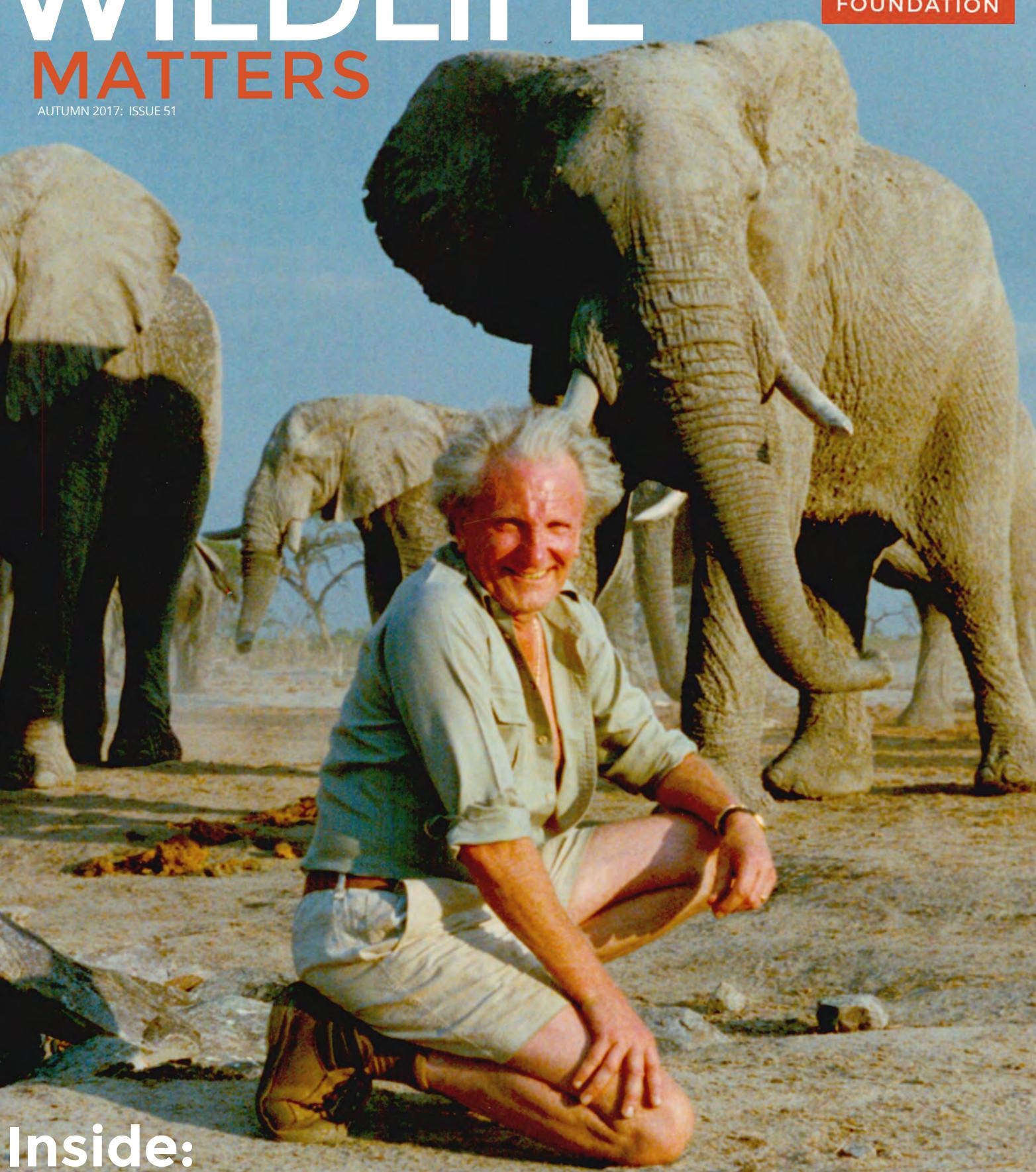
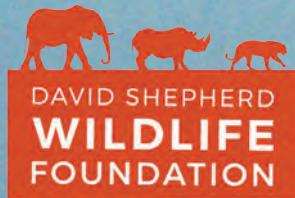


David's Legacy Lives On...

