

APRIL 2009



Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation

Dear Everybody.

Experts tell us that a crisis of investor confidence is partly responsible for this financial downturn. I am reminded of a lion story. Remember **Bones**, the male Kalahari lion who broke his leg? We found him alone under a scraggly thorn bush on a hot desert

day -- no pride in sight. As we approached he hauled his emaciated body to his feet and tried to stagger away, his right hind leg so severely fractured that the shattered end of his tibia poked through his hide. He was utterly cadaverous, unable to hunt. His skin fell off his skeleton in folds, like a tattered old shawl.

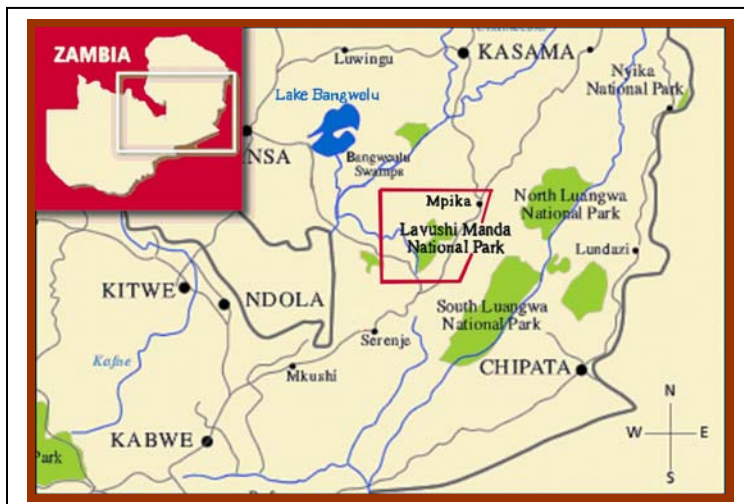
I will never forget his expression: There was pain, but more than that, there was fear. With strangers approaching, the King was vulnerable, even helpless. His eyes wide, barely able to lift his mighty head, he was nearly defeated. We felt a profound sadness. Yet he only needed to raise his head, snarl, maybe swing his mane back and forth, be a little fierce, and we would have retreated. But his confidence had drained into the sand beneath him. He had submitted to his wound and his fate.

We darted him and mended his leg. For two young biologists, working in the dark by spotlight with crude tools, it was tricky. But, he healed completely except for a trace of a limp and a slightly twisted track - a signature that followed him the rest of his life. He gained weight, his muscles filled out. But most importantly, he lost his fear, wore his crown again. Eyes piercing, head held high, his roar returned - as did his Pride.



And so it will be with us. Our country will get through this economic crisis. We will come back stronger than ever. Like Bones, our economy will come roaring back. As a nation, as a people, we pull together, pull out of the bad times, and move on to better things. We need to hold our heads up, shake our manes a bit, and take back our confidence and our pride. We know everyone is struggling, but, please do what you can to help us preserve the progress we have made for people and wildlife in Africa and in the USA. Thank you!

Despite some of the most difficult financial times our nation has ever faced, the Owens Foundation has had one of our most successful years conserving wildlife and assisting villagers. And our work is now more important than ever...



ZAMBIA SUCCESS: Continuing the work we started in 1986, Hammer Simwinga is creating sustainable jobs in new villages located near *Lavushi Manda National Park* in north Zambia. Villagers - including 24 former poachers - have responded overwhelmingly to Hammer's loan and training programs in small business, agriculture, education, and health care. Hammer is showing villagers how to support more than 25,000 hectares of land set aside as Nature Reserves, planting 15,000 trees as part of a Reforestation Program.

ELEPHANTS: The villagers near North Luangwa continue the micro-industries that we helped them start more than 20 years ago. Here commercial poaching remains a thing of the past. NL Elephants are more secure than in other areas. However, poaching is on the rise throughout Africa and Asia. This month five TONS of ivory shipped from Tanzania were seized in Vietnam. The CITES ivory ban can stop this.



CONTINUE THE IVORY BAN: The UN *Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species* (CITES) 1989 ban on commercial sale of ivory must be continued. Please contact the *US Fish and Wildlife Service* or your home country CITES representative, and the CITES Secretariat and ask for a complete ban on any future trade in ivory. Even the *hope* of an ivory market spurs expanded poaching.

- **CITES Secretariat:** 15, Chemin des Anemones -- Case Postale 456, CH-1219 -- Chatelaine – Geneva, Switzerland. PHONE: 4122-979-9139-40, FAX: 4122-797-3417, EMAIL: cites@unep.ch
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** – 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240 <http://www.fws.gov/duspit/contactus.htm>



The new **MOBILE CLINIC** is bringing much needed health care, family planning and AIDS prevention to remote villages on behalf of wildlife conservation, so that they can see a direct link between the welfare of the wildlife community and their own. LEFT – the Clinic reaches distant Chiundaponde Village.

