

# African Heartland News



April - July 2006

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARTNERS OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

## IN THIS ISSUE



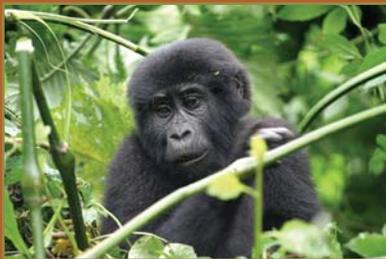
### CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

AWF helps to develop African wildlife managers, leaders and institutions.



### VP FOR PROGRAM MESSAGE

Celebrating 45 years of AWF's work in Africa.



### SPECIES STORIES

AWF focuses on species conservation in situ.

## Putting the Landscape Back Together in Maasai Steppe

In the last decade, conservationists have come to understand that wildlife survival depends on the conservation of large, cohesive landscapes. Landscape-level conservation not only encourages healthy wildlife populations but also contributes to the livelihoods of the people living in the area. In turn, when local people benefit from the wildlife and wild lands, they are more likely to help conserve it.

In 1998, the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) adopted a landscape-level approach by initiating the African Heartlands Program. AWF has now designated eight Heartlands located in eastern, central and southern Africa (see *African Heartland map on page 12*). These Heartlands have been selected for their ecological value and economic feasibility. In each African Heartland, AWF works closely with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to develop region-specific activities that aim to protect more land for conservation while mitigating threats to valuable resources. This approach has distinguished AWF among its conservation colleagues.

Although still a work-in-progress, the Maasai Steppe Heartland in Tanzania (see *map on page 4*) is a large-landscape conservation success story. Over the course of several years, AWF, with major support from USAID and other donors, has invested about \$8 million and has made significant progress towards leveraging key land units necessary to help put the landscape of the Maasai Steppe back together.

A decade ago, the Maasai Steppe landscape was highly fragmented due to population growth and an increased demand for land for settlement and cultivation. Key wildlife corridors and dispersal areas within the landscape were threatened and, with them, the wildlife that depended on these areas. Reduced government funding meant that Tanzanian national parks could not invest sufficiently in conservation management in protected areas, thus increasing both the short-term and long-term threats to the area's wildlife.



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AWF's conservation efforts in the Maasai Steppe began with efforts to support Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks so that they could continue to act as anchors to the landscape. These parks faced various challenges; among them lack of planning, poor roads, poor staff facilities and lack of visitor facilities. All these challenges affected not only the management of the parks but also the tourist experience.

As a first step, AWF identified the key priorities for strengthening the parks and worked with partners – mainly Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), district councils and local communities – to develop management plans to provide the foundation for improved management in the parks. One of the critical elements to success was an improved infrastructure. These plans identified the objectives, main priorities and management activities required to improve management in the parks. With funding from USAID, AWF helped to implement aspects of the

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## From the Desk of the Vice President for Program: Celebrating 45 Years of AWF's Work in Africa



Helen Gichohi, Ph.D.

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I am pleased to present to you this anniversary edition of African Heartland News, celebrating 45 years of AWF's work in Africa. AWF was created in 1961 when forward-looking individuals who knew and loved Africa saw the importance of building the capacity of African people on the continent to manage their own wildlife.

Our mission at that time was to build African leadership through education. We embarked on a program that targeted mid-level, graduate and post-graduate level training to build a cadre of individuals that would manage parks and undertake wildlife conservation at all levels. To that end, we have supported post-graduate studies of more than 100 African conservationists, most of whom now work with wildlife authorities around Africa. Through this commitment to leadership development, AWF has become a unique conservation organization – one that is deeply connected to Africa and its people. This is evident in our staff – more than 85 percent of our personnel are Africans working in Africa.

Today, our mission is to work with the people of Africa to ensure that the wildlife and wild lands of Africa endure forever. Although development of African leadership and capacity building remains at the core of our work, our program has evolved to focus on landscape-level approach to conservation through our African Heartlands Program. Since we instituted this approach in 1998, we have engaged local African communities, governments, NGOs, researchers, and private companies in our efforts to make conservation a priority across selected landscapes and ecosystems.

Although the African Heartlands Program is young, our impact in these Heartlands is becoming evident through our conservation enterprise activities, land and habitat conservation work, research programs and capacity-building efforts. Some of our

successes in these areas are presented in this newsletter. Our local partners testify to the success of our approach: the senior warden of Samburu National Reserve in northern Kenya recently said, "AWF has meant everything to us. Without AWF we would not have the park facilities, ranger stations and equipment that we need to receive guests and patrol the park to prevent poaching."



