



African Heartland News

May - August 2009

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARTNERS OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

IN THIS ISSUE

TOP STORY:

Lomako Conservation Science Centre



Page 1

LAND:

Sinohydro Court Case



Page 4

ENTERPRISE:

Linking Livestock to Markets Projects



Page 6

Opening of Conservation Science Centre in Lomako Yokokala Reserve, DRC

In one of the earlier editions of this newsletter, we reported exciting news about AWF's support to the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) to establish the Lomako Yokokala Faunal Reserve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This reserve was created specifically to protect equatorial rainforests and the rare bonobo (*Pan paniscus*). The bonobo, or pygmy chimpanzee, is one of the most threatened of the world's five great apes. After its establishment, AWF embarked on supporting ICCN to create capacity, systems and infrastructure for effective management of the reserve. Already, a Park Manager has been posted to the reserve and guards recruited and trained to patrol the forest. Rudimentary offices for staff and administration have been built, as well as a village to host ICCN guards' families, at Lingunda, park entrance. Now, AWF with support from the governments of USA, France and other donors, has constructed the Lomako Conservation Science Centre. The centre was opened in April 2009 in a ceremony attended by AWF's Chief Executive Officer; AWF's Director, Species Conservation; AWF's Director, Congo Heartland as well as the Director General of ICCN; Director of the

USAID's Central Africa Program for the Environment (CARPE); the Ambassador of Canada; and partners from the tourism industry.

The centre has been developed to support



Main building at Science Center

the conservation science program which will revitalize applied bonobo research and forest monitoring in the reserve. It will host researchers interested in studying the bonobos and the forest itself in order to provide information for developing future conservation strategies for the area. The centre is equipped with a solar powered satellite internet connection to facilitate communications for researchers with the rest of the world. AWF has already stationed a researcher, Mr. Valentine Omasombo, at the centre to lead efforts to re-establish the research program. In the earlier years, there existed a bonobo research

continued on page 3



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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When we began exploration for potential conservation work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) over six years ago, our first trip indicated the dangers and difficulties we would face: our two staff ended up in rebel hands but fortunately were safely handed over to the United Nations peacekeepers. This was during the last days of the civil war that had rocked the country. We had specifically been attracted by the need to conserve the bonobo within the Maringa- Lopori area of the Congo Forest, which scientists feared was highly endangered by a wide range of threats.

When we eventually commenced our work under the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), we decided that one of the key activities in support of local livelihoods and forest conservation would be to re-open trade of agricultural produce on the Congo River with specific focus on the Maringa Lopori, in some places "Congo", others "MLW" Heartland by renting barges and facilitating travel for traders to the area. The first expedition, though successful, lost one of the cargo barges to the military during the demilitarization process.

In the last few years we have dealt with similar challenges, but the organization and the team have remained steadfast in our commitment to the Congo Heartland and to DRC as a country. The support of the government of DRC, our staff in the field, a majority of whom are Congolese, the enthusiasm of the communities on the ground and the strong leadership the program has enjoyed at all levels have

ensured that we have pressed on. So we are happy to report on the progress in the implementation of the Heartland strategy and especially the completion of the centre within the Lomako Yokokala Fauna Reserve, a real accomplishment for AWF and a key project in our continuing transformation of this isolated and once inaccessible area. Tourism development will soon follow as will other infrastructure.

This issue also reports on an array of priority interventions and activities that AWF is implementing across our Heartlands, including management planning with national park agencies, supporting high-level learning exchanges between governments to improve the management of their national protected area systems, protecting corridors, sometimes against unexpected threats as exemplified by the illegal quarry story in Kimana Kenya, and integrating livestock development and marketing into our conservation program to improve returns to communities who have selected wildlife conservation as a land use. This program has potential for expansion across many of our Heartlands where livestock keeping is an important livelihood and traditional activity.

As we continue to invest in these programs and places, we are helping to bring more land under conservation, provide greater economic incentives to communities living with wildlife, building understanding of various species, their ecological needs and how to mitigate the threats they pose to their human neighbours, and training future African conservation leaders. Our ultimate goal is to change the ecological and economic future of some of the most important wildlife conservation landscapes in Africa, and with the support of and in collaboration with our many partners we are progressively doing so, challenges notwithstanding.

Helen Gichohi

Dr. Helen Gichohi,
President, African Wildlife Foundation

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LAND AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

continued from page 1

Opening of Conservation Science Centre in Lomako Yokakola Reserve, DRC



Staff traveling to Lomako by boat on Maringa River

program in the Lomako area that was led by, among others, the current Director of the Congo Heartland, Jef Dupain. However, this program was halted in the late 1990s when civil war broke out in the DRC. The centre is a welcome initiative for the conservation community because it provides an opportunity to re-establish the bonobo research program, determine the population status of the species, for which very little information exists, and restart a bonobo and forest conservation program.

The next great opportunity for the bonobos of Lomako is to create a unique tourism experience based on the vast natural beauty, pristine forests and bonobos presence much in the same way as has been done with the endangered mountain gorillas population in the Virungas. Indeed, the process of habituating bonobos for tourism is currently underway. Years of civil war, however have ravaged existing infrastructure such as roads and airports and slowed development in the area. Today there are no roads, airstrips or tourist-class accommodations to support tourism. Access to the area is difficult, with the only means of travel to the area being an arduous 22-hour canoe journey along the Maringa River.

Despite all these challenges, AWF has already started to develop tourism products that will in the short term allow selected groups of tourists to visit the area each year and generate revenues to support the reserve management and provide benefits to communities. The commissioning trip to the research centre was also used as a trial run for tourism with Jengi Tours,

who are vastly experienced in tourism in the region.

The goal was to give the operator an opportunity to take guests to the Heartland and use the trip to assess the needs for a successful visit in terms of infrastructure needs, time and service support needs. The operator immediately proposed to develop a luxury tented campsite next to the research centre for bonobo tourism. A second was to work with AWF in the near future to conduct some trial tourism safaris to the area. Tourism will only

thrive in the area if infrastructure is improved. With support from donors, AWF and ICCN plan to build a small airstrip at Lingunda to improve the mode of travel to the area and shorten the journey for tourists who wish to visit the area. We hope to make this area Africa's premiere bonobo-viewing area in the near future.



Plaque of the Lomako Center

This story highlights the tremendous progress that AWF has made in a very difficult and remote environment. Yet it also demonstrates our commitment to scale enormous challenges in order to ensure that the world's natural heritage is conserved and to empower people who live with that heritage to protect it. With all these developments, the future for the equatorial forests, the bonobos and the communities of Lomako looks bright.

