

# African Wildlife Foundation's AFRICAN LANDSCAPE

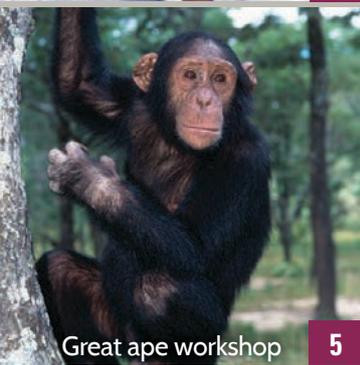
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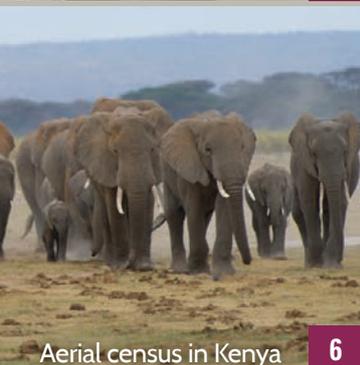
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## New Tools for Protecting Land, Wildlife and Livelihoods

By Kathleen H. Fitzgerald *Vice president, conservation strategy*

Africa is facing unprecedented habitat and species loss. Though the continent hosts an important network of protected areas that supports wildlife, provides ecosystem services and generates revenue for host countries, this network is too small and isolated to support viable populations of wildlife. A majority of wildlife spends its time outside of protected areas. Local communities are also limited in how they can benefit.

Given the rate of land-use change and accelerated threats across the continent, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has explored and piloted a number of innovative conservation approaches that are grounded in clear resource tenure rights and landowner participation, and use responsible investment to incentivise improved natural resource management. Following are brief summaries of some of these approaches.

### Environmental easement, Kenya

An environmental easement is an agreement between a landowner and an easement holder that restricts uses of a property to protect certain aspects of their land, such as biodiversity, scenic beauty and recreational values. In 2011 in Kenya, AWF executed East Africa's first environmental easement, with a private landowner, John Keen.

Keen had approached AWF because he wanted to retain ownership of his land, which is directly adjacent to the 28,962-acre Nairobi National Park, while simultaneously protecting it from development pressures over the long term. Keen donated the easement to AWF and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), who are monitoring compliance with the easement.

In countries that have private land tenure, voluntary easements can be an effective conservation mechanism. Easement holders should be organisations with a conservation focus and the ability to uphold the easement, rather than individuals. A valuation process should be clearly outlined, and easements should be executed in perpetuity so as to achieve long-term conservation objectives.

### Payment for ecosystem services, Kenya

Amboseli National Park in southern Kenya measures 392 km<sup>2</sup> and has an elephant population of approximately 1,500 individuals that, along with other wildlife, regularly leaves the park and moves east toward the Chyulu Hills.

In this elephant corridor between Amboseli and Chyulu Hills lies the 25,120-hectare Kimana Group Ranch, which > continued on page 8



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African Wildlife Foundation's  
**AFRICAN LANDSCAPE**



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## Collaboration Is Critical

One of the greatest threats to the survival of Africa's wildlife and other natural resources is the rapid rate of land-use change on the continent. We are witnessing the combined phenomena of land speculation, agricultural expansion and infrastructure development—all driven by the explosion in human population. The result has been the subdivision, fencing off and overuse of land. Wildlife populations have dwindled.

To ensure that there is still space for wildlife habitat, even in the midst of this development, AWF is using various instruments to persuade landowners to undertake conservation. You can

of concerned parties in an extended workshop where they were able to share ideas and create new linkages to work together in the future. You can find the story on page 5.

National wildlife and protected area authorities in Kenya and Tanzania, with AWF again playing a collaborating role, jointly conducted a large-herbivore census in the cross-border Kilimanjaro landscape in 2013. Results, which we discuss on pages 6 – 7, have confirmed that the wildlife populations here have rebounded nicely from the drought of several years ago—primarily because stakeholders have continued to collaborate closely to manage the landscape.



“Collaboration is critical for us—and for Africa's wildlife and wild lands”

read our cover story to learn how we employed these mechanisms—many of which had never before been used in Africa until AWF implemented them—for everyone's benefit.

In all cases, AWF worked in close partnership with all the stakeholders—from landowners and community residents to local chiefs and national ministries—to ensure full understanding and voluntary participation in these conservation efforts.

**Cornerstone of our work**

Such collaboration is a cornerstone of all of AWF's work. This issue of *African Landscape* illustrates the idea quite well.

In Central and West Africa, for example, primatologists and great ape conservationists have historically worked in isolation to protect the diminishing populations of Africa's four great ape species. In April, AWF played a central role in bringing together a number

In Zimbabwe, AWF is working in partnership with the Zimbabwe Parks Authority to develop a general management plan for Hwange National Park (see page 10). To ensure the plan addresses stakeholder needs, we are using a participatory planning process that includes the participation and input of local communities, private sector partners, other NGOs and other stakeholders.

Collaboration is critical for us—and for Africa's wildlife and wild lands. We are most thankful for our funding and on-the-ground partners, organisations and individuals such as you who make it possible for certain landscapes to remain wild and available for wildlife and humans alike. We look forward to partnering with you to continue this critical work.

Daudi Sumba  
Vice president for programme design  
and government relations

## Household-Level Fish Ponds Offer Livelihood Alternatives

Following on the success of the Mwandi Integrated Fish Farm, AWF implemented a small-scale aqua fisheries project in Sesheke District, Western Province, Zambia. The project was aimed at providing an alternative livelihood to fishing on the Zambezi River, where fish catches have drastically reduced due to overfishing. The project was funded by the UN Development Programme Global Environment Facility (or UNDP – GEF) Small Grants Programme.

AWF in conjunction with Inyambo Community Development Trust identified 10 households whose livelihoods are highly dependent on fishing in Namanjanga Village, 20 km west of Mwandi. As part of their contribution, the households provided the labour to dig the 10 ponds. AWF provided pond construction materials, including dam liners, a portable water pump, PVC pipes and extra labour to help dig and line the ponds. The Department of Fisheries trained the community members in aquaculture and provided technical support during the construction of the ponds, which were completed in February.