During our 45th year, I want to reflect on our legacy of leadership and the work of those leaders AWF has helped educate. I also want to re-dedicate ourselves to our agenda of conserving large landscapes which we believe are the

future of conservation in Africa. We will continue to sharpen and increase the pace of implementation of our key strategies: land conservation; enterprise development; species research; and capacity building. We will also continue to learn from others and look for creative and new ways of resolving the challenges that face both people and wildlife in these landscapes.

In all of these efforts, you our partners are critical. It is by working with you that we can achieve what we all strive for – long-term conservation of Africa's wildlife and wild lands, development of economic opportunities from wildlife in our focal countries as well as the communities who most directly support conservation.

Thank you for joining me in celebrating AWF's 45 years of commitment to Africa! ■

- Helen Gichohi, Ph.D.

## Species Stories: The Endangered Mountain Gorilla

Over the last forty-five years, AWF has played a critical role in saving some of Africa's most endangered species. Perhaps the most notable is the work to save the mountain gorillas during an era of armed conflict.

AWF's involvement in saving the mountain gorillas began with the work of the late Dian Fossey. In 1966, Fossey began studying and protecting gorillas in Zaire, later expanding her work into Rwanda. Fossey's work exposed the world to the plight of the threatened gorillas, ultimately leading to the formation of an international consortium — the Mountain Gorilla Project (MGP) — to coordinate all gorilla protection efforts. Led by AWF, the consortium included Fauna Preservation Society and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). This project improved park protection for gorillas, raised awareness of the need for their conservation and the increase potential for tourism benefits to government. The success of the MGP in Rwanda led to formation in 1990 of the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP) as a regional strategy to extend protection of gorillas to Uganda and Zaire. IGCP is a collaboration between AWF, Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and WWF.

IGCP continued to support gorilla protection in Rwanda even as fighting and refugees spilled into the park during the civil unrest of the 1990s. At the same time, IGCP built up protection in Uganda and Zaire. When conflict broke out in Zaire, IGCP work continued.

Most recently, IGCP has improved transboundary cooperation between Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), Rwanda and Uganda for gorilla monitoring, protection and policy. With AWF's support, IGCP has also initiated a ranger-based monitoring system that has greatly reduced poaching and destruction of gorilla habitat. IGCP has also increased the capacity of these three countries to protect gorillas by providing support to the protected areas, training staff, improving facilities, etc. In Uganda, IGCP has assisted the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to purchase a buffer zone around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park which has helped to protect farmers' lands and reduce human-gorilla conflict.

Today, gorilla tourism is one of the largest contributors of foreign exchange to the economies of these countries. AWF is helping the countries develop gorilla-based tourism that will benefit not only the governments through park revenues but also the people that live beside gorilla protected areas. IGCP has assisted UWA in developing a visitor center at Mgahinga Gorilla National Park to improve the experience of visitors. A regional tourism plan has also been developed and is being implemented to improve coordination of gorilla tourism in the region. AWF is also working with communities in Nkuringo (Uganda), Kinigi (Rwanda) and Congo to develop tourism ecolodges and a wide range of other enterprises that will provide benefits to these communities from gorilla tourism. With IGCP's help, these countries are developing and implementing policies that will help them share gorilla tourism revenues with the communities that live with gorillas.

As a result of these continuing efforts, the population of the highly endangered mountain gorilla in the region has steadily increased and now stands at approximately 700 individuals. IGCP, now hailed as one of the most successful conservation efforts in Africa, has demonstrated that conservation can be successful even in adverse conditions and that it can contribute to economic development in Africa. More importantly, it has demonstrated the power of collaboration among conservation organizations committed to a common goal and agenda. ■



