As Royal Patron, I am immensely proud of the achievements Tusk has made. When it was founded in 1990, few were prepared to listen to its message about protecting wildlife and nurturing communities. Now, more than 25 years later, Tusk is a powerful voice that speaks out and is heard around the world.

The past 12 months have seen remarkable victories in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, most notably in the United States and China, which have both taken historic steps to introduce domestic ivory bans. Tusk can take credit for helping to put this vital issue on the agenda and ensuring that this international momentum continues.

Yet, as ever, it is on the ground in Africa that Tusk makes the greatest difference. The dedicated wildlife rangers funded by Tusk are helping to preserve the continent’s priceless natural heritage and building a sustainable future for the communities that live in harmony with it. Education is vital to Tusk’s success and, thanks to your invaluable support, more than 500,000 children have been involved with the charity’s education initiative, PACE, while more schools that neighbour wildlife reserves are being built and improved as part of the charity’s education legacy.

Last September, on the eve of the CITES conference, I was delighted to be invited to speak at Tusk’s historic “Time of Change” event. In that speech I said that the illegal wildlife trade has catastrophic consequences not only for African wildlife but also for communities across the continent, including some of the world’s poorest people, who depend on a sustainable natural environment. Tusk has achieved an enormous amount working with and for these communities but much more remains to be done. With your help we can make this happen.

Signature
Thoughts of the year

Tusk advances innovation in African conservation. We empower local communities and connect global partners to protect Africa’s unique wildlife and natural habitats.

When I was born there were one million elephants roaming Africa. By the time my daughter Charlotte was born, the numbers of savannah elephants had crashed to just 350,000. And at the current pace of illegal poaching, when Charlotte turns 25 the African elephant will be gone from the wild.

HRH The Duke of Cambridge KG, KT

The children are asking for help. For Africa’s future to be sustainable, they say that more people should have access to quality environmental education that inspires them to care.

Lesley Boggs Founder, Coaching for Conservation

Without conservation intervention right now, the chance of seeing vulture extinctions in our lifetime is a very real possibility.

Kerri Wolter Founder, Vulture Programme

My dream is that one of my boys becomes a ranger and continues to protect the giant sable.

Manuel Sacala 2016 Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award Winner

The loss of one goat is nothing compared to what the (painted) dogs do for our children.

Painted Dog Conservation

The marching tide of the planet’s ever-increasing human population is fast presenting Governments and conservationists with the massive challenge of reconciling human needs with those of the natural world.

Charlie Mayhew MBE, CEO Tusk Trust

Without wildlife you are the poorest person in the world; I will be proud of the fact that I am the one who started conservation and it’s because of me this wildlife is here.

Lparichoi Hargura Grevy’s Zebra Trust

Winning the Tusk Award has been a huge privilege, and honour, and my greatest achievement to date.

Cathy Dreyer 2016 Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa, Winner

Africa is in the frontline of conservation. In Africa people are getting killed in the name of conservation. It’s hard, it’s tough and the people who do it are true heroes and heroines. What they are protecting is one of the great treasures of the world.

Sir David Attenborough Broadcaster

I believe that education creates a greater sense of knowledge about ourselves, our society and even our collective role as mankind.

Faith Riunga Head of Lewa Education Programme

In 2016 we worked with people from around the world to achieve our mission. Here’s what they had to say:

The Tusk Awards shine a spotlight on the very people, places and issues that deserve it the most.

Kate Silverton BBC Presenter and Journalist

I do not wish to be part of a generation who knew what was happening and yet did nothing.

Dr Haruhisa Handa Founder, ISPS Handa and Patron of Tusk

I have the cranes disappear means there is something wrong, a balance that has not been maintained. Conservation is about saving humans as well. If we protect animals in their habitats, we are protecting ourselves. If we fail, we are endangering our children.

Olivier Nsengimana Founder, Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

Having the cranes disappear means there is something wrong, a balance that has not been maintained. Conservation is about saving humans as well. If we protect animals in their habitats, we are protecting ourselves. If we fail, we are endangering our children.

Olivier Nsengimana Founder, Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

With the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference returning to London in 2018, the gaze of the international community will be firmly upon us once again. We must take action to prove to the world that we are willing and able to lead on this issue as we have done before.

Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP Former UK Secretary of State for Environment

Africa is in the frontline of conservation. In Africa people are getting killed in the name of conservation. It’s hard, it’s tough and the people who do it are true heroes and heroines. What they are protecting is one of the great treasures of the world.

Sir David Attenborough Broadcaster

I believe that education creates a greater sense of knowledge about ourselves, our society and even our collective role as mankind.

Faith Riunga Head of Lewa Education Programme

In 2016 we worked with people from around the world to achieve our mission. Here’s what they had to say:

The Tusk Awards shine a spotlight on the very people, places and issues that deserve it the most.

Kate Silverton BBC Presenter and Journalist

I do not wish to be part of a generation who knew what was happening and yet did nothing.

Dr Haruhisa Handa Founder, ISPS Handa and Patron of Tusk

I have the cranes disappear means there is something wrong, a balance that has not been maintained. Conservation is about saving humans as well. If we protect animals in their habitats, we are protecting ourselves. If we fail, we are endangering our children.

Olivier Nsengimana Founder, Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

Having the cranes disappear means there is something wrong, a balance that has not been maintained. Conservation is about saving humans as well. If we protect animals in their habitats, we are protecting ourselves. If we fail, we are endangering our children.

Olivier Nsengimana Founder, Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

With the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference returning to London in 2018, the gaze of the international community will be firmly upon us once again. We must take action to prove to the world that we are willing and able to lead on this issue as we have done before.

Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP Former UK Secretary of State for Environment
Welcome to the 2017 edition of Tusk Talk. This annual publication, which we have produced for more than two decades, captures the scale and diversity of the projects supported and initiated by Tusk.

At a time when much of what we do in the charity is shared online, we have sometimes questioned the commitment to print. But every year the positive feedback and demand for Tusk Talk continues to grow. As we travel across Africa we often find copies, and earlier editions, prominently displayed at our projects, in lodges or in the offices of sponsors. Thank you for your support and loyal reading.

It is again a very busy time for Tusk. Our battle against the Igala Wildlife Trade, the daily fight against poachers and the quest to safeguard the habitats and environments of Africa is a seemingly endless task. As trustees of the charity, we often try to measure our impact and reflect on the progress we’re making.

Sometimes, when we’re faced with a particular crisis or poachers have succeeded where we’ve failed, it can become disheartening work. Yet it’s precisely at these moments that the value and staying power of Tusk is most acutely felt. Tusk now supports eighty conservation projects across the continent of Africa. We’ve been investing in some of these projects for more than twenty-five years. The agility of our interventions and ability to respond with haste where the need arises, is matched by our steadfast commitment to long-term sustainable conservation projects. This continues to be the way we want to deliver value and impact.

Nothing stands still and particularly in Africa, everything seems to be changing. The continent of Africa is changing before our eyes. It will soon have the youngest population on the planet. Africa’s population is set to double to 2.4 billion by 2050. While many challenges persist, experts also predict that Africa is set to transform with growing economic and rapid GDP growth. There is much to celebrate but there will be huge questions to address on how this growth can be achieved while protecting the wildlife and habitats of the continent. Tusk wants to play a part in this debate as communities, business, political leaders and conservationists try to navigate this challenging journey.

In December 2016, the world of African conservation received an unexpected piece of good news. The Chinese government announced a ban on the trade of ivory and its intention to close down the domestic ivory trade in China. It was a hugely welcome and significant step. Unless the demand for ivory can ultimately be stemmed, no amount of protection against poaching will suffice. It is hoped that this bold move by China will encourage other nations, particularly in Asia, to follow their lead. We will watch how China makes good on this pledge, but it must mean good news for Africa.

In October 2017, Tusk will be hosting its first ever “Tusk Symposium”, bringing together our project partners from across the continent. Meeting in Cape Town, this will be a unique event where some of the best conservationists and project leaders will be able to share their knowledge and expertise with each other. We have learned so much over the years and this will enable us to share our hard won best practice across the community of Tusk partners and projects.

The trustees of Tusk are hugely grateful to the small and dedicated staff of the charity who enable us to punch above our weight every year and run our offices in the UK, United States and East Africa. They are very special people. But Tusk only functions because of the support and commitment of the many hundreds of individual donors and companies who make our work possible. For more than a quarter of a century, Tusk has benefited from this generosity. We can’t thank you enough.

STEPHEN WATSON
Chairman of Tusk Trust

PHOTOGRAPHY

FRONT & BACK COVER
‘Graffiti City’ by David Yarrow

A long-term supporter of Tusk, David very generously donates a percentage of his art sales to the charity. For more information please visit www.davidyarrowphotography/gallery/wildlife

INSIDE FRONT COVER
‘Elephant Family’ by Jeremy Goss

EDITOR
Sarah Watson

Thoughts of the year 2 – 3
Welcome 5
Update 6 – 7
Tusk’s approach to conservation 8 – 15
Silent Extinction 16 – 29
Time for change 30 – 35
Tusk Conservation Awards 2016 36 – 43
Reaching the next generation 44 – 49
Last year’s events 50 – 51
Join us for 2017 52 – 53
How Tusk makes a difference 54 – 55
Thank you 56
2016 was another excellent year both in terms of our financial results and the positive conservation impact that we continue to have in the field and beyond.

Over the last three years we have focused a great deal of resource and attention on tackling the illegal wildlife trade. Aside from deploying the proverbial ‘boots on the ground’, Tusk has, with the unstinting support of our Royal Patron, devoted much effort to highlighting the plight of those species being exploited by poachers and criminal syndicates to meet the demand from consumers predominantly in the Far East.

Our ‘Time For Change’ event broadcast live across the world by satellite from The Shard (at the top of Europe’s tallest building) had a huge impact attracting global media coverage and Prince William’s words proving to be pivotal on the eve of the CITES conference in Johannesburg. We were particularly grateful to ISPS Handa, the Japanese Foundation, who generously sponsored this eye-catching venture with Land Rover and Avios.

As a follow up, I was delighted to be invited to accompany Prince William to Vietnam in November for the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, as he sought to press home the urgency with which we need international governments to halt the trade of ivory, rhino horn, pangolin and other wildlife products.

It is easy to become despondent in the face of some the challenges that Africa’s wildlife faces. The statistics often seem so stacked against us. However last year, Tusk’s investment into our programmes reached new heights. There is hope. Indeed, you only have to look at the achievement that so many of our project partners are delivering — many of which are outlined within this edition of Tusk Talk.

At the sharp-end of the poaching crisis, we are administering two major IWT Challenge Fund grants on behalf of the UK Government. One is funding specialist training in counter-poaching to rangers across the continent, where it is already producing dramatic results in reducing poaching.

The second grant is demonstrating how conservation can be a powerful tool to improve rural livelihoods in Uganda. There is also some remarkable work being undertaken in the field of education, engaging the next generation and their families simultaneously. We are investing in the infra-structures of schools adjacent to conservation areas and we continue to support some truly dynamic environmental centres hosting thousands of children each year on residential courses. Our own PACE environmental films and education programmes have also reached over 500,000 students. I am very proud that Tusk invests in the future of Africa in such a positive way.

We have always prided ourselves on the excellence that is represented by our portfolio of projects. We intend to continue to be an effective catalyst for conservation, an accelerator for innovation and an organisation that nurtures projects and provides long term support.

We are acutely aware that Africa’s natural heritage — its wildlife, wilderness and forests — is coming under increasing pressure from the rapidly expanding human population as it competes for land and space. Sadly it is man who presents the single biggest threat to Africa’s wildlife. We need to turn ourselves from the problem into the solution. We have to win the argument with local and national Governments, amongst the rural communities (often struggling to live alongside wildlife), the urban population as well as the business community, that preserving Africa’s natural heritage is as much an economic imperative as it is for the well being of the planet and mankind.

The natural world can represent positive development, create jobs, and help alleviate poverty. And any suggestion that preserving wildlife just represents a luxury for the developed world to enjoy is neither right nor helpful.

The crisis facing Africa’s wildlife is severe, vast and urgent. As we look forward, Tusk’s mantra is to find better solutions that can have a lasting effect. Scale them faster for maximum impact, and work together, as an empowered movement of donors, partners and local communities. And, as ever, with all of this we need your continued support.

I would like to pay huge tribute to the selfless contribution made by our retiring Trustees, Pierre-Andre Mounguere d’Algue and Dr Samantha Corsellis, who were both required to step down by rotation according to our governance protocols at the AGM in September 2016. Both Samantha and Pierre-Andre have been long serving and loyal members of our UK Board and we are delighted that they have agreed to remain active within the ‘Tusk family’ by continuing to act as ambassadors of the charity.

●
Tusk’s approach to conservation

Tusk’s vision is an Africa in which people and wildlife co-exist and thrive. We believe in the inherent value of wildlife while understanding that sustainable conservation requires local solutions and engagement.

