



TUSK TALK

2013/14

Protecting Wildlife, Supporting Communities, Promoting Education

TUSK TRUST

4 Cheapside House, High Street
Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4AA

Tel: +44 (0)1747 831 005
Fax: +44 (0)1747 831 006
Email: info@tusk.org
Web: www.tusk.org

Tusk Trust is a Registered
UK Charity No: 803118

TUSK USA INC

40 East 94th Street
New York, NY 10128

Tel: +1 (0)212 602 1588 toll free
Email: tuskusa@tusk.org

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TUSK TALK MAGAZINE

Photography

AfriCat	Juan Pablo Moreiras
Daryl Balfour	Ololosokwan Conservancy
www.wildphotosafaris.com	Rachael Oman
Bateleurs	Josia Razafindramanana
Peter Blinston	Matt Rice
Conservation Lower Zambezi	Faith Riunga
Batian Craig	Susannah Rouse
C3 Madagascar	Save Rhino Trust
Penny Fraser	Save Valley Conservancy
Dr Max Graham	South Luangwa
Mary Hillard	Conservation Trust
Diana Hunter	Anne Marie Theron
ICAP	Mike Watson
Chris Jackson	Sarah Watson
Lamu Marine Conservation	Kerri Wolter
Trust	
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy	
Local Ocean Trust	
Mali Elephant Project	
Gillie McCollum	
Robert Merrick	
Mkomazi National Park	

Back Cover

Mike Watson

Editor

Sarah Watson





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 threatens 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 frontline of conservation in the face of this threat are so 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 whole world. We will not be the generation that let our guard down. Thank you for your continued support of Tusk Trust.

Wills

PROTECTING WILDLIFE SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES PROMOTING EDUCATION

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WELCOME

2012 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR TUSK WHEN, 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.

IAIN RAWLINSON *Chairman, Tusk Trust*

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 sectors 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 £1,423,675* being paid out in support of our conservation, community and education programmes across Africa. A further £585,679* 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 total 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 portfolio, finding new quality project opportunities, and raising the profile of our 'voice' in appropriate settings to support the work of others;
- **Secure financial robustness** – sustaining our existing revenue bases in UK, USA and around 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.

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.

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 in 2012 to launch the Tusk Conservation Awards (see pages 8-11) with support from our Royal Patron and Investec Asset Management.

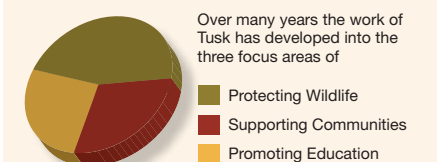
This exciting new initiative will be an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and raise awareness of the extraordinary work carried out by so many in the world of African conservation.

Thank you

Thank you for your continuing 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!

Split of grants made in 2012



TUSK HAS BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE VERY SEVERE ESCALATION OF POACHING OF BOTH ELEPHANT AND RHINO POPULATIONS.



INVALUABLE SUPPORT

IN THE LAST EDITION OF *TUSK TALK* WE HIGHLIGHTED THE GROWING CRISIS OF ILLEGAL POACHING AND SADLY THERE IS LITTLE GOOD NEWS TO REPORT ON THIS FRONT.

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, rhino horn or lion body parts.

CHARLIE MAYHEW MBE *Chief Executive, Tusk Trust*

Surely in this 21st century it is time for the world to agree that this trade has no place in our society. Indeed, it seems odd to me that we have an international body created to help protect endangered species, and yet whose name contradicts its very reason for existence.

The 'Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species' (CITES) is surely a contradiction in terms – why are we even discussing any trade in endangered species?

The 2013 CITES conference in Bangkok, however, did make an important step by getting the 178 nations who are signatories to the convention to finally recognise the urgent need to reduce global demand for ivory. But there is still a very long way to go to kill the trade.

The world has to come to its senses and halt the sickening trafficking which is being ruthlessly exploited by terrorist and rebel groups to finance their operations, and international criminal syndicates who traffic illegal drugs and are equally implicated in the wildlife trade – now reportedly worth £12 billion a year.

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 \$927,400* 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 première of Disney Nature's beautifully filmed feature-length documentary, *African Cats*. The Prince used the opportunity to give a keynote speech to 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 Mkomazi 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 film première, 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 Investec 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-running series of talks. It was given by Ian Craig and Steve Trent and focused on the ivory trade. We were also honoured that the UK's Environment Minister, Richard Benyon MP, used 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 Safaricom 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\$575,000, 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 28-33 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 ensured the financial success of this unique event. Deutsche Bank's 2012 team took home the trophy as the highest fundraiser. Many congratulations!

In 2012 the total funds allocated to projects amounted to £2,009,350, of which £585,675 was awaiting draw down at the year-end. Tusk USA's grants totalled US\$516,813. This investment has helped sustain the work undertaken by 56 projects in 18 countries, while Tusk's PACE environmental education programme has now been implemented and taught in 26 countries.

Successful coexistence with local people

Our philosophy has always been to establish strong partnerships with the projects that we support – without a doubt, successful conservation requires long-term investment. Our strategic partnerships with the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Mkomazi 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 our longstanding commitment to grassroots conservation. Our parallel investment into sustainable community development and education initiatives recognises that the future for wildlife is best served through a successful coexistence with local people.

Looking ahead into 2013 and beyond, we are delighted to have recently announced the launch of the 'Tusk Conservation Awards' (see pages 8-11), which will feature an annual lifetime achievement award for conservation in Africa. The initiative

is being generously sponsored by Investec Asset Management with additional support from Dom Pérignon, 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 unsung heroes of conservation in Africa and shine a spotlight onto 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, BlackRock, Deutsche Bank and Investec Asset Management for their superb support this last year.

I am very grateful to all of our Trustees on both sides of the Atlantic for the time and advice that they give voluntarily and of course to our Royal Patron, The Duke of Cambridge, for his deep commitment to the work of Tusk.

The conservation challenges are greater than ever before, but we continue to be inspired by the achievements and extraordinary efforts of our project managers and the courage of the game rangers who put their lives on the line every day.

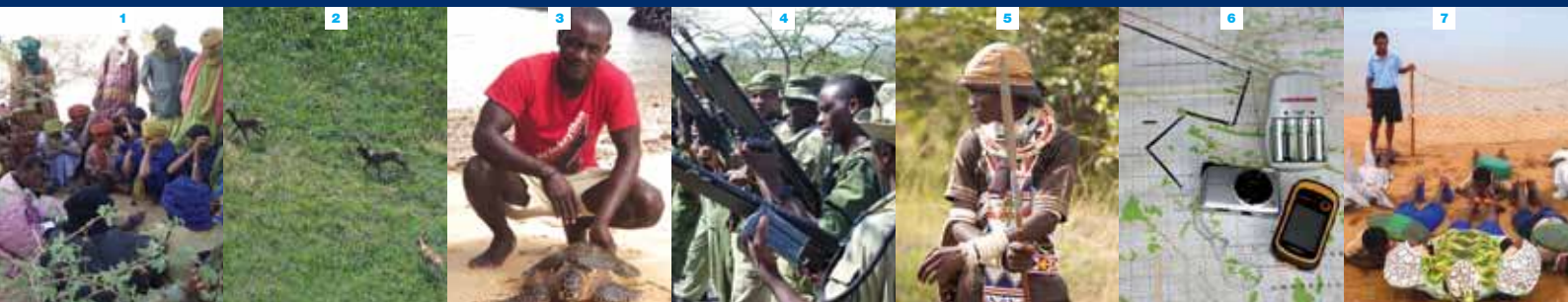
I very much hope we can rely upon your generous support in 2013. ●

WHILST 2012 PROVED TO BE AN EXCELLENT YEAR FOR TUSK, IT ALSO PROVED TO BE DISASTROUS FOR RHINO AND ELEPHANT ACROSS AFRICA.

PROJECT UPDATE

OUR WORK IS DIVERSE AND COVERS A VAST AREA IN 18 COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT 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.



1 MALI ELEPHANT PROJECT

Established in 2003, the Mali Elephant Project (MEP) is a long-term initiative aiming to protect a unique population of 550 sub-desert elephant. In order to cope with the dispersed and variable nature of the area's resources, the elephant of Mali make the largest annual elephant migration in all of Africa.

Human activity in the elephant range is increasingly impeding this migration. At the same time, local populations are lawlessly degrading water, forests, and pasture; the resultant 'free-for-all' has led to resource degradation, habitat destruction, and an increase in human/elephant conflict. Due to insufficient resources, the Mali government is unable to cope with the growing crisis, and a new approach is required.

At the local level, the MEP project brings together the diverse clans and ethnicities to establish natural resource management systems, agreed to by all. These systems protect the elephant migration route, increase the quantity of resources by reversing destructive practices, and empower the community to sustainably manage the resources on which its livelihood depends. Tusk funding is being used to train and mobilise an armed anti-poaching rapid-response force – as requested by the community – that can act on information provided by the project's community information networks. The 12-man team will be capable of dealing with poaching situations. In addition, the team will support the community patrols in their work of natural resource management and protecting the habitats and migration route of the elephants.

2 SOUTHERN NATIONAL PARK

South Sudan is the world's newest nation state. After two civil wars (1963-1972 and 1983-2005) that resulted in self-determination for southern Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan became independent on July 9th 2011.

Southern National Park (SNP), South Sudan's oldest national park, was historically known for its large numbers of elephant, buffalo, giant eland and roan antelope as well as its northern white rhino population. This park, like many protected areas, was severely poached during the civil wars. Nevertheless, findings today indicate that key populations remain even though the wildlife is under threat from local poaching and insecurity.

Consequently, the present focus of SNP management is to establish access to the Park through a simple network of roads and airstrips, as well as equipping, supporting and training a small contingent of scouts. This will establish a basic presence and provide a foundation for the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) 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 basic monitoring and mapping capabilities, the development of access roads to the boundaries of SNP, and training of logistical and administrative support teams. Given the remoteness of SNP, the single biggest need is establishing a radio communications system. Tusk's recent funding will enable this vital next step.

3 LOCAL OCEAN TRUST

The Watamu area of Kenya's coast is internationally renowned for its outstanding natural beauty, its diverse habitat and abundant marine and bird life. 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.

The project's original flagship programme, Watamu Turtle Watch (WTW), works to protect Kenya's endangered turtle population. WTWs programmes include: a highly successful By Catch and Net Release programme with over 8,630 turtles released since its inception; the only Turtle Rehabilitation Centre in East Africa; a Nest Protection and Monitoring Programme; as well as an Education Programme that works with school children, tourists, hotels, and local fishermen.

Tusk's first grant to LOT will enable eight young people to participate in the Marine Scouts programme which involves a year-long field study course based in beach, riparian and creek areas. Studies will be experiential and designed to promote abilities in observation, data collection and analysis, as well as to encourage a love of nature. The scouts will learn to identify trees, birds and natural plant remedies. They will enjoy gardening, 'treasure hunts', beach clean ups, turtle releases, nest identification and monitoring and working in LOT's Rehabilitation Centre. The aim is to inspire the future custodians of Kenya's marine biodiversity and to nurture a life-long love of their local ocean heritage.

4 SPACE FOR GIANTS

Outside of the Masai Mara National Reserve, Laikipia contains a higher population of large mammals than any other landscape in Kenya. The district is also home to the second largest elephant population in the country, currently about 7,000 individuals. Over the last three years there has been a dramatic surge in illegal killing of elephant in the Laikipia/Samburu 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 Reservists combined with Kenya Wildlife Service personnel, is currently being established. Tusk funding will allow Space for Giants (SFG) to recruit and train 10 new scouts and a Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephant (MIKE) Officer to work across Laikipia.

In collaboration with the Mpala Research Centre and Save the Elephants, SFG will train 30 staff from ranches, conservancies and community organisations in the region on the systematic collection and reporting of data on elephant poaching and associated incidents. This data will enable areas of greatest need to be identified and management efforts channelled accordingly.

5 KATAVI LION PROJECT

Created in 1974, Katavi National Park (KNP) is Tanzania's third largest national park and is home to the four great remaining lion populations in East Africa.

Killing of lions by local communities is considered the greatest threat to lion populations in sub-Saharan Africa. Historically, these killings were largely

motivated by livestock predation by lions. However, research has shown that hunting of lion has now become a wealth-generating activity in the KNP region. Young Sukuma men hunt lion for the pieces of skin and claws that they can use as leverage in getting traditional reward payments (cattle, goats or money) from Sukuma households.

Preventing or compensating for livestock losses is the objective of most KNP programmes concerned with reducing human/carnivore conflict. There is, however, no precedent for conservation action where local people kill lions for reasons other than livestock predation. In 2011, the WASIMA campaign (*Watu, Simba na Mazingira* – People, Lions and the Environment) was launched to address this problem.

The overarching aim of WASIMA is to assist Sukuma households to control and police lion hunting themselves. By ending reward payments for lion hunters the economic incentive for lion hunting will be removed. With funding from Tusk, WASIMA plans to enforce wildlife protection laws by engaging the Sungusungu – the traditional Sukuma policing institution – and implement a community-wide environmental education programme.

