

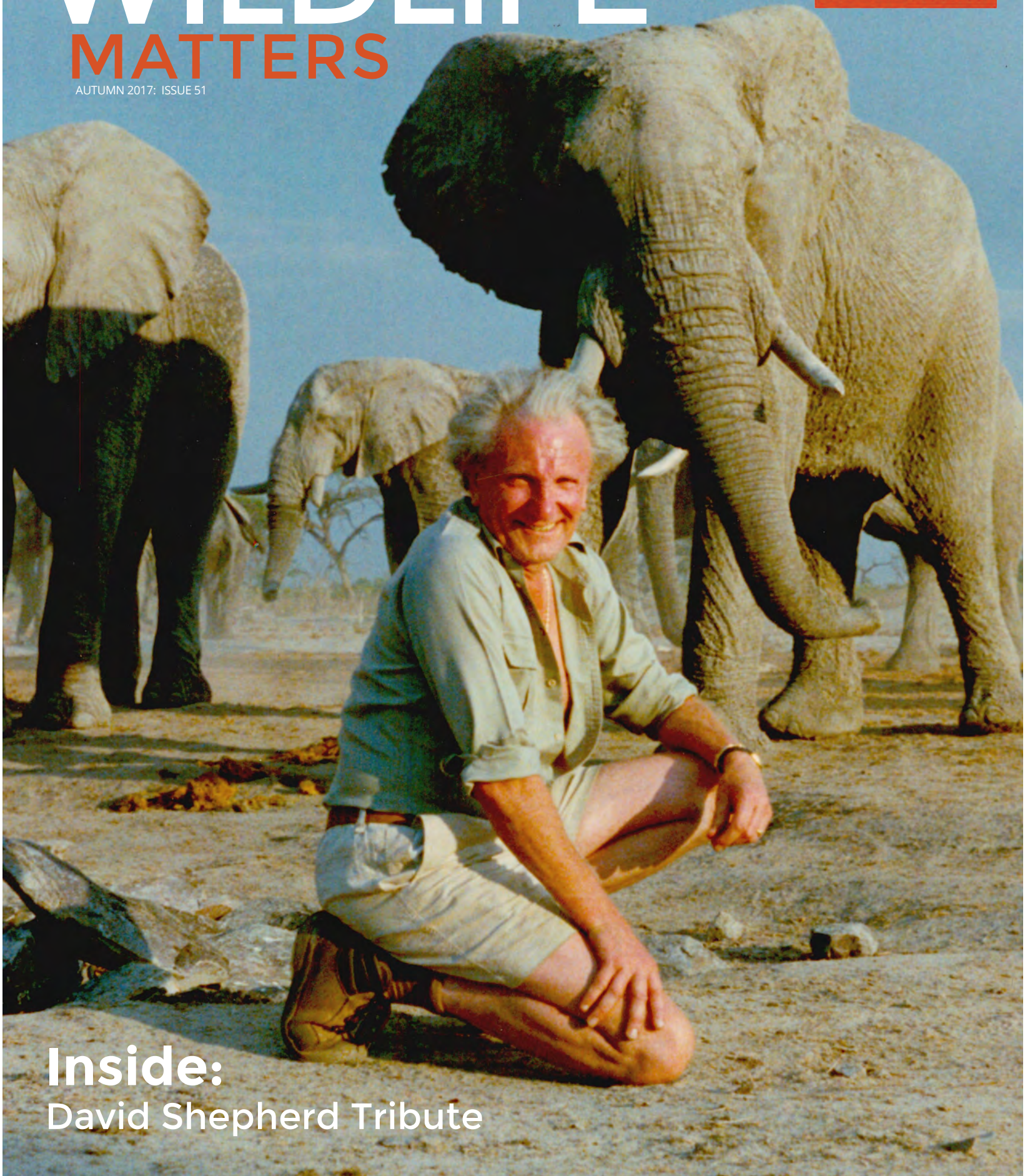
David's Legacy Lives On...

