

DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

WILDLIFEMATTERS

The Art of Survival: FIGHT · PROTECT · ENGAGE

· Autumn 2023 · Issue 60 ·



DAVID SHEPHERD
WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION

CONSERVATION:
CLIMATE CRISIS AND
CONSERVATION LINK

ART:
ARTIVISM AND THE
ART OF SURVIVAL

EDUCATION:
TAKING OUR MESSAGE
AROUND THE WORLD

CEO MESSAGE

A WORLD OF CHANGE

Despite the hit and miss of the recent British summer, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you in this latest edition of Wildlife Matters.

On the topic of weather, as well as sharing the latest updates from the projects we support and fund across Africa and Asia with you, and a look at our education and art programmes, we will also be focusing on how biodiversity and climate change are intrinsically linked, and what growing climate instability really means for conservation.

While the conversation and examples of climate change are often reserved for the more extreme and isolated landscapes covering our planet, the impacts are far more global and ever-present.

Climate disruption is already being seen at a local level here in the UK, with species turning up on shores and in seas that would usually be too harsh or cold for them to survive in. Some, such as cattle egrets and bee-eaters in Britain, are even becoming established enough to start breeding. Other more startling arrivals include smalltooth sandtiger sharks – a species usually found in tropical and warm waters, yet three have visited UK coastlines this year as migration routes become increasingly convoluted.

We are also seeing the growing effects further afield impacting the majority of DSWF projects. For instance, as we work to protect the world's last population of desert-adapted black rhino from poachers and human encroachment, they must now also battle one of the most prolonged periods of drought ever recorded.

The threat represented by an average (mean) rise in global temperatures is very real. Just a 2°C increase puts many of our planet's ecosystems (13%) at risk of radical change and would result in irrevocable imbalances of their flora and fauna. 'Change' is too weak a word for what is occurring.

Climate instability is a better description of what is at risk. While colder, wetter weather may seem an inconvenience, it is a temporary symptom that marks a progressive decline towards things getting much, much worse.

Crucially, it is our ecosystems that will play a vital role in creating a greener future for all of

us. This is because biodiversity is our strongest natural defence against climate change. The healthiest, most biodiverse habitats act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing more CO₂ than they release – meaning fewer forest fires, less flooding, less drought, and fewer incidents of extreme weather. Those with fewer species – with imbalances, invasive flora and fauna, and predator-prey populations out of sync, are less up to the job.

This is why DSWF is committed to protecting iconic, keystone species which play vital roles in maintaining the health of their ecosystems. As the architects of the landscape in which they reside, our flagship species not only shape their surroundings but also dictate the very health and longevity of our ecosystems upon which our survival relies.

But... there is hope. Change is possible. Our education programme has reached more children than ever before. Our bush camps and workshops are showing more communities how humans and wildlife can co-exist. Through livelihood programmes, we are enabling those that live alongside globally important habitats to protect and profit from them sustainably, rather than plundering their resources. And the one message I want to leave you with is that we are doing it together.

As you read this latest issue of Wildlife Matters – please be assured that we know we cannot do any of our incredible work without you, our supporters, donors, and adopters. We share our heartfelt thanks for enabling our conservation successes and take great pride in sharing our latest achievements with you. Thank you from everyone at DSWF.

Georgina Lamb
CEO



ABOUT US

David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) is an effectual and emphatic wildlife conservation charity operating across Africa and Asia to end wildlife crime and protect endangered species in their natural habitat.

Working from grassroots to the world stage, DSWF's holistic approach to conservation puts people at the heart of our work. We recognise the vital importance of indigenous communities in the fight to protect the world's most endangered wildlife.

DSWF was formed in 1984, by the renowned wildlife artist and conservationist, David Shepherd, CBE, in response to his firsthand witnessing of humankind's abuse of the natural world. To date, we have invested over £12.7 million in conservation projects and programmes that take the fight to the frontline in the war against wildlife crime. Our ambition and reach will only continue to grow.

Our vital work, made possible by our incredible supporters and partners, enables us to secure safe spaces for wildlife to thrive in. We support law enforcement operations and undercover investigations to fight wildlife crime at its root and source in consumer countries through demand reduction and education campaigns. Through empowerment programmes and inclusive strategies to alleviate poverty in communities living alongside wildlife, we are

turning human-wildlife conflict into human-wildlife co-existence. And the latest insights and research uncovered by our projects and experts enables us to authoritatively engage in national and international policy arenas.

Environmental instability is impacting us all on a global scale. We know that biodiversity loss, ecosystem health, and climate change are intrinsically linked. DSWF is driving positive change through conservation-led solutions that aim to reverse and stabilise negative climate trends.

Through dedication and hard work, we have influenced policy, shifted attitudes, and provided an unwavering voice for wildlife conservation for nearly four decades.

We **FIGHT** wildlife crime by equipping dedicated ranger teams, funding undercover investigations and exposure of illegal trade, and lobbying for progressive change in international policies.

We **PROTECT** endangered species in their natural habitat and key environmental landscapes.

We **ENGAGE** local communities and international audiences through education programmes, human-wildlife co-existence initiatives, and generating alternative pro-wildlife livelihoods.



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STAY IN TOUCH

WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH AND HOPE YOU DO TOO!

Here at DSWF, we are proud of the close relationship we enjoy with our supporters. We are committed to best practice in terms of supporter contact and want to ensure you are happy with how and when we get in touch, as we keep you updated with the latest news on our conservation projects, fundraising appeals, and events. If you would like to change your contact details or preferences, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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Please use your phone camera to scan the QR code to stay in touch.

davidsshepherd.org/sign-up

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HOW YOU HELP MONEY MATTERS

Sometimes, it can be difficult to know just how much difference you can really make when you donate, leave a legacy, or give your time and support to a charity. Please believe us when we say it has a huge impact – but you don't need to just take our word for it. Here's how you enabled us to carry on doing incredible work for endangered species in the 2022-2023 financial year.

In the last financial year, our income totalled £1.7 million, of which the vast majority (£1.2 million) was made up of donations and legacies. If you attended one of our events or perhaps took part in a sponsored activity with us, then you can pat yourself on the back, as these aspects raised over £410,000. Even with a cost-of-living crisis and world events taking centre stage in the news, this still represents a fantastic increase of 9% over last year. So, thank you, very, very much from all of us.

Even more importantly, our spending on charitable activities totalled more than £1.4 million – which again represents an increase of 25% over the previous year.

When we say we couldn't do what we do without you, we mean it!

Making Every Penny Count

One of the ways we make the money we receive go even further, is by cutting down on administration and other internal costs. That way, the bulk of the donations we receive go to the projects on the ground that really need it.

Our support for programmes in some of the poorest countries in the world means that even limited funding and small donations can make a big difference. And by keeping our own costs as low as possible, those who donate through us to specific appeals or for their favourite species can sleep soundly knowing their money will go to where it will have the biggest impact.

It's just one of the reasons your support makes so much difference, and why every penny really counts.

“WHEN WE SAY WE COULDN'T DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT YOU, WE MEAN IT!”

SNARES: THE HIDDEN KILLER

A Painted Dog in a Panic

Earlier this year, on the outskirts of the famous Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe, beta male 'Washy' (pictured) was caught in a snare. It was the fourth time his life had been threatened by the indiscriminate and illegal traps, and only two weeks since he had last fallen foul of one.

This time, the snare caught around his waist, entangling him, and pinning him to a tree as he made a maddened and desperate attempt to escape. Imagine the distress, pain, and panic of being trapped. Imagine it happening again and again. And imagine the uncontrollable fear and vulnerability you'd feel, exposed. Death might come from an enemy, starvation, infection, or thirst. And then, people approach – and there's no way of knowing if they're friend or foe. As before, this time, 'Washy' is lucky. Our team on the ground are quick to the scene and successfully remove the snare with wire cutters after anaesthetising him. They then treat his wound and release him back to his pack.

A Serious Threat

Snares are laid out in bulk by poachers, in prime habitat and wildlife corridors, hoping to catch anything that might have value – completely indiscriminately. Everything from lions and antelope to smaller species like painted dogs, pangolins, and even rodents can be caught so their parts can be sold into the illegal wildlife trade.

The number of commercial poaching operations using snares to capture bushmeat for the often-illegal trade in urban markets is increasing. TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade monitoring network, recently reported that population growth, poverty in rural areas, increased consumption, and the absence of alternatives to bushmeat hunting and trade means that bushmeat is completely unsustainable.

The Silent Killers

Snares are discrete and purposefully so. They are basic traps, looped wire, rope, or cable nooses, that trap animals as they pass by. The more they try to escape, the more constricted they become. An animal can be left for days, in serious pain. And unlike guns, snares are silent killers.

"Snares are a really cost-effective way of poaching wildlife, and it's also very quiet, so it's easy for poachers to travel into a forest at night-time, lay some snares and move out again without any rangers or officials hearing them."

**Tim Redford, Programme Director,
Freeland Foundation
(DSWF partner, Thailand)**

They are one of the cruellest ways to kill an animal, delivering a prolonged, slow, and painful death.

Depending on how long they are trapped – and how much they struggle, a snare can cut into (and irreparably damage) muscle, deeper tissues, and bone. Their pain and distress can be so horrifically maddening that some animals chew off their own limbs to escape.

Southeast Asia, a region that hosts an abundance of endangered species, is amid a snaring crisis. More than 200,000 snares were removed from protected areas between 2010-2015. For every snare that's removed, it's literally one life saved. A recent report estimated that there are over 12 million snares in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam alone.

While our partners in the field diligently work to get to as many animals as they can whilst still alive, the odds are stacked against them. The longer an animal is trapped in a snare, the less likely they are to survive – as death comes in many forms to an incapacitated creature in the wild. Predators won't hesitate to dispatch an easily had meal, and nor will a returning poacher. In many ways they're the lucky ones – as the prospect of dying from infection, starvation, or thirst is much grimmer. Even those lucky to escape or be rescued face an uncertain future if injury robs them of skills and abilities they rely on. A tiger needs strength and speed to hunt effectively, and herbivores need the agility and stamina to flee and forage. A snare can take them in an instant.

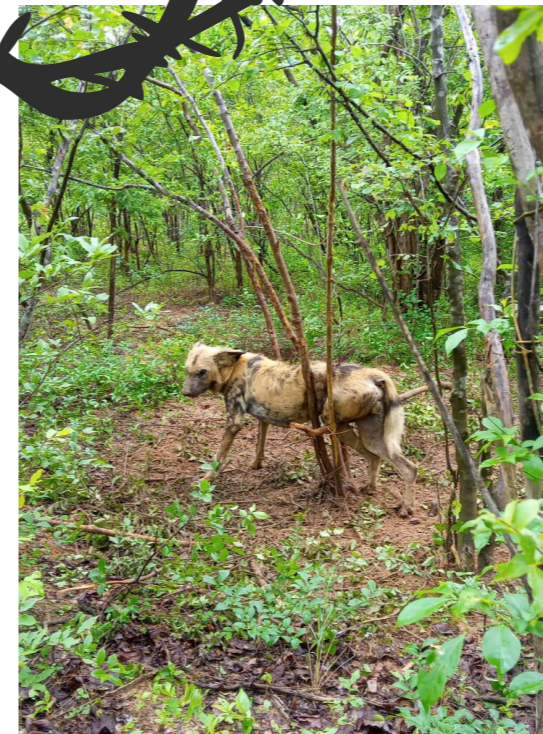


Image Credit: Painted Dog Conservation

We're Working to Cut Snares Out Altogether

Our partners in the field work heroically to respond rapidly and effectively to snaring incidents, and thanks to their dedication, many lives have been saved. But we need your help to bolster this work. Across our programmes in both Africa and Asia, we are combating the snaring crisis through:

Community engagement. Ensuring as many people as possible are reached and educated on the effects of mass snaring, as well as encouraging whistleblowing and the sharing of intelligence. We also offer alternative livelihoods to combat poaching and ensure local laws and regulations on illegal snaring are known, feared, and enforced.

