

African Wildlife News

FALL 2005



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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Leadership training is one the great hallmarks of AWF's service to Africa.



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Are these great apes running out of time?



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Living Legacies

Don't forget the tax advantages of year-end donations and planned gifts.

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK IN THE AFRICAN HEARTLANDS



Daryl & Shama Balfour

Kenya Land Conservation Trust is a Major Victory for African Wildlife

Following several years of strategic negotiations with the Kenyan government, the African Wildlife Foundation is delighted to announce the incorporation of the Kenya Land Conservation Trust. Now officially registered and ready to do business in Kenya, the new Trust will greatly enhance efforts to safeguard the habitats of some of Africa's most renowned yet increasingly threatened species, including rhinos and elephants.

"This is a major victory for conservation in Kenya," said AWF President Patrick Bergin. "It creates a flexible new mechanism for private initiatives to supplement Kenya's parks, some of which are too small to be viable for wildlife on their own."

By granting it incorporation, the Kenyan government is enabling the Trust to hold private lands for conservation, thus supplementing traditional

government parks and wildlife reserves. The new Trust, which includes AWF on its Board of Directors, will be able to negotiate leases, easements, management agreements and outright land purchases with ranchers, farmers, and other private landholders in order to safeguard critical habitats for wildlife.

"If wildlife could talk, it would take humans to court," said Nyokabi Gitahi, an AWF lawyer who helped

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Wildlife WATCH

Naked Mole-Rat



With a face only a mother could love, the naked mole-rat lives a fascinating life underground, below the feet of East Africa's more charismatic fauna.


Paul Thomson

Sometimes the most fascinating animals come in the least attractive packages. Take Africa's naked mole-rat, for example. "As a mammal with the social life of a termite and the temperature regulation of a frog, the naked mole-rat remains an enigma to scientists," reports the Friends of the National Zoo *Zoogoer* magazine, "an exquisite example of how species can develop adaptations that allow them to live in the strangest of places."

Equipped with powerful incisors, jaws that house 25 percent of its muscle mass, lips that close behind its teeth to keep the dirt out, and hairy toes that help sweep back excavated soil, the naked mole-rat is one impressive digging machine. When excavating tunnels in search of the plant roots and succulent tubers that make up its diet, naked mole-rats resemble the conveyor belt of an assembly line. Lined up nose to tail, the 'digger' breaks through new soil with its incisors. Behind it, 'sweepers' use their feet to whisk the dirt away. At the

end of the line is a 'volcanoer,' kicking the dirt above ground into a distinctive hill about five inches high.

One of several species of mole-rats belonging to the family Bathyergidae, Africa's naked mole-rat (*Heterocephalus glaber*) is found in arid environments of Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. Like ants, termites, and some bees, they live in underground colonies. Their societies are divided rigidly into workers, who excavate networks of tunnels in search of food; soldiers, who defend against predators such as the rufous-beaked snake; and a single queen. Naked mole-rats are what scientists refer to as *eusocial*, meaning that like bees, only the queen breeds with a handful of males. The rest of the colony spends their entire lives in celibate community service. ■

 To learn more about the African species your donations help protect, visit AWF's online Wildlife Library at www.awf.wildlives.

Your Donations at Work

Every day across Africa your donations are making a difference. AWF member contributions—together with support from our Board of Directors, other major donors, foundations, corporate partners and government agencies—are helping the people of Africa ensure that Africa's wildlife and wild lands endure forever.



Mark Boulton/CCCE

Rhino Poaching Down at AWF Project Site

Thanks in part to AWF, rhino poaching is on its way out in an area of Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park known as the Sinamatella Intensive Protection Zone. Without AWF's emergency intervention, one of southern Africa's most viable populations of black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) may well have been lost, the target of rampant poaching. With special support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, however, AWF was able to quickly mount an effective antipoaching campaign. Seven new rangers were recruited and rhinos were monitored using implanted microchips. Computers, tents, binoculars, and fuel for ground and aerial patrols were also provided. Since the campaign was launched just over a year ago, not a single rhino or elephant has been poached at Sinamatella and two rhino calves have been born! ■

I Want to Do More to Protect Africa's Wildlife

Yes, I see that my donations are being put to good use and want to do more to help AWF protect Africa's most imperiled wildlife and wild lands. Please use the enclosed tax-deductible donation where it is needed most:

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 ___ gifts that pay me income for life.
 ___ I have already included AWF in my estate plans.
- Please send me your online newsletter, *AWF Africa News*, so I can receive special updates on breaking news affecting the wildlife and wild lands of Africa.

Please visit our Website at www.awf.org.



Karl Ammann

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