I am extremely proud of all that Tusk stands for and what it continues to achieve. Tusk, and the people whom it supports, has an unsurpassed love of Africa, its people and its wildlife. The charity has earned its glowing reputation by investing in groundbreaking initiatives that help to provide a better future for growing communities and wildlife alike.

No one can rest on their laurels at this time. The hard work has only just begun. Africa is once again facing the scourge of illegal poaching that endangers the survival of many populations of elephant, rhino, and lion. The massive demand for wildlife products such as ivory, rhino horn or lion bone from consumers in the Far East has led to slaughter on an unprecedented scale. Tusk is one of many organisations working hard, in dangerous circumstances, to stop this murderous trade, which is a destabilising form of economic sabotage.

The men and women at the forefront of conservation in the face of this threat are often the unsung heroes of Africa’s economic and cultural development. I am therefore delighted that, through the launch of the Tusk Conservation Awards later in 2013, we will be able to celebrate and to recognise the remarkable work that these dedicated individuals do across Africa. Personally, I look forward enormously to supporting these Awards, and Tusk’s wider work, during the course of this year.

Africa’s unique and rich heritage must be preserved for our children and their children. It must be preserved for the world. We will not be the generation that let our guard down. Thank you for your continued support of Tusk Trust.
Welcome

Most importantly, Tusk has been able at this critical time to respond to the very severe escalation of poaching of both elephant and rhino populations across Africa with a series of initiatives which have resulted in a significant increase in awareness of this crisis, including the lead taken by our Royal Patron, The Duke of Cambridge, in making a public appeal for urgent action.

Working tirelessly

As set out in these pages, Tusk is working tirelessly with others to progress solutions, facilitating access of the conservation community to share ideas and pool resources.

This is an ongoing struggle to save the lives of countless animals and to protect their communities which, but for the work of these many organisations, would not survive.

Results for 2012

The year to 31st December 2012 was sound in terms of funds raised. Gross revenue of £2.5 million was achieved in the UK and US$927,400*$ in the US with £3,423,675* being paid out in support of our conservation, community and education programmes across Africa. A further £389,512* was earmarked for projects at the year-end but had not yet been expended. This has allowed us to build on the support for our core projects and develop new initiatives. The year has also seen a modest growth in the endowment fund in the Tusk Foundation to a level of £389,512*.

Year 2 of our five-year strategy to 2015

Tusk has continued to focus its development on four key themes adopted in 2011:

- Build on the conservation work to date – which includes nurturing our existing project portfolios, finding new quality project opportunities, and raising the profile of our work in appropriate settings to support the work of others;
- Secure financial robustness – continuing our efforts to maximise our endowment funds and other long-term sources of support, which includes maximizing our existing revenue bases in the UK, USA and across the world, achieving a top ranking ‘cost-to-income ratio’ in our peer group, and growing the Tusk Foundation;
- Broaden the support base – building on all our relationships around the world, with an ever-growing presence in the USA and among the next generation of conservationists; and
- Create internal capacity for growth and development – improving our due diligence network on projects, development of our global governance structure including the establishment of our Global Advisory Board, and adding resources in the team to cover this array of work.

Broad conservation themes

While much attention is naturally focused on the poaching crisis, Tusk is maintaining its emphasis on its three core areas of wildlife, communities and education – for which many examples of our progress and successes are set out in this edition of Tusk Talk. Reflecting the broad scope of valuable conservation work being carried out across the African continent, and our wish to bring encouragement and offer public recognition, we are delighted to have been able to launch the Tusk Conservation Awards (see pages 8–11) with support from our Royal Patron and Investec Asset Management.

This exciting new initiative will be an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and raise awareness of the extraordinary work carried out by so many in the world of African conservation.

Thank you

Thank you for your continued support. Tusk Talk contains an insight into the day-to-day work of Tusk and its family of relationships – it is inspiring and encouraging when so many challenges are ahead.

We are able to be effective only with the efforts of all our supporters and we will continue our work together for conservation in Africa. Thank you for all you have done for Tusk!

* Audited figures subject to final approval at AGM

2012 was a year of growth and development for Tusk, thanks to the generous support of so many people and organisations, we were able to build on the foundations of previous years to achieve record revenues and good control of costs, continuing support for projects, broaden our support base and raise awareness of the conservation issues that lie at the heart of Tusk’s work.

Chairman, Tusk Trust

Thank you for your continuing support.

The poaching crisis

This issue now occupies much of the commentary on African conservation, and rightly so, as a high stakes battle is being fought to protect elephant and rhino populations in the wild and fully understand the forces which are intent on their destruction.

In addition to funding short-term wildlife protection measures on the ground in Africa, Tusk has actively engaged in supporting work focused on obtaining accurate information from which to base a campaign of action aimed at all major parts of the ivory value chain, and we have contributed to building up relationships between influential specialists who can contribute to bringing solutions.

The CITES Conference held in March 2013 made some limited progress with its united call for seeking a reduction in demand for ivory, but the longer-term solutions lie in constructive engagement and considered action among responsible interests. These must address head on the international, economic and cultural issues underlying the crisis.

We continue to strive to do all we can to bring about such solutions, consistent with our broad responsibilities towards all our projects.

Tusk has not only been effective in the immediate response to the poaching crisis, but has also continued to build on its three core areas of wildlife, communities and education – for which many examples of progress and successes are set out in this edition of Tusk Talk.

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The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, one of Tusk’s most enduring conservation partners, has sadly lost 10 rhino to poachers over the last 12 months alone. The problem is escalating and the international community needs to take urgent action to halt this appalling destruction of Africa’s natural heritage. Not only are rhinos and elephants continuing to suffer staggering losses at the hand of man, but the lion too is now under increasing threat arising from the greed of illegal traders and the blind ignorance of consumers in the Far East seeking to buy ivory. Syndicates who traffic illegal drugs and are equally ruthless in their operations, and international criminal organisations have been identified as key players in the illegal poaching and sadly there is little good news to report on this front.

In the last edition of Tusk Talk we highlighted the growing crisis in the poaching sector, but I do wish to specifically acknowledge ICAP, Deutsche Bank and Investec Asset Management for their superb support this last year. ICAP and Deutsche Bank’s 2012 teams took the poaching crisis head on and their efforts have been a tremendous inspiration to us all. In 2012 the total funds allocated to projects amounted to £2,099,355, of which £383,675 was awaiting draw down at the year-end. Tusk UK’s grants totalled US$74,813. This investment has helped sustain the work undertaken by 16 projects in 18 countries, while Tusk’s PACE environmental education programme has now been implemented and taught in 26 countries.

Successful consolidation with local people

Our philosophy has always been to establish strong partnerships with the projects that we support – without a doubt, a successful conservation strategy requires long-term investment. Our strategic partnerships with the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Mikomani National Park, Mokolodi Nature Reserve, the Northern Rangelands Trust, Painted Dog Conservation, Lamu Turtle Conservation, Botswana Predator Conservation Trust, and Save The Rhino Trust Namibia are all prime examples of both the singular focus this trust has been able to bring to bear with local partners in order to tackle the poaching crisis.

The continuing need for conservation organisations like Tusk is self-evident. If after reading this edition of Tusk Talk you feel able to contribute to our ‘Anti-poaching Appeal Fund’, please do so. You will find a donor form attached on the last page.

Strong financial performances

On a more positive note, I am delighted to report that both Tusk Trust and Tusk USA produced strong financial performances in 2012 – a year when the UK charitable sector reported a 20% decrease in donor income due to the recession. Tusk Trust’s gross revenue amounted to £2,502,707, an increase of 9.1% on the previous year. Meanwhile, Tusk USA established an office in New York and sought to build on the profile created by the event in Los Angeles attended by The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in 2011. Tusk USA successfully generated £977,465 in revenue.

The invaluable support that The Duke of Cambridge continues to give Tusk through his patronage was once again demonstrated in 2012 when both he and the Duchess attended the UK premiere of Disney Nature’s beautifully filmed feature-length documentary, Africa. The Prince used the opportunity to help highlight the plight of Africa’s declining big cat population and the scourge of rhino and elephant poaching enveloping the continent. He followed up this message with an exclusive interview with Kate Silverton for the BBC in June, when he travelled to Port Lympne in Kent to support the translocation by DHL of three black rhino to Mikomani in Tanzania (see pages 18–20). The Prince’s comments were widely reported by the world’s media and his contribution has been immensely helpful in raising the profile of this issue on the international stage. Tusk continues to be managed by a small and dedicated team numbering just ten staff (four of whom are full time), split between UK, USA and Kenya. They continue to liaise with our extensive portfolio of project partners, providing logistical, financial and marketing support, whilst also organising a busy and varied programme of fundraising events. In addition to the Royal Premiere, the highlights were a dinner sponsored by Artemis Investment Management at the Middle Temple in London and a highly successful Friends of Tusk USA evening sponsored by Invotech Asset Management at The Explorer’s Club in New York just four days after Hurricane Sandy hit Manhattan.

The annual American Express Conservation Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society provided perhaps the hardest hitting lecture of this long-prominent series. It was given by Ian Craig and Stes Tarrant and focused on the ivory trade. We were also honoured that the UK’s Environment Minister, Richard Benyon MP, saw the opportunity to emphasise the Government’s support of Tusk’s work and recognition of the urgent need to address the poaching crisis. Once again our largest event was the annual Safari Marathon at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. With over 1,200 runners taking part the hugely popular event produced a fantastic profit of US$475,000, which our Trustees were delighted to allocate to a wide range of conservation, community and education projects across Kenya. We remain indebted to Safaricom for their title sponsorship of this world-renowned marathon and on pages 26–33 we showcase some of the enormous benefits that the event has brought to communities and wildlife alike. The continued and enthusiastic participation of many of our corporate partners has assured the financial success of this unique event. Deutsche Bank’s 2012 team took home the trophy as the highest fundraiser. Many congratulations!

Tusk Trust remains committed to its mission and is being generously sponsored by Invotech Asset Management with additional support from Dow Fergison, Tiffany & Co, The Draycott Hotel, British Airways, and Land Rover. These prestigious new awards are open to anyone working in conservation in Africa. Our aim is to recognise and salute the many heroes of conservation in Africa and shine a spotlight on their amazing work.

The expanding need for the ‘Tusk Conservation Awards’ (see pages 8–11), which will feature an annual lifetime achievement award for conservation in Africa, the ‘initiatives recognises that the initiative is being generously sponsored by Invotech Asset Management with additional support from Dow Fergison, Tiffany & Co, The Draycott Hotel, British Airways, and Land Rover. These prestigious new awards are open to anyone working in conservation in Africa. Our aim is to recognise and salute the many heroes of conservation in Africa and shine a spotlight on their amazing work.

Finally I wish to thank our very many individual, corporate, and trust donors across the world for your generosity in 2012 – far too numerous to mention, but I do wish to specifically acknowledge ICAP, British Airways, DHL, Land Rover, American Express, Artemis Investment Management, The BlackRock, Deutsche Bank and Investec Asset Management with additional support from Dow Fergison, Tiffany & Co, The Draycott Hotel, British Airways, and Land Rover. These prestigious new awards are open to anyone working in conservation in Africa. Our aim is to recognise and salute the many heroes of conservation in Africa and shine a spotlight on their amazing work.

I am very grateful to all of our Trustees for both the advice and their donations across the world for their Parton, The Duke of Cambridge, for his deep support to building an ability to support the translocation by DHL of three black rhino to Mikomani in Tanzania (see pages 18–20). The Prince’s comments were widely reported by the world’s media and his contribution has been immensely helpful in raising the profile of this issue on the international stage. Tusk continues to be managed by a small and dedicated team numbering just ten staff (four of whom are full time), split between UK, USA and Kenya. They continue to liaise with our extensive portfolio of project partners, providing logistical, financial and marketing support, whilst also organising a busy and varied programme of fundraising events. In addition to the Royal Premiere, the highlights were a dinner sponsored by Artemis Investment Management at the Middle Temple in London and a highly successful Friends of Tusk USA evening sponsored by Invotech Asset Management at The Explorer’s Club in New York just four days after Hurricane Sandy hit Manhattan. The annual American Express Conservation Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society provided perhaps the hardest hitting lecture of this long-prominent series. It was given by Ian Craig and Stes Tarrant and focused on the ivory trade. We were also honoured that the UK’s Environment Minister, Richard Benyon MP, saw the opportunity to emphasise the Government’s support of Tusk’s work and recognition of the urgent need to address the poaching crisis. Once again our largest event was the annual Safari Marathon at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. With over 1,200 runners taking part the hugely popular event produced a fantastic profit of US$475,000, which our Trustees were delighted to allocate to a wide range of conservation, community and education projects across Kenya. We remain indebted to Safaricom for their title sponsorship of this world-renowned marathon and on pages 26–33 we showcase some of the enormous benefits that the event has brought to communities and wildlife alike. The continued and enthusiastic participation of many of our corporate partners has assured the financial success of this unique event. Deutsche Bank’s 2012 team took home the trophy as the highest fundraiser. Many congratulations!

