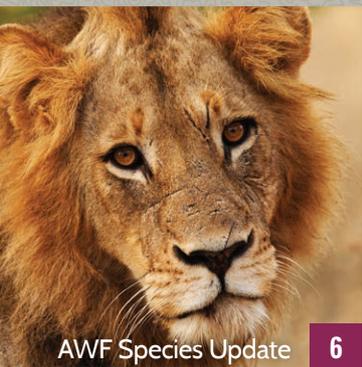


# African Wildlife Foundation's AFRICAN LANDSCAPE

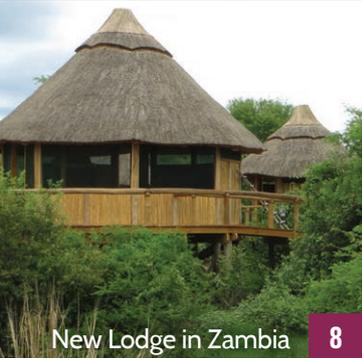
2013.ISSUE 3

AWF

## IN THIS ISSUE



AWF Species Update **6**



New Lodge in Zambia **8**



Women in Conservation **11**

## AWF Calls for Destruction of Ivory Stockpiles, Moratoria on Domestic Trade

By **Philip Muruthi** *Senior director, conservation science*

Current estimates of Africa's elephant population range between 419,000 and 650,000, predominantly in Southern Africa (about 39 percent) and East Africa (about 26 percent). While populations in Southern Africa remain largely stable, those in East, Central and West Africa have declined due to poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. This trend is reversing the conservation gains of the last 20 years and has begun to threaten the long-term survival of the African elephant. In recent years, about 30,000 elephants have been killed across Africa annually.

As seizures of illegal ivory have grown in spite of overall increased protection measures in situ, stemming demand for ivory is crucial to allowing elephant populations to stabilise once again.

The availability of ivory in storage, along with the legality of a domestic ivory trade in some countries, has direct linkage to growing demand. These conditions create the impression that ivory is a legitimate commodity to be traded. Meanwhile, the existence of legalised domestic ivory trades makes law enforcement and the differentiation between legal and illegal ivory almost impossible.

While recognising that some range states, particularly in Southern Africa, have invested in elephant conservation with positive results, AWF is nevertheless urging all countries to make a necessary sacrifice in shutting down the ivory market. We therefore urge all governments to destroy all ivory stockpiles and to place a moratorium on their domestic ivory trade, to send a clear message that poaching, ivory trafficking and trade will not be tolerated.

### Other measures being taken

Destroying stockpiles will eliminate the possibility of supplying ivory to the marketplace. Placing moratoria on domestic ivory trades will ensure that illegal ivory cannot be funneled into the marketplace under the guise of a legal trade. We understand, however, that a multidisciplinary approach is necessary to properly conserve Africa's elephant population. AWF is taking such a multi-pronged approach to addressing illegal wildlife trafficking, providing antipoaching protection on the ground; enhancing detection at land, sea and airports; and providing transboundary support and collaboration between law enforcement agencies to disrupt international criminal networks. > continued on p. 6

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## The Heart of the Story

The Al Shabab terrorist attack that took place at Westgate Mall in September hit very close to home for AWF. AWF is headquartered in Nairobi. While all of our staff are safe and accounted for, too many of us had friends, or friends of friends, who were personally affected by the tragedy. Many of us will take a long time to recover from the trauma of that attack on our city, but we are moving forward with our lives.

AWF and other conservation organisations have asserted for some time that terrorist groups are engaging in the illegal wildlife trade, using ivory sales to fund their political agendas. The confirmation by the media that Al Shabab has indeed been involved in some of the bru-

But people are at the heart of the African conservation story. On p. 8, you can read about a new conservation tourism enterprise that AWF has opened in the Kazungula landscape—a sport fishing camp that not only secures a protected area for elephants but also provides economic and community benefits to area residents. In the Samburu landscape, AWF's support of a financial services organisation has improved the lives of pastoralists who used to measure their wealth by the size of their herds (p. 10). Our efforts there are reducing livestock pressure on the ecosystem, but, just as important, are providing new opportunities for women.

Finally, under the auspices of the US-



“People are at the heart of the African conservation story”

tal elephant poachings on our continent only furthers AWF's resolve to continue our work. We must shut down the illegal wildlife trade—for the good of Africa's wildlife and of her people. Thankfully, actions by governments from around the world (see cover story) are showing that we can win this war against greed, hatred and fear mongering.

### Human side of conservation

Throughout this newsletter edition, we have made an effort to show the human face of conservation. When conservation organisations talk about their work, the human perspective is often overlooked. How many of us have been guilty of discussing natural resource management, wildlife protection and biodiversity conservation in terms that remove people from the picture?

AID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Programme, AWF and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) are also highlighting opportunities for women in Ugandan conservation. We honored 10 female UWA employees who have provided inspiring career examples for future female conservationists in Uganda (see p. 11).

As these pages show, even in the face of tragedy, there is much to fight for. We only need to look to Africa's magnificent wildlife, beautiful landscapes and extraordinary people to keep us going.

