

African Heartland News

May - August 2007

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARTNERS OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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During the 1970s and 1980s, Mozambique experienced years of long civil war. Millions of people were either displaced or killed during this conflict. The war also had immense impact on the natural resources in the country. As a result, wildlife was decimated in most parts of the country as protected area systems collapsed. Since the war ended, the government of Mozambique has been working hard in partnership with various partners including the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) to reconstruct wildlife management systems to conserve wildlife and contribute to national economic development through tourism. Because of the extensive disruptions caused by the war, the needs within conservation are numerous. This calls for partners to prioritize and focus their support to specific areas in order to incrementally achieve meaningful conservation impact. AWF formed its partnership with the government to concentrate its conservation efforts in the Limpopo Heartland. This partnership was then formalized through two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Mozambique Ministry of Tourism (MITUR). The first MOU was signed in October 2004. Under this MOU, AWF would support the reestablishment of Banhine National Park and support the training of wildlife managers in the country. These areas of focus were selected because AWF has extensive experience supporting parks in Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana and Uganda to become more effective in managing their resources.



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Mozambique and covers 7000 km². It is an important hydrological system with seasonally flooded and dry grasslands, numerous assemblages of large herbivores, aquatic species such as rare killifish and lungfish, the endangered wattled crane, and hosts of migratory birds. It was established in 1973 and for many years, Banhine was a 'paper park'. AWF's first priority was to reestablish management systems to ensure the park was functional as an anchor in the landscape for conservation and tourism. Banhine has been included in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Area because of its potential to provide expanded habitat and other linkages for wildlife from the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

Understanding the Biodiversity through Surveys

The first step for AWF was to gain greater understanding of the biodiversity of the park together with its infrastructural challenges by conducting extensive surveys. In October 2004, AWF conducted aerial surveys for terrestrial species using block sample counts in all but one area of the park where there is a woodland known for its low carrying capacity of large mammals. Survey results showed that the park supports healthy populations of ostrich, kudu, impala, reedbuck, duiker, steenbok, porcupine, warthog and the increasingly rare oribi. The team noted that the species distribution patterns have changed because grasslands and wetlands which were once dominated by large herbivores are now dominated by medium and small ungulates. Various species which historically existed in the park such as giraffe, buffalo, sable,

Support to Banhine National Park

Banhine National Park lies in southwest



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African Heartland News
is published three times a year.

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SUPPORTING POLICY INITIATIVES: Management Framework for Shared Elephant Population Developed

The southern Africa region has an estimated elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*) population of 400,000. This population is growing at an average annual growth rate of 5% and is expected to reach 500,000 by 2020. Most of these elephants utilize habitat across several countries. Given that the region has an estimated carrying capacity of 180,000 elephants, it is highly overstocked. This has resulted in widespread conflicts with people through crop and property destruction where population increase has driven people into elephant habitat. It has also resulted in extensive habitat destruction by elephants threatening the viability of other species of wildlife as well as the integrity of various protected areas. Today, elephant management in the region is one of the greatest conservation challenges because the region lacks a regional elephant management strategy.

In 2004, the process of developing a regional management strategy began in the region as an initiative of the South African Development Community (SADC). This was driven by three major issues. First, the management challenges stated above needed to be addressed because of their impacts. Second, there were concerns arising from reports that there were proposals to move all elephant populations to Appendix I of the Convention of Trade in Endangered Species whose stringent management options would further increase populations and increase threats to the environment and people. Third, there was a general move towards transboundary natural resource management in southern Africa. The process is being handled both at national level and subregion level especially where certain countries share transboundary elephant populations. In one such landscape, the Zambezi Heartland, a transboundary landscape that encompasses parts of Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, AWF has been supporting this process among protected area authorities.

The Zambezi Heartland is home to more than 30,000 African elephants which move between

the protected and community areas in the three countries creating conflict with people as well as damaging the environment. This elephant population is managed in an uncoordinated manner using different policies and management regimes across the three countries. If this population is to be effectively managed, joint management of the elephants is required. AWF has been working with the three protected area authorities of

Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique to develop and formalize a framework for the shared management of the elephants.

Before AWF started working with the countries, each already had an elephant management plan and policy in place or under development. Zimbabwe already had an elephant management plan and policy plan; Zambia had recently adopted a national policy and was in the process of developing a management plan; and Mozambique had a national strategy for elephant management. However, all the parties recognized that their management plans and policies did not address the transboundary context of the elephant population. They also recognized that these plans and policies were conflicting in many cases and did not further coordinated elephant management.