To commemorate the community's hard work and to showcase how alternative livelihoods can support conservation efforts, AWF held a ceremony as the first 2,500 fingerlings—supplied from Mwandi Fish Farm—were stocked in the first two ponds. The ceremony was attended by three chiefs, among them Senior Chief Inyambo Yeta, who hosted the event, Chief Sekute and Chief Liswani (from Namibia), and members of the traditional council. Also in attendance were stakeholders from the Fisheries Department and the Zambia Wildlife Authority, local government officials, Namibian agencies in wildlife and environment, civil society representatives from the Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation of Namibia and Peace Parks Foundation, and local media.

Each of the 10 fish ponds have a holding capacity of 2,000 fingerlings. As such, the community will raise a maximum of 20,000 fish for sale, with a portion of the fish raised to be used for home consumption. ■



## IN BRIEF

- > AWF's bonobo conservation work is featured in the brand new apeAPP from the UN Environment Programme. The app provides information and project updates for laypeople on the world's five great ape species. Download the app at: [awf.org/apeapp](http://awf.org/apeapp).
- > AWF has completed a commercial review for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority to help the authority increase park revenue to support conservation.
- > AWF signed an MOU with the Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (known as the KAZA TFCA) secretariat, making AWF an officially recognised conservation partner in this Southern African transborder region.
- > AWF, together with the Aspen Institute, hosted the first of its China–Africa Dialogue Series in Nairobi in June. The policy dialogues, of which five are planned, gather Track II professionals from across Africa and China to discuss sustainable development on the African continent.
- > The Randilen wildlife management area (WMA), one of several WMAs that AWF has helped establish in northern Tanzania, officially deployed 15 village game scouts earlier this year to begin protection of this 315-km<sup>2</sup> community conservation area.
- > The Kilimanjaro team hosted a training workshop in July on Kenya's Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013 for magistrates, prosecutors, customs and security teams, county administrators and others from southern Kenya.
- > A new AWF project manager has been hired near the Imatong Mountains in South Sudan, positioning AWF to more effectively continue its work in this protected area.
- > Under the banner of its species protection efforts, AWF has purchased a vehicle for the Kalahari Conservation Society to continue its elephant protection work in and around Botswana's Makgadigadi National Park.

Household-level fish ponds in Zambia are providing new livelihood alternatives that will help to ease the overfishing of the Zambezi River.



## Graduating With Distinction in Zambia, With AWF Support

By Perrin Banks *Programme manager, AWF Conservation Schools*

In the Kazungula landscape, access to quality education for rural communities is poor. Primary schools are often ill-equipped in terms of teaching materials and lack a suitable learning environment, while secondary schools are located far from rural communities and unaffordable for many families. The AWF Conservation Schools (ACS) programme was designed to address these challenges as a way to support rural livelihoods in exchange for their commitment to conservation initiatives.

While Lupani Primary Conservation School in Zambia was constructed under the auspices of ACS, AWF extended this support to secondary school students with the establishment of an education trust fund. Known as Easements for Education, this fund has enabled deserving students in Sekute Chiefdom to attend secondary school. The fund is administered by the Sekute Community Development Trust, a community organisation responsible for managing a conservation area that had been established in exchange for ACS support. Scholarships are contingent on good marks and commitment by students and their families to protect the area's wildlife and natural resources.

Between 2009 and 2014, Easements for Education sponsored more than 500 students in Sekute Chiefdom to attend secondary school.

One beneficiary and recent graduate of this programme was Clement Masangu from Kazungula, Zambia.

### Promising future

Clement almost did not finish secondary school after his father passed away in 2008. Though his uncle and mother continued to support Clement, tuition was too high for him to continue his schooling. With encouragement from his uncle, though, Clement applied for the Easements for Education programme and was accepted in time to finish his last two years at Hillcrest Secondary Technical School, a prestigious boarding school. "I didn't realize I could go there because the tuition was so high," said Clement. "Easements for Education allowed me to attend ... the best school in Livingstone."

Clement recently graduated from Hillcrest with distinction across all his subjects. Next year he will attend the University of Zambia in Lusaka to pursue a degree in electrical engineering, a dream since childhood. He hopes to one day work for the Zambia Electricity Supply Corp. so that he can support his younger siblings and other disadvantaged children from the Chiefdom, so that they may enjoy the same opportunities as he did.

In addition to giving him a promising future, Easements for Education has helped Clement see a clear link between education and conservation. "Through education, you see benefits that conservation offers from tourism and employment," he explained. "Conservation will benefit future generations and help people through better education opportunities." ■

“Scholarships are contingent on good marks and commitment by students and their families to protect the area's natural resources”



## AWF Workshops Foster Greater Collaboration on Great Ape Conservation

By **Jef Dupain** *Director, great apes programme*

Only one year after the launch of its African Apes Initiative (AAI), AWF is providing direct protection, funding and technical support to a number of great ape sites in West and Central Africa. Earlier this year it also hosted a stakeholder workshop and field excursion for great ape conservationists.

The workshop, held in April in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), involved decision makers and key conservation players from five priority great ape landscapes: Niokolo-Koba National Park and its periphery in Senegal, Dja Biosphere Reserve in Cameroon, and DRC's Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape, Bili-Uele Protected Area Complex and Virunga National Park. (AWF provides monetary and technical support to many of these landscapes through AAI.)

In addition to imparting an improved understanding of different stakeholders' roles, the workshop—which included the directors of national parks, conservators and park wardens, plus representatives from technical partners such as Zoological Society of London, Kyoto University, Jane Goodall Institute and the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (or IGCP)—allowed the stakeholders to agree on conditions to improve collaboration and develop an action plan to be implemented at the respective sites.

“Effective partnerships are a critical and necessary element for conservation to be effective and lasting,” said Annette Lanjouw, vice president of strategic initiatives and great apes programme for Arcus Foundation, which funded the Kinshasa workshop. Lanjouw also facilitated the workshop.