6 OLOLOSOKWAN CONSERVANCY

During the annual migration, some 1,500,000 wildebeest and other migrating herbivores move out of the Serengeti National Park and onto community land before entering the Masai Mara in Kenya. Ololosokwan village land lies adjacent to the Serengeti and provides an important link between the National Park and the Masai Mara. When moving through the community areas, the wildlife is at great risk of being poached. It is estimated that as many as 100,000 wildebeest are poached from the Serengeti ecosystem annually, primarily when the migration moves outside of the National Park.

The villagers of Ololosokwan have come to realise the value of wildlife and, in 2004, established a community-owned membership organisation to help the local population realise financial benefits from the wildlife. It is hoped that tourism will provide funding for supportive services to these communities, including education, women's empowerment and sustainable income generating projects.

With help from Tusk, the project will begin by training and equipping two village game scouts to undertake regular patrols within the Ololosokwan village land.

7 C3 MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity and its northern coastal waters are an important refuge for numerous endangered marine species. Since 2009, Community Centred Conservation (C3) has worked as a facilitator between Madagascar National Parks Authority and the communities of Nosy Hara Marine Park to find common ground and take conservation initiatives. C3 aims to reduce human threats to critically endangered marine species by raising awareness of environmental issues and empowering young people with the skills needed to be conservation leaders in their communities.

Tusk's recent grant to C3 will help establish a network of young environmental leaders – 'Junior Ecoguards' – within local communities. Working with the Boy Scouts of Antsiranana, C3 will train 20 youth from three different communities of the Marine Park in locally and globally relevant environmental issues with a particular focus on endangered marine species and coral reef fisheries. By targeting young people, C3 not only facilitates the communication of conservation messages to wider communities but also ensures that the next generation of fishers and resource-users will also promote behavioural changes to aid sustainability.



The map shows the 18 countries in which we currently have 56 projects that are listed below:

GUINEA Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Project	TANZANIA African Rainforest Conservancy Katavi Lion Project Mkomazi National Park Ololosokwan Conservancy Serengeti Rabies Vaccination Project
MALI Mali Elephant Project	ZAMBIA Conservation Lower Zambezi Kasanka National Park South Luangwa Conservation Society
NIGERIA CERCOPAN	MALAWI Lilongwe Wildlife Centre The Nyika-Vwaza Trust
CAMEROON Cross River Gorilla Conservation Project PACE Cameroon	MADAGASCAR Alaotran Gentle Lemur Project C3 Madagascar
CONGO Lefini Reserve	ZIMBABWE Painted Dog Conservation Savé Valley Conservancy
DRC Walikali Gorilla and Forest Conservation Project	BOTSWANA Botswana Predator Conservation Trust Central Kalahari Research Group Coaching for Conservation Mokolodi Nature Reserve Tachila Nature Reserve
SUDAN Southern National Park Sudan	SOUTH AFRICA Bateleurs Cape Vulture Conservation Project Southern African Wildlife College
UGANDA Ggaba Teacher Training College Uganda Conservation Foundation	NAMIBIA Africat Foundation Save the Rhino Trust
KENYA African Elephant Specialist Group Big Life Foundation/MPT Ishaqbini Community Conservancy Kibodo Trust The Koiyaki Guiding School Kora National Park Lamu Marine Conservation Project Lekurruki Conservation Trust Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Local Ocean Trust Ltungai Community Conservation Trust Mountain Bongo Surveillance Project Mount Kenya Trust Mpus Kutuk Community Conservancy Nakuprat Conservancy Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust Northern Rangelands Trust Olare Orok Conservancy Ruko Community Wildlife Conservancy Sera Wildlife Conservancy Space for Giants	ANGOLA Giant Sable Conservation Project

TUSK CONSERVATION AWARDS

DURING THE TWELVE YEARS THAT I HAVE WORKED FOR TUSK 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)*

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

and partnership of Investec Asset Management. Our aim is for the Tusk Conservation Awards to be an accolade in the truest sense, one which is bestowed on someone without their prior knowledge, nominated by their peers, in recognition of their outstanding work, whether this be the protection of endangered species or threatened habitat, promotion of environmental education or development of community-driven conservation.

In the first year there will be two awards which, in addition to signalling global recognition of the winners' work, are intended to help to develop their projects.

Tusk's Royal Patron, the Duke of Cambridge, has taken a keen personal interest in the initiative and has supported the concept from the outset.



THE AWARDS

Tusk Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is considered a lifetime achievement award and will be awarded to a distinguished individual for their outstanding dedication and exceptional contribution, over a minimum of ten years, to conservation in Africa.

The Tusk Conservation Award

This award recognises an up-and-coming conservationist whose work shows real promise and will be awarded to an individual with a minimum of five years experience who has demonstrated a considerable commitment to conservation and has already made a significant impact.

THE PRIZE

The award winner will receive a trophy designed by Tiffany's and a grant towards the winning project.

THE AWARD PARTNERS

Tusk is delighted to be working in partnership with Investec Asset Management on the awards. A supporter of the charity for many years, their additional commitment to the awards will benefit numerous people and projects across the continent.

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

Dr Rob Brett



Rob has been Director of Fauna & Flora 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 naked mole-rats in Tsavo 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 supervising all Regions. He left to join the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) as the Executive Director.

Ali currently works at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa. In 1998 Ali was awarded the Kenya Order of the Grand Warrior for achievements in anti-poaching, rhino capture and intelligence work. He has also received the National Geographic Society's Howard Buffet Award for 'Leadership in African Conservation'.

THE TUSK CONSERVATION AWARDS JUDGING PANEL

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

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.

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 him to organise a major expedition across Africa as part of the UN's International Year of Youth.

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 services to conservation in Africa, Charlie was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty The Queen in December 2005.

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 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.

Nigel Winsor



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 purpose-led fieldwork, community-based nature 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 (Chair), the Field Studies Council and the Global Canopy Programme. ●

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STARS HELP TO RAISE MI££IONS

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.



PREVIOUS PAGE, L-R
Michael Spencer, CEO ICAP, with
BBC Presenter Kate Silverton and
her daughter Clemency.

Ben Fogle sealing a trade with the
help of two punk rockers!

THIS PAGE, TOP L-R
Melinda Messenger helping to
seal a deal.

Deborah Meaden trading words
with the ICAP team.

BOTTOM
Rory Bremner making an
impression on the trading floor.

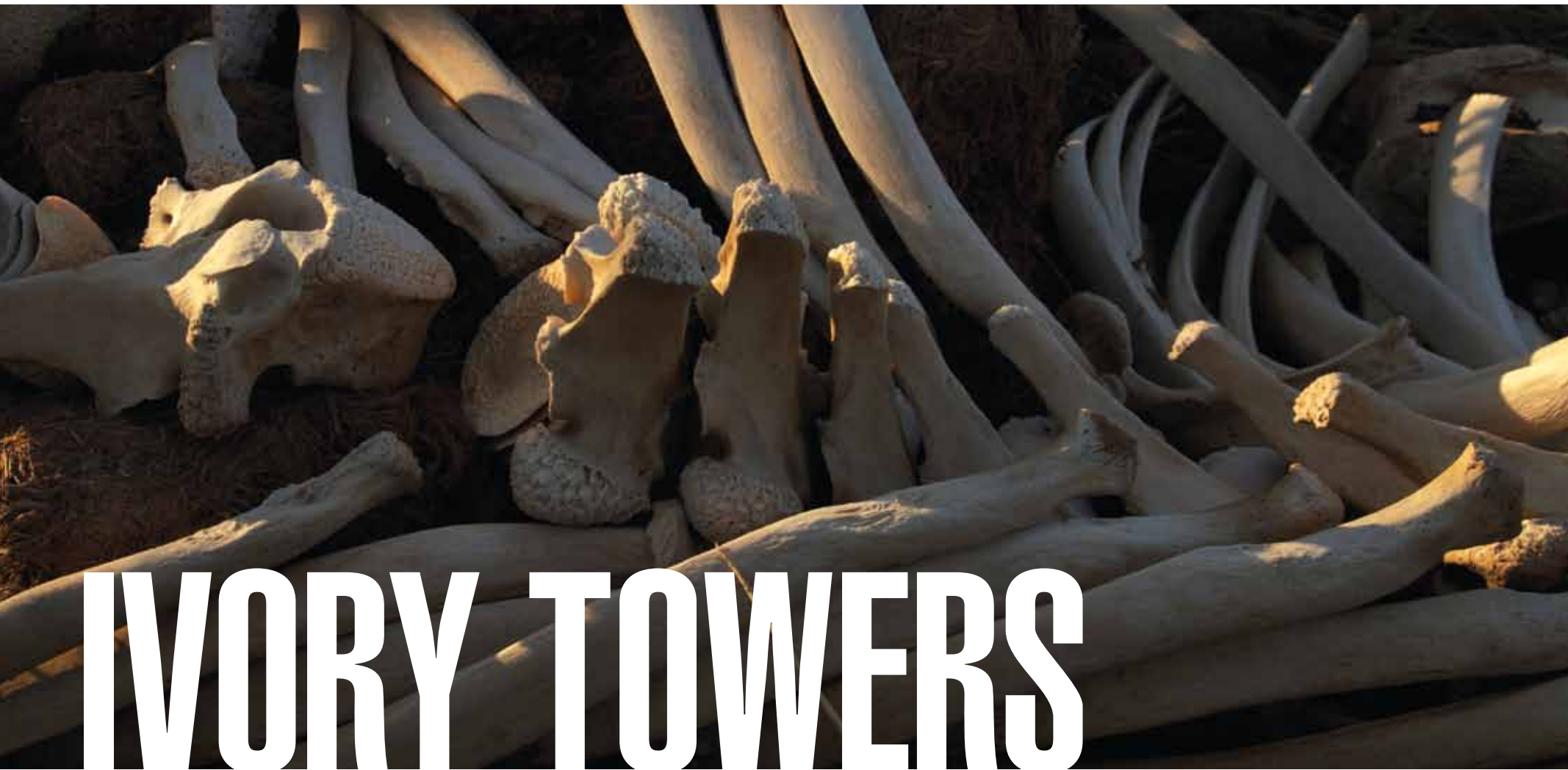




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IVORY TOWERS

BETWEEN JANUARY AND DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR NEARLY THIRTY TONS OF ILLEGAL IVORY were seized around the world, with more still yet to be reported at year-end, providing grim proof of a continent-wide slaughter of epic proportions that by many accounts threatens the existence of African elephant in the wild.

MEREDITH OGILVIE-THOMPSON *Executive Director, Tusk USA Inc.*

Not 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 inflict violence upon anyone 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 throughout Africa.

And yet, according to investigative journalist Bryan Christy, author of the October 2012 *National Geographic* cover story *Ivory Worship*, no single crime-syndicate boss has ever been identified, let alone stopped, with regard to the ivory trade.

Not one. “We have to identify and imprison the kingpins in this trade,” Christy tells me in an interview in the new year. “CITES (the U.N. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) has been talking a big game about a new era in wildlife trade, and yet we do not have one single name of an ivory trafficker. It ought to

be a benchmark for whether law enforcement is effective, on a global or national level. CITES keeps the focus on statistics for measuring effectiveness against illegal trade, but effectiveness is measured by putting people in prison. We know who the big people are in the drug trade, but for some reason, because it is an animal issue, we cease to digest the criminality of it all, which is huge and needs to be enforced.

“How many kingpins have gone to prison?” Christy asks me.

“None?” I venture to guess.

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

Christy is particularly well qualified to comment, having spent most of the past two years delving into the illegal ivory trade, from its source in 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 wildlife trafficking syndicates, also for *National Geographic*, led to the arrest of Anson Wong, a Malaysian national who was to the endangered wildlife trade what Pablo 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 captivating 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 when it comes to wildlife, while few other law enforcement bodies are empowered to go across borders and do proper investigative work. Diplomatic and trade agreements seem to have fared no better, with consensus often out of reach, and little hope of any bilateral strategy to combat the problem.

The most visible example of this being CITES itself, which has focused more on the trade in, rather than the protection of, endangered species. As well as a handful of African range states, who continually

use the failure of the ivory ban as their rationale. 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. Frequently viewed as mere tear-jerking melodrama the world has been slow to wake to the crisis. Which, according to Christy, has allowed criminals to benefit from the gap between the reality and the public’s perception of what is going on.

“What I knew when I started looking into the trade was that China was the main consumer of ivory, so that meant trying to track down a Chinese entity.”

Christy set to work in Tanzania, gathering intelligence on a small group of men – Tanzanian nationals – who were trafficking ivory, and had already been implicated in it being shipped to Asia. In an effort to track these men to their buyers, and pull a network together from both ends, Christy followed one of their shipments routed through the Philippines.

“I went there and discovered this incredible supply of ivory being carved into Catholic artefacts,” Christy said. “And then I heard this rumour that Catholics were exporting these icons to Catholics outside the country.” The trail would eventually lead Christy to a staggering cache of ivory icons at a gallery on St Peter’s Square in the Vatican City.

