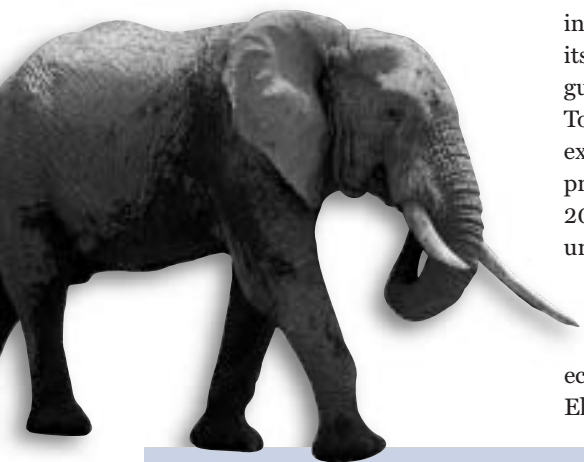


AFRICAN Wildlife News

SPECIAL WILDLIFE SPECIES ISSUE

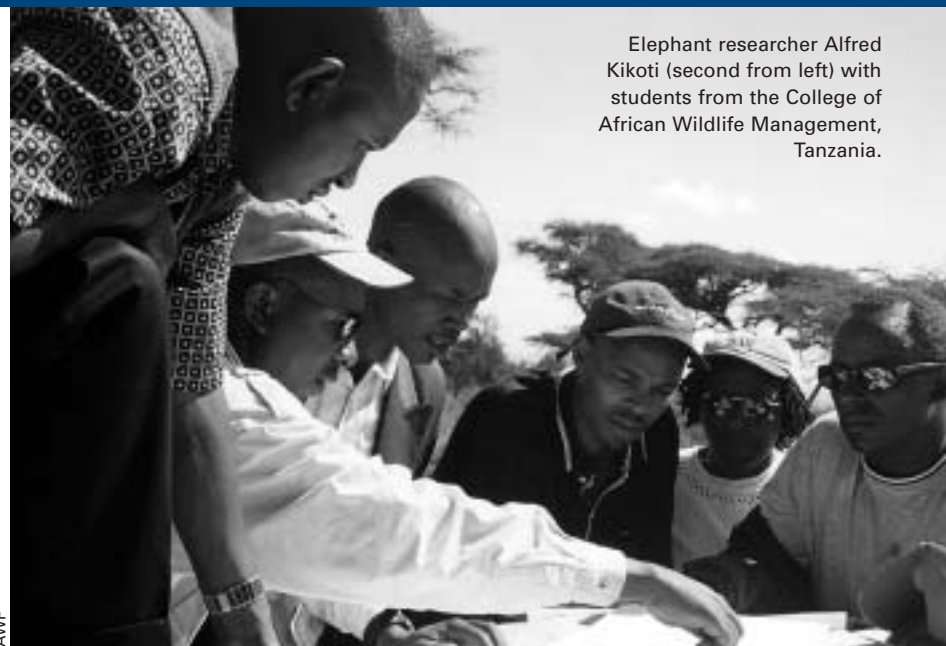
Alfred Kikoti: Expanding AWF's Elephant Conservation Work Into West Kilimanjaro



The African Wildlife Foundation's involvement in elephant research began more than 40 years ago at Amboseli National Park in the Kilimanjaro Heartland. But research efforts concerning these cross-border elephant populations had always concentrated on the Kenya side, with not much activity on the Tanzania side.

Within the transboundary Kilimanjaro Heartland, elephant conservation efforts cannot stop at the international border if AWF and its partners are to successfully safeguard these migratory mammals. To address this crucial issue, AWF expanded its elephant research program in West Kilimanjaro in 2000 and engaged Alfred Kikoti to undertake the work.

For several decades, AWF supported groundbreaking elephant research in the Amboseli ecosystem through the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, founded



Elephant researcher Alfred Kikoti (second from left) with students from the College of African Wildlife Management, Tanzania.

and directed by Dr. Cynthia Moss. Now an independent nongovernmental organization, AERP continues to study elephants on the Kenyan side of the Kilimanjaro

Heartland. AWF shares information with AERP and collaborates with them regularly.

To complement AERP's research and to help paint a landscape-level picture of this wide-

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IGCP's Lanjouw Wins National Geographic/ Buffett Conservation Award

Dr. Annette Lanjouw, director of the AWF-sponsored International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP) since 1995, has been selected to receive the first National Geographic Society/Buffett Award for Leadership in African Conservation. She will be honored at a presentation ceremony November 25 in Washington, D.C.