**Daudi Sumba**

*Vice president for programme design and government relations*

## AWF, Community Work Together to Protect Elephant Habitat

AWF secured more than 7,000 acres of protected land for elephants to roam in Kenya's Amboseli ecosystem this year, as it signed lease agreements with 703 area landowners during the months of July and August.

Amboseli National Park is home to about 1,400 elephants, but the park is too small to host this population and other wildlife. As they cross park boundaries, elephants frequently come into contact with farms and communities, resulting in conflict. In the past few years, AWF has signed land-lease agreements with hundreds of landowners to the east of Amboseli to ensure a protected wildlife corridor between Amboseli, Chyulu Hills National Park and through to Tsavo East National Park.

The latest round of land-lease agreements were signed with the Maasai landowners of the Olgulului Group Ranch, located in the Kitenden Corridor to the south of Amboseli extending across the border into Tanzania's Mt. Kilimanjaro National Park. In July, 533 landowners here signed agreements with AWF to lease 5,330 acres of land for conservation. This was followed by a lease signing with an additional 170 landowners in August, resulting in another 1,700 acres of land set aside for elephants.

"By extending the Kitenden Corridor, we aim to reduce conflict and provide both communities and elephants with a more peaceful existence," says AWF Vice President for Conservation Strategy Kathleen Fitzgerald. "This is a win-win situation where wildlife get the habitat they need, and communities are given a payment for ecosystem service in exchange."

AWF launched the land lease program more than five years ago and had previously benefited from support from DisneyNature. With these additional acres, AWF will have protected more than 25,000 acres in the region—a successful and innovative model of land conservation that has been copied by other conservation groups, including the International Fund for Animal Welfare. ■

*AWF has come out with a new technical paper on community payments for ecosystem services.*

*To obtain a copy of the paper, visit [awf.org/paymentforland](http://awf.org/paymentforland)*

## In Brief

- > AWF executives Patrick Bergin and Daudi Sumba attended the 4th Annual African Leadership Network event in Mauritius in October.
- > Conservation efforts in Tanzania's Manyara Ranch Conservancy have resulted in new African wild dog sightings on the conservancy—the first in several years.
- > At the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting in September, AWF made 2 Commitments to Action: to build a network of 15 primary conservation schools in Africa in the next 10 years and to engage African entrepreneurs in conservation through its subsidiary, African Wildlife Capital.
- > AWF recently finished conducting a large-mammal aerial census in the Kilimanjaro landscape. Initial reports appear positive.
- > USAID recently awarded AWF a third round of funding under its Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment (or CARPE). This will be a 5-year grant for Central Africa Forest Ecosystems Conservation (or CAFEC).

## On the Radar

- > At the recent Great Ape Summit, attendees declared palm oil plantations to be one of the greatest threats to great apes on the African continent.



AWF signed land-lease agreements with landowners in southern Kenya, protecting 7,000 acres of land for elephants.

# The Use of REDD+ in Achieving Conservation Goals

By David Loubser *Director, climate change*

**A**WF's climate change programme focuses on both climate mitigation and adaptation and the inclusion of climate-related impacts into AWF's entire conservation planning framework. The development of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) projects, while not the entirety of AWF's climate change efforts, is nevertheless an important tool in achieving these goals.

REDD+ projects involve the development of new or improved livelihood activities that will reduce community dependence on consumptive forestry activities and consequently protect the forests within which communities live. The reduction in the amount of carbon emissions by the community is measured and "sold" as carbon credits to organisations wishing to offset their own carbon emissions. The sale of these "credits" directly profits the participating communities through a predetermined carbon benefit-sharing mechanism.

In addition to reducing emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, REDD+ projects also help build ecosystem and human resilience to the harmful effects of climate change.

