



# Friends of Wildlife Conservation

## Communities Habitat

### News Review

Issue 18 Spring 2005

## A new look for FOC

Have you noticed that we've changed? Not only have we updated the look of our Newsletter but we've also been busy on a new look for our website too, which is now up and running. Why not take a look? (see page 6 for more details).



[www.foc-uk.com](http://www.foc-uk.com)



Beautiful beaches await the visitor to Sri Lanka. Photo courtesy of Exodus Travels Ltd

### EDITORIAL

If you and your family are starving, then national parks and other protected areas are a luxury. Indeed, if the only people they seem to benefit are wealthy western visitors then they must appear to be a real imposition. Here is a large area of wild country alive with bush meat which rich people from abroad travel miles to visit simply to look at and photograph wildlife that could help to fill the bellies of your children. Yet woe betide you if you get caught doing a bit of hunting, grazing your animals or even collecting wood, in one of these parks. The parallels between the national parks in, say, Africa and the royal hunting forests of olde England are uncanny. Both designations indicated areas which were set aside for the conservation of the wildlife within their boundaries, both provide or provided enjoyment for the well-to-do and both imposed penalties (sometimes as severe as death in mediaeval England) for anyone caught hunting for food, often out of genuine need, within their bounds.

As conservationists, who are keen to see well-run parks looking after the often endangered species within them, we must always be sensitive to the needs and feelings of local people. Consequently we should offer our wholehearted support to the government's significant initiatives to get to grips in a real way with poverty in Africa. It is unacceptable that so many people on that continent are still suffering such deprivation in the 21st century when we have known for years of their plight. Dropping the Debt and the Commission for Africa, along with the popular movement to Make Poverty History, and increasing aid budgets throughout the western world should not only give food, health and education and, with them, dignity to the African people, but it will also assist with conservation by reducing pressure on national parks.

We can also help in our own way by continuing to enjoy wildlife holidays – but only if we can be sure that a significant proportion of the money we spend in the travel agents actually reaches the people on the ground in the countries we are visiting. If you do not know, ask, and if the person behind the counter does not know, take your business elsewhere. Foreign holidays are expensive items and you have a right to know that as much as possible of your pound is going to your destination country and not being creamed off in the UK.

Developing countries are becoming increasingly dependent on tourism as a major earner of foreign currency and for many it is among their top five industries, both as a producer for foreign exchange and as an employer of their people. But while tourism

can be a golden goose, it can also be a remarkably fickle one, at the whim of fashion, civil unrest (often hundreds of miles away in a neighbouring country) and chance natural events. The tsunami has brought this home to us, especially for countries, such as Thailand, where the coastal economy was so heavily dependent on tourism. They, and their neighbours, desperately need to rebuild that industry. One of the best places to visit this summer will be a country hit by the tsunami to help reinvigorate the many small, tourism-based businesses and raise the spirits of the people.

Michael Woods

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# FOC Project Update

## Kenya

In 2004, Richard Hartley joined FOC as Director in Kenya. We asked him how things were going...

*"The past year has seen considerable progress in our operations in the greater Mara. FOC has received funding for two major initiatives including the community scout programme. There is also considerable support for our ongoing commitment to environmental education. As a result, we are becoming much closer to the communities and Councils in the greater Mara area and we are confident that in the coming year significant advances will result from the foundations now in place.*

*Community based natural resource management for the conservation and rural development of East Africa faces a number of major constraints. Wildlife, forests, water resources, coral reefs and rangelands are highly threatened. Population pressure, poverty, the lack of clear policy and planning continue to erode both the value and future potential of vital natural assets that could and should produce worthwhile benefits for both local and national economies.*

*FOC's successful approach in the Masai Mara region is due to the fact that it is seen as a permanent conservation partner; a local institution that responds sensibly to local issues relating to wildlife conservation and natural resource management. FOC's expertise helps communities understand the importance of their environment and the resources on which they rely by promoting sustainable conservation based development."*

In our Spring 2004 Newsletter we highlighted a number of FOC Kenya's initiatives. We thought you might like an update on how they are progressing and news on some new initiatives.....

