



AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

AWF'S URGENT RESPONSE FUND GRANTS
are protecting wildlife across the continent

Leading the Way FORWARD



ELEPHANTS 475K

Elephants remaining in Africa. Elephants are being poached at a rate of about 25,000 to 35,000 per year.

RHINOS 25,000

Number of white and black rhinos. South Africa, which holds the majority of the world's rhinos, lost 13 rhinos to poaching in 2007. It lost 1,175 in 2015.

GREAT APES 375K

Africa's chimpanzee population. There are four species of great apes in Africa: the chimpanzee, western gorilla, eastern gorilla (of which the mountain gorilla is a subspecies) and bonobo.

CARNIVORES 23,000

Lions in Africa. The lion population has already declined by 42 percent in the past 21 years. Recent reports predict Africa's lion population will be halved yet again in the next 20 years.

GIRAFFES 80,000

Number of giraffes in Africa. The West African giraffe numbers fewer than 400.

The Continental Herd

Wildlife populations across the African continent—what the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) calls the “continental herd”—have dropped, in some cases precipitously, in the past century.

COVER: AWF is working with people in Africa and globally to secure a future where Africa's elephants and other wildlife are not sacrificed at the altar of development.

Africa's labor productivity is rising, and trade between Africa and the rest of the world has increased by 200 percent since 2000. At least a dozen African economies have expanded by more than 6 percent per year for the past six years, earning the nickname, “Africa's lion economies.”

Yet this rapid economic growth is resulting in wild lands being fragmented and forests being cleared. And despite the landmark Paris agreement last December, Africa will see the negative impacts of climate change for decades to come. Because of desertification, three quarters of the land being used for agriculture in Africa is degraded. In Southern Africa, the Kariba dam—the world's largest manmade lake, shared by Zambia and Zimbabwe—has dropped to half of last year's level. In East Africa, malaria-infected mosquitoes are now found in areas they had never been before.

To counteract these negative trends, African countries need to make radical behavioral changes toward the environment, wildlife and wild lands. The current economic momentum offers the continent its greatest opportunity to do so—but also its greatest challenge. Africa's wildlife and wild lands are central to its economies—and AWF is working with African leadership to keep them central to discussions around the continent's future.

I am excited to be stepping into the role of African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) president at a time when decisions are being made on how Africa will manage its natural resources responsibly and accountably. As Africa's oldest and largest conservation organization, AWF is in the unique position to lead this discussion. We are already helping rural communities determine how they can live with wildlife today. It is now up to us to assert why Africa's “lion economies” cannot live *without* our wildlife and wild lands tomorrow.

AWF is strengthening our advocacy efforts to inspire African leadership at every level to champion a development agenda with conservation at its core. I invite you to join us in this effort. Together, we can build a true African network for conservation.

Kaddu Sebunya
President

All Hands on Deck

When you're dealing with a national park the size of Massachusetts, you need all hands on deck. "Kafue National Park is about the same size as Kruger," says Sarah Davies of Game Rangers International (GRI), comparing Zambia's oldest national park to the famed South African game park. "Kruger has four helicopters and many sniffer dogs to aid in its anti-poaching work. Kafue only has a dedicated but overstretched team of wildlife police officers."

That's where GRI comes in. The Zambian conservation group supports Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) in both its on-the-ground antipoaching efforts within Kafue National Park and in its intelligence-led law enforcement activities. Since 2014, AWF has been providing funding to GRI through our Urgent Response Fund.

Between October 2014 and September 2015, AWF support allowed ZAWA—together with GRI—to conduct more than 4,000 man patrol days, apprehend nearly 300 poachers, and recover 104 firearms and some 740 kgs of ivory. Big wins have included apprehending

Interpol fugitive and ivory trafficker Ben Simasiku in late 2014 and busting a wildlife smuggling syndicate attempting to illegally export 12 sable antelope into South Africa. More recently, GRI assisted ZAWA in saving seven pangolins from traffickers.

"Every dollar is crucial to our daily operations," says GRI's chief executive, Sport Beattie. "Without AWF funding, we would never have managed to achieve those results."

New threat

According to Beattie, the majority of wildlife crimes in the region are related to the commercial bushmeat trade—but a new threat may be coming from the north. ZAWA recently arrested a Congolese man looking to trade AK-47s for elephant ivory, and intelligence has uncovered similar plans involving Central African citizens. Separate from those incidents, GRI has supported the wildlife authority in recovering high-caliber bullets from elephant carcasses, indicating the rise of a more sophisticated, military style of poaching.