Over the past two years, AWF has facilitated interaction among technical staff from the protected area authorities of the three countries resulting in a shared framework for the management of elephants in the Zambezi Heartland. This framework is already serving as the guide for elephant management in the Heartland. Within the shared policy framework, existing national policies, management and action plans from the three countries have been harmonized and coordinated. Lessons have also been incorporated from Botswana's elephant management approach. The shared policy framework aims to "facilitate coordinated management of a viable shared elephant population(s) in the Zambezi landscape while ensuring the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable utilization and development."



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SPECIES CONSERVATION: AWF and Partners Control an Anthrax Outbreak in Samburu Heartland

During the dry season of September 2006, the AWF Samburu Heartland team in northern Kenya encountered carcasses of 15 Grevy's zebras (*Equus grevyi*), several donkeys, cattle and sheep in the Wamba community area. This created a lot of concern because the Grevy's Zebra is highly endangered while livestock is the mainstay of community livelihoods and therefore continual deaths could have catastrophic impacts. The team suspected and confirmed quickly through testing of spore samples that this was an outbreak of anthrax. Anthrax is a highly infectious and lethal disease caused by soil borne bacteria called *Bacillus anthracis*. It occurs commonly in wild and domestic ruminants such as cattle, sheep, goats, camels, antelopes and the endangered Grevy's zebra although it can also be transmitted to humans. In places like Samburu, it is easily transmitted between wildlife and livestock when they share grazing and watering areas. It is controlled (prevented and treated) by vaccinating infected animals. It is common in places with poor veterinary public health programs such as Samburu especially during the dry season. Because of the deadly threat posed by anthrax to people, livestock and wildlife, AWF and partners responded immediately to avert a potential catastrophe.

A stakeholders meeting chaired by AWF and attended by representatives from the Grevy's Zebra Task Force, the Department of Veterinary Service, the Kenya Wildlife Service, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), and the County Councils of Isiolo and Samburu met and crafted an emergency response plan to control the disease in the area. The plan had the following actions: first, the Veterinary Department would vaccinate all the livestock in the area in order to reduce disease transmission to other livestock and Grevy's Zebra. The team would conduct extensive community mobilization campaigns to ensure that pastoralists brought their cattle for vaccination; second, monitoring of Grevy's Zebra would be increased to determine whether the disease was spreading and vaccination was required.

With financial support of US\$17,000 from AWF, the Veterinary Department successfully vaccinated all available livestock in the affected areas between September and October 2006. The vaccination teams were led by the District Veterinary Officers of Isiolo and Samburu and included veterinary assistants, private veterinary practitioners, community-based animal health workers, local government administrators, security officers, members of

the local community and livestock owners.

Out of the 50,000 animals targeted for vaccination in Isiolo and Samburu districts, 49,841 were actually vaccinated. In Isiolo, 30,000 animals were targeted but 29,482 animals (including 10,451 cattle, 17,779 sheep and 1,232 donkeys) were vaccinated. In Samburu, 20,000 animals were targeted; 20,359 animals (including 15,867 sheep,



2,667 cattle, 1,130 donkeys and 695 camels) were vaccinated. More cattle were vaccinated in Isiolo district where most owners are less nomadic than in Samburu district where they still practice pastoralism, are highly mobile and difficult to reach. More sheep were vaccinated than any other animal because they rarely move long distances from households. After the successful vaccination of livestock, no more Grevy's Zebra deaths have been recorded. AWF continues to monitor the anthrax situation among the Grevy's Zebra.

Although all parties were pleased with the success in containing outbreak, we learned several lessons from this exercise:

- 1) A large percentage of the targeted animals in the area where livestock shares range with Grevy's zebras were successfully vaccinated. However, some livestock were not vaccinated because the owners had migrated from the area for various reasons such as to search of water and pasture and to avoid transmissions. Other livestock owners could not be reached and informed of the exercise. For example, after the exercise in Isiolo district, the District Veterinary Officer (DVO) received many

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An Interview with AWF's Newly Appointed President

At its January 25, 2007 meeting, AWF's Board of Trustees elected Dr. Helen Gichohi to become the President of AWF based in its Nairobi Headquarters. Dr. Patrick Bergin continues as AWF's Chief Executive Officer, splitting his time between AWF offices in Tanzania, South Africa and Washington DC. In her new role, Helen will lead the design and implementation of AWF's conservation interventions across the eight African Heartlands. Patrick will continue to work with AWF's international Board of Trustees to lead the strategic growth of the organization.