### Education

Our schools environmental education programme now covers forty school conservation clubs around the Mara. Through this we provide a broad environmental education curriculum, learning materials and support for a comprehensive range of student project activities. Our Public Education Officer

also manages a programme to inform the general public and tourists on responsible behaviour concerning the environment. Together with the EcoTourism Society of Kenya and with the enormous help of two professional British volunteer film makers, we have produced a short public information film on responsible tourism practices.

### Enterprise and Arts & Crafts Projects

Our Arts and Crafts Project, run in partnership with a local tourism operator, supports 110 Maasai women by providing assistance in sourcing materials, design, quality control and marketing assistance. The women involved in the project have earned £10,000 in the last 7 months and, depending on demand, the project will extend to new areas and involve more women in the coming year.

In addition, more than 200 bee hives, mostly owned by local women, are now colonised through our support to local producers.



### Energy

Innovations in appropriate cooking stove technology continue to reduce the pressure on ever scarcer forest resources. The mud stoves we introduce as an alternative to timber are becoming popular as they reduce, by 70%, the number of collecting trips and the amount of wood required for heating and traditional food preparation.



Seedlings being donated to community members

### Reforestation

FOC has been very much involved in reforestation and three of our Mara Centres have seed banks and tree nurseries that are easily accessible to local people. We grow and provide seedlings, training and ongoing support to those community members interested in promoting the protection and rehabilitation of Kenya's depleted forest areas. In the past year we have grown and distributed more than 140,000 tree seedlings.

### Graduate Volunteers

It is hard for many people to imagine what it is like to live on the knife edge of subsistence as most rural Africans do. The poverty and direct dependence on the environment is difficult to understand for those of us who are more fortunate. However, the simple fact is that the rapidly increasing population, poverty and poor governance have direct negative affects on wildlife and wild places.

At the same time there are large numbers of highly qualified young men and women leaving university, dedicated to their countries futures and filled with ambition but who cannot find work. FOC believes that this pool of expertise should be supported through a volunteer scheme and developed for both the benefit of conservation management and of rural people. We propose a scheme by which graduate volunteers are provided with or select a specific natural resource or community area in which to develop a sound conservation based activity. Sponsorship for these projects will be managed by FOC to provide transport, communications and living allowances for 18 months, or until the projects they identify reach stability.

# The Greater Masai Mara

## Community Scout Programme

Since June of last year, FOC and the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) have embarked on an initiative to empower Maasai communities throughout the greater Mara ecosystem to conserve and benefit from their natural resources. Their efforts, supported by the Government's Darwin Initiative and British Airways, aim to protect wildlife from bushmeat poaching and habitat clearance.

The programme has support from the Maasai because it is providing direct benefits through employment and empowers communities to be involved in wildlife and environmental management for tourism and other livelihood benefits.

Wildlife across the Mara is also benefiting from the team of 74 Maasai community scouts recruited by FOC and DICE. These scouts work in pairs, patrolling an area extending to some 3,500 sq km. In the northern and eastern group ranches scouts monitor the movements and status of all wildlife, with particular emphasis on recording rare and endangered species. Similar work is carried out in the group ranches of the western Mara and Trans Mara district, where wildlife is under

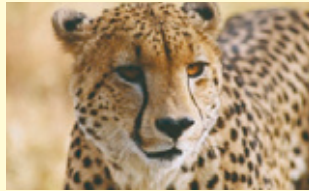


FOC Community Scouts with leopard skin and snare traps recovered from poacher.

# Update from the Cheetah Conservation Fund

## Namibia

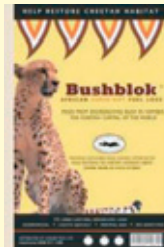
Cheetah populations continue to decline worldwide. However, Namibia still has the largest free-ranging population, estimated at around 3,000. 90% are found outside protected areas on commercial farms where they come into conflict with local farmers and have been removed in large numbers. The CCF is committed to working with and educating local farmers and local communities.



