



Wilderness
Safaris
Wildlife
Trust

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WILDERNESS SAFARIS WILDLIFE TRUST

Introduction

In the past year, the Trust has gone into high gear, taking on a growing number of projects while continuing to fund existing ones.

The Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust continues in its commitment to wildlife and rural communities neighbouring wilderness areas throughout the subcontinent. Over the past year the Trust has managed to provide funding for a wide variety of projects all over the southern African subregion. Species-specific studies and conservation activities have ranged from Cape vulture, lion, elephant, black rhino, brown hyaena and black mongoose in Namibia to wild dogs in Zimbabwe, rodents in Botswana and turtles and rhino in South Africa. We funded several environmental education projects in rural areas of Botswana, Malawi and South Africa, introduced a new wildlife/science bursary, helped pay for significant infrastructure development in a Zambian village and funded a study to mitigate human-elephant conflict in remote north-eastern Namibia.

We are proud to announce that our website has undergone a facelift and it now reflects the energy and activity for which the Trust is becoming known. Thanks to the guys at HelloComputer who donated their time and expertise to get it up and running. Please have a look at it at www.wildernesswildlifetrust.org

We'd like to welcome incoming Trustee, Chris Roche, and also thank Don Bailey, Grant Wolpert, Margot Bell, Ilana Stein and Chris Mostert for all their input throughout the year. Our gratitude also goes to Colorpress for printing, Horwath Leveton Boner for preparing financials and finally to Amos Eno and Laura Mass of the Resources First Foundation for their constant support.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all the donors to the Trust – together we are making a difference. ☺

The Trustees:

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About the Trust

For more than 15 years, the Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust has supported a wide variety of wildlife management, research and education projects in southern Africa. These projects address the needs of existing wildlife populations, seek solutions to save threatened species and provide education and training for local people and their communities.

To make a difference to Africa, its wildlife and people is the main goal that underscores all the projects which the Trust helps to fund, making use of a number of methods and types of projects to do so. One kind of project studies and monitors a particular species in its natural environment and in so doing also contributes to its protection. The Maputaland Turtle Project in South Africa and the Cape Griffon Vulture Project in Namibia are cases in point. Moving beyond research into hands-on management is another variation on this theme.

Study of a species sounds like a purely academic pursuit, but within such investigation lie the seeds for its protection and survival. The better we understand a species and its environment, the more efficiently we'll be able to protect it in a world where the struggle for space becomes paramount and human-animal interactions become increasingly conflicted. Most of the Trust's projects

have this as an ultimate objective and some amazing headway has been made, for example in the Lake Ngami Bird Monitoring Project, which brought the Lake and this Important Bird Area (IBA) to the attention of the Botswana government, resulting in its being declared a "no-hunting area."

Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust makes grants to a number of such projects, supporting research, habitat management, and reproductive science, while Wilderness Safaris contributes logistically in terms of human resources and equipment.

But conservation of flora and fauna is limited as long as the people who live in the vicinity are unconvinced or left out

of the process. Financial and educational empowerment of local communities so that they benefit from the wildlife on their doorsteps is therefore vital, and as such, broad-based and comprehensive initiatives are in fact the bedrock of the Trust, providing skills and knowledge necessary to communities to value and manage their wildlife populations.

Wilderness Safaris is acknowledged as a leader in the educational process thanks to its innovative formal and informal education projects, supported by the Trust. The Children in the Wilderness and Rural Schools programmes both aim to educate the youth of Africa, inspiring and assisting them to preserve their magnificent natural heritage. ♪



Projects

Ongoing Projects:

- Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project
- Brown Hyena Research Project
- Cape Griffon Vulture Project
- Chikwenya Tree Project
- Children in the Wilderness
- Chitabe Fire Ecology Research Project
- Hwange National Park Anti-Poaching Project
- Hwange National Park Game Water Supply
- Maputaland Sea Turtle Project
- Mkambati School Programmes
- TFCa Elephant Populations in the Okavango

New Projects:

- Education Bursary – White Rhino research student
- Kunene Lion Project
- Lowveld Wild Dog Project
- Makuleke Large Mammal Reintroduction Project
- Namibian Elephant and Giraffe Project
- Nyae Nyae Human-Elephant Conflict Research Project
- Save the Rhino Trust Habitat Project
- Shadow Hunter Project
- Simonga Village Projects
- Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit



Makuleke Large Mammal Reintroduction Project

In 2005, six white rhino, five giraffe, eight blue wildebeest, 21 Burchell's zebra and 54 impala were moved from the central district of the Kruger National Park to the Makuleke Concession. This constituted the first phase of the Makuleke Large Mammal Reintroduction Project.

Aim of the Project

The overall aim and objective of the project is to establish a breeding nucleus of white rhino and other species in the Makuleke region of the Kruger National Park. The achievement of this will result in improved marketability of the ecotourism projects in the area and also in the improvement of the ecological integrity and diversity of the area.

In the second phase, the objective is to understand the local ecology of the white rhino in an area from which it has been absent for more than 120 years, and in so doing to provide this information to the broader conservation community. Phase three would ideally see the establishment of further species in the area.

Background

The far north-eastern corner of South Africa, a remote triangle of lush land situated between the Limpopo and Luvuvhu rivers, was added onto the Kruger National Park in 1969, but was never developed as a tourist destination by the Kruger authorities. While its biological and historical diversity and importance were recognised, the area has never been viewed as a priority for game population.

As a result, any wildlife in the area recolonised it naturally, coming down from Zimbabwe and over the Luvuvhu River, and included all naturally occurring mammals – with two notable exceptions: the black and white rhino. White rhino had been hunted out of the entire lowveld by the late nineteenth century, while the last record of black rhino in the area was in the south of the Kruger in the 1930s.

From the human point of view, the 1969 addition of the land to Kruger had

been accomplished by the forced removal of the Makuleke people from its ancestral land. In 1998, the Makuleke were granted their land back, and a landmark agreement between the Makuleke and the South Africa National Parks was reached, where the Kruger would continue to manage the area and to receive gate fees at the Pafuri Gate, but the Makuleke would have the rights to enter into partnership with the private sector to develop an ecotourism product for the area from which they could benefit in terms of skill provision, job creation, lease payments and equity shares. Since then two private lodges have been opened in the area – The Outpost, and Wilderness Safaris' Pafuri Camp.