Education. DSWF's partner in Zimbabwe, Painted Dog Conservation, run bush camps in Hwange National Park for up to 1,000 children each year, educating and raising awareness on the detrimental effects of snaring, and the importance of conservation and championing it within their communities. These programmes along with anti-poaching patrols are the main reason why painted dogs have not gone extinct in Zimbabwe.



How You Can Help

Snaring is a silent, hidden, and deadly killer. Though we are doing our utmost to deter poachers and remove snares that have been laid, we need your support to strengthen this work, so that we can save more lives from a painful death. Particularly for many endangered species that are often caught in snares indiscriminately and unintentionally.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN FUND AND SUPPORT:

Work with local wildlife authorities enforcing regulations and assist with arrests and prosecution, as well as fund and lead investigations into the illegal wildlife trade and criminal syndicates, focusing on inclusion of local communities to protect their national heritage.

Anti-poaching operations – the best and most serious deterrent in our arsenal. Our partners train rangers to patrol areas on foot and how to handle conflicts in the wild. For example, our DSWF partner in Namibia, Save the Rhino Trust, have patrolled over 50,000 kilometres in the region, preventing any recorded poaching of black rhinos in over 3 years.

Collaring and monitoring of animals (where possible) and the instalment of camera traps in high snare areas to monitor and reach snared animals before they perish or get taken, as well as administer care for wounded animals before they die, get eaten, or chew through their limbs to escape.

See our Snaring Crisis Appeal leaflet or visit www.davidsshepherd.org/snaringcrisis to find out how you can support our teams on the ground to detect and remove snares and deter the widespread use of them on the endangered species being decimated across Africa and Asia.

Image Credit: Matt Armstrong-Ford



CHIMP UPDATE

We work with conservation partners on-the-ground in Guinea who are dedicated to chimpanzee conservation. This is a volatile country to work in, with a coup taking place as recently as September 2021. Whereas many charitable and non-government organisations (NGOs) would not be able to operate here, as a small charity that deals directly with our partners, we have been able to continue funding and supporting work protecting this much-loved species.

Reaching new grounds

Our project partner's work is focused on delivering impactful and dynamic education programmes and alternative livelihood options to communities in and around High Niger National Park. Your ongoing support has enabled them to expand this offering to a new region to the north of the park in 2023.

This expansion also gave them a foothold in an area where chimpanzees from a rehabilitation programme have come into direct conflict with a community there. A man was seriously injured after trying to frighten away a chimpanzee from an area where he was harvesting firewood, resulting in an attack. It was also feared food stores might be pillaged by the chimps, based on past experiences. This made the community historically hostile to conservation programmes and suspicious of new ones – but we knew success lay in working together, not against each other.

The universal language of football

The education programme enabled our partners to prove they had the credentials to enact change before they pushed for new initiatives. But it was the universal language of football that enabled them to move forwards. By hosting a few tournaments, our partners were able to gain trust and establish friendships with the community, who then allowed them to offer help.

This included reparation of a school building and implementing beekeeping, soap making, and gardening and agriculture projects. These new sources of legitimate income solved a host of issues that needed to be addressed, namely illegal farming within the forest of the National Park and rice growing close to vital water sources, like the river Niger. Incredibly, this has been a huge win for our conservation partners on-the-ground, with the high-quality honey from the beekeeping project selling for three times that of illegally sourced honey from wild hives, often collected by felling trees.

Working with this one community, we have secured and protected pristine chimpanzee habitat, benefiting not just them but the entire ecosystem. Furthermore, as a direct result of the education project, this once-hostile community are now proactive collaborators, advocates, and protectors of the park.

Thank you for everything you've enabled us to achieve for both people and chimpanzees in Guinea.

OUR APPEALS YOUR IMPACT

What We've Achieved Together

We rely on the generosity of our community of wildlife supporters to help us fund conservation projects across Africa and Asia, protecting endangered species from extinction. Here's a roundup of everything you've helped us achieve through this year's appeals.

Ranger Appeal – 'Nature's First Responders'

Earlier this year, we ran an appeal for wildlife rangers – nature's first responders. For them and many of our project countries, the cost-of-living crisis has the potential to cripple operations and bring them to a halt, hindering their ability to deploy ranger teams, fuel their vehicles, or buy equipment and rations.

You helped us raise over £30,000 to support these key workers. Thanks to your kind support, DSWF have been able to provide vital funding to our field-based conservation partners to train, equip and deploy rangers in the field – despite escalating costs.

In Namibia, our project protecting black rhinos has seen no recorded poaching incidents in three years. In Zimbabwe, ranger teams and community volunteer anti-poaching groups have been able to collect over 1,100 snares, which otherwise may have harmed or killed wildlife including endangered painted dogs. And in Vietnam, patrols have continued despite a dangerous flood, resulting in 15 rescue trips to save seven pangolins and eleven small carnivores in one month alone. Collectively, rangers in DSWF-supported projects have patrolled over 200,000 km in just the last year to keep threatened wildlife and ecosystems safe.

Without rangers, there would be nothing to protect. Their efforts and successes are a testament to the absolute dedication of DSWF partnerships. And it would not be possible without you, our supporters, to fund their operations, training, and welfare.

Human-Wildlife Coexistence Appeal - 'Living With Wildlife: Competing For Survival'

In April, we launched an appeal focused on mitigating the conflict between humans and wildlife. As our population continues to grow and spread, so does our need for resources and land, which animals also rely on for survival.

We raised over £40,000 thanks to our generous supporters, to help us fund programmes that build relationships between governments, conservationists, and local communities that highlight the mutually beneficial importance of maintaining a peaceful coexistence with wildlife. Instead of persecuting animals that crop-raid or hunt domestic livestock, our partners work with local communities to identify sustainable solutions and incentives to encourage coexistence.

Protecting wildlife starts with people, and local communities that live alongside animals have a big impact on their survival, by understanding their role in the ecosystem and their 'live' value.

In Zambia, local farmers living alongside Kafue National Park reported a total of 14 incidences of elephants on their farms in the space of three months. Often these incidents can lead to injuries and deaths of both elephants and people. However, the local ranger team's quick response meant no casualties were reported. The team has also been working on trialling an elephant alarm triggered by camera traps and is already proving a success.

With human populations expanding rapidly, human-wildlife conflict is quickly becoming one of the top threats to wildlife. DSWF continues to work closely with local communities to ensure they have the support and help needed. Local engagement with communities and schools are integral in the protection of endangered species. We couldn't do this kind of work without our supporters that understand that protecting wildlife starts with people.

You can find an update on our most recent tiger appeal on page 13.

ELEPHANT UPDATE

DSWF funds and supports projects and programmes that safeguard the future of both African and Asian elephants in the wild.

Perhaps the project that touches hearts most is the Elephant Orphanage Project, based in Zambia. In 2023 we've put the spotlight on several calves whose lives were saved and changed by this incredible project. Let us introduce you to the latest rescued orphan, Ndewa.

Ndewa

Okondewa, or Ndewa (N-deh-wa) for short, has a name that means 'beloved' in the local language of Chinyanja. Ndewa was discovered emaciated and disorientated close to the village of Chikumbi. She was found wandering alone and it was clear she had been without her mother's milk for a very long time. A Community Outreach Ranger from our partner organisation, Game Rangers International, was contacted and the villagers were instructed how to safely restrain Ndewa and prevent her from disappearing into the forest – which might mean losing her forever.

The village where Ndewa was found, sits along the Zambezi River opposite Zimbabwe and neighbouring Mozambique. This is a renowned elephant highway where regular crossings are attempted. The river varies in width and depth, but even the shortest crossings cover over 200 metres of often fast-flowing and surprisingly deep water. It is presumed Ndewa got separated from her mother during a crossing. She's also the 17th calf rescued from this area.

A Community Outreach Ranger from our partner organisation, Game Rangers International, was contacted and the villagers were instructed how to safely restrain Ndewa and prevent her from disappearing into the forest – which might mean losing her forever.

The villagers helped Ndewa to browse on masao and mbula fruits, as well as cool herself and drink. Overnight, she was stabilised by a dedicated veterinary team and given life-saving electrolytes. Her access to milk and nutrients had to be monitored and rationed, due to her vulnerable and compromised condition. The sanctuary of the elephant nursery was an eight-hour drive from the village but gave Ndewa the opportunity to rest. On arrival, she was reluctant to leave the safety

of the hay-lined and relatively cosy transport. However, as we've seen time and time again, it only took the arrival of the orphan herd back to the boma, an hour later, to encourage her to take a few tentative steps outside.

Ndewa slept fitfully during her first night, naturally exhausted. She is yet to learn the mechanics of bottle feeding, or to trust the human guardians enough to let them feed her in this way – but she is browsing well and able to take fluids through the simple access of a bucket!

Detering the Crop Raiders

In Asia, our elephant work focuses even more closely on resolving human-wildlife conflict. We work with conservation partners on the ground in India to provide ranger support where it's most needed.

These rangers act as first responders. Very often, it is they, rather than police, that arrive at the consequent gatherings of communities that might be frightened, angry, or confused. And it is they who must de-escalate and take control of such situations.

Without rangers supporting them and understanding their needs and interests, such communities would not be able to recover from these potentially negative interactions with elephants – which can result in physical injury, damage or loss of property, entire livelihoods being destroyed, and even death.

Thanks to you, and through DSWF's long-term commitment, these co-existence rangers can instigate preventative measures and offer communities advice and equipment to prevent further human-wildlife conflict in the future. This can include chilli block bombs, which create a thick, putrid smoke – or noise makers, sometimes as simple as playing loud music. Wildlife cameras have picked up elephants stopping and changing direction when encountering both these measures.

Our rangers can also act as a physical deterrent, escorting herds back to safer territory and engaging in ongoing monitoring.

Thank you for enabling us to continue our vital work.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE

7PM, 30 NOVEMBER 2023

Join us for the festive fundraising event of the year! We're celebrating the incredible conservation work achieved this year by DSWF supported projects and programmes, with an extra dose of seasonal spirit.

Want us to make it extra Christmassy for you? Okay, how about... the added backdrop of the stunning Arundel Castle!

Arundel Castle is the gem in West Sussex's crown of places to go. Our Christmas at the Castle event is your opportunity to glimpse this impressive landmark behind the usually locked doors in winter. Join us for a celebratory drink, canapés, and an evening celebrating conservation in the Barons' Hall.

We're also extremely happy to announce the event is being supported by Fauna Brewing, who are based at Arundel Castle. In their own words, Fauna makes great tasting beer and does great things with it – such as their Wild Dog IPA, which supports our painted dog conservation projects.