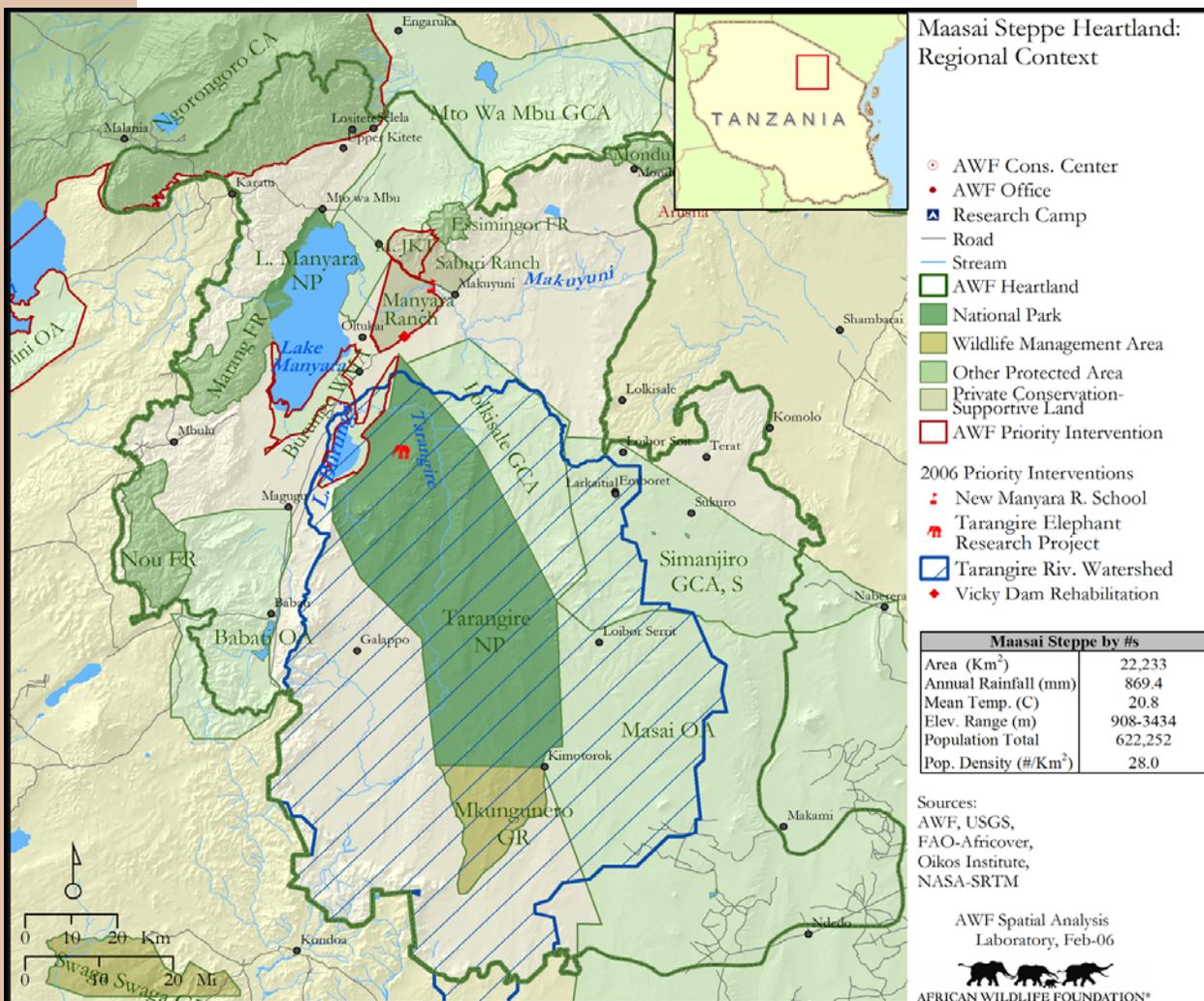
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*Gorilla tourism is a win-win, benefiting both the gorilla population and the communities that surround the protected wildlife areas.*



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## Putting the Landscape Back Together in Maasai Steppe



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management plans specifically by providing road-making equipment to improve the road network of the park and vehicles to improve transport for management activities. Finally, staff housing was renovated and improvements were made to water access in an effort to improve the living conditions of park staff.

With improved infrastructure in place, AWF worked with the U.S. Department of Interior to develop staff capacity by providing training in a variety of areas including visitor management, law enforcement, park management, ecological monitoring and environmental impact assessment. The improved infrastructure and enhanced staff capacity, as well as new visitor centers and guidebooks, have improved the tourist experience in the parks. Today, Tarangire and Lake Manyara are some of the best managed parks in Tanzania with a steadily-increasing number of visitors.

The next priority for AWF and its partners was to restore connectivity between the parks for wildlife migration. Ongoing elephant and predator research projects and historical data on other migratory wildlife in the Maasai Steppe helped identify areas that are critical to maintaining connectivity. The main challenge became how to secure these lands which were under different land tenure. One of these key areas was Manyara Ranch, a livestock ranch and key corridor area for wildlife moving between the two national parks.

At the time, the government was moving to privatize Manyara Ranch – an action that could have led to activities on the property that would be incompatible with conservation efforts. An institutional mechanism was required that could be used to acquire the land for conservation and for community use for neighboring communities that felt they were entitled to use it for livestock grazing. To ensure that Manyara Ranch would benefit conservation

efforts, AWF and its partners formed the Tanzania Land Conservation Trust, which then acquired the 45,000 acre Manyara Ranch for conservation and community use.

AWF continues to support the management of the ranch as a livestock and wildlife ranch, but is facing some challenges. Commercialization of the ranch has taken longer than anticipated, prolonging its dependence on AWF. Although many efforts have been made to alleviate livestock-wildlife conflict, it still occurs. And, unfortunately, illegal grazing continues due to the quality of grasslands on the ranch. To alleviate conflict, communal grazing and access to water on the ranch procedures are being developed.

