

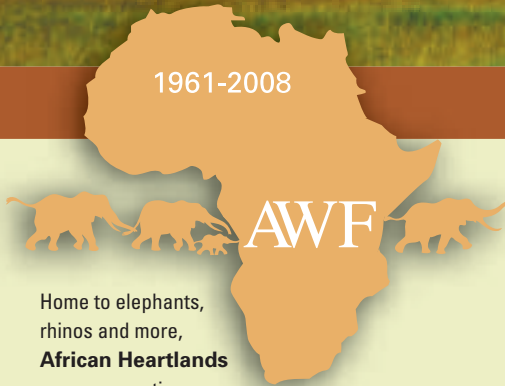
# African Wildlife News



Billy Dodson

1961-2008

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN THE AFRICAN HEARTLANDS



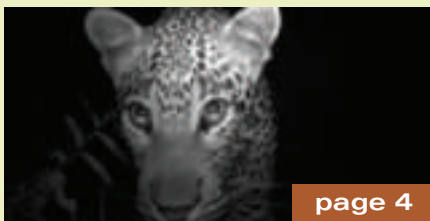
Home to elephants, rhinos and more, **African Heartlands** are conservation landscapes large enough to sustain a diversity of species for centuries to come. In these landscapes—places like Kilimanjaro and Samburu—AWF and its partners are pioneering lasting conservation strategies that benefit wildlife and people alike.

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Zambia's only white rhino finally gets company.



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**At the Heart of Conservation**  
Science that translates into practical applications remains at the heart of AWF's species conservation.



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**The Coffee-Conservation Connection**  
Starbucks and AWF team up to help Kenyan farmers grow more conservation-friendly coffee.



AWF/Paul Thomson

This year 20 young mountain gorillas were named at Kwita Izina, Rwanda's annual ceremony to name gorillas born throughout the year.

## Small Victories Offer New Hope for Mountain Gorillas

In the world of wildlife conservation, every birth of an endangered animal is a victory. In the Virunga Heartland, home to the world's 720 remaining mountain gorillas, such success stories are possible thanks to the work of AWF and its partners—and the generosity of donors like you.

Years of civil war and poverty have taken their toll on the people and wildlife of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Uganda, which include the last-remaining mountain gorilla habitats. The slaughter of seven gorillas in the DRC last year is one example of the ongoing, critical need for gorilla protection. AWF, working with Fauna & Flora International and the World Wide Fund for Nature through the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP), is bringing

new resources and public attention to the plight of the mountain gorillas while creating opportunities for their human neighbors.

### A Celebration of New Opportunity

Acknowledged as a leader in mountain gorilla conservation for the past 30 years, AWF was recently honored to participate in Rwanda's Kwita Izina, a naming ceremony for baby gorillas born throughout the year in Volcanoes National Park. AWF's CEO Dr. Patrick Bergin, one of the official namers, chose to call one of the 20 baby gorillas born this year "Sacola," in recognition of the community trust that owns Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge.

Sabyinyo is the product of a unique partnership between AWF, the Kinigi

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## Machache ~ A FEW WORDS

## If You Could See What They See

Every time an AWF member comes to Africa to see first-hand the impact we are having, they walk away saying: “Wow, I can’t believe how much we’re getting done on the ground!”

They are absolutely right. Now more than ever, as AWF’s \$100 million *Campaign to Save Africa’s Heartlands* moves into its final year, we are making strides at a pace once only dreamed of:

...In Mozambique, we’ve built a research camp as part of a five-year effort to restore Banhine National Park’s habitat and wildlife.

...In Tanzania, we’ve secured management of a 75,000-acre ranch critical for elephant movement in the West Kilimanjaro region.

...In Botswana, we’ve built a water entry to Chobe National Park that enhances ranger wildlife monitoring while capturing needed tourist revenue.

And, that’s just a glimpse of what we’ve been up to.

In short, the *Campaign to Save Africa’s Heartlands*—designed to double AWF’s programs on the ground—is moving forward rapidly.

Already, thanks to the generosity of AWF trustees, foundations, other major

donors and committed members like you, more than \$80 million has been raised or pledged. If you haven’t already made your campaign gift, I hope you’ll use the enclosed envelope to do so. No gift is too small; every dollar can make a difference.



Because you are already an AWF member, I suspect you share my passionate commitment to Africa’s wildlife, its spectacular landscapes, and the people who call it home.

**Whatever first drew you to AWF, I am proud to call you a partner in our cause.**

Perhaps what first attracted you to AWF was the plight of mountain gorillas, the social life of elephants, or the prowess of cheetahs, lions, and other big cats. Or maybe it was your appreciation for our commitment to working with Africa’s people to ensure a better future for them and the wildlife that share the land.

