



WWF

MAGAZINE

AUTUMN

2015

# Action

THE EXCLUSIVE MAGAZINE FOR WWF MEMBERS #31

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## BACK FROM THE BRINK

How you're helping to protect the world's most threatened species



### GOOD NEWS FOR RHINOS

Discover Nepal's recent greater one-horned rhino survey and find out why we're celebrating

### PUT THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

From spooky Halloween cakes to handmade gifts, our new fundraising guide is bursting with inspiring ideas

### BE A GORILLA GUARDIAN

How ecotourism can be as good for mountain gorillas as it is for tourists and local communities



## SPECIES ON THE EDGE

This issue is all about protecting species – from pandas to polar bears, we're fighting to secure a future for all of the rare and threatened animals with which we share the planet. Nearly a quarter of all mammal species and a third of amphibians are at risk of extinction, so there's an urgent need to safeguard wildlife and the habitats they depend on.

Some species need a little more help than others, such as tigers, Amur and snow leopards, rhinos, orang-utans, freshwater dolphins and porpoises, giant pandas and polar bears. Fortunately, advances in knowledge and technology are making remarkable conservation strategies possible. We're on the frontline of efforts to assure the future security of species around the world. Find out more on pages 12 and 22, and by visiting: [wwf.org.uk/wildlife](http://wwf.org.uk/wildlife)

Black rhinos are just one of the species helped by our innovative conservation techniques

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## MEET THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS



**John Barker**  
John leads our programmes in China and India. He is working with teams in Nepal too, and says: "The success of rhino conservation in Nepal is a great lesson for all other countries."



**Cath Lawson**  
Cath works in our East Africa team and supports our mountain gorilla work. She says: "The futures of mountain gorillas and local communities are intrinsically linked."



**Jo Sargent**  
Jo recently visited India to lead a storytelling workshop with our field teams. "Getting to meet people who spend their lives making WWF's conservation work a reality was amazing," she says.

## GET IN TOUCH

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## JOIN OUR READER PANEL

We'd love to know what you think of *Action*. By becoming an online 'Action adviser', you'll join an exclusive group who are passionate about conservation and want to help us spread the word more effectively. It will take you only five minutes to review this issue. Find out more about our prize draw on page 30 then register at [wwf.org.uk/actionadvisers](http://wwf.org.uk/actionadvisers)

# Together, we did it!

Thanks to your membership, we continue to protect wildlife and wild places. Here are some of the great things supporters like you have helped to achieve

## 1 GREATER MEKONG

### 'Magical Mekong' reveals new species

Last year, scientists discovered 139 new species in south-east Asia's Greater Mekong region. The report of such discoveries, which we collated, describes a 'dementor' wasp that paralyses prey before devouring it alive, a colour-changing thorny frog (pictured) and the world's second-longest insect, a 54cm-long stick insect. In total, 90 plants, 23 reptiles, 16 amphibians, nine fish and one mammal (the long-toothed pipistrelle bat) were described in the region, which covers Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. This brings the total number of new species discovered here between 1997 and 2014 to 2,216 – an average of just over two new species a week. We're working with our partners to protect the Mekong's unique ecosystems, its fabulous new species – and those that are yet to be discovered.

FROG © ROWLEY



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## 2 NEW ZEALAND

### Sea lion pups saved from drowning

In New Zealand, WWF has been working with the government on an ingenious solution to rescue sea lion pups from a needless death on one of the country's remote islands. New Zealand sea lions are the rarest sea lion species. They're classed as 'nationally critical' because of their declining numbers. The pups were falling into steep-sided holes in the ground on Enderby Island and were unable to climb out and vulnerable to hypothermia, starvation or drowning. In January, supporters paid for 'escape' ramps to be installed with fantastic results. Cameras recorded 23 pups using the ramps to climb to safety.

SEA LION © GETTY



## 3 CHINA

### You helped Amur tigers to come roaring back

One of our infrared camera traps has captured rare video footage of a tiger family – a female with two playful cubs, around one-and-a-half years old – in Wangqing Nature Reserve, China. The footage was taken around 20 miles from the Russian border and proves that wild Amur tigers are steadily spreading further inland and breeding.

In the past, paw prints have been the only evidence of the cats living this far away from the border with Russia. This incredible success is thanks to your support and our long-term work with the Jilin Provincial Forestry Department in this area, where we've helped restore prey populations and maintain corridors to allow the cats to move freely. It's proof that all our hard work to boost wild Amur tiger numbers is paying off.



© WWF

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## 4 AMAZON RIVER

### You helped count rare river dolphins

Thanks to you, we were able to count Amazon river dolphins in an area threatened by hydropower development. River dolphins are an excellent indicator of river health, but we still know very little about their range and abundance. During the expedition, researchers recorded 160 tucuxi and 112 pink river dolphins along a 577km stretch of the Tapajós river, where the Brazilian government plans to build more than 40 dams. The survey will help us to advise them on where to site any new developments.

**8,000**

The number of dolphins of four different species recorded in 6,500km of Amazonian river

DOLPHIN © GETTY

**180°**

Amazon river dolphins can rotate their heads up to 180° to hunt fish in shallow waters



2

3 1

5

## 5 RUSSIA

### Amur tiger moves to new home

There's a happy ending for a starving Amur tiger who was captured when he began killing town dogs to survive. The three-year-old male, named Uporny (which means 'stubborn' in Russian), was taken to a rehabilitation centre where he was cared for until he was ready to return to the wild. In June, he was released into a new home by the Russian government, with support from the Amur Tiger Centre, WWF-Russia and our supporters worldwide, who helped to purchase the tiger's travel crate. Uporny's new home is a sparsely inhabited mountain area on the edge of Anyuisky National Park, which has abundant prey and other tigers living nearby. From now on, his movements will be tracked by GPS and camera traps to keep him safe.

WATCH THE MOVING VIDEO at [wwf.org.uk/amurfilm](http://wwf.org.uk/amurfilm)

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Amur tiger has made an amazing comeback in the wild, from about 30 cats to as many as 540 today

## 6 KENYA

### New forensic laboratory helps save rhinos

A new wildlife forensic and genetics laboratory in Kenya – the first of its kind in eastern and central Africa – will help to bring poachers and wildlife traffickers to justice. The lab will analyse samples from confiscated wildlife products, such as elephant tusks and rhino horns, so that investigators can match the parts back to the scene of the crime. The evidence collected will be used to strengthen the prosecution of offenders in court. The new facility will also work with the Rhino DNA Index System (RhoDIS) database, supported by WWF, which now contains over 2,000 rhino DNA samples. To date, linking a confiscated horn to a specific crime scene has proved difficult in these regions, but the lab can now provide the scientific evidence needed to help secure convictions.



RHINO © GETTY

"I hope you'll keep lending us your crucial support as we continue to fight for our brilliant planet."  
David Nussbaum, WWF-UK chief executive



© WWF-RUSSIA

## FOREST PHANTOM

Where the Andes meet the Amazon, in the Upper Putumayo region of Colombia, an important population of jaguars still roams. With your support, we're working to protect these big cats and their habitat by helping local communities to monitor mammals living in the region's forest reserves. Last year, we trained 13 community members to recognise jaguar tracks by looking for footprints, hair and droppings.

We also provided camera traps and GPS to capture images of the area's secretive wildlife. The cameras revealed pumas, mountain tapirs, spectacled bears and even an elusive jaguar. Our work has helped stimulate interest in conservation and a sense of ownership among local communities who used to hunt wildlife. This is enhanced by an educational programme we're developing in three schools in Putumayo.

The Putumayo is on the frontline of our work to protect jaguars but in the mountains to the west, deforestation is rampant. We want to prevent it from reaching the jaguars' home in the Amazonian lowlands and restore deforested areas so that these cats – and the communities that care for them – can continue to live in peace. Catch a jaguar on camera: [wwf.org.uk/jaguarcam](http://wwf.org.uk/jaguarcam)

### ADOPT A JAGUAR

You can help us protect jaguars and their habitat by becoming a big cat adopter today: [wwf.org.uk/jaguaradopt](http://wwf.org.uk/jaguaradopt)

Jaguars now occupy less than half of their historic range. They're so elusive that they're only occasionally caught on camera traps, as pictured here. So we don't know exactly how many are left in the wild – but we do know their numbers are declining

# WWF IN ACTION

Our recent challenges and triumphs for wildlife and the environment



Surfers, nuns, rowers and beekeepers were among the 9,000 people who called on MPs to act on climate change

TIMELINE



Actress Emilia Fox supports the 'For the love of...' campaign

## A YEAR OF CLIMATE ACTION

We've been building the momentum for action on climate change all year, pushing for a strong deal in Paris and greater commitment in the future

### Spring 2015

Millions enjoy a celebrity-packed film of one of Shakespeare's best-loved sonnets (featuring Emilia Fox, above). The main party leaders sign a pledge to act on climate change.

