



# Friends of Wildlife Conservation Communities Habitat

## News Review

Issue 19 Autumn/Winter 2005

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#### EDITORIAL

It was no accident that the Lone Ranger had Tonto by his side. He was always the one who did the tracking and estimated how much of a head's start the fleeing bandits had achieved. Even the American pioneers recognised how far removed most of them had become from the ways of the wild. They no longer had the ability to read the ground and the landscape like a book in the way the indigenous people could. Friends of Conservation is supporting its own 'Tontos' in Kenya's Mara ecosystem where a Community Scout Programme has been set up. 74 Maasai scouts have been recruited and are successfully deterring poachers, confiscating trophies and monitoring wildlife.

Imposing the big stick from outside and threatening dire consequences for anyone caught killing wildlife, for body parts and trophies, or taking firewood or fodder for their own consumption was never very successful and has proved unsustainable. Far sighted organisations, such as FOC, realised some time ago that punishing the deprived and desperate was no way forward. Paying locals to use their innate skills to protect their local resources was always going to be a better bet. Moreover it gave them an income and a stake in safeguarding their own environment.

Identifying the underlying causes of problems and then trying to find ways to resolve these in collaboration with local people tends to be far more successful

than an authoritarian 'top down' approach. In the short term it takes more effort. In the long term it has a much greater and more sustainable effect. The work FOC is carrying out in and around Ranthambhore National Park in India is a perfect case in point.

For anyone who has been there, Ranthambhore is an emerald jewel of lush forest and grassland surrounded by dry, dusty, worn out plains inhabited by 200,000 people and as many livestock. It is hardly surprising that, in spite of the presence of tigers, domestic animals find their way in to the luxuriant grasses of the national park. FOC is working with the Prakratik Society to encourage stall feeding of cattle by introducing fodder crops and improving their genetic stock through an artificial insemination program. The result is reduced stock but increased milk yields, making stall feeding a viable alternative



and with the added benefit of retaining cow dung as fuel for biogas units.

At the same time, the enormous demand on firewood is being reduced by the combination of biogas and modern stoves. Women are better off because they spend less time fetching firewood and then cooking in a smoky atmosphere. The Prakratik Society, supported by FOC and FOC's corporate donors, has also built a junior and senior school and are providing better health facilities. In their own way, all of these measures attempt to take the pressure off the park, improving the way of life for the people living around the outside – benefits which are directly attributable to the presence of tigers. This, in turn, does much to enhance the survival rate of these wonderful charismatic cats.

Michael Woods

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# FOC Project Update

## Kenya



Your donations really count. Pictured Lynne Nkatha, FOC Kenya handing over a landrover purchased with funds raised at our Jonathan Scott 'Big Cat' Diary lecture to Micheal Koikai, Masai Mara National Reserve/Narok County Council.

The Mara-Serengeti ecosystem supports more than one million wildebeest, more than a hundred thousand zebra and a host of associated grazers and their predators. Every year the wildebeest migrate over the whole ecosystem. This is the greatest migration of large mammals and one of the most outstanding areas of natural beauty and wildlife diversity in the world. In Kenya the migration covers some 4,500km<sup>2</sup>, of which nearly 1,400km<sup>2</sup> is protected within the Masai Mara National Reserve, the remainder lying on private land and group ranches occupied predominantly by Maasai people. Although the wildebeest dispersal area in the greater Mara is a relatively small proportion of their total range, it is critical beyond its size. High rainfall, permanent water and high grassland productivity make it a vitally important dry season refuge for the bulk of the whole ecosystem's migrants for four months a year.

For the last 23 years FOC has worked together with all interested parties to help conserve the Greater Masai Mara and to find a harmonious compromise



## Community Scout Programme

As we mentioned in our Spring 2005 Newsletter, the Community Scout Programme has been operating in the Greater Masai Mara since June 2004. The Scout Programme, a joint initiative between FOC and the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), funded by the British government's Darwin Initiative, currently employs 74 community scouts to monitor wildlife in the area.

This is a community driven initiative - local communities have nominated scouts to work across the Mara in a programme that provides environmental protection, detailed wildlife monitoring information and community outreach. The majority of the scouts' work is devoted to collecting vital data on wildlife populations and mitigating wildlife conflict through field patrols across the Mara.

