

African Wildlife News

SPRING 2014

1961–2014

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN AFRICA'S LANDSCAPES



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

Inside THIS ISSUE



Get closer to some of Africa's most elusive creatures, with Nature's Best Photography.



AWF Kilimanjaro Society member Barbara Flowers shares what prompted her to give a legacy gift to AWF.



Action star Jackie Chan teams up with AWF and partner WildAid in Vietnam.



The past few years have seen Africa's elephants living with a bull's eye on their backs, as increased demand for ivory in Asia has led to a surge in elephant poaching.

Hidden in Plain Sight

Behind the legal, domestic ivory trade, a black market flourishes

In 1989, after a decades-long spate of elephant poaching and failed regulation of the commercial trade in ivory, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) finally made the decision to ban international trade in African elephant ivory.

Though the ban granted many elephant populations in Africa a reprieve, it was short-lived. Countries, including the United States, China, and Japan, continued to allow the legal trade of ivory within their own borders, which kept the culture of ivory worship on life support. At the same time, CITES allowed Japan, then China and Japan, to purchase large caches of accumulated ivory in select African countries with well-managed elephant populations in 1999 and 2009 respectively.

The CITES-sanctioned sales coincided with rising affluence in many parts of Asia, especially China, where the nouveau riche craved the kind of culturally significant luxury item that would show off their new wealth.

(continued on page 4)



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Ensuring a Legacy for Elephants



Craig R. Sholley

What will it take to crush the ivory trade? This is the question governments and conservation groups like AWF are grappling with, as Africa's elephants—and, unfortunately, many other species—continue to fall prey to the illegal wildlife trafficking industry. We thought we had the answer 25 years ago, when countries, through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), classified the elephant as a species threatened with extinction, essentially banning the international trade of elephant ivory.

We urge countries to take the bold step of destroying their stockpiles, and those that still allow domestic trade in ivory to ban it altogether.

For a time, it seemed the legacy of that decision would be a growing elephant population in Africa. As you'll read in our cover feature, however, a confluence of factors has instead created a renewed demand for elephant ivory and resulted in a resurgence of elephant poaching on the continent. The graphic on pages 4 – 5 shows one path that illegal ivory may take to fulfill such demand. It's a path I hope we may soon be able to shut down.

Though many actions must be taken to stop the illegal trade in ivory, AWF believes two actions in particular will make a significant impact. We urge countries with confiscated ivory to take the bold step of destroying their stockpiles, rather than saving ivory for potential future sales. And, we urge countries that still allow domestic

trade in ivory to ban it altogether. Both of these actions will send a clear, uncompromising message to those involved in this business that there is no future in ivory.

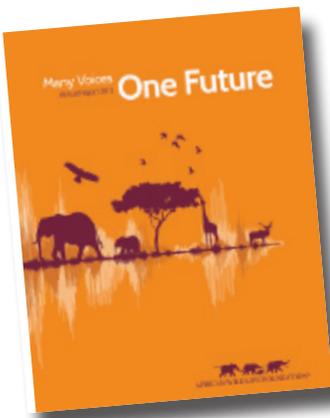
Mainstream conservation groups tend to be aligned in this belief, and, while these actions are not always politically easy for governments to take, an increasing number of countries appear to be headed in this direction.

AWF will continue to fight for elephants and their future, but I hope you know that this can be your legacy too. Your support has already increased the number of rhinos in Zambia's Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park and is giving a community in the Democratic Republic of Congo a new opportunity while also supporting great apes there (see opposite for both). With a legacy gift to AWF, however, you can increase your impact by ensuring that the conservation of Africa's wildlife and wild lands will continue well past your lifetime. This is what prompted Kilimanjaro Society member Barbara Flowers to make a legacy gift to AWF. After you read her story on pages 6 – 7, I hope you will consider making a similar commitment. I think you'll agree that a bright future for Africa's wildlife, people, and lands is a legacy worth fighting for.

Patrick J. Bergin, Ph.D.
CEO and AWF Kilimanjaro Society member

P.S. As part of our legacy-themed issue, we thought we'd give a little more play to the amazing wildlife that you protect with your support of AWF. Check out our supplement, which has four full pages of winning wildlife photos from the Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards, which AWF sponsors each year.





What impact did your donation have on the ground?

Thanks to you, AWF was able to make a significant difference for Africa's wildlife and people last year. Our recently released FY2013 annual report talks about some of AWF's key activities from the past year.