### Summer 2015

9,000 people meet their MPs to tell them, face-to-face, why they should make climate change a priority. Major businesses ask David Cameron to act.

### Autumn 2015

Thousands of people call on the UK to phase out old coal. Be one of them!

### December 2015

At the UN climate summit in Paris, a new global deal on climate change may be agreed.

### Spring 2016 and beyond

We'll be pushing national governments and companies to keep up the momentum to deliver on emissions cuts. Whatever happens in Paris, action to tackle climate change can be good for our economy, good for our planet and good for our lives.

CAMPAIGN

## Take action on climate change

**IN JUNE, around 9,000 people took part in the Climate Coalition's lobby in London and shared their concerns about climate change with more than 330 MPs**

Anglers, nuns, surfers, ramblers and, of course, hundreds of WWF supporters, came together to call on the government to take action on climate change and help protect the things we love from its impacts. Thanks to your support, the number one trending hashtag in the UK

that day was #fortheloveof.

The week before the lobby, we co-ordinated a letter to Prime Minister David Cameron. Signed by 80 major businesses, it set out the economic case for strong and urgent action on climate change.

The lobby and the letter were designed to put pressure on the UK government ahead of the UN climate summit in Paris in December. This year, we want a clear, global climate deal that sets out how each country will reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to limit warming to well below 2°C.

We also want to ensure that the most vulnerable nations are helped to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

We would like the UK to push for a strong outcome at the talks, but to be credible we need to do more at home to cut emissions.

Coal is the most polluting way to generate power and it's high time we cut it out of our energy mix. Running one large coal plant full-time in 2030 would provide only 3% of our electricity, but use up over 50% of the UK's emissions target.

That's why – with your help –

we're calling on the government to end climate pollution from coal power stations by 2023. This would show that the UK is taking strong action to move towards a clean energy future.

### IT'S TIME TO ACT

- Help us put an end to the use of coal in the UK – sign the petition on the flyer inside this magazine or go to [wwf.org.uk/coalcampaign](http://wwf.org.uk/coalcampaign)
- Find out about our hopes for the Paris climate talks: [wwf.org.uk/paris](http://wwf.org.uk/paris)



Wildlife presenter Steve Backshall was one of around 1,000 people who supported our #SaveForests campaign at Camp Festival

CAMPAIGN

## Our forest campaign branches out

**OUR FOREST campaign is in full swing and we've been busy spreading the #SaveForests message all summer**

We're determined to protect the world's forests by preventing illegally or unsustainably logged wood from coming into the UK – and the support from the public and businesses has been fantastic. More than 100,000 of you have already signed our petition and more than 40 businesses have publicly committed to source their wood-based products legally and sustainably by 2020.

Throughout the summer we collected thousands of personalised letters to send to MPs, demonstrating your overwhelming support for the world's forests. We've also been putting pressure on specific businesses on UK high streets. We invited you to be the 'voice of the forest' and ask companies to make a public commitment to ensure the wood in the

products they sell comes from well managed, healthy forests.

We've been campaigning to save forests at Chelsea Flower Show, Camp Festival and *Grand Designs* Live with Kevin McCloud. We also returned to *Grand Designs* Live in Birmingham last weekend.

We're now looking ahead to the outcome of the EU Timber Regulation review in December, where we have an opportunity to prevent illegally-logged timber products from entering the EU. To seize this moment and #SaveForests, we need your support.

### HOW YOU CAN CONTINUE TO HELP

- Add your name to our forests campaign: [wwf.org.uk/actionforests](http://wwf.org.uk/actionforests)
- Look for the FSC logo on wood purchases to ensure they're sustainable

### NEWS IN NUMBERS

563,480

The number of supporters who helped us persuade the Australian government to ban dredge spoil from being dumped in the waters of the Great Barrier Reef. The lack of legislation had posed the most immediate threat to the reef. Thank you for your support.

14

The number of European bison released in May into the Tarcu Mountains, southern Carpathians, at the start of a 25-year reintroduction programme by WWF-Romania and Rewilding Europe. The goal is to build a population of more than 1,000 free-roaming bison in the region.



FUNDRAISING

## The nation goes really wild

**THANK YOU for being part of Wear it Wild in June and helping to raise awareness and funds to help protect some of the world's most threatened species**

To mark World Environment Day, we challenged you to dress as wild as you dared – and you didn't disappoint! Businessmen and women donned leopard-print ties and scarves, mums rocked animal spots on the school run and schoolchildren sported wild onesies; thousands of people across the UK showed their passion for wildlife.

More than 7,000 individuals, schools, businesses and youth groups supported Wear it Wild and #WearItWild was a hot topic on social media, reaching more than 14 million people!

A teacher from Cranford Park Primary School in Yateley, Hants, said: "Everyone dressed up and each class learned about a different endangered animal then shared their findings at school assembly. We even organised some Animal Olympics in the school field."

Charlotte Bagg, our events manager, said: "Thank you to

everyone who took part. It's fantastic to see so many people come together to show their love for wildlife. The great response proves that people are prepared to let loose to show they care."

All of the funds raised will support our vital work to tackle threats to the natural world.

### SHARE THE FUN!

- Enjoy more of your letters and photos on page 29 and at: [www.org.uk/wildstory](http://www.org.uk/wildstory)
- Your next Wear it Wild will be on 27 May 2016, so look out for details on our website



### ACTION INTERVIEW

## RICHARD HAMMOND

We caught up with Richard to find out more about his recent photographic adventures in the Amazon for *Richard Hammond's Jungle Quest* on Sky 1

### Have you always dreamed of being a wildlife photographer?

I was fascinated with the natural world from a young age. For my eighth birthday I was given a nature encyclopedia, which became a prized possession. My other hobby was photography – I set up a darkroom in the cupboard under the stairs. By age 11 was developing my own photos, taken on a Zenith ET 35mm camera.

### What was the best thing that happened during filming?

For me, sloths are synonymous with the Amazon, so we paddled our canoes through the fringes of the flooded forest looking for one. My guide told me there was a sloth sleeping in a strangling tree, so – putting aside thoughts of spiders, scorpions and snakes – I hauled myself up the tree. I found the sloth curled up in a bowl of branches. Sharing a quiet moment with it was wonderful and life-affirming, and will remain with me always.

### Why is protecting the Amazon so important?

The Amazon rainforest is as intense as it is dense. Every living thing within it is interconnected and makes a contribution, large or small, to the whole. I came across an area where all the trees had been felled. I felt it was such a crashing shame that in this patch the crazy, noisy, dangerous, funny world of the rainforest and its billions of frogs, insects, trees, flowers and animals had stopped so suddenly. It's like being at the best party when the lights come on and it's all over.

Thanks to our partnership with Sky, a billion trees are still standing in Brazil.

### PICTURE STORY

## Underwater world revealed

A PHOTOGRAPH can stop you in your tracks, tug on your heart strings or make your jaw drop in awe. And this year's British Wildlife Photography Awards didn't disappoint, offering a spectacular showcase of Britain's wildlife. We sponsor the 'Coast and Marine' category, which highlights the often unseen animals that live off our coasts and beneath the waves, and reminds us of the importance of safeguarding this rich environment. Our own Kate Foresheaw is one of the judges. One of her favourite photos this year was of a female otter that had learned the knack of catching octopuses to feed her cubs. "The cubs would be left to wrestle with the unfortunate octopus. Once they overwhelmed it, they would eat the tentacles and leave the rest for their hardworking mum," says photographer Richard Shucksmith.



See more images at [www.org.uk/bwpa2015](http://www.org.uk/bwpa2015)



Green Ambassadors from The King John School, Northamptonshire, had loads of fun at our Awards Summit

### YOUTH

## Green Ambassador Awards: winners revealed

THE WINNERS of our Green Ambassador Awards were announced at a ceremony in July, when schools, teachers and pupils were recognised for their outstanding eco-initiatives.

Fighting off competition from nearly 100 schools across the UK, Heald Place Primary School in Manchester was crowned the Green Ambassador School of the Year for its exceptional commitment to putting green issues at the heart of school life.

The school was awarded £5,000 to spend on green projects.

Two runner-up prizes of £2,500 each went to Pilling St John's C of E Primary School in Lancashire and Coastlands Community Primary School in Pembrokeshire.

Patricia Opalko of St Edmund Campion Catholic Primary School in Slough won the teacher category for promoting environmentally-friendly principles in her school.

The Pupil Award went to Kayan from William Tyndale Primary School in London for caring for their gardens.