Scouts are able to find out about fundamental problems which affect local communities and through this, FOC is able to develop novel solutions to address these issues so that both the community and wildlife conservation benefit. Given the importance of the community outreach activities and its bearing on wildlife conservation, FOC hopes to secure funding to employ 40 Community Liaison Officers, employed from the group ranch communities surrounding the Masai Mara. These officers will be based on a full time basis within their communities and work with FOC and the local people in each group ranch community.

between competing forms of land use. FOC's work ranges from conservation, education, to species monitoring and protection, as well as natural resource based enterprise development, including community conservation management systems. One such project is the Community Scout Programme.

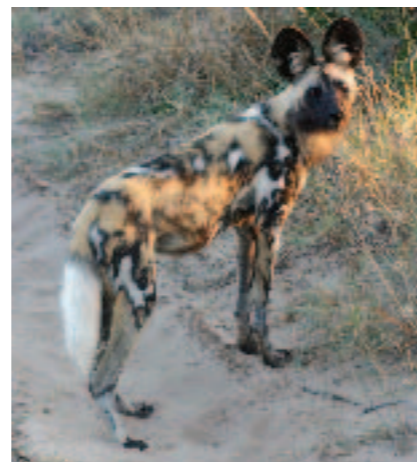
## FOC Community Scouts record the return of the wild dogs

The rapid disappearance of endangered wild dog packs across the Greater Mara ecosystem in the early 1990s caused considerable concern amongst conservationists. Disease, in the form of rabies and canine distemper, was suspected to have wiped out the three resident wild dog packs in the area. The loss of this enigmatic species was a sobering warning about the vulnerability of Kenya's wildlife. Yet, the ambiguity that surrounded the loss of wild dogs now envelops their recent return to this area.

Since June 2004, Maasai scouts, working in the Greater Masai Mara Community Scout Programme, have been zealously recording wild dogs making a comeback into three of the 11 group ranches covered by the programme. As Stephen Kisotu, a scout co-ordinator, says: "This is great news; we're receiving wild dog reports every month now from some areas. We don't know why they're coming back, but it's really exciting that they're back in the Mara again."

Yet just as wild dogs appear to be making a return, the scouts are recording the decline of other flagship species.

Over a four month period at the start of this year, eight lions were killed by Maasai communities in retribution for their livestock being killed by lions. Such conflict is an everyday challenge facing the Scouts. Through monitoring human-wildlife conflict incidences, the scouts have been able to identify recurring conflict patterns that are being used to develop sensible conflict reduction measures. For example, during community meetings, the scouts explain that better constructed 'bomas' (traditional Maasai corrals) that are guarded at night lose significantly less livestock than poorly



constructed, unguarded 'bomas'. The scouts also explain to communities that whilst tending to grazing cattle, they must be vigilant of any cattle that may give birth. These animals tend to seek out secluded areas, and this puts them at greater risk to an ambush by a lion or leopard. The scouts have reported that the communities are responding well to their practical advice, which has enabled them to foster and maintain a greater level of trust.



Community Scouts play a vital role in wildlife conservation.

By creating a more benign environment to ensure the future of wildlife in the Greater Mara ecosystem, the Scout Programme provides direct benefits to the tour operators working in the Mara. However, British Government funding for the scout programme will end in March 2006. It is therefore crucial that a new and sustainable funding source is secured to guarantee the future deployment of these scouts. With the support of stakeholders in the Mara, FOC and DICE have taken innovative steps by developing a 'Sponsor-a-Scout' scheme. This scheme, the first of its kind in Africa, offers the unique opportunity to exclusively fund a Community Scout to continue conserving wildlife across the area. In return, a sponsor will receive an FOC certificate and Mara information pack, plus a photograph of their scout, information about his work, with updates from field patrols throughout the year. Sponsors will also have the opportunity to visit their scout in the field and join him on patrol, learning indigenous bushcraft skills and an extraordinary insight into Kenya's wildlife. As the wild dogs continue to return to the Mara, the work of the Community Scouts is now more important than ever for their long-term survival.

## Sponsor a cheetah programme

CCF cares for over thirty cheetahs at the CCF headquarters in Namibia. These cheetahs cannot be released back into the wild as they lack the skills or physical capability to survive. If another approved home becomes available, CCF relocates these cheetahs to an alternate captive facility. However, many of these cheetahs are permanent residents of CCF and each cheetah costs CCF an estimated £2,500 a year in care.