WILDLIFE MATTERS

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DAVID SHEPHERD
WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION



Inside:

David Shepherd Tribute

FIGHT · PROTECT · ENGAGE: The Art of Survival

India

- DSWF has been funding vital anti-poaching, education and illegal wildlife trade investigations in Kaziranga National Park since 1994
- Kaziranga is home to 2/3 of the world's last surviving one-horned rhinos and approx c113 adult Bengal tigers

Head and Horn above Water

The worst floods in thirty years have hit key rhino bearing areas in Assam. In July, 70% of Kaziranga National Park and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary were submerged when the Bramaputra River flooded while renewed flooding in August has led to continued disruption.

Whilst the world reels from the recent flooding, devastating people and animals around the world, the animals of Kaziranga National Park are used to the seasonal floods triggered by the monsoon, that helps maintain the rich alluvial flood plains that characterise the rich biodiversity of the area. Even though this year was particularly bad, we are glad to report that much of the area's wildlife has migrated to higher ground and tigers are excellent swimmers! This doesn't come without its risks as they may be forced to travel away from the safety of protected areas. Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, of the DSWF funded Aaranyak Society reports:-



The annual flood so far hit twice in rhino bearing areas. The first round was in 2nd week of July which submerged about 70% of Kaziranga NP and Pabitora WLS and the second round flood hit again from 12th August 2017 which is still continuing. On the afternoon of the 14th August I visited Pabitora WLS. About 80% of

Pabitora WLS was under water. Rhinos, especially mother and calf remain together and so far still have grass or aquatic plants under the flood water in Pabitora. The rhinos are taking shelter in highlands and roads which are high enough to withstand the current phases of flood. During this time it is support from DSWF that helps provide extra staff and volunteers to work around the clock to ensure the safe passage of wildlife, including tigers from parks to high ground..'



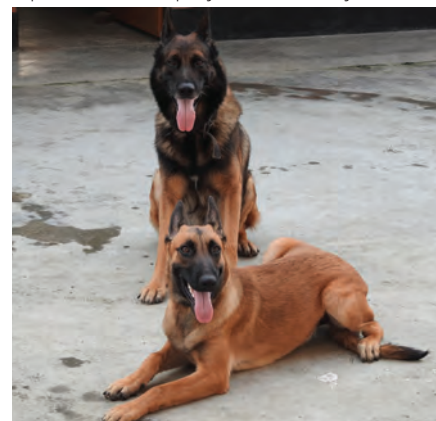
Rhino Goes to School with Rhino Quiz

Aaranyak, with support from DSWF, have been conducting Rhino and Tiger Goes to School activities over the past few years that have reached over 20,000 students. To renew interest, Arif Hussain, Aaranyak's community educator working around Kaziranga NP has developed a new digital rhino quiz device which students can use to check their knowledge on the Greater One Horned Rhino. Initially starting with five questions as a test model, a number more questions are due be added soon but as feedback has already been really positive amongst both school students and their teachers they will also be developing a Tiger Quiz device in the coming year.

Sniffing out trouble: New dog Misky joins the pack

A new dog has joined the K9 anti-poaching dog unit in Assam that DSWF helped establish in 2011. Known as Misky, the female Belgian

Malinois is currently under training in various natural habitats in Assam and will join the K9 team this winter. These highly trained dogs pick up the scent at the scene of a wildlife crime and follow it back to the criminals involved providing valuable support to the Wildlife Crime and Monitoring Programme and Misky's chief trainer feels she will be a good tracker dog in the field. She will join Jorba (the first dog that DSWF supported in 2011) and Babli, along with another three new dogs that have been funded by NABU-Germany. The strengthened squad will be deployed across key rhino bearing areas in Assam to



help tackle the poaching of the rare one-horned Indian rhino. The dogs ability to track down poachers from the source of a crime has proved invaluable in gathering evidence for criminal convictions while their presence in the region also sends out a strong zero-tolerance message to would-be poachers.