

TUSK TALK

2021





Our Mission is to amplify the impact of progressive conservation initiatives across Africa.

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KENSINGTON PALACE

The Covid-19 crisis has posed some extraordinary challenges for charities over the past year. I am, however, extremely proud that Tusk has once again shown its resilience, adaptability and tenacity and I am grateful to all Tusk's supporters whose generosity has allowed the charity to increase its impact and reach in the face of a global pandemic.

Tusk has shown innovation when presented with the stark reality of a new era in fundraising. The famous Lewa Safari Marathon was turned into a hugely successful virtual lockdown activity which raised the spirits of the thousands who participated. Even I laced up my shoes to run in solidarity! In addition, the debut of the remarkable pan-African Wildlife Ranger Challenge helped to support the men and women of Africa's ranger services operating on the front line. These are the brave guardians of the natural world and we need them today more than ever.

Having spoken to a number of Tusk's project partners during the past year I have been hugely impressed by their resolve and commitment to nurture crucial protected areas despite the challenges. This same determination was evident when I had the pleasure of congratulating the winners of the Tusk Conservation Awards in November.

It has been extraordinary how the human race has responded so rapidly to the pandemic, with vaccines both developed and deployed in record time. Yet as a global community, we must not forget the climate crisis and our rapid destruction of our planet's biodiversity. Without nature, we cannot survive. Research tells us that we have perhaps ten years to act decisively and halt the irreversible damage to our planet. We should therefore seize this moment to look at what we have learned from Covid-19. We should harness the optimism brought about by the vaccination rollout that we can together rise to meet the biggest challenges of our time, and apply it to the global effort to protect and restore our planet.

We are in a critical decade for the Earth and the conservation work that Tusk undertakes has therefore never been more important. I remain incredibly proud of Tusk's achievements, of the support it provides to partners on the ground, and the thought leadership it provides. Please continue to support this remarkable charity and its vital work.

Thank you for making a real difference.

Alexander Rhodes
Chairman, Tusk Trust

Welcome

I write this, my first welcome to you as Tusk's Chairman, with a firm sense of optimism. The world is still deep in Covid-19's terrible grip, and there is a long hard road ahead to understand and address the disease's direct and indirect toll. Yet, it is darkest before the dawn.

With the roll out of vaccines, the global public health response continues to cohere. As the willow warblers cross the length of Africa migrating north for spring, there is a real prospect of the world reopening, and an international recognition that we must "Build Back Better". Tusk's continuing focus is on action, and, now, we invite you to participate in the recovery for Africa's wild places.

Organisations show their true colours in times of crisis. Through the challenge and the grit of the last 12 months, the team at Tusk has proved its value. In 2020, the charity raised £12.7m and granted a record £11.1m across 92 projects in 25 countries, while carrying forward over half a million pounds for distribution as grants in 2021. This speaks to the extraordinary commitment and generosity of our supporters, for which we and our beneficiaries are hugely grateful. The ability effectively to deliver funds on this scale in these circumstances also reflects the unique quality of social capital Tusk has built over 30 years. Every penny has been put to work, in a period where tourism and local economies have collapsed, and pressures on nature have been pushed far into the red.

Tusk is not just an effective fundraising machine. It is preoccupied with its mission of amplifying the impact of progressive conservation initiatives across Africa. Over the last five years, Tusk has developed its own impact focussed online platform for supporting and evaluating its portfolio of projects. Through the pandemic, this unique capability has enabled Tusk to partner with others in a crisis response. Critically, this has included getting ranger salaries into the field, with the double effect of protecting the front line and sustaining local communities.



Tusk's focus on collaboration is a fundamental component in its delivery. Through the toughest of times last year, Tusk convened conservationists from the continent's corners in Zoom 'pod calls' to share knowledge, experience and mutual support. We have learnt from the necessary adoption of new technologies and are leveraging this to continue to extend the charity's reach and impact.

As Fred Nelson's important article (page 31) explains, the pandemic calls for a reappraisal of biodiversity's value and approaches to conserving it. On page 51 the winner of the 2020 Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award, Zimbabwean Amos Gwema, and Nick Maughan set out a new perspective on the illegal wildlife trade. Tusk's approach has always been grounded in the work in which local African communities are engaged. Today, it has the privilege of an established and continent-wide network of field projects to draw on, and plans are afoot for a virtual/physical Conservation Symposium for the whole Tusk community, hosted in Kenya.

We enter 2021 aware of the real and immediate personal threat posed by the proximity of planetary boundaries and global inequality to our lived experience. As Professor Dasgupta observes in his seminal review of the Economics of Biodiversity, published this February: "We are part of Nature, not separate from it". John Scanlon highlights (page 13) the collective opportunity we have to chart a new course at the 2021 biodiversity and climate conferences in Kunming and Glasgow.

We are all interconnected, and, as we look to Build Back Better, I invite you actively to support the most vulnerable of Africa's communities, species and ecosystems in partnership with Tusk this year.

Charlie Mayhew, MBE CEO, Tusk Trust

Looking to the future of conservation

It has been a challenging year for us all, but one in which I hope humanity has finally realised that protecting the natural world, including our oceans, is not only essential for the planet, but our own health and well-being too.



Like all organisations Tusk had to adapt fast to the crisis. However, I am proud to report that we have been able to respond to the unfolding conservation crisis with record funding; not only in support to our existing partners, but through emergency grants to an extensive list of protected areas where the economic impact of Covid-19 and loss of tourism continues to threaten the livelihoods of thousands of rangers and the protection of vast landscapes.

Last year saw a flurry of virtual events emerge as the new fundraising vehicles. Our own 'virtual' staging of the Lewa Safari Marathon saw world record-holder Eliud Kipchoge run the famous Kenyan course socially-distanced with a team of Lewa's rangers. Meanwhile over 2,000 supporters ran in solidarity around the world in their parks, streets or surrounding countryside to help us raise over \$300,000 in spite of the global lockdown (page 15).

Spurred on by this success and a generous pledge of \$5m from The Scheinberg Relief Fund, we launched an even more ambitious challenge to raise funds to protect the jobs of those working on conservation's frontline. In partnership with US charity, NATURAL STATE, we established the Wildlife Ranger Challenge – an initiative that culminated in rangers from over 100 protected areas competing in a virtual half marathon wherever they were in Africa. The outcome was extraordinary. Not only were we able to secure \$10m in funding to support almost 10,000 rangers, we created a proud movement of wildlife rangers and engendered a camaraderie amongst those who could see that they were certainly not alone in their efforts (page 19).



There were many highlights to our work in 2020. In this edition, we not only highlight the impact of Covid-19, but take an important look to the future of conservation.

We also report on the successes of our partner projects and look at the remarkable achievements of our 2020 Tusk Award winners and finalists. I am particularly pleased that thanks to a £1million commitment by The Nick Maughan Foundation over the next five years, we have been able to significantly increase the grants that accompany the awards. Every year the men and women who win these prestigious awards provide us with real hope - showing that it is not only possible, but absolutely vital we protect Africa's rich natural heritage.

This year has become the crucial 'Super Year' for conservation as governments gather to set important new targets for protecting the planet's rapidly declining biodiversity and, in November, the UK plays host to the much-anticipated CoP26 on tackling climate change. Our sincere hope is that world leaders will take the necessary steps and firmly place the environment, oceans, wildlife and nature at the top of the political agenda.

We cannot do any of the work we do without your support. The impact of Covid-19 on conservation efforts has been great. Last year you responded so generously to our appeal and helped our partner projects weather the initial storm. However, these projects now face perhaps their greatest challenge to date - mounting a recovery in the face of social and economic crises. The pandemic's harsh legacy will continue for many years to come and I hope you will continue to be as generous as you can to contribute to our Recovery Appeal. Thank you.

Left
Lewa Downs Lioness
Credit: David Yarow

Above
Charlie Mayhew MBE
Credit: Land Rover

Tusk works across Africa to further its mission.

Advancing conservation in Africa

Our work amplifies our partners' action on the ground to:

1. Protect endangered species
2. Preserve natural habitats
3. Promote human-wildlife coexistence
4. Provide environmental education

To ensure the greatest impact from our investments, Tusk funds a diverse portfolio of projects with three types of grants:

- **Catalyst:** For early stage initiatives testing new conservation strategies.
- **Evolution:** For emerging efforts that are developing a proven track record and scaling their impact.
- **Keystone:** For established organisations that continue to innovate and test new strategies and approaches to conservation.



Main image

White rhino family
Credit: Martin Harvey

Bottom left

A ranger from Lewa's K9 unit poses with one of the unit's bloodhounds
Credit: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

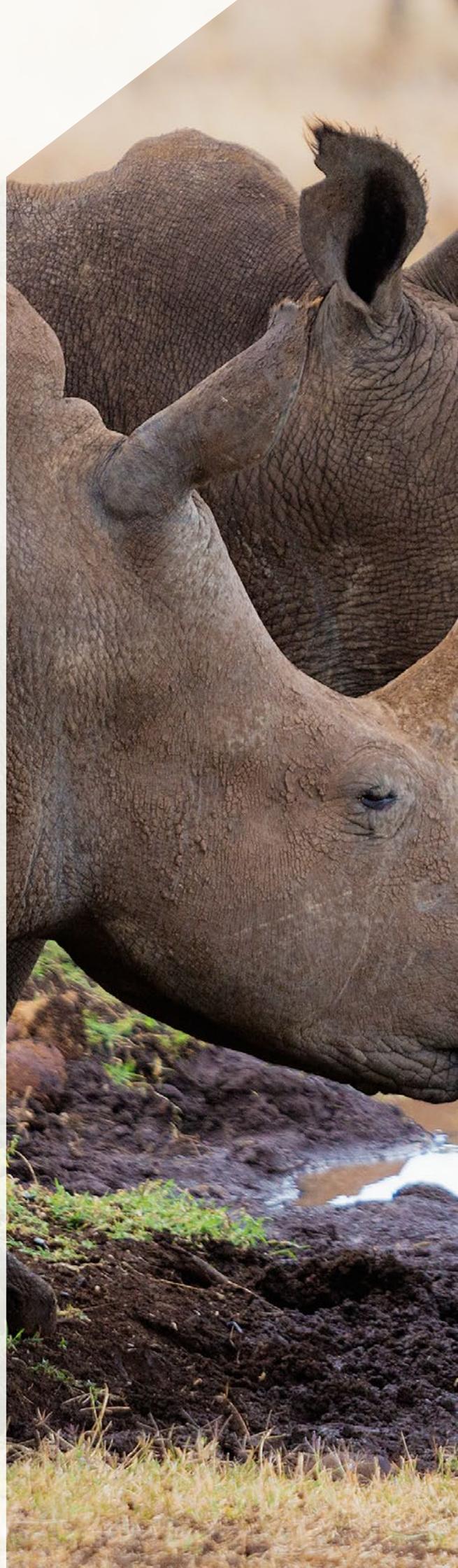
Far right (from top)

Endangered leatherback turtle release in Watamu, Kenya by Local Ocean Conservation
Credit: Paolo Parazzi

Conservation South Luangwa Rangers pose next to collected snares
Credit: Conservation South Luangwa

VulPro CEO Kerri Wolter with members of her team releasing vultures
Credit: VulPro

Local Ocean Trust Marine Scouts Releasing Hawksbill Turtle Watamu, Kenya
Credit: Local Ocean Trust





Tusk's impact is not just financial.
Our work also:

- Raises the profile of African conservation leaders and their achievements
- Brings our partner network together to accelerate learning, innovation and impact
- Uses our influence in the field of African conservation to increase awareness, funding and support for partner projects

Your generous support underpins
Tusk's positive and lasting impact
in Africa.

How Tusk makes a difference

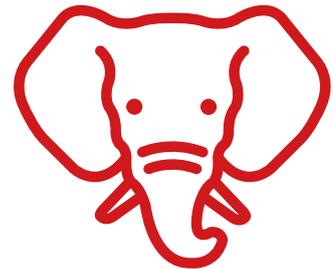
Our vision is an Africa in which people and wildlife co-exist and thrive. We believe in the inherent value of wildlife and know that sustainable conservation requires local solutions, expertise and engagement.

When local communities and stakeholders see economic benefits to co-existing with wildlife and that their actions are connected to a global environmental movement, conservation can and does succeed.

By championing sustainable solutions for conservation, Tusk, together with our supporters and partner projects, can have real and lasting impact.

Your generous support and partnerships made a huge difference last year. **Here's how***.

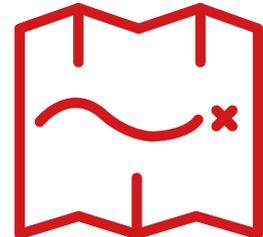
£12.7 million
global revenue



£11.1 million
invested into the field

45

endangered species
benefitted from our
projects



**432 million
hectares**
secured for wildlife

10,113

rangers supported



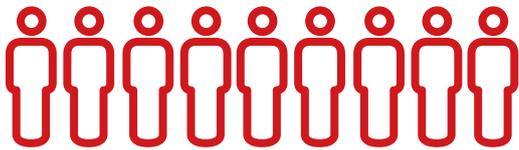
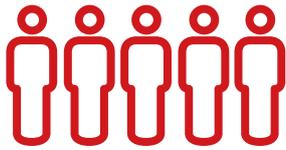
92

projects supported with
Tusk generated funds

*This page reflects total revenue raised in 2020 but does not reflect the total impact of the funds which have been and will continue to be disbursed in phases through 2020 and 2021.

5,425

directly employed
by organisations
supported by Tusk



4.3 million+ people

benefit indirectly from work of Tusk project partners



57 projects

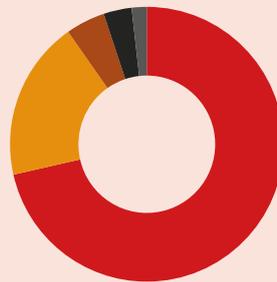
helped address illegal wildlife trade
(50% of Tusk project partners)



141,731

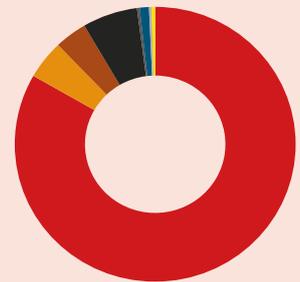
children benefitting from
environmental education

Tusk's income growth 1992-2020



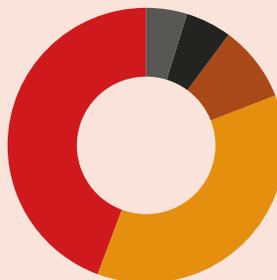
Focus of Tusk funded projects in 2020

- Protecting endangered species 71%
- Preserving habitats 19%
- Providing environmental education 5%
- Promoting human-wildlife coexistence 3%
- Advocacy, awareness & publications 2%



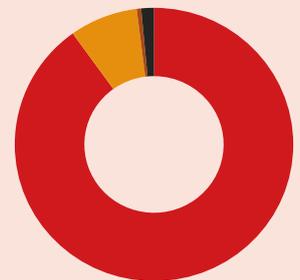
Source of funds

- Donations from individuals 83%
- Fundraising Events 4.6%
- Corporate 4%
- Charitable Trusts 6%
- Legacy 0.5%
- Gift Aid 1%
- Government Funding 0.5%
- Endowment Income 0.5%



Tusk project partner distribution by African region

- Eastern Africa 40%
- Southern Africa 39%
- Western Africa 9%
- Central Africa 7%
- Africa Wide 5%



Programme cost ratio

- Conservation Grants 90%
- Support costs & overheads 8%
- Fundraising & Event costs 1%
- Direct expenditure on advocacy and awareness 1%

Success spotlights

Our project partners have achieved some great successes over the past year. Here is a snapshot of those along with our shared ambitions for the future. These successes have been made possible because of your generous support and it is your financial commitment to conservation in Africa that will enable us to continue to amplify our project partners' work in 2021 and beyond.

All our partners have been greatly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their tireless work now continues with the added challenges the continuing crisis brings.

Africa-wide

- Elephant Protection Initiative
- PACE
- African Parks

1 Angola

- Kissama Foundation

2 Botswana

- Botswana Predator Conservation Trust
- CLAWS Conservancy
- Coaching Conservation
- Northern Tuli Game Reserve
- Rhino Conservation Botswana
- Rhinos without borders

3 Comoros

- Blue Ventures

4 Cote d'Ivoire

- Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

5 Democratic Republic of Congo

- Okapi Conservation Project
- Walikale Gorilla and Forest Conservation Project
- Virunga National Park

6 Equatorial Guinea

- Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program

7 Eswatini

- Big Game Parks

8 Gambia

- Red Colobus Conservation

9 Ghana

- Rainforest Rescue Ghana
- Calgary Zoo Foundation

10 Guinea

- Chimpanzee Conservation Centre

11 Kenya

- Borana Conservancy
- Ewaso Lions
- Grevy's Zebra Trust
- Lamu Marine Conservation Trust
- Local Ocean Conservation
- Milgis Trust
- Ngare Ndare Forest Trust
- Reteti Elephant Sanctuary
- The Maa Trust
- Maasai Mara Wildlife

Conservancies

- Association
- Maasai Wilderness Conservation Fund
- Ol Pejeta Conservancy
- Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
- Big Life Foundation
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
- Lion Landscapes
- Mount Kenya Trust
- Mountain Bongo Surveillance Project
- Northern Rangelands Trust
- SORALO
- Tsavo Trust

12 Madagascar

- C3 Madagascar
- Lemur Love
- IMPACT Madagascar

13 Malawi

- Peace Parks Foundation
- Wildlife Action Group
- Lilongwe Wildlife Trust

14 Mali

- Mali Elephant Project

15 Mozambique

- Chuilexi Conservancy
- Luwire Wildlife Conservancy

16 Namibia

- Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
- Save the Rhino Trust

17 Nigeria

- Africa Nature Investors Foundation
- Yankari Game Reserve
- Wildlife Conservation Society

18 Rwanda

- Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association
- Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

19 Sao Tome

- Programa Tato

20 Senegal

- Africa Chelonian Institute

21 South Africa

- Bateleurs
- VulPro
- Africa Foundation
- Project Rhino
- Transfrontier Africa

• TRT Conservation

- Foundation
- Wildlands Conservation Trust
- Wildlife ACT Fund Trust
- Zambeze Delta Safaris
- Southern African Wildlife College

22 Tanzania

- Global Animal Health Tanzania
- Ruaha Carnivore Project
- African People & Wildlife
- Jane Goodall Institute Australia
- PAMS Foundation
- Tongwe Trust
- Honeyguide Foundation

23 Uganda

- Rhino Fund Uganda
- Conservation Through Public Health
- Uganda Conservation Foundation

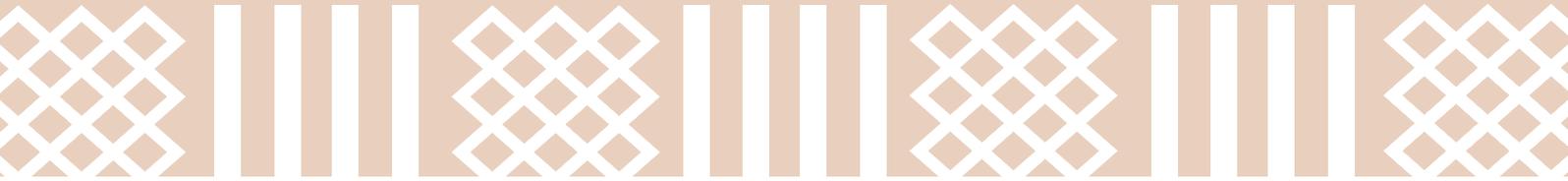
24 Zambia

- Zambian Carnivore Programme
- North Luangwa Conservation Programme
- Nsumbu Tanganyika Conservation Programme
- Game Rangers International
- Musekese Conservation
- Conservation Lower Zambezi
- Conservation South Luangwa

25 Zimbabwe

- Bhejane Trust
- Malilangwe Trust
- Conservation & Wildlife Trust
- International Anti-Poaching Foundation
- Tashinga Initiative
- Painted Dog Conservation
- Savé Valley Conservancy





1. CLAWS, Botswana

One of CLAWS' most significant accomplishments has been the development of the first communal livestock herd in Botswana. By collectively managing community cattle with trained herders, they have significantly reduced predator conflict, disease deaths and built capacity for communities along the northern edge of the Okavango Delta.

