

# African Heartland News

August - December 2008

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARTNERS OF THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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## Using Technology To Research Leopards In Limpopo Heartland

Leopards (*panthera pardus*) are shy, solitary and nocturnal animals with extensive home ranges. They are masters at camouflaging in vegetation and therefore are difficult to sight and track. Given this, tourist sightings of leopards are always greeted with great joy. The population and distribution of leopards has decreased over the years due to a wide range of threats to the extent that they are now classified as 'near threatened species'. Some of the management challenges facing leopards today include the difficulties of accurately ascertaining their status; distribution and population trends which are critical for developing effective conservation measures. This arises from leopard's solitary behavior and the difficulty of sighting them. Conventional methods of counting animals do not yield accurate estimates of leopards making conservation planning challenging. Effective leopard research therefore requires the use of innovative methods including direct and indirect observation using a wide range of technology.

In late 2007, AWF established an applied science project aimed at contributing to leopard conservation in the Limpopo Heartland, Southern Africa. This project is led by Nakedi Maputla and will cover Kruger National Park and the surrounding areas in South Africa and Mozambique. This research is currently conducted from the Singita-Kruger National Park concession area where there are healthy populations of leopard. The aim of the project is to increase the knowledge of leopard ecology and its interaction with other large carnivores and humans in

multi-use landscape. Specific objectives include: determining the population status of leopards on the different adjacent land-uses; habitat use and ranging patterns within and across land-use types; key threats to leopards in the Kruger NP – Mozambique mosaic; prey species abundance, in relation to conflicts with humans; and initiating conflict mitigation measures and institutional capacity.



During its inception, the project built on data from tourism game drive sightings that were held by the Singita concession. Analysis of these records provided information on location, relative numbers and other characteristics. Furthermore Nakedi was

able to estimate numbers, identify suitable leopard habitat, and design methods for sampling using camera traps. Camera traps provide a simple non-invasive way of monitoring shy and secretive animals with relatively large home ranges such as leopards. Based on site sampling in the Singita concession, Nakedi has now installed nine digital camera traps for leopard monitoring. The photograph captures are uploaded on his computer and uses unique spot patterns on the flanks, legs, as well as the face to mark each individual and to allocate them with identity numbers. He then analyses the records through mark-recapture methodology to establish the numbers. Results obtained so far indicate that there are 19 leopards in the area. However more work still has to be done. More cameras have to be installed to improve coverage for monitoring. Two leopards will also be collared with GPS collars with cell phone download to expand

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## LETTER FROM HELEN

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A year ago we embarked on a process to prioritize a series of new Heartlands around Africa as part of AWF's expansion process and especially with a view to grow our program into West Africa. Since its founding, AWF has focused on Eastern, Southern and Central Africa. To become a truly Pan African organization we decided that coverage of critical habitats in Africa and a program in West Africa were key steps that would complement other organizational actions we are taking to realize this commitment. The process led to prioritization of several Heartlands around Africa and a few in West Africa. AWF has now opened an office in Accra, Ghana to serve as the launching pad for our work in the region with the first programmatic investments expected in Parc W in 2009.

We continue to deepen our program around the rest of the continent. In this issue we share with you some recent successes and challenges. In our land and habitat conservation program, AWF is implementing a series of lease programs to secure critical wildlife corridors. The first 50 leases were signed in October 2008 and help to secure critical land units that are part of the Amboseli -Chyulu corridor in Kenya. Another 75 leases were signed in December 2008 to enable us secure the link with between Amboseli and Kimana sanctuary and prevent the fragmentation from unregulated tourism development and other threats arising from land subdivision. Additional creative initiatives will however be needed for their long term conservation to be assured.

On the enterprise front we continue to improve our systems, process and tools for rapid development of sustainable tourism enterprises and to diversify to agribusinesses that help complement wildlife conservation. Clouds Mountain Lodge supported by AWF and IGCP was opened in June despite some challenges occasioned by contention over allocation of Mt.

gorilla permits to this community. This is the first high end lodge wholly owned by a local community focusing on Mt. gorilla tourism and opens the way for such deals in Uganda. AWF and IGCP accomplished a similar first through the opening of the Sabyo Silver back lodge in Rwanda. The program is also racing ahead in the Kazungula HL with several tourism facilities in various stages of the AWF enterprise process. In this issue we report on the Ngoma lodge in Botswana. In Kenya we began to implement a livestock marketing project (linking livestock markets to conservation) in partnership with the Ole Pejeta Conservancy and the Northern Rangelands Trust, covering Samburu Heartland. Already, 200 cattle have been purchased in the first 6 months of the project providing almost US\$110,000 to local landowners in the region.

