



DO IT FOR YOUR PLANET

# Action

THE MAGAZINE FOR WWF MEMBERS

SUMMER 2018

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## BREAKING THE CHAIN

How you're helping tackle the illegal wildlife trade and protect rare species

### SOLAR REVOLUTION

Thanks to your support, new solar lights are protecting Kenya's forests and giving children better lives

### THE PLASTIC PROBLEM

Ocean expert Professor Callum Roberts reveals why we must act now to help our seas recover

### DOLPHIN DEFENDER

Meet the hero helping us protect the Amazon river dolphin, thanks to your support



# “WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, I WOULD DREAM OF SEEING RHINOS. NOW I DREAM OF A POACHING-FREE KENYA”



## RANGERS: ON THE POACHING FRONTLINE

Meet Doreen Adongo. Since childhood, she has longed to see rhinos in the wild. Today, you're helping Doreen and a determined and courageous team of elite Kenya Wildlife Service rangers to identify, monitor and protect wildlife in Nairobi National Park. The area is home to critically endangered black rhinos and the team maintain 24-hour surveillance to keep them safe from poachers. Doreen says: "I like what I do. You may think it's a hard job for a lady, but since it comes from my heart, it's easy for me." We're committed to supporting Doreen, and other rangers, to do their difficult jobs safely and efficiently. So when global leaders gather in London this October for a conference on the illegal wildlife trade, we'll be asking them for help. We want commitments to better support rangers to help stop wildlife crime, by increasing ranger numbers, improving training and equipment, and providing access to health and life insurance. These true heroes deserve nothing less. Find out more about the life of a rhino ranger at [www.org.uk/doreen](http://www.org.uk/doreen)

Thanks to your support, Kenyan rangers like Doreen have essential equipment and specialist training to help them succeed and stay safe

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## MEET THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS



**TOM MILLIKEN** leads the elephant and rhino programme at TRAFFIC, which monitors wildlife trade. He says: "The survival of the planet's iconic wildlife hangs in the balance – but we can make a difference if we act now."



**FERNANDO TRUJILLO** is director of the Omacha Foundation, our partner in the Amazon. He says: "The Amazon river dolphin indicates the health of its ecosystem and helps us to highlight issues affecting its home."



**CALLUM ROBERTS** is a marine conservation biologist and WWF ambassador. He says: "The seas are undergoing an ecological meltdown, but if we all work together it's not too late to restore it to health."

## GET IN TOUCH

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# TOGETHER, WE DID IT!

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

## 1 CHINA, THE UK, TAIWAN AND HONG KONG

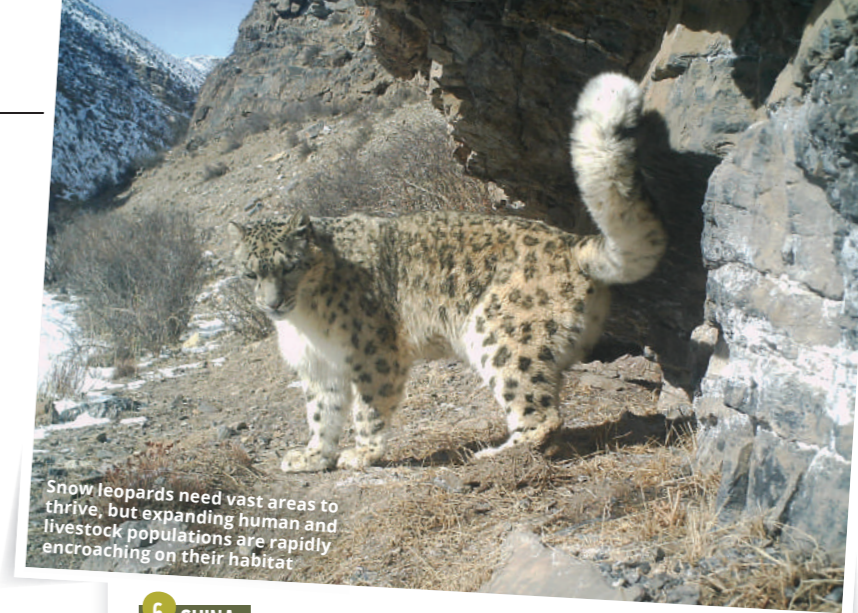
### YOU HELPED BAN THE IVORY TRADE

On 31 December 2017, China banned trade in elephant ivory in the country. Home to the largest ivory market in the world, China's huge demand for ivory products has been one of the main drivers of elephant poaching. But the country's legal ivory trade has now been banned, including all of its licensed ivory carving factories and retailers. The ban has been widely hailed as a game changer that could help to stop elephant poaching and reverse the decline of African elephant populations. Other countries are following suit: Taiwan will ban its domestic ivory trade by 2020, and Hong Kong by 2021. Thanks in part to the 60,000 WWF supporters who signed our petition, the UK government has also committed to an ivory trade ban – and it will be one of the toughest in the world. Momentum is building, so we're still calling for China's neighbours, including Thailand, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, to close their ivory markets to shut down this devastating trade for good.



“Thank you for signing our petition and helping to stop the UK ivory trade. Your support is bringing us one step closer to ending the illegal wildlife trade for good”

KATHERINE ELLIOTT, WWF'S ADVOCACY TEAM



Snow leopards need vast areas to thrive, but expanding human and livestock populations are rapidly encroaching on their habitat

## 6 CHINA

### YOU HELPED PROTECT SNOW LEOPARDS

Thanks to your support, we're expanding our snow leopard conservation programme into China. There are estimated to be between 4,000 and 8,000 snow leopards in the wild, and around 60% of them live in China, primarily in the Tibetan Plateau and Himalayas. China shares a border with 10 of the 11 other countries where snow leopards are found, and contains over half of the world's potential snow leopard habitat. So it's vital to the snow leopard's future. We're working with partners to help build a viable population of these solitary big cats here by securing priority areas, starting with the Qilianshan and Altai Landscapes, then the Qinghai-Tibetan Landscape. Our goal is to ensure these vital regions have healthy habitats and stable populations of prey, and are well connected with neighbouring snow leopard range countries. We're also tackling other threats to snow leopards, including poaching and retaliatory killing, and supporting local communities to develop more sustainable livelihoods.

**i** FIND OUT MORE at [www.org.uk/snowleopard](http://www.org.uk/snowleopard)

## 2 KENYA

### YOU HELPED MONITOR BLACK RHINOS

Thanks to you, black rhinos living in an important reserve in Kenya are now better monitored than before. Solio Conservancy has offered sanctuary to black rhinos since the late 1970s and 1980s, when heavy poaching reduced Kenya's population to around 400 individuals. It's vital that rangers are able to recognise rhinos as individuals in order to monitor and protect the population. So, thanks to our rhino adopters and players of People's Postcode Lottery, we supported an operation last summer to notch the ears of 38 black rhinos in the reserve – the first time this has been done. The marks will enable rangers to recognise individual rhinos from a distance, without disturbing them, and estimate the population more accurately. The rhinos have had microchips fitted in their horns, which enable them to be traced, and improve the ability to prosecute poachers and traffickers caught with microchipped horns. With your support, we'll notch the other rhinos and help keep them all safe.



## 3 THE ARCTIC

### YOU HELPED STOP FISHING IN THE CENTRAL ARCTIC OCEAN

Thanks to your support, commercial fishing has been banned in the Central Arctic Ocean for at least the next 16 years. The international agreement, which included the Arctic coastal states, the EU and some of the world's major fishing nations, will give experts time to study the region's unique ecosystems before they are irrevocably damaged by unconstrained fishing. The Arctic has already changed irreversibly in our lifetime. As climate change causes more Arctic sea ice to melt, previously untouched areas of the Arctic Ocean are becoming accessible to fishing vessels for the first time. Fortunately, the participating nations agreed to close around 2.8 million square kilometres of ocean to fishing, and encourage scientific research in the region. We'll now support these nations to work together to study and protect the Arctic.