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PROJECT UPDATE

OUR WORLD IS DIVERSE AND COVERS A VAST AREA IN 18 COUNTRIES AROUND AFRICA. Highlighted here are seven of the current 56 projects and, to help you locate where they are, each is numbered with their position shown on the globe.

WALIKI REHABILITATION PROJECT

Established in 2003, the Mali Elephant Project (MEP) is a long-term initiative aiming to protect a unique population of 559 individually-identified elephants in the dry savanna woodlands south of southern Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan became independent on July 9, 2011. Southern National Park (SNP), South Sudan’s oldest national park, was historically known for its large numbers of elephants, buffaloes, giant and fringe-eared oryx, as well as its northern white rhino population. This park, like many protected areas, was severely poached during the civil war. Nevertheless, findings today indicate that key populations remain even though the wildlife is under threat from local poaching and insecurity. Conclusively, the present focus of SNP management is to support access to the Park through a simple network of roads and airstrips, as well as equipping, supporting and training a small-cadre of scouts. This will establish a basic presence and provide a foundation for the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCRT) and Flora and Fauna International to design and plan a long-term programme of park rehabilitation. Good steady progress has been made. In this regard with the training of nearly 100 rangers, provision of field equipment, establishment of radio monitoring and mapping capabilities, the development of a surveillance network, provision of training in SNP and logistical and administrative support teams. Given the enormity of SNP, the single biggest need is establishing a robust communications system. Task this recent funding will enable the staff next step.

LOCAL SCOUT TRUST

The Western area of Kenya’s coast is internationally renowned for its outstanding natural beauty, its diverse habitat and abundant wildlife and the local people. The Local Ocean Trust (LOT) was established in 2002 to promote the conservation and protection of special marine areas and endangered species in the region through community development, education, research and campaigning.

This project’s original flagship programme, Watamu Turtle Watch (WTW), works to protect Kenya’s endangered turtle population. WTW’s programmes include: a highly successful Bird-by-Catch and Net Release programmes with over 6,750 turtles released since its inception; the only Turtle Rehabilitation Centre in East Africa; a Need Protection and Monitoring Programme; as well as an Education Programme that works with school children, tourists, hotels, and local community. Task its’ first grant to LOT will enable Watamu to reach out to its growing audience, with the trust recently jumping on the bandwagon of screening shorts on marine conservation at schools and public venues in Watamu.

SPACE FOR GIANTS

Outside of the Masai Mara National Reserve, Lalibela contains a large population of large mammals than any other wildlife park in Kenya. The district is also home to the second largest elephant population in the country, currently about 1,000 individuals. Over the last three years there has been a dramatic surge in illegal killing of elephants in the Laikipia/Garissa ecosystem for the ivory trade. Under these circumstances, elephant in the Laikipia ecosystem are under very serious threat.

A new rapid-response team, consisting of highly trained Kenyan Police Personnel combined with Kenya Wildlife Service personnel, is currently being established. Task funding will allow Space for Giants to recruit and train 20 new scouts and a Monitoring Illegal Killing Unit. Logistic funding will allow Space for Giants to provide emergency response to the removal of dead elephants from the Ewaso Ng’iro River.

African elephant is the world’s largest land mammal. This magnificent species has been threatened by habitat loss for centuries and poaching for decades. An estimated that as many as 30,000 elephants are poached from the Laikipia ecosystem annually. These threats are compounded by the recent surge in illegal killing of elephants for their ivory.

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AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVANCY

During the annual migration, some 50 million elephants, with a migratory herbivores move out of the Serengeti National Park and onto community land and then onto the Masai Mara in Kenya. OloloSokwan community, which remains adjacent to the Serengeti and provides an important link between the National Park and the Masai Mara. When passing through the community areas, the wildlife is at risk of being poached. It is estimated that as many as 2,500 to 3,000 wildlife are poached from the Serengeti National Park every year.

In collaboration with the Mpalpe Research Centre and Save the Elephants, SFG will train 40 staff from archives, conservancies and community organisations in the region on the systematic collection and reporting of data on elephant poaching and associated incidents. This will enable measurable areas of greatest need to be identified and management efforts channelled accordingly.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT PROJECT

OloloSokwan Conservancy (ORP), within the Kajiado North District, is the largest community-owned membership organisation in Kenya. ORP is a community-owned membership organisation and provides a foundation for the link between the National Park and the Masai Mara. When passing through the community areas, the wildlife is at risk of being poached. It is estimated that as many as 2,500 to 3,000 wildlife are poached from the Serengeti National Park every year.

In collaboration with the Mpalpe Research Centre and Save the Elephants, SFG will train 40 staff from archives, conservancies and community organisations in the region on the systematic collection and reporting of data on elephant poaching and associated incidents. This will enable measurable areas of greatest need to be identified and management efforts channelled accordingly.
Some of these individuals are at the top of their chosen conservation profession and are household names around the world, whilst others are at the start of their career having an impact locally in their chosen field but are, as yet, unsung.

All however, work tirelessly and selflessly, sometimes at huge personal cost and with very little reward, to protect and conserve their part of Africa. What better way to recognise these people than through an award, the only one of its kind focused solely on Africa?

The idea of a Tusk award was first talked about in 2007, over five years ago. Since then, we have developed the concept and its protocols, sharing our ideas with many in the conservation world driving the process. Last year, the concept became a reality with the support of numerous organisations.

I've been fortunate to meet many extraordinary people from all walks of life. What has linked them all – whether young or old, Ugandan or Namibian, researcher or game guard – has been their passion for the people, wildlife and beauty of Africa.

Sarah Watson  Tusk Projects Manager (Africa)

This partnership is being supported by a number of other key sponsors in addition to Investec Asset Management – Land Rover, British Airways, Tiffany & Co, The Draycott Hotel, and Dom Pérignon.

Over the years, I have been greatly inspired by the work of Tusk and the impact of its work. For over two decades Tusk has been working towards building a sustainable future for the African continent. The journey of our own business, Investec Asset Management, began in Africa before moving to the rest of the world. We believe that no person or organisation should ever forget where it comes from. This means that our mutual desire to contribute to a better Africa aligns us with Tusk.

We feel privileged to have had the opportunity to associate with Tusk over a long period of time and most recently to have Investec Asset Management partner with Tusk to establish the Tusk Conservation Awards.

Our motivation for associating with the Awards is twofold: first, to identify with Tusk’s vision; secondly, we want to acknowledge that the contribution made by human beings who achieve extraordinary things could raise significant levels of global awareness around the challenges of conservation, ultimately furthering the power of Tusk’s mission.

Conservation is so relevant at this point not only because it is part of our long-term drive toward sustainability, but also because of an urgent need for us all to recognise that at this very moment in Africa, there has been a steep resurgence in poaching.

It is my sincere wish that the Tusk Conservation Awards in partnership with Investec Asset Management will motivate more people to make the effort to support Tusk.

Hendrik du Toit  Chief Executive, Investec Asset Management

This partnership is being supported by a number of other key sponsors in addition to Investec Asset Management – Land Rover, British Airways, Tiffany & Co, The Draycott Hotel, and Dom Pérignon.
The nomination committee finished reviewing the entries at the end of February. Keeping the nominations a secret was not an easy task – the African conservation community is a tight-knit one and obtaining information from over 100 referees without the nominees’ knowledge was a challenge at times. The Judging Panel is comprised of an independent group of experts who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the awards. Chosen for their understanding of Africa and the many wide-ranging conservation issues, the panel met at the end of March to review the finalists and confirm the winners of both awards. The winners will remain confidential until the awards ceremony, which is due to take place in September 2013 in London.

Dr Rob Brett

Rob has been Director of Fana & Plata International’s Africa & Madagascar Programme since 2006, overseeing some 40 projects in 14 countries. After reading Zoology at Oxford, Rob studied the behavioural ecology of zailed mole-rats in Tana National Park for his doctorate, but has been a rhino conservation specialist since 1986 and a member of IUCN’s African Rhino Specialist Group for the past 20 years. He has served on the senior staff of two wildlife authorities, as national Rhino Coordinator in the Kenya Wildlife Service and as Senior Wildlife Biologist in the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

Ali Kaka

A Kenyan by birth Ali has worked at the Kenya Wildlife Service for 24 years, starting as a research assistant. He moved up the ranks from Assistant Warden to Assistant Director in charge of a Region and finally to Senior Assistant Director overseeing all Regions. He left to join the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) as the Executive Director. He left to join the East African Wildlife Society for 24 years, starting as a research assistant. He moved up the ranks from Assistant Warden to Assistant Director in charge of a Region and finally to Senior Assistant Director overseeing all Regions. He left to join the East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) as the Executive Director. Ali was awarded the Kenya Order of the Grand Cross of the Republic of Kenya and a member of IUCN’s African Rhino Specialist Group for the past 20 years. He has served on the senior staff of two wildlife authorities, as national Rhino Coordinator in the Kenya Wildlife Service and as Senior Wildlife Biologist in the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

Simon King OBE

With his professional life starting at just ten, acting in a television drama The Fox, (for which he looked after an orphaned fox for two years), through projects such as Planet Earth, Blue Planet, Springwatch, Autumnwatch, Big Cat Diary, and now Wildlife Whisperer, Simon has travelled to every continent and lived in extreme conditions from the remote desert to the Arctic and Antarctic wilderness.

In November 2010, Simon was appointed President of The Wildlife Trusts UK, – an organisation with 1,000,000 members. At 47 years of age Simon is the youngest President in the organisation’s 98 year history.

Dr Karen Ross

A childhood spent in Kenya fostered in Karen a love of Africa and a passion for nature. She has a doctorate in wildlife ecology from Edinburgh University and has spent most of her life working in Africa, mainly in the Okavango Delta.

She founded and directed Conservation International’s programme in Botswana, protecting the Delta from the threats of mining and fencing. She is currently working on listing the Okavango Delta as a UNESCO World Heritage site. She is author of Okavango: Jewel of the Kalahari which was made into a BBC documentary series.

Charlie Mayhew MBE

Charlie began his working life in 1981 as a Marine Insurance Broker at Lloyds of London with Willis Faber. In 1984 he persuaded Willis Faber to sponsor a programme about the wildlife of Madagascar on London’s public television. He persuaded Willis Faber to sponsor a programme about the wildlife of Madagascar on London’s public television. The Fox, (for which he looked after an orphaned fox for two years), through projects such as Planet Earth, Blue Planet, Springwatch, Autumnwatch, Big Cat Diary, and now Wildlife Whisperer, Simon has travelled to every continent and lived in extreme conditions from the remote desert to the Arctic and Antarctic wilderness.

On his return from Africa, Charlie was elected a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society and made a member of the Scientific Exploration Society. In 1990 Charlie co-founded Tusk Trust with the actor Timothy Ackroyd; twelve years later he stepped down as a Trustee to become Tusk’s Chief Executive. In recognition of his service to conservation in Africa, Charlie was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty The Queen in December 2005.

Nigel Winser

Nigel joined Earthwatch in July 2005 and was appointed Executive Vice President in 2008. Prior to that he was the Deputy Director and Head of the Expeditions and Fieldwork Division at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Nigel’s principal expertise lies with interdisciplinary and international conservation approaches, and corporate engagement with environmental issues.

He has been on the board of several geographical and conservation bodies, including the IUCN UK committee, the UK Man and the Biosphere committee, the Mount Everest Foundation, the British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow committee, Friends of Conservation (Chains), the Field Studies Council and the Global Canopy Programme.

For full details on the Tusk Conservation Awards please look at the website www.tuskawards.com

Investing in your future

Investec Asset Management is proud to partner with Tusk to create the Tusk Conservation Awards – a major, globally recognised, annual conservation award – supporting a sustainable future for Africa, its communities and its wildlife.

At Investec Asset Management we help our clients to invest in the future with the aim of preserving and growing their wealth. Our involvement with Tusk reflects our African roots and yet it is our entrepreneurial style that has seen us build a strong reputation internationally.

www.tuskawards.com

Investments carry a risk of capital loss. For more information about investing in your future, please call us on +44 (0)20 7597 1900, email enquiries@investecmail.com or visit www.investecassetmanagement.com

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Telephone calls may be recorded for training and quality assurance purposes. Issued by Investec Asset Management, February 2013.

TUSK TALK 2013/14

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Investec Asset Management

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Telephone calls may be recorded for training and quality assurance purposes. Issued by Investec Asset Management, February 2013.
A city of London trading floor is a noisy and chaotic place on the best of days, where the amounts involve mouth-watering figures! Throw into the mix a host of celebrities and traders in fancy dress and you begin to get some sense of what the annual ICAP Charity Day entails!