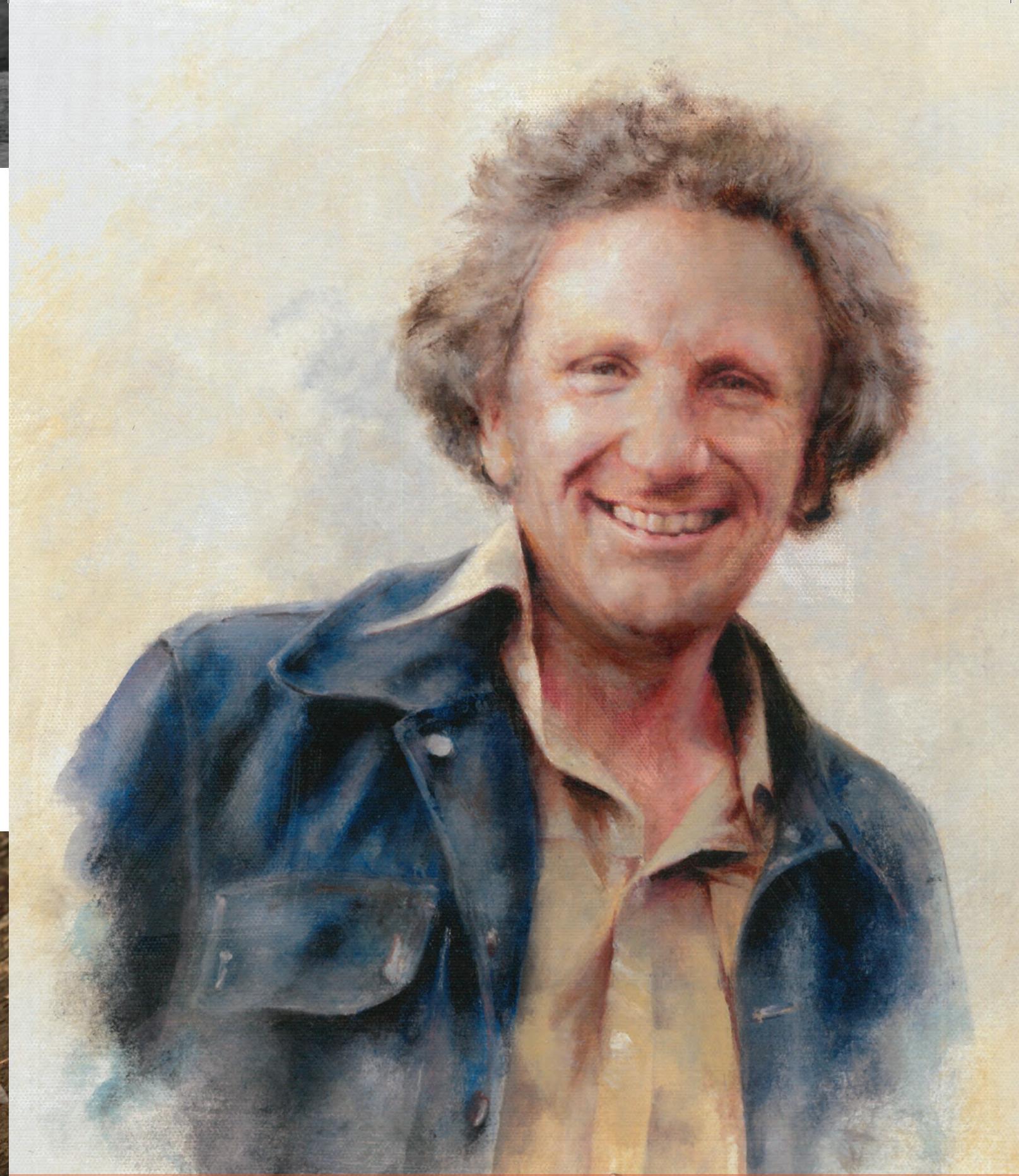
# WILDLIFE MATTERS

AUTUMN 2017: ISSUE 51



**Inside:**  
David Shepherd Tribute

**FIGHT · PROTECT · ENGAGE: The Art of Survival**



**David Shepherd**  
**25 April 1931 – 19 September 2017**

*David Shepherd*

## Whilst the world of art and wildlife conservation is mourning the loss of David Shepherd, Nigel Colne CBE, Trustee of the David Shepherd Foundation remembers a man who's whole life was an inspiration...