In the coming year CLAWS plans to certify their communal herd as 'Wildlife Friendly' and to establish a local abattoir in order to build a market for free-range cattle raised in coexistence with wildlife. There is already interest from their regional lodges in purchasing their beef.

2. The Bateleurs, South Africa

The Bateleurs delivered another record-breaking year notwithstanding many Covid-19 related challenges. In total, they undertook 117 flights for conservation across southern Africa. These ranged from illegal mining surveys to translocations of lion, wild dog, vultures, and even the critically endangered estuarine pipefish. In 2021, they look forward to expanding their reach and service to conservation by assisting with more wildlife translocations to neighbouring countries. Another wild dog transfer to Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique is already in progress, following successful similar translocations in 2018 and 2020.

3. Blue Ventures, Comoros

The impact of Covid-19 in Comoros was fortunately low, allowing field activities to continue. In partnership with Dahari, Blue Ventures supported three local fishing associations on the island of Anjouan to re-open a temporary fishery closure. The closure was a great success, yielding significantly larger octopus and over half a tonne were caught on the opening day.

In 2021, Blue Ventures looks forward to working with four new communities from a different area of Anjouan and continuing to increase local engagement in the preservation of Comoros' marine resources.

4. C3, Madagascar

In 2020, C3 Madagascar focused on strengthening their national network of young environmental leaders, despite Covid-19 restrictions. They reached 1,500 students from 10 schools across remote areas of North Madagascar with their unique education programme, comprised of endangered marine species and habitat costumes, as well as children's books. Schools implemented their local Environmental Action Plans planting mangrove propagules, native trees and fruit trees, in three Key Biodiversity Areas. 2021 will see four new species books added to C3's educational series, a development highly anticipated by teachers and students alike.

Success spotlights

Continued

5. VulPro, South Africa

The construction of an on-site hospital with the support of Tusk was one of VulPro's key successes in 2020. Rescued vultures can now be treated in a stress-free environment with no additional travel needed for veterinary care. As such, VulPro rescued 101 vultures and birds of prey, and many were treated on site. This coming year VulPro aims to complete the hospital's surgery and x-ray rooms. This will raise the bar further for vulture treatments and surgical care through the provision of surgical interventions for rescued birds.



6. IMPACT Madagascar, Madagascar

In 2020, IMPACT Madagascar community-run nurseries produced over 95,000 tree seedlings. Of these, 39,070 were planted during community reforestation events - the remaining seedlings are being planted this year. In total, these communities restored an impressive 19 hectares of previously degraded land! In the coming year, IMPACT's conservation projects will focus on the protection of the lemurs' natural habitats. Community village scout patrols in the forests and wetlands to monitor illegal logging will continue along with sustainable livelihood and agriculture support for local communities.



7. Chimpanzee Conservation Center (CCC), Guinea

Last year, chimpanzees, Chloe (15) and Bailo (14), were released to join the wild chimpanzee group in the Upper Niger National Park. To ensure the precise tracking of the two individuals they were fitted with collars using Iridium technology. The collars are key to monitoring the released chimpanzees, ensuring their safety and gaining valuable data that shows their movements and potential integration with the wild chimpanzee group. CCC aims to continue protecting the Upper Niger National Park wild chimpanzee population and its diverse fauna and flora.



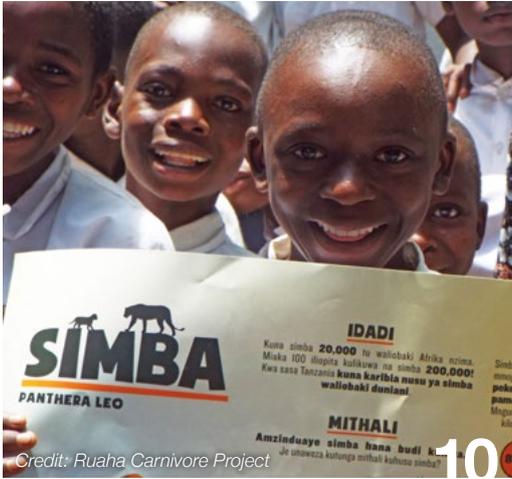
8. African Nature Investors Foundation (ANIF), Nigeria

Gashaka-Gumti National Park has one of the largest populations of endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee. However, it is threatened by logging, illegal grazing and poaching. With Tusk support, ANIF equipped and trained 50 rangers who started the first systematic patrols in the park for over 30 years. In 2021 ANIF will train and equip more rangers and develop local community partnerships to protect the park's chimpanzees and other iconic animals. With ranger morale high, there is a new feeling of hope for the park!



9. Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), Malawi

In 2020, LWT rescued 110 animals and released 54 back into the wild. They also supported government agencies to prosecute 251 new illegal wildlife cases, with a 91% conviction rate. Their education team engaged almost 11,000 children across 131 schools and trained 129 teachers. One of LWT's key goals for 2021 is to redevelop the educational, training and animal welfare facilities at the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre to enhance their wildlife protection work, build in-country environmental capacity, and inspire greater conservation education and action.



Credit: Ruaha Carnivore Project

10. Ruaha Carnivore Project (RCP), Tanzania

Building on progress in Ruaha, RCP is working with partners to develop community-based conservation strategies in other key landscapes. A significant development is RCP's expansion into the Selous, an immense area thought to hold the largest remaining lion population in Africa. This work will seek to understand conflict intensity and large carnivore ecology in this critically important landscape while establishing how applicable RCP's work could be in a new ecosystem. RCP has also recently partnered with Lion Landscapes and is scaling up this partnership in 2021 to increase its impact.



11. Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, Rwanda

For RWCA, the pandemic brought to light the success of their community conservation model of champions and rangers who are based at key biodiversity areas throughout Rwanda. They were able to quickly and efficiently respond to cases of poaching and habitat destruction, despite the lock-down and travel restrictions for the core team based in Kigali. In the coming year, RWCA aims to strengthen community teams, through capacity building, development of leadership skills, and provision of equipment, in order to build a resilient and sustainable approach to conservation.



Credit: Tsavo Trust

13. Tsavo Trust, Kenya

Throughout 2020 and despite Covid-19, Tsavo Trust maintained its vital field operations and kept all its staff employed. The team logged a total of 708 hours of flight. Twenty-three elephant carcasses were located and 43 elephant tusks recovered. Anti-poaching teams collected 524 snares, made 25 arrests and recovered 1,477kg of bushmeat, while ground monitoring teams provided regular scientific data from field observations. In 2021 they aim to mitigate human-elephant conflict for their neighbouring communities through the construction of a 23km three strand electric fence.

12. Milgis Trust, Kenya

During the dry season, wildlife relies on deep wells dug by pastoralists. With the water too deep to reach for smaller elephants, they frequently slip into the wells and drown or remain trapped for several days. To solve this problem, the Milgis Trust incentivises pastoralists to maintain access ramps into the wells throughout the dry periods. The result has been safe access to water for all wildlife.

In the coming year, Milgis would like to expand this programme with the end goal of 'conscious well digging' becoming the norm throughout northern Kenya.



Credit: Milgis Trust



Credit: The Mallangwe Trust

14. The Mallangwe Trust, Zimbabwe

Mallangwe was able to conduct an all-important annual game census, in spite of the pandemic. It revealed a growth in rhino numbers with 33 added to their populations and even better, no poaching incidents were reported throughout the year. Additionally, an accurate, cost-effective method of estimating the size of free-ranging leopard populations was published. This method could be applied globally, and if adopted, could have important conservation implications for this vulnerable species. Going forward, they aim to conduct critical biodiversity research on the carrying capacity of the reserve.

John Scanlon CEO, Elephant Protection Initiative Foundation Chair,
Global Initiative to End Wildlife Crime

Covid and conservation



Nature conservation is much more than looking after wildlife and its habitat: it is about public and animal health and welfare, climate change, and security, and if we get things wrong, it can have massive global implications.

Perhaps 2020 will be remembered as the year when the penny suddenly dropped for people across every nation that we need to recalibrate our relationship with nature. But in the coming months, if the pandemic slowly passes, and memories start to fade, will this global awakening endure?

The dramatic and sudden loss of revenue from wildlife-tourism in 2020 sent shock waves through the conservation community, decimating jobs, enterprises, and livelihoods. Maybe 2020 will also be remembered as the year when the penny

“

Success demands collective endeavour, and we all have our role to play, as consumers, investors, and citizens.

dropped about the vulnerability of the conservation business model.

Covid-19 has induced much suffering, and sadly, many lives have been lost. Nature conservation came perilously close to being another victim of the pandemic. Due to the heroic efforts of so many, it has survived. But conservation was already suffering from multiple pre-existing conditions, and it will remain on life support until it becomes an investment priority of business, donors, and government.

Reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the UN Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) paint a bleak picture for combating climate change and protecting biodiversity. Yet, it is not too late. If we change course, we can recover, and in a way that generates new and exciting opportunities.

And if 2020 was a year of awakening for all of us, then 2021 must be the year of transformation.



International conferences on biodiversity in Kunming and climate in Glasgow, offer platforms for new global strategies and national commitments. Biodiversity must be at the forefront of the response to climate change. We need to secure long-term commitments to places that are rich in biodiversity.

It is time to reshape our approach to conservation, to break down silos and see a convergence of the biodiversity, climate, development, health, and security agendas. As recognition of the multiple benefits of nature conservation grows, so too will the scale and sources of financing.

Yet, as I write, we are still feeling the full brunt of a pandemic that most likely had its origins in wildlife, and IPBES tells us there are hundreds of thousands of viruses that could spill over from wild animals to humans. Wildlife poses no threat, how we interrelate to it does, and preventing the next pandemic will require profound changes to how we regulate the taking, trade, and consumption of wildlife, and how we combat the scourge of wildlife crime.

Main image

The Northern Rangelands Trust vet team rescues Lbarnoti, a male Rothschild's giraffe from a flooded island using a custom-made barge
Credit: Kieran Avery

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the landmark Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. It led to a flurry of ground-breaking activity, with new national and international laws and institutions. We honour our predecessors, who showed ambition and courage. But today, many of these initiatives have gone stale or become dated – our laws, institutions and financing are no longer fit for purpose. They must be re-evaluated and re-structured if we are to take on the challenges set forth by the IPCC and the IPBES.

Given the scale and immediacy of the risks to people and planet, 2021 must be the year when we move ahead with transformative initiatives, which we are quick to call for, yet slow to act upon.

It is the world's youth who have the most to lose from these multiple and inter-related crises. We owe it to them to act boldly and swiftly in 2021 to ensure we pass on a planet that is prosperous and habitable for all. It is not too late to change course, provided we all rise to the challenge!

There were many highlights to our work in 2020.

2020 in review

The amazing energy and enthusiasm of our donors was unwavering in 2020. Our work would not be possible without the funds raised by the dedicated Tusk donors who took part in, or supported, Tusk's events and appeals.



Ride4Rangers

In the summer, a team of British amateur cyclists set off in a bid to cycle from Land's End to John o'Groats, to support the vital work of wildlife rangers across Africa.

In an initiative launched by the UK Africa travel industry in partnership with Tusk, the Ride4Rangers team were joined by travel company staff, celebrities and the public, cumulatively riding 62,000km, the equivalent of circumnavigating Africa twice. With the backing of over 80 travel companies and teams across the UK, Europe and Africa, the campaign to support African rangers and wildlife raised a remarkable **£329,000**, with match funding from the Scheinberg Relief Fund as part of the Wildlife Ranger Challenge.

Tusk's thanks go to Ben Morison and his team who gave up their time, limitless energy and serious expertise to make this campaign such a success; to Land Rover for their generous provision of a Defender support vehicle; to Accor/Mantis for kindly providing hotel accommodation and to Ethiopian Airlines and ATTA.



Main image

World fastest marathoner, Eliud Kipchoge takes part in a training run with rangers at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy ahead of the 2020 Virtual Lewa Safari Marathon
Credit: Jeff Waweru

Middle right

The Ride for Rangers cyclists at the finish line
Credit: Mary-Jane Attwood

Bottom right

Lion Rangers from Tusk Partner Lion Landscapes pose next to the Tusk Vehicle in Loisaba, Laikipia Kenya
Credit: Jeff Waweru

Far left

Credit: Zambia Carnivore Program



The Tusk Crisis Appeal

As widely reported in the previous edition of Tusk Talk, the Covid-19 pandemic had, and is still having, devastating consequences for conservation in Africa. Throughout the crisis we have remained in regular contact with our partners, who continue to struggle with the impact that the loss of tourism and donor income has had on their work.

Tusk's Crisis Appeal prioritised maintaining our support towards salaries and operating costs of our project partners. With your support, Tusk raised over **£700,000** from the appeal for our project partners across the continent.

As we look to a slow recovery, and with little chance of either local economies or tourism recouping rapidly in Africa, Tusk's partners are expecting 2021 to be the hardest year in their project's history. Please support our Recovery Appeal (back cover) to help us ensure our partners can continue to weather the storm.



The Virtual Lewa Safari Marathon

Whether walking 5km or running a full marathon, Tusk supporters from far and wide came out in droves in June to take part in the Virtual Lewa Safari Marathon. More than 2,000 people ran on beaches, through game reserves, across parks and gardens, and in cities around the world.

Tusk's Royal Patron, The Duke of Cambridge, launched the main event, saying: "Wherever you are in the world...this isn't a race, there is no stopwatch...It is our way of showing Africa's conservation community that we're all in this together".

Participants spanning the globe from Peru to Hong Kong and from Switzerland to New Zealand took on the challenge. World champions Eliud Kipchoge and Geoffrey Kamworor supported the event from Kenya, whilst in the UK, Tusk Ambassadors Katherine Jenkins, Deborah Meaden and Levison Wood also joined in to show their support.

The event raised more than **£250,000** to support wildlife conservation and communities in Kenya and beyond.

The Times Appeal

Tusk was fortunate to be selected as one of three recipient charities of The Times and The Sunday Times Christmas Appeal 2020, alongside Fareshare and Sported. Journalists from both newspapers visited and spoke to a number of Tusk supported projects across Africa, with articles appearing in the digital and printed editions of both papers from late November through to January.

The Appeal helped demonstrate the diverse range of conservation initiatives that Tusk supports, and the significant challenges they are confronting, including the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are grateful to the readers of The Times and The Sunday Times for their generous support, which will help us provide a critical lifeline to our projects Africa-wide, protecting livelihoods and keeping men and women on the frontline of conservation.

Our thanks go also to The Nick Maughan Foundation, which generously matched all donations up to a total of £150,000, doubling their impact, and to Matthew Moulding who donated £300,000 to the Appeal to be split equally between the three charities.

The Times and Sunday Times Christmas Appeal raised a record amount for the three charities supported, including **£653,000** for Tusk.



Anna Hunt Tusk Philanthropy Manager

Fundraising in the midst of a global crisis



At the start of the UK's first national lockdown in March 2020, Tusk, along with many other charities, grew concerned about the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on our ability to fundraise. Tusk faced the prospect of losing at least £2million of income from our planned events overnight.

We kept in close contact with our project partners to keep abreast of the challenges they were facing and their greatest need. It became clear that an emergency crisis appeal was necessary with a focus on raising core funds for partners who were drastically scaling back their budgets, making salary cuts and putting vital activities on hold.

Everyone in the world has been affected by the pandemic, yet a report by CAF shows that despite this, people in the UK did not stop giving. In fact, they donated more to the causes they care about most. The initial response by many was to support NHS and local health charities. But slowly, as the nature of the UK's news coverage widened to reflect the global impact of the pandemic, including the link between public health and conservation, altruistic intent shifted. We launched our appeal in May.

Tusk donor Louise Studd was obligated to support. "Although being a regular supporter through a modest monthly standing order, I felt



The Times and Sunday Times Christmas Appeal chose Tusk as a beneficiary because of its dual approach of protecting wildlife and supporting human communities.

Kaya Burgess

Above

Lion rangers in Laikipia Kenya monitor alerts for collared lions

Credit: Jeff Waweru

Right

Tusk Trustee and Philanthropist, Beatrice Karanja receives a gift from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy rangers for her support to their unit

Credit: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

compelled to do more as the pandemic was clearly having catastrophic consequences for wildlife conservation," says Louise.