According to Christy in *Ivory Worship*, the Vatican was committed to confronting international crime, signing agreements on drug trafficking,

terrorism, and organised criminal syndicates. But it had chosen not to sign the CITES treaty and therefore was not subject to the ivory ban. Christy recalls being told that if he bought an ivory crucifix, the gallery would have it blessed by a Vatican priest and shipped to him.

Religion and ivory

Unfortunately, the religious link between ivory and idolatry did not end there. In Thailand, one of the countries most implicated in the illegal ivory trade, Christy travelled to the town that is the main carving centre and witnessed people carving ivory in Buddhist images. From there, he went to China to have a look at what was being called ‘The Trinket Trade’ – a term Christy much despises as demeaning and disrespectful – to find big, expensive mythological and religious carvings.

“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 carvings this is the major driver.”

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 recommendation that Parties report annually on government-held ivory stockpiles, and those involved in ivory seizures of 500kg or more should collect and submit DNA samples for forensic analysis.

However, the Parties failed on two accounts – firstly to re-engage on the impact of the previous ‘one-off’ ivory sales and secondly to insist the decision-making mechanism (DMM) for the process of trade in ivory be shut down. Instead,

the DMM is on the agenda for CITES standing committee 2014, despite the worst elephant poaching and illegal ivory trade levels in history.

It is a dialogue Christy finds reminiscent of the dialogue on global warming.

“Some people believe in it and some people don’t,” he says. “But it’s not a belief question.

Because as soon as you accept it can be tabled as a belief question, you’ve undermined the validity of any empirical evidence. The Japan experiment, the one-off sale in 1999, was an incompetent measure.”

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 this particular illegal wildlife trade has more potential to be staunched than almost any other.

“China is autocratic, a command economy, and could shut this down overnight,” Christy says. “If the Vatican took the correct position on this as well, that could save thousands of elephants a year. And if you stop ivory, chances are it will trickle down to rhino as well, and will be paid attention to by other Asian nations, especially if it comes from China.” Likewise, the exposure of the role of ivory in religion and faith has the potential to level a knockout punch, as it calls into question the core values of people of all beliefs. While begging the questions, “Is this really who we are, and is this the best we can do?”

For the moment, though, the bigger and more pressing issue just might be finding the way to bypass CITES, and its insistence on the use of statistics alone to make policy and law enforcement decisions. The shortcomings of which can be seen regularly in myriad photos of faceless, butchered elephants; the loss of Africa’s natural heritage, and one of the planet’s most iconic species. ●



In January 2012 a hundred raiders on horseback charged out of Chad into Cameroon’s Boubia Ndjidah National Park, slaughtering hundreds of elephants – entire families

– in one of the worst concentrated killings since a global ivory trade ban was adopted in 1989. Carrying AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades, they dispatched the elephants with a military precision reminiscent of a 2006 butchering outside Chad’s Zakouma National Park. And then some stopped to pray to Allah. Seen from the ground, each of the bloated elephant carcasses is a monument to human

greed. Elephant poaching levels are currently at their worst in a decade, and seizures of illegal ivory are at their highest level in years. From the air too the scattered bodies present a senseless crime scene – you can see which animals fled, which mothers tried to protect their young, how one terrified herd of 50 went down together, the latest of the tens of thousands of elephants killed across Africa each year.

Seen from higher still, from the vantage of history, this killing field is not new at all. It is timeless, and it is now.

Bryan Christy *National Geographic*, October 2012.





PREVIOUS PAGE, TOP-BOTTOM
Gong rock at Kisima Hamsini.
Black-faced sandgrouse in flight.
Sera's incredible night sky.
THIS PAGE, L-R
Base camp on the banks of
the Kauro Lugga.
Alex Hunter with clients.

DRIVING NORTH ALONG THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED BLACKTOP HIGHWAY FROM ISIOLO TO MARSABIT, you come to a natural gateway on the skyline. On one side of the road looms the tabletop mountain of Ololokwe. On the other, the rocky outcrop known as the 'Cat and Mouse', and it is here that Northern Kenya truly begins – a heat-hazy infinity of commiphora woodlands and blue faraway mountains extending all the way to Ethiopia.

BRIAN JACKMAN *Journalist and Author*

This is what colonial Kenyans used to call the NFD – the wild and lawless Northern Frontier District. Now, mercifully, a quiet revolution is taking place, bringing peace and a measure of prosperity never known before in these unforgiving thirstlands.

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 wider, contiguous wildlife landscape embracing the Samburu National Reserve, a mosaic of other private conservancies and the cedar-clad vastness of the Mathews Range.

Here, working in partnership with its Samburu landowner communities, 300,000 acres have been earmarked for conservation by the NRT with a core area of 85,000 acres as a dedicated wildlife conservancy. Within this, a further 25,000 acres are being fenced off to create a safe haven for up to 50 black rhino. When completed in a year's time, this will be the most important community-owned rhino sanctuary in Kenya. For rhinos and visitors alike, safety is of paramount importance, and it is comforting to discover that the area is patrolled every day by teams of rangers, all trained by the Kenya Wildlife Service. Overall security in the area is managed by the Sera Conservancy under the NRT which also provides back-up in the form of a spotter plane, tracker dogs and a special Kenya



TUSK TALK 2013/14

Police Reservist team focused purely on anti-poaching and guest security. But the backbone of Sera's security is provided by the community at large who, recognising the value of tourism, no longer tolerate poachers in their midst.

Guided by the distant mountains

Last August I spent three unforgettable days at Sera, exploring its sand luggas (seasonal watercourses) and pink granite inselbergs with Alex Hunter who, with his wife Diana, is the owner of Ol Pejeta Bush Camp on the Laikipia Plateau. Their company, Insiders 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.

Our base was the camp built in 2006 on the banks of the Kauro Lugga by the BBC's *Mission Africa* team, consisting of two simple but comfortable guesthouses in a shady grove of doum palms.

Accompanied from here each morning by the dynamo hum of wild bees in the palms, we would set out on foot while the air was still cool. On every horizon stood the sharkfin shapes of distant mountains whose magical names – Longtopi, Ol Kanjau, Ol Doinyo Lenkiyo – soon became as familiar as their outlines. In Sera's endless seas of thornbush they were the signposts we steered by.

Sometimes, serenaded by the sad piping cries of mousebirds, we followed hard beaten elephant paths – the oldest roads in Africa – through tangles of commiphora scrub that tore at my shirtsleeves with four-inch spines; or waded through wild meadows of sun-bleached grass, flushing coveys of quail at every step, past stone cairns raised by the long-vanished people who lived here 4,000 years ago.

Mostly we followed the sand luggas, leaving our own footprints among those of elephant, leopard and reticulated giraffe, while Alex pointed out the tracks of nyama ndogo – small nocturnal animals such as genets and porcupines.

Alex, the grandson of J. A. Hunter, 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 tiptoe past seven nervous elephants at the edge of the lugga.

Back in camp at the end of the day we sat by the campfire and listened to the eerie voices of Lichtenstein's sandgrouse as they flitted like souls through the down-pouring dusk. Later that night a strong desert wind arose, roaring through the palm groves with a sound like Atlantic surf; but when at last it died away I could hear the trill of scops owls and once, farther off, the hacksaw cough of a prowling leopard.

On my second morning, I walked down the Lenkoli Lugga – the first visitor to do so, said Alex. We rounded a bend and a spotted hyena cantered off, looking back over its shoulders as it loped off into the thorn thickets. Such sightings were few on our twice-daily walks: mostly dik-dik – antelope not much bigger than a hare

– and gerenuk with long necks and beanpole legs. But fresh tracks in the sand told a different tale. Although big game is still shy and nocturnal, Sera clearly supports a diverse range of animals including lion, cheetah, wild dog, buffalo, eland, beisa oryx and Grevy's zebra.

In places, flash floods of the rainy season had washed away the sand, exposing long ribs of granite; but lower down the lugga where the sand lay deeper we came across deep pits dug by elephants in search of water.

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 Kiswahili name means Fifty Wells, and

when the dry season peaks it becomes a meeting-place for Samburu, Rendille and Boran tribesmen who have learned to live with the wildlife. By day the pastoralists bring their herds to water, but the nights belong to the elephants.

Kisima Hamsini is also renowned for its 'Gong Rock' – one of only three known in East Africa. Pitted with curious, cup-like depressions, it chimes like a church bell when struck with a stone and is purported to be thousands of years old – evidence that these springs have an ancient history.

A fly-past by black-faced sandgrouse

But most exciting of all are the huge flocks of black-faced sandgrouse that fly in every morning to drink at the wells. Knowing I was desperate to watch this extraordinary spectacle, Alex arranged for us to camp overnight, sleeping out at the foot of the Gong Rock so as to be in position when the fly-past began.

I was not disappointed. An hour after sunrise the first birds began to drop in. 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. Uniquely adapted for life in the desert, they remain for only a few seconds and will not drink again until the same time the next day. Alex also explained how the males – whose breast feathers are more absorbent than any sponge – soak up the water and carry it back to their chicks, miles away in the bush.

Forty-five minutes later, the last sandgrouse had gone. Apart from the soft chanting of Cape turtledoves, the wells had fallen silent again, and I could return home knowing I had been privileged to witness one of the unsung wonders of the natural world in one of its last truly wild places. ●

**A VAST AND
UNTOUCHED WILDERNESS
IDENTIFIED AS HAVING
ENORMOUS POTENTIAL
FOR ECO-TOURISM.**

BACK TO THE WILD

IN 2010, THE JAVAN RHINOCEROS, THE RAREST LARGE MAMMAL IN THE WORLD, was declared extinct in Vietnam. The last one was killed in October in Cat Tien National Park, found with a bullet in its leg and its horn sawed off.

JESSAMY CALKI Features Editor, *The Telegraph Magazine* from which this article is extracted with permission

MAIN PHOTO
The rhinos on the DHL transporter lorry on their way from Port Lympne.

THIS PAGE, TOP-BOTTOM
Phil Couchman, CEO of DHL Express with Charlie Mayhew, CEO Tusk.

The Duke of Cambridge meets one of the rhinos at Port Lympne before their departure to Tanzania.

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



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.

Penalties are often derisory in Africa, from where much of the horn originates, and not well enforced 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. From 2010 until the end 2012, 1,400 rhinos were killed in South Africa (only 13 were killed in 2007, by 2012 it was 618); poachers are using GPS systems, helicopters, and semi-automatic weapons. In East Africa, the technology is not yet as sophisticated but illegal arms are readily available from Somalia and the perpetrators, driven by poverty, are inventive. Night vision goggles have been stolen from the Kenyan army, and chancers have been known to jump over fences when there's a full moon and kill rhino using guns fitted with silencers made from bicycle pumps. And it's not just rhinos; people are

getting killed too, both poachers and rangers.

As most of us now know, the reason for all this slaughter rests on a deep-rooted, ancient belief, which is nothing more than myth. Rhino horn has no beneficial medical properties. Chinese *materia medica* lists it as a method of reducing fever and febrile convulsions. But even if it did work, one cannot help asking, when the rhino population of Africa has been reduced by 96 per cent in 50 years – why not take an aspirin?

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 tented camp, popular with bird watchers. The cattle herders – 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

parks. There were 15 black rhino 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 Kent, a gift from Damian Aspinall's Port Lympne Wild Animal Park; reintroducing animals to their indigenous countries is one of the things in which the zoo specialises. The three new rhino would diversify the genetic 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, Berry White.

The irony of importing rhino from Kent to Africa is not lost on anyone. But it's not new: in 2009 three rhino were translocated from Dvur Kralove zoo in the Czech republic, making the transition from zoo to wild with surprising ease. Despite their former diet consisting mainly of baked goods, they took to the African vegetation with vigour. "Their keeper arrived with all these pastries and vegetables," says Fitzjohn. "It was like the bloody Gordon Ramsay show. Our guys chopped off some grewia and euphorbia, chunked it in their boma and they just went for it and left the bread."



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Rhino on the move

On June 16 last year the three black rhinos from Port Lympne – Monduli, Grumeti 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 rhino, 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 Manston Airport. Here DHL had organised for one of their Boeing 757 'live cargo' aircraft to be ready for its precious load.

Once Customs were satisfied, the three crates – along with assorted food supplies – were squeezed onto the aircraft which had been emblazoned 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 7.00am 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 Mkomazi, where they eventually arrived some 24 hours after leaving Port Lympne.

At Mkomazi 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 started munching the local 'browse'. It was a textbook translocation. Six months later, they are flourishing. In time, they will be introduced to the other Mkomazi rhino, and hopefully they will breed.

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, though none 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 rhino, 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

Chinese working in Africa today and endemic local corruption has facilitated the export of rhino horn and ivory, and the market has diversified.

There is a surge of demand in Vietnam, where rhino horn is being illegally but aggressively marketed as a cure for anything from hangovers to cancer.

"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. Suspiciously, there is a small bit pared off the base.

"Did you try some?" I ask.

"Yeah."

"And?"

