#### AWF LEADERS

# Meet AWF youth leader Simangele Msweli

All through her studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, Simangele Msweli yearned for more hands-on approaches so her advanced degrees in biological sciences could translate to real-world conservation solutions. That's why AWF's new partnership with the African Leadership University is so close to her heart. "We are working with MBA students as researchers," she says, "and their insights will shed light on so many topics, including the potential of biodiversity-friendly businesses, many of which will be youth-led."

Msweli grew up near the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a coastal World Heritage Site. She ventured into conservation policymaking as a recipient of a grant to attend the high-profile Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in India in 2012. Nineteen years old at the time, she joined the youth delegation to the convention, as part of a smaller group representing the youthmobilization platform Go4BioDiv. It was at this conference that she learned of and joined the Global Youth Biodiversity Network. She quickly felt that young people should mobilize at national levels as well as global to be the most effective. In 2017, Msweli co-founded the South African Youth Biodiversity Network, a nonprofit that strengthens the political contribution of South African youth to the convention and supports grassroots conservation projects. As a steering-committee member of the global youth network, she has organized various conservation capacity-building initiatives, including an intensive convention-prep workshop at AWF headquarters in 2018.

Now, she leads AWF's Youth Leadership Program. Since joining AWF in January 2021, she has represented us at public lectures and moderated high-level panel discussions at international forums like the 2021 European

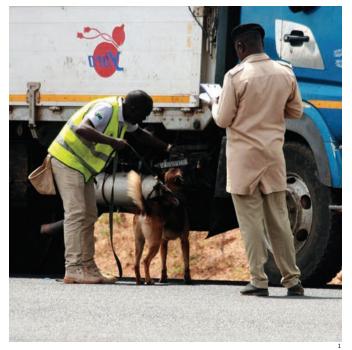




Development Days. Having served as a lecturer at her alma mater, she appreciates the opportunity to reach new audiences in diverse regions and recognizes her role as a vote of confidence. "To be entrusted with this responsibility shows that AWF is actually walking the talk when they say they're supporting leadership for young people," she says.

Looking back at her previous job at WildOceans, where she worked with rural communities around iSimangaliso Wetland Park, she reflects on her journey: biology to policy to people. "AWF has been amazing because it's where it all comes together. The position allows me to make use of this experience for a greater good."

<sup>1-3:</sup> Under the guidance of AWF's Simangele Msweli, youth conservation leaders meet to discuss goals related to policies and global agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. All photos @AWF





1: AWF-trained canines at a police checkpoint ©AWF 2: Contraband samples used in AWF counter-trafficking trainings ©AWF

# FORMING A BIPARTISAN BIODIVERSITY COALITION

The COVID-19 pandemic heightened awareness of the link between public health and unchecked exploitation of wildlife and the natural environment, giving conservation policy and legislation a higher profile. AWF in FY21 stepped up to contribute to and support several important bills that address conservation of endangered species, wildlife trafficking, future pandemic prevention, and rights-based conservation approaches.

AWF worked closely with Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Rob Portman (R-OH) to ensure development of the bipartisan Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Reauthorization and Improvement Act of 2020. We participated in and organized congressional briefings, meetings, and roundtable dialogues, allowing for African experts and government officials at the forefront of combating illegal wildlife trade to share insights and experiences directly with members of Congress.

The Act aims to continue the whole-ofgovernment approach to ending illegal wildlife trafficking. In November 2020, AWF's Didi Wamukoya, director of Counter Wildlife Trafficking, served on a panel of experts who identified the successes associated with the END Act of 2016 and areas needing improvement. The act expired at the end of 2021, and the new bill is an update.

The 2016 END Act has helped AWF and partner governments create and implement cutting-edge programs designed to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade, including programs that place highly skilled detection-dog teams in transport hubs to sniff out illegal wildlife products. The bill has also supported AWF's push to comprehensively review wildlife laws in Kenya and Uganda, augmenting the countries' crackdowns on wildlife crime. These efforts contributed to the removal of Kenya and Uganda from the "Gang of Eight" countries notoriously known for high levels of wildlife trafficking. Finally, END Act funds have supported AWF's prosecutorial training program. Working through partnerships such as the International Conservation Caucus Foundation and coalitions such as the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance and Alliance for Wildlife and Health in Washington DC, AWF provides insights to members of Congress through feedback on draft bills, roundtable discussions, testifying in hearings, grassroots advocacy, and briefs.



Engaging with communities in priority conservation landscapes such as Faro in Cameroon is where AWF fulfills its commitment to collaborative conservation with community benefit. Taking a holistic view and a pragmatic approach, we work to create conservation gains while directly benefiting people through improved conservation capacity, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and support for sustainable enterprise.

# AWF large landscape: Faro, Cameroon

Located in Northern Cameroon, Faro National Park is an essential savanna ecosystem bordering the Rivers Faro and Deo to the north and east, Nigeria to the west, and the Adamawa region to the south. The larger 344,249-hectare Faro landscape (1,329 square miles) is home to diverse wildlife, including elephants, cheetahs, hyenas, and the largest hippo population in Central and West Africa. Threats to wildlife are commercial poaching, unmanaged transhumance (seasonal cross-border livestock movements), illegal fishing, and severe climatechange impacts.

AWF's extensive experience across Africa positions us to engage and work effectively with diverse partners and stakeholders in government and Tchamba community leader Mohamadou Ahmadou organizes awareness campaigns to mitigate overgrazing impacts around Faro National Park. ©AWF



local communities to shape a more sustainable and resilient future for people and wildlife. In the Faro landscape, we support the government in protecting wildlife and managing the park and surrounding area while we ensure that local and Indigenous people are deeply engaged in conservation activities that provide community benefit. With funding from the European Union, AWF delivers a holistic conservation program that incorporates participatory landuse planning, capacity building in protected-area management, training in counter-wildlifetrafficking, mediation of community conflicts related to transhumance, microenterprise development, and environmental education.



1: Livestock herd in Faro landscape 2-5: AWF ensures that local and Indigenous people are deeply engaged in conservation activities that provide community benefit. 6: AWF facilitates participatory mapping with community members in Faro. All photos ©AWF









### Landscape management

Land use plans developed with support from AWF's Conservation Geography team represent collaborative, highly transparent processes that support the project's main objective, protecting the Faro ecosystem by improving natural-resource management for the benefit of both wildlife and communities. These land-use plans guide conservation objectives and activities in the landscape and, by demarcating zones for specific uses such as agriculture, help mediate disputes over access to resources.

Landscape management informed by collaborative planning is especially critical in the face of instability related to climate change. Growing resource scarcity has led to conflicts among herders, gold miners, farmers, fishers, and those who harvest non-timber forest products. The different groups vie for pastures, ores, water, food, and land, putting an unsustainable level of pressure on the forest. But AWF works with partners to advance strategic solutions. For example, in August 2021, we supported community members in digging artificial wells for tree nurseries, removing invasive plants, and treating seeds on a community farm to improve crop yield.



## Transhumance management program

Transhumance refers to the practice of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle—a long-held tradition. It is one of the greatest challenges in the Faro landscape, as herders from other parts of Cameroon and neighboring countries crisscross through the landscape to graze cattle, a practice that can severely degrade wildlife habitat and create conflict with area people. AWF helps address this problem by convening transhumant herders, local communities, and authorities to agree to grazing patterns and mediate conflicts over land rights. We also help sensitize herders to laws governing land use and present alternatives to harmful grazing practices. TANGO Team, a new AWF-supported outreach unit of local herders, communicates these messages to transhumant herders in public spheres like marketplaces.





### Ranger & community scout support

AWF has helped build Faro National Park rangers' anti-poaching capacity, providing tracking technology and training in best practices as well as building systems for monitoring and mitigating biodiversity threats. We also helped build a community-scout unit on the park's borders to protect against incursions by poachers and monitor the parks' significant hippo population.

In FY21, we also installed over 40 camera traps in various sections of Faro National Park to improve wildlife monitoring. The motion-triggered camera traps captured images of different antelope species as well as the forest buffalo, smaller in size than the better-known Cape buffalo and known to travel in much smaller herds. The images captured provide vital information that can help park managers better protect species and more efficiently deploy resources such as ranger patrols.