"Rather than sitting at home feeling depressed, I decided to make a fairly large donation toward Tusk's crisis appeal, as the fund was clearly destined to go to the very root of the problem."

With thanks to the generosity of our loyal supporters like Louise, as well as many new donors, the appeal raised over £700,000 to help us plug some of the gap in funding.

The link between conservation and global health had been thrust firmly into the public eye, and our work at Tusk had taken on a new national significance. In November 2020 we were selected as a charity recipient of The Times and The Sunday Times Christmas Appeal.

"Covid-19 has been devastating lives and livelihoods across the world," says Kaya Burgess from The Times about Tusk's selection. "At the same time, there has been an increased awareness and acknowledgement of the harm being caused to wildlife and their habitats by human activity. Tusk's work addresses both of these elements. The Times and Sunday Times Christmas Appeal chose Tusk as a beneficiary because of its dual approach of protecting wildlife and supporting human communities."

Remarkably, with around half of UK charities reporting income declines in 2020, the year ended as a record one in Tusk's fundraising history. Thank you to all who have supported us during these challenging times.

A reimagined African culture of giving

African philanthropy has always existed. It is rooted in a word that is familiar throughout the continent. Ubuntu. While there may be a multitude of variations in how it is pronounced across the 54 nations of Africa, the essence and meaning is the same.

A 2,000-year-old philosophy, Ubuntu can best be described as philosophy that places emphasis on 'being self through others'. It is a form of humanism which can be expressed in the phrases 'I am because of who we all are' – the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity. It is also how, as a people, we gave meaning and description to the kind of relationship an individual person is expected to have with their family, community, society, environment and their spiritual world.

In 2020, as the Covid-19 pandemic swept through the globe with lightning speed and the frenzied global giving that came with it to keep the most vulnerable from sinking further into poverty, desperation and the unknown, Africa's spirit of Ubuntu quietly kicked in.

Tony Elumelu, a Nigerian billionaire philanthropist, donated \$14million to the Covid-19 response across 20 African countries, while down south in South Africa, a cohort of philanthropist billionaires each pledged a staggering \$57million to the country's efforts to mitigating the pandemic.

While African philanthropy may be considered a nascent ideology, it is far from that. The culture of giving during prolonged or sudden crises is common and as old as Ubuntu itself. During the 2018 outbreak of cholera in Zimbabwe, Strive and Tsitsi Masiyiwa donated \$10million toward ongoing efforts in their country. A year later they made a follow up donation of \$60million.

A staggering contribution that barely made the news outside of the continent. As the world evolves and with the likelihood of other pandemics emerging which will again leave in their wake devastating consequences, African culture of giving may need



Thank you to all who have supported us during these challenging times; your kindness and commitment is extraordinary.

rethinking, not only in validation but also in structure.

Post-Covid being defined as the time where vaccines are readily available and where we learn to live with the pandemic, for the African continent, the opportunity must be seized to restructure our policies for and around our culture of giving. It is a time to reflect on the need to nurture African philanthropists that go beyond boundaries or sphere of influence towards a path of sustainable social action with the environment at the core.

As the African continent and its people have leapfrogged through time in regards to innovation, economic growth, and development, we need to look into what Ubuntu Version 2.0 means for the future of our continent.

Running with Rangers

Wildlife Ranger Challenge

The continental-wide collapse of wildlife tourism caused by the Covid-19 crisis has all but eliminated essential funding for wildlife protection, threatening to undo years of rangers' dedicated field work and compromising decades of development and conservation work across Africa.

The salaries of rangers have been significantly cut and many have been furloughed, leaving their families without income and wildlife vulnerable to illegal poaching.

On World Ranger Day 2020, Tusk, in partnership with NATURAL STATE, launched the inaugural Wildlife Ranger Challenge (WRC). The Challenge's founding donor, The Scheinberg Relief Fund, generously committed \$5million of matching funds to kickstart the campaign which united ranger teams across the African continent. For six weeks rangers relished the opportunity to compete against their counterparts in other countries with physical and mental challenges. The WRC WhatsApp group was buzzing with ranger-to-ranger comradery and excitement for this collaborative pan-African Challenge

On October 3rd 2020 wildlife protectors across Africa united in a seminal event launched to defend decades of conservation progress. Ranger teams joined forces in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge with the shared goal of raising funds to bring thousands of their counterparts back to the field. More than 2,000 wildlife rangers across 20 countries competed in a virtual half-marathon race carrying their typical 22kg backpack and equipment, raising awareness about the hardship those in their profession currently face.

Main image

Ranger cadets training at the Southern African Wildlife College
Credit: Peter Chadwick

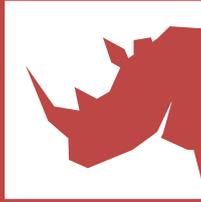
Far right

The Mount Kenya Trust Joint Patrol Team enjoying the challenge
Credit: Sarah Marshall





THE OFFICIAL NUMBERS OF



WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE



20 African countries represented



45 endangered species are protected



119 protected areas are benefiting from grants



100 protected areas have taken part



9,473 rangers have benefitted



64,024 livelihoods have been impacted



4,243,769 km² of wild ecosystems are protected

Teams from over 100 protected areas across the continent ran, walked and marched their way across the finish line, covering a cumulative total of over 21,000km. After weeks of training, the Laikipia Lion Rangers of Lion Landscapes from Kenya finished the course in just 2 hours, 21 minutes taking first place. Second and third went to Old Oyo National Park and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy respectively.

As part of the largest ever campaign in support of rangers, people from Djibouti to Singapore, Bhutan to New Zealand ran in solidarity with the men and women on the ground. Over 2,000 supporters from 80 countries raised over half a million pounds. Their support meant greater security, stability and resourcing for the ranger sector in Africa and a brighter future for the wildlife they protect.

The challenge highlighted the many roles rangers have, from trackers to community workers to ecologists, shifting the perception that rangers only catch poachers. Rangers are now well on their way from being undervalued and misrepresented to being seen as a passionate, caring community, working on the front lines as Earth guardians.

The Wildlife Ranger Challenge was an initiative by Tusk and NATURAL STATE, in partnership with The Schienberg Relief Fund, the Game Rangers Association of Africa, The Thin Green Line Foundation, For Rangers, The International Ranger Federation and Global Wildlife Conservation.



The challenge secured over **\$10million** to cover the salaries, equipment and operating costs, benefitting over 9,000 rangers.

Wildlife Ranger Challenge Continued

Conservation South Luangwa (CSL), Zambia

The Ranger Fund helped CSL to keep all of their rangers in full employment and in a position to continue conducting their critical anti-poaching work. In a year when all of their conservation efforts had the potential to become undone, they have been able to keep all of CSL's programmes running and in fact increase their level of support. To CSL's surprise, overall wildlife poaching did not significantly increase in 2020 and elephant poaching was reduced considerably. This is possibly due to a more holistic approach including much more community support during 2020. Despite 2020 being mostly successful, CSL are mindful that 2021 will be a challenging year for both wildlife and communities.



Credit: CSL

Savé Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe

The WRC grant has provided critical resources to keep the Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) rangers in the field supporting the anti-poaching operations. SVC has been successful in protecting its rhino population despite a spike in poaching over the past five years in Zimbabwe and across the continent. Covid-19 is exacerbating many of the threats facing rhino, and as a result of the reduction in tourism, significantly impacting the revenue needed to support the rangers.



“

It has been a great initiative for the purposes of building comradeship not only within our own teams but with other teams throughout Africa. It makes us all realise that there is always hope if we bind together in the hard times!

Savé Valley Conservancy - Zimbabwe

Painted Dog Conservation (PDC), Zimbabwe

WRC has enabled PDC to not only maintain, but increase their vital anti-poaching unit operations that aim to create an environment where painted dogs can thrive. They saw a significant increase in poaching activities involving the setting of wire snares as the dry season in Hwange progressed. This situation was exacerbated by the hardships brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically the loss of household incomes due to family members losing their jobs in the tourism related industries. Significantly over 130 volunteers from four communities joined the operation scouring 2,687km² and recovering 2,871 snares.



Credit: PDC

Credit: Savé Valley Conservancy

“

The Wildlife Ranger Challenge inspired and uplifted the rangers. They realised that there was a bigger community out there who cared for them and their work, was willing to step in at a time of crisis and support them to continue to do what they love to do: protect wildlife.

Honeyguide Foundation, Tanzania

With the WRC grant, Honeyguide supported both Randilen and Makame Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in paying for ranger salaries, food rations, fuel, and vehicle costs during the Covid crisis.

The rangers' work is critical in protecting rangelands for the community livestock, protecting community crops from elephant raids, and protecting wildlife and habitat that in turn secure much-needed revenues from nature-based enterprises. Had there been no funds, due to lack of tourism caused by the Covid pandemic, the WMAs would otherwise fail to keep the protection teams on the ground.



Credit: Honeyguide Foundation

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya

The WRC funding enabled Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to sustain critical wildlife protection, habitat conservation, and livelihood development operations. The proceeds secured the return of rangers who were on unpaid leave back to work, and ensured the employment of the entire security team of 158 personnel, enabling them to protect wildlife and support their families during the hard economic times.

By funding Lewa's rangers the WRC not only alleviated pressure internally for the organisation, but it ensured the continuous monitoring of Lewa's wildlife, and effective response to reported incidents of human-wildlife conflict. During this critical time Lewa was able to maintain its zero rhino poaching rate.



Credit: David Kabiru

Tensions over land and resources between Africa's wildlife and its expanding human populations are being exacerbated by the pandemic.

Promoting human-wildlife coexistence

To prevent conflicts between people and wildlife, Tusk supports creative solutions that help shift perceptions on threats to livelihoods and allow communities to appreciate the value of their local wildlife.

Our project partners mitigate thousands of incidents of human-wildlife conflict each year and continue to build innovative solutions, working hand-in-hand with communities to ensure people and wildlife can co-exist within the same landscapes.

Main image

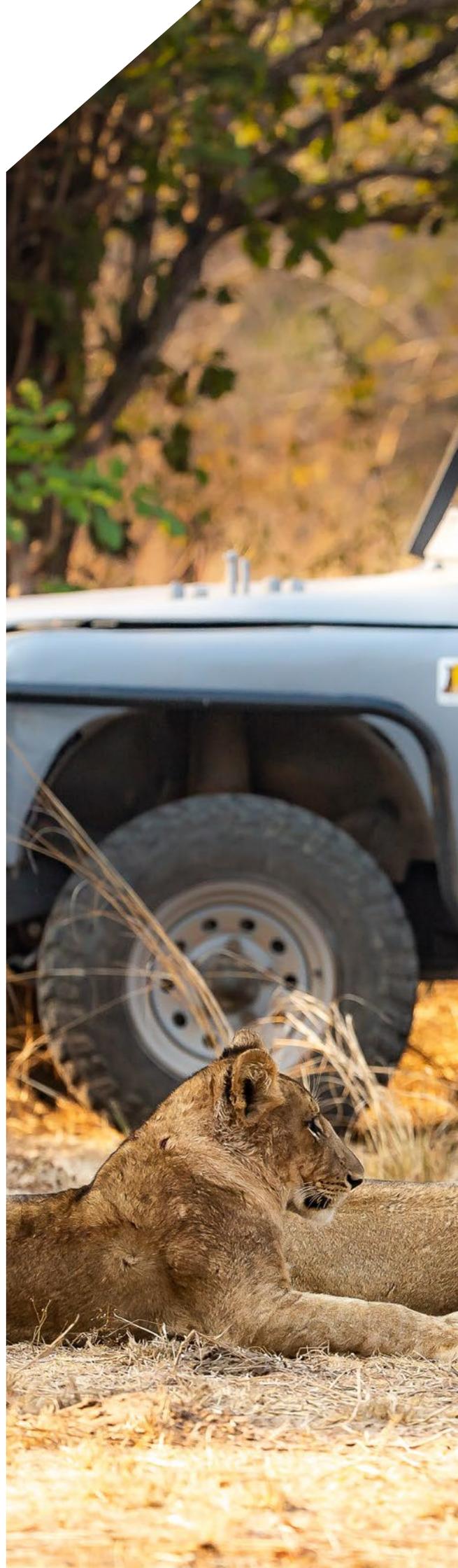
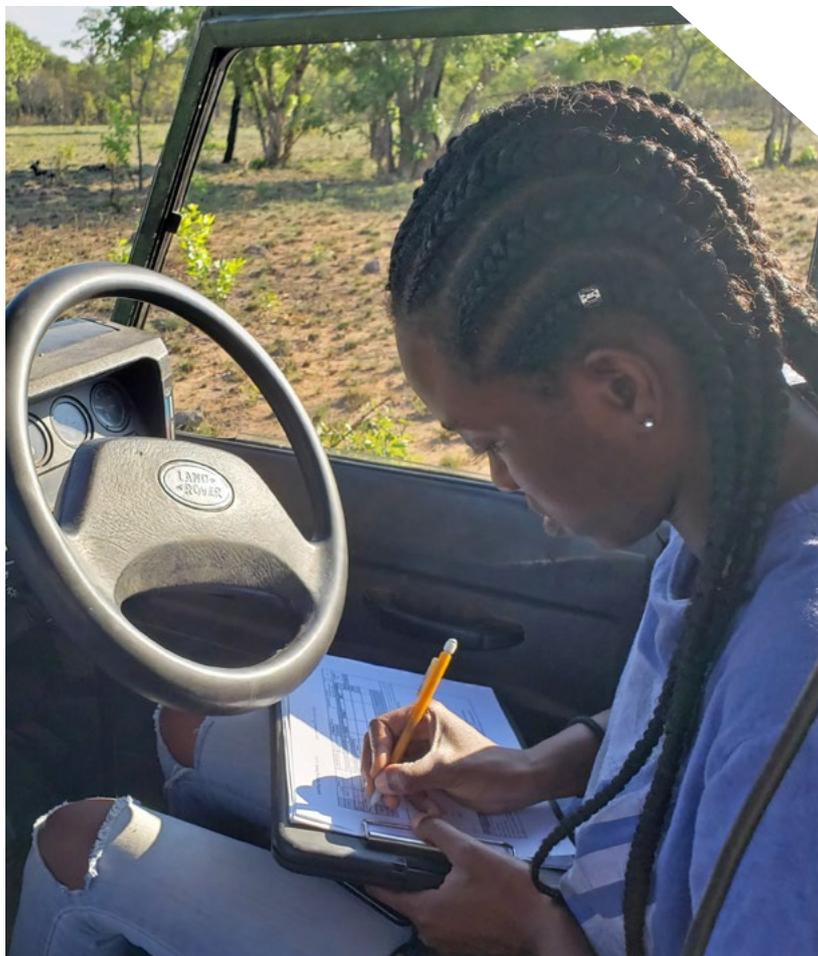
The ZCP team monitors lions in South Luangwa
Credit: Edward Selfe

Bottom left

Kachama Banda of ZCP collects data
Credit: ZCP

Bottom right

Kachama Banda and Ruth Kabwe of ZCP collect wild dog monitoring data
Credit: ZCP





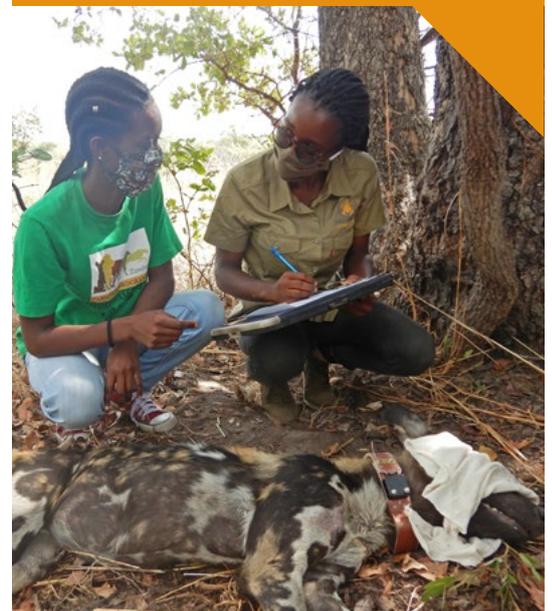
Mitigating bushmeat trade

Zambian Carnivore Project, Zambia

Large carnivores are often at the centre of human-wildlife conflict. ZCP works with conservation partners to conduct an array of human-wildlife conflict evaluations and mitigation work. At present, due to the lack of livestock in the Luangwa and Kafue National Parks and effective husbandry techniques in Liuwa, the level of carnivore conflict is fortunately moderate; however this is changing with increases in human encroachment into protected area networks

For the first time in nearly two decades, no snared lions were detected in South Luangwa, owing to the collaborative anti-snaring efforts by ZCP, Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Conservation South Luangwa, and the continued support of partners including Tusk. Tusk funding helped support 380 long patrols, 406 anti-snaring day patrols, and 80 short patrols that collectively removed over 600 snares and confiscated 442kg of illegal bushmeat.

Whilst this was a significant milestone, sadly the levels of snaring and poaching throughout the Luangwa Valley increased substantially as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The temporary collapse of global tourism and travel left many without a source of income and means to purchase food, and so they turned to bushmeat for food and means to earn money. By successfully integrating field-based monitoring by ground and air, directed anti-snaring patrols and veterinary rescue ZCP mitigated the threat of the illegal bushmeat trade and snaring on Zambia's carnivore population.



Promoting human-wildlife coexistence

Continued

Innovative inoculations

Global Animal Health, Tanzania

The overarching objective of Global Animal Health (GAHT) Tanzania is to protect carnivore species such as bat-eared foxes, hyaena and wild dogs from infectious diseases like rabies, parvovirus and canine distemper virus which are transmitted by domestic dogs.

The inoculation programme in the remote pastoral villages on the eastern plains of the Serengeti Maasai Mara ecosystem was the site for the launch of GAHT's pioneering domestic dog facial recognition app which registers dogs that have been vaccinated against rabies and then enables recognition in the future. This incredible innovation means the team can recognise dogs that have already been vaccinated which saves on wasting further doses on any dogs vaccinated within the last couple of years. In addition, it allows GAHT to quantify the proportion of dogs in a community that have been vaccinated, which is important for achieving herd immunity.

