



"Wildlife is an echo of our own beginnings"... 1981

William Holden

Spring 2015

KENYA WOMAN RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Friend of WHWF Shivani Bhalla recognized for her lion conservation work

Four years ago while on safari near the western boundary of Samburu National Park, I met a young enthusiastic woman who against all odds was determined to change the thinking of local people and turn warriors into conservationists of the very animal that most threatens their source of life. That animal is the lion.

For centuries, a young warrior's rite of passage to manhood was dictated by circumcision and the killing of a maned lion. The population explosion in sub-Saharan Africa has created a human animal conflict, even greater than the human conflict that fills the news from that part of the world. The pastoral tribes, whose wealth is displayed in the size of their herds of goats, sheep and cattle, have also propagated, resulting in vast areas of over-grazing that results in desertification of once sustainable grasslands.

The lion's job in the natural order is to thin herds and keep the balance in the food chain when domestic herds take over where indigenous wildlife once roamed. The lion is seen as a menace to the herdsmen and is hunted, poisoned or shot.

One phenomenal event changed the thinking of everyone in the region of the Samburu National Park. A young female lion adopted a baby antelope called an Orix. The lioness was seen to nurture, groom and protect the baby and people came from all over to see this phenomena; it made a lasting impression on locals and changed forever the destiny of a young woman called Shivani.



Photo: www.ewasolions.org



Photo: www.ewasolions.org

Bhalla with Britain's HRH The Princess Royal.

Shivani is a fourth generation Kenyan, educated in England and the United States, raised with a passion for wildlife and a determination to utilize her degree in environmental studies for the protection of wildlife.

After working with the Kenya Wildlife Services her activities campaigning for the ban of the ivory trade led her to a position with an NGO (non-governmental organization) called Save The Elephant (STE).

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Post Office Box 16637
Beverly Hills, CA 90209

Dear Friends,

Once again we are mourning the loss of a treasured part of our history. Iris Breidenbend Hunt was not only the wife of our Vice-President, Don Hunt, but has been a guiding influence on the practical aspects of conducting our work in Kenya. Her skills with orphaned animals, which she acquired over her lifetime in Kenya, made the orphanage a refuge for countless animals in need.

The work she began will continue, but her all-seeing eyes for the sort of details it takes a lifetime to learn will be sorely missed. We hope she will fly with the angels.

We all realize that the work we are doing has such importance that it must survive all losses. Indeed we have very specific plans for its continuance well into the future, so you must not fear that your support will have been for naught. The future is bright, and the future is eminent. Please come along with us, "onward."



Stefanie R. Hunt
President

In loving memory of

IRIS HUNT

Founder/Director - William Holden Wildlife Foundation
Founder/Director - Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy and Animal Orphanage

When you have lived through all that has been set before you –
tasted each creature's tears as if they were your own.

When you enter that perfect union,
timeless ancestry;
when you become,
when you come
full circle;

you will see yourself in all things,
and your journey, will see you back
home.



...in our hearts,
in our midst forever.



News from Kenya

The new year for the Education Center brought the completion of a new classroom and staff rooms for teachers and administrators at Guara Primary School. The project, approved late last year, was completed in early February.



(continued on page 7)

Elephants Reach a Tipping Point, But Not a Good One

**More elephants are being killed than are being born.
Poachers have killed 100,000 in the past three years**

In 1900, approximately 10 million elephants roamed the forests and savannahs of Africa. Between 1979-1987, poaching reduced a population of 1.3 million to 600,000 in sub-Saharan Africa, a pace which has only accelerated in recent years. Blood ivory is worth considerably more than gold.

The primary targets are predominantly the largest adults with huge tusks though, as elephant populations dwindle and demand for ivory increases, younger elephants with smaller tusks are at risk. The oldest adult females are particularly vulnerable because their tusks are large and their groups easier to spot than solitary bulls. Family groups who lose their matriarchs have a compromised social order. Often, the youngest offspring perish with their mothers, skewing the herd's age structure.

According to the Tsavo Trust, even one of Kenya's most adored jumbos, Satao, a tourist favorite, was felled by poachers last May in the Tsavos East National Park. Because gunshots alert rangers, a poisoned arrow was the weapon of choice to bring down the bull elephant. His face was hacked off with a chainsaw to remove his six and a half foot (2 meter) tusks.

Though we have reported at length on the poaching problem in past issues of our newsletters, the plight of the elephants has now reached a tipping point from which the species may not recover -- there are more elephants being killed per year than are being born. If this were to continue or escalate, scientists fear that elephants could be extinct in the wild within twelve years.

Though it is the Asian demand that fuels this crisis, the United States is more than a bit player in the blood ivory black market. US companies that outsource American jobs to China help to create an increasingly affluent middle class, which now is doing what people do when moving up the income ladder -- spend money on tangible signs to indicate their new status -- unfortunately, in this case, intricately carved ivory art pieces are valued.

At the risk of repeating myself, I beg your indulgence to once again visit the plight of an iconic species; the elephant. Their existence over millennia has played a crucial role in the food chain of flora and fauna, but pressure from our very own species has done the greatest damage.