## Microenterprise project

To help reinforce food security in the landscape, the European Union-funded project has enabled local people from Cameroon's Tchamba District to develop microenterprises in beekeeping. In 2021, the beekeepers increased their honey harvests and expanded their inventory of hives. Along with improving incomes, such projects foster trust in AWF and strengthen our relationships with government and private-sector partners as well.

1: Community meeting around issues related to transhumance 2: Camera traps give park managers helpful info about species presence and movements. 3: Capacity-building session for ecoguards and outreach workers in Faro 4: Tchamba beekeeper with honey harvest 5: Tree-planting day All bohots @AWF



### Environmental education

AWF recognizes the long-term impact conservation education has on communities. especially those near protected areas. In the Faro landscape, we deliver education through activities like school trips to the park and community tree-planting days. In FY21, we partnered with Ecole de Faune de Garoua, or Wildlife College of Garoua, to launch "Operation Reforest Faro," which distributed 2,000 indigenous tree seedlings to students and families in three area villages. Students who later took good care of their trees received scholarships covering school fees and books. During the two-day event, participants gave the project a new name that speaks to the range of community engagement: "One Student, One Tree: One Teacher, One Tree: and One Household, One Tree."

AWF's Community Development Officer for Faro Adamou Aboubakar, said, "We've seen great progress in the commitment and involvement of partners and stakeholders within the landscape — especially from schools, traditional rulers, and civil society organizations. Involving students will go a long way toward preparing future conservation champions."

# PROMOTING GREEN GROWTH ACROSS AFRICA

As human populations grow, so does the need for infrastructure and agriculture, pressing into habitats and threatening local biodiversity. In Tanzania, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Cameroon, AWF's sustainable agriculture programs balance the needs of people and wildlife by accounting for everyone's priorities.



# Mushrooms in Bwindi, Uganda

Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is known for mountain gorillas, not mushrooms. Almost half the global population of the endangered subspecies resides in the park, along with chimpanzees, elephants, and over 300 species of birds.

But in addition to this iconic species, the landscape is becoming known for a new kind of food crop, mushrooms. In September of 2020, AWF's Uganda team launched a project designed to **build resilience against the loss of livelihoods caused by shutdowns related to COVID-19.** The project has offered area people capacity-building and enterprise support in mushroom growing, including technical assistance for the construction of four mushroom grow rooms.



Better seeds for farmers in Bili-Mbomu, DRC

In the Northern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Bili-Mbomu Protected Area Complex is a crucial habitat for the largest population of endangered eastern chimpanzees and one of the region's last remaining habitats for critically endangered forest elephants. The area is under threat from poaching, poisoned water from illegal fishing, artisanal gold mining, and slashand-burn agriculture.

With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, AWF in 2018 launched a community development program focusing on enhancing community resilience while improving biodiversity protection. The program's current priorities are sustainable agriculture, participatory mapping for community landuse planning, and developing a committee for community input in local conservation measures.

In 2020, AWF **exposed 540 people from 60 households to sustainable agriculture techniques** designed to improve productivity while benefiting the environment. The activities included distributing upgraded seeds and introducing techniques of crop rotation. AWF also helped farmers repurpose their farms to establish seed fields and school fields—extending the program's benefits via demonstration. These school fields are subdivided plots that allow farmers to practice new cultivation techniques on a smaller scale.







# Beehives in Faro

The Faro landscape in Cameroon is harshly afflicted by the impacts of climate change. Competition for pasture, water, and food has intensified as a result. In response, AWF has supported **beekeeping projects**—supplying hives and equipment—alongside other sustainable livelihood initiatives in the landscape. (See "Faro Landscape" page 16.)

1,3: Mushroom farming and beekeeping help build community resilience in Bwindi (Uganda) and Faro (Cameroon), respectively. 4: Successful harvests allow beekeepers to build more hives. 5: A traditional log hive 6: Potential cocoa investor All photos ©AWF



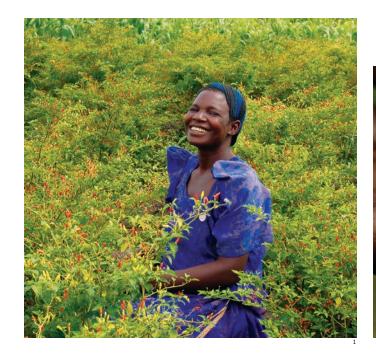
# Rice & cocoa in Kilombero, Tanzania

Tanzania's Kilombero Valley in Southern Tanzania is a vital ecosystem and the country's breadbasket. But climate change is wreaking havoc here farmers are experiencing seasons with decreased rainfall, heat waves, and drought, leading to crop failures. To cope with the loss, farmers are expanding their working land, eroding the surrounding habitat.

To lessen the community's impact on the land, AWF has engaged **2,000 farmers in a model inclusive green growth project.** In partnership with the Global Fund for Nature and with funding from the German government's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the project has enabled rice and cocoa farmers, many of them women, to increase their harvests by 36 percent and 28 percent, respectively. (Studies have shown that empowering women in conservation yields the greatest benefits for communities.)

The farmers use higher-yield seeds, less water, less land, and improved farming techniques to boost productivity and profit. AWF also provides guidance as the farmers upgrade infrastructure and develop business plans.

In addition, AWF works closely with community members to reforest this vital landscape. So far, we have supported the planting of more than 100,000 seedlings along rivers, in forest reserves, and alongside cocoa bushes to provide shelter for the all-important cocoa plants.





# HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION & PREVENTION

s Africa's human population grows, people and wildlife find themselves in closer proximity, leading to more frequent and intensified human-wildlife conflict. These potentially lethal conflicts often occur in areas where agricultural activity and human settlement near or encroach upon protected areas or wildlife migration and dispersal areas outside protected areas.

AWF's proven interventions designed to prevent human-wildlife conflicts can be lifesaving for people and wildlife, stopping retaliatory killings of wild animals, protecting vital crops, and allowing a more peaceful coexistence.

AWF addresses human-wildlife conflict in **targeted large landscapes** through varying strategies that reflect the unique ecologies of each landscape and the needs and activities of human communities.

One of our most common and effective solutions is **training wildlife rangers and village scouts in human-wildlife conflict awareness and mitigation strategies** that they can employ as mediators and share within villages. In our training, we share the tenets of AWF's rightsbased approach, which is underpinned by global human rights standards. AWF also sensitizes communities to conservation realities, including the importance of wildlife to the maintenance of healthy ecosystems that provide critical resources such as water.

Marauding elephants can wipe out a family's food crops, destroying months of hard agricultural work and putting family well-being at risk. In Kenya in FY21, AWF and the Kenya Wildlife Service identified six human-elephant conflict hotspots within the Tsavo ecosystem and facilitated meetings with community stakeholders to discuss and demonstrate mitigation strategies. We also **trained 240 farmers** in solutions such as using light and noise to deflect approaching elephants. AWF also provided the needed tools — pressure horns, torches, and firecrackers.

An AWF-supported **rapid-response team** in Tsavo handled 48 human-elephant conflict incidents between November 2020 and April 2021. The team, which works with the Kenya Wildlife Service, led the elephants out of village areas back to protected areas where they would be safe from retaliatory violence.





1: Ugandan chili farmer 3,4: Handing over equipment to help rangers and the community around Amboseli mitigate human-wildlife conflict 5: © Paul Runze / PCRimages.com. All other photos ©AWF

In Murchison Falls and Kidepo Valley, Uganda, we've trained 380 farmers in **chili farming**, protecting farmlands from elephant invasion while providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. The pungent crops are a non-lethal method of repelling elephants while also helping farmers diversify their incomes, thus building community resilience.

In Zimbabwe's Mbire district, AWF has helped chili farmers access seedlings, farm inputs, and markets for their crops. Seeing the success of the project's pilot phase, other farmers in the area have invested their own resources into chili growing, hoping to realize **improved incomes** as well as keep elephants at bay. "The use of chili has proven to be sustainable, cost-effective, and easily adopted by households," says Collen Matema, AWF's natural resources management officer in Mbire. The farmers burn chili blocks to ward off elephants and also find it effective to use fence roping dipped in chili oil.



# Lion collaring

Lions have a high profile when it comes to humanwildlife conflict. In FY21, we facilitated a lion collaring exercise at LUMO Wildlife Conservancy in Tsavo. The data collected from the GPS-enabled collars transmit to the park managers and provides information about how cats use the space and where they overlap with livestock or human presence. This information helps shape land use plans and the development of conflict mitigation measures. "We need to make sure that people live harmoniously with wildlife and appreciate that wildlife conservation is to their benefit," says AWF's landscape ecologist in Tsavo-Mkomazi, Kenneth Kimitei.





