

Africa Undaunted | 2020





Letter From Our Director | Matt Brown



It was late January when my plane lifted off from Nairobi, the Kenyan landscape receding below, red earth still clinging to my boots. It had been an inspiring trip, full of wildlife sightings, sweeping sunsets—and stories of conservation success. I had no idea the world was about to change.

Just weeks later, people across the planet were donning masks, hunkering down, and trying to stay safe.

In Africa, the effects of the pandemic were swift. Tourism vanished, poaching increased, scarce resources became scarcer—and years of progress were suddenly at risk.

Thanks to TNC supporters who gave generously to a new crisis fund (see p. 4), help came quickly—saving jobs and protecting wildlife. Now, as we plan for recovery, we are redoubling our efforts on sustainable funding for conservation.

From the very beginning, our work in Africa has been driven by the continent’s resilient spirit, which we celebrated in 2017’s annual review, themed “Africa rising,” with a gorgeous lion on the cover. We felt this year’s report, “Africa Undaunted,” deserved another lion—a reminder of the courage demanded of us during these unprecedented times.

Whenever I feel disheartened, it’s the stories that give me hope. Like the story this May of an elephant calf, drowning in a swirling river, and the rangers who braved the currents, in the dark of night, to save him. Or the story of a giant bull elephant hauled, just in time, from a pit of suffocating mud—by rangers who were on the job thanks to you.

Those rangers never gave up. And neither will we. We’re in this together with our partners, supporters, and local communities. Muddy, perhaps. A bit bruised and battered. **But the spirit of Africa endures—undaunted.**

To receive quarterly updates from Matt, email: africa@tnc.org.



“The pandemic is an opportunity to reset conservation. We need to look beyond foreign tourists and accelerate an ecosystem where all people have equal access to and benefit from nature—**communities reconnecting deeply with nature to be guardians of its sustainability.** Their lives and livelihoods thriving with clean water, healthy soils, and wildlife-based incomes. Tourism, water funds, and carbon offsets built for Africa with Africans at the center.”



—EDWIN MACHARIA, TNC Board of Directors and Africa Council

Our thoughts are with the families of all those in the conservation community who have lost their lives to COVID-19 this year.

These are your stories of hope.

These achievements would not be possible without our partners, community leaders, the Africa Council, and supporters like you.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

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PHOTOS | Cover: Doa, a lion in Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya. Generously shared by photographer Anita Ross. Above: Maasai woman in northern Tanzania © Roshni Lodhia.

PLACE + STRATEGY



In indigenous and communal lands, we ally with local people to improve their lives and give wildlife room to thrive. We work with local partners to strengthen community resource rights, governance, and livelihoods, and to secure at-risk species. We also work top-down to reduce development impacts on remaining vast wild places.

Unsustainable land uses impact the quality and quantity of water on which people and nature depend. We are fostering replication of public-private partnerships that invest to protect source waters and the landscapes that replenish them. We bring financial expertise and rigorous science to guide conservation action.

Conflict among competing uses, such as artisanal and commercial fishing and oil extraction, is depleting fisheries and destroying habitats in the Western Indian Ocean. We are working at a massive scale on all fronts by blending science, multi-stakeholder negotiations, government relations, and innovative financing.



CLIMATE | Nature has the potential to deliver around one-third of the solution needed to keep temperature increases below 2 degrees Celsius in the next 10 years. In Africa, which has the world's highest rate of deforestation, protecting forests is among the most cost-effective natural defenses against climate change. We are bringing science-based solutions to incentivize reforestation and carbon storage, including carbon offset enterprises, and fostering development of renewable, low-carbon energy.



AGRICULTURE | Conversion of habitat to cropland is the largest single threat to wildlife in Africa. We work with companies and farmers to sustainably increase yields, improve soil health, and minimize harm to freshwater resources.

FISHERIES | We are working with communities, industry, and governments to reduce destructive practices, improve monitoring, expand community-based resource management, and create market incentives that reward sustainable fishing.



WOMEN & GIRLS | Improving the lives of women in rural Africa has a ripple effect that benefits whole communities and surrounding landscapes. We are working to provide women and girls better health care, access to education, and expanded leadership and livelihood opportunities.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE | Conservation requires capital. To do more, we must tap into bigger, more diverse, and more consistent financing options to supplement private philanthropy and public funding. We are also creating revenue streams that sustain local stewardship of natural resources to increase the durability of conservation gains, from supporting micro-businesses for women to creating national-scale trust funds.