In recent years the amount of poaching in the concession had been enormous, thus reducing numbers of key medium-sized ungulates such as impala, nyala and bushbuck, as well as impacting on populations of species such as Burchell's zebra. Blue wildebeest and giraffe for an unknown reason were not found on the concession, although they are known to have occurred historically.

The Makuleke Large Mammal Project aims to assist in a number of ways. Firstly, the intrinsic overall biological value of the Makuleke area needs to be carefully and responsibly managed. Secondly, it needs to deliver results with regard to the local community's expectations around employment, skills transfer and income generation – in a sustainable fashion.

Following on from this, the partnership between the parastatal Kruger National Park, the Makuleke Community and private enterprise Wilderness Safaris will be seen as a model for community-based conservation and ecotourism in South Africa (and further afield), and everything possible to make this succeed – for the benefit of conservation in the country – needs to be implemented.

The initial stage of the project (in 2005) involved the capture and relocation of the large mammals mentioned above: white rhino, giraffe, blue wildebeest, Burchell's zebra and impala. In general the operation was successful; one rhino left the concession while the rest remained

and an unexpected bonus was the birth of a baby rhino in February 2006!

Phase Two of the project has seen the engagement of a MSc. student from a South African university who monitors and studies the white rhino population on a daily basis for a year-long period. This will result in a MSc. degree and a number of peer-reviewed papers, popular articles and reports as well as an improved knowledge of the ecology of this species in the wild. ☺

So far, the reintroduction of the animals has gone some way to achieving the objectives below:

- i) Bolstering the ecotourism potential of the area and thus the viability and sustainability of job creation and ultimately this seminal contractual park.*
- ii) Establishing a breeding nucleus of white rhino, in the far north of Kruger that will further accelerate recolonisation of neighbouring areas, both to the south in the Park and to the north in the Sengwe corridor between KNP and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.*
- iii) Restoring the ecological integrity of the area through the introduction of significant species that have been absent, for more than 120 years in the case of the white rhino and an unknown period in the case of the blue wildebeest and giraffe.*

Lowveld Wild Dog Project



The African wild dog has always been an iconic species, whether historically – until fairly recently it was considered “cruel” and killed as “vermin” – or as the second rarest carnivore in Africa. The Lowveld Wild Dog Project, taking place in the Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) in the south-east lowveld of Zimbabwe, aims to look at the distribution and status of the species – specifically outside of protected areas.

Established in 1996, the Lowveld Wild Dog Project (LWDP) initially focused on investigating the behaviour and ecology of the African wild dog population in an environment where the densities of lion and spotted hyaena were low. The two species are wild dogs’ two main competitors and the newly-formed Savé Valley Conservancy provided an ideal study site as it had a healthy wild dog population but very low densities of lion and spotted hyaena.

While the main focus was on the field research, much awareness and education was done with the ranching community within the region and also with the local communities. This work did a lot to improve the image of wild dogs and it is important work that continues today.

The wild dog population in the SVC grew from about 64 individuals in 4 packs in 1996 to an estimated 190 individuals in 10 packs by October 2004. This is currently the highest known density of African wild dogs anywhere in their range.

The challenges facing wild dog conservation have changed since the project began, moving away from researching and protecting populations in large, state-protected areas to looking more intensely at the viability of wild dog populations outside of these areas. The SVC is perfectly placed for this as it lies entirely outside of state-protected areas, and due to the recent land redistribution programme in Zimbabwe, now constitutes a mosaic of land uses, comprising commercial game ranches and subsistence livestock farmers. In addition, due to the large size of the SVC population, wild dogs are beginning to expand beyond its boundaries and into neighbouring communal land.

In looking at livestock depredation by wild dogs, the findings have so far been surprising: only three incidents in 2005 – this ironically, while good news for the dogs, limits the extent to which the researchers can work on the threat!



Recent changes in SVC affecting wild dogs

During the last four years, approximately 26% of the land area of the SVC has been invaded by subsistence farmers, resulting in widespread habitat destruction due to the clearing of woodland for crops, the influx of large numbers of livestock, and the local depletion of wildlife due to intensive snaring.

It was this last point that initiated a change of focus in the Project. After five lion and eleven wild dogs were killed by snares, Peter Lindsey and Stephanie Romanach began looking at the impact snaring has on non-target species such as wild dogs, as well as identifying snaring patterns and occurrences – and finally, interviewing poachers after arrest to find out why they hunt in the SVC. This last objective may well help the SVC to reduce snaring.

Conclusion

By virtue of the recent political climate in Zimbabwe, and the resultant changes in land tenure in parts of the conservancy, SVC now represents a microcosm of the problems facing wild dog conservation over large parts of their geographic range. Finding tools to reduce conflict and promote coexistence between wild dogs and game ranchers and subsistence livestock farmers represents the key objectives to the proposed research project. ☺



Peter Lindsey reports:

Between August and December 2005, we recorded 449 poaching incidents within SVC (not including occupied properties where we cannot move), resulting in the death of at least 295 animals of 22 species. We also recorded 3 272 new snares set within SVC during this period. These figures do not, of course, include poaching incidents that went undetected. On a positive note, SVC have a very strong anti-poaching force and the problem is controlled greatly relative to what would be the case were those controls removed.

This work is going well, although it can be a bit depressing and it takes up the majority of our time. The results should be extremely informative and we hope will have the potential to benefit anti-poaching efforts within SVC, and to highlight the threat posed by the bush meat trade to wildlife in southern Africa (most work on the bush meat trade having been done previously in West and Central Africa).

Save the Rhino Trust Project

25 years ago, as a result of poaching, the black rhino teetered on the edge of extinction. In response, Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), a non-governmental organisation, was formed and, together with local communities, succeeded in eliminating poaching in the Kunene region of Namibia. Today north-west Namibia holds the largest unfenced population of black rhino in Africa.

In September 2005, a black rhino workshop was held in Grootberg, north-west Namibia, among different stakeholders, where different research needs for black rhino were identified – amongst them, the need to research the habitat of the black rhino on a local scale. This project aims to explore the use of habitat by the black rhino within its range, taking into account plant density, diversity, composition of trees and shrubs, and investigate the influence of terrain on both the vegetation and on the black rhino.

