

Africa

Year in Review / 2021





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TNC’s Africa Program is setting an example for the organization on how to conserve biodiversity and make people’s lives better. Our work in Africa shows that conservation does improve people’s lives and livelihoods and that we are intentional in our work to create prosperous communities.

Jennifer Morris | Chief Executive Officer, TNC

Opposite: Maria Ngunda grew sunflowers on her farm in Iringa, Tanzania, with seeds and fertilizer from One Acre Fund, one of the recipients of support from the Africa Forest Carbon Catalyst (see p. 18). The flowers provide her family with cooking oil and supplementary income. © One Acre Fund



Our Cover Image

Clever, daring, and resourceful—words that describe spotted hyenas as well as photographer Will Burrard-Lucas. He captured this unique image with his ingenious BeetleCam, a remote-controlled camera on wheels.

Hyenas are known to be highly strategic hunters, working together in well-organized packs to boldly take on even the largest and fiercest prey.

What better photo, then, to celebrate another year of conservation tenacity and triumph in Africa? We are humbled to be members of a remarkable pack of local communities, African leaders, grassroots and global organizations, and supporters like you.

Contents

MAP + STRATEGIES 2
 LETTER FROM DIRECTOR 3
 GLOBAL 2030 GOALS 4

LAND

MILESTONES: CONSERVATION WITH COMMUNITIES 6
 FEATURE: BRINGING RHINOS HOME 10

FRESHWATER

MILESTONES: WATER FOR NATURE, WATER FOR PEOPLE 12
 FEATURE: THE EMPEROR OF LAKE TANGANYIKA 14

OCEAN

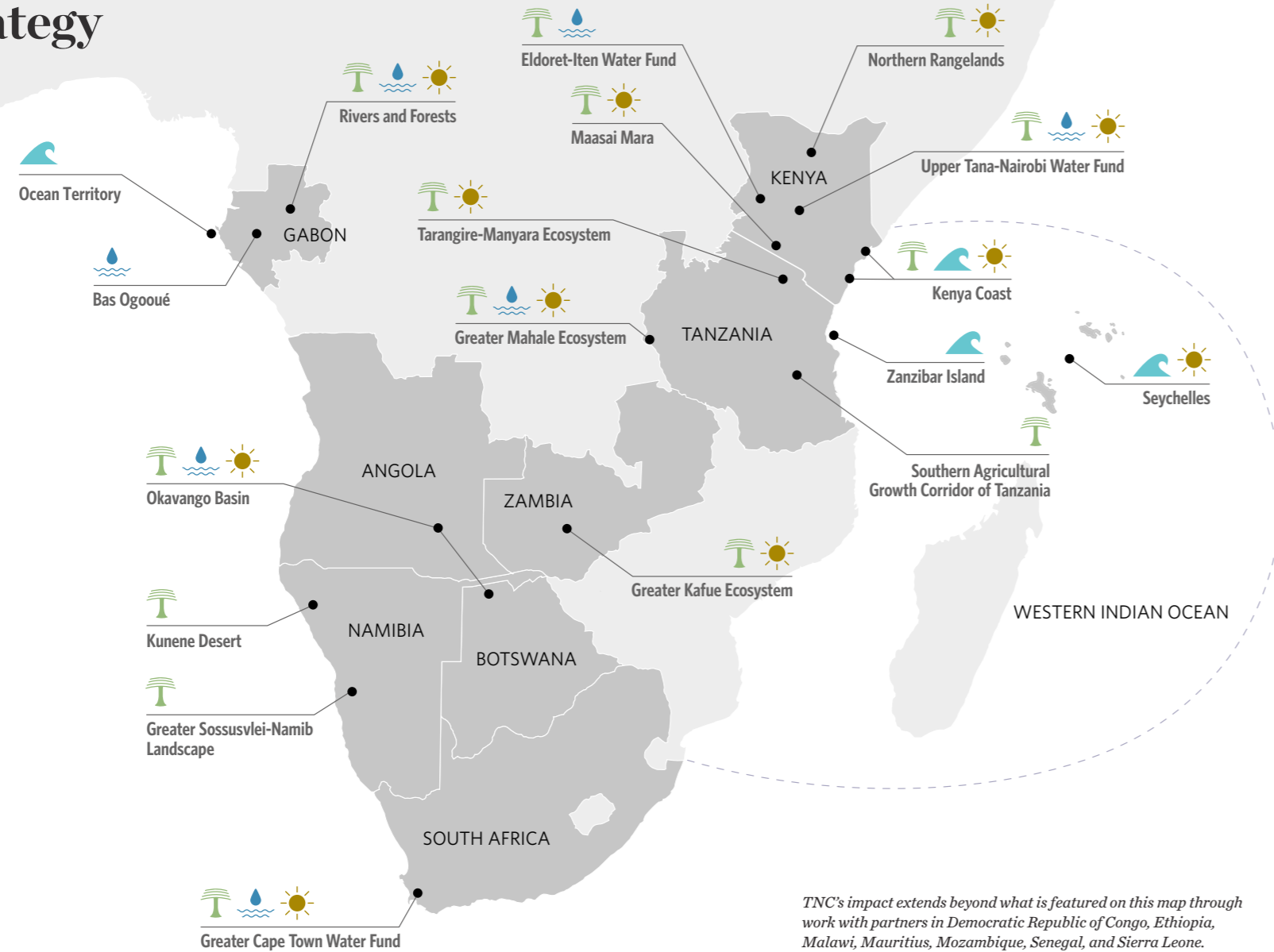
ALL HANDS ON DECK 16

CLIMATE

TOWARD A BETTER CLIMATE FUTURE 18

BIG ON THE HORIZON: A DEFINING DECADE 20
 BIG ON THE HORIZON: OASIS IN THE KALAHARI 22
 SCALE UP FUND: CAPITALIZING ON POTENTIAL 24
 COLOR OF HOPE + MAKING A DIFFERENCE—TOGETHER 26
 CELEBRATING OUR AFRICA COUNCIL 28

Place & Strategy



TNC's impact extends beyond what is featured on this map through work with partners in Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

Together, We Find a Way



ON A COLD JUNE WINTER DAY in 2010, I found myself in Arusha, Tanzania, at the office of a local partner—Ujamaa Community Resource Team—meeting with a small group of other conservation organizations that all worked together. Instead of chairs, they had these big tree stumps. We were all wearing motorcycle tire sandals, drinking sugary Maasai tea, and eating chapatis. Literally breaking bread, we built trust.

We talked about the future of the northern Tanzania rangelands and what we could achieve together. We found common ground with the Maasai: Keeping the land open for cattle also keeps it open for wildlife.

Since that day, together with our nine partners in the Northern Tanzania Rangelands Initiative, we've supported pastoralist communities to put nearly 3.6 million acres of this landscape under conservation.