Download the annual report at awf.org/annualreport



Tourism industry keeps elephants SAFE

The travel industry has gotten involved in elephant counterpoaching efforts. The Bodhi Tree Foundation's Safeguarding A Future for Africa's Elephants (SAFE) campaign gathers contributions from tourism operators to support organizations, including AWF, protecting African elephant populations on the ground. AWF plans to use the SAFE campaign contributions to support elephant counterpoaching efforts in the Regional Parc W landscape.



For more information, visit awf.org/safecampaign

Percentage increase of visitors to Uganda's protected areas from 2012 to 2013. AWF has been working to increase wildlife-based tourism in Uganda through the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Program.



MASS Design Group

The beginnings of a school

AWF and partner MASS Design Group broke ground on AWF's latest conservation primary school in Ilima, Democratic Republic of Congo, in late 2013. (The community lives alongside the endangered bonobo, among other species.) Check out our Facebook photo gallery to see the work that goes into building an innovative, sustainable structure for education in the Congo.



See the pics on Facebook: awf.org/ilimaimages



Gideon Chikanya

A rhino for every season

At least one rhino population in Africa is experiencing steady growth, thanks to AWF support. AWF and Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park in Zambia celebrated the auspicious birth of a male white rhino calf—aptly named Emmanuel—on Christmas Day 2013. A week after Valentine's Day this year, another rhino calf was born in Mosi-oa-Tunya. As of this writing, another birth is expected in March. With the two births, Mosi-oa-Tunya's rhino population has risen to 10. AWF has been supporting the park and its rhino protection efforts since 2006.

Hidden in Plain Sight

(continued from cover)

“It so happens the sales sent a message to the marketplace that it was okay to buy ivory again,” says AWF CEO Patrick Bergin. “Unfortunately that marketplace was—is—large and growing exponentially.”

In China, demand for ivory has exploded, and the country’s legal trade has served only to conceal the illegal trade. The Environmental Investigation Agency estimates 90 percent of ivory for sale in China is illegal.

Contends Bergin, “Consumers are more than likely buying ivory that came from a brutally poached elephant in Africa, which is why we must stop buying, selling, and coveting ivory altogether rather than try to regulate the trade.”

The suggestion appears to have public support in China: A poll conducted in China by AWF’s partner,

“We want elephants or we want ivory, but we cannot have both.”

—Philip Muruthi, AWF senior director of conservation science

WildAid, found that while 50 percent of respondents did not think elephant poaching was common, once informed of Africa’s elephant poaching crisis, 94 percent were in favor of a government-imposed ban on ivory.

Shifting winds

“We hope to see the events in Denver, Dongguan, and Paris soon repeated in Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Dar es Salaam, [Tanzania],” says AWF’s Philip Muruthi, senior director of conservation science. Muruthi is referring to the recent destruction of government stockpiles in the United States, China, and France.

With its connections to organized crime and terrorism, combating elephant poaching and ivory trafficking is no longer the sole concern of the conservation community. Many countries are cracking down on wildlife crime by using new legislative and law enforcement tools. In January, a Kenyan court handed down the harshest sentence yet to a Chinese national convicted of smuggling ivory—a fine of 20 million Kenyan shillings, approximately US\$230,000, or seven years in jail. In the United States, the government’s new National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking takes a “whole government” approach to combating the illegal wildlife trade. The strategy calls for a countrywide ban on ivory trade.

“We want elephants or we want ivory, but we cannot have both,” says Muruthi. “It’s time the world cured itself of its ivory addiction.” —Kathleen Garrigan ■

