



Spring 2008

## Nations Sign Historic Pact to Protect the Mountain Gorilla & its Habitat

**T**here are only 720 of them left in the wild, making them "as endangered as a species could be," according to conservationist Dr. Richard Leakey. Decades of human conflict uprooted thousands of people, forcing them to turn to the surrounding natural resources to survive, including those in the gorilla habitat.

The bush meat trade (hunting of animals for food or profit), the destruction wrought by logging and the spread of human diseases such as Ebola and HIV/AIDS to the great apes have drastically reduced their numbers. Though a recent study by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) found that the population has grown about 12% in the past decade, their numbers remain perilously low: 340 in Uganda, 130 in southwestern Democratic Republic of the Congo and 250 in Rwanda.

General mistrust among the three nations has, for a number of years, stymied any cooperative efforts to protect the mountain gorilla and its habitat. But an agreement signed in October 2007 by wildlife officials from Rwanda, Uganda and the Congo represents a significant step forward.

The N'gagi Agreement (N'gagi is the Swahili word for the Mountain Gorilla) proposes to identify, restore and protect gorilla habitat, investigate problems that exist or are likely to occur from human activity, to devise remedial and compensatory policies for habitat losses, develop and foster awareness and understanding of the necessity of gorilla conservation and to cooperate in emergencies to provide the gorillas increased protection. Key to the agreement is the understanding that the socio-economic needs of people living within gorilla habitat must be addressed if the gorillas are to survive.

The Netherlands has pledged 3.1 million GBP (roughly 6.24 million U.S. Dollars) to assist in funding the 10-year agreement, a portion of which will provide economic aid for the people living in habitat areas. The European Union is also being asked to pledge another 50 million.

The gorillas are an important economic engine for all three nations, with tourists paying upwards of \$400 per day to track gorillas in their habitat. The agreement also includes provisions for pooling resources, and greater monitoring and sharing of information on changes to the gorilla population, poaching and other human threats. The pact is supported by GRASP (Great Apes Survival Project, who gave input on the agreement. It is



possibly good news for the Pan-African Sanctuary Alliance ([www.pasa.org](http://www.pasa.org)) which operates primate sanctuaries across the continent. PASA unites great ape protectors in the field, providing strength in numbers for those workers who are, in some cases, working in hostile environments. Better protection for the great apes will hopefully mean greater safety for their human rescuers and rehabilitators.

**IN OTHER ANIMAL NEWS:** Prospects for endangered tigers are far less promising. A new WWF study found that the tiger population declined to only about 3,500, down from 5,000-7,500 in 1982, with Chinese and Sumatran tigers closest to extinction. Loss of habitat by human incursion and growing demand for tiger parts used in traditional Chinese medicines fuel the decline.

Prospects are even bleaker for the Asiatic lions of India's Gir region, the last refuge on the planet for these majestic beasts. With a 2005 population of 359, conservation efforts have helped increase their numbers, but they face an increasing threat from human encroachment. By confining the remaining wild population to one area, any natural or human catastrophes, such as disease outbreak, could wipe out the entire sub-species.

Human-lion conflicts increased as the lions ventured outside the sanctuary to the surrounding rural communities to prey on farm animals. Farmers resorted to electrified fences to deter attacks, resulting in several lion electrocutions. Uncovered wells have also claimed several lions, and poachers remain a threat. Inadequate government funding for lion conservation further hinders efforts save them from extinction. The Wildlife Conservation Trust of India is actively involved in Asiatic lion conservation. Visit [www.asiaticlions.org](http://www.asiaticlions.org) for ways you can help!



# News from KENYA



**WHWF President Stefanie Powers: "WHWF Personnel and Facilities Were Never In Danger"**

## Historic Power-Sharing Agreement Hopefully Ends Sectarian Violence

An historic power-sharing agreement, mediated by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, was signed on February 29, 2008 by Kenya President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga, putting an end to the violence that engulfed the nation since the disputed December 27, 2007 election. The agreement establishes the post of Prime Minister, which Odinga will hold, and two deputy prime minister positions, which will be held by a member from Kibaki's party and one from Odinga's. Cabinet positions will be divided equally between the two parties, and, once these positions are established by law, the legislature will begin a review of the country's 45-year-old Constitution and determine what revisions are necessary in light of the agreement.

The disputed election spurred sectarian violence that forced over 300,000 people from their homes and resulted in at least 1,000 deaths, exploding after charges of vote rigging. Attacks on members of the Kikuyu tribe, to which President Kibaki belongs, resulted in retaliatory attacks against his opponent's Luo tribe.