## Project in Chyulu Hills

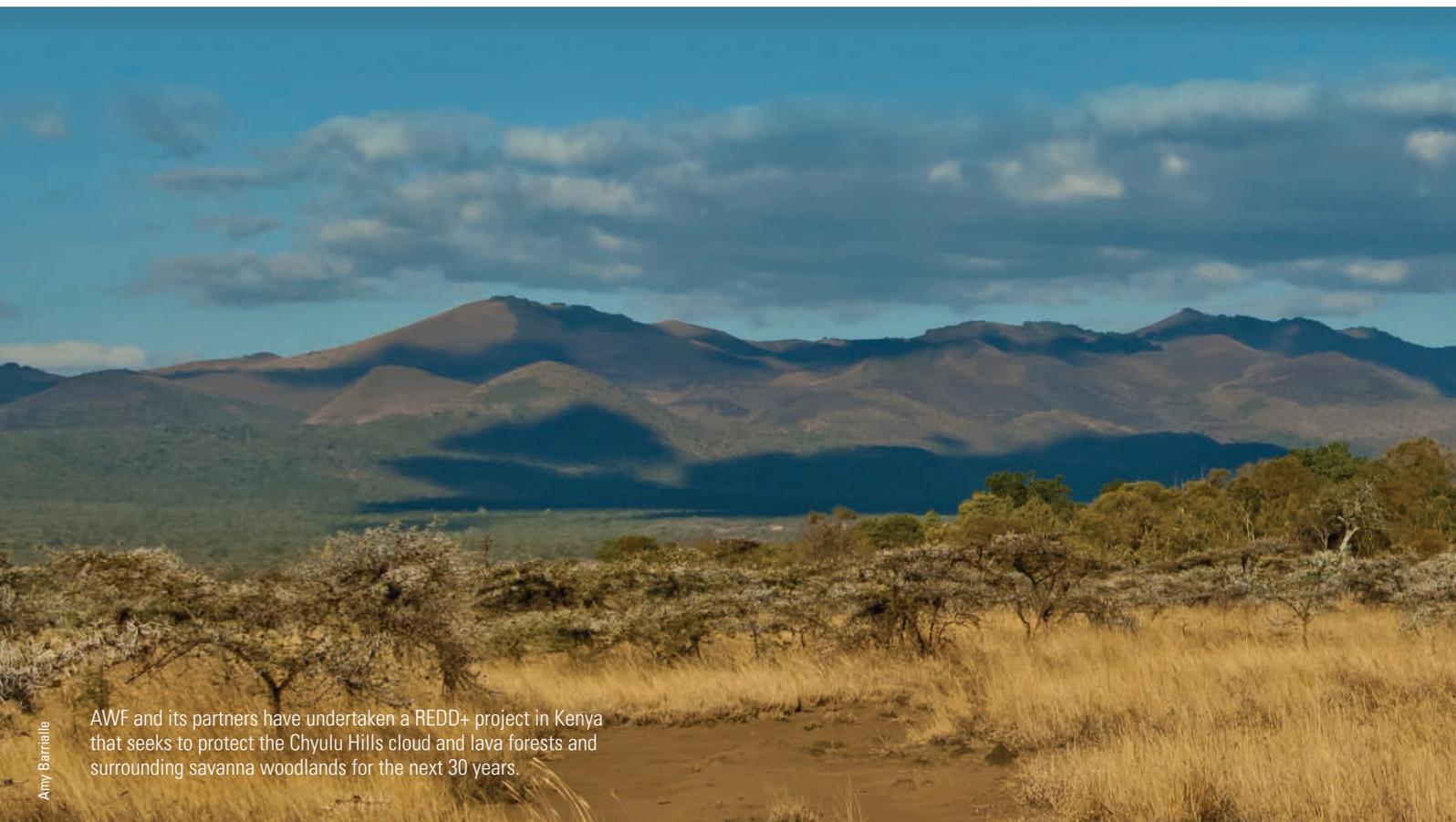
As mentioned, REDD+ is a tool for climate change mitigation—not an end in itself. AWF is very selective about the REDD+ projects we engage in. The projects must help us realise specific conservation targets, such as protecting a

water catchment or a wildlife corridor. For us, there is little point in embarking on a REDD+ project if the project does not meet our other conservation goals.

In August, AWF and a consortium of partners embarked on a project to incorporate the entire Chyulu Hills ecosystem into a REDD+ project. Located in southeastern Kenya, the 420,000-hectare project will seek to protect the Chyulu Hills cloud and lava forests and surrounding savanna woodlands for the next 30 years. The project encompasses the Chyulu Hills National Park; parts of Tsavo National Park; Rombo, Imbirikani and Kuku Group Ranches; and land owned or managed by the Kenya Forest Service, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

AWF is working with a large consortium of partners on this project. They include the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Big Life International, the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust, Conservation International, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Wildlife Works. Each of these partners has an extensive history in the area.

The project is expected to generate carbon emissions reductions, which will be sold, with the revenue re-invested into projects to help the protection of the Chyulu Hills water catchment, ensuring its survival for the future. This is a critical step for securing the ongoing provision of water services and the continued flow of water to the estimated 6



AWF and its partners have undertaken a REDD+ project in Kenya that seeks to protect the Chyulu Hills cloud and lava forests and surrounding savanna woodlands for the next 30 years.

million downstream users of the Mzima Springs pipeline, including the city of Mombasa, on Kenya's coast. "If we don't secure the Chyulus using innovative means like REDD+, it is likely that the very foundation for economic development in Kenya, namely water, could dry up in the next few years," says Rob Dodson, vice president for African field operations for Wildlife Works.

In addition, the projected positive impacts for biodiversity and job creation are intended to significantly augment the ongoing activities of the partners. The Chyulu Hills study area lies between two major parks, Tsavo and Amboseli, and this project therefore will help protect a significant wildlife corridor. Further, small to medium-scale enterprises will be set up to enable the communities to improve their livelihoods whilst protecting the forests and woodlands in the region.

### Some lessons learned

The funds from the sale of carbon credits will be distributed to the communities, which will reinvest them in a variety of projects determined by the community representative body. These could be conservation or community-based projects.

This is one of the lessons AWF has learned from our work on our first REDD+ project in the Kolo Hills in northern Tanza-

nia. When AWF first embarked on a REDD+ project there, the price of carbon was relatively high, and the potential benefits from carbon were expected to be reasonably high. Now, the cost of carbon has dropped, reducing potential individual household payments to very little. By pooling the

payments into community-based disbursements, the monies can support one or more significant projects, such as a community school or the salaries of forest or game scouts.