You'll be welcomed into the incredible Barons' Hall at Arundel Castle with a glass of fizz to kick-start the festive season. The evening's entertainment includes performances by renowned soprano Laura Wright and a festive choir of over 40 singers. There'll also be an inspiring talk on DSWF's painted dog conservation project

in Zimbabwe, hosted by actor David Oakes (*Vikings: Valhalla*), together with Project Director Peter Blinston, to highlight the importance of just some of the work DSWF is involved with.

We have also curated a wildlife art exhibition, with pieces from some of the world's most talented artists, all available exclusively for purchase at this event.

Finally, we've put together an incredible selection of lots for our silent auction, which will be live to bid on for the entire evening.

There'll be other festive treats in store, too, but we'd rather you were surprised and delighted on the night!

Tickets are just £80, with funds raised going towards wildlife conservation. You can book either by visiting our website at davidsshepherd.org/christmas-at-the-castle (booking fees apply) or by phoning us directly on 01483 27 23 23.

This not-to-be-missed event packed with festive feeling takes place on Thursday November 30, so put the date in the diary and reserve your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Thank you for your continued support of DSWF – we'll see you at the castle!



CONSERVATION AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Since the 70s, governments and NGOs alike have treated the protection of wildlife and the natural world as a separate issue to tackling climate change. Unfortunately, this line of thought and the policies that have sprung from it have failed to halt biodiversity loss or mitigate climate change. However, we believe success can be achieved by aligning climate and conservation policies.

That's simply because conservation is climate action! And it can benefit people, the natural environment, and wildlife collectively. By protecting, restoring, and managing species and habitats, we can capture and store more carbon – which has the handy side effect of supporting climate resilience, and promoting biodiversity. It also plays a role in mitigating risk for disasters like floods and wildfires – both of which have devastated communities and pristine wildernesses alike in 2023 and are occurring with greater regularity every year.

Furthermore, some of our core species are already doing their bit.

Tigers for instance play a key role in maintaining habitat health. Forests inhabited by tigers have been shown to contain more than three times the carbon density of those where they're absent. Naturally and understandably, people tend to stay away from areas where tigers are known to dwell – limiting human infringement and impact. Without tigers, the habitat becomes more accessible and resultantly, much more vulnerable – meaning we risk losing these vital carbon sinks.

Tigers also naturally control the species they prey upon and can even impact their behaviour. With herbivores making up most of their diet, their hunting activities prevent

vegetation from being stripped bare as prey populations are kept in check – and made more skittish by their presence.

The same goes for our other big cat species – lions and snow leopards.

Elephants and rhinos play an equally important but different role as landscape engineers. As these large mammals move around, they can literally stamp out invasive plant species, which enables native plants and trees to maintain their stronghold and store carbon. As they browse, they naturally enable seed dispersal, complete with ready-to-go fertiliser, as they pass seeds and nuts in their dung!

“FORESTS INHABITED BY TIGERS HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO CONTAIN MORE THAN THREE TIMES THE CARBON DENSITY OF THOSE WHERE THEY'RE ABSENT”

In fact, it is estimated that African rainforest would lose 7% of its ability to store carbon without elephants disturbing the soil. And just a single forest elephant can stimulate a net increase in carbon capture of 9,500 metric tonnes of CO₂ per year – the equivalent of emissions from over 2,000 petrol cars for one year!

This is why DSWF believe in a holistic approach to conservation that enables us to provide solutions that will not just save species, but our planet too.

Tigers are one of the most iconic and easily recognised animals on the planet. From the earliest art and poetry to contemporary literature, they have filled us with awe for centuries. However, their survival is uncertain, with a future that's anything but bright. Here's how your support is helping safeguard wild tigers and their habitat today.

How tigers can teach respect for the natural world

In India, the DSWF-funded and supported 'Tiger Goes to School' programme delivers up-to-date information on tiger distribution, population, habitat, and the importance of this keystone species to its ecosystem and conservation.

The programme is designed to instill a sense of stewardship in both communities living alongside tigers and in all young people. Through 'Tiger Goes to School', they develop a greater understanding of the flora and fauna around them, especially India's King of the jungle – the tiger. 'Tiger Goes to School' is delivered through classroom workshops and incorporates expert talks, life experiences and encounters, quizzes and competitions, presentations, posters, and of course – art! A series of nature camps are also run, literally bringing young people closer to nature.

Protecting tigers has gone to the dogs

We're also very pleased to let you know that two new K9 anti-poaching pups are being trained to support ranger and anti-poaching teams. The dogs are Belgian malinois shepherds – the breed of choice for elite operators worldwide.

Renowned for their agility and intelligence, they have completed a rigorous training regime that included detection, searching vehicles, tracking, and tactical formation work. There's also an important emphasis on play and bond-building with the handler. One of the canines has recently taken to the field for the first time, and the other will join them within weeks of this magazine being published – so keep an eye on our socials for updates.

Spy in the wild: investigating the terrible tiger trade

Our recent tiger appeal revealed the true dark side of the appalling illegal wildlife trade. Through your long-term support, we're able to support and fund intelligence campaigns and investigations that have secured significant 'kingpin' arrests and helped shut down trafficking networks. This includes detailed documenting and profiling of linked networks and individuals, enabling us to draw the noose around them ever tighter.

In Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, China, Singapore, and Malaysia, we've tracked and intercepted trade in wild and captive-bred tigers and their parts, as well as exposed the horrendous conditions in state-funded and approved tiger farms. Even young tigers and cubs, used as photo props for tourists, will usually end their lives a tool of this cruel trade.

We're very pleased and grateful to say our tiger appeal helped raise nearly £23,000 to fund the important work detailed above.

Thank you, on behalf of tigers for your ongoing support and donations. They really do make a difference!

LET YOUR LEGACY BE A WORLD OF WONDER AND WILDLIFE

A gift in your will to DSWF ensures the wildlife you cherish has the best chance of survival and that future generations will continue to enjoy the beauty of our natural world and the incredible species that inhabit it.

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most beneficial and impactful ways that you can protect the wildlife and wild spaces in Africa and Asia that you love. One that will last beyond a lifetime.

Why leave a legacy?

Whilst every donation we receive is hugely important and can make a difference to even just a single individual or a specific animal, legacies enable us to work at a scale that can empower whole communities or upscale an entire project. Significant legacies received in the past have spearheaded game changing effectiveness for entire programmes and even our ability to operate as a charity.

Legacies are also particularly special, as they represent a memory and wish of someone who wanted to enact long-lasting change for wildlife and for the better. Over the last six years, legacies have represented 18% of the funding we receive. It goes without saying that without this level of overwhelming support and selfless generosity, we simply would not be able to do our species-saving work at the impressive level it enables us to operate.

To everyone who has included a gift to DSWF in their will, thank you for honouring and trusting us in such a personal way, and for providing a voice for the voiceless.

GET IN TOUCH!

Our fundraising team have a vast amount of experience and are on hand to help with any queries you might have about leaving a gift in your will. You can get in touch by calling **01483 272 323**, or emailing dswf@davidshepherd.org.

If you've already added DSWF into your will, we'd love to know and thank you properly (if you haven't told us already) – and means we'll be able to ensure your gift is fulfilled when the time comes.

What type of gift can I leave in my will?

There are four main gift types you can consider leaving in your will to a charity like DSWF.



Pecuniary Gift: A sum of money determined by you to suit your circumstances.



Residuary Gift: A share (or sometimes all) of an estate, after all other payments have been made.



Specific Gift: For example, an original piece of wildlife art.



Contingent Gift: A gift that is dependent on other factors e.g. – if other beneficiaries pass away before your will is granted.

How do I leave a legacy?

Up to 60% of adults have not made a will, yet many people express a strong wish to leave a gift and make an impact that lasts beyond a lifetime. Formalising these wishes doesn't have to be difficult. If you're considering leaving a legacy and don't have a will, then a solicitor can help you write one. If you would like a list of local solicitors, you can find one via the Law Society. www.solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk

If you already have a will, then you can add a codicil (a short amendment) that specifies the type of gift (as per above) and our details:

Registered Charity Name: David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

Registered Charity Number: 1106893.



Why I'm leaving a gift in my will to DSWF – Susie's story

Susie has had a passion for wildlife since she was a child, instilled in her by her father. She grew up in countryside, surrounded by native flora and fauna. Since then, she has noticed the rapid decline of important species across the globe and is determined to help however she can. Here's why she's chosen to do so by leaving a legacy to David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.

"When I met David Shepherd in person, I was utterly enthused to hear from him and what he was achieving through the Foundation. Having heard his passion first-hand, I signed up for life on the spot."

I love that the Foundation is still family run. The many artists in the family contribute massively to raising much-needed funds through their talents. I believe that the Foundation overheads are kept to the absolute minimum.

I have chosen to leave DSWF a gift in my will because I totally love and honour what they are doing, together with the enthusiasm and passion of everyone working there.

DSWF are the experts, and they know where the money is most needed. Having seen how much they care and the successes to date, I am happy to be able to help them carry on the wonderful work they do; working for species survival, fighting poaching and the illegal trade in animal parts, teaching children to love and respect their wildlife legacy, saving orphaned elephants... the list goes on, and so will my support."

We asked Susie if she had any words of advice or thoughts for others that might be thinking of leaving a gift in their will.

"Do it! Can you imagine your children, grandchildren, and future generations having to grow up in a world without tigers, without rhinos, snow leopards, pangolins, even elephants. It's unthinkable."

Susie Hatt-Cook, DSWF Supporter.

THE ART OF SURVIVAL



In 1984, our founder, the late and world-renowned wildlife artist David Shepherd, started our wonderful Foundation in his own name. He did so, because he truly believed he owed a debt to the incredible species that graced his canvasses over many decades – asking nothing in return as he enjoyed a successful career, ultimately doing what he loved.

Wildlife art is still at the very heart of our organisation and is fundamental to how we approach conservation. It is reflected in our core mission statement we call 'the Art of Survival'.

Art has the unique ability to inspire wonder, awe, and fascination in all, yet leave each person who views it with a different take and perspective.

One of the things we are proudest of at DSWF is the incredible creative community we have the honour of calling our colleagues, friends, and partners. Through them, art transcends the cultural norms and inspires and connects with audiences around the world in a completely unique way. Art has the power to tell stories and forge connections with the natural world that no other medium seems capable of. And it can invoke a sense of duty and desire to do something that is difficult to describe – in essence, a picture truly paints a thousand words. And over the last near-forty years, wildlife

art has inspired thousands to try and turn the tide against extinction. This is 'artivism' – where artists use their work and creative process to communicate core conservation messages close to their hearts.

From the funds raised through our annual Wildlife Artist of the Year and Global Canvas competitions and exhibitions to thought-provoking and challenging art created by our community, we are proud of the leading role art plays in our operation. Furthermore, art workshops created by our partner artists have enabled us to engage thousands of children in classrooms across the UK via our education programme.

In simple terms, art is the foundation of the Foundation. It is how we expose the challenges facing our eight iconic species and how vulnerable they, and our wild world, are. Unbound from just physical depictions of our present, art can take us anywhere our imaginations choose – whether that's a grim future of vanishing species and desolate landscapes, or moments filled with hope and wonder. Both have their place in the Art of Survival.