This meeting was followed by a field-based learning exercise and technical workshop in Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape, funded by the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP). Lomako, established by AWF in 2006, is a haven for an estimated 1,000 bonobos,

Following a stakeholder workshop in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, AWF gathered protected area managers and ecologists for an overnight field exercise and technical workshop (above) in the Congo's Lomako-Yokokala Faunal Reserve.

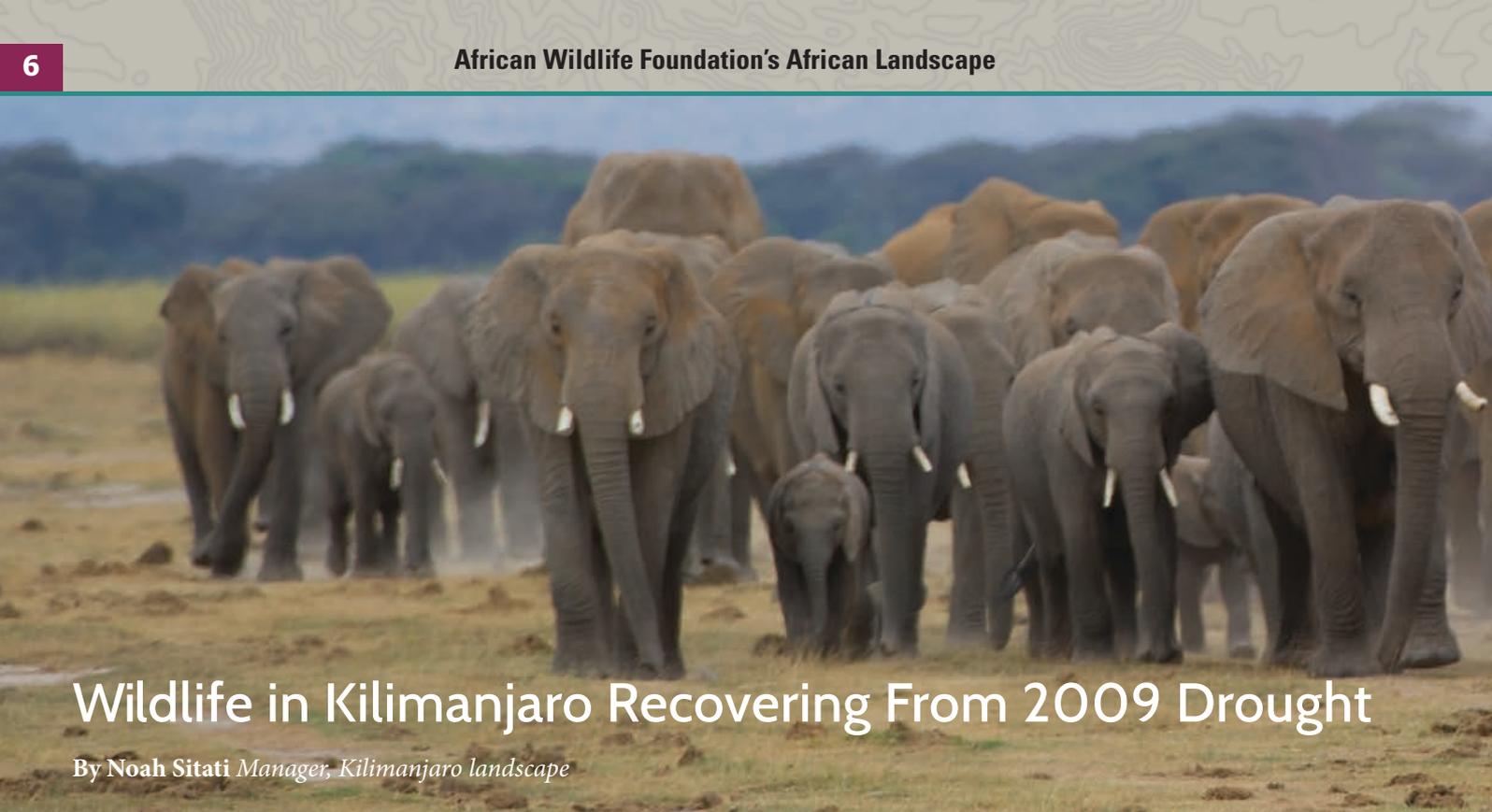
and this protected area is managed with technologies, such as CyberTracker, and procedures that can be applied to other great ape sites. Managers and ecologists from the priority great ape landscapes joined their Lomako colleagues for an overnight anti-poaching patrol in the protected area, learning about their standards of procedures and management of the reserve. This firsthand experience allowed all to then have vivid discussions on common conservation threats and to assess the best tools for monitoring ape habitat and bolstering anti-poaching security.

### Momentum and serious progress

Both meetings were well received. As most of the participants are field focused and have limited contact with the “outside world,” these meetings were their first opportunity to meet one another and exchange best practises.

A number of outputs have already resulted from the workshops. In early June, the conservator of the Dja Faunal Reserve, with support from AWF, organised the first-ever roundtable meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon, with all stakeholders to agree on next year's workplan for the reserve. At the same time, GRASP has begun planning for Senegal's first national chimpanzee conservation planning workshop. Finally, Ikali Monkengo, director of the Centre de Recherche en Ecologie et Foresterie (or CREF) has met with authorities at the Luo Scientific Reserve in the DRC to obtain clarification of its existence.

The momentum at the different priority sites as a result of the meetings makes us believe that serious progress will be made on great ape conservation at the priority sites. At the request of the participants, a follow-up meeting will be planned in 2015. With Africa's great apes under threat, conservationists across West and Central Africa need to band together to ensure they survive. ■



## Wildlife in Kilimanjaro Recovering From 2009 Drought

By Noah Sitati *Manager, Kilimanjaro landscape*

For the second time, AWF assisted in the aerial census in the Kilimanjaro landscape. The wet and dry season censuses, conducted in 2013, focused on the large herbivore population and on large carnivores. The surveys—which were undertaken in the Amboseli–Magadi ecosystem in southern Kenya and the West Kilimanjaro–Enduimet and Lake Natron regions in northern Tanzania—covered an area of 25,632 km<sup>2</sup>.

