



Spring/Summer 2007

Building Kitchens for Rural Schools

The pictures below show the existing kitchens at most rural schools, which are not all that different from those in most rural homes. WHWF initiated a project with school officials and parents to build more fuel efficient and sanitary dual-purpose food preparation/dining facilities at rural schools, beginning with the Wathituga School.

The diagram depicts the new building design. The enclosed portion on the left contains a lockable, 4 ft x 8 ft storage area, and the remaining 12 ft x 8 ft is the cooking area, which has a work area and kitchen sink. The kitchen is outfitted with two eco-friendly Belerive cookers, each capable of cooking a meal for about 350 children, utilizing significantly less fuel than the existing method. The open area on the right is 24 ft x 16 ft and has a fixed bench around the perimeter, except for a 4 ft entrance, which will seat up to 50. The area in the middle can seat another 100 or so on benches, providing the students with a shelter from the elements during meal time. The roof of green corrugated iron is fitted with gutters to catch and store up to 400 litres of rainwater in a black plastic tank on the left of the kitchen area. There are skylights over the kitchen and storage locker. The entire building has a concrete floor.

At a cost of \$10,000 USD, it is a worthwhile investment in these communities and an enduring symbol of WHWF's commitment to pioneering environmentally sustainable alternatives to traditional practices, demonstrating their practicality to the rural communities, and providing training in their proper use, to our mutual benefit.





Stefanie's News from KENYA



Dear Friends:

Among the articles we are presenting in this newsletter is one that discusses the ongoing controversy concerning the lifting of the ban on the so called "legal" ivory trade.

I hope you will not only read this article, but that you will voice your opinion in writing to the organizations listed. We bring this information to your attention not only to make you aware of the ongoing nature of efforts to conserve wildlife in a practical way, but also in the hopes that it will move you to participate by taking a brief moment of your time to voice your opinions and, in so doing, make the powers-that-be pay attention to public response, which may affect their decisions.



In addition, we offer an article on climate change which has recently become an issue that popular culture has embraced. We must remind ourselves that this is not NEW information and responsible scientists have been offering proof of the impact of modern life on the environment since the 1950s. I recall Buckminster Fuller and Arthur C. Clarke heralded the onset of global pollution, along with many of their colleagues, only to be laughed at by the general public and government officials. There is much we can do as individuals, not only pressuring our politicians, but examining our own attitudes toward consumption, and, in so doing, reducing the environmental impact of our way of life.

We at the WHWFEC have been employing solar energy since our inception, and we teach and practice recycling of biodegradable waste and water. At my home in Kenya and in the US, we compost all biodegradable waste and by the end of the year my house in California will be 85% solar powered. I hope the visibility of my solar panels will encourage my neighbors to follow suit, and so can you.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Powers

Where Are They Now?

Note from SP: Lucy Kigano was WHWFEC's first secretary. She was quite young, and this was her first job, so we were both learning as we went!

Dear Ms. Powers,

It has been such a long time, but I never forgot the impact working for the William Holden Wildlife Foundation had and still does on my life. The mission of the Foundation, as well as the Game Ranch, taught me how to appreciate in-depth the importance of conserving our wildlife and I believe that more people should spend time gaining knowledge of the role that wildlife plays in our environment. I am a strong believer in your values and your work, and know it will continue to inspire millions of people all over the world for generations to come.

I came to the United States in 1996 and have lived in three states: Nevada, California, and now Washington. I enjoyed the time I spent in Nevada and mostly the dry heat which contributed to managing my daughter's asthma. I moved to California after 4 years in Nevada because I felt Nevada was not the best place to raise a teenager.

California is beautiful and expensive, and I enjoyed every minute of the 5 years I lived there. In December 2005, I graduated from San Jose University with a major in Psychology and moved to Washington in search of quieter pastures and a more affordable lifestyle. I truly feel at home here, and am looking forward to the snow activities. I will be pursuing my master's degree in Behavioral Science in Negotiation, Conflict and Peace Building in the spring of 2007. Once I graduate, I

hope to get a position with the United Nations and be part of a team that works toward bringing peace to Africa and the rest of the world. In the meantime, I am working very hard raising my daughter who turned 17 on November 1.