To date, Save the Rhino Trust has location data (GPS) for individual rhino in the north-west and understands the habitat on a large scale. The study found that rhino were more likely to occur in areas that were close to springs, further away from human habitation, and areas of higher altitudes. The availability of good plant browse was seen as a major influence on black rhino distribution but there have been no local scale, floristic studies of vegetation based on the known black rhino range. The main objective of this study is to answer this by characterising black rhino habitat use and suitability within their current range based on a local scale vegetation study.

SRT's location data for individual rhino will be pooled and used to calculate the size of each home range, and therefore determine the various parts of the area that are "high use", "low use" or "no use" areas of the individual rhinoceros. Within these the composition of plants, their diversity, types, height, and density, and where they are found will all be observed.

The project will aid in determining suitable habitats for black rhino within potential reintroduction sites. It also aims to establish a means of rapid monitoring of black rhino habitat, which can be incorporated into Save the Rhino Trust monitoring programme. Finally, the study will add to the much-needed vegetation diversity database in these areas.

The beneficiaries of the project include the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (aiding in their reintroduction programmes), local community, local guides and tour operators in adding to their knowledge, and SRT in helping the Trust to establish a means of rapid monitoring of their rare charges. ☺



Shadow Hunter Project

The black mongoose (*Galerella nigrata*) has only recently been proposed as a separate species to the slender mongoose. As a separate species, it has almost never been studied in depth with regards to its behaviour and ecology, and considering that it is thought to be the largest endemic Namibian carnivore, such study has become vital.

The Shadow Hunter Project was therefore established in 2004, with the purpose of raising funds, developing Namibian research capacity, and planning and undertaking research to build a sound database of behavioural, ecological,

environmental and taxonomic knowledge. This will hopefully result in an assessment of the conservation status of the black mongoose.

A secondary but no less important aim is to protect the unique environment in which the black mongoose ranges. This can be done through education of local communities, research of the animal and upgrading of the protected areas network in Namibia.

The study is taking place in the Erongo Mountains Nature Conservancy, 10km from the town of Omaruru, in the Erongo Region of Namibia. The Trust contributed to the funding of a trapping survey, securing

accommodation and field equipment for the research. The extensive rains that fell in Namibia in summer delayed the trapping survey, which will now take place within a period of two and a half weeks in July 2006.

The benefits of the project include increasing the available knowledge not only of the black mongoose but of the Erongo ecosystem as a whole, which can then be applied to conservation schemes for the region. ♪

Nyae Nyae Human-Elephant Conflict Research Project

For rural Namibians, elephants pose a considerable threat to their livelihoods – as they destroy crops, damage water points and injure or even kill humans. Thus the relationship between elephants and people is becoming a growing conservation concern and conflicts are increasing, occurring particularly in rural areas on the border of protected areas and specifically at waterholes.

The Nyae Nyae Elephant Project was developed to help develop effective strategies to reduce human-elephant conflicts in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, where the Ju/'hoansi people live. This project is being carried out in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy and Khaudum National Park.

The Project, managed by Dr Tammie Matson, aims to gain a fuller understanding of elephant behaviour that takes place at waterholes, by investigating what influences their patterns of activity

there, such as sex and herd composition, time of day and season. At the same time, factors affecting incidences of human-elephant clashes in the region are being investigated and an evaluation of current measures to ameliorate problems is being carried out.

The serious damage that elephants cause at waterholes during the dry season is of great concern to the Nyae Nyae community, when large numbers of animals and humans depend on them for

water. There is extensive damage to water installations and herds of several hundred elephants have been observed at a single waterhole, causing serious pressure at this time of year.

The aim of the project is to identify the behavioural, environmental and anthropogenic factors influencing the occurrence of human-elephant conflicts in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, as a basis for sustainable development and conservation of elephants. ♪





Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit



so as to effectively control or at least minimise wood and mammal poaching.

Wood poaching is rife as it is one of the only means of getting fuel for basic needs, and vast quantities of wood are being removed from the protected areas on a daily basis. Many people make a living from the sale of carved wooden curios to tourists, destroying indigenous hardwood trees, such as African Ebony, and the Mukwa in the process. To prevent further destruction, the VFAPU is working with the Forestry Commission in finding alternative means for convicted wood carvers to earn a living; programmes teaching skills such as weaving and embroidery have been implemented.

Finally, the VFAPU aims to educate the local populace, reinforcing the benefits of conservation of their natural resources. ☺

The world-famous Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is surrounded by two state-protected areas (the Victoria Falls National Park and the 57 000-hectare Zambezi National Park) which are home to numerous plant and animal species. Recently these areas have been subjected to illegal utilisation at alarming levels.

The Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) is a privately managed anti-poaching unit established by Charles Brightman in 1999. Since then it has worked to patrol a 50 km² area surrounding the Victoria Falls, to date capturing several hundred poachers and removing over 16 000 snares from this area.

Mammal poaching is as a result of the bushmeat trade, which has led to local depletion of species such as kudu, impala, eland, common duiker, warthog and buffalo, mainly through snaring. A number of elephants have also been shot and their tusks removed.

Two volunteers are in charge of darting and treating mammals wounded by snares. Since the costs for immobilisation and antibiotic drugs are extremely high and these drugs are not always readily available, the long-term intention is to employ a team of professional scouts large enough to cover the area surrounding Victoria Falls Village



Namibian Elephant and Giraffe Project



Everywhere in Africa that elephants live, the challenge of the long-term management of these populations has risen. Confrontations with humans are increasing as both human and elephant numbers grow. The elephants in the Omusati Region of Namibia are no exception to both these aspects. In this Project, the elephants involved inhabit both the protected Etosha National Park and the communal farming areas of the Uukwuluudhi Conservancy. The study aims to gain an understanding of the species in both areas, to develop an improved sustainable management system and to benefit people and animals in the area.

The Namibian Elephant and Giraffe Trust (NEGT) was formed in 2001, with the overall aim to provide scientifically

gathered data on elephants and other large mammals to local, regional and national decision-makers. Initially based in the Kunene Region, in May 2005 the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) requested that NEGT undertake a detailed study of the elephants in the Omusati Region. This project is the result and is designed to be a collaborative research effort between NEGT, MET and the Uukwuluudhi Conservancy, identifying and monitoring elephants in the Kunene and Omusati regions.

In October 2005, four GPS collars were fitted to free-ranging male elephants (two sub-adults and two large adults), both inside and outside the Uukwuluudhi Conservancy area. So far, the data collected has shown great variation in the ranges of the four animals over the dry season, one elephant moving

approximately 150km from the point of collaring!