WHWF President Stefanie Powers assured worried supporters that the WHWF Education Center was not in danger at any time, though the violence did create many last-minute booking cancellations.

Though the power-sharing agreement may bring an end to the violence, it has had a detrimental effect on the Kenyan economy, particularly in the areas of manufacturing and agriculture.

For instance, if your favorite brand of tea or coffee comes from Kenya, prepare for it to cost more. Farmers have incurred losses due to lack of harvesters after employees from western Kenya fled back to their ancestral homes to escape the sectarian violence. Despite local tribes having forced the workers to flee, farmers claim they have been unable to hire

replacement workers, leaving the fields of tea, coffee and flowers untended for several weeks.

The violence also disrupted supply routes, as drivers had to respect tribal territorial boundaries and would not cross over into a rival tribe's area of control.

Independent economists and government officials agree that anything but a short-term slowdown has the potential for reversing economic gains made over the past five years, in which the Kenyan economy became one of the fastest-growing on the African continent. They hope that as stability returns to the region, the impact on the tourism, agricultural and financial markets, which make up about 30% of Kenya's gross national product, will be negligible.

Though the Kenyan economy has always had a high rate of unemployment, businesses are now experiencing heavy losses because they cannot hire the workers they need to run their operations. The labor shortage is most acute among unskilled workers, who for decades have followed unwritten cultural rules ensuring that jobs in certain areas of the economy are done by people from particular communities. The sectarian violence forced thousands of workers away from their businesses and jobs. Such instability in the workforce exposes otherwise productive economic components to unpredictable stresses that, in the long term, could lead to recession. The manufacturing industry alone has been operating at only 30% of its capacity since the onset of the violence.

Hiring and staffing in other areas of the economy have taken on an added ethnic dimension. Though security companies have seen a surge in business, deployment has been difficult because, with sectarian tensions still high, providers must assign personnel based on ethnicity rather than merit, and it comes at a time when a large portion of the people who have jobs are anticipating layoffs due to the various industries functioning well below capacity. Kenyan economists have estimated a loss of up to half a million jobs in the first half 2008, and predict it will take up to a year or more for the economy to rebound, and even longer for workers impacted by cutbacks or relocation to return to the workforce.

Tourism was pummeled by massive cancellations from British foreign tour operators after travel warnings on Kenya were issued by the British Foreign Office. Though it shows signs of resurgence because favored tour destinations were relatively unharmed by the violence, analysts predict it could take a year or more for that sector to return to the impressive growth levels of 2007.

**As we went to press, WHWF President Stefanie Powers sent this message from Kenya: "All is calm at the Education Center and in the Laikipia district where we are located. There were never any of the problems that existed in the western provinces. We will receive groups at the center after the Easter school break, as we do normally."**

# July EC Attendance Approaches Record Wathituga & Mlima School Kitchens Completed

## Education Center Annual Attendance Goal Surpassed

The WHWF Education Center fell just shy of breaking the all-time record attendance in July 2007, when they had 1229 students, just short of the record 1386, set in July 2006. Two last-minute cancellations kept the existing record intact, although they did reach this year's overall goal for attendance on December 3, 2007. Were it not for the group cancellations due to November end of school year exams and the post-election violence, the EC might have far exceeded the 10,081 students it hosted last year. The largest group, with 192 Methodist women, provided the bulk of students in December.

One of the major successes of the year was the Center's rural lecture program, in which WHWF staff worked with the teachers and parents at all three primary schools they instruct (Wathituga, Nyariginu and Mlima) to integrate conservation education into the existing school curriculum. Because of the enthusiastic backing of teachers and parents, more and more students are becoming educated in conservation issues.

Education Center staff report that there is concern about the impact of the reintroduction of the *shamba system* will have on the national forests. The "shamba system" in the forests of Kenya was introduced during the British colonial period. Forestry officers, in an attempt to attract workers, offered an opportunity for people with no land of their own to farm small plots containing reforested seedling trees, thus tending to the trees in their growing period while producing a cash crop for themselves. As the trees matured, the

farming would stop or move to another recently harvested part of the forest. Proponents of this plan claim that it was clearly a win-win situation and ensured that people benefitted from the forests in ways far beyond the obvious.

Opponents to the reinstatement of the shamba system in the national forests cite evidence of graft and mismanagement by the post colonial administrations that have led to the forests and the wildlife contained within them to have paid a very high price due to over exploitation.

Our education center's close proximity to the forest allows our staff to observe any and all changes, which they report to our directors and to you, our donors.

