

Welcome to WILDLIFE MATTERS

The year started with the terrible news that the annual rains had hit southern Africa with extraordinary and unprecedented force. Far from being life-giving, flooding caused devastation to people and wildlife alike. It was unrelenting and our newly established **Elephant Orphanage Project**, home to six-year-old Phoenix and her three little friends, was badly hit. The camp was all but washed away, precious supplies were lost, communications became impossible and roads impassable, leaving the babies and their keepers stranded.

We had to act quickly. Within weeks, we launched our emergency appeal and through your generosity and support we raised enough to relocate the whole camp to a new, safer site. In February we went out to Zambia, thanks to British Airways, to assess the situation first-hand and to raise funds and awareness locally for the project and our anti-poaching operations. The trip centred around a sell-out exhibition and dinner at which I auctioned my new painting 'After the Rains' which helped top up the 'ele bank'. We are enormously grateful to everyone who helped make this visit such a great success and to all of you who so generously donated funds. There is so much more to do as these babies will almost certainly not be the last victims of poaching! We will of course keep you regularly updated.

But it's not just about elephants – we are also stepping up our efforts with all our projects, news from India on tiger numbers is dire and the poaching epidemic of rhinos in Assam is shocking – we will continue to do everything we can – with your help.



After the rains, the baby elephants move to higher ground with their keepers

We have many fundraising initiatives underway this year – but perhaps the most exciting being our brand new **Wildlife Artist of the Year** competition. We are so delighted with the response received from professional and amateur artists from across the globe. The standard was incredible and our panel of judges had a hugely difficult task! An exhibition of the short-listed work will take place at London's prestigious Mall Galleries from 25-28th June. All participating artists are generously donating 50% from the sale of their work to DSWF wildlife projects. The winners will be announced at the preview night on the 24th – do call us for a special invitation! This exhibition will be held in tandem with our second **Three Generations Exhibition**

where I will be showing new paintings for sale alongside my daughter Mandy and granddaughter Emily. This 'Art for Survival' programme of exhibitions is a really positive and unique way to help save wildlife so please do come along.

Thank you again to all of you for your support for our work to save wildlife – your generosity is so much appreciated.

David Shepherd

You can still give to the appeal either by calling 01483 272323 or online at www.davidshepherd.org

INSIDE: Reprieve for London's Wildlife Crime Unit ... Unsung heroes – project ranger reports ... Dire news for India's tigers ... Elephant cull tragically gets go-ahead ... Project news from around the world ...

New cheetah cubs help triple park population

The two male and two female cheetahs that were introduced into South Africa's Mountain Zebra National Park (MZNP) last February as part of an expansion and reintroduction programme, have tripled their numbers!

Little did our team know that both females were pregnant when they were released. The result: eight new cubs! With no natural predators in the park and with an abundance of springbok the families are expected to do well.

Along with the positive cheetah news, the

DSWF funded project is monitoring over four populations of black rhinos and in the last two years has reported seven new babies giving us great hope for the future.

"By expanding MZNP by over 200% we are already realising our dream to secure the last surviving Cape Mountain zebras, start a new black rhino-breeding programme and reintroduce other species including buffalo, gemsbok and cheetah. And, of course, local people are also now benefiting from the increased tourism," says Sue Downie, Project Director.



Voted by a BBC poll as one of the most effective and popular wildlife charities in Britain.

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

'Saving critically endangered mammals in the wild and benefiting the rural people who share their environment'

wildlife matters

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Company No. 4918382

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VAT Reg No. 414001815

We may want to share information with other organisations that are in partnership with DSWF and who support our aims and objectives. If you would prefer us not to share your details please write to Jill Inglis at DSWF.

Wildlife Matters – The Newspaper is printed on environmentally friendly paper. The views expressed in this issue are not necessarily those of DSWF.
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DSWF would like to express its sincerest thanks to all of our supporters, donors and volunteers – without whom we simply could not do as much as we do to save wildlife.

Stories featured are edited from reports received from the Project Directors.

Further information is available on the website and will feature in the Autumn issue of Wildlife Matters.

Since its inception 24 years ago, the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation has given over £3,778,000 directly in grants to our field projects. Our educational activities, promoting global conservation issues to future generations both here and overseas and our 'Art for Survival' programme, are vital aspects of our work.

Here's what we are spending your money on right now:

NAMIBIA

Save the Rhino Trust

Funding essential conservation work to save the black rhino and the rare desert elephant through monitoring and anti-poaching operations.



SOUTH AFRICA

Black Rhino Project

Park expansion, translocation and monitoring of critically endangered black rhino in several protected areas in South Africa and a new cheetah introduction programme.