Throughout 2021 the team will roll out the facial recognition app across all of their work increasing mass dog rabies vaccination across the whole Mara region of Tanzania. This will allow the team to lead the elimination of human rabies in the Mara region, and thus in time create the first rabies free zone in Tanzania.



Right

GAHT has rolled out a facial recognition app for dogs vaccinated against rabies

Credit: Felix Lankester

Conservation Hero

Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka

CEO & Founder, Conservation Through Public Health
Tusk Conservation Award Finalist, 2019



My conservation journey began when I revived a wildlife club at high school and it continued to develop when I trained as a veterinarian working with both domestic and wild animals in Uganda.

After establishing the Uganda Wildlife Authority's (UWA) veterinary unit in 1996 I discovered that the local communities around Bwindi were making gorillas sick when the apes ranged outside the park to forage in community land. I realised that species conservation alone was not enough, we also had to improve the health of people living around the park.

The NGO I founded, Conservation Through Public Health, works to improve the health of people, gorillas, other wildlife and livestock together by reducing disease outbreaks between species and improving attitudes of local communities to wildlife. With support from Tusk and UWA, we built a Gorilla Health and Community Conservation Centre which acts as a meeting place and training centre, and houses a laboratory to enable us to more effectively prevent and control cross species disease transmission.

We are making a real difference, not only are gorillas falling sick less often, but we are improving the quality of life of people living around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Community hygiene has improved with the adoption of hand washing facilities. In addition people are more tolerant of gorillas on their land and better equipped to call out Human and Gorilla Conflict

Resolution (HUGO) teams - gorilla guardians who safely herd them back to the park. All this has contributed to the steady increase in Bwindi's mountain gorilla population, which now stands at over 450.

I am inspired when the gorillas we monitor remain healthy as we improve the hygiene and general wellbeing of the local human populations that they share their fragile habitat with. I know the future of both is more secure.

Conservation work can be challenging because ultimately you need to get communities to co-exist with wildlife, and sometimes you have to persevere in the face of adversity. However, it is very rewarding and worth the effort as I discovered when I was humbled and honoured to be a finalist of the 2019 Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa.

“

My message to potential and future conservationists is to understand your passion, follow your dreams and act with purpose.



Children starting school today will grow up in a world that's very different from the one we know now.

Providing environmental education

To give our planet a fighting chance it's vital to ignite the next generation's appreciation for nature. An increasing disconnection from nature resulting from the accelerated growth of technology and urbanisation is leading to a lack of understanding and passion for its role in our world.

This detachment is as much of a threat to wildlife and natural environments as habitat loss or poaching.

By experiencing and exploring nature, children can understand, value and appreciate the natural world around them and can inspire and influence others to protect wildlife and the environment too.

Tusk partners with projects that help individuals and communities acquire the knowledge, attitudes and practical skills to respond to environmental problems in responsible and effective ways.



Grevy's Zebra Scout Programme

Grevy's Zebra Trust, Kenya

Recognising that the survival of the Grevy's zebra depends on its ability to coexist with people living in northern Kenya, the Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) believes these communities must be at the centre of designing and driving conservation efforts.

The Grevy's Zebra Scout Programme was GZT's pioneer programme and predominantly employed women who have been widowed, chosen by their community, to monitor and protect Grevy's zebra. The programme has been a huge success for GZT. The peer reviewed papers they have published from the data collected by the women have influenced planned development around a critical breeding area for the Grevy's zebra.

Ngeeti Lempate, the first Scout, transitioned to the Grassland Champion Program last year. She voluntarily began, and led other women from her community, to clear invasive *A. reficiens* and plant grass seed. Now, elders and men, although initially hesitant, have joined their initiative.

Women tend to be the primary caretakers of their children, and have a much greater influence on their behaviour and actions. Women truly inform the next generation and so they are at the heart of GZT's work.



Women take complimentary, and different, approaches in their interactions with people, the environment and challenges they face. Often, women embrace vulnerability and allow trusted voices to inform their decisions.

Main image

Grevy's zebra photographed in Northern Kenya
Credit: NRT

Top

Grassland champions clear invasive vegetation ahead of planting grass seeds for land restoration
Credit: Grevy Zebra Trust



Providing environmental education

Continued



Virtual learning

Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC), South Africa

The College's mission is to equip people with the knowledge and applied skills to conserve and protect Africa's natural resources and biodiversity.

As a result of the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown regulations in South Africa, the SAWC faced real operational challenges. A college is nothing without its students and at the start of 2020 the students had to return to their homes across the region. However, the team were quick to adapt and successfully amended their teaching methods to blended learning - a mixture of online and in-person courses. A total of 708 students from eight SADC countries were trained, of these, 155 were women.

Going forward, the SAWC is increasing its suite of virtual courses to assist with training needs across the SADC region. As part of its blended learning approach, students can attend applied, practical sessions once the Covid-19 restrictions have been minimised. This learning approach will allow for skills development to continue, and the SAWC to continue to operate. In addition, a department dedicated to conservation webinars is now being developed. This will enable engagement with international universities, which used to travel to SAWC annually.

SAWC have also ensured that its team are registered as essential service personnel with South African National Parks so that their aerial platforms and canine unit can continue to be deployed. The unique K9 free-running unit, funded in part by Tusk, has been a game-changer, boosting the arrest and convictions of rhino poachers by as much as 80 per cent since the peak of a poaching crisis five years ago.

Top

A SAWC trainer carries out offsite training for a small group of learners
Credit: SAWC

Bottom

A group of learners takes part in an in-person class at the college
Credit: SAWC

Conservation Hero

Lesley McNutt
Coaching Conservation



When I started researching human-wildlife conflict in the mid 1990's, we used conventional approaches to tackle the problem, investing in village meetings and empowering local communities. But after 10 years of these efforts, I could see little meaningful change in people's attitudes towards wildlife. Conflict remained a problem.

Simply disseminating knowledge was not working; I realised that to reduce conflict, people needed to place greater value on wildlife and they needed to experience a connection with wildlife before they would feel motivated to protect it. This epiphany shifted my focus from information-sharing to empathy-building, precipitating a further change to a focus on working with kids as individuals whose world view was still forming. We have since developed three principles which are the foundation of Coaching Conservation: 'respect yourself', 'respect each other' and 'respect your environment'. We inspire kids who care in the hope that they will become adults who care, but also in the knowledge that children can encourage their parents to become better custodians of our world today.

Early in my career I wanted to be a typical National Geographic-type conservationist – following animals around and doing research. But after living that life it became clear to me that there was a difference between science and conservation.

Coaching Conservation's Learning from Wildlife programme has evolved to capitalise on the inherent value of sport and the power of play to interest children in animals and inspire that vital initial connection. By encouraging motor-mimicry of animal mentors through carefully designed games and activities we build empathy for threatened wildlife, transforming participants from kids who are told to care, to becoming kids who choose to care.

Tusk has been a long-standing and committed sponsor of Coaching Conservation for more than a decade. Their support has evolved with our needs and has ranged from operational expenses, salaries, and curriculum development, to their current commitment to help us scale in partnership with another Tusk partner, the Southern African Wildlife College.

I'm constantly inspired by children who enthusiastically participate in our programme and are changed by their experience with us. We always ask: "What did you learn that you didn't know before Coaching Conservation?" My favourite answer was the girl who simply told me: "I learned that animals are important."

If I could send a message to aspiring conservationists it would be to choose a problem that needs to be solved; then use creative thinking, design, psychology, innovation and intuition to figure out how to solve it. And don't stop until you get there.



Science asks important questions and can help inform policy, but conservation is about people.

Fred Nelson CEO, Malisili

Rebuilding better: Key trends and opportunities



Given the unprecedented and often tragic scale of the Covid-19 pandemic's health and economic impacts on people all around the world, it may seem fanciful, or out of touch, to talk of the opportunities arising from this crisis. But the reality is that, by inherently disrupting the status quo, all crises create unique opportunities for positive change.

In the conservation field, in the face of a global biodiversity and ecological crisis, we need transformative change. The pandemic has created tremendous new challenges, but the responses to those challenges also creates new opportunities for accelerating positive changes and doing things differently, and better, than before. Here are five emerging themes and opportunities in African conservation that have started to emerge from the crisis over the past year.

Diversify conservation's economic foundations

Although the tourism recovery will remain critical to African conservation efforts, the pandemic has also brought home the importance of diversifying the revenue models for community conservation beyond the heavy reliance on wildlife tourism. For example, even while tourism has largely disappeared, carbon credits based on local conservation efforts have continued to grow in value. Carbon Tanzania is an African leader in this arena; their project in the Makame Wildlife Management Area, a vast area of community lands south of Tarangire National Park, recently concluded a purchase agreement with Etihad Airlines. Creating these new market opportunities can build a more resilient economic foundation for community conservation in the future.

Grassroots Leadership is Essential

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted, perhaps as never before, the critical and urgent role of local and grassroots organisations to support local conservation efforts. With many international organisations and large donor projects withdrawing field staff or shutting down, it is organisations with lasting presence at the grassroots level that have been the critical frontline responders, supporters, and facilitators. Groups like Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) in Namibia, one of the region's outstanding community conservation leaders, have mobilised their decades of experience and grassroots networks to provide the infrastructure and experience for relief efforts in conservancies. The pandemic may well prove to be a critical moment in increasing recognition of the central role that grassroots, community-focused organisations play in providing leadership and facilitating critical conservation outcomes, and the need to invest more in those local leaders.



This article draws on a webinar held in October 2020 on Community-based Conservation in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities in the Time of COVID, that was organised by Maliasili and featured speakers from the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, Honeyguide, Grevy's Zebra Trust, Zambia Community Resources Board, and Community Conservation Fund of Namibia. We are grateful for the speakers on that session for their insights.

Main image

A researcher from the Grevy's Zebra Trust collects data from community members at the Westgate Community Conservancy in Samburu, Kenya
Credit: Jeff Waweru

Top

John Kamanga from SORALO leading a community development workshop
Credit: SAWC

Bottom

Honeyguide Foundation supported community rangers from Makame Wildlife Management Area working with the community
Credit: Honeyguide Foundation

Integrate conservation with indigenous values and livelihoods

Despite the loss of millions of dollars in tourism revenue, local communities across the region are still ensuring their lands and wildlife are protected because of their sense of ownership over their conservation ventures, and the multiple economic and livelihood values those areas provide. In East Africa, conservation areas are increasingly integrated with livestock and pasture management, and the protection of seasonal livestock grazing areas. For example, this is core to the approach taken by the South Rift Association of Land Owners in southern Kenya. They focus on building conservation systems around traditional Maasai livestock grazing systems, maintaining healthy rangelands for livestock as well as for wildlife.

New financing from government and donors

One of the most important trends over the past year has been how both national governments and external donors have stepped up their support to community conservation in response to the crisis, creating opportunities to improve the long-term financing of community-based conservation.

In Kenya, the government allocated the equivalent of US\$10 million to support 3,500 local conservancy rangers - the first ever government commitment to support conservation on community and private lands on that scale. The Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) has played a key role bridging the gap between local challenges and national policy makers.

In Namibia, the Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN), conceived as a source of sustainable long-term financing to the country's pioneering conservancies, has played a key role in mobilising relief efforts. The German Development Bank (KfW), a key global financier of conservation trust funds, provided CCFN with over 5 million Euros to provide both near-term relief and longer-term resources.

Stronger collaborations can emerge from a crisis

Strong collaborations between government, civil society, and the private sector have been key to the near-term response. For example, the pandemic and the cessation of international travel threatened the collapse of the pioneering conservancies created around Kenya's Maasai Mara, and coordinated by the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA). Working in collaboration with Maliasili, MMWCA has led a coordinated response that has mobilized about \$2.5 million in grants and loans to sustain the conservancies. This process has led to new partnerships, such as with Conservation International Ventures, which provided loans to the conservancies, that also may create new longer term opportunities to strengthen these critical efforts.

From conserving ancient ocean dwelling turtle species to safeguarding our closest living relatives in the chimpanzees and bonobos of central Africa's forests, Tusk invests in targeted efforts to bring Africa's endangered species back from the brink of extinction.

Protecting endangered species

The multi-billion-dollar illegal wildlife trade is one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and human health on Earth. There is an inextricable link between how we treat wildlife and our planet to how it supports us, as evidenced in the global pandemic we find ourselves tentatively emerging from.

Our partner projects work to tackle the illegal trade and protect at-risk species in the field.

We empower projects on the ground that protect some of Africa's most threatened species, support communities affected by illegal wildlife trade and train and resource wildlife rangers on the frontline of the battle.

Tusk continues to advocate for the necessity of tackling the illegal trade at every level by eliminating demand, interrogating and preventing the causes at the source, closing supply ports, disrupting trafficking networks and prioritising enforcement and prosecution. Crucially, governments must work unilaterally to strengthen and impose regulations.



Main image

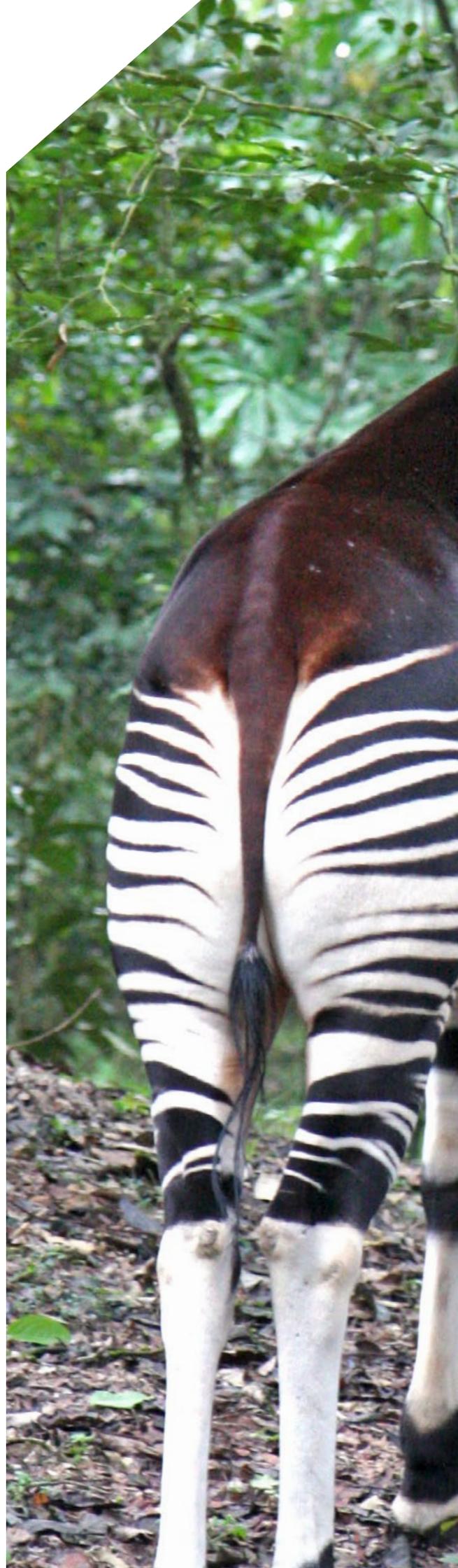
An okapi photographed in the Okapi Conservation Project
Credit: OCP

Left

Illegal Gold Mine
Credit: Rosmarie Ruf

Right

OCP women's group making masks
Credit: OCP





The Okapi

Okapi Conservation Project, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Okapi Conservation Project (OCP) works to protect the rainforest and wildlife of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. This is accomplished through conservation education, sustainable agriculture, and the strengthening of local leadership capacity.

The dedicated and resilient OCP team has weathered many challenges over the past 33 years carrying on with their work while contending with disruptions on the scale of Ebola. With the onset of Covid-19, this prior experience was invaluable with OCP staff and communities adapting quickly to regulations and precautions.

The pandemic did bring along a disruption of trade and travel which led to illegal mining as an alternative source of income. This in turn led to an explicit uplift in poaching for bushmeat as a source of food and a new market for okapi skins was uncovered in Kinshasa where 10 were confiscated.

2020 was not without its silver linings. The appearance of Nembongo, an old male okapi in a local farmer's bean field, was a rare and rewarding sight for the community. Such positive interactions are a sign of hope for a future where okapi and agricultural practices can coexist without degradation of natural habitat.

In 2021, OCP will continue their support towards the payment and equipping of ICCN eco-guards who patrol the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. Further expansion of their community assistance programmes in agroforestry, women's groups and healthcare is planned, along with engaging radio broadcasts to educate communities on the importance of protecting the rainforest for okapi.



Protecting endangered species

Continued

Expanding Mali's elephant habitat

Mali Elephant Project, Mali

The Mali Elephant Project (MEP) has been active in the Gourma region of Mali since 2002, empowering communities to develop a model for “elephant-centred” community-based natural resource management and working with government to provide a framework and capacity for elephant conservation.

MEP’s model does not rely on tourism income for continuity and so Covid-19 did not affect the community-based aspects of their work. However, the upheavals created by the pandemic affected the deployment of previously trained ranger units and necessitated the training of a newly assembled unit. An additional potential challenge was the discovery of gold in the Gourma in areas which encompass elephant migration route and key habitats.

In what was the culmination of nine years of MEP’s work with the government, the Council of Ministers passed the bill on the creation of the Gourma “Biosphere” Reserve (GBR) in 2020. This will extend the area currently set aside for elephant protection by 240% to 4,263,320ha, and Mali’s total protected area by approximately 26%.

