

WILDLIFE MATTERS

The Art of Survival:

Spring 2019 · Issue 54

FIGHT • PROTECT • ENGAGE

DEFEND THE DYNASTY



DAVID SHEPHERD
WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

FEATURE:
CLIMATE CHANGE
& CONSERVATION

CITES:
ENDING THE
IVORY TRADE

CONSERVATION CELEBRATION:
25 YEARS WITH AARANYAK & SAVE
THE RHINO TRUST

WHO'S WHO

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Design by Sharon Thornhill

COVER IMAGE

DEFEND THE DYNASTY

Chimpanzees face an uncertain future with the illegal wildlife trade threatening their very existence.

Please help us to save them:
davidsshepherd.org/defend-the-dynasty

Front and back image credits:
Scott Ramsay - www.LoveWildAfrica.com

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We want to stay in touch and hope you do too!

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Image Credit: Josh Iremonger



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ABOUT US

The Art of Survival: To Fight, Protect and Engage on behalf of endangered wildlife around the world.

David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation is a dedicated wildlife conservation charity who have worked tirelessly for 35 years, raising vital funds to support front-line conservation projects, helping to secure a future for endangered wildlife in their natural habitat.

Our work is divided into three main cornerstones:

- We **fight** wildlife crime through ranger programmes and law enforcement initiatives.
- We **protect** endangered species in their natural habitats
- We **engage** with communities to educate and raise awareness to reduce threats to wildlife.

Our projects focus on eight endangered species: tigers, elephants, rhinos, snow leopards, pangolins, chimpanzees, lions and painted dogs; we also fund support for wildlife rangers.

Another core strand of our work is to influence policy to ensure wildlife is granted the highest level of protection possible.

We work hard to maximise the impact of every single donation we receive. To date, over £9.5 million has been given to projects across Africa and Asia, helping to support wildlife every single day.



Image Credit: Will Bremridge

WHO WAS DAVID SHEPHERD?

For over 50 years, David Shepherd (1931-2017) dedicated his life to protecting some of the world's most iconic but sadly endangered animals.

Starting his career as a military artist after failing to become a ranger in Africa, his artwork took a sharp turn towards wildlife when the RAF flew him to Kenya in 1960. They commissioned his very first wildlife painting - a rhino on a runway - and he never looked back.

It was during this trip that David became a conservationist overnight when he came across 255 dead zebra poisoned by battery acid at a waterhole in Tanzania.

Throughout his career, David achieved worldwide success with his wildlife art, and tried to do all he could to repay the enormous debt he felt he owed to the elephants, tigers and other animals that gave him so much and graced his canvases. 'Tiger Fire' was one of his first major fundraising successes, raising £127,000 (the equivalent to £1.4 million today) for Indira Gandhi's Operation Tiger in 1973.

In 1984, 35 years ago, David established the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) to channel his conservation efforts and to fund vital enforcement and community conservation projects that continue to make a real

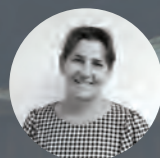


difference to wildlife survival across Africa and Asia.

Today, the organisation honours his legacy and works with David's daughters and granddaughters, who also share his extraordinary passion for conservation.

Melanie Shepherd was CEO of the Foundation for 25 years and is now our Chairman and Mandy Shepherd is an Honorary Vice President. His granddaughter Georgina 'Peanut' Lamb heads up our Policy and Programmes team, and Peanut's sister Emily Lamb is a DSWF Art Ambassador, creating incredible works which raise funds and awareness for the foundation.

Just as David began 35 years ago, DSWF continues to work tirelessly to fight wildlife crime, protect endangered species and engage with local communities, now continued with his family leading the organisation into the future.



Karen Botha, CEO

2019 will be a memorable year for many reasons.

In May, DSWF will be represented at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to be held in Sri Lanka (see page 6), joining conservationists, economists and environmental experts to fight for the strongest national and international legal protection of endangered species and lobbying for a universal and permanent ban on the trade in ivory and other endangered wildlife products.

Following the news late last year that the UK Government approved legislation to ban most commercial trade in ivory within the UK, we also expect the UK Ivory Bill to be implemented in the next few months. Important work around the public's interpretation of the Bill will ensue, as will the need to ensure support of enforcement authorities, and DSWF looks forward to being fully involved at the highest level.

And finally, 2019 marks 35 years since our inspirational founder David Shepherd launched his beloved Foundation. It is fitting that in this year we are likely to reach the incredible milestone of having granted £10m to wildlife and conservation projects since our inception.

Each and every one of you reading this piece today will have been a part of this incredible journey - Trustees, Shepherd family members, donors, supporters, staff and volunteers. We hope that you are as proud of what you have helped us to achieve in the name of wildlife, as we know David would be.

The fight continues, our intentions are more urgent and determined today than ever before, and we are deeply grateful to have you beside us. Thank you.



David and his wife Avril, with their daughters and granddaughters

UK Ivory Ban:

Following a proactive and in-depth campaign and consultation process, DSWF and conservation colleagues were delighted that the Ivory Bill to ban ivory trade in the UK received Royal Assent in December 2018. The Act should come into force later this year and represents a positive step by the UK government to curb the illegal poaching of elephants. DSWF continues to work with government agencies and colleagues to ensure the smooth and accessible implementation of the ban.

Education:

Education lies at the heart of conservation success and DSWF continues to engage younger generations on the importance of conservation and taking action. Since September 2018, our UK Education Manager here in the UK has visited 37 schools reaching over 4,000 students in the UK. In March this year, our annual children's art competition Global Canvas was hosted at the Natural History Museum and attracted 129 group entries. The projects were created by over 5,000 individual children from 26 countries, engaging students from all over the world about the importance of conserving the world's wildlife. For more information on Global Canvas, please see our education feature on pages 26-27.

Working in partnership for rangers:

In collaboration with The Royal Foundation and Walking with The Wounded, DSWF have launched a new project supporting former servicemen and women to train and empower wildlife rangers on the front line. The project, called Operation Footprints, gives veterans the opportunity to share their skills and experience with ground-based conservation projects, protect wildlife and enhance their own professional development with training qualifications and hands-on conservation work.

Success with long-term conservation:

DSWF continues to proudly support the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT) whose community-based income generation projects, education initiatives and scientific research provide vital protection for snow leopards in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan. In 2017, not a single snow leopard was killed in the communities who benefit from SLT's support, mostly thanks to the livestock insurance programme which now insures over 11,620 animals from 55 households across Mongolia's remote mountain range. Supported by DSWF for over 25 years, the livelihood insurance scheme, in partnership with a handicraft empowerment initiative, has proved the viability and sustainable impact of community-based conservation.

China's trade in wildlife products:

Despite China's ground-breaking decision to close its domestic ivory market in 2017, their conservation status was tainted in October 2018 following the proposed lifting of a 25-year-ban on the use of rhino horn and tiger parts for medicinal purposes under 'special circumstances'. After a storm of protest and immense international pressure, the decision was postponed. Despite this, worrying developments have emerged that China is likely to forge ahead with this devastating decision. On March 28 the Shaanxi Provincial Government issued an official notice for China's State Council Order to allow use of tiger bone and rhino horn for medicinal purposes. DSWF is following these developments closely alongside conservation colleagues.

Education in Guinea:

In 2017, DSWF began supporting the Chimpanzee Conservation Centre (CCC). In the last three months, CCC's DSWF-funded Education Adviser visited two schools, one university and a professional training centre reaching over 455 students. The Education Adviser has also visited 150 armed forces personnel and police force officers and over 450 people from villages near to the national park. The visits seek to educate local communities about the positive benefits of chimpanzee conservation and to encourage their involvement with the project.

THANK YOU!

YOUR SUPPORT FOR DSWF HAS HELPED WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN A BIG WAY.

Here are just a few examples of conservation highlights from around the world and how your generous donations are making a difference.

DRIVING EXTINCTION: WHY WE NEED TO URGENTLY CLOSE ALL DOMESTIC IVORY MARKETS

This year, the DSWF programmes and policy team will be attending the biggest and most important conference of its kind when it comes to international law on wildlife trade – CITES CoP18.

Alongside them will be a team of lawyers, economists, biologists and conservationists, who will be actively working with a group of delegates from 32 African elephant range states (areas where wild elephants live) as the conference

takes place, ensuring that the delegates have the best possible support to lobby for the closure of all domestic ivory markets.

At DSWF, we are working to communicate the importance of this conference to all our supporters around the world, to empower them with the historical knowledge of where the discussions on ivory trade lie now, and what the future might look like for the survival of the species.

What is CITES?

The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** is an international agreement between governments which aims to ensure that the international trade of wild animals does not threaten their survival. By participating in the CITES forum, DSWF calls for a permanent and comprehensive ban on the trade in ivory as well as other

endangered wildlife products traded for profit.

One of the most important issues that DSWF works on is the closure of domestic ivory markets. Every year, tens of thousands of elephants are killed for their ivory, which fuels demand from consumer countries. This is exacerbated by the continued existence of a small number of major legal domestic ivory markets, notably Japan and the EU, which remain open.

These markets, with legal loopholes and weak enforcement measures, help maintain ivory's status as a commodity and put the survival of the species at risk.

DSWF believes that legal commercial markets for wildlife parts, products and derivatives provide avenues through which to launder illegally acquired or poached items, such as ivory. These markets are extremely difficult to monitor, especially online, and

their existence normalises the trade and ownership, threatening wild elephant populations across Africa.

As a result, DSWF lobbies governments and other stakeholders, calling for the closure of all domestic ivory markets to protect elephants in the wild whilst strongly supporting the governments and countries who believe the only place for ivory is on an elephant.

A recent history of domestic ivory markets under CITES

SEPT 2016

CoP17 - At the Conference of the Parties (CoP17), an event which takes place every three years, the African Elephant Coalition (known as the AEC, a group of 32 African elephant range states, supported by DSWF) and the USA submitted a document to the CITES Secretariat recommending the closure of all domestic ivory markets. Despite strong opposition from pro-trade parties, it was agreed that countries with legal domestic ivory markets 'contributing to poaching or illegal trade' would close their markets as a 'matter of urgency' and that they would inform the Secretariat of the status of the legality of their markets and their efforts to close 'those markets that contribute to poaching or illegal trade.'

DEC 2017

SC69 - At the CITES Standing Committee's 69th (SC69) meeting, an annual meeting of all countries which provides policy guidance to the Secretariat concerning the implementation of the Convention, the AEC submitted a document to the Secretariat calling for additional actions necessary to implement the decisions agreed at CoP17.

