

Part 2

CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

In *Travel Africa* #100, we explored the work of organisations focusing on Africa – and only on Africa – that have wildlife conservation and community upliftment at their core. In this issue we highlight some of the larger international bodies playing their part in saving Africa’s biodiversity. Compiled by Sue Watt

Africa has huge global significance: it accounts for one fifth of all land on Earth and is home to a quarter of the world’s mammal species and a fifth of its bird species. One sixth of all plant species are endemic to the continent. And crucially, one sixth of the world’s remaining forests are found here — the Congo Basin rainforest alone absorbs 4 per cent of all the world’s carbon emissions annually, benefitting the entire planet*. Protecting Africa’s vital wild habitats should be a global responsibility. Here’s a sample of the international bodies doing great work across the continent.

Frankfurt Zoological Society

WWW.FZS.ORG

A German organisation working in 18 countries to preserve wilderness and protected areas. In Zambia and Zimbabwe, in collaboration with the respective governments, FZS have restored vast national parks — North Luangwa and Gonarezhou respectively — with impressive community involvement. They’ve substantially reduced poaching through improved law enforcement and introduced sensitive tourism offerings to encourage revenue and employment whilst still preserving the reserves’ raw wilderness. They’ve also successfully reintroduced black rhino to both parks, establishing new breeding populations.

A nose for it. A dog handler on his way out for a daily training session in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia. The dogs are used for anti-poaching purposes, to sniff out, for example, rhino horn, pangolin scales or ammunition



DANIEL ROSENGREN / FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WWF

WWW.ORG

The Swiss-based World Wide Fund for Nature operates in over 100 countries and is probably the best known international wildlife charity. It aims to “build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.” Among myriad African projects, they established the International Gorilla Conservation Programme in Uganda, Rwanda and DRC alongside the African Wildlife Foundation and Flora and Fauna, and work closely with Belgian brewer AB InBev in Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa to improve freshwater biodiversity and water availability.



RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

Tree nursery. In Cameroon, the Rainforest Alliance empowers women to develop businesses through acquiring access to land rights, financing, and training, helping to protect the rainforest.

The Rainforest Alliance

WWW.RAINFOREST-ALLIANCE.ORG

The Rainforest Alliance works to protect forests and biodiversity, act on climate and promote the rights and improve the livelihoods of rural people. Its certification programme spans 58 countries, while it is involved in 87 additional projects. Their African programmes include helping Ghanaian farmers embrace reforestation by cultivating shade trees on cocoa plantations, restoring degraded forests and building resilience to climate change. On the slopes of Mt Kenya, they’re teaming up with farmers, companies and government agencies to set up a community-led Landscape Management Board tasked with forest restoration and strengthening rural livelihoods.

The Wildlife Conservation Society

WWW.WCS.ORG

WCS began life as the New York Zoological Society in 1895 and now works in over 150 protected areas in 60 countries worldwide. The non-profit operates in 16 African countries, with projects ranging from conserving the tropical forests of the Central Congo Basin in the west to the coral reefs of the Mozambique Channel in the east, and from the unique biodiversity of Madagascar to the savannahs and

wetlands of the Sudano-Sahel, where it’s been involved in conservation since the 1970s.

International Fund for Animal Welfare

WWW.IFAW.ORG

Operating in more than 40 countries to help “animals and people thrive together” for over 50 years, IFAW’s work is widespread, covering animal rescues and rehabilitation, combatting the illegal wildlife trade, campaigning on legislation, and restoring and

Fauna & Flora

WWW.FAUNA-FLORA.ORG

Established in 1903, Fauna & Flora helped to create South Africa’s Kruger National Park in 1926 and to safeguard the Serengeti in the 1950s. Today, it has Sir David Attenborough as Vice-President and is active in nearly 50 countries worldwide. It has been involved in important post-conflict work in Liberia, Guinea, Rwanda, DRC and South Sudan and its projects in Africa range from protecting gorillas through the International Gorilla Conservation Programme to conserving Cape Verde’s incredible marine biodiversity.

protecting wild habitats. Its 12 African projects include supporting the Team Lioness female rangers in Kenya and training detection dogs for preventing wildlife trafficking in Benin. In Malawi, partnering with the government, IFAW is restoring Kasungu National Park and last year translocated over 200 elephants there from Liwonde NP.

Wildlife Conservation Network

WWW.WILDNET.ORG

WCN offers in-depth support to conservation partners that includes

the financial resources, tools and services they need. Since 2002, WCN have provided over US\$268 million across 68 countries, benefitting over 110 species. Their African projects include funding the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme to help save the continent’s rarest carnivore. They also contribute towards funds such as The Lion Recovery Fund and the Pangolin Crisis Fund to protect threatened species across their habitats, and support local conservationists with scholarships and career programmes.



ANDREW LOVERIDGE / WILDCRU

WildCRU

WWW.WILDCRU.ORG

The Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, based at Oxford University, strives “to achieve practical solutions to conservation problems through original scientific research” with numerous studies across the world. Their African projects include the long-running Ruaha Carnivore Project in Tanzania working with Barabaig and Maasai communities to reduce human wildlife conflict leading to lion killings, and researching the impact of human disturbance on stress, disease and conservation of the 500 chimpanzees in Uganda’s Budongo Forest.

Fits like a glove. WildCRU researcher Andrew Loveridge fits a GPS collar to an immobilised lion in Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe. The research project helps to monitor lion movements and provide local livestock herders with early warnings to protect their animals should lions leave the protected area. The project has been running since 1999.



Making progress. Patrol vehicle on the road at sunrise in the Ziama Man and Biosphere Reserve in Guinea. Fauna & Flora have been researching and protecting the African forest elephant population here since 2009.

RUBEN BAÑUELOS BONIS / FAUNA & FLORA