ZAMBIA

Anti-poaching and investigations

Funding anti-poaching operations and undercover investigations locally and regionally in the fight against wildlife criminals and funding Zambia's elephant orphanage project.

ZIMBABWE

Painted Dog Conservation Project

Working with local communities to save one of Africa's most important populations of African painted dogs, as well as other wildlife, through anti-poaching operations, education and community programmes.

UGANDA

Queen Elizabeth National Park Project

Funding anti-poaching operations through a new waterways project to protect elephants and other wildlife in and around this pristine park.



RUSSIA

Amur Tiger Project

Saving the last Amur (Siberian) tigers through anti-poaching operations and community education programmes in the Russian Far East.

INDIA

Kaziranga Rhino and Tiger Project

Funding essential communications and anti-poaching operations in Assam's key wildlife parks to protect some of the last surviving Indian rhinos, tigers and wild elephant populations.

INDIA

Wildlife Crime Monitoring Project

Funding undercover investigations to expose and stop the illegal smuggling of rhino horn, tiger bones and ivory through Assam and across its borders.

INDIA

Rapid Action Project

Funding rapid emergency aid enabling immediate response to wildlife crises.

MONGOLIA

Snow Leopard Project

Funding monitoring research and community programmes in Mongolia to save the last surviving snow leopards.

CHINA

Bear Rescue Project

Funding the rehabilitation of bears rescued from the horrifically cruel Chinese bear bile farms and supporting work to end this barbaric trade.

ASIA

Active Conservation Awareness Programme

Tackling the consumer end of the illegal wildlife markets by successfully persuading millions to stop buying wildlife products, and supporting London's fight against illegal trade through 'Operation Charm'.

KENYA

The Lusaka Agreement Task Force

Funding vital undercover operations and training of Africa's first cross-border enforcement task force.

CAMBODIA

Bokor National Park Project

Funding anti-poaching operations, ranger training and important community education and outreach projects to save this unspoilt environment.

MYANMAR

Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park Project

Supporting community education and rural development programmes, and anti-poaching operations in and around this important national park.

CITES

International Trade in Wildlife

Funding enforcement initiatives and lobbying against illegal trade and unsustainable legal trading in wildlife species at international meetings.

Full information and latest news on all our projects is available at www.davidshepherd.org

100% of all donations you send, marked for specific projects, go in full with no administration costs deducted.

Art for Survival - Exhibitions not to be missed

Art has always been at the heart of the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation with profits from the sale of David's, and other supporting artist's, work helping to fund our vital wildlife projects. Our Global Canvas education programme also plays an important role in introducing young people to the work of the Foundation.

2008 is a hugely exciting year for DSWF. Not only was this year's children's art competition such a success, with over 1000 entries from around the world (see page 7 for the full story), but the icing on the cake will be our two major exhibitions being held in tandem at London's prestigious Mall Galleries in June.



25th – 28th June

Wildlife Artist of the Year & Three Generations

Exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London, SW1Y 5BD. Free entry.

Private viewing

by invitation only - on Tuesday 24th June, 6-9 pm. For further details please call **01483 272323**.

Wildlife Artist of the Year 2008 and Three Generations Exhibition

An exhibition of work from the first ever Wildlife Artist of the Year competition will be on display at the Mall Galleries, June 25th - 28th. Bringing together the very best of this year's competition entries, the exhibition will include stunning art and sculpture from professional and amateur artists from around the world.

"I can see this becoming an important event that both professional and amateur wildlife artists internationally will want to be a part of."

Wildlife Artist Gary Hodges

"Some real gems shone out in the first year of this exciting new competition," says judge and wildlife artist Gary Hodges. "I can see this becoming an important event that both professional and amateur wildlife artists internationally will want to be a part of. Congratulations to DSWF for creating an innovative way of raising money to save wildlife."

Chairman of the judges and widely respected conservationist, Mark Carwardine added: "What an outstanding first year! With entries from all over the world in so many different styles the judges had a challenging and satisfying task picking the best of the best. The exhibition is going to be absolutely stunning."

And, at the same time, returning by popular demand, our second Three Generations Exhibition will run at the Mall Galleries.



Three Generations

Bringing together original oil paintings by David, sensitive watercolours by his daughter Mandy and exciting contemporary work by his eldest granddaughter Emily Lamb this is an exhibition not to be missed!

All works, from both exhibitions, will be available for sale with all profits going to DSWF. Please join us! See www.artforsurvival.org for more information.



Wildlife Artist of the Year

Images courtesy of David Filer, Barry Sutton, Dafila Scott, David Shepherd, Mandy Shepherd and Emily Lamb.