LAND AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

Kenyan Court Orders Sinohydro Corporation Ltd to Suspend Quarry Excavation in Amboseli

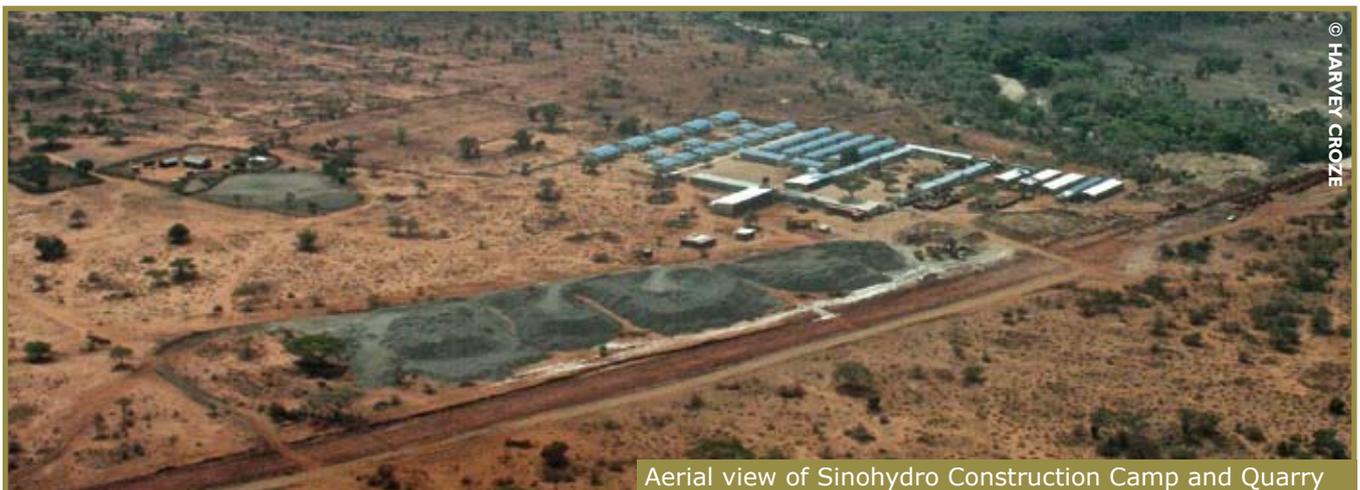
In May 2009, AWF led a coalition of 15 conservation groups and tourism investors to obtain a High Court injunction ordering construction firm, Sinohydro Corporation Ltd. to suspend illegal excavation of a quarry located within a critical wildlife corridor extending from Amboseli National Park to Kimana Sanctuary to Tsavo and Chyulu Hills National Parks. Along with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), the coalition included the Amboseli Trust for Elephants, East African Wildlife Society, Ol Donyo Wuas and other conservation groups, tour operators and community members. The decision to sue Sinohydro and file for an injunction was made after the company ignored a Stop Order issued by Kenya's National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). The company also failed to reach a compromise with the coalition during meetings held to resolve the issue. The quarry site in dispute was not proposed as an appropriate site) in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); thus, it was a direct violation of the EIA. The coalition members had urged the company to relocate the quarry to other sites that don't affect wildlife as had been identified by the EIA.

Sinohydro is currently constructing a tarmac road that will link the Amboseli area to the major highways and towns in Kenya. This road is expected to spur development in the area by opening up access for agricultural and livestock products to markets in major towns of Kenya as well other markets across the border in Tanzania. It is also expected to shorten the journey for tourists, especially those travelling to Amboseli National Park and other national parks in the region. Although the importance of the road cannot be disputed, the coalition believes that the construction can be done in a manner that both safeguards wildlife conservation – an important economic and livelihood activity in the area, and follows Kenyan law. The disputed quarry, which was to be used for supplying stones for the construction, falls within the 3,000-acre community-owned Osupuko Conservancy,

created by 50 landowners from the Kimana community via a lease agreement signed in October 2008 with AWF. The camp for Sinohydro workers is located directly adjacent to the Kimana Wildlife Sanctuary, a community sanctuary set aside by the community for conservation and tourism and which provides benefits to members of the Kimana Group Ranch. The worker's camp was also in direct violation of the 2007 EIA. Osupuko and Kimana Sanctuary are critical pieces of land that must be conserved for long-term viability of wildlife in Amboseli National Park and surrounding areas.

Currently, wildlife and the park are threatened by the sub-division of communal group ranches, the ever-changing land uses, most of which are incompatible with wildlife conservation, and the proliferation of tourism facilities in major wildlife corridors in the area. If Osupuko and Kimana sanctuary are not conserved for wildlife movement and dispersal, the future of Amboseli National Park, is in danger. This further poses danger to the local and national economy, which greatly depends on wildlife tourism. Amboseli is currently the second highest generator of tourism income among Kenya's protected areas.

The company has since ceased quarry operations, but has yet to relocate the worker's camp in compliance with the court order. It has also not filled up the quarry. The coalition is following up with the company to ensure that it restores the corridor area to the former state for use by wildlife. Following the success of the coalition, AWF now plans to formally constitute the coalition into a forum that will provide a platform for discussing and addressing conservation and development issues in the area in a concerted manner. The existence of such a strong institution protecting conservation interests in the area will ensure that Amboseli remains a viable ecosystem.