This transboundary survey, which began in its current form in 2010, is the first of its kind in terms of collaboration between wildlife authorities from the respective countries, namely Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and conservation organisations. In addition to financial and technical support, AWF played a crucial coordination role, bringing the wildlife authorities and other partners together as well as supporting the respective wildlife authorities to budget for future surveys.

The purpose of these censuses was to establish the status of the large herbivores following a serious drought in the landscape in 2009, which had decimated more than 60 percent of most wildlife species. The census also helped to determine the distribution of specific species within the landscape.

From a regional point of view, the census reinforced the cross-border collaboration in conservation between Kenya and Tanzania. Ideally, because of the migratory nature of wildlife between the two countries, taking a transboundary, broader-landscape approach gives more accurate estimates of wildlife numbers as opposed to a country- or ecosystem-specific approach. This transboundary census is one part of the cross-

border collaborative approach to managing wildlife that AWF has initiated following many reports of wildlife insecurity along the border.

### Recovery from drought

The survey used seven airplanes donated by different partners, including KWS, TAWIRI, Marwel Wildlife, Tsavo Elephant Trust, Amboseli Trust for Elephants and Born Free Foundation, as well as individuals. It was conducted over a period of eight days between March and May, followed by a dry-season census that took place between September and October 2013.

To increase the precision and accuracy of results, partners standardised transect widths (using streamers on aircraft wing struts), aircraft altitude and air-speed during the counts. Spatial statistics were used to quantify the

spatial patterns of various species. Kernel density maps were plotted to infer variation in seasonal space use by the animals.

Overall, 28 large mammal species were recorded during the survey. The good news is that the elephant population, a flagship species, is stable. There was also a general increase in the number of large herbivores between the years 2010 and 2013. The elephant population increased from 1,420 to 1,930 individuals, while the elephant carcass ratio declined from 3.7 percent to 1.8 percent. Wildebeest increased by more than 100 percent, from 7,240 to 14,728. Similarly, zebra numbers more than doubled, while the buffalo population increased by about 72 percent, from 334 to 575. These populations' increases can be attributed largely to the recovery of the populations after the severe drought and, to a lesser extent (and more specifically for elephants), the increase in survey area.

“Because of the migratory nature of wildlife, taking a transboundary approach provides more accurate wildlife estimates”



Max Chiswick

The results also showed marked variations in abundance and spatial distribution of wildlife species between seasons over time. In most instances, the abundance of most species of animals was higher and more widely distributed in the wet season and lower and clustered in the dry seasons.

These surveys show the importance of the cross-border landscape as a wildlife conservation area, and findings are crucial for spatial planning at a landscape level.

### Human–elephant conflict

Kicking off the aerial census in 2013, KWS Director William Kiprono and his TAWIRI counterpart, Dr. Maurus Msuha, emphasised the need to jointly fight elephant poaching along the international borders, which has become a big threat to elephant population in the region and the world at large.

For the time being, poaching due to illegal ivory trafficking, while an existing threat, is being mitigated because of a robust scout network on the ground. (The scout network was implemented by a number of groups, including AWF and partner Big Life Foundation, and continues to be supported by them and others.) In the greater Amboseli ecosystem, 29 elephants were killed between 2011 and May 2014. In Enduimet WMA, no elephant has been poached in the past two years since 2012.

Human–elephant conflict remains the biggest threat to elephants due to the changing land use from pastoralism to cultivation. Elephants are speared by farmers and often succumb to the injuries. Sometimes poachers take advantage and remove the tusks in anticipation of being able to sell them on the black market.

A summary of the survey report was shared during a stakeholders' dissemination workshop in April in Arusha. The workshop was

attended by high-level senior government officials from the two countries, including Kenya's principal secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, and KWS Director Kiprono and other senior directors from KWS. Tanzania was represented by the director of TAWIRI, director of TANAPA and director of Tanzania's Wildlife Division, among others.

In their speeches, the representatives heavily acknowledged the developed collaboration between the two countries in wildlife management despite the logistical challenges faced during the survey due to policy differences. It was generally agreed that high-level meetings between the two countries should be undertaken to harmonise these policies and make collaboration on future surveys easier. The call for future surveys were echoed, as was the continued cross-broader wildlife security patrols between the relevant government agencies. ■

ABOVE and BELOW: Wildlife censuses require significant coordination and prior planning, but can also provide useful information about conservation strategies being used. Below, AWF Kenya Country Director Fiesta Warinwa (foreground) directs efforts during the 2013 Amboseli large herbivore census.



KWS

> continued from page 1

has been subdivided into 60-acre lots. The lots are being sold off by landowners for development or agriculture, blocking wildlife movement. AWF prioritised this area for a conservation land lease programme, based on the concept of payment for ecosystem services (PES).

PES offers a mechanism for rewarding land and resource management practices that sustain ecosystem services, including hydrological services, carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection and landscape beauty.

The land programme outlined parameters to protect the integrity of ecosystems, such as land-use restrictions that prohibited fencing and agriculture. Lease payments, based on the average value of tourism and agriculture leases in the region, started at 500 KES/acre, with an annual increase of 2.5 percent. The leases range from 10 to 15 years. AWF helped landowners set up bank accounts and makes direct wire transfer payments to the accounts every six months.

Through the lease programme, five community conservancies—comprising more than 1,150 landowners—are now protecting approximately 28,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat. The programme directly benefits some 9,200 individuals, but is not without its challenges: Non-participating landowners adjacent to the conservancy may practice incompatible land uses, which negatively impact the conservancies.

### Community conservancy and trust, Zambia

The transboundary landscape of Kazungula in Southern Africa hosts approximately 150,000 elephants. Scientists have identified a number of elephant corridors in this area, including one that extends from Namibia into Zambia across the Zambezi River onto the Sekute communal land area.