Lanjouw is an internationally recognized primatologist and leading authority on the mountain gorilla. Her work and life's passion is offering technical support across the region and being an effective



Annette Lanjouw

spokesperson, drawing attention to the gorilla's plight and raising funds to ensure its survival. It is estimated that only 668 of these magnificent creatures still exist in two small islands of forest in Central Africa's Virunga-Bwindi region—making this species one of the rarest of the great apes.

AWF supports IGCP with Fauna and Flora International and the World Wide Fund for Nature in an effort to ensure that the mountain gorillas and their forest habitat in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo survive.

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INTRODUCTION TO SPECIES PROFILES

What Can We Save?

Science Helps AWF Focus on Conserving Specific Species

As AWF continues to systematically apply Heartland Conservation Planning (HCP) techniques, a number of species have emerged as strong conservation targets in all seven Heartlands, including elephants, endangered species such as black rhinos, top predators, wild dogs, specialist species and migrating ungulates.

We have begun to gather baseline information from existing sources, meeting with scientists and individual researchers as well as relying on results from our own efforts and those of our partners—for example, the recent aerial count of elephants in the Kilimanjaro Heartland. With this information, we are proceeding to map the distribution of these species, their key habitat, the resources they need to survive and the threats to them.

This information is crucial to designing targeted threat-abatement strategies and other interventions that will help realize conservation impact on the ground. Consistent application of HCP will ensure that science continues to underpin our work, helping to guide and shape our conservation interventions.

We have also continued to revise and adapt HCP from The Nature Conservancy's Site Conservation Planning tool. As we have applied and tested it in different settings, we have incorporated the views and concerns of our partners and AWF staff in the Heartlands. This has led to several changes, one of which is designed to incorporate a strong socioeconomic component.



Dr. Helen Gichohi

The key questions we desire to answer through application of HCP remain the same, however: What are our conservation targets? What are the threats to those targets? And what implementation strategies will most quickly and directly reduce the level of threats to those targets? What opportunities exist (or do these targets provide) for realizing substantial economic and social benefits for local communities?

To further our conservation work, communicating lessons internally and externally, we must also develop a strong analytical capacity—not only to analyze and synthesize lessons emerging from our efforts, but also to continuously shape our programs and thinking and to provide program-level support to our teams in the field. Given the many tools, techniques, technologies and interventions we are using, we need to critically examine them and choose, adapt and

further develop the most valuable ones. The Science unit has therefore been renamed the Technical unit—to incorporate this diversity of disciplines and skill sets needed to drive the program. At AWF, we know there is no way to turn back the clock. Instead, we're discovering new and innovative ways to negotiate a place for wildlife in modern Africa.

Large species like elephants and lions can't be conserved everywhere. And people need safe places to live and farm. That's why we're working to protect those last great wildlife landscapes that have significant conservation value—the African Heartlands.

As you will discover in this special "Species Issue," AWF continues to concentrate its resources on saving the continent's elephants, gorillas, rhinos and other magnificent large animals, which are increasingly threatened by habitat destruction, human-wildlife conflict and poaching. By protecting these species—the ambassadors for all of wildlife across each Heartlands landscape—we are protecting the whole landscape.

—Dr. Helen Gichohi, Vice President for Program, Nairobi

—Dr. Helen Gichohi, Vice President for Program, Nairobi



CRAIG R. SHOLLEY

New Trustees Join AWF

AWF welcomes these distinguished individuals who recently joined the Board of Trustees. All bring expertise, experience and contacts that will help support AWF's conservation work. In addition, two of the four new trustees are citizens of African countries where AWF works. "This marks a historic evolution of our board to reflect our constituencies and gives AWF an even greater capacity to

achieve its mission," said AWF President Patrick Bergin in announcing their election. The new trustees are:

Steve Cashin

A former Peace Corps volunteer in Zanzibar, Tanzania, Steve Cashin is now the managing director of the Modern Africa Fund, a venture capital fund that invests in Africa. He is also active in the U.S. Corporate Council on Africa.

Dr. James Foght

Dr. James Foght is an investment banker and international business adviser for the White River Conservation Center. He has traveled extensively through 30 African countries and is an experienced international businessman and entrepreneur.

Wariara Mbugua

Originally from Kenya, Wariara Mbugua is a senior official with the

United Nations Population Fund in New York. She has also lived in Harare and traveled extensively in the southern Africa region.