Helen joined AWF in 2001 as Director of the African Heartlands Program and quickly moved on to become the Vice President for Program. Helen is a graduate of the University of Leicester, where she attained her Ph.D. in Ecology. She also holds an MSc in Biology of Conservation and BSc in Zoology from University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University respectively.

To help our partners better understand what this new leadership structure means for AWF—and what it might mean for their own work with AWF—our Director of Communications, Elodie Sampéré, sat down with Helen to get her thoughts on this appointment as well as the new structure.

Elodie: First of all, Helen, congratulations!

Helen: Thank you Elodie.

Elodie: Can you tell us about the vision behind this new leadership structure. What does AWF aim to accomplish with this change?

Helen: AWF was founded on the belief that African nationals must be empowered as the primary stewards of their natural resources if long-term conservation in Africa is to succeed. This is one of our core values and a central pillar in our approach to conservation. To achieve this, AWF is committed to recruiting talented African professionals on its own staff, and to supporting our partners in government, local organizations and communities to strengthen and build their own staff and conservation capacities. Last October, when the Kenyan Government approved AWF's long standing request to be officially headquartered in Nairobi, AWF's Board of Trustees unanimously felt that the Headquarters demanded a strong African leadership. This position is therefore intended to help further consolidate our programs and relationships on the continent and beyond; to help us become a more effective international conservation organization whose sole focus is Africa as we expand into other parts of the continent; and to deepen the impact of our program. I was fortunate and honored to be appointed to this new position.

Elodie: Would you give us a few examples of which areas will be your priority focus, and which will remain Patrick's?

Helen: I will retain the overall responsibility for the program and help maintain the rigorous program systems we have put in place in the last five years. This will ensure we are focused on each Heartland's most pressing conservation needs and achieving desired impact. I will also continue to be the voice of AWF in Africa, both at government levels and on continental bodies such as the African Union, NEPAD and others. Although we have a strong technical design team that focuses on agency fundraising, I will also take on greater responsibility in providing them with the necessary support in creating and developing relationships with these important partners, especially in Europe and Asia, as well as with several emerging strategic partnerships, including AWF's new, multiple Heartland partnership with The Nature Conservancy. As CEO, Patrick will continue to work with AWF's international Board of Trustees to provide overall strategic guidance and leadership to the organization, and ensure that AWF invests its financial resources with optimal effectiveness and accountability.

Elodie: As you take on this new position, what will you miss from your previous role as Vice President for Program?

Helen: I am committed to retaining the efficiency and effectiveness of our program, and to ensuring that our teams in the field receive the support they need. To this end, we are now organizing our program support regionally by decentralizing leadership to major regions based



Appointed President, Dr. Helen Gichohi



on our program spread - southern Africa and eastern & central Africa. We have appointed Dr. Simon Munthali to take on the regional mandate for southern Africa. We will be providing the same regional support for eastern and central Africa in the new fiscal year. This will relieve me of much day-to-day operational oversight. I will however retain as much field contact as possible to ensure that our on-going strategic visioning and the improvements and innovations in our program are informed by experiences and deep knowledge from the field. Plus there is always tremendous excitement in watching a project move from the idea stage to successful completion to tracking the impact it has on conservation and the lives of local people.

Elodie: Your new position as President certainly says something significant about AWF's long-standing commitment to African leadership. How much do you think it differentiates AWF from other organizations?

Helen: As I mentioned earlier, one of AWF's founding beliefs is in the value of African leadership in conservation. It is what distinguishes us from other organizations. We were actually founded in 1961 as the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation. When we established the landscape-level Heartlands program as our overarching strategy in 1998, we renewed our commitment to engaging Africa's people – local community landholders, private citizens and the private sector, local governments and countless others – to protect the lands that support the future of wildlife and the livelihoods of Africa's people. I believe AWF is the only international conservation NGO headquartered on the continent. One can increasingly see this commitment to Africa on the Board of Trustees as well, which now includes some of the most accomplished and admired African leaders of our generation. I am personally and professionally very proud that AWF articulates and demonstrates its commitment to African leadership in this way.