London's Wildlife Crime Unit saved from the axe

Pressure from the public and NGOs, including DSWF, has successfully reversed the Metropolitan Police's decision to axe the London Wildlife Crime Unit. Last March, the Met said that they were intending to cut core funding for two of the four posts within the unit, a move that would put Operation Charm in jeopardy and endangered species around the world in grave danger. However, after receiving 6,000 letters and emails from members of the public urging them not to make the cuts, we are delighted to report that the decision has been overturned.

Operation Charm, a partnership between the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU), the Greater London Authority and wildlife NGOs, including DSWF, was re-launched in

2007 to combat the increased incidents of wildlife crime in London. The then Met Assistant Commissioner, Stephen House, was petitioned urging him to fully fund the WCU and save what is a vital lifeline for the protection of endangered species.

In a public statement made on behalf of the NGOs, Heather Sohl, species and trade officer at WWF, said: "We're delighted with this decision and thank the many thousands of people who helped make this happen by writing with their concerns."

"Combating wildlife crime is an important part of police work in London, not least because of its links to drugs and organized crime, which is why a dedicated and effective unit is so vital," adds DSWF CEO, Melanie Shepherd. "It is no good just

arresting criminals after the deed - prevention is so important when illegal trade could lead to the extinction of some of the world's most endangered species."



SERGEI BEREZNUK

Amur Tiger Project, Russian Far East

Thanks to the continuous support of DSWF we have continued to strengthen the protection activities of the forest patrols in five northern districts of Primorye. Primorye in the south of the Russian Far East represents the only area in the world where the critically endangered Amur (Siberian) tigers and leopards still exist in the wild. The tiger census in 2005 revealed that numbers had crept up to between 432-529, but they remain extremely vulnerable due to poaching, habitat destruction through illegal logging, prey depletion, and other factors. Official data reveals that in 2007 eight tigers were found dead, four tiger skins, over 350 tiger bones and eight tiger paws were confiscated, 50 conflict tiger cases were investigated and four cubs were rescued.

Concentrating our work on anti-poaching and education, DSWF funds have recently allowed us to equip the team with portable radio units, GPS, laptops and printers. This significantly helps our work and allows us to



Photos courtesy of Phoenix

react promptly to emergencies. Our teams also work with police officers, state agencies, the environmental prosecutor's office, local administration and forestry's authorities on joint patrols.

In 2007, the team was empowered to help protect the newly established Udege Legend National Park in Primorye. Covering 88,600 hectares of forest it is unique as it addresses three issues at the same time by: protecting nature, preserving Udege's culture and



developing eco tourism. It is located in rich cedar broad-leaved forests on the western slope of the Sikhote-Alin Mountains and has a primeval

complex of rivers that feed the Ussuri and the Amur River. Despite official protection, illegal permits for logging and hunting continue to be issued and we face an uphill struggle.

In just three weeks in December our ranger patrols found three illegal logging operations inside the park which had felled hundreds of oak, ash and other species of trees. These are worth hundreds of thousands of dollars on the black market. Criminal proceedings have begun on all three cases and we hope that harsh sentences will result. With DSWF's funding of these operations as well as our ongoing education work we really are making a difference in ensuring the survival of the last Amur tigers in their wild habitat.

SIMSON URI-KHOB

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), Namibia

There have been many highs and lows over the last few months. In late summer the spoor of a newborn rhino calf was seen and it turned out to be the first calf of Blythe (named in honour of the late SRT founder Blythe Loutit). After the sadness of recent mortalities this news gave us great hope.

Rhino Census

In September 2007 we started the fourth 'five yearly' National Rhino Census. Covering the complete rhino range (made up of eight eco

zones), the census requires careful planning, as each area needs to be patrolled twice over a period of 12 months. All trackers, vehicles and SRT staff are involved, spending 12 days of each month in the field using global positioning systems, to record track logs and way points; rhino sightings, middens, feeding signs and springs. New animals were identified as well as noting others that have moved from one zone to another as a result of human disturbance. It's my job, after the initial 12 months, to decide which areas have to be repeated ensuring a near complete count of the rhino population of the Kunene Rhino Range.

Diana and Debbie

In October, the team operating in the Rhino Camp area (a joint venture with Wilderness

Safaris) found Debbie, only 16 months old, being devoured by lions. This was a shock to all of us. It was the second young rhino caught by lions in this area during

2007. Her mother Diana's condition deteriorated after losing her calf and, despite keeping a close watch over her throughout the prevailing drought, she died in February aged 32.