If you would like to sponsor a cheetah, please contact us for further information or log on at [www.cheetah.org.uk](http://www.cheetah.org.uk).



## Cheetah Conservation Fund update

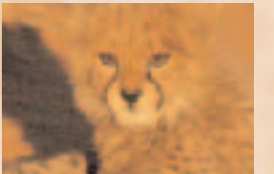
FOC continues to support the vital work of the CCF. In this issue we thought you might like an update on how things are progressing. Dr Laurie Marker, has been busy over the last few months not only in Namibia but also carrying the message of cheetah conservation around the world!

### Namibia

The CCF is planning a project in the Waterberg area to help with population estimates by using both photography and hair sample techniques to help identify individuals. Camera traps are currently being tested on CCF farms which have photographed several cheetahs. Photo trapping works by the animal triggering self-activating cameras. Individual identification can be further improved when the technique for extracting DNA from snared hair samples is developed. In this method, lures laced with irresistible scent (!) trap hair from passing cheetah, brown hyenas and leopards.

Education is key to CCF's work to save the wild cheetah. The CCF education team visited 25 schools around the country, sharing the cheetah conservation message with nearly 3,500 learners of all ages. In addition, 300 students camped overnight, lending a hand with clearing bush and grass in CCF's quarantine pens for wild cheetah, while learning about cheetah conservation. In July, the CCF repeated a series of week-long courses through which over 45 communal conservancy farmers and representatives learned about the value to them of integrated livestock and wildlife management and how to reduce conflict with wildlife through a better understanding of wildlife behaviour.

The value of education awareness was demonstrated when a cub was recently picked up from a nearby farm. A farmworker had seen the cheetah family, chased the cubs and caught one. The cub was kicked repeatedly. When discovered it was taken to a neighbour, who called the CCF. Despite the cub suffering from head trauma, after a few weeks of careful observation and full-time monitoring, the cub, temporarily called "Peep" is now healthy again!



### Kenya

CCF's work continues in Kenya, helped by the valuable information on sightings as a result of the completion of Phase One of the nationwide Great Cheetah Census (in collaboration with KWS and East African Wildlife Society) in March.

### Botswana

In Botswana, CCF is working with new technology to track cheetah by using Global Satellite Monitoring collars. The new technology works via the mobile phone network by sending a location five times a day to the satellite which comes through via email or text messages to the mobile phone. Combined with the existing regular radio-telemetric collars, the data from this collar will help to gather vital information on Botswana cheetah home range movements.

### Algeria

Earlier this year Laurie spent a week in the deserts in the Ahaggar National Park in Algeria with several biologists looking for signs of cheetah and desert gazelle. Although no actual sightings of cheetah were made, evidence of their presence through scat at trees was seen and the local nomadic people were a valuable source of information. This trip showed that the region continues to support an internationally important population of cheetahs. The trip also provided training for the Algerian team members in field censusing methodologies and equipment use.



## Dr Laurie Marker – UK Tour 2006

Laurie will be returning to the UK for more lectures in May 2006 to talk more about these fascinating cats and recent developments with CCF's work. This update is sure to include CCF's work in assisting with conservation planning in Iran to protect their critically endangered cheetah population. It is encouraging that CCF's research and work in this area is reinforced by recent reports in the BBC of images of Asiatic cheetah being captured by other NGO's working in Iran. All in all very encouraging news for the Asiatic cheetah and those working to protect them...



# FOC Project Update

continued

## Botswana



FOC is delighted to continue to support the Living With Elephants Foundation (LWE) project through the generosity of the Luck-Hille Foundation.

LWE listens closely to the concerns of residents who share their environment with the African elephant. In 2003 and 2004, LWE carried out a research project with the local community to find out why, how and where conflict occurs. This has shown how increasing human pressures alter elephant activity and also how negative elephant encounters impacts on humans. The findings of this research have been presented to the Department of Wildlife to assist in developing effective mitigation strategies.

LWE has also developed an Elephant Outreach Programme with the objective of improving human-elephant relations, one child at a time! The area's youth is given an opportunity to interact positively with LWE's three "elephant ambassadors", Jabu, Thembi and Morula. Earlier this year LWE successfully completed the first half of the Programme. Hundreds of children aged 8-15 and their environmental educators took part in a two-day programme where they learned about the natural history, ecology and behaviour of the African elephant and their complex relationship with people. At the end of 2005 LWE will be welcoming children from a further 6 villages. The development of environmental and conservation awareness will help young Botswana become active in wildlife conservation.