Regardless, AWF's goal with all of our REDD+ projects is to get communities benefiting in some manner by the end of

the first year, be this from carbon payments or other benefits such as improved agriculture or clean energy. It is helpful that the Chyulu Hills project is much larger than what we embarked upon in Kolo Hills and that more carbon per hectare is expected to be made available for sale.

The Chyulu consortium has initiated data collection and field work activities and aims to seek validation for the project within the next six months. ■

*For more information on the Chyulu Hills REDD+ project or AWF's other climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, contact Dave Loubser at [dloubser@awfke.org](mailto:dloubser@awfke.org)*

“Funds from the sale of carbon credits will be reinvested into a variety of projects”



> continued from p. 1

To continue to reduce both supply and demand of elephant ivory, AWF has additionally implemented awareness campaigns in both Africa and on the Asian continent (see covery story of Issue 2013.2).

“Destroying stockpiles will eliminate the possibility of supplying ivory to the marketplace”

Finally, we continue to mitigate conflicts between elephants and humans (see “New Lodge in Zambia to Benefit People, Wildlife” on p. 8) and ensure secure habitat for wildlife (see “Kenya’s Elephants Get More Land” on p. 3).

### Pushing policy

AWF has further worked to push policy on the world stage. AWF CEO Patrick Bergin was recently named to the Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking by the U.S. government, joining a diverse panel of experts that will advise the White House and the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking. His seat on this advisory body allows AWF’s African perspective and expertise to be heard by the U.S. government, ensuring that the plight of the African elephant is addressed from multiple levels.

In September, AWF partnered with the Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Conservation International at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting to make a public commitment to prevent further elephant poaching. Joining these conservation groups were several of Africa’s heads of state and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The U.S. government also conducted an “ivory crush” event in mid-November to destroy its ivory stockpiles and provide an example for other nations to follow suit.

It is clear that governments and other important bodies are showing leadership on the trafficking issue. AWF will continue to work with our partners to ensure that *Loxodonta africana* will survive—and even rebound—across its current 37 range states. ■

*This article was adapted in part from AWF’s official position statement on ivory stockpiles and trade, available at [awf.org](http://awf.org)*

## SPECIES UPDATES



### ELEPHANTS

**Shoring up MRC, Manyara Ranch Conservancy, Tanzania**

Honeyguide Foundation has assumed security operations at the conservancy under a new grant from AWF. Security has already improved, thanks to new specialised scout training and the employment of tracker dogs.

**Elephant protection, Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia**

An AWF grant of US\$54,000 is providing scout training, field equipment and rations for 80 wildlife police officers, and support 72 ground patrol deployments and 24 hours of aerial patrols.

**Field training, Samburu Landscape, Kenya**

In February, AWF sent 38 community scouts for comprehensive training at the Kenya Wildlife Service Field Training School. An additional 24 scouts began their three-month training at the Field Training School in September.

**Water for elephants, Makgadigadi National Park, Botswana**

Though poaching in Botswana has not been as great as other parts of the continent, it is anticipated that elephants here will be targeted soon. With AWF support, the Kalahari Conservation Society will be creating artificial water points in the park during the dry season, to keep elephants within protected areas and also minimise human–elephant conflict.



### GREAT APES

**Bonobo tracking, Congo Landscape, Democratic Republic of Congo**

AWF has trained 50 ecoguards and community members to conduct ecological monitoring using the CyberTracker monitoring technology in the Lomako–Yokokala Faunal Reserve. Locals are already gathering data in the reserve.

**Antipoaching for gorillas, chimps, Dja Biosphere Complex, Cameroon**

After the provision of US\$25,000, donation of a CyberTracker unit and training in its use, rangers are collecting ecological data in the biosphere reserve. The efforts are in support of antipoaching and ecological programmes here.

In 2013, AWF created the Species Protection Grants Programme to quickly deploy funding to partner organisations and regions where support is most needed for wildlife protection (see “New Species Strategy”, Issue 2013.2, p. 3). Following is a sampling of the projects AWF has already supported in the grant’s first year.



## RHINOS

**Safety doors, hangars and motorbikes,** *Great Fish River Nature Reserve, South Africa*

With funding from AWF, the reserve has installed new “safety” doors on its rhino enclosures to facilitate rhino exchanges with other reserves and built an airplane hangar for aerial surveillance efforts. A second round of funding has been approved for the purchase of four new motorbikes for patrols.

**Motorbikes for monitoring,** *Hluhluwe iMfolozi National Park, South Africa*

AWF has provided US\$57,000 to buy motorised quad bikes that will allow rangers to better monitor the park.

**Saving Save’s rhinos,** *Save Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe*

AWF approved an emergency grant for the conservancy, which is currently under severe economic pressure due to loss of tourism income, for the protection and monitoring of its rhinos, wild dogs, elephants and other wildlife.

**Monitoring desert-adapted rhino,** *Skeleton Coast, Namibia*

Ninety-five percent of the desert-adapted black rhino population resides in Namibia. An AWF grant will fund Save the Rhino Trust’s Southern tracking team, which is deployed monthly to specific zones within Namibia’s Kunene and Erongo regions to identify individual rhino and collect data.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Africa–Asia enforcement,** *Africa and Asia*

Through a partnership with the Freeland Foundation, AWF will soon coordinate a joint training between Singapore police and member states of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, particularly on wildlife DNA and evidence collection.