90% 40 years

Nearly 90% of the current range of jaguars is in the Amazon rainforest

We've worked to protect the Amazon, including vital jaguar habitat, for over 40 years

## 4 AMAZON

### YOU HELPED MONITOR JAGUARS IN THE AMAZON

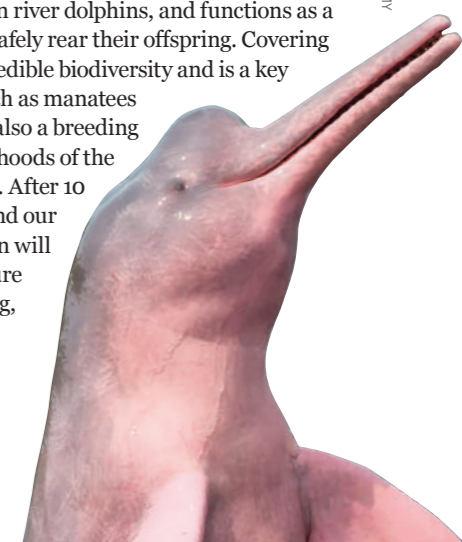
Thanks to you, we're supporting groundbreaking new efforts to monitor jaguars across Colombia, Ecuador and Peru by installing 300 camera traps. The Amazon is the jaguar's main stronghold and is crucial for its long-term survival. But because this cat is so rarely seen, little is known about its numbers or behaviour, including its movements between countries. So we're introducing a new system of monitoring across the northern Amazon region. This will help ensure that Colombia, Ecuador and Peru use the same methods to collect, assess and share information on jaguars, including camera trap photos. We'll use the information to help build a safer future for jaguars.



## 5 COLOMBIA

### YOU HELPED PRESERVE A RIVER DOLPHIN NURSERY

Thanks to you, a critical habitat for Amazon river dolphins has been designated as a Wetland Protected Area under the global Ramsar Convention. The Tarapoto Lake system in Colombia shelters one of the highest concentrations of Amazon river dolphins, and functions as a nursery where the dolphins can safely rear their offspring. Covering 40,000 hectares, it supports incredible biodiversity and is a key habitat for threatened species such as manatees and jaguars. Tarapoto Lakes are also a breeding site for fish that support the livelihoods of the 22 local indigenous communities. After 10 years of campaigning by WWF and our partners, this Ramsar designation will help to protect this natural treasure from threats including overfishing, timber extraction, poaching and uncontrolled tourism, and keep the dolphins safe.



# WWF IN ACTION

Our recent challenges and triumphs for wildlife and the environment

Landmarks around the world went dark for Earth Hour, including Tower Bridge, Carnaby Street, City Hall and the Shard in London

## OUR UK HIGHLIGHTS FROM EARTH HOUR 2018

Thanks to your support from all over the UK, it really was a night to remember!



### CLIMATE CHANGE

## EARTH HOUR 2018

We hope you enjoyed Earth Hour in March as much as we did! This year was extra special, as thousands of you promised to make the small changes needed to protect our planet

It was another record-breaking Earth Hour, as 188 countries and territories, and almost 18,000 landmarks, switched off their lights. In the UK, Buckingham Palace, Cardiff Castle, Carnaby Street, Edinburgh Castle and over 400 other landmarks switched off, with support from thousands of businesses, restaurants and local authorities. At home, millions of people marked the hour by going dark for 60 minutes.

This year, we also invited people to make a promise for the planet, a brilliant way for everyone to make one small change to their everyday lives that will help protect our only home. An incredible 60,000 of you have made your promises so far! You're committing to using reusable coffee cups, refusing single-use plastic and switching to green energy. It's inspiring, as these promises are the first step to help protect our planet for future generations.

Earth Hour also motivated our ambassadors, partners and celebrity supporters to join in. WWF ambassadors Andy Murray and Anna Friel made their

promises and our partners Ariel donated £50,000 to us for all the Earth Hour promises made. Ben Fogle even tweeted from the Arctic Circle and Ellie Goulding summed up our campaign perfectly, saying: "I don't think people realise how much power they have."

Thanks to everyone who took part and shared photos and stories from the night. Ready to start planning for next year? Visit [wwf.org.uk/earthhour](http://wwf.org.uk/earthhour)

### MAKE YOUR EARTH HOUR PROMISE

It's not too late to do your bit and make your promise today. Don't forget to share it with us at [#PromiseForThePlanet](https://twitter.com/PromiseForThePlanet).



The Kelpies in Scotland went dark



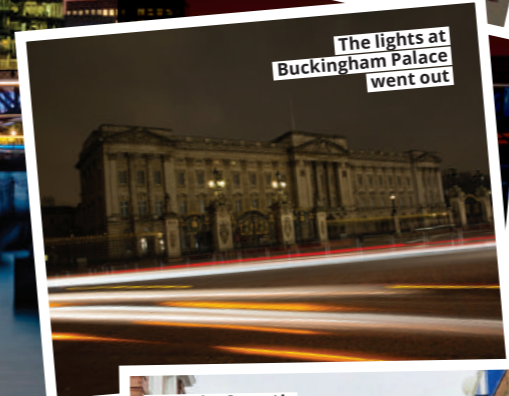
Wormit Primary School in Fife made this stunning promise tree



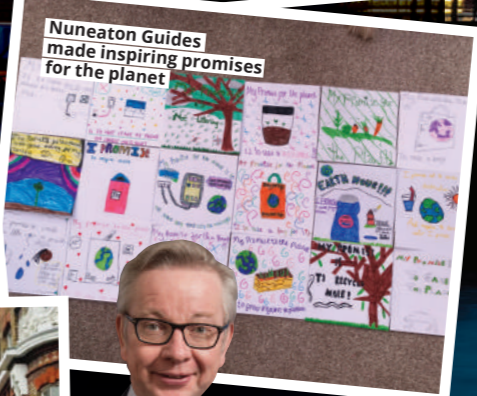
Young supporters made promise bags at our Earth Hour workshop



Hundreds of people from south-east Wales came together to celebrate



The lights at Buckingham Palace went out



Nuneaton Guides made inspiring promises for the planet



Carnaby Street's famous arch showed its support



Michael Gove joined politicians from all parties and made an Earth Hour pledge

### NEWS IN BRIEF



© BRYANG TORU / MAXIME ALIAGA

### NEW ORANG-UTAN SPECIES ANNOUNCED

A new great ape species has been identified. The Tapanuli orang-utan lives in northern Sumatra, but has been isolated from the two other orang-utan species for thousands of years. Today it is genetically distinct from other orang-utans – it even has a differently shaped skull. But like all orang-utans, the Tapanuli is under serious threat. Working in partnership with other non-governmental organisations, universities and Indonesian authorities, we'll work to ensure these remarkable apes have a safer future.

### NEWS IN NUMBERS

# 500,000

That's how many amazing people like you signed our petition to save Tanzania's Selous Reserve from the proposed Stiegler's Gorge dam. This means we're one step closer to preventing this huge dam from threatening this incredible wildlife area.

# 121

Thanks to you, 121 camera traps have been donated to Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park to help us observe the only remaining population of critically endangered Javan rhinos. The cameras have already identified two newborn calves.

NEWS IN BRIEF



© ISTOCK

WILDLIFE IN A WARMING WORLD

In March we released our *Wildlife in a Warming World* report, which looks at the likely effects of climate change on biodiversity in our priority places for conservation. The research predicts the effects that a range of warming scenarios would have on different species groups in 35 regions, containing some of the richest and most remarkable wildlife on the planet, including many iconic, endangered and endemic species. Its findings are shocking – if we don't take action on climate change, we could lose almost 50% of species from the world's most important natural areas. Read the full report at [wwf.org.uk/warmingworld](http://wwf.org.uk/warmingworld)



© ALAMY

TURTLE POPULATIONS TURN FEMALE

A new study supported by WWF has revealed that green turtle populations in the northern Great Barrier Reef are becoming almost all female. Rising temperatures linked to climate change are being blamed, since the temperature at which eggs are incubated determines the sex of turtles. As a result, almost all the hatchlings are female. Scientists are working on ways to prevent the skewed sex ratio threatening the population's future.

CLIMATE CHANGE

ARCTIC VOICES

**In few places on Earth are the effects of climate change more obvious than the Arctic. So last December, we supported three indigenous women leaders to tell the UK government about the changes they've seen there – and ask MPs to take action**

As well as polar bears and walrus, the Arctic is home to roughly four million people. Around 500,000 of them belong to indigenous groups, with a deep connection to nature, who have lived off the land and ocean for generations. Today, they're seeing climate change alter their world faster than ever before. They are powerful voices for the Arctic and they need to be heard.

That's why we supported leading figures from Gwich'in, Saami and Inuit communities to speak in the British and Scottish Parliament for the first time about their experiences and concerns – and to explain why it's so vital for the UK government to act.

All three are worried about what the future holds. They told MPs that the sea ice on which the Inuit move around is melting and becoming more dangerous. As the permafrost thaws and wildfires become more frequent, the Gwich'in are facing a future with fewer caribou,

animals on which they rely for their food and livelihoods. The reindeer-herding Saami are struggling to keep their animals healthy due to unpredictable changes in weather patterns.

