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[cover photo] West Gate Community Conservancy  
members, part of the Northern Rangelands Trust  
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thank  
you!

All that we have reported here  
could not have been accomplished  
without the generous support of  
people like you.

africa

2010 year in review



# From the Director

## Thank You, From Africa

Not quite four years ago, I visited northern Kenya as the first employee of The Nature Conservancy's Africa Program. Standing on a rock outcrop at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, I looked north towards the Mathews Range, then south to Mount Kenya. The potential for a large-scale conservation impact, a hallmark of our work, was as clear as the African air.

Back then, I didn't fully appreciate how modest, targeted investments could lead to massive results. But through working with Lewa, the Northern Rangelands Trust and other local partners, we're now seeing what true community-based conservation can achieve.

Rather than swooping in to dictate actions, we spent time with our partners to understand their needs. From conservation planning to legal support for land protection to financing operations to designing protected

elephant corridors, our critical investments in local partners are leading to lasting conservation success.

Thanks to your support, I can report these results:

- Negotiated a \$20-million project to conserve Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, a critical wildlife area in northern Kenya.
- Helped partners secure a critical wildlife corridor connecting Lewa and Mt. Kenya.
- Completed conservation action plans for key conservancies of the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT).
- Assisted NRT, Kenya Wildlife Service, and Fauna and Flora International with strategies to save the hirola, an antelope that is among the world's most endangered animals.
- Conducted a biological survey of the understudied Mathews Range.

Collectively, our unique investments in private and communal lands conservation are making an enormous difference in Kenya. They also provide a testing ground for strategies that could succeed elsewhere in Africa. We are already applying lessons learned to tackle similar challenges around large protected areas in Zambia and Tanzania.

Your support and guidance have been critical to our success. As I look out over other expansive lands from many different rocks, I hope you'll travel with us to see just how far we can go together.



David Banks  
*Africa Director*

p.s. Learn more about how we help protect lands and water in Africa when you visit us online at [nature.org/africa](http://nature.org/africa).



David Banks  
© TNC



where  
we work

# Lewa Milele Campaign

Credited with bringing the endangered black rhino back from the brink of extinction and serving as a sanctuary for an additional 70 large-mammal species, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is a catalyst for community-based conservation on the dry savannas of northern Kenya. *Lewa Milele* (Swahili for "Lewa Forever") describes a strategic partnership between Lewa and The Nature Conservancy to secure 62,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat and sustain nearly 30 years of community-based conservation success. Both organizations are working together to raise the funds needed to help Lewa acquire its core reserve and hold it in trust for the benefit of wildlife and future generations.

Lewa's current landowners recently agreed to favorable terms of sale, including a significant discount from fair market value and acceptance of payment over time.

With the Lewa Downs transaction scheduled to close in early 2011, we are nearing a critical milestone in our effort to preserve Lewa forever. The partners have already raised \$12.5 million toward our \$20 million land acquisition goal. We are grateful to the generous donors that have already pledged their support. Their leadership helped to build critical momentum for this historic effort and brought us to this pivotal moment.

To keep the Lewa Milele campaign moving forward on schedule, we need your help to raise the remaining \$7.5 million by December 31, 2010. With your critical support, we can help forge a better future for northern Kenya. Now is the time to act—the last best opportunity to hold Lewa together.

Funding Need	Raised*	Remaining	TOTAL
Land Acquisition	\$12,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$20,000,000
Conservation Reserve	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,500,000</b>	<b>\$12,500,000</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>

\*As of October 31, 2010

For more information about the Lewa Milele campaign, please contact Mollie Fager at +1 720 974 7048 or [mfager@tnc.org](mailto:mfager@tnc.org).



Black rhino mother and calf at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy © Suzi Eszterhas

# Kenya

## Mathews Range Expedition

By Tim Boucher  
Senior Conservation Geographer



Traditional Samburu Moran (young men) danced for us one evening.

That's Sanjayan, lead scientist for The Nature Conservancy, and me with the binoculars (those binos hung around my neck for the entire expedition!).

Picasso bug — one of many interesting critters we discovered in the Mathews forest.