In 1991, CCF began a long-term study to investigate the reasons behind the decline and consider possible solutions to the problem. An important point coming out of this long term research has shown that the level of cheetah removals on farmlands dropped significantly through the period of the study, from an average of 19 cheetahs removed annually per farmer in 1991 to just over 2 by the end of the study,

indicating that local attitudes and actions are positively influenced through long-term education and conservation awareness programmes.

An exciting new development from the CCF has resulted in the production of ecologically sustainable fuel which is helping to create local employment opportunities, whilst at the same time restoring cheetah habitat. 'Bushblok' fuel logs are made from the dense thorn bush which can adversely affect the cheetah's environment, in some cases leading to injury as cheetahs endeavour to find a way through. The plant in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, is now in production and the first shipment is on its way to the UK!



## Kenya

Estimates put the cheetah population in Kenya at only 500-1000. The CCF Kenya project, in an ongoing collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service, will be using the combined data from searches, field surveys and interviews to estimate cheetah numbers and areas of highest density to establish a list of priority areas and needs for ensuring the survival of cheetahs in Kenya.

## Botswana

The research camp in Botswana has been busy monitoring radio collared cats and carrying out a spoor survey to estimate cheetah density. Bonnie, one of the CCF Namibian staff, spent a week in Botswana recently where she assisted the CCF Botswana teams put on their first communal farmer's workshop.

considerable threat from illegal hunting for the bushmeat trade. Work here concentrates on anti poaching operations, wildlife monitoring, preventing human wildlife conflict, bush fires and forest destruction. Scouts also serve as an outreach function, informing the wider community on conservation and land management issues and providing an important link between FOC field officers and rural people.

A training workshop run last year by Dr Matthew Linkie of DICE, trained 10 scout coordinators in advanced mapping techniques. Through better management and analysis scout coordinators can now map poaching and illegal habitat clearance hotspots.

The scouts are putting their training to good effect and recently arrested four elephant poachers, confiscated a leopard skin, dismantled more than 40 snare traps and released a live leopard from a snare trap.

If wildlife and communities alike are to continue benefiting from the scouts' conservation work, then a long term strategy for a sustainable source of funding must be secured. With this in place it is hoped that the fully trained scouts will become an integral part of the Mara ecosystem through the important contribution they make towards its conservation.





The feasibility study team: (left to right) Michael Keigwin (UCF), Peter Apell (JGI), George (JGI), Hannington (JGI), Ndvandao Uzziah (National Forestry Authority) and Felix Sarrazin (UCF)

except now the migration passage means there is no alternative to moving through illegal crop and farms – of course they devastate the farms.”

With only 100 meters width of connection left, on an escarpment which is impassable by elephants, and the trees within the 100 meters still being illegally logged, the pressure to save the area is very real.

One problem is the low level of law enforcement in the area. In response to this, UCF, alongside the National Forestry Authority and the JGI, will be sending out regular patrols so that there will be a continuous presence moving around the forest regions. Plans are also afoot to build a ranger camp alongside a tented tourism and research camp.

The work of the UCF partnership to clear the region of snares and traps and support the local legal systems in law enforcement in the area will go hand in hand with an education, local community revenue sharing and employment scheme. Michael adds: “This is just common sense – not rocket science. The area can and should be of better economic value to the true local



© Michael Keigwin 2004

communities, as well as a natural resource, without destroying it! It is thought that most of those damaging the area are opportunistic businessmen – illegally profiting from the region. With our sustained and co-operative action we will reduce the number of poachers operating in the region, and hopefully find no more mutilated or dead chimps, elephants and other animals.”

Uganda is regenerating and recovering but not sustainably and continues to lose its life supporting landscape heritage, so crucial to future economic investment, human survival and prosperity. Wise and constructive actions are needed now to solve this urgent problem.