**Success of antipoaching task force,** *Maasai Steppe Landscape, Tanzania*

An antipoaching task force coordinated by AWF and involving authorities from area national parks, the regional crime office and the state’s attorney’s office has already apprehended several poachers. In two cases, poachers were sentenced to 20 years in prison.



## CARNIVORES

**Tour guides for lions,** *Masai Mara National Reserve, Kenya*

Leveraging the power of citizen scientists, an AWF grant to the Kenya Wildlife Trust will soon train tour guides to gather important ecological data on lions as they show tourists around the Mara.

**Predator-proof bomas,** *Tarangire National Park, Tanzania*

AWF, with support from the Indianapolis Zoo, has helped communities install 51 predator-proof bomas this past year, helping to reduce human–carnivore conflict.

AWF’s species protection grants cover six different thematic areas: elephants, rhinos, carnivores, great apes, law enforcement and awareness. Funding typically ranges between US\$50,000 and US\$100,000 and is disbursed to partners on the ground that are protecting critical wildlife populations.



## New Lodge in Zambia to Benefit People, Wildlife

The region where Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia meet is home to one quarter of Africa's elephants and possesses one of the most important terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in Africa. It has long drawn tourists as well, but local residents—of both the human and wildlife variety—have not benefited significantly from tourism.

In fact, development in the area has intensified competition for natural resources and conflict between people and wildlife. For the past several years, AWF has worked with the people of the Sekute Chiefdom, located about 60 km west of Livingstone, Zambia, to alleviate such pressures, implementing a series of projects that would provide safe passage for elephants traveling between countries and economic benefits for local residents. One of these efforts—Machenje Fishing Lodge—was officially opened by Zambia's Minister of Tourism and Arts Hon. Sylvia T. Masebo, MP, in August.

### Model for Zambia

Machenje is a sport-fishing lodge wholly owned by the people of Sekute. Under an innovative agreement brokered by AWF, the conservation enterprise is owned by the Sekute community but operated by a private-sector partner, Taonga Safaris. The community and Taonga will share in lodge revenues. The operator has also guaranteed several permanent full-time positions for Sekute residents, as well as additional seasonal positions.

In return for AWF helping to establish the lodge and brokering the partnership, the Sekute Chiefdom set aside more than 20,000 hectares of community land for conservation. Lodge

revenues will fund the salaries of the wildlife scouts who protect the community conservation area and the elephants that inhabit it.

The arrangement has been hailed by Hon. Ms. Masebo as a model for other communities in Zambia. "We have an example of a viable community-based conservation enterprise model involving communities in partnership with the private sector that contributes to tourism development and wildlife conservation," she remarked in a speech at the lodge opening ceremony. "It is through community-based conservation enterprises such as Machenje Fishing Lodge that local communities are able to turn that 'burden' of living with elephants into an opportunity."

Machenje was also featured on the technical tour during the 20th General Assembly of the UN World Tourism Organisation, which was hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe in late August.

Funding for construction of Machenje Fishing Lodge was provided by AWF and Taonga Safaris, as well as the Embassy of Finland – Lusaka, the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, KfW Development Bank, Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, UN Development Programme, UNDP–GEF Small Grants and the U.S. Agency for International Development. ■

## Chelsea Clinton visits Machenje Lodge

Machenje Fishing Lodge has received a number of high-profile visitors since its opening. In addition to hosting Zambia's Minister of Tourism and Arts Hon. Sylvia T. Masebo, MP, and delegates during the 20th General Assembly of the UN World Tourism Organisation, AWF also accompanied Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, to Machenje Fishing Lodge in early August to show how the revenue-sharing mechanisms brokered by AWF protect the continent's largest elephant population.

"Elephant populations across Africa are declining rapidly due to poaching, and we need new approaches to stop the killing," said Clinton. "AWF's inventive work to support schools and establish community enterprise projects signifies a long-term commitment that benefits local communities and wildlife, for today and the future." Clinton also visited Lupani Primary School (pictured), a conservation school AWF rebuilt as part of its work with the Sekute Chiefdom.



To learn about AWF's other projects in the Kazungula landscape, visit [awf.org/landscape/kazungula](http://awf.org/landscape/kazungula)



The newly opened Machenje Fishing Lodge in Zambia drew praise from attendees of the UN World Tourism Organisation General Assembly for its community partnership model.

## AWF Brings Ecotourism Conference Back to its Roots

By **Brian McBrearity**  
Director, conservation enterprise



When conservation lodges, such as Tawi Lodge pictured here, engage local communities, good conservation results.

Amy Barriale

With AWF as a key co-sponsor, the annual gathering of the world's leading ecotourism and sustainable tourism professionals and tour operators returned to the industry's roots to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, this past September. The Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference 2013 (ESTC13), convened by The International Ecotourism Society, attracted more than 400 delegates eager to discuss the emerging issues, trends, successes and challenges facing this segment of the global travel industry.

