



The Carnivore Chronicle

A Newsletter of the African People & Wildlife Fund

Announcements

- **APW receives an Incredible \$100,000 challenge grant from Jim Leltner and Tracy Higgins! Please help us complete the development of the Noloholo Environmental Center by the end of 2012. Read more about the "Leltner Challenge" on page 2. Thank you!**
- **24 hour power is finally achieved at Noloholo. Many thanks to Stephen Gold and the Wildlife Conservation Network's solar project.**
- **APW launches critical cheetah conservation program with support from the National Geographic Big Cats Initiative.**



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The African People & Wildlife Fund, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 2005 to help Africa's people and wildlife coexist through conservation, research, development and education programs.

Adaptive Management for Wildlife and Environmental Conservation

At APW, we are working to help build the capacity of rural Africans to engage in the wildlife conservation and environmental arenas.

As part of our general philosophy, we recognize that successful projects often require a flexible approach. Working to meet the needs of varying communities and natural environments, we often encounter people who may have different economic, social, cultural, political and environmental challenges, despite living in relatively close proximity. Success on the ground is directly tied to our ability to navigate these complex relationships for the mutual benefit of people and wildlife.

In order to do this, we employ a scientific, adaptive management approach to our projects. Basically, this means



Adaptive management is working for lions and people in the Maasai Steppe. See the impressive results of our Living Walls on page 3.

we first conceptualize a problem, collect information to inform our team about possible solutions, implement those solutions and then monitor our results. The cycle is then repeated, adapting our strategies based on the outcome of our results. The ability to adapt quickly as circumstances evolve on the ground is critical.

Of course, effective monitoring systems are essential to this approach. On page 3, we mention several of the ways in which we use monitoring and evaluation in our work.



Laly Lichtenfeld, Ph.D.
APW Executive Director

APW NEWS

In 2011, we were thrilled to welcome two new members to the APW team. Dennis Minja joined us as the APW Maasailand Lion Conservation Program Officer (see page 3). Fresh out of university with a Bachelor's degree in educational psychology, Neovitus Sunday Sianga is now filling the role of our conservation education officer.


We are also pleased to



See more pictures of Neovitus and our summer camps on Facebook.

announce new APW partners, the Friends of the Serengeti Switzerland and the US Peace Corps, as well as new environmental scholars.

In January, we awarded our second round of Noloholo Environmental Scholarships. Eight students are now supported by this program, studying at the Moringe Private School (see page 3).

Finally, we would like to extend a warm thank you to all our friends, old and new, who helped to support our 2010 annual fund campaign. Together, we are making an important difference! 

Spring USA Events – Benefits in NJ and NY Raise Important Funds for APW

APW's Annual Spring Benefit in New Jersey is always a highlight of our director's spring tour. We would like to thank our hosts, Mark and Laurie Lichtenfeld, and the Spring Benefit Committee for turning out yet another wonderful evening which raised significant funds for APW.

Held at Baltusrol Golf Club, the evening is a fun opportunity for friends of APW to gather, meet one another, view photos of our activities, chat with Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld, and of course, contribute to our work. Thank you to all



Shannon Glynn, committee member and Laurie Lichtenfeld, hostess (left)

APW's Director and host, Mark Lichtenfeld (above)

who supported this great event!

One week earlier, Jerry and Jane Del Missier hosted a lovely evening for

APW at their home in New York City. Held in association with the National Geographic Big Cats Initiative and with committee member Dr. Stuart Pimm in attendance, this evening raised additional, important funds for our work. Thank you so much to our good friends in NYC!

Other highlights of the spring visit included presentations by APW director, Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld, at National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, DC and at the Academy of Natural Sciences in PA. 🐾

The Noloholo Environmental Center – Announcing the “Leitner Challenge”

At APW, we believe that effective conservation work in local African communities requires a consistent presence and considerable trust. In the Maasai Steppe, we are the only conservation organization with a 365 day per year, 24 hour presence — a significant achievement made possible by our unique Noloholo Environmental Center.

Our philosophy of place-based conservation was something Jim Leitner understood immediately. Upon our first meeting he remarked, “Change always occurs at the micro level. APW is in the right spot at the right time to make a difference.” Years of hard work mean that we are now proudly living up to his comment, as updates on the adjacent page will attest.

The “Leitner Challenge” represents both an incredible gift to APW on behalf of Jim Leitner and Tracy Higgins as well as a challenge to you — our supporters. With their generous donation of \$100,000, Jim and Tracy aim to help APW complete all major building projects at the Noloholo Environmental Center by the end of 2012, while bringing our vehicle fleet into the 21st century.

With \$200,000 required for this major effort, we are already halfway there! Jim and Tracy hope their considerable gift will encourage other supporters to help meet the remainder of the challenge.

Funds raised by the “Leitner Challenge” will go towards three new staff houses, a dining hall, two visitor's accommodations, a vehicle workshop,

a director's residence, interior outfitting of all the buildings and the upgrade of APW's three Land Rovers for safer, more reliable transportation.

We could meet this challenge with 1000 donations of \$100; 200 donations of \$500; 100 donations of \$1000; or just 20 donations of \$5000. However you can help, the clock is ticking. Please support this special campaign today! 🐾

Some of the first guests of the Noloholo dormitory (right). Below, the rainwater harvesting patio doubles as a great place for song and dance during our environmental summer camps.