UCF requires more funding to carry out this work. A ranger camp needs to be built and equipped, bikes, radios and work clothes are needed and employees need to be taken on and paid. Any contribution to UCF's important work in Uganda will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to support this project, please send a donation to Friends of Conservation, UCF Appeal, 16-18 Denbigh Street, London SW1V 2ER.

## Conservation issue

### Tiger poaching alert in India

You may have seen in the national press recently the news concerning tiger losses in India. It seems that the entire population of tigers has disappeared from the Sariska sanctuary and Ranthambhore National Park has suffered the loss of around 18 of its tigers. The reason – poaching. This is a massive blow to this critically endangered animal.



India has tried to preserve its tiger population - around 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> has been set aside for tigers. Despite this, the illegal trade in their bones, skins and organs has been thriving. Although 50 years ago estimates put the tiger population in India at around 40,000, current figures indicate that it is now between 2,000 and 3,000, accounting for around half the world's tiger population. The loss of yet more tigers to poaching is devastating. Action is being taken at Ranthambhore to protect the remaining population of tigers. 100 home guards will now be posted to keep poachers at bay and a census will shortly be conducted with independent experts to assist in formulating a strategy to save the tiger for the future.

FOC provides support for a number of essential anti-poaching initiatives throughout the world where animals suffer from poaching activities. We work closely with these programmes to ensure their effectiveness and legitimacy. This tragic news is a reminder of the importance of providing sustainable funding for anti-poaching efforts to protect vulnerable and endangered animals.

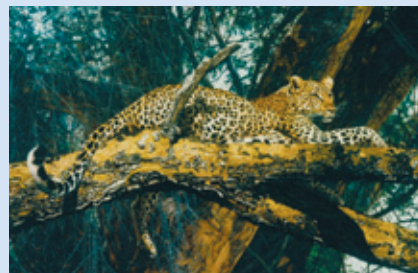
Please remember your ongoing support and donations are essential to these initiatives and is now as important as ever. If we are to be effective in combating the anti-poaching threat, anti-poaching operations need consistent support for their activities: the right people need to be on the ground, anti-poaching scouts need to be engaged and trained, essential equipment needs to be obtained and accountable monitoring of activities must be in place.

## In Memoriam

FOC regret to announce that Simon Combes was killed in Kenya on 12 December last year following a buffalo attack. Simon Combes was an internationally renowned artist, his paintings covering all aspects of the African animal kingdom.

As a wildlife enthusiast and artist, Simon was also a valued supporter and advisor to FOC. We are grateful for the support he showed to FOC over the years.

We were also saddened to hear of the death of Mike Hearn in Swakopmund, Namibia, on 19 January this year. Mike was deeply committed to rhino



'Golden Silhouette' © Simon Combes & the Greenwich Workshop

conservation and was the Director of Research at Save the Rhino Trust, Namibia.

These two inspirational individuals will be a great loss to the world of conservation. Our thoughts are with their families and friends at this difficult time.

# Book Reviews

## Pole Dance

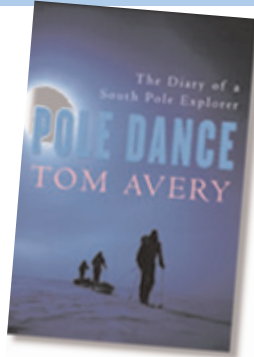
*Author: Tom Avery*

*Orion Publishing £17.99 Hardback*

**ISBN No: 0-7528639-5-1**

Pole Dance is the story of a record-breaking British expedition to the South Pole. On 28 December 2002, the author, Tom Avery, became the youngest – and fastest – Briton to reach the South Pole. This book is his exciting story. It is written in diary form in the present tense, giving the reader a unique sense of participating in the author and his team's experiences.