## India



As you know, FOC has been working in India for several years, supporting the communities which live in villages on the borders of the two major National Tiger Parks, at Ranthambhore and at Bhandhavgarh in the district of Rajasthan in north western India.

Support for this work is vitally important, particularly given the recent sad developments in India's tiger reserves, with tigers disappearing from Sariska and Ranthambhore. The tiger crisis led to the State Government declaring a 'Red Alert' earlier this year, putting additional armed guards inside Ranthambhore Park whilst inquiry commissions were set up.

FOC supports the Prakratik Society, a

registered charitable society in India, which has been working around the Ranthambhore National Park for the past 10 years. The Society is working for the protection of tigers in Ranthambhore through community based projects.

Over 200,000 people who live in villages bordering the Park, seek access to the diminishing natural resources, whether this be for firewood or areas for cattle grazing. The Prakratik Society is finding solutions which enable local communities to find alternatives so that there is less dependency on the Park. The Society's work on healthcare, literacy and environment education, income generating schemes (such as a women's co-operative), better and more sustainable animal husbandry programmes, afforestation and alternate energy has meant that more and more families no longer depend on the Park for their day to day needs for fuel and fodder. All of this translates into habitat protection to give the tiger a fighting chance to survive. A visit arranged to the Park in January this year enabled villagers to get a glimpse of the natural beauties there and it was a thrill and a relief to see evidence of tigers, such as their pug marks

## Major Funding Boost for Community Projects at Ranthambhore National Tiger Park

We are delighted that two of the projects which FOC is supporting together with partners the Prakratik Society - a School and a Hospital - have been chosen as beneficiaries for this year's 'Charity Day', by financial institution ICAP. ICAP is the world's largest interdealer broker and a FTSE 250 company. They are active in the wholesale markets for OTC derivatives, fixed income securities, money market products, foreign exchange, energy, credit and equity



derivatives. They transact in excess of US\$1 trillion. Each year they hold a Charity Day on which all revenues and commissions from the day's broking are donated to selected charities. This year the day is Wednesday 7 December and FOC in the UK is one of the charities chosen.

This is a fantastically generous gesture on behalf of ICAP and their employees. The amount raised very much depends on trading activity and market conditions.

The donation from ICAP will be used to build a new science and research facility for the School and to equip a new computer lab. In addition, there are plans to build a hostel, which will accommodate children who live in remote villages who previously would not be able to attend the school. The Hospital is the only facility to provide specialized medical care in a district comprising a population of over 1 million people. These facilities,

including an Intensive Care Unit, an Orthopaedic Unit and a Neonatal Care Unit, are being expanded, improving the level of care available. Thanks to support from ICAP, urgent priorities can be achieved, for example the purchase of a 'Yag' laser for the Ophthalmic unit to help counteract blindness; vital equipment and staffing for the Orthopaedic Unit as well as the provision of ambulances for both Ranthambhore and Bhandhavgarh, which should improve the chances of lives being

saved, particularly for women in labour.

By providing the means for improved healthcare and education with the availability of these facilities, it is hoped that the village communities will recognize the value of preserving the wildlife, particularly tigers, with whom they so closely co-exist and whose presence attracts thousands of visitors to the Parks each year.

Fingers crossed that December 7th 2005 will be a good day on the market!



Earlier this year, the Ugandan Conservation Foundation (UCF) completed its field work in the Kitomi Forest Reserve to learn more about the problems facing wildlife in the area. We mentioned in our Spring 2005 Newsletter that the study unfortunately showed that all areas of the 400km<sup>2</sup> reserve were experiencing severe threats from illegal activity, whether through poaching, illegal mining, charcoal burning or logging. With over 300 chimpanzees and elephants using the area, as well as over 606 species of birds within the region - this area needs support, and quickly.

### Protecting the corridor

The most immediate objective of the project is to safeguard a viable and long term connection between Kitomi Forest and the Kyambura Wildlife reserve which is at risk of being severed from encroachment and illegal logging. If this happened, it would split the chimpanzee populations in the region, making the separated groups unviable.

