



The Carnivore Chronicle

A Newsletter of the African People & Wildlife Fund

Announcements

- **APW Launches its 2008 Annual Fund Campaign! We really need your help to raise crucial funds for our conservation programs and the green design of our new environmental center. Please consider making a donation. Thank you!**
- **APW has a new website at WWW.AFRPW.ORG. We hope you find the time to take a look and let us know what you think! Send us an email at info@afrpw.org!**
- **APW's conservation education program continues to grow. In July, we expanded to the Kangala Primary School — 50 conservation workbooks and 25 atlases were distributed.**



WWW.AFRPW.ORG

The African People & Wildlife Fund, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was founded in 2001 to help Africa's people and wildlife coexist through conservation, research, development and education programs.

The African People & Wildlife Fund — PPF Gets a New Name!

After much deliberation on the part of our board of directors, I am pleased to announce that we have changed our name to the African People & Wildlife Fund (APW)!

We believe this new name proudly reflects both our expanded mission — the long-term conservation of wildlife species (not only lions) through participatory, village-based efforts — as well as our steadfast commitment to the people and wildlife of Africa.

In the months since our last newsletter, we have revisited our strategies, programs and projects with several important questions in mind: 1) What are the key components of a successful village-based conservation program, 2) How can APW most effectively build the capacity of local villagers to

engage in environmental conservation, and 3) How can we best share our lessons learned and on-the-ground experience with a wider network of communities and organizations working toward similar goals?

Answers to these questions can be viewed on our new website (WWW.AFRPW.ORG) where you will find new strategies, for example “Empowering Local People” and new programs like “Villages for Conservation” and “APW Partner Services.”

And, throughout this process, we have also thought a lot about you! Our website has important new features designed to keep you better informed of our progress — visit “Recent Activities” and the “Projects” page to see what we are working on now and what our plans are for



APW thanks Design Squared of Bernardsville for donating their time and efforts to revise our logo!

2009. And, with our new “How Can I Help” boxes, we hope to keep you more aware of our needs while also creating a direct linkage between your support and the people and wildlife we work with. We hope you enjoy the new site!



Laly Lichtenfeld, Ph.D.
APW Executive Director

APW NEWS

A recent highlight was our national park study tour for sixth grade students of the Loibor Siret Primary School. Read more about the students' first trip to Tarangire on page 3!

In southern Tanzania, 15 village game scouts completed ranger training in July. And, the six villages we are working with in the region created a joint community-based organization to govern




This living wall's fence posts (*Commiphora sp.*) will soon re-sprout.

their future wildlife conservation concession.

In September, APW

formalized its partnership with AWELY to address human-wildlife conflict. As a first step together, a demonstration boma for the prevention of lion, leopard and hyena attacks on livestock was constructed. See the Living Walls project page of our new website!

Finally, Yale intern, Caitlin Bray, worked with APW to shoot new material for an APW DVD — available soon! 

Spring in the States – Wine and Chocolate Inspiration

Laly and Charles arrived in the states just in time for an APW benefit (then PPF) hosted by Susan and Arthur Babson on May 1st.

Held at the Park Avenue Club in Florham Park, this unique event included a seated wine and chocolate tasting. With Tad Van Leer of J. Emmanuel Chocolatier in Chester, NJ and Henry Nunez of Wine Country in North Plainfield, NJ sharing the helm, guests were invited to try the delicious sweets along with wines, carefully selected for their complementary flavor.

Afterwards, the silent auction got

lively as guests bid on an array of fine items and experiences, including a climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro. We would like to thank all those individuals and companies who donated items to the silent auction. All told, the event raised over \$17,000 for APW's field programs!

APW would also like to thank our volunteers, Ronit Kobrinski and Ramona Van Steinburg, for their help at the event. And, we are very grateful for Lindsey Scharf, who skillfully devised and delivered the event, and



Susan and Arthur Babson

Susan and Arthur Babson for hosting the evening. Thank you so much!

Additional Spring events included a GIS training course for Charles in Missoula, Montana with Rankin Holmes and facilitated by Dr. Seth Wilson and the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative as well as meetings with APW supporters in CO, CT, NJ, MA and WY. 🐾



Lindsey Scharf, event organizer, stands before the silent auction display

Noloholo Environmental Center – Building and Campaign Update



APW's green construction of the Noloholo Environmental Center has made important headway in the last months. Our educational facility, shown above, has moved forward at a rapid pace, with roofing on schedule to be completed by the end of December.

Meanwhile, our visitors' residence is nearly ready – shade netting is being installed in the windows, the roof is receiving its final layer of mud and manure by our team of Maasai ladies, and a 30,000 liter cistern for rainwater collection has been dug nearby. The uniquely shaped roof, which turns up at the ends, will funnel water to the

cistern – with testing awaiting onset of the much anticipated long rains in March.

We are also very pleased to announce (just as this newsletter was going to press), the Wildlife Conservation Network's Solar project, led by Mr. Stephen Gold, pledged support for our center. According to Mr. Gold, "the entire facility will be powered by solar electric modules donated by BP Solar, with an inverter donated from Outback Power Systems. In keeping with the LEED program, lighting will be either LEDs or a new generation of compact fluorescent." We are thrilled



Roofing projects for APW's educational facility and visitors' residence are underway. The design for our unique "adobe roof" (above) is modified from traditional Maasai walls.

to have been selected as beneficiaries of this very significant donation to our green design!