PHOTOS | Left to Right: Giraffe in Tarangire National Park, Tanzania © slowmotiongli / Shutterstock; Chania Falls, Kenya © Roshni Lodhia; Seychelles © Mariia Kamenska / Shutterstock.



WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Your support is helping to keep 728 rangers employed and to provide frontline protection in critical landscapes in all four countries. Along with deterring poachers, rangers reduce human-wildlife conflict and prevent retaliatory killing of elephants, lion, zebra, and others that run afoul of farmers and pastoralists.

CONSERVATION-BASED LIVELIHOODS

The Crisis Fund is supporting other conservation-based jobs, too—jobs that might otherwise have been lost. For example, essential staff are still at work in private and community conservancies in northern Kenya, including Loisaba, a 56,000-acre property that TNC helped protect from development.

ORGANIZATIONAL STABILITY

The fund is also helping local partners to bridge huge operational deficits and maintain core activities as we work to safeguard roughly 20 million acres. Together, we are weathering the storm and more committed than ever to building a sustainable Africa.



“Before Randilen was established, this was a very degraded landscape with poaching pressure, charcoal kilns all over, huge cattle herds belonging to faraway rich people, and more agriculture than the land could sustain. Crop raiding and retaliatory killing of elephants was frequent. **This will all come back if we turn our backs to the Randilen community’s calls for help.**”

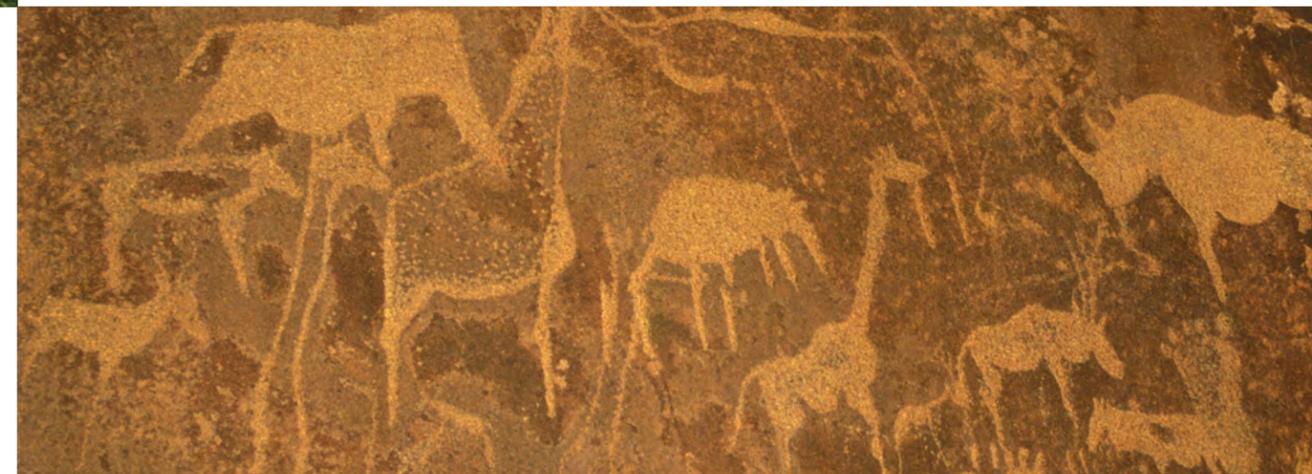
—SAM SHABA, Programs Manager, Honeyguide, Tanzania

Indigenous Lands | A Global Crisis Reaches the Wild

Simson Uri-Khob and our partners at Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) in Namibia have devoted their lives to protecting the endangered black rhino—keeping watch for poachers, navigating tough terrain, and caring for orphaned calves.

When the pandemic hit, stories of increased poaching, driven by economic hardship and decreased security, were being reported across Africa—including the crushing loss of two black rhinos in Namibia’s Kunene region, the first in almost three years in the 25,000-square-kilometer landscape protected by SRT and community rangers.

TNC quickly created the Wildlife Conservancies Crisis Fund to keep rangers on the ground and prevent more than a decade of progress being lost overnight. **Our supporters stepped up immediately, providing more than \$2.5 million** that was deployed to where it could do the most good for people and wildlife in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, and Namibia.