Our species program has also expanded with the launching of our carnivore research program in Limpopo heartland, with a focus on understanding the status, distribution and population trends in order to improve their conservation. Nakedi our researcher has installed camera traps to help improve observation of these solitary animals. An avid and natural blogger, updates and snippets of his interesting every day activities are available on the AWF blog at <http://www.awf.org/leopardblog>.

AWF continues to strengthen its commitment to developing the capacity of African nationals for conservation leadership and management. The current commitment to 3 Master's students from South Sudan who are studying in Moi University in Kenya; 5 diploma students in Mweka Wildlife College in Tanzania and some to be selected among Namibians for Masters program in University of Namibia attests to this. Along with other NGOs in Sudan, AWF is keen to contribute to help this country that has managed to maintain significant wildlife populations under serious conflict improve their management in peace time.

I would like to thank all our supporters, partner NGOs, private sector, government and park authorities. The strength of our relationship has made it possible to overcome many obstacles faced in the quest to implement priority interventions in our 8 Heartlands spread across 11 host countries. We wish you all a happy 2009. We also look forward to stronger, fruitful relationships with you all in the coming year. ■

*Helen Gichohi*



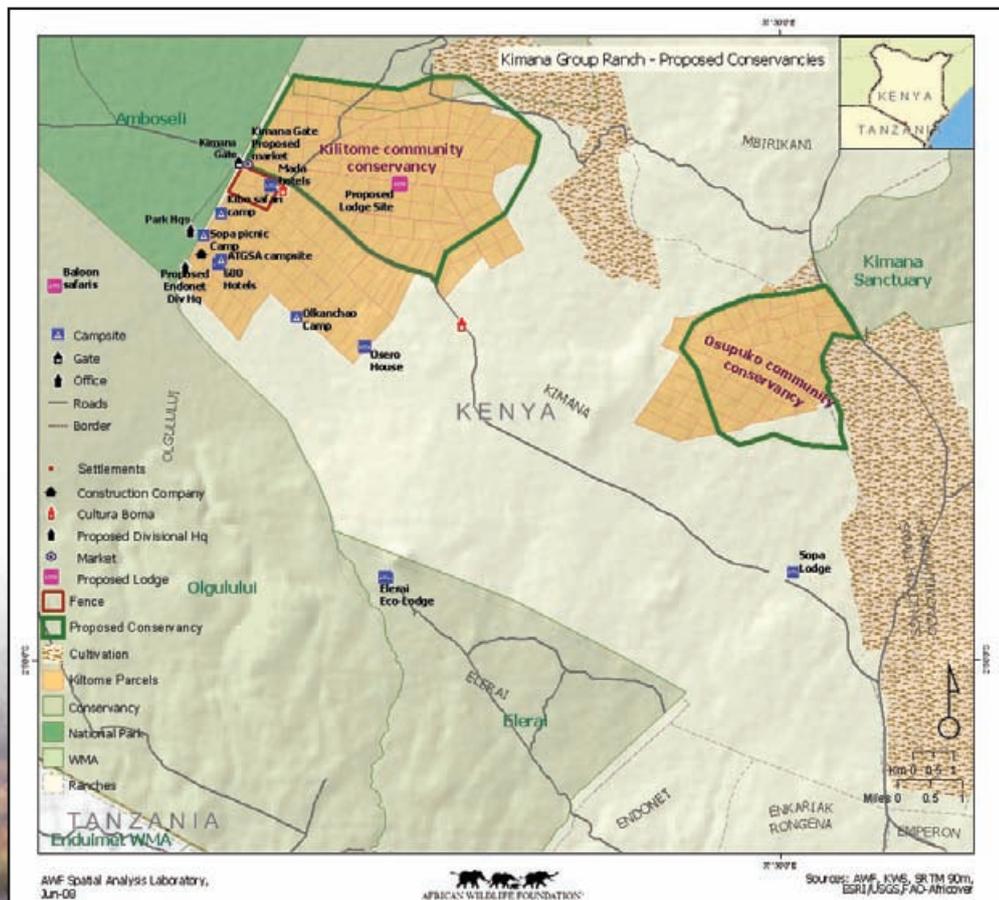
## LAND AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

### *Lease Program Established Around Amboseli National Park, Kenya*

This year, AWF launched an innovative program in Kilimanjaro Heartland that uses direct payments via conservation leases to secure an important dispersal area and corridor that extends from Amboseli National Park to Kimana Sanctuary to Chyulu and Tsavo West National Park via community land (group ranch land) in southern Kenya. This corridor is critical for the survival of Amboseli National Park as most of the wildlife depend on areas outside of the Park. Amboseli National Park is the third largest earner of foreign currency from wildlife tourism in Kenya. The corridor provides important habitat for elephants and other species, but it is severely threatened by land use changes, such as agriculture and development. Communities dissatisfied with the communal group ranch system have resorted to subdivision of the group ranches. Kimana Group Ranch, in which the important corridor traverses, is one of the ranches. It has sub-divided land into 60 acre plots that have been allocated to households. Because of its proximity to the Park and related value for tourism, land ownership has triggered huge demand for land from speculators and buyers interested in tourism development. Since there are very limited uses beyond pastoralism, agriculture and tourism to which

the land can be put to, most of the households who lack capital for tourism development have resorted to selling land or farming. Currently about 17 tourism facilities have been approved for development in the corridor area which will potentially block the corridor, create congestion in the Park, affect the integrity of the Park and put wildlife populations at risk.