## Community conservation rights

# CONSERVATION FOR COMMUNITIES, BY COMMUNITIES

Azelnut, bush mango, honey, cocoa. In communities in and around Dja Faunal Reserve and Campo Ma'an National Park in Cameroon, these products help solve challenges both to conservation and community well-being. AWF empowers communities around Dja and Campo Ma'an with conservation education and alternative livelihood training and assistance, putting community-led conservation into action.

AWF has worked in Campo Ma'an since 2017, supporting wildlife protection and helping improve the livelihoods of nine Indigenous communities within and around the protected area. In addition, AWF has introduced more sustainable agricultural practices and helped women move into industry in non-timber forest products like bush mango and Marantaceae leaves.

Between 2020 and 2021, AWF helped area women increase the quality and quantity of their non-timber forest products and survey markets and competitive pricing, resulting in higher income. Despite the impact of COVID-19, the participating women saw a 70 percent revenue increase. In addition, all nine communities received high-quality agricultural seeds and materials to establish an average of 18 hectares of food crops.

North of Dja Faunal Reserve, 21 other villages are also finding success with non-timber forest products. Traditional but unsustainable activities like bushmeat hunting are a significant income source in this area, due to a lack of economically viable options. AWF has stepped in to offer alternatives that are more sustainable and more profitable. Conservation and livelihoodimprovement training in these villages resulted in a 25 percent increase in income for 350 people between 2017 and 2020, with the third year carrying a 35 percent increase. We expect 2021 final data to show even more significant income growth for the cocoa producers and forestproduct collectors. Since its inception, AWF has promoted the wellbeing of people alongside wildlife. Community-led conservation under a rights-based approach is the only sustainable future because it allows human beings, who have a right to ownership of their natural resources, to thrive. For AWF's Senior VP of Conservation Strategy, Knowledge Management, and Impact Charly Facheux, this means full collaboration and solidarity with Indigenous peoples, local communities, and women—partnerships in which local people are not "just in the room," but involved in decision-making.

Natural resources are not just materially beneficial —they carry significant cultural heritage for communities across Africa, and it is the communities' right to lead conservation efforts. These capacity-building initiatives prove that conservation, human rights, and economic equity are not at odds—in fact, they are inseparable.

1: To strengthen food security around Campo Ma'an, AWF provided agricultural inputs including maize seeds. 2-3: Non-timber forest products 4: Kasigau community scout graduation ceremony All photos @AWF

# AWF's right-based conservation policy

The collaborative approach taken in Cameroon is essential to AWF's work throughout Africa. But while AWF has strived to promote community conservation engagement and ownership from its first days, we didn't codify these values until 2020, when we released a new, boardapproved *Policy and Standard for Rights-Based Conservation.* 

Among other provisions, this model human-rights code stipulates AWF will fully collaborate with local communities and Indigenous peoples in conservation planning and implementation, operating within a "framework of partnership and solidarity." The overarching commitment-fleshed out in the document with carefully developed principles, criteria, and indicators-is "to respect, protect, and promote human rights at all times, irrespective of ethnic group, gender, race, sexual orientation, age, or class, by adopting a rights-based conservation approach."

AWF's holistic species protection efforts focus on three areas: protecting wildlife in situ (in their natural habitats), fighting trafficking through a suite of programs that target wildlife crime at every stage, and reducing demand around the globe for illegal wildlife products.

# Counting wildlife

ounting animals for a wildlife census is not as simple as it might sound. The area covered is expansive, the terrain frequently troublesome and unaccommodating. And some animals are elusive and mobile, creating a risk of repeat counting. But getting an accurate count is as important as it is difficult. Designing conservation measures and assessing the effectiveness of those already in place require a thorough knowledge of a wildlife population's size, composition, and distribution in an area. Likewise, knowledge of human influences and threats to species is key.

In May 2021, AWF assisted the Kenya Wildlife Service in its **first countrywide wildlife census**. Patrols by air, ground, and water were combined with the examination of data from camera traps, radio collars, and ground surveys (to detect signs such as nests and animal droppings). Over three months, surveyors counted as many species as possible—large terrestrial and marine mammals as well as key bird species.



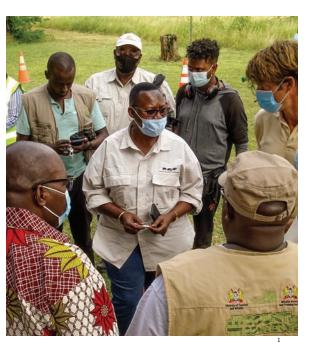
The census found more than 36,000 elephants in Kenya, a 12 percent increase from 2014. It also found the Tsavo ecosystem accounts for more than 37 percent of the elephant's range throughout Kenya and is home to nearly 15,000 elephants, highlighting the importance of this landscape. Such findings provide an invaluable overview of the state of Kenya's wildlife and help shape future conservation work.

Not all surveys are this large; in April, AWF's Simien Mountains team embarked on its own wildlife census in the Ethiopian national park, **counting Walia ibex** and the **rare Ethiopian wolf**.

The survey uncovered a wealth of information. The wolf's numbers have increased to 90, a 26 percent increase believed to be the result of reduced grazing pressures and habitat restoration. Unfortunately, ibex numbers had fallen from 865 in 2015 to 601. In good news, there were more adult females observed than other sex or age classes, pointing to the population's strong reproductive capability. Data showing declines leads to further investigation, particularly of causes, and determines the best course forward. With all we know, including the animals' locations, we can target effective interventions.

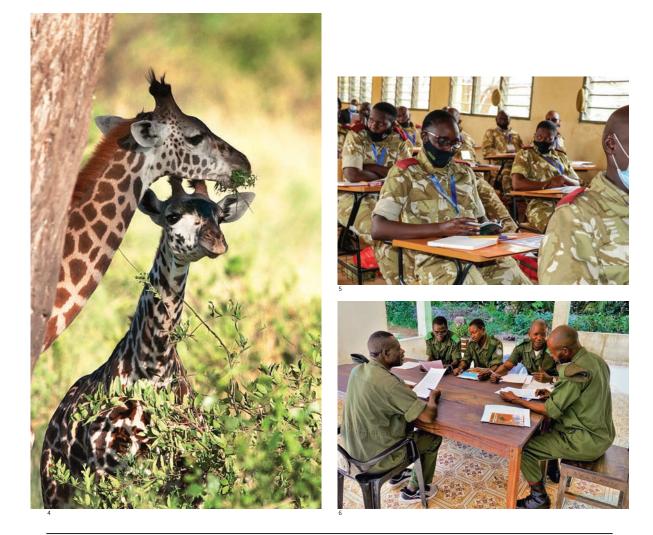
Wildlife surveys are carried out across African landscapes every day. **Camera traps**, with their remote sensing abilities, allow landscape managers to capture images of wildlife behaving as they would when not under the observation of people. Using camera traps allows AWF field teams to unobtrusively monitor wildlife, gathering information about population presence, abundance, health status, behavior, and habitat use.

> 1: AWF's Fiesta Warinwa engages Kenyan officials Najib Balala, Fred Segor, and Patrick Omondi as they pay a courtesy call during a large-mammal census at Tsavo. @AWF 2: @KevinDooley 3: @Perin Banks 4: @Billy Dodson 5: Digital and electronic evidence training for rangers @AWF 6: Eco-guards of the Lomako-Yokokala Wildlife Reserve at workshop focused on wildlife law enforcement techniques. @AWF









# SAFEGUARDING GIRAFFES

S adly, giraffes have seen significant declines since the mid-1980s. Many people don't realize that in Africa today, there is roughly one giraffe for every four elephants and that giraffes face the threat of a "silent extinction." The leading threats to this iconic species include unsustainable (and illegal) bushmeat hunting, poaching, and habitat loss and fragmentation.