All herds in the research areas, their social behaviours and individual characteristics, are being identified using observational and photographic techniques, and collected into photographic libraries. The information collected includes aspects of population dynamics such as social behaviour, population structure and age distribution within the herds.

In general, results show that seasonal activity of behaviour varies considerably. For example, the amount of time spent resting during the hot dry season increases; social activities and water activities decrease during the same period. ☺

Educational Bursary

The Wilderness Trust has already played an important funding role in the environmental education process in rural areas across southern Africa and has now begun funding bursaries for students either at graduate or post graduate level in the wildlife and environmental fields.

The first recipient of our Bursary Fund is registered as a student at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, on the programme MSc Conservation Ecology as of January 2006, under the supervision of Dr. Alison Leslie. Prof. Norman Owen-Smith, based at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, is the co-supervisor. The aim of the MSc thesis is to observe and monitor the feeding ecology and behaviour of six reintroduced white rhino, *Ceratotherium simum simum*, to the Makuleke region of the Kruger National Park. (See the Makuleke Large Mammal Reintroduction Project.) Particular attention will be paid to habitat use, diet selection and establishment of territory as well as an assessment of the long-term benefits of this megaherbivore's presence.

Kunene Lion Project

Namibia supports a unique population of desert-adapted lions that survive in the harsh Namib Desert. This “desert” lion is highly valued, both aesthetically and financially, as a prominent feature of the growing tourism industry and Namibia has received international recognition for its progressive and successful conservation efforts. However, there has been a significant increase in wildlife numbers, especially in the Kunene Region and as a result, conflict between the Kunene lions and the local people is growing, as lions prey on domestic livestock. To protect their animals, farmers often shoot, trap or poison the lions, negatively impacting on the tourism industry; at the same time however, the local communities are the ones that have to bear the cost of living with the lions.

Therefore, for the long-term conservation of Kunene lions to succeed, there is a need to monitor their population

ecology and to address human-lion conflicts.

The Kunene Lion Project aims to gain an improved understanding of the ecology of lions, which will help in the successful conservation of the species, benefiting both the tourism industry and the local communities.

There is a need for reliable scientific data on the ecology of the Kunene lion population, with applied research with regard to its numbers, behaviour such as movements, dispersal and reproduction. An intensive research project began in 1999 to this end, with the following aims: collect sound ecological data, address human-lion conflicts, and develop a National Lion Conservation Strategy. This research has yielded valuable results. What is clear is that the number of lions has increased and subsequently their range has expanded – both of which have had an impact on the surrounding communities: the frequency of human-lion conflicts have increased significantly. √



Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction Project

This project, fondly known as the Mombo Rhino Project, has continued to be an incredible success story, with eight baby rhino being born between 2001 and the time of going to press.

Background

Up until the mid-20th century, both species of rhino had been historically found in Botswana, with the black rhino confined to the Kwando-Chobe area, while the white rhino had been common throughout the area. By the early 1990s, almost all wild rhino had been killed. A substantial piece of the jigsaw of biodiversity was thus absent from areas which were otherwise rich in wildlife.

In 2001, collaborative conservation efforts between Wilderness Safaris, Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust, Botswana's Department of Wildlife (DWNP) and the Botswana Government successfully reintroduced the white rhino

into the Mombo area of the Moremi Game Reserve. Releases took place over two years, with almost 30 white rhino being moved into the Mombo concession.

Phase 2 began with the release of four black rhino in late 2003 – again, a pioneer population of two bulls and two cows. As this species is so highly endangered, the SADC (Southern African Development Community) Rhino Group is assisting with sourcing further animals. Six individuals will be brought to Botswana during 2006, from Eastern Cape Parks and North West Parks, in South Africa, and possibly from troubled areas in Zimbabwe. Finally, satellite transmitters are being considered for future releases, so as to minimise disturbance during monitoring. However, these devices, and running them, are very expensive so their application will depend on donations received.

Thanks to the project, breeding populations of both African rhino species

have been re-established in the Okavango Delta, and aside from the intrinsic value that is added to world rhino numbers and population distributions, guests to Wilderness Safaris' camps have the privilege of encountering rhino on game drives – an encounter that enhances the concept of changing lives of people and Africa. ♪



Map Ives, Environmental Manager reports:

We can now state confidently that this project has been a great success. It is now just over three years since the first release, and at the time of writing we have 38 wild white rhino in Botswana as a result, eight of which were born in the Okavango Delta. An absent species has been reintroduced and is doing extremely well here. We have had veteran guides visit us who last saw rhino in this area in the 1980s, and to see a wild rhino here again quite literally brought tears to their eyes.

Brown Hyena Research Project



The Namib Desert Brown Hyena Project has been studying the unique predator-prey ecosystem between the brown hyena and Cape fur seal, in the coastal areas of Restricted Diamond Area No.1 (Sperrgebiet). Since there are no other large predators, this small, shy animal is the top predator of the area, and therefore also comes into conflict with humans.

Over the past year, using GPS telemetry sponsored by the Trust and others, several hyena have been collared, tracked, and monitored, adding to the knowledge of the species. The beginning of 2006 saw work begin in the inland areas of Sperrgebiet, with amazing preliminary results. More than 14 000 GPS locations were downloaded from the collar of an animal known as "Alfie," after it had dropped off him at the correct time. For example, he visited the Baker's Bay seal colony twice during the five months; this was unexpected because the colony is

far from his territory and even his home range.

The Project received funding to fit an additional four brown hyena with GPS collars.

Attempts to increase awareness of the brown hyena in towns and rural areas continued with some success. The first results of the carnivore inventory, mapping and increased awareness project were also published. The researchers gained valuable and unique data from the questionnaire and sighting form project, which will be included in the Namibian Carnivore ATLAS programme.

A positive outcome is that although the majority of farmers experience major problems with carnivores, their general attitude towards carnivore conservation is positive. This year the project will include distributing sighting forms and keeping the Environmental Information Centre going. More time will be spent in education at schools and promoting other environmental activities around Luderitz. ♪

Cape Griffon Vulture Project – REST



The Cape Griffon Vulture is Namibia's most endangered resident bird species with only twelve individuals remaining in the country in early 2005. The decline in its population has been due to the use of poisons, habitat destruction and dietary deficiencies. Up until now few studies have been done on the role vultures play as part of the ecosystem, so the project, run by Maria Diekmann and the Rare & Endangered Species Trust (REST) is vital for the continued existence of these birds in Namibia.