"My first encounter with David took place well over 20 years ago. As a Director of M&S I held a sporting charity evening each year with a specific cause as the focus. I had always had an interest in African Wildlife and I knew of David the world famous artist and of the Foundation he had established to protect endangered wildlife around the world.

I spoke to Melanie, one of David's four daughters and offered to make DSWF the beneficiary of this event and was delighted when David and his wonderful wife Avril agreed to be our guests on the night (which I have to admit involved a modest amount of gambling)! I think they had a great time and at the end I was able to present David with a cheque for over £15,000 for DSWF.

Ever courteous, a day later I received a lovely letter of thanks from David - full of gratitude but with a hand written addition - "I managed to loose six quid". That was David's impish sense of humour and fun but realised he combined this with a passion and anger over the way that mankind was treating his only home - our Earth - and our treatment of the wildlife within it. I found his concerns deeply moving and demanding of support. Every week of every year that I knew David he drove forward this message - we must halt the decline of species such as his beloved Elephants, Rhino, Tiger, Leopards and the gentle Pangolin and many other mammals.

And he preached this message to everyone he met - from Presidents and Royalty to supporters and the young - he spoke with passion but also with a simplicity which meant he educated and inspired young people from around the world and he loved doing this as much as the young enjoyed hearing from him. He believed that this younger generation held the key to any long term opportunity for us to reverse current attitudes.

Within a year I had accepted an invitation to become a Trustee of DSWF and to share and help with its work at first hand. Over 20 years of working closely with David made me appreciate what a tenacious and outspoken advocate he was. He was shocked and saddened by the steep decline in the numbers of so many iconic species at the hands of man; at the insatiable appetite for tusks, horn, and animal parts particularly because of the demand from China and South East Asia. He abhorred the brutality of modern poaching and the evil influences behind this trade. He dedicated his life to fighting these issues and there is no doubt that he and his Foundation have played a really valuable part in informing public and political consciousness around the world.

Now he has left us but all of us who knew and loved him must redouble our efforts to ensure the only legacy David would have wanted - that there are sufficient funds and new ideas to ensure that the work he started continues to flourish and expand.

His much loved daughters and grand-children each spoke at David's recent funeral - it was a particularly moving part of the service. One of them read this - written in the 19th Century by A P Stanley - it could of been written today with David Shepherd in mind:

*'He has achieved success who live well, laughed often, and loved much.  
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children  
Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task  
Who has left the world a better place than he found it  
Who has never lacked appreciation for earthly beauty nor failed to express it  
Who has looked for the best in others and given the best he had  
Whose life was an inspiration and whose memory is a benediction'*

That was the David Shepherd that I was proud to know and admire so much.  
Rest in peace dear David."

Nigel Colne CBE



*"Such great memories of a great man: a ride in his beloved helicopter; a trip to Zambia and lunch with President Kaunda; 'This is Your Life' with Michael Aspel; painting a life-size lion model for Born Free; tea with David and Avril, just a few months ago. These are a handful of our personal memories of an outstanding gentleman, his inspirational work, his boundless enthusiasm, his profound compassion, his prodigious talent and his amazing family. There was only one David Shepherd and his spirit is with us always!" Virginia and Will Travers*



Nigel and David



*"One could only admire the passion with which he fought to defend the very existence of the animals he painted so beautifully in his own inimitable and instantly recognisable style."*

*"I shall miss all the teasing that we inflicted on each other whenever our paths happily crossed, that sort of teasing that comes only from mutual respect."*

*"I am incredibly proud to have known him and his gorgeous family. His legacy is there for all to see, hanging poignantly not just on my walls but on thousands across the globe."*

David Gower



*"If I were an elephant I would be standing now with the rest of the huge herd of followers, quietly keeping vigil over our departed warrior. May he rest in peace." Joanna Lumley*

Through dedication and hard work the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation has influenced policy, shifted attitudes and provided an unwavering voice for wildlife conservation from grass roots to the world stage for over 30 years. Conservation successes are hard won and vitally important to the survival of endangered wildlife and we are so grateful to you, our donors and hugely proud of raising over £8.5 million to help save wildlife since David started up the Foundation in 1984.

