

June 2016



Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation

Dear Everybody!

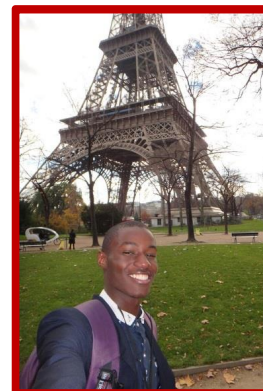
In a world of bad news – we have good news - and it is thanks to your support and the hard work of great people.

ELEPHANTS & PEOPLE: Elephants continue to be poached for their ivory, but we are working to limit that horror in North Luangwa. Our protégé and hero Hammer Simwinda has brought his son Ando into his expanding conservation work in North Zambia. Ando was chosen by UNICEF to represent the Youth of Zambia at the 21st meeting of the UN's Conference of Parties in Paris - a grand honor and serious responsibility. We were inspired as we followed Ando's participation in the meetings (on Face Book). One of his favorite quotes strikes to the heart of the challenges facing us, especially our youth: ***"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."*** - Robert Swan. Hammer and Ando are not waiting for someone else. They continue with education, tree planting, empowering women, and developing agriculture strategies that result in more resilient crops that can survive swings in temperatures and rainfall and more. Our project model has shown that wildlife and habitat conservation stand on the shoulders of healthy, educated, successful people.



From Ando: *It will be my pleasure to share a few details of the Paris meetings and how it concerns the population of Zambia and the wildlife at large. As you may be aware climate change is affecting everyone and everywhere. The wildlife is not left out, for climate change impacts have been seen affecting parks, game reserves, game managements, villages and many more. This evidence has also proven that less civilized*

[developed] communities are most vulnerable to climate change. ... In my on view...Zambia needs more sensitization on what climate change is and how communities and people can adapt to its impacts and work to limit the impacts.



While UNICEF funded Ando's travel, the Owens Foundation gave him a grant to help with unexpected expenses. His first purchase – a WARM coat. His first message from Paris was: "It is VERY cold here!" Compared to Zambia – April in Paris was a shock. Besides the packed schedule of meetings, presentations and interviews we hoped Ando could experience a little of the most beautiful city on earth. This *Selfie* at the Eiffel Tower is priceless. It makes us remember his Mother, Queen.

Back home Ando continues work on Climate Change with a group of young people who call themselves "Climate Ambassadors". It is incredible to see the progress compared to the impoverished conditions we found when we first visited North Luangwa in the 1980s. These young people are the hope for the future of the people and wildlife of Zambia. Another quote from Ando says it all: ***If you think you are too so small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito***" -African proverb



Left:
1980's
Delia &
Mark at a
small
shop
opening in
North
Luangwa.



Right: 2016 (Center) Mr. Patrick Slavin, Chief Communications officer for UNICEF Zambia, Lusaka District Board of Education Secretary and Secondary School teachers in Lusaka with young Climate Ambassadors preparing to plant 30,000 trees across all Districts in Zambia by 2017.



All the while Hammer continues his critical work protecting wildlife by stabilizing rural communities through improved agriculture, small business development, education and health programs. He is also 'hammering' out the details for the management of the first privately funded Nature Conservancy in Zambia. He is coordinating a ground breaking meeting with all the 'stakeholders' who will be responsible for the protection of this tract of old growth woodlands and critical water shed. It is a complex goal to assure that local villagers and political officials as well as the national government cooperate on the future use of this land for the protection and benefit of all including the wildlife.

NW USA WOLVES-GRIZZLIES: In conservation work we seldom have the opportunity to celebrate successes against the hunting, agricultural and other commercial extraction lobbies. But now we are hopeful for wetland protection and restoration and wolf population recovery. We have a chance to prevent the trapping, snaring, maiming and killing of threatened, endangered and other species such as Canada lynx taken in wolf snares. Steel leg-hold traps and wire snares are illegal in most African nations and other developing countries: So why not in the USA?



More than two years ago we convened a meeting with a senior attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity and local conservationists. The Center, in concert with other conservation organizations, was working on a lawsuit against Idaho Fish and Game for allowing trap and snare sets that kill and maim threatened and endangered species on public and private lands. The Owens Foundation arranged for analysis of trappers' field reports and uncovering direct evidence that wolf traps are indeed killing many other animals besides wolves. After almost three years and the collaboration of some key players we were able to satisfy a federal judge that Canada Lynx are too often the victims of incidental 'takes' by traps and snares set for wolves on federal lands. He ruled that this is illegal and ordered Fish and Game to revise its trap and snare designs to minimize such risks. Because traps and snares cannot be made safe from 'incidentally' taken species, these cruel devices will surely be outlawed.



We need your help to raise funds to field an independent team of observers (vehicles, fuel, stipends, etc.) who will monitor the traps.

After 20 years of work, we are also celebrating the completion of the primary wetland restoration in North Idaho. There has been a dramatic increase in waterfowl, otters, moose, elk, mule and white-tail deer. Grizzly and black bears, wolves, cougars and other species have also benefitted. It is a rebirth of a wetland that had been dry for 80 years. This week, wobbly newborn fawns dot meadows, bear cubs scramble over rocks in creeks that had not been flowing for decades, and necklaces of ducklings paddle with their parents on ponds that had not existed. The water, home at last.

Thank you for all you do for the earth and its creatures. We could not do this without you.

Cheers, *Deli and Mark*

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