PHOTOS | Left: The Crisis Fund paid the salary of Randilen’s 26 wildlife scouts, who reported no poaching through September © Roshni Lodhia. Above: Twyfelfontein rock engravings, Kunene region, Namibia © Africa Photobank / Alamy Stock Photo.

Indigenous Lands | Living With Wildlife

Space for nature is a finite resource. Its disappearance threatens wildlife and indigenous people across Africa. We are working alongside the pastoralist communities who share Africa's natural spaces with wildlife to find and maintain a balance that works for everyone in a changing world—focusing on reducing human-wildlife conflict and supporting grassroots stewardship of at-risk species.

KENYA | NEW HOMES FOR KEY SPECIES

An inspiring example of community-led threatened species stewardship lies in Sera Community Conservancy. It hosts the first community-owned black rhino sanctuary in East Africa, leveraging the increased protection measures demanded by this critically endangered species to improve security for local communities, too.

This year, the rhino population reached 17 when Napanu, who was moved from Lewa Conservancy in 2015, gave birth to her first calf.

Based on this success, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) partnered with TNC and others to move 25 Grevy's zebra to Sera—the first relocation of this species to a community area in Kenya.

This endangered zebra has seen one of the most substantial range reductions of any African mammal. What space it has left is largely community land, and supporting indigenous leadership of its conservation is paramount to its survival.

ZAMBIA | FIRE MODEL BECOMES POLICY

In Zambia's Kafue National Park, hotter dry seasons means that fires—often started by poachers moving around at night—burn fiercer and more often, debilitating regeneration of miombo woodlands.

For eight years, TNC has supported controlled burns earlier in the year to stop the buildup of dry grass that fuels fires later and leaves wildlife struggling to find food. Now Zambia's government has validated this model, integrating it into an official five-year fire strategy for the park.

TANZANIA | GRAZING PLANS BENEFIT ALL

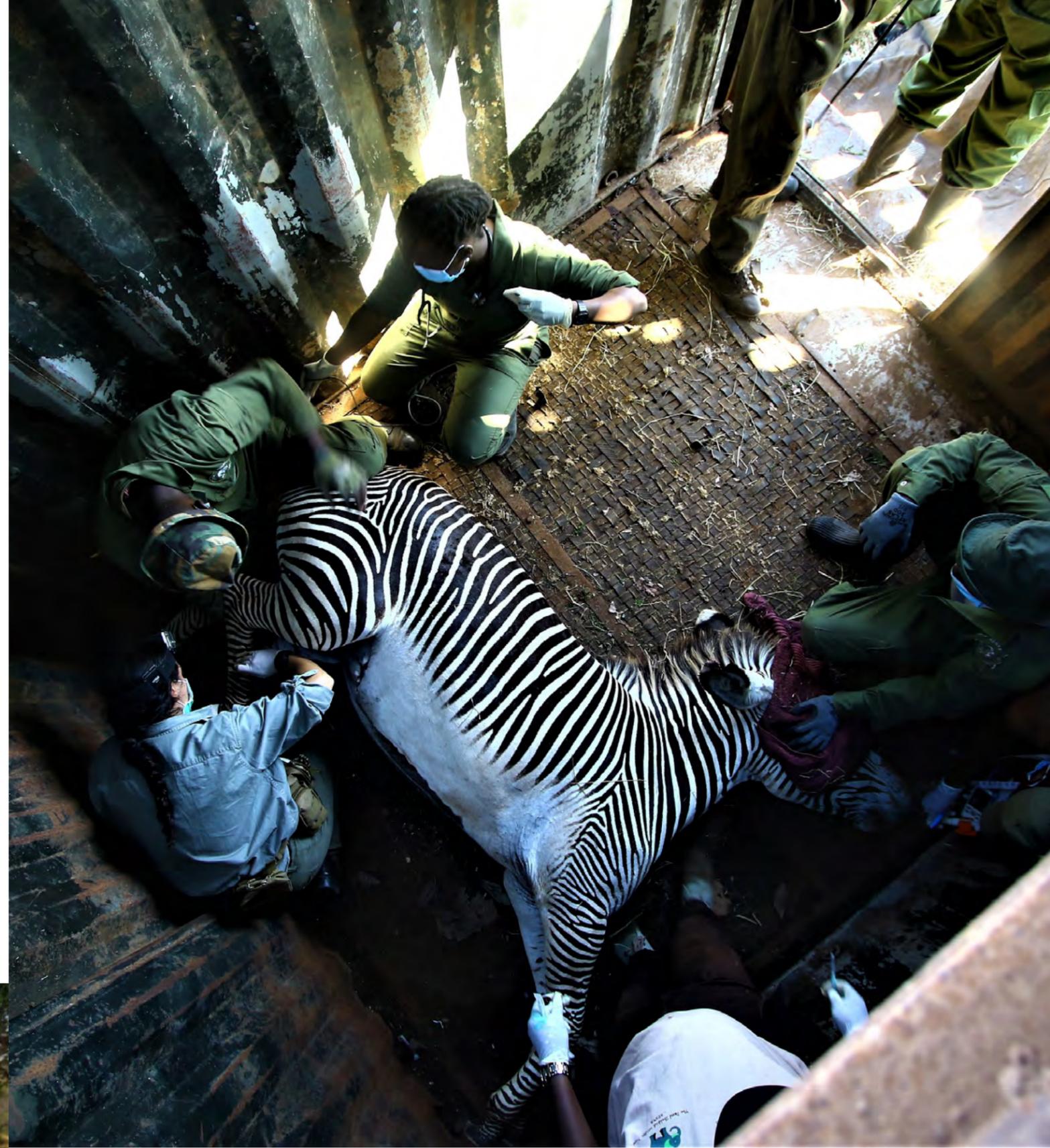
In the 8.7-million-acre savanna of northern Tanzania, 80 percent of the wildlife range is on communally owned lands. TNC and our partners in the Northern Tanzania Rangelands Initiative (NTRI) are working with pastoralist communities **to keep three essential migration pathways from Tarangire National Park open** so that vast herds of wildebeest, zebra, and other wildlife can move to seasonal breeding and grazing grounds to survive.