Amongst DSWF's successes and those of which David was most proud are the following:

 Helping to set up Game Rangers International which supports the brave men and women on the front line of the war against poaching. (Having worked tirelessly since his first visit to Zambia in the early 1960's to support many conservation initiatives.)

 Establishing Zambia's first Elephant Orphanage to rescue, rehabilitate and release the innocent victims of ivory poaching.

 DSWF co-funded the first Aerial Support Unit for the Kafue National Park in Zambia. The 'Eyes in the Skies' capability provides a vital deterrent and disrupts known poaching routes in a key species protection habitat.

 DSWF funding established the first ever Pangolin Protection Programme in Zambia to rescue and release these wonderful creatures as part of a targeted countrywide anti-trafficking and awareness campaign.

 Helping secure Uganda's Murchison Falls Conservation Area from poaching. By injecting vital funding we have been able help elephant populations recover from almost near extinction. Populations now exceed over 1,000 elephants, often seen in large healthy herds roaming wild.

 Helping to educate over 10,000 children in Zimbabwe through interactive, engaging and intuitive conservation programmes to provide a fuller understanding of the importance of conserving wildlife and its habitat.

 Providing over 20 years of vital funding and support to ensure the survival of one of the last truly wild black rhino populations in Namibia, enabling populations to emerge from the brink of extinction.

 Working to fund undercover investigations exposing the cross border trafficking routes and criminal syndicates behind some of the largest and most prolific wildlife crime families in the world.

 Helping to save the Amur Tiger from certain extinction in the 1990's. As part of an international coalition DSWF successfully cracked down on uncontrolled poaching and raised awareness among the international community. Today there is a healthy and sustainable population of more than c.450 wild tigers in the Russian Far East.

 Helping to establish a hugely successful community defence force in Assam, India. By inspiring and engaging local communities they have volunteered themselves as the first line of defence at the UNESCO world heritage site to protect their native wildlife.

 Building capacity in Tost Nature Reserve, Mongolia, through use of scientific data on snow leopards, empowering local communities to successfully apply for protected area status creating one of the largest continuous Snow Leopard habitats in the world.

 Engaging with the Kyrgyzstan Government and a local NGO to re-wild a former hunting concession allowing for the safe development of the fourth most significant snow leopard habitat in the world as a protected natural area.

 Establishing the two leading art events in the conservation calendar. Global Canvas, a youth and schools art competition and Wildlife Artist of the Year, the UK's premier wildlife art competition. Both combine art and conservation with stunning results, helping raise awareness and vital funds for species protection.

 DSWF was pivotal at CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) 2016, in bringing about decisions to end any future process for the trade in ivory. The same conference saw DSWF playing an instrumental role in bringing together countries on agreed text regarding the closure of domestic ivory markets.

For those wishing to make a donation to commemorate David's life and to help DSWF continue to protect the wildlife that David loved, please call the Foundation Tel: 01483 272323 or visit the website [www.davidshepherd.org](http://www.davidshepherd.org) Thank you.



## Words from the Field...



"It was my privilege to meet David on many occasions, his warmth and generous spirit was both comforting and inspirational for me. His commitment and support for conservation was and remains exceptional. Very few people ever step up as he did to be with us in our time of need, he is quite exceptional". **Peter Blystone, Painted Dog Conservation**

"Over the last 23 years straight, Freeland has never had a more faithful and committed supporter of our wildlife protection work than David Shepherd. He trusted us and put his art, passion and faith into our cause like a good loyal friend. And it paid off. Because of the support from David and his amazing family and staff, we have managed to help save tigers, rhinos, elephants and big cats, while also making the life of rangers and other wildlife protectors safer. While wildlife crime continues, we've managed to slow it down by disrupting some of the world's biggest criminal gangs, while helping poachers become protectors. And that was because David and his organisation were willing to support our new approaches when others didn't dare. He knew what felt right and he just did it. Life is too short to live any other way. Thank you, David for your help and for showing us how to live." **Steve Galster, Director of Freeland**



"There are people in one's life that inspire a change in one's behaviour, outlook and interests. Hearing David talk in Aldershot when I was no older than six years old, changed my life, forever. What a legacy he has left us. We've been so lucky to have known him." **Michael Keigwin, UCF**

"There will never be another man like David. His work and dedication to protect Namibia's rhino inspired hundreds of others to follow. We know he will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with you all."