This is how we work in nine countries today: Bring together diverse stakeholders, tackle big questions, listen well, build trust, complement the great work of others, and collaborate on solutions that benefit nature and people.

Matt Brown | Managing Director, Global Conservation, TNC

A strategic prioritization process we conducted for the continent in those early days still guides us as we make decisions about new opportunities. We're still asking ourselves big questions:

1. *How do we scale up our projects to create transformation at the national level?*
2. *How do we ensure that our progress lasts?*
3. *How do we work dynamically in a rapidly changing world?*

After 14 years with TNC Africa, I have stepped into the role of TNC's Global Conservation Director. I'm excited to help strengthen connections across regions and build efficiencies to deliver on our 2030 goals on climate, land, water, and the ocean.

I'm proud of the team we've built in Africa and the strong partnerships we've developed. I'll be capitalizing on all that I've learned since that winter day, and working to ensure that the entire organization benefits from all that we've achieved together toward our vision of a wild and prosperous Africa. Building trust is crucial to success.

Late-Breaking News Update: Ademola Ajagbe has been selected as TNC's Africa Regional Managing Director. Ademola brings 20 years of conservation experience in Africa, most recently with BirdLife International.

Learn more at nature.org/AfricaDirector.

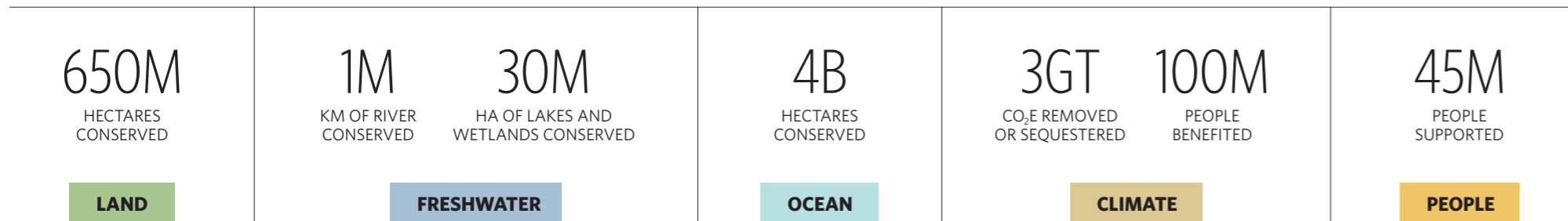


Wild dogs at Loisaba Conservancy, Kenya © Ami Vitale.



WE ARE FACING THE BIGGEST, most complex challenges of our lives. And that calls for our biggest, most ambitious plans—for people and nature. The entire organization is mobilizing around seven goals to achieve by 2030. TNC has defined measurable impacts toward each one, and our work across Africa is contributing substantially to all of them.

Global 2030 Goals



There has been a nearly 70% average decline of the world's birds, amphibians, mammals, fish, and reptiles since 1970.

Africa has one-fifth of the planet's remaining forests, but is losing them faster than anywhere else.

Our Guiding Principles

We face a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis—addressing both is critical to achieve our mission.

We lead with our values—honoring Indigenous and local peoples' voices, choices, and actions.

We ground our strategies in the places identified by our science—maximizing our ability to effect change.

We strive for multiple benefits, pursuing solutions that benefit biodiversity, sequester carbon, and improve people's lives.

We leverage policy, partnerships, and finance mechanisms to advance conservation far beyond any one place.



One of TNC's many strengths is being a good partner to African leaders—from the grassroots level to the highest levels of government—and providing science, tools, and connections to support them in reaching their goals. Conservation on the continent will only be sustainable with local communities and African leadership at the helm.

Phillip Ihenacho | Chair, TNC Africa Council

Far Left: Long-tailed widowbird in Rietvlei Nature Reserve, South Africa © Richard du Toit/Science Photo Library.
Left: Lion in Kafue National Park, Zambia © Scott Ramsay.

MILESTONES

Conservation with Communities

Indigenous peoples have protected their resources for generations, but the world has changed. Communities face new pressures from climate change, pollution, growing populations, and competing development needs. By pairing science and solutions with critical Indigenous knowledge, together we can tackle complex challenges.

The following milestones illustrate the ways we partner with communities across 55 million acres to strengthen rights, governance, resource management, leadership, and livelihoods.



Left: Pastoralists in the Loiborsiret-Tarangire landscape, Tanzania © Roshni Lodhia. Right: Giraffe in Tarangire National Park, Tanzania © Wirestock, Inc./Alamy Stock Photo.

Leadership Building Expertise and Transformative Connections

THE AFRICA CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP NETWORK (ACLN), convened and supported by TNC and Maliasili, is a leadership development program that offers mentorship and in-depth training to Africa’s grassroots conservation leaders and fosters long-term collaboration between them to achieve large-scale, durable change.

As of July 2021, the ACLN has held three training cohorts with representatives from 24 organizations, including their top directors, based in five different countries. The ACLN continues to grow, expanding its geographic footprint and ensuring gender balance in the program, while adapting to a virtual learning landscape.

Livelihoods Digging In for Healthier Dirt in Tanzania

CAN BETTER SOIL MANAGEMENT help conserve biodiversity? Healthy soils increase crop productivity, reducing pressure for farmers to convert additional habitat to meet food and income needs. In the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania and the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME), TNC has analyzed and amended the soil of more than 130 farmers with proper nutrients. In the GME, participating farmers saw their crop yields increase an average of 32% in the first year.

TNC is also providing training for farmers and agricultural extension officers in soil sampling and testing procedures in order to quickly expand more sustainable practices across these landscapes.





Resource Management

Clearing the Way for Better Grass in Tanzania

AFTER YEARS OF CHANGING rainfall patterns and overgrazing, parts of northern Tanzania’s grasslands are under siege from a drought-resistant plant. *Dichrostachys cinerea*, or sickle bush, is crowding out nutritious grass needed by livestock and wildlife, as well as creating dense thickets that block animal passages and provide areas for predators to hide, sparking human-wildlife conflict.

Through our membership in the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group, which is funded by USAID, TNC launched a pilot project that provided the tools, education, and financial support locals needed to remove the plants and monitor any regrowth. Early indicators show that healthy grass and wildlife are coming back to the 400 uprooted acres, and data from satellite imagery will help TNC scientists determine where to go next.

Governance and Rights

An Emphasis on Equity in Zambia

THE NEW, 10-MEMBER Community Resource Board (CRB) established in the Mujimanzovu Chiefdom, which neighbors Kafue National Park, will look different from any other CRB in Zambia: Half of its seats are held by women. This “first” is due in part to TNC’s work in building awareness about the board’s importance, and advocacy for gender equity by the traditional authority, Senior Chief Mujimanzovu.

Crisis Fund by the Numbers:

Wildlife Protection

The Crisis Fund Looks Ahead

LAST YEAR, IN THE MIDST of a global pandemic, TNC supporters took action, giving \$2.6 million to TNC’s Africa Wildlife Conservancies Crisis Fund—and providing a lifeline to our partners.