Elodie: What do you see as some of the most exciting opportunities this change presents for AWF?

Helen: Our new commitment to organizing our program regionally – what I just described with Simon in southern Africa and a future senior director for East and Central Africa - is very exciting. It will allow us to support better regional functions, and to position ourselves more strongly with government and development partners. AWF is poised to take its program work to scale as the results of our landscape approach and investments over the last 5 years or so begin to become evident. In addition, we intend to expand to other regions of Africa where we are not currently present. The new structure will enable these two goals to be more easily implemented. My new role as president also gives us more capacity to meet with our constituents at the highest level. It provides more opportunity to strengthen our relationships with African governments and help them to formulate the most effective policies for the good of their people and their natural resources.

Elodie: What do you think are some of the biggest challenges you will face in the next year?

Helen: All of us at AWF believe that our mission is well-aligned with Africa's continental perspective on linkages between people and wildlife. Showcasing successful programs that clearly reflect these linkages so that this alignment is explicit at all levels remains a significant challenge. Also a challenge is mainstreaming conservation into planning and thinking of African governments. As we successfully complete field programs that demonstrate the values of conservation and share lessons we hope that these challenges can be slowly overcome.

Elodie: Any final thoughts for our readers?

Helen: I hope that AWF's commitment to embracing partnership opportunities at all levels is clear to everyone. I want our readers to recognize the depth of this commitment, because it is something we live, something we put in action every day and something that will continue to be an important part of our organizational strategy. These partnerships are what enable AWF to succeed in the goals we share with you, our readers, so we want our success to be your success. ■

"Improved Wildlife Management in Mozambique", continued from page 1

tsetsebe, hartebeest, zebra, and wildebeest were absent suggesting they were decimated during the civil wars.

Infrastructure surveys revealed that the park has very poor infrastructure that cannot support effective management and tourism development. In addition, the park boundaries were not clearly determined hence people had encroached into the park to farm in the wetlands.

In July 2005, AWF conducted another survey to inventory aquatic resources. Results showed that the park's aquatic systems are home to at least 18 species of fish belonging to ten different families. The park accounts for 37 percent of the 49 species of fish recorded in the entire Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. Among the fish found in Banhine National Park, three species deserve special conservation status because of their rarity and limited distribution. These are the two small seasonal pan-inhabitants, *Nothobrinchius orthonotus* and *Nothobrinchius furzeri* (commonly known as killifish) and lungfish, *Protopterus annectens*.



Establishing a Research Center

The results from the survey showed that more systematic ecological research within the park was required to help manage the existing populations. AWF with funding from among others the US State Department built a research centre to facilitate research in the park. This center will host national and international researchers who can generate knowledge on the park's biodiversity and ecosystem functions, information that is critical to the successful and sustainable management of the park. The center will also be used to build local capacity for applied research within the park. The rustic camp is comprised of six tents (each equipped with two beds and some basic furniture). It caters for researchers and tourists and will raise revenue from research fees and tourism charges to contribute to the park's operating budget.

The Banhine Research Center was officially opened in August 2006 by the Minister for Tourism, Hon. Fernando Sumana, Jnr. The ceremony was also attended by neighboring communities and many senior dignitaries including the US Deputy Ambassador; AWF's Patrick Bergin and Simon Munthali; a representative of the Governor of Gaza; and the Chigubo District Administrator among others. This was the largest formal gathering of officials ever assembled at the park since it was established in 1973. Already, various researchers have fully booked the centre for research in the next coming year.

Capacity Building of Wildlife Managers

Lack of skilled human capacity is one of the biggest challenges facing wildlife conservation in Mozambique. Under this partnership, AWF undertook to support the development of management capacity in Mozambique for wildlife management. Six Mozambicans have been awarded scholarships to study – three for a diploma course in wildlife management at Mweka College, Tanzania and three for doctorate research in conservation. The diploma students will complete their studies this year and become an available resource for practical wildlife management in Mozambique. The three doctorate students will produce knowledge that should support management



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LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION: Protecting the Lomako Forest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Lomako Forest is part of the dense tropical forest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It is located in the Equateur Province between the Lomako and Yokokala Rivers. It covers an area of 3600 km² and consists of polyspecific evergreen rainforest. It is home to the endemic bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) and other species such as Congo peacock, golden cat, giant pangolin and many primate species. In the past, there were various foreign research institutions in the area that were dedicated to the study of bonobos. Various community groups live around the forest and derive their livelihood from forest products and bushmeat. There are some logging concessions in the area around Lomako but operations have been limited by the poor terrain that makes export of logs difficult. Over the years, the forest has faced intense threats arising from increase in human use following the collapse of the rural agricultural economy. These include increased commercial bushmeat hunting and permanent human settlements. The threat to conservation in the area was exacerbated by civil war that broke out in the country in 1995 and whose frontline was just south of the forest. For the forest and its wildlife to survive in the long-term, urgent conservation action was required.