An official notification to all parties was issued in December 2017, requesting information on the status of the legality of their ivory markets and the efforts being taken to close them if they contributed to poaching or illegal trade.

OCT 2018

SC70 - At the next Standing Committee (SC70), the Secretariat noted that only 12 parties had responded to the official notification from SC69. Though not explicitly acknowledged by the Secretariat, the report showed that the EU and Japan's domestic ivory markets still remained open, despite significant evidence that they contained major loopholes allowing laundering of ivory from recently poached elephants or other illegal sources. Both the EU and Japan argued that their markets did not contribute to poaching or illegal trade.

The Secretariat also released a commissioned study by the Environmental Law Institute on existing domestic controls in consumer markets for specimens of CITES-listed species for which international trade is predominantly illegal. The study focused on domestic trade controls in consumer markets for elephant ivory and concluded that:

- Exemptions to ivory bans present challenges to enforcement;
- Bans in one country could potentially shift ivory markets into adjacent countries; and
- Online ivory sales are a continuing challenge for most domestic markets, due to difficulties in verifying documentation and monitoring transactions.

MAY 2019

CoP18 - DSWF will field a team of expert lawyers, economists, biologists and conservationists to attend the next conference to lobby to further tighten the CITES resolutions and decisions to call for the closure of all domestic ivory markets. The AEC firmly believes that all markets contribute to the illegal trade and that CITES rules need to be strengthened, which DSWF strongly supports.

The AEC's document highlights the role played by markets such as Japan and the EU in maintaining ivory's status as a commodity and the loopholes in their rules, including that illegal ivory is being laundered through EU markets by passing as 'antique'. DSWF will call on countries to support the recommendations made by the AEC to ensure all remaining domestic ivory markets are urgently closed in order to stop the slaughter and save the species.

*DSWF will be updating our members and supporters live from the conference so please do follow us on social media @DSWFWildlife on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag #CoP18 to receive live updates.
Donate to support our ivory campaign at davidshepherd.org/ivory*

OUR WORK

Since 1970, humanity has wiped out 60% of the planet's wildlife. DSWF, alongside our conservation colleagues, is committed to turning the tide on species protection and commits to providing unwavering support to ensure wildlife is given a fighting chance at survival.

This year, DSWF has supported conservation efforts across Africa, from the forests of Guinea to the plains of Uganda. We look forward to the positive steps we can take to support our amazing ground-based partners across the continent and continue our legacy to fight, protect and engage on behalf of wildlife.

Fight

DSWF has provided an unwavering voice for wildlife conservation for 35 years and 2019 promises to be no different. With a tough upcoming agenda predicted for elephants at the next CITES meeting in May (see pages 6-7), DSWF was delighted to attend a preparatory meeting in Nairobi, Kenya earlier this year with the African Elephant Coalition (AEC), a collection of 32 African elephant range states committed to the protection of wild elephant populations.

Over 25 AEC representatives attended to talk about their joint strategy on how to protect the African elephant and ensure the toughest international legal protection is granted at the Conference of the Parties (CoP18) in May. The AEC's unanimous voice committed to call for the closure of all domestic ivory markets and to stand firm against any opposition suggesting the reopening of ivory markets or any future sales of ivory. DSWF was honoured to witness such strong and vocal support for elephants from the delegates and looks forward to supporting all those who stand up to fight for species survival.

Protect

Protecting endangered species is at the forefront of all our conservation activity. DSWF CEO Karen Botha and DSWF Head of Programmes and Policy, Georgina 'Peanut' Lamb recently visited Save The Rhino Trust (SRT) in Namibia and witnessed the protection first-hand.

Committed to safeguarding one of the last remaining populations of the desert-adapted black rhino in the world, SRT's mission is not only to create a safe environment for this iconic species to roam free in the wild, but to protect and monitor them daily, 365 days a year.

Having met with the anti-poaching and monitoring teams, both Karen and Peanut were truly impressed by the dedication and skills of each person operating in one of the continent's most beautiful but unforgiving landscapes.

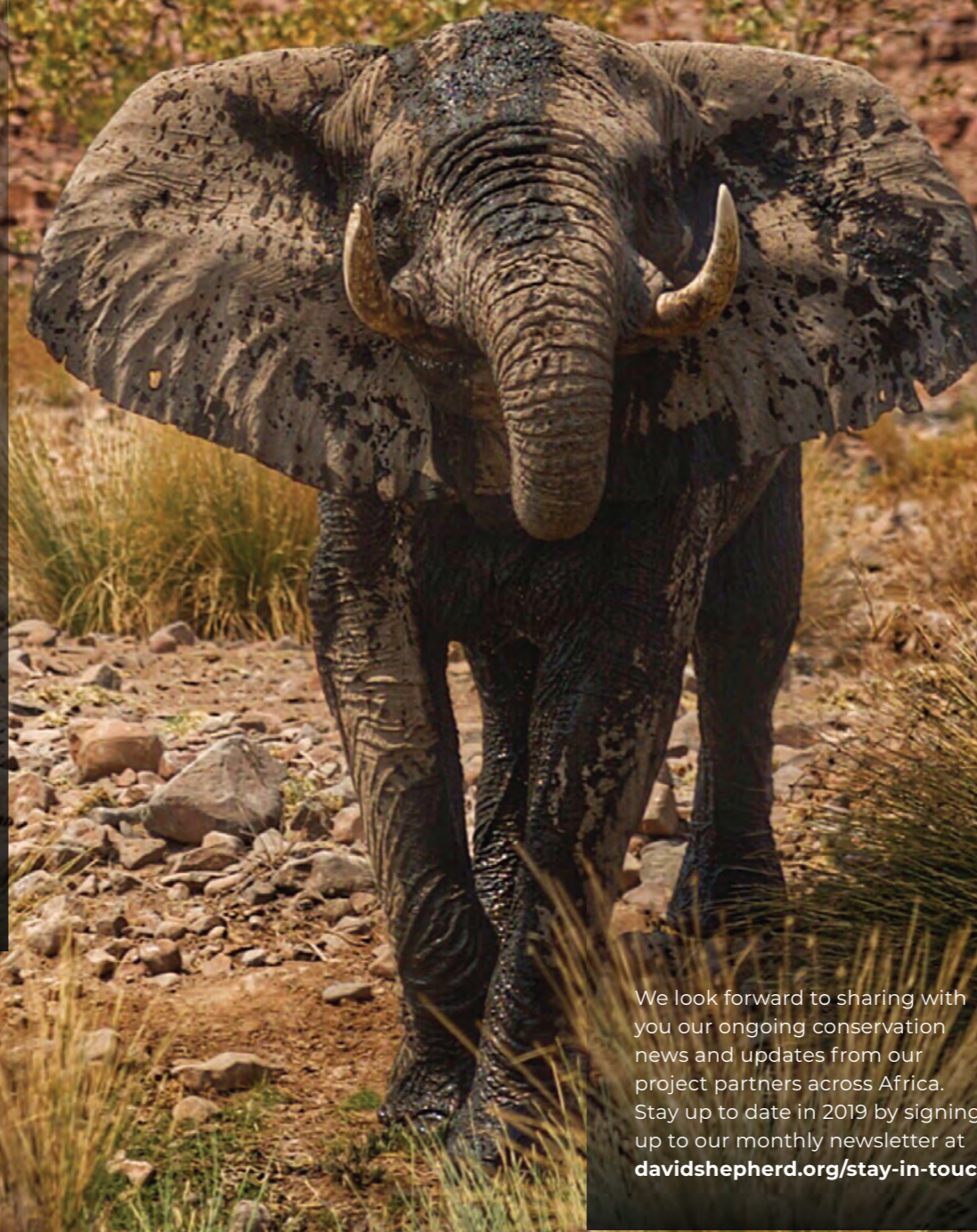
Their passion and commitment to protect the rhino is second-to-none and as a result the populations are stable with no recorded poaching incidences in their areas of operation for over 18 months. To witness this first-hand was an amazing experience and DSWF feels proud to have supported SRT for over 25 years.

To read more about the visit, see page 10.

Engage

A key priority for DSWF is environmental education. It is one of the most powerful tools, especially for young audiences, to influence, motivate and drive change. In a world of dwindling wildlife populations, growing human-wildlife conflict and a lack of real discussion about the devastating environmental impact of our actions, it could be easy to lose hope for our future.

However, sometimes the smallest voices can have the biggest impact and give us hope for a future where wildlife can peacefully co-exist with humans without losing their lives for a price tag. DSWF has been excitedly following the progress of a world-class education centre to be developed in Zambia, as one of the last wishes of our founder, David Shepherd.



We look forward to sharing with you our ongoing conservation news and updates from our project partners across Africa. Stay up to date in 2019 by signing up to our monthly newsletter at davidshepherd.org/stay-in-touch



Image Credit: Russ MacLaughlin

25 YEARS PROTECTING THE BLACK RHINO

In February this year, during the 25th year of partnership with DSWF, **Karen Botha** (DSWF CEO), **Peanut Lamb** (DSWF Head of Policy and Programmes) and **Emily Lamb** (DSWF Art Ambassador and artist) visited the Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) project in Namibia.

The mid-1980s bore witness to the savage slaughter of wildlife in Africa and particularly of the black rhino which suffered a catastrophic 98% decline throughout its historic range across Africa.

The world's last remaining truly wild population of desert-adapted black rhino, together with the desert elephant, was facing extinction with rhino numbers reduced to approximately only 30 animals in the remote landscape of the Kunene province.

In 1994, our founder David Shepherd chose to support the work of SRT in the Kunene and Erongo Region – fast forward 25 years and our team are delighted to report back on their most recent visit to the project, written by Karen Botha.

“As is always the case in conservation, success is built upon the unfaltering dedication and unwavering commitment to the cause and animal.

The inspiring Namibian-born CEO Simson Uri-Khob has worked with SRT since 1991, beginning his career for the organisation as a ranger, now leading a world class field-based team including, to name just a few: Director of Field Operations Lesley Karutjaiva, Science

Advisor Dr Jeff Muntifering and Tommy, leader of SRT's intelligence-led law enforcement unit.

“The team is backed up by brave rangers and incredible trackers for whom the environment can be easily interpreted, the rocky terrain read like a book. It's difficult to explain how impressive this skill is without also describing the lunar-like landscape in which they work and their ability to track wild black rhinos and other species living in the area across vast featureless plains of rock and stones.