The relief of the rains

The extreme drought conditions in the north western parts of Namibia at the end of the year were causing great concern. But suddenly, in February, the tide turned with rain bringing relief to the wildlife and local people alike. As always, it was amazing to see how quickly the desert turned green, flower fields appeared from nowhere, rivers were in flood, natural water pools filled and young animals could be seen everywhere. This bodes well for a good year ahead.

While writing this report, our teams are busy working in the eco zones where Mathilda and her latest calf are hiding. Seen standing in the shade of a Mopane (Butterfly Leaf) tree both Mathilda and her calf are in excellent condition.

Thanks must go to all DSWF supporters who regularly make donations to our unsung heroes and their work through our Sponsor a Ranger programme.

SPONSOR A RANGER

By sponsoring a ranger you can help support the vital work of these amazing men. To find out more call the office on 01483 272323 or email dsfw@davidshepherd.org for a form.



Photo courtesy of Michael Vickers

DSWF viewpoint

India's wild tiger numbers halve: India reacts

News that the number of wild tigers in India has dropped to its lowest level in 30 years was reported in February. For the first time, the survey used more sophisticated counting techniques including video-monitoring. The last major survey, in 2002, put the number of tigers at 3,642. Today, it is just 1,400. The decline has been fuelled by illegal poaching and urbanisation, leading to a loss of habitat and prey.

DSWF supported projects in Kaziranga in the far north east state of Assam are helping equip the forest guards so that they can carry out their vital work in the park, protecting not just the tiger population but also the Indian rhino. This spectacular place offers real hope to some of the world's most critically endangered species and your donations will help us to protect them.

The Indian government says it will create eight new reserves over the next five years to protect the remaining tiger population and will also give a one-time grant of \$12.5 million to the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The bulk of the funds will be used to raise a Tiger Protection Force.

While it is hoped that these gestures are not too little too late it is vital that we continue to support and protect the existing reserves and the well-established projects and personnel out in the field. DSWF's success in Russia, which has helped to save the Amur tiger from almost certain extinction, is proof that with enough resource and commitment we really can make a difference.

DSWF report

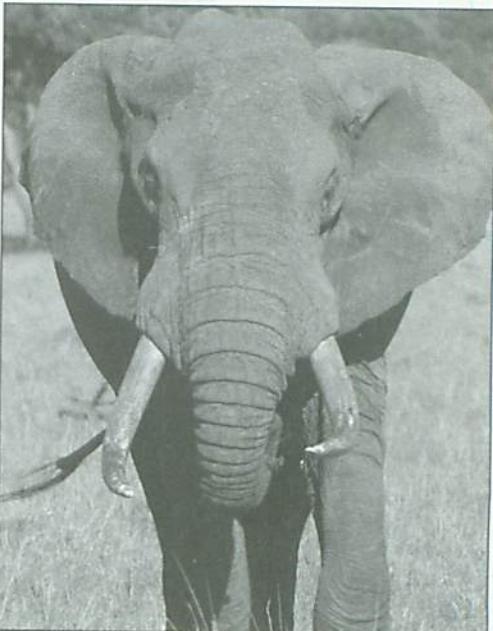
South Africa lifts moratorium on elephant culling

The South African government is preparing to lift its moratorium on the culling of elephants in an effort to cope with the growing numbers. Environment minister Martinus van Schalkwyk claims that the elephant is a victim of its own success with numbers growing from 8,000 to 18-20,000 in just over ten years. He stressed that the killing of excess animals would only be allowed once all other options - including translocation and contraception - have been ruled out.

The debate over culling is highly emotive and recent developments follow nearly three years of widespread consultation and acrimonious debate. While many cite the destructive impact of elephants on the biodiversity of the parks, animal rights campaigners say the elephants' intelligence and close social structures make culling inhumane.

One conservationist put it this way: "We must become deeply introspective about our own numbers with the consequent trashing of our own habitat before we seek to impose population controls on elephants through the barrel of a gun."

In 2005, the Government recommended the cull of 5,000 elephants, the largest slaughter anywhere in the world, causing a storm of protest and a rethink. The new framework, which will permit culling from May this year, is likely to see a far



lower number of the animals destroyed with estimates of between 2,000 and 10,000 deaths seen by the Government as "hugely inflated".