This year, TNC helped 11 communities in these corridors implement science-based grazing plans to ensure enough grass for their livestock as well as wildlife, especially during the dry season.

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Loisaba Conservancy assisted the community after some cattle were stolen by unknown rustlers. They followed the stolen cattle by plane and were able to locate and recover them. The community sends their joy for this kind of help, and **this is how neighbors should be treating each other always.**”

—LEKIMAIN DENIS, local pastoralist, via Facebook. TNC helped secure Loisaba in 2015, and this year provided emergency support through the Crisis Fund.



PHOTOS | Left: A father and son in northern Tanzania © Roshni Lodhia. Above: Kenya Wildlife Service vets monitor a sedated Grevy's zebra to ensure a safe transit to Sera Community Conservancy © Duncan Ndotono.



The Future of Conservation Is Female

Empowered women can lead us to a better future by bringing new perspectives and transforming the landscape. **Our vision is better health and education and improved leadership opportunities and livelihoods** that will support them and their commitment to a sustainable Africa.

KENYA | MAKING PEACE AND PROGRESS

Outside the thatched-roof cultural center, figures in splashes of color began appearing against the backdrop of a dusty, orange landscape: flame red, ocean blue, and canary yellow. The women filed in and excitedly greeted one another before Habiba Tadicha flashed her wide smile and called the women’s savings and credit cooperative (SACCO) meeting to order.

The Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy spreads across 900,000 acres in Kenya’s Isiolo County and is an important dispersal area for wildlife such as rare gerenuk. Conflict has plagued this area for years—and its drivers are complex and deep-rooted.

But Habiba, who became the first female leader of a Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)-member conservancy and served the maximum two terms as board chair of Biliqo Bulesa from 2014 to 2019, wanted to change her community’s future.

For example, she worked to stop conflicts before they started. “I knew that in addition to bringing young men together for peace meetings, we needed to offer them other ways to support themselves,” Habiba said.

“I believe that when you have something to lose, you are more likely to see the value of peace.”

So Habiba led the board and community through the process of seeking grants from NRT’s Conservancy Livelihood Fund, to which TNC contributes. They now benefit from a microloan program, education bursaries, and support for their livestock market.

But most notably, **Habiba is also using her platform to lift up other women:** Two women now serve as community rangers; she encourages women to speak up at community meetings; and 108 women have received \$250 loans from the women’s SACCO, a life-changing opportunity from their peers to engage in income-generating enterprises.

TANZANIA | KEEPING GIRLS IN SCHOOL

Did a safe, close-by dormitory built with funding from TNC supporters change the future outlook for girls who lived there? The initial results appear to be yes.