LION UPDATE

Lions are known as the king of beasts, giving them a direct connection to royalty and resultantly, human history. They are a species we affiliate with nobility and strength, yet unfortunately, the last of their strongholds are being weakened by human encroachment and the illegal wildlife trade is robbing them of their dignity and their lives.

National Park work that's of national importance

We're therefore proud of the work we've enabled in one of Uganda's most important and prime lion habitats – Murchison Falls National Park.

Uganda has experienced both political upheaval and environmental devastation linked to climate change in the flooding of the River Nile and Lakeland areas. Despite this, our partners on-the-ground were able to sustain two anti-poaching vehicles, as well as five further anti-poaching teams deployed in vulnerable and recovering landscapes across the National Park.

We were also able to support the veterinary work of collaring and monitoring lions, including creating a database of individuals within the park. Most importantly, this work has meant not a single collared lion has been lost to poachers or other human activity.

A new network that signals a bad reception for poachers

This was also linked to a major technical achievement and upgrade made possible by DSWF funding. The installation of new radio towers, as well as digital radios and smartphones equipped with EarthRanger technology, means the Park's communication network – which beforehand covered just 5% of the area, is now effective in over 85% of Murchison Falls.

From being an effective deterrent to poaching to enabling quicker responses to any potential human-wildlife conflicts, this upgrade to the communications system benefits all aspects of operations within Murchison Falls.

Through DSWF funding, we've driven recovery of vital habitat in Murchison Falls National Park and improved monitoring of the lion population – all thanks to your ongoing support. Please continue helping us protect the king of beasts in 2024.

PARTNERSHIPS AND CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

As we enter the world's sixth mass extinction and recoil from an evaluation of the 2015 Paris climate agreement that found the world's efforts are falling "woefully short", one thing is clear: Our planet needs us now more than ever.

Mutual and long-term benefits

By forging worthwhile and mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses, companies, foundations, and trusts, we believe that together, we can make our impact go significantly further. We also believe we can do this whilst meeting corporate environment and social responsibility goals, gaining trust, and inspiring employees and customers.

It sounds like a lot to pull off – and it is. But we do things differently around here, and for the better.

We build impactful, transformational partnerships with organisations who want to work together to fight wildlife crime and protect some of the last strongholds and pristine landscapes our endangered species and outlying communities call home.

To date, we have enabled nearly 300 pioneering and like-minded organisations to forge long-lasting connections that reach across our entire conservation network. Our emphasis is on establishing long-term support and impact that is measured in years, and maybe even decades.

See where your money goes – and the difference it makes

As a business, when you nominate a charity for a year, or commit to a specific day or goal, the feel-good factor is bound to be high. But by its very nature, the impact you have is limited by both time and resource available within those restrictions. In fact, many businesses rarely gain a clear picture of where their money goes or what their efforts fully achieve.

This is an area where DSWF have set the precedent and are considered thought leaders and pioneers. We are committed to providing reciprocal value by connecting our supporter organisations to the work they are facilitating.

Another key area where DSWF delivers difference, is in our reporting. We provide regular updates from the field with stories from the frontline of conservation and project visits, as well as the most comprehensive formal reporting in the industry. We are proud to set an exemplary standard in this area, which enables our partners to directly gauge their impact, but also build upon their successes and affect long-lasting, significant and milestone changes in keystone conservation projects.



Who we work with (it could be you!)

The brilliant team from Roger Raymond Charitable Trust have made a huge difference. Their generous purchase of a school bus for the Wildlife Discovery Centre in Zambia has increased its sphere of impact infinitely. With transport now available, we can engage more children from remoter communities – enabling many of them to experience the immersive learning of the Discovery Centre and a visit to the National Park for the first time.

A special mention must also be given to the Alborada Trust, whose support spans across Africa and Asia – safeguarding several of our core species, and with the depth of their impact felt in all aspects of DSWF's work.

We would also like to thank Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, whose support of our snow leopard work is of vital importance, and The Openwork Foundation, whose support through turbulent political times in Guinea has secured the continued future of our work engaging with remote communities and conserving threatened chimpanzees.

Then there are the businesses championing conservation, such as Christopher Ward, a watchmaker with a difference. Across their company, they demonstrate an industry leading example of conscious practice. Through the sales of the C60 Anthropocene and C63 SH21 Snow Leopard watches, Christopher Ward and DSWF are working in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan with our partners in the field, conserving snow leopards.

VFS International have been long-term supporters of DSWF, dating back to 2013. Over the years of support, VFS have helped facilitate the enhancement of DSWF's conservation spend across our portfolio. We are incredibly grateful for the longevity of our connection with VFS International and are looking forward to the many more years to come.

Meaco have been partnering with DSWF since 2015, with a focus on supporting elephant conservation. Throughout our partnership, Meaco have been invaluable partners in the growth and development of the Elephant Orphanage Project in Zambia.

We'd love to hear from you

These are just some of the ways different partnerships are directly driving incredible advancements made in line with our conservation objectives.

We are proud of every one of our partners, all of whom act as trailblazers in igniting the pathways towards our objectives.

If you'd like to know more about how you can be involved with DSWF as a partner, please contact Tom Hicks via tom.hicks@davidsshepherd.org or partnerships@davidsshepherd.org.

SMALL BUSINESSES DOING BIG THINGS

DSWF partners with all types of businesses to fund our wildlife conservation initiatives. Though we work with some big corporates, we also take pride in our small business partners who want to ensure their products or services give back in some way.

Many small businesses have found partnering with charities adds value to their offering and is mutually beneficial. From building positive brand associations and engaging staff members, to acquiring new customers, here's how a charitable partnership could help small businesses grow.

1 BOOST PUBLIC IMAGE AND BRAND REPUTATION

Regardless of the type of business you work in or run, partnering with a credible charity can enhance your business profile by creating a positive link between the core values and beliefs of the business and their chosen charity.

2 RAISE AWARENESS FOR A CAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT

Like us, you care about protecting wildlife and the natural world. By aligning your business or your place of work with DSWF, you can amplify our message and get even more people onboard our mission to halt species extinction.

3 ACQUIRE NEW CUSTOMERS

People want to transact with businesses that give back. By partnering with a charity you're passionate about, you can create a positive association that aligns with new customers that might not have ordinarily come across your business or chosen you over a competitor.

4 INCREASE OFFICE MORALE, ENCOURAGE TEAMBUILDING, AND RETAIN STAFF

Regardless of the size of your business, supporting a charity always brings people together. Whether through fundraising activities or showcasing your partnership in your marketing, it's a great way to demonstrate your values and has been shown to keep people morally fulfilled in the workplace.

If you're starting a new business, work at, or run a small business, we'd love to hear from you!. Simply email us at partnerships@davidsshepherd.org

5 UNLOCK NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Partnering with a charity like DSWF will give you ample opportunities to meet like-minded people at the many events we run during the year. From our Wildlife Ball to Wildlife Artist of the Year, we bring together those who want to protect wildlife and have a positive impact through our work.

6 HELP PROTECT WILDLIFE!

Ultimately, by partnering with us, you're protecting wildlife even further!



"The reason I started Bare Kind was to help animals in my own way, and that happens to be by donating profits off the back of selling animal socks! So when we donate 10% of the profits from our elephant, lion, and pangolin socks to David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, I feel very proud that we can support the work they are doing for these species. As partners, they are amazing to work with – full of ideas on how we can improve our relationship and raise more funds for these animals."

Lucy Jeffrey,
Founder and CEO of DSWF partner Bare Kind

EVERY PENNY COUNTS

One of the benefits of giving to a small charity is how costs that go towards running the organisation are kept to a minimum. At DSWF, we take great care and pride in our financial transparency and always commit as much funding as we can to where it's needed most – on the frontline in the fight to end wildlife crime and saving species. So, you can be assured when you give to DSWF that only the bare minimum is spent on administration and other internal expenses. We know there is a cost-of-living crisis impacting everyone and every penny must count.

We also know that with financial hardship impacting many, and inflation affecting all of us from petrol pumps and the checkout tills in supermarkets to mortgage and rent payments – charitable giving can seem less possible or important.

But when we say those aspects are impacting everyone – we do mean everyone. Rising fuel costs don't just affect us on the commute and school run; they also affect how far an anti-poaching team can go in their vehicle, or how long a generator can be run in a remote classroom or nature camp. The same shock you experience at the checkout is felt when the bill comes for new equipment like radios, or tools to harvest food at an elephant orphanage.

And the unfortunate feeling that there's an awful lot of month left at the end of the money is something felt worldwide by charity-funded projects and programmes. The donations you make to DSWF really are a lifeline in these difficult times and circumstances.

We will never want to encourage someone to keep giving if it means experiencing personal hardship. But if you can, here are just a few reasons why your support is more vital now than ever.

- 1 If you're reading this magazine, you care about the future of our wild world and want to do something that makes a difference. As a small charity, DSWF dedicates as much of our funding as possible to where it's needed most.
- 2 Every donation, no matter how small the amount, has impact. Whether you give regularly, occasionally, or just once – you'll be helping our core species and the projects and programmes we support and fund across Africa and Asia.
- 3 In hard times, it is often the most vulnerable that suffer the most. DSWF funds vital community projects that offer alternative, eco-friendly livelihoods, education, and outreach in some of the remotest and poorest regions where people live alongside wildlife.

So, please keep supporting us if you can. It really does make a difference.





COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

DSWF is committed to unifying communities impacted by human-wildlife conflict or forced to turn to the illegal wildlife trade to make a living. We believe it is vital to provide real-world solutions that empower and engage these communities rather than chastise or punish them. Whereas we cannot change the trespasses of the past, nor alter the course of the legal process, we can put preventative measures in place that change hearts and minds, and thereby the choices of these communities.

Little Ndaba

If you've adopted one of our DSWF animal ambassadors, you'll maybe have already seen some of the community conservation work we fund in action. All our adoption toys are handmade and crocheted by a small, independent toy company in Zambia, called Little Ndaba. The company employs over 100 women from small villages across the country, who make each animal toy from 100% African-sourced cotton.

Many of the Little Ndaba women are familiar with some of the animals they make – including elephants, painted dogs, and pangolins. This makes their design a relatively simple task. For others, like the snow leopard, they had to use their imaginations a little – and a handy reference and design guide!

By making Little Ndaba the supplier of our adoption toys, we are providing vulnerable families with an alternative livelihood to poaching – whilst also promoting peaceful coexistence between these local communities and the species they share their home with. It also encourages new conversations about gender equality and the role of women as livelihood earners in a country where it has traditionally been taboo.

Support Little Ndaba by adopting through DSWF to get your very own hand-crocheted animal toy.

See www.davidsheperd.org/take-action/adopt-an-animal for further details.

A Busload of Achievements

One of our landmark achievements this year has been delivering the wonderful Wildlife Discovery Bus as part of our partner-project in Zambia. This vehicle has quickly become a key asset to the Wildlife Discovery Centre in Lusaka National Park, enabling school and community visits to the Centre to enjoy activities like the nature camps.

The Wildlife Discovery Centre itself was borne from a near lifelong wish of our founder, the late David Shepherd CBE, who felt compelled to bring environmental education and awareness to Zambia. It has quickly become the standard for immersive, interactive, and first-class conservation education in Africa, and we very much hope it becomes a blueprint for future endeavours.