With your help, the support continues. Thanks in part to the Scale Up Fund (see p. 24), which matched the first \$400,000 in gifts, we have raised \$900,000 this year. For our partners—in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia, Uganda, and South Africa—your generosity sends a powerful message: “You are not alone.”

6

COUNTRIES

\$3.5

MILLION

1,795

RANGERS

15

PARTNERS

50

MILLION ACRES



Opposite (l-r): Grazing coordinators learn how to use a mobile app to document regrowth of uprooted invasive plants in Selela village, northern Tanzania © Roshni Lodhia. Rangers at Loisaba Conservancy, Kenya © Ami Vitale. **Right:** A remote camera captures a herd of zebras in Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya © agefotostock/Alamy Stock Photo.

National Policy

Kenya Champions a Grassroots Model

KENYA ALREADY HAS MORE than 20% of its land in conserved status—a mix of national parks, reserves, and forests; private conservancies; and, importantly, 160 community conservancies covering 15.7 million acres, about 11% of the country’s total area.

TNC has worked alongside local partners for over a decade to strengthen and expand the community conservancy model, including playing a lead role in changing national legislation that made conservancies a legally recognized land use option and ensured that their leaders would be included in decision-making on wildlife and conservation issues.

Kenya’s 2021 National Wildlife Census Report reiterated that conservancies are important wildlife range, especially in managing keystone and critically endangered species. With Kenya’s endorsement of the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature, a commitment to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, conservancies could be more vital than ever before.



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It is known that we will only be able to tackle the interrelated people and nature crises through concerted actions from governments, businesses, and civil society. As we look forward to ushering in the decade for ecosystem restoration, we must recognize this interconnectedness and set nature on the right path of zero biodiversity loss and promote greener and much more sustainable practices.

His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta | President of Kenya, at the Leaders Event for Nature and People in 2020



Bringing Rhinos Home

Kenya's black rhinos need more space—and new sanctuaries will be the key to the species' survival.

IN KENYA'S FLAT, DRY NORTH, elephants, reticulated giraffes, and endangered Grevy's zebra roam alongside nomads and their livestock on the 840,000-acre Sera Wildlife Conservancy. But for decades, one of the region's most iconic silhouettes was missing.

"Black rhinos were here before, but they disappeared," says Pauline Longojine, former board chair of the conservancy. "We decided we needed to bring them home."

A member-conservancy of Northern Rangelands Trust, which TNC supports, Sera became the first Indigenous community in Kenya to host the critically endangered species with the translocation of 10 individuals in 2015.

Led by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the operation is a delicate one, requiring the expertise of everyone from specialist vets to careful drivers. "It's difficult, it's costly, and it takes time for the rhinos to settle into their new environment," says Pauline.

With the birth of a ninth calf in May—a male named Lobaru—rhino numbers have nearly doubled at Sera. For a species virtually wiped out by poachers a few decades ago, that is inspirational.

But it is part of a remarkable trend in Kenya. There are now nearly 900 black rhinos, up from fewer than 400 in the 1980s. The vision of KWS is a stable, growing, free-ranging population of 2,000.

To do that, demand for rhino horn and the poaching it fuels must end. Until that happens, what is needed are more secure sanctuaries for the growing populations.

Rhinos breed more slowly when their habitat reaches its maximum "carrying capacity."

TNC, with San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, is now working to establish Kenya's 17th black rhino sanctuary, to be located within the 57,000-acre Loisaba Conservancy that TNC supporters helped preserve in 2015. Rhinos last roamed there in 1973.

Returning rhinos to their historic range will accomplish many things: It will help save the species, restore nature's balance, and bring tourists whose business builds local economies. For residents of Sera, it is also about pride in Kenya's national heritage.

"We love those rhinos," Pauline says. "Our children don't have to go through pictures to see rhinos. Now we have them with us here."

Learn how you can help bring rhinos back home to Loisaba. Visit nature.org/RhinoSanctuary or contact Cori at cmessinger@tnc.org.

Above: Loisaba Tented Camp © Tatiana Karanja. **Opposite:** Two-year-old black rhino orphan Loijjipu with Salome Lemalasia, one of several rangers at Sera's rhino sanctuary who will raise him until he is old enough to fend for himself © Davis Huber.



MILESTONES

Water for Nature, Water for People

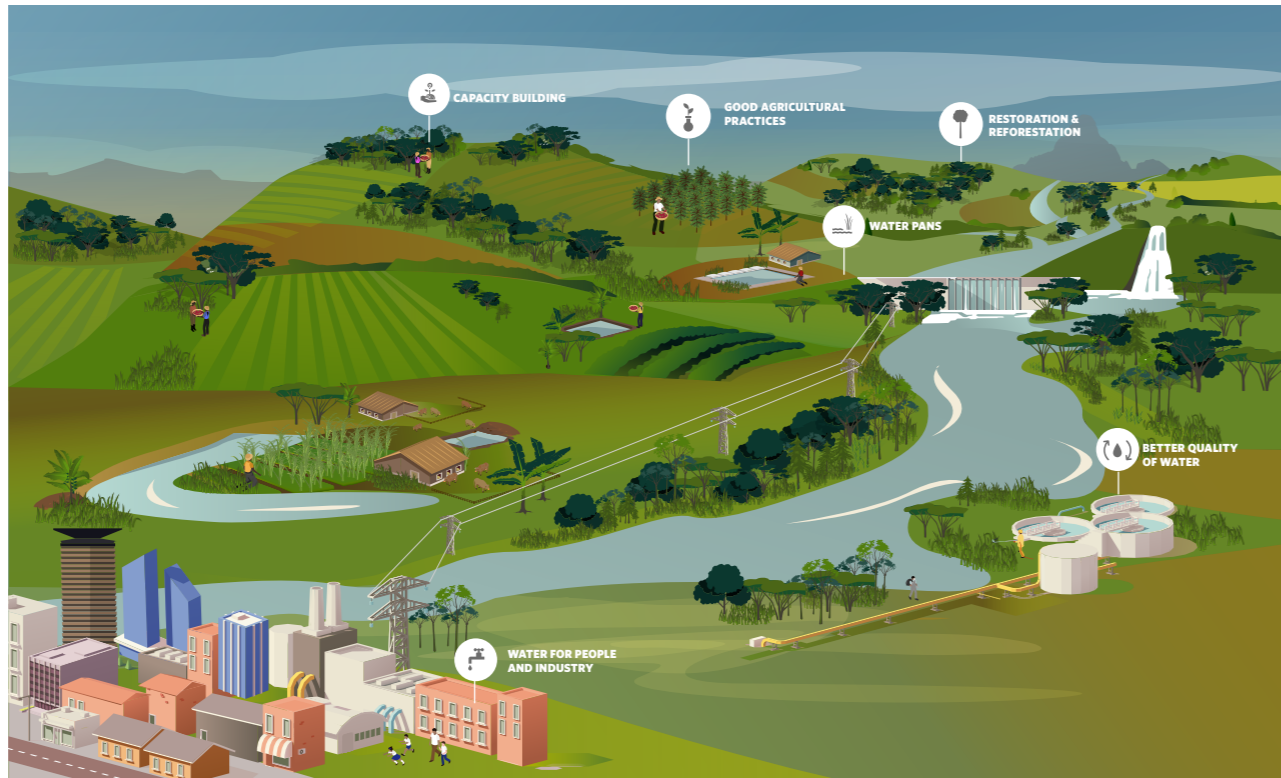
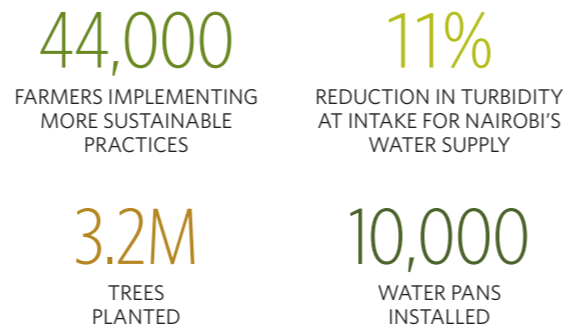
Despite being incredibly biodiverse, freshwater ecosystems are not often well protected. To restore rivers and the landscapes that feed them, we are using diverse tools, customized to each watershed's threats and opportunities, in private-public partnerships that link government, businesses, and communities, often for the first time.