In a major way the finger points in one direction -- CHINA. It seems that no external pressure or loss of face at being painted as the villains in this tragedy seem to move the Chinese government to actively enforce a ban and prosecute offenders. So if you are, as I am, appalled by the slaughter of these magnificent creatures that are an echo of our own being, here are some suggestions.

There are organizations working in situ all over sub-Saharan Africa to stop poaching, and there are sports and cinema celebrities in China taking up the cause to stop the trade, but here on home ground there are well known companies who manufacture much of what they sell to us. If you would take the time to collect signatures on paper petitions -- "The undersigned are appalled at the slaughter of elephants whose ivory goes to China. If your company will not make a stand with the Chinese government then we will boycott your products and encourage others to do the same" -- and send them to these companies it could make a difference. It takes a bit of time and the cost of paper, pens and a stamp or two. What follows are just some of the companies employing Chinese labor.

FoxComm, the largest private employer in China, has these primary customers: Amazon.com, BlackBerry, Ltd., Cisco, Google, Vizio, 3M, Hewlett-Packard, Dell, Microsoft, and Motorola. Other companies verified to be outsourcing to China include: Aetna, Adobe, Best Buy, Allstate, Alcoa, American Greetings, Anchor Glass, AMEX, AIG, AOL, American Uniform Company, Anheuser Busch, AT&T, Augusta Sportswear, among many others. Google "US companies outsourcing to China" and you'll find many more.

Pick one (or many) and write to their PR departments informing them you will not purchase their products until they take a stand to stop the demand for ivory and you will organize others to do the same. Point out that a reputation for aiding and abetting elephant slaughter will not build consumer loyalty nor impress their shareholders.

Also write the Chinese Embassy to ask that resources be devoted to the "say no to ivory" campaign and anti-poaching enforcement efforts. Here is their contact info: Embassy of the People's Republic of China 3505 International PL NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.



Satao was killed by poachers in Tsavo East National Park in May 2014.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK DEEBIE AND VICTORIA STONE

Shivani Bhalla Wins Whitley Award (continued from page 1)

In 2002 STE sent Shivani to Samburu to work as an education officer interacting with rural communities on wildlife conservation projects. The event of the lioness and the baby Oryx fascinated Shivani, and she began to observe the Samburu lions and discovered that the population was fragmenting.

After earning her Masters of Science degree, she began to focus on the lions of Samburu, studying their social interaction, population size and movements within and beyond the park.

Human wildlife conflict is a major cause of lion decline in Kenya. When lions attack livestock, herders retaliate by killing lions and other large carnivores. Kenya's lion population is now less than 2,000 and extinction could occur within two decades.

Shivani was able to enhance this research through PhD work with the University of Oxford in 2007, which was also the year she founded the Ewaso Lions Project.

ELP uses scientific research and community outreach to promote coexistence between people and carnivores who share habitats. It is the only organization focusing on lions living both inside and outside protected areas in northern Kenya.

The Warrior Watch enlists young warriors from surrounding areas to be "ambassadors" for the lions, helping to educate people on the economic benefit to lions to tourism and how to protect livestock from predation so they may peacefully coexist with the big cats. Her team has dramatically changed local attitudes, and the lion population she monitors has grown to its highest numbers in a dozen years.



In addition to the Whitley Award, Shivani received "Africa's Young Women Conservation Biologist of the Year 2009" award from the Society of Conservation Biology / Africa section. She is also the recipient of the "Virginia McKenna Award for Compassionate Conservation" for 2012, presented by the Born Free Foundation.

Shivani was featured in the 2012 publication of *Wildlife Heroes*. In 2013 she was presented with the "Rabinowitz-Kaplan Prize for the Next Generation in Wild Cat Conservation".

Only 36 years old, Shivani is a member of National Geographic Society's 2014 class of *Emerging Explorers*, a group of 14 young, visionary trailblazers from around the globe whose innovative ideas and accomplishments are making a significant difference in the world.

For someone so young, she has accomplished a great deal in her efforts to protect wild cats and to educate her fellow Kenyans about living in balance with them. To learn more about Shivani Bhalla and her work, visit the website www.ewasolions.org.



"Whitley Award winners are successful because they don't just watch and measure – they act! They are the conservation experts, not us. They know what to do and, more importantly, how to get it done."

The late Sir David Attenborough, then a Trustee of The Whitley Fund for Nature

Our Processed Food Addiction Is Killing Wildlife

Palm oil is ubiquitous in our food supply. You will find it in snack foods, most bakery goods, your fast-food meals, and in about 80% of prepackaged, processed foods in the grocery store. But it is also a major threat facing orangutans, who share 97% of human DNA, making them some of our closest kin.

Every bag of Oreos, chips, box of Wheaties or Happy Meal that you purchase could be helping to drive orangutans, Sumatran tigers, Asian elephants and other endangered species to their extinction.

According to SayNoToPalmOil.com and the Rainforest Action Network, (www.ran.org/palm_oil) 85% of all palm oil globally is produced and exported from Indonesia and Malaysia, but most of it is produced *not* using sustainable methods.