Hammer's wife Queen is his partner in all ways. Together they focus on empowering women who previously had no voice or choice in their lives. Queen works with all ages - but especially with elderly women who have no means of support - providing them with basic food and shelter.

NORTHWEST USA: The wolf pack we have been watching for several years continues to roam the land we have protected. In two years the female has had a total of twelve pups! Just last night she and her pack howled to us from the mountains above the marsh. Their long, soaring, sonorous, even mournful calls touched our souls.

As geese flew back to the mountains landing on a pond, their long necks held high, they checked out their favorite breeding spots, all the while honking messages to each other. Suddenly young wolves (last year's pups) rushed through the cattails. Like their father, two are pitch black with yellow eyes, the other gray like their mother. The geese sprang into the air as one wolf jumped five feet from the ground, jaws wide. But missed. The geese circled, honking mightily at the canines, who continued to rush about chasing each other. Just geese being geese, wolves being wolves. Like they should be.



SAVE THE WOLVES!!! Tragically, newly appointed Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has announced that he will remove wolves from protected status in the Northern Rockies and Greater Yellowstone region which will allow Montana and Idaho to kill 1,000 wolves. This is so frustrating because it is so unnecessary. Fear born of ignorance drives this eradication plan. Wolves do not attack people and they keep wild antelope (elk and deer) **HEALTHIER** by taking the weakest and sick members of those herds. Please, please share your concerns with your representative, the President, Secretary Salazar and USF&WS:

- **For Address Info:** Write - **The Office of the Clerk of the US House of Representatives/US Capitol** -- Room H154 - Washington, DC 20515 - PH: 202-225-7000, or email for info www.clerkweb.houses.gov - or email your representatives directly through the following link: www.house.gov/writerep
- **US President**, The White House - Washington, DC 20500 Email: www.whitehouse.gov/contact/
- **Ken Salazar**, Secretary Dept of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington DC 20240, PH 202-208-3100, Email: <http://www.doi.gov/contact.html>
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** - 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240 <http://www.fws.gov/duspit/contactus.htm>

We continue working with land owners so they will sell to conservation buyers, or to place their land under wildlife/conservation easements that will protect their properties from development. This is a long, frustrating – too often disappointing – business. But there are successes! Collaborating with Idaho Fish and Game and Vital Ground, we convinced a local landowner to enroll 600 acres of prime bear and wolf habitat into conservation easement.

BECAUSE OF YOUR DONATIONS –

- Elephant poaching in North Luangwa is still controlled.
- Our hero Hammer Simwinga makes the village work soar so wildlife is protected.
- The OFWC funded Mobile Clinic is providing health care to people who had none.
- In the Northwest wolves are pairing for spring and grizzlies have safe haven.
- Wetlands are bubbling with clean, clear water and providing critical wildlife habitat.

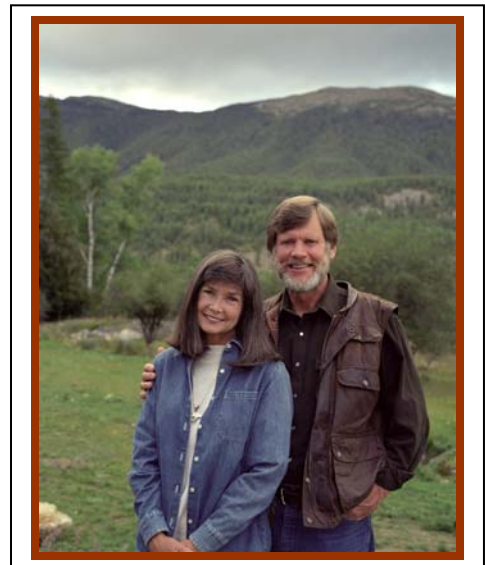
PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE: We know most everyone is cutting their budget, but if you can donate to us at all, please, please do. We can't do it without you. We appreciate you so much. We have been through so many hard times together –Kalahari droughts, horrible years of elephant poaching, political upheavals in Africa. We can make it through this economic situation. It can't be as bad as a charging elephant!

We have to remember Bones, and hold our heads up. Show our teeth a little bit! We'll find our pride again.

Thanks for all you can do for the wildlife of our earth,

Cheers,

Debi and Mark



Looking for a GOOD investment!?!