"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 got to change the thinking of the Chinese and Vietnamese; they have to appreciate that they are impoverishing other countries by believing this stuff." He points out that the Chinese are hugely proud of their own iconic species, the giant panda. Killing a giant panda incurs the death penalty. "I had this great idea," he growls.

"I want to put up billboards all over the world – with one of those awful pictures of a dead rhino with

its horn cut off, blood everywhere, and underneath it would say: STOP BUYING CHINESE GOODS OR THE PANDA GETS IT."

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 rhinos: 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, whatever it costs," says Fitzjohn. "Otherwise we lose another species, and it happens to be a fairly big one, and a fairly old one. And it's as important as the seas 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 destroyed 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."

POACHERS HAVE JUMPED OVER FENCES DURING A FULL MOON TO KILL RHINO USING GUNS FITTED WITH SILENCERS MADE FROM BICYCLE PUMPS.



BECOME A CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER WITH TUSK!

Tusk has aligned itself with a very important conservation project taking place in the heart of the world famous Victoria Falls, on the Stanley & Livingstone Private Game Reserve.

The project, known as the Nakavango Conservation Program, invites volunteers from across the globe to come and participate in conservation-based work on the reserve.

The game reserve is home to the last rhino in the region and is the only place they can be viewed today. It is also home to elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, crocodile, hippos and thousands of antelope.

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.

The project also aligns itself to the disadvantaged communities that surround the falls – our volunteers help teach, they coach sport and also involve themselves in a nutrition food programme.

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



ANOTHER HAPPY CUSTOMER.

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DHL is proud to support Tusk Trust and delighted to report that the three rhinos, Monduli, Grumeti and Zawadi, recently transported from the UK are all doing well in their new home of Mkomazi, Tanzania.

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WORKSHOP

IN THE MIDDAY HEAT OF THE ZAMBIAN BUSH, GENTLY AND CALMLY, the relaxed elephants of the Lower Zambezi browse the bushes around the Conservation Lower Zambezi environmental education centre. The elephants are aware of the group of school children carrying water from the river but they know that they are far enough away not to cause concern.

SARAH DAVIES *Base Camp Manager, Conservation Lower Zambezi*

The children move slowly and carefully, they know how to give the elephants a safe distance and not to provoke them with any sudden movements or loud noises. Sensibly, they choose a route that gives the elephants a wide berth, pass safely and carry on with their journey.

A round of applause erupts from the rest of the teacher's workshop, conducted at Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) in August 2011. The role-play is successful! The elephants (not really elephants at all but teachers chosen to play relaxed, browsing elephants) have not been disturbed by the children (also teachers chosen to play children carrying water from the Zambezi river) and each group has remained safe.

The group have consolidated just one of the various elements of elephant behaviour taught by CLZ during this activity.

Sounds basic? To those of us who know a bit about elephant behaviour we might think that communities who have lived with these gentle but formidable giants for years are experts. But in the experience of CLZ's environmental education programme, based just outside the Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia and bordering Zimbabwe, this is not the case.

Here children, families and local teachers often lack basic knowledge about the physiology and behaviour of the African elephant. This misunderstanding has led to a fear and hatred of one of the world's most vulnerable keystone species.

Children and women are constantly fearful of elephants

Human/elephant conflict is a reality in the Chiawa Game Management area, the western buffer zone to the Lower Zambezi National Park and home to over ten thousand local residents. With few employment opportunities, other than the tourism industry, many households turn to subsistence farming to put meals on the table. However, when a herd of elephants (not to mention hippos and other animals) can wipe out your entire harvest in one night, life can be very uncertain and demoralising.

Children walking long distances to school and women travelling to collect water are constantly fearful of elephants crossing their path and threatening their lives.

Observing 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 Chiawa 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 now understand an elephant's mood through its body language and respond accordingly. The difference between a mock charge and a real charge would be taught and how to understand wind direction – 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, with role-plays such as that described above helping learners grasp the exact behaviour which might one day save their lives.

Thanks to Tusk's positive response the idea became a reality and in August 2012 Rabson and Besa took this information to 90 relevant community members. As well as elephant behaviour, 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 monsters to be feared but could be respected, lived amongst and ultimately benefited from through the local tourism industry. Finally the gentle giants were understood as living and emotional creatures rather than horrors that hunt human beings and steal the food from their mouths.

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 inside the Lower Zambezi National Park and surrounding Game Management Areas. Through food rations,

deployment and pull-out transport, logistical support, first aid kits, GPS 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 scouts. This year, CLZ introduced a standardised GPS tracking

system of all foot 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. ●



PREVIOUS PAGE, TOP L-R
Rabson Tembo, far left with workshop participants in the role-play.
Rabson conducting the workshop.

Rabson with Besa helping set up the role-play.

BOTTOM L-R

Workshop members understanding elephant behaviour.

Benson with the author Sarah Davies at CLZ.

Sand island and elephants in the middle of the Zambezi River.

THIS PAGE

CLZ scouts on patrol in the Lower Zambezi.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Elephant crop raids foiled by chilli peppers

Conflicts between farmers and elephants have long been widespread in Africa, where elephants nightly destroy crops, raid grain houses, and sometimes kill people.

The pachyderms prefer valuable crops such as maize, sorghum, and millet over their usual dry grass 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 18 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 easily 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 raids usually take place after the sun goes down. And, as protecting crops at night is a dangerous and tiresome activity for farmers, they are fighting back with a new approach that doesn't require 24 hour monitoring, homemade pipe bombs or the crashing of tin cans – chilli peppers.

Though an elephant's eyesight is quite poor, their sense of smell is much keener than ours and it's this trait which is being exploited. They don't like capsaicin – the chemical in chillies that makes them hot – so farmers are using the plant to create buffer zones around their crops through which the elephants are reluctant to pass using these two main methods:



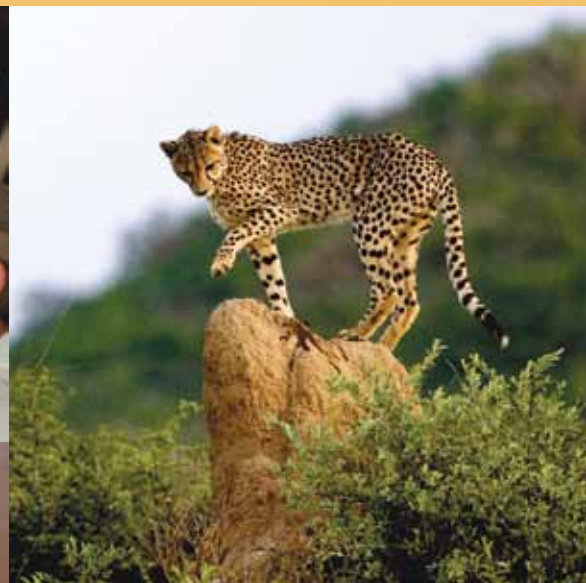
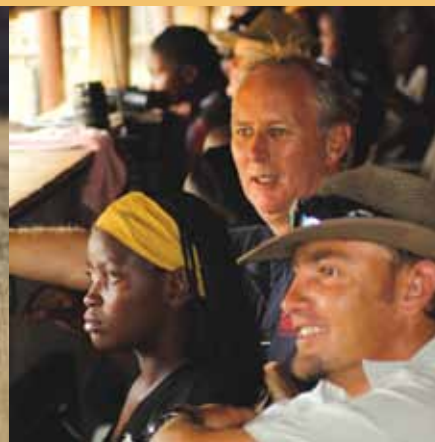
Chilli fences – pieces of cloth are soaked in a spicy concoction of crushed chillies and used engine oil and are then tied onto the fences surrounding crop fields. The elephants are driven away by the obnoxious fumes.



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 an acrid smoke that elephants cannot stand, making them run away.

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

OUR NAMIBIAN SIX DAY NATURE TRAIL



IN OCTOBER 2012 I WAS PRIVILEGED TO SPEND SIX DAYS IN NAMIBIA with Charlie as we visited two non-profit organisations supported by Tusk – the Save the Rhino Trust and the AfriCat Foundation.

NIGEL RICHARDSON *The Telegraph Magazine*® from which this article is edited with permission

These initiatives also harness tourism for the protection of wildlife – as well as research and conservation centres they are safari camps and if you book nights there you know you're directly aiding the conservation fight. That fight has never been tougher.

"Tusk was set up at the height of the ivory trade," said the charity's founder and CEO, Charlie Mayhew. "Then there was a period of relative peace. But sadly in the last few years there's been this tsunami of poaching."

The Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) monitors and protects the world's last free-ranging population of black rhino, *Diceros bicornis bicornis*, a subspecies found almost exclusively in Namibia.

In neighbouring South Africa, rhinos are being poached at an alarming rate, an average now approaching two a day. So far Namibia has seen negligible levels of poaching but many fear it is only a matter of time before the contagion spreads across the border.

We visited 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 Simson Uri-Khob, who supervises the SRT's tracking teams. "We found him maybe a month later." Over four or five days, reckoned Simson, the baby 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'd been wandering around there."

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 stared back at his English benefactor



INVESTING IN THE YOUTH OF AFRICA HAS GOT TO BE PART OF THE ANSWER, WITH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION A KEY ASPECT.

with an incurious 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."

Now conservationists operate more holistically, involving and benefiting local communities in economies of high unemployment and pitifully low wages. The SRT employs local people, pays communities to use their land as a wildlife reserve and relies on 'eyes and ears' on the ground to inform 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 peaceably alongside each other – an especially vexatious question in a country with a quarter of the world's cheetah population, of which 90 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 Hanssens 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 Hanssens' work. "Every single donor to the AfriCat Foundation started as a tourist," Donna Hanssen told us.

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 on environmental education programmes.

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. Charlie describes himself as an optimist – "a glass three-quarters-full type of person" – and visiting projects such as SRT and AfriCat, it is easy to feel uplifted. The forces of conservation in Africa face unprecedented levels of corruption and ruthlessness.

But – thanks to all the goodwill, good work and expertise that Tusk enables – organisations like the Save the Rhino Trust and AfriCat are winning the battle.

PREVIOUS PAGE, TOP L-R

Desert Rhino Camp.

The spectacular and inaccessible terrain of the Kunene region.

BOTTOM L-R

Black rhino.

Visitors to Desert Rhino Camp viewing rhino.

Entrance to AfriCat.

THIS PAGE, TOP L-R

Male lion at Okonjima.

Charlie Mayhew in the hide at AfriCat with a school group.

Cheetah on termite mound.

BOTTOM

View from Palmwag, SRT office headquarters.

HIGH FLYING 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.

JOAN CAMERON Administrator, The Bateleurs

The Bateleurs came into being in 1998 and since then have flown in excess of 400 diverse missions across southern Africa. These include: monitoring and exposing bad mining practice; evaluating toll roads and proposed new mines; identifying critical wetland habitats; surveys of alien vegetation; and numerous bird and wildlife surveys, game counts and translocations.

Also, through our 'Bonizwe programme', we endeavour to expose students in the conservation and environmental arenas to the power of an aerial perspective, by giving deserving candidates the opportunity to participate in a flight.

Funding from Tusk has allowed us to support many missions in southern Africa this past year, two of which you can read about in the accounts below.

Now numbering 180 volunteers, The Bateleurs are very grateful – firstly, to our pilots who contribute over 70% of the 'value' of a flight for free; secondly,

to the donors who cover the other 30%; and thirdly, to all the organisations who find us useful.

How does The Bateleurs organisation work?

1. We sign-up private pilots in southern Africa who own their own aircraft and who are willing to volunteer their time and aircraft to fly missions to help environmental and conservation organisations.
2. We connect with NGOs, government departments, educators, researchers, parks and reserves, the media, etc., and offer them an aerial perspective of the problems or issues that they are addressing. There is no charge to the beneficiary organisation or individual for a Bateleurs-supported flight.
3. When a beneficiary asks for a flight to determine the extent of, record, photograph or otherwise explore an issue or problem we

review their request and, if it is approved, we find a volunteer pilot willing to fly the mission for them.

4. We put the volunteer pilot in touch with the beneficiary and the mission is flown. The Bateleurs then reimburse the pilot for the cost of the fuel and the landing fees.

... and where does our name originate?

The Bateleurs namesake is a colourful medium-sized eagle with a very short tail which makes it unmistakable in flight; and it is probably the origin of the 'Zimbabwe bird', the country's national emblem.

Translated from the French for 'Street Performer' the name implies the bird's characteristic habit of rocking its wings from side to side when flying, as if catching its balance like a tight-rope walker. ●



Namibian Coastal Survey

The aim of this mission was to fly the entire Namibian coastline over two days to provide a snapshot record of the whales, dolphins and other large marine species using Namibia's coastal waters.

It is important to understand the distribution and number of marine animals along the coast and in offshore waters, as this allows managers and conservationists to predict the effects of human activities on the unique and vulnerable marine life.

The results of these aerial surveys, plus ongoing research by the Namibian Dolphin Project (NDP) in the Namibian Islands Marine Protected Areas, form the first step towards a

more comprehensive picture of the key marine species present in Namibian waters.