“This project is attracting attention across the world, for all the right reasons.

“Namibia's Save The Rhino Trust has recorded zero poaching-related deaths of the desert-adapted black rhino in the last 18 months.

This is even more remarkable given that this area does not enjoy National Park protection and there is no fence line to patrol and monitor. This population of desert-adapted black rhino truly are one of the last surviving wild populations in the world, a responsibility their wildlife guardians bravely acknowledge and accept.

“In addition, there has been a baby

boom with unprecedented recordings of black rhino births, much to the delight of the trackers and rangers who have come to know the animals so well over the years. Our DSWF-adopted Inka is also now a proud parent to a beautiful healthy calf seen late last year for the first time.

“Again, this success is hard to truly articulate without being able to adequately describe the vast 25,000km² landscape, protected by so few trackers and rangers in the incredibly hostile terrain and the constant heat during days averaging 40°C+.

“Just 30 trackers and 53 rhino rangers, with support from the Namibian Police, protect this vast stretch of an isolated province, 24 hours a day, every single day, on long operational shifts of up to 20 days at a time in the field.

“The legacy of the SRT field-based work is the scientific contribution of the project to improving knowledge and understanding of the desert-adapted black rhino which informs planning and management strategies for its conservation.

“Using the best technologies available, the confidential data collected by the teams on the ground is maximised to further develop the Rhino Viewing

“The legacy of the SRT field-based work is the scientific contribution of the project to improving knowledge and understanding of the desert-adapted black rhino.”

DSWF CEO Karen Botha

Protocol and to strengthen the working relationship with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other stakeholders to improve rhino-related tourism practices, particularly related to human-wildlife conflict.

“We were fortunate to be on site when a Rhino Pride meeting took place, a collaboration to engage with youth groups between SRT, local conservancies and IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation).

“We were truly impressed listening to youths from the two conservancies discussing the issues they face with generational attitudes to wildlife and natural resources and how they intend to develop their group engagement with youths in other conservancies. SRT attributes a good amount of the success in recent years to their work with communities, and the dynamic relationship between the stakeholders.

“Having also had the opportunity to meet with project Trustees whilst in Namibia, clearly SRT enjoys strong governance with Trustees who are wholly invested in the project, and in Namibia.

“Overall, we were struck by the high level of collaboration in Namibia

between NGO's, conservancies, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibian Police and law enforcement agencies and tourism enterprises.”

However...

Whilst there are no doubt successes under this exceptional team, what is very clear is that there cannot be room for complacency, not even for a few hours, and rhinos are still very much at risk.

The international illegal wildlife trade is a £15 billion industry with rhino horn valued at US\$60,000/ kg, making it more valuable on the black market than cocaine or gold - therein lies the problem.

Every single day presents new and ongoing threats to this wild black rhino population. SRT fights a highly dangerous battle to maintain critical pressure on poachers, the undercover operations team work often throughout the night to head off would-be poachers before they can get near an animal, community engagement in the conservancies takes place seven days a week, tracking and monitoring wild rhinos continues every single day.

This level of pressure and dedication must continue for the foreseeable future to protect this iconic species. ■



Simson, CEO of Save the Rhino Trust



Emily and Karen admire the incredible sunset in Namibia



Rhino rangers are remarkably skilled at tracking on this difficult terrain



The rangers track the rhinos in a deserted landscape



The rhinos live in a lunar-like environment



OUR WORK

DSWF has been fighting wildlife crime in Asia for over 30 years. Through funding ranger and law enforcement programmes, undercover investigations and influencing wildlife policy, we continue to provide a consistent and powerful platform for wildlife conservation. However, threats to our wildlife are still great, and the need for our continued support even more so.

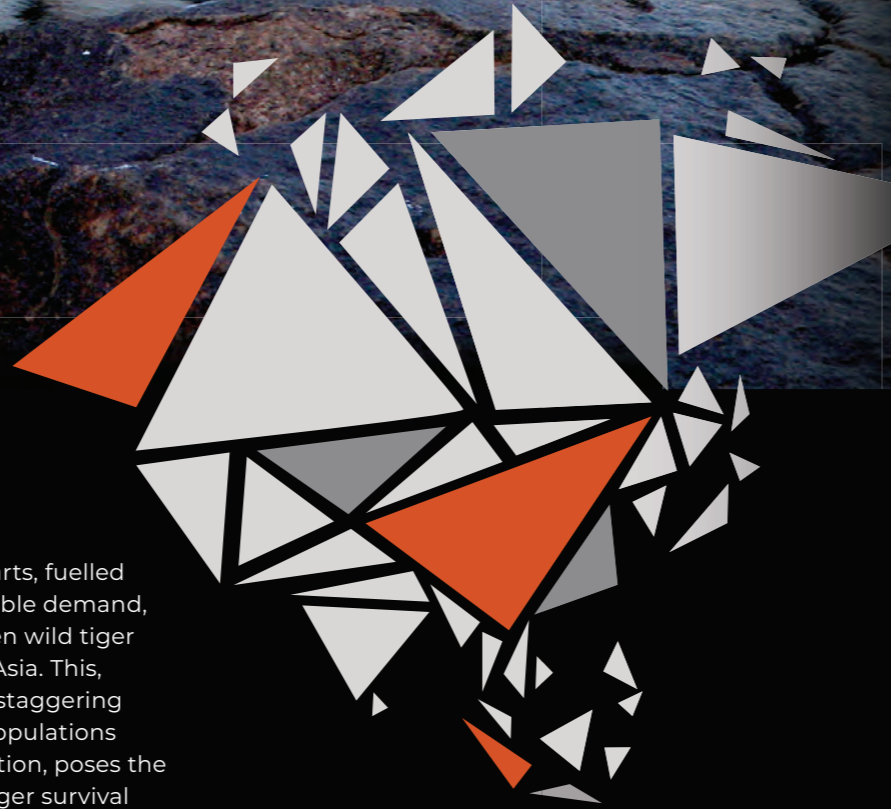
DSWF funds a diverse collection of conservation activities across Asia and we look forward to continuing to work with and fund these projects in the coming year.

Fight

The trade in tiger parts, fuelled by a growing insatiable demand, continues to threaten wild tiger populations across Asia. This, combined with the staggering growth of human populations and habitat destruction, poses the biggest threats to tiger survival and must be addressed.

DSWF has been working alongside our ground-based project partners in Thailand, Freeland, to support tiger protection in the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai

Forest Complex. Recent evidence suggests that all remaining tiger populations in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam are extinct with fewer than 200 Indochinese tigers left in Thailand.



However, there is hope. Through DSWF's funding of law enforcement and anti-poaching initiatives, tiger reproduction was documented in the Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex in 2016 and again in early 2019, despite declines elsewhere. The Complex is crucial for the future of the Indochinese tiger and hosts only the second known breeding population of Indo-Chinese tigers globally. This highlights the importance of DSWF's support for this vital ground-based conservation work.

It is not too late to turn the tide on tiger conservation and DSWF remains committed to funding law enforcement efforts across Asia to curb the illegal wildlife trade which threatens so many species.

Protect

By partnering with ground-based conservation projects, DSWF supports sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions to human-wildlife conflict to protect animals and ensure harmony between people and wildlife.

Nowhere is this more evident than in India, where DSWF provides emergency aid to wildlife crises. Working with our long-supported partners Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), DSWF has provided funding for several vital rapid response protection programmes.

While not a traditional DSWF-funded species, WTI, with critical support from DSWF, have recently funded a rapid response emergency wildlife investigation into the clandestine slender loris trade in the state of Karnataka in South India, where there are increasing instances of trafficking and their use in black magic.

DSWF's programmes and policy team agreed to support the project at the recommendation of WTI as it was clearly a wildlife emergency which needed addressing to protect the species. With DSWF support, WTI are also in the process of implementing a rapid response project in Odisha to cover or fence



Image Credit: Angad Achappa | Slender Loris



Image credit: WTI | Fenced wells protect elephants from tragic accidents

off open wells where elephant mortalities are sadly being recorded. The project will work with and train villagers and forest staff on how to better avoid these tragic accidents. By deploying small amounts of funding to high-priority wildlife emergencies, the impact on local populations can be immediate in helping to protect the vulnerable wildlife being affected by the proximity and interference from people.

Engage

Education and community participation are fundamental to ensuring a sustainable future for wildlife and are essential components to DSWF's work. Through supporting alternative livelihood initiatives and empowering local communities, DSWF is encouraging future generations of conservationists to live in harmony with their native wildlife.

A great way to engage on these topics include public awareness campaigns, aimed at reducing the demand and eliminating the use of wildlife parts and their products in consumer countries. In Vietnam and China, DSWF funds demand-reduction campaigns to reduce the consumption and poaching of pangolins. These campaigns debunk the myths that pangolin scales hold medicinal value and build broader support for the conservation of the species.

An estimated one million pangolins have been taken from the wild in the past decade for their meat and scales, making them the most heavily trafficked wild mammal in the world. Through film, media and billboards, our support has reached over 29 million people and following the analysis of consumer awareness surveys, there has been a significant decrease in the percentage of people who believe pangolin scales hold medicinal value. In 2019, DSWF is continuing to support the vital demand-reduction work in consumer countries.



To stay in touch about DSWF's projects throughout Asia please sign up to our e-news at: davidsshepherd.org/stay-in-touch



Image credit James Kydd

CONSERVATION FACES



Bibhab Talukdar, Aaranyak CEO

Dr Bibhab Talukdar is the CEO and Founder of Aaranyak, a non-government organisation based in the Assam region of India, dedicated to the conservation of endangered wildlife.

This year, Aaranyak is celebrating 30 years since it was created, and 25 years of partnership with DSWF. We are proud to support this dedicated project, which works closely within the community to protect some of the most endangered species of the region.

We spoke to Bibhab about what inspired him to dedicate his life to conservation, how Aaranyak began and what he's looking forward to in his continued work.

What inspired you to go into a career in conservation?

After my BSc in Biochemistry, I did an MSc in Zoology, specialising in Animal Ecology and Wildlife Biology. In my second year I got the opportunity to train on Communicating Conservation in Cheltenham, UK which encouraged me to host awareness activities in schools and with young students. After completing my Masters, I did a PhD on the White Winged Wood Duck, an endangered duck only found in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in India, as well as Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia. At the time I realised that in north eastern states of India there is so much wildlife, but not enough research or conservation work.