Furthermore, our support and funding has enabled our project partners to invest in women's empowerment and leadership, with their Community Outreach Manager, Britius Munkombwe, delivering initiatives that have empowered fifty-four women with new skillsets and education to reduce the reliance of their communities on the illegal wildlife trade.

We've also reached over 1,000 children living alongside wildlife and equipped fifty local primary school teachers to be able to deliver weekly conservation education. In total, the Wildlife Discovery Centre saw 5,469 visitors in the first six months of 2023 alone, and the Wildlife Discovery Bus has enabled nearly 900 local children to visit the National Park – it being their first trip for many of them.

Sweet Like Honey

In Guinea, the core of our focus has been on education and equipping the next generation with a greater understanding of human impact on the environment. Through our support and funding, over 600 children have been made aware of the destructive potential of everyday activities many of their communities partake in. The relationship these children have with their environment and the animals they live alongside has hopefully been irreversibly changed for the better.

Our education also extends to adults through interactive, in-person workshops that focus on chimpanzee protection, biodiversity, fishery resource management, sustainable agriculture, and the important role of the forest at a global level in the fight against climate change. Through these workshops, we're already seeing destructive, albeit traditional, practices being replaced by more sustainable ones.

Most importantly, we're showing communities living alongside vital chimpanzee habitat that they can make not just an alternative living from the forest without encroaching on it, but a better and more profitable one. Our apiculture (beekeeping) project is one of our biggest successes in Guinea, with the pure and better-quality honey being produced selling for three times the amount compared to illegally gained, unsustainable honey from wild forest hives. Although still in its infancy, the project is already seeing the wild bee population recover whilst trees are no longer felled to collect honey.

Further alternative livelihoods have been generated in soap-making and gardening projects, turning communities away from higher risk and lower paid, potentially illegal activity such as logging and hunting.

And finally in Guinea, we've supported work to sanitise and clean the Niger River of plastic pollution and other foulants, creating healthier forests that are now growing in biodiversity but also delivering greater and more sustainable yields to these communities.

Working Together

With your help, DSWF is changing the course of these communities through education and empowerment. By working together and building better lives for everyone, we're truly turning potential human-wildlife conflict into human-wildlife co-existence.



WILDLIFE ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2023

After a three-year in-person hiatus due to the global pandemic, DSWF were delighted to bring our world-renowned Wildlife Artist of the Year exhibition back to the iconic Mall Galleries, London. From the 12 to 16 September, a celebration of wildlife and art came to the capital, which saw a stunning selection of 156 artworks proudly brought into the spotlight as we championed the power art can have in inspiring empathy and concern for the natural world. From intricate pencil drawings to showstopping sculptures and everything in between – there clearly was something for everyone as the unbridled passion for the world's wildlife shone through.

After the entry period closed in March 2023, the judges then had the unenviable task of shortlisting their favourite pieces from the 1,432 entries received. They were overwhelmed by the level of passion, dedication, and talent shown by all entrants.

Those shortlisted were invited to display their work at the Mall Galleries, where 50% of the sales of each of the pieces went directly to support the vital work of David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and our conservation partners across Africa and Asia. By harnessing the powerful and emotive voice of the creative arts, the exhibition ignites the conversation about conservation. We are proud to say that from the competition and exhibition, a staggering £80,000 was raised for the protection of endangered species.

Our 2023 winners were announced in our highly anticipated Awards Ceremony on Monday 11 September, where the crowd at the Gallery, as well as those tuning in from home, were eagerly awaiting to hear who had been crowned as our Wildlife Artist of the Year overall winner and who would be our eight category and three individual-prize award winners.

A STAGGERING £80,000 WAS RAISED FOR THE PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

This year's winner was a unanimous choice by the judges, who were stunned by the highly emotive and stunning piece – 'The Journey' by Karen Laurence-Rowe.



The Journey by Karen Laurence-Rowe

The judge's comments captured why it was such a worthy winner.

"A painting which not only conveys a vital conservation message about drought and the changing environment but also a dynamic portrayal of a new and exciting abstract style. The more you get lost in this stunning landscape, the more you can find."

This year's overall runner up – and People's Choice winner was 'Amazonic Barcode Forest' by Camilia Echavarria.

Wildlife Artist of the Year Events

Alongside the exhibition, DSWF held several engaging and exciting events throughout the week. These ranged from the hugely popular inaugural Ecological Loop business networking evening, as well as a range of art demonstrations and workshops for aspiring or professional artists to learn new skills, whilst using mediums such as watercolour, coloured pencils, and graphite.

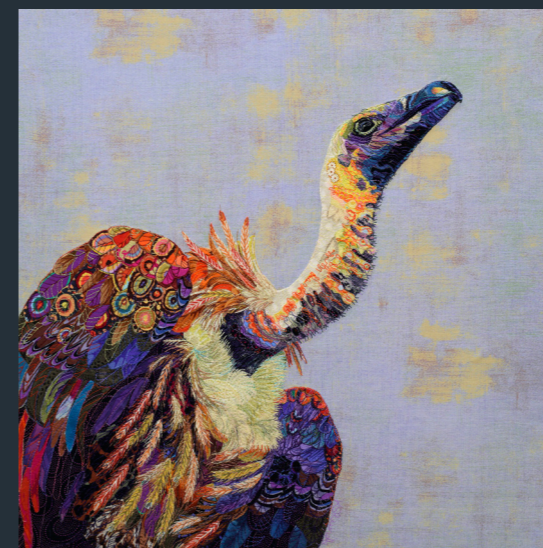


About by Sarah Lake

We were also especially thrilled to host 'Uganda Untamed' by Cy Baker, a new sell-out exhibition from last year's overall winner of Wildlife Artist of the Year. Cy dedicated his winnings to a personal trip to see our project in Uganda for himself and returned renewed with inspiration for his unique artwork.

A Thank You from the DSWF Family

From the bottom of our hearts, we'd like to extend a huge thank to all the artists, sponsors, judges, art buyers and visitors to the gallery, both in person and online, who made this year's exhibition a great success – including a record-breaking level of footfall at The Mall Galleries. Pulling off an exhibition of this size does not come without its challenges, but with everyone's sheer passion, enthusiasm, and generosity we were immensely proud to hold our best exhibition to date and look forward to working closely with our growing community as we unite to raise awareness for our natural world. We hope to see you all in 2024! And with that in mind...



Essential Worker by Katy Rundle

DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
WILDLIFE ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2024

Amazonic Barcode Forest by Camilia Echavarria

Could you be the next Wildlife Artist of the Year?

If reading the exciting updates from our 2023 competition inspired you, there's not long to wait! If you're an aspiring amateur or professional artist who has a passion for showing the beauty of our natural world, then we urge you to enter our world-renowned Wildlife Artist of the Year 2024 competition, which opens for entries at midday, Monday 8 January 2024.

Since its inception in 2008, Wildlife Artist of the Year has become one of the most noteworthy events in the art calendar, attracting entries from some of the most talented artists across the world with a stunning prize package for the overall winner, runner up, and category award winners.

Our 2024 competition will open on the 8 January, running until closure on Friday 29 March 2024 – so pick up those brushes, get sculpting, and start creating, because we want you to be a part of it! The great news is that even just by entering, your entry fee goes towards conservation, so you're already a winner! Shortlisted artists will also be invited to take part in an exciting, in-person exhibition taking place in September 2024, which will be open to the public to view and purchase.

For more information on Wildlife Artist of the Year 2024, including information on entry requirements, fees, and exhibition updates, please head to our website or contact the team directly at way@davidshepherd.org.

Thank you... and good luck!

SNOW LEOPARD UPDATE

Known as both 'the ghost' and 'king' of the mountain, snow leopards have everything they need to be elusive. Not only are they found in remote regions like Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan, but they also have mottled fur coats that provide perfect camouflage. Unfortunately, climate change and human encroachment are reducing their home ranges and their population numbers have fallen dramatically over the last century, making them not just elusive but in danger of disappearing altogether.

Enabling and empowering indigenous communities

DSWF's approach to snow leopard conservation recognises that indigenous communities are integral to the cat's future survival. In Mongolia, the biggest threat to snow leopards is being killed in retaliation to livestock predation. They are also significantly impacted by loss of habitat due to mining, and smaller prey populations due to illegal hunting and competition from domestic animals.

Through DSWF funding and support, ranger patrols have averaged 1,220 km per month protecting the Tost-Tosonbumba Nature Reserve in the South Gobi. We've also enabled vital monitoring of these enigmatic big cats – one of the least studied animals on the planet given the extreme environment they call home. Three snow leopards and a further three ibex have been given GPS collars, giving us new insights into the dynamic relationship between predator and prey. And 150 new camera traps have been set up across three separate regions. We've even

introduced livestock insurance schemes to fairly compensate herders and provided predator-proof corrals to minimise domestic livestock (and retaliatory snow leopard) killings.

We've also enabled engagement with local communities through two summer eco camps and participation of over 1,200 children from south and west Mongolia on World Snow Leopard Day.

Workshops have been provided, teaching new skillsets to produce handicrafts and offer a new revenue stream to these hard-working communities, as well as providing guidance on environmental laws and regulations affecting them and their homes.

The importance of environmental education

In Kyrgyzstan, our focus has primarily been on education, with a school programme designed to inform and engage hundreds of local students, aged 11-12, whilst also empowering women teachers across a total of 40 schools. Ultimately, through you, we've increased the school system's capacity across the region to deliver high quality environmental education. In turn, Kyrgyzstan's young people better respect and understand how important snow leopards are in their role as a top predator, and have a deeper connection to this enigmatic cat, encouraging them to protect and fight for it.

NEW ARRIVALS MEET THE TEAM

Here at DSWF, we like to think our people are our best assets! One of the great things about being a small team is that we get to speak to, and meet, many of you in person directly. With a few new faces joining the team in the last year, here are the latest additions.



Isabel Seden-Fowler
Digital Design & Content Executive

Izzy has been with DSWF for just under a year now, quietly revolutionising how our comms, brand, and

socials look and perform! After uni, a driving passion to protect wildlife and a desire to know more about conservation led to a trip to Costa Rica, where she spent a month volunteering with an animal centre. This trip also inspired her to work with a charity, and ultimately led her to DSWF! Izzy's favourite DSWF project is the work of Freeland Foundation, because of how vital our support has been in protecting the endangered Indochinese tiger.



Lara Taylor
Art Executive

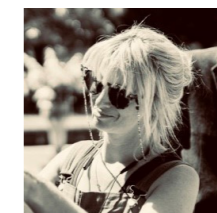
Lara joined DSWF in July 2023. With an eclectic mix of experience from the commercial art world, the website design industry, and running a community amateur sports club, Lara brings a range of skills to bear on her role as Art Executive, simplifying DSWF's extensive artwork inventory, streamlining exhibition logistics, and maximising the potential of our online art sales. Lara has found her dual passions for art, and for the great outdoors and its creatures, are perfectly combined at DSWF. This is especially the case with Wildlife Artist of the Year and the way it raises awareness and funds for DSWF's conservation projects, whilst also being a global gateway for artists to express their love of the wild world.