In FY21, AWF sought to **arrest giraffe declines in two critical strongholds,** the Maasai Steppe and Tsavo-Mkomazi cross-border landscape in Kenya and Tanzania. Our multi-faceted approach includes working with wildlife authorities to:

- Strengthen ecological monitoring and the related data analyses and dissemination
- Support land-use planning and other activities that diminish the incidence of human-wildlife conflict
- Bolster counter-trafficking efforts through activities such as anti-poaching rapid response and court monitoring
- Promote community participation in giraffe and habitat conservation through involvement with conservancies and conservation enterprises such as tourism



# Giraffe recovery plan in Kenya

AWF has partnered with the Kenya Wildlife Service to develop and execute the country's first giraffe recovery and action plan. The five-year strategy focuses on the three giraffe species found in Kenya (Maasai, Rothschild's, and reticulated) and calls for a holistic approach, including the interventions outlined above. Under this strategy, AWF is **mapping the threats facing giraffes** in Tsavo-Mkomazi, which will help park managers determine and prioritize interventions.

We also help **train and equip ranger forces** charged with safeguarding giraffes. For example, in September 2020, in the Tsavo landscape, we funded training for 50 community rangers from nine conservancies. The training focused on law enforcement, community relations, human rights, wildlife crime investigation, and human-wildlife conflict mitigation. In addition, we provided the rangers with food rations, uniforms, and boots. "The transformation in these rangers is phenomenal," said landscape manager Maurice Nyaligu during the scouts' graduation ceremony.





Ensuring wildlife crime is taken seriously

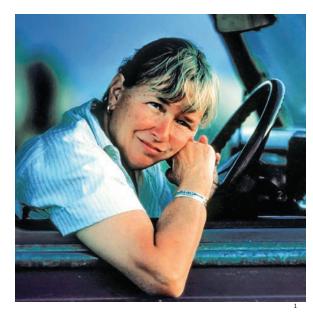
Threats to giraffes and other wildlife can include insufficient or lacking prosecutorial systems that fail to punish and deter wildlife crime. Specific problems include logistical challenges and poor witness testimony, which can derail prosecution. To help facilitate the appropriate prosecution of serious wildlife crimes, AWF has placed **court** monitors in the Tsavo-Mkomazi cross-border region (as well as the DRC and Ethiopia). These monitors support prosecutors in pre-trial processes, including assisting with evidence management and delivery and helping prepare witnesses-usually rangers-for trial. The cuttingedge project is one of only a handful in Africa and, to our knowledge, the most extensive courtmonitoring program on the continent.



# CONSERVING AFRICA'S ICONIC ELEPHANTS

I n a new assessment of elephants' conservation status, scientists in 2021 again raised the alarm about the plight of African elephants. The International Union for Conservation of Nature now lists the African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) as "critically endangered" and the African savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) as "endangered." Previously, the two were categorized as subspecies and listed as "vulnerable." According to the assessment, Africa's savanna elephant population declined by at least 60 percent over the last 50 years, while forest elephants fell by more than 86 percent over the past 31 years. Poaching for ivory and loss of habitat are two of the leading contributors to the decline.

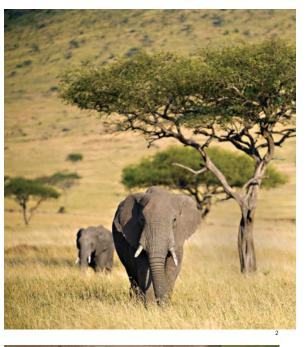
<sup>1:</sup> AWF and the Kenya Wildlife Service conduct a digital and electronic evidence training at the law enforcement academy in Taita Taveta County. @AWF 2: Scouts from Kenya's Taita Ranch receive training in data-collection skills and other facets of wildlife law enforcement @AWF 3: AWF's Benson Kasyoki leads an intensive 5-day learning exchange for court-monitoring teams in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. @AWF 4: @AnnieKatz



# Holistic approach

Since AWF's first years, when it supported the field research of ethologist and conservationist Cynthia Moss in and around Kenya's Amboseli National Park, AWF has worked with scientists, wildlife authorities, and communities to protect elephants. Our efforts focus on capacity-building, community engagement, and providing resources to help parks **monitor elephant populations**, **conduct surveillance**, and **respond to poaching and trafficking**. We also seek to **reduce demand** globally for ivory or other elephant parts.

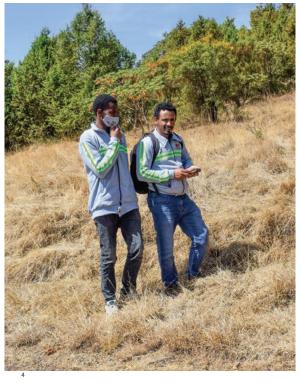
AWF also partners with governments and communities to **protect or expand habitat and critical corridors**, so elephants have room to disperse and roam. Virtually all of our large-landscape conservation benefits elephants as well as communities, integrating myriad activities such as **land-use planning**, **capacity-building in sustainable agriculture**, **microenterprise development**, and **humanwildlife conflict mitigation**.





#### Looking ahead:

In the future, AWF will continue to support our partner countries in developing species action and recovery plans. This work entails providing technical guidance during plan development and supporting activities such as wildlife censuses, human-elephant conflict mitigation training, and antipoaching operations.







1: AWF supported the pioneering work of elephant researcher Cynthia Moss ©Cynthia Moss 2: ©Annie Katz 3: ©Barbara von Hoffmann 4-6: Three shots depicting eco-monitoring training for scouts. From top: Simien Mountains landscape (Ethiopia), cross-border Tsavo landscape (Kenya/Tanzania), and Bili-Uele (DRC). ©AWF

### Building capacity in tracking & monitoring

In recent years, there has been an explosion of data from satellite imagery and field-data collection devices such as the smartphone. This bounty has transformed the quality and the amount of information available to monitor habitats and track conservation progress. **AWF trains forest rangers and scouts to use an app called "CyberTracker" to harness this data for conservation**. With just a few clicks, users enter important field observations on their ruggedized smartphones. The data collected is downloaded to SMART, the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool, which helps parks manage patrol data.

The output can be critical for park managers as they prioritize anti-poaching patrols or decide where to focus protection against deforestation threats. Field data about the presence of animals or hunting camps now can be immediately useful for managing conservation areas and supporting law enforcement. In addition, the data can be integrated with other data sets, such as vegetation and forest cover, for further analysis and modeling.

Since 2014, AWF's Conservation Geography department, headed by ecologist David Williams, has provided CyberTracker/SMART training and equipment in 27 sites, many extremely remote, across seven countries. Equipment provided includes smartphones, software, laptops, and cameras.



# PASSIONATE TEAM: AWF COUNTER-WILDLIFE-TRAFFICKING

You come across a poaching kill site. You investigate the carcass, note the nature of the animal's wounds, and, because nighttime is approaching, leave further analysis and processing for the next day. But the following morning, the carcass is no longer a teller of tales—hyenas have feasted, and now it will be impossible to demonstrate the method of attack. Your evidence is gone.

Such is the unique nature of wildlife crime and the kind of potential gap in wildlife law enforcement that AWF addresses through a **suite of projects and programs designed to counter wildlife trafficking** in Africa.

After habitat loss and fragmentation, trafficking is the most severe threat to wildlife, especially dire for endangered species such as elephants and rhinos. Experts estimate the illegal wildlife trade is worth US \$8-10 billion annually. AWF, founded in 1961, has decades of experience protecting Africa's wildlife through antipoaching programs, but our involvement in other kinds of counter-trafficking is more nascent. In 2012, during a workshop at AWF's Nairobi headquarters, an array of professionals involved in conservation—law enforcers, prosecutors, magistrates, and others—agreed that Africa should strengthen its counter-trafficking efforts. Shortly after, AWF worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service to procure, train, and deploy sniffer dogs, along with their skilled handlers, to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and other trafficking hotspots. Since that early focus on enhancing contraband detection, AWF has grown its counter-trafficking program to include capacity-building in investigating and prosecuting offenders.

We launched Canines for Conservation in 2014. our Wildlife Law Enforcement Program in 2015, and our Wildlife Cybercrime **Investigation Program** in 2019. These initiatives fall under the Counter Wildlife Trafficking Program, which today has 14 staff members spread across eight countries: Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Botswana, Cameroon, Mozambique, and Uganda. The program, built under the leadership of our long-time vice president for species conservation and science, Philip Muruthi, is one arm of AWF's dynamic integrated effort to support governments in fighting the illegal wildlife trade in Africa. It is managed by director Didi Wamukoya, a onetime Kenya Wildlife Service prosecutor and current honorary KWS warden.