Last December, ICAP, the world’s largest inter-dealer, celebrated 20 years of their extraordinary Charity Day, when the company and staff donate 100% of their revenue and commissions to good causes – and Tusk was lucky to be chosen as one of the beneficiaries.

ICAP had set themselves a target to raise enough money to take their cumulative total raised since 1992 to £100 million. The big question was could they do it given the ongoing recession.

The charities were asked to do their bit by cajoling their celebrity supporters to pop into the ICAP offices and encourage their traders to do as many deals as they could in aid of charity.

HRH The Duchess of Cambridge had very generously agreed to attend the event in support of Tusk and The Art Room, but very sadly was forced to withdraw at the last minute due to her having to go into hospital.

However, we were thrilled that Tusk patrons, Rory Bremner, Deborah Meaden, Ben Fogle, Kate Silverton and Melinda Messenger all generously gave up their time to fly the flag for Tusk and rub shoulders with a veritable ‘who’s who’ of personalities.

Wherever one looked on the vast trading floors you could spot famous faces such as Boris Johnson, Samantha Cameron, Goldie Hawn, Mo Farrah and Simon Le Bon!

Longstanding Tusk supporter and impressionist Rory Bremner confused and amused traders in the US on the phone as he perfectly mimicked George Bush, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair!

Meanwhile Dragons’ Den businesswoman, Deborah Meaden, was enjoying the experience of concluding a single trade worth $2 billion.

“The numbers are mind boggling,” she said after putting down the phone to a trader in Hong Kong and making a tidy sum in commissions for charity!

By the close of business, ICAP declared that not only had they surpassed the £100 million mark, but they had raised a whopping £11 million in one day! An incredible achievement for any company.

The generous grant made by ICAP to Tusk will be used to support operating costs of a number of the Northern Rangelands Trust community conservancies in northern Kenya, environmental education courses in Botswana and the translation of Tusk’s PACE education programme into French for West Africa.

We are enormously grateful to ICAP all of its staff and their Charity Day team for their incredible support for what was a truly memorable day.
N ot to mention the safety and security of Africans themselves. With criminal gangs and terrorist organisations – from Al Shabaab to Joseph Kony’s Lord’s Resistance Army to Sudan’s Janjaweed militia – hunting down elephants and selling their tusks to fund weapons and conflict often upon people who stands in their way, ivory has come to be seen as the new Blood Diamond.

A cash commodity with murderous consequences, the ivory trade is capable of undermining democracy and national security by causing corruption and instability in range states undermining democracy and national security by causing corruption and instability in range states

And yet, according to investigative journalist Bryan Christy, author of the October 2012 National Geographic story “Ivory Worship,” no single cash commodity with murderous consequences, the ivory trade is capable of undermining democracy and national security by causing corruption and instability in range states. As well as the protection of, endangered species. As well as the protection of, endangered species

“China isn’t necessarily religious,” Christy explains. “I studied in Japan, and it’s similar there. People know these myths, not unlike nursery rhymes, and for the high-end carving this is the major drive.”

UN Convention on International Trade

In March of this year, the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) met in Bangkok to discuss, among other things, the fate of Africa’s elephants. Some progress was made specifically with the recommendations that Parties report annually on government-held ivory stocks, and those involved in ivory seizures of 500kg or more should collaborate and submit detailed intelligence. Which, according to Christy, has allowed criminals triggering any substantive criminal investigation. Frequent viewed as more war-seeking multinationals, the world has been slow to wake to the crisis. Which, according to Christy, has allowed criminals triggering any substantive criminal investigation. Frequent viewed as more war-seeking multinationals

“What I knew when I started looking into the reality is that the CITES sanctioned one-off sales from stockpiled ivory first to Japan in 1999 and more recently to China in 2008, have done much to single-handedly reignite the illegal trade. Even news reports seem to do little in terms of triggering any substantive criminal investigation. Frequent viewed as more war-seeking multinationals, the world has been slow to wake to the crisis


Christy is particularly well qualified to comment, having spent most of the past two years delving into the illegal ivory trade, from Asia to Africa to the port of Hong Kong to carving factories in China, all the way to retail shops on the doorstep of the Vatican. Prior to that, his three-year investigation into ivory trafficking syndicates, also for National Geographic, led to the arrest of Arnon Wong, a Malaysian national who was the leader of a global wildlife trade which Fable Escobar was to the drug trade. Wong’s sentencing in November 2010 was a significant milestone, providing a window onto wildlife crime and a lesson in how to combat it. “That told me that if you do the hard work, if you approach the story on two levels – both capturing as well as deep into the facts in the way you would prepare a criminal prosecution – then you can make a difference. Especially in the wildlife arena,” Christy says.

Wildlife laws lacking

Sadly it is this precise arena – wildlife in particular, though one could argue conservation in general – that seems to get short shrift in almost every way. In terms of enforcement, there are no real international police. Agencies like Interpol and the NGO Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), which gather and share intelligence, have no enforcement authority, especially as they are being attacked, and the corruption and instability in range states

“Correct,” Christy affirms. “That’s something wrong with CITES.”

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In an effort to track these men to their buyers, and even news reports seem to do little in terms of triggering any substantive criminal investigation. Frequent viewed as more war-seeking multinationals, the world has been slow to wake to the crisis. Which, according to Christy, has allowed criminals triggering any substantive criminal investigation.

“What I knew when I started looking into the illegal trade was that China was the main consumer of ivory, so that meant trying to track down a Chinese entity,” Christy recalls. “I went there and discovered this incredible supply of ivory being carved into Catholic artefacts,” he says. “China isn’t necessarily religious.”

For Christy, as well as others throughout the scientific and NGO communities, a possible solution to the current crisis has most definitely moved beyond the remit of CITES. And there is hope for CITES and its insistence on the use of evidence-based crime statistics, for example, to make policy and law enforcement decisions. The shortcomings of which can be seen regularly in internal documents, or the exhibition of the role of ivory in religious and faith-based practice. While begging the question, “Is this really who we are, and is this the best we can do?”

For the moment, though, the bigger and more pressing issue is just maybe finding the way to bypass CITES, and its insistence on the use of evidence-based crime statistics, for example, to make policy and law enforcement decisions. The shortcomings of which can be seen regularly in internal documents, or the exhibition of the role of ivory in religious and faith-based practice.

In January 2012 a hundred tonnes of ivory – deemed illegal under CITES – was sent out of Chad into Cameroon’s Bouba Ndjida National Park, slaughtering hundreds of elephants in the process – in one of the worst concentrated killings across a critical ivory stronghold in Africa since 1993. Campaign AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades, they dispatched the elephants, with a military precision reminiscent of a 2006 hunting operation outside Chad’s Zakouma National Park. And then they shipped it to Nigeria. Seen from the ground, each of the bloated elephant carcasses is a monument to human greed, and it is now.

Bryan Christy National Geographic, October 2012.
T his is what colonial Kenyans used to call the NFD – the wild and lawnless Northern Frontier District. Now, mercifully, a quiet revolution is taking place, bringing peace and a measure of prosperity never known before in those unforgiving thousands.

To see how northern Kenya is changing there is no better place than the Sera Conservancy, a vast and untouched wilderness identified as having enormous potential for eco-tourism. It was set up in 2002 as a vital part of the growing community conservation programme being rolled out by the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) across a region once notorious for poaching and inter-tribal mayhem. It lies at the heart of a much larger stretch of land of sun-bleached grass, flushing coveys of quail at every step, past stone cairns raised by the long-dead, and we followed hard beaten elephant paths through the thornbush they were the signposts we steered by.

Our base was the camp built in 2006 on the banks of the Kauro Lugga by the BBC’s ‘Inside Africa, has been given exclusive rights to develop tourism such as walking safaris in this, the wildest and most wonderful of all the NRT’s conservancies.

Business as usual. From here each morning by the dynastic lines of wild bees in the palms, we set out on foot while the air was still cool. On every horizon stood the shikharine shapes of desolate mountains whose magical names – Longtopi, Ol Kanjan, Ol Donyo Leskeyo – soon became as familiar as their outlines. In Sera’s endless seas of thornbush they were the signposts we steered by.

Accompanied as before by the sand luggas, we followed the sand luggas, leaving our tracks of nyama ndogo – small nocturnal animals such as genets and porcupines. A fly-past by black-faced sandgrouse and a measure of prosperity never known before in these unforgiving thousands.

Back in camp at the end of the day we sat by the campfire and listened to the eerie voices of the elephants. When the dry season peaks it becomes a meeting-place for the Samburu, Rendille and Boran tribesmen when the dry season peaks it becomes a meeting-place for the Samburu, Rendille and Boran tribesmen who, recognising the value of tourism, no longer tolerate poachers in their midst.

45 minutes later, the last sandgrouse fly-past began. At first they came in small flocks but very soon their numbers multiplied until they were pouring overhead at the rate of a thousand a minute, filling the air with their flickering wings and strange, guttural cries.

What extraordinary birds they are. Unusually adapted for life in the desert, they remain for only a few seconds and will not drink again until the same evening. After they came in small flocks but very soon their numbers multiplied until they were pouring overhead at the rate of a thousand a minute, filling the air with their flickering wings and strange, guttural cries. In these harsh semi-deserts, water is the key to life and Sera is blessed with a network of permanent springs of which the most famous is Kisima Hamsini. Its Kowalat name means ‘sandy water’, and the dry season peaks it becomes a meeting-place for the Samburu, Rendille and Boran tribesmen who, recognising the value of tourism, no longer tolerate poachers in their midst.

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A fly-past by black-faced sandgrouse – among the species of animals including limes, chukar, wild dog, buffalo, eland, hartebeest and Grevy’s zebra. And in its entirety the legendary big-game hunter, was an ideal companion, bush-wise and watchful. Wherever we walked he carried a rifle, and I understood why on our way home when we had to truncine past seven nervous elephants at the edge of the lugga.
As a species, the rhino is some 60 million years old, but if something is not done to curb the appetite for its horn, it may not last the century. In Africa, the poaching trade in both rhino horn and elephant ivory has moved on to a whole new plane and now operates in a way that is comparable to drug cartels or arms dealing.

Poachers are often deadly in Africa, from where much of the horn originates, and not well nourished in Asia, where it ends up. Some crime syndicates are expanding their existing operations into the ivory and horn trade – the risks are fewer and the profits can be greater.

Technology has helped the poachers enormously. In East Africa, in 2009 it was 1,400; in 2012 it was 618; poachers are using GPS systems, and semi-automatic weapons. In East Africa, the technology is not yet as sophisticated but illegal arms are readily available from Somalia and the Sudan.

The irony of importing rhino from Kent to Africa is not lost on anyone. But it’s not new: in 2009 three black rhinos from Port Lympne arrived in Tanzania, the last one was killed in October in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. The last one was killed in October in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. The last one was killed in October in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam.

Mkomazi National Park

Conservationist Tony Fitzjohn established a black rhino sanctuary at Mkomazi National Park in northern Tanzania 18 years ago. First he rehabilitated the park itself, turning it from a near-derelict, over-grazed wilderness into the thriving and magnificent piece of land that it is today. Mkomazi is 3,245 sq km of thick vegetation, perfect for animals to hide in, but the visibility is poor.

There are few tourists and no luxury lodges, only a small seasonal camp, popular with bird watchers. The cattle handlers – the park’s former biggest enemy because of the damage their cattle’s grazing caused and the threat to wildlife – have been cleared out since hefty fines were imposed by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), which runs the park.

There were 15 black rhinos in the sanctuary which covers an area of 55 sq km with 8ft high electric fences, patrolled by an armed security team. I visited Mkomazi in April last year – when I arrived a plan was being discussed to import three black rhinos, born and raised in Kenya, to form part of the more diverse pool at Mkomazi.

So there was a lot of discussion about permits and logistics. DHL were providing a plane, an expert vet had been lined-up along with a rhino whisperer, Barry White.

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The Duke of Cambridge meets one of the rhino whilst being interviewed by BBC Presenter Kate Silverton. ©

On June 16 last year the three black rhinos from Port Lympne – Manduk, Gurnell and Zawadi – were individually and carefully coaxed into specially built crates for their long journey to Tanzania. A few days before Tusk’s Royal Patron, The Duke of Cambridge, had paid a visit to the park to lend his support to the translocation. The Duke gave an impassioned interview to the BBC calling for the world to halt the illegal trade in rhino horn, which is now seriously threatening the species with extinction.

The rhinos, once safely in their crates, were lifted on to a waiting DHL transporter lorry and driven the short distance from Port Lympne via Dover to Manchester Airport. Here DHL had organised for one of their Boeing 757 ‘box’ cargo/aircraft to be ready for his precious load.

Once Customs were satisfied, the three crates – along with assorted food supplies – were squeezed onto the aircraft which had been embalmed with a large rhino sticker on its fuselage to mark the operation.

Accompanied by specialist rhino vet, Dr Pete Morkel and two rhino keepers, the rhinos finally arrived in Kilimanjaro International Airport at 7.02am on Sunday morning.