Zoe Quinney
Senior Digital Marketing Executive

Having recently completed the CIM level 6 Diploma in Professional Marketing attaining Merits and a

Distinction, Zoe brings fresh-off-the-bat marketing knowledge and best practices with her to DSWF. Zoe joined DSWF in August 2023 and is creative, curious, and detail-oriented, as well as driven by a connection to nature and DSWF's core purpose - to protect and conserve wildlife. Zoe's favourite project is Wild Aid, because of how they echo DSWF's own holistic approach to conservation.



Anna Collins
Senior Fundraising Events Executive

Anna's route to DSWF was via 13 years working in London's glittering West End, and latterly, as a

sustainable floral designer. She is thrilled to be using her powers of organisation, persuasion, and creativity for good! Anna says she identifies most with the slow, gentle ways of an elephant (we'd also argue wise!), hoping to one day visit our GRI project where elephants orphaned by human-wildlife conflict and poaching, are rescued and rehabilitated back into the wild.



Luke Phillips
Marketing & PR Manager

Luke studied zoology at John Moore's University yet found himself lured into the world of marketing. His passion for conservation

and the wild world has always been present though, from volunteering for various organisations to writing his own nature-themed blogs and books. As a naturally creative person and having known David Shepherd's art and conservation work, he was delighted to join DSWF, making the most of both his passion and experience. Being especially fond of big cats, he avidly follows our pioneering research work with Snow Leopard Trust in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan.

PAINTED DOG UPDATE

Painted dogs once enjoyed a wide distribution over much of Africa. But now, climate change, habitat fragmentation, and human encroachment has depleted both their home range and their populations to a few isolated and shrinking strongholds.

A pack of problems

DSWF provides support and funding for dedicated anti-poaching units operating in and around Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe. Their recent work has focused on safeguarding a pack that has moved into a treacherous region, rife with illegal wildlife crime. In the last year alone, the unit has removed over 3,500 snares from the area.

The teams carry out reconnaissance ahead of the pack, as well as close monitoring patrols – actions that have saved the lives of each adult member of the pack, all of whom have been snared on multiple occasions, but rescued and released successfully – often within minutes of being trapped.

Pups on the way

In happier news, it has been reported the usually nomadic Velakude pack, are showing clear signs of denning in an area to the west, and outside the safety of the National Park. As they've adopted the same area as last year, it looks like you really can't teach old dogs new tricks! But in this case, they've probably learnt from experience. The rocky terrain makes it

difficult to dig, and excavating a new site each year would tax both their time and their energy. So, the Velakude pack are working smarter, not harder, and have set up home in their old digs – quite literally.

Den sites are incredibly important in keeping the pups safe. In a landscape where they are not the biggest on the block – with everything from lions to hyenas looking not just for easy pickings but also to rid themselves of any competition, it's best to stay out of sight.

The pups haven't emerged yet, but their tiny paws will carry the hopes for the expansion of the pack and a securer future for painted dogs in Zimbabwe as a whole. Vital equipment such as camera traps are used to minimise disturbance yet keep a close eye on their welfare and progress.

A wild future

It is only with this kind of dedication and on-the-ground presence that we can ensure painted dogs have a future in the wild.

The work we do has a direct, positive impact. The Hwange and Sinamatella areas now boast 95 adult dogs, split across 31 packs, and with ten breeding units recorded – the busy parents of a grand total of 44 pups! Since 2000, the painted dog population in Zimbabwe has increased from 400 to nearly 700 overall.

We'd like to thank you for making a difference to the Velakude pack, their pups, and the safer future we'll be able to secure for them.



WILDLIFE EDUCATION

Education is one of our core pillars and our Education Programme is one of the most impactful and important aspects of our conservation strategy.

Led by industry experts and guided by decades of collective experience, our Education Programme not only takes the conservation conversation to classrooms across the UK (reaching over 9,000 children every year), but also enables us to deliver robust learning principles in many of our community projects across Africa and Asia too.

We're particularly proud of our commitment to use the best evidence currently available on how children and young people learn, directly informing our activities and content.

Through the generous support of the Garfield Weston Foundation, we've tested pilot projects across several schools, focusing on how to make our content more interactive. We've tailored our talks and workshops to encourage engagement around animals, habitats, and local communities, whilst also considering special needs requirements – and supporting oracy development, with direct feedback from teachers shaping our strategy.

Our programme enables us to help children and young people understand the real-life experiences and challenges faced by communities that coexist with endangered animals in vibrantly different environments to their own – including habitats important to mitigating climate change. To do this, we've approached seven specific DSWF projects to

help us deliver a wealth of new information and resources, including:



A brand-new rhino talk for students aged 5-11, where they'll get to model a clay rhino calf and learn about the link between football and conservation in Namibia!



A new tiger workbook showing where tigers can be found and the challenges they face in their jungle homes



A new animal film, with dynamic and thrilling footage of snow leopards and other core DSWF species



A ranger-themed talk called 'Pack My Rucksack' focusing on the work of DSWF-funded teams in Vietnam.



Great, new, thought-provoking assets – such as the picture of a tiger and a domestic cat considering each other!

As well as encouraging and cementing effective collaboration with our frontline conservation partners, we also incorporate the best use of digital art, videos, talks, and props to engage and inspire young people – bringing everything we do back to our art-based conservation foundations.

If you'd be interested in booking a workshop or finding out more about our Education Programme, please contact education@davidsshepherd.org

KILLING TO CONSERVE: WILL SHOOTING LIONS SAVE THEM



Despite sailing through the House of Commons earlier this year, a bill that would have seen the import of hunting trophies banned in the UK was successfully stalled and set back by a small handful of pro-hunting peers in the House of Lords.

Killing to conserve is a controversial subject to discuss and one even more difficult to get behind. Yet, this is the logic supporters of trophy hunting use to justify what, to most (80% of the voting public*), is a barbaric practice.

The idea of travelling to a unique environment halfway round the world to kill an endangered species, rather than observe it in its natural habitat, is alien to most of us. And although the golden age of hunting may be behind us, it is still a lucrative if less-popular industry. With license fees, admin, and safari costs in the tens of thousands of dollars, those in the 'pro' camp suggest these huge amounts are recycled into conservation and communities. But what percentage of these big pay cheques reach the right places?

*Four Paws UK, September 2023

Big Bucks from Hunting Big Bucks?

We're a long way from a world where trophy hunting profits are managed efficiently and transparently. In most cases, hunting operations are driven by profit. In the eco-conscious political climate of today, masquerading as conservationists helps placate critics, and feigning concern for communities deflects arguments of elitism and capitalism. Very little money from these established operations protects endangered species or reaches the people living alongside them – making no discernable difference.

In short, the figures just don't add up. Recent research in Namibia*, showed trophy hunting generated \$25 million in revenue for the country in 2019. In direct contrast, photographic tourism brought in over \$1.7 billion for the same year. Further research showed most profit made by hunting outfitters stayed with them, the professional hunters, and the government departments handling the fees. Whereas, for some communities surveyed, their reward for their involvement was as little as \$0.60 (50p) per person (if distributed equally). And even there, the lion's share went to local elites instead of benefiting the larger community.

*Producing elephant commodities for 'conservation hunting' in Namibian communal-area conservancies, University of Bath/Bath Spa University, 2021.

A Domino Effect

As well as rarely benefiting communities, trophy hunting is also detrimental to wildlife. The red tape of quotas and permits is often sidestepped and corrupted by hunting lobbies, who use their influence to inflate the caps and limits on attractive species. On paper, target animals should also be of a certain age and beyond their reproductive prime. But this is often ignored – after all, a trophy by its very nature needs to be worthy of awe. So, younger, fitter animals are often taken by "mistake" – directly impacting the viability of that species' gene pool.

Population dynamics can also be impacted indirectly by trophy hunting. Let's take lions as an example – a species now numbering fewer than 20,000 in the wild. In their African home, they are considered a key species of the big five (a traditional list of the most fearsome hunting trophies) and are one of the four on that list to be considered endangered. Typically, trophy hunters target males. Losing one to a hunter is tragic but further losses are likely. When a lion pride loses a prime male, it opens them up to a potential takeover from other males – who will likely kill any surviving male cubs sired by the previous alpha. This, combined with the imbalance of only targeting males to start with, causes huge disruption to the population.

WE NEED TO PROTECT
ENDANGERED
SPECIES AND ENSURE
COMMUNITIES LIVING
ALONGSIDE THEM
BENEFIT FROM THAT
PROTECTION

A Complex Issue?

That said, hunting is legitimately supported by some conservationists and wildlife groups and charities.

For many politicians, opposing hunting is an easy win. The subject often generates a visceral, knee-jerk reaction of objection in voters. But is this too narrow a view, preventing us from engaging more deeply?

Sentiment Doesn't Save Species

Some organisations say opposing hunting without alternative ways of funding conservation will likely leave many species still

looking at a bleak future. Global agreements, such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, and its pledge to conserve and manage 30% of our land, coastal areas, and oceans, are important. But funding to carry out such ambitious measures currently falls very short of meeting the challenge.

DSWF believes we need to protect endangered species and ensure communities living alongside them benefit from that protection. Funding should be focused on projects that prioritise this. Communities that come into conflict with wildlife – losing crops, loved ones, or even their own lives, should be rewarded for the sacrifices they make. Especially when asked to forego hunting those species, be it for much needed income or to put food on the table more literally. And instead of being seen as a handout, we should recognise this as a necessary and deserved payment for their vital role as stewards of the environment and species we hold dear.

How the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation Helps

Our projects on the ground in Africa and Asia ensure communities on the ground, living alongside wildlife, and experiencing human-wildlife conflict, benefit from protecting endangered species. From providing secure employment and rewarding wildlife rangers and scouts, to the rollout of education programmes and environmental projects like river clean ups and reforestation, we ensure local people have a clear stake (and role) in protecting wildlife and habitats. Further work – such as predator-proof enclosures and compensating livestock losses, builds trust and communities. We believe it is these programmes that we proudly support, rather than the deeply flawed trophy hunting model, that will ensure everyone benefits.



RHINO UPDATE

Signs of hope

Through the dedicated protection of our field-based partners in both Assam, India, and Namibia, Africa, your support of DSWF enabled us to be fundamental in seeing a rise in rhino populations. For some rhino species, this is the first time numbers have increased inside a decade. And whereas this is indeed a sign of hope, it has been achieved amidst populations being ravaged by poaching and habitat loss. The diligence and work we do to protect these animals is still very much needed.

With DSWF-funded rangers on the ground, our project in Namibia to protect the last remaining population of desert-adapted black rhino has gone three years without a single recorded incident of poaching.

And in Assam, our front-line conservation partners extensively protect three National Parks and one wildlife sanctuary, that collectively are home to around 2,885 greater one horned rhino – out of a global population of less than 4,000.

A harsh and unforgiving landscape

Our rhino ambassador, Inka, is a black rhino, and lives under the protection of DSWF-supported rangers in the Namibian desert. Early in 2023, we were thrilled to hear the news that she had become a mother.

We quickly launched a competition to name the new calf, but our jubilations were short-lived. A little after the initial news, Inka was sighted – alone. As more reports came in of Inka now travelling the Namibian wilderness without the calf, we were forced to conclude that her baby hadn't made it.