1: Counter-wildlife-trafficking training at a border post in Kenya ©AWF 2-3: AWF-trained detection dogs and handlers search cargo and luggage 3: ©AFP/Simon Maina

### Canines for Conservation

Since the first class of detection dogs and canine handlers graduated from a rigorous three-month course at AWF's training facility in Tanzania, the Canines for Conservation program has grown—in size, effectiveness, and reputation. We've deployed canine teams to six countries— **Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon**—helping authorities leverage limited resources to catch and deter traffickers. More recently, we expanded the program to **Ethiopia**, starting with constructing a canine facility at Bole International Airport and training dogs and handlers.

In many ways, dogs are an ideal law enforcement aide. "They can quickly and effectively search through cargo and luggage without causing delays in the movement of goods," said Muruthi. In practice searches, the dogs take as little as 12 seconds to search a car and 5-10 seconds to search a suitcase. Moreover, the team's accuracy is close to perfect. Another benefit of dogs: "They are hard-working and incorruptible. They don't lie to us," says Muruthi.

Furthermore, teams of skilled handlers and trained dogs are a scalable solution, explaining why canine units are increasingly seen as a solution to illegal wildlife trafficking. With AWF's technical and financial support, more African governments are using canine units to enhance investigation and prosecution.

Most importantly, canine units get results. Since 2014, AWF-trained teams have made 408 finds of ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, lion claws, and other illegal wildlife products. The impact of these busts transcends the thwarting of specific trafficking operations. The longer-term benefit is that **canine teams act as deterrents** merely by their presence. "The number of finds at some of the airports where we have deployed canine teams has really declined," says Sylvia Wasige, AWF senior project officer, species conservation. "The traffickers know that if you're passing through Jomo Kenyatta Airport, there is a hundred percent chance you will be searched. And if you have a wildlife product, you will be arrested."





# Five freedoms

A special aspect of the Canines for Conservation program is its emphasis on creating a **culture of care** for the dogs. The AWF training program forges strong bonds between handlers and dogs through dedicated playtime and a focus in the curriculum on the dogs' needs and nature. The canines become wildlife authority employees after graduation, and our partners assure these talented dogs will enjoy freedom from hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury, disease, fear, distress, and the freedom to express normal behavior, including play.

"We want to make sure that at no point is a dog ever in distress," says Wasige. This means dogs receive healthy diets, enjoy regular exercise, and are not separated from their handlers for long periods. In Tanzania, AWF is helping authorities build a facility to house handlers near the tracker dogs. Thus, the handler can respond promptly if a dog gets sick or there's an unexpected incident such as a snakebite.

> 1,2: AWF trains canines and their future handlers at our facility in Tanzania. 3: Field training for wildlife law enforcers 4: Cybercrime workshops help keep wildlife law enforcers current in their skill sets. All photos ©AWF



# "We will be the losers"

Efforts to fight poaching, strengthen contraband detection, and catch traffickers are for naught if said country's justice system doesn't take wildlife crimes seriously. Many countries issue light penalties for wildlife crime, an approach that encourages repeat offenders and even the formation of criminal syndicates.

When AWF began its **Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance Program** (initially known as the Wildlife Law Enforcement Program) in 2015, it focused on analyzing wildlife laws in target countries to better understand the legal climate and be an informed advocate for more robust laws. We've since delivered analyses of wildlife laws to Botswana, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Especially early on, many players marginalized wildlife crime. Says Didi Wamukoya, a former KWS prosecutor who now heads AWF's Counter Wildlife Trafficking Program: "When I started working as a prosecutor, we had a meeting with the judiciary, and one participant said to us: 'I mean, I have murder cases, robberies, violence before me, why should I focus on somebody who has just killed a dik-dik?'

"We had to explain, 'You think this antelope is small, but it's part of a large ecosystem, of which human beings are part. So, you let them go free. From one antelope, they will move higher. They will destroy elephants. They will destroy an entire ecosystem. And we will be the losers."



# Crime investigation training

To help change attitudes, we expanded the program's scope to include **sensitization and training of prosecutors and other wildlife law enforcers.** The workshops familiarize participants with the laws on the books. And they emphasize the costs of wildlife crime to ecosystems and the human communities dependent on those ecosystems for livelihoods and services such as water. They also cover how prosecutors can add teeth where laws are weak by making other applicable criminal charges—such as customs or tax law violations.

Because wildlife crime has special characteristics, we also hold workshops for first responders and other investigators. "When you're being trained in how to manage a crime scene as an investigator," says Wamukoya, "they don't tell you, for example, bushmeat can decompose immediately. Or the elephant carcasses in our park-if you leave them overnight, the hyenas will devour them, your evidence will be gone. How do you deal with such crime scenes that are unique to wildlife? That is the gap we try to fill. We build on their general training to highlight the specific aspects of wildlife law enforcement they need." To date, we have trained 2,066 individuals—judges, prosecutors, customs officers, anti-corruption officers, rangers, park managers, and othersfrom over 18 countries.

# Tracker dogs

A growing focus of the canine program is the training and deployment of tracker dog teams, which are field-based and follow trails from kill sites to poachers' doorsteps, often over many kilometers and several days. Once COVID-19 hit and shut down wildlife tourism everywhere, protected-area authorities faced a considerable challenge. Not only did parks' revenue streams dry up, but there was also a very real possibility poaching would increase in parks suddenly empty of tourists and tourism providers. As a result, AWF saw an uptick in wildlife authority requests for tracker units (handlers and dogs). Teams are now working at Tanzania's Kilimanjaro International Airport and in the wildlife-rich Serengeti National Park. We also support tracker teams in Tanzania's Manyara/ Tarangire ecosystem, Mkomazi National Park, and Kenya's Lake Nakuru National Park and Ol Pejeta Conservancy.



### Court monitoring

Logistical challenges and insufficient witness testimony are two other factors that can derail prosecution. AWF has placed court monitors in the Tsavo-Mkomazi cross-border region (Kenya-Tanzania), the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ethiopia to address this challenge. These monitors provide a range of support to prosecutors, especially in pre-trial processes. They not only help with matters like evidence storage and delivery—but they also help prepare rangers and other witnesses to be **effective witnesses on the stand.** There are few other projects like this one, and to our knowledge, it's the most extensive court monitoring program in Africa.

Some of the most critical assistance our court monitors provide is logistical. Say there is no budget to get crucial evidence, an ivory bangle bracelet, from Tsavo to Nairobi for forensic analysis. But the prosecutor requires certification that the specimen is ivory. AWF may step in to cover transportation costs, provide technical guidance regarding chain-of-evidence integrity, and follow up on the forensic expert's report. The aim is to keep cases moving along because delays of many months can lead to witness noshows and other lapses. Benson Kasyoki, AWF legal officer, court monitoring, says working with witnesses is the best part of his job. "Most rangers," he says, "have the bushcraft knowledge, but most have never been in courts." He advises them about submitting evidence, testifying effectively, and presenting evidence during hearings and trials. (It's important to note that we never coach witnesses. Many cases are old,



even years old, so our court monitors have the witnesses review their documentation to refresh their memories.)

Wildlife rangers generally are under-resourced, underpaid, alone in the wild, and missing their families. Kasyoki found his already considerable respect for rangers has deepened. "You get to feel their pain and understand what they do," he says. "I am telling you, if you come and hear their stories, it will give you compassion. They go through a lot of challenges. **Empowering them** with this wonderful knowledge, it's a plus for me. They understand they have a brother, someone out there to maybe address some of their challenges."

> 1: On-the-job support for wildlife prosecutors 2: Props for a crime investigation workshop 3,4: Training in cellular forensics All photos ©AWF

## Wildlife cybercrime investigation

AWF's Wildlife Cybercrime Investigation Program represents the **newest front in our counter-trafficking efforts.** Managed by former Kenya police detective Ernest Agina, the program seeks to build the capacity of AWF's law enforcement partners to intercept illegal online trade and carry out cybercrime investigations. To date, we are supporting cybercrime capacitybuilding in Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

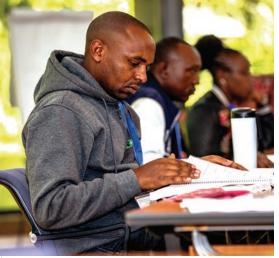
Perhaps not surprisingly, the work is partnership-heavy, and AWF has established relationships with a dozen government and private-sector organizations. Some we support, such as the Uganda Wildlife Authority; others are service providers with tools that can benefit law enforcers. For example, we work with Cellebrite, a private-tech company, to advance partner agencies' capacities in mobile forensics. We also have a relationship with Interpol, Kenya, and Uganda, which can benefit the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Uganda Wildlife Authority when they have investigations that lead overseas.