Culls will only be allowed with the approval of the authorities and an elephant management specialist, who must be satisfied that all other options are not viable including contraception and relocation. It is also hoped that the removal of fences between the Kruger and parks in

neighbouring Mozambique will aid migration into less congested areas through the celebrated peace parks programme – but some experts remain sceptical and criticize the slow progress of this project suggesting South Africa would rather realize the economic potential of its culled elephants through the sale of products ie. meat, rather than let them migrate freely into neighbouring countries. News that the moratorium will be lifted was hailed as a "sad day for the country" by animal rights activists. But some renowned conservationists, including the former head of the Kenyan Wildlife Service, say culling is "*a necessary part of population management*". But Dr Leakey points out that there is also a responsibility to curb human activities that impinge on elephant habitat.



2008 Marathon Runners

As we went to press our fantastic marathon runners were pounding the streets of London raising money for wildlife. Thank you to Rob Agar, Kevin Miles, Neil McDaid, Christopher Hetherington and Trevor Howarth for taking on the challenge! We're looking forward to finding out how you did.

If you would like to run the London Marathon for wildlife through DSWF in 2009 please contact us on **01483 272323**. We have a number of places available and warmly welcome own place runners too!

For tailor-made holidays
from the wildlife experts



A black and white photograph showing a large elephant and a smaller elephant calf standing together. The large elephant is on the right, and the calf is on the left. The background is dark and out of focus. The text 'Asia Australasia' is printed vertically along the left edge of the image.

WILDLIFE 0845 130 6982
WORLDWIDE wildlifeworldwide.com

"Saving Planet Earth" inspires 1,000 school children worldwide!



Captain of Young Friends, Gary Lineker with winner Arabella Pearson and David Shepherd

The exhibition of the top 200 entries to the DSWF's 2008 schools' Global Canvas Art Competition took place on Tuesday, 11th March at the Natural History Museum with hundreds of visitors of all ages flocking to see the wonderful paintings, sculptures and collages.

The overall winner this year was Arabella Pearson, aged ten from St Catherine's School, Surrey, pictured here receiving her prize from David and DSWF's Captain of Young Friends, Gary Lineker.

David had the unenviable task of choosing the eventual winners from well over a thousand entries, including school children in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria and the Russian Far East, not to mention from all over the UK.

The children were enthralled by a talk on African painted dogs from Greg Rasmussen from the DSWF-supported project in Zimbabwe. For most of the audience, this was the first time they had ever heard of the animal but, judging by the huge queues to ask questions afterwards, the plight of this critically endangered species is now of much greater concern to a great many students and teachers alike.

DSWF is very grateful, once again, for the kind support of Gary Lineker and for the very generous sponsors of the prizes for the competition: Daler Rowney, Zoological Society of London, Marwell Zoological Park and Kingfisher Publishing.



Some of the stunning artwork by Victoria Wensley, (collage) Holly Morrison (seal pup) and Charlotte Sullivan. To see these fabulous images in colour go to www.davidshepherd.org



Leave a lasting legacy for wildlife

Leave a gift to wildlife in your Will and make the difference between survival and extinction!

Making a Will enables you to choose how your money, your property and possessions will be dealt with and provides you with peace of mind that all your affairs are in order.

Leaving a legacy to DSWF is simple and any gift, large or small, will help us to protect endangered wildlife.

"We share this fragile world with all creatures. Don't leave their survival to chance. Making a Will is one of the ways we ensure the world is a better place for those we care about. Please leave a lasting legacy to future generations."

Dame Judi Dench

For more information call Melanie or Jill in confidence on **01483 272323**.



Tortured bears find sanctuary

At the end of March, 28 bears were rescued from a bile farm and delivered to the Animals Asia Foundation's (AAF) sanctuary in China. As we went to press the team were working hard to settle the traumatised animals and start their long journey back to health and happiness. Sadly, the rescue came too late for five of the badly abused bears.

DSWF provides funding to help rescue these moon bears, maintain the sanctuary and support AAF's work with Chinese government partners, to close down more farms and rescue more bears. Our support, and that of key donors, was recognised recently with the addition of two plaques at the sanctuary.

"We could not continue this rescue without the faith and help of supporters around the world," says Jill Robinson, founder and CEO of AAF. "In the UK we are proud and very, very grateful to have the support of one of my personal heroes - David Shepherd and his fantastic team at DSWF. On behalf of all in Animals Asia Xie Xie Ni - a big thank you - from the bears of China for giving them a voice and helping their plight."

You can continue to support the moon bears by:

- Adopting moon bear Beau
- Buying one of David Shepherd's special limited edition prints
- Making a donation

SPECIAL OFFER

To celebrate AAF's 10th Anniversary we're offering a FREE adoption worth £32 with every limited edition print of a 'Moon Bear called Jasper' bought through DSWF. Prints are £126 includes postage & packing.



For more information call the DSWF office on **01483 272323** or visit www.davidshepherd.org