"We have witnessed an upsurge in the past six to nine months," says Beattie.

It's with this in mind that AWF has renewed our funding to GRI for the coming year. "Before, ZAWA's Intelligence and Investigations Unit was able to respond to only three out of 20 cases that came in. Now it is much higher," says a ZAWA senior investigations officer. "We're grateful to be able to start breaking the chain of the illegal wildlife trade." ♦

Your support of AWF this year helped bust a sable antelope trafficking ring in Zambia.

SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AWF's US\$10 million Urgent Response Fund (URF) works to **stop the killing** of wildlife on the ground in Africa (see opposite), **stop the trafficking** of illegal wildlife products (see pages 4 and 5), and **stop the demand** of elephant ivory and rhino horn (see pages 6 and 7). Thanks to you, we have already made significant impact:

\$2.8M

Amount of URF funding disbursed to on-the-ground partners in 2015

Approximate number of elephants being protected through the URF—nearly half of the elephants found on the African continent

221K



The URF is protecting wildlife across the continent, totaling 36 critical populations of elephants, rhinos, carnivores and great apes.



AWF has already trained and deployed 8 detection dogs and 13 handlers to the ivory trafficking hubs of Mombasa and Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

308

Number of law enforcement professionals trained through AWF's judicial sensitization workshops, during a 7-month period in 2015.

AWF's demand-awareness campaign has been working to change behavior in China, Hong Kong, Thailand and Vietnam.



A new awareness campaign was also launched in Tanzania.



Through the Urgent Response Fund, we are protecting nine important rhino populations across the continent.

Sniffing Out **IVORY**

AWF launched the Conservation Canine Program to deploy detection dogs to known trafficking hubs in Africa. Within a year of launching the program, we are already making an impact on anti-trafficking efforts in two countries.

AWF obtained the first group of dogs from respected breeders in Europe last February—all “driven dogs but with open, happy personalities,” according to Conservation Canine Director Will Powell. We then worked with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Tanzania’s Wildlife Division to select handlers and train the dog-and-handler teams in the difficult job of searching cargo, vehicles and luggage for smuggled ivory.

Since August 2015, two dogs have been working at Moi International Airport in Mombasa, with two more—Rocco, a Malinois, and Asja, a spaniel—now part of the 24-hour KWS presence at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi. The four Tanzania-based teams have been working at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam and will soon also begin covering the seaport. In early December, dogs Ram and Diva—a German shepherd and a Malinois, respectively—went on special assignment for a week, searching vehicles coming into Kenya from Tanzania at a border checkpoint.

Working better

“Since the AWF-trained handlers and dogs have come to Nairobi, the entire KWS team has been working more effectively,” says Powell. “Our handlers’ ethos and passion for the dogs is infectious.”

Next up are confirmed projects in Uganda, Mozambique and Ethiopia. Powell recently flew to Europe to select the next group of dogs for ivory and rhino horn detection work. ♦

The Long Arm of the Law

In addition to securing Africa’s ports, AWF is working to strengthen law enforcement through judicial sensitization workshops. “Judiciary and prosecution units in most countries are not attuned to the negative socioeconomic impacts of wildlife crimes,” explains Didi Wamukoya, AWF’s new law enforcement manager.

As such, AWF’s criminal justice workshops address the negative effects of wildlife crime on the economy and the ecosystem, and provide the foundation for adjudicating wildlife crimes and improving interagency cooperation. As Wamukoya explains, “Wildlife crime cuts across many sectors, and interagency collaboration is important.” More than 300 prosecutors, magistrates, customs officials and wildlife authority representatives—in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya

and Uganda—have participated in the trainings this year alone.

The trainings are working. In September 2014, two people who tried to sell ivory to undercover Kenya Wildlife Service rangers were fined US\$570,000 or life in prison. The magistrate presiding over the case had taken part in an AWF-sponsored workshop.

More recently in Ethiopia, a federal prosecutor filed criminal charges against suspects accused of trafficking 86 kgs of ivory. Ethiopia, like many countries, typically imposes nominal fines or sentences, such as community service, on wildlife criminals. After participating in an AWF workshop in Addis Ababa in October, however, the prosecutor requested stiffer sentences. The court agreed, sentencing each to three years in prison. ♦



AWF graduated its first class of detection dogs in mid-2015. Canines and handlers are now hard at work securing ports in Kenya and Tanzania.