The main threat to the corridor is driven by the demand for land. The conservation lease program provides a direct economic strategy to counter sale of land in the short term. The program began late last year with awareness raising, formation of community institutions – landowners associations – to partner with AWF in negotiations for the leases. AWF recently leased 3,000 acres from 50 landowners in Osupuko adjacent to Kimana Sanctuary and has an additional 4,500 acres from 75 landowners in Kilitome adjacent to Amboseli National Park. Both leases are at an annual fee of \$6 per acre. The fee is paid upon signature of a conservation lease agreement that stipulates land use restrictions aimed at safeguarding the corridor. AWF is also working with the community to engage scouts that will monitor landowner compliance with the lease restrictions. Osupuko and Kilitome are critical stepping stones in the larger corridor. ■



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Securing of Mambova Corridor, Kazungula

The Mambova corridor with an area of 3,000 ha is one of the last remaining spaces that facilitate the movement of wildlife especially elephants from Chobe National Park, Botswana, through the conservancies in Caprivi, Namibia into the community lands in southern Zambia. The corridor is threatened by settlements, farming and an expanding Kazungula town. AWF is currently working with the Sekute community to secure this corridor. Already good progress has been made including securing community support, demarcating the corridor boundaries and erecting beacons. AWF is also developing economic incentives through the establishment of Machenje Fishing Camp and Easements for Education to provide benefits to the community and consolidate their support for conservation of the corridor for the long term.

### Support to Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia

AWF continues to support the improvement of the Lower Zambezi National Park into an effectively managed protected area. AWF has helped to build a ranger house for park staff so that they can live and manage the park from close by. This year, with participation of all relevant stakeholders, AWF revised the General Management Plan for the park and presented it to the Zambia Wildlife Authority for ratification. When ratified, the plan will provide guidelines for the management of the park. This work is implemented in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.



## Clouds Mountain Gorilla Lodge Opens For Business In Uganda

In June 2008, the Clouds Mountain Ecolodge opened for business as scheduled. The tourism Lodge is located high up in the mountains of southwestern Uganda and on the edge of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. It is the result of a unique partnership between the Nkuringo community, the African Wildlife Foundation through the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), and a leading private operator. IGCP is a coalition program of World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Fauna and Flora International and the African Wildlife Foundation. The lodge was developed with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the PRIME/West Project, the private sector and AWF and is the first of its kind in Uganda. The lodge is part of IGCP's tri-national program to protect the highly endangered mountain gorilla.

The Lodge is owned by the Nkuringo community through the Nkuringo Community Development Foundation (NCDF) and is managed by the Uganda Safari Company, a leading private tourism operator. It focuses exclusively on up-market gorilla tourism. Visitors to the Lodge come to view Uganda's Nkuringo group of mountain gorillas which range on the southeastern edge of Bwindi Impenetrable Park and were habituated for tourism only since 2004. The lodge has 10 comfortable stone cottages with a capacity of 20 guests, a main building that includes a reception area, dining room, and lounge. When at the lodge, guests have breathtaking views of lush montane rainforest of the Virunga Volcanoes. Income from the Lodge that will accrue to NCDF will be invested in community development projects such as improving roads, education and healthcare.

The evolution of the lodge is an interesting milestone for conservation in Uganda although it has recently elicited a lot of discussions, criticisms and even legal challenges from stakeholders in the gorilla tourism industry. The central issue has been that the decision by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) to award a majority of the gorilla permits to the community so that they may benefit from tourism through the lodge has been viewed as amounting to a 'monopoly' that discriminates against other players in the gorilla tourism industry. In this edition, we shall trace the evolution of the lodge in order to shed more light on the matter.