We are tackling wildlife crime in the digital arena by partnering with security operations to identify and investigate the online sale of illegal wildlife products and provide forensic data for law enforcement officials to track down criminals. Says Wamukoya: "They do an online 'patrol' using keywords we provide. So, they are able to find people who are illegally selling wildlife products through online marketplaces or social media."

When it comes to illegal activity conducted on platforms like Facebook and eBay, "AWF plays more of a whistleblower role for the wildlife law enforcement agencies," says Agina, "because we do not have the mandate to investigate or effect arrests. If we see something bad happening online, we report to the relevant law enforcement agencies, after profiling."

Our trainings have evolved to emphasize the importance of collecting **mobile phone evidence.** "Poachers, traffickers, people in our villages all have mobile phones, and there's a lot of evidence that can be gathered from these mobile phones," says Wamukoya. "The first





step is actually just to train the rangers and investigators on how to recover phones from a suspect... You know, once you find someone with ivory...go beyond the ivory and look for other forms of evidence that can also link to the kingpin." In 2021 AWF opened a new digital forensics lab at our headquarters. "The idea is to have the law enforcers access it and use it to extract information or conduct any other kind of forensic analysis on a digital device. The lab is at their disposal," Wamukoya said.



### Undercover bust

In late 2020/early 2021, AWF supported KWS during a three-week investigation involving covert and overt teams as well as the service's AWF-trained canine unit, DNA forensic lab, cybercrime unit, and the prosecution team. The investigation led to the arrest of 39 suspects and recovered elephant tusks, a live pangolin, and other contraband. "Our role was pre-and post-," says Agina. "We helped them to draft the operation orders in terms of what they should look out for, and we participated in a debrief." All told, since establishing our cybercrime unit, AWF has supported investigations with the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Uganda Wildlife Authority, leading to 67 arrests.











1-3: Advanced training in collecting, storing, and presenting digital and electronic evidence 4: AWF's Didi Wamukoya 5: Inspecting vehicles at a border checkpoint 6: Rangers often are underpaid and under resourced. "If you hear their stories, it will give you compassion," says AWF's Benson Kasyoki. All photos ©AWF

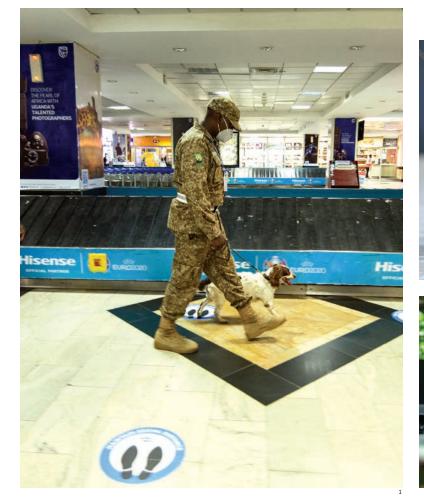
#### Cohesive team

Despite the magnitude of its mission, the Counter Wildlife Trafficking team remains focused and optimistic. One key to its effectiveness, says Wasige, is strategic deliberateness. Countertrafficking priorities for the next 10 years, which derive from AWF's larger strategic vision, represent careful thinking. "Speaking for the dog program," says Wasige, "when we have a request to support an intelligence operation, we don't jump. We are intentional." If a proposal falls outside the scope of the program's strategic priorities, the team will turn it down, she says. Another team asset is cohesion. "We don't look around at each other," says Kasyoki, "and say, 'This is a lawyer, this is an ecologist.' It's a super team. Everybody is united about wanting to make an impact, and we are zealous about what we're doing."

"We have a team of professionals who are passionate about wildlife," says Wasige. "When the technical advisors to the canine units are talking about an operation they want to support, their passion shines through. They believe in the contribution that they are making.

"The canine handlers, the way they engage with their dogs on the job, their gait, their confidence, you can see their commitment. When they make a find, afterward, when you meet them, they are still so energetic and so happy and are willing to do that again—next week or the week after that." Clear-eyed vision plus victories along the way help everyone maintain balance and focus as part of a team known for meeting its targets. "Seeing us achieve milestones keeps us going," says Kasyoki.

Bigger wins in the conservation world, such as a decline in poaching in one of our target landscapes, are critical to morale, says Wamukoya. But smaller successes matter, too. "What keeps me optimistic," she says, "is knowing that you talked to people, and you actually changed their minds. You talked to a magistrate, and you hear three or four months later that they have given a much larger fine than before. Finding that they have listened to you is inspiring."









#### Quick work by good dogs

In March 2021, AWF delivered four detection dogs to a new base in Murchison Falls, Uganda. AWF had supported the construction of the canine facility, which was designed to house six dogs and features accommodations for the human handlers.

Within a few hours of the dogs' delivery, the canine teams were at work, joining an intelligence-led operation. The new operatives' first mission was a resounding success, uncovering 24 kilograms of ivory as well as the suspect, whom authorities arrested. Within hours on the job, these dogs had delivered their first bust.

1: Handler and canine at Entebbe's Jomo Kenyatta Int'l Airport © Martin Jumba 2,3: Detection dogs love to work and learn. 4: AWF-built facility in Murchison Falls, Uganda, houses six canines, a play area, and an office, plus accommodations for handlers. 5: New detection dogs in the Murchison Falls landscape, Uganda 6: Kenya Wildlife Service ranger and canine inspect a truck bed. All photos ©AWF



# COVID response

As the shutdown to Africa's tourism economy brought on by the pandemic raised fears of a surge in poaching and bushmeat hunting, the canine teams were more needed than ever. In Botswana. AWF launched mobile searches at prime entry and exit points in Maun and Kasane. Between July and September of 2020, teams searched more than 900 vehicles and over 2,800 items of luggage.

In Lake Nakuru National Park in Kenya, AWF assisted the Kenya Wildlife Service in building a canine facility. After the unit was up and running, AWF handed over needed equipment for the dogand-handler teams and patrols, as well as office supplies and PPE.

Our investment continuously pays off. In FY21, Tanzanian canine teams searched 2.089 flights and over 700 vehicles. The teams also conducted 13 intelligence-led operations, leading to the recovery of 110 kilograms of raw ivory and the arrest of 28 suspects.

At Mozambique's Maputo International Airport, a sniffer dog team's work led to a bust of lion and rhino products. Authorities were able to recover teeth and claws taken from 10 lions and five horns taken from three rhinos.

The Canines program has expansion plans for Ethiopia and Cameroon. AWF signed an agreement with the Elephants Crisis Fund supporting the establishment of a canine unit and kennels at Bole International Airport in Ethiopia. The Cameroon unit is in the prep stages now and hopes to launch soon.

# CANINES FOR CONSERVATION

WF's Canines for Conservation program works with national wildlife authorities **L** in six countries to develop and deploy dog-and-handler teams to strategic ports and border checkpoints along known trafficking routes for ivory and other illegal wildlife products. These detection- and tracker-dog units enhance the ability of law enforcers to apprehend wildlife traffickers, prevent poaching in high-risk landscapes, and ultimately deter poaching and smuggling.

Over the course of a four-week "boot camp," AWF's Canines for Conservation program trains dogs and their human handlers to become powerful agents in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade. The dogs are taught to recognize and signal specific scents—rhino horn and elephant ivory, lion bone, and giraffe parts-

using the strength of their noses, which are up to 100,000 times more powerful than a human nose. After graduating, the teams are deployed to wildlife authorities to serve as tracker- or detection-dog teams, as per their training.

Tracker dogs are based in parks and work at the scenes of wildlife crime. They act as first responders to incidents of poaching, picking up a scent and following it back to the perpetrator. Detection dogs work at strategic country entry and exit points, often an airport, sniffing cargo and luggage for contraband.

In FY21, there were 34 finds made by the Canines for Conservation teams. The number may seem small, but the significance is huge-once dogs are known to poachers and smugglers, the deterrent effect of the dogs is triggered.

Many AWF landscape, community, and species programs and projects incorporate strategies designed to raise awareness of wildlife needs and inspire conservation action. But we also have dedicated education and outreach programs that further the reach of African conservation voices and help foster and energize individual and grassroots conservation leadership.