Karen Gates, who leads our Green Ambassadors' scheme said: "We hope more schools will join us in engaging the next generation with environmental issues in a fun, accessible way."

**TO ENTER NEXT YEAR:** [www.org.uk/greenambassador](http://www.org.uk/greenambassador)

**4,500**

The number of schools signed up to our Green Ambassadors scheme

**67,500**

The number of Green Ambassadors reaching out to more than one million young people

**1,000+**

The number of groups joining Green Ambassadors 4 Youth – and rising!

### NEWS IN BRIEF



### THAILAND SAYS NO TO IVORY

Over one million people have joined a campaign in Thailand that condemns the killing of elephants for ivory. Since January, people across the country have symbolically removed the letter 'Chor Chang' (จ) – a common letter in the Thai alphabet similar to 'e for elephant' – from their names. Thailand is one of the world's largest ivory markets, but in March the government took steps to tackle the illegal trade by adding the African elephant to its list of protected species, which prohibits the trade and sale of ivory in Thailand.

### OUR BLOG IS BEST

While you wait for your next Action, why not keep up to date with our work by reading our fascinating blogs? Our blog site was a winner at the National UK Blog Awards in April. On the site you can discover more wild and wonderful stories, photos and videos straight from our staff, ambassadors and celebrities who have helped to inspire change around the world. [www.org.uk/blogs](http://www.org.uk/blogs)

### IN PARTNERSHIP

## Milestone reached to save world's largest wetland

STRETCHING ACROSS the borders of Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay, the Pantanal is the world's largest wetland. It's home to 5,000 species, including jaguars, giant river otters and hyacinth macaws. All of the wildlife living here depends on the wetland's annual flooding cycle to survive. The Pantanal's headwaters are the source of the water that flows to the wetland and supports its rich life as well as local livelihoods, but they are threatened by deforestation and habitat degradation.

Supported by the HSBC Water Programme, we've spent two years encouraging state and

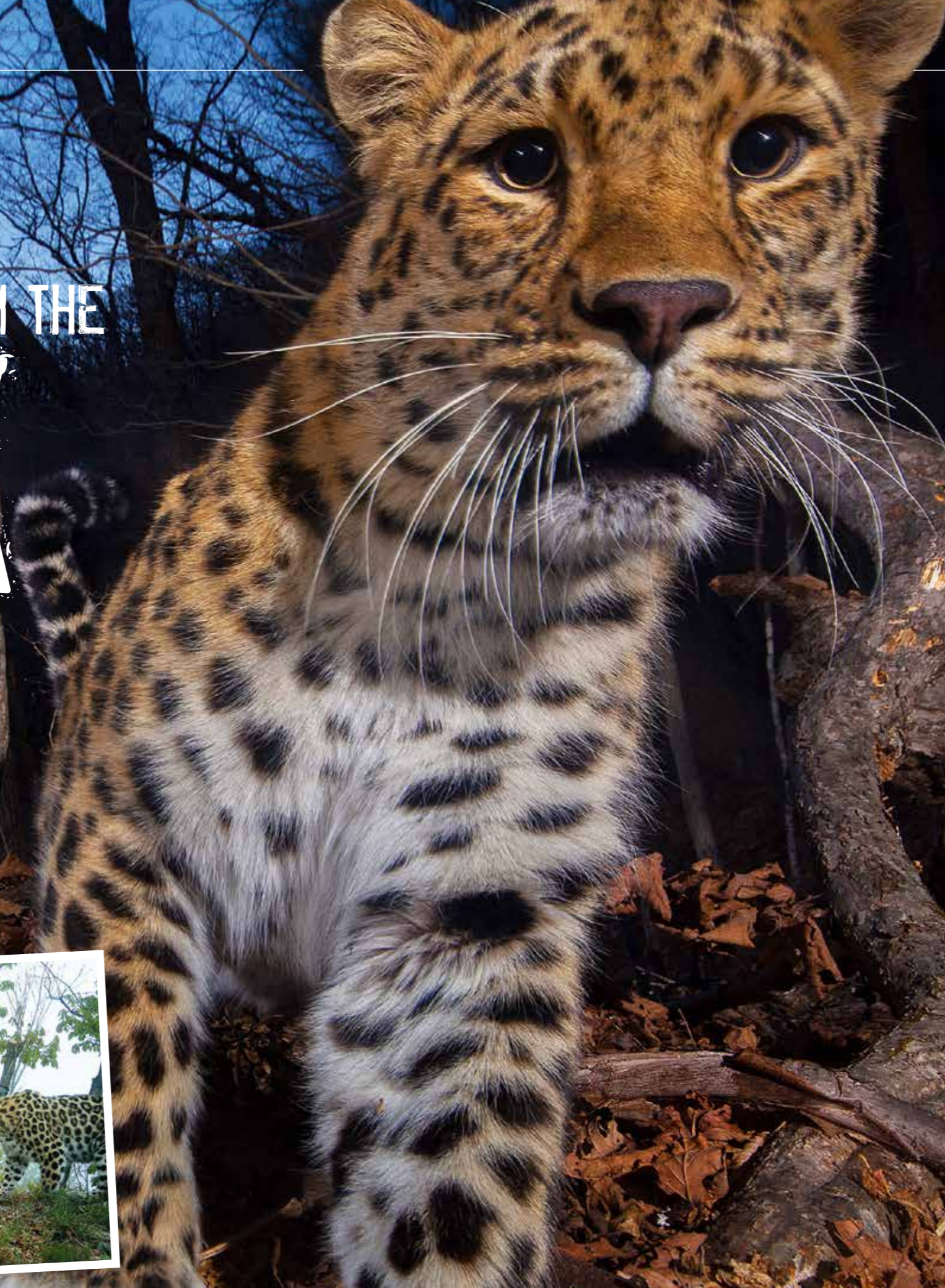
local government and people who rely on this precious resource to help protect it. In June we reached a significant milestone; Brazil's Mato Grosso state government and 20 out of 25 municipalities signed the Pantanal Pact, a long-lasting commitment to conserve their freshwater springs and rivers, and protect the future of this vital wetland.



**FIND OUT MORE** about the Pantanal and how you can help: [www.org.uk/thepantanal](http://www.org.uk/thepantanal)

# BACK FROM THE BRINK

Wildlife is disappearing fast. Global populations have declined by more than half over the past 40 years. With your support, we're working closely with governments and communities around the world to throw a lifeline to some of the most threatened species



## 1 REINTRODUCTION: NEW LAND FOR LEOPARDS

“The first task is accomplished: the wild Amur leopard population is stable and growing,” explains WWF’s Yury Darman. “But these cats are still on the brink,” he adds. “This reintroduction programme is a historic moment.” The Amur leopard – a distinct, thick-furred, northern subspecies – disappeared more than 30 years ago from Lazovsky Reserve in south-west Russia. Now it may be returning. Earlier this year Russia backed an exciting new plan to reintroduce this critically endangered cat to its former forest home.

We’ve been working with our partners in Russia and China since the 1970s to save the Amur leopard. By 2000, persecution and habitat loss had reduced the cat’s range to just 2,500 sq km (an area the size of Dorset), straddling the border between China and Russia on either side of the Amur river. We’ve since helped turn its fortunes around, increasing numbers from 35 individuals in 2007 to around 70 today.

### NEW HORIZONS

Today, most Amur leopards are found in this area, in the Land of the Leopard National Park, which we helped to establish in 2012. Your generosity has helped fund vital work to stabilise the population, including better security and camera trap surveillance. Now the leopards need to expand their range. The next step, scientists agree, is to establish a new population somewhere else. Lazovsky Reserve, now with improved security and abundant prey, is the perfect site. If it’s successful, other sites may follow.

We first mooted reintroduction in 1996. The process is challenging: captive-bred animals, raised in a special new breeding centre, must pass rigorous tests proving that they can hunt in the wild, and still retain a healthy fear of humans. If all goes well, the first leopards may be released within three years. In time, Lazovsky Reserve will open up new horizons for this magnificent cat, allowing it to claw back a purchase on forests it used to roam.

With your support, we’ve set up camera traps to monitor Amur leopards in the Land of the Leopard National Park. We’ve also supported anti-poaching patrols and education programmes

© EMMANUEL RONDEAU, © WWF-RUSSIA, © WWF-RUSSIA / ISUNR

**2** TRANSLOCATION:  
HOPE FOR THE YANGTZE  
FINLESS PORPOISE

This captive finless porpoise lives at the Chinese Academy of Science's Institute of Hydrobiology. Breeding programmes are another tool to ensure the species' survival



'Pfff!' A short exhalation, like a hydraulic hiss, announces a Yangtze finless porpoise breaking the surface. Then another, and another, each smooth grey back slipping through the mirror-calm water as the pods set out on the daily quest for fish.