Aerial view of Sinohydro Construction Camp and Quarry

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NEWS IN BRIEF

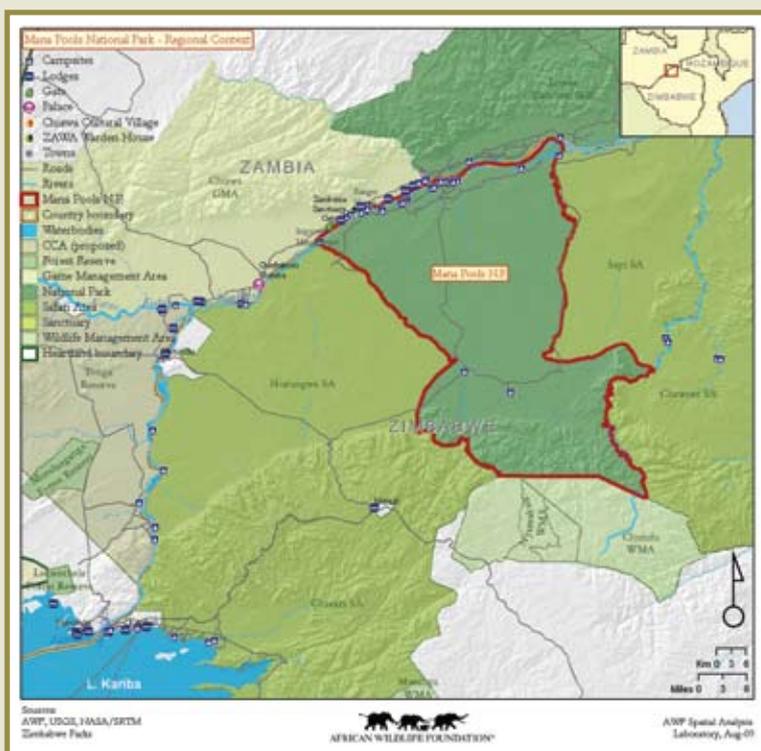
AWF Supporting Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe, to Develop a General Management Plan

Mana Pools National Park (MPNP), 2,196 km², is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located on the banks of the Zambezi River in northwestern Zimbabwe in AWF's Zambezi Heartland. It is home to a remarkable concentration of wildlife, including lions, elephants and buffalo. It also once hosted a huge population of black rhinos which were poached to extinction. It forms a transboundary ecosystem with the Lower Zambezi National Park across the border in Zambia. It is one of the best wilderness areas with the least development in southern Africa. Because of the park's importance in the transboundary Zambezi ecosystem, AWF is working with the park's authority to develop a General Management Plan (GMP) to guide activities and infrastructure development. Currently, the park lacks a formal general management plan.

A working group was constituted to lead the process of developing the GMP using the Protected Area Planning Framework. With extensive stakeholder involvement the group has successfully produced drafts for all four park management areas, namely: Biodiversity Program; Tourism Program; Park Operations and Management Program; and Neighbors/Community Program. In the Park Tourism Program, tourism zones for different uses have been defined and sites for new development within each zone identified. New infrastructure for tourists will be developed at sites located along the Zambezi River. The next step is to further discuss the draft plans with authorities and stakeholders, consolidate them into one plan and to finalize and approve the official management plan.

This plan will help the park address the threats and challenges it faces, such as gold panning by community members in one marginal area, cross-border poaching

and uncoordinated development of tourism facilities and ensure that it plays its role as an important wildlife haven and tourism destination within the Heartland.



CONSERVATION ENTERPRISE

Integrating Livestock and Wildlife Systems in Heartlands

The AWF's Conservation Enterprise program has generally focused on wildlife-based tourism enterprises such as eco-lodges and campsites. The underlying theory is that such enterprises provide a way of diversifying pastoral livelihoods beyond livestock production and securing land for conservation in a very direct manner. These enterprises have created benefit streams and improved community livelihood but on their own provide insufficient returns to land. There is therefore a need to integrate conservation into local land uses so that returns from wildlife can contribute to the overall economics of savanna systems, which are heavily dependent on livestock production. Lessons from community-based conservation have shown that pastoral communities have either used incomes from conservation enterprises to increase their livestock holdings and secure pastoral livelihoods or as additional income without necessarily adopting improved conservation practices such as destocking and improved range management. Although this has affirmed the primacy of livestock production in pastoral systems in Africa, most wildlife conservation programs have failed to invest in livestock production as a basis for better wildlife management. One of the key lessons we have learned is that for conservation to succeed, especially in the rangelands, where wildlife shares space with wildlife, significant investments are required to intensify livestock production systems in a manner that integrates the system with wildlife conservation and maximizes returns for the communities and conservation. In fact the integration of wildlife with livestock in the pastoral rangelands of Africa has long been considered as

the best land use with potential to maximize returns to pastoral communities in these areas and to spur conservation. The Conservation Enterprise Program is now implementing two innovative pilot projects aimed at intensifying and integrating livestock production with wildlife in the pastoral areas of Kenya and Tanzania.

Linking Livestock Markets to Wildlife Conservation, Samburu, Kenya

This enterprise aims to link pastoralists in the Samburu Heartland to high-value markets that are generally inaccessible in order to improve economic and financial returns from integrated livestock wildlife production and provide incentives for them to adopt conservation practices such as destocking, improved grazing and rangeland management. This enterprise has been created through a three-year loan agreement with the OI Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) for a revolving fund worth US\$350,000 to purchase community-owned livestock within the Samburu Heartland. The way the enterprise works is that OPC through partners such as Northern Rangeland Trust and AWF field programs, purchases cattle from community conservancies and group ranches who have met specific conservation and governance criteria related to how the community should be organized; setting land aside for conservation; the use of functioning institutions such as committees and community scout systems; and grazing and natural resource bylaws. The communities participating in the enterprise are also expected to tag their livestock, uphold conservation criteria such as grazing and natural resource management by laws. They are

also expected to open bank accounts to facilitate payments. For communities who have fulfilled these criteria, OPC, through its partners, purchases the cattle at a premium price above that which they would fetch if they used middlemen. The cattle are then fattened and slaughtered in OPC and sent to highvalue markets in Nairobi. Because community participation is linked to adherence to specific conservation and governance criteria, the enterprise expects to keep livestock numbers within acceptable limits, reduce related rangeland degradation and improve range conditions and health. These outcomes, alongside other socioeconomic ones, are being tracked through monitoring and evaluation tools.

The livestock enterprise is expected to run for 10 years. It plans to purchase 20,000 cattle and generate Kshs 512 million



Maasai livestock is focus of project

CONSERVATION ENTERPRISE



(US\$8 million) in benefits to the communities over the time period. In its first year of operation, OPC has purchased about 600 cattle from the communities, providing approximately US\$125,000 to almost 300 community members in Samburu. Compared with the 2008 average market price of Kshs 13,000 (US\$191), the Kshs 16,278 (US\$239) average price offers communities a premium of 25%. In addition, the enterprise has helped to link communities to financial services that are important for spurring saving and the growth of other economic activities. We hope that these benefits will significantly transform and diversify livelihoods in the Heartland and encourage pastoralists to keep smaller and better quality herds, which should reduce pressure on rangelands and improve habitat quality for livestock production and wildlife conservation. Already, replication efforts are underway in the Kilimanjaro Heartland in Kenya and Tanzania. The project has started strongly, but the current drought being experienced in the country may reduce the pace of this project.