## Kitchen Projects Completed

The Wathituga and Mlima kitchen/dining halls have been completed, and, as you can see, are being put to the test! Since the Wathituga kitchen serves 387 students, they will soon be equipped with a second stove to double their cooking capacity.



Wathituga



Mlima

## The International Society for the Preservation of Mustangs and Burros Thanks You for Your Support!

Karen Sussman, President of the ISPMB, would like to thank all the WHWF supporters and friends who participated in the "Recapture the Spirit of the West" Non-Event fundraiser to save the Virginia Range wild horse herd.



The rescue effort raised \$13,821 from the mailing with another \$13,000 raised through the generosity of two donors. Mentioned in their press release for contributions of \$500 or more are: Stefanie Powers, Andrea Laderman, Ann Marini, Joseph/Inez Eichenbaum Foundation, Joe Valenti, Sandra Lopez, Roy Larson, Chapin Hunt, Susan Phipps, Peter Falk, Sue and Dan Kelly, and Donna Caplan. Karen would like everyone to know how grateful they are for your valiant efforts, because they helped ISPMB do the near-impossible: successfully adopt out 300 Virginia Range horses in the dead of winter! The organization also decided to keep 80 of the original horses to preserve the historic herd, and THAT's something to celebrate! ISPMB still needs to raise funds for the care and feeding of the original horses, and their hay supplies have dwindled, so any contributions would be greatly appreciated! Find out how to contribute at [www.ISPMB.org](http://www.ISPMB.org).



WHWF President Stefanie Powers joins friend and former co-star Robert Wagner and WHWF supporter Ramona Griffin at the Fur Ball, a fundraiser for the Winston-Salem, North Carolina Humane Society.

# Newsflash to Newsweek: Biogas Digesters Aren't New

A short column in *Newsweek's* December 2007 issue heralded China's efforts to turn animal dung into a source of renewable energy in rural China by committing to the installation of nearly 5,000 biogas digesters by the year 2010. These plants will turn the 912 metric tons of chicken waste generated daily from Chinese farms into electricity and sell it to the national power grid. The projected result will be an increase in the number of homes running on biogas from 18 million to 40 million.

This effort is part of the Beijing government's plan to mitigate its dung problem -- it has been piling up on farms and spilling over to pollute waterways rural villages depend on. Biogas plants utilize an anaerobic (oxygen-free) environment to cook organic waste in water, releasing methane, a clean burning gas which is then used to fuel generators and spin turbines to create electricity, or may be piped into homes for cooking. The only by-products of the process are heat and a nutrient-rich solid waste that can be used for fertilizer.

Though almost any attempt to create green energy sources is laudable, the tone of the column makes it seem as though this development is somehow innovative and revolutionary, even though many other countries have used biogas generators on a smaller scale for centuries.

The WHWF Education Center uses dung from our llamas to feed our own digester which has been in service for over twenty years, providing our students with optional cooking flames, low-level lighting and very highly efficient bio-degradable liquid fertilizer ... All examples in use at our center are for the students and the rural communities to learn from and to apply toward their own energy needs.

Farmers in the US and Europe are jumping on the biogas bandwagon as well, because the ability to sell excess energy to the power grid supplements the often

"iffy" bottom line of an industry often at the mercy of market prices, the increasing detrimental effects of climate change and diminished crop returns.

The Green Power Institute performed pioneering research to characterize the net emissions of greenhouse gases associated with biomass and biogas production and found that, in the long run, biomass energy generation produces a lower level of atmospheric greenhouse gases than any of the possible alternatives for the same material. The state of California alone converted 4 million bdt (bone-dry ton equivalents) of biomass to energy in the year 2000. Many state and municipal governments are exploring construction of biogas systems at landfills to help accommodate growing demands on the electrical grid.

People living in rural areas are even utilizing their residential septic tanks for biogas conversion, and many suppliers on the internet now sell kits with complete instructions on how to set up such a system for relatively little expense.

So, even though the Chinese initiative may be novel in the ambitious scope of its endeavor, it is far from an original idea. There are anecdotal indications that biogas was used as far back as 10th century B.C. for heating bath water in Assyria and Persia.

An abundance of cheap oil, coal and other fossil fuels steered the world away from this sensible and sustainable solution to our wasteful human ways amid growing demand on our finite and fragile natural resources. Let's hope, for all our sakes, that other nations make a strong financial commitment to innovative renewable energy technologies and refining age-old ones to help build sustainable economic models and energy practices before the damage from global warming becomes irreversible.