Tension, exhilaration and enthusiasm leap out at the reader from the pages. Vivid images are conjured up of a place which is "the coldest, driest, highest, most windswept continent on the planet" with "gigantic ice shelves and icebergs, rugged mountain ranges, wildlife still fearless of humans and a vast empty interior". However, this is more than a journal of an individual's experiences – it also includes comparisons with other South Pole expeditions together with some dramatic pictures of a continent that is "like nowhere else on Earth".



## Wildlife Walks

*Author: The Wildlife Trusts*

*Think Publishing £9.99*

**ISBN No: 0-9541363-1-4**

This nature reserve guide from The Wildlife Trust, sponsored by RMC UK, is a 450 page full colour guide to walks in over 500 trust reserves nationwide. This informative guide has been compiled by rangers, wardens, Trust members and day visitors with walks suitable for all ages and abilities. The guide highlights what each site offers in terms of flora and fauna viewing opportunities and has a "Did you know?" section for each trust reserve, full of interesting facts. A "must have" companion for a great day out.

Reviews by Madeleine Jephcott, Newsletter Editor

## FOC's New Look Website!

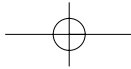


One of our volunteers, Karen Raftis, has been putting her IT skills to excellent use over the last few months. Her hard work has resulted in a fantastic "new look" website, which is easier to navigate and full of interesting information about the projects we support and how you can get involved. Why not take a look – we hope you'll enjoy it and we would welcome your comments.

## YEAR OF THE Volunteer

Do you feel passionate about our world's wildlife? Do you feel inspired to want to play a part in protecting our incredibly diverse but fragile environment? Whatever your background, volunteering can be an extremely rewarding experience for you and invaluable to us - volunteers provide us with fresh ideas and invaluable support and enthusiasm.

Last year, Chancellor Gordon Brown designated 2005 as the Year of the Volunteer. Why not make this your year to volunteer? Whether you want to come into the office or help from home or at events, why not pick up the phone now and see how you can help?



# Make your donations work harder and go further

FOC is grateful for all the generous donations received throughout the year which help us to support wonderful projects working to protect wildlife and the environment. As funding from personal donors is so important to our work, you may remember that in our Spring 2004 Newsletter, we included a reminder about the different ways in which donations can be made.

One of the most effective ways of making your donation go further, is to "Gift Aid It". Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, we can claim 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 - the value of your donation quite simply increases by 28%. Imagine what a difference that could make, and it doesn't cost you a thing.

In addition, if you are a higher rate tax payer you can also reclaim tax relief for yourself at 18% of the donation by including the donation in your annual tax return. You can reclaim this either as a personal benefit or you can choose to give it to charity.

Provided you have paid enough income tax or capital gains tax in the current financial year to cover the amount reclaimed from the Inland Revenue, you can 'Gift Aid' your donation. So, if you want your donation to go further, all you need to do is to complete the simple declaration opposite, giving us your name, address and confirming that you are aware of the requirement to have paid enough tax. Or you can phone or email us with these details.



## Taxing matters.....

In addition to the Gift Aid scheme, a new initiative set up by the Inland Revenue enables individuals to nominate their chosen charity to receive any tax repayment as a donation.

So, when you are toiling over your self-assessment return, do think of us. Friends of Conservation's unique code is MAE50ZG.

Thank you!

### THE WORLD'S WILDLIFE NEEDS YOUR LEGACY

*Every legacy matters to FOC - to be used to save threatened habitats and species around the world.*

Write today for more information to:  
The Legacy Officer, Friends of Conservation,  
16-18 Denbigh Street, London SW1V 2ER  
or phone 020 7592 0110

*Your Legacy can make a real and lasting difference*



## 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

#### BANKERS ORDER FORM (STANDING ORDER)

Please consider paying by Bankers 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

Access  American Express  CAF  Visa

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

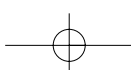


Through Gift Aid Friends of Conservation can increase the value of your donation, and any future donation, at no extra cost to you. For every £1.00 you give, we can claim an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue. Please remember to tick the boxes below and return this form to us.