2005 proved to be a very productive and successful year for the Cape Griffon Vulture Project as it moved into the next phase – releasing the first of these iconic birds back into the wilds of Namibia. Satellite transmitters attached to the “new” birds as well as the others are

providing incredible new information for the researchers on aspects such as flight patterns, speeds, altitudes and breeding behaviour

SOFE (Spirit of Free Enterprise) is the Cape Griffon Vulture whose satellite collar is being sponsored by Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust and Namibia Nature Foundation. He has joined up with a female White-backed Vulture and this union resulted in a chick hatching around the 8th of July 2005. The chick was killed, probably by a Tawny Eagle. This hybridisation is a concern for the genetic well being of the remaining Cape Griffons in Namibia and REST continue to watch this with interest. Further reintroductions of this endangered species will help to lessen this risk and to provide breeding alternatives for adult Cape Griffons. ♪



Letter from Maria

Yesterday - Sunday the 23rd October 2005 - we released the first Cape Griffon Vultures back into the wild in Namibia. All of the wild-bred releasable birds flew straight out of their crates and high into the sky to join their wild Namibian buddies. Our neighbour donated a large cow and so numerous White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures came in to feed directly after the release. Emperor, one of 12 of Namibia's historical remaining wild Capes, also made an appearance at the carcass for the media. Our three captive-born birds perched close to the ground for a couple of hours to check this whole event out, but after a couple of hours took to the blue and were off. Quite understandable considering this was their very first free flight.

The whole dream team here in Namibia thanks everyone for their wonderful support and the 'good vibes' sent over here.

Children in the Wilderness



The Children in the Wilderness programme is in its fifth year of operation and has successfully hosted more than 7 000 “children-in-camp days” in Wilderness Safaris camps in Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, and South Africa – and the numbers are climbing! As the programme grows and develops, it is clear that it is helping to make a huge contribution to the sustainability of Africa’s parks and a better quality of life for her people.

Botswana

Botswana was home to the very first Children in the Wilderness camp and has hosted 580 children since the programme’s inception in 2001. Most of the Botswana children come from either orphanages or centres for street children (e.g. Maun, Shakawe and Kasane) or from rural villages on the outskirts of the Delta. The backbone of the programme is the team of dedicated and passionate staff who have worked for the programme in various capacities since its inception in 2001. These people become the role models and mentoring friends that the children so often lack in their home situations.

Plans for the future include the creation of Children in the Wilderness Clubs at participating schools, through which the Follow-up Programme can be better facilitated. Currently Children in the Wilderness staff visit each of the children every second month, providing a half-day of games and education in Children in the Wilderness’ unique style. We are also looking at initiating a more specialised “Wildlife Steward Programme” – a follow-up programme catering to specific

children who show a particular passion and aptitude for conservation and the environmental world. All of these ideas are helping to pave the way for an even more positive and exciting few years ahead for Children in the Wilderness Botswana.

Namibia

“My name is Johanna. I am a girl of 13 years. My mother died in 2001 and now I am orphaned girl. In my life I believed that nobody can become an orphan. My favourite plant is Welwitschia mirabilis and Mopane trees. My favourite activity was the arts and craft because I learned us more about drawing nicely. I like the ostrich because it is beautiful and gives us meat and eggs. I learned more about HIV/AIDS. When I leave camp I will feel happy because I learned more new things and got a new friend. May God bless all the orphaned children!”

Since our launch in 2002 we have conducted at least four camps a year at selected Wilderness Safaris lodges. Groups of 24 children at a time participate in well-designed educational camps in our unique outdoor learning environments. One of the key features of our camps is the ethnic diversity of both kids and staff, creating a rich and vibrant atmosphere.

The programmes this year were run at Palmwag Rhino Camp in the far north-west of the country, or at Kulala Wilderness Camp in the heart of the awesome Namib Desert. The camps mainly focused on conservation and wildlife issues, teaching the children about the wonderful diverse country in which they live. Highlights at Rhino Camp involved tracking the rare and endangered desert-adapted black rhino, in partnership with Save the Rhino Trust. At

Children in the Wilderness is dedicated to helping children whose childhoods have been disrupted by life-threatening conditions such as illness, extreme poverty and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Using environmental education, therapeutic recreation and good old-fashioned fun, Children in the Wilderness creates an awareness of interpersonal skills, an increased involvement in the environment whilst fostering the creative spirit. The programme gives the children the skills to cope with life’s challenges and educates them with the life skills necessary to actualise their greatest potential – and in the process contributes to instilling a respect and passion for their natural environment.

The outcome of the programme benefits all. The children are inspired to strive to achieve their greatest potential; their enthusiasm and new ideas are shared with their families and communities – and critically threatened environments are conserved.

Kulala Wilderness Camp we revealed the fragile desert ecology to the children, and visited some of the world's highest dunes at unforgettable Sossusvlei.

Malawi

Lonjezo Madyero is 13 and participated in the Children in the Wilderness camp at Mvuu. Both of her parents have passed away, and she lives with relatives in close proximity to Liwonde National Park. While at camp, Lonjezo learned about the importance of wildlife to the environment and to Malawi's economy. Lonjezo realised that income-generating activities like the "Liwonde Ladies" arts and crafts project helps to raise funds for the community and to create harmony between the communities and the national parks. Her favourite activities became the game and boat drives, and since attending, she has joined her school wildlife club. Her friends now know that Lonjezo is the one to go to and ask questions about the environment!

Since the Children in the Wilderness Malawi programme was launched in 2003, it has hosted more than 350 children. Its curriculum is specifically geared to using skills in village life and a key feature is the inclusion of staff from Wilderness Safaris lodges and local areas: strong, constant, positive Malawian role models are essential to the success of the programme.



A follow-up programme has been implemented, in which the patrons of the orphan care centres are employed by Children in the Wilderness Malawi to provide the children with regular activities, expanding on the knowledge learned at camp. Patrons can then follow up on specific campers with special needs such as HIV-positive campers, or those with a history of abuse.

The second element of follow-up is a school scholarship programme, enabling children who cannot afford to go on to higher education to fulfil their dreams of graduation. Children in the Wilderness Malawi is currently developing the third and final part of its follow-up – in the field of job mentorship.