I started encouraging my fellow students to do conservation work on the threatened species of Assam. I realised then that there was an opportunity to build Aaranyak from a small nature club to an institution and decided that rather than looking for jobs, I would create jobs for those who are committed to serving the wildlife of the region. Currently Aaranyak employs around 108 people working in the wildlife and environment sectors.

What is the story behind how you founded Aaranyak?

Between my studies I had a six-month gap, so I thought rather than spending six months playing football or cricket, I'd establish a small neighbourhood conservation club. I built interest among my friends, neighbours and my own brothers and established the Aaranyak Nature Club in September 1989.

Later that year, I learned that the White Winged Wood Duck was under threat due to government approved leasing of the fisheries inside the Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, violating the Indian Wildlife Protection Act. I consulted with advocates in the High Court about the government's damaging decision. This put pressure on the state and, realising their mistake, they decided to withdraw the fishing lease.



That was my first experience working with lawyers and I realised that by using the law we can directly contribute to wildlife conservation. Those same lawyers remain my best supporters whenever I need legal help to prevent wildlife crime today.

Can you tell us about how you first came to work with DSWF, especially as this year sees us celebrating 25 years of partnership?

During my studies in Cheltenham in 1991, I came to know about DSWF (at that time known as The David Shepherd Conservation Foundation) and in 1994, after the completion of my studies I wrote to DSWF requesting £700 for rhino conservation work and awareness activities for schools in Assam, and that is how it started! We communicated during those days by post and it took a week or two for each letter - sometimes we communicated by fax as the speediest method of communication at the time! In 1997 I started the Wildlife Crime Monitoring Project (WCMP) in Assam with DSWF support, a project they continue to fund today.

The WCMP, with DSWF, have undertaken short-term and long-term projects including 10 years of wireless communication network support to Kaziranga National Park, during which time we have provided more than 250 wireless handsets, 45 wireless base stations, 150 solar panels, two floating boat camps and much more to the Park.

For us in the UK, a day at work usually means a quiet office and a computer. What does a day in the life of the CEO look like for you?

I oversee office administration, planning and field work. As CEO, administrative work is increasing as Aaranyak is growing. I spend about half of my day in the office and the

rest in the field. I like field visits as every visit gives me new ideas and the opportunity to look at the diverse challenges that wildlife conservation faces.

I'm fortunate to have a great team; I like to interact with my staff and create a positive, forward-thinking environment so that anyone can feel free to come to me and discuss their ideas. I try to visit the forest office in Guwahati at least once a week to meet with forest officers as they are the main executor of conservation plans in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. In Assam, we have an incredible team of dedicated forest officers along with frontline forest staff. Their contribution towards securing the threatened wildlife of Assam can't be ignored.

Can you tell us about where you work and the environment?

I'm currently working in all rhino-bearing areas in Assam, including Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Orang National Park and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary. I carry out staff motivation activities in rhino-bearing areas with the forest officials and discuss the needs and how I can support their efforts.

During these discussions, funding gaps become clear which allows me to submit to DSWF for support. Assam is situated in flood plains, so from June to mid-September heavy rainfall and floods alter our field activities. DSWF has been very cooperative and understanding of these issues and in the past 25 years we have built trust to work closely within a strong partnership.

What are some of the greatest achievements for Aaranyak which you have been able to celebrate over the years?

I think one of the greatest achievements for Aaranyak was building and empowering local resources to cater for the needs of wildlife conservation in North East India. We have 108 local staff, all from the region. Aaranyak is also recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization by the Indian Ministry of Science and Technology. We received the 2012 Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Award and the 2017 State Awards for Scientific Excellence, both from the government.



Looking to the future - what are some of the upcoming projects that you are looking forward to undertaking?

As the threats for wildlife increase due to high demand in Asian markets, wildlife crime monitoring must be continued to prevent wildlife trade. Our project has established a good network with law enforcement agencies in India and uses the power of law enforcement agencies to prevent wildlife crime. Over the years I have been invited by these agencies

to deliver special lectures to their officials to emphasise the need to prevent wildlife crime.

I'm also keen to work with local villagers to assist with enhanced livelihood opportunities, building their capacities rather than just providing them with monetary assistance. In coming years I'll also increase Village Defence Patrol groups working in other rhino-bearing areas alongside Kaziranga.

What are the biggest challenges you face?

Sustainable funding is a challenge! Conservation challenges are increasing but one of our main assets is our strong willpower and zeal to work hard and not to surrender!

Can you tell us a favourite memory of your long association with our founder, David Shepherd, and the Foundation?

I met David Shepherd at least twice at his Godalming farmhouse and every time we met, he always came with a paintbrush. He was a lovely person, a man behind supporting tiger projects in India in 1972 which very few people in India are probably aware of. He did his part by promoting the needs of wildlife conservation, a legacy which now lies with us and to strengthen his dream of saving and securing the remaining wildlife on this planet. ■



LIONS



Following the shocking news that Uganda has lost 33% of its lion population in the last decade, DSWF are delighted to share with you a recent lion collaring update to highlight our ongoing commitment to save this iconic species in a country we have been operating in and supporting for over 30 years.

A recent census highlighted devastating declines in lion populations in all three of the major national parks: Murchison Falls (MFNP), Kidepo (KNP) and Queen Elizabeth (QENP) with findings showing that numbers have fallen to around only 400 individuals in these key areas.

Our long-term conservation partners, Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF), in support of the local wildlife authorities, have seen a two-year funding commitment come to fruition in the last six months with the recent collaring

A recent census highlighted devastating declines in lion populations in all three of the major national parks

of two more lions in MFNP. This follows a successful pilot scheme carried out throughout 2017 and 2018 in Kidepo with DSWF funding support. The known lion populations were in serious need of research, not only to better understand their movement and behaviour patterns in relation to local communities living alongside the protected areas but also to understand their genetic distributions and population densities.

In late March this year, two more lions were collared in southern MFNP. After a challenging few days tracking the pride, the team reported the successful collaring exercise which added two more lions to the research pool in a new area. We look forward to sharing the results and outcomes of the studies and how the teams will use the information to inform conservation activities and help lion populations recover in Uganda. ■

Image Credit: UCF | A healthy young male being collared

ELEPHANTS



A recent highlight for DSWF has been the news from our ground-based project partners, Game Rangers International (GRI), that the Elephant Orphanage Project team based in the Kafue National Park enjoyed the return of Batoka, one of the oldest males in the orphanage herd who has returned to the project site after 6 weeks roaming with wild herds.

On the afternoon walk in late March, GRI elephant keepers spotted what they thought was a wild bull approaching the orphan herd, but as they got closer, they were delighted to see it was in fact Batoka!

After loud rumblings and an exchange of trunk greetings, it was clear that all the elephants were experiencing high emotional excitement at his arrival. This is the longest Batoka has been away

After loud rumblings and an exchange of trunk greetings, it was clear that all the elephants were experiencing high emotional excitement

from the boma (a traditional African enclosure) and the herd since 2016 and the longest time he has been in the wild without fellow orphans for company. The team were pleased to report he was looking healthy and in good condition.

While the overarching aim of the project is the ultimate self-release into the wild, it is always reassuring to monitor their return after a long stint away to check the condition and health of each elephant in the later stage of the release phase.

This was a wonderful and poignant moment for the project who have spent many years watching over and protecting Batoka to ensure he is as ready and prepared as possible to start his life as a wild elephant - one of the lucky ones who has been given a second chance at life. ■

Image credit: GRI | Trunk-to-mouth greetings, Tafika (left) and Batoka (middle) and Chamilandu (right)

PAINTED DOGS



DSWF has been delighted to follow the growing exposure for the magnificent painted dog as a result of the BBC Dynasties series which aired in the UK earlier this year.

The BBC filmed and worked with DSWF-supported ground-based project partner Painted Dog Conservation (PDC) in Zimbabwe to obtain some of the amazing footage and stories used in the programme. Today, 6,600 painted dogs remain in the wild in 39 sub-populations and are one of the most endangered mammals in Africa.

Zimbabwe is home to approximately 660 of these dogs and DSWF are

Today, 6,600 painted dogs remain in the wild in 39 sub-populations and are one of the most endangered mammals in Africa

delighted to have supported conservation efforts in partnership with PDC in the country for over 25 years. As a result of DSWF's recent, hugely successful, painted dog crisis appeal 'Protect the Pack', we have been able to support the ongoing and vital effort of the anti-poaching teams in and around Hwange National Park.

Your support has also enabled us to fund educational visits from local schools to the inspirational and world-class Iganyana Bush Camp where children, teachers and parents are welcomed and taught about the mutual benefits of living in harmony with this incredible species. ■

Image Credit: Will Burrard-Lucas

RANGERS



Wildlife rangers are the main life support for ground-based wildlife conservation efforts across the world. Often putting themselves in dangerous and life-threatening situations, rangers are the first line of defence in protecting some of the world's most vulnerable and endangered wildlife.

Often, wildlife rangers go unrecognised as the true heroes of ground-based conservation efforts and are sometimes underpaid and under-resourced. Their passion and dedication for the role, however, is unwavering.

DSWF is proud to support the welfare, training and empowerment of these brave men and women and we do all we

Often, wildlife guardians go unrecognised as the true heroes of ground-based conservation efforts

can to support wildlife rangers across our conservation countries and projects.

In February this year, DSWF supported the distribution of vital field equipment organised by Aaranyak, our ground-based partners in Assam, India. The equipment was distributed to village defence patrol teams who operate day and night in the area to ensure elephants, tigers and rhinos are all protected in this amazing landscape.

This ceremony was poignant for DSWF, as 2019 marks the 25th year of support and partnership between DSWF and Aaranyak. To read more please go to our feature article with Aaranyak's Founder and CEO, Bibhab Talukdar, on page 14. ■

Image Credit: Theo Bromfield

THE TRUE COST OF CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW HUMAN SOCIETIES CHOOSE TO LIVE CAN MAKE OR BREAK CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Climate change is a complicated, urgent environmental issue with the scope to devastate our planet's health.

In the last few decades, we have already begun to witness an increase in extreme weather events such as droughts, flooding and storms as human-induced carbon emissions continue to grow at an alarming rate. This is likely to cause irreversible impact to the worlds remaining wildlife.

No longer a distant vision of a troubled future, climate change sits very much on our collective doorstep, in need of our immediate attention. On a recent trip to the small Pacific nation Kiribati, ex-UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon stated: *"Climate change is not about tomorrow. It is lapping at our feet."*

In order to tackle one of the greatest challenges of our time, we must first accept that our current model of economic development and its reliance on fossil fuel consumption is unsustainable. If we are serious about conserving the world's wildlife, we must address, tackle and engage in conversations to openly discuss how it impacts on our sector. In a consumer-driven world, this change will likely come at a high cost to the way we currently, and rather blindly, live our lives.