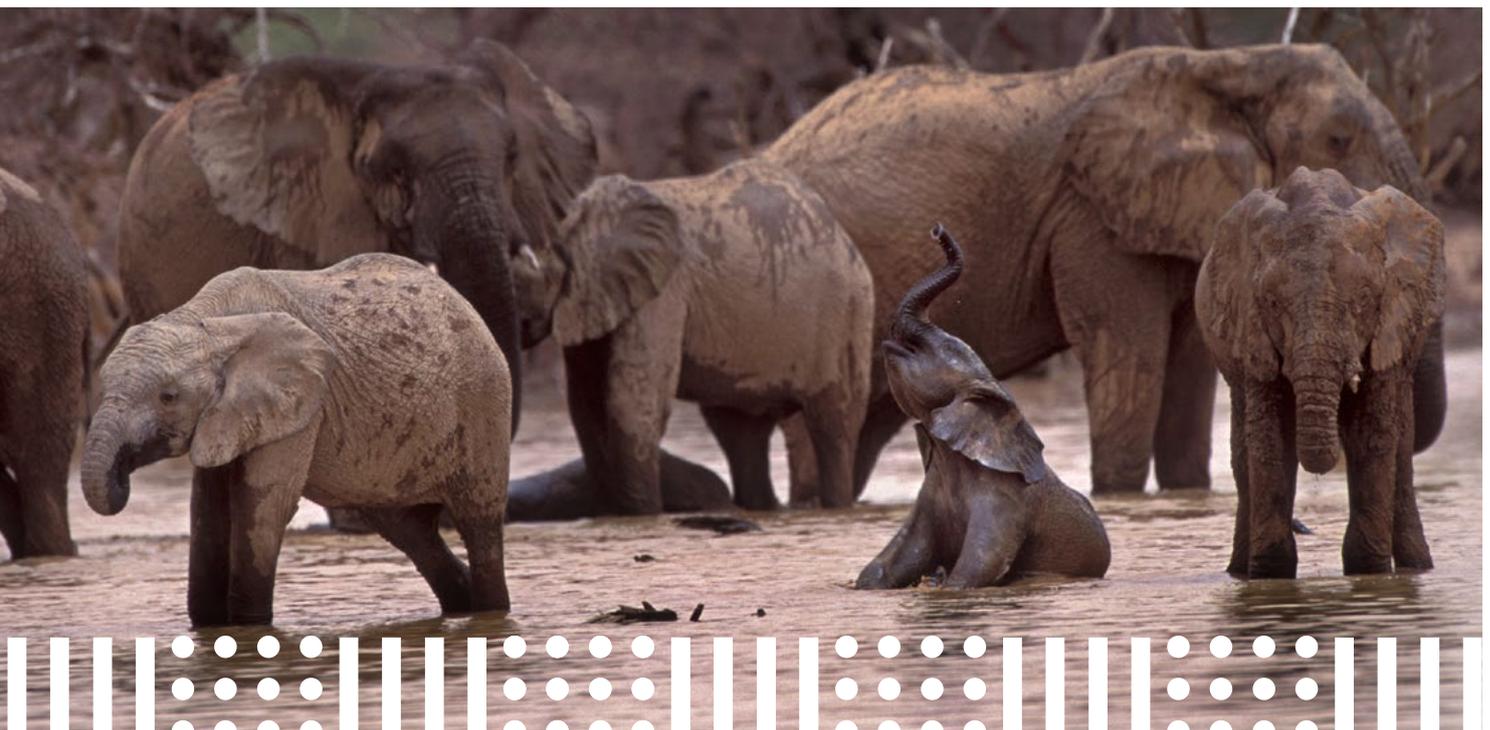
Right

Anti-mine training for Mali Elephant Project Rangers
Credit: Mali Elephant Project

Bottom

Elephants drinking
Credit: Carlton Ward Jr

Going forward MEP aims to undertake the work required for the bill to finish its passage through government and pass into law. Additionally, they will be working with government and partners to establish a plan of action for transitioning the management of the anti-poaching unit to government. This will include increasing the number of trained rangers thereby enhancing Mali’s capacity to enforce the new reserve legislation. MEP also aims to extend the community-based natural resource management to other areas of the elephant range.



Conservation Hero

Atwaa Salim Mohamed

Lamu Marine Conservation Trust (LaMCoT)



When I first set out in my career my knowledge and experience of the field was very sketchy; I didn't see in any real or practical sense how important it was until I saw the turtle nesting process at Takwa for the first time. I became so emotional and it really attached to my heart and still remains.

From that day turtles have had a special place in my heart and I've work to protect them ever since.

When I first started working for LaMCoT a large percentage of my society didn't have a clue about the dangers facing the species, nor did they understand that conservation could bring economic incentives and create a healthy environment.

The advocacy and awareness campaigns we have delivered to the entire community have been a turning point in our conservation endeavours across the Lamu Archipelago. Several models of conservation are currently supported by the local community including the monitoring and protection of turtle nests; tagging and release of turtles caught in fishing nets; establishment of coral conservancy in Kiweni, and imminently at Kinyika; waste management collection systems using donkeys and environmental education programmes which have been implemented in schools across the island.

Since our initiatives began, community behaviour has changed and the spirit of conservation and protection is alive and well across the archipelago. The community are seeing economic benefits through their conservation efforts including eco-tourism ventures via turtle hatchling trips, tagging programmes and the Kiweni snorkelling zone.

Our biggest challenges have been the expansion of the modules to the eastern archipelago and the control

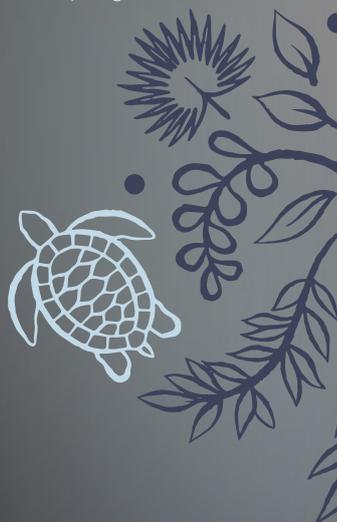
of the waste from the Indian ocean which drifts along our nesting shores. But without doubt, we know that LaMCoT is making a huge difference to the people and wildlife of Lamu.

The beautiful nature of the islands in which I live, including the critically endangered sea turtles, together with some of the most beautiful, abundant and unspoilt mangrove forests and coral reefs is my inspiration. We are its keepers and we must protect it.

If I could share a message to future conservationists it is that it's only through determination and collaboration that attitudes can change in order for a positive change to occur in conservation endeavours. Never give up.



Tusk has been our key partner for over 20 years. Its commitment to support the running costs of the project year-in year-out has allowed us to achieve our milestones.



Threats to the critical habitat and ecosystems that Africa's wildlife and people need to thrive pose one of the greatest risks to the continent's biodiversity.

Preserving natural habitats

Rapid population growth and urbanisation means increasing competition for space and resources between humans and wild species and a devastating loss of natural habitat.

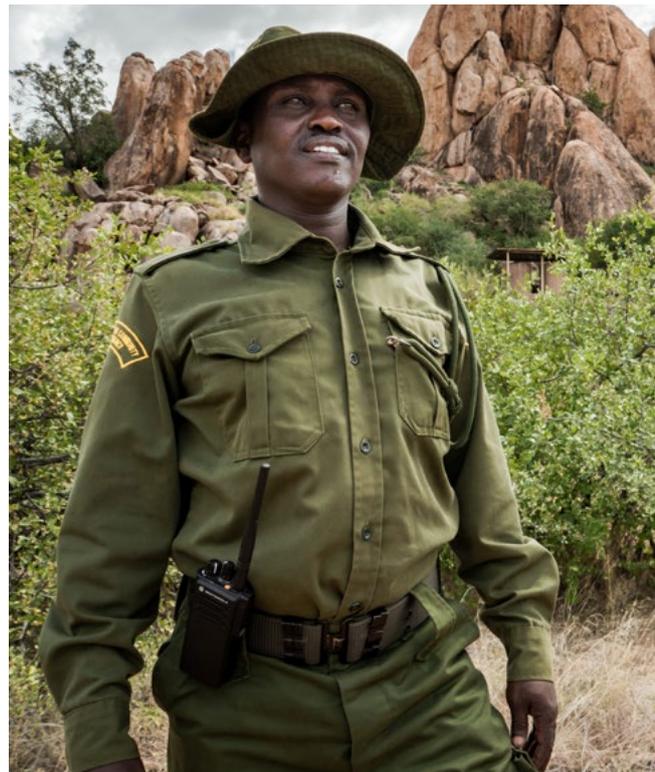
Wildlife depends on resilient and intact large landscapes comprising protected areas, community and private lands. These vast areas provide habitat for wildlife and a foundation for successful rural development.

Tusk believes in empowering communities to engage in sustainable natural resource management. In areas that are not formally protected, community-led initiatives that safeguard livelihoods, security and wellbeing are one of the most effective conservation tools to manage natural resources and protect wildlife.

Main image
Samburu landscape
Credit: Juan Pablo Moreiras

Left
NRT Bead Works women's group at work
Credit: NRT

Right
NRT ranger at his headquarters in the field
Credit: NRT





Increasing conservancy footprint

Northern Rangelands Trust, Kenya

Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) member conservancies now number 39 covering 4.4 million hectares, across 10 counties in northern and north-coastal Kenya. Community conservancies have the dual goals of conserving wildlife and natural resources alongside improving the lives of their indigenous community owners.

In 2020, the reduction of ivory poaching to zero from a high of 103 in 2012 was a milestone achievement for community-led conservation. Additionally, two black rhino calves were born at the Sera Rhino Sanctuary - bringing the total population in East Africa's only community-run rhino sanctuary to 18.

This year, NRT will be focusing on the most essential activities for community conservancies. While the programmatic areas of biodiversity, livelihoods, peace and security will be an essential focus, most important is the continuity of core conservancy operations. One key goal will be supporting the Ruko Community Conservancy in relocating the remaining Nubian giraffe from a flooded island and moving them to the new community-run mainland sanctuary. An additional goal will be the disbursal of the Conservancy Livelihoods Fund (CLF), a unique and empowering grant programme that enables community conservancies under the NRT umbrella to identify, plan and implement their own development programmes. Priority is given to projects that link livelihood impacts to wildlife conservation, build long-term climate resilience, peace and sustainable enterprise while building capacity and empowerment of women and youth. Since 2015, NRT has provided more than \$3.4 million for 135 projects in member conservancies, benefitting an estimated 69,455 people



Preserving natural habitats

Continued



Community conservancies join forces

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), Namibia

SRT monitors, researches and protects the critically endangered desert adapted black rhino across a vast 25,000km² area of north western Namibia. With SRT's vigilance and in part due to Tusk's support the rhino population has quadrupled in size since the early 1980's.

In 2020 the organisation reached a significant milestone with 4,000 individual rhino sightings, the most ever achieved in a year. This is a laudable achievement, given the circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Across Namibia the pandemic has brought 90% of tourism operations to a standstill, leaving previously well-travelled areas open and unprotected. SRT and partners have been working hard to make up for these shortfalls through proactive communication and an increase in the deployment of monitoring teams where possible. A monetary bonus system that rewards rangers for their performance has had a significant impact on the monitoring levels. The scheme seeks to provide incentives, and increase performance and morale, to the most basic level of rhino protection – the field ranger.

This year the SRT team plan to engage the black rhino host communities to improve the value local people attach to conserving rhino and other wildlife, making them partners in rhino conservation.



Main image

SRT tracking team - Manfred, Abner and Justus
Credit: Christie Keulder

Above

Desert-adapted black rhino with calf
Credit: Dave Hamman

Conservation Hero

Nachamada Geoffrey
Wildlife Conservation Society, Nigeria



People from my tribe initiate their favourite children with wildlife as totems and they strongly believe that when a child is initiated, the child tends to live longer and has the ability to overcome more difficulties in life, just like the species of wildlife the child is attached to.

Unfortunately, during my childhood it was difficult to find most of the preferred wildlife totems including the lion and leopard. Growing up my grandfather told me interesting stories about the totems and why humans need to preserve them. He told me that the totems were disappearing and that it would get worse before I would have my own children. Although his stories engendered a deep fascination about wildlife, I never considered a career in wildlife conservation.

I went to the university to study medicine but switched after attending an introductory class to conservation biology that had a field component. It was a difficult decision to make because the chances of having a career in biodiversity conservation in Nigeria were very low and there weren't many known native successful career conservationists I could emulate. However, my passion for the subject kept me going.

After I completed my postgraduate degree in the UK I was given the opportunity to work with the Wildlife Conservation Society Nigeria (WCS) in the Yankari Game Reserve. Eight years in and we have really turned the park around. Our biggest success has been through support to the rangers; improving their morale and discipline, which in turn has mitigated corruption significantly. With improved ranger training, no rangers have been killed on active duty since 2012.

WCS signed a co-management agreement for Yankari in 2014 and since May 2015 no elephant have been lost to poaching. Leopard were rediscovered in 2017, since the last recorded sighting in 1986, and there have been more pictures captured recently.

The communities surrounding Yankari are critical for the long-term survival of the reserve. During my time at the Reserve we have built good working relationships with these stakeholders. In addition, we are building a new generation of school children with an appreciation for the value of wildlife through our school visit programme.

Tusk's support has been a game changer for our project. Before our partnership with Tusk most of our work was in anti-poaching and law enforcement. Tusk funding allowed us to diversify and expand our work into the communities surrounding the reserve. We implemented the Elephant Guardian Programme which has been widely accepted and has helped to improve the level of tolerance and understanding of elephant conservation by the local people.

The commitment of our team and the dedication of the rangers we work with gives me hope. There is now a clear positive difference from where we started from and where we are now.



My message to future conservationists is to stay focused, be dynamic and learn from other people. Engage and work with people on the ground as they are the key to success



Tusk invests in projects that take the lead in applying innovation to conservation.

Conservation solutions

These game-changers apply creativity, adaptivity and communications excellence to conservation challenges.

Technology is accelerating wildlife conservation efforts in even the most remote parts of Africa. From remote sensing to acoustic monitoring and early warning systems to mitigate human wildlife-conflict, supporting the use of technology in wildlife conservation is a critical component of Tusk's work, aiding in the monitoring and protection of many threatened species.

Innovation is a cornerstone of conservation progress and Tusk champions our field-based partners to diversify and expand their methods for tackling current and future conservation issues.

Main image

Elephants feeding in swamps immediately next to farmland (the dark patches, and the smoke in the distance is the boundary between the farms and community), which is unfenced and therefore a great source for human-elephant conflict.

Credit: Jeremy Goss

Bottom right

Big Life Foundation team monitoring elephants in the field

Credit: Jeremy Goss

Wildlife corridors

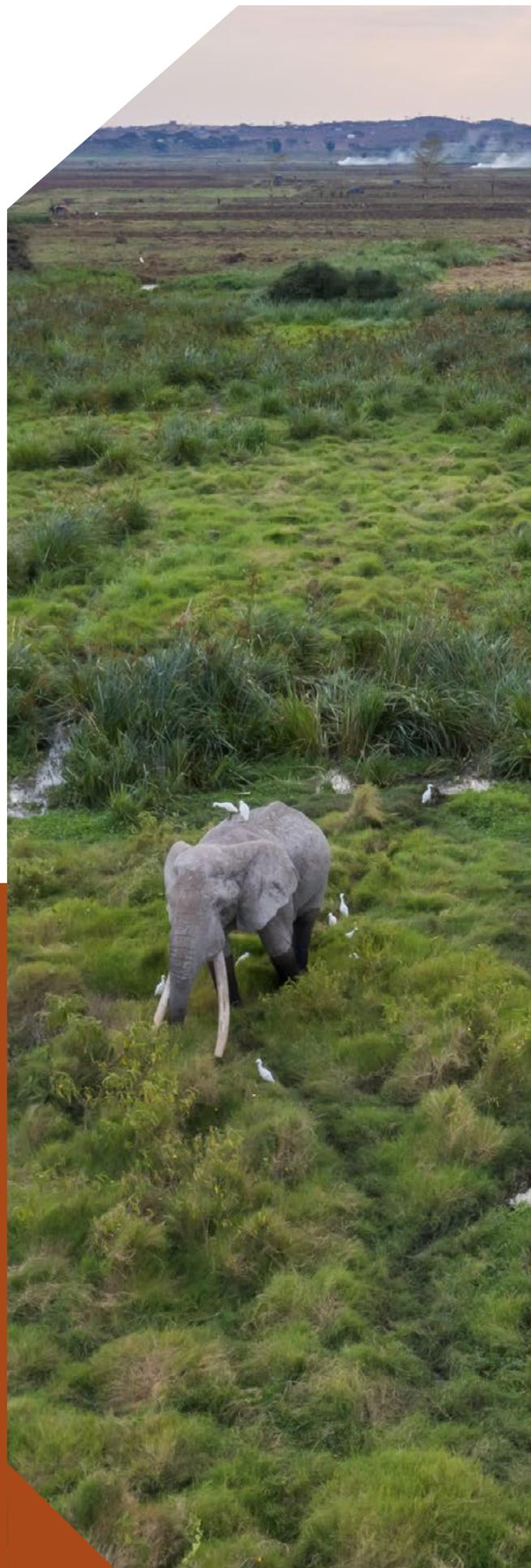
Big Life Foundation, Kenya

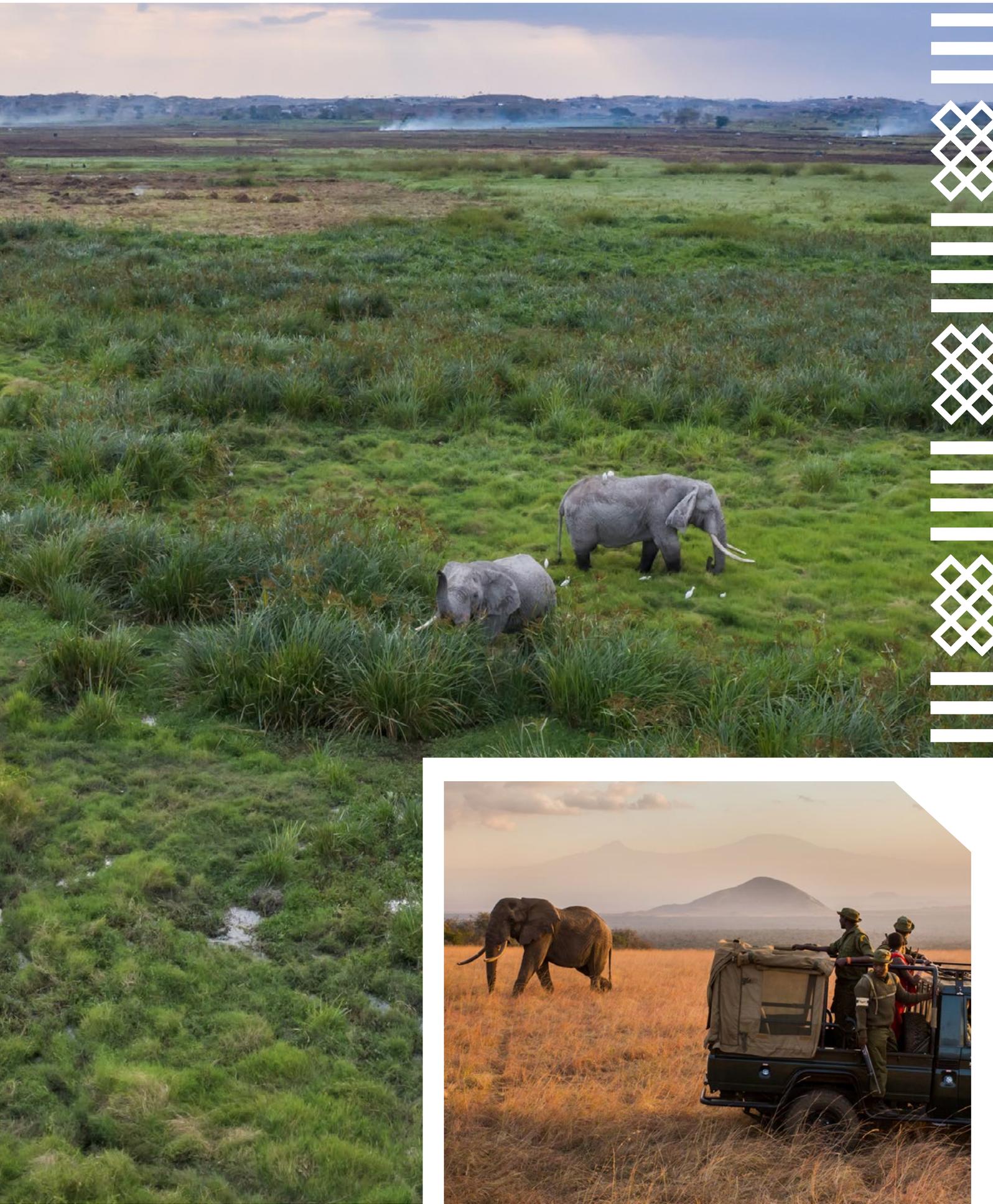
Big Life Foundation has been operating in the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem for nearly 30 years. Thanks to their dedicated rangers and staff, in 2020, Big Life were able to maintain a zero rhino and elephant poaching rate across their 1.6-million-acre operating area.

Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks are renowned for their wildlife populations, most notably elephant, but these animals spend the majority of their time on community land – 'group ranches' - which enable the freedom of movement for wildlife, humans, and livestock. The ability of animals to travel with the seasons in search of food and water, on ancient migratory paths, is essential for their survival.

The coming months and years are going to be critical, for pressure is building for subdivision of the land. This transition from continuous community-owned landscape to private ownership of land by individuals threatens to break the ecosystem into thousands of small acre plots which will then be sold and converted to other uses; wildlife will run out of space, and the Greater Amboseli ecosystem's wildlife populations will be decimated.

A major focus of Big Life in the coming year will be securing large tracts of community land through land leases which will maintain Maasai ownership of land, but restrict fragmentation to ensure continuity. The key though will be securing wildlife corridors through areas of development to ensure long-term connectivity of wildlife populations across the ecosystem.





Conservation solutions

Continued



Living with Wildlife

Uganda Conservation Foundation, Uganda

In January 2020, Tusk launched the Living with Wildlife appeal in partnership with Send a Cow, to raise funds to protect the people and wildlife of Murchison Falls National Park. All the supporters from Tusk and Send a Cow were incredibly generous, and the appeal significantly exceeded our original fundraising target: £2,656,200 was raised by the two organisations, including £1,247,233 of match funding from the UK government.

The funds will support a ground-breaking three-year project to upskill local communities and create new livelihood opportunities which can lift people out of poverty and protect wildlife. Through Tusk's partnership with the Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF), families and young people in the area will be supported to start their own small businesses and learn vocational skills, such as agroforestry and construction, while Send a Cow

Above

Rothschild giraffe of Murchison Falls National Park

Credit: Nick Wilcox-Brown

Right

Living with Wildlife grant will assist communities to develop alternative livelihoods

Credit: Send A Cow

will train over 7,000 families to grow their own crops sustainably all year round. Together the measures will enable people living around Murchison Falls to break the cycle of poverty permanently, and will mean that they are no longer pressured to hunt within the park.

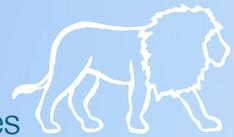
Tusk and UCF will also introduce the Pan African Conservation Education (PACE) project to the region, to educate and engage local communities with conservation so that they can appreciate the value of wildlife.

The project got underway in October and will gather momentum as the easing of Covid restrictions allow activities to be rolled out fully. The impact on livelihoods from the collapse in tourism and from the flooding of the Nile – both of which have seen hunting and trapping of wildlife soar – mean that the project is more important than ever.

Conservation Hero

Thomas Mojong

CEO & Founder, Lion Landscapes



When I was 10 years old, a member of my community killed a lion due to the lion having attacked their livestock. I was still in school, but I knew from that moment that I needed to try to find a way to prevent further killings and a way that people could live alongside lions. I was able to follow my dream when the opportunity arose for me to work with Lion Landscapes.

When I started my career in conservation it was extremely tough. I could see that the lion had nowhere to go; land was occupied by people and there was a lot of human wildlife conflict and retaliation due to lions killing people's livestock. I struggled to see a future where coexistence was possible. Now, working alongside ranches, conservancies and communities to prevent this conflict has shown me that it is possible when we work together.

Helping people coexist with lions is our biggest success. Particularly, winning the trust of livestock owners so they agree to work with us rather than kill the lion when it kills their livestock.

Tusk's funding allows us to supply Lion Rangers with equipment and keep them at work preventing and responding to conflict in the field, even during the Covid pandemic. It covers the costs of collaring lions, which allows livestock owners to know where they are so they can keep their livestock away.

Our biggest challenge can be mediating with communities. When there is human wildlife conflict, understandably they are angry and because of this they may refuse to give us information.

It's the change in people's attitude towards lions that shows me we are making an impact. Every time a livestock owner who has just suffered a huge loss calls one of our team, rather than takes matters into their own hands, I see this.

My inspiration is seeing a wild lion still able to share a landscape with people and livestock. I want my children to see the same.

Working in conservation is not easy. I often work long or strange hours and feel like protecting lions is my life rather than my job. Ultimately, conserving lions is more about working with people than the lions themselves, so it is critical to care about people and their futures too.



Covid-19 has also been a big challenge, but now that we have safety protocols in place, we have resumed community visits and can address conflict incidents.



Sarah Marshall, Journalist

Celebrating conservation success



The Tusk Conservation Awards, in partnership with Ninety One Asset Management, celebrate African-based conservation leaders and wildlife rangers, and their significant impacts in the field.

Since 2013, The Tusk Conservation Awards have served as a springboard for some of Africa's leading conservationists. Award finalists and winners have gone on to rise to the top of their fields, secure additional funding and grow their work.

Recent global events have reaffirmed that our respect for nature underpins our future, and it is more important than ever to shine a spotlight on the positive and successful work of conservationists across Africa who strive to safeguard a healthy future for us all.

Tusk was able to bring the work of the 2020 finalists to light through a virtual Awards Ceremony streamed via Facebook Live which reached an audience of 10,000 people. Hosted by BBC presenter Kate Silverton the event was filmed at the Kennington film studios with live music from Jack Savoretti and his band. The winner and finalists 'met' Prince William, Tusk's Royal Patron, via zoom where he announced the winners and presented them virtually with the stunning awards made by Patrick Mavros.

The platform gave us the opportunity to announce a significant increase in the value of the awards thanks to a very generous £11m commitment over five years from The Nick Maughan Foundation. This funding will greatly enhance the conservation grants given to the Awards winners and finalists who continue to work tirelessly to safeguard the continent's iconic wildlife and habitat.

Our huge thanks go to the event sponsors Ninety One Asset Management, Land Rover, Nick Maughan Foundation, ISPS Handa, Fortemus & Maia Films, Patrick Mavros, Mantis Group, Shelton Fleming and EJF Philanthropies; and to Kate Silverton, Jack Savoretti and his band for giving their time to the virtual ceremony.

Our latest cohort of conservation heroes spoke to journalist and writer Sarah Marshall about their work and successes. Here are their stories...



Main image

Tusk Ambassador Jack Savoretti performs at the virtual Tusk Conservation Award Ceremony
Credit: Shelton Flemming

Above

Tusk's Royal Patron, HRH The Duke of Cambridge announces John Kamanga the winner of the 2020 Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa
Credit: Tusk

Hipolito Lima

São Tomé and Príncipe

Prince William Award for Conservation in Africa **Winner**

Prince William Award for Conservation, sponsored by Ninety One



At 5am, Hipolito Lima heads to his sea turtle hatcheries, checking to see if any new-born babies are ready for release. Afterwards, he assists his wife in the field or collecting water. Then at night he returns to the beach to join various teams collecting sea turtle data.

It's an active 24-hour cycle even for a youngster let alone a 70-year-old. But the energetic São Toméan works tirelessly. "From September to April, I almost never sleep," he confesses.

As a Ranger Supervisor for NGO Programa Tato, Hipolito is at the helm of an organisation protecting sea turtles in the West African island São Tomé. Thanks to his efforts, populations of four species nesting on its coastlines have rebounded and communities have dramatically changed their habits by halting harvesting and respecting wildlife.

But it's not been an easy path to success.

Historically in São Tomé, turtle meat and eggs were regarded as a source of protein, and members of the community, including Hipolito's own family, were initially reluctant to support his conservation work.

"My wife never really accepted what I was doing," says the gently spoken activist, who pledged to protect the species after being emotionally touched by a female's struggle to lay eggs.

After being invited to help researchers from American volunteer agency Peace Corps with a research project, Hipolito became involved with the founding of Programa Tato in 2003.

Changing attitudes has been tough, he admits. Constant death threats and criticism almost led him to quitting, and in the early years, there were very few funds to support the project, forcing Hipolito to build his own hatchery and incubator for the turtles.

"When we really want to do something, we cannot wait for the money," he laughs, explaining the importance of being resourceful.

But the key driver for his dedication has always been the love of a species he frequently refers to in human terms. He describes himself as a "worried father", concerned new hatchlings might be caught by cats or other predators.

His emotional connection has rubbed off on other São Toméans, who have joined his 80-strong team to monitor beaches.

The biggest turning point in the community, however, was the introduction of legislation in 2014, to ban the capture, possession, and sale of all sea turtle species and their by-products as well as disturbance of nesting habitats. Hipolito was one of the key activists responsible for persuading the government to act.

Combined with Programa Tato's training programmes offering turtle meat traders and craftspeople an alternative source of income, the law has helped reduce the number of sea turtles being captured from around 400 to almost 20 per year.

Now Hipolito is eager to train the next generation of conservationists, and "pass on the wisdom" he's acquired throughout his career.

A clear indicator he's on the right path, his own sons are now involved in sea turtle conservation work; an outcome he describes as "a victory" for the battle long fought with his wife.



We are now called the sea turtle family

He smiles.

Right main image

Hipolito Lima
Credit: *Dário Pequeno Paraíso*

Bottom right

A green turtle being released by the Programa Tato team
Credit: *Dário Pequeno Paraíso*



Celebrating Conservation Success Continued

Amos Gwema

Zimbabwe



Cradling a pangolin bigger than a basketball, as it unfurls its scaly rudder of a tail, Amos Gwema is enjoying a special moment. A month ago, Amos seized the shy, endangered creature from poachers, who were planning to profit from its highly prized scales.

“We’ve already released 10 this year,” boasts the Principal Intelligence Office proudly, as he watches the new releases forage on termite mounds. “So, the probability of seeing pangolins in the future is high.”

Credited for his honesty, dedication and fearless apprehension of criminals, Amos has helped restore populations of several species in Zimbabwe’s largest national park; elephant killings alone have dropped from 300 to 25 in six years.

Previously employed by the Criminal Investigation Department, Amos uncovered the murky world of the illegal wildlife trade while working with Interpol. Compelled to correct wrongs, he applied for his position at the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority in 2008, landing the role “without any traditional means of nepotism”.

Later, he realised he was probably the only candidate running. “No-one wanted to be in Hwange, because it’s too hot.”

When he initially arrived to “just an office with a telephone” everything was in disarray. Record keeping was poor, poaching was high and there were no convictions. A month later, he recovered 40kg of ivory from Congolese refugees. Without a car, he hailed a taxi to make his first arrest.

“What I started with were the four pillars of conservation: community, intelligence, law and justice,” says Amos, detailing his tactics.

Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award Winner



Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award, sponsored by the Nick Maughan Foundation

At the core of his work is a valuable network of informants, all gathered from scratch. Now, he regularly receives information and rewards individuals with payments if a successful arrest is made. Even while refuelling his car one morning, a mechanic had whispered news of a rhino horn and a pangolin for sale, he recalls.

Once criminals are identified, Amos sends out his team of plain clothes investigator officers – men and women cherry-picked from the Wildlife Authority’s team of rangers. Using WhatsApp, he directs sting operations remotely.

It’s a finely tuned operation but there have been close shaves. He tells stories of his unarmed team accosting poachers with spears and rifles.

In 12 years, he’s intercepted poachers stashing ivory in a guest house, arrested a teacher selling tusks in exchange for cooking oil, and confiscated cyanide from gangs plotting mass poisonings. Since 2013, he’s orchestrated 135 arrests, each sentenced to a minimum term of nine years.

Despite everything he’s seen, any anger towards offenders has been tempered over the years. In fact, he plans to use part of the £30,000 grant given by Tusk to establish a rehabilitation programme for poachers recently released for prison, hopefully preventing them from committing crimes again.

“We are helping pangolins to recover, but what about people?” he argues convincingly.



Rehabilitation should be both to the human beings and to the animals if we want to succeed.

Main image
Amos Gwema
Credit: Sarah Marshall

Above
Pangolin being rescued by Amos and his intelligence team
Credit: Sarah Marshall



John Kamanga

Kenya

Gathered in a small classroom on the outskirts of Olkeri in Kenya's Kajiado district, Maasai elders engage in a discussion more heated than the broiling sun beating down outside.

A lawyer listens attentively to their concerns, and even though it's the first time many of these pastoralists have stood in front of a chalk board, they speak energetically and knowledgeably about their topic of debate.

The group has gathered to formalise customary land tenure under the 2016 Community Land Act.

"This legislation gives communities a very big say in what happens to their land," says John Kamanga, executive director and founder of the South Rift Association Of Land Owners. "It gives them greater protection."

Community empowerment is a central tenet of SORALO, a grassroots association of Maasai group ranches spread across a vast landscape in southern Kenya connecting the wildlife-rich Amboseli and Maasai Mara ecosystems.

"Conservation used to happen in parks and government protected areas, there was no framework," explains John, whose NGO supports one of Kenya's last strongholds of open, shared Maasai land. "If we use guns to protect wildlife, then of course it's a government action. But you cannot have a gun under every tree. We have to start bringing communities to the fore of conservation."

The first person in his family to receive a formal education, John never planned a career in conservation but "it was always a hope". Juggling the western world with an indigenous way of life, he recalls the importance of coming home from school to reconnect with his people.

Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa Winner

The Tusk Conservation Award, sponsored by Land Rover



An invitation to assist researchers counting tsetse flies and butterflies in the region was his first taste of environmental studies, but he insists he learned most about the landscape from his father – the correct places to graze, the wildlife to respect.

"Maasai have rules and taboos – you cannot cut a tree, for example," he explains. "So, if we're talking about protecting this area, 80% of the work is done."

John believes the solution to successful conservation lies in allowing wildlife and pastoralists to co-exist by keeping land open, managing rotational grazing and drawing upon hundreds of years of traditional living and expertise.

"Communities have been, and will continue to be, the custodians of wildlife. However, we have to give them the tools for today," he says.

"Yes, there are changes but let us borrow a few things from the traditional systems, things that enabled a person to live well."

In the future, he plans to open an interactive visitor centre to celebrate Maasai culture and has also pledged to use any funds from the Tusk Awards to launch an education facility for the next generation of aspiring conservationists.

That ability to let others lead largely accounts for the success of John's leadership.



I want communities to take responsibility; let them pilot their planes and fly.

Main image

John Kamanga
Credit: Sarah Marshall

Bottom

John at home with his livestock



Celebrating Conservation Success Continued

Ian Stevenson

Zambia

Rustling through a brittle bed of fallen leaves, a small family of elephants is searching for the delicious pods of winter thorn trees.

Ian Stevenson and his team at Conservation Lower Zambezi have been monitoring the movement of elephants into a remote section of Zambia's Lower Zambezi National Park. Following two years of fundraising, they've recently launched a complex operation to collar several animals with the aim of ultimately offering greater protection.

"We're trying to see where they're going and what time of year they're going there," says Australian born Ian, who's works as CEO for the NGO.

The mini migration is largely a result of increased pressure on the valley floor, but elephant populations in this area weren't always that healthy.

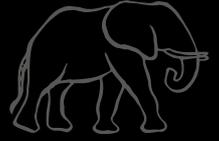
"When I started flying down here 20 years ago, I'd take off and see 20 drying racks in a morning," says Ian, who is also an accomplished pilot. "Lion prides were moving from one carcass to another. We were being hit hard. In 2015 alone, we lost 107 elephants."

Under Ian's guidance CLZ have miraculously reduced that figure to just one animal lost last year.

"Building on training levels and morale has been a big change," he says, eager to emphasise the importance of team work rather than taking sole credit.

Unlike so many conservationists in the field, Ian hasn't come from an academic background. Starting out as an over-landing tourist guide, he went on to manage a lodge in the Lower Zambezi National Park.

Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa Finalist



A passion for wildlife led him to get involved in darting and de-snaring work, resulting in jobs for African Parks and CLZ.

"When I started, we lived under a little piece of canvas for the first two or three years," he fondly recalls of those early years.

He admits he's always had "a real thing for elephants". But it was an incident in 1987 that cemented his desire to channel energies into a fight for the species' survival.

"I was travelling through the Serengeti, over-landing as a tourist guide, and I came across a small herd of elephant that had been poached.

"That stayed with me. I started learning more about them and spending time with them; then for the last 20 years I've been protecting them."

He describes the Lower Zambezi as "one of the big strongholds of elephants left in Africa, in the world for that matter", but believes the focus now should be on protecting wildlife habitats rather than just the animals.