"Kenya is the birthplace of ecotourism. We were pleased to partner with Kenya Tourism Board and the Ecotourism Society of Kenya to bring the conference back to where it all began," said Daudi Sumba, vice president for programme design and government relations at AWF.

For AWF, not only did the conference help spotlight the role of nature-based tourism in Africa, but it also provided an ideal backdrop to showcase AWF's own work within the continent's safari industry. AWF has been a leader in linking local communities to the tourism industry, helping to establish tourism enterprises that provide economic returns and subsequently promote good conservation behaviours. "Tourism can encourage good conservation," Sumba explained.

AWF further highlighted the link between conservation and ecotourism with a media event during ESTC13 that highlighted the ongoing poaching crisis on the continent. Standing in front of two large elephant tusks, Philip Muruthi, senior director of conservation science at AWF, addressed conference VIPs and the media at a special event. "Even the loss of a few elephants can be devastating to eco-

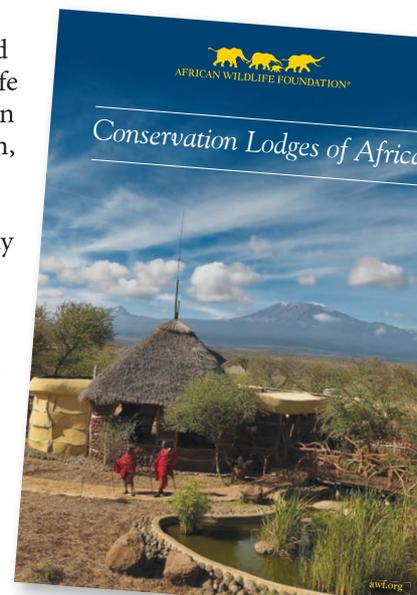
systems and tourism in Africa, but currently more than 100 elephants are killed every day for their tusks," he said. "With fewer than 450,000 remaining on the continent, this could result in this species being wiped out of some of its core habitats in Africa within the next 20 years."

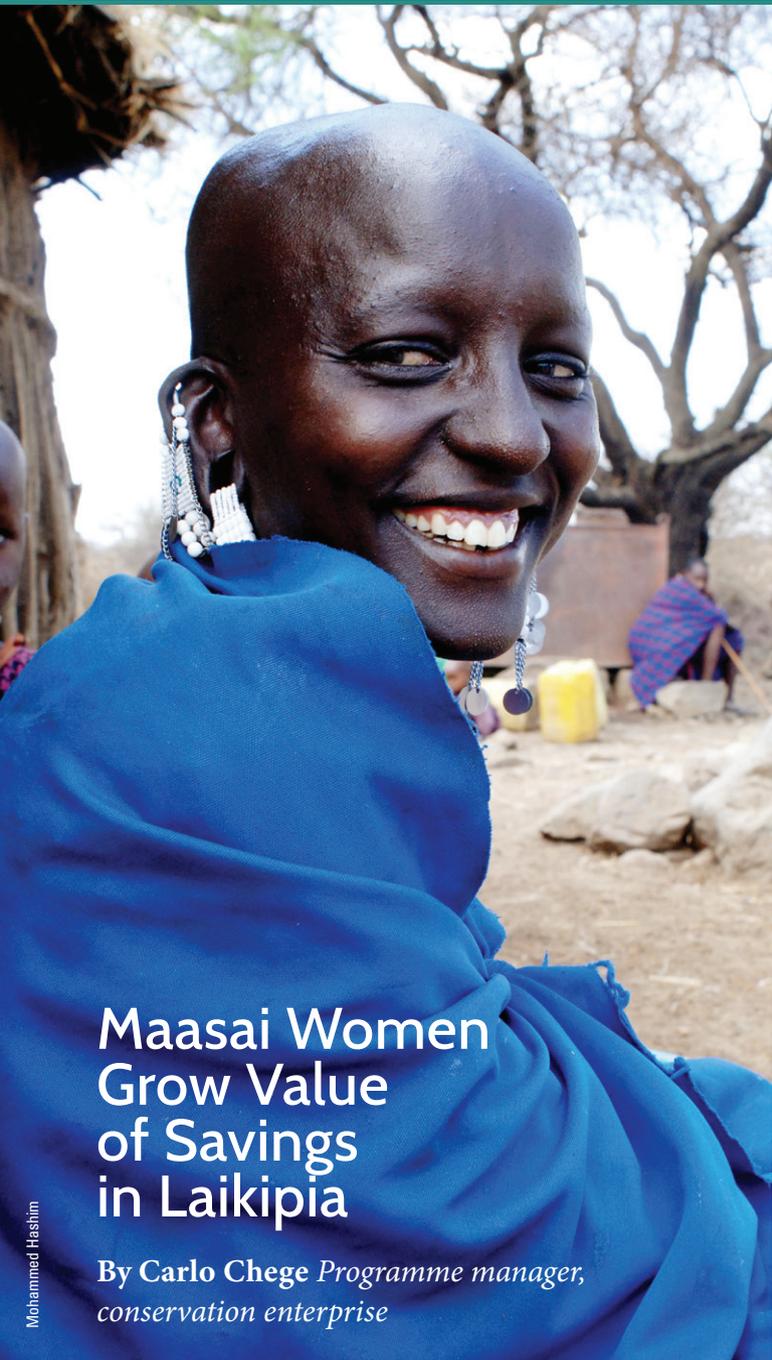
### Capacity building opportunity

Maximising its sponsorship of ESTC13, AWF invited representatives from two partners—the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and the South Sudan Ministry of the Interior—to attend the event. Though both Zeleke Tigabie Abuhay from Ethiopia and David Dol from South Sudan were busy with their responsibilities of developing their countries' wildlife-based tourism industries, they took the time to attend the conference.