For the two-day aerial survey, the Bateleurs pilot flew along a line parallel to the coast, approximately 150-200m from the surf zone. The crew consisted of the pilot Nico Louw, two observers, left and right, and a photographer. On the first day, the plane covered the entire coastline from Walvis Bay to the Kunene River mouth, stopping at Palmweg to refuel, and recorded 64 sightings of Heaviside's dolphins, one ocean sunfish and one bottlenose dolphin. The following day, the team set out to cover the southern part of the coast, sighting an abundance of small Heaviside's dolphins. The waters south of Lüderitz proved surprising: not for any of the focal species such as dolphins but for another

ocean giant – Mola mola, the ocean sunfish. This is the heaviest bony fish in the sea (sharks can weigh more, but they are cartilaginous fish), and the heaviest individual on record weighed in at 2,235kg! In total the crew sighted 25 sunfish, and no doubt there were many more further offshore. Along the southern section of coast they had 69 sighting events, including 88 Heaviside's dolphins and one bottlenose dolphin.

The data collected provides a unique and novel picture of near-shore marine vertebrate distribution, and especially insights into the way in which Heaviside's dolphins use almost the entire Namibian coastline. These dolphins are endemic to the Benguela Current ecosystem and through research we can better understand the conservation status of this unique species.



Wild dog translocation

Our mission (writes the pilot, Chris Ratray) 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 Monzi 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 quarry. Mike sprang into action to prepare them for the approximately four-hour journey. He told me it was not ideal for their health to put them out for too long, and that he would rather just top up the sleep dose when necessary.

We took off into perfect blue skies and planned a refuel en route at Klerksdorp, 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 Klerksdorp 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 flung 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: anaesthetizing 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, only to hear Mike say: "You really shouldn't be doing that." I looked around and the larger dog, who had been lying on the floor behind us,

was standing up to take in some scenery through the window. We tried to refuel as quickly as possible, after having to coax the fuel attendant back to his post. He exclaimed, anxiously: "Ek weet daai Honde – hulle byt ook ..." ("I know those dogs – they also bite...").

Soon we were airborne once again and back to fighting the wind.

There was a big welcome party on our arrival at Bray and much excitement as we loaded up the semi-conscious wild dogs and headed for the game enclosures at the Khamab Reserve. Mike was out with his special box of tricks again and in about 15 minutes the dogs were up and trying to walk. I must say I had already become attached to them: they had been very good in transit with minimum mess and very little inconvenience.

And so it was at sunset that they were released – our mission, though longer than expected, both exhilarating and rewarding.

Postscript

Six months after the translocation the female dogs had integrated with some males on the Khamab Reserve.

They had denned and the alpha female gave birth to a healthy litter of puppies.



RUNNING WILD

SINCE THE SEED WAS FIRST SOWN BACK IN 1999 DURING AN IDLE CHAT OVER sundowners one night around a campfire on the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, the Safaricom Marathon has grown steadily over the last fourteen years into a world-renowned event that embodies everything that Tusk stands for.

To date, almost US\$4m has been raised by a multitude of people from around the world benefitting numerous conservation, education and community development projects across Kenya.

BRUCE TULLOH *Race Director, Safaricom Marathon*

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 neighbouring 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.

Sell out

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.



A MARATHON IS ALWAYS AN EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE, BUT NONE MORE SO THAN THE SAFARICOM MARATHON.

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 almost as soon as each year’s event draws to a close.

For Bob Collymore, Zaheeda Suleman 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 local Kenyans have taken home the glory, significant prize money, and a chance to enter the world of competitive running.

For those of us who come out to help with organising, recording and timekeeping, 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 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 loop, which must be completed twice by those running the full marathon, is run on dirt roads and



includes several challenging hills. For many, there is the added stress of running at an altitude of over 5,000 feet, with only a few days acclimatisation. So, there is the altitude, the hills, the dust and the animals – and then there is the sun – Lewa is only a few kilometres from the equator.

The children’s race is first off the start line at 7am when there is still a chill in the air. One hundred and fifty children, many from locals schools, take off like a cavalry charge; most of them finishing their 5km in under half an hour. By 8.30am, it has warmed up to a pleasant 20°C, and the fastest of the half-marathon runners have crossed the finish line and collected their goody bags. By 10 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 quits and opt for a lift back to the finish line. Every possible precaution is taken – a spotter plane is in the air at all times, a helicopter circles the course, and armed rangers 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 manning the water stations have been on the job since six in the morning – some even camping 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 Rawlinson, the chairman of Tusk Trust, and Dick Turpin, one of Tusk’s leading corporate supporters. They were some four hours behind local runner, James Moriithi, who set a new half marathon course record of exactly sixty-five minutes. We hope that it’s the first step in a brilliant career.

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 just completed one of the toughest and most magnificent marathons in the world.

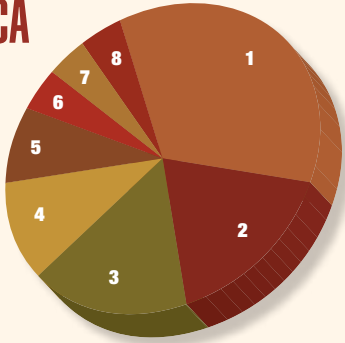
Bruce Tulloh has been Race Director for the Safaricom Marathon since its inception. A long-distance runner himself, he still competes and, though in his mid-seventies, still enjoys taking part in the marathon.

Bruce won the European title in the men’s 5,000 metres at the 1962 European Championships and grew to fame for running barefoot in many of his races. In 1969, Bruce ran 2,876 miles across America from Los Angeles to New York in 64 days.

He has written a book called Running is Easy, an amateur’s guide to becoming a good runner.

RUNNING IN AFRICA FOR AFRICA

After the banners have been taken down, the tents dismantled, water bottles recycled, sponges collected, water drums stored and running shoes cleaned the real work of the marathon begins. The breadth of projects supported each year is extensive, and to give a full account of each here would fill *Tusk Talk*! Instead, we’ve shown diagrammatically how the funds from 2012 have been distributed.



1 – Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

\$200,000

Financed veterinary work, protection and monitoring of endangered species, Lewa’s tracker-dog team, radio operations and the Grevy’s Zebra monitoring programme.

2 – Kenya Wide Projects

\$100,000

Supported such organisations as the Lamu & Watamu Turtle Trusts, Koiyaki Guide School, Maasailand Preservation Trust, Kora National Park, Kibodo Trust, and the Bongo Wildlife Clubs.

3 – Northern Rangelands Trust

\$100,000

Helped with the development of 19 community conservancies and benefited over 100,000 people in an area which encompasses 3 million acres of group ranches lying to the north of Lewa.

4 – Education

\$65,000

Reached over 5,000 children at 15 primary schools and 2 secondary schools who benefitted from the construction of new classrooms, library books, solar power and teacher salaries.

5 – Healthcare

\$45,000

Used to purchase a range of essential life-saving and operating equipment for 4 hospitals and 3 rural clinics.

6 – Mt. Kenya Trust

\$22,000

Supported the purchase of vehicles, webcams and IT equipment as well as the construction of stables and housing for a horse-back patrol team.

7 – Lewa Communities

\$22,000

Benefited 7 communities around Lewa through irrigation and water projects as well as road repairs and the construction of community security posts.

8 – Ngare Ndare Forest Trust

\$20,000

Helped to establish tree nurseries, support forest patrols, and plant over 100,000 trees in degraded areas.

MARATHON MILESTONES

9,373

Total number of runners since inception

3,555

Litres of drinking water consumed at each race

500

Tents erected for the event

1

The number of times a European runner has come first (in 2000)

7:36:22

Record for slowest marathon time

21:15

Record fastest kids 5km time



20:00

The longest delay in starting the race – due to an elephant on the course



\$3,836,229

Funds raised since inception



1:05:00

Half marathon record time

10,000

Schoolchildren have benefited from marathon support



1,000



Bananas are eaten over the marathon weekend



4,350

Meals served in Safaricom Village and Maridadi tented camps



56

Number of projects supported by the race across Kenya since 2000

82

Age of the oldest runner to compete



15,000

People have access to clean water thanks to marathon-funded water projects

6,000



Eggs are eaten over the marathon weekend

10

Bands play at the 'Festival in Park' to 3,500 spectators



120

Security guards on the course



1,600

People camp on Lewa for the race

35



Different nationalities represented each year



2:18:42

Full marathon record time



8

Hospitals and clinics supported each year

30

Classrooms built with marathon funds

4,500



Spectators watch the race at Lewa

The marathon would not be possible without the support and generosity 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.



NOTES FROM SAFARICOM

Protecting Wildlife

320 miles away from Lewa, hundreds of sea turtles complete an annual marathon of their own. Every year, the turtles make an arduous journey to return to their traditional nesting grounds on the Lamu Archipelago – some travelling as far as 2,000km.

Kenyan waters are home to five endangered species of sea turtles, Green, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Leatherback and Loggerhead. In spite of enjoying legal protection, Kenya's globally significant populations have declined by more than 80% over the last 30 years, and it is estimated that 85% of turtle mortalities are a result of human activities including: illegal consumption and exploitation of sea turtles and eggs, degradation of turtle nesting sites through illegal beach development, and damage to foraging from pollution, sedimentation and unsustainable fishing practices.

For the Green, Hawksbill and Olive Ridley turtles, Lamu is of vital importance because this is where the females will return every season to lay their eggs. Without the Lamu coastline, the future

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

of these turtles is ever more uncertain.

Lamu Marine Conservation Trust (LaMCoT) is a community-based initiative initially established to conserve the endangered sea turtles of the Lamu Archipelago. Its work now encompasses a number of related projects from coral reef protection and environmental education to income generating projects and community efforts to clear rubbish from local beaches. All of these efforts are aimed at achieving sustainable management of the Lamu coastal ecosystem. The conservation of sea turtles remains at the heart of LaMCoT's mission, and, as a result of the team's dedicated efforts, annual turtle hatchings have increased from 1,865 to an average of 4,578 per year.

LaMCoT is a long-term beneficiary of the Safaricom Marathon and Tusk Trust. With the help of Tusk and the local population, LaMCoT has monitored, tagged and safely released over 1,030 juvenile and adult turtles back to the sea. Ex-poachers, who previously sold turtles accidentally caught in their fishing nets, now bring them to

received support. Here we look at the impact the marathon has had on three.

The marathon would not be possible without the support and generosity 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.

LaMCoT where they are tagged and returned to the sea as part of an ongoing research project. Sick or injured turtles are brought to the project where they are rehabilitated and then released. In addition, LaMCoT sponsors four environmental clubs, involving 100 children who study marine conservation issues every week.

Last year, with the help of marathon funds, children from Shella Primary School participated in a beach clean-up event. Almost 10km of coastline were cleaned and approximately 800kgs of rubbish were collected.



Beach clean-up in Lamu

Supporting Communities

The Safaricom Marathon has shined a spotlight on north 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 furrow 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

by communities downstream for their families and livestock, and was equally important to wildlife in and beyond Lewa.

Support from the Safaricom Marathon helped to turn this around. To ensure that the existing river remained unpolluted and to enhance the availability of adequate clean water to communities, wildlife and livestock in Manyangalo and further afield, the Lewa Community Department with residents of Manyangalo designed a sustainable water catchment system.

A single offtake, storage and piping to distribute water around Manyangalo has ensured equitable distribution of water amongst the community and means water continues to flow down the river to feed the populations downstream with clean unpolluted water.



Newly installed water tank in operation

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 north Kenya, the support from the Safaricom Marathon, and subsequent matching donations have allowed the Lewa Education Programme to completely redevelop 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 that 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.