The lodge is designed to protect the dispersal habitat of the critically endangered mountain gorilla and provide direct benefits to the Nkuringo community. Before the Nkuringo area was opened up for tourism, the community used to bear the costs of gorilla conservation in the area. Research showed that gorillas used to spend over 55% of their time ranging on community lands, destroying crops upon which community livelihoods depended and increasing the risk of disease transmission. This risk was highlighted in the mid-2000 when gorillas contracted scabies



resulting from their interaction with human settlements. In order to mitigate this grave risk to the gorilla group, the need to secure the home range of the group became an urgent priority. On the other hand, communities used to spend a lot of their productive time guarding their farms and chasing gorillas back to the park. This situation exacerbated poverty in the area and increased hostility towards the gorillas. At that time, UWA could not start gorilla tourism to provide benefits to the community because the gorillas foraged on community rather than state land. Knowing that gorilla conservation in the area could not succeed without community support UWA, IGCP and other partners started working with the community to develop a lasting

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Third Wildlife Survey of Lomako Yokokala FR, Democratic Republic of Congo**

A third wildlife survey was conducted in the Lomako Yokokala Faunal Reserve (RFLY) in the DRC. The reserve has high biodiversity of rare and endangered species e.g. bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), Congo Peafowl (*Afropavo congensis*), and Fanged deer (*Hyemoschus aquaticus*). Between the 1970s and 1990s before the civil war broke out in the country, the Reserve was a famous long-term bonobo research site though it was not legally protected. This survey conducted in late 2007, utilized the same methodology as the previous ones to allow comparison of results. This included using nine transects totalling 450 kilometres. The survey team comprised of selected representatives of the local community, trained by AWF and now agents of Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Congolese Protected Area Authority. The results which were recently released show a sharp increase in numbers of bonobo nests recorded along transects (from 0.27nest/km to 0.7nests/km), and an increased number of traces of forest elephants and water chevrotain. The rapid increase in bonobo signs is corroborated by community reports of more frequent encounters with bonobos in and around the re-activated research site at Ndele, where bonobo habituation is taking place. Hunting pressure appeared to have decreased significantly. However, the decreased relative abundance of some other primate species calls for a more in-depth analysis of the impact of human activities on large mammals in the reserve. In addition, with support from United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), AWF and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) is carrying out a systematic, large scale surveys that will generate information needed for modeling suitability of bonobo habitat within the landscape.

### **National Grevy's Zebra Conservation Strategy, Kenya**

In June 2008, AWF and partners provided support that enabled the Kenya Wildlife Service to develop and adopt the national Grevy's Zebra conservation strategy. Because most of the Grevy's Zebra are in community lands, the strategy has a strong community based component. The strategy is now the focal point for coordinating conservation efforts for the Grevy's zebra. Dr. Paul Mworira, the AWF researcher was nominated to sit on the technical committee that will guide implementation of the strategy. Current research shows that the population of the species has stabilized.

### **Wildlife Census in Banhine, Mozambique**

AWF has supported two aerial wildlife censuses (in 2004 and 2007) in Banhine National Park Mozambique as part of its overall support towards improving the management of the park. The survey was based on block sampling of the park's major landscapes. Results show conspicuous improvements in population numbers of ostrich, kudu, reedbuck, duiker, steenbok, and the increasingly rare oribi. In terms of distribution, results show that grasslands and wetlands which were once dominated by large herbivores are now dominated by medium and small ungulates. To restore the Banhine NP's ecosystems' balance, AWF and the government of Mozambique are exploring the possibility of re-introducing large herbivores (buffalo, sable, tsetsebe, hartebeest, zebra, and wildebeest) into the park. Aerial census results suggest that the support of AWF in rehabilitation of the park's infrastructure and re-establishment of management systems have led to improved performance of many wildlife species.

## AWF Expanding Program To West Africa

In April 2008, AWF opened an office in Accra Ghana. An AWF representative at this office, Amy Wiedemann, is now consulting stakeholders, identifying where AWF can play a role in addressing conservation needs, exploring the partnerships that should be initiated and what programs should be developed. This exciting development marks the beginning of AWF expansion into West Africa. For many years, AWF has focused on eastern, central and southern Africa. Our mission and focus compels us to look more broadly at the African continent to cover critical habitat types in our program portfolio in order to become a truly pan-African organization, hence the expansion into West Africa. This expansion also comes at an interesting time for the AWF. The program has developed a suite of program tools and approaches that can be replicated at scale to achieve rapid impacts in other regions including West Africa.

The drive to expand to other regions began a few years ago. An internal priority setting process was conducted to identify possible sites for scoping. The process used three criteria to inform selection of potential sites: biological significance and threat index of site; possibility of increasing representation of major habitat types beyond Savanna where we typically work; and feasibility of work at the site. Using these criteria, various sites were selected in West Africa including Gola Forest, a Guinean forest of global importance and Parc W complex. Early this year, a multidisciplinary team conducted an in-depth field scoping visit to investigate program feasibility in the two sites and selected Parc W for immediate investment.

Parc W is a transboundary park shared by Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin. It has high biodiversity value and is the largest intact Sahelian savanna area with viable populations of wildlife in West Africa. Some of the main species found in the park include elephants, lions, leopards, giraffe, various other ungulates and a wide diversity of plant, aquatic and bird species. The Niger River is the most important water system of the area. A large proportion of the area of the Park lies in Benin. Although there are different conservation regimes in three countries, there is a lot of transboundary collaboration in the management of the park. Critical threats facing the park include desertification and habitat degradation, competition between humans and wildlife particularly between wildlife and nomadic pastoralists, incompatible agriculture, poaching, abuse of hunting quotas, lack of management capacity and low government investments in conservation. In the past, the park benefitted from extensive investments from the

European Union but they missed out on capacity building because most of the work was done using consultants.

