

# African Wildlife News

SPRING 2009

1961-2009

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN THE AFRICAN HEARTLANDS

AWF

Home to elephants,  
rhinos and more,  
**African Heartlands**  
are conservation

landscapes large enough to sustain a diversity of  
species for centuries to come. In these landscapes—  
places like Kilimanjaro and Samburu—AWF and its  
partners are pioneering lasting conservation strate-  
gies that benefit wildlife and people alike.

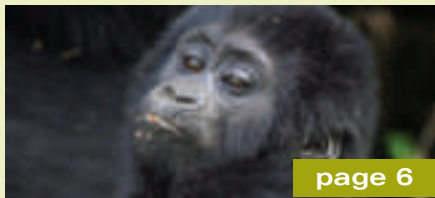
## Inside THIS ISSUE



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### AWF's Alfred Kikoti

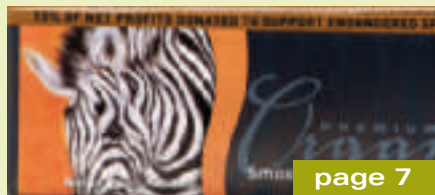
Alfred has collared a total of 22 elephants since 2005  
and is using the 30,000 GPS readings he's collected to  
map and secure critical movement corridors.



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### New Arrivals in Virunga

Ten mountain gorillas were born in the region since  
2007, despite continued human conflict around their  
forested habitat.



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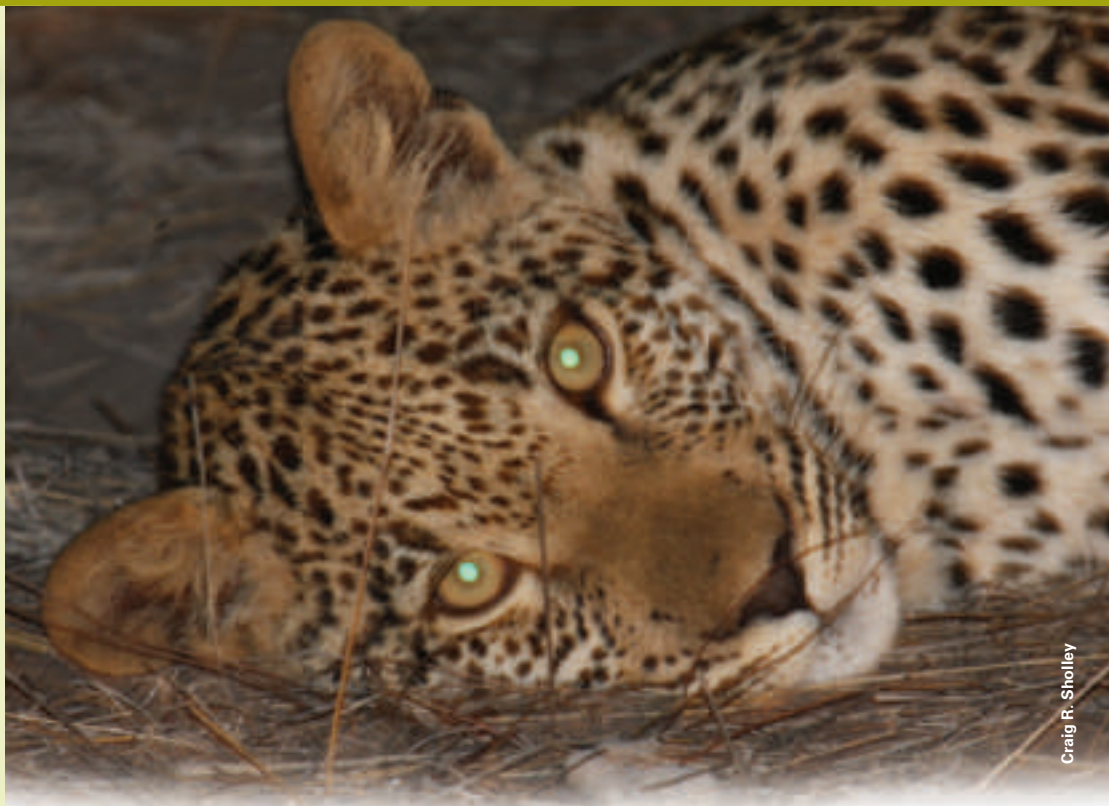
### Endangered Species Chocolate

Endangered Species Chocolate is partnering with AWF  
to support species, habitat and humanity.



AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION®

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Craig R. Sholley

The most secretive and elusive of the large carnivores, the leopard is a solitary creature that hunts mostly at night.

## Snapshot of a Great Cat

*For years, scientists and conservationists have believed that leopards are not in danger. Recent evidence suggests otherwise. But to protect the leopard, as with other species, we must gain a greater understanding of the great cat's behavior—a pretty daunting task given this species is about as secretive as they come.*

*In an effort to unlock the mysteries of the leopard species, AWF, in conjunction with South African National Parks (SANParks) and Singita Game Reserves set forth to study leopards in Kruger National Park, an area that not only protects leopards but hosts an ideal habitat for the species. Led by AWF's Nakedi Maputla, this work is breaking new ground in leopard conservation.*

What's the best way to count a population that travels by night? Leave it to AWF's Leopard Researcher Nakedi Maputla to figure it out.

After some research, Nakedi hypothesized that camera traps—carefully placed cameras that were triggered by animal movement—presented the most promising option for capturing information about the area's leopards.

Nakedi promptly set to work to put this idea to the test, beginning with procuring digital cameras and infrared transmitters from the United States.