Community leaders in this area have the authority to allocate community land or access, such as to a tourism operator, through informal agreement with the chief—the traditional leader in Zambia—or through a lease via the Commissioner

of Lands. If the chief allocates land via a lease, the land is alienated in perpetuity. There is a history of poor land allocation by customary authorities, where communities are excluded from decision-making or benefits.

The Sekute Chiefdom covers an area of 250,000 hectares and is home to an estimated 17,500 people, 2,900 households and 289 villages. Here AWF piloted the establishment of the Sekute Community Development Trust, which empowered the community to make land use decisions, protect land and secure conservation-based benefits.

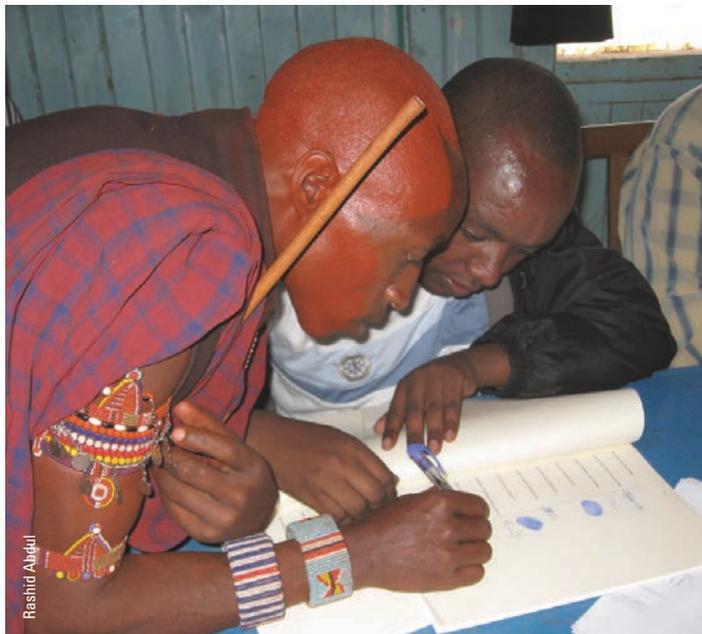
In a conservation agreement signed between AWF and the trust, the community set aside approximately 40,000 hectares of land for conservation. In exchange, AWF built an office for the trust, trained 18 scouts to patrol the community conservation area, constructed a modern primary school, and brokered a partnership with a private sector partner to establish a sport fishing lodge on trust land wherein the community receives a percentage of lodge revenues and a lease fee.

The establishment of community trusts empowers communities to make land-use decisions and helps mitigate the risk of land alienation.

### Land-use agreements, DRC

The Maringa–Lopori–Wamba (MLW) landscape encompasses 74,000 km<sup>2</sup> of lowland rain and swamp forest in north-central Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The landscape comprises a sizeable portion of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem, the second-largest tropical forest in the world, and is home to the endangered bonobo, giant pangolin, forest elephant and other species.

AWF saw a need for overall macro-level land-use planning and zoning to address threats to wildlife populations and forest loss, which, at the time, had never been done in DRC. AWF entered into agreement with the *Ministère de l'Environnement Conservation de la Nature et Tourisme* (MECNT) and



convened a steering committee consisting of key ministries involved in land uses, agriculture and rural development, land management, MECNT, provincial authorities, and national and international NGOs. AWF worked with the committee to assess population, natural features, wildlife and infrastructure, using satellite imagery, GIS technology and participatory methods to zone the landscape, which was validated and approved by the government.

After the macro-level planning, AWF embarked on a micro-level planning exercise near the town of Djolu. This exercise looked at both permanent and non-permanent forest. AWF worked with communities to zone areas for agricultural production, settlement and forest conservation. The residents demarcated the zones together and agreed upon boundaries and land use. AWF entered into 60 Memoranda of Understanding with communities that stipulated certain land uses in the different zones, including forest protection.

In exchange, AWF assisted the communities with agricultural improvements, provided access to markets via a barge and agreed to build a primary school.

### Requirements for effective land conservation

While a system of large, well-managed protected areas are critical for long-term conservation, these must be complemented by conservation efforts on community and private lands to achieve the scale required for Africa's megafauna and the connectivity needed for climate adaptation.

In pioneering many of these tools in Africa, AWF has found that land conservation approaches require:

- Strategic conservation planning;
- Full community/landowner awareness and voluntary participation;
- A fair payment for the ecosystem service; and
- Clarity around land tenure.

Simultaneously, legal policies should be developed to support innovative legal conservation and to provide incentives for communities and private landowners to engage in long-term conservation. ■

*This article was adapted from a paper authored by Kathleen H. Fitzgerald for the 2014 World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty.*

LEFT TOP: Through an innovative land-lease programme, more than 1,150 landowners are protecting approximately 28,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat in Kenya's Amboseli ecosystem.

LEFT BOTTOM: Sable are among the array of wildlife that have access to a 40,000-hectare protected area in Zambia's Sekute Chiefdom, agreed upon between AWF and residents of the Chiefdom.

## Balancing development with proper planning

By **Dave Loubser** *Director, climate change*

At the World Economic Forum on Africa, held in Abuja, Nigeria, in May, the overriding message was one of growth and development across the African continent. One of the major themes was ensuring Africa's investments, infrastructure and growth are resilient to climate change. It is reassuring that the ever-increasing specter of climate change is being factored into the development taking place across Africa.

At the Forum, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang spoke of China investing in a high-speed rail and highway network across the continent. This kind of development is vital for any growing economy, but it needs to be planned carefully. One thing we know about wildlife's ability to adapt to climate change is the need to move, to disperse out of areas of climate stress to more favourable areas. If we are fragmenting Africa's wild lands with roads and rail, with no regard to the movement patterns of wildlife, we will surely be pushing many species closer to the brink of extinction.