She is a junior in high school and has many talents, including hair styling. I have been very fortunate in that she started earning her own money at the tender age of 13 by braiding people's hair. She has dreams of becoming a pianist and practices day and night on her piano, and I hope she will get a scholarship from one of the prestigious schools to pursue her dream. Her instructor sees her potential and we constantly encourage her to play. Although she only spends 1 hour every Saturday with them, what she gains from them is fundamental to reaching her goals. I have told her about you numerous times, and she's always wanted to meet you in hopes that you could help her achieve other dreams that all teenagers have, such as acting, modeling, and even dancing (she is a very great dancer and entertains the family as well as the Kenya community). Maybe one day she'll have the opportunity to meet you in person.

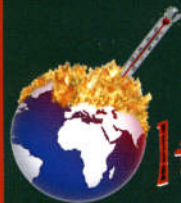
Lucy Kigano
Spokane Valley, Washington

Did You Know?

Every month, the WHWF Education Center hosts hundreds of groups who desire to learn more about wildlife conservation, ecologically sustainable methods of farming and animal husbandry, alternative energy production, and forestry in order to become better stewards of their environment and its natural resources. Hopefully, when they return to their home regions, they share this knowledge for the betterment of their communities and the earth.

In the last six months, numerous groups of students from various institutions of higher learning camped or attended day-long workshops at the Education Center, along with Education Officers of the local school district, whose approval is required before any school may visit. The camping groups received hands-on experience in activities such as tree planting, seed harvesting and making fuel briquettes. Local primary and secondary schools also enjoy the activities at the center. Two girls from the Materi School visited in February, and won both district and provincial top honors for their presentation on constructed wetlands, which reflected insights they developed at WHWFEC. They will also compete for national honors. Adult community "self-help" groups and interns from university programs also benefit from our innovative educational programs. The research interns conduct under our auspices, such as the current project on the effects of pre-treatment of indigenous tree seeds on germination, supports our mission and enhances the effectiveness and continuity of our efforts to provide practical, alternative methods to traditional practices.





Confronting Climate Change: It's Not For The Faint Of Heart - Part 1

An unprecedented study by top ecologists and climatologists, to be published by the US National Academy of Sciences, indicates that 25% of all plant life in the world is being destroyed each year by the needs of humankind. The new study, conducted in 161 countries, is the most extensive inquiry in history into humanity's impact on the planet's ability to produce and sustain life, and the picture it paints looks dire for Mother Earth. People in some parts of the world use in excess of 25% to 52% of plant life for food, fuel and other needs. In India, the number jumps to an amazing 63%. About 50% is used for crop farming, and just under half is in grazing domestic animals and forestry-related uses. Future global population growth can only exacerbate the situation. Clean water shortages, an alarming rate of species extinction through loss of habitat due to human encroachment, the thawing of permafrost, threatening to release unprecedented amounts of methane (a greenhouse gas many times worse than carbon dioxide) stored within for centuries, melting polar ice sheets and glaciers, destruction of the rainforests, are forming a "perfect storm" to severely and permanently alter life as we've known it, if we don't act soon. Despite the enormity of the problem, there are simple ways each of us can make a difference. In future issues, we'll address more difficult issues, but here are two simple ones to get you started:

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE: This is one of the easiest ways to save energy, mitigate deforestation, and clean up the planet. The amount of "stuff" we dump into landfills every year is shameful. For instance, last year we threw 36 billion aluminum cans into landfills, but if we'd recycled, it would have generated more than \$600 million in cash, and saved enough energy to run a 18 billion television sets for 6 hours. Every month, the US throws away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet. *Recycling aluminum saves 95% of the energy used to make the material from scratch.* That means you can make 20 cans out of recycled material with the same amount of energy it takes to make one can out of new material. Throwing away a 12-oz aluminum can is the same as wasting one-tenth of a gallon of gasoline. (In California, that's about 30 cents). Think of it this way...for every can you don't recycle, it's like throwing a quarter into the landfill. Likewise, recycling steel and tin cans saves 74% of the energy used to produce them.