We use water funds—a science-based approach developed by TNC—to mobilize resources that enable stakeholders to undertake conservation actions that build resilient watersheds with great benefits for nature and people.

Nairobi, Kenya

“**THE ULTIMATE GOAL** for each water fund is to spin off as an independent entity. The Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund Trust is now run by local leaders from the public and private sectors that have a shared goal of protecting the watershed that provides water security for themselves, millions of families, and their businesses.”

Fred Kihara | Water Funds Director, TNC Africa



Freetown, Sierra Leone

IN SIERRA LEONE'S Western Area Peninsula National Park, a closed canopy forest provides habitat for western chimpanzees and other endangered animals and birds. Increased deforestation and land degradation from urban encroachment into the park has not only destroyed habitat but has also contributed to declining water quality and insufficient supply to Freetown, the country's capital.

A new water fund led by TNC's partner Catholic Relief Services is tackling these challenges by demarcating forest boundaries and implementing agroforestry activities along the forest buffer.

Opposite: The Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund protects the source of water for 9 million people © Karla Vazquez Mendoza. **Right:** Scientist Kate Snaddon assesses the biodiversity impacts of the Greater Cape Town Water Fund's invasive plant removal efforts in the Theewaterskloof catchment area © Jeremy Shelton.



Cape Town, South Africa

INVASIVE PINE TREES in Cape Town's watershed threaten the area's unique freshwater biodiversity—including the recently discovered endangered giant redbin minnow and the secretive Cape ghost frog—by reducing river flows and increasing soil erosion. Invasives removal through the Greater Cape Town Water Fund is one of the largest freshwater ecosystem restoration efforts ever undertaken in South Africa.

TNC has implemented a robust monitoring program to track the benefits of pine clearing on five key elements, including water quantity for use downstream and impacts on this important aquatic ecosystem.

The emperor cichlid is one of more than 250 endemic cichlids—species found nowhere else on Earth—that live in Lake Tanganyika. Illustration: © Sarah Markes, inspired by Kipili's Lakeshore Lodge and based on a photo by Ad Konings.



The Emperor of Lake Tanganyika

A tale of survival and sustainability in mile-deep, landlocked waters.

THE EMPEROR CICHLID HAS LITTLE REASON to fear any other fish inhabiting its pond, even though its “pond” is the immense Lake Tanganyika, the longest lake in the world, with shorelines spanning four countries in east-central Africa.

Known locally as *kuhe* (pronounced KOO-hay), these apex predators can grow up to 3 feet long. With a lethal combination of natural camouflage and superior speed, *kuhe* rule the nearshore realm down to about 300 feet.

Not that the *kuhe*'s life is entirely easy. Juveniles are prey, and only a small percentage will reach maturity—but not for lack of parental effort. When threatened, fry by the dozens will dart in unison to the safest space: their mother's gaping mouth.

Devotion to its young takes a toll. Scientists believe *kuhe* spawn only once, exhausting their life force over the next 18 months as they guard their surviving offspring to near-maturity. While a grown *kuhe*'s main nemesis *in* the lake may be time, larger threats loom along the shore, where tens of thousands of people depend on fish as a main source of protein.

Through TNC's Tuungane Project, a partnership with Pathfinder International, 23 lakeshore villages have established Beach Management Units (BMUs) to enact and enforce their own sustainable fishing regulations, such as outlawing destructive small-mesh nets and protecting fish breeding and nursery zones.

This work has demonstrated that *kuhe* can be fished sustainably—and such practices pay off at the fish market. Big *kuhe* fetch a top price, as they are prized for ceremonial meals. Fishers and *kuhe* both are thriving in waters adjacent to BMUs, and when *kuhe* remain abundant atop the lake's complex food chain, it is indicative of a healthy fishery.

Unfortunately, prospects for other fisheries remain cloudy, as national stability and resources vary widely among the four lakeshore countries. But Tuungane's success could inspire a change.

With strategic investments to expand our conservation approach throughout the lake system, the emperor cichlid could eventually reign over a much healthier Tanganyika realm.



Opposite (l-r): The Tuungane Project field office, which, appropriately, sits at the intersection of a farm, forests, and the lake © Ross Exler. Three students in the new Lagosa secondary school dorm © Roshni Lodhia.

The Tuungane Project

Since 2012, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in western Tanzania, the Tuungane Project has been tackling the interconnected challenges of Population, Health and Environment.

Farms: 19,000 farmers from 16 shoreline villages have been trained in climate-smart agriculture techniques, including soil erosion control measures to reduce lake sedimentation.

Fisheries: 64,630 acres of fish breeding habitat have been protected and demarcated, most through community leadership.

Families: 100% of students who utilized a TNC supporter-funded girls' dormitory at Lagosa Secondary School completed this school year (compared with a 22% dropout rate before the dorm).

Forests: 3.4 million fast-growing trees were planted on cleared agricultural lands to meet demand for wood fuel and will reduce pressure on endangered chimpanzee habitat.



Watch how a dorm is changing girls' lives. [nature.org/EducatingTeresia](https://www.nature.org/EducatingTeresia)

All Hands on Deck

Protecting Africa’s marine waters requires a vast and holistic approach of finance, planning, and in-the-water science.