Of the 149 female Lagosa Secondary School students not living in the dorm, who often faced challenges such as long and unsafe walks to school and a lack of food and electricity at home, the dropout rate last year was 29 percent. Meanwhile, all 73 girls who utilized the dorm stayed in school.

The Tuungane Project, a partnership with Pathfinder International with support from local government and other groups, is addressing the interconnected challenges of population, health, and environment.

PHOTO | Habiba Tadicha © Roshni Lodhia.

Empower women. Protect nature. Build a better world.

Jim and Mary Anne (M.A.) Rogers shared a vision of a better world. And they knew that supporting women is perhaps the single most powerful force for good when it comes to conservation progress. The Jim and M.A. Rogers Matching Gift Fund for Women and Nature in Africa offers a 1:1 match for gifts of \$5,000 to \$100,000. “Jim loved inspiring others to give,” says M.A., who established the fund to honor his memory—and to encourage people like you to join in their vision.

The power of giving—together. To double your impact for women and girls, contact Cori Messenger at cmessenger@tnc.org.

Land + Water + Climate | **The Big Wild**

Close your eyes. Imagine yourself looking at the deep emerald greens of a tropical forest. Inhale the smell of soil and trees. Feel the weight of the humid air on your skin. Now listen.

What can these noises tell us? In Gabon, we are working with research partners to listen to the sounds of the forest. By comparing “soundscapes” of areas where new Reduced Impact Logging for Carbon (RIL-C) forestry practices are implemented with areas where they are not, we will be able to measure the impact of this work on the animals that live there.

Better management of working forests with RIL-C practices, such as reducing the width of forest roads or cutting trees in a specific direction, will be critical in reducing global carbon emissions—providing up to 15 percent of reductions from natural climate solutions.

This kind of innovative science will help minimize development impact on **two of the last massive, intact landscapes on Earth**: Gabon, which has thousands of miles of free-flowing rivers and carbon-rich forests, and Botswana’s Okavango Delta, which attracts one of Africa’s greatest concentrations of wildlife each year when it transforms into a desert oasis.



GABON | Hydropower will help Gabon reach its lower-carbon energy goals but, if done haphazardly, it could drastically change water quality, disrupt aquatic ecosystems, increase sedimentation, and decimate fish populations.

To avoid this, the government asked that TNC expand a regional hydropower optimization tool that lets decision-makers see how different power plants would affect everything from flooding of high-biodiversity forests to greenhouse gas emissions and balance those impacts with energy outputs and costs.

And now its reach is expanding even further: TNC is teaching a group of scientists led by University of California, Santa Barbara how to use this tool to facilitate **lower-impact renewable energy planning for 12 countries** in Southern Africa.

OKAVANGO | TNC has assembled a team of 10 scientists from the University of Cape Town, Texas A&M, and other partners to use remote sensing and computer models to understand how different water uses, such as for agriculture, hydropower, or forestry, could impact the freshwater system.

This knowledge will help leaders and resource users to **prevent a permanent alteration of water flow from Angola to Botswana’s Okavango Delta** while meeting the needs of the local population.

And in Angola, we convened the first-ever nationwide meeting of non-governmental organizations to explore opportunities for community-led conservation, capitalizing on lessons learned from Namibia, Kenya, and Tanzania.

PHOTOS | Left: Gorilla in Gabon © Michal Jirous / Shutterstock. Above: Elephants in a tropical forest and bai, a natural wetland opening, in Gabon © George Vlad / Getty Images.



REGIONAL | TRUST FUNDS FOR CONSERVATION

TNC has world-leading expertise in developing sophisticated financial mechanisms that tap the value of nature—providing water, livelihoods, and more—to attract millions of dollars in new investments from the public and private sector, put them in trusts, and spin off earnings for conservation.

This year we helped establish the Cubango-Okavango River Basin Fund (CORB; see p. 11), which will enable the tourism industry—and others in the public and private sectors—to invest in protecting waters that flow from Angola to give life to the Okavango Delta.

KENYA | INCENTIVES FOR PLANTING TREES

A pilot project with the Kenya Union of Savings and Credit Cooperatives gives farmers access to low-interest loans and quality seedlings to plant trees on otherwise fallow land. Farmers can use 40 percent of the loan value to grow fast-maturing crops for income. The potential: 10 million new trees planted.

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“With the debt for nature deal, we have a recurring fund, enabling us to continue **financing conservation efforts even when other sources of income for conservation are at risk.**”

—ANGELIQUE POUPONNEAU, CEO of SeyCCAT, the trust established through the TNC-led debt conversion, which paved the way for Seychelles to protect 30 percent of its marine waters (see p. 20) and to use the interest savings to fund conservation.