The reality is that right now, as we write this, melting ice caps and thermal expansion are causing sea

levels to rise, devastating low-lying areas and the wildlife who call it home. How we respond to climate change in the next decade will likely determine the future of the world's wildlife for generations to come.

As changing climates alter landscapes, habitats are becoming inhospitable for many species, and those unable to adapt or migrate are likely to die. Earlier this year, the Australian government officially announced the extinction of the Bramble Cay melomy, a small island rodent, which represents the first mammal extinction accredited solely to climate change. Although largely unknown, the melomy now acts as a tragic ambassador of what is to come if we don't make fundamental changes to our way of living.

The wildlife lucky enough to adapt to or migrate from the impacts of climate change will still face their own struggles; they will have to compete for limited resources in already stretched and shrinking environments. These dramatic migrations are also likely to increase human-wildlife conflict by animals turning to crop and livestock raiding for survival, resulting in retaliatory killings from the farmers who seek to provide for their families and make a living.

Wildlife continues to be forced into closer and closer proximity with humans as a result of human population growth, which has

doubled in less than 40 years. Within the short parameters of this article, it is hard to shed light on the sheer size and scale of the threat that climate change poses to our natural world. If our way of living remains unchanged, our current efforts to protect wildlife may be in vain.

Since the industrial revolution, economic growth has been a founding pillar of so-called 'educated development', driven by the unsustainable consumption of fossil fuels. The level of carbon dioxide emissions into Earth's atmosphere has increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from greenhouse gas emissions but also from land use changes like deforestation.

The drive for economic expansion lies at the heart of this insatiable consumption and is essentially linked to human welfare and the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – as in, the more money you make, the more cars you have, the bigger the house, the happier you'll be.

So, while human welfare and happiness remain linked to economic growth, and economic growth is, in return, linked to unsustainable consumption, it is not in anyone's immediate interest to curb greenhouse gas emissions and change our consumer habits. National governments face a major challenge in reducing their emissions in line with growing their economies – historically, one has never been

"Climate change is not about tomorrow. It is lapping at our feet."

ex-UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

achieved without the other.

This topic has been at the forefront of academic discussion over the past few years and has led to emerging concepts and models such as sustainable development, green growth and low carbon development. What is clear is that our current economic paradigm is not consistent with the level of emission reductions needed to protect our wildlife and the ensure future stability of the planet.

Climate change therefore is a particularly 'wicked problem' with many variables to consider. For instance, despite the damaging link so clearly evidenced between economic growth and climate

change, we must surely acknowledge that it is socially and ethically unacceptable to deny the developing world the ability to advance their way out of poverty as has been achieved in the developed world, despite the massive pressures on natural resources.

Mitigation of the impacts of climate change must then lie in the hands of those responsible for historic emissions, and those that have already developed the technologies and models that are capable to prevent future damage.

Global climate change no longer remains the drum beat of the conservation and environmental

activists; it will affect all people, governments, businesses, environments and landscapes. No matter who you are, where you live, what you believe, it will have a devastating effect on your world. If left unchecked, climate change could result in the mass extinction of thousands of species. Perhaps it is time to reconsider our quest for endless economic growth and prioritise the conservation of the natural world instead of depleting it. ■

DSWF will be featuring further pieces on the impacts of climate change on conservation and posing questions, solutions, ideas and information on the issue so look at our news section online at davidshepherd.org/news



MILITARISATION OF CONSERVATION

In the last decade, the conservation landscape has seen a dramatic shift in focus, driven by the growing urgent need to tackle poaching, alongside the sophistication of organised illegal wildlife trade syndicates.

Conservation experts, who are trained in traditional monitoring, research and protection techniques have had to rapidly adapt to become law enforcement experts as well as anti-poaching and anti-trafficking strategists in order to protect some of the world's most endangered species.

A recent change has shown that funders and donors now prefer to fund 'law enforcement' efforts rather than traditional conservation methods.

To adapt to this change, organisations are beginning to shift their style of operations, however the problem that arises is that the goals of the organisations remain the same, and no longer align with the shift in strategy.

Law enforcement operations are very different to traditional research and monitoring efforts, and have higher cost risks involved.

This change in expectations has led to the question: are conservationists adequately prepared to ensure that only acceptable and accountable actions are being monitored and measured, and that the motives behind these actions are not purely driven by their grant providers and funders?

With the move from conventional anti-poaching activities to more intensive military-inspired solutions come a series of hazards and potential issues. If not fully addressed and understood, this kind of activity can threaten the stability and integrity of conservation efforts. Operating in the law enforcement arena requires different expertise and skillsets to those who have a long term understanding of conservation issues, and an awareness and understanding of cultural sensitivities is essential to avoid longer-term economic and

political consequences.

Is the militarisation of conservation necessary in order to stave off the growing wildlife crime epidemic across the globe, and if so, how can this be more sensitively addressed, and how can the long-term risks be mitigated? Some organisations and agencies have not moved forward with a robust enough understanding of the safe parameters under which law enforcement efforts should be undertaken in a wildlife and environmental context, especially when it comes to deploying militarised tactics. Are we truly aware of the long-term impact, and is this a necessity to ensure the survival of species - or overkill?

This debate is something DSWF will be exploring later in the year with a panel debate aimed at answering some of these questions and concerns. ■

If you are interested in finding out more and attending the event, please get in touch so we can keep you updated at dswf@davidsshepherd.org

TAKING BACK POWER – ACTING NOW FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We are less than 12 years away from the irreversible undoing of our actions and yet we remain idle.

This 12-year countdown is according to a recent report on climate change by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This shock headline has recently been used by environmental youth activist Greta Thunberg, who poignantly reminded the world of the urgency of the situation in her attempt to spur dramatic environmental change.

The youth of today, who will inherit the heavy, complex burden of protecting our ailing planet, have a long road to walk to atone for our mistakes. As Greta passionately calls out our world leaders for their global inaction on environmental issues and other like-minded youths rebel against the traditional school curriculum, we need to encourage and empower these brave individuals as the future generation who will bring about change.

Teenagers and young adults alike are painfully frustrated with the snail-paced speed of change driven by political and international institutions regarding climate change and environmental protection. They do not preoccupy themselves with the need for political diplomacy and bureaucracy, because simply, like them, the planet has no time or need for either when facing the sixth mass extinction of our time.

Perhaps it needs to be said: who needs Pythagoras theorem, Shakespeare's iambic pentameter or the speed of light when our 'house is on fire' and our planet is dying?

"We live in a strange world... Where a football game or a film gala gets more media attention than the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced."

Greta Thunberg, Activist

The future generations have spoken, and with them at the helm the future is looking brighter. We all have the power to act, to take the situation into our own hands and protect the planet and its fragile species, but it has taken a global youth movement for us to wake up and realise the cost of inactivity.

In a recent speech, Greta said, "We live in a strange world (...) Where a football game or a film gala gets more media attention than the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced (...) Where celebrities, film, and pop stars who have stood up against all injustices will not stand up for the environment and for climate justice because that would inflict on their

right to fly around the world visiting their favourite restaurants, beaches, and yoga retreats (...) Avoiding catastrophic climate breakdown is to do the seemingly impossible, and yet that's what we have to do."

As the older generation, we are desperate to leave a legacy for our children and our children's children, but it seems our role may be redundant. The very people we are trying to protect are having to take it upon themselves to engineer change and pioneer a way forward to ensure the health of our planet is given a fighting chance. But this is not their responsibility. It is all of ours, regardless of generation.

DSWF has always invested in environmental education and believes that everyone can play a role in turning the tide against wildlife crime and the devastating impacts it has on communities, wildlife and natural spaces. Greta's words and actions give us hope that change is afoot and there can be a sustainable future for people and wildlife. We must support them, and do what we can now, today, before it is too late. ■

OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE AND SELL DAVID SHEPHERD ORIGINAL ARTWORK

As a charity founded by David Shepherd, DSWF continues to be the world leader in buying and selling David's original works. We have successfully sold many of David's original oil paintings for decades, raising invaluable funds to help save wildlife as part of David's ongoing legacy. The market remains very buoyant, both here in the UK and internationally.

Please contact us if you have an interest in buying or selling a David Shepherd original piece. Funds raised as a result of any sale contribute directly to our conservation projects, having a vital impact in preventing wildlife crime.

We currently have a David Shepherd original for sale entitled Stormy Evening.

The atmospheric painting was donated by David to the Guildford District Rotary Club for its Fundraising Boxing Event back in March 1987.

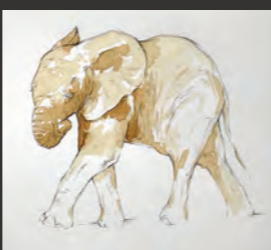
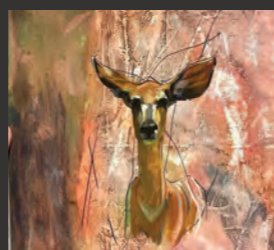
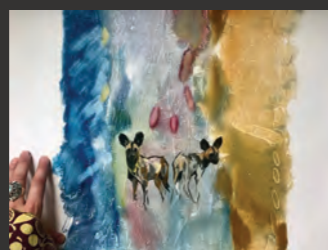


The incredible artwork captures the power of the jumbo elephant surrounded by birds as a storm gathers.

We also have a wide selection of David Shepherd prints available for purchase – DSWF has kindly been gifted these over the years, including collectable

no. 1 Editions, many of which are no longer available. If you are looking for a particular print or would like any suggestions, please get in touch.

Find out more at davidshepherd.org/art, or for enquiries please call us on **01483 272323**.



Sketch For Wildlife

Emily Lamb, David's eldest granddaughter and DSWF Art Ambassador, has started a movement on Instagram which has already raised more than £10,000 for DSWF and which continues to grow with other artists launching their own campaigns using the same concept. Emily has been producing a 30-minute daily 'Sketch for Wildlife' for the last 4 months, each piece being sold for £100 which is 100% donated to the DSWF and other wildlife organisations.



The sketches are hugely popular and frequently sell within seconds of being posted online. Other artists who have joined in the movement include Stephen Rew (DSWF partner artist and [@stephenrewfineart](https://www.instagram.com/stephenrewfineart) on Instagram), Daniel Wilson ([@dwilsonarts](https://www.instagram.com/dwilsonarts) on Instagram) and Emily Tan ([@e.ying](https://www.instagram.com/e.ying) on Instagram). We are very grateful for their passion and dedication.