After securing Manyara Ranch, AWF worked to bring the Makuyuni Ranch, which is adjacent to Manyara Ranch, under protection. This would help facilitate movement of wildlife into the Selela-Ngorongoro Area. AWF signed a management agreement with the National Youth Service who will bring the ranch under conservation. In the coming months, tourism activities will be developed on the ranch in order to provide some income for the management of the ranch and for the National Youth Service. Thanks to these efforts, wildlife can now move freely between Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks.

AWF then moved to address key wildlife dispersal areas around protected areas. The Simanjiro plains is one such area. This area is critical to the long term survival for Tarangire National Park because it facilitates wet season dispersal and breeding for wildlife, especially wildebeest and zebra. This area is severely threatened by land conversion to small and large scale agriculture. AWF is working with the district authorities and communities on a process of zoning and management planning in the area in order to protect it for use by livestock and wildlife for dispersal. This process has recently received support from the Regional Government who issued a moratorium on land allocations to agriculture until the land use planning is completed and the area has been zoned. With the completion of the plan, the dispersal area stands a higher chance of being conserved for wildlife and livestock use.

AWF has also been working with partners to secure other critical areas in this landscape. One of these is the Marang Forest which is an important water catchment area for underground springs from the escarpment into Lake Manyara National Park. AWF has been working with

TANAPA to annex this forest reserve to the national park to safeguard it. AWF has helped to construct water points for rangers protecting the forest and partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to survey the area for potential tourism business that can be developed in the area to generate income for the park. The process of annexing the forest is advancing and when completed will safeguard the underground water sources crucial for the future of Lake Manyara National Park and the wildlife in the landscape.

Communities are critical to the well-being of the Maasai Steppe Heartland. A substantial part of the Heartland is covered by community pastoral areas. AWF continues to work with Maasai Steppe communities to set aside critical areas for conservation through land use planning and to ensure the communities benefit through enterprise development. To date, 320,000 hectares of community land have been set aside for conservation in the Heartland. These areas are used for sport hunting, photographic safari camping, and wildlife movement and dispersal. The number of tourists visiting the Maasai Steppe Heartland has significantly increased in the last decade – from 112,000 in 1998 to 152,000 in 2005 – an increase of 36 percent. As a result, revenue generated from tourism activities has increased from \$2.7 million to \$3.2 million – a growth rate of 19 percent. Though this immense tourism potential augurs well with current efforts to set aside land for conservation and tourism, the challenge is whether these lands shall generate sufficient economic returns over time in comparison to competing uses for communities to maintain them under conservation.

Almost a decade after AWF began working in this area, the landscape-level approach has made a huge difference in re-building the Maasai Steppe landscape in Tanzania and helping to reconnect the key conservation areas. Though many challenges still exist, and more work still needs to be done, wildlife now has a higher chance of survival in the area well into the future. ■



The visitor center at Tarangire National Park has improved the tourist experience. The visitor center was built by AWF with funding from USAID.



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# AWF's 45th Ann

*Here are just a few of the key milestones that*

**1961** – Washington Safari Club's Conservation Committee **creates the African Wildlife Foundation** (originally called the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation)

**1962** – AWF's first project is to help establish the **College of African Wildlife Management**, Mweka, Tanzania

**1970** – AWF helps found the **Wildlife Clubs of Kenya** to educate youth about the environment and conservation

**1975** – AWF begins long-term support of **Cynthia Moss's Elephant Research Project**; population grows from 400 to 1,000+ elephants in the next 20 years

**1982** – North Yemen bars legal **import of rhino horns** after diplomatic intervention by AWF

**1989** – AWF proposes the **Ivory Ban** as an emergency measure to end out-of-control elephant poaching. The African elephant is elevated to "most endangered" category by Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

**1990** – AWF starts its **Neighbours as Partners Program** which pioneered community conservation around national parks in East and Central Africa

**1996** – The **Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program** honoring long-time AWF supporter Charlotte Kidder Ramsey is established to help develop conservation leaders through advanced training

**1998** – AWF marks a new era in African conservation with its **African Heartlands Program** to protect large landscapes of exceptional natural value

**1999** - **Partnership Options for Resource-Use Innovation (PORI)**, a project supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) designed to help develop community-based wildlife enterprises in northern Tanzania, becomes the first African Heartland effort

**1999** - AWF's Enterprise Team brokers first partnership between **Ololosokwan Community and Conservation Corporation Africa** for development of a high-end tourism facility in the community area just outside Serengeti National Park

**2000** – AWF's work expands into Southern Africa with the implementation of **African Heartlands Program in Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia and Botswana**



*In 1989, AWF proposed the Ivory Ban as an emergency measure to end out-of-control elephant poaching.*



*The Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program was created in 1996 in memory of long-time AWF supporter Charlotte Kidder Ramsey.*



# Anniversary Timeline

we have marked our work over the last 45 years:

**2001** – Tanzania's President declares that **Manyara Ranch** will be protected as a major wildlife corridor – and gives the ranch to the Tanzania Land Conservation Trust facilitated by AWF

**2001** - AWF's Conservation Business Ventures and USAID open the doors to the **Koiya Starbeds** ecolodge in the Laikipia district of Kenya

**2002** - The 7th Heartland is established -- the **Limpopo Heartland** spans the three diverse countries of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe

**2003** – AWF launches its **Large Carnivore Research Project** which focuses on lions and the spotted hyenas in Chobe National Park in northeastern Botswana and the eastern Caprivi Strip of Namibia

**2003** – AWF identifies the new **Congo Heartland** in the Democratic Republic of Congo, brightening the future of all species in the area, including the bonobo and Congo peacock

**2004** - A large mammal survey, conducted by AWF, provides the **first accurate data on elephants in the Zambezi Heartland**; data shows that the elephant population has increased by 8 percent from an estimated 21,114 in 2001 to 22,826 elephants

**2004** - Thanks to a partnership between AWF, USAID, and Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), **new Visitor Centers open at Lake Manyara National Park and Tarangire National Park**

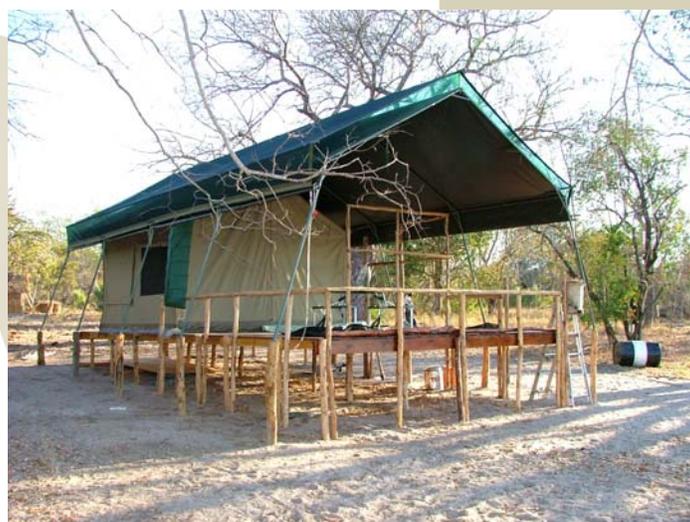
**2005** - AWF helps establish the **Kenya Land Conservation Trust**, a new national body which will allow land to be privately held for conservation, thus supplementing the traditional government parks and reserves

**2005** - AWF partners with **Starbucks**, launching a three year project aimed at promoting coffee quality, environmental sustainability and natural resource conservation in east Africa

**2005** - AWF partners with the **Mozambican government** to restore the magnificent Banhine National Park. Biological surveys and construction of an international research center have begun



*In 2003 AWF launched its Large Carnivore Research Project in Botswana and Namibia.*



*AWF is working to restore Banhine National Park in Mozambique. Construction of an International Research Center is almost complete.*



## Land and Habitat Conservation in Africa: Conservation Easement in Kitengela

The Kitengela area lies to the south of Nairobi National Park and has some of the only open spaces currently available for wildlife dispersal and movement from the park. Because of its close proximity to the city of Nairobi, the Park is currently facing serious

a voluntary legally binding agreement that restricts certain types or amounts of development such as sub-division, or fencing on a property in order to conserve natural resources. It was created under Kenya's recently enacted Environment Management and Coordination Act of 1999. This instrument was selected because it took into account economic and land markets in the area, unlike various traditional land conservation tools that had been tried without much success because they were insensitive to markets that have driven land use decisions in the area. The tool was also selected to complement and safeguard wildlife movement to the private lands where the Wildlife Foundation was implementing a conservation lease (direct payments) program with funding from the World Bank.



*Nairobi National Park, because of its close proximity to the city, is facing serious threats to its survival.*

threats to its survival due to increased urban pressure and developments that have reduced the land available for wildlife movement and dispersal. The development of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Kitengela town results in land speculation, rapid land subdivision and the entry of urban type development in the area. For example, the price of land in Kitengela has soared to about US\$10,000 per acre. More than 80 percent of the communal land has been sold to urban immigrant buyers and an urban center has sprung up and grown to 70,000 people. In the face of these threats, it has become critical to secure land in Kitengela for continual wildlife movement and dispersal if the future of the park is to be safeguarded.