Tusk believes that people are a critical part of the equation and our investments keep people and wildlife at the centre of the solution.

Whether our programmes support environmental education, create eco-friendly employment opportunities or mitigate human-wildlife conflict, our support is based on the understanding that sustainable conservation is only possible if humans and wildlife co-exist and thrive together.

Tusk’s partnership model, working with grassroots organisations in Africa, brings a field perspective to our decision-making. This, combined with over a quarter century of experience gives Tusk the ability to find patterns of success. We take lessons learned, share results and connect conservation initiatives across the continent. By positioning programmes and needs within the larger conservation landscape and identifying solutions we are able to invest donor funds where they are needed most and have the greatest impact.

As a connector and an umbrella organisation, Tusk is in a unique position to leverage information and maximise impact. By connecting innovative people from disparate parts of Africa to work on a shared mission to protect wildlife, Tusk acts as an accelerator for conservation efforts.

In the following pages we look at twenty of our 80 project partners across 21 African countries — all of which are listed on page 15.

Tusk’s vision is an Africa in which people and wildlife co-exist and thrive. We believe in the inherent value of wildlife while understanding that sustainable conservation requires local solutions and engagement.

By focusing on and facilitating sustainable solutions for conservation, we know that together with our supporters and partner projects, we can have a real and lasting impact.
Effective management of coastal resources and local fisheries requires data. Very little information on fisheries or marine habitats exists in the Comoros, so the collection of a full year’s worth of key fisheries data, the first phase of our project to facilitate community-led marine conservation, is a major step forward, and a first for the Comoros.

This information, collected through working closely with local fishers, will form the basis of community decision-making to design measures to safeguard their local fisheries and marine environment. To kickstart this process and generate new ideas, we have planned two learning exchanges to southwest Madagascar in 2017, where Comorian fishers will witness first-hand the progress made by communities over more than a decade of local management.

Getting activities started with a very small team was challenging. However, we have built up a core team by recruiting a Comorian marine ecologist and providing training for him via a six week training course with Blue Ventures in Madagascar, and training five local fisheries technicians. We plan to recruit four more local fisheries technicians. Madagascan, and training five local fisheries technicians.

In 2016, we completed the training and integration of the new Maseke Black Mamba team. This team patrols the Maseke tribal lands that are directly adjacent to the West of the Kruger National Park. No border exists between this park and the land, or access to the park through this area. During our patrols, the Mambas have reported numerous incursions by rhino-poachers and snake-poachers. Their role in the early detection of poaching threats and as a deterrent to poachers has paid off.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.

In 2016, we supported the wild-release of previously orphaned chimpanzees for years and is a key partner for this programme. Tusk has supported our release programme is a conservation tool that helps protect the Haut Niger National Park, a hotspot for the Guinean chimpanzee but also large mammals including some rare lions. Our main success at the release site is the second generation of chimpanzees! We now have four offspring, ranging between 1 and 4 years old. The success of the release programme relies on the survival of this second generation and we hope these babies will grow into successful wild adults.

There are a total of 900 young chimpanzees that are educated by the Black Mambas Bush Babies programme now. The annual bush camps that we host at the Balule Nature Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger Park, were a huge success. Sixty children that showed the most promise and interest in the Bush Babies programme were rewarded with several nights in the Park.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.

The Black Mambas Bush Babies programme now. The annual bush camps that we host at the Balule Nature Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger Park, were a huge success. Sixty children that showed the most promise and interest in the Bush Babies programme were rewarded with several nights in the Park.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.

To kickstart this process and generate new ideas, we have planned two learning exchanges to southwest Madagascar in 2017, where Comorian fishers will witness first-hand the progress made by communities over more than a decade of local management.

Getting activities started with a very small team was challenging. However, we have built up a core team by recruiting a Comorian marine ecologist and providing training for him via a six week training course with Blue Ventures in Madagascar, and training five local fisheries technicians. We plan to recruit four more local fisheries technicians.

In 2016, we completed the training and integration of the new Maseke Black Mamba team. This team patrols the Maseke tribal lands that are directly adjacent to the West of the Kruger National Park. No border exists between this park and the land, or access to the park through this area. During our patrols, the Mambas have reported numerous incursions by rhino-poachers and snake-poachers. Their role in the early detection of poaching threats and as a deterrent to poachers has paid off.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.

The Black Mambas Bush Babies programme now. The annual bush camps that we host at the Balule Nature Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger Park, were a huge success. Sixty children that showed the most promise and interest in the Bush Babies programme were rewarded with several nights in the Park.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.

The Black Mambas Bush Babies programme now. The annual bush camps that we host at the Balule Nature Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger Park, were a huge success. Sixty children that showed the most promise and interest in the Bush Babies programme were rewarded with several nights in the Park.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.

The Black Mambas Bush Babies programme now. The annual bush camps that we host at the Balule Nature Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger Park, were a huge success. Sixty children that showed the most promise and interest in the Bush Babies programme were rewarded with several nights in the Park.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.

The Black Mambas Bush Babies programme now. The annual bush camps that we host at the Balule Nature Reserve, part of the Greater Kruger Park, were a huge success. Sixty children that showed the most promise and interest in the Bush Babies programme were rewarded with several nights in the Park.

In the new year, we face challenges that are new to us. The Greater Kruger Park has expanded its boundaries to include old farms in the South, as well as tribal lands in the North. We have the challenge of ensuring that these areas are protected and the animals that choose to live there are protected. We continue to go from strength to strength with your help.
Madagascar is a unique and beautiful country whose remote location and isolated population presents a set of unique challenges for conservation. IMPACT Madagascar’s goal is to protect and conserve the country’s unique biodiversity while improving the lives of its people. The project works with the Malagasy people in six key conservation sites to provide achievable and sustainable solutions to the problems of deforestation, pollution, and poverty through ecological conservation training and education. The idea is to develop conservation strategies that work within the parameters of daily life.

Tusk’s PACE project was launched in 2016. In the six conservation sites but also with other organisations and universities. In 2017, the aim is to monitor the impact of PACE to understand how people use the knowledge and solution-based ideas to solve environmental problems in their villages and areas. Successes will be measured by the reduction of threats to the forest areas, logging and illegal hunting of wildlife, and a progressive change of behaviour towards the environment, assessed through the participation in environmental and development activities.

Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association
NOAH SITATI
Executive Director

Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA), a membership organisation working in the Greater Mara ecosystem to ensure conservancies in the environs are effectively and sustainably conserving biodiversity.

Working with over 45 tourism partners and with a membership of 14 conservancies, over 140,000 ha of land has been secured for wildlife conservation.

Last year, the main challenges faced include the long dry spell that interfered with the established rotational grazing pattern and livestock grazing in the conservancies. Landowners migrated with livestock in search of pasture and water making it difficult to implement activities that required their participation.

The plan for 2017 includes the continued development of management plans for the Mara North Lemeik, Olani-Motorogi and Olkinyei conservancies, funded by Tusk. Over 50,000 hectares of land is being secured and 1,795 landowners are benefitting from these conservancies. Consultative meetings with landowners’ have been held and a core planning team established to spearhead the process.

The first community-owned and managed elephant sanctuary in East Africa was officially opened by the Samburu County Governor, H.E Moses Lenolkulal, on the 20th August 2016.

Situated in the Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy, an elephant heartland in North Kenya, the project’s main objective is to reunite abandoned elephant calves with their mothers and herds.

In 2016, through a well-coordinated approach between the conservancy’s air and ground teams, combined with an intimate knowledge of the herds’ movements, we reunited five calves with their mothers.

Due to the drought in Northern Kenya elephants have to share water with pastoral communities. During the dry season, elephant calves often fall into wells dug into river beds, and their mothers are unable to pull them out. Unfortunately, this is how the majority of the elephant calves come to be at the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary.

We currently have twelve calves with their mothers. During the dry season, elephant calves often fall into wells dug into river beds, and their mothers are unable to pull them out. Unfortunately, this is how the majority of the elephant calves come to be at the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary. We currently have twelve calves with their mothers.

In 2017 more combined intelligence-driven operations with the BushCat aircraft, the Bat Hawk aircraft, the anti-poaching patrol vehicle and anti-poaching units from rhino reserves are planned. The aim is for the BushCat to continue supporting the reserves with regards to spacing monitoring through telemetry tracking of collared species, as well as searching for animals that have not been located within the agreed upon managed time by Reserve staff.

Wilderness Foundation Africa’s Forever Wild Rhino Protection Initiative primarily provides logistical and operational support for conservation and law enforcement agencies responsible for rhino security in South Africa. Other activities include the coordination of anti-poaching training, aerial assistance, vehicle support, intelligence gathering and specialist support, and a rhino horn demand reduction campaign in Vietnam. 2016 marked the successful expansion of the aerial support capability through the purchase of a BushCat light sport aircraft, which was jointly funded by Tusk. This aircraft has increased the air support capacity of Wilderness Foundation Africa, whereby more protected areas can be assisted with aerial support for the management and protection of the rhino populations.

Wilderness Foundation
CHRISTINE ROETS
Operations Manager

Wilderness Foundation

The first community-owned and managed elephant sanctuary in East Africa was officially opened by the Samburu County Governor, H.E Moses Lenolkulal, on the 20th August 2016.

Situated in the Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy, an elephant heartland in North Kenya, the project’s main objective is to reunite abandoned elephant calves with their mothers and herds.

In 2016, through a well-coordinated approach between the conservancy’s air and ground teams, combined with an intimate knowledge of the herds’ movements, we reunited five calves with their mothers.
Tusk’s Approach to Conservation

Zambia’s Luangwa Valley is one of the few remaining strongholds for endangered African wild dogs, but a burgeoning commercial bushmeat trade utilising wire-snares seriously threatens these dogs through direct mortality in snares as by-catch, and from depletion of their prey base.

Nevertheless, Tusk’s support of our collaborative efforts with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and Conservation South Luangwa helped produce a record 170 dogs in 12 packs in our intensive study area in 2016. We employed an array of anti-snaring initiatives to accomplish this including intensive aerial and ground monitoring of wide-ranging radio-collared packs, anti-snaring patrols directed at areas of high snaring risk for dogs, and a full-time Zambian wildlife vet, Dr. Mwamba Sichande, who is able to respond, dart and treat snared dogs.

In addition we also expanded operations with the collaring of a large pack that ranges between South Luangwa and Luambe National Parks, a key linkage area of very high risk for dogs getting caught in snares. Our collaborative Tusk-funded efforts in and around South Luangwa show promise for our plans to expand work in 2017 to protect the valley’s wild dog stronghold.

2016 was an immensely year for the Sera Community Rhino Sanctuary. In March a female black rhino, gave birth to a healthy calf, and made history.

This was the first black rhino to be born on community land in northern Kenya for over 25 years, and demonstrated the strength of the growing community conservation movement. The calf also represents the community’s hope that the Sanctuary can nurture a viable breeding population of black rhino; that could eventually help repopulate other community conservation areas.

The Sera Community is the first community in Africa to establish and operate a sanctuary dedicated to the conservation of this iconic species. Facilitated by the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), the community opened the 54,000 hectare fenced sanctuary inside their consensory after many years of hard work, substantial investment from Tusk and the determined commitment by Sera Community members.

In February this year, Saruni, an expert Saruni guide and a highly-trained Sera Community member, offered a unique walking safari experience tracking black rhino on-foot, accompanied by an expert Saruni guide and a highly-trained Sera Community Conservation ranger. This responsible tourism venture will endeavour to educate and encourage the further protection of the species for future generations.

Zambia’s Luangwa Valley

SERA COMMUNITY RHINO SANCTUARY

SOPHIE HARRISON
Northern Rangelands Trust

We partner with Africa’s leading and emerging conservationists to protect endangered species, reduce human-wildlife conflict, find sustainable solutions to preserve critical habitats and combat the global demand for illegal wildlife products.