Manyara Ranch Abattoir, Maasai Steppe, Tanzania

In the pastoral areas around Manyara Ranch in northern Tanzania, communities lack proper access to livestock

markets and facilities such as abattoirs that allow them to process and market value-added livestock products for maximum returns. AWF is currently constructing an abattoir adjacent to the Manyara Ranch, an integrated livestock wildlife ranch being managed for conservation in partnership with AWF, to buy and process cattle from pastoralists as a way of intensifying livestock production and improving livelihoods. We project that in 2010, the abattoir will slaughter and process 3,600 cattle per year, supplying 673,000 kgs of meat and other products to high-value markets in Arusha. It should generate revenue worth \$3.5 million and a profit of \$1.5 million.

In conclusion, these two projects provide an innovative opportunity for AWF to strengthen pastoral livestock production and integrate it with wildlife conservation so that together, these can deliver better impact for livelihoods, rangeland management and wildlife conservation in pastoral areas. We feel that this model holds a lot of promise for successfully integrating livestock production and wildlife conservation in pastoral areas of Africa, which remain the greatest refuge for wildlife.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ford-Supported Enterprise Capacity Building Project

Most community-based conservation enterprises in rural Africa are plagued by challenges such as poor management, inequitable partnerships with the private sector as well as problems with benefits management that hamper their success in meeting commercial, livelihood and conservation objectives. AWF has initiated a project in Kenya with support from the Ford Foundation that aims to address these challenges. The project will apply AWF enterprise tools, train community management of the enterprises, and restructure unfair community-private sector partnerships so that the selected community enterprises that are struggling are turned around and become viable in commercial and conservation terms. This is a two-year project that should close at the end of 2010.

Banhine Communities Constituted for Conservation Enterprise

In the community areas surrounding Banhine National Park (BNP) in Mozambique, AWF, with funding from the World Bank and in partnership with Mozambique's Ministry of Tourism, recently supported two communities to form a trust that will pursue conservation and development objectives. The Trust, known as Avestruz (or ostrich, which is common in the area) is composed of communities of Tchove and Tshai Tshai. AWF is now supporting the Trust to enter a community/public sector partnership with government to lease over 5,000 hectares of the BNP for a community wildlife sanctuary. The sanctuary will be fenced and then re-stocked with wildlife. AWF will prepare the re-stocking plan and provide fencing, and the government will be responsible for sourcing wildlife from its transfrontier partners (South Africa and Zimbabwe).

The sanctuary will be jointly marketed with the Fish Eagle Tented camp that AWF built in BNP in 2006 with potential to expand the operation to include new camping sites in selected areas in the park. AWF is already seeking a private sector operator to partner with the Avestruz Trust for the enterprise. The operator will be expected to manage, market, and operate tourism at the Fish Eagle Tented Camp, linked to other similar facilities and activities in the Limpopo Heartland. Funding for the sanctuary and related enterprises will come from various sources, including private sector partners and the World Bank's Community Enterprise Fund. This is the first commercial operation that has been proposed in the BNP since it was established in 1973.

SPECIES CONSERVATION

Why the Research on Grevy's Zebra



Paul Muoria: Grevy's Zebra Researcher

The Grevy's zebra is an endangered species mostly found in Samburu Kenya (north of Equator) with only a few individuals found in Ethiopia. At the beginning

of this decade, the species was in real danger of becoming extinct and had already been wiped out in Somalia, Eritrea and Djibouti. Most of the individuals were slaughtered for their beautiful skin which was used in the fashion industry. However, this threat was effectively mitigated when a ban was imposed on wildlife hunting in Kenya and the species listed in CITES Appendix 1. Although subsistence hunting for meat and for zebra fat (which some communities believe is medicinal) was happening, there was no information on the level of this threat. The population was estimated to be less than 2,500 individuals in Kenya and the number was declining very rapidly.

The Grevy's zebra inhabits semi-arid to arid ecosystems dominated by pastoralists and their livestock. As one of the keystone species in the area, it exemplifies the conservation challenges faced by many threatened species. It must compete for limited forage and water resources with the pastoralists and their livestock. It must also move across this landscape

as dictated by the seasonal patchy distribution of water and pasture. Increasing human population and the resultant competition from alternative land uses continue to threaten corridors needed to ensure the free movement of Grevy's zebra and other wild animals as they move between their core habitats. There is also lack of awareness about its conservation status at the local, national and international levels. In 2002, AWF started the Grevy's Zebra Research and Conservation project in the Samburu Heartland to address these threats and save the species from extinction. This project is led by Dr. Paul Muoria, a Kenyan biologist. Geographically, the project focuses on Grevy's zebra populations in Ngutuk Ongiron, Ngaroni and Barsalinga in the Wamba area and in Samburu and Buffalo Spring National Reserves.

Research Objectives

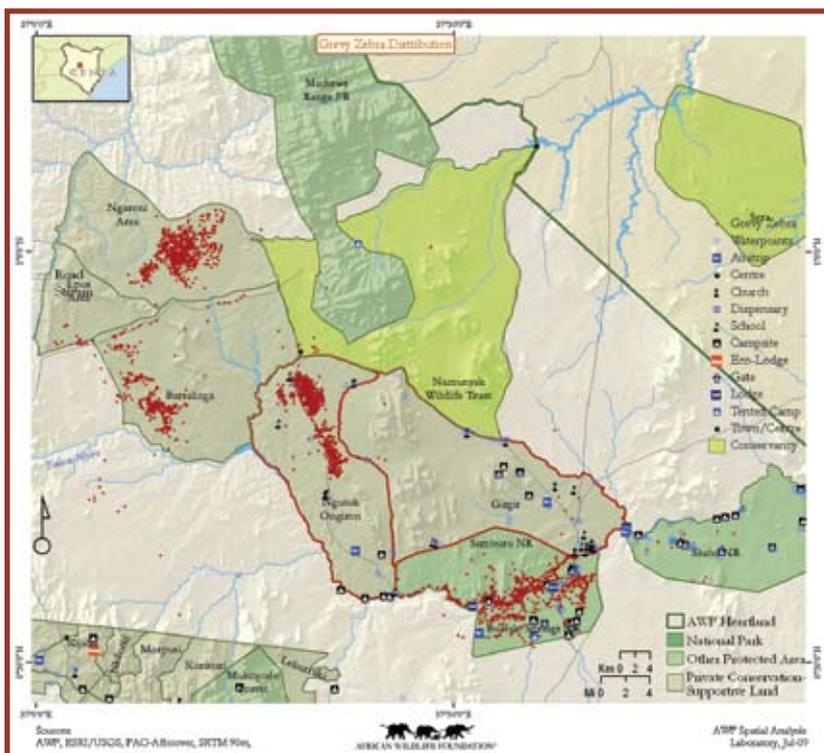
The main goal of the project is to conserve a viable population of the grevy's zebra in the Samburu landscape. To achieve this goal, the project has the following long-term objectives:

(a) Monitor Grevy's zebra population size, structure and distribution in order to understand population dynamics required for effective management:

To achieve this objective, the team uses total count and line transects methods to gather data. Data are then coded into geo-spatial and image databases and used to estimate population size, structure, distribution and movements. Besides the use of GIS for analysing spatial data, the researchers also use automated animal identification software that

uses the unique stripes of each animal to analyse photographic data. This helps the team to avoid double counting of individuals and is used to calculate and monitor survival of known mares and their foals, and to investigate territorial behaviour. Preliminary research findings seem to suggest that low foal survival may be the major cause of decline in the population. Forty-six line transects each measuring 4-5 km have also been incorporated for use by the researchers and community scout monitoring team to more accurately determine the variation in the density of Grevy's zebra, other wild herbivores and livestock.

In November 2008, AWF collaborated with Kenya Wildlife Service and the National Grevy's Zebra Technical Committee and other partners to conduct the first national survey for Grevy's zebra. The survey forms the baseline for future monitoring of distribution and minimum count of this species. A total of 2,404



SPECIES CONSERVATION

Grevy's zebra were counted with the highest concentrations (more than 60%) found in community lands in Laikipia and Wamba. Using this data, the team has been able to identify the key habitats used by Grevy's zebra, the hotspots for threats such as poaching and intense competition with livestock for grazing and water. This has helped the team to create management interventions including community monitoring scout systems; community education to mobilise support for grevy's zebra conservation; land use planning and zoning to secure key habitats used by the zebra; and livelihood-enhancing projects that provide incentives for communities to support zebra conservation.

(b) Monitoring and mitigating threats to Grevy's zebra survival: At the beginning, the team established the major threats to Grevy's zebra survival that had to be monitored and mitigated to reverse the decline of the Grevy's zebra population. These include disease especially anthrax, poaching for bushmeat and medicine, competition with livestock for grazing and expanding human settlements. For example monitoring revealed an anthrax outbreak among Grevy's zebra in late 2005, early 2006 and late 2006 after at least 80 Grevy's zebras reportedly died. The team worked with various partners including veterinarians from the government, University of Nairobi, Kenya Wildlife Service, the local community and local conservation organisations to contain the outbreak. The team also observed that anthrax outbreaks tend to occur during drought and it has since intensified surveillance especially during the current drought to detect deaths in a timely manner and confirm the causes. For example, this year, 20 deaths have been attributed to Babesiosis – a tick-borne disease.

The team also conducts intense anti-poaching activities through community scouts systems in community areas. This is focused on the community dispersal areas east of Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves, where research showed there is rampant poaching. There are 11 trained community scouts (7 men, 4 women) who monitor this threat. So far, the scouts have been effective in reducing poaching of Grevy's zebra, although they now report many poaching incidents involving various antelopes, elephants, reticulated giraffes, plains zebra and Somali ostriches. Other data from the scouts has shown livestock depredation by predators had created negative attitudes in the community towards wildlife conservation. The program is partnering with other programs to implement and monitor efficacy of mitigation measures, including "predator-proof" livestock enclosures.

The team also monitors the impact of competition from livestock and other wild animals on the behaviour of Grevy's zebra, specifically the diurnal activities of foals and their mothers. Data that has been collected is being analysed and will be published as a scientific paper for wider dissemination.

(c) Applying research findings to influence policy:

Although the Grevy's zebra is highly endangered, there was no national policy and strategy for conservation and management. Using research findings, the AWF team has worked with partners to develop the national Grevy's zebra Conservation and Management Strategy, which was adopted by the Kenyan government in 2008. The lead researcher and other senior AWF staff have been incorporated into the National Grevy's Zebra Technical and Management Committees that will implement the strategy and formulate-policy. AWF is therefore well-placed to use the research findings to influence the formulation of the policy.

(d) Support capacity building for students and other researchers interested in Grevy's zebra research and conservation:

To fulfill this objective, the project through supervision of the lead researcher, has supported four university students to undertake their research work on various aspects of Grevy's zebra conservation. These students, undergraduate and postgraduate, were from universities in Kenya, Ethiopia and the United States. In addition, the project is also developing its own staff research capacity. Hassan Boru, one of the research assistants, is currently finalizing his master's degree at the University of Nairobi with additional faculty supervision from Princeton University, USA.

The project is also training a female scout from Isiolo for a certificate in Tour Guiding and administration so that she can provide leadership to the community scouts who work in the Isiolo community areas.

Over the years, the project has collaborated with the Earthwatch Institute in training many young university students, conservation professionals and teachers in Kenya and other African countries. Some of the beneficiaries of this programme include managers of the local conservancies within the Samburu Heartland.

Future Plans for the Project

The project has realigned its activities to ensure that the team contributes to implementation of the National Grevy's Zebra Strategy. Key activities planned for the next two years include:

- ⊕ Grevy's zebra field monitoring to obtain movement data and other attributes of population dynamics
- ⊕ Monitoring illegal activities including poaching
- ⊕ Monitoring the causes of Grevy's zebra mortalities
- ⊕ Community education to enlist support of local people in Grevy's zebra conservation
- ⊕ Support training for Isiolo Community Scouts
- ⊕ Construct Grevy's Zebra Research Camp to coordinate research activities
- ⊕ Obtain precise grevy's zebra movement data: This will involve collaring and monitoring Grevy's zebra east of Shaba National Reserve

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Capacity Building Fellowship for Namibia Awarded



Ms. Ndina Tate Imasiku

In 2008, AWF established a Conservation Fellowship for Namibia nationals to support postgraduate studies in conservation-related fields. The fellowship is part of a partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MET) in Namibia and is designed to complement the work of The Nature Conservancy in Namibia by building capacity of Namibians for conservation. Namibia is endowed with great landscapes, including the unique Skeleton Coast, the Namib Desert and a good network of protected areas and private game farms which hold vast wildlife such as desert elephants, seals, lions, and rhino, and are critical for conservation in the country. The country has also developed a successful community-based natural resource management program based on conservancies that has improved conservation and community livelihoods across the country. However, Namibia lacks the required capacity to effectively manage these natural resources. Particularly constrained is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), which manages the wildlife resources within the country.