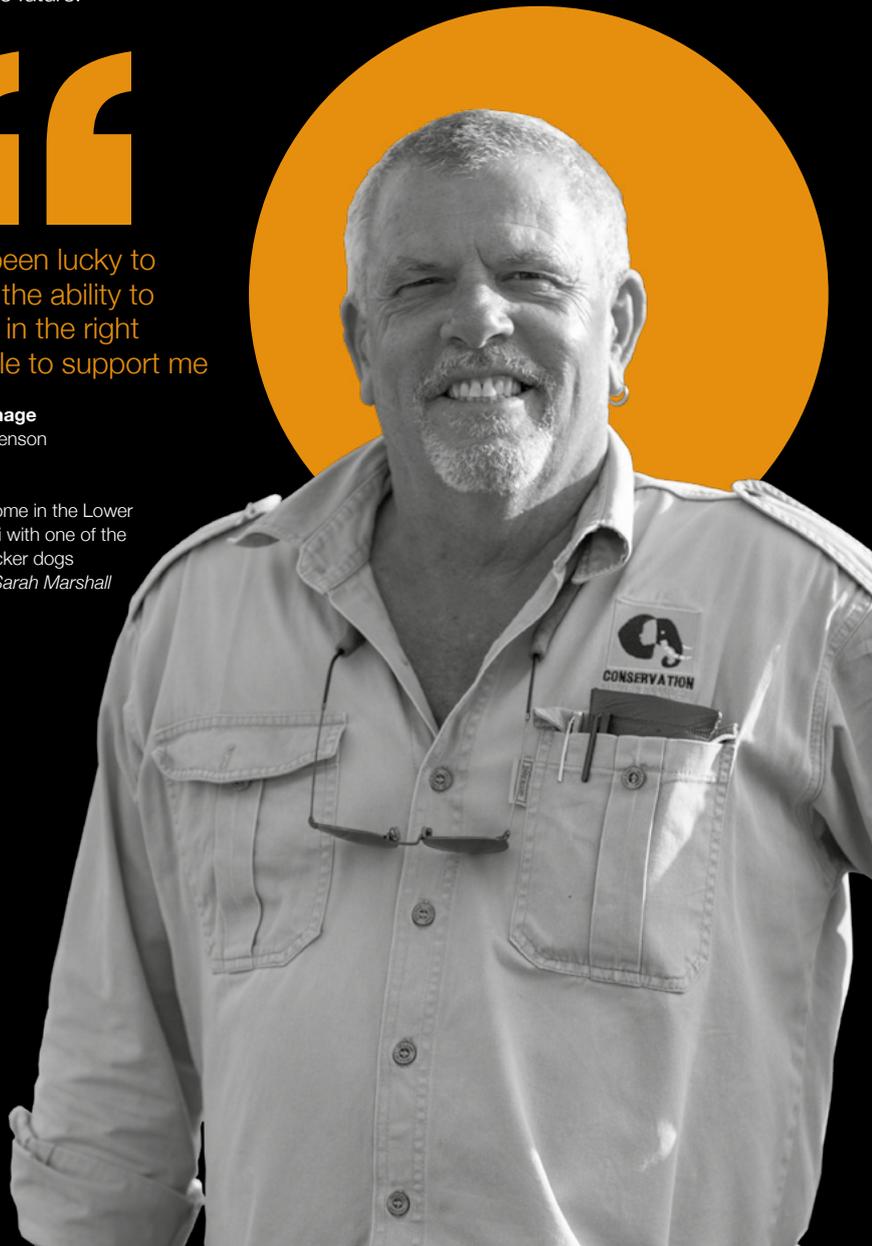
"We've got to maintain those big ecosystems without all the fences, the barriers and the borders. Then I think elephants have got a very good possibility of survival into the future."



I've been lucky to have the ability to bring in the right people to support me

Main image
Ian Stevenson

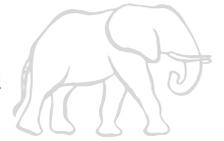
Bottom
Ian at home in the Lower Zambezi with one of the CLZ tracker dogs
Credit: Sarah Marshall



George Owoyesigire

Uganda

Tusk Award for Conservation in Africa Finalist



There's a buzz in the air on the fringes of Uganda's Kibale National Park, an evergreen rain forest populated by some of Africa's most iconic creatures.

But although the hum of industrious activity is largely generated by 400 beehives set up along the park boundary, it's increasingly amplified by a mood of booming fortunes in the surrounding communities.

The hubbub comes from an enterprising project designed to reduce human wildlife conflict whilst simultaneously boosting local economies.

"The African honeybee has been documented to be very hostile and aggressive," explains George Owoyesigire, Uganda Wildlife Authority's Deputy Director for Community Conservation, who came up with the idea after reading about a pilot study conducted in northern Kenya. "The bees sting the softer parts of the elephant around the trunk, the eyes and the ears, causing temporary swelling and pain."

The initiative seemed like a sure-fire solution for boggy, shallow areas of the park where fences and trenches had failed to deter straying wildlife. Six years later, George's gamble has paid off with elephants avoiding areas where the hives are set. Along with limiting crop raids by 80% and regenerating the endangered African honeybee species, the hives have also proven to be a useful source of revenue.

"Since 2014, we've generated over 1000kg of honey; that's about two million Uganda shillings," claims the conservationist proudly. Currently, that's only enough for local consumption but there are great plans to export internationally further down the line.

Having completed various academic studies and stints at institutions such as the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, the National Forestry Authority and Jane Goodall Institute, George recognised the need for community intervention very early on.

Starting his career at Kibale, he would often encounter frustrated agriculturalists who'd retaliate by poisoning or spearing destructive animals. In the past few decades, he warns that problem has intensified with a rapidly rising population.

"We had about six million people in 1959. Today we are about 42 million. People have invaded some of the forested and wetland areas, and we estimate about 50% of Uganda's wildlife now lives outside protected areas."

The son of "a trained forester", George inherited a desire to protect wildlife, and he recalls being inspired by the colourful calendars his father would bring home "full of beautiful photographs of the flowers and the animals".



But he quickly learned conservation is not just about concern for animals; humans count too.

"I like walking in the forest. I like watching the communities, talking to them and sharing their concerns and trying to resolve some," he says.

Today, George splits his time between field work and the office; along with regularly inspecting Uganda's 10 national parks and 12 wildlife reserves, he's also been instrumental in implementing vital governmental policies. He believes promoting livelihood enterprises should be one of Africa's core conservation goals.

"Poverty is one of the principal causes of environmental degradation, poaching and the illegal wildlife trade," he claims.



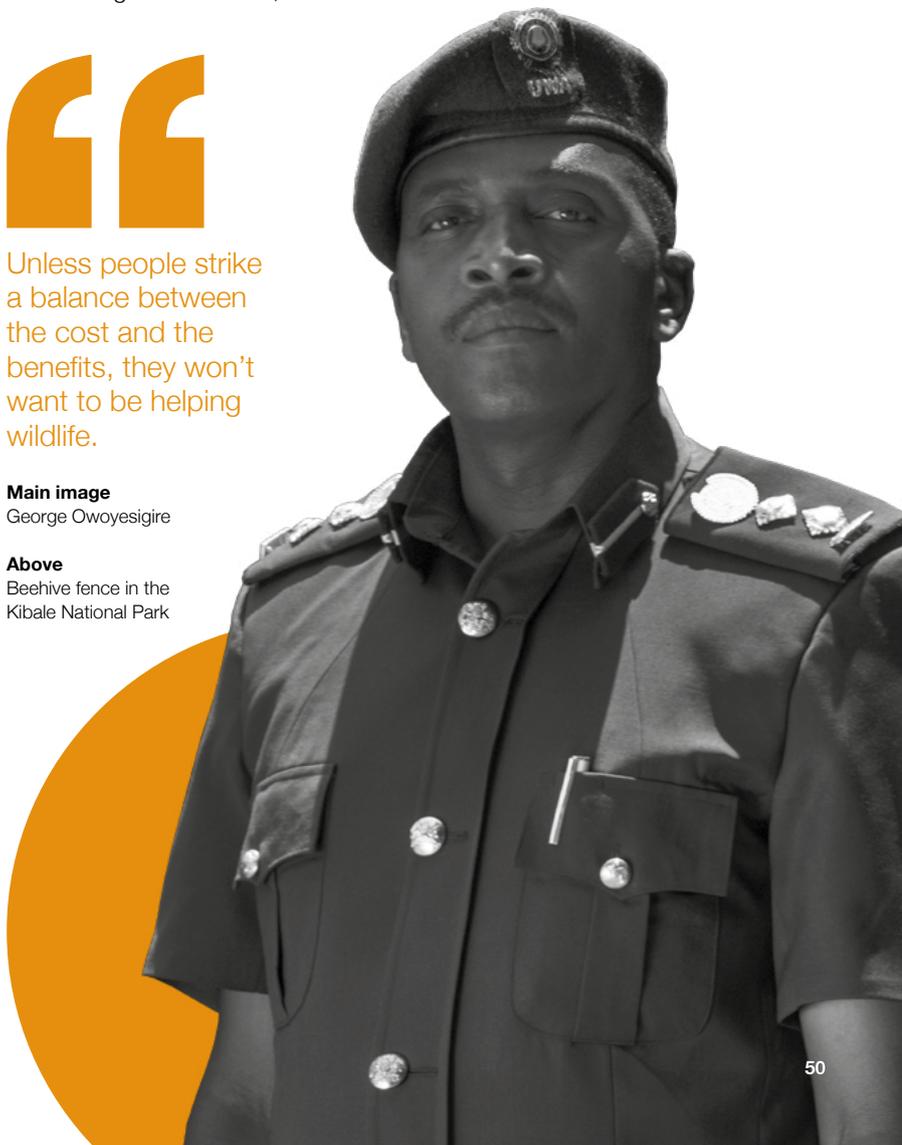
Unless people strike a balance between the cost and the benefits, they won't want to be helping wildlife.

Main image

George Owoyesigire

Above

Beehive fence in the Kibale National Park



Reforming Poachers, by Amos Gwema

A new perspective on illegal wildlife trade

The poaching of any animal is a crime that deserves introspection and thorough investigation. As a wildlife intelligence officer, responsible for wildlife intelligence throughout Zimbabwe, it is my duty to ask what we could have done to prevent it. After this year of turmoil, that task will become more difficult. But a solution can be found in working with local communities.

The pandemic's direct impact on conservation could appear, at the very surface level, to be positive. With international flights grounded, the supply chains of the illegal wildlife trade have been heavily disrupted.

Poachers' usual avenues for exporting their illegal goods, such as pangolins and elephant tusks, have been largely cut off. As a result, many areas have witnessed significant declines in wildlife crime – indeed, in Hwange National Park, one of the areas I am responsible for monitoring, not a single elephant has been poached this year.

The pandemic has precipitated a devastating decline in tourism revenues, which are a significant source of funding for wildlife conservation efforts and – most pertinently – a lifeline for local communities. International donations have also suffered during this year's economic crisis.

This funding crisis risks setting back conservation efforts for decades. The simple reason is that poaching, like many crimes, is borne of a lack of opportunity. The economic shockwaves of the pandemic will only increase the desperation felt in communities around protected areas. Just as night follows day, that will push more and more humans into conflict with Africa's wildlife.

The impending crisis demands urgent action. One area that governments and international wildlife donors should target is the use of intelligence to combat wildlife crime. Intelligence is what I call the first line of defence for wildlife conservation, but it is greatly underfunded. By building relationships with communities, we can understand where and when poachers will seek to enter protected areas.



The pandemic has slowed animal poaching down – but now we need to rehabilitate those who do it

For example, Hwange National Park is half the size of Belgium. With our resources, such as our fuel allocation, being cut – and just one vehicle, which is not even a 4x4, at our disposal – how can we do this? The answer is: we need to be intelligent.

By understanding how poachers work and dismantle their networks at root in the communities, conservation efforts become much more effective. In Hwange National Park we have seen a significant reduction in poaching: from over 300 elephants killed in 2013, to 25 in 2019.

This record of using intelligence to tackle wildlife crime recently brought recognition, as I won the 2020 Tusk Wildlife Ranger Award. But I and Tusk





share an understanding that conservation effort must be holistic. With generous funding from the award thanks to The Nick Maughan Foundation, we are now able to expand our efforts here in Zimbabwe, targeting two areas in particular: rehabilitation and education.

We must understand that local people turn to poaching because they have nowhere to start. Once they serve their time – nine years here in Zimbabwe – and return to society, their life circumstances will only have diminished and they risk returning to the very same life of crime.

What is needed is a real programme for rehabilitating poachers. With new funding, I intend to create a forum for reforming poachers and it is my hope that it will become a benchmark for other countries’ anti-poaching efforts.

Reformed poachers can be powerful ambassadors for conservation initiatives and can help provide invaluable insights to conservationists on how to tackle wildlife crime.

We know that addressing crime, including poaching, must start in schools and these former poachers could be powerful speakers in schools, spearheading anti-poaching campaigns and teaching young people to choose a different path.

Covid-19 is truly a natural disaster, whose impact on conservation efforts will be far-reaching. As rural parts of Africa face extreme financial pressures, our response must be to develop anti-poaching efforts that work with, not against, local communities. It is my hope that the example we set here in Zimbabwe can be transferred across the African continent.



But be under no doubt: any positive side-effects of the pandemic will be short lived, and they are greatly outweighed by its negatives. Conservation efforts are under massive financial strain.

Top
Amos Gwema
Credit: Sarah Marshall

Left
Recovered ivory
Credit: Martin Middlebrook

Right
A pangolin in Hwange National Park
Credit: Sarah Marshall



There are many different ways in which you can get involved

Support Tusk

With your help, Tusk will be able to make an even greater difference for Africa's wildlife, natural habitats and people, and there are many different ways in which you can get involved.

Raise funds for Tusk

Much of our work would not be possible without the funds raised through the amazing energy and enthusiasm of our supporters. Whether taking on a challenge, creating your own event, fundraising alone, or with friends or colleagues, we're here to support your efforts.

Donate Now!

There are several ways you can make a donation today:

- Use the donation response form to send a cheque
- Complete the standing order form to set up a regular payment, helping us do even more and plan for the future
- Make a donation or set up a standing order online at www.tusk.org
- Call the office on +44 (0)1747 831005 to make a donation over the phone, or for more information on other ways to give



Donating in the USA

For American supporters wishing to donate in the most tax efficient way you can choose to support our work through 'The Friends of Tusk' – a donor advised fund administered on behalf of Tusk by CAF America. Gifts made here are tax deductible in the US. Donate online at www.tusk.org or contact us for more information or a gift form.

Below

GenerationTusk Team (L-R) Harry Legge, Julian Harvie, Cali Wood, Harry Skeggs, Franki Wiley

Run your own Fundraising Event

Many of our supporters arrange their own fundraising event, such as a bake sale, coffee morning, or a mufti day, or collect donations in lieu of birthday, wedding or anniversary presents. If you would like to help and have a fundraising idea, Tusk can provide collection tins, posters and support to help you. Contact hannah@tusk.org for your fundraising pack or for more ideas and advice.

Join our Digital Community

Join us on social media to help spread the word and be part of the conversation. Follow us on these channels for the latest updates from the field, inspiring wildlife stories and news from the world of African conservation.



[/tusk.org](https://www.facebook.com/tusk.org)



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[@tusk.org](https://twitter.com/tusk.org)

For more information on how you can support Tusk visit www.tusk.org, email info@tusk.org or call the office on **+44 (0)1747 831005**.



Join GenerationTusk

GenerationTusk is a strong community of next generation supporters who are committed to raise funds for Tusk through a variety of events and other initiatives that promote conservation across Africa. Follow [@generation_tusk](https://www.instagram.com/generation_tusk) on Instagram to be kept up to date with news and events, or email hannah@tusk.org for more information and to get involved.

TUSK,

We chose this charity because we both love animals and we think children should have a good education. We did a walk because it was the first thing that came into our minds. It also meant that we could chat and have fun whilst doing 10 km.

We made up this cool song 'we are doing this for Tusk - we are doing this for Tusk - we are doing this for Tusk' trying to encourage everybody.

We raised a total of £884.

Hope our sponsorship money helps.

Cecelia and Amelia



Dear Tusk,

On December 24th Jack and Elvia made and sold gingerbread for Tusk. They raised £23.95. Please find enclosed a cheque and the signage from



the event. Keep up the great work!
Love from
ELIZA



Tusk Totos

To inspire and occupy our younger supporters (and the young at heart), we have created a number of colouring pages and activities, which can be downloaded at www.tusk.org/tusk-totos. We will keep adding to these over time, so do keep checking back.

TAKE A BREATH WITH TUSK'S COLOURING CHALLENGE!



Support the frontline of conservation in Africa

2021 Tusk events

1. Virtual Lewa Safari Marathon

The Virtual Lewa Safari Marathon is back for the second year in a row. Wherever you are in the world lace up your shoes and join our global running movement.

- **Date:** Saturday 26th June 2021
- **Location:** Global
- **Contact:** info@tusk.org
- **Registration:**
www.lewasafarimarathon.com

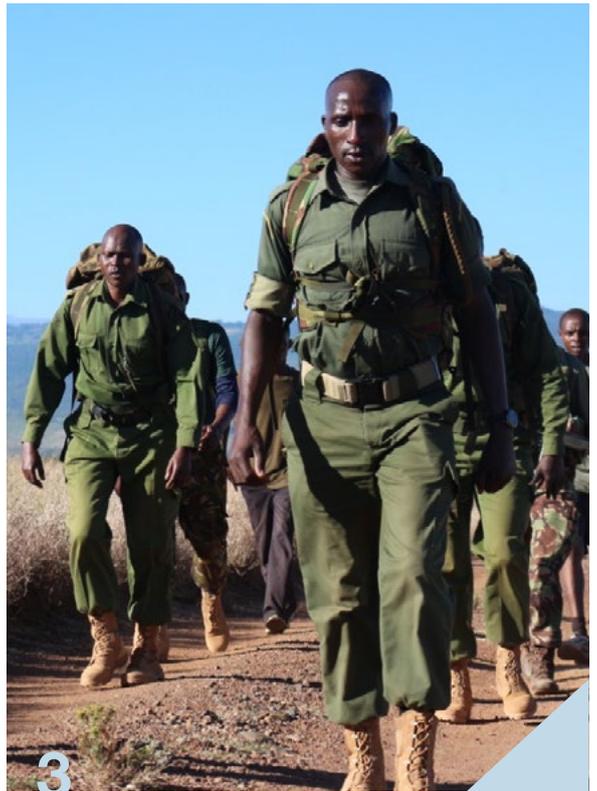
If you're based in Kenya, please go to www.lewasafarimarathon.co.ke



2. The Tusk Lion Trail

The Lions are Coming - A global celebration of African lions and the people that live alongside them through exceptional art.