This corridor is also critical as a seasonal route for the elephant population in the area. With elephants and other animals now forced to walk through subsistence farms growing highly cultivated crops, it is little surprise that crops have been damaged and that people are now coming into direct and sometimes deadly contact with wildlife.

Funding has been sought to purchase large tracts of land around the corridor to safeguard the wildlife, forestry and local farmers. However, in the meantime efforts to channel the elephants through the corridor into other protected areas are needed - until the land purchase process is completed it appears that people are carrying out as much illegal activity as they can before the region gains protection. A series of 2m by 2m trenches are being dug along a 20 kilometre stretch of ridge, which, it is hoped, will keep these naturally timid beasts away from crops; reducing the risk of conflict with local communities.

### Poaching

Two of the most highly protected mammalian species in the region, the chimpanzee and the elephant, are frequently becoming victims of snares. The field study found a great deal of evidence of elephant, chimpanzee, duiker, baboon and many other mammals and birds being poached and many scared and injured animals were also seen. Poaching is carried out in many ways but the most indiscriminate and frequently used are locally made traps and snares. These methods are highly effective and remain uncontrolled. Whilst the UCF team destroyed all of the traps they found, the area needs to be systematically cleared.

A recent initiative to support the protection of the corridor was the donation of 40 bikes for the rangers. These bikes are now being used throughout the Queen Elizabeth Park and help the rangers get water, food, go on patrol and attend meetings. 100 impregnated mosquito nets were also donated. This helps the rangers on a personal level as well as the Park on an efficiency level - rangers and their families can now sleep better, be healthier and the Park benefits from a higher level of available rangers to man the posts and patrol.

In order to help the rangers in their fight against poaching, there are some specific items needed. These include Boots (£30), fleeces (£25), torches (£15) and waterproof jackets (£15). If you would like to support the rangers, please tear off the UCF donation slip on Page 7 and send your donation to Friends of Conservation, UCF Appeal, at our London address.

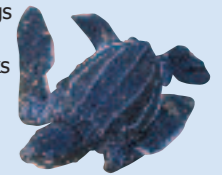


## Tobago

2005 has been a rewarding and challenging year for our partners, Save Our Sea Turtles Tobago. Local volunteer patrols started in March with senior patrollers also participating in regional sea turtle conservation workshops in Trinidad where they shared experiences and developed tagging skills.

Nesting females together with their delicate nests and little hatchlings must be safeguarded. Even though a female can lay up to a thousand eggs over the course of a nesting season, only one or two in every thousand hatchlings will ever make it to adulthood - just enough to replace the parents in the reproductive cycle of the species. Studies are being undertaken on hatchling mortality to better understand why some nests and hatchlings survive and others do not. In May, SOS also began flipper tagging leatherbacks on the three main nesting beaches, tagging 71 leatherbacks in two months! This tagging will provide more scientifically precise data which will be used to lobby the Government for funding for patrols and stronger protection on nesting beaches.

Whilst poaching continues to be the biggest threat to nesting females, coastal development is also a serious issue. Lights from hotels regularly disorient hatchlings and nesting females. SOS Tobago therefore also works to raise the profile of turtle conservation within the tourist industry.



### Good News from Tanzania - As Rhinos return to the Selous

In Tanzania in the 1970s, poaching reduced the population of black rhino from 3,000 to what was assumed to be nil by 1990. The Selous Rhino Trust was set up in 1995 when evidence was found that the rhino was not extinct as had been previously thought. The aim of the Trust is to ensure the preservation of the rhino in the Selous, a World Heritage site recognised for its biodiversity. As a result of the Trust's work with its 12 dedicated rangers based in the field, there is now a sustainable population of 19 rhino and at least two young in the northern sector of the Park. Monitoring and protection of the rhino has been achieved through a combination of aircraft, vehicle and foot patrols. The Trust has also pioneered a DNA dung analysis project with Cape Town University which has successfully isolated the black rhino DNA and can now identify individuals from dung. This approach, together with footprint tracings and visual sightings, is invaluable in identifying and monitoring individuals in the rhino population. The next major phase is to expand the project to assess the rhino status across the entire reserve. In the meantime, the Trust is increasing awareness through planned improvements to the visitor's centre and the lodges in the Selous.