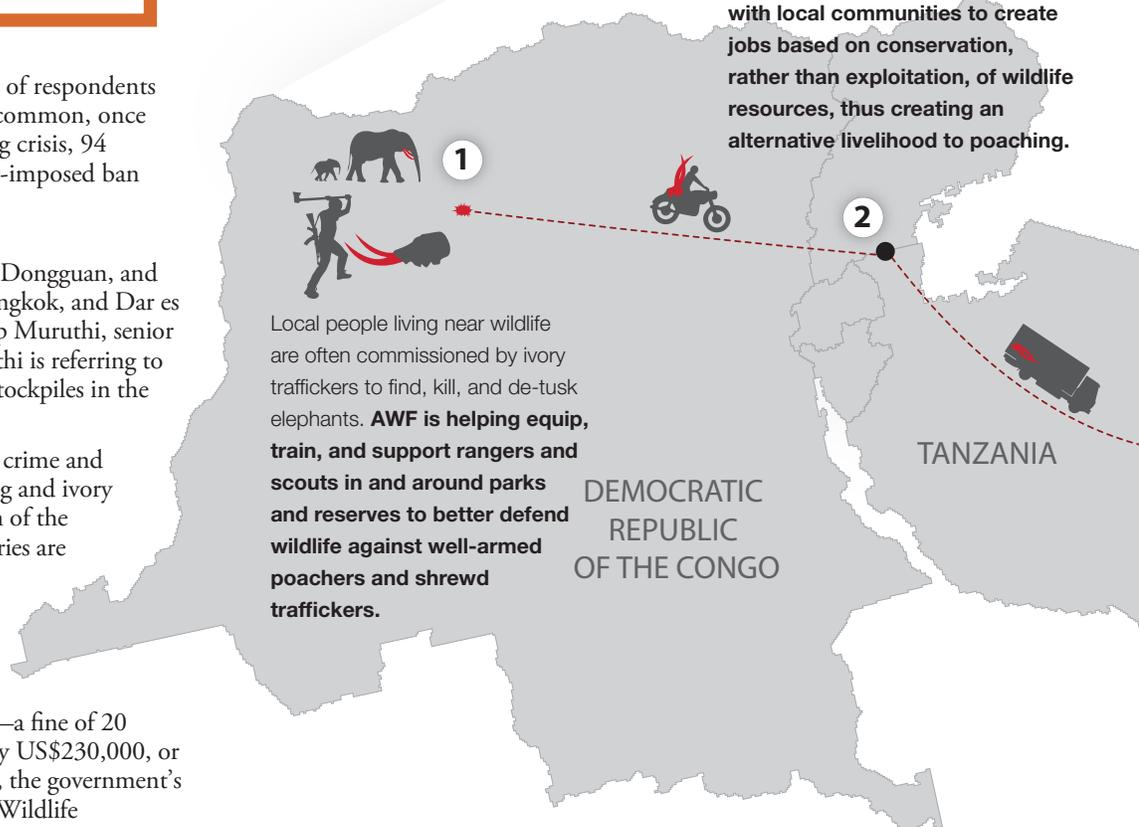
IVORY from bush to market

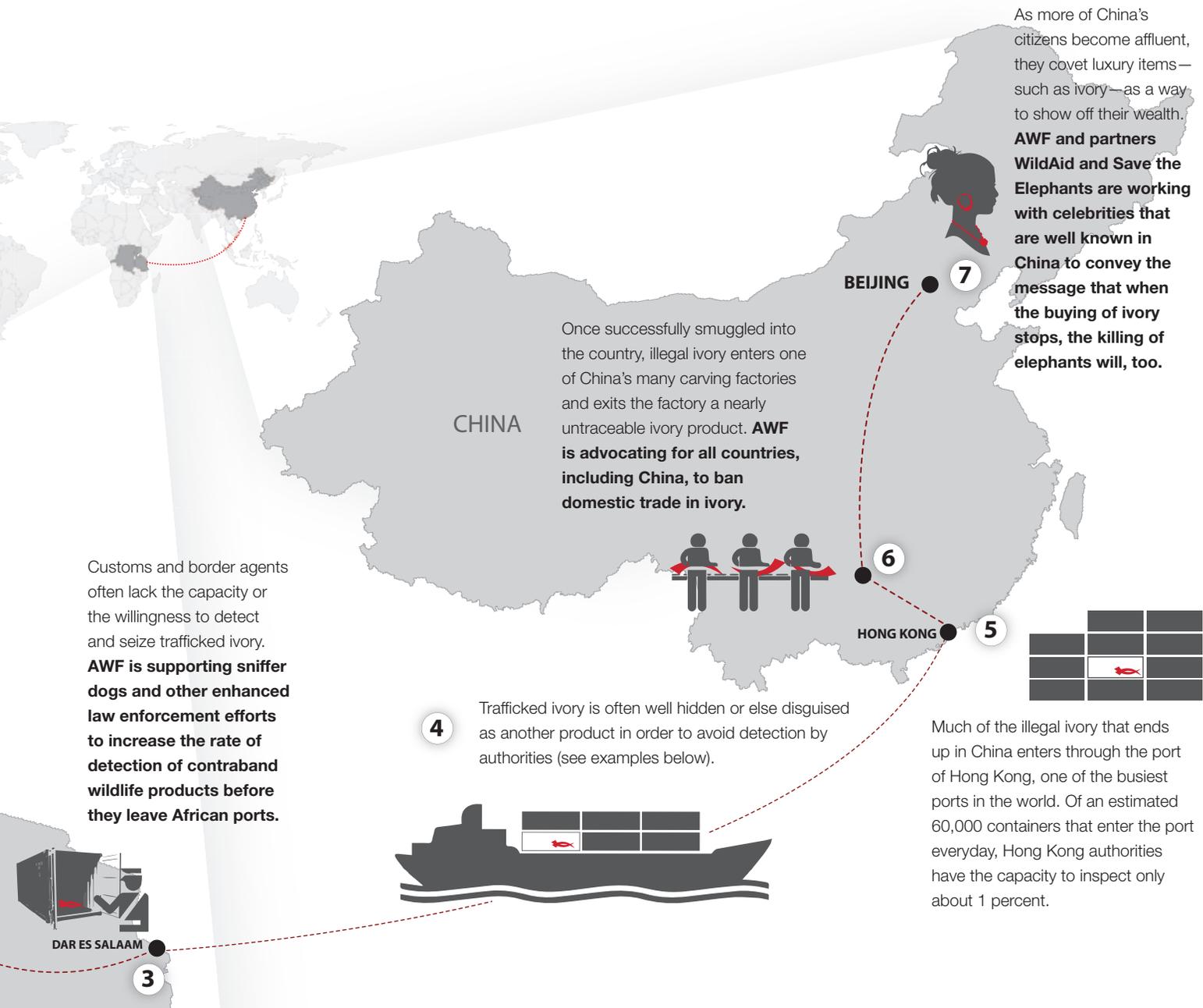
Ivory taken from an elephant in Africa travels along an elaborate trade chain that spans countries, oceans, and continents, and comprises a network of poachers, traffickers, fixers, kingpins, and consumers. Tackling this multibillion-dollar illegal wildlife trade will require interagency cooperation within government, strengthened law enforcement, punitive legislation, increased education, and a commitment by governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, communities, and individuals to work together.