Rethinking Conservation Finance

How do we ensure that the conservation gains we make will last into the future? The COVID-19 crisis has starkly highlighted the need to reduce reliance on tourism and private philanthropy, and drive **more diverse—and self-sustaining—sources of funding.**

Our decades in innovative, entrepreneurial conservation has often been the critical, behind-the-scenes work: building the business skills of community leaders and local partners; strengthening business-based conservation approaches; creating public-private partnerships; and even brokering first-of-its-kind intergovernmental agreements that will generate millions of dollars for conservation.

PHOTOS | Above: TNC has helped expand the distribution of handiworks from NRT-Trading BeadWORKS artisans like these women to 60 new global markets © Roshni Lodhia. Right: An aerial view of the Okavango Delta, Botswana © Suzuki Kaku / Alamy Stock.





KENYA | SOIL CARBON MAKES ITS DEBUT

Developing carbon offset products requires rigorous science to measure, verify, and monitor emissions reductions. TNC led the project verification process for a soil carbon program—the world’s largest—with our close partner Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and Native Energy.

This work will secure about **1 million metric tons of carbon every year** stored in soil on nearly 5 million acres of land across 14 NRT member-conservancies.

TANZANIA | FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

People in eight villages in the Ntakata Mountains of western Tanzania, part of our Tuungane Project with Pathfinder International, have earned their success.

For many years, they have worked with TNC—with crucial funding from the Arcus Foundation—to designate community forest reserves, train village game scouts, and monitor their forests, which are home to 90 percent of Tanzania’s endangered chimpanzees.

To sustain the progress made here, we worked with a private enterprise, Carbon Tanzania, to conduct the initial research to develop a carbon offset program. The company developed and marketed the offsets and, in January, made a first prepayment of \$28,000 to the villages.

In a clear signal of commitment to conservation, village leaders will use funds to pay their forest scouts. They plan to also use the next, much-larger payment to improve schools and invest in health services.

In northern Tanzania, the company made a first payment of \$26,000 to five communities that are conserving 257,000 acres in Makame Wildlife Management Area.

This dryland forest is a **movement corridor for elephants and habitat for endangered species like wild dogs and pangolin**, making it a priority in the 8.7 million-acre Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem, where TNC works with nine partners, including Carbon Tanzania, through the Northern Tanzania Rangelands Initiative (NTRI).

PHOTOS | Left: Elephants in Tarangire National Park © Tim van der Linden.
Below: Girls in Lugonesi Village, Ntakata Mountains © Roshni Lodhia.

Climate | **Community Carbon**

Carbon offset markets present new opportunities for sustainable funding for nature and local communities that are locking up carbon through verified conservation. Around the world, TNC is working on all angles to accelerate carbon markets, from building demand to establishing the scientific evidence base, to creating and influencing the “rules of the road.”

There is no more important place to do this than in Africa, the continent with the world’s highest rate of deforestation and where investments in nature can go far.

So in forests and grasslands where TNC has already helped put strong conservation in place, we are tapping our global network of experts and mobilizing resources to foster new carbon enterprises that protect important habitats, improve livelihoods for local communities, and contribute to global climate mitigation.



Freshwater | Water Funds for People and Nature

We are drawing on TNC’s world-leading expertise in conservation finance and nature-based solutions to create public-private partnerships that generate sustainable funding for conserving the source of our water: nature.

ELDORET-ITEN WATER FUND

At a nearly 7,000-foot elevation, Eldoret is known as the “city of champions” in Kenya, and runners come from around the world to train. But three nearby forests produce more than just elite marathoners—they provide the region’s drinking water.

They are also a biodiversity hotspot, home to birds like the African crowned eagle and Hartlaub’s turaco, and the mountain bongo antelope.