NEW FOCUS ON *Vietnam*

Behavior and attitude change is difficult—but not impossible. In China, AWF and partner WildAid have changed attitudes about ivory through a series of public service announcements (PSAs). In the PSAs, Chinese celebrities—including actress Li Bingbing (at right) and classical pianist Lang Lang—urged audiences to not buy ivory. Three years after the start of our campaign, 90 percent of those who had seen the PSAs said they would not buy ivory.

AWF is now leveraging this successful model to create awareness in Vietnam about rhino horn. We've held several targeted events, including:

- A workshop for 200-plus cancer patients and oncologists in Hanoi, dispelling the myth that consuming rhino horn will cure cancer;
- A nationally broadcast two-hour television special that featured superstars from Vietnam's entertainment industry; and
- A business dinner where 15 of Vietnam's top business leaders—along with Virgin Group founder Sir Richard Branson—pledged never to buy, use or gift rhino horn.

Shifting attitudes in Vietnam will be a challenge—but if our work in China is any indication, we're confident that we'll succeed.



With the help of Asian celebrities such as actress Li Bingbing, we have been able to alter Chinese attitudes toward ivory consumption.

INSET: Chinese movie star Wang Baoqiang (left) and Tanzanian music artist Alikiba ham it up during a workshop that brought together Chinese and African civil society leaders.



To further strengthen our ivory awareness campaign, AWF this year launched a Chinese-language website and began engaging Chinese audiences via their most popular social media platforms. Our digital presence is being noticed—we now boast more than 1,000 fans on Sina Weibo, China's equivalent of Facebook, and 7,500 monthly page views on the website! By educating audiences about African conservation issues, AWF is building a global base of supporters who will advocate for Africa's wildlife.

Check out the website at:
www.awfchina.cn



China has a significant role to play in the conservation of Africa's wildlife and wild lands, and not only because of societal demand for ivory. The African continent has developed rapidly in the past several years as a result of Chinese investment. Some of this development, however, has been at the expense of Africa's natural resources.

For the past two years, AWF and the Aspen Institute have hosted a series of Track II dialogues to engage prominent Africans and Chinese in advocating for sustainable development. The China–Africa Dialogue series included meetings between African civil society leaders in Nairobi, Kenya, and Kigali, Rwanda; and a similar meeting for their Chinese counterparts in Beijing, China.

In December 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa, AWF and Aspen gathered participants to discuss how they could work together to convince the governments of China and the

African states to work together to protect African wildlife and wild lands. The capstone event took place just days in advance of the 6th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which occurs every three years between African and Chinese government officials to agree upon a framework for future engagement.

The China–Africa Dialogs successfully brought African conservation issues to the fore of diplomatic discussions between China and Africa. Specifically:

- A China–Africa Wildlife Conservation Council was established to build relationships and continue efforts to highlight the need for sustainable development in Africa. The council includes not only businesspeople and influential citizens but also celebrities, including Tanzanian music artist Alikiba and Chinese movie star Wang Baoqiang.

- AWF and Aspen sensitized African ambassadors to China on the issue of African conservation.
- Our formal recommendation to promote the protection of wildlife and wild lands in the continent's development agenda was integrated into the African Union's final Vision 2063 document.
- We submitted a formal proposal to include topics of wildlife and wild lands protection within the 6th FOCAC meetings and provided technical information to serve as a resource.
- As a result of all these efforts, the agreed document that came out of the FOCAC Summit explicitly called for China and Africa to cooperate to end the illegal wildlife trade, with particular reference to elephants and rhinos.



Central Africa boasts significant chimpanzee populations, but doing conservation here requires careful planning, coordination and, oftentimes, partnering with security firms.

A Challenge for AWF

The Bili-Uele Protected Area Complex is a conservationist's paradise, reportedly boasting a population of unusually large chimpanzee, forest elephants by the hundreds, and a combination of savanna and woodland habitat.

It may also be a conservationist's biggest challenge. Bili is located in a very isolated part of northern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Infrastructure here is limited. Until recently, there was virtually no presence by the wildlife authority, *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN)—but plenty of rebels. Up to the challenge, AWF decided it was time to get to work. In just two years, AWF managed to work with ICCN to target a 10,000-sq.-km area for conservation; engage a partner to ensure security (see below); facilitate engagement with local communities; and hire and train 25 rangers to begin patrols. AWF also opened a local office to provide ongoing technical support to ICCN.