AFRICA

- African Parks
- Anti-Poaching (WT Challenge Fund)
- PACE
- Pride Alliance
- Stop Ivory
- WRI

ANGOLA

- Giant Sable Antelope Project

BOTSWANA

- Botswana Predator Conservation Trust
- Coaching for Conservation
- Molekodi Nature Reserve

CAMEROON

- Cross River Gorilla Conservation Project

DRC

- Okapi Conservation
- Pole Pole Foundation
- Virunga Foundation
- Walikale Gorilla and Forest Conservation Project

GHANA

- Loango Gorilla

GHANA

- Rainforest Rescue
- Gwagla Project

GUINEA

- Chimpanzee Conservation Centre

KENYA

- Big Life Foundation
- Borana Conservancy
- Ewaso Lions
- Galana Wildlife Conservancy
- Griffin’s Ziwa Trust
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy Project
- Lewa Wildlife Trust
- Masai Mara Wildlife Conservancy Association
- Mara Elephant Project
- Mgahinga
- Mount Kenya Trust
- Mt. Kenya Bongi Surveillance Project
- Ngare Ndare Forest Trust
- NRT – Northern Rangelands Trust

OIL PALETA

- Reteti Elephant Sanctuary
- Sera Community Rhino Sanctuary
- Space for Giants
- The Maa Trust
- Tsavo Trust

LIBERIA

- Fauna & Flora International

MADAGASCAR

- Blue Ventures
- Co3 Madagascar
- Durrell Madagascar
- MNP/CT Madagascar

MALAWI

- Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

MALI

- Mali Elephant Project

NAMIBIA

- Arocat Foundation
- Cheetah Conservation Fund
- IRINGC
- Save the Rhino Trust

NIGERIA

- Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature (CORPAN)

RWANDA

- Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

SIERRA LEONE

- Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary

SOUTH AFRICA

- Balule
- Black Mamba
- Great Fish River Nature Reserve
- Save the Waterberg Rhino
- Singita Community Trust
- Southern African Wildlife College
- VufPro

ZIMBABWE

- Africa Wildlife Conservation
- Malilangwe Trust
- Painted Dog Conservation
- Savii Valley Conservancy
Silent extinction

Over the last forty years, the world’s wildlife population has decreased by more than half and some of the planet’s most iconic species are on the brink of extinction. The world is currently losing species at a thousand times the natural rate and experts believe that we are entering the sixth ‘Great Extinction’. According to the Center for Biological Diversity, “unlike past mass extinctions, caused by events like asteroid strikes, volcanic eruptions and natural climate shifts, the current crisis is almost entirely caused by us — humans.”

The accelerated rate of extinction is jeopardising our planet’s biodiversity and Africa, which is home to some of the world’s most iconic species, has much to lose. Fuelled by the illegal wildlife trade, rapid population growth, and economic inequality, the destruction of Africa’s natural resources has reached an unprecedented level.

At Tusk, we believe that wildlife is worth preserving for its own innate value. But, biodiversity also plays an important role in maintaining the world’s ecological balance and is one of Africa’s most important economic resources.

Tusk was formed in 1990 after the poaching eras of the 70s and 80s, when the African elephant, rhino and other keystone species were killed in vast numbers as shown below. At the beginning of this crisis endangered species were the focus for the Charity with funding provided for the purchase of an aircraft for anti-poaching work in Tanzania and a rescue mission to move wildlife in Zimbabwe within the first few years of operation.

In 2016, it became apparent that whilst the world has been focusing on the mega-fauna species such as the rhino and elephant many other species have been overlooked, and in very short time, their numbers have depleted extensively. Most shocking of all was the announcement that the giraffe has been classified as vulnerable to extinction meaning that over three generations the population has declined by more than 30%. The world’s tallest land mammal has gone under the radar and their numbers have been plummeting undetected. A number of other species are facing a similar silent extinction including the mountain bongo, cheetah and grey-crowned crane.

The following pages show how Tusk is working with our project partners across Africa to reverse this frightening trend.
Rothschild Giraffe

Murchison Falls National Park is host to 900 Rothschild giraffes, the largest population of the endangered species in the world. With only 1,200 remaining in the wild every individual is important.

In 2011, Tom Okello, the then newly appointed Chief Park Warden of Murchison Falls faced an enormous task. The increase in poaching pressure, through snares and traps laid by bushmeat poachers was growing daily. The number of animals caught in snares was staggering, and it included many giraffes that were trapped by the wire which cut deep into their ankles. Many died. To counter this poaching onslaught Tom had one working car and no veterinary response capability.

Having worked together in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Tom turned to the Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) for help. Immediately the Recovery of Murchison Falls project was planned, which included the protection and conservation of the giraffes as a priority. Tom and other partners quickly supported the project.

Recovery of Murchison Falls

The response included the construction of ranger posts in key areas to block poachers and sustain a long-term presence in the giraffe’s core habitats. Seminya, Kabimbo and Pumir RI Ranger Posts were built by UCF. The first two were Marine Ranger Stations manned by newly trained rangers and equipped with patrol boats to allow the marine teams to block poachers from landing their fishing boats and laying snares along the 100 km shoreline. The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) then added the Opota and Ayogo Ranger Posts.

In the Delta region of Murchison the impact was immediate. Some 23 metric tonnes of snares and wheel traps were found, removed, and destroyed and used in the foundations of the ranger posts and the UCF built Veterinary Laboratory!

The number of animals, including giraffes found in traps dead or alive, dropped from three a day, to three a month.

With the habitats safer and rangers better trained, the UWA and UCF are confident the threat is now under control and, due to the long-term nature of the investments, the future for the region and its wildlife is looking brighter.

Veterinary Response Unit

UCF also helped UWA create a Veterinary Response Unit, by providing a vehicle and Analytic Lab, donating a dart gun and accessories, and laboratory equipment. UWA is now able to respond to incidents involving giraffe, lion and elephant within 24 hours. Before it took weeks, which was always too late.

With the Rothschild giraffe safer, our attention turned to a rash seen on around 30% of the adult giraffes. Thanks to Busch Gardens and the Wildlife Docs show on ABC TV, UCF could afford to take samples and analyse the rash and have now ascertained that it is not life-threatening, and is in fact a small parasitic nematode, more usually found on cattle and buffalo. UCF are now following up research about the ecology of the rash, and have started to trial potential treatments.

Looking to the future

Our job has not finished yet; the protection and effectiveness of the law enforcement capability to protect the giraffes needs to be expanded, and better knowledge of their seasonal movements and distribution patterns.

With tourism, the highest earning sector in Uganda’s GDP, the large-scale recovery of Murchison Falls and elsewhere is the perfect project to ensure that future generations see a real value in their wildlife and cultural heritage.

Michael Keigwin

Founding Trustee of Uganda Conservation Foundation

Cape Vulture

Vultures are the fastest declining bird species globally. Asia has lost 99.9% of their vulture population and Africa is currently facing a vulture crisis.

Much maligned because of its association with death, vultures are critical to the health of our ecosystem. By rapidly consuming carcasses vultures help reduce the spread of diseases and thus keep our environment clean and healthy, which has a direct positive effect on every one of us, as well as our wildlife and livestock.

VuPro — Vulture Programme

VuPro, a Tusk-funded project in South Africa, is actively working to reverse the decline across Africa through its role in addressing and mitigating the threats vultures face, combating population and individual vulture losses, and changing people’s negative perceptions. Although the organisation is small, with only six staff members, its impact and is far reaching and they have spearheaded many pioneering conservation strategies.

At the organisation’s base just outside Pretoria injured, grounded and disabled vultures are taken to the VuPro 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. Further afluent monitoring of the distribution, dispersal and foraging ranges of vultures is undertaken by the small team. This involves the tracking of vultures using patagial (wing) tags and GSM/ GPS devices and is not restricted to South Africa alone, but covers Botswana and Namibia too. Over and above researching their ranges, these tracking devices help identify ‘hot spot’ areas for poaching and poisoning activities.

The Asian Vulture Crisis

The Asian Vulture Crisis saw the populations of three vulture species plummet and their IUCN status being raised from not endangered to critically endangered in just ten years. Diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory veterinary drug, was the route cause behind the massive die-off as it was ingested by birds feeding on carcasses and, although safe for cattle, was toxic to the birds. The work carried out by VuPro in partnership with the University of Pretoria spearheaded the banning of the production of diclofenac in India and Pakistan and the replacement of it with the only known safe non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) veterinary drug, Meloxicam. They are continuing this campaign in Africa where diclofenac is still used.

Reversing the decline

Over the last nine years, VuPro has been extremely fortunate to have had the backing of Tusk, a partnership which has grown into a formidable combination of strength, commitment and financial support. The aim of this partnership has been to halt the decline of vultures by stabilising the breeding colonies of both cliff and tree nesting vultures, rehabilitating and releasing vultures to prevent further losses to the population, captive breeding to support existing dwindling populations, and educating the general public of all demographics and age groups about the importance of these very misunderstood and yet hugely important and often overshadowed scavengers.

We simply cannot afford to lose our vultures and the result will be catastrophic if we do. Without conservation intervention right now, the chance of seeing vulture extinctions in our lifetime is a very real possibility.

Kerri Venter

Founder of the Vulture Programme
The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) is a non-profit organisation and a global leader in the research and conservation of cheetahs. CCF’s International Field Research and Education Centre; and a range of overnight guest accommodation; group lecture hall; interactive education lab; research laboratory; veterinary clinic; large holding area, the Bellebeno Game Camp, housing the world’s largest database of cheetah biological samples. Scientists from around the world access these samples for research.

Education holds the key

In Namibia, livestock farmers have traditionally viewed cheetahs as a species that threatens their livelihoods. During the 1970s and 1980s, Namibian farmers removed hundreds of cheetahs from the landscape each year.

Human-wildlife conflict remains one of the greatest threats to the cheetah as ninety percent of the nation’s cheetahs live on farmlands. To mitigate the problem, CCF developed Future Farmers of Africa (FFA) to teach integrated livestock-wildlife management techniques so farmers can make a better living without injuring cheetahs. FFA builds practical knowledge and trains farmers in basic skills. It also introduced the concept of a livestock-guarding dog, a CCF idea which has become one of the most effective tools. Namibian farmers have to protect herds of goats and sheep from predation.

CF uses Anatolian shepherd and Kangal dogs, two exceptionally large Turkish breeds that are fiercely protective. The newly trained dogs come later in the game. They看你 What is the current status of the cheetah population and what threats do they face?
Atwia Salim
Project Manager, Lamu Marine Conservation Trust

What do puppet shows, mud rescues, football matches and camel patrols have in common? They are all activities undertaken by the Grey’s Zebra Warriors in their role as messengers, protectors and ambassadors for the endangered Grey’s zebra of northern Kenya.

An iconic species in Kenya’s northern rangelands, the Grey’s zebra (Eiaeus grevyi) is one of Africa’s most endangered large mammals. The species has undergone a substantial range reduction and is restricted to Kenya and Ethiopia, with Kenya hosting over 80% of the global population. Grey’s zebra numbers have also rapidly declined. Towards the end of the 1970s, the global population of Grey’s zebra was estimated to be 15,000 animals; present-day estimates indicate fewer than 2,500 animals remain.

The Grey’s Zebra Trust (GZT) started in 2007, with the goal of conserving the endangered Grey’s zebra and its fragile habitat in partnership with local communities. Recognising that Grey’s zebra conservation cannot be viewed in isolation from people, the Trust undertakes extensive community outreach to empower communities to carry out their own environmental stewardship. GZT works with elders, warriors, youth and children — to monitor trends in Grey’s zebra populations, improve habitat through better livestock grazing practices, increase conservation awareness, and foster positive attitudes towards the species.

Grey’s Zebra Warriors

With support from Tusk and other partners, GZT employs a team of ten Grey’s Zebra Warriors from the local Samburu and Rendille ethnic groups, who monitor Grey’s zebra, raise awareness, and provide protection to the species. Their outreach to communities has created a large network of local support through which conservation messaging is disseminated and practical conservation action, including dry season water management, mud rescues, and supplementary feeding schemes, is implemented. Camel patrols undertaken by the warriors in the area and remote lava plateaux of the Laikipia region have resulted in a 50% increase in sightings of Grey’s zebra in the region. In addition, the warriors have been trained in the use of GPS photography for monitoring purposes, which has proved invaluable in providing GZT with an otherwise unattainable understanding of the environment in which the warriors operate.

As part of their work, Grey’s zebra monitoring, a secondary objective is achieved through the provision of a grassroots security presence for wildlife on the ground. Through their work, the warriors have become spokespersons within their communities and have gained respect from community members. As a result, they are not only listened to, but their examples are followed by many members of the wider community.

The warriors also engage with schoolchildren where they use puppets to demonstrate the importance of wildlife tolerance, especially regarding access to water resources, by the community. They have also used other community opportunities, such as warrior football matches, to talk to the communities about conservation.

Another success of the Grey’s Zebra Warrior programme is the conservation workshops convened by GZT that give the communities that the warriors belong to a chance to develop their own solutions to problems they are facing. The conservation knowledge that is disseminated by the GZT team empowers community members with the necessary information to make informed decisions about conservation, land, livestock and wildlife issues. This has resulted in the entire community championing Grey’s zebra conservation efforts across the landscape.

As the next generation of leaders, GZT knows that engaging the warriors in conservation is critical for long-term success. And this approach is working.

Anne-Marie Gordon
Senior and Communications Manager, Grey’s Zebra Trust

Over the past four decades, the global population of grey-crowned cranes has crashed, falling by up to 80 per cent. Their situation is so serious that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed them as ‘endangered’ in 2012.

Kept as pets and ornaments

Once plentiful in Rwanda, there are less than 500 cranes in the wild. Ironically it is the birds’ symbolism that has led to its downfall. The striking bird — with grey plumage, sharp black and white wings, a crest of golden feathers and bright red throat — is also a prized status symbol and is linked to wealth and longevity to those who own them. Despite being illegal, grey-crowned cranes are poached from the wild to play the role of living ornaments but most of the birds suffer from stress, injuries and malnutrition, while their eggs and feathers are sometimes sought after for their purported medicinal value. These delicate birds won’t breed in captivity, and many die.