In contributing to capacity building in the country, we agreed to support qualified Namibians selected by the MET to be trained at the University of Namibia in a manner that appropriately addresses the conservation issues in Namibia. We were particularly attracted to the Master's Degree program in Biodiversity Management and Research that the University has specifically developed in partnership with the Humboldt University of Berlin. Under the partnership, we agreed that the scholarship would support qualified Namibians accepted to this program. After a challenging selection process supported by the Training Department of MET and the University of Namibia, we selected two fellows from MET to benefit from the fellowship; but one later dropped out citing personal reasons. We are therefore pleased to announce Ms. Ndina Tate Imasiku (shown in the photo) as the AWF Conservation Leadership Fellow for Namibia for 2009. Ndina has already commenced study for the two-year Master's program in Biodiversity Management and Research at the University of Namibia and is scheduled to finish her studies at the end of next year. In the first year, she will undertake classwork in the second year, she will focus on research. Her research will investigate the impacts of human resettlement and subdivision of commercial farms on the population and diversity of wildlife. Under the land reform program, the government has been purchasing commercial farms, including those with wildlife for resettlement of landless people. She hopes to use the results to recommend to relevant ministries how the land reform program should be implemented on commercial farms with wildlife.

Ndina works for MET as the Chief Control Warden in charge of the Environmental Education and Information Unit. She is based at the MET headquarters in Windhoek, Namibia. She joined MET in 1995 as a Resorts Officer at the Waterburg Plateau Park, and over the years has served in MET as a Warden in the Permits office and as Chief Warden responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Convention on International Trade for Endangered Species (CITES) of wild fauna and flora. She holds a national diploma in Nature Conservation from the Polytechnic of Namibia, a Bachelors in Nature Conservation from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a postgraduate diploma from the University of Namibia.

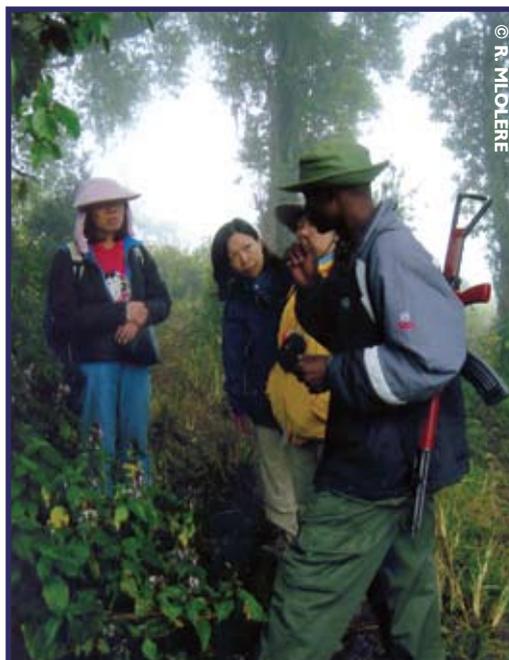
AWF will continue to work with the government of Namibia to support capacity building initiatives required for effective management of the spectacular wildlife and landscapes of the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

AWF Supports Training for Community Members and Protected Area Staff

With generous support from the Iara & Gund Foundation, AWF in this coming financial year will support five fellows (four men and one woman) from northern Tanzania to study for a one-year Certificate in Wildlife Management at the Mweka Wildlife College, Tanzania. The five students have been drawn from the Maasai communities in Longido and Monduli districts. They have been selected for the potential they have demonstrated within their communities for managing wildlife initiatives. AWF hopes that this training shall improve the capacity of these young people so that they may return to their villages to participate in community-based initiatives being developed around the Wildlife Management Areas.

AWF will also support two fellows from County Council of Isiolo to study for a certificate and diploma course in wildlife management at the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, Kenya. These fellows work for Buffalo Springs/Shaba National Reserves, which together with the Samburu National Reserve, form the most important part of the northern tourism circuit. Their training is part of a support package that AWF is offering the Council



One of the fellows leading tourists in a walking safari in the Ngorongoro Crater.



in readiness for the implementation of the General Management Plan currently under preparation. After completion of their training, these staff will return to support the management of the national reserves.

AWF Enters Partnership with Wildlife Clubs of Kenya

AWF has entered into a partnership with the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK) to implement a conservation education program in the Amboseli area of the Kilimanjaro Heartland. The Wildlife Clubs of Kenya is the longest running grassroots conservation education in Africa. It works through organized groups of school students in wildlife clubs to provide conservation knowledge in the country. It is estimated that over 1.5 million students have participated in wildlife clubs since WCK was formed in 1968. AWF has been associated with WCK since its formation and has provided different types of support over the years. Under this partnership AWF has provided support for WCK to implement conservation education activities in support of the Kilimanjaro Heartland program. These activities will include revitalizing school-based wildlife clubs and their activities in the area, working with communities to increase awareness of conservation, and tree planting. Based on how this partnership works, we hope to expand it to other parts of the Heartland as well to the Samburu Heartland.

POLICY AND PARTNER ISSUES

AWF Hosts Delegation of Zambian Tourism Minister to Kenya



Zambian Tourism Minister visit to KWS

In May 2009, AWF in Kenya hosted a delegation of senior government officials from Zambia. The delegation was led by the Minister for Environment, Tourism and Mines, Hon Catherine Namugala and included the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry and senior officials from the Zambia National Tourism Board and the Zambia Wildlife Authority. The purpose of the visit was to see firsthand how Kenya is managing its wildlife resources, especially its national parks with a view to taking back lessons that can benefit Zambia. This visit was also a testament to the good relationship between AWF and the Government of Zambia.

AWF has been associated with Zambia since the 1970s, when we assisted the country in developing conservation education programs. We also assisted in training many Zambians who went on to manage the protected areas and other wildlife management programs in the country. Most recently, our work in Zambia has focused on establishing landscape-level conservation in two key landscapes - Zambezi and Kazungula - which are home to two key tourism areas - the Zambezi River and Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park (Victoria Falls), respectively. In these two landscapes, AWF is working to strengthen protected

areas, establish species research and protection programs and lastly, create community-based natural resource management systems to conserve wildlife and provide livelihoods for communities. In specific terms, we are assisting Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park to better protect the re-introduced rhino population. We have assisted communities in chiefdoms such as Sekute, Mukuni and Inyambo to develop community institutions that are now spearheading conservation and development initiatives in their areas. We have also assisted the Chiawa Chiefdom in Lower Zambezi to establish a cultural village that is providing tourism income for communities. Our goal is to assist Zambia to tap the immense potential that exists in wildlife conservation and tourism for improved socio-economic development.