These early activities culminated in a planning workshop in November, attended by local and national stakeholders, as well as representatives from the U.S. government. Following the meeting, AWF received correspondence from the wildlife authority. It read: "On behalf of the director general, I wish to extend our thanks for this great meeting that brought a revival of activities in Bili-Uele. ICCN welcomes AWF support in the rehabilitation of this site."

In the remote protected areas of Central Africa, danger has a name: Lord's Resistance Army, Janjaweed, Séléka, take your pick.

"When we started working in Cameroon's Faro National Park, we lost four village guards almost immediately due to conflict," recalls Jef Dupain, AWF's technical director for West and Central Africa.

So it is that AWF has partnered with an unlikely ally, Maisha Consulting, a firm run by Israeli security consultants, to implement conservation in Central Africa.

"Insecurity and instability are increasing in this part of Africa, due to a combination of factors, such as desertification, population growth, competition for grazing resources, and of course, terrorism," says Dupain. "We do frontline conservation. Here, doing conservation on the front lines requires focus, action

and expertise of a completely different nature than what may be required in less-volatile regions."

Through the partnership with Maisha, AWF has been able to engage more readily in high-risk, insecure areas such as Faro and Bili-Uele Protected Area Complex in northern Democratic Republic of the Congo (see above). In such locations, Maisha provided training to wildlife rangers in military-style operations, including hand-to-hand combat, camouflage and tactical law enforcement. In Bili-Uele, Maisha has additionally worked to optimize security protocols for stakeholders.

By making protected areas safer for rangers and wildlife alike, these efforts are providing an additional benefit: They are ensuring security for communities that have experienced the terror of kidnappings and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Engaging Communities



AWF has engaged communities in conservation by supporting conservation lodges such as Asilia's Naboisho Camp in Kenya and engaging farmers in new crop options to mitigate human–elephant conflict.

Grace Kipwola is solely responsible for supporting her six kids, including paying school fees for two in secondary school. But elephants made it difficult for the Ugandan farmer to earn a steady income.

When it's harvest season, elephants from nearby Murchison Falls National Park raid village farmlands to snack on rice and maize. "If I had a spear, I would probably have killed them," Kipwola admits. "But now, I have no problems with them."

What prompted her attitude change? Kipwola joined an agricultural project being implemented by the Uganda Wildlife Authority and AWF under the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/ Uganda Biodiversity Program. The project provides support to 25 farmers to grow chili peppers.

Less than an inch long, these chilies pack a punch. They repel elephants, which do not like their spicy smell. "When elephants see the chili plants, they turn away and leave," says Alex Ojera Sedele, chairman of the farmers group growing the chilies.

The drought-resistant chilies also bring in six times more money than maize. Companies buy the chilies to make hot sauce. The Uganda Wildlife Authority purchases them to help other communities combat human–elephant conflict: Dried chilies are used to make bricks that, when lit, produce stinging smoke that drives away elephants.

"Life has not been easy since the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency," says Sedele. "We were forced to leave our homes and could not pay our children's school fees. But we are seeing that, if our own children are not educated, they, too, will have issues with wildlife." Through the chili project, farmers like Kipwola can simultaneously live alongside wildlife and gain an income to educate their children.

**Big Change in a
Small Package**

As part of the Serengeti–Mara ecosystem, the Naboisho area in southern Kenya sees tens of thousands of wildebeest and zebra pass through the landscape each year. But the area began experiencing pressure from uncontrolled development and overgrazing. With the assistance of a few operators, among them ecotourism operator Asilia, the Maasai landowners in Naboisho formed a conservancy in 2010—eventually transforming a degraded landscape into a prime tourism destination.

Naboisho is characteristic of the sites where Asilia works: ecologically rich but economically fragile. The company's focus on sensitive areas is why AWF, through its African Wildlife Capital (AWC) impact-investment subsidiary, provided Asilia with a US\$2 million loan in 2013 to expand operations.

"Asilia operates multiple lodges in East Africa, creating conservation impact in numerous locations," says Giles Davies, AWC investment manager. Asilia also employs more

than 600 people, with each new facility creating 25 to 35 new jobs. Ninety percent of lodge jobs are filled by local staff.