The Yangtze finless porpoise – easily identified by its lack of a dorsal fin – is critically endangered, and is now the world's only freshwater porpoise. Until just a decade ago it shared its home with the Yangtze dolphin, or baiji. But in 2006, scientists pronounced the dolphin extinct. Today, with only around 1,000 finless porpoises remaining and the population falling at 13.7% a year, they fear that this once-familiar cetacean might follow.

But with your support,

Once common in the Yangtze, the baiji probably travelled far up and down stream, driven by seasonal changes in water level

we're taking action to stop this species disappearing from China's Yangtze river. In March this year, we supported the translocation of four finless porpoises from Poyang, a large lake with limited prey connected to the Yangtze river. They will start a new population in the He-wang-miao/Ji-cheng-yuan oxbow lake. Four more will be moved to a nearby oxbow, Tian-e-zhou, where numbers have been slowly rising since earlier translocations in the 1990s.

These carefully selected lakes offer a more stable habitat than the river, where pollution, over-fishing and dam-building lie behind the porpoise's decline. Tian-e-zhou's growing population means the lake can't support many more translocations, so this new site offers an opportunity to increase numbers elsewhere.

Further translocations are scheduled for 2017. Meanwhile, we'll keep working with local people and partners including HSBC to improve the health of the Yangtze and ensure in the long term that the river itself can once again offer the porpoise a safe home.

**DOLPHIN'S DEMISE**

In 2006, following a six-week survey of the Yangtze river basin, scientists were forced to declare that the Yangtze river dolphin (or baiji) was 'functionally extinct'. This means that even if one or two individuals remain undetected, they could not ensure the species' survival.

The news came as little surprise: pollution, transportation, fishing and industrial development had long been desecrating the dolphin's habitat, while fishing nets and boat collisions had also taken their toll. A 1997 survey had found 17 individuals and by 1999 this had fallen to just four. Conservationists had planned to capture the last remaining individuals and move them to Tian-e-zhou oxbow – the same lake that is now home to translocated finless porpoises. Sadly, they were too late.

Today we're working to ensure that the porpoise doesn't go the same way.

PORPOISE © WWF / KENT TROLOG-BALU © MARTIN CAMM (WAO) / NATUREPL.COM

**HOW TO MOVE A FINLESS PORPOISE**



**1. HERD** The capture boats locate and form an arc around a pod of wild finless porpoises. Using underwater noises (the 'acoustic drive' method), they herd them gently towards the shallows, taking care not to cause them any undue stress.



**2. CAPTURE** Special nets encircle the porpoises and bring them closer to the boat, where the young adults, 2–4 years of age, are slid into slings and lifted from the water. The capture team moves slowly and quietly. Any pregnant or lactating females are immediately released.



**3. LIFT** Four people lift and carry each porpoise in a cloth stretcher to the medical boat. Slits allow the porpoise to stretch its flippers. Water is poured continually over the porpoise while scientists take measurements and blood, and conduct an ultrasound examination.



**4. MONITOR** The porpoises are carefully monitored throughout their journey to ensure their wellbeing. They are kept moist and comfortable, and out of direct sunlight. Handlers even cut their fingernails in order to avoid damaging the porpoise's skin.



**5. PREPARE** The porpoises are kept in temporary enclosures beside their new home as they are prepared for release. They are watched closely for 24 hours to ensure they are feeding normally. After getting a final health check, it's time to release them.



**6. RELEASE** The pioneering finless porpoises swim out into the He-wang-miao/Ji-cheng-yuan oxbow lake. These two are thought to be mother and daughter, and it's hoped they will quickly adapt to their new home. We'll monitor their progress and keep you updated.

© WWF / LI KUI



# 3 CAPTIVE BREEDING: GHARIAL RETURNS TO THE GANGES

The gharial is surely the most unusual of the planet's crocodylians, with its stick-thin jaws and needle-like teeth, specially adapted for catching fish. Sadly, it's also the most endangered. Fewer than 200 breeding adults remain in the wild, all confined to the Ganges river system of northern India and neighbouring Nepal. Revered in Hindu mythology as Vahan, the vehicle of the goddess Ganga, this curious reptile appeared, until recently, to be on its way out.

Thankfully, its fate isn't sealed. Earlier this year, we worked with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department to release 65 captive-bred young gharials into the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary on the upper Ganges. Each of these three-year-old individuals, measuring 1.2m–1.6m long, had its tail scutes (boney scales) marked for later identification. This release was the latest stage in a reintroduction programme that began in 2009.

Protecting the gharial forms part of a bigger conservation picture. This critically endangered reptile is a key indicator species, meaning that its decline has alerted scientists to the deteriorating health of the Ganges. Our freshwater programme works to benefit the ecosystem and other endangered species, such as the Ganges river dolphin and golden mahseer fish. It will also improve life for the many people who depend upon the river.

That's why we're working closely with the local community to improve river flow, decrease pollution and encourage sustainable fishing and agriculture. It's part of our work with HSBC to help protect this vital river. A clean, protected Ganges will mean a healthy future for its people – and for its most distinctive inhabitant.

Dr Nawab releases the young gharials in their new home – the wild Ganges



“The gharial survives in only a fraction of its former range, so the reintroduction programme aims to establish viable populations in alternate habitats.”

Dr Asghar Nawab, WWF-India's river species expert

**Main:** A wild female gharial supports hatchlings on her head. Once found in rivers all over the Indian subcontinent, the species is now restricted to just 2% of its former range  
**Right:** The young gharials will be closely monitored for their first few months to ensure they acclimatise well to life in the wild



## SUCCESS SO FAR...

We've been working hard to restore gharial populations in the wild

Since 2009, we've been working with the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department to return gharials to their former range in the Ganges. The latest release in Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary means we've already reintroduced 571 of these curious crocodylians; 410 females and 161 males.

The animals are raised in captivity until they are aged between about two- and four-years-old, and are 1.2m–1.8m long. Then, with the help of the local community, we release them. We check up on them seasonally to determine how they are using the habitat and whether they've dispersed from the site.

“The project's success is gauged by how well these captive-bred animals acclimatise to the wild,” says Dr Asghar Nawab, WWF-India's river species expert. If recaptured gharials show significant increases in weight, length and girth, this suggests that they've been faring well in the wild.

“The gharial survives in only a fraction of its former range, so the reintroduction programme aims to establish viable populations in alternate habitats. The stretch of the Ganges within the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary is known to have been inhabited by wild gharials until recently, so it's a good start,” says Dr Nawab.

Successful reintroductions require protection of habitat and continued releases until a breeding population is established. The programme also works closely with local communities to increase their understanding of, and sense of stewardship towards, the Ganges and its remarkable residents. “Together, we will work to ensure survival of all the wonderful species in the area,” says Dr Nawab.





**DID YOU KNOW?**  
*Jaguars now occupy less than 50% of their natural range*

GORILLA © GETTY RHINO © STAFFAN WIDSTRAND / NATUREPI.COM, TURTLE © ISTOCK, TIGER © GETTY SNOW LEOPARD © GETTY JAGUAR © GETTY AMUR LEOPARD © ISTOCK

## MAKING THE WORLD A WILDER PLACE

We're not just protecting Amur leopards, finless porpoises and gharials. With your help, we're working around the globe to restore wild populations of the most threatened species

### 1. PROTECTING GORILLAS CENTRAL AFRICA

The mountain gorilla is restricted to just two pockets of forest spread between Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We've been working through the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) coalition since 1991 (see p26). Your donations have helped increase mountain gorilla numbers to around 880 today.

by poaching. But our ongoing relocation project – moving rhinos from areas that have reached carrying capacity to new protected areas – is helping to ensure black rhinos are still breeding well. The latest translocation, in March, marked the 10th new population established. The ultimate aim is to create a secure national breeding population of 3,000.

### 2. NEW HOMES FOR BLACK RHINOS SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's rhinos are seriously threatened

### 3. TURTLES RETURN INDIA

Nesting river turtles along the upper Ganges are threatened by habitat damage – including

sand excavation and sandbank farming – and by illegal egg collection. Six of the 12 species are now endangered. From 2013–2014, we helped the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department locate 85 turtle nests and remove 706 eggs to safety. Some 650 six-month-old hatchlings were released back to the river.

### 4. TIGER TARGETS ASIA

As few as 3,200 tigers survive in the wild. Poaching and the loss of habitat to logging, agriculture and development have all taken

their toll. We're helping to double wild tiger numbers to 6,000 by 2022. To reach this target, we're working with governments and communities to reduce conflict between people and tigers, and tackle wildlife crime. The number of wild tigers in India has risen from 1,411 in 2006 to 2,226 in 2014.