Our Partner Artists

Our DSWF Partner Artists are talented wildlife artists who have supported the Foundation for many years and donate pieces of work to help us fundraise for the projects we support.



In this edition of Wildlife Matters we are delighted to thank Natalie Mascal, Julie Wilson and Suzie Marsh who all generously donated 100% of the proceeds of their artworks to our Winter Wildlife Ball auction last November, which collectively raised more than £7,500 for our projects.

Julie also kindly donated a beautiful sculpture of a painted dog for the Kickstarter campaign for photographer Nick Dyer's incredible book entitled 'Painted Wolves: A Wild Dog's Life', proceeds of which helped to support our ground-based partner project in

Zimbabwe, Painted Dog Conservation.

DSWF is always so grateful for the funds raised through our Partner Artists, and for their continued support and friendship.

Find out more about our Partner Artists: davidshepherd.org/partner-artists



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Chamilandu and Nkala, two very special elephants, were rescued by GRI and currently live at the elephant orphanage in Zambia.

Buy a DSWF adoption and your money will go directly to save endangered species.

Find out more at davidshepherd.org/adopt



Honouring our wildlife art heritage

Last year, we launched the exclusive David Shepherd Originals Circle to find and catalogue David's original works, which have made their way across the globe throughout the decades he painted.

The Circle enables owners of David's work to share their memories of him and their connection to his art, and to help us honour his incredible art heritage.

We have already found over 70 artworks since we launched the Circle in November last year, but we are still looking for more artworks to feature in our exclusive online catalogue.

If you own an original David Shepherd artwork, or know someone who does, and would like to join the Circle, please register on our website at davidshepherd.org/circle

We look forward to hearing from you!

GLOBAL CANVAS

The **Global Canvas** children's art competition theme this year was 'Habitats of the World', and it proved to be truly global, with entries coming in from 26 different countries including Norway, Vietnam, Slovenia, Kenya, Indonesia and Egypt. There were 5,055 children involved in creating group entries for the competition and it's wonderful to think that so many children spent time thinking about wildlife habitats and how they could create their displays. The high standard of entries made for a very difficult job for the team shortlisting the 17 group finalists.

The prize-giving ceremony, held at the **Natural History Museum** in London on March 7, had a great atmosphere as the schools prepared their entries for judging. From needle felting to clay sculpture, from papier mâché to textile work, each creative entry was unique and most included recycled materials. Many groups had travelled long distances to be a part of the final, including Birmingham, Cornwall, Yorkshire, UAE and Turkey.

After a fascinating talk by guest speaker, wildlife and military artist and David's daughter Mandy Shepherd, the winners were announced.



First place: George Betts Primary Academy with their beautiful 'Bees and Their Environment' display.

Second place: Art Studio at the Museum of Visual Arts from Kazakhstan, with their contemporary display of the habitats and endangered wildlife of Kazakhstan. ▶



▲ **Third place:** Heber Primary School, with their very inventive display celebrating hydrothermal vents.



We will be launching the Global Canvas 2020 competition in July, so keep an eye on the Education section of the website for more details: davidshepherd.org/global-canvas

CHARITY OF THE YEAR

If you and your school are thinking about choosing your Charity of the Year nomination for the next academic year, we would love you to consider us.

The need to protect endangered species across the world is becoming more urgent than ever, and we at DSWF strongly believe that children are the future of the survival of our wildlife. We are always working to engage children and communities to participate in conservation efforts, raise awareness about the threats to wildlife and teach them how they can change this for the better.

Choose us, and we can do a lot to support your Charity of the Year activities, inspire you and help with your fundraising, including a

downloadable Fundraising Ideas pack, posters and leaflets plus collection buckets and t-shirts – everything you need to support your fundraising events.

We'd love to visit your school if we can, to meet, support and motivate you*. We have lots of educational resources and activities to share with you, suitable for different age groups and designed to inspire and help you learn about species, wildlife and habitats as well as conservation issues and solutions.

We'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch with our Education Manager Jo Elphick on 01483 272323 or email jo.elfhick@davidshepherd.org to chat about next steps.



EDUCATION NEWS

A group of children aged 12-16 years, who are part of the Maidenhead-based Artspiration School of Drawing and Painting and winners of the David Shepherd Award at the Global Canvas competition last year, decided to see what else they could do to help endangered wildlife.

Shalini Nayak, the group's founder, suggested creating a collection of their own books with the theme 'One World - Our Home'. The children used different art techniques to illustrate their own stories about wildlife and habitat loss and have had them published. They are hoping to buy a DSWF animal adoption with the money made. The books are raising awareness about the threat of habitat loss in a beautiful and creative way - well done Artspiration, a wonderful way to help wildlife and share an important message.



At St Paul's Primary School in Dorking, the Year 1 children have worked hard to raise money to help elephants by doing chores at home, from laying the table to washing up and cleaning sinks. They handed the cheque over to DSWF at the end of an elephant talk and mask-making workshop, so they knew exactly how their money was going to help. Thanks Year 1 – a creative way to make a big difference!

VISITS

Why not book a DSWF visit to your school?*

We can provide assemblies, talks and workshops, all free of charge and appropriate for the key stages, whether it's an elephant talk and puppet workshop for key stage 1 children, or a case study about Kaziranga National Park for key stages 4 students, there's plenty to choose from.

Visit the website to find out more about what we can offer to your school: davidshepherd.org/dswf-at-your-school



*Please note geographical restrictions may apply

WILDLIFE ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2019 EXHIBITION

Exhibition dates for your diary
When?
29 May - 2 June
Where?
Mall Galleries, London



Image credit: Jonathan Swindall | The Reach

Now in its twelfth year, the internationally-renowned DSWF Wildlife Artist of the Year competition continues to bring together a range of international artists and art-lovers to celebrate our planet's wildlife through some of the world's most exciting and diverse wildlife art.

As each year passes, the quality of artwork submitted has become more and more exceptional, making the job of choosing the shortlist for the exhibition even harder for our prestigious judging panel.

This year saw the highest number of submissions to date, with over 1,300 pieces entered in seven categories by amateur and professional artists from 56 different countries. It's wonderful to see such a variety of talented individuals coming together to share their passion for art and help DSWF raise vital funds to protect endangered species.

Since the competition was established in 2008 by DSWF's founder, the great wildlife artist David Shepherd CBE FRSA (1931 – 2017), over £1.2m has been raised through the submissions and sales to fund a range of innovative and far-reaching conservation projects throughout Africa and Asia.

New for 2019: the 'Human Impact' category

'Human Impact' is an exciting new category for young artists aged between 17 and 25 years old. It aims to engage the next generation of conservationists and wildlife artists to create dramatic and political pieces that demonstrate the consequences human life has had on Earth's wildlife.

Amanda Couch, senior lecturer at the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham and one of the category judges said, "The category is so relevant to our current situation, and it's clear that young people are thinking deeply about our impact on the environment. The works that stood out for me were where the artists depict or embody our human relationship with nature not as something separate from us, but within which we are entangled."

A special thank you from DSWF

We are extremely grateful to our wonderful sponsors for supporting the DSWF Wildlife Artist of the Year 2019. Without them, it would not be possible to run the competition and continue in our mission to save endangered species.

"The works that stood out for me were where the artists depict or embody our human relationship with nature not as something separate from us, but within which we are entangled."

Amanda Couch, 'Human Impact' category judge

Amanda was joined on the judging panel by Stephen Rew, Wales-based wildlife sculptor and painter; Martin Aveling; wildlife artist specialising in pastel drawings of animals; and Emily Lamb, artist specialising in wildlife paintings and David Shepherd's granddaughter.

The prestigious Wildlife Artist of the Year exhibition will be held at Mall Galleries in London, opening

to the public on Wednesday 29 May and running until Sunday 2 June. It promises to be a fantastic event displaying a collection of 156 extraordinary artworks all available to purchase, with 50% of sales going to DSWF. Presales will be available on our website from 6 May.

Find out more at davidshepherd.org/WAY

WILDLIFE ARTIST OF THE YEAR EXHIBITION 2019 SPONSORS

• **Neil and June Covey** – proud sponsors of the Overall Winner prize



• **The Source Bulk Foods** – proud sponsors of 'Into the Blue'

"As a business set-up around the need to protect our natural environment from single-use plastics the Into the Blue category is appropriate as so much man-made waste ends up in our oceans."

• **Gary Hodges** – proud sponsor of 'Animal Behaviour' and renowned wildlife artist.



• **Barlow Robbins** – proud sponsors of 'Earth's Wild Beauty', 'Urban Wildlife' and the Second Place prize.

"This fantastic event exposes the beauty and vulnerability of our world's wildlife whilst also highlighting the importance of DSWF's work."



• **Art Discount** – proud sponsors of 'Human Impact'

"As an industry-leading art supplier, we believe supporting the next generation of artists is crucial"

• **Emma and Martin Leuw of The Smiling Tiger Charitable Trust** – proud sponsors of 'Vanishing Fast'

"DSWF's work in fighting wildlife crime, protecting endangered species and engaging local communities makes a huge difference in preventing the extinction of these iconic creatures."



• **Silversurfers** – proud sponsors of 'Wings'

"We are looking forward to seeing artist submissions featuring the extraordinary variety of winged wildlife."



FUNDRAISING NEWS:

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate 35 years since David Shepherd set up the Foundation, there has never been a more pressing time to join the fight to protect some of the world's most endangered species.

In this part of our magazine, you can read more about what our long-term supporters think of our work, projects and activities, how you are choosing to raise vital funds and awareness for DSWF, more about our upcoming events and fundraising activities and how you can get involved.

I hope you will be inspired and, in the meantime, thank you for your ongoing support and please do feel free to get in touch with your thoughts and ideas.

Susie Baxter, Head of Fundraising
susie.baxter@davidshpherd.org

You spoke, we listened

In February this year, we met with groups of long-term supporters to gain valuable feedback on DSWF and our activities. Here is a summary of the key outcomes and our pledges going forward:

- **The Shepherd family:** We've updated the website with information on which family members are involved with the Foundation, highlighting their roles and ambitions.
davidshpherd.org/shepherd-family
- **The projects we fund:** You trust us to use your generous donations in the best possible way and we pledge to make sure you are kept up to date with the real difference and impact your donations are making, through Wildlife Matters and our monthly e-news.
- **Our communications:** We pledge to continue to send focused communications which talk specifically about our ground-based partners, giving them a voice.
- **Wildlife Matters:** You find the magazine engaging and informative and we pledge to maintain this high standard and send it by post instead of email where we can.
- **Giving in your Will:** We've listened to feedback and put together some helpful information to support anyone considering leaving a gift to DSWF in their Will (see page 34).