IT WOULD BE EASY TO ASSUME that everyone from an island nation like Seychelles knows everything about its ocean waters—from the names of each colorful fish to the immense threats of climate change. But conservationist and aspiring filmmaker Dillys Pouponeau (at left) knows that isn’t necessarily the case.

“Whenever I post nature content on social media, I get a lot of feedback, but it’s mostly from people who are already exposed to environmental education,” Dillys said. “I started to think about the people who haven’t been exposed to that and how it could make a big difference.”

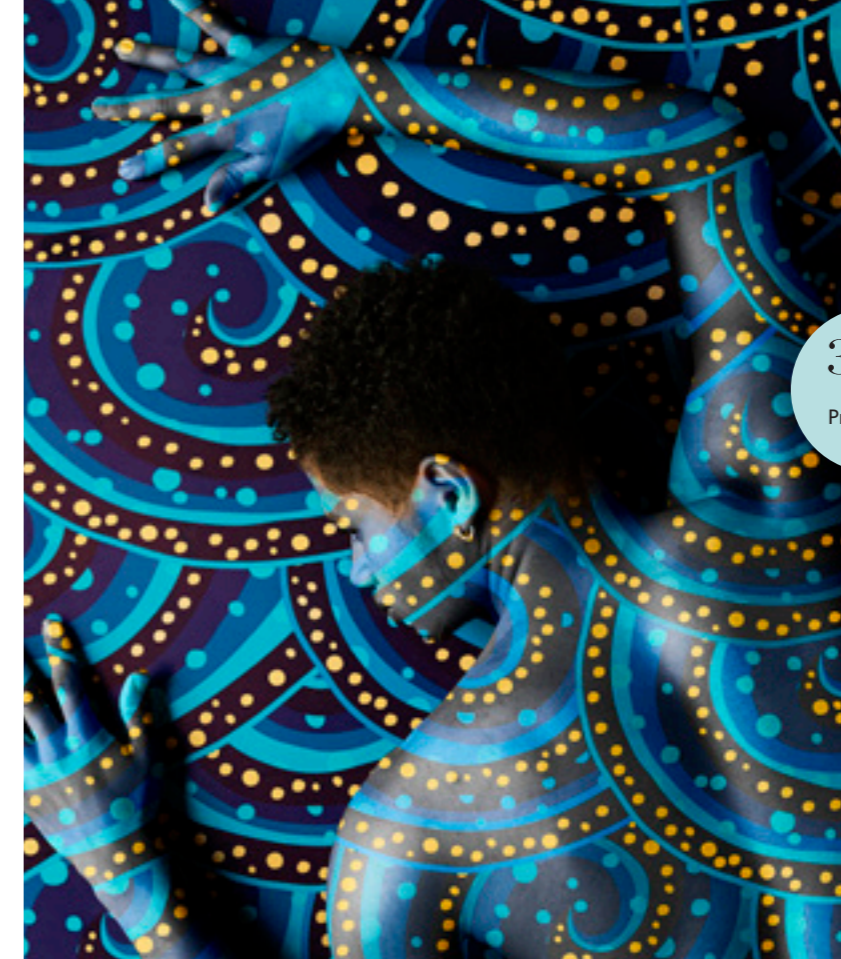
That’s what inspired Dillys to apply for a Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) grant—funding that supports ocean conservation efforts from the TNC-led debt-for-nature conversion. Dillys is now working on a six-part film series that will focus on specific topics of marine conservation, such as marine



plants or the blue economy. The series will appear on local television in Seychellois Creole in an effort to reach a wider audience.

“At the end of each episode, I will talk about sustainable practices that are specific to Seychelles,” Dillys says. “For example, instead of ‘don’t use plastic,’ they might hear a list of where in Seychelles they can find alternative products.

“There are people who say, ‘I don’t care about protecting the environment for future generations. I’m living now!’ We need to reach those people and show them that everything that exists around us is important for their survival. For example, that what’s killing fish in the ocean also has an impact on their dinner—not 50 years from now, but *now now*.”



30%
Marine Protection Areas

Seychellois artist James Dupres worked with local makeup, design, and modeling talent to create a series of posters celebrating Seychelles’ achievement of protecting 30% of its marine waters in 2020 © Marsha Dine.

Finance for Ocean Conservation

For more than 15 years, TNC has worked closely with governments and stakeholders to create tailored, multiuse marine spatial plans (MSP). To secure the needed funding, TNC developed the Blue Bonds for Conservation model. Here’s how it works:

- Debt Conversion**
By working with partners, TNC helps refinance countries’ national debt, often purchasing the debt at a discount and restructuring it with better interest rates.
- Protection Zones**
In return, the governments commit to protecting 30% or more of their marine areas.
- Marine Spatial Plan**
At a government’s request, scientists and partners work with stakeholders to identify areas for high protection and where sustainable economic activities can take place.
- Conservation Trust Fund**
Funding streams from the debt conversion are managed by an independent, nonprofit conservation trust fund, ensuring funds are used for projects that support the goals of the MSP.

Restoring Degraded Reefs in Zanzibar

Nearly 30 scientists, fishers, and community members in Zanzibar completed an online reef restoration course created with support from TNC’s Reef Resilience Network and Mwambao Coastal Community Network. This new cohort of practitioners developed a restoration plan for one hectare of degraded reefs, including the building of artificial reefs. This work is expected to increase coral cover and numbers of key fish species, benefiting both livelihoods and the marine ecosystem.

Top Right: Bluespotted ribbontail ray © blue-sea.cz/Shutterstock. Below Right: Coral planting block in Curieuse Marine National Park, Seychelles © Jason Houston.



Toward a Better Climate Future

A new business accelerator and other programs will ensure Africa is a key part of the global climate solution.

TREES STILL COVER VAST AREAS of Africa. Miombo woodlands bisect the continent from Angola to Mozambique. East Africa’s savannas are dotted with picture-perfect acacias. The Congo River basin’s deep, dense rainforests are called Earth’s “second lung,” after the Amazon.

But the need for firewood and farmland means Africa is losing its forests faster than anywhere else. With the forests go wildlife and the vital role old-growth trees play in capturing carbon.

Across the continent, people are working urgently on thousands of promising forest conservation or restoration projects that remove carbon from the atmosphere—or stop it from being released in the first place—all while also building livelihoods for local people.

The problem is that many of those great ideas never get

the boost they need to grow beyond where they started.

That’s where TNC’s Africa Forest Carbon Catalyst (AFCC) comes in. Modeled on the tech incubators that launched many Silicon Valley start-ups, the AFCC aims to find these projects and enterprises and help take them to scale.

The AFCC provides technical, operational, or financial support that helps projects get investor ready. Projects can then pitch for the funds they need to fulfill their potential.

It’s coming at the right time. There is a surge in global demand for carbon credits to offset emissions. With more support, we can accelerate and expand our efforts to capitalize on this unprecedented opportunity to address climate change and ensure that ecosystems, wildlife, and communities all benefit.