Rugusu school pupils outside the new classrooms

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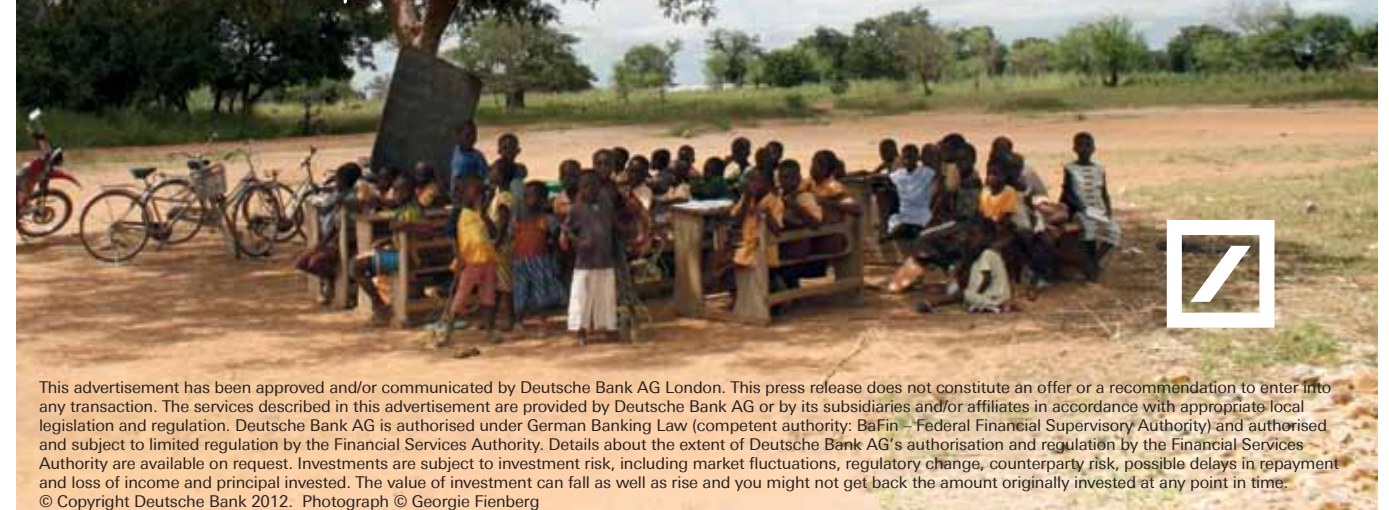
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TUSK USA'S WINDFALL

THE SETTING PROMISED TO BE GLAMOROUS, WITH 360-DEGREE VIEWS OF THE DRAMATIC MANHATTAN SKYLINE, the food and wine perfect, carefully chosen by one of New York's best chefs, the guest-list an international mix of both old and new supporters of Tusk. Best of all, the inaugural *Friends of Tusk USA Dinner*, scheduled to take place on the 1st November at TriBeCa Rooftop, was in fact oversubscribed, with tables of eight being turned into tables of ten just weeks before the event. What no one could possibly have predicted, however, was the arrival of Hurricane Sandy...



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 neighbourhood, 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 Worship*, 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 of a lion, 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.



PREVIOUS PAGE, TOP L-R
Jennifer Crandall, Richard Story and Anna Trzebinski.

Christopher and Wendy Breck.

BOTTOM L-R
John Heminway, Tusk USA Director with Charlie Mayhew, Tusk CEO.

The Investec Asset Management team: Richard Garland, Frederick Garland, Mel Lindsay, Duncan Coombe and Hendrik du Toit, CEO.

THIS PAGE, TOP L-R
Meg Blakey and Glenn Pagan, Team Tusk USA runners in the London and New York City marathons 2012.

Meredith Ogilvie-Thompson, Tusk USA ED with long-time supporter Allison Crichton-Stuart.

Sean Driscoll and Ian Irving. Simon and Juliet Teakle with Mark Franklin, Tusk USA Director.

MIDDLE
Alexandra Fuller, author and Meredith Ogilvie-Thompson, Tusk USA ED with guest speaker *National Geographic's* Bryan Christy.

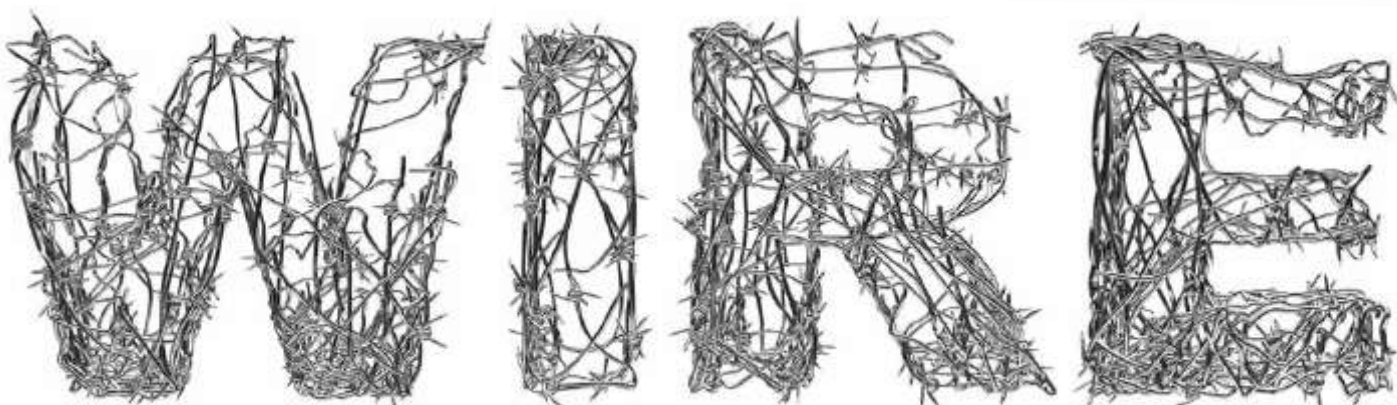
BOTTOM L-R
Stephanie O'Mara, Event committee member.

Peter Hegener, Meg Helsel, and Allie Hegener with *Elephant Against Sky* by photographer Nick Brandt.



**SNARING IS
INDISCRIMINATE AND
ENDANGERED SPECIES SUCH
AS ELEPHANT, LION AND
WILD DOG ARE
SUFFERING.**

WHERE, HOW AND...



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 wander across the Luangwa River, walking into deadly winch cable snares set primarily for buffalo. The impact on lions has been severe – studies by SLCS's partner organisation, the Zambia Carnivore Program, 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,

FIGHTING THE ESCALATING BATTLE AGAINST SNARING
is the South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS), which was set up ten years ago by local stakeholders to address poaching, human/wildlife conflict and to rescue snared animals. What started as a fledgling organisation has evolved into a dedicated and important conservation partner in South Luangwa.

RACHEL MCROBB *CEO, South Luangwa Conservation Society*



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.



PREVIOUS PAGE, TOP-BOTTOM
SLCS game guard patrol in South Luangwa.
Benson Kanyembo, SLCS Head of Operations.

THIS PAGE, TOP L-R
Chilli drying as part of the farming programme.
Baby elephant with a snare around its head.
The new SLCS aeroplane.

BOTTOM L-R
SLCS rangers on patrol.
The Tusk-sponsored hangar in the South Luangwa Park.

BOTTOM
Billy Banda, Red Cap.

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 covers three Chiefdoms 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 pepper in their trunks.

Although not a solution to all our conflict problems, it goes a long way to deterring elephants and safe-guarding crops during the farming season. This anti-conflict solution works hand-in-hand with a large scale chilli farming programme, where over 120 farmers around the park grow the chilli for the blasters, selling the excess for profit to local food manufacturers.



Trapped by a snare

Whenever we get a call (reports *Rachel McRobb*) from a safari guide or scout about a snared elephant, my immediate question is: "How many are in the herd?". 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 brave 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 at a specialised drugs course in Zimbabwe also helped.

And then one hot October morning we got a call from a lodge about a snared juvenile at a particular lagoon where we had immobilised four elephant that week – they typically pick up snares on their nightly forays across the river and come to rest at the lagoon during the day. It was a big herd of about 20, with other families close by, so all in all there were some eighty elephants around.

We set off in two Land Cruisers, twelve armed scouts, the ZAWA ecologist, and all of our kit. As normal we darted the mother first to ensure the safety of the team and then the little one next. The two vehicles split up, one keeping an eye on mum and the second one with myself attending

to the injured animal. Only this time for some reason the mother didn't go down very quickly and within a short time I heard the crack warning shot of an AK-47 rifle, elephants trumpeting, scouts shouting and metal crashing.

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, running towards me with a large female elephant hammering the front of their vehicle.

The men begged me not to go near her but we had to. I feared for the driver and scout trapped in the assaulted Land Cruiser's front seat. After minutes of madness and chaos, the irate 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 scarpered for safety.

I gave him a big hug and we quickly finished work on the calf, removing the snare and treating the wound before waking the mother. Amazingly, she got up and wandered off as if nothing had happened, leaving behind her one very relieved crew and one very flattened car.

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 presents constant challenges. Our team of passionate and committed staff continue to rescue snared animals every year and they feel as rewarded as I do when we save a life.



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VALUABLE VULTURES



THE THOUGHT OF
VULTURES OVERHEAD AND
THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH
DEATH IS ENOUGH TO BRING
A SHIVER TO MOST
PEOPLE'S SPINES.

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 standardised technique, it is possible to monitor 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 safer 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 Centre 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.

Researching the consequences of lead and veterinary drug poisoning to vultures at 'vulture restaurants' (*see box, below*), is a priority given the Asian vulture crisis which led to three vulture species becoming critically endangered in just under 10 years.

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*

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, what'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 collisions with electrical structures, poisoning, land-use changes, a decrease in food availability and exposure to toxicity through veterinary drugs.

The Vulture Conservation Programme

The Cape vulture is southern Africa's only endemic vulture species and is considered 'Endangered' by the IUCN (2012). With only 2,900 breeding



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

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 lotto and gambling purposes.

Muti believe that if you sniff the brain of a vulture or sleep with the skull under your pillow you will then dream of the correct lotto 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.

And 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.

pairs, this species has declined across its range and is now extinct as a breeding species in Zimbabwe, Swaziland and now Namibia. With Tusk's assistance, and as coordinator of the Cape Vulture Task Force in southern Africa, VulPro's aim is to prevent the extinction of the Cape vulture. The work undertaken on the Cape has a knock-on affect on all vulture species across the globe.

Some of VulPro's objectives include:

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 ranges, these tracking devices help identify 'hot spot' areas for powerline collisions,

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

What is a vulture restaurant?

It is a safe feeding site for vultures to feed on poison-free and uncontaminated carcasses, away from disturbances and threats. Food in the form of safe carcasses is supplied on a regular basis. Bone fragments are crushed for the adult birds to take back to their chicks to help their own bone growth.

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.

LEWA CAUGHT ON THE HORNS OF A CONSERVATION DILEMMA

RHINOTEK, NYOTA, SERIAN AND JAZZ: four black rhinos 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, just a mile from human habitation.

ANNE JOHNSTONE

Columnist and Chief Leader Writer on The Herald, Glasgow from which this article is reprinted with permission

In the old days, a lot of rhino horn found its way to Yemen, where it was carved into dagger handles, but that was before the rise of a burgeoning middle class in China and Vietnam who, fed on centuries of superstition and medical mumbo jumbo, believe the horn possesses the power to cure everything from cancer to hangovers.

That's why today, pound for pound, rhino horn is worth more than gold. Paradoxically, these patients would do themselves just as much good chewing their own fingernails, as the horn is made of nothing more than keratin, the same substance.

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

This story is partly about habitat loss but 745 have been poached in 2012 alone in Africa, up from just 32 in 2007. Then it looked as if the war against the poachers was being won and numbers of both species were rising.

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 rhinos no longer feature on information boards for safari visitors.

Yesterday, I phoned Mike Watson, CEO at Lewa, where years ago our family succumbed to the charms of a hand-reared orphaned baby rhino that took a shine to my other half's suede desert boots. Mike was in a sombre mood after a meeting with senior Kenyan government officials to discuss how to tackle the crisis:

"We're determined to get on top of it but rhinos have died and probably more will die before we do."

If it can happen there, it can happen anywhere. Lewa is reckoned to be an African model for wildlife conservation, especially of black rhino, which have bred so successfully that a number have been translocated to reserves where they had been



poached out. Lewa's rolling scrub and muddy swamp are ideal for rhino and the entire 62,000-acre site is fenced. Profits from upmarket safaris are shared with local communities to teach them the value of keeping wildlife alive. One of the most highly trained security teams in the country patrols the place constantly. People used to say: 'Even the trees have guns at Lewa.' But today's poachers are no longer hungry Somalis hoping to make a quick buck but heavily armed and trained Kenyan criminal gangs that are also caught up in drug dealing and human trafficking and whose profits



THE POACHERS MUST NOT WIN OR ELSE THE BLACK AND SOUTHERN WHITE RHINO WILL BE EXTINCT WITHIN A DECADE.

arm militias intent on destabilising this fragile democracy.

Last week a Lewa security guard was arrested for taking bribes for information on the routes of nocturnal patrols. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

Mike is seriously considering dehorning Lewa's 130 surviving rhinos, despite the possible social impact and the risk to their metabolism of repeated tranquillisations for subsequent dehorning when the horns grow back.

He has just taken delivery of an American turbine helicopter to use as their spy-in-the-sky and

is also thinking about employing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drone aircraft to help. Despite the threat of revenge attacks if poachers are caught, he says his guards are ready for a showdown. If the greedy poachers represent everything wretched about man's relationship with nature, these brave men personify the selfless care shown by others. And they have some powerful allies.

Hillary Clinton raised the issue in Phnom Penh earlier this year and The Duke of Cambridge, patron of the African conservation charity, Tusk, recently stressed this battle is as much about educating Asians as Africans.

He is right. The poachers must not win.



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WE WERE IN DANGER OF HAVING TO CLOSE DOWN – NOW, THANKS TO TUSK’S HELP, WE HAVE FUNDING TO ENSURE OUR PROGRAMMES CONTINUE IN 2013.

BUSH CAMP TESTED

THE PAINTED DOG CONSERVATION (PDC) PROJECT IN ZIMBABWE, established to conserve the country’s African wild dog, has been operating a ground-breaking education programme since 2004.