During the visit, the delegation visited the Kenyan Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and held bilateral discussions with its Minister, Dr. Noah Wekesa and senior government officials. They also visited Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Headquarters together with AWF President Dr. Helen Gichohi, who is also a Board Member, and held discussions with the Director and senior staff. The goal of this visit was to learn about the transformation of KWS in order to identify

POLICY AND PARTNER ISSUES

possible lessons that could be applied to the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA). The KWS experience is particularly relevant because it has been reformed in recent years from an inefficient organization into one of the top-performing government institutions in Kenya. The delegation discussed institutional reform, staffing, branding and marketing, resource mobilization and other key issues of KWS reform. Hopefully, the experience will inform and enrich the reform process at ZAWA.

The delegation also visited Meru National Park and learned about effective park management. Located in eastern Kenya within a complex of five protected areas, this savanna park is rich in wildlife and was made famous by the writings and films of Joy and George Adamson. In the 1980s, the park was a ravaged wilderness, marked by banditry and extensive poaching and infrastructure collapse. In recent years, through government and donor investment, it has been revamped into one of the best-managed national parks in Kenya. Management systems, especially security, road network and tourism infrastructure, have been revamped and species that were once poached to extinction such as the rhino reintroduced. It has also been rebranded to improve its marketing appeal for tourism. The

visit allowed the delegation to learn firsthand how KWS overcame challenges and turned Meru into a well-managed national park. The delegation also stopped at the Sanctuary at Ol Lentille to learn how AWF facilitates conservation enterprises between local communities and the private sector. Ol Lentille, a five-star lodge that has been voted one of the 50 most exquisite places on earth, is a partnership between AWF, the Kijabe community and a private sector partner Regenesis Limited.

At the lodge, the delegation met with the private sector operator and learned about the structure of the partnership, the operations and conservation objectives. This experience interested the delegation because it provided a replicable model that can benefit communities and spur wildlife conservation in community areas in Zambia. The delegation also visited AWF Headquarters, where it learned more about the work of AWF across Africa.

The delegation was very impressed with wildlife management in Kenya as well as the overall work of AWF in Africa. We hope that the experiences and examples of conservation work that were shared will inform policy and practice in Zambia for the benefit of the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

European Union Supremo for Cooperation Aid Visits Kazungula



EU delegation visit to Kazungula

In early March 2009, Mr. Louis Michel, the European Commissioner in Charge of Development and Humanitarian Aid visited Livingstone in the Kazungula Heartland. He was accompanied by some 100 students and teachers, as well as several national TV crews from European Commission member countries. This trip was organized to reward students who had received the European Union Development Youth Award for competitive articles on environment and development issues. The highlight for the students was a visit to the Victoria Falls, one

of the natural wonders of the world. Our staff provided the real field context of EU development aid, which was positively covered by local TV stations.

As the time available was too brief for a rural field trip, we distributed a short briefing paper explaining how AWF has used EU funding and arranged a visit to Mukuni Village, where the party experienced village cultural tourism. Trained local guides took groups through Mukuni village, providing background history and interpreting real life behaviours, the built and cultural landscape, whilst linking the tourism enterprise to local livelihood and conservation objectives.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Update from West Africa

In the last edition of the newsletter, we reported that AWF is working to expand its conservation work to priority landscapes in West Africa. Based on our research, scoping and analysis of the region, we have prioritised the transboundary Regional Parc W for initial field activities and the development of a landscape-level programme. Since our last edition, AWF has continued to work to develop relationships and networks with partners and other stakeholders and to prioritize entry points into this important conservation landscape. The Regional Parc W is a world heritage site shared by Niger, Benin and Burkina Faso. The regional park consists of three respective national protected areas, and several adjacent reserves and buffer zones. The W parks and their buffer zones cover a total area of nearly 2 million hectares.

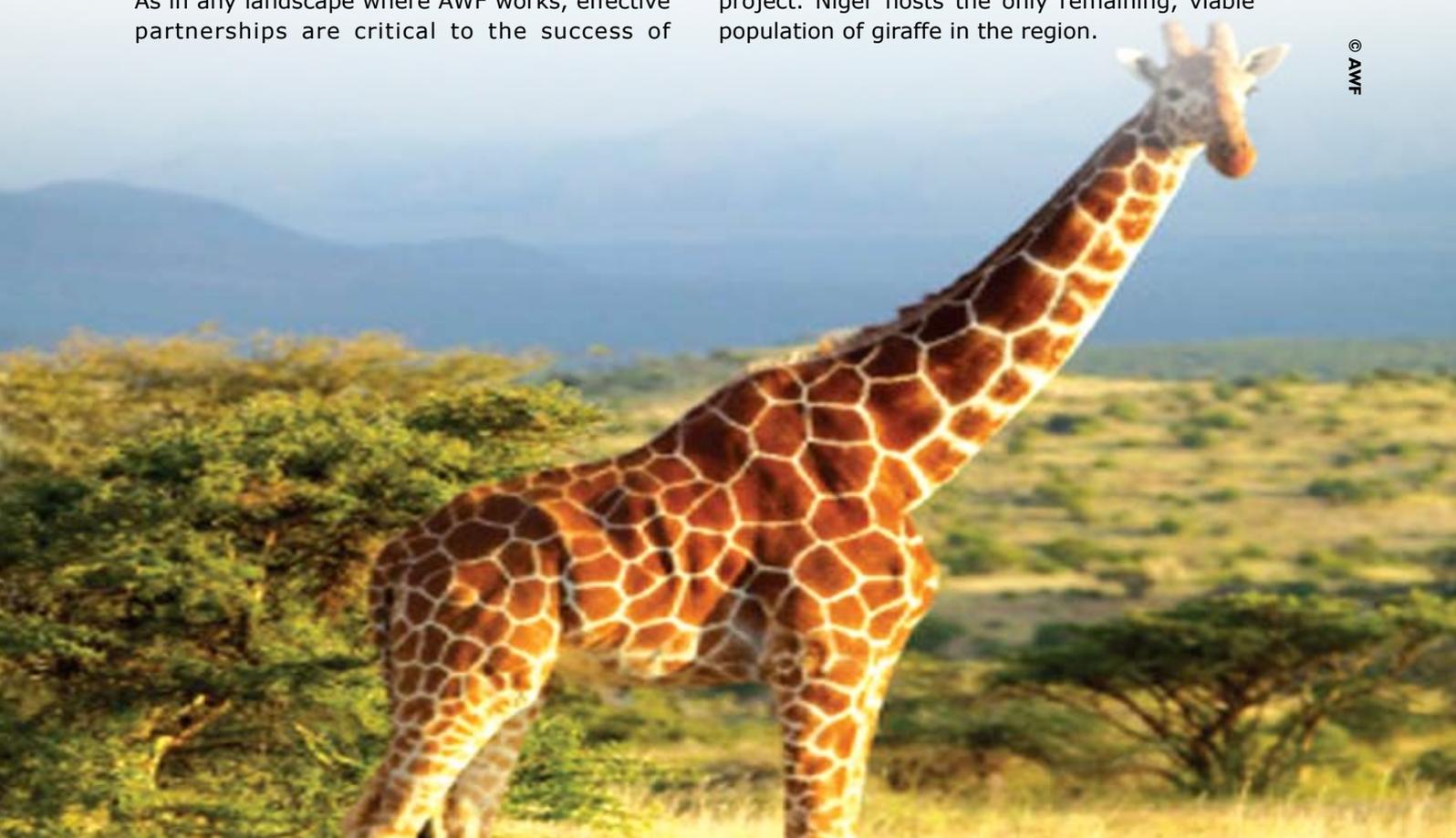
We are delighted to announce that we have recruited Dr. Moumouni Ouedraogo as our first Chargé de Programme (Senior Programme Officer) to lead our work in Regional Parc W. Dr. Ouedraogo is a Burkinabe national. He will commence his new assignment in mid-July and be based in Niamey, Niger. Dr. Ouedraogo brings extensive experience working in conservation in West Africa, including in the Nazinga Reserve in Burkina Faso and the Regional Parc W.