Almost 40% of the US waste stream is PAPER – 50 million tons of it annually—which means we consume more than 850 million trees. It takes an entire forest—over 500,000 trees – to supply Americans with their Sunday newspapers every week, and every day, we throw away 42 million newspapers, the equivalent of that same forest dumped into a landfill. Americans discard 4 million tons of office paper every year—enough to build a 12 foot-high wall of paper from New York to California.

Making one ton of recycled paper uses only about 60% of the energy needed to make a ton of virgin paper, and every ton of recycled paper saves 380 gallons of oil. Try going "paperless" by paying your bills electronically, and get off those junk mail lists! If only 100,000 people stopped their junk mail, we could save up to 150,000 trees annually. The junk mail Americans receive in one day could produce enough energy to heat 250,000 homes. It takes

100 MILLION TREES, and **28 BILLION gallons of water** to create the junk mail in US circulation each year. If you don't want to hassle with removing yourself from all those junk mail lists, check out www.greendimes.com. For about a dime a day, they guarantee to get you removed from 75-95% of those annoying lists, plus they plant two trees per month in your name just for being a member!

JUST SAY NO TO PLASTIC BAGS (and recycle other plastic!):

It's the grocery bagger's automatic question: Paper or plastic? Plastic shopping bags are as ubiquitous as they are a scourge on the planet. Not only do they take 1,000 years to degrade in landfills, when litter makes it into the ocean, marine mammals mistake them for food, resulting in the death of over 100,000 turtles, whales and other animals per year. About 14 billion pounds of trash ends up in the world's oceans and fresh waterways every year, 90% of it plastic, most originating on land. Plastic bags that stay in the ocean break down into a fine dust that forms a sort of "toxic sponge" that absorbs synthetic chemical toxins like DDT. The dust concentrates these poisons tens of thousands of times more than water can, and they wind up in the fish we eat. The Algalita Marine Research Foundation is currently studying a refuse patch in the Pacific Ocean that is twice the size of the state of Texas!

Americans consume over 500 billion plastic bags of the 4 trillion produced annually. If you must use plastic bags, recycle them. Many grocers now offer collection boxes at their store entrances to encourage recycling. If yours doesn't, check out www.earth911.org for drop-off spots near you. Consider purchasing canvas or hemp tote bags to alleviate the moral dilemma of "do I kill a tree (paper) or a whale (plastic) today?" There are companies that create biodegradable plastics from a corn starch base (sources below). Or keep collapsible crates (that fold flat for storage) in your vehicle trunk – unfold one in your grocery basket to load your purchases, then simply lift the crate onto the checkout stand, and the cashier can return the items to the crate as they are scanned!

Educate yourself about the products you consume, where they come from and the impact of producing them on the environment. Combine that with conserving energy, buying recycled products, using safe alternatives to household chemicals (see *Shaklee's Clean Start products*) and voicing your concerns to elected officials and corporations, and you can help Mother Earth recover and keep humans off the endangered species list.

SOURCES:

www.thegreenguide.com (from National Geographic)

www.oberlin.edu/recycle/facts.html

www.treehugger.com

www.planetprotect.org

www.liveearth.org

www.biobagusa.com

www.shaklee.com

www.reusablebags.com

www.environmentaldefense.org

www.worldwatch.org

www.greenconsumerguide.com

www.energystar.gov

Calculate your carbon footprint: www.climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator/
International Institute for Environment and Development: www.iied.org



Quickly Going the Way of the Dinosaur?

Human activity such as hunting and agriculture is directly responsible for the death of millions of gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos says renowned wildlife expert Dr. Richard Leakey in a recent article by David Adam published in the *Guardian/UK*. Leakey, chair of WildlifeDirect and former head of Kenya's Wildlife Service said apes are facing unprecedented threats from logging, hunting, and disease, and their welfare should be integral to any international agreements on global warming.

For the last two decades, demand for palm oil in western countries grew substantially, as did the clear-cutting of southeast Asian forests to make way for its production. As a result, over 80% of orangutan habitat has been destroyed. Leakey warns that the push for biofuels as the "magic bullet" in global warming mitigation efforts could wipe out the remaining habitat and its 50,000 orangutans. Logging and development have driven the numbers of the Sumatran orangutan to 7,300, and the African mountain gorilla count is down to 750, according to *The World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation*, published by the United Nations. This earns them both the ominous designation of "critically endangered."