PETER BLINSTON *General Manager, Painted Dog Conservation*

Earlier in the year, PDC faced the unthinkable. The project was in danger of having to close the specially erected Iganyana Children’s Bush Camp for the first time since its inception in 2004. *Iganyana* is the local iSindebele name for the painted dog and the unique programme provides a free, residential, total immersion, conservation education experience for grade six students from the 19 primary schools of the indigenous communities neighbouring Hwange National Park.

Working through difficult political times, the programme continues to change peoples lives. The global economic downturn had a huge impact on PDC

which meant there was a real danger that the project would have to suspend its anti-poaching activities or reduce the daily monitoring of painted dog packs in the area. For the first time, PDC sent out an emergency appeal to its core donors. Tusk was able to respond and provide funding to ensure PDC programmes such as the Bush Camp can continue throughout 2013.

Here on the right is a story, featuring the indomitable Tendai Nyathi, that serves to illustrate how effective the PDC’s Bush Camp programme is.

It is a story that brings huge hope for the future of Zimbabwe, its people and its wildlife.



TENDAI NYATHI

Tendai Nyathi is a twelve-year-old girl who lives in the rural African village of Gundwane, in Zimbabwe. She is an orphan and has to look after her grandmother; her grandfather died last year. Tendai is an eternally 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 roll 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 sad 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 Nomusa 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. Nomusa 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 Nomusa to argue back and she ran even quicker than Tendai.

Her uncle Shadrack was at his home and they rushed into his yard shouting excitedly at the same time.

They told him of what they had seen and urged him to help. At first he was reluctant to interfere. Like Nomusa, he was afraid of what the poacher

would say but Tendai was very persuasive. Shadrack had very little choice and with the two girls at his heels and his axe in his hand he strode out quickly to the kraal of the village head.

Tendai was relentless. The village head called his two sons and together all six of them strode out, with Tendai leading the way, her stick-thin legs coated in dust, her bare feet dancing nimbly across the sandy soil.

They soon arrived at the scene and approached the kudu slowly. It stood exhausted from its struggles but seemed unharmed. Shadrack and the sons of the village head grabbed the kudu by its small horns while the village head himself cut the wire snare to set the kudu free. The kudu ran a short distance and then stopped to look around before finally running away to disappear in the forest.

Tendai wore her biggest smile. With the adults’ help she searched the forest and found 15 snares. The village head and Shadrack talked quietly as they crouched low to the ground studying a set of footprints. They recognised the footprints and with Tendai pleading with them to act they did just that, arresting the poacher in the evening and turning him in at the police station.

Tendai had kept her promise to the 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.

Immortalised, but endangered

Every African Wild Dog depicted on our labels is a portrait of one of the few remaining individuals, living in ever decreasing pockets of wilderness in Southern Africa.

Painted Wolf Wines creates award-winning traditionally crafted wines, and supports the conservation of African Wild Dogs through donations to Tusk.

Painted Wolf wines are available from many independent wine merchants. Please add contact Ehrmanns for a stockist details: Richard.Dennis@ehrmanns.co.uk For further information about our wines go to: www.paintedwolfwines.com or email: jeremy@paintedwolfwines.com

SAVÉ'S GOLD STANDARD

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*

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 Stockil, 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 role of the rhino

Rhino were moved to the Savé Valley and this, combined with the effects of the drought, provided the final catalyst needed to convince the farmers to re-invent themselves as wildlife conservationists: a decision which ultimately led



to the creation of one of the grandest wildlife visions of all time. The groundbreaking Savé Valley Conservancy constitution was signed by founding members on June 18th 1991 and, since then, their conservation efforts and success have been branded as 'the gold standard of conservation' by one of America's leading wildlife NGOs working in Africa.

This is not to say that the last two decades have not been without their share of challenges. The initial unprecedented and much applauded growth in rhino populations – at the time the SVC was able to boast the fastest growing rhino population in the world – started to founder against hugely increased poaching due to the growth in demand for horn in eastern markets.

Ever more efficient and lethally armed poachers entered the conservancy and set about their deadly horn-harvesting business. This culminated in 10 rhino being killed in the first three months of 2012. Members of the conservancy realised that something drastic had to be done. The anti-poaching unit was entirely replaced and new, much more aggressive tactics applied. The results were encouraging with a massive drop in rhino poaching numbers achieved during the last three quarters of 2012.

The current Anti-poaching Unit (SVC-APU) consists of approximately 13 men supported by 11 scouts from Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) 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 the men have been chosen for their dedication and passion for wildlife preservation.

Tusk's donation of a new Land Cruiser has hugely enhanced the capacity of the SVC to respond to threats to wildlife, in particular rhino.

"The additional vehicle allows me to spend more time on training and in the field as I am able to delegate 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 successes. 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

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

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 even more determination for a number of hours. We knew the area well and realised that the rhino was running towards the Msaie 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 so 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.

the commitment of the men on the ground and the close co-operation that exists between the SVC-APU, the ZPWMA and the ZRP. Efforts to protect rhino populations are, by necessity, ongoing.

Neighbourly relations

Members of the SVC have always recognised the importance of the communities when it comes to the long-term success of any conservation venture. Over the years, individual members have contributed to the welfare of their neighbouring communities through employment, dam dredging, 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 Indigenization Laws in Zimbabwe have 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, history 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 there is every indication that the SVC and its partners will once again be setting the pace for modern conservation projects. ●

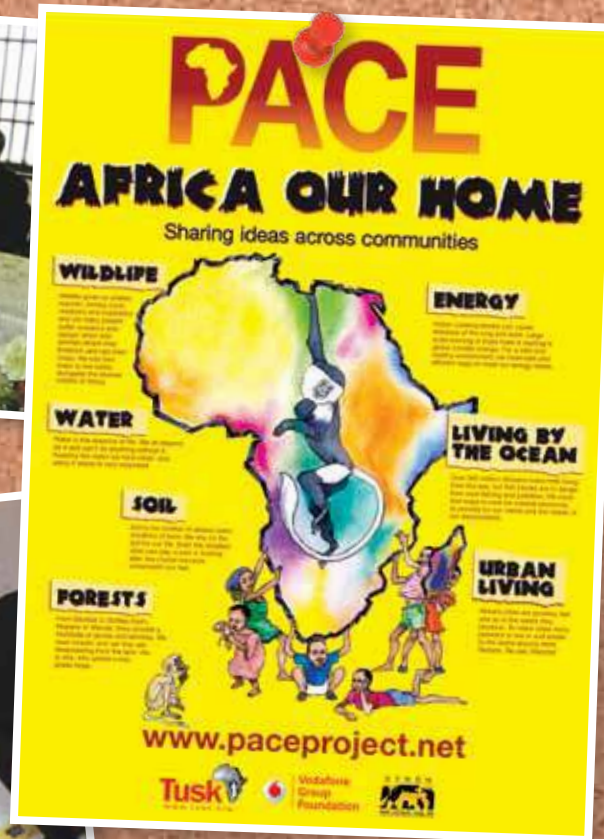
PACE

PAN AFRICAN CONSERVATION EDUCATION

THROUGH THE PACE PROJECT, TUSK NOT ONLY PROVIDES USEFUL resources to projects throughout the continent, but also supports teacher-training schemes and education programmes in areas vital for wildlife conservation. Overleaf we report from two countries – Madagascar and Cameroon.

NANCY GLADSTONE *Siren Conservation Education*





MADAGASCAR

Dr. Josia Razafindramanana is an energetic young primatologist based in Madagascar's capital Antananarivo (aka 'Tana'). A recent recipient of 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 burn the forest'; 'don't go here and there'. She found the positive practical messages in the PACE materials refreshing, and, having played a vital role in translating the materials into French whilst 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 crowned sifaka are found only in a small region south of Mahajunga in northwest Madagascar. The town of Dabolava is right at the southernmost 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 barges. Nevertheless, Josia organised a field trip for 70 trainee teachers from the Ecole Normale Supérieure, 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 sifaka are listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List, as scientists estimate that their population dropped by over 50% between 1998-2008, 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 burners, 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.

Learning how to implement energy efficient systems in the home

The teacher-training students visited a primary school and gave a demonstration of how to grow vegetables and plant fruit trees. Another group went to the secondary school and gave a presentation on simple ways to make water safe to drink, which is important as many people in the area suffer diseases related to drinking untreated water.

Other secondary school students were shown ways to reduce fuel use when cooking, including how to make two types of energy efficient stove, how to cook with more efficient charcoal briquettes, and the technique of solar cooking, using the Cook-it design shown in the PACE resource pack.

Continuation funding from Tusk allowed the project team to follow-up on this introductory

event. Small funds will provide improvements to Dabolava's water supply and sanitation, including a protected water pump and training on hand-washing and rainwater harvesting. Further training towards the development of fuel-efficient stoves for local use will also take place.

A key component is involving the whole community to establish a tree-planting programme. Households have been offered a small incentive to go out into the degraded forest fragments around the town to collect sapling trees, to be cared for in community tree nurseries with the involvement of local schools. Fast-growing tree species will also be planted, so that the community will be harvesting timber, fuelwood and fruit within five years, reducing pressure on the native forests.

The involvement of the teacher-training students 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.

PREVIOUS PAGE
Crowned sifaka lemur.

THIS PAGE, TOP L-R
Dr. Josia Razafindramanana in Berenty reserve, where she conducted research for her PhD.
Dabolava school buildings.

BOTTOM L-R
Fuel efficient stove demonstration.
Teacher-training students lead a session about tree-planting.

CAMEROON

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 omitted 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 Association Conservation Values Programme (UNAFAS CVP) which has worked closely with Cameroonian education authorities for almost a decade.

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 CVPs 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. Funds 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 Arcus Foundation, the Gorilla Foundation, WWF Great Apes Project and the Last Great Ape Organization. UNAFAS CVP has also recently embarked on a



Broadening the reach

More and more people across the continent and further afield are now working with the PACE materials:

- Organisations from Ghana, Zambia, Cameroon, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Belgium, and the Netherlands requested and received PACE packs this year.
- PACE Action Sheets will soon be available on Worldreader's mobile application across sub-Saharan Africa.
- The PACE films are now available online at the UNESCO Multimedia Archive.
- The PACE materials are currently being translated into French.

new collaboration with San Diego Zoo, enabling teachers in schools near Ebo Forest, Southwest Province, to take part in planned training seminars. Likely to become a new national park, Ebo Forest harbours the critically endangered Preuss's red colobus, the tool-using Gulf of Guinea chimpanzee and a population of around 25 gorillas, known to science for just over a decade, and of an 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 hot economic 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."

THIS PAGE, TOP L-R
Sharing information about forest wildlife.
Tree planting with schoolchildren in Dabolava.
Cameroon teachers encounter the PACE resources.
BOTTOM L-R
Cameroon's Inspector General of Schools speaks at Yaoundé seminar.

TWO BECOME ONE

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.

MEREDITH OGILVIE-THOMPSON *Executive Director, Tusk USA Inc.*

Both Big Life Foundation and Maasailand Preservation Trust (MPT) are certainly no exception to this way of thinking. Which is what makes their alliance particularly impactful. These two outstanding conservation organisations, who operated in the greater Amboseli ecosystem, merged at the end of last year.

"Richard Bonham, the founder of MPT, and I have worked very well together since we met," said photographer Nick Brandt, who co-founded Big Life Foundation with Richard in 2010.

"We agree on all aspects of what we should do and how we should go about it, starting with the absolute necessity of community support within any conservation programme. Since both organisations were essentially doing the same thing in adjoining areas, and were both being run on the ground by the same man, it made sense from our similar ideological perspectives to merge."

It was this same perspective that was also responsible for attracting the support of Tusk, initially in 2004 to MPT and then to Big Life Foundation from its inception some six years later.

"We were attracted to MPT because it combines the protection of Kenya's last remnant population of truly free-ranging black rhino with a community conservation initiative that seeks to protect the wildlife within an important dispersal area on the Eastern boundary of Amboseli," said Tusk founder and CEO, Charlie Mayhew.

"When Nick articulated his vision for Big Life Foundation three years ago, it was obvious to me there was a great synergy."

Masailand Preservation Trust (MPT)

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

Today, MPT interlinks many community conservancies surrounding Amboseli 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 dispersal 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 Masai, education and healthcare."

One of the most important aspects of Big Life Foundation's arrival in the area was a more coordinated and unified approach to all aspects of conservation throughout the greater Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem, which, sadly, had become even more critical as the demand for ivory and escalation of elephant poaching meant the need for more resources and rangers.

The merged organisation – Big Life

Today, with Richard Bonham as Director of Operations in Africa, and Damian Bell as Project Manager in Tanzania, Big Life – as the new merged

entity is known – is currently the only organisation in East Africa with co-ordinated cross-border anti-poaching operations, which to date have effected some 627 arrests as well as the confiscation of 1,630 weapons and other poaching tools.

An impressive record for the 250 rangers deployed across 21 outposts, all committed to providing front-line protection to two million acres of wilderness. "Of course, we had to boost the infrastructure of MPT to manage this growth spurt," said Richard. "Which meant raising more awareness and money." He is keen to point out the merger has definitely led to increased exposure of many of the original MPT programmes, through both the Big Life website as well as Richard's extraordinary personal efforts. "I believe it's brought what MPT has been doing for years to an international level, put it in front of a wider audience."