As the Arctic's closest neighbour, the UK has a crucial role to play in committing to help safeguard the region by tackling climate change and ensuring that Arctic development is truly sustainable. So we're asking the UK government to show global leadership to meet our international climate targets. Politicians must take this chance to listen to people affected by our changing climate, because unless we act now we'll see the Arctic virtually free of sea ice in summer months within a generation, with consequences for us all.

**i SPEAK UP WITH US**

This summer, it's your chance to make your voice heard. The Climate Coalition's Speak Up Week will take place from 30 June to 8 July. Join us and have a climate heart-to-heart with your MPs to highlight how climate change is affecting your community and the rest of the world, and encourage them to take action. To get involved, visit [wwf.org.uk/weekofaction](http://wwf.org.uk/weekofaction)



© PAMELA MILLER

Sarah James spoke for the Gwich'in community in Alaska when she told the UK government: "In my 74 years, I've seen many changes due to climate change. Glaciers are melting, ice is getting thinner and permafrost is melting."



PICTURE STORY

SENTINELS OF THE SEA

**We're working with fishing communities on Mafia Island off the coast of Tanzania to protect the ocean and people's livelihoods**

The warm waters and delicate coral reefs of Africa's east coast provide vital food and jobs to millions of people. They're also home to a stunning variety of wildlife, from tiny clownfish to whale sharks, the world's largest fish. But the ocean's riches are threatened by climate change, pollution and overfishing. Our project is helping local communities to monitor and manage the fish stocks they and their families rely on.

Mafia Island fisherman Haji Haji says: "If we overfish, we'll be lost. Let's conserve the ocean for our own use and for the benefit of the next generation. If we protect the ocean, the ocean will protect us."

Ocean health in the project area is showing good signs of recovery and dozens of whale sharks now visit Mafia Island between October and February, driving a small but growing ecotourism industry. The project on Mafia Island is part of our partnership with seafood company John West. Our seafood experts are also working with the company to ensure all its fish come from sustainable sources. Find out more by watching our incredible film at [wwf.org.uk/haji](http://wwf.org.uk/haji)

© GREEN RENAISSANCE / WWF-UK

MARINE WILDLIFE

SKY OCEAN RESCUE

**We're launching an exciting new partnership with Sky to help protect and restore our amazing oceans**

None of us can live without healthy oceans. They generate oxygen and provide food and livelihoods for millions of people. They're also home to incredible animals like dolphins, whales and turtles. But our oceans are under greater pressure than ever before from threats like pollution.

That's why we're thrilled to team up with Sky Ocean Rescue to help tackle these threats. Together, we'll be continuing our work to protect special areas of oceans called marine protected areas, to help marine wildlife recover and thrive. We're hoping to protect 400,000 sq km of ocean across Europe – that's an area larger than the UK and Ireland combined.

These areas are home to a staggering range of wildlife, including orcas, minke whales, harbour porpoises and seals, and also support livelihoods in industries like fishing and tourism up and down our coasts. We'll protect and enhance these sanctuaries of ocean life by working to reduce unsustainable and damaging activities to ensure they can thrive into the future.



© NATURE.COM / ALEX MUSTARD / WWF

Europe's marine protected areas harbour wildlife great and small, such as this grey seal off Devon's Lundy Island

We're also supporting Sky Ocean Rescue's campaign #PassOnPlastic to tackle the plastic pollution crisis that's choking our seas. As your overwhelming support for this year's Earth Hour has shown, it's possible to make small changes to your everyday lives to reduce the amount of single-use plastics that end up in the environment.

Our new oceans partnership follows our previous collaboration on Sky Rainforest Rescue, which helped protect a billion trees in the Amazon. The projects supported by this partnership are still making a positive impact in the rainforest today.

Find out more about our work with Sky Ocean Rescue at [wwf.org.uk/oceanrescue](http://wwf.org.uk/oceanrescue)



PART OF OUR ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE SERIES

# TACKLING THE TRAFFICKERS

An unprecedented spike in wildlife crime threatens some of our most precious wildlife. But with your support, we're taking urgent action to stop the traffickers, sever the trade routes and improve law enforcement

## CONFISCATED BIG CAT SKINS

The US Fish & Wildlife Service in Colorado stores over 1.3 million illegal wildlife products seized at the US border entry points. On average, it receives 200 illegally traded wildlife items a week. On its big cat shelves are threatened leopards, jaguars, ocelots, tigers and many other species. With glass eyes, painted mouths and tongues glued in place, these cats are victims of the illegal wildlife trade. Their skins are sometimes used to make status-symbol clothing – for instance, between 10 and 20 leopards are used to produce one coat.

**H**ong Kong, 6 July 2017: a busy day at Kwai Chung Customhouse, as customs officers inspect a shipping container newly arrived from Malaysia. At first all seems routine: the cartons are unloaded one at a time – each packed with frozen fish, just as it says in the paperwork. But it's not the cartons that interest the officers.

Sure enough, their worst fears are soon confirmed. Beneath the cartons, the container is piled high with elephant tusks. Even these experienced officers, working at the very hub of the world's illegal wildlife trade, are shocked by the number. Altogether, the haul weighs in at a staggering 7.2 tonnes: the largest illegal ivory shipment seized in recent decades. More than 700 elephants have died for this. Arrests follow and vital intelligence is gleaned. But it's a bitter-sweet moment.

"We're finding smaller tusks in seizures because the big tuskers have all been poached," says Tom Milliken, elephant and rhino programme leader of wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, one of our partners. "The demand for ivory has increased so much that poachers are targeting any animal with ivory."

Today the global illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth more than £15 billion and is thought to be the world's fourth largest transnational crime. Its effects are devastating: an estimated 20,000 elephants are being poached in Africa every year for their ivory, while 7,781 rhinos were poached for their horns across Africa between 2010 and 2017 alone.

According to TRAFFIC, the current scale of this problem is unprecedented. "We've just had six successive years of record ivory trafficking levels," says Milliken, "which is extremely worrying." He fears that despite recent efforts, including US\$1.3 billion committed by the world's leading funders to



**TRAGIC REMAINS**

The number of rhinos poached for their horn in South Africa alone has increased by more than 9,000% since 2007 - from 13 to a record 1,215 in 2014. These are three feet representing different aged rhinos. Fully grown rhino hooves are turned into ice buckets, ashtray holders, foot stools and bins. The small feet of rhino calves are sold as office pencil holders. In this seized shipment, four feet belonging to a single calf were traded as table legs.

combating the illegal wildlife trade since 2010, the desired effect isn't being achieved yet. "That's the highest investment we've seen," he explains, "and yet the statistics of what's happening to wildlife on the ground are not moving."

Illegal wildlife trade may now be driving some species to the brink. "We've already seen the Javan rhinos in Vietnam wiped out," says Milliken. And it's not only 'A-list' animals, such as elephants, rhinos and tigers, that are targeted. "There's a whole lot of species that still aren't in the global imagination yet," he adds, explaining how animals as diverse as hornbills, basking sharks, sea cucumbers and serow (an antelope-like mammal) are today being targeted. Recent data reveals that the most trafficked wild mammals are now pangolins: an estimated 117,000-234,000 of these elusive, insect-eating mammals were killed for their scales and meat between 2011 and 2013 alone.

**WILDLIFE IN DEMAND**

It's a global problem, but today the core markets for the world's illegal wildlife products are China and south-east Asia, while Africa suffers the greatest plunder. "Asia has come to Africa, as Asia has not lived sustainably with its own natural resources," explains Milliken.

As this grisly trade casts its nets ever wider, it seems everything is up for grabs. Milliken recounts how breeding colonies of carmine bee-eaters, a bird prized for its colourful feathers, have been excavated from

African river banks. Such stories, on top of the data, leave no doubt that we're now in a crisis situation. "These last few years have been horrific," he says.

Meanwhile, as well as desecrating the environment and driving species towards extinction, the trade destroys lives. Its corruption breeds further corruption. Communities are intimidated, livelihoods lost and, in extreme cases, civil conflicts inflamed. Those who intervene may risk

**WE'RE DETERMINED TO STAMP OUT ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE BY 2030**

everything. Between 2009 and 2017, around 740 wildlife rangers across the world lost their lives in the line of duty.

The trafficking of wildlife products is key to the illegal wildlife trade. It's the supply line between poacher and consumer. And a recent increase in seizures of trafficked goods provides compelling evidence of how the trade is proliferating. Take rhino horn. From 2000 to 2005, 664 horns were taken in Africa for the illegal trade, with 173 subsequently seized. From October 2012 to December 2015, 8,691 horns were taken in Africa, with 890 seized worldwide.