About 96% of human DNA matches that of chimpanzees, making the great apes our closest biological kin. A lack of breeding pairs in the wild is taking its toll, and Ebola has become a growing threat to gorillas and orangutans in Africa. Experts fear that these magnificent creatures could be extinct in as little as 50 years. Leakey believes preventing deforestation is key to addressing climate change and the survival prospects of the great apes.

He also had harsh words for what he described as the "oxymoron" of eco-tourism, accusing operators of merely making money while they still can. He indicated that tourism operators must be convinced to look beyond the profit motive and take care that, in an effort to cater to this new market, they don't make conditions worse for the environment and the species that must share it. Indigenous populations struggling to survive often derive little benefit from eco-tourism, and their subsistence needs often take precedence over any attempts at conservation, legally mandated or otherwise.

In other news, coffee drinkers beware! Your morning cup of java may be aiding the extinction of severely endangered tigers, rhinos and elephants in Sumatra.



Lampung Province is home to between 50-70% of Indonesia's total exports of coffee beans, nearly all of which is produced on land in or around the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park.

Containing some of Sumatra's remaining lowland forest, the park supports quickly-vanishing, important populations of Sumatran elephant, (perhaps fewer than 3,000 today), the Sumatran rhino (population estimated at 300), and the Sumatran tiger (population estimated at 400). Almost a third of the forest has been destroyed in recent years by an estimated 15,000 families who illegally took control of the land and cleared the forest to grow not only robusta coffee, but also rice, pepper, and cocoa. Because the illegal growers mix their harvest with that of some legitimate growers prior to market, it is nearly impossible for officials to distinguish one from the other, hampering enforcement efforts.

Many major US food companies, among them Kraft Foods, import Sumatran coffee, and this demand fuels the problem. Research has shown that all three critically endangered species tend to shy away from the actual edge of the forest by up to two miles. As deforestation and development encroach further into forest essential interior habitat for these species shrinks accordingly. The situation will continue to worsen unless the poor in those regions are provided with economic options that do not involve environmental degradation.

What can you do to help? Open your wallets to any of the organizations working to give the world's poor a hand up out of poverty. **WWF** is deeply involved in educating Kenyans and others about sustainable agricultural practices, alternative energy sources, and eco-friendly businesses. The oldest and largest fair trade organization, **Ten Thousand Villages**, works with artisans in 30 countries to bring their jewelry and crafts to market for a fair wage, providing them an opportunity to better their lives. **Cows 'n Things** in the UK, provides cows, seeds, and essential medical care to the elderly, the most vulnerable demographic in developing countries. **Kiva**, a Swahili word meaning "unity," allows you to make micro-loans to impoverished entrepreneurs, and the folks at **Good Gifts** present many opportunities for you to do good for the planet and its people, such as a year of an African child's schooling for \$50. Or, for \$25, you can save a penguin and its habitat or provide a family with a bee hive (with bees) providing them with not only nutritional honey, but a renewable commodity to sell. **Every little bit helps!**



Sources:

www.koko.org

(The Gorilla Foundation – if you haven't met Koko, this is a *must see*!)

www.wildlifedirect.org

www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,2091820,00.html

www.worldwildlife.org

www.cowsnthings.org.uk

www.tenthousandvillages.org

www.kiva.org

www.goodgifts.org

www.eshopafrika.org

www.doi.wiley.com/10.1002/ajp.20388

www.nationalgeographic.com

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3237726.stm>

Elephants Get 9 Year Reprieve

The International Fund for Animal Welfare announced June 15 that "African Elephant Range States," meeting in The Hague, reached a compromise agreement to suspend the ivory trade for nine years. Representatives of the range states also agreed to collectively address the long-term issues of elephant conservation. The agreement allows Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe to sell additional ivory under strictly monitored CITES processes, but only those government stockpiles officially registered as of January 31, 2007. CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

"This is not the ideal situation," says Michael Wamithi, Elephant Program Manager with IFAW. "We believe that any amount of ivory in the market serves as a trigger mechanism for increased poaching and we are therefore concerned about the strain that these additional sales will put on range states' already stressed enforcement capacities. Today's agreement provides Africans with nine solid years to find better solutions for elephant conservation," he added.