“While I was waiting for the cameras to arrive, I started figuring out how to protect the expensive equipment from unknowing hyenas

*continued on page 3*

Billy Dodson



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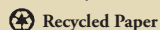
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## Machache ~ A FEW WORDS

Heading for  
the Finish Line

Five years ago when we launched our *Campaign to Save Africa's Heartlands*, I must admit it seemed like an ambitious mountain to climb. But, I also knew that it had to be done—our Campaign goal is not an arbitrary figure—it is a figure derived through careful analysis of what is needed to help save the Heartlands.

Now, as we conclude our Campaign, I have the pleasure of looking across the Heartlands and witnessing the passion of our supporters—supporters like you—realized in projects that are literally transforming the landscape.

We're in the home stretch. Our Campaign has exceeded all expectations, sparking an overwhelming response from every corner of the donor community—public agencies, AWF members, our major donors, grassroots organizations, and scientific partners.

Today, we are so close to our goal of raising \$100 million—a goal that will allow us to double AWF's programs on the ground. But we need your help as we push to the finish line.

Every single dollar truly makes a difference, and now your gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar, thanks to a leadership gift from Dennis Keller, Chair of our Board, and his wife Connie, former

Chair of the  
Nature  
Conservancy  
in Illinois.



To show you the power of your Campaign contributions, we continually monitor and evaluate our work through our Performance Impact Assessment (PIMA) Scorecard, a family of measures that quantifies AWF's progress in four key areas: land protection, species conservation, conservation enterprise, and leadership capacity. The Scorecard includes a year-by-year comparison of our impact since 2004, the year we launched the *Campaign to Save Africa's Heartlands*.

That analysis shows our work has helped secure millions of acres, improved the conservation status of more than a dozen targeted species, disbursed hundreds of thousands of dollars to communities from young conservation enterprises, and put other conservation wins in the hands of hundreds of local partners—from traditional Maasai communities to parks authorities to leading scientists emerging from Africa's most esteemed wildlife institutions. AWF's planners, researchers, policy and development experts—on-the-ground staff—are continually pursuing new opportunities to expand land conservation in creative new ways.

Whether you've recently joined the AWF donor family or have long been a loyal supporter, *thank you*. You amaze me with your generosity and dedication to our cause. Together, we are ensuring that Africa's wildlife and wild lands will endure forever.

We hope you will join us in our final push to meet our fundraising goal. Your support for the *Campaign to Save Africa's Heartlands* is the key to securing the future of Africa's lands, people and wildlife.

Patrick J. Bergin, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer





# Black Rhinos on the Brink

In the 1990s, black rhinos across Africa stood at the brink of extinction because of outright poaching, primarily for rhino horn, which is coveted for its ornamental appeal and presumed healing powers. Thanks to conservation efforts by AWF and other organizations, the population is now making a steady comeback, increasing by 6 percent a year.

Mark Boulton



The successful free-release of ten rhinos from the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary into a protected area marks a major milestone in black rhino conservation in Africa. AWF helped establish Ngulia in the late 1980s.

With member support, AWF helped spur this turnaround by supporting fenced-in rhino reserves and protected zones, including the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary in Tsavo East National Park in Kenya. Ngulia has been so successful that ten rhinos were recently free-released from the sanctuary into a protected area.

AWF had also helped virtually eliminate poaching in Zimbabwe's Sinamatella Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ), located in Hwange National Park. But today, given the country's ever-deepening economic crisis, poaching is again taking a terrible toll. Zimbabwe's black rhino population, which stood at 46 rhinos a year ago, is now nearly half that. And because the country's parks authorities are receiving almost no state funding, anti-poaching patrols lack basic equipment, food, and mobility rations. "Some patrol teams go into the field without any communication radios—which is not only inefficient for stopping well-organized and well-armed poachers, but also poses great risk to their safety," says Jones Masonde, an AWF ecologist. ■



AWF is committed to keeping Zimbabwe's rhinos from being wiped out. A gift of only \$50 can fund food rations for rangers for one day and more can help fund a much-needed new vehicle. Contribute today at [www.awf.org/rhinosonthebrink](http://www.awf.org/rhinosonthebrink).

## Baby Alert in Virunga



Newborn gorillas are tiny, weighing about 4 pounds. Their movements are as awkward as those of human infants, but their development is roughly twice as fast. At 3 or 4 months, the gorilla infant can sit upright and can stand with support soon after. It stays close to its mother until about 3.5 years, when it becomes more independent.

Congratulations are in order for a lot of proud—if hirsute—new moms and dads in Virunga National Park. According to a census conducted earlier this year, ten mountain gorillas were born there since 2007, despite continued human conflict all around their forested habitat. A total of only 720 mountain gorillas remain in the world, half of which live in the Virunga Volcanoes.

With support and assistance from AWF through the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP), a coalition of AWF, Fauna & Flora International and the World Wide Fund for Nature, park rangers conducted the census from November 2008 through late January 2009. The results showed a population increase of 12.5 percent in habituated gorillas (gorillas used to the presence of humans) since August 2007, when the last survey was completed.

While the births are good news, the area is still roiling from continued rebel activity in and around the park. The gorillas, sadly, are caught in the crossfire. But, says IGCP Director Eugène Rutagarama, "Having seen the gorilla's resilience, we look forward to a bright future of thriving communities, both gorilla and human, living in peace alongside each other." ■



Craig R. Shulley

Until it can walk, this young mountain gorilla will ride on its mother's back clinging to her fur as she moves through the dense forest.