"Ethiopia and South Sudan hold tremendous potential for wildlife tourism. We felt that, in addition to AWF's partnership with them, attendance at ESTC13 would provide Zeleke and David additional insight into the best way to move forward in their own countries," relayed Kathleen Fitzgerald, vice president for conservation strategy at AWF. ■

To obtain a booklet of AWF's conservation tourism enterprise work in Africa, visit [awf.org/lodgebooklet](http://awf.org/lodgebooklet)





## Maasai Women Grow Value of Savings in Laikipia

By Carlo Chege *Programme manager, conservation enterprise*

Mohammed Hashim

**F**elister Maiyani, a married Maasai woman and mother of 10, is looking forward to building a house for her family, complete with a modern iron-sheet roof. If Maiyani had to depend on her savings alone to pay for the house, the dream would remain a dream for the foreseeable future. Maiyani, however, belongs to the Nasaruni Financial Services Organisation (FSO). As a member of Nasaruni, she is able to borrow enough money so that she may build the house. In the remote Ili Digiri region of northern Laikipia, Kenya, the FSO has introduced a new savings culture and financial vehicle to the Maasai community, whose only means of savings previously was through the expansion of livestock herds. With this new mindset, Maiyani is motivated by the promise of continued improvement in her family's quality of life.

Nasaruni was started in April 2009 by nine women's groups, with seed funds and capacity-building support from AWF. The FSO began operations with 141 registered members and assets of Ksh 22,600 (about US\$250). Today, as the only institution in the area offering banking services—Nanyuki,

the closest urban center, is two hours away on rough roads—Nasaruni has grown to more than 1,100 members with an asset base of Ksh 8.8 million (US\$102,000). Loan repayment rates since inception have been near 90 percent.

### Responsiveness to member needs

One of the innovations that supported the rapid growth in Nasaruni's membership was its responsiveness to members' financial needs. Roughly two thirds of the members are women, including the chair of the board. The FSO developed various loan products that were designed for specific purposes. Education loans—a key area of need for the local community—were structured around the school calendar and paid directly to the school for a child's tuition. Similarly, business loans, development loans for buying assets and emergency loans were created, each with its own specific structure and terms.

“Today, Nasaruni has grown to 1,100 members with an asset base of US\$102,000”

“The willingness to structure loan products around borrowers' specific needs speaks to Nasaruni's innovation and commitment to the community,” said Brian McBrearity, director for conservation enterprise at AWF. “This is one of the key factors for its success thus far.”

### Female leadership

Benedetta Monto is chairwoman of the Nasaruni board, something that is not common with the traditionally patriarchal Maasai community. Through her leadership, the FSO has been instrumental in training its members on conservation issues. Notably, the communities have reduced their production of charcoal as a means of generating income.

Monto recently led Nasaruni's transition from an FSO to a legally recognised Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation (SACCO), the natural progression for a successful FSO. Having become a SACCO, Nasaruni will soon add mobile phone-based banking services (like M-Pesa). It will also be able to act as an agent for other commercial banks. The Laikipia County Commissioner for Cooperatives believes Nasaruni will set the pace for other SACCOs in remote areas of the county to thrive.

With financial and technical support from AWF, the newly recognised SACCO will move to a new building under construction in Kimanjo market—a much more convenient and accessible location for members. The new building will have a banking hall and staff offices with updated technology. Thanks to Nasaruni, the pastoralist community in this area will have access to all financial services they need. ■

# Promoting the Conservation Efforts of Ugandan Women

By **Abiaz Rwamwiri** *Communications Officer, USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity*

Natural resources management and conservation require the participation of women. In fact, the success of the USAID/Uganda Tourism for Biodiversity Programme relies largely on women's participation in conservation as well as their leadership. Historically, women have been absent from the male-dominated field of conservation leadership in Africa, yet their involvement in land-use planning and enterprise development and management is central to mitigating the threats to biodiversity. They need to be encouraged to pursue careers—and leadership roles—in conservation.

In an effort to encourage young women in Uganda to take on conservation careers, AWF launched a “Women in Conservation Leadership” programme that recognises those women who have shown exemplary leadership in the field of conservation and have made key contributions in protecting wildlife resources.

This programme was launched on 22 August 2013, in partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), at a function that was attended by Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities Dr. Maria Mutagamba and U.S. Ambassador to Uganda Scott DeLisi. The new programme was piloted within UWA, with UWA nominating more than 30 women. Ten were selected based on a criteria of exemplary leadership and long service. Some of the women who were recognised include:

**Dr. Margaret Druciri.** Dr. Druciri is a wildlife veterinarian with UWA who has been working in conservation since 1997. She heads the research and monitoring unit in Queen Elizabeth National Park, where she rescues injured or orphaned wildlife.