Despite being a small country, Rwanda has an incredible variety of biodiversity; yet it also has a high population density and extreme poverty. This results in resources and land being overstretched with high competition between people and wildlife. The grey-crowned crane is one species caught in this battle. Most of the marshlands have been drained to make room for agriculture or housing. To compensate for the loss of their habitat to agriculture and construction, many cranes have learned to forage on farmland. This exposure to toxic agrochemicals or poisoned bait deliberately set by farmers.

Anne-Marie Gordon
Senior and Communications Manager, Grey’s Zebra Trust

Then as pets and ornaments

Once plentiful in Rwanda, there are less than 500 cranes in the wild. Ironically it is the birds’ symbolism that has led to its downfall. The striking bird — with grey plumage, sharp black and white wings, a crest of golden feathers and bright red throat — is also a prized status symbol and is linked to wealth and longevity to those who own them. Despite being illegal, grey-crowned cranes are poached from the wild to play the role of living ornaments but most of the birds suffer from stress, injuries and malnutrition, while their eggs and feathers are sometimes sought after for their purported medicinal value. These delicate birds won’t breed in captivity, and many die.

Despite being a small country, Rwanda has an incredible variety of biodiversity; yet it also has a high population density and extreme poverty. This results in resources and land being overstretched with high competition between people and wildlife. The grey-crowned crane is one species caught in this battle. Most of the marshlands have been drained to make room for agriculture or housing. To compensate for the loss of their habitat to agriculture and construction, many cranes have learned to forage on farmland. This exposure to toxic agrochemicals or poisoned bait deliberately set by farmers.
Hirola Antelope

The decline of hirola (Beatragus hunteri) has been a concern to conservationists for more than 30 years. In 2007, the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) became involved in the conservation of this species through our support to the 68,000 hectare Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy in northern-eastern Kenya, close to the border with Somalia. Ishaqbini conservancy is owned and managed by the local Al陇bula community. The community relies on pastoralism, and pastoralist people whose livelihoods depend on their livestock. It is a little known part of Kenya, with poor infrastructure and no villages. Despite the diversity and high numbers of wildlife that are found there.

The conservancy employs 28 people from the local community and is managed by a Board of elected community members from the three villages. The conservancy has established infrastructure including a headquarters, airstrip, radio network and security outposts. Community members who have been trained through the Kenya Wildlife Service and NRT, carry out anti-poaching patrols and wildlife monitoring across the conservancy.

Ishaqbini Hirola

Community Conservancy

When the conservancy was first established, poaching was a serious problem, mainly by the neighbouring community living along the Tana River. Monitoring by conservancy rangers also revealed high predation rates on hirola in the last remaining stronghold of this species within the conservancy. By 2010, despite the conservancy setting top of poaching and setting aside a conservation area, the hirola population was not increasing. Poachers also recorded increased sightings of predators, and in particular, lions became resident in the conservancy. It appeared that an unintended consequence of good management by the conservancy was a situation where predators were less disturbed by people so they moved in and the hirola were being poached at a rate that the small hirola population couldn’t sustain.

As a result of this, and following an aerial survey in 2011 which revealed that less than 500 hirola remained in their natural range in Kenya, Ishaqbini and NRT established a 2,700 hectare fenced, predator-proof sanctuary for the species in August 2012. The purpose of the sanctuary is to provide a secure area for a viable breeding population as a means of increasing the chances of recovery for this species. A founder population of approximately 48 hirola was established in the sanctuary, alongside other wildlife already in the area. Large predators including cheetah, spotted hyena and leopard were removed from the sanctuary through trapping or darting and released outside the fence.

Drought Crisis

By the end of 2016, the hirola population in the sanctuary had more than doubled to over 110 individuals, with an average annual population growth rate of 20% over the past four years. Annual mortality is low, particularly of calves, in contrast to high calf mortality seen in hirola outside the sanctuary. However, after poor rains for two consecutive seasons the region faced a crisis in late 2016 and, even though we brought in supplementary food, we lost eight animals to the drought. Despite this, the success of the predator-proof sanctuary as a secure breeding area for hirola has exceeded expectations: the populations of hirola have increased faster than initially projected and we are now embarking on the next phase of releasing selected herds of hirola outside the fence and discussing plans for expansion of the sanctuary with the community.

Tusk, an early supporter of NRT and Ishaqbini and has been instrumental in raising funds for the conservation of this critically endangered species, including sourcing emergency funds for the recent drought. It is our hope that, with the continued strong support and commitment of the Ishaqbini community and with partners like Tusk who can bring greater international attention to the plight of this rare and beautiful animal, the hirola faces a brighter future.

Mountains Bongo

During the 1970s a survey conducted by the Kenya Game Department estimated 500 Mountain Bongos were in the Aberdare.

It is difficult to assess how realistic this might have been with little to no scientific equipment available at that time. The subsequent export of bongos to zoos worldwide in the late 1970s-80s (notably from the Southern Aberdare) along with a severe outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease together with dramatic increases in poaching and the destruction of the bongo natural habitat, led to a rapid decline in bongo numbers. By the early 1990s, it was feared bongos were close to extinction.

In 2003, Mike Prettjohn, a bongo specialist, was requested by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to investigate the status of the bongo. He undertook some initial surveillance in the Aberdare with a small team of experienced bongo trackers to determine if any bongo were surviving. The work that followed has been highly significant in understanding the plight of the species.

Bongo Surveillance Project

The Bongo Surveillance Project (BSP) was formed in 2005 and over the last ten years has played a major role in preventing the extinction of the mountain bongo in Kenya. The continual, critical monitoring and reporting carried out by a small team of expert surveillance trackers has been wildly successful.

The FORGOTTEN ONES

Hirola Antelope (Beatragus hunteri) are the sole survivor of an entire genus – it is estimated that the current population is less than 500.

The decline of hirola (Beatragus hunteri) has been a concern to conservationists for more than 30 years.
recognized on a local and international basis. The early spotting information collected by BSP and subsequently used for DNA analysis by Cardiff University helped validate the IUCN ‘Critically Endangered’ status.

The BSP trackers come from local communities who have gathered experience from many years in these forests and are an integral link into the communities that live in the forest. The work can be very challenging due to the mountainous terrain and lack of interaction with the species. Of the current 16 BSP trackers only one has seen a bongo in the wild. Their monitoring is conducted using camera traps and GPS data. During patrols with KWS they report illegal activities, which threaten the bongo, but other species as well. The present day threats to the bongo are primarily forest illegal activities which threaten the bongo, with two growing populations in the wild and for the potential to develop a captive/wild programme in the future.

Aberdare Bongo

The outlook for this group is very optimistic. The Saitell-Hori group are growing and it is likely their numbers are now estimated at over 50, with an increasing number of calves. With increased security, this bongo group have extended their range and have been seen in a wider location across the Saitell. Recently the staff at the historic Ark Hotel sighted a bongo on the far side of the Ark’s waterfront, in daylight.

An animal was last seen in this location in 1988 so this was very rewarding for the BSP Aberdare team.

Masai Mai Bongo

The support of the community is paramount in this location, as the group are located on Community Trust land. BSP have been able to identify up to 19 individual bongos including a number of calves. From the camera-trap analysis and surrounding tracks, there are likely to be an estimated 30 bongos in this area.

In 2016 154 camera-trap photos and 27 video clips were taken of this group and has helped clarify current bongo numbers.

The Future

With Tusk support, BSP has implemented a bongo monitoring and education programme which has helped change the future for the bongo. With security, frequent monitoring and community support as shown in the Masai Mai and Aberdare, these groups are getting stronger and their diversity is most encouraging.

In areas such as Eburu where numbers are too low to increase naturally, bongo will need to be introduced. It is critical for any ‘introduced’ animals that they have limited dependency on humans and that they are in good health. This introduction programme will require complete supervision before a controlled release to the ‘safe’ forest areas. All these options are currently being evaluated by the Bongo Task Force, headed by KWS.

There is new optimism for the future of the bongo, with two growing populations in the wild and for the potential to develop a captive/wild programme in the future.

There’s no doubting that the bongo in the wild have come perilously close to extinction but BSP are doing their utmost to turn this around.
Western Lowland Gorilla

Western lowland gorillas (Gorilla gorilla) are found across a landscape of approximately 655,000 km² of equatorial Africa, including Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and Gabon.

Despite their current being about 150,000 western lowland gorillas in the wild, they are classified as critically endangered because of the rapid decline they are experiencing due to the major threats of habitat loss, disease, and poaching. The forests where gorillas live are quickly disappearing largely due to the logging industry and the expansion of industrial scale agriculture for products including palm oil.

Increased access to remote areas leads to increased illegal hunting as well as increased potential for disease transmission between gorillas and humans. It takes a long time for gorillas to recover from a decline in population size because they have a very slow growth rate. Specifically, female gorillas start to reproduce only around 12 years of age, they have one offspring every five years, and one offspring in three will not survive to adulthood.

Successful conservation strategies typically take a multifaceted approach, which may include research and tourism. Research provides the baseline information concerning the natural ecological and behavioral repertoire of a species and it provides a measure of the effectiveness of conservation strategies. Responsibility run great ape tourism in the wild offers a win-win situation because it generates revenue for conservation, it provides protection for and raises awareness about apes.

The Loango Gorilla Project

The Loango Gorilla Project, formed in collaboration with the Gabonese National Park Authorities, aims to better understand the ecology and behaviour of western gorillas and to establish gorilla tourism. Loango National Park is ecologically unique and distinct from other locations where western gorillas have been studied, providing an opportunity to better understand the ecological and behavioural flexibility possible as well as provide useful information to assist in their conservation on both a local and regional level.

Funding from Tusk has assisted in providing staff salaries, equipment, and the basic maintenance of the project. The project assists with community development for our Gabonese staff by providing employment opportunities. Many of our staff are pygmies, a group that has been marginalised across Africa. However, in Loango their traditional knowledge of the rainforest is key to the success of the tourism and monitoring work where they have successfully habituated one group of western gorillas containing 16 members.

Non-invasive techniques including camera traps and genetic analysis of faecal samples are used to monitor the presence of other gorillas in the study site.

Gorilla Tourism

In collaboration with the Gabonese park service, tourist visits to the gorillas began in June 2016 and have been steadily increasing in 2017. Gorilla tourism will not only help economically on the local and national level, but it will also raise awareness of the importance of conserving Loango and rainforests throughout central Africa.

Conservation efforts focused on protecting western gorillas and their habitat have a broader effect of conserving the forests that also contain forest elephants, chimpanzees, and many other species.

Ultimately, conservation efforts for gorillas do not require rocket science but intense efforts to work with local communities, industry, and governments on national and international levels so we prevent further decline of gorillas in the central African forests.
Time for change

In an impassioned speech broadcast live from The View at The Shard — Europe’s tallest building — on the eve of the 17th CITES conference in September 2016, Prince William urged a global audience to join him in the fight to save endangered species from extinction at the hands of criminal syndicates profiting from the £20 billion a year illegal wildlife trade.

With over 4,000 rangers killed over the last decade fighting the war against poachers, it is time said Prince William “…to say that ivory is a symbol of destruction; not of luxury and not something that anyone needs to sell or trade. Indeed I would challenge anyone who knows the truth of how these wildlife products are obtained to justify desiring them.”

The charity’s Royal Patron, who has long campaigned against the illegal wildlife trade, used his first speech to be broadcast live on Facebook to add, “This crisis is not just about animals — this crisis is about people. It is some of the world’s poorest peoples who will suffer when their natural resources are stripped from them illegally and brutally.”

Speaking at Tusk’s ‘Time For Change’ event, Prince William said, “When I was born there were one million elephants roaming Africa. By the time my daughter Charlotte was born, the numbers of savannah elephants had crashed to just 350,000. And at the current pace of illegal poaching, when Charlotte turns 25 the African elephant will be gone from the wild.”

The charity’s Royal Patron, who has long campaigned against the illegal wildlife trade, used his first speech to be broadcast live on Facebook to add, “This crisis is not just about animals — this crisis is about people. It is some of the world’s poorest peoples who will suffer when their natural resources are stripped from them illegally and brutally.”

When I was Secretary of State at DEFRA, I visited Kenya to see for myself the shocking decline in Africa’s elephant population.

An elephant is lost every 15 minutes and the death and stench of these magnificent creatures turned senselessly into horrible, rotting carcasses disgusts me still.

Following that visit, I worked closely with the then Foreign Secretary, William Hague, to tackle the practice of elephant poaching. We understood that such an ambitious project required global agreement, and used the extraordinary scope of the UN’s international influence to convene the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade at Lancaster House in 2014. The London Conference was the biggest ever of its kind, bringing together over 40 countries. It agreed a strategy to prevent poaching: improving enforcement, reducing market demand and supporting communities to find viable alternatives.