The AWC loan allowed Asilia to upgrade Naboisho Camp and acquire Encounter Mara, two wildlife tourism lodges in the Naboisho

MAKING THE FUTURE Better

Conservancy, and acquire Kwihala Camp in Tanzania's Ruaha National Park. "Funding from AWC enabled us to invest in areas where the financial return is not immediate. These locales have the same intrinsic ecological qualities as established areas but were not being managed in a sustainable manner before," says Joost Freijzer, Asilia's business development manager.

"I like Asilia and their vision, as it is geared toward making the future better and involves the local community," says William Koonyi, who works as a waiter at Encounter Mara. ♦



Education & Conservation



School construction

Well-educated communities tend to live more sustainably and rely less on natural resource extraction, but rural communities in Africa often lack access to quality schools. Through its Classroom Africa (formerly African Conservation Schools) program, AWF is building good schools for communities in targeted conservation landscapes. In the past year and a half, we have built Ilima Conservation Primary School in the Congo landscape (see photo above) and are completing construction on a school in Ethiopia (see story at right). We are also renovating two more AWF-supported schools, Manyara Ranch Primary School in Tanzania and Lupani Community School in Zambia. Plans are underway to build new schools in Uganda in the coming year, positively impacting the lives of more than 2,000 students.



Teacher training

To ensure quality education for students, AWF arranges periodic teacher training at the AWF-supported schools. During FY15, AWF partnered with the Democratic Republic of the Congo's provincial government to provide trainings to teachers at Ilima school. Instruction included classroom management, better use of available classroom materials and more. In Zambia, we also partnered with an organization to provide conservation training to teachers. Lupani teachers learned new ideas for classroom and outdoor conservation activities and constructed conservation lesson plans. Recently, AWF received news that Lupani's head teacher, Mulonda Imbuwa, received a district award for hardest-working teacher, while teacher Kasuku Mweemba was recognized as best first grade teacher in the whole of the Southern Province!



Conservation education

Despite living near protected areas, many students have never visited these special natural areas or seen a wild animal. We're working to change that. In Zambia, AWF partnered with safari partner Bushtracks Expeditions to take Lupani's Grade 7 students on a field trip to Victoria Falls and Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. Students saw elephant, buffalo, puku, bushbuck and many other species—and learned about the importance of conservation and wildlife. We are in the process of formalizing this partnership to ensure continued field trip opportunities for students. At all of our Classroom Africa schools, AWF is additionally supporting afterschool wildlife clubs, school gardens and school-sponsored conservation events.

A Better (Learning) Environment

Asmamaw Abuhay is the perfect person to head up Adisge Primary School's environmental club. The 24-year-old, who teaches math and science at the Ethiopian primary school, has a background in environmental science and visits Simien Mountains National Park often. Provided the school has the budget for it, he wants to take his students on a field trip into the park this year to teach them about its wildlife and plants and how to protect them. The idea makes sense, given the school's location on the outskirts of the park—the Simien Mountains form the backdrop of students' daily lives.

Abuhay is one of seven teachers at the Adisge school. Theirs is not an easy task, as the existing school is not conducive to learning. The walls, made of wood and mud, have completely worn away in places. The corrugated tin roof offers little protection from the elements.

As part of its Classroom Africa program, AWF is rebuilding the school, even adding two new classrooms to accommodate Grades 7 and 8. The walls are being framed with an ingenious earth bag style of construction that is sourced from the community. The earth bags, which will provide much-needed insulation from the cold and wind, will be fortified with a lime-and-cement mixture to create smooth and attractive classroom walls.

With a new school will come a better learning environment for students. Helping to make it happen is Abuhay, who is working with the local contractor to supervise construction and assisting the landscape architect in choosing plants for the area gardens.

“The new school is my dream,” Abuhay says. “When I sleep, when I stand—when I'm doing anything—I am always thinking about the new school.” ♦



When you donate to AWF, you are not only helping to protect wildlife such as the Walia ibex, but also improving educational opportunities for primary school students in remote locations (opposite).

Addressing the Persistent Threats

Though trafficking continues to pose the most imminent threat to Africa's wildlife, the most persistent and longer-term threats stem from a growing human footprint and our impact on the natural environment. Following are examples of how AWF is addressing these conservation challenges on the ground.