**Simson Uri-Khob, Save the Rhino Trust**

"We are very sad to see David go – such a wonderful man. While we mourn his loss, we also celebrate the man, his art, and all that he and his foundation have accomplished. He has left an indelible mark on the world with his humanity, creativity and action to create a world that embraces all life forms. Our warm thoughts and condolences to the Shepherd family, and all those at the foundation." **Michael Despines, Executive Director, Snow Leopard Trust**



"David touched so many people's lives, mine included. Somehow through the ongoing challenges we endure I firmly believe David will always watch over us - a strong ally whose spirit will continue to help us in very special ways that we will never fully understand. It gives me great hope for conservation in Zambia and beyond. The bull elephant mating with our matriarch Chamilandu on the day that David passed is a sign. No bull elephant will ever pass my view without me thinking about him and his legacy. Now more than ever, we need to build on this legacy and empower more rangers to protect wildlife and the wild spaces within which they live. As the President said, David was a Zambian living in England - and we shall cherish his memory always. I feel blessed and privileged to have known David Shepherd and it is my great honour to be able to build upon his legacy - this giant of conservation will never be forgotten." **Sport Beattie, CEO, Game Rangers International**

"It was with great sadness that everyone at Phoenix learned about David's passing. I remember his gentle spirit and loving nature. We know David as one of the greatest wildlife artists and a devoted conservationist who was an inspiration to me and I believe everyone around him. We would be honoured to share the legacy of David's outstanding life and to let the kids into his passion for tigers and their preservation

at the Namba eco-centre this week. Our thoughts are with you at this time. With deepest sympathy."

**Sergei and the Phoenix team, Russia**



"We all join hands to deliver our best to secure the future of wildlife."

**Bibhab Talukdar, Aaranyak, India**

"We are very saddened to learn that David is no longer with us. A pioneer, leader and champion of the conservation world, David used his talents and generosity of spirit to protect the natural world and bring its iconic inhabitants alive for generations of people, rich and poor, around the globe. We may have lost a wildlife hero, but he has left a legacy that will reverberate and continue to have impact in a myriad of small communities across Africa and Asia. It has been an honour for us to count David, and DSWF, amongst our friends." **Mary Rice and Debbie Banks, EIA**



"Today our head master spoke about David in assembly and we all said a prayer. Our pupils will remember all the lovely art projects we all took part in and the lucky pupils who met him will never forget the time he spent with us this year telling us stories of his adventures, such as the time a Jaguar was on the roof of his jeep in the pouring rain and the windscreen wipers would not work, so the driver grabbed the jaguar's tail to wipe the window. We are honoured to have been awarded his personal award for the last two years, but most of all to know of a role model who did so much for the protection of wildlife. Our pupils are richer with the understanding of why we need to protect the wildlife." **Julie Moreton, Head of Art, Spratton Hall**



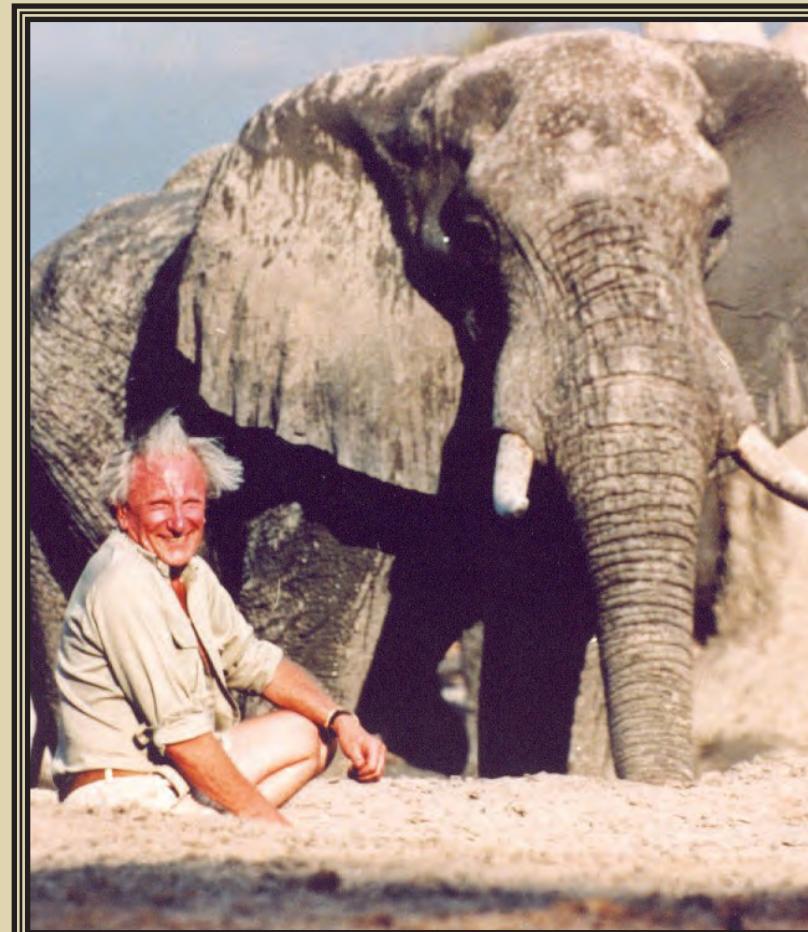
## The Man who loved Giants: The Continuing story...