- **Date:** Tuesday August 10th - World Lion Day
- **Location:** London, New York, Edinburgh, Bristol, Nairobi, Sydney, Auckland, Tokyo
- **Contact:** info@tusk.org
- www.tuskliontrail.com



3. Wildlife Ranger Challenge

Africa's rangers unite once more to raise much needed funds and awareness for the recovery of their sector. Run alongside the guardians of nature.

- **Date:** Saturday 18th September 2021
- **Location:** Global
- **Contact:** info@wildliferangerchallenge.org



4. Tusk Corporate Charity Clay Shoot

This ever-popular event attracts both corporate and private teams for a highly entertaining competition set in the glorious surroundings of the Berkshire countryside.

- **Date:** Friday 24th September
- **Location:** Royal Berkshire Shooting School, Pangbourne, Berkshire
- **Contact:** mary-jane@tusk.org
- **Registration:** www.tusk.org/cps



4



5

5. Virgin Money London Marathon

Conquer the London Marathon every year for a special cause. This year we are going bigger and better to make up for lost time and fundraise for African conservation.

- **Date:** Sunday 3rd October 2021
- **Location:** London, UK
- **Contact:** hannah@tusk.org for details/ reserve your place

6. Tusk Conservation Awards

Five of Africa's conservation luminaries will be honoured on a global stage #ForAllTheyDo for conservation. Keep an eye on the Tusk Awards website for more information.

- **Date:** November 2021
- **Contact:** info@tusk.org
- www.tuskawards.com

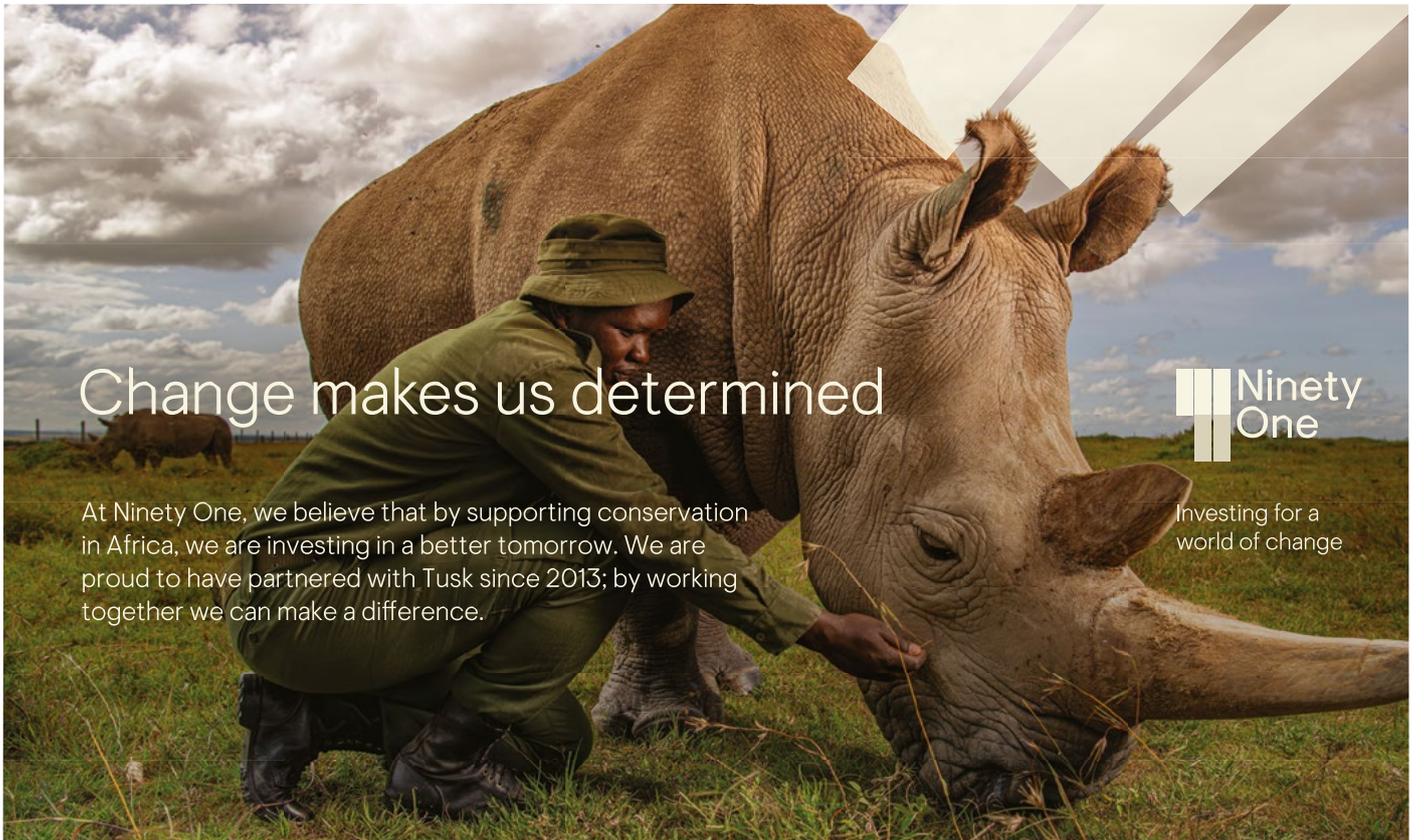


6

LAND ROVER DEFENDER
ACCESS ALL AREAS



Official WLTP Fuel Consumption Figures for the 21MY Defender range (excluding PHEV) in l/100km (mpg): Combined 11.8 - 8.8 (24.9 - 32.2). CO₂ Emissions 230-266g/km. PHEV in l/100km (mpg): Combined 3.3 (85.3)/3.3 (84.6) CO₂ Emissions 74/75g/km. Official NEDC Fuel Consumption Figures for the 21MY Defender range (excluding PHEV) in l/100km (mpg): Combined 7.6-9.6 (37.2-29.4). CO₂ Emissions 220-199g/km. PHEV in l/100km (mpg): Combined 2.8 (100.9). CO₂ Emissions 64g/km. The figures provided are as a result of official manufacturer's tests in accordance with EU legislation. CO₂, fuel economy, energy consumption and range figures may vary according to factors such as driving styles, environmental conditions, load, wheel fitment, accessories fitted, actual route and battery condition. PHEV figures calculated with a fully charged battery. NEDC/equivalent figures are calculated using a Government formula from the WLTP figures. Figures shown are for European EU6 markets. Other market fuel economy certification and figures published at <https://www.landrover.com/vehicles/defender/index.html>.



Change makes us determined



At Ninety One, we believe that by supporting conservation in Africa, we are investing in a better tomorrow. We are proud to have partnered with Tusk since 2013; by working together we can make a difference.

Investing for a world of change

Ninety One is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Investments involve risk; losses may be made.

ISPSHANDA SUPPORTS Tusk



Today, we are confronted with the undeniable truth - the vulnerability of nature, humanity, and our planet. Now more than ever, ISPS Handa is proud to support Tusk's vital work in conservation and education around the world, for the protection of our most magnificent species.



Dr Haruhisa Handa
ISPS FOUNDER
AND CHAIRMAN



RT Hon Sir John Key
ISPS PATRON & FORMER
PRIME MINISTER OF
NEW ZEALAND



Enda Kenny
ISPS PATRON & FORMER
TAOISEACH OF
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Hon Tony Abbott
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Together we can do even more
to advance conservation in Africa.

Tusk's patrons circle - A closer connection

Tusk's Patrons' Circle is formed of a group of committed individuals who are passionate about Africa and the conservation of its natural heritage and want to build a closer involvement with the charity.

We introduced the Patrons Circle, not only as a way to raise vital funds, but to also offer donors an opportunity to develop a meaningful, long-term relationship with both the charity and with other like-minded Tusk supporters. Members of the Patrons' Circle receive regular updates with in-depth news from our partners in the field and invitations to a range of special events throughout the year, including those exclusive to members.

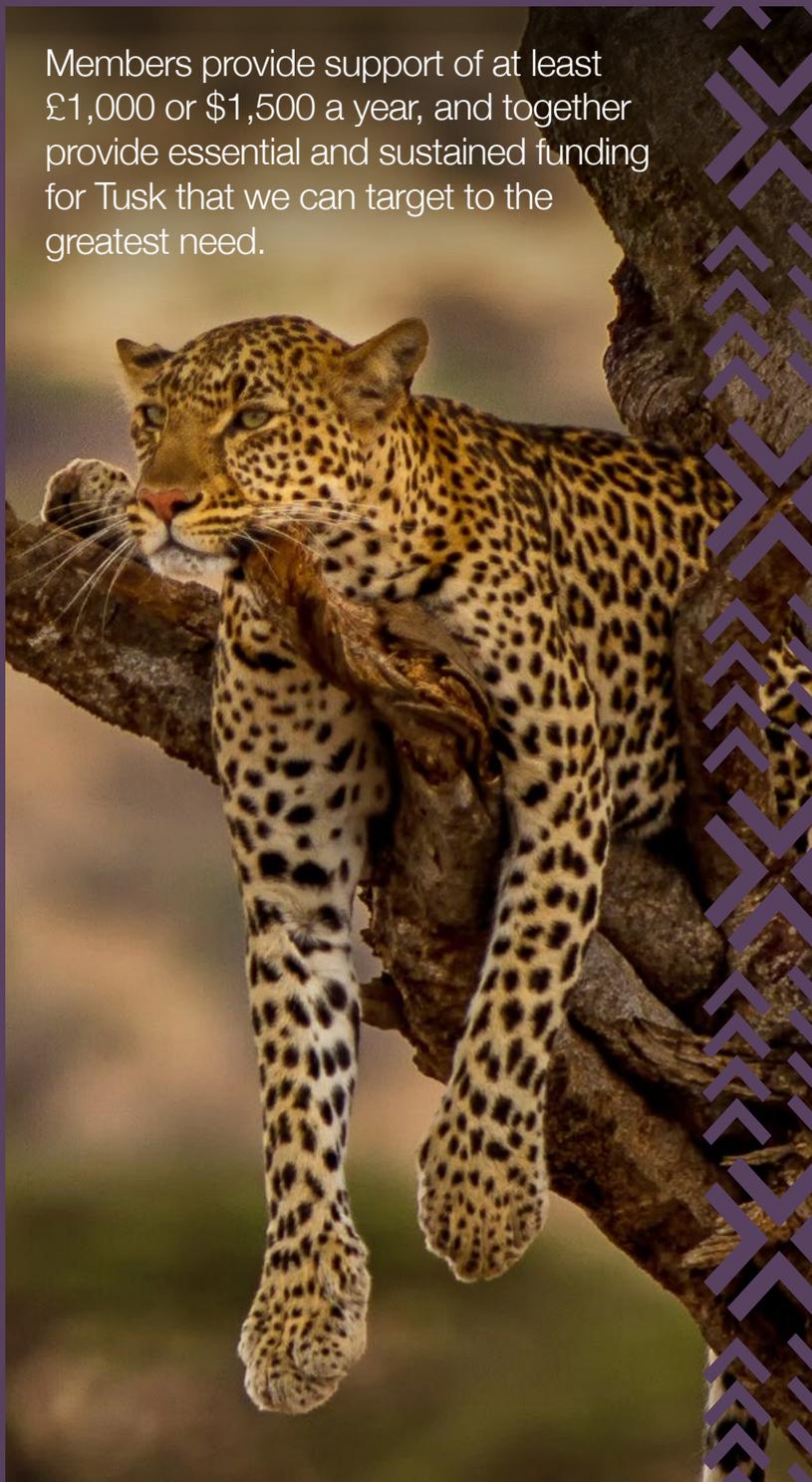
Gwen Audran joined the Patrons Circle in 2019 after being inspired by her parents, who are both members too. "Seeing the progress being made by Tusk's projects in Africa has been so rewarding", says Gwen. "I particularly admire the charity's emphasis on education, which I believe to be the most powerful tool at our disposal. Educating supporters and the general public is an important aspect of this and I loved being a part of the Patrons' Circle Zoom calls to hear how the charity is responding to the Covid-19 crisis. Tusk events (even when they are virtual) are always fantastic and a great way to meet like-minded people!"

Africa's wildlife is under greater threat than ever before. With your support, we can continue to tackle some of the biggest conservation challenges across the continent.

We are incredibly grateful for the generous and ongoing support we receive from members of the Patrons' Circle.

To find out more and to become a member, please contact Anna Hunt on anna@tusk.org

Members provide support of at least £1,000 or \$1,500 a year, and together provide essential and sustained funding for Tusk that we can target to the greatest need.



Main image
Lounging leopard
Credit: Marcus Newton

Become part of the Tusk family

A shared passion

Tusk would not have achieved the fundraising success of 2020 without the loyalty and incredible generosity of our supporters.

We were overwhelmed by the level of support we received by people who were moved to donate for the first time, as well as those who gave more if they could to help our project partners overcome this exceptionally challenging time.

Toby and Regina Wyles have donated to Tusk through their Charitable Trust since 2012. Inspired by their passion for elephants and Ambassador Ian Douglas-Hamilton's talk they started supporting the charity. Their relationship with Tusk has steadily grown through participation in the Patrons' Circle, face to face meetings and attendance at other events. As soon as it became clear that charities were going to be significantly impacted by the Covid crisis, Toby and Regina generously increased their donation to Tusk.

"Tusk deploys its funding in a very strategic and rigorous manner. They expertly evaluate and assess projects seeking financial support and as a result have built a portfolio of supported organisations which have succeeded in their aims and impact. Tusk's fundraising team is also top class; they seem to be able to find many creative and differentiated ways to connect with donors and supporters and to make them feel very close to the projects supported on the ground." – Regina Wyles.



“

From an operational point of view, Tusk is one of the most professional charities we have encountered.

Regina Wyles

“

Tusk is run from deep in the hearts of everybody involved, who really care about being the change they wish to see. It's a team that I'm very proud to be a part of with my three little girls.

Carol Cavenish

Top
Carol Cavenish's daughters Rosalie, Poppy and Holly, holding a cheque raised by Northshire in a raffle

Bottom
Regina Wyles with an orphan elephant in Kenya



One of the people who felt compelled to donate for the first time in 2020 is Carol Cavenish, owner of North Shire - a unique destination in Yorkshire. She not only joined the Tusk Patrons' Circle, but took part in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge and raised money through her business in aid of Tusk.

Taking in part in a virtual running event to support the Wildlife Ranger Challenge was a great way to involve her children. "My children all love animals. They often make up stories and draw pictures of lions and elephants. I can't really express in words how important I believe it is for future generations to really and deeply understand why we have to protect wildlife and why we must invest in charities like Tusk to support conservation."

If you are in a position to make a significant donation to Tusk and would like to find out more, please get in touch with anna@tusk.org.

While regular and ongoing donations are incredibly important to Tusk so that we can continue to achieve conservation success in Africa, it is not all you can do. We appreciate all the support on social media to help spread our message, participation in events and any sponsorship that is raised. Making changes in your own lives to take ethical decisions and make sustainable choices also helps to support our cause. We can all play our part and we are grateful to the entire Tusk community for its amazing support.

Your impact leaves its mark on us all.

BlackRock is proud to support Tusk.

We feel humble to be part of such a life changing cause and commend Tusk's work to forge a link between Africa's natural heritage, culture and people.

BlackRock

blackrock.com

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Remembering Tusk in your Will is one of the most powerful ways of having a lasting impact.

Leave a gift to Tusk in your Will

No matter how large or small, gifts left in Wills are particularly special to us, as we know that such a gift comes from someone who cared enough about our work to help protect Africa's wildlife for generations to come.

They also allow us to plan ahead and do so much more, as unless otherwise specified, every gift we receive from a Will is invested in our endowment fund, to provide a regular and sustainable source of income for both the charity's operations and projects.

A gift of just 1% of your estate to Tusk will help us ensure that both people and wildlife can thrive across Africa for many years to come.

Main image

Leopard looking out over Ruaha landscape
Credit: Ruaha Carnivore Project

- With Make A Will Online we are offering a FREE online Will service. All Wills are checked by a fully qualified solicitor and if you have a question you can call their helpline.
- The Goodwill Partnership provides a home-visit service to make the process of writing a solicitor-provided Will – and leaving a gift to Tusk – as easy as possible.
- With Guardian Angel, if you consider leaving a gift to Tusk, you can write your Will online for FREE in England and Wales.

It is increasingly easy these days to make or change a Will and leave a gift to Tusk, with a number of options available.

Contact us or visit www.tusk.org/wills for more information.



We are extremely grateful to the following for their generous support of our work.

Thank you

We are incredibly grateful to all our supporters, too numerous to mention here, whose donations have been critically important in supporting our work through such challenging times. We would like to thank the following for their particularly generous contributions and gifts in kind, without which, much of what we have achieved over the past year would not have been possible.

Companies

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Individuals

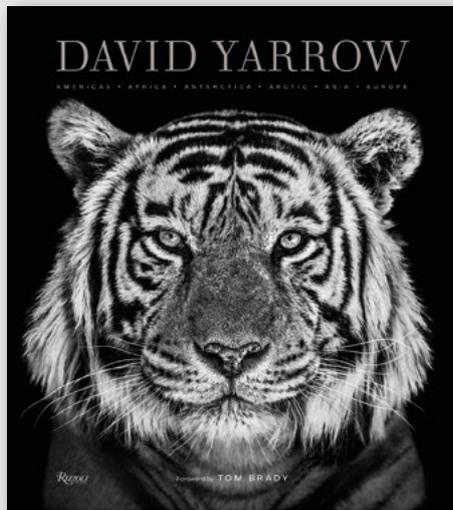
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Giraffe herd
Credit: Nick Wilcox-Brown



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