From under the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro, the animals were slowly driven by road to their new home in the centre of Mikomazi, where they eventually arrived some 24 hours after leaving Port Lympne.

At Mikomazi, the large welcoming committee included the British High Commissioner and the Director General of Tanzania National Parks. Lunch was held on the airstrip. Speeches were made. The BBC filmed. The crates were opened and the rhinos wandered out cautiously but without hesitation into their new bomas. They were given water and immediately不用 hesitation into their new bomas. They were given water and immediately

This remarkable journey was made possible thanks to months of planning and collaboration between the George Adamson Trust, The Aspinall Foundation, Tusk and DHL.
It took a while for the Mkomazi rhino to start breeding, but now they have had nine births (and a few deaths, through noise from poaching). Ideally, in ten years’ time, Fitzjohn would like to have 25 – 30 rhinos that he could move into an area accessible to tourists; in Tanzania there are only 113 black rhinos, mainly in the Serengeti.

Black rhino – all rhino – need all the help they can get. The story hasn’t always been bad: at the turn of the 20th century the southern white rhino population was down to 30. Conservation measures were put into practice and the population climbed steadily until two decades of heavy poaching in the 70s and 80s. But concerted efforts in conservation combined with a decline in the Yemenese economy (rhino horn was in demand to make dagger handles) pushed the numbers up again and in 2007 only 13 were poached in the whole of Africa. Then the price of rhino horn started climbing; it is now worth more than gold. The sheer number of rhinos that he could move into an area accessible to tourists is impressive.

“Have you ever seen one?” asks Fitzjohn and disappears off, returning a few minutes later bearing a rhino horn. Once cut-off the animal’s horn will re-grow but it will never regain its sharp point. It is dark grey – solid, smooth and gently curved. Surprisingly, there is a small bit pared off the base: “Did you try some?” I ask. “Yeah.” “And?” “Is it good?” “Didn’t do anything.”

Fitzjohn removed this horn from one of his rhinos, James, who was becoming increasingly aggressive and he worried it would damage the others. After it had been de-horned it underwent a character change, he says, and became calmer. He slaps the horn on the table. “Someone’s going to get a lot of joy out of this.”

The cost of rhino conservation
Rhino conservation is an expensive business. Fitzjohn’s solar-powered fence costs $25,000 per kilometer to install, and it has to be maintained. He has 22 men in his security team, the core of which is ex-Tanzanian army. His operation, which also includes education outreach programmes and the breeding and releasing of African wild dogs, is funded by donors, the principal being Suzuki Rhino in Holland and Save The Rhino and Tusk in the UK. This is the future for rhino: electric fences and armed guards. Is there a limit on how much should be spent to protect a species? “Do whatever you can, whatever it takes, as the saying goes,” says Fitzjohn. “Otherwise we lose another species, and it happens to be a fairly big one, and a fairly old one. And it’s important at the sea and the chameleons and the grasslands and everything else – you have your flagship species for a reason.

Take the elephant and the rhino out of the ecosystem and you’ll be left with a few billion gazelle running round – and suddenly this huge great wonder of the world will be diminished in front of us. And there’s no need for it. There’s plenty of room for animals, there’s plenty of room for people too, it just needs a bit of management and central government control.”

Barney’s story
Barney is the smallest rhino in the park. He is 18 months old and Fitzjohn says he is called Barney because “he’s all right, he’s a nice customer”. He’s also a Condor, the same species of rhino as the Hollywood stars in the film, The African Queen.

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The beauty of the location is that the reserve is a mere 10 minutes drive away from the Victoria Falls, known today as the adrenalin capital of Africa. The white river rafting, bungee jumping, canoe trails on the Zambezi River and vibrant nightlife of the town make this place a must-see.

For further details of this life-changing experience, as well as other South African-based conservation programs, please contact us on: Tel +44 1483 527847 EMAIL tusk@worldwideexperience.com

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The children move slowly and carefully, they know how to give the elephants a wide berth, pass safely and carry on with their journeys. A round of applause erupts from the rest of the class. Rabson Tembo (Communications Officer at CLZ since 2009) jumped up and put on the role-play as the elephant "driver". The children (not really elephants) can wipe out your entire harvest in one night – it doesn't require 24 hour monitoring, homemade chilli bombs (see box, right). These are lit and emit an acrid smoke that repels the obnoxious fumes. Crunched chillies and used engine oil soaked in a spicy concoction of crushed chilies and used engine oil are then tied onto the fences surrounding crop fields. The elephants are driven away by the smelly smoke.

The participants also learnt about different ways to protect their precious crops from being raided, including the implementation of chilli fences and chilli bombs (see box, right). It was an exciting moment when farmers started to understand that elephants weren't mean to be feared but could be catered for, and amongst and ultimately benefited from through the local tourism industry. Finally the participants were taught about as living and emotional creatures rather than horrors that hurt human beings and steal the food from their mouths.

Consulting the teachers workshop in August 2011, Rabson Tembo (Communications Officer at CLZ since 2009) was impressed with the reaction from teachers and children. But he knew that this was nothing compared to the response that could be seen from farmers and adults living with this constant threat in the community. Rabson put together a proposal to Tusk to take this information out further to the Chiwara Game Management Area through mobile workshops in three villages.

Basic information would be passed on to local residents about how elephants move and live – such as the importance of traditional migratory routes. Students would understand an elephant's mind through its body language and respond accordingly. The difference between a must and a real charge would be taught and how to understand wind directions – and of course the ultimate tip – don't run! Interactive workshop sessions would be given in the local language of Nyanja by Rabson himself and Besa Kaoma, the CLZ environmental educator. A round of applause erupts from the rest of the class as the importance of traditional migratory routes.

The teachers workshop in August 2011, Rabson Tembo (Communications Officer at CLZ since 2009) introduced a standardised GPS tracking system of all feet and aerial patrols. All team leaders are now trained to use a GPS device and understand that their patrols are visible on a Google Earth Map once downloaded. In 2013, Tusk will help CLZ support these anti-poaching teams further and has also sponsored Rabson Tembo to leave Zambia for the first time to attend an introduction to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) course at the Southern Africa Wildlife College in South Africa.

Thank you to Tusk for supporting conservation in the Lower Zambezi – helping the wildlife and the people of the area live together sustainably.

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

ELEPHANT CROP RAIDS BATTLE CHILLI PEPPERS

Elephant crop raids are a widespread problem in Africa, where hundreds of tons of food that an elephant can consume in a short 8 hour period. Multiply 660 pounds by 15 to 20 elephants in a herd that crashes through at 25mph and you can appreciate how an entire crop can be wiped out in less than a day. If the hungry beasts aren't kept at bay, the loss of food and income has a devastating effect on farmers' families. Even if it's once every ten years that their entire field is destroyed, their families will go hungry. Elephant raiders usually take place after the sun goes down. And, as protecting crops at night is a dangerous and time consuming activity for farmers, they are fighting back with a new approach that doesn't require 24 hour monitoring, homemade pipe bombs or the creating of tin cans – chilli peppers.

The pachyderms prefer valuable crops such as maize, sorghum, and millet over their usual dry grasses because they contain more calories. However one of the biggest concerns for farmers isn't the trampling of their land but rather the 660 pounds of food that an elephant can consume in a short 8 hour period. Multiply 660 pounds by 15 to 20 elephants in a herd that crashes through at 25mph and you can appreciate how an entire crop can be easily wiped out in less than a day. If the hungry beasts aren't kept at bay, the loss of food and income has a devastating effect on farmers' families. Even if it's once every ten years that their entire field is destroyed, their families will go hungry.

Elephant raids usually take place after the sun goes down. And, as protecting crops at night is a dangerous and time consuming activity for farmers, they are fighting back with a new approach that doesn't require 24 hour monitoring, homemade pipe bombs or the creating of tin cans – chilli peppers.

Chilli fences – pieces of cloth soaked in a spicy concoction of crushed chilies and used engine oil are then tied onto the fences surrounding crop fields. The elephants are driven away by the smelly smoke.

Chilli bombs – a combination of dried, crushed chilli, animal dung and water is mixed and allowed to dry in briquette shapes. When elephants are about to enter crop fields or approach people's homes, these are lit and emit a acrid smoke that makes the elephants cannot stand, making them run away.

Experts are aware that elephants will probably grow used to the chilli pepper deterrant – it's been reported that these carnivorous creatures have even learnt to spray dust over a chili fence to make them less repellant or they have simply turned round and reversed through the fence – so we are working on other non-lethal methods to truncate the animals' damage.

ZAWA Wildlife Police Officers risk their lives.

Since 1995, CLZ has been committed to the conservation of the Lower Zambezi natural resources for the present and future generations of Zambia. As well as environmental education, CLZ also assists the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) with anti-poaching activities under the Lower Zambezi National Park and surrounding Game Management Areas. Through food raids, deployment and pull-out transport, logistical support, first aid kits, GIS equipment, training and communication, CLZ assists ZAWA Wildlife Police Officers who risk their lives in the bush protecting wildlife from the constant menace of poaching.

The Lower Zambezi is home to at least four threatened species according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: African wild dog, African elephant, lion and hippo. Poaching is seen in its various forms from the commercial ivory and bushmeat trade to subsistence level hunting. One of CLZ’s main objectives is to build the capacity of the local ZAWA officers. This year, CLZ introduced a standardised GIS tracking system of all feet and aerial patrols. All team leaders are now trained to use a GPS device and understand that their patrols are visible on a Google Earth Map once downloaded. In 2013, Tusk will help CLZ support these anti-poaching teams further and has also sponsored Rabson Tembo to leave Zambia for the first time to attend an introduction to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) course at the Southern Africa Wildlife College in South Africa.

Thank you to Tusk for supporting conservation in the Lower Zambezi – helping the wildlife and the people of the area live together sustainably.
In October 2012 I was privileged to spend six days in Namibia with Charlie as we visited two non-profit organizations supported by Tusk – the Save the Rhino Trust and the AfriCat Foundation.

Nigel Richardson, The Telegraph Magazine, from which this article is selected with permission.

Investing in the youth of Africa has got to be part of the answer, with environmental education a key aspect.

IT'S a threat to cattle. Live on farmland and are automatically perceived as a threat to the world's cheetah population, of which 90 per cent are killed by light aircraft from Desert Rhino Camp, the field headquarters of the SRT, set amid flat-topped and conical mountains in the vast desert wilderness of north-west Namibia. Surrounding it is a concession of nearly 10,000 square miles – bigger than Wales – patrolled by teams of SRT trackers, including one unit that uses camels sponsored by Tusk.

It's not a place you'd wish to get lost in but it is a haven for the desert-adapted black rhino. When discussing populations of threatened species it's not a good idea to mention specific numbers – which are potentially useful to those of hostile intent – but in the 1970s and 1980s we can say that 95 per cent of Africa's rhino population was wiped out by poachers. In this corner of Namibia there were thought to be few black rhino left but numbers have quadrupled over 30 years.

A success story, then – but the SRT is not resting on its laurels. In October 2011 the first incidence of rhino poaching in this area for 17 years was recorded when a calf was caught in a snare, its horn removed and body cut up. ‘The trap was put up in a rhino path,’ said Simon Uri-Khala, who supervises the SRT’s tracking team. ‘We found him maybe a month later.’ Over four or five days, nicknamed Simonse, the baby rhino weakened and finally died of pain and starvation. He mother, meanwhile, stood by, helpless. ‘The cow came back and back. You could see she was wandering around them.’

On our first morning Charlie and I were up with the sun to join other guests on patrol with one of the tracking teams. For two hours we crossed boulder fields, open plains and dry ravines. Finally we drove up a bluff overlooking a rhino weakened and finally died of pain and starvation. His mother, meanwhile, stood by, helpless. ‘The cow came back and back. You could see she was wandering around them.’

On our first morning Charlie and I were up with the sun to join other guests on patrol with one of the tracking teams. For two hours we crossed boulder fields, open plains and dry ravines. Finally we drove up a bluff overlooking a green riverbed. A rhino – the SRT has named him Ben – was browsing among the foliage below. Charlie looked down at him through binoculars and Ben stood back at his English benefactor with an inquisitive gaze. When Tusk started, said Charlie, conservation thinking was dominated by a fortress mentality – it was all about fencing Ben in and protecting him at all costs. ‘But as I got to appreciate the problems more, I got to understand the intrinsic link between human development and conservation.’

New conservationists operate more heuristically, involving and benefiting local communities in economies of high unemployment and pitifully low wages. The SRT employs local people, pays them of poaching threats.