With five African leaders, calling for domestic ivory markets to close and support for elephant conservation under a common platform.

One of the world’s leading economies, China — the largest market in the world — is committed to act before the end of the year. We saw the first concrete signs of this commitment at the end of March, when the closure of a third of China’s ivory factories and retail stores was announced.

Set against this commendable global progress, the UK must continue to ensure that we do not fall behind. With the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference returning to London in 2016, the pace of the international community will be firmly upon us once again. We must take action to prove to the world that we are willing and able to lead on this issue as we have done before.

DEFRA will shortly be launching its consultation on a UK ivory ban, which was announced in September. Since that announcement and a debate in Westminster Hall in February, a great deal of effort has gone on behind the scenes, with members of the Government, MCA, conservationists and representatives of the antiques trade striving to find a common achievable position which can be agreed upon and implemented rapidly.

Tusk is a key conservation charity, which has been instrumental in highlighting the horrific consequences of the ivory trade. At your Time for Change event last September, your patron HRH The Duke of Cambridge spoke powerfully to draw global attention to the shocking damage done by poaching. Tusk tracks and I have put real pressure on policy makers.

As the DEFRA consultation opens, we must ensure that the time Britain invested in this historic national effort is translated into decisive, practical actions, which will stop poaching and save today’s elephants.
The UK must become a global leader in the fight against poaching

After the surprises of 2016, both at home and abroad, 2017 will be a year of change. But there is some speculation as to what it might bring. However, for elephants, 2017 has unquestionably got off to a good start.

Two good news stories over the Christmas break didn’t get the attention they deserve. First, Hong Kong confirmed its timetable for enacting a ban on ivory sales. Legislation will be introduced in early 2017, kicking off a three-step plan of new regulations culminating in a total ban on all ivory sales in 2021.

This news was followed by the major announcement from the Chinese Government that it will close its domestic ivory market by the end of 2017. This has rightly been heralded as a game changer for the future of elephants. The overwhelming majority of ivory traded across the world is destined for China. The closure of China’s ivory market will strike a body blow to the global ivory trade and the frantic of the bloody poaching it drives. The Duke of Cambridge was not exaggerating when he said that China’s decision “could be a turning point in the race to save elephants from extinction.”

The symbolic importance of China’s announcement should not be missed as well. China is not committed to closing its domestic ivory market in 2015, and this announcement delivers on that promise. Consumer demand for ivory in China is driven by its status as a luxury product and a status symbol. This announcement is a significant shift from the Chinese Government shows a commitment to saving wildlife, nature and furniture. It recognises that a live elephant is always worth more than ivory products. The cultural change is not just one we need to see in the ivory trade once and for all. China has set the ball rolling. The UK and US have already stepped up: France is taking forward new laws and, while Hong Kong’s timetable seems costly slow, governments worldwide are acting to close ivory markets in their own jurisdictions. This concerted action will make 2017 the year that domestic ivory markets are finally closed.

Announcing that it would consult on the closure of only a small segment of the UK ivory market: the very smallest token step it could take. The Government has been asked to act at a speed and scope commensurate with other countries, but we are now beginning 2017 without clarity of how and when the British ivory market will be shut.

The UK has a proud reputation as a global leader in wildlife conservation. In 2014 we hosted the first International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, at which the leaders of five African countries launched the groundbreaking Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI), calling for governments to close their domestic ivory markets. The UK should rightly be proud of the EPI’s success: with a growing membership of five African countries at Presidential level, the declared support of all major NGOs operating in the field and a dedicated joint-secretariat provided by Stop Ivory and Conservation International, it has emerged as a new paradigm of African-led, partnership-based and results-oriented delivery to stop the ivory trade and secure a meaningful future for elephants and the peoples who live alongside them.

Initiatives such as the Elephant Crisis Fund and the Giants’ Club are also delivering increasingly effective work at the front line to stop the killing and trafficking of elephants.

But this leadership internationally is being undermined by our failure to act at home. Speaking in September, the Environment Secretary Andrea Leadsom commended the UK for its “strong record as a global leader in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade” and challenged other countries to match the UK’s record. However, the reality is that other countries are exceeding ahead of us when it comes to tackling the ivory trade. They have absorbed the evidence, set out their plans and put them into action — while the UK is still obtusely, waiting to consult on next steps.

There are no clear reasons for this delay. The Conservative Party committed to a total ban on ivory sales. In its 2010 and 2015 manifestos. The last Government’s leader under both Lord Hague and Owen Paterson MP was passionate and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has spoken eloquently and stridently about the urgent need for us to deliver change at home without delay. It is also one of the few issues on which there is genuine consensus across party lines, with all major parties in Parliament united on the need for an ivory ban. Moreover, there is undeniable public support — recent polling found that 90% of the UK public think buying and selling ivory in the UK should be banned, while a position on the Parliament website calling for a total ban has received over 100,000 signatures meaning the issue will be debated by the Government. With domestic and international consensus united around the need to close ivory markets, many of us are at a loss to explain the UK’s ongoing inaction.

While the UK hesitates, it’s clear that elephants cannot afford to wait for action. Figures published in August 2016 showed that savanna elephant populations declined by 30% between 2007 and 2014, with more than 140,000 elephants lost. The huge sums made from the illegal ivory trade are also fuelling global criminal activity including trafficking. As long as markets for ivory products exist, elephants will never be safe and the prospects for rural communities across Africa will be blighted.

Since the Government announced the consultation, 10,000 further elephants have been butchered across Africa for their tusks. While the consultation must be welcomed as an opportunity for the UK to take real action, the current scope is too narrow and the timetable too slow to be meaningful. The Government must use this consultation process to look beyond its current proposals and instead set out its plan for total market closure following the examples of China and America.

It is within our power to close the UK ivory market and to do so quickly. We must choose how to ensure that 2017 is the year that elephants are finally valued over their ivory.

ALEXANDER RHODES
Trustee of Tusk Trust and former CEO Stop Ivory
Where poaching in Africa has been successfully reduced, it has often been achieved through the large-scale deployment of rangers on the perimeter of protected areas or through small, highly trained and motivated units that can track and intercept poachers.

Yet too few ranger teams have the capacity to track and intercept, despite considerable investment in alternative anti-poaching approaches over the years. When combined with established informant networks around protected areas, it has also proven possible to disrupt poachers in their ‘rest’ areas, as well as when active, to great effect.

The most successful wildlife protection initiatives combine these two approaches with significant and sensitive investment in community development.

These were the key findings from a fact-finding mission to review how intelligence is supporting anti-poaching operations in four African countries — South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Tanzania — which I conducted with my colleague Touko Sandström in 2014. Together we formed the Counter-Poaching Coordination Team to implement our recommendations wherever we could.

With the generous support of the Prince of Wales’s Charitable Foundation, and facilitated by Tusk, we were able to conduct two trial projects in 2015 and one in early 2016. Fifty-five rangers from six countries (Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) were trained in basic-level interception tracking, during three separate training sessions, and an information sharing strategy for the African Parks Network was completed.

Over a relatively short period since they took place, the trial projects have already been a factor in some significant successes for the protected areas concerned.

Zimbabwe’s Savé Valley Conservancy have reported a reduction of poaching to incidental levels since the first two training sessions held there contributed towards the disruption of most of the major poaching groups in Zimbabwe.

Leeuwrode National Park in Malawi had been losing two elephant a week and the occasional rhino. Since June 2016 there have been no losses after rangers started receiving training earlier that year. The Park authorities have also reported a drastic increase in the distances covered by rangers who took part in the training, who previously believed that 3 – 4 km was the greatest distance achievable in one day, but now regularly cover 15 – 20 km.

Rangers at Majete National Park, also in Malawi, have also lost no rhino or elephant since they too were trained last March, and they have reported a significant increase in disruptions of poaching attempts and arrests of those involved.

The success of the trial projects helped us — through Tusk — to secure a significant two-year grant from the UK Government through the IWT Challenge Fund, for an ambitious programme to extend the training to rangers and information officers from at least 14 different protected areas across six African countries (many of them managed by African Parks, the project’s main partner organisation). With extra support from the Fultonson Foundation, the project began in April 2016. As the training comes to a close this year, 140 rangers have been trained to a basic level of interception tracking; 96 of which are receiving further training to an intermediate level. Advanced level training is then being delivered to 36 of these rangers, so that they can lead anti-poaching operations and train their colleagues to ensure the sustainability of the initiative. Meanwhile, 16 information officers from six protected areas have received expert training in information gathering and analysis, and a network is being established for sharing information between them.

We look forward to reporting back next year on the difference that all of this has made.

LUKE TOWNSEND
Counter-poaching Coordinator

ABOVE Counter-poaching training in Malawi
Tusk Conservation Awards 2016

Prince William honours Africa’s frontline heroes

The V&A Museum was host to a gala ceremony to celebrate the extraordinary lives of five men and women dedicated to the survival of Africa’s endangered wildlife.

Tusk’s Royal Patron HRH The Duke of Cambridge was joined by Sir David Attenborough to honour their work and achievements at the fourth annual Tusk Conservation Awards, hosted by Kate Silverton.

In a speech The Duke said, “As ever, tonight I have been humbled by the sheer dedication and commitment that all of our 2016 nominees have shown, in preserving — against the odds — our precious natural world. Their work is dangerous but vitally important – and we are immensely grateful for it.”

Attended by many of the charity’s high-profile supporters and Tusk Patrons including Ronnie Wood, Deborah Meaden, Katherine Jenkins and Bear Grylls, the finalists, Chinese, Rwandan and Angolan Ambassadors and Tusk’s key supporters enjoyed a champagne reception before taking their seats in the Raphael Room for the Awards ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony there was a surprise award when the Prince turned the tables on Sir David, offering the legendary natural history broadcaster heartfelt thanks for his “immense contribution” to conservation and for inspiring generations around the globe to care for the natural world.

Sir David proceeded to make a powerful and totally impromptu speech which the audience acknowledged with a standing ovation.

It has always been an immense privilege and honour to host the Tusk awards. It’s such a delight to meet these exceptional people, to hear their stories and to be part of an evening which celebrates their achievements so warmly.

These dedicated custodians of our natural world work selflessly without thought of praise or recognition which is why the Tusk Awards are so wonderful. They shine a spotlight on the very people, places and issues that deserve it the most.

KATE SILVERTON
BBC Presenter and Journalist
Nevertheless, John and his crew did not abandon the Congolese 5,000 franc banknote. The country's most famous gorilla was killed, and the gorillas and dreamed of working for the park.

His dream became a reality when, after finishing school, he was employed as a tracker and quickly forged a life-long love and appreciation for the species. John soon became KBNP's chief tracker and for twenty years was the Chief Gorilla-Habituation Officer. Throughout the 1980s-1990s he was responsible for the habituation of several gorilla groups, who today, thanks to the strong conservation efforts in this sector of the park, the gorilla population is slowly recuperating and even increasing in numbers.

John is one of the most knowledgeable people in Central Africa with regards to gorilla biology and behaviour and is a dedicated, hard-working conservationist as well as a published scientist. After years in which he witnessed the encroachment of the human population on the park and the slow destruction of the natural environment, John decided to establish a local NGO that would work hand-in-hand with the local communities in finding sustainable solutions for their needs while at the same time educating them about and engaging them in the protection of the natural resources for the next generations.

In 1992, John founded the Pole Pole Foundation. Pole Pole means 'go slowly' in Swahili and this long-term approach that John has taken to achieving successful, sustainable conservation. The logo of the organisation shows gorillas and people standing on either side of a tree reflecting his belief that communities, the forest and the gorillas are inseparable; to help one you must help all three.

For more than two decades, John and his organisation have implemented numerous projects in the communities surrounding the KBNP, including environmental education, construction of schools, vocational training of former poachers and tree planting. Four million trees have been planted to create a buffer zone between community farmland and the park, which serves multiple purposes. It helps to keep people out of the park and the gorillas safe; provides sustainable firewood for communities; and, amidst the trees, food cropping and livestock programmes are being run, to provide alternative sources of protein to stop bushmeat hunting.

Unfortunately, the wildlife of the Maiko-Tena-Natutu-Siaga Landscape is still in extreme danger of extinction due to continued presence of various armed groups, poachers and illegal miners within the protected areas. In the KBNP and surrounding forests, with the exception of the protected highland sector, which comprises 10% of the park, the Grauer’s gorilla population is estimated to have declined by 77% since the mid-1990s.

Saving the wildlife in this region, which is still unstable in terms of security, requires brave, local and experienced professionals, who are able to tackle this immense challenge despite the different hazards associated with the task, such as dealing with rebel forces and illegal miners. Furthermore, the local population in this region lives in extreme poverty, having suffered more than 20 years of war and hardships. Working with people in such conditions is extremely challenging and requires someone with whom the local communities can build trust and agree to cooperate. John Kahekwa, being a member of that community and having spent more than thirty years in the field, is such a parson.