The area is experiencing a prolonged drought which is likely to be one of the worst on record. Hyena tracks were also found nearby. So, whether due to the harsh climate or predation, the death is likely down to natural causes. What we do know, is that no poacher incursions had been discovered – which makes it apt that the new calf was due to be named 'Ithemba' – meaning 'hope'.

Real-world problems

The cost-of-living crisis impacts at a global level. Our project in Namibia was in danger of being crippled by sudden increases in the cost of fuel and even the rations rangers needed. This threatened everything, from how far they could patrol to how many rangers might make up a team.

It was only with additional funding and support from DSWF the project could continue unhindered, and it is only with your donations and dedication we can do this. So, on behalf of rhinos and our project partners you made a real difference to, a genuine thank you.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW CONSERVATION AMBASSADOR

DAVID OAKES

We'd like to introduce our new Conservation Ambassador, David Oakes.

David is probably familiar to many of you, especially if you're a fan of period dramas. David is currently starring as Godwin of Wessex and father to the future King of England, Harold Godwinson, in the hugely popular Netflix series, *Vikings: Valhalla*. He also played Prince Ernest in the ITV/PBS series *Victoria* and has made numerous other theatrical appearances on both stage and screen.

However, his ecological and conservation resumé reads just as strongly.

In 2019, David started his highly regarded and award-winning podcast series 'Tree's A Crowd'. This informal series of conversations with artists, scientists, and enthusiasts represents a mutual celebration of the beauty of the environment and the way it inspires us as human beings. Each episode explores how the countryside has inspired each guest's specific career and how growing up with an interest in the natural world led to their impassioned careers centred around it.

The podcast has been declared 'Podcast of the Week' in both The Times and The Guardian, and often ranks No.1 with Apple podcasts.

If you look at some of the previous episodes, you'll find an interview with our own CEO, Georgina Lamb, back in 2020. More recently, and as one of his first official duties for DSWF, he visited our project protecting the world's only population of desert-adapted black rhino.

Already serving as an ambassador for both the Wildlife Trusts and the Woodland Trust, by working with DSWF David can now represent the iconic species he cares so much about at an international level.

David grew up in the New Forest exploring the Purbeck Jurassic Coast, instilling a lifelong passion for wildlife and the people committed to safeguarding species for future generations. We look forward to bringing you more of his adventures with DSWF very soon.



PANGOLIN UPDATE

The pangolin has the unenviable title of being the most trafficked mammal in the world. There are eight known species (four each found in Africa and Asia respectively) and all are listed as either endangered or critically endangered. Worse still, as relentless demand for their scales and meat continues to come from Asian markets, African species are now being targeted to account for the decimated populations elsewhere.

Ensuring justice is done

DSWF supports and funds direct investigations and campaigns against environmental crime at a transnational level. The strategic intelligence our project partners on-the-ground gather have enabled effective, targeted enforcement efforts in combating pangolin trafficking.

By their very nature, we can't reveal the details of the undercover investigations made possible by you – but they have resulted in key arrests and prosecutions in 2023. They've also provided insights into persons and organisations of interest, networks, modes of operation, financial crime, and corruption within the countries we operate. This intelligence is shared with partner organisations and law enforcement agencies up to the highest authorities, enabling a better understanding of live pangolin trafficking networks and how they function.

We also work to distribute information and insights on pangolin trafficking risks associated with China's traditional medicine industries, raising awareness among government stakeholders, international

investors, and crucially, the public. This encourages international financial institutions to step away from companies associated with this illegal activity, and ensures governments are better informed and equipped in mitigating pangolin trafficking.

Guiding hearts to move minds

Ultimately, this kind of advocacy is already utilising international pressure encouraging China to close its legal domestic pangolin markets, which will significantly reduce demand for pangolin parts and derivatives across all markets.

We also work with communities in both Africa and Asia, who might traditionally hunt pangolins for bushmeat or as a delicacy but have become aware of the potential of selling their scales via the lucrative illegal wildlife trade. We fund and support direct educational initiatives that forge a better understanding in the next generation of the importance of pangolins to ecosystems. Furthermore, we work with farmers and other landowners to provide a safer environment for pangolins and enabling coexistence. This includes making electric fences safe for pangolin passage – when before they represented a significant threat to already isolated populations.

And finally, through your support, agents and rangers are equipped and positioned to take decisive action when needed. Thanks to you, live pangolins are now being regularly rescued from poachers and trappers and rehabilitated back into the wild.



40th ANNIVERSARY

2024 will be a very special year for DSWF. It will be the year we celebrate our 40th anniversary – four decades of being on the frontline in the war against wildlife crime.

DSWF was founded by the renowned wildlife artist and conservationist, David Shepherd CBE.

Today, DSWF honours his legacy and continues to build upon it, thanks to the ongoing dedication of our team, the Shepherd family, and their direct leadership within the foundation. Here's how we started and how we've grown since our...

Humble Beginnings

It was during his early time in Africa that David was exposed to horrendous wildlife massacres being carried out by gangs of poachers. He became a committed and impassioned conservationist overnight, after discovering 255 dead zebras at a waterhole poisoned with battery acid in Tanzania.

It was the deep connection and sense of gratitude David felt towards the animal subjects of his paintings that compelled him to protect them. David often said that he felt driven to repay an enormous debt he felt he owed to the animals he painted, as they had always brought him such unbridled joy yet asked nothing in return.

In 1984 he established DSWF to channel his own conservation efforts and to fund vital enforcement and community projects that continue to make a real difference to wildlife survival. Thanks to David's work and legacy, the ongoing generosity of our dedicated supporters, and our continuing work as his Foundation, we have provided over £12.7 million

in direct grants and support for vital frontline projects across Africa and Asia.

Continuing His Work

One of the hardest things DSWF has had to endure is losing David. David battled Parkinson's Disease with the same tenacity and determination he showed in his fight for the world's most endangered species and continued to enjoy painting and his studio right up until the end of his life. But on 19 September 2017, we sadly said goodbye to not only a pinnacle of the conservation and art world, but also a kind, generous, and extremely charismatic mentor and colleague who gave so much time and energy to his Foundation.

His work inspired hundreds of thousands of people to do more for the world's wildlife and continues to do so today.

40th Anniversary and Future

There's a lot to look forward to in our anniversary year. It will be the maypole around which all our calendar events will revolve. First, we will be returning to both the Mall Galleries and The Dorchester for our Wildlife Artist of the Year Exhibition and Wildlife Ball respectively, bound to be made extra special as we celebrate our ruby year.

We'll also be announcing exciting new projects and developments that will honour and pay homage to our roots.

And of course, you can expect some incredible celebratory wildlife art, some celebrity wishes of goodwill, and maybe a special event or two. We can't wait to celebrate with you in 2024.

ADOPT A SPECIES OR SPONSOR A RANGER

£3 a month doesn't sound like a lot – but it's enough to change the fortunes of a species or make the challenging job of protecting them a little easier. As we covered a little earlier in the magazine, we're big on making every penny count. When you adopt one of our animal ambassadors or sponsor a ranger through DSWF, you're enabling us to protect vital habitat and prevent its loss, promote human-wildlife coexistence, and enable wildlife ranger training and welfare programmes as well as provide vital equipment for those working to prevent wildlife crime. From education to law enforcement, we can do an awful lot with as little as £3 per month. Imagine what we can do with more.

Why Adoption is so Important

DSWF focuses support on eight iconic species. When you adopt through us, you're helping make a real difference to key projects on a long-term basis. Some of these species have been associated with us from the very beginning. Our founder, the wildlife artist David Shepherd CBE, was known as the 'man who loved giants', as elephants were one of his favourite subjects to paint. Others, like the pangolin, have come under our spotlight more recently for the wrong reason – being dangerously close to extinction. Adopt today to help provide long term conservation for endangered species.

What it Costs and What You Get

Our standard adoption and sponsorship packs are available for just £3 per month, or £36 per year. And for just £5 per month (or £47 per year), you'll also receive a very special, hand-knitted toy – making them an ideal gift (animal adoptions only).

Here's what else you get!

- A high-quality photograph of your animal ambassador or sponsored ranger
- Fact and bio sheets full of unique insights and info
- The latest copy of the best conservation magazine out there – Wildlife Matters!
- A pencil sketch print of your chosen species

The DSWF Difference

At DSWF, we don't do mass-produced or off-the-shelf. Our adoption toys are made by Little Ndaba – a dedicated women's community group in Zambia supported by DSWF. The 100-strong group is made up of women from remote villages across the country and they use ethically sourced 100% African cotton to crochet each of our toys individually by hand. Your adoption with DSWF provides them with ongoing employment and sustainable income.

Each adoption also includes a stunning bespoke sketch print of your chosen species, drawn by a celebrated wildlife artist – including Mandy Shepherd and Emily Lamb, in tradition of our artistic heritage.

Adoptions as a Gift

Adoptions are a wonderful way to give a unique and sustainable gift that has a greater impact.

Digital adoptions have zero carbon footprint and 100% of the proceeds go directly to the conservation your chosen species.

Our adoptions make wonderful gifts for birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries, or any other special occasion. They're also the perfect way to give back on an international animal day.

Alternatively, if you can't decide which animal to adopt, why not sponsor a ranger to ensure they are well equipped and fully supported as they bravely take on the vital work of saving species in the war against wildlife crime.

Adoptions and Conservation

All profits from our adoption programme go directly to our frontline conservation projects, who protect your chosen species in the field. From supporting rangers and protecting habitats, and from working alongside communities to foster peaceful coexistence with wildlife and putting an end to illegal wildlife trade – our multi-pronged conservation approach ensures your chosen species is protected from all angles.

For example, when you adopt a pangolin, the proceeds go directly to pangolin conservation efforts, which includes research and monitoring, anti-poaching activities, and investigations into ending the illegal trade in pangolins and their parts.

And no matter which species you adopt, you'll receive bi-annual updates on how your adoption is helping conservation in the field and how your chosen species ambassador is getting on.

"Our adopters have enabled us to support vital projects year-on-year. Together, we've seen Zambia's first wild-born calf from an elephant raised by an orphanage take its first steps. We've celebrated a snow leopard super mum and seen a young wild dog replace his father in the ranks. These are animals our adopters have personally made a difference to, giving them the protection they need in their fragile and shrinking world."

Georgina Lamb, CEO, DSWF

"Thank you very much for the beautiful Adoption Pack. I absolutely love how beautifully it is made, with all the information about the species as well as a personal (and a very touching) story of Chamilandu that makes me feel really close to her. When I received the Adoption Pack yesterday, it totally made my day."

Jakub, Animal Adopter.



Scan the QR code or follow the link to peruse all the DSWF adoptions currently available.

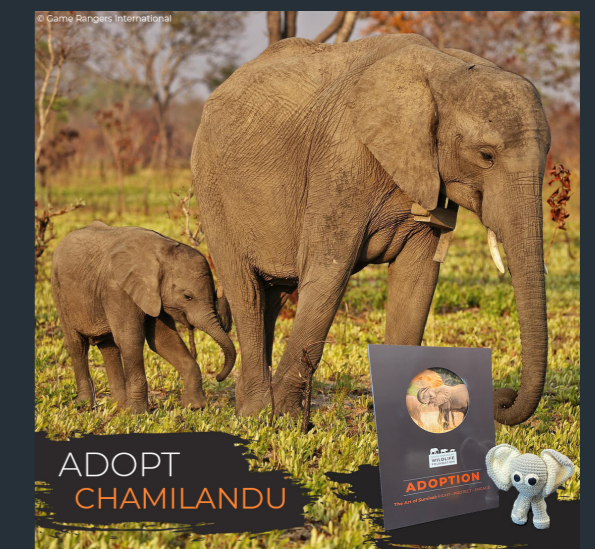
www.davidshepherd.org/take-action/adopt-an-animal

FEATURED ADOPTIONS AND SPONSORSHIP



PANGOLIN

Support conservation of this mysterious creature in desperate need of protection from the brutal illegal wildlife trade.