AFRICA HAS ABOUT **650M HECTARES** OF FOREST REMAINING

This is about **85%** of the land mass of **Australia**  or about **7%** the land mass of the **United States** 

It’s been losing about **4M hectares** (about the size of Switzerland) **per year**.

The **Africa Forest Carbon Catalyst** aims to find and refine African forest projects, giving them:



Much-needed upfront funding



Technical and operational advice



Preparation to successfully seek investment

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The AFCC’s support in conducting a carbon market feasibility study, as well as support in understanding the financing-to-credit-sales continuum, has dramatically strengthened our ability to navigate carbon markets. We believe this will be a critical contribution toward our ambitions of planting 1 billion trees in the next decade.
Matt Freeman | Senior Director, One Acre Fund

Opposite: Interns help plant trees in Kenya’s Tana River watershed. **Left:** Gabon makes up almost one-fifth of the Congo Basin and is home to about half of the world’s forest elephants. TNC is scaling up Gabon’s forest program and helping create a road map for how the country can further reduce emissions from the forestry sector (see next page). Both images © Roshni Lodhia.

↓
Ramping up and diversifying our efforts to tackle climate change is a top priority for 2022. Learn more about the forest carbon work at nature.org/AfricaForestCarbon.



A Defining Decade

We are supporting Gabon's bold commitments to conservation.

IT'S A LOFTY GOAL: Conserve 30 percent of the planet by 2030—just nine years away. Led by the Wyss Campaign for Nature, “30 by 30” has become a rallying cry for conservation-minded organizations and leaders. The effort recognizes that the rights, stewardship, and experience of Indigenous peoples must be integral to increasing the number of areas that will be managed for long-term protection in order to avoid planetary crisis.

A growing number of countries are pledging to conserve 30% of their land and marine resources. But Gabon is going even bigger, becoming the first country to target 30% of their freshwater habitat, too. The government has asked TNC to help develop science-guided plans at scale, and we are bringing our world-leading expertise in conservation finance to ensure that Gabon's bold vision can become a reality.

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Gabon is a country of forests, rivers, and ocean ecosystems that harbor some of Africa's most remarkable species diversity. We are convinced that investment in biodiversity conservation and natural capital is critical for human well-being. Indeed, we see [our goal] as a 30:30:30 commitment—30% of our land, 30% of our oceans, and 30% of our freshwater systems.

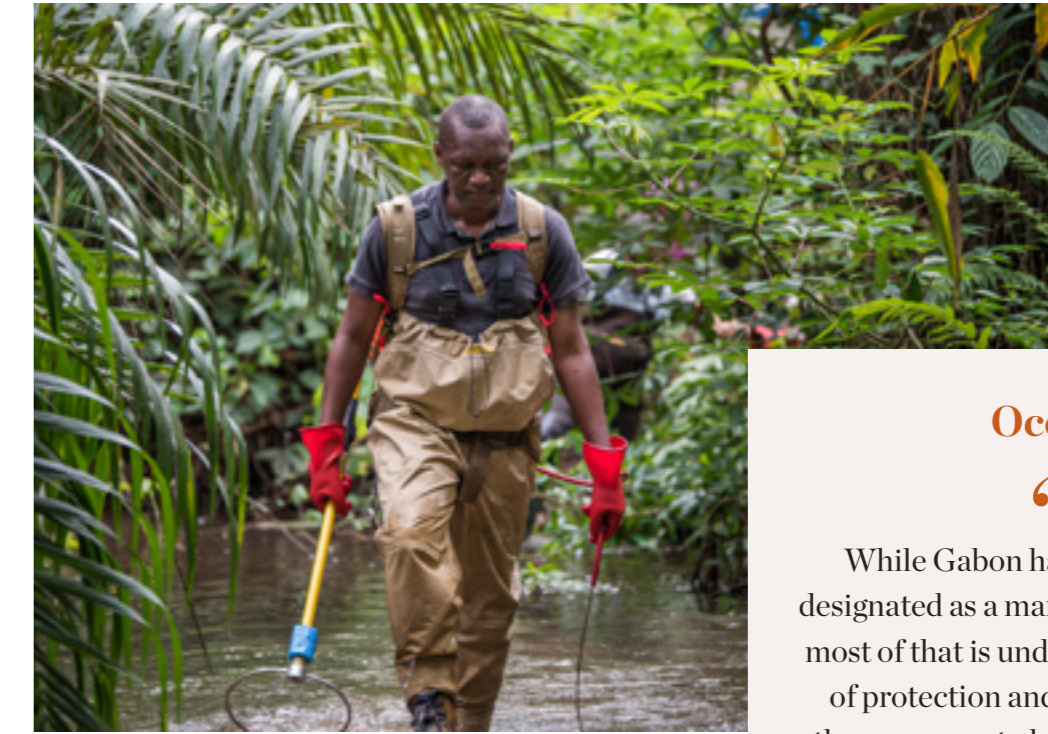
Lee White | Gabon's Minister of Forests, Oceans, Environment, and Climate Change

Above: Black bee-eater © Mark Beaman/Wild Images. **Opposite (l-r):** Red river hog; Scientist Jean-Hervé Mve Beh collects fish for research near Fougamou, Gabon. Both images © Roshni Lodhia.

Land

NEW DATA HAS FOUND that Gabon, the second most forested country on the planet, actually absorbs more carbon than it emits. Yet this rare carbon-positive nation has committed to go even further and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2025. Much of this goal will be achieved through Reduced Impact Logging for Climate Change Mitigation (RIL-C).

TNC collaborated with other scientists to help Gabon establish a baseline for forestry carbon emissions and is now piloting the implementation and monitoring of RIL-C practices. Establishing the baseline allowed Gabon to access \$17 million in climate mitigation payments from the government of Norway in July 2021, and expansion of planned RIL-C practices could unlock a remaining \$123 million over 10 years based on performance.



Freshwater

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, TNC has helped change the way Gabon approaches hydropower. The country's ample rivers make hydropower attractive for low-carbon energy development, but done haphazardly, it could drastically disrupt aquatic ecosystems, increase sedimentation, and decimate fish populations.

TNC's tools and methods are now helping the government make earlier, more thorough assessments about the potential impacts of new projects. We are building on that work and focusing on improving fisheries management with the development of new freshwater protection tools.

Ocean

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While Gabon has 26% of ocean designated as a marine protected area, most of that is under the lowest levels of protection and doesn't yet have the resources to be implemented. In addition to reaching the 30% goal, we want to help increase the areas under highest protection from less than 1% to at least 10% and, by developing innovative financial mechanisms like those we've successfully used in Seychelles and elsewhere, secure the funding necessary to ensure those conservation efforts are sustainable.

Adnan Awad | Oceans Strategy Director, TNC Africa

Oasis in the Kalahari

To save the Okavango Delta, we are working upriver where the water's journey begins.