PRINCE WILLIAM AWARD FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA WINNER

John Kahekwa

Born near the Kahuzi-Biega National Park’s (KBNP) headquarters office, John at the age of ten watched a film about gorillas and dreamed of working for the park.

Unfortunately, during the long and vicious civil war in eastern DRC, many of the gorillas John knew by name were slaughtered by poachers and tree planting. Four million trees have been planted to create a buffer zone between community farmland and the park, which serves multiple purposes. It helps to keep people out of the park and the gorillas safe; provides sustainable firewood for communities; and, amidst the trees, food cropping and livestock programmes are being run, to provide alternative sources of protein to stop bushmeat hunting.

Unfortunately, the wildlife of the Maiko-Tena-Natutu-Siaga Landscape is still in extreme danger of extinction due to continued presence of various armed groups, poachers and illegal miners within the protected areas. In the KBNP and surrounding forests, with the exception of the protected highland sector, which comprises 10% of the park, the Grauer’s gorilla population is estimated to have declined by 77% since the mid-1990s.

Saving the wildlife in this region, which is still unstable in terms of security, requires brave, local and experienced professionals, who are able to tackle this immense challenge despite the different hazards associated with the task, such as dealing with rebel forces and illegal miners. Furthermore, the local population in this region lives in extreme poverty, having suffered more than 20 years of war and hardships. Working with people in such conditions is extremely challenging and requires someone with whom the local communities can build trust and agree to cooperate. John Kahekwa, being a member of that community and having spent more than thirty years in the field, is such a parson.

TUSK AWARD FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA WINNER

Cathy Dreyer

Cathy Dreyer started her career at the age of twenty-two with South African National Parks (SANParks) as a nature conservation student in the Addo Elephant National Park.

During the course of her practical year she assisted Dr Pete Mohal with the capture and boma training of black rhino that were being relocated between parks. This was to become a turning point in her life as she developed a deep, lifelong passion for the species which has since carved her career in conservation.

Seeing the potential in the young student, SANParks Veterinary Wildlife Services unit offered Cathy a permanent position as a Veterinary Technologist. Although this was a profession in which she was not formally trained, Cathy took the opportunity with open arms and excelled in both the veterinary and operational side of the capture unit, becoming a stalwart of the team.

The work ranged from general maintenance of the equipment to building capture bomas, animal husbandry to assisting with laboratory and clinical work. She was one of the pivots in the mass capture team which moved over 30,000 plains game throughout her period of employment. During this time she became actively involved in the veterinary aspects of various conservation and breeding projects such as the Kruger buffalo breeding...
Manuel Sacaia

Manuel Sacaia has faced armed soldiers, poachers, steel-jawed traps and even a hungry lion in a life spent protecting Angola’s iconic giant sable antelope.

Manuel was only a teenager working as a ranger when Angola’s civil war broke out in 1979. Rebel fighters detained him after invading the area, but he managed a daring nighttime escape walking for 90 km through the bush and swimming to safety across the crocodile-infested Luando river. He later returned to the abandoned reserve with his family and monitored the last antelope herds in his spare time.

For the past 45 years Luando Reserve has evolved from a relatively well-protected conservation area, into a war zone and abandoned heavily poached territory. Today the reserve is slowly recovering and the wildlife is returning. Manuel has been the one consistent presence throughout and it’s quite possible that without his knowledge of the local environment, personal commitment and physical resilience, the giant sable antelope would be extinct or beyond the point of recovery.

When the war ended in 2002 he returned to Luando. The Government didn’t reappoint or deploy rangers into the reserve, so he became a self-appointed informal, unpaid ranger. In 2008 he was integrated into the Giant Sable Shepherd Team — guardians of the giant sable antelope — managed by the Kissama Foundation. Considering his skills and performance, he quickly became the group leader and was instrumental in the rediscovery of the giant sable in Luando, which has been key to Kissama’s current conservation programmes.

At the time only nine females had survived the civil war in Cangandala National Park, and the recovery of the species was dependent on the situation in Luando. Between 2002 and 2009 all surveys in Luando failed to find any sable, and witness accounts repeatedly proved writing. It was Manuel who insisted he knew where the last herds were, and in 2009 he led conservationists to the site where tracks were seen. DNA samples were collected and the DNA proved to be that of the giant sable. A few months later in that very same spot the first bull was spotted by helicopter and subsequently translocated to Cangandala. Two years later he was guarding three captured giant sables when a lion crept up to their makeshift pen. Manuel climbed up a tree, but fell down, bumping his head so hard that today he still suffers headaches.

Now aged over seventy years old, Manuel regularly patrols and monitors the area where three of the last five herds of giant sable survive, making him responsible for approximately half of the remaining population of this iconic and critically endangered antelope.

OLIVIER NSENGIMANA

Olivier Nsengimana

Iconic endangered species often receive a lot of recognition and support but there are also lesser known smaller species that also need our help.

The driving force behind my work is a strong belief that the involvement of the local population in conservation issues is the key to their success and sustainability. Being a finalist for this award is confirmation that what we are doing is making a difference. It shows me that there are people out there around the world who support me and my team and this morale boost will help us keep going through the hard times when it is easy to lose motivation. Being a finalist has given me the confidence, power and motivation to keep doing what I started to make sure I achieve my aims.

OLIVIER NSENGIMANA

Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association

Rachel McRobb

The notification that I was a finalist for the Tusk Award came as a deep surprise. It took all day for me to register properly that I had been nominated — I read the email many times just to make sure they had the right person.

It made me realise that there are so many people out there who care about this planet, who dedicate their lives to protecting it and the different species that matter most to them.

The evening itself was magic and a thrill being in the presence of so many amazing people. Meeting Sir David Attenborough is, of course, something I will never forget. We need people like this to highlight Africa’s conservation challenges. They are doing such an extraordinary job that without them our task on the ground would be much harder.

I am one of those lucky people in life who finds fulfillment just being in wild places surrounded by wildlife. The possibility of doing this in South Luangwa and other parts of Zambia is simply enough for me to fight the daily battles involved in running a wildlife conservation NGO in Africa and managing an anti-poaching unit. I am most proud of the fact that it’s a fully Zambian NGO and fully Zambian staffed.

For our organisation, Conservation South Luangwa, being a Tusk finalist has helped attract recognition that we are a committed and serious conservation partner in Zambia working hard to protect South Luangwa.

In the future, I hope that it will continue to bring publicity to Zambia and the need to protect Luangwa’s iconic wilderness, the work we do and of course help raise the much needed finances to do this.

RACHEL McROBB

Conservation South Luangwa

Investing for a better tomorrow

Recognising Africa’s conservation heroes

Making a difference matters to us, in society as well as in the investments we make on behalf of our clients. Because of this, Investec Asset Management celebrates Tusk’s holistic approach to conservation and is proud to have supported the Tusk Conservation Awards since their inception.

www.investecassetmanagement.com

Issued by Investec Asset Management, March 2017. Investec Asset Management is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
Hear what the winners had to say about the Awards night...

It was with great happiness and pride that I accepted the Prince William Award for Conservation and the ceremony was a wonderful night for me. The award is helping the POPOF to continue the tree planting work in the fields of local communities and to sustain the environmental education to the pygmy community. This year we have hosted the first groups of pygmy ladies in the park to see the gorillas, their neighbours, for the first time. I am sure the Award will help to convince different people to support our long-term work to protect the Grauer gorillas, their habitat and the local communities that live in the vicinity.

JOHN KAHEKWA
Pole Pole Foundation

Being nominated for the awards was an incredible honour and privilege; and also totally overwhelming! However nothing could have prepared me for the awards ceremony. The finalists all commented afterwards that had it not been for all the amazing pictures and memories, it would have felt like a dream. It was really inspiring to see how many people care and how much time and effort is being put into raising awareness and funds for the conservation plight in Africa. Winning the Tusk award is my greatest achievement to date.

CATHY DREYER
Great Fish River Nature Reserve

Winning the Tusk Game Ranger Award was something that I never expected or dreamed of. Attending the award ceremony in London was an amazing and unforgettable experience. It made me realise that the work I do is important, not only for Angolans but also for people from other countries. Sharing a few days with other people from Africa doing similar work was like a boost of energy for me. When I shared my stories from the trip with my family were so happy. I could show them photos of the ceremony, the Natural History Museum, a London Doubledecker, the River Thames and other icons that they will never see or experience. They had so many questions that it took me more than a week to answer. This award is not only for me. I share this with my fellow colleagues, the Sable Shepherds and we will improve our working conditions and obtain more uniforms and equipment. I do not go alone to patrol the Luando Nature Reserve. We are always in small groups and we support each other. We share our food and our shelter. We share our stories and our dreams, particularly at night when we set our camp and sleep under the trees observing the stars and the moon as our natural paintings.

MANUEL SACAIA
Kissama Foundation

Conservation in other parts of the world consists of talking to town councils, drawing up legislation or going out on a spring morning and counting birds. But Africa is on the frontlines of conservation, in Africa people are getting killed in the name of conservation. It’s hard, it’s tough and the people who do it, who are represented here tonight are true heroes and heroines. What they are protecting is one of the great treasures of the world. African wildlife is special. Humanity started in Africa — it’s where we evolved. And once there existed the most extraordinary numbers and visions of the wild world that has ever been. Only a fragment of that remains. But what a treasure it is — those plains throbbing with the great megafauna, the great animals of this world, and what survives now is just a fragment of what there was. But how precious it is. What a vision it gives us of humanity’s past, of the world’s past. And how crucial it is that this has to be protected and should remain. And how grateful the rest of the world should be for what people in Africa are now doing, for the dangers they are encountering, for the dedication they give, for the hard work they do day after day after day caring for these last creatures.

I am humbled to be in the same room as you from Africa, the nominees and winners who have come here, who represent so many people in Africa who are caring for the wildlife, not only for themselves but for the whole population of this world. I am humbled to be in your presence and I thank you very much indeed not only for this handsome trophy but for what you and Tusk, and for the people who make Tusk are doing to this most precious thing that the world possesses — the wildlife of Africa.

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
Broadcaster

Conservation in other parts of the world consists of talking to town councils, drawing up legislation or going out on a spring morning and counting birds. But Africa is on the frontlines of conservation, in Africa people are getting killed in the name of conservation. It’s hard, it’s tough and the people who do it, who are represented here tonight are true heroes and heroines. What they are protecting is one of the great treasures of the world. African wildlife is special. Humanity started in Africa — it’s where we evolved. And once there existed the most extraordinary numbers and visions of the wild world that has ever been. Only a fragment of that remains. But what a treasure it is — those plains throbbing with the great megafauna, the great animals of this world, and what survives now is just a fragment of what there was. But how precious it is. What a vision it gives us of humanity’s past, of the world’s past. And how crucial it is that this has to be protected and should remain. And how grateful the rest of the world should be for what people in Africa are now doing, for the dangers they are encountering, for the dedication they give, for the hard work they do day after day after day caring for these last creatures.

I am humbled to be in the same room as you from Africa, the nominees and winners who have come here, who represent so many people in Africa who are caring for the wildlife, not only for themselves but for the whole population of this world. I am humbled to be in your presence and I thank you very much indeed not only for this handsome trophy but for what you and Tusk, and for the people who make Tusk are doing to this most precious thing that the world possesses — the wildlife of Africa.

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
Broadcaster
Reaching the next generation

Given that almost one quarter of the world’s population is between 10 and 24, vigorous efforts need to be made to encourage young people, as the future leaders and decision makers of the world, to act at both local and global levels to protect endangered wildlife.

This year’s World Wildlife Day theme was ‘Listen to the Young Voices’. Over one quarter of the world’s population is aged between 10 and 24 years. This generation represents our future, and decisions are affecting the long-term availability of natural resources, and secondly are armed with facts, figures and even information, in remote areas.

This is where small NGOs can have an impact, especially when endangered species conservation is their aim; by default they operate in remote, impoverished areas.

Reaching the next generation is critical to successfully changing behaviour — no more so than in a country like Madagascar, with a growth rate of over 2.5% and more than 60% of the population under the age of 25.

The Malagasy State identifies education and training as processes intended to “prepare the individual for an active life integrated in the social, economic and cultural development of the country”. The barriers to achieving this include lack of resources to build schools, train and pay teachers, provide access to education and even information, in remote areas.

This is where small NGOs can have an impact, especially when endangered species conservation is their aim; by default they operate in remote, impoverished areas.

In tandem with our community-based species and habitat conservation work in northern Madagascar, we have focused heavily on empowering youth at primary, secondary and tertiary levels in remote villages as well as urban centres.

Once the young are engaged with conservation issues and firmly have an understanding of how local people’s decisions are affecting the long-term availability of natural resources, and secondly are armed with facts, figures and ultimately simple conservation solutions, a community-wide momentum for change is generated. Our ‘Junior Ecoguard’ network, now with a core membership of approximately 300 youth between the ages of 11 and 16 years old, has been funded primarily by Tusk for the past four years. It has grown exponentially during that time from a small group of Scouts in the urban centre of Antananarivo, across the north-west of Madagascar to remote fishing communities only reachable by boat and cattle cart.