At the AfriCat Foundation, 90 minutes south-east by light aircraft from Desert Rhino Camp, the challenge is how to enable humans and big cats to live peacefully alongside each other – an especially vexatious question in a country with a quarter of its population of whom 90 per cent per cent live on farmland and are automatically perceived as a threat to cattle. Both AfriCat, and the safari business that supports it, Okonjima, are run by the charismatic Hanssen family. Over 20 years they have sought to persuade farmers into a major mind-shift on large carnivores – don’t just shoot, build better fences and kraals – whilst rescuing more than 1,000 cats from farmers’ traps, bait and bullets. Many cats have been returned to the wild while others, unable to fend for themselves, are cared for in enclosures.

These – currently including four cheetahs cut from the stomach of their mother who had been shot dead by a farmer – are all ambassadors for the work of AfriCat’s work. Each month some 40 kids pass through environmental education programs. Most of them hadn’t seen cheetah before. Some had – but only as vermin, shot dead and slung in the back of a pick-up. Now they were learning to understand and respect them.

‘Investing in the youth of Africa has got to be part of the answer,’ Charlie had told me when we were discussing what the future might hold. ‘There are currently including four cheetahs cut from the stomach of their mother who had been shot dead by a farmer – are all ambassadors for the work of AfriCat.’

In the 50,000 acre reserve at Okonjima, Charlie and I watched as three cheetah hunted a baby zebra. The zebra was nicked but escaped, its parents having fended off its attackers. It was a thrilling sight, but it was no more thrilling than the expressions of wonder on the rows of faces behind us. For we were sharing our open vehicle with a group of local schoolchildren who represented the other strand of AfriCat’s work. Each month some 40 kids pass through environmental education programs.
The Bateleurs organisation of pilot members, who give their aviation skills, the use of their privately-owned aircraft, and their time for free in support of conservation and the environment in Africa.

THE BATELEURS IS A UNIQUE organisation of pilot members, who give their aviation skills, the use of their privately-owned aircraft, and their time for free in support of conservation and the environment in Africa.

JUAN CAMERON: Administrator, The Bateleurs

Wild dog translocation

Our mission (entire the pilot, Chris Pratt) was to transfer two female wild dogs from a game farm near the Mkuze Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, to the Khamab Kalahari Reserve near Bray in the North West Province.

Dr Mike Toft of Wildlife Vet Services was to accompany us and, more importantly, attend to the anaesthetising of the animals – who were to be laid ‘loose’ on tarpaulins (and not contained in cages) inside the aircraft while in transit. Mike, who is also a Bateleurs pilot, met me early on the day at the Montz Zululand airfield.

We arrived to find that the dogs still had not been captured – they knew that something was up and were being very elusive. After about two hours the capture team arrived with their sleeping quay. Mike sprang into action to prepare them for the approximately four-hour journey. He told me it was not ideal for their health but put them out for too long, and that he would rather just top up the sleep dose when necessary.

We took into perfect blue skies and planned a refuel en route at Katherine, just over two hours away, before finally landing on the private airfield near Bray, another one and a third hours away. So we expected the mission to involve a total of 3 hours and 45 minutes, which would allow us to deliver our animals and return to Klarkesdorp for refueling, and then fly home to Zululand – all in a day’s work.

However, passing through 5,000ft we started to hit turbulence, which became more and more severe. The plane was being bung around and the poor anaesthetised dogs were thrown up and down – though hopefully without knowing too much about it. To make matters worse we were flying into severe haze from a massive timber fire on the escarpment. Mike was having quite a time: anaesthetising the dogs through the common tubes he had carefully set up while we were still on the ground, and constantly checking their drips.

So we gritted our teeth and decided we were going to push through – things could only improve. The slow progress meant another refuel so we decided on Secunda. Coming onto a very turbulent final run with a serious crosswind, I felt some movement behind me: I had already become attached to them: they had been very good in transit with minimum mess and very little inconveniencen. And so it was at sunset that they were released to hit turbulence, which became more and more severe. The plane was being bung around and the poor anaesthetised dogs were thrown up and down – though hopefully without knowing too much about it. To make matters worse we were flying into severe haze from a massive timber fire on the escarpment. Mike was having quite a time: anaesthetising the dogs through the common tubes he had carefully set up while we were still on the ground, and constantly checking their drips.

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When we held the first Safaricom Marathon, back in August of 2000, we had no idea whether or not there would be enough interest to make the marathon an annual event – there were only 150 entries, the majority of whom were from communities neighboring Lewa.

The Safaricom Marathon now attracts over 1,000 runners from all over the globe. Last year’s event raised a remarkable $575,000 for education, community development, healthcare and conservation projects throughout Kenya. Over the marathon weekend, the normally quiet and exclusive Lewa Wildlife Conservancy opens its doors to more than 5,000 runners, spectators, and workers who gather to share in this breathtaking experience – the only marathon in the world in which participants run alongside some of Africa’s most amazing wildlife.

For the people on Lewa who are responsible for making the marathon happen, it is a challenging time – the mushrooming campsites, the increased vehicle activity, and the tight security required. Even cyberspace is congested. It is a great relief when the weekend has ended and everything has gone as planned. However, it is time and effort well spent – not only because of the money the event raises but because of the attention it brings to the Conservancy and its conservation efforts.

The goodwill that the marathon generates has attracted major donors from Britain and the USA and every year the numbers of supporters grows. The hard work put in by the Tusk and Lewa teams results in major funds being raised, not only for Lewa, but also for beneficiaries throughout Kenya.

Each year registration is closed earlier than the year before as participants rush to grab one of the 1,000 available entry places. Although interest in the event continues to grow, along with the waiting list, numbers are capped at a 1,000 runner limit for the full and half event in order to minimise the impact and pressure on the conservation area. Studies have shown that the wildlife population returns to normal almost immediately after the event, but it is the impact of five thousand feet on the ground that must be monitored.

The facts are simple enough. The 2012 Safaricom Marathon filled to capacity in only three weeks, both the half and full marathons were won in record times, and, for the fourth consecutive year, over half a million dollars were raised.
Marathon experiences

But there is much more to the story that needs to be told. The marathon experience is different for everyone. For the Tusk team, it is the culmination of a lot of hard work that begins as soon as each year’s event draws to a close.

For Bob Collymore, Zabudia Sikkim and the whole Safaricom team, it is one of their most significant annual public events and an opportunity to entertain distinguished guests. Over their thirteen years of sponsorship, they have invested millions of shillings and a huge amount of goodwill.

For the local community, particularly for those who take part in the half marathon, it is a weekend full of excitement – music, dancers, and the celebration of Kenya’s national sport. Over the years, many Kenyans have taken home the glory, significant prize money, and a chance to enter the world of competitive running.

For those who come out to help with organizing, recording and timing, it is both hard work and a lot of fun – and a chance to spend a few days in a unique place, working with longtime colleagues and friends while helping a very good cause.

For the runners, it is an unforgettable experience. Of course, it is the fear of the unknown which makes the event so challenging and so attractive to runners from outside Kenya and, equally so, for the large number of city-based Kenyans for whom this is a once-a-year experience.

Tough conditions

The course is extremely difficult. The 20 kilometre large number of city-based Kenyans for whom this run will be easy, and a chance to spend a few days in a unique place, working with longtime colleagues and friends while helping a very good cause.

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The children’s race is first off the start line at 7 a.m. when there is still a chill in the air. One hundred and fifty children, many from local schools, take off like a cavalry charge, most of them finishing their 3km in under half an hour. By 9.30am, it has warmed up to a pleasant 20°C, and the fun of the half-marathon runners have crossed the finish line and collected their goody bags. By 11 o’clock, the temperature often reaches 27°C in the shade – but there’s not much shade. By this time, most of the half marathon runners will have finished, but many full marathon runners are only just beginning their second lap. For many, the afternoon will be long and gruelling and for some it will end in disappointment as they call it quite and opt for a lift back to the finish line. Every possible precaution is taken – a police plane is in the air at all times, a helicopter circles the course, and armed guards are stationed every few hundred metres to help runners feeling the effects of the course. Motorbikes and rescue vehicles are always circling the course for anyone in need of assistance.

Magnificent marathon

Last year, I jogged the final two kilometres with the last runner to finish the course, closely followed by a troop of motorcycle escorts. The final stretch seems to go on forever, but there is some consolation in being a slow marathon runner on this course. One is the remarkable scenery – Mount Kenya on the horizon, the plains dotted with grazing herds, and the blue hills to the North. Another is the thrill of being passed by the elite runners who are neck-to-neck on their way to the finish line. But the biggest consolation is the support you receive as you arrive at each water station. The local residents running the water stations have been on the job since six in the morning – some even coming out the night before. Many competitors claim that passing through the water stations is one of the highlights of the event.

The tail-enders in last year’s half marathon crossed the finish line in five hours – including Iain Bruce, 30 minutes behind local runner, Jamie Mortimer, who set a new half marathon course record of exactly sixty-five minutes. We hope that this year’s event will see more people completing the course.

A marathon is always an emotional experience, but none more so than the Safaricom Marathon. At the end, there is the finish funnel, the medal, the goody bag, and a long drink; but, most importantly, there is the satisfaction of knowing that you have completed one of the toughest and most magnificent marathons in the world.

Bruce Tulah has been Race Director for the Safaricom Marathon since its inception. As a long-distance runner himself, he still competes and, through his mid-seventies, still enjoys taking part in the marathons.

Bruce was the European title in the men’s 5,000 metre at the 1982 European Championships and goes to fans for running heroism in many of his races. In 1988, Bruce won 2:07.86 miles record from America from Los Angeles in New York in 4 1/4 days. He has written a book called Running is Easy, an amateur’s guide to becoming a good runner.

There are many different milestones. Here we’ve compiled the most interesting:

- The longest delay in starting the race – due to an inexplicable cause.
- The number of runners who have run too fast.
- The longest day in running the race.
- The fastest marathon course.
- The slowest marathon time.
- The highest number of runners who have run too slow.
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Through the generous support of the title sponsor, Safaricom and the many additional sponsors including British Airways, Land Rover, Huawei, Highlands Water and BATUK, we are able to cover the cost of staging the event. The fundraising efforts of all entrants benefit the chosen beneficiaries – a range of wildlife conservation, community development and education projects across Kenya. Since the first race, 56 projects have received support. Here we look at the impact the marathon has had on three.

The marathon would not be possible without the support and generality of all our corporate partners, led by Safaricom who has been the title sponsor since the event’s inception fourteen years ago, and who continue to set a benchmark for corporate social responsibility.

AN INVESTMENT FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

BlackRock is proud to support TUSK.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to protect Africa’s natural heritage. We highly commend your efforts in the battle against poverty through sustainable development and education, specifically amongst rural communities who live alongside wildlife.

Supporting Communities

The Safaricom Marathon has alighted a spotlight on northern Kenya allowing Tusk and Lewa to leverage a conservation agenda to meet the compelling priorities of communities surrounding the Conservancy, such as Manyangalo, situated in the greater Lewa conservation area. Comprised of approximately 800 families, the Manyangalo community’s primary form of income is agriculture – the land has good drainage and a permanent river flows through the village. A highly inefficient water catchment system meant, however, that the residents were not able to tap the full potential of their land.

A famine drainage system was leading to soil degradation, water pollution and poor agricultural practices. The impacts were being felt amongst the community with illness common. Moreover the river was heavily depended upon.

Promoting Education

Over 10,000 children have benefitted directly from the Safaricom Marathon. Some of these will have taken part in the children’s race and won, others will be using books donated by runners or playing on sports fields built thanks to the marathon.

At the Rugusu Primary School in northern Kenya, the support from the Safaricom Marathon, and subsequent matching donations have allowed the Lewa Education Programme to completely redeliver the school.

The original school was created in 2002 under the management of a local church. It had an enrolment of 41 pupils taught by two teachers who were employed by the community. Many children were walking many miles each day to attend other schools in the district, so the community donated six acres of land and built two basic wooden classrooms which were later partitioned to meet growing demand.

In 2010, the marathon provided the school with an initial grant, allowing the school to build two new classrooms. The change was so astounding that individuals, corporates and foundations taking part in subsequent marathons all wanted to help. The school now boasts three classrooms, a fully equipped kitchen and dining hall, ablution block, water supply and vegetable garden.

Supporting Communities

As Deutsche Bank we are proud to support communities around the world. From small scale projects to economic development, we are managing people, communities and legal infrastructures, and making key decisions about how to fund a path to a successful sustainable future.

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On the 29th October, just days before our fundraising dinner, the worst storm in decades made landfall in New York City, causing extensive flooding and leaving lower Manhattan without electricity. TriBeCa itself was among the hardest hit neighbourhoods, with residents evacuated and businesses shut down days before in anticipation of the severity of the storm.

With the original venue flooded and inaccessible, and sponsors, supporters as well as trustees flying in from as far away as Hong Kong, South Africa and London, we scrambled to find an alternative. Fortunately The Explorer’s Club – New York’s answer to the Royal Geographical Society – was both available and willing to host the event. The evening, as it turned out, was a great success with more than 200 people making their way to the Upper East Side in support of Tusk. Hendrik du Toit and his team from Investec Asset Management in London, who generously sponsored the event, proved most steadfast corporate partners, gracious and flexible in the wake of all the last-minute changes, from venue to format to programme.