### 5. SNOW LEOPARD SECURITY HIMALAYAS

Snow leopard numbers have fallen by 20% in the past 20 years. As overgrazing drives natural prey from their mountain habitat, these high-altitude cats have resorted to hunting livestock. We're working with local communities to reduce this conflict, setting up and supporting a livestock insurance scheme

in 2006. As a result, there have been no retaliatory attacks on snow leopards in the past five years.

### 6. JAGUAR JEOPARDY AMAZON BASIN

Deforestation in the Amazon basin claims 1.72 million trees every day. With its habitat disappearing, South America's largest cat is now seriously threatened. We've been working with the governments and communities of Amazon countries to help combat this destruction and preserve jaguar habitat. And we're working with farmers to reduce the impact of agriculture on the forest and to promote more sustainable alternatives such as natural rubber and brazil nuts.

## YOU CAN HELP PROTECT SPECIES

With your help, we're able to work around the globe to safeguard and restore wild populations of the most threatened species. But there's so much more we need to do to bring some of the world's most incredible wildlife back from the brink.

If you'd like to do more to help us, you can make a difference by donating at [www.org.uk/brink](http://www.org.uk/brink)



# 10 THINGS TO DO THIS WINTER

Fundraising is great fun (even in winter). Our new fundraising guide is bursting with ideas to inspire you...

**1 IN OCTOBER ORGANISE A HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE**  
 Now the colder months have arrived, don't just grab a blanket and hibernate. There are loads of great dates in autumn and winter that offer tons of fundraising opportunities. Halloween has so much potential: what will you get your fangs into on the scariest night of the year? Invite your friends to get baking and conjure up a range of gingerbread bats and pumpkin cookies, or hold a really spooky costume contest. Whoo-oo-oo!



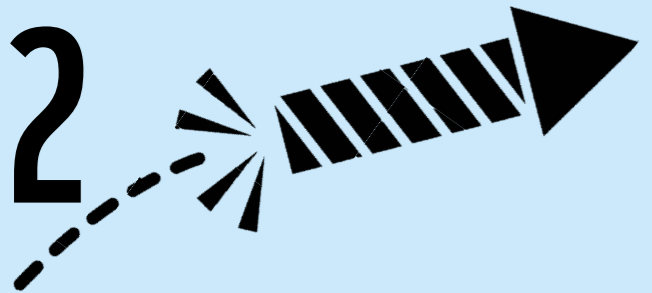
**6 AT THE WEEKEND EMBRACE YOUR DOMESTIC GOD OR GODDESS**  
 Woo donation-bearing friends, colleagues and neighbours with delicious homemade treats. Grab your pinny and cook up a selection of homemade jams and biscuits. They're much tastier than shop-bought ones and make great Christmas presents.



**7 ON FRIDAY NIGHTS LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU**  
 During winter's long, dark evenings there are many ways to turn your home into a fun house and fundraising temple. Invite friends and family over for the ultimate night in: a board games tournament or movie marathon. Have fun and raise money.



**2 IN NOVEMBER HOST A BONFIRE NIGHT PARTY**  
 Everyone loves a roaring fire, so why not invite your local community to a bonfire party or ask for WWF to be the chosen charity for your local display? Hold a guy-making competition and invite everyone to toss in a coin to vote for their favourite. Make sure to serve up delicious winter warmers and homemade treats such as firework fancies, toffee apples and candy floss.



**3 IN DECEMBER LEAVE IT OUT AND IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH**  
 There's probably something in all of our lives that we could give up for a good cause. And it doesn't take any time to organise – the hard work comes later: sticking to it! So help yourself and the planet by giving up chocolate, sweets, cigarettes or alcohol for a set period, say one month. Use Facebook to encourage other people to sponsor you to give up the treat you love – or even give up something with you!



**8 ON DARK EVENINGS GET CRAFTY**  
 If you're artistic or crafty, there are plenty of things you can create at home that people will pay a pretty penny for. Knit scarves, hats and socks in front of the telly or, if you're good with your camera, create greetings cards and calendars.



**9 ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON EVERYTHING MUST GO!**  
 Ask your family, friends, kids and colleagues to donate unwanted Christmas gifts and other quality second-hand items for you to sell at your next bring-and-buy sale. Tap into crafty talent at work and in your local area and offer to sell their goods for them in exchange for a percentage of the profits for WWF.



**4 THIS CHRISTMAS BE SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER**  
 Christmas is a time for family, fun and merrymaking. But it's also when many people think about the needs of others and our planet, so it's a great time for festive fundraising. Channel your inner elf and take on tasks that will make life easier for people at this busy time of the year. Ask a local supermarket if you can pack shopping for a donation (elf costume compulsory!). Wrap people's presents for them or take their Christmas tree to be recycled in exchange for a donation. Or find your most tuneful friends and sing carols, door to door.



**5 ON NEW YEAR'S EVE THROW A 'SAVE OUR PLANET' PARTY**  
 Once the bustle of Christmas is over, there's no time to relax: it's time to organise your New Year's Eve fundraising party. So what's the theme? Binge on brie for some cheesy celebrations, sip something bubbly at a wine-tasting evening, or invite your guests to wear black-and-white to show their support for the panda. Whatever the theme, encourage your friends to donate to WWF instead of bringing wine or gifts, or invite them to bring an unwanted item you can sell at a fundraising car boot sale. The new year's a great time to have a clear out. Have fun!



**10 IN FEBRUARY BE MY VALENTINE**  
 Bring romance to the world by baking heart-shaped biscuits or cupcakes to sell at work or to your neighbours. Organise a speed dating night or dinner dance for hopeful Valentines, or make personalised Valentine's cards for your friends.



**BLOW YOUR OWN TRUMPET**  
 Don't hide your fundraising efforts under a bushel. Let everyone know what fun you're having and why you support WWF by setting up your own fundraising page. It will give family, friends and colleagues an easy way to donate money and you can tell everyone about your page! For more great fundraising ideas, or to send in the money you've raised, head to: [wwf.org.uk/wonderfulworld](http://wwf.org.uk/wonderfulworld)



Even an animal as large as a one-horned rhino can hide in the tall grass, so the survey team form a line with their elephants and move steadily forward to avoid missing any



# THE BIG RHINO COUNT

Following the devastating earthquakes that shook Nepal in April, news of our success in helping to boost the number of rare rhinos and prevent poaching brings a ray of hope

“These are trying times for Nepal and its people. Stories such as this offer a much-needed reason to feel hopeful.” Like the rest of the country, Anil Manandhar, head of WWF-Nepal, is still coming to terms with the horror of April’s earthquakes. And that, as he says, makes it even more important to celebrate good news.

The latest survey of Nepal’s rhino population has revealed a hugely encouraging growth of 21% in the past five years. Nepal now has 645 greater one-horned rhinos: it’s a huge turnaround from 50 years ago, when just 100 individuals remained in the country, and extinction was a real threat.

And there’s another success to report: Nepal has just achieved a whole year of zero rhino poaching (the last rhino was killed in May 2014). This is the third time in five years that the country has achieved this

landmark. As recently as 2002, there were 38 rhinos poached in a single year, so this is a major victory.

It is the result of a strong commitment to tackle the illegal wildlife trade. “Zero poaching is a matter of national pride,” says Kamel Kumar, chief warden of Nepal’s Chitwan National Park. “These endangered animals are our national property. This is about protecting them, and also about protecting our community from crime.”

Nepal’s lowland Terai Arc landscape provides the habitat for its rhino population. Most of the animals are found in Chitwan National Park and the adjoining Parsa Wildlife Reserve, while around 40 live in Bardia National Park, Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and the buffer zones around them. The population in Chitwan is the second-largest in Asia.

“These endangered animals are our national property. This is about protecting them, and also about protecting our community from crime,” says Kamel Kumar, chief warden of Nepal’s Chitwan National Park



The biggest threats to the greater one-horned rhino are poaching, driven by the increasing demand for its horn, and loss of habitat

© AXEL GOMILE/NATUREPL.COM

The increase in rhinos reflects the huge conservation efforts we’ve supported in Nepal in recent years – by everyone from top government figures to grassroots local communities. “The dedicated frontline staff are determined to stamp out poaching,” says Kamel. “We also have real commitment from the government to implementing our National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, which is our main tool for protecting endangered

species. And we have support from the Nepali army, with soldiers providing protection against poaching.”