From 2017 it is set to spread to a further three northern provinces, impacting nearly 20% of the country. We aim to reach all of Madagascar’s 22 provinces and have already had many requests from NGOs, National Parks staff and teachers to come and extend the programme.

The Junior Ecoguards network fills a much-needed gap in the national education system and is therefore endorsed at the highest level by the Ministry of Education. It provides theoretical and practical training in environmental science, focusing on local fauna and flora, threats and potential management actions.

As much learning in the classroom is by rote, the most exciting element for young people is the field skills training. Kids are taken out by C3 staff and their teachers to nearby mangrove forests, seagrasses, turtle nesting beaches or shallow coral reefs where they are shown the natural wonders that surround them in a scientific context.

This is the first learning outside the classroom they have ever been exposed to and it helps learning really come to life. Contemporary complex issues such as climate change are introduced with examples from around them used to make key concepts clear and familiar. Often this is the first time they have heard of the world decline in sea turtles, the elusive sea cow (or Dugong) that inhabits their nearshore waters and the ecological role of sharks.

Youth involved in the network don’t just acquire conservation knowledge but they begin on a new journey of personal development. Already Junior Ecoguards have successfully apprehended members of their communities intending to take sea turtle eggs from nests and explained the implications of their actions.

After all, there is no better way for communities to learn from than from their own enlightened and passionate next generation.

C3: Community-centred Education

At Tusk we engage with younger generations worldwide to create awareness around conservation. In Africa this is through extensive environmental education and school development programmes.

In the UK the Charity engages with schools and universities on wildlife and environment issues and supports awareness-raising initiatives led by our younger supporters across the continent. The Junior Ecoguards network, now with a core membership of approximately 300 youth between the ages of 11 and 16 years old, has been funded primarily by Tusk for the past four years. It has grown exponentially during that time from a small group of Scouts in the urban centre of Antananarivo, across the north-west of Madagascar to remote fishing communities only reachable by boat and cattle cart.

From 2017 it is set to spread to a further three northern provinces, impacting nearly 20% of the country. We aim to reach all of Madagascar’s 22 provinces and have already had many requests from NGOs, National Parks staff and teachers to come and extend the programme.

The Junior Ecoguards network fills a much-needed gap in the national education system and is therefore endorsed at the highest level by the Ministry of Education. It provides theoretical and practical training in environmental science, focusing on local fauna and flora, threats and potential management actions.

As much learning in the classroom is by rote, the most exciting element for young people is the field skills training. Kids are taken out by C3 staff and their teachers to nearby mangrove forests, seagrasses, turtle nesting beaches or shallow coral reefs where they are shown the natural wonders that surround them in a scientific context.

This is the first learning outside the classroom they have ever been exposed to and it helps learning really come to life. Contemporary complex issues such as climate change are introduced with examples from around them used to make key concepts clear and familiar. Often this is the first time they have heard of the world decline in sea turtles, the elusive sea cow (or Dugong) that inhabits their nearshore waters and the ecological role of sharks.

Youth involved in the network don’t just acquire conservation knowledge but they begin on a new journey of personal development. Already Junior Ecoguards have successfully apprehended members of their communities intending to take sea turtle eggs from nests and explained the implications of their actions.

After all, there is no better way for communities to learn from than from their own enlightened and passionate next generation.

Coaching for Conservation

Education is the key to reaching many other goals: it helps to break the cycle of poverty through access to better opportunities; it plays a crucial role in reducing inequalities and fostering tolerance, leading to more peaceful societies; and it empowers people everywhere to live more sustainable and healthy lives benefiting both them and future generations.

Environmental education, specifically, plays a vital role in raising awareness and promoting behavioural change needed for a sustainable future. It primarily aims to develop understandings, skills and values that will enable people to participate as active and informed citizens. In this context, the primary objective of Coaching for Conservation (C4C) is to inspire a generation of ‘Kids Who Care’, not only about themselves, but also about others and the natural world around them. C4C’s unique ‘Learning from Wildlife’ model introduces wildlife as mentors to emulate and learn from — to begin to create a relationship of respect, empathy, and a reason to care. The use of sport as the vehicle for change, in conjunction with this unique model is a creative way of teaching about critical conservation issues through a process of learning about animals, from animals. In this way C4C moves children from being kids who are told to care, to kids who genuinely care about the natural world inspiring them to act.

C4C has reached over 10,000 children with its programmes: including short and long-term interventions for individual students, classes and entire schools.
Director, Coaching for Conservation

overwhelmed by the majority who did not
of their environment. They report feeling
being the minority who want to take care
programmes like it — to affect change in
skills and capabilities of knowledge and
enhances their ability to develop personal
our interdependence with nature, it also
enhance the participants' knowledge

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION TUSK TALK 2017

them to care.

quality environmental education that inspires
that more people should have access to

need to take care of our things otherwise we

We are all connected to each other and we

and then the animals eat the litter and die.

If we pollute it, the litter runs into the rivers

important to take care of our environment.

“On an education day

across Zambia and southern Africa.

recent years — a trend that is felt

experience exceptionally high levels

Lower Zambezi

EEP brings children and teachers from

about education and the environment, the

Centre. It is individuals like these who

for all wildlife protection activities, had his

For example, CLZ’s very own Operations

become wildlife rangers or tourist guides.

With 249 teachers, community

and on the international arena, there

addressed at the level of the government

the area’s natural forests. While the heart

the geography, biology and ecology of their

2016 — writing and presenting their own

Conservation poems — they learn about

2015, and we are extremely grateful

of Malawi’s wildlife and natural resources.

conservation ambassadors, and guardians

The Lower Zambezi is currently

these environmental issues need to be

at the level of the government

In addition, large-scale deforestation

Conservation Lower Zambezi

The Lower Zambezi

Cesca Cooke

Assistant General Manager, CLZ

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

“We will conserve only what we love.
We will love only what we understand.
We will understand only what we are taught.”

These are the words of Baba Dioum, from Senegal and it’s the first principle that our educators learn when they join Lilongwe Wildlife Trust in Malawi.

The Lilongwe team aim to inspire people to value and protect Malawi’s natural heritage for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Rescuing wild animals and sending ivory traffickers to prison is essential work in the short-term. However, this needs to be coupled with a longer-term vision to put a stop to the human activities like deforestation and illegal wildlife trade which are responsible for the devastating wildlife declines we are seeing today. To achieve this, we believe that changing the attitudes and in turn the behaviour of the next generation are key, so that they become conservation ambassadors and guardians of Malawi’s wildlife and natural resources.

In 2016, our tailored conservation education programmes reached almost 35,871 children from 576 schools, up 30% since 2015, and we are extremely grateful to Tusk for their increased support that has helped us to achieve this. This growth has come through our expansion around the protected areas of Nyika, Vesuza, Kasungu and Salima, where we have also trained 249 teachers, community scouts and local leaders through our capacity building programmes that have helped to engage the wider community. Anecdotally, the response from the communities has been very encouraging — we have received wildlife crime reports directly because of our outreach that have led to convictions, and one school organised a march which was featured on the local radio. In turn another two schools followed suit.

Using different forms of communication alongside our outreach programmes, such as local media or engaging high profile individuals as conservation ambassadors, have also turned out to be a powerful tool for us. This year we have launched a short film entitled ‘Elephant: I Miss You’, inspired by the true story of Lawi, one of Malawi’s most famous singers. Intended for a Chichewa speaking audience, it is set in the future, and uses storytelling as a grandfather shares his experiences and sadness at the loss of elephants.

The film will be shown on TV, and as part of our education outreach on our pedal powered cinema reaching rural communities that do not have electricity.

Children are the future leaders and have a huge role to play in protecting the environment. It is our hope that teaching and connecting them to nature will increase their knowledge and instil a passion that will inspire them to protect the environment now and in the future.

Clement Manjaalera

Education Officer, Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

ABOVE: Malawian children standing up for wildlife
The impact of education in not only transforming individuals, but also an entire society, cannot be overstated. In developing countries, ploughing resources into reaching and expanding educational opportunities has been proven to have the greatest role in ending extreme poverty. Numerous studies have linked higher levels of education to reduced cases of preventable diseases and illnesses, child marriages, maternal deaths and early pregnancies. In communities neighbouring Lewa, we have especially witnessed the role that education plays in giving children a choice to forge their own paths — enabling them opportunities to explore their talents, achieve their dreams and realise their potential.

I believe that education creates a greater sense of knowledge about ourselves and society. It is through our partnerships with organisations like Tusks that we have been able to have a significant impact. The Lewa Education Programme (LEP) was established to create a platform, making conservation benefits tangible to communities that live side-by-side with wildlife. We saw an opportunity to substantiate why it makes sense to participate in conservation.

The programme, now in its fifteenth year, has become the greatest way in which we demonstrate tangible benefits of protecting endangered species to local people, and in return, the conservation has recorded tremendous successes in conservation.

Improved educational facilities for more than 11,000 children
In 2004, the conservancy supported seven neighbouring schools. This number has more than quadrupled in just 13 years. Lewa now supports 21 schools in its immediate neighbourhood and 10 others across the community conservancies to the north. Collectively 11,000 children now benefit from new classrooms, toilets, libraries, teachers’ houses, dining halls, kitchens, fences, water and irrigation projects.

Initiation of the Conservation Adult Literacy Programme
Recognising an opportunity to further demonstrate how conservation can help transform lives, we have created an Adult Literacy Programme to extend basic education to men and women from the neighbouring areas. Today, from just 10 learners in 2005, the programme now has nine centres with 4,000 learners enrolled.

Bursary sponsorship for children
Alongside infrastructural and curriculum development in the schools, LEP also offers sponsorship to students based on both need and academic potential. In the past 13 years, over 700 students have received support, and more than 75% of those have completed tertiary education.

Spearheading use of innovative technology
In 2009, we established a Digital Literacy Programme with the aim of using technology to spread knowledge on conservation.

Education is so important because it gives us the skills we need to realise when there is a problem, and what we can do to solve it. This is especially true with conservation.

Working in Cameroon I have not met yet a few people who know that there are only nine countries in the world where gorillas live wild — most assumed that gorillas lived everywhere. When I explain that there are less than 300 Cross River gorillas, and that two-thirds of those live in western Cameroon, they say “then we need to look after them” — and they mean it. They just didn’t know. In Britain, most of us know that many song birds and even the humble hedgehog are endangered and we know what we can do to help, we know because conservationists have found ways to educate us.

There is a desperate need for conservation education in Africa, because there are many people who don’t know what they can or should be doing. They are not against conservation, they simply lack information.

Tusk and Siren Conservation Education’s long-standing PACE initiative provides training and a series of stimulating films and printed materials to teachers, teaching colleges and community educators. It introduces a much greater understanding of issues such as soil, woodland, water and waste management, climate change and human-wildlife conflict, as well as very practical ways of tackling common environmental problems through fuel-saving stoves, rainwater harvesting, compost-making, etc. PACE has so far reached more than 500,000 school children across 34 countries. In January alone, thanks to the generous support of DHL and Mail Workshop, more than 700 PACE packs (books, CD, DVD & poster) were delivered to new and long-standing partners in ten different countries.

Evaluation of three years of PACE university training in Cameroon showed successes in three areas — the use of healthier, fuel-efficient cooking technology, improved waste management and recycling. Fifty percent of staff and students adopted improved cooking stoves in their home kitchens “after learning from the practice.” Using these stoves means that fewer trees are cut down, less habitat is degraded, kitchens are healthier and fuel bills are reduced.

PACE has also been successful in sharing win-win solutions to human-wildlife conflict, teaching communities how to protect their livestock or use deterrents to keep predators away. Human-wildlife conflict is a common reason for local communities not to support conservation — when elephants damage crops or wild cats prey on livestock a frequent response has been to kill the wildlife. In a recent evaluation of PACE project partners 93% of responses noted that either ‘no-one’ or ‘not many people’ were applying techniques to deter elephants from raiding prior to PACE interventions, but 46% noted that a lot of people do, after learning from PACE case studies. Deterrents include using sounds or substances like beets or chili peppers.

Young people in Africa are proud of their nationality, and proud to be African; they love and are proud of their heritage and traditions in ways that most youngsters in the West are not. Young Africans also value education, they work hard to learn and believe that education will take them forward. As conservationists, we have a duty to ensure they are provided with the knowledge and skills to make the right decisions, to judge which traditions need to be adjusted and which technologies to master and employ. We need to reinforce appreciation of their wildlife and natural habitats and build their conservation values.

To this end, in October a PACE team from four countries attended the IEASA (Environmental Education Association of South Africa) conference in Johannesburg. They showed PACE resources and training initiatives and connected to key actors working on education policy in schools and teacher training colleges across the continent; people who are informing, reviewing and developing school and teacher training curricula, and others who are improving the effectiveness of classroom teaching.