Long before the war, the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) declared the Lomako Forest as a priority zone for bonobo and forest conservation. Efforts to protect the forest started in 1990 under the leadership of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) but were never finalized because of political instability. After the war ended in 2003, the Congo Forest Basin Partnership was started to conserve the globally significant forest areas of Congo. In 2004, AWF received funding from this partnership under the USAID Central Africa Regional Partnership for the Environment (CARPE) to implement landscape conservation activities in the Maringa-Lopori Wamba landscape where the Lomako forest lies. We decided to focus on a partnership with ICCN to formally create the Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve for bonobo and forest conservation.

The first set of activities focused on evaluating the feasibility of the reserve. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and satellite images, we worked with partners such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the University of Maryland to gain greater understanding of human impact on this forest zone since the 1990s. This work showed that the forests were gradually becoming fragmented and



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degraded by human activities that are concentrated along the main roads and pathways. In addition we conducted socio-economic surveys in the communities around the forest to understand the livelihood options available and their impact on the forest. The study found that there was extensive pressure from commercial hunting for bushmeat, encroachment for settlement and farming and the general collapse of agriculture in the area. The northern part of the forest was severely encroached and hunted. Lastly, we conducted a biodiversity survey using straight line transects to understand the biodiversity and determine priority areas for conservation. There were higher densities of bonobos and other wildlife in the south compared to the north.

Using information from the surveys, we worked with ICCN to create a CoCoSi – a local coordinating committee that represented stakeholders from local communities, government and other local partners - to discuss the creation of the reserve. This committee was critical for involving the local community that lived next to or were settled in the forest, in the process of creating the reserve to avoid future conflicts. After various meetings, the stakeholders approved the proposed boundaries paving way for the creation of the proposed reserve. On June 28, 2006, the Minister for Environment and Conservation of Nature, Water and Forest signed a gazette notice creating the Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve. The rights of the local community who live around the reserve and depend on its resources have been formally recognized in the management of the reserve – the first time ever in DRC.



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CONSERVATION ENTERPRISE: The Congo Shipping Project – Innovation at Work on the Congo Area Rivers

The Democratic Republic of Congo's Maringa-Lopori Wamba Landscape – where AWF recently helped establish the Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve – is very remote area without an established road transport network. Travel is restricted to air and water transport along the Congo River. The area has deep fertile soils and adequate rainfall and is rich for agriculture. Historically, most of the farmers derived their livelihood from subsistence hunting, forest exploitation and agriculture. They planted coffee, cocoa, rubber and palm oil which they transported to markets using water transport along the Lopori, Maringa and Congo Rivers. When the civil war broke out, access to market was cut off as the soldiers and militias began to use the waters to access the battle front that had moved to the area. Cargo boats that transported farm produce and other products to markets stopped coming to the area. Farmers, most of whom lived and farmed on the river edges, retreated deep into forests abandoning farming. This accelerated bushmeat hunting, habitat destruction and forest exploitation as people sought to survive. When the war ended, conservationists including AWF returned to the area to begin conservation activities.



The Maringa-Lopori Wamba Landscape in DRC is a very remote area without an established road transport network.

With support from USAID's Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), AWF began to address key threats to conservation in the landscape. AWF initiated socio-economic surveys in the area and identified restoration of agriculture as a potential strategy for improving people's livelihoods that were threatening conservation. Farmers indicated that if access to markets was restored, they would restart agriculture. This had the potential to mitigate key threats to conservation by reducing their dependence on the forest and wildlife, and providing alternative livelihoods.