As in any landscape where AWF works, effective partnerships are critical to the success of

any conservation and development project. This includes partners from government, civil society, and communities. In order to launch field programming in the Regional Parc W, AWF has finalised accords de partenariat or MOU equivalents with the Governments of Niger and Benin. We are presently pursuing a similar type of agreement and relationship with the Government of Burkina Faso.

As part of our commitment to the development of Niger's park authority in charge of W/Niger, AWF has also provided direct support in the form of uniforms, bicycles and GPS units for their cadre of 20 eco-guards. These were handed over in June 2009. In addition, we recently awarded a subgrant to the Centre National de Gestion des Réserves de Faune (CENAGREF), the parastatal which manages Benin's system of national parks and reserves, to support capacity building components of Benin's national elephant strategy, which was developed in 2005.

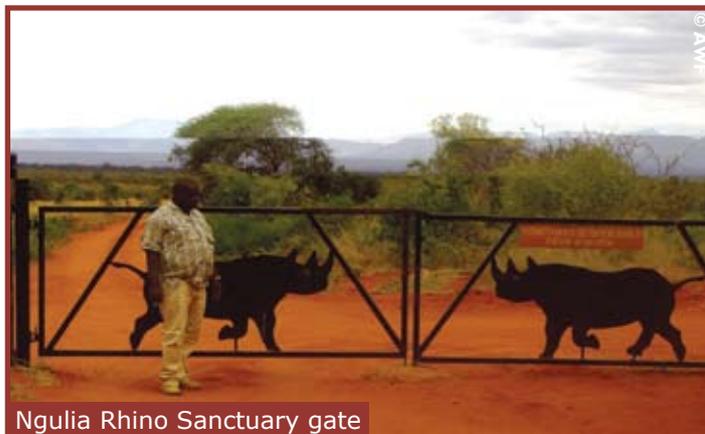
W/Benin and Pendjari National Parks, both in the northern part of Benin, offer habitat to a transboundary elephant population that is the largest in West Africa. We have also provided a subgrant to the Association pour Sauvegarde des Girafes du Niger (ASGN) to support Niger's annual giraffe count and a village-level tree nursery project. Niger hosts the only remaining, viable population of giraffe in the region.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Support for Rhino Conservation

The rhinoceros is one of the most endangered wildlife species in Africa. Over the years, rhinos in some countries have been completely wiped out by poaching and trade in its horn. For example in 1970, there were an estimated 65,000 rhinos in Africa but current estimates place their population at 4,000. Most of the current rhino populations are being conserved in intensive protection zones and sanctuaries. The AWF Species Conservation Program currently supports two such rhino protection



Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary gate

and conservation initiatives. In Tsavo West National Park, Kenya, AWF has continued to support the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, which it helped to establish. Recently, AWF has assisted the sanctuary to expand, repair fences, build staff housing and equip its rangers. In Zambia's Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, AWF has provided support through provision of equipment to law enforcement rangers that protect five white rhinos recently re-introduced from South Africa. These partnerships are critical to the survival of the rhinos in the years to come.

Habitats Assessed for Native Fishes Conservation in Zambezi Heartland

Within the Zambezi Heartland, the Zambezi River supports a vibrant fishing industry for the more than 600,000 people spread across three countries – Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The



Setting gillnets using dugout canoes

need to sustainably utilise the native fishes is imperative because overexploitation of fish and consequent competition for scarce fish may potentially endanger livelihoods and create conflict among people. AWF is helping to craft solutions by working with the Aquatic Resources Working Group to understand the threats, fish population dynamics and fisheries characteristics across the entire river system in the landscape and to use the information to craft adaptive management interventions for the fishery including zoning fishing and non-fishing areas. In February 2009, an

AWF team conducted a field survey along the Zambezi River system in Mbire District, Zimbabwe, and characterized nine threatened native fish habitats. The characterization was based on vegetation, bank, and water and stream/river morphology. The key threats identified included human-driven habitat degradation and loss; siltation and damage to riparian zones due to agriculture; and indiscriminate fishing methods that target immature fish and damage nesting grounds. This survey provided critical information that was used to create awareness on native fish conservation among local district council officials. At the request of the officials, AWF then conducted detailed assessments to determine the magnitude of the threats and fishing sites for sustainable fishing. The results of the assessment will be used to improve fishing practices along the Zambezi River.



AWF 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

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