The locations of such seizures help identify the trafficking routes. They have revealed, for example, that South Africa's OR Tambo International Airport (26 rhino horn seizures alone) and Kenya's Mombasa port are key smuggling conduits out of Africa by air and sea respectively. They also reveal that many other countries, including Ethiopia, Indonesia, Qatar, Singapore and the UAE, serve as transit points. In May 2015, for example, two containers shipped from Mombasa were seized in Singapore - they contained 178 pieces of ivory, four rhino horns and 22 teeth from big cats.

Worryingly, however, TRAFFIC estimates that wildlife products recovered in seizures represent just a fraction of the actual illegal trade. During the 2010-2016 period for which accurate rhino

horn trade data exists, for example, seizures recovered 2,149 horns (either whole or in parts), but rangers recorded at least 6,668 rhinos poached. Assuming two horns are taken from each rhino, this leaves 11,187 horns unaccounted for.

Today the trafficking is run by ruthless international crime

syndicates that are often also involved in other organised crime, including money laundering and the trafficking of drugs, firearms and people. They take advantage of increasing globalisation to elude their pursuers, constantly shifting smuggling routes and deploying ever more sophisticated tactics to conceal the goods. In South Africa, rhino horn has been found smuggled inside toys, timber, fake electronic equipment and even bags of cashew nuts. A 2017 raid on premises in Germiston, near Johannesburg, uncovered a team processing rhino horn into disks, beads and powder.

Such syndicates also use money and power to exploit weaknesses at ports and borders, taking advantage of local corruption and weak law enforcement to traffic illegal products with virtual impunity. Seizures are no guarantee that traffickers will be caught. "The problem is that usually the investigation never goes further than where the seizure occurs," says

Milliken. He despairs when shown the data, revealing, for example, that across south-east Asia in 2011, over 2 million live animals and around 8,000 dead animals, animal parts and derivatives were seized, yet only 231 arrests were made, and only 18 of these resulted in jail sentences and/or fines.

**BREAKING THE CHAIN**

The illegal wildlife trade, like any trade, revolves around supply and demand. Reducing demand is undoubtedly the long-term solution - and we're working with the governments of China and other key markets towards that end (there'll be more on this aspect of our work in your next issue of *Action*). But right now the situation is too critical to wait for demand reduction to bear fruit. "You can't win this battle by just focusing on one side of the equation," confirms Milliken.

Milliken explains how the immediate priority is to break the supply chain - and that to do this, effective law enforcement is the key. At present, the countries that are losing their wildlife, in particular in Africa, lack the resources to halt the trafficking. Milliken, who is currently assisting the Ugandan government in the prosecution of an illegal ivory syndicate, describes how prosecutions can founder on such simple obstacles as the lack of a Chinese language interpreter. "In case after case," he says, "a whole body of intelligence is lost."

Somebody needs to join everything up. "What we need is a Sherlock Holmes walking those trade chains and piecing it all together,

then connecting different trade chains to various syndicates," explains Milliken. "We need to ferret out these criminal syndicates and then get rid of them."

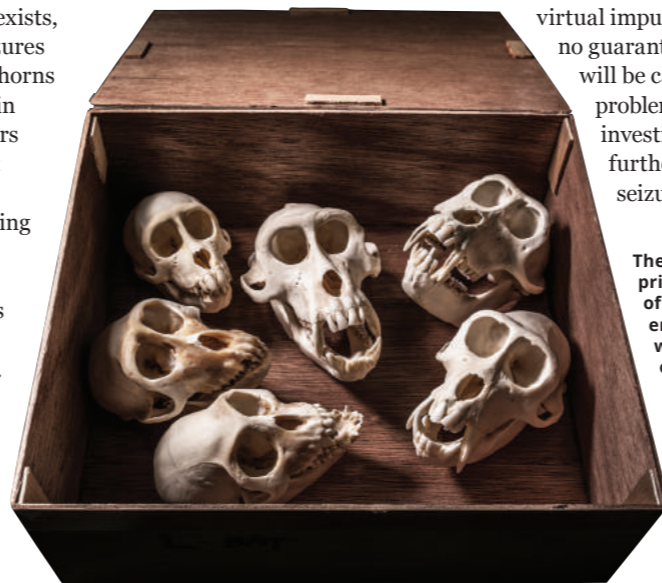
For Milliken, breaking the trafficking chain depends on improving cooperation between the Asian countries where the markets are based and the African countries battling the problem on the ground. "I don't think international collaboration on the law enforcement front is strong enough yet," he worries. "I hope Asia can become a positive force in solving Africa's problems. We need hands across the water: we're in this together."

**A WAY FORWARD**

We're determined to stamp out illegal wildlife trade by 2030. With your help, we believe it's possible. In October, the fourth in a series of state-led international conferences on illegal wildlife trade takes place in London. We see this as a chance to expose the illegal wildlife trade for what it really is: not just an 'environmental problem' but a devastating international crime with far-reaching consequences.

At the conference we want to make sure leaders address the corruption that allows the illegal wildlife trade to escape the law, and also commit to giving rangers on the frontline proper equipment, training and insurance.

We want countries to make commitments to reducing demand for illegal wildlife products by changing consumer behaviour. We also aim to persuade other Asian countries to follow China's lead and close their domestic ivory markets. Elsewhere,



These illegally traded primate skulls - some of which are critically endangered species - were destined to be sold online. At Heathrow airport, Border Force's specially trained officers are vital in preventing the illegal importation of controlled animals and plants

# TARGETED

A huge variety of wildlife and wildlife parts is trafficked via land, sea and air from source countries to global consumer markets, where it's used in various ways...

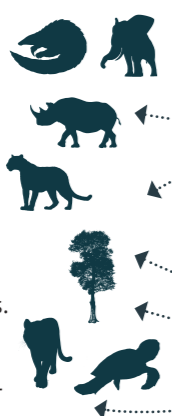
## ...ON THE MENU

Numerous wildlife species are targeted illegally for food. In China and south-east Asia, pangolin meat is a delicacy. Fish targeted include protected sharks, whose fins are used in soup. In Europe an appetite for caviar is putting sturgeon species at risk. In Africa, a thriving 'bushmeat' trade targets chimpanzees and other forest mammals.



## ...HIGH STATUS

Recent economic growth in Asia is driving a new consumer market for wildlife products as status symbols. These range from elephant trinkets and rhino horn jewellery to mounted trophies such as gaur horns. Plants are also targeted: rosewood trees are illegally trafficked from Madagascar for luxury furniture.



## JUST SOME OF THE OTHER SPECIES THREATENED BY THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

- 1 Common seahorse targeted for medicine
- 2 Rosewood targeted for furniture and musical instruments
- 3 Slow loris targeted for the pet trade
- 4 Chimpanzee targeted for bushmeat, the pet trade and zoos
- 5 Grey parrot targeted for the pet trade
- 6 Vietnamese orchid targeted for the ornamental plant trade
- 7 Orange clownfish targeted for the pet trade
- 8 Danube river sturgeon targeted for caviar
- 9 Asiatic black bear targeted for medicine and bear paw soup
- 10 Totoaba fish targeted for food and medicine
- 11 Jaguar targeted for ornaments and as status symbols
- 12 African lion targeted for medicine

### CHINESE PANGOLIN

All of the world's eight pangolin species are threatened. These insect-eaters are the most trafficked of all wild mammals, prized in China and Vietnam for their meat and scales (made of keratin, like fingernails), which are used in medicine and carved into ornaments.



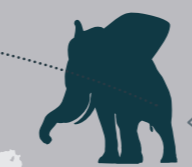
### TIGER

Of the approximately 3,900 tigers that live in the wild, some 200 still live within the Golden Triangle, a hub for the illegal wildlife trade. All parts of a tiger are for sale - including paws, bones and penis - used both for medicine and as status symbols.



### AFRICAN ELEPHANT

Around 20,000 African elephants are killed each year for their ivory. In four central African countries, forest elephant populations declined by 66% between 2008 and 2016. Research suggests Laos is the fastest growing ivory market, with Chinese visitors making up 80% of sales.



### BLACK RHINOCEROS

The rarer of Africa's two rhino species, with around 5,200 remaining. Now critically endangered due to demand for its horn - primarily in Vietnam, where it's prized as a status symbol. Last year, 1,028 rhinos (both black and white) were poached in South Africa.



### HAWKSBILL TURTLE

Now critically endangered due to a rapid decline estimated at 80% over the past 100 years. Once the primary source of decorative 'tortoiseshell', this species - like other marine turtles - is also killed for its eggs, meat and skin.