In response to the farmer's input, AWF decided to find a way to get agricultural products to various markets – thereby giving farmers a reason to farm again. AWF then partnered with a local cargo barge operator to reactivate commercial transport on the Congo and Maringa Rivers. AWF rented all the capacity of the boat, provided fuel for the journey and enlisted 180 traders in Kinshasa who bought space and transported manufactured goods to the landscape to sell to farmers and in turn bought their produce for sale to markets downstream. It was agreed that no forest products and bushmeat would be allowed onto the boat. To ensure farmers participation, AWF alerted local communities about the boat's schedule and provided them with empty sacks to ship their crops. The boat, which can carry approximately 700 tons of cargo, stopped in six ports where traders sold manufactured goods and collected agricultural goods to sell in major markets including Kinshasa. These traders transported and sold 134 tons of manufactured goods that included building materials, processed food stuffs, fuel and clothing among others. They then purchased 537 tons of agricultural produce composed mainly of maize, coffee, cocoa, palm oil. The cargo boat round trip journey took two months and covered 3,200 kilometers. It earned revenue of US\$45,000 which was more than what was projected by the boat company.



Transport on the rivers is currently very limited and the local population struggle to gain access to markets.

The boat's first trip was not without its challenges. First, the Congolese army confiscated one of the barges to transport soldiers from Basankusu to Mbandaka. The crew, including an AWF employee, was asked to vacate the barge and 1400 bags of produce were off-loaded.

AWF promptly petitioned the Ministry of Defense to return the barge as soon as possible and to refrain from future requisition. The barge was returned and completed its first roundtrip. However, the produce was all spoilt and could not be transported to markets. The team learned that it is important to liaise with the military and other militias in the region if such ventures are to be successful.

It also became obvious that in some places farmers needed to be organized into associations to improve the volumes that they market. There is a lot of potential for agricultural produce but it was hard to get individual farmers to bring their bulky crops from the hinterland to the river. Most of them had to walk or cycle for long distances to bring their produce to ports. In some other areas, 1200 bags could not be loaded for lack of space on the boat. Constituting farmers into associations would improve coordination for marketing and improve their incomes and livelihoods. Before the war, people in the Heartland used to produce various cash crops such as cocoa, coffee, rubber, palm oil and various industrial crop oils. Because the war cut off access to markets, people now produce mostly food crops for their survival. AWF will need to encourage the growing of high value cash crops together with food crops in order to increase value from agriculture and related livelihoods and reduce the dependence on forest products and wildlife for survival.

The team also learned that by controlling river transport, bushmeat hunting and trade could be controlled. The general fear was that opening up river commerce would open up channels for moving bushmeat to markets and therefore increase the rate of hunting. However, by refusing to accept bushmeat onto the boats, the trade was curtailed. It may be important for conservation organizations to work with boat owners and government to ban and monitor the use of boats for transporting bushmeat.

Although the first cargo trip was not without major challenges, restoring commerce offers huge promise for conservation and agriculture. AWF is working to resolve existing challenges with government, communities, traders and private boat operators to help ensure river transport and commerce is restored without bottlenecks all year round. The return of river commerce should help farmers to reestablish their livelihoods, while reducing the destruction to local forests and wildlife. ■

*"Management Framework for Elephant Population", continued
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The following are some of the key strategies that the framework recognizes as being crucial for the success of the harmonized landscape-wide approach to elephant management:

1) Establishing standardized elephant monitoring protocols that satisfy the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) through joint transboundary elephant surveys, and storage of data and information in a meta-databases that is continuously updated.

2) Resolving conflicts over utilization and population management options through systematic standard agreements on strategies for both non-consumptive and consumptive use of elephants. Key to this is the standardization of quota setting for sustainable consumptive use that benefits local communities and results in overall biodiversity conservation across the landscape.

3) Mitigating human-elephant conflict through implementation of appropriate mitigation measures on a case by case basis e.g. fencing, translocation, scaring, shooting, chili pepper method, with full participation of all stakeholders that affect and are affected by elephants.

4) Securing linkages across large dispersal areas across the whole landscape through identified key movement routes (corridors) that will be jointly monitored by all authorities and stakeholders.