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*Hello from Kenya*  
The Mathews Range in northern Kenya is as beautiful as it is isolated. Surrounded by a sea of arid lowlands, this sky island is an ecological gem. It's been this way for tens of thousands of years. Cut off from the rest of East Africa's forests, the plants and animals here have evolved in ways we don't fully understand. The Nature Conservancy brought together a team of local and international scientists to conduct the first comprehensive biological survey of the region. Working with local communities and our partners, the Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy and Northern Rangelands Trust, we went to the Mathews Range to create an inventory of the biodiversity, assess the degree of threat to the forest, identify characteristics that will show its health into the future, transfer knowledge and skills to the local community, and record the traditional uses for forest plants. This expedition was a good start toward a better understanding of the forest and how the ecology works, and part of a larger strategy to balance human well-being with conservation in northern Kenya.

Tim Boucher



Juliet King, research director for the Northern Rangelands Trust, entertained everyone with her photos.



We had good company on this trip: Mark Tercek, CEO of The Nature Conservancy, and his daughter Margo joined the expedition.



This vervet monkey is perched in a fever tree.



The lone road leading into the Mathews forest — our 4x4 vehicles came in handy!



# Zambia

## Protecting a River's Resources

It's not every day that a freshwater scientist has an audience with royalty. A two-hour boat ride skimming the 30-mile-wide floodplain of the upper Zambezi River brings Colin Apse, the Africa region's freshwater advisor, to Barotseland. Birds scatter from tall grasses as the boat buzzes by, serving as a visual reminder of the abundant life sustained by the river's natural ebb and flow. But inadequate protection along the river's critical reaches threatens its ability to provide essential resources for people and wildlife. To restore the river's natural benefits, The Nature Conservancy is working with partners to strengthen the basin's expansive network of protected areas.

Inside his traditional rainy-season palace, the king, or Litunga, of Barotseland takes his place in a large easy chair. Colin traveled here to interview the Litunga as part of an independent review of an innovative management plan for the nearby national park. Now five years into the new arrangement, the king takes pride in the results, noting that the wildebeest population has tripled.

This news is encouraging for the Conservancy as we explore a similar opportunity in Kafue National Park, Zambia's oldest and largest. This past year, **a Conservancy-led assessment of the basin flagged the 16-million-acre Kafue landscape as a conservation priority.** Here, the Conservancy is **fostering a Conservation Action Plan and sharing cutting-edge techniques** to increase wildlife populations and enhance economic opportunities for local communities. These include better fire management and increased security to curb poaching.

Despite remarkable progress, plenty of work lies ahead. The Litunga shares his concern about the decline of the area's fisheries—a main source of food and income for local families—and asks for help. His request demonstrates how nature's connection to human well-being is more immediate here, and the conservation effort more urgent. Colin is compelled to step up and, as he leaves the room, is mindful of the custom not to turn his back on the king.



Hippos in Kafue National Park © Kenneth K. Coe

## Off and Running in Kafue National Park

Jeremy Pope describes himself as “a quiet sort of chap.” As **the Conservancy's new program manager in Zambia,** Jeremy looks forward to being “part of a team that can make things happen.” Jeremy will be based out of **our new office in Lusaka, Zambia**—our second on the continent—where he will lead protection efforts and build critical relationships with community, public and private partners in the Kafue landscape. Just eight days into the job, he is preparing for a two-week trip to Kafue National Park to develop new fire management strategies with Greg Overton, our director of external affairs for Africa, and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service.



Jeremy was born in Zambia and has spent his entire working life there. His 25 years of conservation and tourism experience began with Robin Pope Safaris, which he co-founded with his brother in Zambia's South Luangwa National Park. Jeremy went on to help establish Luawata Conservation Limited, a highly regarded safari company that encourages local communities to participate in and benefit from sustainably managing their own natural resources. More recently with the Conservation Foundation, Jeremy collaborated with other agencies on Zambia's black rhino reintroduction project. The Conservation Foundation assisted with the construction of holding enclosures and sanctuaries, trained and recruited game scouts, and provided equipment for monitoring and surveillance efforts to ensure the country's only black rhinos were secure in their new home.

Asked about his role with the Conservancy, Jeremy notes that “Kafue National Park is a tremendous opportunity. There is greater species diversity in Kafue than anywhere else in the country. It is one of the last wildernesses in Zambia.” He then rattles off a to-do list—improved roads, better fire management, game scout training—and you can sense his enthusiasm for the work. Only eight days in and this quiet chap is off and running.