Help ensure that wildlife matters...

We'd like to introduce our first ever page sponsor for Wildlife Matters, Sally Perkins.

Sally joined us at a recent Supporter Focus Group and we suggested that we support the production of Wildlife Matters by asking supporters to sponsor pages in the magazine.

"I really enjoy all the news in Wildlife Matters and would like to do my bit to help make sure this wonderful resource continues to thrive."



Thank you Sally - and if you'd like to support the October edition of Wildlife Matters, please contact Francesca Baldwin at francesca.baldwin@davidshpherd.org for more details.

– APPEAL UPDATES

Do you wonder why some of our appeals raise a lot more than others? Throughout the year we run two different kinds of appeal: by post, and online through email. The postal appeals reach more people, however they cost us more to produce, so we only run two a year.

Protect the Pack



Image credit: Nick Dyer | Painted Dog Appeal

"Your support is vital for our ongoing work to give painted dogs a fighting chance and for that, we cannot thank you enough."
Peter Blinston,
Executive Director
of Painted Dog
Conservation

So far, we have raised £5,740 for painted dogs in Zimbabwe through our 'Protect the Pack' e-appeal.

Defend the Dynasty



Image credit: Scott Ramsay | www.LoveWildAfrica.com - Defend The Dynasty appeal

Every four hours, a chimpanzee is brutally stolen from the wild for the illegal wildlife trade. Please join our fight to protect this incredible species from threats such as the pet trade, poaching for bushmeat, habitat destruction and disease. Find out more about our ongoing paper appeal: davidshpherd.org/defend-the-dynasty

A huge thank you for your generous donations.

Every Ranger Counts

Thanks to our generous supporters, over £22,000 has been raised for our Every.Ranger.Counts. postal appeal. This will make an enormous difference to the anti-poaching and park protection ranger teams across Asia and Africa who are working tirelessly to protect wildlife and establish a long-term sustainable future for some of the world's most endangered animals.



Image credit: Cycle for Rangers | Every. Ranger. Counts. Appeal

Join our family – become a Wildlife Shepherd

As part of our **35th anniversary**, we're pleased to announce the launch of **Wildlife Shepherds**, a very special initiative which aims to create a sustainable future for wildlife through regular giving.

One of our aims is to ensure that we support the projects we fund for years to come, helping them to plan for the long-term and to implement meaningful, sustainable change.

By becoming a **Wildlife Shepherd** and committing to a regular monthly, quarterly or annual gift, you will be joining the **DSWF family** and become a fundamental part of our fight to create a safer future for threatened wildlife.

A wildlife ranger will spend up to 240 days a year sleeping out in the bush, in some of the world's most

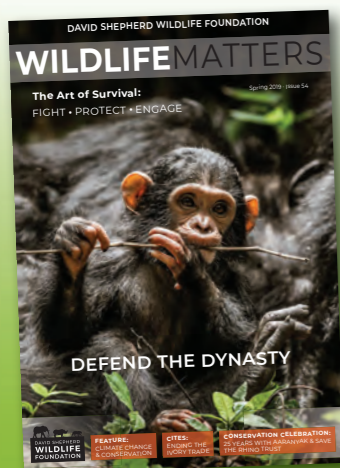
hostile landscapes on patrol to protect endangered species. Just £5 a month could help provide vital supplies (including food, first aid and emergency equipment) to enable these brave men and women to continue the fight against wildlife crime.

You can set up your regular gift using our online form at davidshpherd.org/wildlife-shepherd or by contacting Francesca Baldwin on **01483 272323** or francesca.baldwin@davidshpherd.org

As a result, you will receive updates on the impact of your donation – for the projects we support and the wildlife we are fighting to protect.

Whatever you can give will make a difference and we hope you will consider joining our family and investing in the future of wildlife.

If you could do one thing...



Once you've finished with your printed copy of Wildlife Matters, why not share it with others - give it to a friend or leave it at your local doctors or dentist surgery, train station or library?



CHRISTMAS CONCERT, ST NICOLAS' CHURCH, GUILDFORD – TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019

Our inaugural Christmas Concert in December saw over 200 supporters and guests from the local community joining us for a joyful celebration of Christmas, conservation, art and DSWF.

Guests enjoyed fantastic performances from local schools and celebrities, including a reading from former England cricket captain David Gower. The concert was followed by mince pies and mulled wine at an exclusive exhibition of David Shepherd paintings.

More than £4,800 was raised for wildlife projects at this memorable event and we hope you will put the date in the diary for this year.

Find out more...

Please contact Emily Summers at emily.summers@davidsshepherd.org or on **01483 272323** for information on any of our events or for sponsorship and advertising opportunities.

Sign up to our e-news to be the first to hear more details as they are announced.

davidsshepherd.org/stay-in-touch

WILDLIFE BALL – FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019



Last year's prestigious Wildlife Ball generously hosted by The Dorchester Collection, raised an incredible £168,000 for conservation.

Oscar-winning actress Dame Judi Dench and top science and wildlife presenter Liz Bonnin joined more than 300 guests for an evening of delicious food and sparkling entertainment, including a moving rendition of 'Imagine' by mezzo-soprano and DSWF Ambassador Laura Wright.

Visit davidsshepherd.org/wildlife-ball to watch a short film from the night.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the night such a success and please do join us on Friday 15 November for this year's event. Tickets are on sale now.

GOLF DAY, CRANLEIGH GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB – FRIDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2019

We are delighted to announce that our annual Golf Day returns this year to the beautiful Cranleigh Golf and Country Club.

Join us for a fun packed day of golf, good food and excellent company with a little healthy competition thrown

in. Every penny raised will go to help protect endangered wildlife across Asia and Africa.

To find out more about the Golf Day and sign up, please contact Emily Summers at emily.summers@davidsshepherd.org or on **01483 272323**.



PARTNERSHIPS TO BE PROUD OF...

We're proud of our partnerships with the different organisations and companies that support us. As we are a relatively small team with limited resources, gifts of services in kind ('pro bono' support) is vital as it helps to reduce our costs and maximise what we can achieve.

Dorchester Collection have been supporting DSWF for the past 15 years by hosting our annual fundraising event at The Dorchester. Without this incredibly generous support we simply wouldn't be able to curate this incredible event.

Dorchester Collection

We are also extremely grateful for the availability of central London meeting spaces also permitted to us throughout the year by the Dorchester Collection (most recently for our Supporter Focus Groups and Wildlife Artist of the Year judging).



Award-winning digital marketing consultancy Innovation Visual have been working closely with the DSWF marketing team since 2013, helping to train the team and positively transforming the effectiveness and visibility of our website using the most contemporary technologies available.

Such support means we can promote the Foundation and our activities as effectively as possible, targeting relevant and new audiences and extending our reach. So far, we have seen some incredible results.

www.innovationvisual.com
"As someone who is passionate about wildlife and the future of endangered species on our planet (we are members of 1% for the planet), I felt it was important to give something back and help this fantastic charity to save on costs, increase their online presence and achieve even more. If we can support DSWF through our expertise, then I know it will have a huge impact long-term."

Tim Butler, Owner and Director, Innovation Visual

Thank you to both Dorchester Collection and Innovation Visual for their ongoing support and please do contact our Head of Fundraising, Susie Baxter at susie.baxter@davidsshepherd.org or on **01483 272323** to find out how your company can get involved and support the Foundation.

REMEMBERING DAVID BACK

The Foundation is so very sad to hear of the death of David Back in April this year, a truly inspirational man whose contribution to saving wildlife over decades will always be remembered and greatly appreciated.



David, his wife Karen and his children Daniel and Georgia.



David's incredible image of Indian rhinos in the wild

Through his wonderful photographs, often featured in DSWF publications, and his incredible fundraising endeavours for DSWF and other wildlife projects, David was a true friend to wildlife in Africa and Asia. Thank you, David. You will be missed by so many.

Thank you for your support. We couldn't do what we do without you!



“My paintings have helped me repay the enormous debt of gratitude I owe to wildlife – I like to call them my living legacy because, unlike me, my paintings will live on.”

David Shepherd CBE

Image Credit: Will Bremridge

Since David Shepherd set up the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation in 1984, we have fought tirelessly to ensure the future of some of the world's most threatened wildlife across Africa and Asia. 35 years on and we are committed to ensuring that David's legacy survives and thrives.

DSWF and David's paintings are his lasting gift for the future of the species we protect, making a vital contribution to saving endangered species.

One way that you could help us to continue David Shepherd's legacy is by leaving a gift to DSWF in your Will. Such a gift, no matter how large or small, makes a huge difference and will sustain our efforts to fight, protect and engage on behalf of endangered wildlife around the world for generations to come.



Your legal adviser can advise on the type of gift you might leave, be it a gift of a sum of money, a percentage of your Estate or an original artwork. All you need from us is our charity name (**David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation**) and registered charity number (**1106893**).

On our website you will find lots of information to support you including details of:

• **The types of gifts you might choose to leave**

• **Our promises for gifts in Wills**

• **Guidance on Letters of wishes**

Please do visit davidsshepherd.org/legacy for more information, or feel free to contact our Head of Fundraising Susie Baxter at susie.baxter@davidsshepherd.org or on **01483 443856**.

Thank you.

“We share this fragile world with all creatures. Making a Will is one of the ways we ensure the world is a better place for those we care about.”

Dame Judi Dench, DSWF Legacy Ambassador

It has been an exciting few months for the DSWF Community Fundraising team as we welcome two new DSWF Community Ambassadors, **Peter Best** (Sussex and Surrey) and **Gail Koopowitz** (Norfolk) to our regional

fundraising network. Our eight Community Ambassadors cover Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, Avon, Devon, London, Midlands and Edinburgh and all play a vital role organising fundraising and awareness activities across the country.

WILDLIFE WARRIORS

Our Wildlife Warriors are an incredible group of supporters who fundraise for DSWF through their own activities and events. Highlights of Wildlife Warrior activities up and down the country include:



Congratulations to **Tom Gordon-Colebrooke** who raised £1,4000 for DSWF by completing the 2019 Rickshaw Run in Sri Lanka.