## Conservation issue

"There is a mystery behind that masked gray visage, an ancient life force, delicate and mighty, awesome and enchanted, commanding the silence ordinarily reserved for mountain peaks, great fires and the sea." (Peter Matthiessen in "The Tree Where Man Was Born", 1972)

Imagine an elephant. The images conjured up will depend on who you are. For tourists – a noble and evocative symbol of ancient wilderness. For conservationists – a complex species under threat. For locals – a destructive and sometimes deadly invader.

Although Asian elephants once ranged from Iraq to China's Yellow River - there are now fewer than 40,000 left in the wild. In Africa, it is thought that there were three to five million African elephants in the 1930s and 1940s. The population declined massively in the 1970's and 1980's, mainly as a result of ivory poaching and habitat loss as human populations increased - and it is estimated that today only 400,000 to 660,000 elephants remain.

The threats facing this keystone species are diverse. The ivory trade continues to be a threat, despite the elephant's protected status. In Asia, evolutionary modifications means that some male elephants are being born without tusks, making them at less risk of poaching. Habitat loss and degradation from increasing human populations, agriculture and logging pressures pushes elephants into smaller and smaller protected "islands". Elephant populations will be more exposed to climatic variations as a result of decreasing home ranges. Migration routes are taken over, causing an increase in human/elephant conflict. Some parks are suffering from overcrowding whilst populations in other areas are under threat of extinction.

Solutions are as varied as the problem. These include proposals for culling of overcrowded populations in southern African parks where conservation efforts have been successful; the translocation of elephants from overcrowded parks to areas with recovering populations; contraception population management techniques; using radio/tracking collars to map and monitor migration routes and "hot spots" for human-elephant conflict; as well as creating trans-frontier conservation areas, known as 'megaparks'. In the meantime, debates continue around the moratorium on ivory trade and sale of stock-piled ivory.

FOC supports a number of innovative projects concerned with protecting this symbolic species, for example in Kenya, Uganda, Botswana and Thailand. We are delighted that Professor Rudi van Aarde, who is currently carrying out the largest study of elephants so far carried out in Africa, has kindly agreed to speak at a fundraising lecture in London on 15 February 2006 about these fascinating animals, the challenges they face and the possible solutions. Please contact the FOC office for further details.

## Book Reviews

### Queen of the Mara

Author: Dave Drummond

Introduction by Dr Daphne Sheldrick MBE MBS £20.00

ISBN No: 1-904237-25-1

In 1985 in the Masai Mara in Kenya, David Drummond was given the enviable task of single-handedly foster-fathering five orphaned cheetah cubs in the wild. Without human intervention they would have died of starvation. In the absence of their mother he would be responsible for teaching them the skills they would need to survive. This incredible true-life adventure, together with high-quality photography, is a captivating story, allowing the reader a rare insight into the lives of these wild cheetahs and of one of the leading cheetah experts in Africa.

"Cheetahs are perhaps, not only the most beautiful, but also the most mysterious of the big cats. David Drummond possesses that rare ability of earning the trust of a wild creature, and whose long and intimate relationship with the cheetahs of the Masai Mara is now graphically described in this book." Dr Daphne Sheldrick MBE MBS



### The Explorer's Eye. First Hand Accounts of Adventure and Exploration

Edited by Fergus Fleming and Annabel Merullo

Introduction by Michael Palin £25.00

ISBN No: 0-297-84381-8

The Explorer's Eye takes the reader back in time to re-live the adventures and achievements of fifty explorers. The expert commentary sets the scene for each expedition and the first person narratives and illustrations then take you off on a journey through deserts and mountains, rivers and high seas, jungles and the moon. More than a coffee table "must have" – this is a book that drops you unexpectedly right into the middle of the explorers' adventures.

"The Explorer's Eye is a treasure trove. Like Hiram Bingham unearthing Macchu Picchu or Charles Darwin landing on the Galapagos, untold wonders are about to unfold before you." Michael Palin



### FOC Wristbands

We have some limited edition FOC wristbands for sale. They are £2.50 (plus 30p postage) each and come in **Zebra**, **Giraffe** and **Cheetah** styles in two sizes, small and large. Show your support and buy today! You can send a cheque made payable to Friends of Conservation to the FOC London office. If you prefer to pay by Credit card or Switch, please phone the FOC London office with your details.