Journalist Bryan Christy, author of the October 2012 National Geographic cover story Ivory Horror, spoke eloquently to a rapt audience about his two-year long investigation into the illegal ivory trade, highlighting the devastating effect it has had on elephant populations across Africa. While Tusk USA’s newest board member, author and filmmaker John Heminway, shared a clip from his upcoming National Geographic film, Ivory Road.

Photographer Nick Brandt, a longstanding supporter of Tusk, kindly donated 12 of his photographs, all but one of which sold on the night. His hauntingly beautiful Ranger With Tusks Of Killed Elephant, one of three live auction lots, sold for $30,000. The other two lots were in aid of the South African Wildlife College and Painted Dog Conservation, both projects Tusk has supported for some years. A specially designed sculpture by British artist Tatyana Murray, also sold, as did one of our signature 3650 Gustav Manz designed elephant bracelets.

All in all, the event raised in excess of $200,000 for Tusk, a great testament to our sponsor, Investec Asset Management, as well as our many generous and loyal supporters.
In Zambia’s eastern province lies the spectacular Luangwa valley, once known as the Valley of the Elephants. Today, after decades of poaching which decimated most of the valley’s elephant population, conservation efforts to restore and protect its natural resources are now paving the way for South Luangwa to become Zambia’s flagship national park and one of Africa’s true remaining wilderness areas with a stable elephant population. However, like all areas rich in wildlife where tourism and economic growth is thriving, the accompanying negative effects brought about by an increase in local businesses, improved livelihoods and an increase in the encroaching human population is a reality. One of these effects is undoubtedly the massive increase in wire snaring of herbivore species for bushmeat.

Anti-snaring operations

Snaring is indiscriminate and, increasingly, endangered species such as elephant, lion and wild dog are suffering the consequences through by-catch.

Young elephant calves get snared around the neck as they wade across the Luangwa River, walking into deadly winch cables set primarily for buffalo. The impact on lions has been severe – studies by SLCS’s partner organisation, the Zambia Carnivore Programme, have shown that 20% of adult males carry snares. While many snared animals are treated undoubtedly many go undetected.

Among the 52 community-based village scouts supported and co-managed by SLCS in support of ZAWA (the Zambian Wildlife Authority), there are two unique anti-snaring teams. Their efforts are focused on key areas and routes used by elephant, lion and wild dog. Details on the location and movements of collared lion and wild dog from the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) allow SLCS to plan and deploy patrols in areas of high risk snaring. This results in valuable spin-off effects for all other species susceptible to snaring, including elephants.

With recent funding from Tusk, SLCS was able to boost the number of patrols deployed as well as increase the number of snares removed from the bush and suspects apprehended, resulting in fewer animals being reported with snares this year.

The SLCS darting and veterinary team works hand-in-hand with the anti-snaring teams. As the only body responsible for snare removal, wildlife rescue and treatment in the Luangwa, SLCS receives regular call-outs to assist injured animals, and conducts all rescue and darting operations with a ZAWA scout/personnel.

Aerial support

To complement the anti-snaring work, SLCS and the ZCP recently purchased a Cessna 180 aeroplane for conservation and research work as well as for further improvement in law enforcement within South Luangwa. After a field visit to Luangwa in late 2012, Tusk generously provided additional support for completion of a hangar at the Kakumbi airstrip inside the national park.

With aerial support, SLCS’s anti-poaching operations will be enhanced and illegal activities inside the park will be further curtailed. In addition, the research activities of the ZCP will be supported and improved.
Red Cap’s spicy strategy

SLCS plays a major role in mitigating human/wildlife conflict in Luangwa. Led by Billy Banda, the Red Cap team consists of Rangers around the South Luangwa National Park. The team assesses conflicts, conducts training workshops, supervises the construction of elephant-safe grain stores and monitors a team of 18 chilli blasters during the farming season. These chilli blasters are carefully selected from the local community and conduct joint nightly operations, in conjunction with village scouts, armed with muzzle-loading guns and a lot of crushed dried chilli as ammunition.

Chilli is fired at oncoming crop-raiding elephants and, if the wind is in the right direction and the blasters well positioned, the elephants scatter and run away with the fiery distaste of the chilli striking them in the face. And with the blasters well positioned, the elephants scatter and run away with the fiery distaste of the chilli striking them in the face. If the reply is ‘He or she is alone’, I feel pretty elated as I know this is going to be quite straightforward; however if the reply is ‘18 or so, my heart sinks! When we darted our first snared elephant about eight years ago, I hadn’t even seen one being immobilised before. I’d done my first drugs course and thought I was a little braver enough to tackle it and so off we went.

That one went fine and so did the next thirty or so, a few charges here and there but nothing major and we thought we were getting pretty good. A couple of refresher courses in between and now we are very relieved crew and one very flattened car.

As a team, we laugh about it now, but it only lasted a few seconds. We left the calf we were attending to, hopped into our vehicle to drive round the corner and all I saw were scouts running towards me with a large female elephant jumping off the back of their Land Cruiser, hammering the front of their vehicle.

This seemed to go on and on but in reality it only lasted a few seconds. We left the calf we were attending to, hopped into our vehicle to drive round the corner and all I saw were scouts jumping off the back of their Land Cruiser, hammering the front of their vehicle.

We left the calf we were attending to, hopped into our vehicle to drive round the corner and all I saw were scouts jumping off the back of their Land Cruiser, hammering the front of their vehicle.

The man begged me not to go near her but we had to. I feared for the driver and scouts as I looked out of the window and scarpered for safety.

I gave him a big hug and we quickly finished the job. As we were finishing the job, the male mother suddenly took a step back and collapsed into deep anaesthesia. I was calling the driver’s name, Frank, over and over when he suddenly appeared out of a nearby bush – it seemed he’d nimbly scrambled out of the window and scrambled for safety.

As a team, we laugh about it now, but it was a big lesson which taught us that each immobilisation and rescue is different and that each one is a little bit harder.

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Vultures are probably one of the world’s most maligned species.

For many they have always been the stuff of nightmares. The work of the Vulture Conservation Programme (VulPro) is helping to transform their image.

Kerri Wolter
Executive Officer, The Vulture Conservation Programme

**Valuable Vultures**

Vultures, positioned at the top of the food chain, are an indicator of the health of the environment below them and their eating habits help keep the natural world in balance. And, whilst it is true that vultures are scavengers, who’s not always appreciated is that, as the undertakers of the skies, they will always choose fresh over decayed meat and thereby stop disease and infection from spreading.

Today, vultures face an unprecedented onslaught from human activities such as electrocutions and powerline roosting spots so that they can be identified and mitigated before an incident occurs. Additional information can be obtained on unidentified vulture feeding sites, new threats and the use of vultures for ‘Muti’ (see box, below).

Monitoring the reproductive success

Reproductive success is estimated annually by visiting each colony on three separate occasions. High-resolution photos of the breeding cliffs are used to plot the position of every nest, active or not. By using a standardized technique, it is possible to measure not only the breeding success but to assess changes in the population and ultimately address the relevant threats and population declines.

Cape vulture breeding programme for reintroduction into Namibia

This is aimed at creating a safe environment for vultures in Namibia and rebuilding the Cape vulture population to a point of self-sustainability.

Vulture educational and awareness programmes in southern Africa

VulPro conducts educational talks and tours at the Vulture Centres and also takes vultures to local communities so that previously disadvantaged children and adults can learn about the species and their importance.

Our purpose is to break down people’s misconceptions about vultures so that they learn to appreciate their beauty. That way, we know, individuals form a bond with the birds and become champions of their protection.

Veterinary and ecological research

Whilst the Cape vulture is the most studied of the species in Africa, very little information is known with regards to veterinary related problems. Researcing the consequences of lead and veterinary drug poisoning to vultures as ‘vulture restaurants’ (see box, below), is a priority given the Asian vulture crisis which led to three vulture species in Africa, very little information is known about the species in Africa, very little information is known about their importance.

Reintroduction of the Cape vulture to Namibia

This is aimed at creating a safer environment for vultures in Namibia.

Vulture rehabilitation

Injured, grounded and disabled vultures are taken to the VulPro Centre to assess their condition, treat accordingly and release wherever possible. The follow-up monitoring is just as important and this is done with tracking devices as well as monitoring at feeding sites, both visually and with the use of camera traps.

Monitoring the distribution, dispersal and foraging ranges

This involves the tracking of vultures using patagial (wing) tags and GSM/GPS devices. Over and above researching their range, these tracking devices help identify ‘hot spot’ areas for powerline collisions, electrocutions and powerline roosting spots so that they can be identified and mitigated before an incident occurs. Additional information can be obtained on unidentified vulture feeding sites, new threats and the use of vultures for ‘Muti’ (see box, below).

Muti

Vultures are highly prized by African traditional healers, or Muti, as they believe vultures have the ability to foresee into the future which is why they are sought after for lottery and gambling purposes.

Muti believe that if you smell the brain of a vulture or sleep with the skull under your pillow you will then dream of the correct lottery numbers or the name of the winning horse and thus win millions.

Other uses include vulture feathers, which are believed to cure headaches, and vulture feet which are worn as lucky charms. Unfortunately, according to most traditional healers and Muti practitioners there is no alternative.

As the South African government has recognised the use of traditional healers any associated costs are met by medical aid which places even more pressure on the vulture species.

NSAIDs

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are so toxic to vultures, they are treated with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and its carcass placed at a vulture restaurant when it dies, its body will be toxic to the birds if eaten. Some NSAIDs are so poisonous to vultures that after consumption they can die within 36 – 48 hours.

Veterinary and ecological research

Our purpose is to break down people’s misconceptions about vultures so that they learn to appreciate their beauty. That way, we know, individuals form a bond with the birds and become champions of their protection.

Although some of these are safe for vultures, unfortunately many animals have been exposed to or treated with veterinary drugs such as anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, etc. Although some of these are safe for vultures, many are extremely toxic to the birds.

This means that if an animal has been treated with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and its carcass placed at a vulture restaurant when it dies, its body will be toxic to the birds if eaten. Some NSAIDs are so poisonous to vultures that after consumption they can die within 36 – 48 hours.
Rhinos, Nyota, Serian and Jazz: four black chinos that visitors to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in northern Kenya won’t be seeing again.

A gang of armed poachers struck early on December 1st, shooting Rhinotek, an 11-year-old female, in the stomach. They picked off Nyota and Serian the following night.

What remained of Jazz was found later that day. The following week a fifth black rhino was slaughtered and left to bleed to death, its horn set hacked out, black rhino was slaughtered and left to rot. The following night.

They picked off Nyota and Serian the following night.

Rhino horns are worth more than gold. Paradoxically, these poachers would do themselves no good by hacking off the horns of a species so out of reach.

That’s why today, paid for pound, rhino horn is worth more than gold. Paradoxically, these poachers would do themselves no good by hacking off the horns of a species so out of reach.

Unless they are made to understand the real cost of this useless practice, both the black and southern white rhino will be extinct within a decade. The world’s rhino population has declined by 90% in 40 years.

The biggest slaughter – more than 200 in 2012 – has been in the gargantuan Kruger National Park in South Africa, where the most recent locations of rhino no longer feature on information boards for safari visitors.

Yesterday, I phoned Mike Watson, CEO at Lewa, whose years ago our family succumbed to the charms of a hand-reared orphaned baby rhino. He has just taken delivery of an American turbine helicopter to use as their eye-in-the-sky.

We are all too familiar with endangered species at Artemis, thanks to our work looking after and nurturing Profits. So we’re delighted to continue supporting Tusk Trust as a corporate sponsor. To find out more about Artemis, contact your financial adviser or call 0800 092 2051.

The value of an investment, and any income from it, can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Please remember that past performance is not a guide to the future.

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Eva Tendai Nyathi is a twelve-year-old girl who lives in the rural African village of Gundwane, in Zimbabwe. She is an orphan and she has to look after her grandmother; her grandfather died last year. Tendai is an extremely bright young child with a devastatingly big smile never far from her warm face. She heard about PDC’s Bush Camp programme from the older kids in her school. Tendai knew that PDC had promised that each year all grade six children would attend the Bush Camp and she couldn’t wait for her turn. When the day finally arrived she pinched herself.

Her four days at the Bush Camp flew by in a flurry of activities, games and endless laughter. It was everything she had hoped it would be. Unlike her older friends though it was not the three hot meals, electric lights, water that runs from a tap and stairs that take you as high as the tree tops that she remembered most. Tendai had been given the role of the painted dog ‘Eyespot’ in the play that certain children performed for the rest of the class. The play, called ‘Teach Your Children Well’ tells a story drawing parallels between the lives of painted dog pups whose father is killed in a snare and that of orphan children. She could relate to it well.