Based on the threats and conservation needs, AWF has been able to identify potential programmatic interventions based on the four strategic areas of program that will form the basis for discussions with the authorities, partners and other stakeholders on a long term program.

Expanding an organization's program to new areas can be a risky venture. A solid strategy is fundamental for success. In the past 15 years, AWF has expanded its program to two other regions beyond its traditional



base in eastern Africa. Key lessons have been learnt and experiences gained that have been synthesized into principles that now guide growth and entry strategies into new areas. These principles include a scientific basis for new heartlands; well planned and phased growth; proper consultations with partners\stakeholders; decision points based on financial triggers; attention to supporting services and organizational capacities; and an initial light staff model with targeted support for selected program work through partners.

This expansion presents great prospects for AWF in its quest to become a truly pan-African conservation organization and fulfill its mission of *'working together with the people of Africa to ensure that the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever.'* ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### AWF Appoints Regional Director For Eastern Africa

AWF is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sam Kanyambwa to serve as the Regional Director for Eastern Africa. Sam will oversee AWF programs in the Heartlands located in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. However this will not cover the Congo Heartland. Sam brings a proven track record and wealth of experience in conservation in the region to AWF. Before coming to AWF, Sam served in various capacities including the Regional Representative of WWF in Eastern Africa, Head of Africa Program at UNEP and later as a consultant on conservation issues in the Albertine Rift. He holds a Ph.D. in Natural population dynamics and studied 'White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* in relation to the wintering conditions in Africa', at the Université des Sciences et Techniques du Languedoc (USTL) and Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive (CEFE/CNRS), Montpellier, France.



### Regional Office for Southern Africa Opened in Johannesburg



AWF has now opened a Regional Office for the Southern Africa Program in Rosebank, Johannesburg, South Africa. Its is headed by the Regional Director, Dr. Simon Munthali who coordinates AWF's programs in Southern African countries of Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe covering three Hearlands. He also liaises with other regional bodies in the region, such as NEPAD and SADC. Simon joined AWF in 2003, and has been the Regional Director for a year. Before joining AWF, he used to head the Southern Africa Development Community's Wildlife Coordination Unit from 1996 to 1998; and was Chief Technical Advisor from 1998-2003 for the World Bank's Transfrontier Conservation Areas project which included Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. He holds a PhD in Ichthyology obtained from Rhodes University, RSA.

### AWF Holds Biennial Staff Meeting

In August 2008, AWF held the first ever biennial meeting at the Kenya Commercial Bank Training Center, Nairobi, Kenya. This meeting was attended by the vast majority of AWF staff from all the offices in Africa. During the meeting staff got to interact with one another, the program was extensively discussed and new strategic direction crafted for the organization. The meeting helped staff to fully understand the broad picture of AWF work and how they contribute to overall goals.



## CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### *Support To Southern Sudan – Diploma And Charlotte Fellows*

Southern Sudan has recently emerged from a brutal civil war that cost the lives of thousands of Sudanese people. Recent wildlife surveys by conservation organizations have found significant populations of wildlife including elephants, lechwe, lions, buffalo and kobs that survived the war. This is complete contrast to other countries that have experienced war like Mozambique, Uganda, Angola, and Democratic Republic of Congo where civil war led to the decimation of wildlife populations. During this post-war reconstruction period, one of the major threats facing wildlife in Southern Sudan is the limited institutional and human capacity. There is urgent need to therefore strengthen the capacity of government institutions and staff so that they can effectively manage the rich wildlife populations. In 2008, AWF has responded to this need by providing scholarships to train 8 staff of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife Conservation and Tourism of the Government of Southern Sudan in Wildlife Management. Three of the fellowships have been awarded to train staff at the Masters level in order to develop conservation leadership while five fellowships have been awarded to train staff at the diploma level in order to equip them with practical hands on skills and expertise that are urgently required to manage protected areas and wildlife. In this edition, we introduce the AWF supported fellows from Southern Sudan. ■



Paul Demetry (centre with civilian clothes), AWF fellow in the field with rangers

### *Charlotte fellows*

All three of AWF's 2008 Charlotte Fellows are pursuing a Masters of Philosophy in Wildlife Management at Moi University's School of Natural Resources Management in Kenya. They are Baya Philip Brown Ngere, Paul Lado Demetry Jubek and Ms. Lona Nalurit Darius Gore.

Baya is an Assistant Inspector of Research in the Directorate of Wildlife Services. He is interested in Wildlife population ecology. His research will focus on the population dynamics elephant populations in Nimule National Park. This information will be critical for the general park management planning expected to commence in the near future.