**RHINO SANCTUARY**

With your help we’re continuing to play a part, too. We’re supporting Nepal’s anti-poaching efforts and have helped introduce new approaches to combat poaching in Chitwan. These include SMART patrolling, which uses digital technology to transmit real-time information from the field, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for surveying remote areas, and specially trained sniffer dogs (which you may have read about in the last issue of *Action*). We also took part in the rhino survey itself, along with other organisations and experts.

These modern tools are essential to maintaining constant vigilance, because the threat of poaching is ever-present. Between May 2014 and May 2015, more than 650 people were arrested for being involved in wildlife crime in Chitwan alone. Crucially, the park staff’s determination

to protect rhinos and other endangered species is mirrored among local communities, who contribute to raising awareness and join patrols to help tackle poaching. Some are also beginning to see the benefits that can flow from conserving their natural heritage, by becoming wildlife guides, for example.

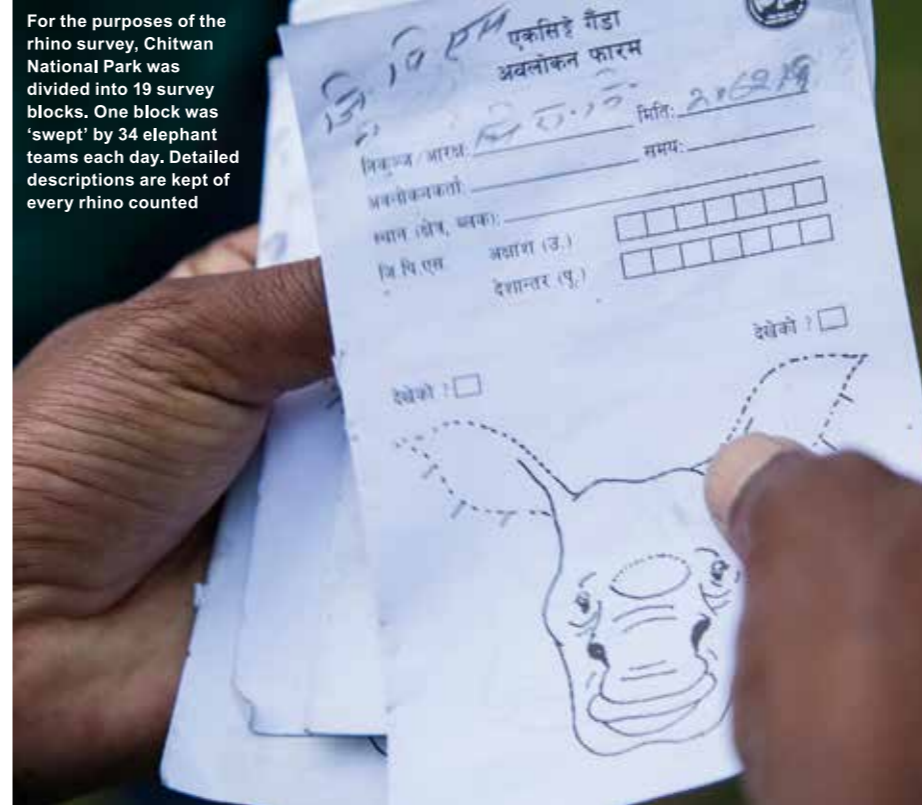
It’s simple really. As rhino numbers increase, more tourists come to see them. They bring more money into the local economy. Kamel points out that protecting important areas for rhinos in the hills also reduces problems such as soil erosion and landslides downstream, with big benefits for local farmers.

The success story of rhinos in Nepal is a great example of why conservation is about so much more than saving animals. The rhino population rising to 645 individuals is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved, but it’s equally heartening to see that that conservation of these magnificent animals and their habitat is providing local communities with hope and opportunity.



After a long day counting rhinos, the survey team’s elephants get to relax and take a bath

© SUMANTH KUDUVALLU / FELIS CREATIONS / WWF



For the purposes of the rhino survey, Chitwan National Park was divided into 19 survey blocks. One block was ‘swept’ by 34 elephant teams each day. Detailed descriptions are kept of every rhino counted

**JOIN THE BIG RHINO COUNT**

As you’d expect, counting rhinos is no small job and coordinating the latest survey in April was a major undertaking

The survey was led by the Nepal government with support from WWF, the National Trust For Nature Conservation and others. It took three weeks and involved a team of 267 people, 34 elephants, mobile phones, GPS technology, Google maps and a mountain of data to analyse at the end of each day.

Chitwan National Park is almost 1,000 sq km – about two-thirds the size of Greater London – and covered in dense vegetation, including forest and tall grass perfect for hiding rhinos. For the survey, the park was divided into 19 blocks. Each day, 40 specialist spotters mounted on elephants would move across a block, close enough together to be sure they would ‘sweep’ any rhinos in the area.

When a rhino was spotted, photos and handwritten notes from the spotters provided a unique picture of each individual for the scientists to record. Army-developed technology also transmitted images in real time back to park headquarters.

Double-counting is avoided by comparing details such as the size and



Many pairs of eyes and careful coordination are required to spot wild rhinos

shape of horns, folds in the skin, and markings on the head or body; and as the areas of the park were systematically worked through it’s unlikely that any individuals were missed.

**WATCH OUR FILM**

Find out what it’s like to count rhinos at [wwf.org.uk/rhinocount](http://wwf.org.uk/rhinocount)



**A MESSAGE OF HOPE**

We’ve supported conservation efforts in Nepal since the 1960s. When the earthquakes struck,

our staff were on the frontline of relief efforts. WWF-UK’s John Barker describes our work in the field

On 25 April, our staff were in Langtang National Park discussing transboundary efforts to tackle the illegal wildlife trade when an earthquake registering 7.8 on the Richter scale struck Nepal.

The epicentre was located in Barpak, a village in the mountains 70km from the capital, Kathmandu, and a similar distance from the Langtang Valley. Of nearly 9,000 deaths recorded nationally, more than half occurred in areas around Langtang National Park. Whole villages were also flattened, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

In the aftermath, our staff were quick to support the relief and rescue mission. Day and night, they distributed locally available materials to survivors, including rice, noodles, salt, oil, blankets and plastic sheets. They helped helicopter pilots to identify the worst-hit areas in the Langtang Valley, transported relief materials to isolated villages and brought back the injured to receive medical care.

Our teams in Nepal were heartened by the support they received from our members. Thanks to you, communities in need received emergency supplies.

Our staff are now assessing the earthquake’s direct impacts on wildlife – such as loss of forest due to landslides – as well as indirect impacts on water supplies, agriculture and infrastructure.

We’re also supporting the regeneration of communities in the Langtang region whose social structure has been devastated by the tragic loss of many of their leaders past, present and future. We’re working with villagers and the government to develop, fund and implement a programme of recovery and reconstruction that will provide a stronger, greener and more resilient future for the Langtang Valley and its people.

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# IN THE COMPANY OF

# Gorillas

Thanks to your support and our work through International Gorilla Conservation Programme, tourism is helping to protect mountain gorillas and improve the lives of local people. But, as our gorilla expert **Cath Lawson** finds out, it has to be managed carefully

It's an overwhelming experience watching a group of gorillas going about their daily life in the rainforest. I'm not the emotional type, but I almost had tears in my eyes as these incredible wild animals let me enter their world.

My amazing encounter was only possible thanks to the tireless work of International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP), a coalition organisation of WWF and Fauna and Flora International in partnership with the national park authorities in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With your help, we've been working through IGCP for 25 years. As the aim is to help gorillas and humans live in harmony, it's essential for us to work with local people living alongside gorillas.

We're helping people to diversify their livelihoods and use natural resources in a more sustainable way. This improves their wellbeing and helps gorillas too. A big part of this is supporting the development of ecotourism projects, which are a key way in which people can benefit from living in close proximity to gorillas. The income gives them a big incentive to protect the gorillas – it's helped pay for health centres, schools and improved sanitation. It also supports the

management of the parks in which these gentle apes live.

Tourism helps local communities to make a livelihood. With your support, IGCP has helped set up community-owned ecolodges, providing employment and revenue sharing schemes for local people. Community members also help carry your things in the forest during gorilla treks, offer hospitality and sell handicrafts, while others work as park rangers. The gorilla guides who take groups of tourists to see the mountain gorillas are totally dedicated to their charges, know the different groups by name and can tell you about each individual and the relationships between them. Our group of seven tourists visited the Agashya group – Agashya being the name of the silverback, the dominant male in the group.

## BE GORILLA AWARE

Balancing the benefits of income from ecotourism with the needs of the gorillas requires a delicate touch. Though the guides and rangers really want tourists to have a good experience, with increasing numbers of tourists coming to the region, it's important that visitors don't have any negative effects on the gorillas or their habitat. The key is

to avoid disrupting the gorillas' natural behaviour, so there are strict rules about how to behave around the gorillas.