Mkapa Awards: "Bringing Africa to the world, and the world to Africa"

n October 28, 2021, AWF's yearlong 60th-anniversary celebration began with a colorful awards ceremony honoring the inaugural **Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards** winners. The contest is named in honor of the late Tanzanian President H. E. Benjamin Mkapa.

The event at the Nairobi National Museum was attended by photographers, AWF board and staff members, and distinguished guests, including the late Benjamin Mkapa's wife, Madame Anna Mkapa, and Najib Balala, Kenya's cabinet secretary for tourism and wildlife. Madam Mkapa and

© Jen Guyton / Mkapa Awards

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Balala presented the grand prize of US \$5,000 and a large Shona elephant sculpture to Riccardo Marchegiani, of Italy, for his "Gelada and Baby," which he shot in Simien Mountains National Park, Ethiopia. (Shona is a type of Zimbabwean carved sculpture.)

"As I walked through the exhibit," said Madame Mkapa, "he (Benjamin Mkapa) was with me, and I could easily imagine his gasps and delight and awe and laughter as he and I marveled at each and every photograph that so beautifully captured what he and we, care about so deeply—the wildlife, wild lands, and the people at the center of it all.

"Africa's conservation relies on every one of us to raise our voices, so I stand here today to encourage you: Speak up until you're voiceless."

Sixteen award-winning photographers from across the world also attended the ceremony and received honorary certificates for their photographs and videos. The global competition received almost 9,000 entries from 50 countries worldwide, including 10 African countries. AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya said, "Going forward, we are committed to building the capacity of African photographers, especially the youth, ensuring that African perspectives are represented from both sides of the lens."

The event marked the beginning of AWF's 60thanniversary commemoration and a year of activities that celebrate our past and set the stage for ambitious future endeavors.









# TRAINING AFRICAN FILMMAKERS TO TELL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STORIES

series of media workshops organized by AWF and Jackson Wild in FY21 provided video storytellers in Africa with the opportunity to learn from experienced wildlife filmmakers and conservationists.

The exciting new program is part of AWF's efforts to highlight African conservation perspectives as well as mobilize and support a growing conservation movement in Africa. It is designed to help elevate critical voices on the continent and create powerful conservation stories.

#### The African Conservation Voices Media

Labs draw on Jackson Wild's deep connections within the nature and conservation filmmaking community and feature customized workshops led by AWF conservation experts. The first series engaged mid-career storytellers and filmmakers in Kenya, following a competitive application process. The 26 fellows selected participated in online seminars on conservation models and practices, wildlife research, the components of visual storytelling, interviewing techniques, ethical aspects of storytelling, and more.

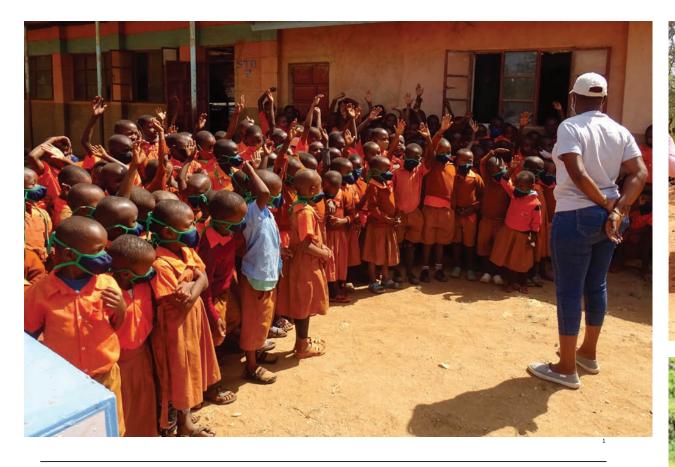
A select group will take part in a field workshop hosted by our partners, Cottar's Wildlife Conservation Trust and Cottar's Camp in the Mara, to shoot three short films with hands-on coaching from experts in storytelling, filming, and editing. Due to COVID, the field portion of the program has been delayed, but in the interim, some participants received small AWF production grants to begin work on local projects.

The program also is designed to raise awareness of the complex threats to wildlife and wild lands in modern Africa, with an important focus on the relationships between communities and conservation. "Ultimately," AWF CEO Kaddu Sebunya said, "in addition to building a cadre of talented, recognized conservation storytellers, we aim to use these compelling video shorts to help build an African conservation movement, especially among African youth."

While the pilot Media Lab in FY21 admitted only Kenyan citizens, AWF and Jackson Wild plan to **expand the program into Rwanda and Zimbabwe in 2022 and beyond,** while building platforms and pathways for broader dissemination of local stories by local people.

The African Conservation Voices Media Labs is made possible in part by the Avatar Alliance Foundation, Sony, Fujifilm, Adobe, Cottar's Safaris, and the Embassy of the United States of America to Kenya.

1: Nairobi National Museum, site of the inaugural Mkapa African Wildlife Awards ©Sertified Image 2: Riccardo Marchegiani, Benjamin Mkapa African Wildlife Photography Awards Grand Prize Winner, 2021 3: Taking in the award winners prior to the ceremony All photos ©AWF



# CLASSROOM AFRICA: CREATING FUTURE CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

→ ince rebuilding the first school in 2011, Classroom Africa has built six bright, airy, **bigh-quality schools** in areas of critical conservation concern. The most recent additions are Sarachom and Kidepo primary schools, located in a wildlife-rich part of northern Uganda lacking vital infrastructure, including schools.

The four other Classroom Africa schools are in Ethiopia's Simien Mountains, Zambia's Lupani District, the Manyara corridor in Tanzania, and the DRC's Equator Province. AWF not only upgraded the primary schools and campuses in these remote locations, but also offers conservation activities for students and training opportunities, as well as all-important housing for teachers.

Today, Classroom Africa is expanding from brick-and-mortar projects to more dispersed conservation education centered in AWF landscapes. Meanwhile, the six Classroom Africa

schools serve as hubs for teacher training and community life, with a focus on conservation. Throughout all our landscapes, AWF is linking schools with national wildlife clubs and other organizations to implement conservationeducation activities. We also plan to support education in schools through the provision of books and other resources, including solar power, which will enhance learning environments.

By engaging students and communities in conservation and exposing them to wildlife and wild lands, Classroom Africa seeks to create support for conservation goals and activities, foster future conservation leadership, and reduce engagement with the illegal wildlife trade or other unsustainable activities.

1: Students at Ngongodinyi Primary in the Tsavo-Mkomazi landscape 2: First-ever field trip to Kidepo Valley National Park for students from Sarachom Primary School in Uganda 3: An AWF-provided hand-washing station at the Mbulia Primary School in Tsavo-Mkomazi 4: One of 67 student scouts who took part in a "cleaning walk" at Udzungwa Mountains National Park All photos ©AWF



WILDLIFE

BY:

#### Spreading the word

In 2021, AWF was featured on United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) online platform Green Citizens, which highlights replicable citizen projects that benefit communities, encourages visitors to support the highlighted projects, and seeks to inspire like action.

#### **Classroom Africa:** By the Numbers

Classroom Africa schools have helped improve the lives of over 2,000 students annually, supported the professional development of scores of teachers, and helped conserve more than 223,000 acres of forest and other wild lands through land-use covenants with communities.

# Letter from the Chair: GREAT PROGRESS, FOR WHICH WE ARE GRATEFUL



#### Dear Friends of AWF,

A year ago, I thought for sure we would be back to normal, but, alas, this is not the case. The good news is that despite the pandemic, we have made great progress in the world of conservation. This is thanks to a wonderful and devoted staff, a strong and visionary CEO, committed and passionate boards, diverse and talented partners, and generous and steadfast donors. We are fortunate.

One of the things I wanted to focus on when becoming chair was convening. It struck me that AWF is in a perfect position to be the key convener for all things conservation on the continent...and this is increasingly the case. We are organizing and helping run the Africa Protected Areas Congress in July of 2022, which will inform and affect pan-African conservation. (Should any of you want to attend, please

reach out to us, and we will give you the information.) Many more symposia and workshops are taking place at our beautiful conservation centre at headquarters in Nairobi, and policymakers and other key decision makers are reaching out to us for opinions and advice.

Our most glamorous "convening" was the exhibition in the Nairobi National Museum, where the first annual Mkapa Awards were given, and guests could view the spectacular photos taken by amateurs and professionals alike. If you would like to see them online, please go to **awf.org/mkapa2**.

