

# African Wildlife News

Billy Dodson

1961-2009

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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### Best of the Best Continued

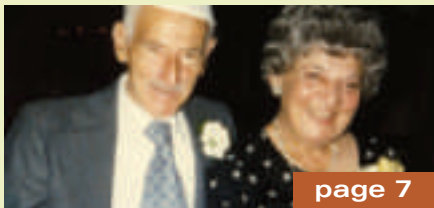
Join AWF members on the journey of a lifetime.



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### Rhino Tales from Mosi Oa Tunya

Meet the new crash.



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### A Passion Passed Down Brings Benefit to Africa

In memory of a loving grandfather.



Paul Lampert

Safari participants sighted more than 70 lions, each as powerful and breathtaking as this solitary lioness resting in the savanna.

## Safari Journal:

### Best of the Best

Join a team of AWF members on the journey of a lifetime

*A special group of members recently embarked on an exceptional 13-day safari to Tanzania, offered through the African Wildlife Foundation's (AWF's) Member Safari and Outreach Program. The trip was designed to build knowledge about East Africa's magnificent wildlife while spotlighting conservation projects that link wildlife protection with improved human well-being. It would be impossible to detail every wildlife encounter or expert talk, but here we touch on some of the Best of the Best of Tanzania.*

#### First Stop: West Kilimanjaro

The memorable AWF journey began at a tented safari camp located on the western flanks of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. Members spent three days in the West Kili area learning how AWF is helping to protect the future of elephants and other wildlife in this important transboundary area on the Kenya/Tanzania border. Here AWF has helped to establish a nationally recognized elephant movement corridor and is managing a large ranch as a protected area for wildlife.

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"The AWF experts were incredibly knowledgeable. I was amazed also by all the things I learned from the people who traveled here from the USA to be part of the team. They were truly very, very special. I will remember everyone always."

-Vicki of Oakland, California

# When Fwanya Met Inonge

## and Other Tales from Mosi Oa Tunya

*After a year of going it alone, Zambia's single surviving white rhino now has company because four additional rhinos from South Africa were translocated to Mosi Oa Tunya National Park. AWF caught up with AWF Ecologist Jones Masonde to find out how the rhinos are doing.*

### How have the rhinos adjusted to their new home?

Very well. All are in good physical shape and have maintained their huge, healthy appetites. Fwanya has adapted well to his new companions. So well, in fact, that we think the female Inonge is pregnant.

### Wow! What makes an ecologist think that?

Inonge had been flirting around with Fwanya quite a bit; then, in the past few months, we noticed she's been isolating herself from the other rhinos more and more and showing more aggression when approached—tell-tale signs. But only a scientific test can say for sure. I'll let you know if our suspicions are correct.

### You said the rhinos' appetites have remained huge.

**What—and how much—do rhinos typically eat?** The white rhino eats grass (while its cousin the black rhino eats leaves and shrubs). The average white rhino eats 27-37 lbs a day (about 3-4 percent of its body weight) and spends about half the day and night eating. It usually sleeps during the hottest part of the day (about 8 hours) and is more active from 5 pm to 7 am.



AWF/Jones Masonde

Helped by the company of the other rhinos, Fwanya has recovered well from gunshot wounds inflicted by poachers in 2007.

### Have there been any poaching incidents since the new rhinos arrived?

There have been no attacks by poachers and no rhino deaths or casualties. This is thanks to the expert, 24-hour surveillance of the park's rhino protection team. But AWF supporters also deserve a big note of thanks. Drawing on generous donor contributions, AWF over the past year has provided the patrol team with fuel, food rations, and field equipment, including transmitters, radios, raincoats, and boots—all items needed to keep the rhinos safe and the team out of danger.

### If the rhinos can roam free in the park, how does the team know where they are? How do the patrolmen keep them safe?

All five rhinos have been fitted with radio transmitters—a small chip inserted into the horn—which send signals as the animals move about. Using a handheld telemetry signal receiving device, the team can pick up and follow the movements of the rhino. Each rhino typically has two wildlife police officers tracking it at all times. The officers are armed and very well trained. They need to be on alert and able to act quickly. Poachers who hunt rhinos for their horn are extremely ruthless and have no regard for either humans or rhinos.

### Why are rhinos hunted so relentlessly?

The rhino is hunted for its horn, which is used in traditional medicine and ornamental carvings in Asia. Rhino horn fetches very high prices on the black market. This illegal trade as well as other threats have pushed both black and white rhinos dangerously close to extinction.

### What is the outlook for the white rhino in Zambia?

Given the success of the translocation and the park's rhino protection team, things certainly look better than they did in 2007. That was the year poachers killed Zambia's only remaining female rhino and shot Fwanya. Thankfully, Fwanya survived and appears to be thriving now that four other rhinos are sharing the park. ■



AWF/Jones Masonde

Using handheld radio telemetry equipment, this tracker can follow the movements of one of the five tagged rhinos, keeping it out of harm's way.

AWF/Jones Masonde



Safely sedated and with eyes covered, this rhino undergoes a radio chip implant in its horn.



Look for news about Inonge and other rhino updates at [www.awf.org](http://www.awf.org).