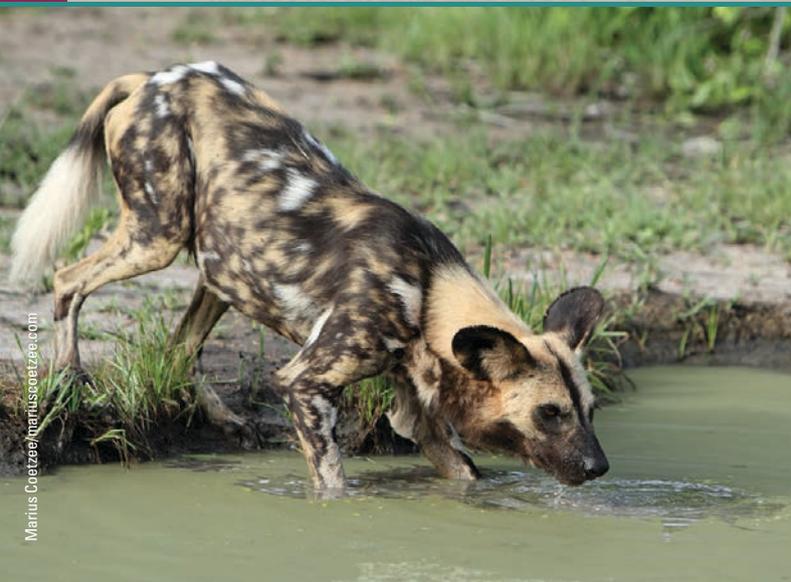
The planned road across Serengeti National Park in Tanzania offers an example of the potential devastating ramifications that can occur if infrastructure is developed without proper planning around wildlife movements. The famed Serengeti migration is driven by rainfall events. As these events shift due to a changing climate, the patterns and paths of the migration will change. Without the room to adapt to these changes, this incredible natural phenomenon will be under threat. We know the development of this road would threaten the existing migration routes—how will it and other future development affect new wildlife migration routes that occur due to shifts in rainfall?

With regard to this particular issue, the East African Court of Justice ruled in June that constructing a bitumen road across the Serengeti is unlawful. The Tanzanian government has reportedly requested that the German government conduct a feasibility study for a southern route, long suggested as an alternative by conservation groups including AWF.

AWF is committed to ensuring that development happens in a way that is sensitive to our natural heritage, not only for now, but also in response to future changes. With proper planning and forethought, infrastructure development can occur while also conserving the wildlife riches that also benefit national economies.

Development, such as the paving of roads, is vital for any growing economy but must be planned carefully.





Marius Coetzee/mariuscoetzee.com

## AWF to Assist Zimbabwe With Hwange Plan

By **Kathleen Fitzgerald** *Vice president for conservation strategy*

**H**wange National Park is situated in the northwest corner of Zimbabwe. Founded in 1928, Hwange is Zimbabwe's largest park, measuring roughly 14,650 km<sup>2</sup>. It is a critical ecological unit for Zimbabwe and for transboundary wildlife movement between Botswana and Zambia. The park hosts more than 100 mammal and 400 bird species, including 19 large herbivores and eight large carnivores. Hwange's African wild dog population is thought to be one of the larger surviving groups in Africa today.

With Hwange being one of Zimbabwe's most important parks and wildlife habitats, and the park's management plan having expired, AWF recently embarked on the development of a new general management plan for the park with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPMA). This is a participatory planning process that will include the engagement of local communities, private sector partners, other NGOs and stakeholders. AWF will use the Protected Area Planning Framework. Dr. Ian Games, an ecologist based in Zimbabwe with more than 30 years' experience, will lead the process for AWF with ZPWMA.

This work dovetails nicely with a recent assessment completed by AWF and its partner Conservation Capital on the commercial revenue of parks in Zimbabwe. The country's economic decline over the past decade, together with global economic challenges, have led to a severe decline in tourism in Zimbabwe, resulting in a revenue deficit for ZPWMA. The assessment drew on best practices from across Africa and advised on how ZPWMA can maximise revenue from its parks to ensure their long-term sustainability and generate enough revenue to support conservation. Some of the recommendations from the assessment will be piloted in the Hwange general management plan. ■

## Ground Survey of Elephants in Parc W

By **Theo Way Nana** *Programme officer, forestry and climate change, Congo landscape, and former conservation management trainee*

**T**he elephant is one of the flagship species AWF is committed to protecting in West Africa, specifically within the W–Arly–Pendjari (WAP) landscape traversing Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin. This commitment, reinforced over the past 5 years through AWF's efforts in the region, reached an important milestone in April and May with a ground survey of elephants.

The purpose of the survey was to collect information on elephant presence and movement and on sites of human–elephant conflicts to enable the proper protection of this species in protected areas and lands outside the parks in this landscape. This information will help focus AWF's conservation work in this region.

During the survey, AWF also collected and shipped more than 80 samples of elephant dung to the University of Washington in the United States for DNA analysis. The samples will help build an elephant DNA database, which will assist authorities in identifying the source of trafficked ivory that gets confiscated at ports.

### Methodology and results

The entirety of the WAP landscape covers about 33,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The survey did not cover the entire landscape in full. AWF's science team identified three blocks, which aligned with protected areas in each of the three countries—Parc W – Burkina Faso, Pendjari in Benin and Arly Reserve in Burkina—where sample counts were taken.

The exercise was conducted with the full support and participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including wildlife authorities at the national level; park and reserve authorities on the ground, along with their teams (foresters and rangers); NGO and community-based organisations; students; and local community members. All participated in two days of training prior to the survey.

After almost one month in the field collecting data, results have now been tallied and analysed.

### Elephant distribution primarily in Arly and Pendjari.

A total of 156 elephant observations were recorded, totaling 872 individual elephants in the landscape. The majority were found in Parks Arly (415) and Pendjari (347), with comparatively fewer in Parc W (110).