The activity she enjoyed most was called the connectivity game, which illustrated and made all the participants state what they could do to protect painted dogs. Eyespot’s father had died in a snare and Tendai promised that she would stop poaching in her village. She was soon to leave the Bush Camp, yet excited to be going home to her grandmother, so she could tell her long, exciting stories about the past four days.

The next morning Tendai walked to the house of her best friend Normusa and together they set off into the nearby forests. As they walked they talked about all they had experienced at the Bush Camp. They looked at the trees in a new way, as they now understood that a tree was not just firewood. Their excited chatter was cut short when they heard an unfamiliar sound. They stood, transfixed to the spot, and listened to the sound of a young male kudu struggling for its life in a snare. Cautiously they walked forward until they could see it. Tendai cried out in horror and started to run for home. Not in fear but in a desperate attempt to get help. Normusa was not so sure. She was afraid that the poacher who had set the snares would be angry that they were meddling and anyway the people in the village always needed meat.

Tendai shouted at her friend, asking her if she had learnt anything from the Bush Camp? Did she not understand that a painted dog could as easily be caught and killed in such a snare and that no one eats painted dogs? It was hard for Normusa to argue back and she ran even quicker than Tendai. Her uncle Shadrack was at his home and they arrived at the scene and turned him in at the police station. They told him of what they had seen and urged him to act. At first he was reluctant to interfere. Like Nomusa, he was very persuasively told they were meddling and that no one eats painted dogs to stop poaching in her village.

The Iganyana Education Centre hosts thousands of children a year like Tendai Nyathi, with the aim of changing their hearts and minds towards wildlife, nature and their environment.
Setting aside personal agendas, dividing fences and differences of opinion, individuals worked to create an enormous wildlife reserve. “What we proposed was to return to nature’s own system for this area,” said Clive Sinctil, founder Chairman of the Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC). “The area had once been productive, but man’s land-use strategy failed, so we decided to go back to nature.”

From the very beginning the need to accommodate communities surrounding the conservancy was apparent and the Savé Valley Conservancy Community Trust was formed in 1996 to provide a vehicle for meaningful community inclusion.

In the 1990s, rhino poaching was on the increase in Zimbabwe. At around the same time ranchers were considering the prospect of entering the wildlife industry as it had become necessary to relocate black rhino from the Zambezi Valley for their own safety.

In a serendipitous twist of fate, rhino conservationists were looking for expanses of land large enough to re-home these animals and the potential creation of the biggest privately owned wildlife conservancy in the world would offer an ideal location.

The gold standard of wildlife conservation – now let’s set the same for community involvement.

Lisa Jane Campbell
PR and Marketing, Savé Valley Conservancy

W. Pabst
SVC member

The Savé valley conservancy in the South-East Lowveld of Zimbabwe was born from hardship and necessity when a drought, one of the worst ever recorded, put paid to any ideas of continuing with cattle ranching or agriculture in the region.

Lisa Jane Campbell
PR and Marketing, Savé Valley Conservancy
continues

Conservancy. All these attempts were foiled due to identified as attempts to kill rhino within the over the past seven months have been positively future successes. More than half a dozen incursions and skill-development is considered integral to a reality and a major concern. Ongoing training to delegate some of the logistical issues now,” says Bryce Clemence who heads-up the SVC-APU. approximately 200 ranch scouts provide a valuable members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police. The current Anti-poaching Unit (SVC-APU) consists of approximately 13 men supported by 15 scouts from Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWSMA) and 18 members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police. Approximately 200 ranch scouts provide a valuable foundation on day-to-day tracking and monitoring issues. All scouts have been chosen for their dedication and passion for wildlife preservation. Tusk’s donation of a new Land Cruiser has put their lives on the same line. “The additional vehicle allows me to spend more time on training and in the field as I am able to disperse some of the logistical issues now,” says Bryce Clemence who heads-up the SVC-APU. Despite this, and despite the fact that the rhino are now breeding at a pace that slightly exceeds current rates of poaching, the threat to rhino is still a reality and a major concern. Ongoing training and skill-development is considered integral to future success. More than half a dozen incursions over the past seven months have been positively identified as attempts to kill rhino within the Conservancy. All these attempts were foiled due to the commitment of the men on the ground and the close co-operation that exists between the SVC-APU, the ZPWSMA and the ZRP. Efforts to protect rhino populations are, by necessity, ongoing.

 bloody skirmish with poachers

On an early November morning we received an urgent radio call saying that fresh human spoor had been found tracking a black rhino bull in the conservancy. When armed poachers are determinedly tracking a rhino they can catch up with it within an hour or two so we had to react and get on their tracks quickly. On arrival we confirmed that it was the genuine article: four poachers tracking a rhino with mean intentions. So we deployed using the ‘leap-frog’ method – some of us taking it in turns to go on ahead rapidly – for a considerable distance. We soon realised from the anti-tracking tactics they were using that they were hard-core military-trained poachers who would shoot to kill if we made contact with them. It was clear too from the rhino’s spoor that he had smelt the poachers a few times and so he was running for his life. This made us track with ever more determination for a number of hours. We knew the area well and realised that the rhino was running towards the Msaize Dam and so we leapt ahead and looked for tracks on a nearby road. We found where the rhino had crossed the river at the top of the dam, still running for its life. It was here that we noticed that the poachers had withdrawn from tracking the rhino, possibly because they had heard the sound of our Tusk Land Cruiser. We then sent two of our rangers to continue tracking the rhino as to get a visual of him and to ensure his protection. Splitting ourselves into pairs it was whilst we were trying to regain the lost tracks that we bumped into the poachers resting on some nearby high ground. They opened fire on us with an AK-47 rifle and had all the intention of killing us. With bullets whizzing past our heads we took cover for our lives and, returning fire, wounded two of the four poachers.

This operation turned out to be a great success – three of the four poachers were arrested, two automatic rifles were recovered and we broke a syndicate that has been responsible for killing many rhino all around Zimbabwe. We later discovered that these poachers had wounded a female black rhino called Ipod the day before. Ipod survived and is recovering well from her bullet wound. The rangers of SVC-APU have shown that whilst they put their hearts into their line of duty they often put their lives on the same line.

neighboring relations

Members of the SVC have always recognised the importance of the communities when it comes to the long-term success of any conservation efforts. Over the years, individual members have contributed to the welfare of their neighboring communities through employment, dam building, borehole sinking and maintenance, agricultural advice, and school and clinic infrastructure. Much of this was accepted as the simple act of being neighbourly.

The establishment of the trust has allowed for a more unified and widespread form of community involvement. Recently, the newly introduced Indunganyana Lion in Zimbabwe has provided the SVC with the opportunity to explore the groundbreaking possibility of using these laws to expand on a long-held collaborative vision by incorporating local communities into the SVC, thereby allowing them to directly participate in the wildlife industry. In October last year, bagan was made when the traditional leaders, the chiefs, from the areas surrounding the conservancy signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with the conservancy on behalf of their communities.

The years of experience and wealth of knowledge garnered by members of the SVC over the last two decades and more will now serve to create new opportunities in the area as well as further contribute to Zimbabwe’s irreplaceable wildlife heritage. The new and inclusive approach is breaking moulds and setting new standards for conservation projects throughout Africa and is every indication that the SVC and its partners will once again be setting the pace for modern conservation projects.
Continued

Continued from last issue, the Whitley Award for Conservation, she has spent years in the field studying lemur behaviour and ecology. Her experience of conducting conservation education programmes with communities across Madagascar is that local people have heard a lot of negative messages about what they shouldn’t do – ‘don’t hunt the forest’, ‘don’t go into the forest’. She found the positive practical messages in the PACE materials refreshing, and, having played a vital role in translating the materials into French while studying at Oxford Brookes University, is now integrating them into a project focused on the crowned sifaka lemur, Propithecus coronatus.

Reaching Josia’s field site is an adventure, for Reaching Josia’s field site is an adventure, for crowned sifakas are found only in a small region north of Mahajunga in northwest Madagascar. The town of Dabolava is right at the southeastern tip of the species’ range, and travelling there by road, even in a 4x4, can involve a certain amount of getting out and pushing, not to mention floating across large rivers on makeshift rafts. Nevertheless, Josia organised a field trip for 70 trainee teachers from the Ecole Normale Superieure, who, following a workshop about the PACE materials, would introduce ideas from the PACE pack to schoolchildren, teachers and community members in the Dabolava area.

Crowned sifakas are listed as ‘Endangered’ on the IUCN Red List, as scientists estimate that their population dropped by over 90% between 1999–2008, mostly due to habitat loss. The majority of Dabolava’s inhabitants are farmers, and the dry forests where the crowned sifaka lives have been burnt to make space for crops and livestock.

Charcoal burning, artisanal gold mine workings and illegal logging also eat into the forest. Josia’s education programme aims to work with the community on projects that will benefit their livelihoods whilst also making it easier for them to play a part in protecting the forest.

Josia Razafindramanana is an energetic teacher-training student is a particularly exciting element of this project. The student’s field trip not only introduced important topics and techniques to the community, but also provided an opportunity for the students to consolidate their own learning, so that they will be able to use these ideas in their future teaching careers. We look forward to bringing you further updates from this project.

Cameroon has some of the most important habitats and great ape populations in the world, including the critically endangered Cross River gorilla and the most endangered subspecies of chimpanzee. Yet, in a recent survey of teachers in Cameroon, almost two-thirds of the respondents named gorillas and chimpanzees when asked to list important wildlife species in Cameroon and over two-thirds failed to list them as endangered. The survey, which was completed by 1,200 teachers, was conducted by the United Africa Foundation.

Helping to teach about the country’s unique natural heritage and how it can be protected through PACE, Tusk has lent its support to UNAFAS CVP on-going nationwide initiative, aiming to help Cameroon’s schools teach their pupils about the country’s unique natural heritage and how it can be protected. Tusk has provided IT equipment and funding for seminars in locations across the country, introducing PACE resources to teachers and education officials, and starting off a process by which Cameroonian educators and conservation experts have collaborated to produce new lesson plans based on Cameroon’s wildlife laws and the Cross River gorilla action plan. Further permitting, these will be shared through a university teacher-training course, and through seminars for teachers already working in the major voluntary education authorities, as well as direct to the 120 schools already involved in the project.

Other partners and funders of this project include Siren Conservation Education, the Acaza Foundation, the Gorilla Foundation, WWF Great Apes Project and the Last Great Ape Organization. UNAFAS CVP has also recently embarked on a new collaboration with San Diego Zoo, enabling teachers in schools near Ebo Forest, Southwest Province, to take part inplanning training seminars. Likely to become a new national park, Ebo Forest harbours the critically endangered Pangolin’s ius subspecies, the tool-using Graaf’s chimpanzee and a population of around 25 gorillas, known to scientists for just over a decade, and of as yet undetermined taxonomic affiliation. Our plans for 2013 include a series of PACE trainings for teachers in Ebo Forest village schools, and also in key areas of Douala. Douala is the busy, sprawling, and economically vibrant capital of Cameroon – where consumer demand for bushmeat poses the major threat to wildlife in areas like Ebo Forest.

The UNAFAS CVP is led by long-time resident of Cameroon, Penny Fraser, who first travelled from Britain to Cameroon in 1990 to conduct ecological research in Korup National Park. She said, “Support from Tusk has been profoundly empowering for the project. The projection equipment and laptop has enabled us to serve multiple rural and urban training events. The project is poised to have a major impact on what is taught in Cameroon’s schools, as we move to consolidate resource provision and training within the education authorities.”
Among those who are committed to conservation in Africa, it is generally accepted that without community involvement and wider education about the value of protecting one’s natural heritage, the chances of long-term success and sustainability are greatly diminished.

**Masaian Preservation Trust (MPT)**

MPT was founded in 1992 by Richard Bonham, whose vision from the beginning was to work with the Maasai community, seeing them as critical partners in an initiative aimed at preserving a much wider ecosystem.

Today, MPT interlinks many community conservation initiatives supporting community-based programs, with the reserve itself, as well as important wildlife habitats across the border in Tanzania, connecting Amboseli’s elephant population with their feeding grounds at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro.

These migratory routes and dispersed areas must remain accessible to help ensure the survival of elephants in particular, and wildlife in general.

**Big Life Foundation**

“When we started Big Life Foundation, we were exclusively funding wildlife protection,” said Richard. “And while MPT was funding protection as well, primarily in the Eastern ecosystem, we were also well established in other important community and conservation initiatives such as mitigating human/wildlife conflict, alternative livelihood strategies for Maasai, education and healthcare.”

One of the most important aspects of Big Life’s approach is exactly the sort of collaborative and holistic approach needed to be successful, engaging local communities about conserving their natural heritage while supporting education and development.