Whatever first drew you to AWF, I am proud to call you a partner in our cause.

And if you are as passionate about our mission as I suspect you are, I hope you will take advantage of year-end giving opportunities for charitable tax deductions to make a significant gift to the *Campaign to Save Africa’s Heartlands*.

This unprecedented campaign is truly transforming conservation in Africa, on the ground, every day.

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

Craig R. Shrelley



AWF is made up of passionate members and supporters who will settle for nothing less than on-the-ground results. Here AWF staff brief trustees on our work in Mozambique’s Banhine National Park.

## Mountain Gorillas *(Continued from page 1)*

community, and The Governor's Camp Collection. The Kinigi community, represented by the SACOLA trust, owns the land and the lodge itself. The Governor's Camp Collection, a leading private operator, designed the lodge, managed its construction, and now runs the first-class facility. AWF, through IGCP, brought the three partners together and is helping to manage conservation work around the lodge.

The lodge, named one of *Condé Nast Traveler's* hottest destinations, is unique in that it converts mountain gorilla tourism dollars into benefits for local people. A percentage of the lodge's revenue goes back into the community through projects such as fixing roads and building houses for the community's poorest families.

Through this win-win strategy, Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge puts mountain gorilla conservation to work for the community.

**"I chose the name Sacola to honor the communities that treat mountain gorillas as a national treasure," said Dr. Bergin.**

### Conservation Across Borders

The success of mountain gorilla tourism in Rwanda is serving as a model for the DRC and Uganda. Another IGCP/AWF-supported lodge recently opened in Uganda, providing income for the local community and protection for mountain gorillas in the area.

On an international scale, AWF and IGCP this year facilitated a 10-year trans-boundary initiative to integrate the operations of the three countries' national park rangers, allowing conservation efforts to be coordinated across the gorilla's entire range.

"This begins a new chapter in what has been a long and committed effort by all the agencies involved," says Eugène Rutagarama, Director of IGCP.



Craig R. Sholley

The long-term presence of AWF and its partners has allowed the mountain gorilla population to stabilize and even gain ground.

This regional collaboration goes beyond work to conserve the mountain gorilla. As scientists better understand the climatic effects of habitat destruction, mountain gorilla conservation is serving as an anchor for protecting the rich montane forests of Central Africa's Albertine Rift. These dense forests regulate the local climate, provide a permanent flow of clean water to nearby communities, fortify soils in agricultural fields, and provide people with non-timber forest products such as honey and medicinal plants.

The long-term presence of AWF and its partners has allowed the mountain gorilla population to stabilize and even gain ground. But it has yet to change this reality: mountain gorillas are still critically endangered. They face many threats, including habitat destruction, poaching, hunting, and disease. "We must not be complacent. The slow rate of reproduction among mountain gorillas makes the challenge of keeping these precious creatures alive ever so great," says Dr. Bergin. "The population is still extremely fragile and we must be ever vigilant in our efforts to protect this charismatic great ape." ■

 Recent milestones in mountain gorilla conservation are in large part thanks to the highly trained park rangers who risk their lives to monitor and protect the highly endangered great apes. Visit AWF's website at [www.awf.org/gorillarangers](http://www.awf.org/gorillarangers) to learn more.

## News in Brief

### Zambia's Lone White Rhino Gets Company

For more than a year, Jones Masonde, an ecologist at AWF, worked with Zambia Wildlife Authority and other partners to bring four white rhinos to Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park in Zambia. Only one other white rhino remained in the entire country: Fwanya (which means rascal in the local language), a 30-year-old male also living in Mosi-oa-Tunya.

After much planning, and a 48-hour journey by road from South Africa's Kruger National Park, the four new white rhinos finally arrived this August. Three are female—Inonge, Nelly, and Jessie—and one is a male—Lewis.

On their arrival, the rhinos were quarantined for 14 days in a special boma, where they were screened for disease and introduced to the park's vegetation. After their release, rangers tracked each animal for two days to monitor their safety and observe their behavior. Two of the rhinos are now implanted with microchips so park authorities can monitor their well-being. The two other rhinos will be implanted with chips once their horns grow.

A relatively small park, Mosi-oa-Tunya is home to Victoria Falls, the spectacular curtain of falling water that straddles Zambia and Zimbabwe. To prepare for the rhino's arrival, the park authorities have strengthened park management, trained rangers in rhino protection and anti-poaching skills, and introduced watering spots.

"Rhinos are a treasure in Zambia, and I was extremely honored to be part of the team that brought company for Fwanya," says Jones. "Now we must do all we can to protect them and ensure their survival." ■



Jones Masonde