Following is an example of how ivory might be taken from the African bush and transported thousands of miles to be sold to consumers in Asia.

Ivory is smuggled via different methods of transport across country borders to an airport or seaport. **AWF is working with local communities to create jobs based on conservation, rather than exploitation, of wildlife resources, thus creating an alternative livelihood to poaching.**

Local people living near wildlife are often commissioned by ivory traffickers to find, kill, and de-tusk elephants. **AWF is helping equip, train, and support rangers and scouts in and around parks and reserves to better defend wildlife against well-armed poachers and shrewd traffickers.**





IVORY in disguise



MOMBASA July 8, 2013

Three metric tons of ivory, disguised as peanuts, was seized at the port in Mombasa, Kenya. The week prior, 1.5 metric tons of ivory, disguised as dried fish, were also seized in the Mombasa port. Both hauls were bound for Malaysia.



ZANZIBAR Nov 13, 2013

Security officials at the main port in Zanzibar, off the coast of Tanzania, seized a container hauling 1,000 pieces of ivory and destined for the Philippines. The ivory was hidden in sacks stuffed with shells and other articles.



HONG KONG July 18, 2013

Hong Kong Customs seized 1,148 ivory tusks hidden in a container and declared as timber coming from the West African country of Togo. Hong Kong is one of the major transit points and destinations for illegal ivory.

Love Everlasting

AWF Kilimanjaro Society Member Barbara Flowers writes in her own words why her legacy is with AWF and Africa

I have always loved animals of all shapes and sizes. As a kid, I raised pollywogs, fed squirrels peanut butter on bread, and cared for stray cats. I also had a cocker spaniel, Pluto, who was my inseparable companion.

I grew up, and still live, in Pennsylvania, but my husband, John, and I have traveled extensively. All of our travel involves nature and animals in some form: In Edinburgh, Scotland, we watched the world-famous penguins take their daily afternoon stroll. In Alaska, we visited a raptor sanctuary and went whale watching. Costa Rica found us doing river “safaris.” We’ve swum with dolphins, sea lions, and stingray and have gone underwater in a shark cage.

But Africa—this is where I’ve been happiest.

‘We could never afford it’

In 1982, John and I received a brochure advertising a trip to Kenya. It had a beautiful picture of a cheetah on the front. I glanced through and threw it away. John came home, took the brochure out of the trash, and began reading it to me. I was annoyed. “Why are you doing that?” I asked him. “You know I’d love to go, but we could never afford it.” We were newly married, I couldn’t find a job, and we were still paying off our previous residences. He threw the brochure away again.

