

Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc.

Dear Everybody:

DELIA: The first snow came and went; just a wink from old man winter. There were only patches of white in the meadow, but as I looked closer, some of the patches

moved. Twelve swans walked gracefully through the dried grasses toward the new pond of the wetland. They slipped into the still waters, making almost no ripples, as only swans can do and paddled slowly under the mountains.

We had only seen swans on this land once in 20 years – that was before it was a wetland. Now it is laced with slip streams, creeks, marshes and ponds. With these new

habitats, we have recorded 90% more ducks, 80% more geese, 80% more blue birds and red-winged blackbirds, twice as many sightings of moose, otters and muskrats. Three times as many turtles. It's more difficult to record the frogs, but before we hardly heard them, now their voices are a chorus.



Besides these wetland species, there is also an increase in elk numbers, as well as deer, bears, coyotes and cougars. Unfortunately, the wolf numbers have dramatically decreased because of trapping, but everyone else is thriving. These recovered areas also make wildfires less likely, and that is increasingly important in the western states. Here the water table is much higher, not only in the low-lying meadows but also in the surrounding forests. This is especially important now that the earth's temperature has risen due to climate change.

Which brings me to some very exciting news.

Hammer Simwinga, Director of the ongoing Zambian conservation and development project, was invited by the Governor of California to attend the Global Climate Summit. Mark flew to San Francisco to be with Hammer, so he will take over this story

MARK: Some years had passed since Delia and I saw Hammer Simwinga, our Zambian protégé, when he had left rural Zambia to travel to San Francisco where he was awarded the prestigious *Goldman Environmental Prize*. What a journey! On his first visit to the US he was a veritable "Crocodile Dundee": bewildered by automatic glass doors at the Holiday Inn in South Africa then a large revolving glass door stumped him. Finally, the terminal train at the Atlanta Airport captured him for two hours



before he asked another traveler how, where and when to get off. On a subsequent visit when Hammer and his wife Queen arrived in San Francisco, we treated them to their first ever ice cream cones on Fisherman's Wharf. Soon we watched this remarkable man speak before more than 2000 people in the splendor of the San Francisco Opera House -- and charm them to their core with tales of his work to conserve wildlife by improving the lives of his people.

But the man with whom I was about to be reunited was not the same person. *The National Geographic Society* had first brought him to the US to speak before a capacity crowd, and he saw his name in blinking lights on their building's marquee around an entire city block in Washington DC. Next the Goldman Prize activities in San Francisco. And then he had travelled to Europe to participate in an international conference on Climate Change. Now, I was again meeting him in San Francisco where he had been attending the Global Climate Summit hosted by the Goldman Foundation and other sponsors.



As I picked up the phone at the Pickwick Hotel and dialed his room I admit to being a little anxious; I felt as though I was being reunited with a long lost son, but then Hammer opened the door to his room and greeted me with a grin as wide as an African savanna. We hugged, laughed and cried together -- and held hands for a very long time, as is the custom among tribal Africans. Hammer has become a world-renowned conservationist, refining, expanding and exporting our original model of 'community conservation,' and in every way making it his own. We are so very proud of him. Over the following three days in San Francisco Hammer and I reminisced about the battle to save North Luangwa and its people from the dark days of commercial poaching when more than 100,000 elephants, thousands of black rhinoceroses as well as many other species were slaughtered for greed. Now the Park and the villagers enjoy a new and improved

standard of living that is no longer dependent on poaching, but on a host of small alternative businesses -- from oil presses to poultry units -- that our project started with a micro-lending fund that benefits any and all poachers who are willing to lay down their arms. As a result, local people are healthier and prosperous. Wildlife populations are recovering and habitats are more secure. Hammer himself is our best ambassador for this philosophy of conservation.

Here are some recent updates from Hammer.