# Tanzania

## Conserving Forest and Freshwater Habitat

Fifty years ago, Jane Goodall walked into Tanzania's Gombe forest and changed how we think of chimpanzees and humans. Today, these primates, our closest living relative, are in danger of disappearing from the planet.

The Conservancy has been working with local conservation organizations to prioritize and implement landscape-scale projects in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem, a magnificent, relatively intact forest system that has potential to shelter abundant species. The goal? Protect and better manage some 10 million acres of great ape habitat in Tanzania by 2015.

The Conservancy is involved most heavily with the Jane Goodall Institute and Frankfurt Zoological Society in the Gombe/Mahale region of western Tanzania. A key strategy for strengthening chimp populations is to improve the

linkages between natural areas to expand habitat ranges and provide migration corridors. We are **addressing the socio-economic needs of people by partnering with communities** to develop conservation strategies that allow both people and nature to flourish.

Climate change pressures—from increasing temperatures and reduced precipitation—also continue to impact wildlife within this landscape. Through detailed analysis, we are mapping predicted movement of chimpanzee ranges due to climate change to understand potential risks and vulnerabilities for this ecosystem.

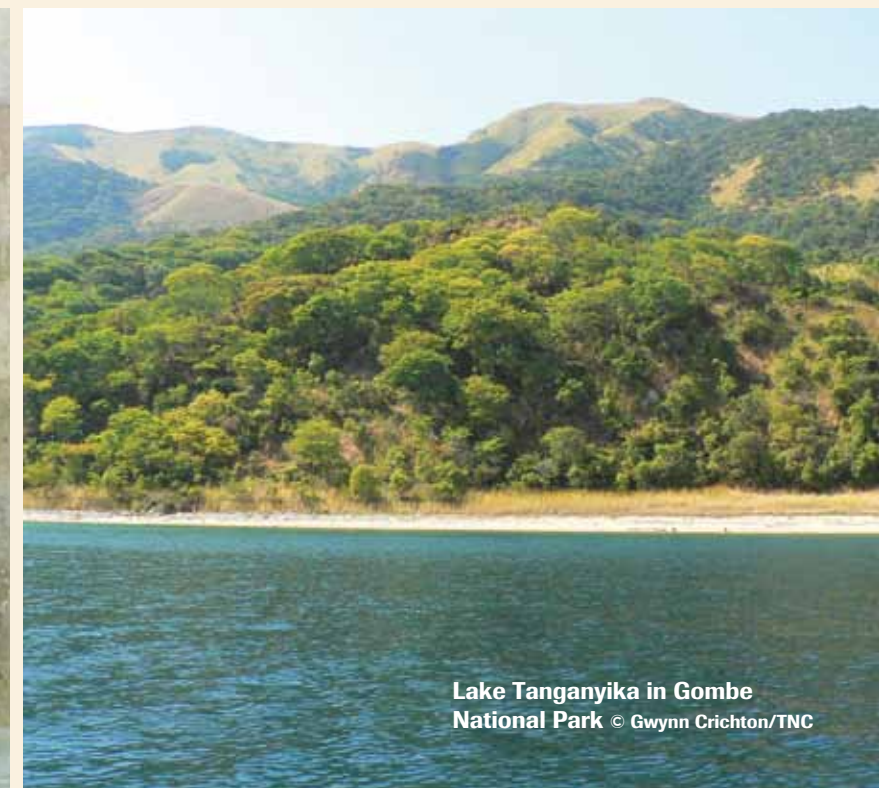
Earlier this year, the Conservancy held a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) workshop in Dar es Salaam, bringing together 40 people from 25 organizations to **facilitate the creation of a national plan to protect chimps.**

The plan is being written and should be ratified by the Tanzanian government in early 2011. We also are training local conservation organizations to use the CAP process in the future. Our CAP approach is facilitation—providing data and resources that will help local institutions develop conservation plans and implement management strategies. Based on completed CAPs at Greater Mahale Ecosystem and Greater Gombe Ecosystem, **the Conservancy sought and was awarded public funding from the Finnish government and the American people, via USAID,** for these two projects.