The rickshaw, comprising 3 wheels and only 10.5hp, navigated the length of Sri Lanka from north to south. There were no set routes, no backup, just infinite adventures along the way for Tom and his teammates. They travelled rough roads, forest tracks and spectacular mountain passes. Even with a hospital detour close to the end, they were determined to cross the finish line. An amazing feat, an incredible experience and we are grateful to Tom for choosing to support us.

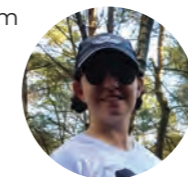


• **Cambridge Assessment** who held an online raffle to celebrate World Pangolin Day, raising over £120 and adopting a pangolin in support of our pangolin projects in Africa and Asia.

• Following a visit to the Elephant Orphanage Project in Zambia, artist **Ann Hunt** was inspired to produce cards from her sketches to raise funds for the project, with £120 donated so far.

• **Paul Dowling** is planning a 4,400 km kayaking trip down the River Lena in Siberia to raise funds for DSWF-funded Amur tiger projects, whilst **Tom Hicks** is planning to trek all the way to the North Pole in 2020. Please get in touch if you'd like to support Paul or Tom through fundraising or sponsorship opportunities.

• The Six Towns Walk organised by **Anthony Bellamy** returns for its 4th year on Saturday 1 June, whilst later this month, **Lucy Smith** will walk 100km from London to Brighton in support of DSWF. **Paul Coe** will also be walking 100km along the South Coast Way in August.



Lucy Smith



Paul Coe

If you'd like to join our Wildlife Warriors but need some inspiration or an exciting idea, take a look at Discover Adventures for awesome, heart-stopping challenges at discoveradventure.com

KEEP ON MOVING

Eight dedicated runners took on the London Marathon in April raising thousands of pounds for DSWF. Celebrity Ambassador Laura Wright even gave herself the added challenge of training with a similar weight to what a ranger would carry out on patrol. We are so proud of all our runners who have gone above and beyond to help save endangered wildlife. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

We are looking forward to taking part in Prudential Ride-London on 4 August with our brave cyclists training hard already for the challenge.

“I can't wait to take part in this top notch ride for DSWF. Knowing that every pound I raise will make a difference makes the hard work worthwhile.”



Rider, Michael Walsh

We still have one place available for Prudential Ride-London. Get in touch with Francesca Baldwin if you are interested on 01483 272323 or francesca.baldwin@davidsshepherd.org. Good luck to all our riders – we're behind you every pedal of the way!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING TEAM!

Please contact Amanda Butler at amanda.butler@davidsshepherd.org to find out more about becoming a Community Ambassador, fundraising for DSWF or supporting a Wildlife Warrior activity.

Also take a look at our Community Fundraising team page on Facebook for more info and to help spread awareness: facebook.com/DSWFcommunity

VOLUNTEERING AT DSWF

Our DSWF volunteers remain at the heart of our work and our successes. We are so grateful to all for their time, their help at our major events, and their friendship.

FEATURE PHOTO

PHOTO BY SAFEENA CHAUDHRY

Instagram: @ms.chauhdry
proximitypictures.co.uk



WOULD YOU LIKE TO FEATURE?

Send us your wildlife photograph and your image could be chosen for the next issue!

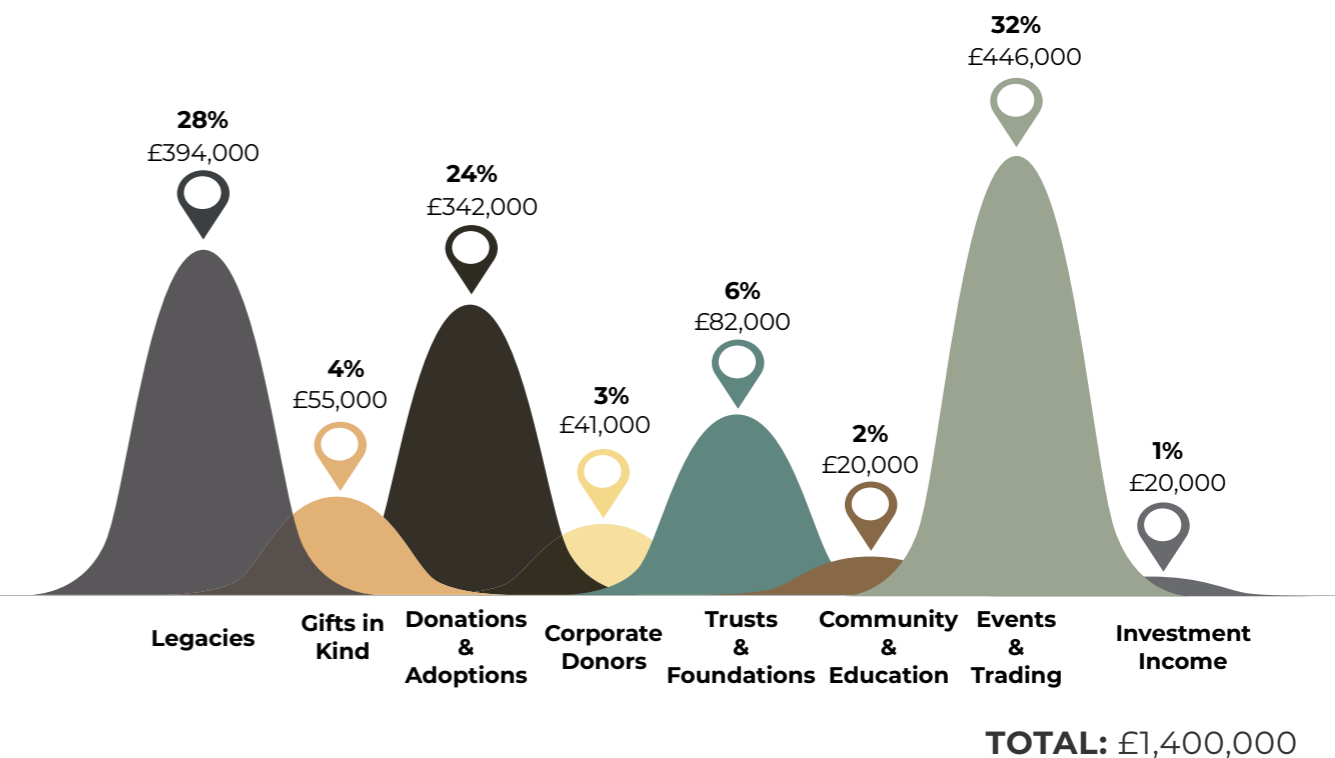
davidshepherd.org/photo-feature

DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

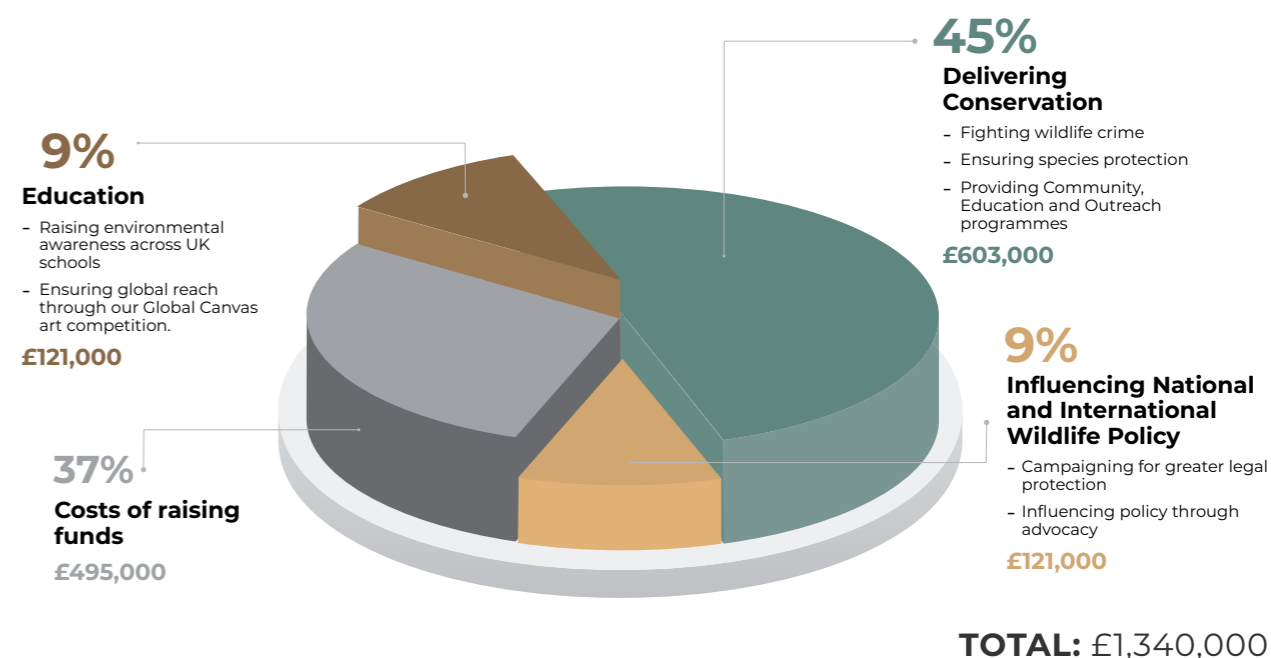
DSWF raises funds through a range of activities including art exhibitions, events, appeals and other commercial initiatives. Grants from revenue generated are deployed to conservation organisations in Africa and Asia.

The Foundation aims to keep administration costs to an absolute minimum in order to ensure that a healthy percentage of donations received reaches projects on the ground. **100%** of all donations given for a specific project or species are deployed to projects and no administration fees are deducted from this income stream.

DSWF financial income 2018/19 (subject to audit)



DSWF financial expenditure 2018/19 (subject to audit)



Disclaimer: All information in this magazine was considered to be correct at time of print.



**EVERY FOUR HOURS, A
CHIMPANZEE IS BRUTALLY
STOLEN FROM THE WILD FOR
THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

Since 2013, over 14,000 chimpanzees have been taken from the wild, decimating dynasties. Chimpanzees are illegally traded as pets, killed for their bushmeat, and are victims of habitat destruction and diseases spread by humans.

01483 272323 | davidsshepherd.org/defend-the-dynasty

This magazine is printed on FSC certified paper by Kingsley Print and Design Ltd.

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Saba House, 7 Kings Road, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8JU | Registered Charity No: 1106893



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