Kenya and Mali originally submitted a joint proposal for a 20-year suspension of trade in ivory, a proposal that was officially backed by Ghana, Togo, Chad, Southern Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and Congo Brazzaville, as well as a significant number of African and Asian elephant range countries concerned over the impact that a renewal in ivory trade would have on their countries' elephant populations, on their governments' capacities to effectively police their ranges against poaching, and their ability to intercept contraband ivory and ivory products smuggled across their borders.

Southern African range states, including Botswana, Namibia and South Africa, have been lobbying for a lifting of the ban, a move that would have secured significant benefits to these few countries at the expense of the majority of other elephant range states. There are 28 elephant range states in Africa and an additional 9 range states in Asia, all affected by the decisions reached at the CITES meeting.

At least 20,000 elephants are killed annually for their ivory and the lives of about 100 rangers are lost each year protecting them. The impact is not only felt in Africa; among the population of 35,000 to 45,000 Asian elephants, only a mere 1,200 tusked males remain.



Destined to become someone's coffee table



International trade in ivory was banned by CITES in 1989 to counter the precipitous decline in elephant populations targeted for their tusks. Ever since that time, pro-trade nations have been lobbying to reopen trade in ivory. But many African countries, including elephant range states in East and Central Africa, remain firmly opposed to reopening ivory trade, as any legalization drives demand, providing greater economic incentives for poaching and fueling crime. Central African forest elephants are also in high demand for their meat, due to the increase in population, and the ivory is secondary. Smoked elephant meat, though illegal, can bring \$5.45 per pound, and one elephant could bring \$6,000 for the meat, yet less than \$200 for the ivory.

The majority of people in Africa subsists on \$1 a day. With that kind of poverty, conservation efforts are often trumped by the hunters' needs to feed and support their families.

Over 26 metric tons of illegal ivory were seized between August 2006 and 2007, the period for which complete seizure information is available, a three-fold increase from the total amount seized in the previous three years combined.

At the CITES meeting, Care for the Wild International reported that illegal imports of ivory have reached the United States. It found 23,741 ivory items in canvassing stores in 15 American cities. The group said half the ivory pieces for sale in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Honolulu were imported illegally, while less than 10 percent of those on the east coast were illicit.

The United States has been classified as an 'ivory trade problem country' by the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), which monitors illicit movements of ivory for CITES. The U.S. has had the largest number of ivory seizures in recent years. China, Japan and Thailand are other major markets for illegal ivory.

Sources:

www.ifaw.org (International Fund for Animal Welfare)
www.mongabay.com
www.cites.org (Conv. On Int. Trade of Endangered Species)
www.CarefortheWild.com (studies on illegal ivory trade, as well as other issues affecting wildlife)
www.worldwildlife.org (World Wildlife Fund)
www.enn.com (Environmental News Network)

Neem: The Wonder Tree You've Never Heard Of

Would it surprise you to learn there is a centuries-old, natural immune-booster that's effective in treating wounds, bad skin, and other health maladies such as diabetes, hypoglycemia, rheumatism and bronchitis? It also rehabilitates the soil and mitigates erosion as it grows! Depending on where you live, you can plant it in your own back yard!

Neem, or *Azadirachta Indica*, a medium to large evergreen tree characterized by its short, straight trunk, is widely planted in the semi-arid areas of Asia and Africa. Referred to as the "wonder tree" or "village pharmacy" on the Indian subcontinent because of its many healing properties and pharmacological applications, the use of Neem's bark, seeds, fruits and oils was documented in some of the earliest Sanskrit writings. (Sanskrit originated on the Indian peninsula in roughly the 2nd millennium B.C., according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.)