ALL THE WATER IN THE DELTA comes from Angola. If Angola shuts the tap, the river could turn into a trickle. This is not the government's intention, so we are working to provide science-based solutions to counter growing pressures, such as hydropower dams and slash-and-burn agriculture, on this complex freshwater ecosystem.

In collaboration with other institutions, TNC has released a report that modeled the benefits of watershed conservation to Angola and recommends alternatives to unsustainable use of land and water resources.

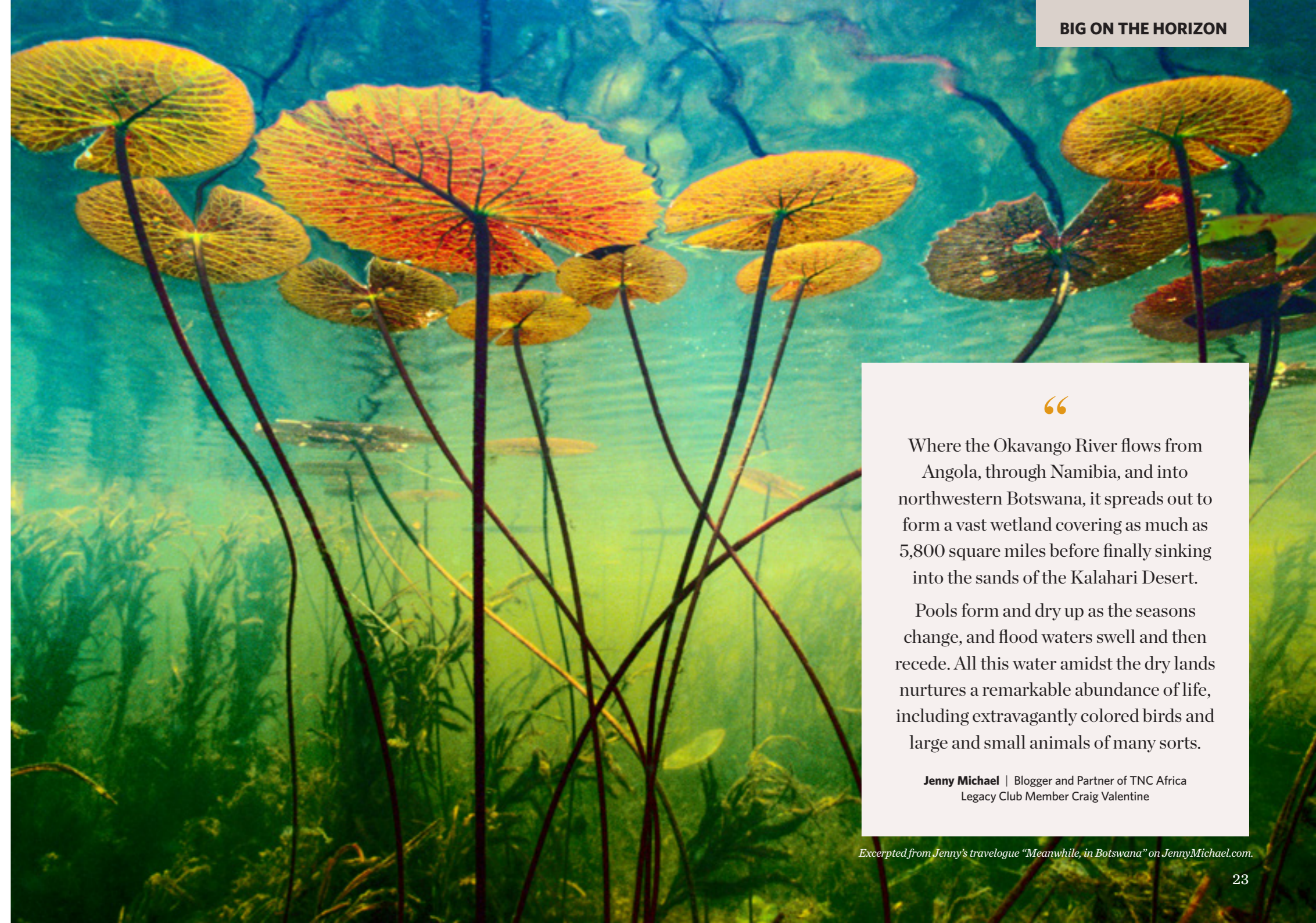
For example, many smallholder farmers plow, exhaust the soil, move to a new place, cut trees, and do the same thing over again. We can help reduce that vicious circle by equipping them with conservation-friendly practices that enable them to farm one patch of land longer.

This is just one small piece of our emerging national-scale strategy but it illustrates our commitment to ensuring that the people of Angola benefit from our work, not just the wildlife of the delta.

Sekgowa Motsumi | Okavango Program Director, TNC Africa



Left: Satellite image of Okavango Delta © Satellite Earth Art/Getty Images. **Below:** Southern lechwe © Wim van den Heever/Science Photo Library. **Opposite:** Water lilies © Frans Lanting.



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Where the Okavango River flows from Angola, through Namibia, and into northwestern Botswana, it spreads out to form a vast wetland covering as much as 5,800 square miles before finally sinking into the sands of the Kalahari Desert.

Pools form and dry up as the seasons change, and flood waters swell and then recede. All this water amidst the dry lands nurtures a remarkable abundance of life, including extravagantly colored birds and large and small animals of many sorts.

Jenny Michael | Blogger and Partner of TNC Africa
Legacy Club Member Craig Valentine

Excerpted from Jenny's travelogue "Meanwhile, in Botswana" on JennyMichael.com.

Capitalizing on Potential

Innovative Scale Up Fund propels conservation projects that are ready to go big.

“
Conservation in Africa is one of the most cost-efficient ways to address global climate and biodiversity issues, and TNC has the science, skills, and relationships to get things done. We both made careers of finding the most promising companies and applying capital at the right time and place to maximize their growth potential. Through the Scale Up Fund (SUF), we're able to apply our commercial and financial experience to help TNC get more done faster in Africa. And we're recruiting new SUF members who share our commitment to big, sustainable results.

John Bernstein and Fred Wakeman | Co-Founders,
Scale Up Fund



TAKING CUES FROM THE PRIVATE EQUITY SECTOR, Fred Wakeman and John Bernstein—fellow investors, philanthropists, and TNC trustees—founded the innovative SUF for conservation. The SUF carefully vets conservation projects in Africa and strategically injects capital into those primed to scale across the region—and even the globe. By helping to open doors to public and private investors, the SUF has achieved a 3.5:1 return on investment (ROI) overall.

Waves of Ocean Protection

The SUF, with other supporters, helped secure protections across more than 100 million acres of Seychelles' ocean and lay the groundwork for replication of this proven marine planning, protection, and financing model that is now being expanded to Kenya and Tanzania using \$12 million in new funding from Germany and the World Bank (nearly 13:1 ROI).