For our safety – and theirs – we had to keep our distance and always bear in mind that these are wild animals. Gorillas like the Agashya group are habituated, which means they're used to being observed by scientists and tourists, though tourist visits are strictly limited to one a day. You have to keep your wits about you to keep the required distance from the group – I was sitting across from the silverback when he got up and decided he wanted to sit where I was. I had to quickly body roll to the left to get out of his way!

Though keeping a seven-metre distance is partly about respecting these wild animals, you also need to keep your distance to avoid spreading any diseases to the gorillas. Because gorillas share so much of our DNA, they can contract human illnesses, such as the common cold, that they don't have the immune system to fight off. You can't go on the trek if you're ill, and if you cough or sneeze you have to cover your face and turn away from the gorillas.

It was also really important for us to behave quietly and calmly around the gorillas. This wasn't too hard as the gorillas

themselves are generally so peaceful. Everyone spoke in hushed tones as we listened to the gorillas making beautiful soft, grunting noises and the guides making these noises back to them.

## INSPIRING MOMENT

The adults were mainly just sitting around and eating, but the babies and the younger ones were playfully doing roly-polies down the hill. It was such an emotional and overwhelming experience, one you need to put down your camera for and just enjoy.

My encounter with the mountain gorillas gave me real hope for their future, proving that, with your support, our work can make a real difference. The guides are strict about limiting your time with the gorillas to one hour – but what an incredible hour, one that will stay with me forever.

© BRENT STIRTON / REPORTAGE FOR GETTY IMAGES / WWF



Gorillas are normally very shy so habituating them to the presence of humans can take a long time

## MOUNTAIN GORILLAS: POO PATROL

The mountain gorilla is the only great ape experiencing a population increase in the wild. This has been helped by the work of IGCP and by you, our supporters.

The last Virunga volcano census showed an increase to 480. A second population of around 400 lives in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in Uganda.

Now preparations are under way for a new population survey of the Virunga volcano gorilla population. As well as counting habituated gorillas, like the Agashya group I visited, researchers hope to come up with a reliable estimate of the number of unhabituated gorillas living in the Volcanoes National Park and adjoining protected areas in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

More than 60 people will be taking part, with support from local community members. But the impact on gorillas will be minimal. There's no capturing

or tagging involved – instead, gorillas will be identified and counted mostly by identifying their nesting sites and collecting DNA from their droppings.

## KEEP GORILLAS SAFE

**1** Learn more about the rules for tourists to keep gorillas safe at [wwf.org.uk/gorillarules](http://wwf.org.uk/gorillarules)

**2** Make a gorilla-friendly pledge to honour these rules. It only takes a few minutes to complete and you'll get a fabulous certificate to keep. [wwf.org.uk/gorillapledge](http://wwf.org.uk/gorillapledge)

**3** Adopt a gorilla. You don't have to visit mountain gorillas in the wild to show them some love: you can adopt one and get regular field reports and updates. Just visit [wwf.org.uk/adoptagorilla](http://wwf.org.uk/adoptagorilla)

BABY GORILLA © BRENT STIRTON / REPORTAGE FOR GETTY IMAGES / WWF



# OVER TO YOU!



© TRISTAN FEWINGS / WWF-PK

We know you've done some really great stuff for us since the last issue of *Action*, so why not tell us about it? These are *your* pages – let's celebrate you!

## BE MORE ZEBRA Join the herd!

### It's a team effort

I first took up running because I wanted to date a boy who was into fitness! Now I'm running the Surrey Half Marathon to raise money for WWF. When I read the itinerary for the Team Panda training day, I was so excited. I've never had any coaching like that before. It was really useful to learn about ways to optimise my running technique. I also really wanted to meet the rest of Team Panda and chat about their experiences. I fundraised for WWF when I was at school and I've adopted a snow leopard. People ask me why I chose WWF and not a charity that works purely for people. I reply that WWF tackles climate change – and if we don't have a planet there will be no people. Cathy Morrow, Hampstead Heath, London



## BE MORE LION Roar about what you love!

### Speaking up for our climate

In June, I joined WWF in Westminster to ask my MP to take action on climate change. My son is interested in the environment and he has motivated me to take an interest too. He believes that we can change our destructive ways.

Climate change is a huge issue for me now and influences how I vote. I don't think the main parties talk about the environment or clean energy enough, so I wanted to show my MP our banner! We spoke at length on the day. It's great that he's been elected to the Energy and

Climate Change Select Committee. I'm glad this issue is mainstream now. We can inspire people by speaking up and feel hopeful about things changing. Emma Page, Greenwich

STAR LETTER

## WIN A RUCKSACK

The star letter wins a Sativa foldable rucksack from the WWF shop, made of environmentally-friendly hemp and organic cotton, and worth £37.99. For more details visit:



## Three great things you've been doing for WWF...

### 1 SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

Karen and Chris Arter were determined to cross the finish line of the Brighton marathon hand-in-hand this year. They say: "It was challenging but the atmosphere was great!"



### 2 GETTING CREATIVE

Snow leopard adopter Ann sent us this incredible painting. She says: "I'm nearly 94. Happily I can still see well enough to wield a paintbrush!"



### 3 MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Legacies are crucial to help us continue our important work. Petrina Tatnall, who has remembered WWF in her will, says: "It's the greatest gift you can give." [wwf.org.uk/gifts](http://wwf.org.uk/gifts)



## WEAR IT WILD SPECIAL!

### You showed us your wild side!

## SHARE THE BUZZ!

Your best bits from social media



## BE MORE BIRD OF PARADISE Shake your tail feathers!

### Stickers for schools

Thank you so much for the Wear it Wild bag of goodies. Jamie and Belle were so pleased. They even raided their own money boxes for a donation! The stickers were a great idea and they were shared at school. This is me and the kids before we left for school.

Georgina Leroux



Pupils from schools in Woking share Wear it Wild day with WWF at the Living Planet Centre

endangered species, creating posters and booklets, then on 5 June, all dressed up and face painted, they gave a presentation to their whole school assembly to explain what they'd learned. Hopefully, it'll sow the seeds of a passion for protecting our world and its wildlife in many of the children. Here's to next year being ever bigger and better! Sophie and Milly Wild

### Tiny tiger hunt

We enjoyed a Wear it Wild night at beavers. We had a tiger hunt using tiger masks and three teams: tigers, hunters and conservationists. The hunters had to try to catch the tigers, but the conservationists could save them. We also had a quiz about endangered animals and guessed where to find them on inflatable globes. Good fun was had by all! Kingfisher, Skylark, Robin and the Tigermoth Beavers 3rd Marlow Bridge Scout Group

## SHARE THE FUN!

Enjoy more of your best Wear it Wild moments at: [wwf.org.uk/wearitwildstory](http://wwf.org.uk/wearitwildstory)



@HowardJuniorSch: Our amazing Howard pupils – thank you for raising much needed funds for @wwf\_uk! A fantastic #WearItWild day!



@SouthEssexHomes: We are supporting #WearItWild Day today and are currently tucking into these tasty treats! They're ROARsome!



@ReganGascoigne: An awesome day back at my school @TringPark joining them for #WearItWild



### Confidence-inspiring fun

Wear it Wild not only raised funds for a great cause, it was also brilliant for raising awareness and confidence in my daughter Milly and her classmates. They spent the week beforehand researching

## JOIN THE PRIDE AND ROAR YOUR NEWS

We'd really love to hear from you, so please email your letters and photos to [editor@wwf.org.uk](mailto:editor@wwf.org.uk) Because space is tight, please keep your letters to 150 words. Though we read every one, we cannot acknowledge them and must reserve the right to edit them for publication.





## JOIN OUR READER PANEL TODAY AND WIN £50 M&S VOUCHERS

We've got £50 in M&S vouchers to give to one lucky person joining our panel today

Do you read *Action* from cover to cover, or just dip in and out? We'd love to know what you think about it, so we're inviting you to join our online reader panel and become an 'Action adviser'.

When you sign up, you'll become part of an exclusive online community that plays an essential role in shaping our magazine. By completing short surveys about each issue, what you liked and what you weren't so keen on, you'll be

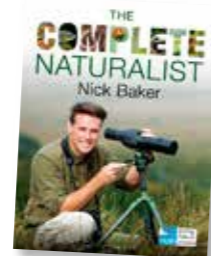
giving us valuable feedback and insights that will help us to produce a magazine you just can't put down.

Not only will you be helping us, but by joining our panel before the deadline of Friday 27 November, you'll be entered in a prize draw to win £50 in vouchers to spend with our partners M&S.