### Fundraising Lecture "Extreme Explorers"

We are hosting a fundraising lecture, entitled 'Extreme Explorers' on Tuesday 6 December 2005 at the Royal Geographical Society in London. We are delighted that well-known explorer and supporter of FOC, Benedict Allen, will be speaking on the evening. He will be joined by Jim McNeill, a seasoned Arctic explorer with over 20 years experience. Jim – known as the 'Ice Warrior' - is currently planning his next expedition, to reach all four North Poles. Both speakers will be describing their extraordinary experiences and personal achievements in some of the world's most remote areas and consider the conservation challenges emerging from the impact of travel and exploration on our fragile planet. Contact the FOC office now for more details and reserve your tickets to avoid disappointment. See Page 8 for further details.



### A Big "Thank You"

It's been a busy year for FOC, what with an office move (always a challenge!) and organising events, planning fundraising activities and the 101 other things that we need to do. So many people have helped to keep FOC running smoothly and a special thank you goes to our fantastic volunteers - Agata Bialczyk, Paul Burrows, Phil Crosby, Rachel Dodds, Tara Draper-Stumm, Madeleine Jephcott, Karen Raftis, Kokila Patel, Phoebe White and Sarah Willson. Without your support, FOC just wouldn't be the same!

Thank you

*Amanda Keckley*

## A word from Audley Travel



On a small island in Northern Mozambique a new lodge is opening. It promises to be one of the most exclusive bare-foot luxury lodges in Africa. The builders have arrived and supplies are coming in by dhow every day. However, the builders are far from the first to arrive. A group of researchers has already been living and studying on Vamizi Island for over five years. Why? To look at the impact the lodge will have on the local communities, to study the marine life and wildlife on the island. And then, to advise and oversee building for a small lodge that will create minimum impact on the environment and its people.

At Audley we believe that this is the way things should be done. It is hard to stop progress but people should tread gently, carefully and with the utmost respect for others. We pride ourselves on promoting lodges such as Vamizi which aims to do the very best (and which by the way can pinpoint every turtle nest on the island and give a precise due date!) and is so far, succeeding. Trading with local fisherman is fair and provides superb cuisine. Lobster, crab and prawns are all bought straight from the dhows then put in the pan to cook.

Another favourite island of ours is tiny Chole Island in the Mafia Archipelago where the lodge Chole Mjini has been built on the fringes of a local village. There are no fences around this lodge. Wander a bit further than the dining room and you find yourself outside the local doctor's house. Wander a little bit further and you're amongst the carpenters building dhows, then school football pitch (where whether you look athletic or not you'll be invited to join the game!), clinic and nursery. It's a prosperous village and the reason being that every guest staying at Chole pays a bed-night levy into a village fund for development initiatives.

There are superb initiatives all over Africa. A favourite safari lodge of ours, Tafika in Zambia's wild South Luangwa is small and family run. Each year the Coppinger family, owners of Tafika, build two bush-camps in the dry season for guests to enjoy walking safaris from. Building is of reed and thatch and simple, but very comfortable. At the end of the dry season (and preferably before the first drops of rain turn the cotton soil to glue) the entire camp is dismantled and taken out of the park. Absolutely nothing remains. The grass grows, antelope graze in the patch where the living room was and elephants scratch themselves on the tree that was shading chalet number two!

Small lodges and hotels such as these exist from the lush Ngorongoro Highlands of Tanzania to the dry deserts of Namibia. Often they are small and owner-run by local people. As a tourist you can choose these lodges and avoid the large international chains. They are often more expensive, but prices are wide ranging and should fit most budgets. In our minds they are undoubtedly the best. There may not be numerous pools and discos but if there were the turtles might just be scared off. And what could be more fun than getting up at 2am to walk down an un-littered shell strewn beach to watch a green turtle lay her eggs and return to the sea?

### UCF Rangers Appeal

Please cut out and return to FOC London office

I would like to support the UCF Rangers in Uganda to help eradicate poaching

I would like to make a donation (please circle): £15  £25  £30  other £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete your details:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

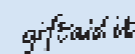
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please treat all of my donations to Friends of Conservation from 6 April 2002 until further notice as Gift Aid. By signing below I confirm that the amount of income tax/capital gains tax I pay is at least equal to the tax Friends of Conservation will reclaim on my donations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, Friends of Conservation can reclaim an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further. This means that £100 can be turned into £128, just so long as donations are made through Gift Aid. Imagine what a difference that could make and it doesn't cost you a thing.