One critical piece of land in the area is a 3,000 acre government-owned former sheep and goat ranch to the south of the park that is important for wildlife dispersal and movement. In order to

secure this area for conservation, AWF and partners – Kenya Wildlife Service, The Wildlife Foundation and local communities agreed to create a conservation easement over the land. A conservation easement is

The design of the easement was not without challenges. At the time, there was controversy between politicians and individual landowners over the ownership and use of the land. One party wanted the area to be used for wildlife conservation while the others wanted to convert it into private holding for residential purposes. A court injunction had to be obtained to safeguard the land. Extensive consultations and negotiations were conducted between the parties and the government and later, all the parties agreed to sign the easement. The easement prohibits activities such as fencing, construction of building for residential or industrial use, cultivation and subdivision. It will be enforced by the Kenya Wildlife Service and the local community. This is the first ever easement in Kenya and therefore AWF and partners are now working with the Commissioner of lands to create operational procedures to make the easement effective and guide implementation of easements in Kenya. Awareness will need to be created among private land owners on the easement as a tool for wildlife conservation to increase its use, especially in large wildlife ranches of northern Kenya.

Baring any legal challenges to the easement or political interests blocking its approval, it is poised to secure this critical piece of land for continual use by wildlife for migration and dispersal from Nairobi National Park. It will ensure that the space continues to be open to allow for healthy ecological interactions for the wildlife populations in the park. ■



*Wildebeests and zebras migrate to and from Nairobi National Park.*

# Capacity Building and Leadership Development: The Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program

One of AWF's earliest goals was to build the capacity of Africans to manage their own wildlife resources. Since its first project, the College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka, Tanzania, AWF has supported the education of hundreds of African wildlife managers and leaders.

Today, capacity building and leadership development remain an important part of AWF's work. AWF knows that the long-term conservation of African wildlife depends on committed and trained African leaders, managers and scientists. The Charlotte Conservation Fellowship Program, started in 1996, has become AWF's main vehicle for capacity building and leadership development in recent years. In the past 10 years, more than 45 fellows from throughout Africa have benefited from the fellowship and studied for higher level degrees in fields ranging from ecology to conservation economics to community conservation. A few of the outstanding Charlotte Fellows that are serving as key leaders in conservation in their countries include:

**Hector Daniel Magome**, a South African, was awarded a fellowship in 1998 and studied for a PhD in Conservation Biology at the University of Kent, United Kingdom. His research looked at community development and management of protected areas in post-apartheid South Africa and recommended a policy framework for conservation and development. Today, Hector is the Executive Director of Conservation Services at the South Africa National Parks (SanParks). He is also in charge of Transfrontier Conservation areas within SanParks and is the Vice Chairman for World Commission for Protected Areas in southern Africa. Previously, he served as the Chief Executive of Bophuthaswana Parks where he



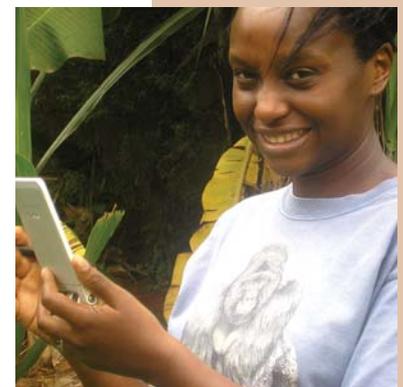
is credited with developing award-winning community conservation programs that improved development in the area. He joined SanParks as General Manager for Planning and Development in 1996 and

oversaw the development of community conservation programs and policies in South Africa. Hector was the first black ecologist in apartheid South Africa and has now become an outstanding leader in conservation in the new South Africa.

**Paula Kahumbu**, a Kenyan, was awarded a fellowship in 1996 and studied for a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University in the USA. Her research looked at elephant interactions in Shimba Hills Forest in Kenya. Today, Paula is the Director of Lafarge Ecosystems, a subsidiary of Bamburi Cement Company where she is managing their wildlife

farm and overseeing restoration of wastelands, exhausted limestone quarries previously used for cement mining. This farm was in world news after the tsumani following the strange adoption of a baby hippo by an old tortoise. Previously, she also worked for the Kenya Wildlife Service as a Scientific Advisor where she led two delegations from Kenya to the Convention of Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting. She has also formed a local charity – the Colobus Trust – to protect endangered colobus monkeys along the Kenyan coast. This was the first privately initiated conservation effort on the south coast of Kenya.

**Gladys Walubona Kalema Zikusoka**, a Ugandan, was awarded a fellowship in 1999 and studied for a Masters degree in Wildlife Zoological Medicine at the University of North Carolina, USA. Her research looked at the prevalence of tuberculosis in African buffalo and cattle and their interface with humans in and around Queen Elizabeth and Bwindi Impenetrable National Parks in Uganda. This study clarified the interface between public health and animals and assisted in creating protocols to guide the interaction between humans, cattle and wildlife. Today, Gladys serves as the Chief Executive Officer of a local NGO, Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH) which she founded to promote conservation and public health by improving primary health care to people and animals in and around protected areas. Previously, she served as the first ever veterinary officer for the Uganda Wildlife Authority where she helped create the first veterinary unit.