**Future plans**

Plans for Big Life in 2013 are ambitious, and include further increases to their security network, specifically the intention to set up three new outposts on the Kenya side of the ecosystem, as well as an anti-poaching operation in the Lake Manyara area in northern Tanzania where poaching is rife. Another priority will be continuing to alleviate human/wildlife conflict, particularly the predation of livestock as well as crop raiding by constructing wildlife exclusion fences to protect the worst hit farmlands. While the expansion of education and wildlife scholarship programmes onto OlGadula Group Ranch is also in the works.

“Tusk is proud of the support we’ve given to MPT’s Super Cub aircraft,” said Charlie.

“There’s a great deal of sense in merging Big Life Foundation and MPT’s operations, an approach very much in line with the core values of Tusk,” said Charlie. “There’s a certain pride to being part of a well-run organisation that is clearly doing well,” said Nick. “There is a feeling that Big Life is here to stay which the community needs to feel if it is to embrace the fundamental core notion that a healthy environment populated with wildlife is by far their best chance of a healthy economy and thus a better chance of a healthy life. A win-win situation for the people, the animals and the entire ecosystem.”

The merger between Big Life Foundation and MPT is exactly the sort of collaborative and holistic approach needed to be successful, engaging local communities about conserving their natural heritage while supporting education and development.

“Their example encourages similar such collaborations amongst other projects we support.”

So far, Nick and Richard confirm that things have been seamless in terms of the day-to-day running, with Big Life and MPT clearly understood by the local communities to be one cohesive organisation.

“With as many people anywhere in the world, there is a certain pride to being part of a well-run organisation that is clearly doing well,” said Nick. “There is a feeling that Big Life is here to stay which the community needs to feel if it is to embrace the fundamental core notion that a healthy environment populated with wildlife is by far their best chance of a healthy economy and thus a better chance of a healthy life. A win-win situation for the people, the animals and the entire ecosystem.”

The merger between Big Life Foundation and MPT is exactly the sort of collaborative and holistic approach needed to be successful, engaging local communities about conserving their natural heritage while supporting education and development.
Prior to June 2012, the most recent continent-wide estimate of African elephant numbers, historically compiled by the African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG), dated back to 2007. A veritable lifetime ago when there were at least half a million elephants in Africa – perhaps as many as 700,000 – spread over some 3.3 million sq kms.

Anecdotal or not, by the end of 2011 a consensus was building within both the scientific as well as the conservation communities: elephant numbers were down, markedly, by as much as half of the 2007 numbers depending on whom you spoke with. So, why wasn’t everyone talking about it? Part of the answer was not, I discovered, that no one was reporting elephant population numbers, but rather that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission’s AfESG no longer had the funding to input the data.

“Census numbers from the AfESG are the critical component of information supplied to the CITES Standing Committee,” said Diane Skinner, Programme Officer at the AfESG. “In recent years, however, most of our funding has fallen away,” Diane told me one afternoon back in late 2011. “And with the EU focusing on the Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) database, the only agency still providing money is the US Fish and Wildlife.”

Full circle

“We appear to have gone full circle from 1990 when Tusk was established,” said Tusk CEO Charlie Mayhew in January 2012. “There is a real sense that ivory poaching is gaining momentum and it is only a matter of time before we begin to see what are still regarded as relatively safe populations within national parks and reserve becoming the targets.”

So when the opportunity arose to help the AfESG, Tusk immediately sought to build a coalition – working with Big Life, Save The Elephants and the Benindi Trust – to raise the money needed to fund a manager to undertake the critical task of supplying accurate data.

As Diane explained to me: over the previous several years, despite not having funding for a manager to run its database, the AfESG had been working on improving its facility, developing a new system to combine estimates that often use different methodologies, so as to produce a more balanced and accurate report. The resulting new website was no longer just for AfESG members and a closed circle of scientists, but rather available to the general public along with all reports published with the census figures.

“Tusk’s support of the African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG) corroborated findings that poaching is an immediate danger to elephant populations across the continent.”

The tide has changed,” Diane said, “and both the scientific community as well as the general public are more than acutely aware of the massive demand for ivory coming from China.”

Increase in poaching confirmed

On 21 June 2012, CITES published a report that, sadly, came as little surprise to anyone who had been reading or watching developments.

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An end to elephant poaching?

“The support we have given to the AfESG ahead of CITES should undoubtedly have made a difference,” said Charlie.

A difference that, in an ideal world, ought to stop the endless talking and prompt drastic action. Dead elephants should not be treated as mere data, in the same way seized ivory should not be seen as enforcement success.

At the end of the day, the ivory trade requires the killing of elephants. And with demand for ivory growing year on year, fuelled both by an exploding middle class in China as well as that government’s proactive investment in domestic production, the trade is not and never will be sustainable.
LONDON MARATHON

In 2012, Tusk raised over £100,000, the most ever, thanks to the 45 runners who ran on the 22nd April. A bumper year!

A large proportion of this money was raised by a keen Tusk supporter – Tim Russell – who decided to raise enough funds to help rebuild Kilimani Primary School. We are extremely grateful to Tim, who through his extraordinary efforts has made an enormous difference to the lives of many children in northern Kenya.

Started in 1968, the primary school, located in the historic West district of northern Kenya is one of the oldest schools in the area. The school’s student body consists of pupils from different ethnic backgrounds, including Boran, Turkana, Somali and Meru. Enrolment of pupils from different ethnic backgrounds, including Boran, Turkana, Somali and Meru. Enrolment at the school had reached a high – Tim Russell – who decided to raise

2012 marked the first year Tusk USA entered a team to join 47,000 runners in the New York City Marathon.

The Tusk team was in fact the first charity with a focus on wildlife to be officially allocated spaces by the marathon committee. All in, ten runners, including individuals from long-time Tusk corporate sponsors BlackRock and Investec Asset Management, worked extremely hard to raise funds for the event and with nearly $45,000 pledged it promised to be a huge success for the charity.

However, in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the marathon was cancelled. No doubt a huge disappointment for all of the runners scheduled to participate, though perhaps more so for those who, like the Tusk USA team, had been tirelessly working to raise both awareness and funds in support of their run.

Unsurprisingly, given their enthusiastic support of Tusk, several runners sought ways to help those who had been badly affected by Sandy. Tusk, pledging to aid relief efforts in the Tri-State area in the name of Tusk and their donors. Some travelled to the most devastated neighbourhoods to help distribute food and water to residents forced into shelters. A few others even scheduled future running events, committed to wearing the Tusk jersey, in order to raise more awareness about the organisation and African conservation.

Those donors who supported Tusk by pledging to the runners who were scheduled to take part in the marathon were no less generous. Having been sent correspondence offering to return all the funds collected in aid of the charity, many emailed or telephoned the office and insisted we keep their donations as they were only too happy to support Tusk and its many projects – an extraordinary show of commitment and generosity.

The New York Marathon has recently confirmed that our places are secure for 2013, and most of our 2012 team has already let us know they will be taking up their spots and are as keen as ever to continue to support Tusk. In all, our dedicated runners raised nearly £50,000 for the charity in 2013, making our debut in the event a success by any measure.

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The opportunity to listen to two of the world’s leading conservationists at the 2012 American Express Conservation Lecture ensured a sell-out event. The Orlandi Theatre at the Royal Geographical Society was packed with over 740 guests, keen to hear authoritative accounts on the poaching crisis currently threatening the extinction of African elephant and rhino.

Expertly hosted by the BBC broadcaster and journalist Kate Silverton, the keynote speeches were given by Ian Craig, one of Africa’s most respected conservationists and co-founder of the Northern Rangelands Trust, and Steve Trent, Executive Director of the Environmental Justice Foundation, who has over 25 years experience of environmental advocacy and investigations.

Ian Craig’s speech focused on the methods and the motivation for poachers, the crucial differences in market value of elephant tusk and rhino horn and the consequences of the illegal trade on both local and national economies. He issued a stark warning that these iconic animals are once again on the ‘cusp of a crisis’ and the world needs a clear message that all ivory trade is illegal. With rhino horn more valuable than gold, Steve Trent called for new ideas aimed at turning off the demand, primarily in China. “It is vital that we fully understand the depth of the poaching crisis which has seen as many as 35,000 elephant slaughtered over the last twelve months and up to two rhinos a day being poached in South Africa alone,” he declared. “When the buyers stop, the killing can too.”

Endorsing the keynote speeches and the work of Tusk, UK Environment Minister, Richard Benyon MP, addressed the audience saying there would be no shortage of effort on the Government’s part to make sure changes happen. He added, “We believe that by working together with organisations like Tusk and the world, we can give these magnificent animals the best chance of survival.”

An auction of 28th-century African birdlife celebrated by renowned sculptor’s bronzes are available. With a safari experience, then this is a great night for Tusk and for Mark Knopfler fans.

Tusk is delighted to be a beneficiary of the Geoffroy-Dashwood Exhibition at the splendid Talisman showroom in Dorset. The renowned sculptor’s bronze is much sought after for its iconic exhibits of African birdlife. Visit Dashwood’s website to enter his exceptional contemporary work.

With Talisman hosting the event, this promises to be an excellent evening.

DASHMOW CONCERTATION AT TALISMAN

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When: Friday 3 May 2013
Where: Talisman Showroom, The Old Brewery, Wyley Road, Stalingham, Donett SP9 4AW
Tickets: invitation only
Contact: mary jane@tusk.org
geoffroydashwood.com
talismondonion.com

MARK KNOPFLER CONCERT

Tusk will be looking forward to a tremendous evening at the Royal Albert Hall, courtesy of Mark Knopfler and Paul Chidwick Management. With Ruth Moody from Canada as the support act, this promises to be a great night for Tusk and for Mark Knopfler fans.

NB: for ticket enquiries please contact ticket agencies and the venue; regrettably, Tusk has no tickets available.

When: Thursday 30 May 2013
Where: Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Court, London SW7
Tickets: Limited availability, first come, first served & RAFF only
Contact: mary june@tusk.org

UK EVENTS

TUSK MODERN ART AUCTION

Tusk was proud to stage the second Tusk Modern Art Auction and reception at the newly refurbished Hippodrome in Leicester Square on November 28th.

Co-organiser Chris Westbrook obtained works of art by celebrated artists such as Sir Peter Blake, Banksy, Norman Parkinson, Maggi Hambling, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse. The opportunity to hone your marksmanship skills awaits in a secluded Berkhamsbury setting. The evening will be filled with live music and dinner, hosted by the renowned pitsun (poo hazard) and a silent auction. The keens will give back behind this scene’s tours, and we’ll see you off after a hot breakfast the next morning. All proceeds from this event will be donated to Tusk and The Care Parkinson’s Trust.

When: Saturday 15 June 2013
Where: The Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4JP
Contact: reggaep@colinakiddiae@park.co.uk or telephone The Park on 01939 833 006.

SAFARICON MARATHON

This year we see the 14th staging of this unique Tusk organised marathon and half marathon at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Over 1,000 runners from around the world will take part in the race, which last year raised over £650,000 for worthwhile projects in Kenya. If you are looking for something a little more challenging then the London or New York Marathons and the chance to tie it in with a safari experience, then this is it – but hurry you might be too late for the 2013 event!

When: Saturday 29 June 2013
Where: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya
Contact: adelle@tusk.org

THE BIG ROAR & SNORE 2013

Enjoy a fun night out camping in the Cotswold Wildlife Park with wonton of fun and other wonderful wild animals. The evening will include a frog toss, live music and disco, while the kids can get involved in the mini pedo, pitsun (poo hazard) and a silent auction. The keens will give back behind this scene’s tours, and we’ll see you off after a hot breakfast the next morning. All proceeds from this event will be donated to Tusk and The Care Parkinson’s Trust.

When: Saturday 21 September 2013
Where: Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4JP
Contact: reggaep@colinakiddiae@park.co.uk or telephone The Park on 01939 833 006.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT

The opportunity to hone your marksmanship skills awaits in a secluded Berkhamsbury setting. Co-organiser Dr Joyce Meaden gave the speakers.

When: Monday 23 October 2013
Where: Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4JP
Contact: adelle@tusk.org

Visit www.tusk.org for details on all the charity’s events and how to book tickets.

USA EVENTS

JOYCE POOLE LECTURE AT THE EXPLORER’S CLUB

Tusk is delighted to host a lecture by elephant behaviour expert, Dr Joyce Poole.

When: Wednesday 15 May 2013
Where: The Explorer’s Club, 4 East 70th Street, New York, NY
Tickets: tusktrust.explorerclub.com
Contact: tusktrust@tusk.org

RUN FOR TUSK USA IN THE NEW YORK MARATHON

Please note that spaces are limited.

When: Sunday 3 November 2013
Where: New York City, New York
Contact: tuskusa@tusk.org

ANNUAL FRIENDS OF TUSK USA DINNER

When: Thursday 7 November 2013
Where: Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Duffield Street, New York, NY
Contact: tuskusa@tusk.org

Visit www.tusk.org for more information or check our website for updates tusk.org