South Africa

Pafuri Camp, in the northern Kruger National Park, was where the latest South African Children in the Wilderness programme was hosted, in association with 5 FM radio station's Teddy Bear Patrol 2005, the South African Police Services (SAPS), and McDonald's SA. 30 children between the ages of 10 and 16 were selected by the South African Police from various shelters in each of the metropolitan centres around South Africa (Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth). The children participated in a 6-day edutainment programme, with activities such as game drives, hugging

baobab trees, T-shirt painting and a bird identification course. It was a great success and Children in the Wilderness intends to continue hosting children in the Makuleke region of the Kruger National Park in the future. ♪



I was dazzled with the creativity and intelligence they showed... On Quiz Night they remembered not one, but ALL the trees they'd seen, they correctly identified all the dung, and they lustily made animal noises (including a buffalo, which according to them went "MOO!"). Again, I was humbled at the assumptions I had made... just because they don't go to school every day... I feel humbled at what I have learned from these children. I have no idea if I taught them anything (although I hope I did), but they taught me over and over how much we judge others, have preconceived ideas of them. And how wrong we can be. I learned how being out in the wilds allows us to heal, encourages us to see our commonalities rather than our differences and so to open up our hearts to each other and be vulnerable.

*Ilana Stein
– Pafuri Camp Councillor*

Hwange Anti-Poaching Project



The Hwange National Park continues to benefit from the Anti-Poaching Project. Many more animals were freed from snares in the past year.

Here's a typical day in the life of those involved in the project:

Elephant Unwired!

A young elephant cow, approximately 6 years old, was seen near Makalolo Camp, with a multiple wire snare on her back left leg. The snare had infected her foot and seemed to be causing discomfort. Despite her wound, she seemed very relaxed. On the afternoon of 15 October 2005, the "Wilderness Animal Rescue Team" prepared to dart and de-snare the young elephant.

The appropriate drugs needed to immobilise and recover the young animal were carefully calculated and measured into syringes. The darting gun was loaded with a bright pink flight and dart containing the drug. A bucket containing an assortment of brown bottles filled with antiseptic lotions and emulsions, wire cutters and latex gloves was ready to go.

Makalolo Camp staff members, armed with large containers of water and the "first aid" bucket followed the snared elephant through the bush. A snapping sound signalled the release of the dart and the little elephant took to the bush with a bright pink dart in her hindquarters!

It took a few minutes for the drug to get into the elephant's system, but eventually her steps slowed and she collapsed with a thud. Everyone was at her side immediately; the dart was removed and she was placed in a comfortable position on her side. Her exposed eye was covered and shaded by her ear and she was drenched with bottles of water whilst the lips of her trunk were held open as her breathing was monitored.

As the wire cutters broke through the multiple strands of wire on her foot, she was freed from the painful encumbrance. Her wound was duly treated and squirted with hydrogen peroxide and various antiseptics, while monitoring her breathing and body temperature. She was injected with the recovery drug and everybody involved in the process watched as she flicked her ears and made a few roly-poly attempts to try and stand up. After a couple of minutes, she managed to stagger to her feet. She finally waddled off into the sunset, without so much as a glance behind her to see the satisfied "Wilderness Animal Rescue Team" bidding her farewell! ☺

*Darting carried out by Courteney Johnson (certified Drugs & Darting)
Backed up and assisted by pro-guide Belinda Whittall & staff of Makalolo Camp
Written by Shelley Mitchley, October 2005*

Hwange Game Water Supply Project

Hwange National Park, at 17 000 km² is the largest national park in Zimbabwe. During the dry season in Hwange National Park, water sources become scarce. Some 57 boreholes therefore are used to pump out the precious liquid from deep underground in order to sustain the wildlife in the area.

The average annual rainfall recorded from October 2004 to March 2005 in Wilderness Safaris' Makalolo and Linkwasha concessions was a meagre 346.75 mm. Armed with little less than half of what a typical rainy season would deliver to these parts of Zimbabwe, the season's insubstantial rainfall barely carried forward into the latter part of 2005. Vegetation became parched, scorching temperatures climbed to beyond 40 degrees Celsius and lack of natural water sources encouraged parched wildlife to become more reliant on pumped waterholes.

Water is a precious and finite resource in this part of Zimbabwe, due to the fact that there are no surrounding rivers or dams, and water is drawn from underground aquifers, with an average depth of 47.5 metres. Wilderness Safaris pumps and maintains 18 different

waterholes (of Hwange's 57) within its concessions situated in the south-eastern section of Hwange. In the dry season, from April to November, these diesel-fuelled pumps ran 24 hours a day in order to meet the demands and keep up with the daily incessant pressure from multitudes of thirsty wildlife. Due to the economic situation in Zimbabwe, diesel fuel is not always readily available and therefore fuel stocks have to be imported and stored, at an approximate cost of US\$1.00 per litre. On a monthly basis, as much as 5,000 litres of diesel was used on re-fuelling these pumps and the vehicles which carry out pump checks and maintenance. In September and October 2005, there were some very gracious donations from travel companies and patrons to assist in procuring this precious fuel.

The rainy season of 2005/2006 began in October 2005 and was nothing short of a blessing – delivering 865mm to the Wilderness Safaris concessions in Hwange. The pumps could take a well-deserved rest. ☺

The Water Supply Project would like to extend special thanks to Safari and Tourism Insurance Brokers and Brian Courtenay.

Shelley Mitchley reports: During these times, we were witness to some amazing scenes. An astonishing encounter took place between a herd of sable versus a small herd of elephants that were reluctant to share their pool of water. Reminiscent of two opposing armies, the beasts stood parallel to each other, as gradually the sables inched their way forward. The elephants confidently faced their adversaries until the confrontation resulted in armed combat: trunks and horns lashed and flicked as they ran towards each other and trumpeting filled the air. Eventually, weariness caused a truce and amazingly they decided to stand side by side and share the same waterhole.



Maputaland Sea Turtle Project

The annual spectacle of hundreds of Leatherback and Loggerhead turtles returning to the beaches on which they hatched to lay their eggs has remained unchanged for thousands of years. In concert, the Project to protect and monitor these ancient animals is one of the longest running such projects in the world!

In response to the dwindling numbers of turtles, in 1963, scientists from the then-Natal Parks Board (now Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife), under the direction of Dr George Hughes, initiated a project to monitor the number of nesting females per season, and to protect the beaches on which they nest from further disturbance. The project was expanded in 1971 to include data collection on Loggerhead turtle eggs that hatched the following season. Between January and March, hundreds hatch from the nests and make their way down to the sea.