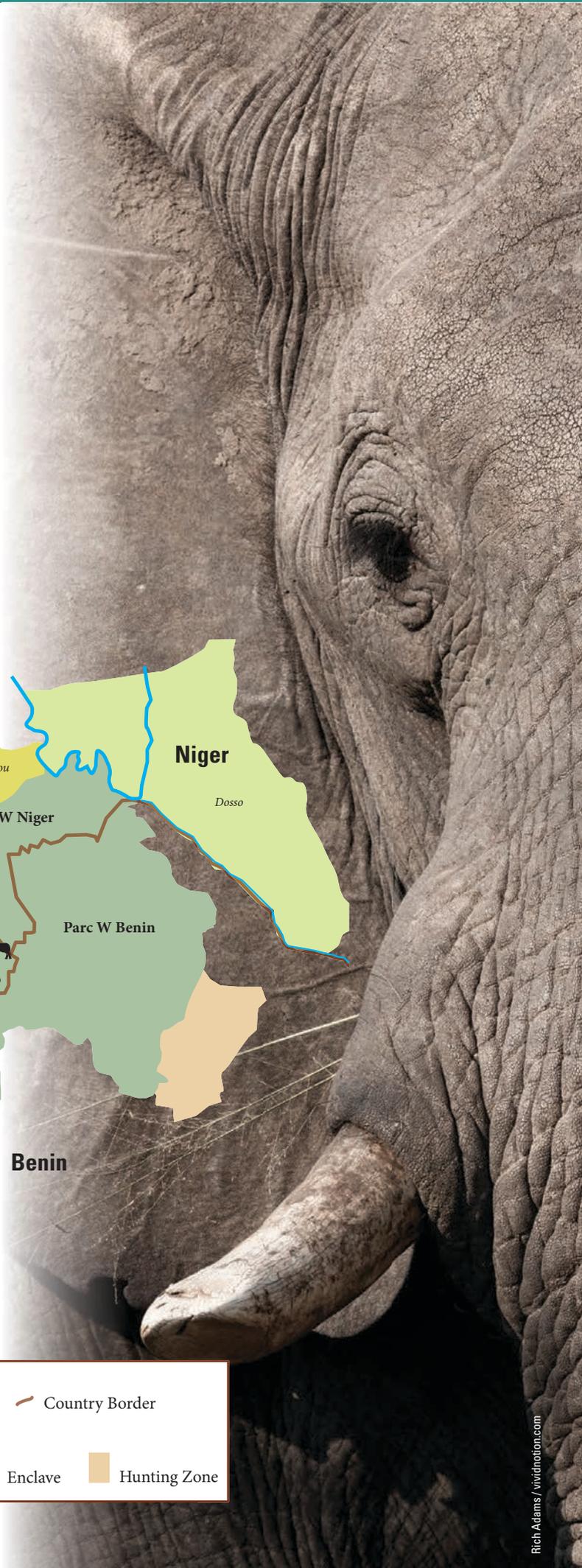
**5 corridors, but all under threat.** The team identified at least five elephants corridors. Four of these were in Pendjari and Arly, while only one was in Parc W. All of these corridors, however, are under threat from settlements, farming, grazing and habitat destruction, among others.

**Human–elephant conflict incidences align with elephant distribution.** A total of 30 villages around the protected areas, out of 50 located less than 10 km from one of the protected areas, were reported to be experiencing conflicts with elephants. The survey recorded 308 crop raid incidences in those villages, with the majority, 46 percent, being outside of Park Arly, followed by 34 percent outside of Pendjari and 20 percent in the area surrounding Parc W.

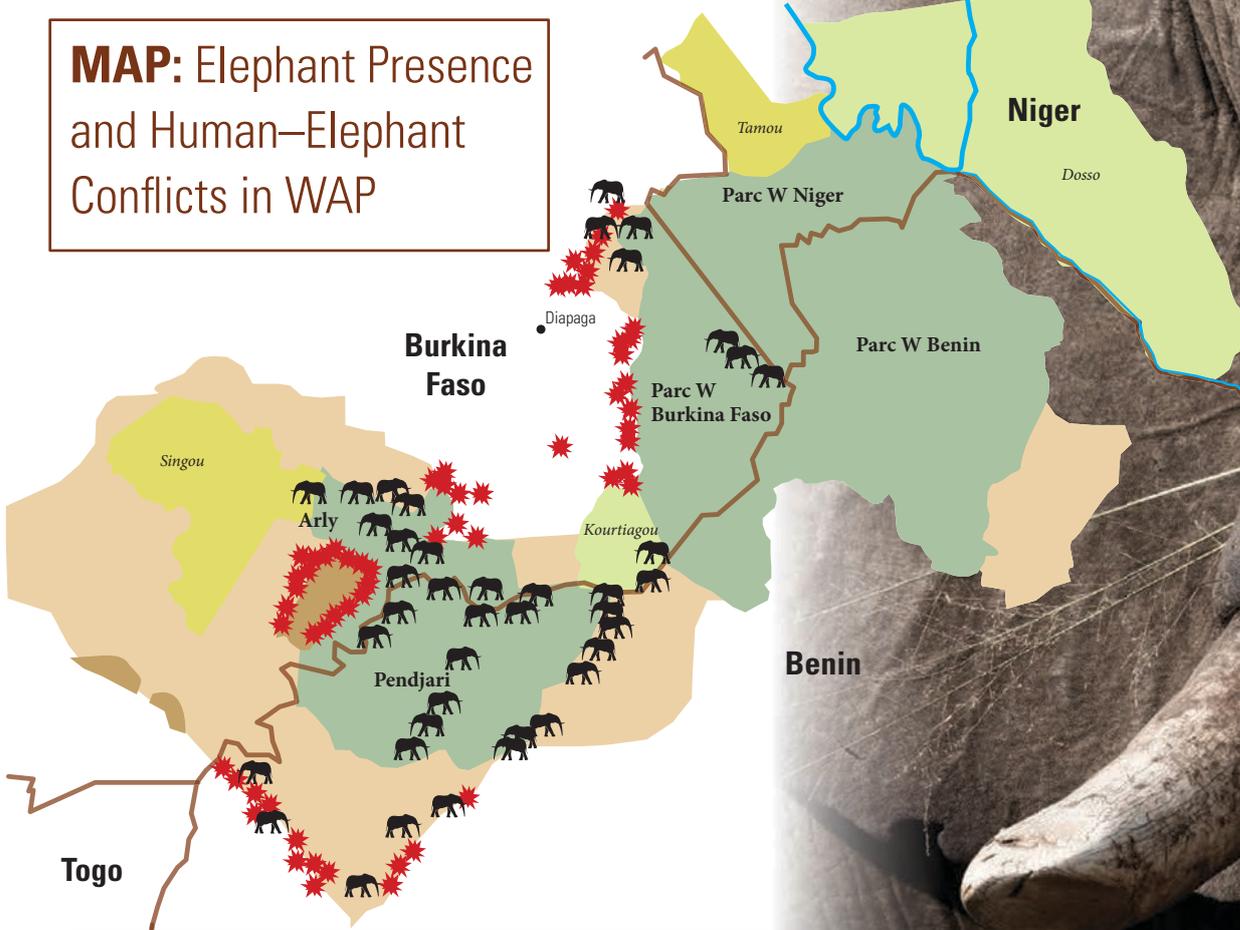
A high concentration of the conflicts was particularly experienced around the enclave outside of Park Arly. Other high-conflict areas included the periphery of the Pendjari hunting zone, Kourtiagou Partial Reserve in Burkina, Tapoa–Djerma and the western part of the land that borders Parc W in Burkina Faso.