## ...WANTED ALIVE

Slow lorises in Indonesia and fennec foxes in north Africa are among numerous 'cute' animals captured for the burgeoning wildlife pet trade. Other species in demand include parrots, crocodilians, geckos and tarantulas. Marine animals, such as the orange clownfish, are captured for aquariums, while orchids are trafficked to private collectors.



## ...KILL OR CURE

In Asian traditional medicine, folklore has long attributed healing properties to the body parts of wild animals. Tiger bones are used to treat rheumatism, pangolin scales for arthritis, elephant skin for skin problems and rhino horn for fever. Other species targeted range from musk deer to snakes and seahorses.



leaders in countries where poaching takes place must ensure community engagement is integral to the fight against wildlife crime, as well as secure corridors that provide critical habitats for wildlife and benefits for people.

The good news is that we've already shown how, with your support, we can make an impact. Take Kenya: in the last three years, we've helped the government to increase seizures of illegal wildlife parts, developed a forensics laboratory to provide prosecution evidence and, most recently, supported the training of special sniffer dogs at Mombasa port that can sniff out ivory, rhino horn and sandalwood in sealed containers. Similar sniffer dog programmes you've supported in India, Nepal and China exposed 23 major cases of wildlife crime in 2016 alone.

We're also working on law enforcement - helping authorities to improve judicial systems and hand down stronger sentences to criminals. In Kenya, with your support, we were able to influence the government

to pass landmark legislation to crack down on wildlife crime: under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, which came into force in January 2014, people convicted now face fines of around £140,000 or life imprisonment, and in 2016 an ivory trade kingpin received a 20-year sentence.

In the UK, we've helped gain political recognition and government funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit, which provides expert support to stop illegal trade in threatened species here and internationally. Our Eyes and Ears initiative also asks the public to report anything they see or hear that may be linked to illegal wildlife trade.

Meanwhile, we're stepping up our work with CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), setting up national coordination committees in countries around the world to help ensure the convention's agreements are respected and

enforced. Putting pressure on governments to improve and enforce their regulations will help to end illegal wildlife trade once and for all, and we're already seeing how governments can act. We're delighted that the UK government recently committed to an ivory trade ban. And last year, China closed its legal domestic elephant ivory market, following a similar US initiative in 2016.

We can't all be the wildlife trade Sherlock Holmes that Milliken calls for, but we can all play our part. Ultimately, wildlife trafficking will end if nobody buys the products.

We each have a responsibility to make informed choices, and simple measures, such as only buying sustainably caught seafood that bears the

Marine Stewardship Council logo, or wood products endorsed by FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), make a difference. As Milliken points out, "We've got to know whether our decisions are going to make it a better or a worse world."



All seahorses are protected by CITES. These sacks each contain the remains of 1,000 dried seahorses. This is the contents of just one crate - there were several more crates just as full as this one. They were all seized from one shipment and represent a total of 45,000 seahorses

## HELP US STOP THE RUTHLESS AND ILLEGAL KILLING

Thanks to your membership, you already support our work to end the illegal wildlife trade. We're working to sever key trade routes for illegal wildlife products by improving law enforcement at borders and along the entire trade chain. But if you'd like to do more to stop the poachers, end the trafficking and stem consumer demand, a gift today could help in the following ways:

- £10 could help pay for a day's training for one sniffer dog
- £30 could help pay for a police forensic kit to collect evidence at crime scenes like blood, hair, skin and bullets for the criminal forensic lab
- £50 could help pay to train customs officers to detect rhino horn, ivory and other wildlife contraband being smuggled via air and sea
- £80 could help pay for chemicals and DNA profiling in a specialised forensic lab in Kenya
- £100 could help pay for training for a community-based anti-poaching patrol in Nepal
- £250 could help pay for a GPS digital camera to photograph 'scene of crime' evidence in poaching incidents

Please help us break the chain by donating at [wwf.org.uk/stopthetrade](http://wwf.org.uk/stopthetrade)



## VALLEY CAT

**Unpredictable, secretive and solitary, the snow leopard often eludes even those trying to protect it. But sometimes all you need is luck on your side...**

High in the Tian Shan mountains of eastern Kyrgyzstan nestles the glorious Sarychat-Ertash Nature Reserve. There are no roads to this little-known protected area – you can only get there on horseback. It's truly wild.

Photographer Sebastian Kennerknecht travelled to this remote wilderness on a mission: to capture on camera the world's most elusive big cat. Conditions here are hostile – the terrain is rugged, with snow-covered mountains 4,500m high plunging to deep valleys divided by hypothermia-inducing rivers. But they suit the snow leopard perfectly.

The toughest challenge of all is finding one of these well-camouflaged cats. Sebastian worked with a team of conservationists to decide where to place his camera traps. But when biologist Shannon Kachel suggested a trail along the river, he was dubious. There were tracks from wolves and lynx, but no signs of snow leopards.

Still, Shannon insisted that further down the trail was a boulder once used by the leopards as a scent mark post. The rock bore no sign of recent use, but Sebastian was so impressed by the dramatic backdrop he decided to take a gamble.

It took three weeks, and it only ever happened once, but eventually this snow leopard triggered the camera trap, dripping wet after apparently swimming across the river below.

Thanks to our supporters, we're able to work with communities in the high mountains of Nepal to help manage and reduce conflict between snow leopards and people.

Find out more about the ways we're protecting these cats at [wwwf.org.uk/snowleopard](http://wwwf.org.uk/snowleopard)

Our pioneering project to tag Amazon river dolphins in Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia will help us to protect them. Here, Federico Mosquera, endangered species coordinator at the Omacha Foundation, calms a dolphin while it's transported to the tagging site



# KING OF THE RIVER

In the Amazon, dolphins live hundreds of miles from the sea. Thanks to your support, we're leading new research that will help us discover the secrets of these enigmatic creatures – and provide information to secure their future

It was a meeting with Jacques Cousteau, the great explorer of the underwater world, that changed Fernando Trujillo's life forever.

"As a student, I knew I wanted to work with large aquatic mammals, but my teachers told me that wasn't possible in Colombia," recalls Fernando. "Then I was fortunate enough to meet Commander Cousteau. He told me: 'They have dolphins in the Amazon. Why don't you go and study them? Nobody else is.'"

That was how the 19-year-old Fernando found himself on a cargo plane bound for Puerto Nariño, a small town on the banks of the Amazon river in Colombia, 3,200km upstream from the river's mouth. That was 30 years ago. Fernando has been studying the river dolphins of the Amazon ever since.

"I fell in love here," he says. "I fell in love with this environment, with macaws and toucans, with the river and its pink dolphins. And also with the indigenous culture of the Amazon that believes river dolphins are sacred characters. The dolphin is a powerful figure. Local people hunt almost all animals in the forest, but not dolphins. They are enchanted beings that are thought to live in underwater cities." ▶



The tracking devices enable us to gather vital information about the Amazon river dolphins, including their migration routes, behaviour and preferred habitats, so we can protect them better

“I started out with a sentimental approach. I wanted to do something for the dolphins,” says Fernando. He soon realised that there were many issues affecting the Amazon region, from deforestation and overfishing to economic development and the rights of indigenous communities – and that the dolphins were a key piece in the puzzle. “Through these animals, we could show the world what was happening in the Amazon.”

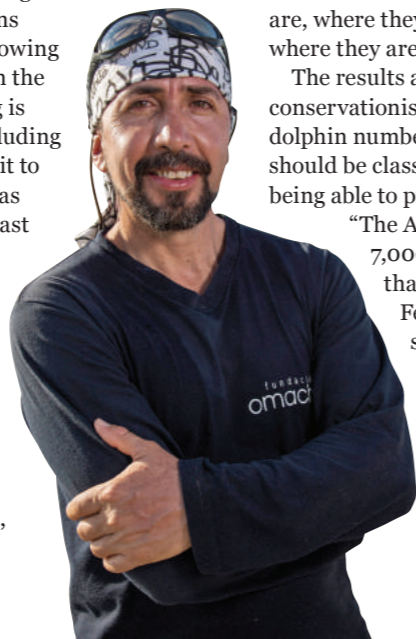
### DOLPHIN DISCOVERIES

River dolphins are found throughout the Amazon basin, but we know surprisingly little about them. Until relatively recently, Amazon river dolphins were either known as pink (the boto) or grey (the tucuxi), but scientists now distinguish between up to four different species of pink river dolphin.

And we don’t know how many of them there are. The IUCN lists Amazon river dolphins as ‘data deficient’, which means we can’t make an accurate assessment of the health of their population, whether numbers are falling, or how successful conservation efforts are proving.