Ten years later, official funding fell away, and the project was saved thanks to donations from the World Wildlife Fund, Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust and Rocktail Bay Lodge. For the past few years, Wilderness guides – and their



excited guests – have shared the nightly patrols and monitoring with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, while part of the annual concession fees that Rocktail pays go toward the wages of the seasonal turtle scouts who are employed at this time of year to guard the turtle nests and help patrol the beaches.

The publicity that the turtles get from Rocktail Bay Lodge guests has positive spin-offs as well. The sight of an enormous turtle making her way up and down the beach and laying her eggs, or that of tiny hatchlings emerging from the wet sand and struggling manfully down to the sea – these are incredibly moving sights that



routinely inspire guests to donate funds – and even ‘adopt’ their very own turtle.

On the whole, it was a fantastic turtle season, with wonderful memories for guests and monitors alike. An incredible 275 Loggerhead Turtle nests were seen, compared to last year’s 171 – a total of 104 more nests than last year. 78 Leatherback nests were sighted too, which is phenomenal for the most endangered sea turtle in the world. Out of the 353 nests that were documented since October, 42 of those were made by previously tagged turtles, which means that 311 nests were made by new mothers, or mothers that were tagged and micro-chipped for the first time this season.

A total of 61 turtles were adopted in the 2005-2006 season.

As in previous years, the continued results of this study show that turtle populations of both species are on the increase – the only populations in the world known to be doing so! ☺



Looking back over our turtle adoptions for this season it is clear that it is impossible for us to award each adopter individually. Anyone who has adopted a turtle will appreciate how special it is, knowing that you have helped save future generations of turtles along the Maputaland coastline. However, the Rocktail Team would like to make a special mention of thanks to Brian Malk and Nancy Heitel, who have done more than their fair share to save the turtles. At the end of the 2004-2005 turtle season, Brian and Nancy adopted the remaining fifteen “orphaned” Loggerhead turtles. Once again this season, they are doubling what they did last year, and are adopting an astonishing thirty “orphaned” turtles. Isn’t that unbelievable?

The Rocktail Team would like to thank all of you who have adopted a turtle this season. As you all already know, you have gone out of your way to help these gentle marine reptiles.



Mkambati School Programmes

In keeping with the Trust's mandate to assist in educating disadvantaged African youth, it encourages interested donors to 'adopt' a school, sponsoring the upliftment of the school and its facilities. A combination of donations from the Trust and private sponsors has seen significant success in two such schools in the Pondoland area in South Africa's Eastern Cape Province. The first is the Mkambati School which continues to be built; the second – the Zimisele School Project – was completed last year.

This area, also known as the Wild Coast, is one of the poorest sectors in the country, with a high illiteracy rate (estimated as 50%), a near absence of technical education and lack of skills. Wilderness Safaris joined with the local community and its Mkambati Trust to create livelihoods through a combination of tourism, wildlife, business and the talents of the local people – and to ensure that the next generation has the chance to be educated.

Additional funds from private individuals through the Trust will allow these and other schools to be completed with regard to buildings and equipment. Thereafter, the day-to-day operational and running expenses will be covered on a yearly basis.

Mkambati School - Sponsored by Bruna Zacks

The Mkambati School began in 1996 as a pre-school. Over time, the school grew, as did the demand for a higher level of education for the children in the region and it is now a recognised Junior Secondary School, accepting children up to 14 years old. There are over 50 children in a classroom, and a total of four qualified teachers who are completely dedicated to the children they teach. Under such difficult circumstances, these teachers do an incredible job.

Through the kind sponsorship of family and friends of Bruna Zacks and the modest school fees that some pupils can afford to pay, the community has continued with the construction of the new Mkambati Junior School in 2004 and 2005. Finally, by June 2005, the Junior School reached the final stages of completion of Phase I: the roof of the school and the plastering of one of the classrooms is complete and the second classroom is in the process of being plastered. Once this is done, the doors and window frames will go in which represents the end of this first phase. Ahead lies Phase II...

The school comprises two buildings (five classrooms), allowing for the school to expand in order to cater for the growing demand in the area. The children were so keen to get the school up and running that they assisted with carrying the roof planks for the builders! ☺



Simonga Village Projects

The Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust has been working with The River Club in Zambia in its partnership with the nearby village of Simonga. Since 2000, The River Club has carried out a range of projects in the village, which have been funded by the generous donations of Lodge guests in conjunction with the Trust. Projects to date have focused particularly on assisting women and children, and now include those that will help the inhabitants in general generate an income and therefore help the entire community. In order of priority, focus areas are sanitation, health, education and income generation.

Sanitation: The water project was begun a few years ago: to install distribution points for running water in the village. This has involved the sinking a borehole and installing a pump, pipes and storage tanks. All that remains is for the contractor to test the pump itself, make the final connections and carry out the necessary tests. The water project aims to provide 50 000 litres of water per day to the villagers in 2006.

Health and Hygiene: There is a real need for the construction of a suitable number and quality of toilets for the school. In addition, a Health Post is being

constructed, and equipment bought for this, as well as a clinic in the village, the Kramer Clinic, which is at the stage of a successful tender bid. This is a very exciting project, which will provide valuable medical assistance to the people of Simonga Village who currently need to travel 18 kilometres to Livingstone for treatment.

Education: The school and exam fees for all Grade 8 and 9 school children at Simonga, 20 Simonga schoolchildren attending secondary school in Livingstone (Grades 8–12) and 5 teachers are all being sponsored. A school library is being built, as is a canteen (with assistance from Sun International), and ongoing maintenance work is being done, including repairs to desks, doors and windows. The school continues to receive donated books from the USA and UK from guests staying at The River Club.

Income generation: In one of the most innovative ideas yet, farmers are being encouraged to set up and plant a chilli patch around their food crops! Known as the Elephant Pepper Development Trust, the chillies are used both to prevent elephants destroying food crops (dried chillies mixed with dung to make briquettes to burn at night and with grease or oil to grease a “chilli fence”

and to earn the farmer extra cash (chillies are sold at \$1 per kg). This idea will help more farmers protect their food crops and generate income.

Other recent areas of development include the completion of a police station financed by The River Club and other tour operators and private households living along the river, and the construction of a two bedroom house for the Head Lady.