Deforestation & climate change

Africa is experiencing water stress, droughts and an increase in arid lands due to climate change—effects that are being exacerbated by deforestation. AWF employs a number of strategies to keep forests in Africa intact. These include:

- Implementing active restoration projects, such as in the Mau Forest Complex in Kenya, where AWF has successfully rehabilitated about 437.5 hectares of forest;
- Leveraging possible revenues from Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) to incentivize community protection of forests, such as in Kenya's Chyulu Hills, AWF's first validated REDD project; and
- Developing forest management plans, such as in the Congo landscape.



Infrastructure development

African governments are investing heavily in overcoming the continent's infrastructure gap, which is leading to the rapid rollout of transport, energy and other projects. Where infrastructure projects threaten priority areas for conservation, AWF formally engages in environmental assessment processes to ensure effective—and proactive—mitigation measures are put in place. In northern Tanzania, for example, AWF has offered alternative routes to a proposed railway project that would otherwise dissect a number of wildlife corridors.



Unsustainable agriculture

The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania is the country's breadbasket—but also hosts nearly 50 percent of the world's remaining lions and one of East Africa's largest elephant populations. AWF is working with smallholder farmers and stakeholders to increase agricultural production in ways that safeguard ecological systems. We are also leading the development of land-use plans that incorporate sustainable agriculture while protecting wildlife corridors. Through such strategic interventions, AWF is providing a model for conservation that coexists with productive agriculture and inclusive development.



Extraction in protected areas

Too often, governments in Africa have given mining or oil concessions inside, or perilously close to, national park boundaries. Such operations can damage the ecosystem *and* open up protected areas to illegal bushmeat hunting. In November 2014, AWF joined with seven other NGOs to call for a "no-go" policy around World Heritage Sites when it comes to mining, oil and gas activities.

And, as a founding member of the Africa World Heritage Site Support Network, an NGO consortium, AWF is building the capacity of wildlife authorities in World Heritage Sites such as Ethiopia's Simien Mountains National Park; Cameroon's Dja Faunal Reserve; and Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park. By providing rangers with the technology and training to record and analyze ecological data from their patrols, we are ensuring that wildlife authorities are fully equipped to protect these areas from poaching, and to identify and report direct environmental impacts related to resource extraction.



Lack of government engagement in conservation

On-the-ground efforts must be reinforced by higher-level advocacy to ensure balanced policies are in place for sustainable development. To this end, AWF has been facilitating a series of dialogs between influential Chinese and African civil society leaders to push their respective governments to adopt more sustainable business practices in Africa (see pages 6–7). AWF has further engaged young professionals on wildlife issues through the World Economic Global Shapers program.

The expanding human footprint poses the greatest long-term threat to Africa's lions and other wildlife. This is why AWF's work encompasses programs and advocacy related to climate change, deforestation, sustainable agriculture, extraction and more.

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As committed supporters of AWF, the AWF Council helps spread the word about AWF to their networks.

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Giraffes are among those species whose populations are rapidly declining in Africa.



Women in rural Africa are well placed to make informed decisions related to the continent's natural resources, including its wildlife.

We Have a Voice. Let Us Use It.

Women make up the backbone of society. Nowhere is this more true than in rural Africa, where females take on the bulk of the childrearing, housekeeping and income earning. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), women make up 70 percent of Africa's agricultural workforce and grow 90 percent of the food.

Yet despite these contributions, women's voices are noticeably absent from discussions on Africa's development. It is time for us to step up and make our voices heard.

Women need to be active in guiding the continent's development, because we stand to gain—or lose—the most from it. As the UN's "The World's Women 2010" reports "Poor infrastructure ... disproportionately affect women from the less developed regions in terms of unpaid work, health and survival." Where communities lack infrastructure, women and girls are relegated to fetching water instead of going to school. They end up inhaling harmful smoke from cooking over fuelwood rather than clean energy sources. And they must travel long distances

to get their wares to market. At the same time, unplanned development in areas rich in natural resources will harm Africa's rural women first, for they are the ones who rely most on these resources. But they are also the ones best positioned to contribute valuable insight on the urbanization transforming the continent. This is why, in places such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, AWF trained 355 women on community-based natural resources management in 2015.

Our continent will be left behind if half of our population is not given equal opportunities to further their education, earn an income in the formal sector and participate fully in society. Let us all urge Africa's wives, mothers, sisters and daughters to raise their voices—not only for themselves but for the sake of Africa's future.