Numerous scientific studies supported the anecdotal evidence of Neem's powerful blood purifying and detoxifying properties, in addition to its ability to bolster the immune system by enhancing lymphocytic cells' capacity for attacking infections and other diseases. With its anti-viral, anti-bacterial properties, Neem is commonly used to maintain healthy circulatory, respiratory, digestive and urinary functions. Neem leaves are used to alleviate the pain of many neuromuscular diseases, and it neutralizes free radicals.

Medicinal benefits are not the only ones derived from Neem. In fact, Neem can be used to begin to address many of the global problems we face today, including deforestation, because its thick roots and deep root system allow it to thrive even in nutrient-deficient soil and parched desert conditions.



A unique feature of Neem is its natural pest resistance properties, which disrupt the feeding cycle of predatory insects, making it a good bug repellent if planted near crops. Part of the mahogany family, Neem is naturally termite-resistant, and its popularity as a building material is growing. It is also used in the manufacture of fine furniture, and as a base for biofuels.

China has recently committed to plant millions of Neem trees as part of its effort to develop natural, environmentally safe agricultural pesticides for its own use and for global export.

Neem may also help in global population control! An Indian army controlled study recently proved the effectiveness of Neem extracts as a low-cost contraceptive.

Neem trees can grow to a height of 90 ft in a relatively short time, creating a shade canopy up to 60 ft wide, and it can withstand considerable abuse. So if you live in a hot, arid area with mild winters, such as the Southern USA or the deserts of the southwest, consider planting Neem in your next landscaping project. You'll not only help the planet, but grow your own holistic first aid kit!

Google (www.google.com) is packed with Neem resources, but here are two we found particularly informative:

Neem: A Tree for Solving Global Problems (1992) (free to read online)
Published by The National Academies Press
<http://www.nap.edu/books/0309046866/html>

Neem Tree Farms: www.neemtreefarms.com
A Florida company which provides reports on research and traditional uses of neem. Also sells neem seedlings, and holistic medicinal neem products for humans and animals.

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 make checks payable to the
William Holden Wildlife Foundation

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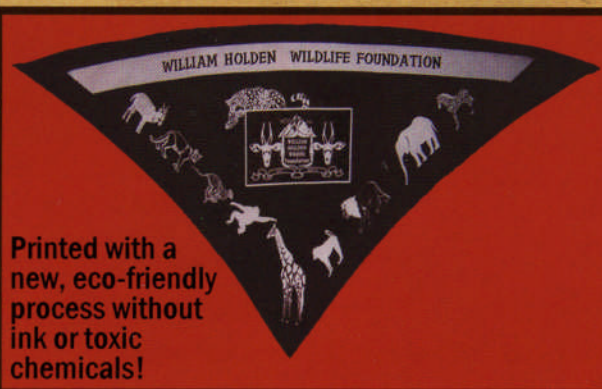
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WHWF Merchandise

**NEW
ITEM!**

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Printed with a
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\$18**

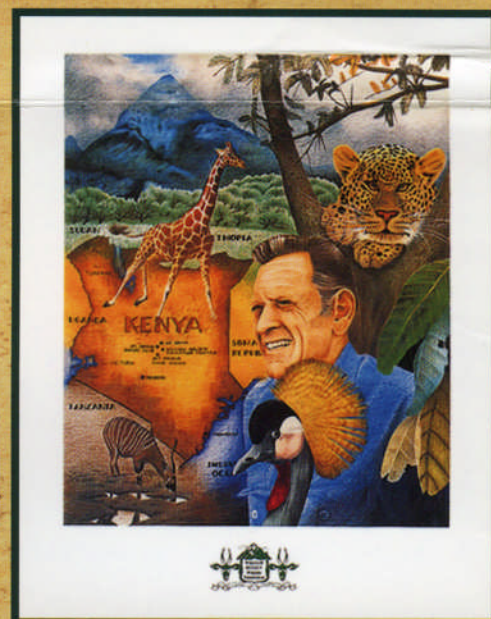
WHWF LOGO T-SHIRTS

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

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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
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Greeting Cards (boxed set) SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL	\$18		\$3	
Greeting Card Brochure	FREE			
WHWF Poster SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL	\$15		\$3	
WHWF Logo T-Shirts (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	
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