**Maureen Arabuza.** A head ranger at the Lake Mburo National Park, Arabuza has been working in conservation

for 13 years. As part of the park's patrol teams, this mother and wife is often out for eight straight hours traversing the bush to safeguard animals from poachers.

**Olivia Biira.** Biira began her career 14 years ago as a community conservation ranger in Rwenzori Mountains National Park. She has worked in five wildlife protected areas and coordinated conservation activities in 13 districts across Uganda.

**Margaret Kasumba.** As senior warden – legal, Kasumba largely concentrates on the prosecution of wildlife crime. She is currently on an exchange programme with Tanzania National Parks.

**Justine Namara.** A senior planning and environmental impact assessment officer with 10 years of experience in management planning for protected areas, Namara is the focal person for UWA on emerging issues, such as oil and gas extraction and hydropower development and mining in protected areas.

**Pamela Anyinga.** Anyinga is senior warden for forest restoration in Mt. Elgon National Park. She has been involved in aerial wildlife counting (as a co-pilot), community tourism projects, and reforestation programmes in several parks.

We believe that, with support from other partners, this can become an annual event that will be open to public nomination and voting. We hope that this programme will also encourage the award recipients to form a mentoring club and activities to attract other women to the “fraternity”. ■

The “Women in Conservation Leadership” programme honored outstanding female conservationists in Uganda, such as wildlife veterinarian Dr. Margaret Druciri, seen here treating an injured lion.



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# New Class of CMTP Starts at AWF

After launching its Conservation Management Training Programme (CMTP) last year, AWF recently welcomed its new freshman class: Sarah Chiles from South Africa, Yohannes Seifu from Ethiopia and Edwin Tambara from Zimbabwe.

Chiles, with her background in anthropology and urban studies, works to better understand the social factors involved in conservation development. Her work experience with Kloof and Durban West Conservancies in South Africa has sensitised her to the urgent need for diplomatic, community-based approaches.

Having previously coordinated community development and training programmes in remote parts of Ethiopia, Seifu has a similar passion for linking community development to conservation. Indeed, he says his favorite experiences thus far in the AWF programme have been

engaging with the AWF Conservation Schools and conservation enterprise programmes.

Tambara joins AWF from the University of Zimbabwe, where he was a researcher. This summer, he faced a difficult dilemma: to pursue a Ph.D. on scholarship at Stellenbosch University in South Africa or to join the CMTP. "I weighed the two options based on my career ambitions and passion and what I needed in order to achieve these," he explains. "I realised CMTP was the best way for me."

## Comprehensive training

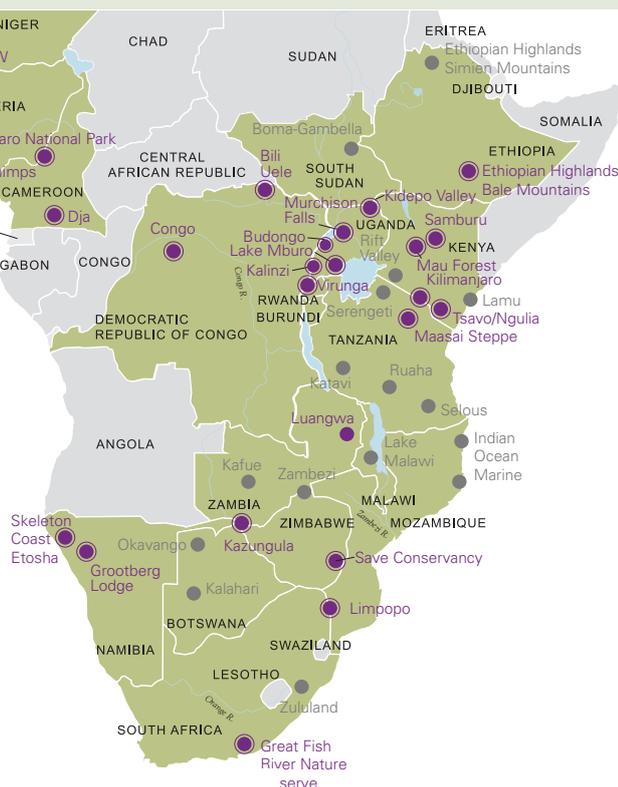
AWF's two-year CMTP provides comprehensive conservation training for young professionals. To be eligible for the programme, individuals must have graduated with a master's degree within the last three years and have at least one year of experience working on African conservation issues. ■

# How AWF Approaches Conservation

AWF achieves conservation impact in Africa by focussing 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 km<sup>2</sup> to 95,000 km<sup>2</sup>. 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. In each landscape, AWF works closely with partners and stakeholders—including national and local governments, communities, research organisations, other NGOs and the private sector—to develop



● Current Projects ● Aspirational Projects

priority conservation actions specific to the area. AWF works in the following strategic areas: land conservation, species protection, conservation enterprise, education and capacity building, and climate change. Policy is a cross-cutting theme that underscores all of AWF's programmes. ■