As the author of a book with a similar title (published in 1989), David told of his exploits around the world, travelling in everything and anything from Lancaster bombers and HMS Ark Royal to bush jeeps and anti-poaching helicopters. He was always hunting for evermore exciting subjects from Her Majesty the Queen Mother and his steam engine Black Prince, to polar bears and jumbos - always with the cause of conservation on his mind. The 'Giants' were his beloved elephants and steam engines!

But David was also known as a 'Gentle Giant' himself. He dedicated over 60 years of his life to protecting some of the world's most iconic and endangered animals and the amazing stories and messages of support that so many have recently shared, showed his reach across the world and revealed that David invested in people as much as he did wildlife.

As an artist he captured the essence of every being he painted and the fragile relationship between humanity and the natural world and he captured the true spirit of each creature highlighting the reality of what the world could lose.

The Foundation is David's 'Giant' legacy and we consider it an honour and a privilege to continue his story for many generations to come. Please help us to make more giant strides in our work to protect wildlife and leave many more of their footprints on our world.



"One of the last conversations I had with Dad was inevitably about conservation. In particular how he wanted to help set up an education centre in Zambia to continue to raise awareness of the critical importance of wildlife to the local people - without whom there is no hope. With an elephant being slaughtered every 20 minutes, I promised Dad we would continue his fight to end the killing. It would be a wonderful tribute to our 'Man Who Loved Giants' to be able to make this last wish come true through funds raised in memoriam. He would be immensely proud and I hope and pray that this dream will become a reality in his name." Melanie Lamb

**In Memoriam: The David Legacy Appeal. If you'd like to contribute, please call Tel: 01483 272323 or donate online at [www.davidshepherd.org/help-us/appeal/in-memoriam-david-shepherd](http://www.davidshepherd.org/help-us/appeal/in-memoriam-david-shepherd)**



**"I believe he has gifted a very strong and magic charge, of what's left in the space between.  
He is to us all in His giant being, One of the True Great Tuskers.**

**Always keeping his distance from the Herd , but close enough always for us to feel his presence. That cheeky , strong... often destructive in the best of ways...but wild wild wild energy, remains.**

**We his family and friends that gather here today were his constant and familiar Herd, that he kept close.**

**Yet his SPHERE of inspired influence and such untamed positivity , reaches far and wide.  
As the Great Tuskers once roamed upon all continents, so does he now.**

**I personally feel very lucky to have shared a language with my Grandfather beyond words,  
as we played in mind and spirit together through the world of paint.  
To me he has just moved away, as grumpy old BULL elephants do....  
Watching from afar.**

**He's a rockstar still, didn't give a damn, in the purest and noblest of ways...  
And as I head to Mana Pools in Zimbabwe next week with paint box in tow to find those  
wild elephant herds again somewhere in the deep bush,  
I'll take shelter under some fig or acacia tree. And raise a brandy and ginger to you mate ;)"**

**Emily Lamb**



**“The greatest thrill of my life is to be able to repay in fair measure the debt I owe to the animals I paint and which have brought me such success. We all have a debt to pay for our stay here. This is mine.”**

David Shepherd