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATIONS BY CREDIT CARD ALSO ACCEPTED**

**VIA PAYPAL AT [www.whwf.org](http://www.whwf.org)**



Please make checks payable to the William Holden Wildlife Foundation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

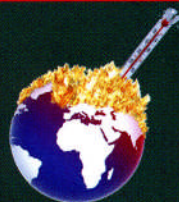
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# Confronting Climate Change: It's Not For The Faint Of Heart – Part 2

## KNOW YOUR PLASTIC!

(from National Geographic's *The Green Guide*, [www.thegreenguide.com](http://www.thegreenguide.com))

Did you know there are several different kinds of plastic and that not all types are welcome at your local recycling center? Did you know that some can leech chemicals into your leftovers, your baby's formula, fresh meats or fish, or your sports drink, while others are perfectly safe?

Before you can become an informed consumer, you need to know a thing or two about the different types of plastic resins. Classified by a number from #1 to #7, each number represents a different type of resin. (This is the number embossed on the bottom of each container, in the middle of the little recycling triangle.) Here's a quick breakdown:

### #1 – polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE)

*Soft drink and water bottles, cough syrup bottles*

### #2 – high density polyethylene (HDPE)

*Milk jugs, toys, liquid detergent & shampoo bottles*

### #3 – polyvinyl chloride (V or PVC)

*Meat wrap, cooking oil bottles, plumbing pipes*

### #4 – low density polyethylene (LDPE)

*Cling wrap, grocery bags, sandwich bags*

### #5 – polypropylene (PP)

*Syrup bottles, yogurt cups/tubs, diapers*

### #6 – polystyrene (PS)

*Disposable coffee cups, fast-food containers*

### #7 – other (misc.; usually polycarbonate, or PC, but also PLA (plastics made from renewable resources))

*Baby bottles, some reusable water bottles, stain-resistant food-storage containers*

Now that you know what each of the numbers represents, here are the kinds you should look for at the store:

**Safer Plastics: #2HDPE, #4LDPE and #5PP.** These three types are healthiest and transmit no known chemicals into your food and they are generally recyclable; #2 is very commonly accepted by municipal recycling programs, but you may have a more difficult time finding someone to recycle your #4 and #5 containers.

**#1 PET:** #1 bottles and containers are fine for single use and are widely accepted by municipal recyclers. Avoid reusing #1 plastic bottles. Water and soda bottles in particular are hard to clean, and because plastic is porous, these bottles absorb flavors and bacteria that you can't get rid of.

**PLA:** Polylactide plastics are made from renewable resources such as corn, potatoes and sugar cane and anything else with high starch content. The starch is converted into polylactide acid (PLA). You can't recycle plant-based plastics, but you can compost them.

### Plastics to Avoid:

**#3 PVC:** #3 polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is often used frequently in cling wraps for meat. The main component of PVC, vinyl chloride, is a known human carcinogen.

**#6 PS:** Extruded polystyrene (Styrofoam) used in take-out containers and cups, and non-extruded PS is used in clear disposable takeout containers, disposable plastic cutlery and cups. Forms of PS can leach styrene into food; styrene is considered a possible human carcinogen, and may also disrupt hormones or affect reproduction.

**#7 PC:** #7 Polycarbonate (PC) is found in baby bottles, 5-gallon water bottles, water-cooler bottles and the epoxy linings of tin food cans. PC is composed of a hormone-disrupting chemical called bisphenol A, which has been linked to a wide variety of problems such as cancer and obesity.

## Things you can do TODAY to reduce your household's carbon footprint:

- Run dishwasher only when full.
- Give away clothes or donate to thrift stores.
- Put all electronics on a power strip so you can turn them all off at once.
- Use green cleaning products (like Method or Shaklee), and/or use only cleaning services that use them.
- Switch to CFLs (1 bulb saves the equivalent of 80,000 vehicle emissions per year).
- Do laundry with cold water wash only.
- Clean the dryer lint trap after every use.
- Drive a hybrid vehicle, bicycle, walk or take the bus.
- Use your own coffee mug at coffee houses to keep nasty styrofoam cups out of landfills – some places even give you a discount for using your own.
- Turn down your heater. Use a ceiling fan to bring hot air down from ceiling to help heat home. Keep temp around 78 degrees in the summer.
- Plug any leaks around windows with weather stripping, caulk, etc.
- Invest in low-flow shower heads and toilets.