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 \_\_\_\_\_



# Forthcoming Events

## 7-9 April: Active Holiday Show, Ellis Brigham, Covent Garden

Why not go along to Covent Garden to meet the experts and enjoy a series of interesting events? It is completely free and there are many exciting holidays to be won; with all proceeds from the event going to FOC. Do come along, we would be delighted to see you. Contact the FOC office for more information.

## 17 April: London Marathon 2005



*Limbering up for the big day. Left to right – Stuart Whittington and Fiona Seton (Explore), Andrew Appleyard (Exodus) and Tess Sullivan (BGB Communications). Also running: James Wheeler, Carly Smith and Mark Worrall.*

Please spare a thought for our runners, who are putting in the hard hours training in preparation for the London Marathon on 17 April. This is an important event for FOC and funds raised by runners on our behalf do so much in supporting our work. Please show your support by sending in your donations to the FOC office or you can log onto [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and donate directly on the runners' sponsorship page.

## 9 May: UK Rhino Group Mayday

This year's UK Rhino Group's annual "Rhino Mayday" Symposium will be held on 9 May at the Zoological Society in London. Please see [www.rhinogroup.org.uk](http://www.rhinogroup.org.uk) for more information.

## CCF Tour May 2005:

### *Saving the Wild Cheetah*

After the success of last year's "Week to Save the Cheetah", Laurie Marker returns to the UK between 15 and 20 of May 2005 to raise awareness (and funds!) for CCF's innovative work to save the wild cheetah.

Laurie's tour was very popular last year, so book your tickets soon to avoid disappointment.

## 15 May: Lunch and presentation by Laurie Marker, Guildford

See flyer for more details

## 18 May: 6.00-7.00pm Drinks Reception with Laurie Marker 7.30pm Illustrated Presentation

English Heritage Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, London  
"Saving the Wild Cheetah"

Tickets from FOC: £21 (Reception with Laurie Marker and Lecture) / £12 per person (Lecture only)

Laurie will also be speaking at Marwell Zoological Park on 17 May and Chester Zoo on 20 May. See [www.cheetah.org](http://www.cheetah.org) for further details.

## Sunday 4 September: Hydro Active women's challenge – Join the Green Team!!!

Girls Running for Environment Education and Nature!!!

The Hydro Active women's challenge is a series of women only 5km running events in London, Liverpool and Birmingham. Why not get involved and join our GREEN Team of like-minded women running to support our worldwide conservation projects. It is a great opportunity to raise money for charity (and have fun and keep fit in the process!).

We have 10 (non-guaranteed) places for people to run on our behalf. The event itself is very popular and becomes quickly over subscribed so contact us soon if you would like to support FOC by running in this event.

## Recent Events

### The Cheetah's Fight for Survival

Jonathan and Angie Scott filled the Royal Geographic Society to capacity (again!) in November last year. The talk focused on their work with cheetahs in the Mara and the future of the cheetah in Africa. This event raised some much needed funds for a vehicle to support the Narok County Council's anti-harassment/poaching efforts in the Mara.

## FOC office news

### Goodbye to Nathalie...

We were sorry to say goodbye to Nathalie in December. Since 2001 Nathalie has worked tirelessly to support FOC's work organising some wonderful and successful fundraising events. Nathalie left FOC with plans to move to Tanzania with her husband, Nick. We are sorry to see her go but we wish her all the best in the future.

### .....and welcome to Amanda

We are pleased to announce that one of our long-standing supporters, Amanda Bleasby, has taken on the role of Operations Director. Amanda previously worked for Motorola and has spent time with the CCF in Namibia. We are delighted to welcome Amanda in a more formal capacity!

### We're moving

We mentioned in our last issue that our lease is up shortly. If you have a corner of your office which you would like to share with us, we'd love to hear from you!

### Thank you!

Our work to support projects protecting endangered species and habitats throughout the globe would not be possible without the long-standing and continued support of all our members, supporters and volunteers. Thank you.



## Patron

HRH Prince of Wales

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Michael Woods

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