Lona is an Assistant Inspector for Research and Training within the Ministry. She is interested in conservation education. Her research will focus on human-wildlife conflict in Badingilo National Park. She hopes to contribute to building better conservation management in southern Sudan through improved conservation education.

Paul is an Assistant Inspector for Natural Heritage and serves as a member of the Environment Policy taskforce that is developing the country's Environmental Policy. His research will focus on identifying and mitigating threats to the Nile lechwe

(antelope) within the Sudd Wetland, one of the world's largest. He is interested in conservation biology and environmental impact assessment and hopes to advance wildlife research in southern Sudan ■



Mweka Diploma fellows

### *Diploma fellows*

All the diploma fellows are pursuing their studies at the College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka Tanzania which is a center of excellence in wildlife training in Anglophone Africa. The fellowship covers all the costs of training. Four of the fellows are pursuing a one-year postgraduate diploma in wildlife management while one is pursuing a two-year ordinary diploma in wildlife management. The fellows are: Charles Laku Losio 'Reverend'; Edward Odhuk Amum; David Lado Yokwe; Emmanuel Mawa and

Emmen Nelson Emmy. When they have completed their studies, these fellows should return to Southern Sudan to contribute to wildlife management. One fellow, Charles, hopes to re-establish the Conservation Education Unit in the Ministry; re-introduce Wildlife Clubs in secondary schools across the country. This has the potential for creating awareness and recruiting young generations for sustainable conservation. ■

## AWF Experience In Implementing The WMA Policy In Tanzania

The concept of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) was first introduced in the draft 1998 Wildlife Policy of Tanzania (WPT) as a new mechanism for protecting natural resources in village lands through local communities' participation. Almost 10 years later, the policy has now been made operational. The overall policy goal of WMAs is to increase the direct economic benefits that communities in wildlife-rich areas accrue from the wildlife on village lands, and to increase the responsibility and authority of local communities for wildlife management decisions in these areas. A couple of NGOs have been selected by the Government of Tanzania to pilot the policy in the country including AWF which focuses on three pilot sites – Enduimet, Burunge, Makame - in northern Tanzania. The policy requires any community seeking WMA status to follow a 13-step registration process that involves land use and resource planning, formation of community institutions among others.

Burunge (24,319 ha) was one of the first four pilot sites to fulfill the lengthy, 13-step registration process and be formally inaugurated as a WMA in July 2006. A year later in July 2007, Enduimet WMAs (55,000 ha) attained the status, leaving Makame (250,000 ha) as the only AWF facilitated pilot WMA that has not yet been registered. In providing facilitation, AWF has partnered closely with the USAID Tanzania, the Babati, Longido and Kiteto District Councils and village leadership. This brief article highlights the progress that the WMA process has made in three pilot sites facilitated by AWF namely Burunge, Enduimet and Makame.

As part of their registration processes, Burunge, Enduimet and Makame WMA completed Resource Management Zone Plans (RMZP) which now form the basis for managing the WMA. AWF in partnership with the Districts facilitated activities such as awareness raising, land use planning and ultimately the demarcation of designated land for the WMA. AWF also worked to establish and build the capacity of the CBO that runs each WMA. For Burunge, this is called Jumuiya ya Hifadhi ya Jamii Burunge (JUHIBU). In Enduimet, the association is known as Enduimet CBO

(Community Based Organization) and in Makame, it is called INDEMA.

### Key Achievements

Since their registration, the Burunge and Enduimet WMAs have achieved some economic, conservation and social development results, while Makame continues to struggle to complete the registration process. These are summarized below:

#### **New Income from Private Sector Tourism**

**Investment:** The Burunge WMA entered an agreement with a private investor, Kibo Safaris Ltd, for the development, management and operation of two tourism facilities, the Maramboi Tented Lodge and the Lake Burunge Tented Lodge. By 2008, the community earned Tshs. 117, 571,198 (US\$93,500) from this partnership. More than 50% of this income was distributed to the nine member villages and the rest has been distributed to support community development projects including the ongoing construction of three community secondary schools.

The increased number of tourists visiting and staying overnight in the WMA has created a ready market for several spin-off women's handicrafts groups. In 2007, the Mwada Mshikamano Women's Group realized a net income of US\$5,250 from sales to tented lodges and increasing tourists in the area. The women's handicraft business is now being replicated in Sangaiwe and Minjingu areas.

In Enduimet, two of the leading safari operators in the Northern Circuit (Hoopoe Tour Safari and Kibo Safaris Ltd) have agreed to sign a contract to develop tourism based ventures once the new regulations are finalized by Government. The WMA has developed a Tourism Plan and completed a scoping exercise to help prioritize enterprise activities for the next five years.