A week later, my mom and I took a one-day bus trip to Atlantic City, N.J. She had wanted to see the new casinos. I was bored out of my mind. On the ride home, I was napping, when I suddenly sat up, looked at my mom, and blurted out: “I’m going to Africa!”

So John and I went in 1982... then 1984, 1987, 1993, and so on. On our very first trip during our very first night in the Masai Mara, I was so excited I couldn’t—didn’t want to—sleep. Then I heard a “whoosh, whoosh” sound. I crept to the window and peeked out into the dark. When my eyes adjusted, I was thrilled to see a female elephant and her calf just outside our window. The “whoosh, whoosh” was the mother wrapping her trunk around clumps of grass and pulling it out of the ground to eat. It was then that I realized I was actually in Africa! Elephants right outside my window—what else could a girl ask for?

Another time, we went to see the wildebeest migration in the Mara. There were wildebeest as far as the eye could see. We watched the interaction of the males fighting for their harems and listened to their constant “hooonk hooonk.” It would lull us to sleep at night and wake us in the morning. I can still hear it loud and clear—and can even

imitate the sound pretty well!

Every trip to Africa has been unique; every trip has brought me new insights into the magical animal kingdom. We’ve traveled many times to Kenya, at different times of the year. We did one trip to South Africa. In 2011, we did a trip entirely centered around elephants to Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana.

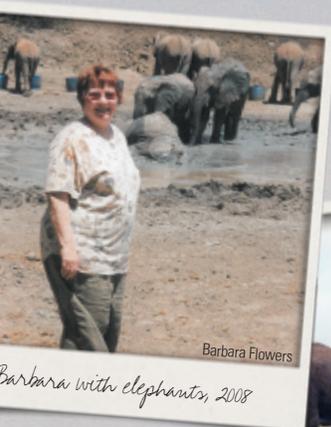
Perfect recipient of worldly goods

I first heard about AWF in the late 1980s when I was working to try to end the elephant poaching taking place in Africa. The logo of course caught my eye. I did some research and once I learned

“What better way to leave your life than knowing that you have done all you could to support and sustain whatever has made you happy?”

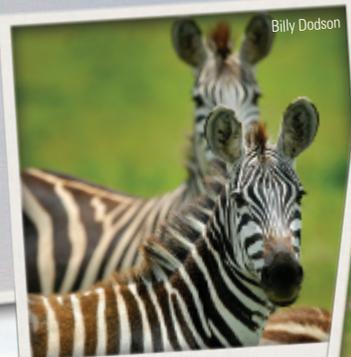
—Barbara Flowers





Barbara with elephants, 2008

Barbara Flowers



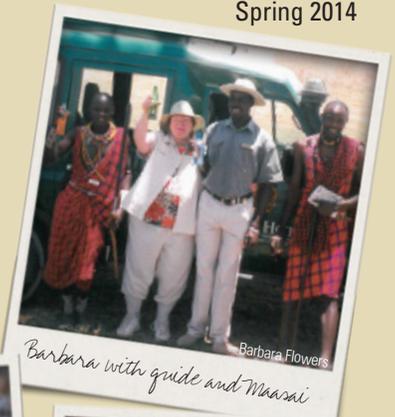
Billy Dodson

Plains zebra



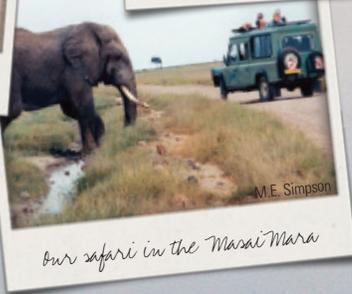
Billy Dodson

Cheetah sighting!



Barbara with guide and Maasai

Barbara Flowers



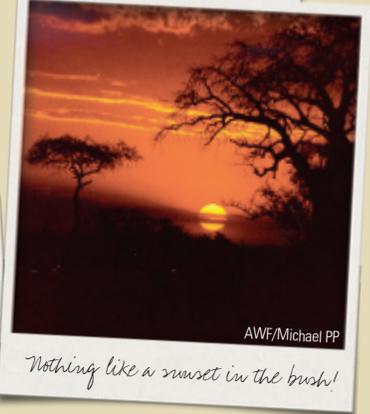
M.E. Simpson

Our safari in the Masai Mara



Billy Dodson

Wildebeest as far as the eye can see



AWF/Michael PP

Nothing like a sunset in the bush!

that AWF was working so hard to protect my beloved Africa and all that's there, I couldn't wait to become a supporter.