The industry is linked to major issues such as deforestation, habitat degradation, climate change, animal cruelty and indigenous rights abuses in the countries where it is produced, as the land and forests must be cleared for the development of the oil palm plantations.

Bamboo products which are sustainably-harvested and properly manufactured can last for many generations, keeping carbon locked up over the life of the products.

Oil palm plantations are often proposed as a means to bring jobs and improvements to rural areas, but the contrary is usually the case, compromising both nature and indigenous people.

Roads that are constructed to allow palm oil plantation workers and equipment access to the forest



also give easy access to poachers on the hunt for animals valuable to the black market exotic animal trade.

In addition to Sumatran tigers and orangutans, animals at risk due to deforestation and poaching include the Sumatran Rhino, Sun Bear, Asian Elephant, Pygmy

Elephant, Clouded Leopard and Proboscis Monkey. Once again, at little cost to you, the impact of the written word may be a turning point for the rainforest as well as those species within. Pepsi-Cola to mention but one could be a first effort.

Write to companies using palm oil and ask them to support and implement sustainable production methods to save the rainforests and their wildlife. Like Pepsi-Cola, who put profits ahead of the planet and its biodiversity.

We are also a part of the web of life. If enough of us try, we can save the rainforests and all our relations who dwell in them.



Guara Primary School Construction

Continued from page 3



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www.whwf.org

SUPPORT WHWF WITH A DONATION

I want to carry on with the work of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation.

Enclosed is my contribution of: ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

Please check this box if your donation is for the
☐ Julie D. Powers Memorial Library ☐ Chocolat Fund



Please make checks payable to the
William Holden Wildlife Foundation

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WHWF Merchandise



TOTES \$10

100% cotton canvas, 15" x 16", long 24" strap, natural with hunter green imprint.

Also available: black-maned lion, Masai ostrich, and chimpanzee.



PLUSH TOYS \$27



Elephant & monkey are 11" tall standing, 7" sitting.

CHIMPANZEE \$115

From a collection made exclusively for the WHWF by Novelino, the artisans have given these handcrafted sculptures their careful attention by reproducing each minute detail of these beautiful and exotic creatures. Each limited edition piece has been discreetly signed under the base by WHWF president, Stefanie Powers. Please visit www.whwf.org/novelino.html for the pieces that are currently available.

COFFEE MUGS \$14



11 oz. beige ceramic mug with dark green imprint.



SAFARI CAPS \$20

Adjustable, 100% cotton, unconstructed cap with velcro closure and embroidered WHWF patch. Your choice of Navy, White or Khaki.

ALL-OCCASION GREETING CARDS

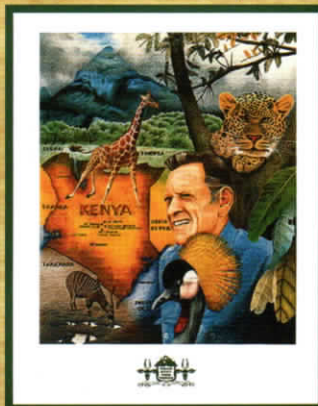
All-occasion cards now sold individually online at www.whwf.org/greetingcards.html
Prices range from \$1.75 - \$2.50



Inside verse: One of your hugs goes a long way! Happy Birthday!



BANDANAS \$12



POSTER \$15

MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

All items are available at our online store at www.whwf.org. If you would like any items gift wrapped and sent as holiday gifts, along with a card that indicates it is from you, please supply the full names and mailing addresses of recipients, as well as who the gifts are from. Call our office with any questions.

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone

Email

Please send check or money order to
William Holden Wildlife Foundation
Post Office Box 16637, Beverly Hills, CA 90209



ITEM	PRICE	QTY	S/H	TOTAL
WHWF Plush Toys <input type="checkbox"/> ELEPHANT <input type="checkbox"/> MONKEY	SHIPPING: \$6 U.S. \$7 CAN / \$9 INTL \$27		\$6	
WHWF Mug	SHIPPING: \$4 U.S. \$6 CAN / \$8 INTL \$14		\$4	
WHWF Bandana	SHIPPING: \$2 U.S. \$4 CAN / \$6 INTL \$12		\$2	
CHIMPANZEE by Novelino	\$115		\$20	
WHWF Poster	\$15		\$3	
WHWF Tote Bag	SHIPPING: \$3 U.S. \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL \$10		\$3	
Christmas Cards (boxed set)	SHIPPING: \$3 U.S. \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL \$12		\$3	
WHWF Logo T-Shirts (please indicate size/color selection) <input type="checkbox"/> Recycled Bottle Cap T-shirt (Off-White Only) <input type="checkbox"/> 100% Cotton: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Green <input type="checkbox"/> Black Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	SHIPPING: \$2 U.S. \$4 CAN / \$6 INTL \$20		\$6	
Earth Day T-Shirt Limited Quantity Size: <input type="checkbox"/> XL	SHIPPING: \$6 U.S. \$10 CAN / \$12 INTL \$20		\$6	
Safari Caps Color: <input type="checkbox"/> NAVY <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> KHAKI	\$20		\$3	
ORDER TOTAL				