#### **Increased NRM Capacity and Reduced Poaching:**

In Burunge, more than 40 village community scouts have received formal training at the Pansiasi and Sekamaganga Game Scout

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Proposed support to Namibia

One of the critical challenges facing conservation in Namibia is the lack of human capacity. AWF is currently working with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Republic of Namibia to identify five fellows that will be supported to undertake a two-year Masters degree in Biodiversity Management and Research at the University of Namibia.

### Tourism Training for Partners in East Africa

Between May 2007 and March 2008, AWF in collaboration with a consortium of Dutch partners led by the Maastricht School of Management completed tailor made training in Sustainable tourism development and management for 42 partners from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. These partners were drawn from protected area agencies, local governments and local communities that are already managing tourism enterprises. The training was supported by the NUFFIC Fellowship Program of the Dutch Government.

### Capacity Building of National Land Trusts

In the past, AWF working with partners has helped to establish national land conservation trusts in Kenya and Tanzania as vehicles to assist landowners to conserve their lands in the respective countries. AWF is now helping to develop the capacity of the land trusts into viable institutions that can fulfill their mandate of holding critical conservation land units in trust for future generations. As part of capacity building, we have working with partners, developed the constitutions of the trusts, acquired and vested title for lands such as Manyara Ranch in the trusts and are now developing the staff and operational capacity of the trusts. This year, we have recruited Executive Directors for the two trusts that will provide leadership. Mr. Julian Fenessy has been appointed Executive Director of Kenya Land Conservation Trust while Mr. Rama Ngatoluwa has been appointed for the Tanzania Land Conservation Trust. Both of them bring commitment, experience and passion to the trusts. The recruitment of the two marks a real milestone in the growth and development of the two trusts.

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solution to this problem. Using research results on gorilla movement, UWA and IGCP identified the main gorilla problem area and negotiated to purchase farms from 239 community members creating a 4.2 km<sup>2</sup> buffer zone around southern part of the park that significantly reduced gorilla conflicts with the people. The purchase of land was done on the promise that UWA would provide incentives and benefits to the community through gorilla tourism to sustain their support for gorilla conservation because the community had demonstrated their willingness to relocate in support of conservation of gorillas. UWA then habituated the gorilla group which was now spending most of the time on former community land for gorilla tourism and signed an agreement with the community allocating them the majority of the gorilla viewing permits to help them generate benefits and incentives through tourism. Thereafter AWF/IGCP worked

with the community, secured funding, developed the community institution and provided technical support services that have resulted in the development of the lodge.

This lodge provides an example of how communities who bear the costs of wildlife conservation in Africa and in some cases, give up their land for conservation, should be compensated using sustainable mechanisms that generate sufficient benefits to secure their support for conservation for the long term. In this era, conservation and related tourism initiatives are bound to fail without community support and therefore initiatives like the Clouds Mountain Lodge deserve support from all stakeholders who care about sustainable wildlife conservation especially for globally endangered species like the mountain gorilla. ■



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Schools. These scouts conduct coordinated anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring patrols and promote conservation outreach among the nine WMA villages. The work of the community scouts has reduced incidences of poaching and continues to encourage village residents to adopt positive attitudes towards wildlife conservation.