Dr. Myma Belo-Osagie is an AWF trustee and a partner at the Nigerian firm Udo Udoma and Belo-Osagie.

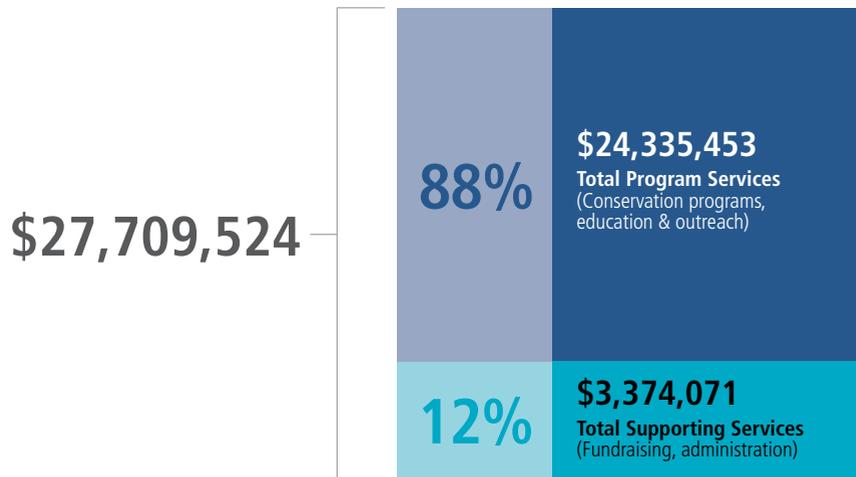


FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY

AWF puts your dollars to work where it matters the most: in Africa.

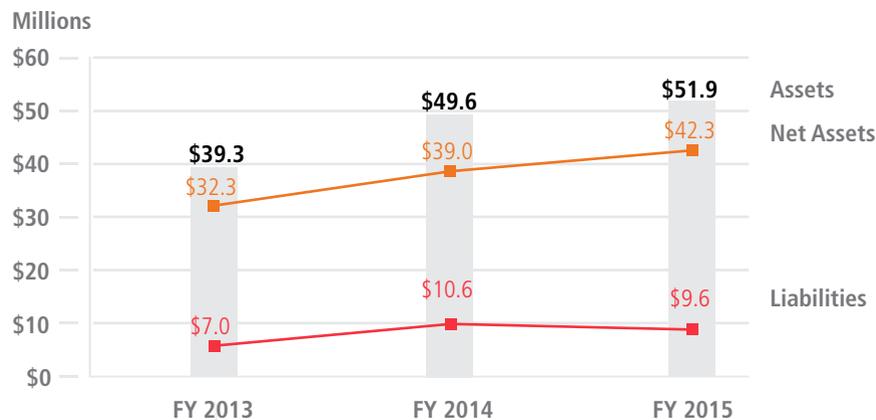
Total Operating Expenses

Almost 90 cents of every dollar donated is spent on conservation efforts on the ground.



Growth in Financial Position

AWF has grown financially over the past few years, positioning us well to continue saving wildlife and wild lands long into the future.



Total Operating Revenues

AWF receives funding from a diversity of sources.

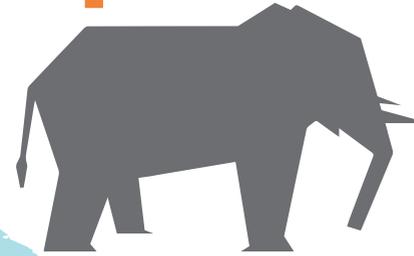


Note: All data is for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

KEY: Species People Land

24 Wildlife corridors conserved

\$5 million Direct financial benefits disbursed to communities



56 TOTAL SPECIES RESEARCH & CONSERVATION PROJECTS SUPPORTED

24,681 Number of individuals receiving non-formal training from AWF



164 MILLION Acres of land under improved conservation management

THIRTY-SIX

Target wildlife populations with verified improvement in conservation status



What You've Achieved

Your generosity this fiscal year has made it possible for AWF to continue our critical conservation work in Africa—and together, we have achieved significant impact. Your support has enabled a number of conservation results that have protected wildlife, conserved wild lands and supported communities. Thank you!

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AWF's annual report production team gives our sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in helping to produce this annual report. Special thanks to Amy Barriale and Felix Otieno for their assistance.

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