## Membership and Donation Form

If you would like to help protect endangered species and habitats then join us or make a donation today.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Date Today: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

I would like to join FOC: £25

### DONATION

I would like to donate: £25  £50  £100

other \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW TO PAY STANDING ORDER

Please consider paying by Standing Order as this helps to reduce our administration costs. We will send a copy to your bank.

To the Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank Plc

Bank Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay Friends of Conservation, Account No. 0546211, Lloyds TSB Plc, Knightsbridge Branch (30-94-81)

The sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly/monthly/quarterly/annually

Commencing \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ until further notice

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

### CHEQUE

Please make cheques payable to: Friends of Conservation

### CREDIT CARD

Visa  Mastercard  Switch

Credit Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Through Gift Aid Friends of Conservation can increase the value of your donation, and any future donation, at no extra cost to you. For every £1.00 you give, we can claim an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue. Please remember to tick the boxes below and return this form to us.

Please treat all my donations to Friends of Conservation from 6th April 2002 until further notice as Gift Aid.

I confirm that the amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax I pay is at least equal to the tax that Friends of Conservation will reclaim on my donations (currently 28p for each £1 given).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

UK Registered Charity No: 328176



# Forthcoming Events

## 6 December 2005: Royal Geographical Society, London

Fundraising lecture: "Extreme Explorers"  
Tickets £21.00. Cash bar pre and post-lecture.  
Doors open at 6pm. Lecture to start at 7pm.  
See Page 6 for further information.



## 15 February 2006: London

Fundraising lecture – 'The Future for Elephants?'  
Professor Rudi van Aarde will consider the many and complex issues facing the African elephant.  
See Page 6 for further information.

## 23 April 2006: London Marathon

Next year's Marathon will be on 23 April 2006. If you would like to support us by running, we have a number of guaranteed spaces for next year. Please contact the FOC office for further information – we'd be delighted to hear from you!

## CCF Tour May 2006

Following the success of Laurie's tour in May, she will be returning to the UK between 12 and 22 May 2006. The programme will be published shortly on our website: [www.foc-uk.com](http://www.foc-uk.com). Laurie's tours are always very popular, so book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

## Recent Events

### 4 September: Hydro Active Women's Challenge, Hyde Park, London



Two of our volunteers joined the 22,000 women taking part in the Hydro Active Women's Challenge 5km running event in London. Madeleine and Tara were pleased to raise over £1,200 for FOC.

## CCF Tour May 2005

### Saving the Wild Cheetah

Laurie Marker's tour in May was a great success and saw Laurie touring the country to raise awareness and funds to save the wild cheetah.



## UK Rhino Group Mayday May 2005

This year's UK Rhino Group's annual "Rhino Mayday" took place in May. Details of the day's events can be found on the UK Rhino Group website at [www.rhinogroup.org.uk](http://www.rhinogroup.org.uk).

## 17 April: London Marathon



Congratulations and many thanks to our Marathon runners who all finished the London Marathon in April. Stuart Whittington, Fiona Seton, Tess Sullivan, Carly Smith (pictured above) together with Andrew Appleyard and Ewan Wheeler raised over £8,000.

## 7-9 April: Active Holiday Show

The Active Holiday Show was a great success with interesting talks from experts and many informative displays. FOC was delighted to be supported by Exodus, Connoisseur, Wanderlust, Waymark, First Choice Snowsports, Flexiski, Trek America, The Adventure Company and Sunsail.

## FOC office news

### We've moved!

Don't forget, if you want to contact or visit us we've now moved. We are now installed in our new offices near Olympia in London:  
**Friends of Conservation, Kensington Charity Centre, 4th Floor, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH**  
Tel: 020 7 603 5024.

### Thank you!

Our work to support projects which protect endangered species and habitats worldwide would not be possible without the long-standing and continued support of all our members and supporters. Your support is very much appreciated, thank you.

*Special thanks also to Audley Travel who kindly sponsored this issue of our Newsletter. Audley Travel was established with the simple philosophy of offering clients the best possible travel experience. Specialising in tailor-made travel to exotic and characterful destinations, Audley's reputation has developed through a deep knowledge and interest in the countries and regions they work with, as well as a no-compromise attitude to quality and service. Audley now offer tailor-made journeys throughout Asia, Africa, Arabia, Latin America, the Indian Subcontinent and Australasia.*



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