Registration will take only five minutes of your time. Simply fill in the survey at [wwf.org.uk/actionadvisers](http://wwf.org.uk/actionadvisers)

## WIN! NICK BAKER'S THE COMPLETE NATURALIST

We've got 10 copies of this practical introduction to observing and understanding wildlife to give away



Whatever your age or experience, being a naturalist is all about satisfying an insatiable curiosity about the natural world by developing fieldcraft skills and investigative techniques. And you couldn't ask for a better guide to the tricks of the trade than Nick Baker's new book. The ultimate family reference, *The Complete Naturalist* has something for everyone from the experienced pooter-user to budding tadpole ticklers.

With sections intriguingly titled Slime-surfing, Frogging by Night and How to Hide a Human, Nick focuses on the animals you're most likely to come across and explains how to observe, understand, study and – most of all – enjoy them. Written with Nick's infectious enthusiasm, anyone who reads this book will be inspired to go out and crawl around on their hands and knees, get really dirty and experience nature close-up. We have 10 copies of *The Complete Naturalist* to give away. Just follow the instructions (right) and mark your entry 'Naturalist Comp'.



## ANIMAL MAGIC

Start the new year in style with our fabulous wildlife calendars and diaries

Our fantastic new range of wildlife calendars and diaries will ensure you never miss a date in 2016. We've teamed up with Carousel Calendars to produce a unique range of beautiful calendars, an A5 desk diary and a pocket diary, all designed to keep animal lovers happy every month of the year.

Choose from spectacular wild places, young animals or rare species, as well as a whole calendar devoted to the majestic tiger. Stunning images will capture your imagination and your key dates, while fascinating facts reveal the secrets of the landscapes and animals featured.

With prices ranging from £5.99–£9.99, there's a touch of animal magic for everyone.

## ECO-EXCELLING CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Looking for a unique eco-gift? Our online shop has lots to choose from: FSC wooden games and greetings cards, ethically responsible jewellery, Fairtrade novelty accessories and eco-friendly pampering goodies, all responsibly sourced so you can feel good about the gifts you give:

[WWF.ORG.UK/SHOP](http://WWF.ORG.UK/SHOP)

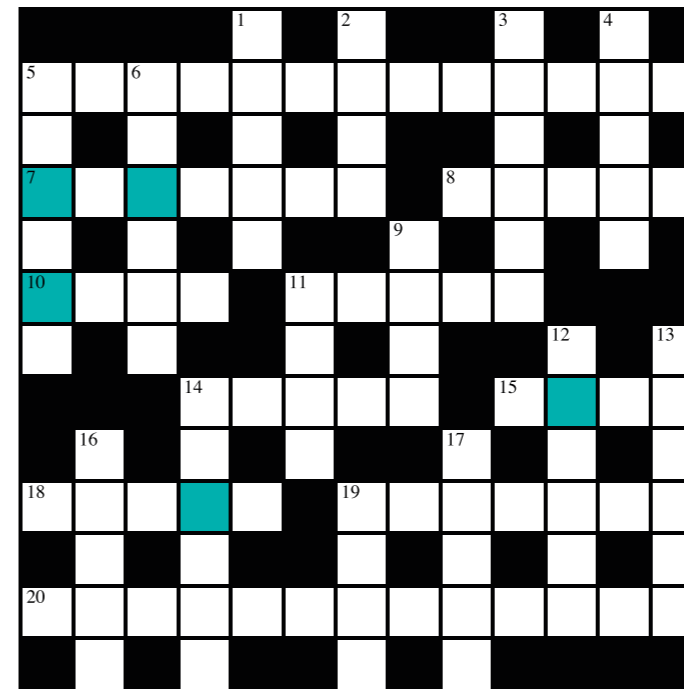
## HOW TO ENTER OUR GIVEAWAYS

To enter, please send your name, address and phone number on a postcard clearly addressed to the competition you wish to enter – eg Reader Panel Comp or Naturalist Comp – to *Action Mag*, WWF-UK, Living Planet Centre, Rufford House, Brewery Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 4LL.

Only one competition per entry please. Or send an email with your chosen competition in the subject line to [competition@wwf.org.uk](mailto:competition@wwf.org.uk). The closing date for the competitions is: Friday 6 November 2015. For full terms and conditions, visit [wwf.org.uk/compterm](http://wwf.org.uk/compterm)

## CROSSWORD

Test your knowledge and you could win one of two lovely leopard mug and coaster sets, worth £8.75, from our shop



WWF Action Crossword 31: Autumn 2015 issue. Compiled by Aleric Linden

After solving the crossword, take each letter from the shaded squares (from left to right and top to bottom) to spell out the prize word. To be in with a chance to win, just send a postcard with the prize word to the address on page 30 or email it to [competition@wwf.org.uk](mailto:competition@wwf.org.uk) The closing date is 13 November 2015

### Clues across

- 5 The large-scale loss or removal of trees (13)
- 7 Mountain and western lowland are critically endangered subspecies of which primate? (7)
- 8 The Arctic, for example (5)
- 10 \_ Project, well-known eco-attraction in Cornwall (4)
- 11 See 4 down
- 14 Coniferous trees (5)
- 15 \_ emissions, an environmentally friendly feature of non-polluting vehicles (4)
- 18 Chinese crested \_, critically endangered seabirds previously thought to be extinct (5)
- 19 The buying and selling of carbon credits (7)
- 20 Critically endangered subspecies of Indonesian big cat (8,5)

### Clues down

- 1 These crustaceans are a major food source for blue whales (5)
- 2 The orang-utan is native to which continent? (4)
- 3 Population levels of fish (6)
- 4 & 11 across Arctic icons – the world's largest terrestrial carnivores (5,5)
- 5 Unit of temperature – Celsius or Fahrenheit (6)
- 6 Like commercially produced salmon, for example, as opposed to wild (6)
- 9 They can be giant obstacles to fish migration routes (4)
- 11 The sturgeon is classified as such a fish (4)
- 12 Sea in the North Pacific (6)
- 13 One engaged directly in the downfall of trees (6)
- 14 Giant black and white bears, symbolic of conservation (6)
- 16 Greater bamboo \_, one of the world's most endangered primates (5)
- 17 Prickly desert plants mostly native to the Americas (5)
- 19 An amphibian such as the very rare Rio Pescado stubfoot (4)

**SUMMER 2015 ANSWERS:** Prize word: **DESERTS.** Across 1. Carbon 6. Zaire 7. Wild dog 8. Diesel 9. Famine 10. Heat 11. Tip 12. Poor 14. Wrasse 15. Danube 16. Barrage 17. Egret 18. Levels Down 1. Climate change 2. Red List 3. Ozone 4. Water 5. Greenhouse gas 8. Deep 11. Tree 12. Prairie 13. Buses 14. Whale

## Notes from the field "Pretend you're a tiger"



© SIMON DE TREVWHITE / WWF-UK

"Get down and pretend you're a tiger." Baring my teeth and crawling through leaves wasn't how I imagined I'd be spending my morning, but then life in the field is full of surprises...

We've been carrying out tiger camera-trap surveys in the Terai Arc region of India since 2010. When I was invited to see how the cameras work and meet one of the project leaders, I jumped at the chance.

Camera traps play a vital role in keeping track of tiger population numbers, allowing us to monitor the movements of a species whose survival largely depends on avoiding contact with humans. As WWF-India's Meraj Anwar explained to me, every tiger has an individual stripe pattern, which is different on either flank. By setting up cameras in pairs, we can capture both sides of the tiger as it walks between the two, so we don't accidentally count it twice.

The cameras can be used to gather other information too: we can see what time of day a tiger is most active and how its behaviour changes with the seasons. They also capture pictures of the cats carrying prey, which helps us to determine what they eat and when. We can also spot injured animals, which can be an increased threat to local communities and their livestock because they are more likely to look for easy prey.

## SUPER SPIES

We use sensitive thermo-motion cameras for our surveys, which can detect a change in temperature or movement within a range of 40 metres. Meraj showed me how to set one up, picking a spot five metres or so from the game trail and attaching it to the tree at about knee height; shoulder-height for a tiger. Once I'd helped set the date, it was time to give it a go.

I'm proud of my attempt to impersonate a tiger – and Meraj seemed happy – but the real test will be whether we glimpse any real big cats in the coming months. Fingers crossed.

Jo Sargent

Jo Sargent WWF-UK

## SPY ON STRIPES

Watch a video of tigers caught on camera traps during our recent surveys in India: [wwf.org.uk/tigercam](http://wwf.org.uk/tigercam)



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IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE  
EARTH HOUR + TRACKING BLUE WHALES + CELTIC SEALIFE



**Why we are here**

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[wwf.org.uk](http://wwf.org.uk)