In fact, APW would like to thank all of you who responded to our special Noloholo Environmental Center Building Campaign – your help means so much to our efforts! While we still have significant funds to raise, we are well on our way to seeing the center functional in 2009! Thank you! 🐾

For those interested in giving opportunities, including naming rights to buildings receiving 100% support, please contact us at info@afprw.org. For earmarked donations to the center, please specify Noloholo.

First Ever National Park Visit for Students – Joel Mmari, APW Conservation Education Officer

In August, with support from the Sea World & Busch Garden Conservation Fund and the Tanzania National Parks Authority, APW facilitated, organized and funded 155 children, teachers and village government officials to visit Tarangire National Park. Despite living only 5 miles from one of the park's southern gates, the trips on August 30th and 31st were the first ever field excursions to the park in the 36 years of the Loibor Siret Primary School.

Building upon lessons learned in APW's conservation workbook, "Mazingira Yako na Simba" or "Your Environment with Lions," the idea of the visit to the neighboring park was to

Students complete a worksheet activity with APW's conservation education officer.



bring various aspects of the booklet to life. With onsite lectures and worksheet activities scattered throughout the day, the children learned about the different ecology and biology of the park and the significance of the wetlands found inside the protected area in relation to their village's grassland and savannah woodland (which acts as a wildlife refuge during the wet season).

It was so amazing to see children showing up at school early in the morning around 5:30 am! Teachers remarked that they had never seen the children so excited or motivated, since it is often hard to get them to school on-time.

The field trips were very successful.



155 students, teachers and village officials visited the park on August 30th and 31st.

Participants were able to see a lion hunting oryx, cheetah hunting impala, and a leopard resting on a tree branch. They also saw many other wild animals, birds and the amazing baobab trees found in Tarangire National Park. It was a "lifetime adventure" for all! 🐾

Note: A similar version of this article appeared in the September 20-26th edition of the Arusha Times.

Zebras, Why the Stripes? – Rosalie Ballantine, APW Board Member

Driving through the bush around Noloholo, one often comes upon herds of Burchell's zebras (*Equus quagga burchelli*) leisurely grazing in the tall grasses. Their striped coats are always remarkable and unexpected – where do these jailbirds come from?

I have always wondered whether their stripes are black or white? White. According to zoologists, their coats are dark with white stripes, sometimes with brownish shadow stripes in between. The stripes run in different directions: vertically on the head, neck, forequarters and front part of the body and horizontally on the legs and rear. Head-on, they make attractive, successive diamond shapes. And, talk about design consistency: the vertical



stripes on the forequarters continue straight up into the fringed mane. Wow.

It's amazing to realize that each and every zebra has its own unique pattern of stripes. Like fingerprints, researchers are compiling digital databases of zebra "rears" to identify them individually. Not only do the number and width of stripes vary, but the pattern may even differ on opposite sides of the same animal. When you look at a group of zebras with this in mind, it's obvious that no two match. Scientists believe that these patterns also help zebras identify one another.

So, why the stripes? Nature usually seems to have a purpose, but what could be the reason for such blatant striping? The word, believe it or not, is camouflage – protection from predators. Seen **(continued on page 4)**



“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.”

African People & Wildlife Fund

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Connect to Protect!

Zebras, Why the Stripes? – Continued from Page 3

from a distance, zebras grazing in tall grasses in shimmering heat may seem to merge and their stripes to blur. At hunting time, usually dawn and dusk, the zebra’s main predators, lions and hyenas, may be confused by such a distorted image of merging wavy lines. It would be hard to select a single prey or weaker member of the herd. This effect would be heightened for lions, apparently color blind.

Upon attack, such “disruptive coloration” would be magnified. Confronted by a mass of blending black and white lines scattering in all directions, the lion would find it difficult to quickly pick a target –

to distinguish in a matter of seconds the body outline of one zebra and then track it visually. So, through distortion and confusion, a zebra’s stripes may actually help to protect it.

Ready to ride! This Serengeti zebra has a unique, saddle-like pattern on its back.



Other theories are that the zebra’s striped coat discourages tsetse flies in search of large, dark moving animals to attack. The stripes may also help the zebra withstand heat and solar radiation.

There is an African legend which explains how zebras acquired their distinctive coats. A large territorial baboon got into a fight with a zebra at a watering hole. Kicking with his powerful rear hooves, the zebra sent the baboon flying – but lost his balance and fell backwards onto the baboon’s fire. The blazing, black sticks branded him forever. And the baboon? He landed on a rock which left him with a large, red bald patch on his rear end! 🐾

Donate Today and Contribute to APW’s 2008 Annual Fund 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!!!

WE ENJOY HEARING FROM YOU!

- Do you have a question you would like answered in our newsletter?
- Would you like your information updated or to be added to our mailing list?
- Would you like to specify whether you receive our newsletter by email or mail?
- Do you have a suggestion for us or would you like to get more involved with APW?

Please Contact Us!

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