FOUNDATION FOR WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION

From Hammer Simwinga in Zambia

This report highlights activities recently undertaken by FWHC from Mid-July 2018 to date. Most of the activities have been supported with financial support from the Owens Foundation and Tikva [Grassroots Environmental Fund]. In the last 6 months, new challenges have emerged for FWHC on how best to continue providing support to both protected areas and conserved areas (territories of life) and finding ways to increase awareness, advocacy recognition that communities living near and around national parks (protected areas) and game management areas, including those living in open range lands can significantly contribute to the wellbeing of the ecosystem they live in. This is important because recognition of these communities and their social values provide a collective governance of natural resources. In order to achieve this FWHC embarked on implementing several strategies such as;



2.0 Activities under taken during the period under review

2.1 Partnerships and Networking



Wildlife Crime Prevention an NGO spearheaded by young Zambian wildlife conservationist invited Hammer to be part of the first ever conservation career fair to be held in Zambia

Thandiwe Mweetwa young inspiring wildlife Ecologist from South Luangwa National Park having a talk with "Hama" on the future of conservation in Zambia

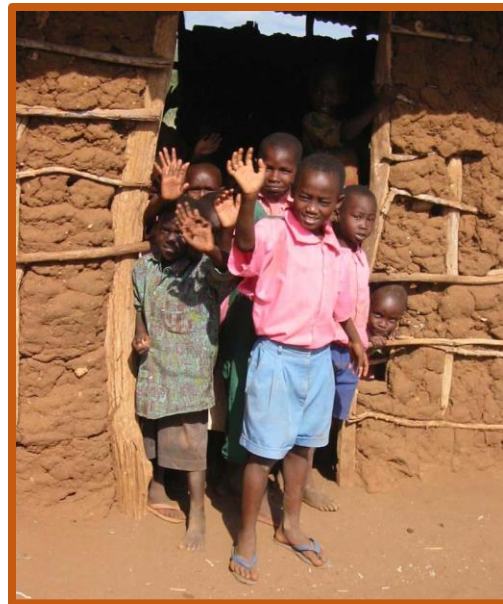
The Conservation Career Fair that took place in Lusaka attracted over 500 young people from higher learning institution like the University of Zambia, Copperbelt University and many more others. Hammer was invited to come and provide support and motivation talk to young people to consider conservation as a career option.

NGO Congress	Main Congress Outputs
The Ministry of Community Development and Social Services organized a national congress where all Zambian registered NGO attended. The objective of the congress was to review the NGO Act and take a full inventory of NGOs operating in Zambia. During the same time the member NGOs in attendance elected a National NGO board. All the ten provinces of Zambia were represented. 300+ people participated in this two day meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . NGO Code of Conduct was revised and approved . NGO Act and its provision was revised and approved . NGO policy was deferred to the next meeting due to unresolved closes within the policy.
Global Climate Summit – California USA	Some Global Climate Summit outcomes:
As a Climate Trailblazer for this summit, several awareness campaign meetings and activities were conducted in Zambia prior to the summit. A 15 km elephant walk was done and it attracted over 400 people, both travelers and those living on the road sides. Two schools in Mpika were given 200 trees to plant as part of climate change mitigation exercise for the children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The world conservation leaders called upon governments and the corporate world to promote and support the collective governance and sustainable management of natural resources. * Strengthen national policies to ensure national governments redefine their roles that emphasis on enforcing their own conservation regulations. * Countries and leaders to strengthen their resolve for protection and sustainable use of the natural resources.
Global Climate Summit: Trailblazer in Zambia	



Hammer joins Kenyan Jim Nyamu, a conservation activist on a Kenya - Cairo walk for Elephant Survival. Hammer flag off when he started his walk in Lusaka.





In a world of challenges you make this success possible, a brighter future for all. Our sincere thanks from the people, swans and elephants that you empower.

Cheers,

Delia and Mark

Delia and Mark



FROM MARY AND TAMMY

- **AMAZON DONATIONS:** Designate the OFWC as your *Amazon Smile Charity* and a percentage of every purchase you make generates free money for conservation. It does not cost YOU a penny.
- **NEW EMAIL OR MAILING ADDRESS:** Please advise any changes in your contact info. It saves money!
- **DONATION BY CREDIT CARD:** You can donate online at www.owens-foundation.org via the *DONATE NOW* button on the HOME page. You will be asked for the 'security code' on your card. This is for YOUR protection. 3% of your donation goes for credit card processing fees.
- **SPREAD THE WORD:** Encourage friends to work for conservation, share this newsletter with someone who might be interested. Thank you!