## Drugs In US drinking water supply

Prescription drugs for high cholesterol, asthma, epilepsy, mental illness, heart problems, even pain-killers have been found in the drinking water supplies of over 40 million Americans in 24 major metropolitan areas according to an investigation by the Associated Press. Only Albuquerque, NM, Austin, TX, and Virginia Beach, VA had clear results, but just what they tested for is unclear.

And the contamination is not limited to just "people meds." Non-organic farmers feed cattle a steroid to bulk them up, and 10% of that steroid passes through the animal, ending up in waterways where it is transferred downstream for anything that lives in the water or drinks from it.

So what's an eco-minded person to do? According to the study, bottled water isn't a solution, because bottlers don't screen for or remove pharmaceuticals from it either. A long-term rather than immediate threat, it appears that keeping drugs from being introduced to our waterways to begin with is our best option.

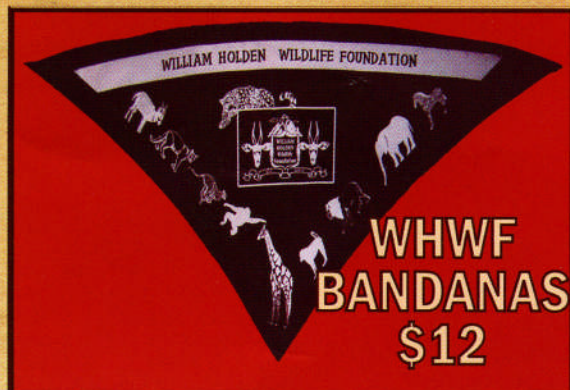
For decades, Americans were advised by the medical community to dispose of unused prescription drugs by flushing them down the toilet. Now we're finding that suggestion to be part of the problem! So the NEW RULE is AVOID flushing unless specifically directed to by your physician.

Here are recommended disposal methods offered by The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Pharmacists Association:

*Pour pills into a food storage bag (like Ziplock), seal and crush (this prevents airborne particles). Also use these bags for liquid medications. Mix kitty litter or coffee grounds in the plastic bag with the medication. Seal the plastic bags to reduce the risk of accidental poisoning. Place sealed plastic bag in household trash for disposal. Remove and destroy all identifying personal info (on the prescription label) from the medication container (you may need to soak container in hot water for about 15 minutes to loosen label). Recycle empty medication container.*

# WHWF Merchandise

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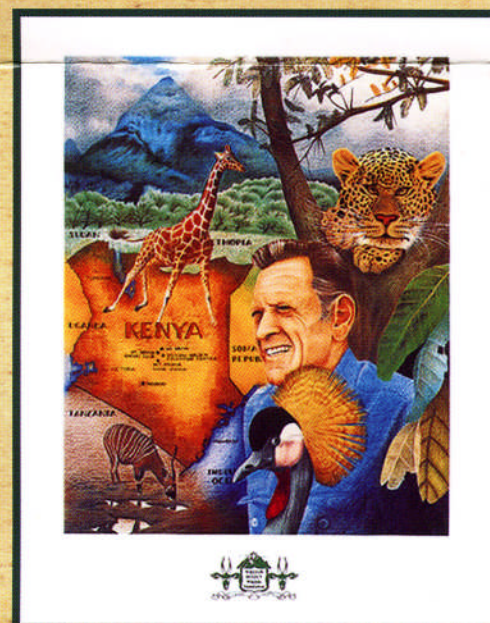
**GREETING  
CARDS**  
(boxed set of 12)  
**\$18**

## WHWF LOGO T-SHIRTS

All of our t-shirts are imprinted with soy-based inks. Our off-white logo t-shirts are made of Fortrel EcoSpun, produced from recycled plastic bottle caps. Our dark green and black t-shirts are 100% cotton.



**\$20** + shipping  
Please specify color and size



**WHWF POSTER \$15**  
+\$3 Shipping

## MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

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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 Bandana <small>SHIPPING: \$2 US \$4 CAN / \$6 INTL</small>	\$12		\$2	
Greeting Cards (boxed set) <small>SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL</small>	\$18		\$3	
Greeting Card Brochure	FREE			
WHWF Poster <small>SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL</small>	\$15		\$3	
WHWF Logo T-Shirts <small>SHIPPING: \$2 US \$4 CAN / \$6 INTL</small> (please indicate size/color selection)	\$20		\$2	
Recycled Bottle Cap T-shirt (Off-White Only) Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL				
100% COTTON Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL Color: <input type="checkbox"/> DARK GREEN <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK	\$20		\$2	
100% COTTON Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL Color: <input type="checkbox"/> DARK GREEN <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK	\$20		\$2	
<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>				