Lately, some people are unsure where to invest their money. We're not trying to be financial advisors, but we have a suggestion: **PURCHASE WILDLIFE HABITAT!**

Example: There is an unbelievably beautiful 98-acre parcel of land on a forested mountain side in Idaho that overlooks a river valley. It provides habitat for grizzlies, black bears, elk, deer, moose and other wildlife. The Owens Foundation temporarily holds this land, but we must sell it to a conservation buyer so that it will be protected forever. (The Foundation cannot afford to hold parcels of land.)

If you purchase this land: You will (1) Help protect grizzly bears and other wildlife, (2) Help the Owens Foundation, (3) And probably make a profit! If you can hold the land for several years it may well appreciate as it has so far, and can then be sold for a profit. Obviously, we can't guarantee this – but it can't be worse than the stock market! In the meantime, you can obtain a substantial tax benefit for enrolling the land in easement.

Let us know if you're interested!

HOW TO HELP

- **NEW EMAIL OR POST ADDRESSES:** Please advise any changes in your contact information as soon as possible. It saves money and makes us 😊!
- **DONATION BY CREDIT CARD:** Can be made at www.owens-foundation.org via **DONATE NOW BUTTON** or by calling Tammy Johnson (678-648-1267). Three percent of your online donation goes to the credit card company for processing fees. You will be asked for the security code on your credit card as an added level of protection for you.
- **FOREIGN CURRENCY DONATIONS:** Must be made by wire transfer, US dollar money order or check - or by credit card (see above for online donations). Thank you for the extra effort!
- **PURCHASES** via OFWC web page link at www.owens-foundation.org to www.amazon.com generate income for our work.
- **RECYCLE USED CELL PHONES:** See our web page link under the **How to Help** section to easily recycle cell phones directly to the recycler at no charge and make \$ for OFWC at the same time.
- **NORTH LUANGWA TOURISM:** If you are going to Africa, you will have the experience of a life time, help people and save wildlife by choosing N Luangwa. For info: www.owens-foundation.org

LEGACY PLANNING: Touch the future by including the Owens Foundation in your Estate Planning.

Contact Tammy Johnson for more information:

- **Will, Living Trust or other plan:** Name the OFWC as a recipient of a fixed amount or a percent of your estate.
- **Annuity or Life Insurance Policy:** Designate OFWC
- **Retirement Plans:** Designate OFWC as a beneficiary of all or a percentage of your Retirement Plan.

MATCHING DONATIONS:

Some companies match employee & retiree donations to 501(c) (3) nonprofits such as the Owens Foundation. Multiply your giving and empower conservation.

RECOMMEND A FRIEND:

Let us know of anyone who shares our love of people, wild places and wildlife. We never share our database with anyone - ever.

DONATIONS FOR NORTH LUANGWA: Thanks to all who have shipped school, craft & medical supplies to North Luangwa. They are GREATLY needed and appreciated. **Pack with LOTS OF DUCT TAPE in every direction, covered with CLEAR PLASTIC TAPE – or thieves WILL tamper with your donation!!!**

IMPORTANT: The US Postal Service has eliminated all reasonably priced shipments outside the US and the only option for shipping to North Luangwa is very expensive AIRMAIL. Please check the cost of shipping before going forward with a project and keep weight in mind! One option is a flat rate box that can carry a lot of quality supplies.

School Supplies: Crayons, pens, pencils, erasers, chalk, wildlife books & magazines (used are fine).

Medical Supplies: Antibiotic bars of soap, latex exam gloves (sterile not required), sterile bandages, antibiotic ointment, gauze, first aid tape, Band-Aids, Ziploc bags and backpacks.

Sewing Supplies: Women's groups can use any fabric, needles, thread and sewing notions.

SHIPPING: Label medical donations as *Hygiene Supplies*, school and craft donations as *Education Supplies*. List on the USPS Customs Form as a *Gift* with a low value. Ship USPO with no insurance. ***** VERY, VERY IMPORTANT *** Use sturdy boxes, w/2 strips of duct tape in each direction and overlay edges w/2-inch plastic tape.** Use USPS "M BAG" for books at a slightly reduced rate. Use USPS site: <http://ircalc.usps.gov/> to calculate postage by weight and size. Check flat rate box option.

SHIP TO: Hammer Simwinga, PO Box 450140, Mpika, Zambia.

THANK YOU!!!

PROTECT THE KALAHARI: Diamond mining is going forward in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and it will be devastating. Please write to President Ian Khama and voice your concern over mining plus your support for Botswana's continued ban on trophy hunting of lions. *Ian Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana - Private Bag 001- Gaborone, Botswana.*

Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. -- Box 870530, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
www.owens-foundation.org - Mary Dykes at 770-270-0729 marydykes@mindspring.com
or Tammy Johnson at 678-648-1267 padman2@comcast.net