That’s a problem, because river dolphins in the Amazon are under pressure like never before. “River dolphins are facing multiple threats, including deforestation, decreasing water levels in rivers, gold mining that pollutes the waters with toxic mercury, and the destruction of their habitats. On top of that, dams and waterways are isolating their populations,” explains Fernando. With a growing human population in the Amazon, overfishing is another threat – including using dolphins as bait to catch catfish. This was highlighted in your last issue of *Action*, and is thankfully now illegal in most Amazon countries.

Thanks to your support, we’ve been working with Fernando and his organisation, the Omacha Foundation,



on groundbreaking new research that will provide new insights into these gentle creatures and help secure their future. This includes the largest survey of river dolphins ever undertaken. “To date, we’ve carried out 28 scientific expeditions, trained over 400 people and travelled 27,000km of rivers in South America,” says Fernando. “We now know how many dolphins there are, where they are highly threatened and where they are doing well.”

The results are likely to confirm what conservationists have feared: that river dolphin numbers are falling, and that they should be classified as endangered. But being able to present the facts is crucial. “The Amazon river is nearly 7,000km long and has more than 1,000 tributaries,” says Fernando. “But if you can show that a particular section ▶

Fernando Trujillo has dedicated his life to protecting the endangered Amazon river dolphin. To local indigenous people, he is ‘Omacha’ – the dolphin who became a man



We’re working with Fernando and the Omacha Foundation in Colombia, and with partners Faunagua in Bolivia, Pro Delphinus in Peru and Mamiraua in Brazil, to track river dolphins across the Amazon

#### STEP 1: FIND YOUR DOLPHIN

Nobody knows river dolphins better than local indigenous fisherfolk. With their help, we identify a stretch of river that’s often frequented by dolphins to string a net across. When a dolphin arrives, it’s gently guided towards the shallows, then the team get in the water and slowly close the net around it.



#### STEP 2: CLOSE IN GENTLY

Once surrounded, the dolphin is placed in a sling and lifted out of the water. It can weigh as much as 185kg, so this requires both strategy and strength! On the shore, the dolphin is gently laid on a mat, and the team of scientists gets to work. To minimise stress, they work in nearly total silence.



### HOW TO TAG A DOLPHIN

#### STEP 3: FIT THE TAG

The GPS tracking device is attached to the dolphin’s dorsal ridge. This dense, fibrous connective tissue grows all the time, like our fingernails, so the tag naturally falls off after about 300 days. Until then, the tag will send out real-time information via satellite to the team at least once a day.



#### STEP 4: MONITOR THE DOLPHIN

Throughout the operation, one person keeps the dolphin comfortable and wet. The team monitors the dolphin’s respiratory and cardiac frequency, body temperature and pupil dilation to ensure its wellbeing at all times. The dolphin isn’t sedated because it has to stay conscious to breathe.



#### STEP 5: RUN A HEALTH CHECK

It’s also a good opportunity to take measurements and run tests on the dolphin’s health. The team take blood and skin samples that, among other things, will allow us to gather their genetic data and check their mercury levels. After just 15 minutes, we release the dolphin back into the water.



#### STEP 6: RELEASE THE DOLPHIN

As the dolphin slips away into the tannin-rich water, we keep a close eye on it to make sure it’s not displaying any ill effects from the experience. Thanks to the clever tags, the team can begin to follow the animal’s movements almost immediately.

of the river is a key habitat for dolphins and needs protection, it will enable governments to target resources where they can do the most good.”

We’re also working together on an unprecedented and ambitious project to fit satellite tracking tags on 15 dolphins in three different rivers in the Amazon basin – in Brazil, Bolivia and Colombia. These devices beam out information in real time and transmit data for up to 280 days before dropping off naturally soon after. They’ll help us discover more than ever before about the dolphins’ behaviour and where they go when they vanish under the water.

“We believe that some dolphins travel more than 1,000km, but until now we haven’t been able to prove it,” says Fernando. “With the data we obtain from this satellite monitoring, we’ll discover how far the dolphins migrate and how males and females differ in their habits. We’ll learn how their movements are limited by hydroelectric dams, and identify the most important areas for them and where they spend the most time. We’ll be able to find out if they have their young in lagoons or if these places are key to feeding.”

### DEALING WITH DAMS

“This is the first Amazon-wide attempt to understand the movements of pink river dolphins, which is vital if we want to come up with effective conservation plans,” says Jamie Gordon, who leads our work in the Colombian Amazon. “With the spread of large-scale hydropower dams across the region, the dolphins are facing an uncertain future. We need to understand the potential effects on them before it’s too late.”

If we can ensure that dolphins continue to swim freely throughout the Amazon, it will benefit countless other species too. Dolphins are top predators, and their presence is a sign that a river is in good health with plenty of fish.

“If the jaguar is king of the jungle, then the dolphin is king of the river,” says Saulo Usma, WWF’s freshwater specialist in Colombia. “When people think of the Amazon they tend to think of the forest, but rivers are important too – they are the arteries carrying the lifeblood of all the other ecosystems. Dolphins can help us to highlight that.”

Despite the changes he’s witnessed in the past 30 years, Fernando remains hopeful for the future: “My dream is that in 20 years I will see an Amazon with rivers of life, not deserts of water.”

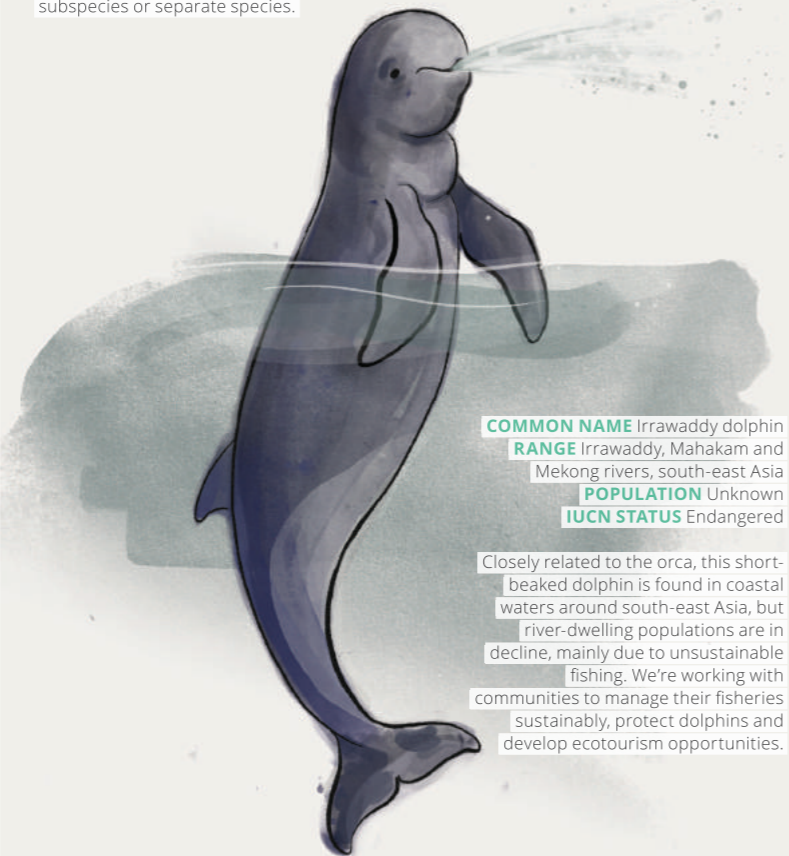
## WHO’S WHO

While most people think of dolphins as sea creatures, several species are found only in rivers – and they’re among the most endangered aquatic mammals in the world



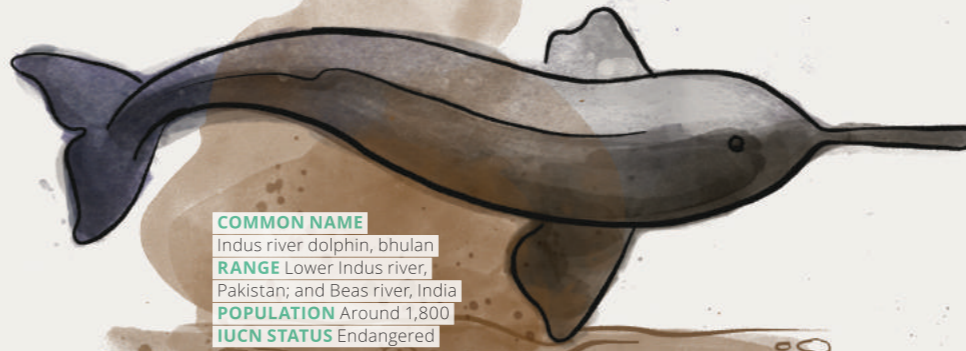
**COMMON NAME** Amazon river dolphin, pink river dolphin, boto  
**RANGE** Throughout the Amazon and Orinoco river basins in South America  
**POPULATION** Unknown  
**IUCN STATUS** Data deficient

Characterised by a long snout and pale pink colour, the boto is found throughout the Amazon. Scientists are still debating whether the closely related Orinoco river dolphin, Araguaian river dolphin and Bolivian river dolphin should be treated as subspecies or separate species.