This framework has been reviewed by respective Directors of protected area authorities in the three countries and its provisions have been incorporated into the SADC Regional Elephant Management Strategy. The parties are now working to obtain endorsement from stakeholders including governments so that it's a legal policy document. AWF sees this framework as a strong platform for the development and formalization of Mana-Lower Zambezi and ZiMoZa Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs). ■



“Protecting the Lomako Forest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”, continued from page 7

AWF has already started to implement activities aimed to conserving the bonobos and their habitat in the newly formed reserve. We are working to establish a long-term bonobo research program to study and monitor the population status of bonobos together with threats such as illegal bushmeat hunting and trade. We have already trained 285 local research assistants and four team leaders to assist the program in biological surveys, detailed mapping, and monitoring of human activities, especially bushmeat hunting. We have also started the process to develop a permanent conservation research and scientific tourism center to facilitate wildlife research, training of Congolese researchers, and development of conservation plans. Income generated from science-based tourism will benefit the local communities for local development. Plans are also underway to develop together with ICCN, protected area management systems to make Lomako an effectively managed conservation area. We hope that emerging political stability in the country will hold for work to protect the reserve and its biodiversity to continue in the long-term. ■

“Improved Wildlife Management in Mozambique”, continued from page 6

in three critical protected areas of Mozambique as well as become resources for future research in the country.

Building Infrastructure and Park Management Systems

After the successful completion of activities covered under the first MOU, AWF and MITUR agreed in April 2006 to expand the partnership in Banhine National Park to create a functional and sustainable park in the landscape. Under this new partnership, AWF has become the main implementing partner of a US\$5.6 million from the World Bank and given to the government of Mozambique to improve the development and management of the park in the next seven years.

AWF plans to first develop a general management plan together with tourism and business plans that will determine the activities needed to improve future management of the park. AWF anticipates that these activities will involve developing the road network, demarcating the park boundaries, building staff houses, offices and other key facilities. A tourism product to attract tourists and improve park management systems will be developed to enhance the financial sustainability of the park. We also plan to conduct applied research to determine the conservation priorities and interventions required for conservation especially in the context of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.

Work on this second phase has already started. Staff has been hired. We have constructed an airstrip to open up

the area to researchers and tourists. Plans are underway in the immediate future to rehabilitate and build staff houses, an office, and internal road network and conduct staff training.

AWF hopes to develop Banhine into a functional national park that should become a model for protected area management in Mozambique which can be replicated across the country. It should also open up the area for tourism (by tapping into the southern Africa tourism circuit) that can contribute to local development and improvement of local livelihoods for people in this remote area with limited opportunities; and lastly, provide the habitat and linkages required for the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area to be viable in the long-term. ■

“Anthrax Outbreak in Samburu Heartland”, continued from page 3

requests from such livestock owners whose livestock were not vaccinated. In the future, the team will need to target a much larger area and vaccinate all livestock that shares range with Grevy’s at any time period.

2) Community mobilization is crucial for an effective vaccination campaign. The radio network in the Community Wildlife Conservancies was instrumental in mobilizing communities whose livestock were vaccinated. In the future, community mobilization officers must be involved for all livestock to be vaccinated. Other members of the mobilization team should include the District Veterinary officers, public health personnel, community conservancy and group ranches leaders, local provincial administrators and Kenya Wildlife Service personnel. In addition to vaccinations, awareness on hygienic disposal of carcasses by the community will be required to curtail the spread of the disease.

3) The campaign was successful because of the quick response of the partners in providing resources to control the outbreak. This is because livestock and Grevy’s Zebras are significant to community livelihoods and conservation in this area.

Although the threat of anthrax has been contained in the Samburu landscape, a more comprehensive long-term approach to containing future outbreaks is needed. This anthrax outbreak was the second in a year following an earlier outbreak that occurred between December 2005 and March 2006 and killed 53 Grevy’s Zebra. Although both the Grevy’s Zebra and livestock were vaccinated during this outbreak, it appears that this was not effective in stopping recurrent anthrax outbreaks in the area. There is urgent need for systematic and strategic disease monitoring and response to be included into ongoing efforts for livestock production and Grevy’s Zebra conservation in the area. AWF will continue to work with other stakeholders in the landscape in seeking longer-term solutions to this problem. ■

The African Wildlife Foundation's African Heartland Program



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 km² to 95,000 km². 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 ²
Kilimanjaro	Kenya and Tanzania	24,663 km ²
Limpopo	Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe	95,624 km ²
Maasai Steppe	Tanzania	22,233 km ²
Maringa-Lopori Wamba Landscape	Democratic Republic of Congo	81,748 km ²
Samburu	Kenya	26,134 km ²
Virunga	Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda	7,655 km ²
Zambezi	Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe	47,721 km ²