It was a wonderful way to honor President Benjamin Mkapa, who died in 2020 and left a big hole on our board and a big gap in the world of conservation. He was a remarkable man, a close friend, and we all miss him. However, we are so very fortunate and deeply grateful to Madame Anna Mkapa for her continued dedication and service to conservation and to AWF.

Of course, we could not do any of these critical projects without the support of friends like you. I promise you that we are good stewards of your gifts, and each one makes a difference. Your philanthropy makes the animals safer, makes the landscapes open for migration, helps enhance livelihoods in the communities, and so much more. Your gifts make change occur, for which we are very grateful.

We all miss traveling to Africa and are so hoping that in 2022 things will continue to open...maybe not back to "normal," but certainly a bit safer.

With gratitude for all that you do,

Heather Stint Hazza

Heather Sturt Haaga AWF Board Chair

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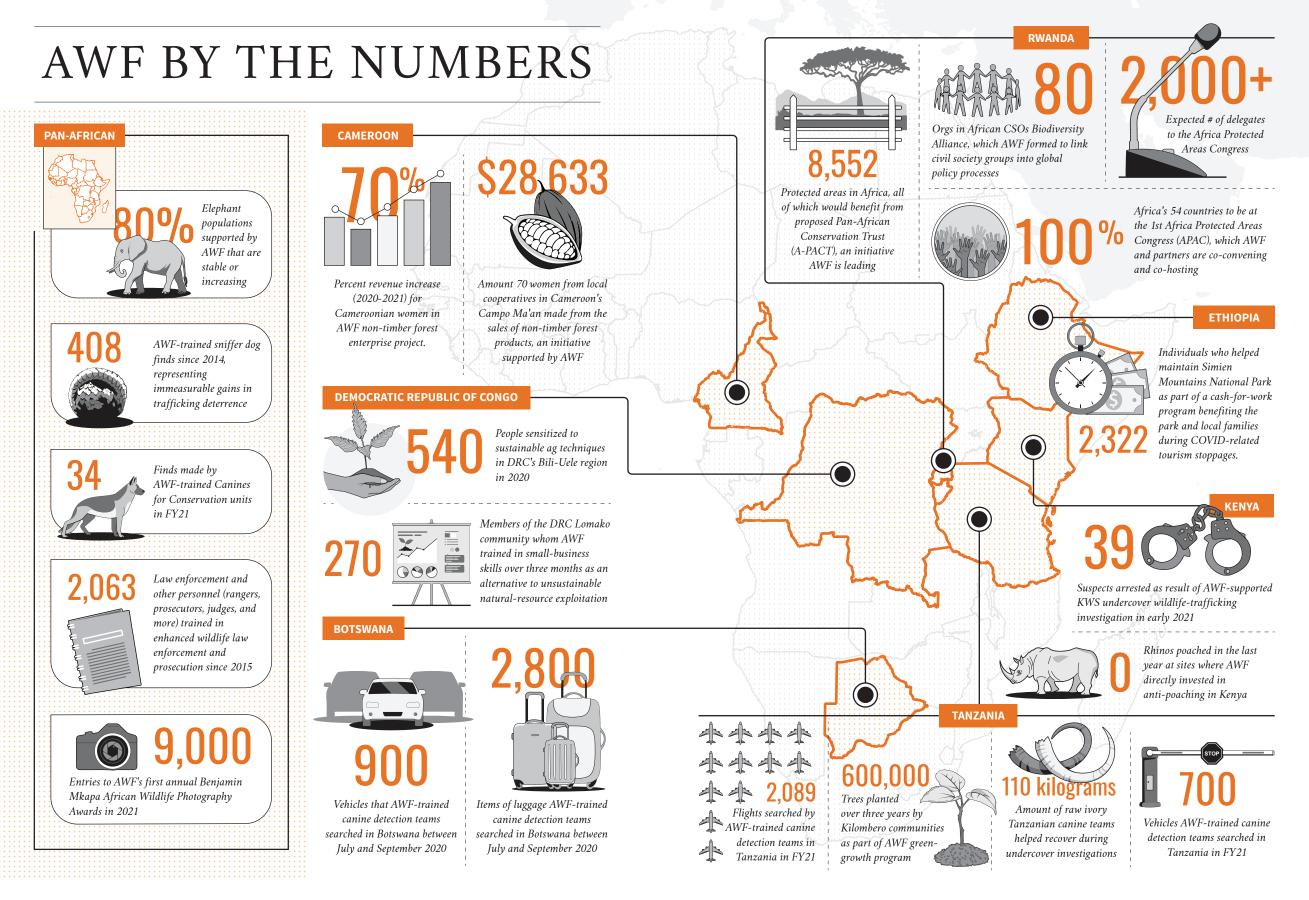
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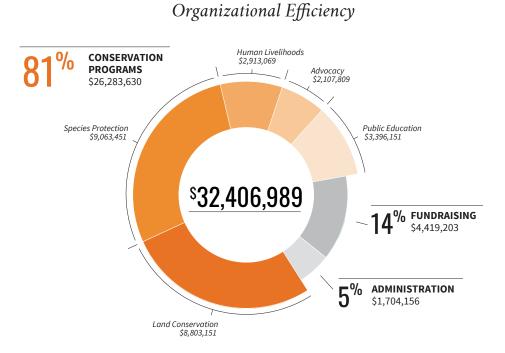
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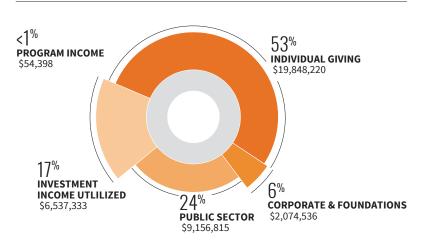


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Since AWF's beginnings 60 years ago, we've been a responsible steward of your contributions in service to Africa's wildlife and wild lands.



# Revenue Breakout



Summary of activities for the year ended June 30, 2021

OPERATING REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Gifts from individuals	17,082,866	2,765,354	19,848,220
Corporate & foundation support	746,284	1,256,020	2,002,304
Public-sector grants	9,156,815	-	9,156,815
Program income	54,398	-	54,398
In-kind contributions	72,232		72,232
Restricted net assets utilized	6,428,861	(6,428,861)	-
Total Operating Revenue	33,541,456	(2,407,487)	31,133,969
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Conservation programs	20,779,670	-	20,779,670
Education & outreach	5,503,960	-	5,503,960
Total program expenses	26,283,630	-	26,283,630
Finance & administration	1,704,156	-	1,704,156
Fundraising	4,419,203	-	4,419,203
Total supporting services	6,123,359	-	6,123,359
Total Operating Expenses	32,406,989	-	32,406,989
Non-operating activities	602,337		602,337
Net investment income	5,074,058	860,938	5,934,996
Total Non-Operating Activities	5,676,395	860,938	6,537,333
Change in Net Assets	6,810,862	(1,546,549)	5,264,313

# Financial position as of June 30, 2021

	2021	2020
Cash and equivalents	3,643,888	5,595,065
Investments	33,759,808	31,019,447
Gifts and grants receivable	9,523,240	6,430,794
Accounts receivable	110,872	115,597
Prepaid & other assets	949,670	739,417
Impact loans receivable	511,576	684,454
Property & equipment, net of depreciation	4,139,827	4,123,355
Rights of Use asset	3,957,321	4,363,588
Total Assets	56,596,202	53,071,717
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	2,191,161	2,118,036
Refundable grant advances	552,823	1,012,195
Loan payable	-	802,337
Lease liabilities	5,500,325	6,042,452
Other liabilities	148,357	157,528
Total Liabilities	8,392,666	10,132,548
Unrestricted net assets	8,392,666 35,327,664	28,516,802
Restricted net assets	12,875,872	14,422,421
Total Net Assets	48,203,536	42,939,223
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	56,596,202	53,071,771





We're extremely grateful for your contributions and participation in the AWF community; both are vital to our efforts to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa.

If you're not yet a supporter but feel inspired by our work, please know there are numerous ways to help. You can sign up to become a monthly contributor, work with our staff to arrange a legacy gift, donate in honor of a loved one, and more. Please visit www.awf.org/support-us to learn more.

Together we can accomplish so much for Africa's wildlife, wild lands, and communities in need.

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