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 Kenyan 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 Olgolului Group Ranch is also in the works.

So far, Nick and Richard confirm 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.

"As with 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, 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.

”

THE MERGER OF **BIG LIFE FOUNDATION** AND **MPT IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF COLLABORATIVE AND HOLISTIC APPROACH NEEDED.**

"Tusk is proud of the support we've given to MPT since 2004, whether for the rhino rangers, the bloodhound tracker team or the purchase of their 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. We look forward to working with the new entity, continuing to fund them as we always have, and hope their example encourages similar such collaborations amongst other projects we support." ●



TUSK TALK 2013/14



PREVIOUS PAGE
Big Life's new outpost.
THIS PAGE, TOP L-R
Charlie Mayhew talking to Big Life
game guards in the field.
Game guards collecting snares and
undergoing training.
BOTTOM
Tusk-sponsored SuperCub.

TUSK TALK 2013/14

DATA MATTERS

TUSK'S SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT SPECIALIST GROUP (AfESG) corroborated findings that poaching is an immediate danger to elephant populations across the continent.

MEREDITH OGILVIE-THOMPSON *Executive Director, Tusk USA Inc.*



**ELEPHANT POACHING
LEVELS AND RECORDED
IVORY SEIZURES ARE AT
THEIR HIGHEST LEVELS
SINCE 1989.**

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 elephant 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 will begin to see what are still regarded as relatively safe populations within national parks and reserves 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.

"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.

"Census numbers from the AfESG were a critical component of information supplied to the CITES Standing Committee in July 2012," said Diane. "Itself a crucial forum for lobby and debate about the ban on trade in ivory and validity of stockpile sales."

"The increased media and press attention, as well as the sophisticated understanding of the issues demonstrated by many of those reports, can be credited in part to the comprehensive reports to which the AfESG and its African Elephant Database contributed."

In fact the AfESG report was integral to alerting the CITES community, as well as a much broader audience, to the scientific evidence that the poaching threat to African elephants was increasing. Additionally, it provided the first real analysis of the drivers of this increasing threat all the way along the illegal ivory supply chain.

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. ●

LAST YEAR'S EVENTS



1 LONDON MARATHON

In 2012, Tusk raised over £100,000, the most ever, thanks to the 40 runners who ran on the 22nd April. A bumper year!

A large proportion of this money was raised by a key 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 north Kenya.

Started in 1968, the primary school, located in the Isiolo 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 at the school had reached a high of 1,300 students but last year only 350 pupils were attending the school regularly. The area is prone to recurrent ethnic conflicts which force many pastoralist families to graze their livestock elsewhere and so take their children out of school.

Thanks to Tim Russell the school now has three new classrooms fitted with desks, a teacher's table and chair and storage cabinet. The school

compound has been fenced, new toilet blocks constructed for boys and girls and the new classrooms have been fitted with water-catchment infrastructure. Tim has committed to

run the marathon for a second year so that more classrooms can be built in 2013.

If you would like to run for Tusk in 2014 please contact: adele@tusk.org



A A new classroom at Kilimani with water tank for rainwater collection.

B New ablution block at Kilimani School.

C Pupils in a new classroom at Kilimani.

D Rhino made by the Kilimani community in recognition of Tusk's support.

E Dan Groves – a Tusk London Marathon runner!

2 AN EVENING AT MIDDLE TEMPLE

On May 10th, Tusk hosted its annual black tie event in the heart of London's historic Inns of Courts, The Middle Temple. Artemis Investment Management LLP very generously sponsored the event once again.

The evening began with a reception in the beautiful gardens, followed by an amazing dinner by the caterers, Party Ingredients. The cabaret and auction was performed brilliantly by Kit and McConnell, which was followed by dancing in The Queens Room. This hugely enjoyable evening raised £60,000 for the charity.

F The Hall at Middle Temple, a historic setting for the Tusk Dinner.

G Charlie Mayhew with Rebecca and Mark Tyndall, Caroline Mayhew and Dick Turpin.

H Gardens at the Inns of Courts, London.

I Marie-Helene Mourgue d'Algue with Luna Barnouin.

J Tanya Andrews, Phipp Buscombe, Baroness Buscombe with Philip Cayford QC, a Trustee of Tusk.

K Dr Samantha Correllis, a Trustee of Tusk with Dr Ian Redmond.

2012 NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

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 to 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, 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 kept 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 2012, making our debut in the event a success by any measure.

3 CHUKKAS FOR CHARITY

Tusk was extremely fortunate last summer to be the beneficiary of two superb polo events held in beautiful surroundings – and without a drop of rain!

This must have been a record for the summer of 2012 and, furthermore, record funds were raised at the Charity Polo Matches at Beaufort Polo Club and Watership Down.

On Sunday 17th June, Their Royal Highnesses The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry took to the polo pitch on opposing teams for the Royal Salute and the Zedan Polo teams. The event, shared with Well Child and the Child Bereavement Charity, was a relaxed and happy occasion with Prince Harry's fast-paced team pounding to a close victory. Tusk would very much like to thank everyone at the Beaufort Polo Club and Their Royal Highnesses for their tremendous support.

Then on Sunday 21st July, Tusk was a co-beneficiary with Sentebale at The Kent & Curwen Royal Charity Polo Cup held at the private grounds of Lord Lloyd Webber's home.

Prince Harry, Patron of Sentebale, played in the winning Royal Salute team against the Westcombe Group

with a score of 7 to 6 goals.

Tusk is indebted to Lord and Lady Lloyd Webber for once again hosting the day, to Kent & Curwen for their title sponsorship and to Tiffany & Co for donating the trophies. A big vote of thanks goes to Polofix for organising the match and Prince Harry for very kindly giving up his time to play.

Tusk is enormously grateful to all the sponsors and Polofix for staging two successful events, raising over £74,000 for the charity.

L The Beaufort Polo Ground at Westonbirt, Gloucestershire.

M Prince William with Goldin Group Representative.

N Prince Harry at the Watership Down polo match.



4 THE AMERICAN EXPRESS CONSERVATION LECTURE 2012 From Savannah to Shanghai — the trail of blood, ivory and rhino horns

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 Ondaaditje 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." He added, "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 rhino a day being poached in South Africa alone."

He declared that, "When the buying stops, the killing can too", and called for the criminal elements and corruption controlling the trade to be addressed at Governmental level, adding that CITES has failed to grasp the full consequences of its decisions. He urged everyone to get involved and to act.

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 public, we can give these magnificent animals the best chance of survival." Challenged by Steve Trent, he

promised to raise the issue with the Prime Minister.

Following a lively Q&A session, the reception overflowed with a large number of guests debating the hard-hitting speeches and queuing to meet the speakers.

Tusk would particularly like to thank American Express for their continued sponsorship of this flagship event and Painted Wolf Wines for their kind support in supplying the wine. If you missed this major event, don't forget to catch up at www.tusk.org

O Dr Samantha Corsellis, Gerard Hall with comedienne Ronnie Ancona.

P Speaker Steve Trent with Nick Booth.

Q Michael and Gill Edwards of AMEX with Iain Rawlinson, Chairman of Tusk Trust.

R Michael Joseph with speaker Ian Craig.

S Anthony Bruce, Tom Boughton, Clare Bruce and Sylvia Blomeley.

T Kate Silverton, BBC Presenter with Simon King the wildlife presenter and Marguerite King.

5 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, Bambi, Norman Parkinson, Maggi Hambling, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse.

The reception and silent auction were buzzing with life and then the party moved into the live auction room where Deborah Meaden gave a wonderful introduction and Charlie Thomas of Bonhams conducted a lively and very amusing auction.

The evening was a huge success and we are very grateful to Chris Westbrook and the committee for helping us to make the night such a success.

U Charlie Mayhew talking at the Tusk Modern event.

V Deborah Meaden with Cass Stainton taking part in the auction.

...WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US IN 2013?



UK EVENTS

DASHWOOD EXHIBITION AT TALISMAN

Tusk is delighted to be a beneficiary from the preview of the Geoffrey Dashwood Exhibition at the splendid Talisman showroom in Dorset. The renowned sculptor's bronzes are much sought after and include iconic exhibits of African birdlife. Visit Dashwood's website to view his exceptional contemporary work. With Talisman hosting the event, this promises to be an excellent evening.

WHEN Friday 3 May 2013

WHERE Talisman Showroom, The Old Brewery, Wyke Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4NW

TICKETS Invitation only event

CONTACT mary-jane@tusk.org
geoffreydashwood.com
talismanlondon.com

MARK KNOPFLER CONCERT

We are very much looking forward to a tremendous evening at the Royal Albert Hall, courtesy of Mark Knopfler and Paul Crockford 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 Gore, London SW7

TICKETS Limited availability ticket agencies & RAH only

CONTACT mary-jane@tusk.org

THE BIG ROAR & SNORE 2013

Enjoy a fun night out camping in the Cotswold Wildlife Park within earshot of lions and other wonderful wild animals. The evening will include a hog roast, live music and disco, football on the rhino paddock (poo hazard!) and a silent auction. The keepers will give 'behind the scenes' 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 Cure Parkinson's Trust.

WHEN Saturday 15 June 2013

WHERE The Cotswold Wildlife Park, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4JP

CONTACT reggie@cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk or telephone the Park on: 01993 823 006.

SAFARICOM MARATHON

This year will 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 \$550,000 for worthwhile projects in Kenya. If you are looking for something a little more challenging than 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 adele@tusk.org



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, 46 East 70th Street, New York, NY

TICKETS tusktrust.eventbrite.com

CONTACT tuskusa@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, NY

CONTACT tuskusa@tusk.org

ANNUAL FRIENDS OF TUSK USA DINNER

WHEN Thursday 7 November 2013

WHERE TriBeCa Rooftop, 2 Desbrosses Street, New York, NY

TICKETS tusktrust.eventbrite.com

CONTACT tuskusa@tusk.org for more information or check our website for updates tusk.org

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



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If you are a UK taxpayer please fill in the Gift Aid declaration on the Tusk Donor Form. This allows the charity to reclaim the tax on your donation (currently 25p in every £1) and if you are a higher rate taxpayer you can claim tax relief on your gift too. For example, if you donate £100, the total value of your donation to the charity is £125 and you can claim back:

- £25 – if you pay tax at 40 per cent (£125 x 20%)

You can make this claim on your Self Assessment tax return, if you were sent one. You can also now opt to donate that additional tax benefit by completing section 19a of your tax return.

For more details visit www.hmrc.gov.uk

SHARE GIVING

For UK donors with investments, giving shares can also be an effective way to make a substantial gift to Tusk, as the donation will be eligible for income tax relief. In addition, Capital Gains Tax (CGT) does not apply to donations of shares.

PAYROLL GIVING

This allows you to donate direct from your salary before any other deductions are calculated – so you do not pay tax on the amount donated (see *table below*). You need to check with your payroll department to see if your employer offers this facility. Alternatively, you can ask your employer to simply sign up with a Payroll Giving Agency. It's quick and easy to use this facility and at no cost to the employer. For further information visit www.payrollgivingcentre.org.uk

THIS TABLE SHOWS EXAMPLES OF TAX BENEFITS

Employee donation received by Tusk	Basic rate tax payer (20%)		Higher rate tax payer (40%)	
	tax relief	cost to donor	tax relief	cost to donor
£5.00	£1.00	£4.00	£2.00	£3.00
£10.00	£2.00	£8.00	£4.00	£6.00
£20.00	£4.00	£16.00	£8.00	£12.00
£100.00	£20.00	£80.00	£40.00	£60.00

SUPPORT TUSK

Make your gift to Tusk today

Tusk's aim is to maximise the funds reaching the field. With your help we hope to increase our overall support for all our projects.

Each project is carefully monitored to ensure your money is being effectively used. Please consider how you would like to make a donation using any of the following tax effective methods.

LEGACY

Leaving a legacy is one of the easiest ways to make a lasting gift to charity. All charitable bequests are deducted from the value of the estate before inheritance tax is calculated. Inheritance tax is charged at 40% on estates over and above the current threshold of £600,000 for married couples and civil partnerships, £300,000 on an individual.

There are two types of legacy bequest, Pecuniary and Residuary. Pecuniary means that the amount or nature of the bequest is made clear in the will; a Residuary leaves a percentage of the estate to the charity after all other debts and bequests have been discharged. Leaving a legacy is a good way to make a significant donation and help secure the charity's long-term future. We would be grateful if you could inform us of your decision.

Alternatively you could request a pledge card by emailing info@tusk.org

MISCELLANEOUS

Tusk can accept donations via all major credit and debit cards. Cheques can be made payable to 'Tusk Trust'. Please ensure you fill out the Gift Aid Declaration if you are a taxpayer so we can enhance your donation. Where possible we like to ask regular supporters to contribute a minimum of £25 per year, but please donate in any way you can and complete the tear-off form with your details so we can keep you in touch with all Tusk's progress.

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