24 BP Solar modules power all of Noloholo (left). APW's 32-bed dormitory is now complete (below).



APW at Work – Select Program Updates

Maasailand Lion Conservation Initiative

Monitoring the impact of our lion conservation efforts is vital. So far, our 40 Living Walls have achieved impressive results. While only 33% of the livestock corrals in Loibor Siret are currently protected by Living Walls, preliminary information shows we have reduced livestock attacks by lions (and other large carnivores) by 60% across the entire village. While lion killing continues in neighboring villages, we have also reduced the shooting, spearing and poisoning of lions in Loibor Siret by 67%. Given these encouraging results, the expansion of this project to villages throughout the Maasai Steppe and beyond is an important priority.

Dennis Minja
Lion Conservation Officer



APW's Dennis Minja is taking our monitoring system one step further. By tracking and estimating the number of lions roaming throughout the village and comparing this to our previous data, he will begin to determine how the prevention of lion-livestock conflicts impacts lion populations over time. 🐾

Maasai Steppe Conservation Education



The 2011 Class of Noloholo Environmental Scholars

The selection of Noloholo Environmental Scholars is highly anticipated each year. In order to ensure a fair process, APW uses a combination of national test scores, the Moringe Private School entrance exam, our own evaluation of environmental knowledge as well as gender and poverty categories to determine the top-ranking students. Other recent conservation education program events include the celebration of Earth Day and the onset of our popular "WILD Week" environmental summer camps. 🐾

Villages for Conservation

Our new land use management project is making important headway. In May, we hosted a natural resource action planning seminar at Noloholo for village leaders from Loibor Siret. In collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, we helped leaders to recognize the benefits of mapping their village's environmental resources, the threats facing them and potential strategies for better protecting them. A second workshop is scheduled for August in order to develop an official natural resource action plan for the village.



Helena Edwards
presents village water issues to the group.

Meanwhile, our game scouts are working with three Master's students from Duke University to learn GPS techniques and to develop a system for monitoring local wildlife numbers. 🐾

Human-Wildlife Conflict

Recently, two lions attacked and killed cattle in a neighboring village. APW's human-wildlife conflict officer, Elvis Kisimir, received a call and hurried to the site where angry warriors were preparing to hunt and kill the lions. Impressively, Elvis was able to convince the group that fortifying their livestock corral before nightfall was a greater priority. The lion hunt was called off.

Diffusing hostile situations like these takes real diplomacy. A young Maasai from Narakauo, Elvis is proving that he has the skills required to do the job. Recently, Elvis mastered the use of a human-wildlife conflict database, and he is learning to evaluate his results. He also manages a growing team of human-wildlife conflict assistants. 🐾

Elvis Kisimir checks a Living Wall.



APW Partner Services

In May, we conducted a training seminar for primary schoolteachers from the village of Loibor Soit (northeast of Loibor Siret), a project supported by the Friends of the Serengeti Switzerland. Neovitus Sianga, APW's conservation education officer, conducted an in-depth, two day training workshop for the teachers on our lion conservation workbook, "Your Environment with Lions." Through this partnership, 300 additional students will benefit from access to our educational materials.



Course participants at Noloholo

We are also pleased to announce a new relationship with the US Peace Corps. Two third-year volunteers will join the APW team this year. Having lived in Tanzania for the last two years and now fluent in Swahili, they are well poised to make significant contributions to our programs. 🐾



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Connect to Protect ~ Email us at INFO@AFRPW.ORG!



“Our mission is to conserve Africa’s wildlife, to protect their habitats and to promote village development through innovative, multidisciplinary strategies that emphasize coexistence with the natural world.”

Introducing the Maasai Steppe Cheetah Conservation Initiative

Outside national parks and in village lands, cheetahs are wary and difficult to see. So, we were lucky to find and photograph two male cheetahs near Noloholo not long ago.

In fact, the Maasai Steppe is home to a resident population of wild cheetahs that the world knows little about. We aim to change that with our

new cheetah conservation initiative, launched in March.

What we do know is that the Maasai Steppe is a critical area for cheetah conservation action. Of four locations in Tanzania containing significant cheetah populations, the Steppe contains the largest percentage of unprotected cheetah habitat.

Our program will address the conservation of this incredible, yet highly threatened cat by supporting local village game scout teams to patrol village habitats, to protect the cheetah’s wild prey and to reduce cheetah-livestock conflict while increasing local knowledge about the world’s fastest cat. 🐾

Donate Today to the “Leitner Challenge” for the Noloholo Environmental Center Campaign!

We depend on people like you to help support our programs. Please make a tax-deductible donation today and become part of our efforts to conserve Africa’s wildlife and help its people.

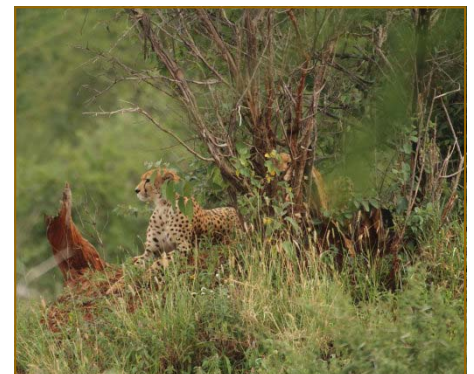
\$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$_____

Please send your name, address and tax-deductible donation to:

African People & Wildlife Fund, Box 624, Bernardsville NJ 07924

THANK YOU!!!

Two cheetahs photographed near the Noloholo center. Look for the second cheetah peering out behind the tree!



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