**COMMON NAME** Irrawaddy dolphin  
**RANGE** Irrawaddy, Mahakam and Mekong rivers, south-east Asia  
**POPULATION** Unknown  
**IUCN STATUS** Endangered

Closely related to the orca, this short-beaked dolphin is found in coastal waters around south-east Asia, but river-dwelling populations are in decline, mainly due to unsustainable fishing. We’re working with communities to manage their fisheries sustainably, protect dolphins and develop ecotourism opportunities.



**COMMON NAME** Indus river dolphin, bhulan  
**RANGE** Lower Indus river, Pakistan; and Beas river, India  
**POPULATION** Around 1,800  
**IUCN STATUS** Endangered

Dams on the Indus river have broken up this dolphin’s habitat and split the population into small, isolated groups. We survey and tag the dolphins, protect their habitat and even rescue individuals trapped in irrigation canals or tangled in fishing gear.

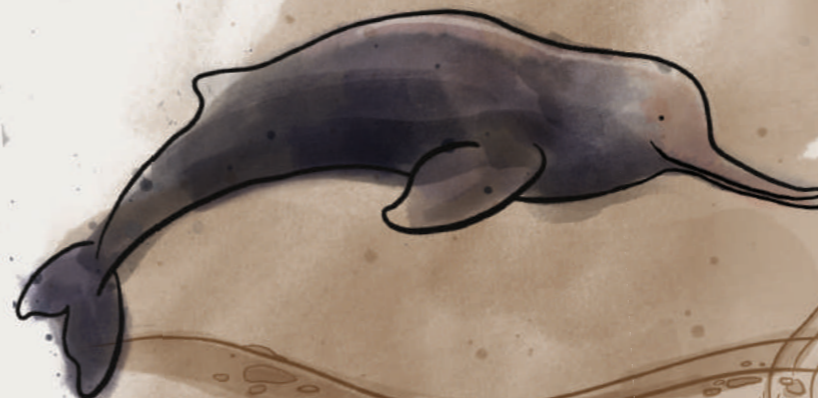


**COMMON NAME** Grey river dolphin, tucuxi  
**RANGE** Throughout the Amazon and Orinoco river basins in South America  
**POPULATION** Unknown  
**IUCN STATUS** Data deficient

Smaller than the pink river dolphin, the grey tucuxi gathers in larger groups and is more likely to jump out of the water. It’s more closely related to oceanic dolphins than the other river dolphins that share its range – a marine subspecies can be found in estuaries and bays from Brazil to Nicaragua.

**COMMON NAME** Ganges river dolphin  
**RANGE** Ganges, Meghna and Brahmaputra river systems in India, Nepal and Bangladesh  
**POPULATION** 1,200-1,800  
**IUCN STATUS** Endangered

Almost blind, the Ganges river dolphin lives in one of the most densely populated parts of the world and is threatened by pollution and habitat loss. We’re working with farmers and industry to help keep crucial parts of its range clean and flowing.



## RIVER DOLPHINS UNDER THREAT

And how your support is helping

### FISHING PRESSURE

More than 60 million people live in the Amazon, mainly in cities, and the intrusion of the modern world is putting pressure on fish populations – which in turn affects the dolphins that prey on them. Dolphins have also been killed to use as bait to catch ‘piracatinga’ catfish. We’re supporting indigenous communities to manage their fisheries sustainably, keep an eye out for illegal fishing activities, and benefit from responsible dolphin tourism.



### DAM DEVELOPMENT

Hundreds of large hydroelectric dams are planned for the Amazon basin, which could block dolphins’ movements and leave populations isolated, threatening their long-term survival. We’ll be using the data we’ve gathered to assess the impacts of dams on river dolphins, and to persuade decision-makers to change or cancel the most damaging schemes.



### MERCURY POISONING

Many rivers in the Amazon are contaminated by mercury, which is used in gold mining. This accumulates in the food chain, meaning top predators like dolphins – and humans – may be exposed to dangerous levels. Better understanding of how dolphins are affected will help us push for more effective protection.



### DEFORESTATION

It’s not just life on land that’s threatened by forest loss in the Amazon. Deforestation also leads to a drop in fish populations and falling water levels in rivers, which has a knock-on effect on dolphins – one more reason why ending deforestation is one of our top priorities.



### EXPLORE THE AMAZON

Look out for a dolphin update in your next issue. You can find out more about our work in the region at [www.wwf.org.uk/amazon](http://www.wwf.org.uk/amazon)



MEET DZAME

Dzame is 11 years old and lives in Kwale, Kenya, with her grandparents and six brothers and sisters. She goes to Mwanguda primary school and dreams of becoming a maths teacher.

# A BRIGHT FUTURE

Thanks to your support, we're protecting the fragile forests of coastal Kenya and giving local children the chance to realise their dreams by helping schools and homes to secure solar-power lights

**SAFEGUARDING FORESTS**

Dzame rises with the sun. She has many duties to perform at home, including fetching water every day, cooking meals for her extended family and collecting firewood twice a week. Gathering wood can be dangerous and it causes lasting damage to the area's fragile coastal forests and their special wildlife. By supporting tree planting on local farms, you're giving these communities a sustainable source of wood fuel for the future, so the forests can recover.



◀ **SAVING ENERGY**

Thanks to you, we were able to help Dzame's family get a solar lantern to light their home and an energy-saving stove to use for cooking. These fuel-efficient stoves use 50% less firewood than the old ones, so they help reduce deforestation and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. They also mean Dzame no longer has to go into the forest to gather wood so often, giving her more time to study and relax.

What makes the stoves even more incredible is that they're constructed by the local community, using locally available materials. We're training community members to teach others, so that other rural villages can benefit.

▼ **LIGHTING UP THE DARK**

Many of Dzame's family duties – such as taking care of the family's valuable cow – are carried out after dark. Having a solar lantern helps her to complete her tasks more comfortably and safely – and she can still study afterwards.



**STUDY TIME**

The new solar lanterns enable Dzame to study after dark, without damaging her health by using costly kerosene. Dzame used to complain that the smoke given off by the kerosene lamp made her eyes sore and red, so she could only work for a short while. Now she can study for longer, she hopes to improve her marks.



**YOU'RE HELPING TO CHANGE LIVES**

Thanks to you, and players of People's Postcode Lottery, so far we've helped 612 homes in the Kwale-Kilifi area and Wasini Primary School to access solar lighting. We've also helped 99 households and two schools to have access to improved cook stoves, which help to protect the forests. Watch our wonderful film and see how you've helped transform young lives at [www.org.uk/dzame](http://www.org.uk/dzame)



# PROTECTING OUR OCEANS

Bottlenose dolphins like this female and calf are found in most of the world's oceans, including around the UK. By protecting dolphins, we're helping keep our seas healthy, which is good for marine life and people



**Callum Roberts** is an oceans expert, author and WWF ambassador. *Action* magazine asked him a few questions about his love of the sea...

### What inspired your sense of connection to the ocean?

I grew up on the north coast of Scotland and fell in love with the sea early on. There was nothing I enjoyed more than beachcombing after a wild Arctic storm.

### Why is it important to safeguard healthy ocean ecosystems?

We think of the Earth as 71% ocean and 29% land. But when you consider the third dimension, depth, we get a different perspective. The sea is 3,800m deep, on average, which means that it occupies 97% of the volume of living space on Earth. That means the oceans are vital to the processes that make this planet habitable.

### Why are our seas in trouble and what threat should we tackle first?

We used to think the oceans were too vast to be much affected by people. We thought we could take from them whatever we want, and dump into them whatever we don't want. The folly of this is now clear. Overfishing and habitat loss were once the biggest problems, but climate change is looming ever larger. We have to address all these threats together – there isn't time to treat them one by one.

### How are plastics affecting marine life and what can we do to help?

The horror of plastic rubbish in the sea is obvious in the remote Midway Island in the central Pacific Ocean. When its large population of Laysan albatrosses regurgitate to feed their chicks, they'll expel over 70 pieces of plastic per meal. Thousands die before fledging and as bodies rot piles of plastic are left: pens, bottle caps, lighters and syringes. Cleaning up plastic already at sea

will be difficult. It is best to tackle the source, reducing use of plastic and increasing recycling rates and waste collection.