ELEPHANT

Adopt reintroduced elephant Chamilandu and her wild born calf Mutaanzi-David and follow their adventures in the wild.

SPONSOR A RANGER

Support the true heroes of conservation, working in the toughest conditions to protect endangered species and stop poaching in its tracks.

GLOBAL CANVAS



2023 Group Winners, 1st Place Age 12-16, Ecovalley USA

OUR 2024 CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION IS NOW OPEN!

We are thrilled to announce that Global Canvas 2024 is now open for entries!

Global Canvas children's art competition is an annual international art contest run by DSWF, to encourage creativity from young people, to display thought and concern for our planet's environment, and the incredible wildlife that inhabits it.

Set up in 2004 by DSWF's founder, wildlife artist and conservationist David Shepherd CBE, each year, the competition receives thoughtful and creative entries from all over the world, with an amazing array of interpretations of the year's theme.

2024 Theme – The Barometer of Life

A barometer measures atmospheric pressure to help us prepare for bad weather. The 'Red List' of threatened species measures the pressures acting on species and how many are left, which helps governments and wildlife charities prevent extinctions. That is why the 'Red List' of endangered species, developed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is often called the barometer of life.

The Red list was developed in 1964 and has grown into a searchable database of 150,000 animals and plants that anyone can use in their work to conserve wildlife. It contains information about where and how the animals and plants live, how many are left, the threats they are under and what we are doing to save them.



2023 Individual Winner 1st Place Age 8-11, Vittawin Songthaveephol

Previous Global Canvas themes have included 'Biodiversity – A Complete Web of Life', 'Forests of Land and Sea', 'It's Our World', 'Our Precious Planet', 'Into the Wild', 'Habitats of the World, Endangered', 'Healing Nature – A Planet on the Edge'.

Our theme for 2024 therefore asks our young people to explore this concept of measuring, weighing up, and valuing the pressures on our wildlife. We are certain we will, as always, receive insightful and wise visualisations of this topic from our young conservationists.

Who Can Enter Global Canvas?

Global Canvas is open to children and young people aged 16 and under. The competition can be entered by both groups and individuals, with entries split accordingly and judged separately on that basis.

Groups require a minimum of two people. You'll need to work together to create a display, board, or wall space that incorporate imaginative use of materials like recycling, as well as any appropriate art techniques.

The categories will then be judged in the following age groups:

- Ages 4-7 years
- Ages 8-11 years
- Ages 12-16 years

How to Enter Global Canvas

- 1 Create your artwork.**
Any art techniques can be used to create entries; including painting, sculpture, textiles, collages and we always like to see recycled materials.
- 2 Complete the online entry form.**
Fill-in the online form on the DSWF website as an Individual or Group by Tuesday 13 February 2024. Send us your contact details, clear images, and a short video of your artwork.
- 3 Wait for the winners to be announced!**
All artworks will then be reviewed by our judges and the winners will be announced on 25th April 2024.

Entry Guidance

Groups must create a display based on the theme to enter the competition. Find out how to create a display for Global Canvas at www.davidshepherd.org/news-events-insights/news/creating-a-display-for-global-canvas

Individuals can create an artwork of any size based on the theme.

Available Prizes

Competition winners will receive vouchers for art supplies, digital animal adoptions, and certificates.

2024 Global Canvas Sponsor

A special thank you to artist and co-founder of Michael O'Mara Books, Lesley O'Mara, for her sponsorship of Global Canvas and ongoing support as a personal champion of our work.

Building on the Success of 2023

We were delighted to receive a record-breaking number of entries in 2023, and the creativity and innovation on display was truly exceptional.

After a comprehensive judging process, winners were announced at our live Awards Ceremony on the 26 April 2023. Overall, we saw:



927
Entries



4,338
Children
involved



57
Countries
represented

We can't wait to bring you Global Canvas 2024 and look forward to receiving your entries. With your help, it could be another record-breaking year!

www.davidshepherd.org/wildlife-art/competitions/global-canvas/

EVENTS

From our world-renowned DSWF Wildlife Artist of the Year competition and exhibition to our spectacular Wildlife Ball, the Foundation holds several fantastic and exciting calendar events that provide a unique opportunity to engage with our work to protect endangered species.

Every year, we invite our supporters to come together and celebrate the natural world. From intimate networking events to our spectacular Wildlife Ball and engaging workshops, there really is always something for everyone in our calendar, if they have a passion for the wild world.

2023 EVENTS

WILDLIFE BALL 2023

The year kicked off in style as we returned for a night of glamour and celebration at The Dorchester, London, for our Wildlife Ball 2023. The theme this year was 'World Wildlife Day' and on Friday 3 March 2023, hundreds of wildlife champions joined us at the prestigious venue where they enjoyed a fabulous champagne reception, perused the wonderful art on display and our exciting Silent Auction prizes, before being treated to a tantalizing three-course dinner and worldclass entertainment. Together, we made over £130,000 profit for our work.



Image Credit: CPG Media



Image Credit: CPG Media

2024 EVENTS

WILDLIFE BALL 2024

Our largest fundraising event of the year, the Wildlife Ball, will be returning to The Dorchester, London, in November 2024. This event is the height of glamour and one of the most anticipated events for wildlife warriors to come together for a night of celebration and conservation. More details coming soon!



Image Credit: Isabel Seden-Fowler

A BEER WITH BRITIUS

In March, we met at one of our local pubs, The Weyside, where supporters had the unique opportunity of meeting and hearing from one of the most charismatic wildlife heroes we work with – Britius Munkombwe. A key part of the team facilitating DSWF's work in Zambia with Game Rangers International, he spoke passionately about his journey into conservation and a love for the protection of elephants.

ROAR WITH LAUGHTER 2024

Something new for us... but we would be delighted to have you join us for our first comedy night at the Comedy Store, London, where we will bring you a star-studded evening of up-and-coming comedians to make you 'Roar with Laughter' and raise vital funds for our work. Held on Wednesday 21 February and with tickets just £20, this is not one to be missed! Register your interest by contacting us on events@dauidshepherd.org



Image Credit: Andrew White

CHALLENGE EVENTS

LONDON CLASSICS

DSWF now offer charity places on all three of the London Classic events: the London Marathon, Ride London, and Swim Serpentine. These three prestigious events are the toughest and most sought-after challenges organised by London Marathon Events.

Why not go for gold and complete the London Classics in aid of DSWF! We are here to support you in your challenge and can give you the opportunity, motivation, and support to take part in these phenomenal challenges whilst raising vital funds to protect endangered animals, fight climate change, support wildlife rangers and put an end to the illegal wildlife trade.



Image Credit: London Marathon Events Ltd

SWIM SERPENTINE

New to DSWF's challenge event calendar is Swim Serpentine, a two or six-mile swim around The Serpentine Lake in Hyde Park. This wild swimming event has become hugely popular over the past few years. We're proud of this year's swimmers and hope to welcome more entries in 2024.

RIDE LONDON

Ride London is back for 2024, with a team of DSWF staff and supporters riding a courageous 100 miles to raise vital funds for conservation.



Image Credit: Emma Walker

LONDON MARATHON

Our incredible 2023 runners raised over a staggering £12,000 for conservation. Hot on their heels is our new 2024 team who are now actively training and fundraising for the challenge of completing this bucket list event. Our 2024 places have been filled, but if you have secured an entry privately or personally, you can still represent and raise money for DSWF. Get in touch to find out more by visiting the links detailed at the bottom of the page.

“Doing the London Marathon was always a lifelong goal of mine, but to be able to do the marathon while raising funds for a charity like DSWF made it even better. The conservational impact that DSWF have across both Africa and Asia in protecting wildlife absolutely inspired me to keep pushing during those long training runs. The team at DSWF were amazing to work with throughout the build up to the big day. The DSWF running squad were supported every step of the way in all elements of the marathon, from training tips, on the day advice, and even effective ways to raise funds. It was a great day, with a great team for a great cause!”

Mark Pedrick, DSWF Fundraiser

CHARITY SUPPORT

All our wildlife warriors taking on a challenge event in aid of DSWF are supported with professional fundraising materials, team meetings, and 1-2-1 advice as well as a DSWF branded sports vest.

Find Out More: davidsshepherd.org/take-action/fundraise/challenge-events

Register Interest: dswf@davidsshepherd.org

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING: DO IT YOUR WAY!

We can help you to create your very own fundraising challenge.

From skydives and art exhibitions to bake sales and everything in between, our supporters continue to be incredibly imaginative in creating their very own fundraising challenges in aid of DSWF.

This year, we are hugely proud of young wildlife warrior Catherine who took on a 100k in May challenge, walking over 43km, cycling 40km and paddle boarding a final 20km, raising over £500 for DSWF.

From 5K runs and half marathons to jumping 15,000ft out a plane, this year our phenomenal fundraisers have been going above and beyond for conservation.

Fundraising is a great way to get involved whilst engaging, inspiring, and educating your friends and family about a cause that is close to your heart. Spreading awareness for our incredible conservation work and raising funds that enable it to continue. We are here to provide advice, support, and supplies to help the success of your fundraiser.

If you have been inspired to set yourself a challenge or host a fundraising event. Get in touch today at dswf@davidsshepherd.org or find out more at: davidsshepherd.org/take-action/fundraise/create-your-own-fundraiser



Image Credit: Catherine Muirhead

ULTRA CHALLENGE

DSWF have partnered with Ultra Challenge to bring you the opportunity to walk for wildlife on stunning routes across the UK. These popular events see thousands of trekkers take on famous routes such as the Jurassic Coast and Southwest Coast, as well as offering a chance to explore the Peak or Lake District.

Choose a challenge that suits you, from 25km to 100km across one or two days. Take part as an individual and make friends along the way – or take part as a group with friends and family, all whilst raising vital funds to protect endangered animals from extinction.

Ultra Challenge will look after you the entire way with regular rest stops, supplies and as you cross the finish line, you'll get a glass of fizz, a t-shirt, and a medal to commemorate your achievement.

Wildlife Rangers walk thousands of kilometres each year, often spending weeks in the field at a time to protect wildlife and ensure their safety from poachers, snares, and other threats. An Ultra Challenge is an opportunity to spend a day in their shoes whilst raising funds to support them and the wildlife they fight to protect.

www.ultrachallenge.com/the-events

“FUNDRAISING HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE AND IT HAS BEEN FUN MEETING SO MANY NEW ENTHUSIASTS.”

Gail, DSWF Fundraiser



SEE THROUGH THEIR EYES.

**IF YOU CAN'T SEE THE SNARE,
NEITHER WILL THEY.**

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ANTI-SNARE APPEAL

davidshepherd.org/snaringappeal

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Image Credit: Save Vietnam's Wildlife

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