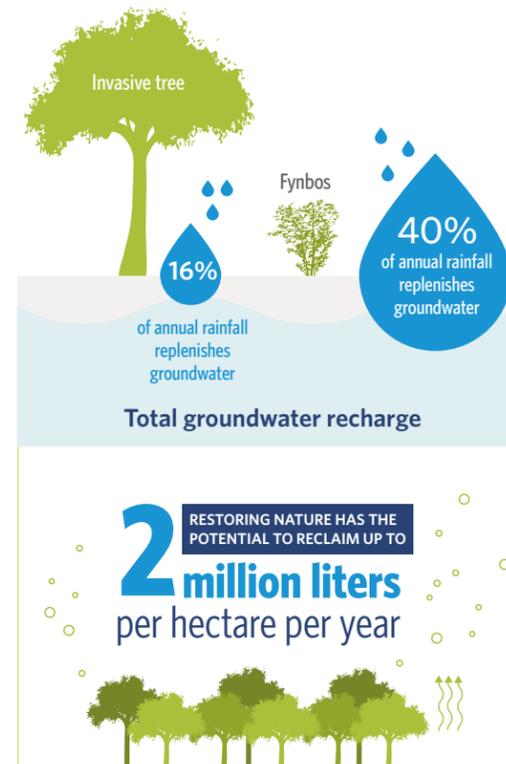
The new Eldoret-Iten Water Fund, our second water fund in Kenya and modeled closely after the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund, will focus on reforestation of three watersheds, alternative livelihood creation for farmers, and wetland restoration.

UPPER TANA-NAIROBI WATER FUND

We established the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund—the first in Africa—in 2015, and after achieving significant progress over the last five years, it is now an independent Kenya Charitable Trust with a local leadership board of trustees. **It is on course to capitalize an endowment fund to sustain clean water benefits for 9 million people** and protect nature for years to come.

What the science tells us

Thirsty invaders vs. water-wise fynbos



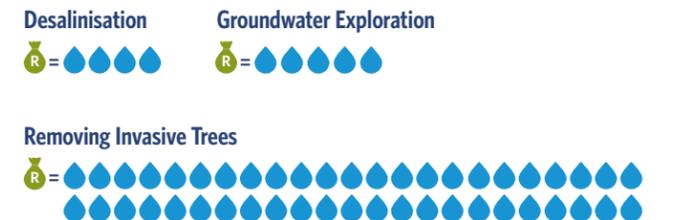
GREATER CAPE TOWN WATER FUND

A new TNC-led study in the Atlantis Aquifer, an area west of Cape Town, looked at water losses from invasive trees versus the native fynbos vegetation.

The conclusion: Removing the water-thirsty invasives could make 830,000 to 2 million liters of water per hectare available every year.

TNC is also applying science to determine where controlling invasive plants is needed most for the biggest impact on surface water, such as in remote, mountainous areas (see next page).

Cost vs. Groundwater Gains Ratio



Freshwater | Africa’s Great Lakes

The African Great Lakes contain **about 25 percent of the world’s unfrozen surface fresh water and are a critical resource for millions of people in 11 countries.** But until recently, there was no single platform to coordinate the organizations working to protect them.

TNC played a major convening role for the African Great Lakes Conference—which resulted in a new information-sharing platform—and facilitated grants to projects that are advancing conservation across the basin.

One such grant was for the development of an electronic fish catch assessment system that was piloted on lakes Victoria and Tanganyika. The new system has transformed data collection and analysis of fisheries management in Tanzania and is designed to be scaled up to the other lakes in the system.

PHOTO | National Museums of Kenya scientist Gilbert Kosgei (left) and TNC Water Fund Manager Anthony Kariuki document macroinvertebrate species in Kenya’s Tana River watershed © Roshni Lodhia.

Freshwater | Reaching New Heights in South Africa

PHOTOS AND STORY BY ROSHNI LODHIA



Here's how the expedition started. We were flown in a bright-yellow chopper to the Boland Mountains on the outskirts of Cape Town. Abseiling gear: Check. Food supply: Check. The campsite was surveyed, and coordinates were jotted.

“Safety first. You're in the mountains where the weather can change within moments,” projected Ivan Groenhof, team mentor, over the wind.

I, the photographer, would be documenting the work of a team hired and trained by TNC through the Greater Cape Town Water Fund to scale the high cliffs to cut down water-thirsty invasive pine trees.

My first night on the mountain, it dropped to below freezing. The warmest place was the kitchen tent, so we all gathered in to commiserate. Zuko and Afro were quickly named the jokesters of the group. Nelly was nurturing, and Ayabonga had the loudest laugh.

We talked about African politics, cricket, and music. Zuko asked me to play a Bollywood song, but the cold was draining my phone battery so I refused.



This is one of the most botanically diverse areas on Earth. The Cape Floral Region contains more than 20 percent of Africa's plant life.