More Water, More Funds

After inaugurating the Greater Cape Town Water Fund (GCTWF)—Africa's second water fund—the SUF helped hire staff and support trainings that accelerated replication of this cost-effective, nature-based solution to water-stressed cities across Africa. Ten more Africa water funds are now in development.

Back in Cape Town, the impressive results delivered by the water fund led the local government to pledge \$4.25 million of its own budget to accelerate the GCTWF's water-saving restoration activities over the next three years. To date, GCTWF partners have cleared over 49,000 acres of water-hogging invasive plants, returning 9 billion liters per year to the water supply and allowing rare native fynbos vegetation to recover, all while creating 475 green jobs for local people.



Opposite: Mahé Island, Seychelles
© Roshni Lodhia. **Below:** Students collect freshwater fish and aquatic invertebrate samples from the Sonderend River, South Africa
© Jeremy Shelton.

The Color of Hope

In northern Kenya, every color has its own story. Green is the grass that sustains all things wild. Blue is the sky, the heavens, the realm of divinity. White speaks of milk, of nourishment. Red is for blood, for life itself.

THESE COLORS FIND THEIR WAY into every BeadWORKS creation, each bangle and necklace a symbol of hope—of conservation progress and lives transformed. Thanks to BeadWORKS, more than 1,200 women put their traditional skills to work instead of cutting trees and selling charcoal and firewood. Their savanna-inspired designs ship worldwide, and this year, for the first time, can be ordered online at beadworkskenya.com.

This progress is good news for nature and people. “I now know that trees are valuable,” says Star Bearer Joyce Lelukai. “I educate my group, so nobody cuts trees.” And with their new income, the women send their children to school, access health care, and help manage communal land. Together they are designing a brighter future—one colorful bead at a time.



Top: BeadWORKS products.
Bottom: Mother and child in Kalama Conservancy, Kenya. Both images © Roshni Lodhia.



BeadWORKS is a program of TNC partner Northern Rangelands Trust—and just one example of how women are taking the lead in conservation. From the forests of western Tanzania to the riverbanks of Kenya, from the mountainsides of South Africa to the villages of Zambia and beyond, women are shaping a sustainable future for themselves and their children, setting an example for Africa and the world.



Read more about this work—powered in part by the Africa Affinity Group for Women and Girls.

nature.org/WomenInAfrica

Making a Difference—Together

TODAY, IN THE MIDST of unprecedented challenge and dramatic change, Africa remains a place of promise and progress. With your help, we can support the continent’s efforts to forge a sustainable path. Together, we can shape a future where both nature and people survive—and thrive.



I heard the story recently of some pastoralists in Kenya who were so committed to returning rhinos to the landscape near Loisaba—and so determined to help—that they offered to sell some of their precious goats, their most prized possessions, to support TNC’s effort. For me, that heartfelt offer is humbling—and it shows the power of giving, the power of collective commitment: We all give in whatever way works best for us. Every gift matters. And together we make a difference.

Joanna Brown | Member, TNC Africa Council and Legacy Club



Contact Cori at cmessinger@tnc.org to learn more about how you can give—with appreciated assets, through membership in TNC’s Legacy Club, and more. **Your support changes the future. Thank you!**

Out of 101,000 submissions from 158 countries to TNC’s 2021 Global Photo Contest, this image of a western lowland gorilla named Malui in the Central African Republic took the top prize. Photographer Anup Shah said of the experience: “Three times Malui runs through the patch where butterflies hover, savoring the experience of the explosion of wings. It is a game she clearly enjoys.”



Celebrating Our Africa Council

HOW DO WE EVEN BEGIN TO SAY THANK YOU? Our Africa Council members have given countless hours, endless talent, abundant financial support, and so much more. They’ve given their all—heart and soul—to Africa, and we couldn’t be more grateful.

From the very start, even as the Africa Program was still finding its footing, our founding council members saw the potential and promise on this great continent—and how TNC could make a meaningful difference in Africa’s journey to a sustainable future. They cheered us on. Pushed us forward. Asked hard questions. With their help, we built critical partnerships and expanded our team. Most of all, they have shared with us their passion for Africa—their love for the landscape, the wildlife, the people. Their commitment inspires us.

Someday, when we gather together again, as the sun sets in the African sky, we will raise a toast—to challenges tackled and lessons learned, to friendships forged and goals achieved, to our shared vision for a brighter future. And to more good work ahead.

Until then, from all of us on the Africa team, our sincerest thanks to every council member, past and present.

Cori Messinger | Director of Development, TNC Africa

“Will you look at the time?! It seems like yesterday when David Banks and I met for the first time in a cramped office in Boston, poring over maps of Africa—and when Matt Brown and I met for dinner on a stormy night in Long Island (also to pore over maps of Africa)—and when Brian Makare, Mike Branham, and I met in Boulder, and somehow formed the Council by the evening’s end. I could babble on about the successes of TNC Africa I have witnessed during my time. But at the end of the day, the quality time I have spent with the staff and the Council is what will be indelible for me. “It” has been a personal “safe space” of mine. I shall miss it.

Kenneth K. Coe | Founding Chair, TNC Africa Council, and Legacy Club Member



This report is dedicated to TNC Africa staffers Beatrice James and Jeremiah Daffa, along with all of our friends and colleagues who lost their lives this year.

Africa Council

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|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Teresa Beck | Phillip Ihenacho | Brian Makare |
| Wendy Bennett | Pamela Isdell | James Mworira |
| John Bernstein | Elsie Kanza | Mary Anne Rogers |
| Michael W. Branham | Connie Keller | Cynthia Ryan |
| Joanna Brown | Dennis Keller | John Sall |
| Shona Brown | Tom Lalampaa | Karim Shariff |
| Kenneth K. Coe | Edwin Macharia | Fred Wakeman |

A special thank you to our founding members who are leaving the Council this year: Mike Branham, Ken Coe, Connie Keller, Brian Makare, Cynthia Ryan, and John Sall. You helped us put down roots in Africa, nurturing and strengthening a brand new program. Today, thanks to your support and generosity, we are growing strong across the landscape, making a difference for people and nature. Thanks for giving Africa your all.

Opposite: Cheetahs in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. **Left:** Black sable, Botswana. Both images © Kenneth K. Coe. **Back cover:** Sixth grader Metayo Maritz flies a kite at the Rooivlerkiefees—an Afrikaans word that means “Festival of the Redfin.” A giant redfin minnow sculpture, co-created by community members, was unveiled at the festival organized to bring awareness to the importance of protecting the Sonderend River, which feeds the City of Cape Town’s main water supply dam. © Jeremy Shelton



Africa Impact 2008-2021

ACRES UNDER CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT:



27,765,000

LAND



77,000

FRESHWATER



102,751,000

OCEAN



156

PARTNERS



1,648,000

PEOPLE BENEFITING



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@nature_africa



@tncafrica



nature.org/africa

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



The Nature Conservancy 