Dr. Mamphela Ramphele

A well-known South Africa civil rights leader, Dr. Mamphela Ramphele is former vice chancellor of the University of Cape Town and is currently managing director at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. ○

Conservation Success Story: Rhino Count Is Up



CRAIG R. SHOLLEY

Thanks to concerted conservation efforts, Africa's rhinoceros population continues to increase. There are now an estimated 14,770 rhinos in Africa, up from 13,109 rhinos in 1999.

In recent decades, rhinos have been hunted to the point of near extinction. Since 1970, the world rhino population declined by 90 percent. The

only two species found today in Africa are the white or square-lipped rhino and the black rhino.

The encouraging progress in rhino conservation was announced by The World Conservation Union's African Rhino Specialist Group, at its biannual meeting in Malilangwe, Zimbabwe. The group reported increases

in both white and black rhino populations over the past two years:

Sub-species	1999 count	2001 count
White	10,405	11,670
Black	2,704	3,100
Total	13,109	14,770

In addition to updating the rhino counts, participants also discussed encouraging reports of re-establishing rhino populations in former rhino ranges in Botswana, Uganda and Zambia. All of these rhino reintroduction plans are being supported by both government and the private sector, which is considered critical for success.

The African Wildlife Foundation has been at the forefront of rhinoceros conservation for several decades. AWF has supported anti-poaching efforts and banning trade in rhino horns. But because the value of these endangered animals is so great and the threats to their survival so intense, more drastic protection measures have been necessary, as exemplified by our work in Kenya's Tsavo East and Tsavo West national parks, where rhinos have been reintroduced.

AWF has been credited with helping save Africa's rhinos. "These animals are alive because of support from several groups, especially AWF," says Richard Kech, former officer-in-charge of Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in Tsavo West National Park.

Chief Scientist Dr. Philip Muruthi greeted the increase in Africa's rhino numbers with optimism, but cautioned that "threats to rhinos are still profound, and we must not relax our efforts to save this 'essence of Africa.'" AWF currently supports rhino conservation in Kenya and Tanzania, and in the past has supported populations in Namibia and South Africa. ○

Poachers Target Rhinos, Elephants

Africa's rhinos and elephants always face the threat of being poached.

"Reports reaching us from sites in various countries describe many poaching incidents, especially of rhinos and elephants," says AWF Chief Scientist Dr. Philip Muruthi of Nairobi, Kenya.

Black rhinos have been hunted down by poachers who prize the rhinos' rare and valuable horns.

By the mid-1980s, the rhino was near extinction. AWF and other conservationists determined that the only way to secure the species' future was to ensure strict protection by means of intensive-protection zones or in rhino sanctuaries. In 1986, we helped construct the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in Kenya's Tsavo West National Park. Today, the sanctuary's 49 rhinos live in approximately 27 square miles, protected by an electric fence.

Despite these successes, the poaching danger lurks. In late 2001, poachers killed six endangered eastern black rhinos in Tsavo East National Park, where reintroduced rhinos have been roaming free from the confines of fences.

"With support from AWF, Kenya Wildlife Service has instituted drastic measures—including providing support for armed patrols—to ensure that the rhinos' sanctuary and free-release area in Tsavo East National Park are protected," says Muruthi. In addition, AWF is providing park guards with training, and helping with security and various recurring needs, like repairs to the sanctuary's infrastructure.

Elephants also have suffered from poaching in the past year. In Longido, near the northern border of Tanzania, as well as in the Kilimanjaro and Maasai-Steppe Heartlands, approximately 40 elephants have been illegally slaughtered in the last 12 months—mostly by poachers searching for the elephants' ivory tusks. Recently seven elephants were killed in Charara safari area on the Zimbabwe side of the Zambezi Heartland. In addition, poaching of ungulates also appears to be particularly rampant in Lower Zambezi National Park, due to understaffing and lack of funding, according to Dora Kamweshe, coordinator of the Zambezi Heartland.

The incidents recall poacher activity in the 1980s when Kenya lost most of its elephants, according to the Kenya Wildlife Service. In the Tsavo ecosystem alone, the elephant population was reduced from more than 25,000 to fewer than 5,000. During the last 10 years, poaching in the Tsavo area has been infrequent, and the elephant population has increased to about 9,000, according to an aerial census taken earlier this year.

"These incidents suggest that the ivory markets are active—and that poachers are actively feeding the illegal trade in ivory," said Muruthi.

Elephants are among the highest priority conservation targets in many of AWF's Heartlands, and only through effective monitoring of these animals can we hope to reduce threats such as poaching. ○