Invasive pines can outcompete the native fynbos plants and, as their seeds get blown by the wind, they can easily start growing in remote areas like the Boland Mountains. Much of the Greater Cape Town watershed is infested with invasive pine trees that soak up over 54 billion liters of water a year, preventing drainage into the water supply for Cape Town's 4 million residents, neighboring municipalities, and agriculture.



The days on the mountain were long and strenuous. The team would carry their gear, which included 100 meters of excess rope, to the removal site. I am not a trained abseiler, so to capture the team rappelling down, I decided to position myself on the edge of the cliff by the trees where the team anchored their ropes.

The technicians would then maneuver themselves next to a tree and use a hand-held saw to slowly cut it at its base until it could be laid against the cliffside.

It was before 6:30 a.m. on the third day when we heard the unmistakable hovering of the helicopter in the distance. I stuck my head outside the tent just in time to see Ivan jump out yelling: “We gotta pack up, folks. We are taking you down the mountain this morning!” We were being evacuated ahead of a severe storm. The expedition had come to an abrupt halt.

A few weeks later, sitting by my computer in Pune, India, I received a photo of two king proteas—the national flower of South Africa—that had blossomed by the campsite. A note with the photo read: “We were here for two weeks straight. We miss you.”

It was from Zuko. I missed them back. The team had returned, and these removal projects by the Greater Cape Town Water Fund are already releasing 4.8 billion liters of water into the region every year and conserving unique fauna like this.

Looking at Zuko's flowers, I blasted a Bollywood song that I knew the team would have loved. I was grateful to have been part of this important work, if only for a few days.



Ocean | **Bright Blue Future**

Through a newly expanded marine program, we are building on our work with community conservancies in Kenya and the successful debt conversion in Seychelles to protect even more marine diversity and build blue economies in other African nations.

SEYCHELLES | Seychelles has achieved the final stage of its ambitious effort to secure 30 percent of its ocean territory, creating new protections for an area larger than Germany.

Another tangible impact: The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), created by TNC and Seychelles' government as part of the debt conversion, has already awarded grants to more than 30 projects.

These incredibly diverse initiatives range from species research, like **identifying the foraging areas of red-footed boobys and geotagging sicklefin lemon sharks**, to community-based initiatives, such as upcycling seaweed drifts for community garden compost and creating tools to educate secondary school students about their country's blue economy.

TANZANIA | A pilot program in Zanzibar will train seaweed farmers in more sustainable practices that can increase yields and provide co-benefits to the environment, including conservation of some of the continent's highest-priority marine habitats.

SEYCHELLES | Seychelles will become the second island nation to implement electronic monitoring on all industrial fishing vessels.

An ongoing TNC-supported pilot project is demonstrating the value of this technology and assisting with establishing protocols for data capture.

By using cameras to observe fish catch and having proper video audits, Seychelles can work to ensure the sustainability of its tuna fishery, and fishers can offer greater transparency to their consumers.



PHOTO | Red-footed booby and chick, Farquhar Atoll, Seychelles © Annabelle Cupidon / Island Conservation Society.

Would you like to see more photos?

Inspiring videos, beautiful photography, compelling stories—enjoy a virtual tour of Africa's wildlife, landscapes, and communities at nature.org/africaimpact.

The Path Forward | **A Call to Action**

"It's been a great privilege for me to work with TNC because **this organization gives brain and heart to addressing issues for nature and people**. Discussion on conservation often can be about how things are getting worse, but we have some enormous successes to celebrate. Over the last eight years, seeing the wins and how scalable the solutions can be has been a real joy.

Nature and climate are the two biggest issues of our time, and Africa is the absolute right place for tackling some of those issues. Repercussions from COVID-19 are now threatening all we've achieved.

For me, this pandemic has been a call to action. We all should be judged about what we do in hard times, and now is the hardest time many of us have ever seen. The time to act is now."

—JOHN BERNSTEIN, TNC Board of Directors and Chair of Africa Council

You've made great things happen. Thank you. To join us in further building on years of conservation progress, contact Cori Messinger at cmessinger@tnc.org.



PHOTO | Perus Salvatori sits in the new Lagosa Secondary School girls' dorm, Tanzania © Roshni Lodhia.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY | AFRICA IMPACT 2008-2020

ACRES UNDER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT



LAND

24,852,000



FRESHWATER

51,000



OCEAN

89,410,000



PARTNERS

147



PEOPLE BENEFITING

1,469,000