I have no children. When it came time to make a will, it was only natural for me to leave whatever I have to what has made me the happiest here on earth: animals and nature. And AWF couldn't be a more perfect recipient of all my worldly goods. Not only does my husband support my decision, his will reads exactly as mine does.

John is 76. I'm 70. We both still work full time since we don't have the resources to retire. I work at a bank as a receptionist, and he just started his own business again last March. But I have my next (solo!) trip to Africa already planned for June. As I've told John, we're both in the fourth quarter of the game, and no one's let us know yet if there's going to be any overtime. So if something is important to us, we'd better do it now if we can. I hope to have an opportunity to visit the AWF home office in Nairobi in June. I can't wait.

For those who are thinking about making a bequest to AWF, don't wait! Do it now while you're healthy and capable of making these important decisions. And what better way to leave your life than knowing that you have done all that you could to support and sustain whatever has made you happy, not only while you are here, but also after you're gone? —*Barbara Flowers* ■



To learn more about legacy giving options, call +1 202 939 3333 or visit awf.org/legacy

What Will Your Legacy Be?

With her legacy gift to AWF, Barbara Flowers is making sure Africa's elephants and other wildlife are protected long into the future. You can do the same, with a legacy gift made in your lifetime or at death as part of your overall financial or estate planning.

(The term "estate" refers to all the property you own—financial assets, real estate, personal property—at the time you pass away. An estate plan conveys your instructions for how you want your property to one day pass to loved ones or favorite charities.)

Legacy gifts take many forms, from a simple bequest to an arrangement that pays the donor a reliable income for life. Legacy gifts can be easy to set up, and almost anyone can make them. Barbara Flowers has ensured her legacy—what will yours be?

*For more on legacy giving,
call +1 202 939 3333
or visit awf.org/legacy*

AWF Kilimanjaro Society member Barbara Flowers still has strong memories of seeing elephants during her first visit to the Masai Mara in Kenya. Subsequent visits have only strengthened her love of the continent.

Wildlife Watch

White Stork

Birds of a feather will flock together, especially if trying to escape the cold, winter climes of Western and Central Europe. With bird ranges dwindling, however—thanks to encroachment from farms and urban development—many migratory bird species are quickly losing their winter territories, including those used by the white stork.

While many may know it as the European stork due to its breeding range, the white stork is a long-distance migratory bird that winters yearly in sub-Saharan Africa. The average journey south takes 49 days and almost 20,000 km. This stork species sets out from Europe and moves over the Strait of Gibraltar into the Sahara desert, following the heavy thermal systems that allow it to efficiently soar to its destination (and conveniently conserve energy in the process!). These flocks, some with almost 11,000 individuals, then follow the Nile River south to eventually settle in various African countries, including Kenya, Sudan, and South Africa.

Large meadows and marshlands with sufficient trees for nesting are the ideal habitat for white storks, but the occasional roof, steeple, or tower will do just fine for these opportunistic birds. White storks make their large nests from sticks, mud, and sod, and have even been observed using rags and other human detritus as additional insulation for their four-egg clutches. Many of these nests have been known to last centuries and are used by multiple breeding pairs and other bird species—a testament to the white stork's building prowess.

In terms of diet, the white stork will eat anything small enough to fit in its large, dagger-like beak, which it uses to spear prey with lightning-fast precision. Those animals unfortunate



Alejandro Tawil

enough to be caught on the receiving end of a white stork bill include frogs, lizards, fish, insects, and crustaceans, and even small mammals like rabbits and mice.

Though development in Africa has in some cases cut into white stork habitat, AWF's efforts to conserve large swaths of land for elephants and lions have also benefited the massive stork flocks that come to roost during Africa's summer. With continued efforts on the part of AWF and other conservation groups, white storks stand to continue their massive yearly migration and thereby avoid their other career choice: delivering babies to expectant parents. —*Mike Rooney*

What's New Online



Vern Evans Photography for WildAid

VIDEO Jackie and Spike

Check out our new video starring Jackie Chan—and an orphaned rhino named Spike! “Tools of the Trade,” the latest in our series of demand-reduction public service announcements (PSAs) with our partner, WildAid, features the action star dodging weapons as a rhino is built out of the tools of the poaching trade. Join the 1.5 million Chinese viewers who have already seen the PSA!

Watch “Tools of the Trade”: awf.org/toolsoftrade

WEB

What did an elephant look like?

How would you explain an elephant to a child if elephants no longer existed? AWF developed an interactive storybook to remind us all how much we stand to lose if Africa's elephants and wildlife disappear forever.

View the storybook: awf.org/elephantstory



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