Contributions coming through the Trust will assist it in its collaboration with The River Club so as to continue to finance the projects currently in progress, as well as to begin new ones throughout the coming year. ☺



Completed Projects



Small Carnivore Project

This project, beginning in 2000, studied the habitat, ecology, breeding and feeding habits of the bat-eared fox on the Kulala Wilderness Reserve. It also focused on the education of farmers and communities about the differences between an aardwolf (an insectivorous small carnivore) and a hyaena. Farmers often kill aardwolves, mistakenly regarding them as threats to their livestock. It is our hope that education will be a way forward in the conservation of this rare small carnivore.

TFCA Elephant Populations in the Okavango

Project Name: Ecology, Population Structure and Movements of Elephant Populations in the Okavango-Upper Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area

Working in collaboration with the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) and other partners, this study provided vital information on the abundance, distribution, population structure, habitat needs, and movements of elephants in northern Botswana, and particularly the transboundary movements of elephants within the Okavango-Upper Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (OUZTFCA). This data, along with a digital land-cover map and a spatial elephant population model will hopefully provide wildlife managers with tools for developing an elephant management programme for Botswana as well as for the larger Transfrontier Conservation Area.



Monitoring of Bird Populations at Lake Ngami

Bird counts were done twice a week between April and May 2004, after which the Lake began to fill with water. The Project took note of both numbers and species and costs were shared between the Trust and Wetlands International.



Skeleton Coast Lichen Project

The Lichen Research Project conducted a ground survey of all lichen communities in a 3 000-km² concession of the Skeleton Coast Park in the northern Namib Desert. It assessed the long-term impacts of human activity on lichens and the Namib Desert ecosystem as a whole. The project contributed greatly to the management plan of the Skeleton Coast Park as well as an increased awareness of the role played by lichen in stabilising fragile desert soil and the threat that human activities present to this delicate environment.



Linyanti Elephant Impact Study

The study confirmed that loss rates of large tree species in the Linyanti vary considerably from year to year – regardless of whether this is as a result of local climatic variation or factors such as elephant browsing – but importantly also emphasises that these loss rates have high variability over longer time periods as well. Additional and longer-term studies in the region are needed to understand exactly what impact the elephants have on the system.



Chitabe Fire Ecology Research Project

About 10% of the Okavango Delta burns annually, caused either by lightning or people. Small mammals such as mice or gerbils are most directly affected by fire; these animals eat mainly seeds and insects and are, in turn, important prey items for over 100 species of mammalian carnivores, birds and reptiles in the Delta. Mila Plavsic of Cambridge University, with the support of Okavango Wilderness Safaris and hosted by Chitabe Camp, studied the impacts of fire on the small mammal populations in the Delta.

The study team live-trapped small mammals of six grassland species in the area once a month, each animal marked with a microchip and released so that populations could be monitored both before and after a fire. The results showed that the immediate effect of a fire is drastic, with complete emigration from the area; not one of the study individuals that had been present before were ever recaptured afterwards. However, within a few months, new individuals of some of the species began to arrive, with some species recovering quicker than others.



Zimisele School Project - Sponsored by the Ultimate Travel Company

The Zimisele school project was initiated to improve the schooling conditions of the children in the Mkambati community. Zimisele School is located in the Mtshayelo Village and at the moment has 350 learners and 6 teachers with the school buildings in appalling conditions. Ultimate Travel Company UK sponsored the project to erect an additional classroom at the school. In the past the learners were sharing classrooms between the grades, making learning and concentration very difficult. The classroom has just been completed and this will allow the learners to have individual classrooms per grade, improving the quality of education at the school.

Mana Pools Tree Conservation Project

Mana Pools National Park, on the banks of the Zambezi River, has one of the best examples of alluvial terracing and floodplain vegetation in southern Africa. Its views are striking and evocative: tall albidia trees (known also as the Ana tree), open floodplains and the mountains of the Rift Valley behind. Recently, the magnificent albidias have been declining in numbers and it was speculated that this was the result of the elephant population feeding heavily on these trees, and high numbers of large mammals destroying the young specimens as well. It may be part of a natural cycle, but there is concern that this is either caused or exacerbated by the fact that the Zambezi River no longer floods the way it used to – either because of the presence of Lake Kariba's dam wall, or due to the unusually high density of certain large mammals, such as elephant and impala.

This experimental project attempted to “protect” the trees from further damage by wrapping wire mesh around their trunks. Hard-hit trees were identified and wrapped with wire in the hope of prolonging their lives; the project was also aimed at researching the long-term effects of such an action.



Donations to the Trust

To make a donation to the Wilderness Trust, please make use of one of the options below:

Botswana:

For convenience we have two bank accounts in Botswana - one for USD and one for BWP payments. Please note that the bank details remain the same for all transactions, it is merely the account number (as shown below) which differs according to the currency being paid to us.

Name of Bank:	Stanbic Bank Botswana
Branch:	Fairground Gaborone
Branch Computer Code:	1011
Account Name:	Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust
Account Type:	Current
Swift Code:	UBBLBWGX
BWP Account Number:	014 000 669 7500 - send BWP payments to this account only
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South Africa:

If you wish to send a wire transfer in South African Rands you may use the following bank account:

Name of Bank:	Standard Bank Of South Africa
Branch:	Rivonia
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Maine Bank:

For American taxpayers, donations to the Trust can be tax-deductible through a 501c facility - please email Laura Mass of the Resources First Foundation at lmass@resourcesfirstfoundation.org or see the website - <http://resourcesfirstfoundation.org> - for details.

About Resources First Foundation

Resources First Foundation (RFF) was formed to promote and design conservation and education tools and solutions to promote conservation and restoration activities for fish, wildlife and other natural resources primarily on privately owned lands across the United States and in southern Africa. Within southern Africa, the RFF supports the programmes of the Wilderness Trust, one of the conservation market leaders for community-based conservation and education on the subcontinent. Many community-based and private landowner conservation techniques and policies were first initiated and developed in a number of countries in southern Africa. Because the Foundation's financial resources are relatively small, grants will be made only upon the invitation of the foundation's officers and board. An area of grant-making focus includes training and education programmes for wildlife professions and innovative wildlife restoration projects (from the tagging of marine turtles to the reintroduction of white rhinoceros). RFF is a non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible.

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We would like to thank all the photographers who contributed generously to this Annual Report

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