Looking forward, the Conservancy will focus on expanding our role in Greater Mahale, including Lake Tanganyika. With the help of partners, we are focused on forest protection, as well as helping villages with coastal zone management, health, population, micro-credit and more.



Baby chimp © David Banks/TNC



Lake Tanganyika in Gombe National Park © Gwynn Crichton/TNC

## Mozambique

### Making Reefs Resilient

Back in 1990, Dr. Rod Salm discovered a coral-reef conservationist's dream off the coast of Oman. "I found a place with great reefs and no people," Rod recently blogged on nature.org. "It looked like protecting the reefs was going to be easy."

But then the waters began to warm—and kept warming. A few degrees' increase in ocean temperatures can kill huge swaths of coral reefs through bleaching, as stressed corals lose their colorful and protective colonies of nutrient-gathering algae. Sustained warming has scientists anxious about the fate of coral reefs around the world, including the extraordinarily rich habitats of Mozambique's Primeiras and Segundas Archipelago.

Raised in Mozambique, Rod is returning this fall with a team of Conservancy marine scientists. They plan to spend their first 10 days in the water, **assessing the health of reefs** around the archipelago's 10 islands. The team will then spend several days **facilitating workshops to plan marine protected areas and train partners in managing for resilient reefs.**

According to Matt Brown, Africa Program conservation director, a rapid assessment that Conservancy experts conducted last year led to more in-depth strategies to help natural systems and human communities adapt to climate change. Our work with local partners on conservation priorities also helped set the stage, as WWF Mozambique requested **help from the Conservancy to train its local project team in marine spatial planning and techniques to encourage resilient reefs.**

The inspiration for Rod's training regimen came several years after his dream reef threatened to turn into a nightmare. Snorkeling among bleached reefs around Palau's rock islands, he found still-thriving corals in shaded waters. That discovery inspired Rod to develop the Reef Resiliency Toolkit, dubbed "R2," which is being deployed in the Primeiras and Segundas.

R2 provides a basis for identifying critical areas of the archipelago where corals and fish resist damage, along with the factors contributing to that resilience. The resulting design and monitoring of marine protected areas, in turn, will advance our work with CARE and local communities to enhance fisheries upon which the lives and livelihoods of Mozambique's people depend.



One of the many island atolls within the Primeiras and Segundas Archipelago in Mozambique  
© David Banks/TNC



A dhow anchored on a mangrove slough in Primeiras and Segundas © David Banks/TNC

## Namibia

### Rhino Rangers

What if the fate of a critically endangered rhino rested on the shoulders of two dozen people guarding a desert wilderness the size of Massachusetts? Jeff Muntiferer doesn't have to imagine. He helps shoulder this responsibility every day as science advisor to Save the Rhino Trust in the Kunene region of Namibia.

By 1982, when Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) was formed, lawlessness and rising demand for rhino horn used in traditional Asian medicines had combined to wipe out all but some 40 rhinos in the Kunene. SRT not only helped stop the slaughter, but also helped local communities realize the value of living rhinos.

"Namibians are extremely proud of their black rhino, and they should be considering they now support a third of the global population," says Jeff. "To me, the black

rhino is a symbol, an ambassador for some of the last truly wild places and wild life in Africa."

By training former poachers to become wildlife guards, SRT offered a more secure livelihood. Moreover, the allure of the rhino and its wild home draws well-heeled travelers to Namibia, bringing broader economic opportunities to communities via ecotourism.

But with success comes new challenges. Since 2006, 28 rhinos have been reintroduced across 13 communal conservancies, greatly expanding the rhino's range—and the territory needing to be patrolled. At the same time, rhino poaching is on the rise in Africa.

**Jeff, whose position is funded equally by The Nature Conservancy and the Minnesota Zoo, has**

helped craft and will **champion a new incentive program designed to enhance the training and performance of wildlife guards** in community conservancies. And **a new monitoring system allows SRT to analyze and share vital rhino information quickly and provides another layer of protection against poachers.**

In effect, Jeff is harnessing the expertise of all three organizations to spread the SRT model. "I see a real, hopeful opportunity here," he says, noting that tangible benefits to nature and people can be clearly demonstrated. "In Africa, that is a rarity, yet most of the critical pieces seem to be present in Namibia to make it a reality."