**Eugène Rutagarama**, a Rwandese, was awarded a fellowship in 2002 and studied for a Masters degree in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the University of East Anglia, UK. His research investigated adaptive partnerships for conservation in Rwanda. Eugène started his career as a junior officer in the Rwanda national protected area service and rose to become a Deputy Director. He later joined the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP) as Programme Manager and was instrumental in the continued conservation of highly endangered mountain gorillas during the civil war in Rwanda in the 1990s. In recognition of his efforts, Eugène won two international awards – the Getty Prize for Wildlife Conservation in 1996 and the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2001. Today, he is the Director of IGCP and continues to play a key role in the conservation of the mountain gorillas

in the Virunga region that includes the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. ■

## Charlotte Fellows 2005/2006

Mozambique has paid a terrible price for its years of civil war, which ended in 1990. Thousands of people were killed. Infrastructure and institutions were wiped out. Conservation efforts collapsed.

Today Mozambique is fully committed to rebuilding its conservation infrastructure. And AWF leads the list of partners who have offered to help – especially since our Limpopo and Zambezi Heartlands cover key biodiversity areas of the country.

Above all else, Mozambique's conservation efforts require a pool of trained professionals. So this past year, AWF awarded three Charlotte Fellowships to three Mozambican students to study for PhD degrees in conservation.



**Valerio Macandza**, a university lecturer, will study for a PhD in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa and will research the impact of elephants in the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique. This research will be critical to developing an elephant management plan to re-establish conservation in the area.

**Carlos Manuel Bento**, a university lecturer and wetland conservation specialist, will study for a PhD in Ecology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. His research will focus on ecology, distribution and genetics of Cape buffalo in Gorongosa-Zambezi Delta region. It should help to improve the conservation of the buffalo that was negatively impacted by both the war and the construction of Caborra Bassa Dam.



**Bruno Nhancale**, an NGO worker, will study for a PhD in Biodiversity Conservation Planning at the University of Kent in the United Kingdom. His research will focus on country-side planning using biological and socioeconomic factors and should be instrumental in helping the government of Mozambique to identify, designate and revive protected areas.

In addition, AWF also awarded three Mozambican protected area officials with scholarships to attend the College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka, Tanzania. When they are finished, these three professionals – **Victor Guedes Rosario**, **Acacio Ntauma** and **Cassamo Bay** – will be ideally placed to manage Mozambique's new and emerging protected areas work for the Ministry of Tourism in the Wildlife Department and will receive skills crucial for middle-level wildlife management at the protected area level in Mozambique. ■

## Conservation Enterprise: Tourist Lodges Bring Benefits to Wildlife and Communities

AWF's conservation enterprises are commercial ventures that support conservation while providing economic benefits to communities. Since the 1990s, AWF has been at the forefront of using conservation enterprise in Africa as a tool for conservation. We have supported various tourism-based and non-tourism-based enterprises such as high-end ecolodges, campsites, fishing camps and cultural villages. Examples of AWF-supported enterprises include Koiya Starbeds in Kenya, Ololosokwan Kleins Camp in Tanzania, Kijabe Ecolodge in Kenya, Chezya Fishing Camp in Zimbabwe, and Olgulului Campsite in Kenya. We have developed the tools and processes necessary to support this complex area of our work. While it has not been easy, learning from our first-generation enterprise projects has provided us useful lessons on how to structure these deals for optimal performance and equity. In this edition, we share two powerful examples of conservation enterprises that we have developed with communities in Africa.

The *Kijabe Ecolodge*, located in the Kijabe Group Ranch of Laikipia District in northern Kenya, is a 16-bed high-end lodge catering for the discriminating traveler. AWF, with funding from USAID, Ford Foundation, and the EU-Tourism Trust Fund, has helped the local Maasai community build the lodge in an effort to preserve the dispersal area for wildlife moving between the private large scale ranches



of Laikipia and Samburu National Reserve. After an extensive search, we helped the community enter a joint venture management agreement with a private sector partner for the lodge. Under a 15-year agreement, the private sector will pay US\$7,000 (rising to US\$20,000 per year as community annual fees), as well as bed night and conservation fee of US\$30 per visitor. A conservation incentive fee of US\$20,000 was also negotiated. AWF brokered the agreement between the private sector partner, Regenes Ltd., and the Kijabe Trust.

AWF has also helped the community to develop a natural resource management plan, setting aside 5,000 hectares land. In addition to providing lots of wildlife viewing for guests, this conservation land links this area to a larger community system with neighboring group ranches. We have further helped them develop institutions to implement the plan and manage the land they have zoned into different uses. Once fully operational, the Ecolodge is expected to generate revenue for the 3,400 members of the local community.