Delegates from Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Nigeria requested and received PACE resources during the conference. PACE Champions provide undergraduate courses for trainee teachers in Central Africa and the National Teacher Training Institute (Ecole Normale) in Madagascar — as well as In-Service teacher training.

PACE makes a difference, but we need to do much more, we need our courses to reach all teachers and our resources to be in all schools, right across Africa.

Cassia is a ten year old supporter with a passion for wildlife, especially elephants. She has asked her parents to donate her pocket money to Tusks and has also approached her school to help fundraise for Tusks.

Cassia hopes that she will be able to “show elephants to my children when I grow up and I want to do all I can.”
Last year’s events

In Conversation with Ronnie Wood
Tusk’s longest standing patron, Rolling Stones’ guitarist, Ronnie Wood, hosted a fascinating evening at a modern venue, The Ham Yard Hotel, in May. Ronnie was joined on stage by Tusk CEO, Charles Mayhew, to discuss his love of music, art and Africa. Martin Bayfield concluded the event with an auction of two of Ronnie’s art pieces: the celebrated Rhino sculpture, Spike, the rhino he had met at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy during a trip in the 90s and The Tusk Portfolio, four of Ronnie’s beautiful wildlife drawings especially designed for the Charity.

Thanks to Justerini & Brooks for providing the wine and Lyceum Capital underwriting such a wonderful evening.

Hamish Mackie Sculpture Exhibition
Many thanks to Hamish and Laura Mackie for their continued support of Tusk at last Autumn’s exhibition. Hamish featured his recent collection, inspired by his trips to Northern Kenya and Namibia at The Mall Galleries andinvited Tusk to host their own private view donating a generous percentage of sales to the Charity.

Thanks to Artemis Investment Management LLP and Justerini & Brooks for their generous support on the night.

City Yacht Race
Investec Asset Management nominated Tusk to benefit from the City Yacht Race, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes on 17 September.

Our thanks go to the interns and teams from Arabesque AM, Schroders, FDS, JP Morgan, Columbia Threadneedle, Henderson, Standard Life Investments and IAM.

Safaricom Marathon
Tusk once again hosted the charity’s annual Running Wild event at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Over 1,300 runners were joined by Eliud Kipchoge, the Olympic marathon gold medallist, who got into the spirit of the event and ran for fun, helping to raise funds to transform lives through conservation and community projects across the country.

This year we will be hosting teams from Artemis, BlackRock, Investec Bank, Vitol and EMSO in Kenya. They will join people from 50 countries who are all raising money for conservation work in this internationally renowned event.

City Yacht Race
Investec Asset Management nominated Tusk to benefit from the City Yacht Race, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes on 17 September.

Our thanks go to the interns and teams from Arabesque AM, Schroders, FDS, JP Morgan, Columbia Threadneedle, Henderson, Standard Life Investments and IAM.

Hamish Mackie Sculpture Exhibition
Many thanks to Hamish and Laura Mackie for their continued support of Tusk at last Autumn’s exhibition. Hamish featured his recent collection, inspired by his trips to Northern Kenya and Namibia at The Mall Galleries and invited Tusk to host their own private view donating a generous percentage of sales to the Charity.

Thanks to Artemis Investment Management LLP and Justerini & Brooks for their generous support on the night.

Thanks also to Volcano Safaris for their continued support of Tusk, and Lyceum Capital providing the wine.

In Conversation with Ronnie Wood
Tusk’s longest standing patron, Rolling Stones’ guitarist, Ronnie Wood, hosted a fascinating evening at a modern venue, The Ham Yard Hotel, in May. Ronnie was joined on stage by Tusk CEO, Charles Mayhew, to discuss his love of music, art and Africa. Martin Bayfield concluded the event with an auction of two of Ronnie’s art pieces: the celebrated Rhino sculpture, Spike, the rhino he had met at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy during a trip in the 90s and The Tusk Portfolio, four of Ronnie’s beautiful wildlife drawings especially designed for the Charity.

Thanks to Justerini & Brooks for providing the wine and Lyceum Capital underwriting such a wonderful evening.

The Tusk Conservation Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society
Gladys Kalema Zikusoka from Conservation through Public Health in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, gave a thought-provoking lecture last October, kindly sponsored by Artemis Investment LLP and Painted Wolf Wines.

Thanks also to Volcano Safaris for offering up an auction prize to the area where Gladys works, including a unique visit to the Mountain Gorillas that live in the region.

The Safaricom Marathon in Kenya.Tusk once again hosted the charity’s annual Running Wild event at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Over 1,300 runners were joined by Eliud Kipchoge, the Olympic marathon gold medallist, who got into the spirit of the event and ran for fun, helping to raise funds to transform lives through conservation and community projects across the country.

This year we will be hosting teams from Artemis, BlackRock, Investec Bank, Vitol and EMSO in Kenya. They will join people from 50 countries who are all raising money for conservation work in this internationally renowned event.

City Yacht Race
Investec Asset Management nominated Tusk to benefit from the City Yacht Race, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes on 17 September.

Our thanks go to the interns and teams from Arabesque AM, Schroders, FDS, JP Morgan, Columbia Threadneedle, Henderson, Standard Life Investments and IAM.

Hamish Mackie Sculpture Exhibition
Many thanks to Hamish and Laura Mackie for their continued support of Tusk at last Autumn’s exhibition. Hamish featured his recent collection, inspired by his trips to Northern Kenya and Namibia at The Mall Galleries and invited Tusk to host their own private view donating a generous percentage of sales to the Charity.

Thanks to Artemis Investment Management LLP and Justerini & Brooks for their generous support on the night.

Thanks also to Volcano Safaris for their very generous support on the night.

City Yacht Race
Investec Asset Management nominated Tusk to benefit from the City Yacht Race, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes on 17 September.

Our thanks go to the interns and teams from Arabesque AM, Schroders, FDS, JP Morgan, Columbia Threadneedle, Henderson, Standard Life Investments and IAM.

In Conversation with Ronnie Wood
Tusk’s longest standing patron, Rolling Stones’ guitarist, Ronnie Wood, hosted a fascinating evening at a modern venue, The Ham Yard Hotel, in May. Ronnie was joined on stage by Tusk CEO, Charles Mayhew, to discuss his love of music, art and Africa. Martin Bayfield concluded the event with an auction of two of Ronnie’s art pieces: the celebrated Rhino sculpture, Spike, the rhino he had met at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy during a trip in the 90s and The Tusk Portfolio, four of Ronnie’s beautiful wildlife drawings especially designed for the Charity.

Thanks to Justerini & Brooks for providing the wine and Lyceum Capital underwriting such a wonderful evening.

The Tusk Conservation Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society
Gladys Kalema Zikusoka from Conservation through Public Health in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, gave a thought-provoking lecture last October, kindly sponsored by Artemis Investment LLP and Painted Wolf Wines.

Thanks also to Volcano Safaris for offering up an auction prize to the area where Gladys works, including a unique visit to the Mountain Gorillas that live in the region.

The Safaricom Marathon in Kenya.Tusk once again hosted the charity’s annual Running Wild event at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Over 1,300 runners were joined by Eliud Kipchoge, the Olympic marathon gold medallist, who got into the spirit of the event and ran for fun, helping to raise funds to transform lives through conservation and community projects across the country.

This year we will be hosting teams from Artemis, BlackRock, Investec Bank, Vitol and EMSO in Kenya. They will join people from 50 countries who are all raising money for conservation work in this internationally renowned event.

City Yacht Race
Investec Asset Management nominated Tusk to benefit from the City Yacht Race, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes on 17 September.

Our thanks go to the interns and teams from Arabesque AM, Schroders, FDS, JP Morgan, Columbia Threadneedle, Henderson, Standard Life Investments and IAM.

Hamish Mackie Sculpture Exhibition
Many thanks to Hamish and Laura Mackie for their continued support of Tusk at last Autumn’s exhibition. Hamish featured his recent collection, inspired by his trips to Northern Kenya and Namibia at The Mall Galleries and invited Tusk to host their own private view donating a generous percentage of sales to the Charity.

Thanks to Artemis Investment Management LLP and Justerini & Brooks for their generous support on the night.

Thanks also to Volcano Safaris for their very generous support on the night.

City Yacht Race
Investec Asset Management nominated Tusk to benefit from the City Yacht Race, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes on 17 September.

Our thanks go to the interns and teams from Arabesque AM, Schroders, FDS, JP Morgan, Columbia Threadneedle, Henderson, Standard Life Investments and IAM.

In Conversation with Ronnie Wood
Tusk’s longest standing patron, Rolling Stones’ guitarist, Ronnie Wood, hosted a fascinating evening at a modern venue, The Ham Yard Hotel, in May. Ronnie was joined on stage by Tusk CEO, Charles Mayhew, to discuss his love of music, art and Africa. Martin Bayfield concluded the event with an auction of two of Ronnie’s art pieces: the celebrated Rhino sculpture, Spike, the rhino he had met at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy during a trip in the 90s and The Tusk Portfolio, four of Ronnie’s beautiful wildlife drawings especially designed for the Charity.

Thanks to Justerini & Brooks for providing the wine and Lyceum Capital underwriting such a wonderful evening.

The Tusk Conservation Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society
Gladys Kalema Zikusoka from Conservation through Public Health in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda, gave a thought-provoking lecture last October, kindly sponsored by Artemis Investment LLP and Painted Wolf Wines.

Thanks also to Volcano Safaris for offering up an auction prize to the area where Gladys works, including a unique visit to the Mountain Gorillas that live in the region.

The Safaricom Marathon in Kenya.Tusk once again hosted the charity’s annual Running Wild event at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Over 1,300 runners were joined by Eliud Kipchoge, the Olympic marathon gold medallist, who got into the spirit of the event and ran for fun, helping to raise funds to transform lives through conservation and community projects across the country.

This year we will be hosting teams from Artemis, BlackRock, Investec Bank, Vitol and EMSO in Kenya. They will join people from 50 countries who are all raising money for conservation work in this internationally renowned event.
November

Tusk Conservation Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society

Next Generation

Stand by for details on the Tusk Project event at “Pangita on the Roof”, Shepherd’s Bush, on Wednesday 28th June. Come and celebrate being the next generation of Tusk supporter. Please contact adele@tusk.org for more details.

Tusk ‘Not For Sale’ Garden

RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show 2017

In association with Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens

Prudential Ride London 100

Take part in the London Marathon on wheels this summer! Join Tusk and 25,000 fellow riders in a cycling challenge like no other on 103 miles of traffic-free roads.

The ride starts in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, following a route with leg-testing climbs through the capital and into Surrey’s stunning countryside, finishing back in central London on The Mall.

The Tusk Ball promises to be an excellent day of fun and sport within the superb setting of the Royal Berkshire Shooting School.

Following a very successful day in 2016, Tusk looks forward to welcoming familiar faces and new guests to the fourth annual event. Bring a team and have a great day out of the office!

The conceptual garden is an exciting initiative for Tusk, designed by Mark Whyte from Ferguson & Whyte Garden Design. The evocative garden will deliver a powerful message about the continuing plight of the African elephant.

The Tusk Conservation Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society

Emso is proud to support Tusk

The Wolf is at the door

Loss of habitat, poaching, canine disease and conflict with humans, are pushing the African wild dog population to crisis point.

Painted Wolf Wines creates award-winning traditionally-crafted wines, and supports the conservation of African Wild Dogs through donations to Tusk from each bottle of wine sold. Find out more at www.paintedwolfwines.com
How Tusk makes a difference

The challenges facing the people and wildlife of Africa are greater than ever. However where Tusk is involved we continue to witness significant progress that provides real hope for the future. 2016 produced record results both in the UK and USA allowing the charity to make a real impact across the continent. Here are some key facts and figures about how your generous support and partnerships made a difference last year.

- **600,000km²** land protected by Tusk-funded projects
- **1,000,000** people benefit indirectly through the work of Tusk’s project partners across the continent
- **72,000** students, teachers, teacher trainers, community educators, and wildlife professionals, plus their families and wider communities, in **34** African countries
- **58** populations of elephant, rhino, carnivores and great apes
- **72** Tusk project partners
- **460** schools
- **7** black rhino-focused projects, all have increasing populations

Over

**Tusk invests in 7 black rhino-focused projects, all have increasing populations**

**Over 200,000** students, teachers, teacher trainers, community educators, and wildlife professionals, plus their families and wider communities, in **34** African countries

**Tusk is protecting wildlife across the continent, totaling 58 populations of elephant, rhino, carnivores and great apes**

With your generous support we can make an even greater difference
Thank you

We are extremely grateful to the following individuals, companies, charitable trusts and foundations for their generous support of our work. Without these donations, and gifts-in-kind, it would be difficult for Tusk to achieve as much as it does each year in Africa.

We are also grateful to all our supporters, too numerous to mention here, whose donations make an enormous difference to Tusk’s projects.

Charitable Trusts

Companies

Individuals

Legacies
John Lacoon, Daniel Pinfort, Peter Treasure

Thank you