Kunene landscape © David Banks/TNC

# Explore Africa with The Nature Conservancy

The best way to learn about the Conservancy's work in Africa is to see it firsthand. In 2011, we are planning trips to several of our priority project sites and invite you to join us.

## Kenya and Tanzania: February 20 – March 3, 2011

See how the Conservancy is helping to boost the efforts of a rapidly expanding community-led conservation movement in a landscape where predators, prey and people coexist as they have for centuries. During the second leg of the trip, travel to the highland forests of western Tanzania—home to the world's largest population of chimpanzees—where the Conservancy is implementing integrated forest and freshwater protection efforts along the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

## Zambia: August 30 – September 9, 2011

Join this exciting expedition and explore several of Zambia's national parks—rated some of the best game reserves in the world—to view some of Africa's largest elephant herds, most expansive wetlands and great fish diversity while you learn about the Conservancy's efforts to preserve and protect the Zambezi River basin's natural resources and way of life.

For more information about our trips program, please contact Mollie Fager at +1 720 974 7048 or mfager@tnc.org.



Busanga Plains of Kafue National Park © Kenneth K. Coe



“I couldn't have asked for a better experience to deepen my love of Africa... and what I take away is hope.”

- Claire Campbell, Nature Conservancy supporter

Take a virtual trip to northern Kenya and Tanzania by reading Claire's travel journal online at [nature.org/africa](http://nature.org/africa).

View of the grasslands and savanna at the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy, northern rangelands area of Kenya © Suzi Eszterhas

# Faces of Conservation

## Dennis and Connie Keller

“It really was serendipitous,” shares Connie Keller after being asked why she and her husband, Dennis, are so engaged in Africa. After meeting *Cry of the Kalahari* authors Mark and Cordelia Owens through a mutual friend, Connie explains that forces converged, “and the next thing we knew, we were both really involved.” Dennis recalls his first trip to Africa in 1982 as a turning point: “It was a marvelous trip and exciting, but I became concerned about the pressure the natural world was under, even in a place like Africa.”

Long-time advocates for conservation worldwide and champions of the African Wildlife Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, the Kellers have committed \$10 million to advance the conservation agendas of both organizations in Africa and, in particular, work they do together. Theirs is an inspiring message about the importance of global conservation and the key role that partnerships play in ensuring a sustainable future for Africa.

When asked about Africa's biggest challenges, Dennis speaks thoughtfully about the poor infrastructure and lack of education and income opportunities: “There is one thing so visible ... and that is how difficult it is to pick yourself up by your bootstraps when education levels are so low. Many projects in Africa could serve as a case study in the value of educating each person to achieve to their individual capabilities.” Connie adds that she “loves the concept of protecting and conserving the large habitats of Africa, but the challenge is getting the balance right between nature, animals and people.”

Talk turns to a joint TNC-AWF project on a ranch on Kenya's Laikipia Plateau, and their passion for this special place becomes even more apparent. Connie says, “Communities are learning about cattle, predators and managing these with people in the mix.” They describe a program that helps local herders buy steel bomas (livestock enclosures), which are mobile and stronger than traditional bomas. This innovative idea carries a wealth of benefits: Precious cattle is kept safe, rangeland habitat improves, forage for cattle *and* wildlife increases, and community income streams are stronger and more diverse. “People need to see value in conservation that directly improves their lives,” says Dennis.

We asked the Kellers how they might advise a philanthropist interested in making a gift to Africa conservation, but who is wary because of perceived instability or corruption. Dennis gets right to the point: “I would say that Africa *is* unstable and difficult sometimes for political or tribal reasons, but that we cannot simply walk away. We need to keep working with Africa. Progress comes slowly, but progress does come. If we don't help, then we risk losing one of the world's most wonderful and irreplaceable assets.” Connie cites her extensive experience traveling the continent: “When you go see it for yourself, you feel safe, much as you do here. If you are with knowledgeable people in Africa, then you don't need to worry. And that's who you want to help because they represent progress.”



Dennis and Connie Keller © Charles Cook



Connie Keller and friends enjoy a traditional dance in the northern rangelands of Kenya © David Banks/TNC