Like many projects, this one was not without its challenges. Disagreements with the initial operator resulted in the shut-down of the project. Long-distances made it difficult to work with the contractor, leading to

delays in procurements. And, perhaps even more challenging, was the difficulty in finding a private sector operator to manage the lodge. Many were too intimidated by the community politics, the location, and the lack of steady water. But these challenges helped AWF make adjustments and move forward with construction. The lodge will open for its doors for business in December 2006, providing another powerful example of conservation enterprise in Kenya.

The *Santawani Lodge* is located in the world-famous Okavango delta in Botswana. When the expiration of a private lease led the government to deed the land and lodge to the local Sankuyo people, AWF helped the community to rehabilitate the lodge. Because the community wanted to manage the lodge themselves, we helped to train the staff and developed marketing networks to bring in tourists. The lodge, complete with six new chalets and a reception area, opened for business in 2004. The community manages the lodge and employs 12



people. In 2004, it earned US\$45,000 that was used for social and economic development to benefit 400 households. Income from this lodge is helping improve livelihoods of the community in an area where livelihood options have been limited by harsh climate and strict veterinary controls. The lodge is also helping to conserve an 8,900 hectare wildlife-management area which provides prime wildlife-viewing for lodge guests and is a wildlife corridor and dispersal area for wildlife, such as elephants, lions, giraffe and buffalo, moving between Moremi Game Reserve and other parts of the Okavango delta.

The main challenge facing the lodge is the low capacity of community institutions that have oversight over the lodge and could negatively affect the business as has been the case in other parts of the Okavango. These institutions need continuous support and advice for them to effectively manage the lodge well into the future. There is also need to ensure that some revenue is set aside for capital investments to expand the lodge given that most of it is being channeled into pressing social needs in the community.

The Santawani Lodge offers a unique case of a successful community-managed lodge. However, any replication efforts in other parts of Africa should be aware of the special circumstances that exist in Botswana that helped make it a success; namely, a supportive government policy on community-based conservation, advantageous location in a vibrant tourism circuit, and a healthy economy that can provide various support services to communities that are non-existent in most of Africa today. ■

# The African Wildlife Foundation's African Heartland Program

Our approach to achieving conservation impact in Africa is to encourage our partners to join us in focusing on a limited number of high-priority, large conservation landscapes that have the potential to conserve viable populations of African wildlife as well as key habitats and ecological systems well into the future. We use an applied science-based planning process to determine conservation objectives and to make these areas both ecologically and economically successful. Recognizing Africa's wildlife cannot be conserved everywhere, the great majority of AWF's resources and efforts are invested in these Heartlands.

## What is a Heartland?

Heartlands are comprised of land units under different management and ownership regimes—national parks, private land and community land—in a single ecosystem ranging in size from 7,000 km<sup>2</sup> to 95,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Some Heartlands fall within a single country; many extend across international borders of two or more countries. AWF's initial planning horizon and commitment for work in a Heartland is fifteen years. Heartland program interventions include: support for improved protected area management; resource monitoring; participatory land use planning; wildlife-based tourism enterprise development; securing local livelihoods and community-owned businesses; capacity building with local institutions; and enabling local leadership of wildlife and natural resource management.

## Selecting and Establishing Heartlands

When selecting Heartlands, AWF works carefully to identify landscapes which have the most potential for effective and sustainable long-term conservation. Initially, AWF considers both regional and global biodiversity conservation priorities. Then, once a potential landscape is identified, AWF conducts a detailed analysis that looks at the biological, ecological, social and economic opportunities within the region. Once an area has been identified as a Heartland, we develop a detailed profile that includes the biological, socio-economic, and institutional attributes of the area, as well as identify key threats to conservation targets and potential conservation strategies that could be implemented. An area is officially declared a Heartland when the resources needed to implement an effective program are secured.

## Working in AWF's Heartlands

In each Heartland, AWF works closely with a wide range of partners and stakeholders (including national and local governments, communities, research organizations, other non-governmental organizations and the private sector) to develop priority interventions specific to the area. While each Heartland's strategy is unique, each Heartland focuses its work in the following strategic areas: land & habitat conservation; species conservation & applied research; conservation enterprise; capacity building & leadership development; and policy. ■



AFRICAN HEARTLAND	COUNTRIES	AREA
Kazungula	Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe	90,905 km <sup>2</sup>
Kilimanjaro	Kenya and Tanzania	24,663 km <sup>2</sup>
Limpopo	Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe	95,624 km <sup>2</sup>
Maasai Steppe	Tanzania	22,233 km <sup>2</sup>
Maringa Lopori-Wamba Landscape	Democratic Republic of Congo	81,748 km <sup>2</sup>
Samburu	Kenya	26,134 km <sup>2</sup>
Virunga	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda	7,655 km <sup>2</sup>
Zambezi	Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe	47,721 km <sup>2</sup>