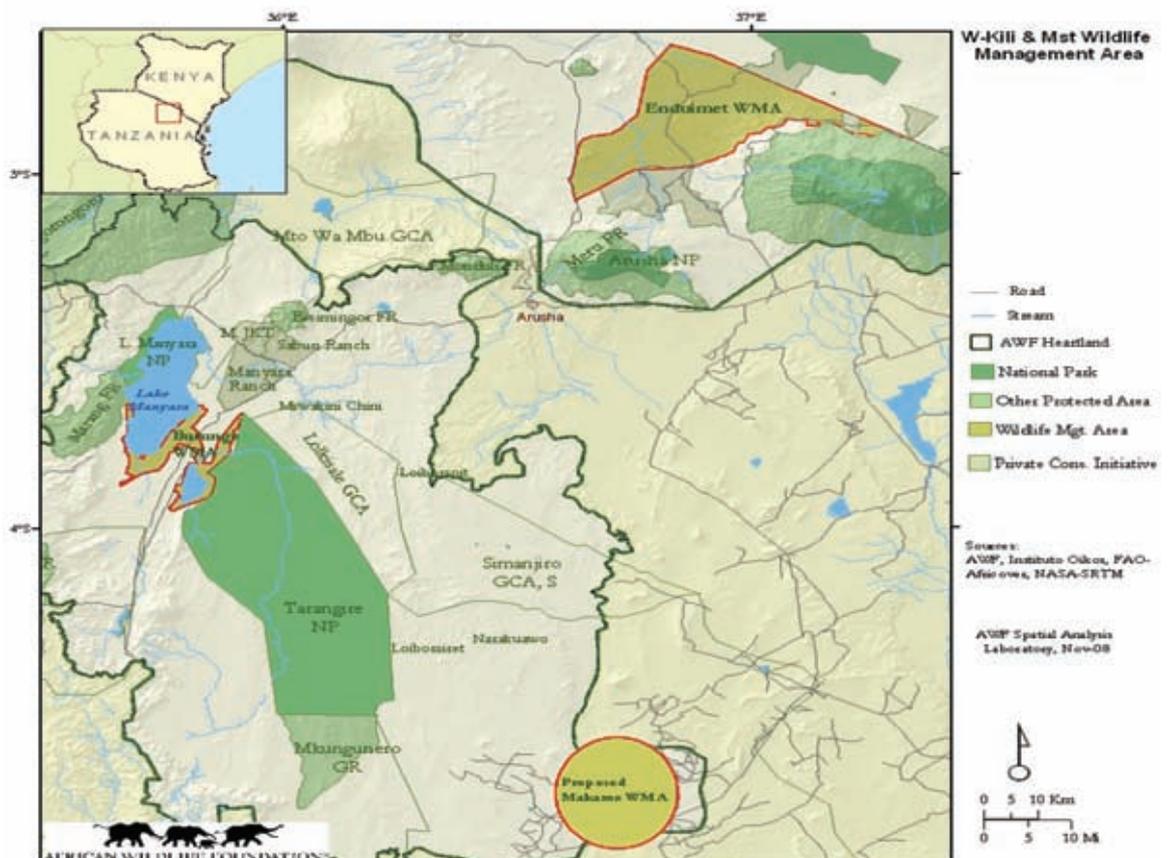
In Enduimet, 32 village community scouts are undertaking anti-poaching patrols. They have reduced not only poaching in the area but also human wildlife conflicts. AWF is also investigating the feasibility of providing watering facilities for people in three villages along critical wildlife corridors in the WMA as a way of reducing human wildlife conflicts.

### Challenges and Future Plans

We have learnt that legal registration is only the first milestone in creating the necessary systems and capacity to effectively manage the development of a WMA. Rather, WMAs must continue to increase their internal capacities, and in particular develop the skills needed to properly plan, operate, negotiate, and market tourism ventures, to monitor and conserve their natural resources, and to ensure the broad distribution of benefits.

The WMAs plan to pursue the following actions in the coming years in order to strengthen their CBOs into well managed institutions, build their capacity to effectively manage wildlife resources, and increase and diversify their revenue streams:

- Improve governance and ensure greater transparency of the CBO in order to effectively address misinformation that may hamper their success. Such misinformation includes rumors concerning government plans to grab land and annex it to Tarangire NP or on future restrictions to people's abilities to farm, graze and even collect firewood. Greater transparency, an adherence to prior, informed consent, and additional capacity building and awareness creation at the village levels will assist the WMA in overcoming the spread of such misinformation.
- Strengthen infrastructure development (particularly road and access ways) and fully equip village games scouts with transport and field equipment to improve the quality and efficiency of wildlife patrols. Presently, game scouts rely on walking and bows and arrows, while the poachers they are working to thwart are generally well armed and



travelling by 4x4 vehicles.

- Pursue additional and diverse conservation enterprise development including more photographic tourism facilities, sport fishing and water sports on Lake Burunge, a cultural tourism program among other.
- Construct WMA offices and recruit management and secretariat to improve how WMAs are managed.
- Build the capacity of WMAs in business planning, contracting and negotiation

skills, administration of equitable benefit sharing mechanisms among others.

The WMAs have only been operational for two years. Already, they have shown potential to become local drivers of economic development from natural resource management but also revealed some challenges that should be addressed. Because these are pilots, patience is required to learn, adapt and improve WMAs so that they can meet their goals. It is therefore foolhardy to write them off this early as many academicians and critics are already doing. ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### CBNRM Learning Project

This year AWF in partnership with Ford Foundation implemented the learning project whose aim was to document and share what has been learnt in Community Based Natural Resource Management in East Africa over the last 10 years. The lessons learnt and best practices documented will be shared widely with implementing partners, communities and policy makers at different levels of government so that they may be incorporated into projects and policy processes currently underway in East Africa.

### Kitengela Conservation Program Launched

In September 2008, AWF officially launched the Kitengela Conservation Program, Kenya. This program funded by USAID, will enable AWF working with partners and stakeholders to implement management efforts that address major threats to the existence and integrity of Nairobi National Park such as urban sprawl. The Kitengela ecosystem is critical to the survival of the park because it provides important migration and wet season dispersal areas for wildlife. This project has implications for land use policy and planning at the local government level in the conservation of wildlife areas threatened by human settlements.



## The African Wildlife Foundation's African Heartland Program

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

### What is a Heartland?

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

### Selecting and Establishing Heartlands

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



declared a Heartland when the resources needed to implement an effective program are secured.

### Working in AWF's Heartlands

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

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