**Potentially Significant**

These findings are potentially significant for future conservation efforts in this region and should be used to help design conservation strategies to secure important elephant movement corridors, mitigate human–elephant conflict and protect a critical population of elephants. The team working on the elephant count included Nathan Gichohi, ecologist for the Kilimanjaro landscape; Michael Maina, GIS specialist; and the Parc W landscape staff. This work was funded by MAVA. ■



**MAP:** Elephant Presence and Human–Elephant Conflicts in WAP



	Elephant Presence		Human–Elephant Conflict		Country Border
	Faunal Reserve		Partial Reserve		National Park
	Enclave		Hunting Zone		

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# New Manual on Kenya Wildlife Law

By Paula Kahumbu CEO, WildlifeDirect

With funding support from AWF, WildlifeDirect, together with lawyer Shamini Jayanathan, is producing a review guide on Kenya's Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013 as a teaching support for investigators, prosecutors and judicial officers. The document gives details on the provisions in the new legislation, the requirements for evidence and guidance on how prosecutors can use ancillary legislation in their prosecution of wildlife trafficking cases.

This document is critical because many wildlife crime trials in the past were dismissed due to the failure of prosecutors to prove their cases beyond reasonable doubt. Under the new legislation, this is more important for three reasons: First, the penalties are steeper, and therefore the burden of evidence is greater.

Second, the stakes are higher, as Kenya has become a global hotspot for the transit of ivory. We therefore need to bring prosecutions against major dealers and traffickers. Finally, Kenya has a new Wildlife Crime Prosecutions Unit, and this manual gives the unit the guidance it needs to conduct effective prosecutions across the country.

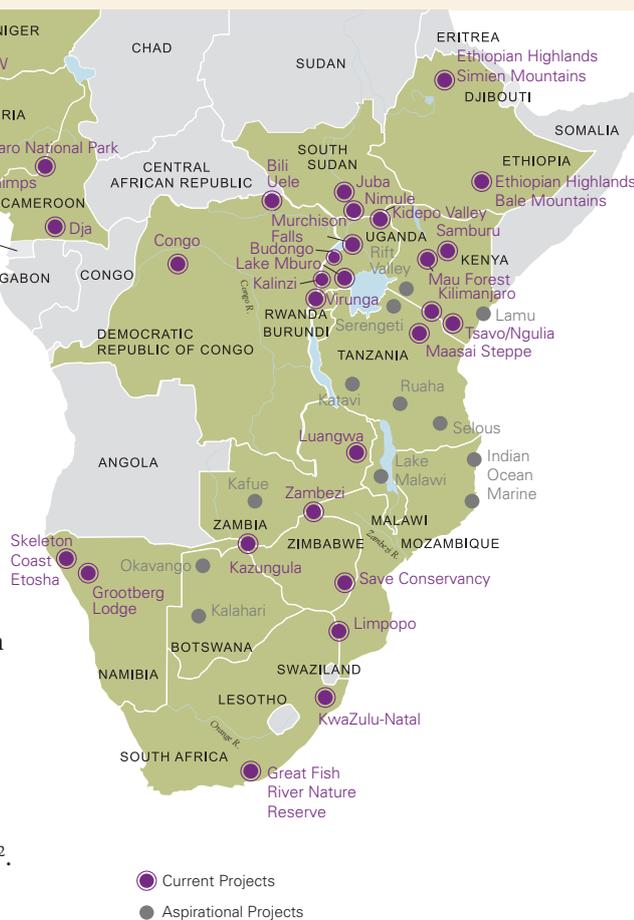
The use of the document will be piloted in training sessions later in the year. The guide will also be published and distributed across the country to all Kenya Wildlife Service stations, police stations and courts. The document will be available online and key areas for public dissemination will be made through traditional media outlets. WildlifeDirect are grateful for the support from AWF to produce this guide. ■

## How AWF Approaches Conservation

AWF achieves conservation impact in Africa by focusing on high-priority, large landscapes that have the potential to conserve viable populations of African wildlife as well as key habitats and ecological systems well into the future.

These landscapes are composed of different land units—national parks, private land and community land—within a single ecosystem ranging in size from 7,000 km² to 95,000 km². Many extend across the borders of multiple countries.

Target landscapes are selected based on a detailed analysis that examines the region's biological, ecological, social and economic opportunities. AWF works closely with partners and stakeholders—including national and local governments, communities, research organisations, NGOs and the private sector—to develop priority conservation actions



specific to the area. AWF works in the following strategic areas: land conservation and management, species protection and conservation science, conservation enterprise, conservation schools and climate change. Policy and capacity building are cross-cutting themes that underscore all of AWF's programmes. ■