### How can our members help boost ocean health?

The BBC's *Blue Planet II* series has given new prominence to the threats facing ocean life. There's a huge public appetite for greater protection that's not yet being met. Most people believe that 10–20% of UK seas are protected from fishing and other impacts. The reality is it's only 0.001%. The good news is the UK has lots of marine protected areas on paper. Write to your MP and ask them when they'll be fully protected so marine life can thrive again.

### If we could all do just one thing, what would it be?

Tackle your addiction to single-use plastic. It's madness to package products we use in minutes in substances that could cause harm for hundreds of years. Get off the plastic and tell your friends about it too.

### Why do you have hope for oceans?

When I started out 30+ years ago, marine science was a niche interest. Not now. The oceans are leading the battle for life on Earth. Their role in our planet's life-support system has finally been acknowledged and their importance to our wellbeing is appreciated. The problems faced are serious, but not insurmountable. The momentum for ocean protection is unstoppable.

It's not too late to make a promise for our planet and choose to ditch single-use plastics today at [wwf.org.uk/earthhour](http://wwf.org.uk/earthhour)



By 2050, there could be **more plastic** in the ocean than fish (by weight).

An estimated **90%** of seabirds, **56%** of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) and around **50%** of marine turtles have plastic in their stomachs.



**Eight million tonnes** of plastic waste is dumped in the ocean each year. This is set to double by 2025.



**Only 9%** of plastic is recycled. Europe and China recycle the most.



There are **70% fewer sharks and whales** today than there were 300 years ago.



## SHARE YOUR VIEWS

Complete our Action reader survey and you could win £100 worth of goodies from the WWF shop

We hope you love your *Action* magazine as much as we do, but we want to be sure we're getting it right. As a valued member, you're important to us and the planet, so we'd love to hear your views about *Action*, good or bad, so that we can make it the best magazine for you. Please complete our reader survey – it should take no more than 10 minutes – by Friday 27 July, and you'll be entered into a prize draw\* to win £100 worth of goodies of your choice from the WWF shop. From designer scarves to natural rubber trainers and tantalising tiger treats, our shop is full of beautiful, planet-friendly products, so there's sure to be something that's right up your street. Thank you for your feedback! To complete the survey visit

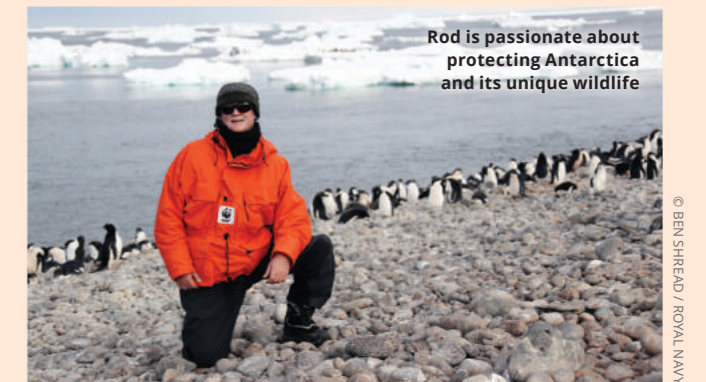
[wwf.org.uk/youraction](http://wwf.org.uk/youraction)



\*Only open to members who are 16 and over

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## VOYAGE TO THE WHITE CONTINENT



Rod is passionate about protecting Antarctica and its unique wildlife

© BEN SHREAD / ROYAL NAVY

Since my first visit to Antarctica in 1997, I've always longed to return. My work has taken me back many times over the past two decades, but the region's stark and alien beauty never fails to astonish me. The vast skies, majestic glaciers and otherworldly icebergs take my breath away.

Earlier this year I set sail for Antarctic shores once more, this time onboard *HMS Protector*, the Royal Navy's 90m-long ice patrol vessel. My mission: to review tourism activity and recommend ways to protect the region's special wildlife and historic heritage. It's a long voyage to the white continent. Heading south from the Falkland Islands, we sailed the vast Southern Ocean for three whole days. This is one of the most tempestuous seas in the world and, even blessed with fair weather, our ship took a 42-degree roll. Everything that wasn't strapped down went flying!

Today, more intrepid travellers than ever are making this journey. Indeed, the number of tourists visiting Antarctica is expected to increase by 40% in the next five years. So it's vital that these activities are managed in a responsible and sustainable way. This includes limiting the number of visitors that disembark at any particular site each day, through to avoiding disturbing sensitive areas, such as penguin colonies.

### PENGUIN PANDEMONIUM

Cacophonous colonies of Adélie, gentoo and chinstrap penguins raise their young here. Clambering awkwardly down a rope ladder in our warmest clothing and jumping into a small boat, we landed at Hope Bay, where around 125,000 pairs of Adélies and 500 pairs of gentoos nest. I'll never forget the sound and smell of such a huge colony – or the warming sight of the downy chicks huddled together in crèches. Watching them, I couldn't help but admire the tenacity of these seemingly fragile birds and their ability to survive in some of the world's harshest conditions.

Thanks to you, we're funding critical science, such as identifying the penguins' most important feeding areas, so we can protect them better. We're also working to create the world's largest network of marine protected areas, including the Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea, to safeguard vast numbers of marine mammals, birds and fish, and the krill they live on.

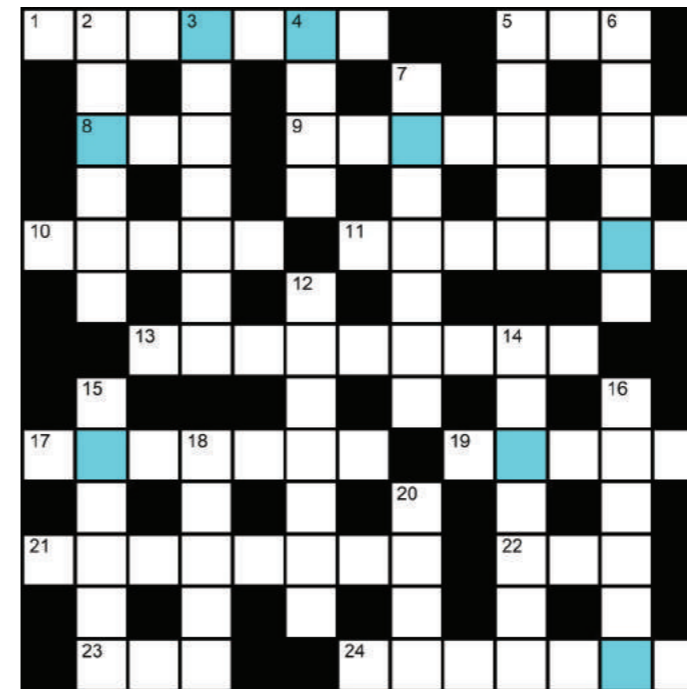
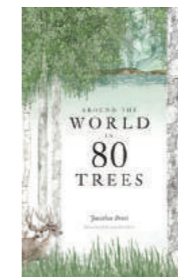
On our visit, we enjoyed jaw-dropping encounters with a large number of humpback, minke and fin whales, hunting orcas and a solitary sperm whale. Antarctica is truly the planet's greatest wilderness – and with your help, we intend to keep it that way.

Rod

Rod Downie, WWF's polar expert

## CROSSWORD

Solve our crossword and you could win a copy of *Around the World in 80 Trees*, by WWF ambassador Jonathan Drori, worth £17.99



WWF Action crossword 39: summer 2018 issue. Compiled by Aleric Linden

After solving the crossword, take each letter from the shaded squares (going 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 27 July 2018.

### Clues across

- 1 Engage in trafficking illegal wildlife products (7)
- 5 Acronym for a Special Area of Conservation (3)
- 8 Mixture of gases making up the Earth's atmosphere (3)
- 9 Certified Forest Stewardship Council wood products should have this (3,5)
- 10 \_ Bank, fighting global poverty is one of its core aims (5)
- 11 River \_ , iconic creature – subject of recent WWF tagging project in the Amazon (7)
- 13 Scaly creatures – the most trafficked mammals on the planet (9)
- 17 A heatwave is an extreme example of it (7)
- 19 Gas forming about 1% of the Earth's atmosphere (5)
- 21 Home to the famous Pantanal wetlands along with Bolivia and Brazil (8)
- 22 \_ desert, the Sahara is the world's largest (3)
- 23 Henna is a natural one when it comes to hair colouring (3)
- 24 The IUCN's threatened species inventory (3,4)

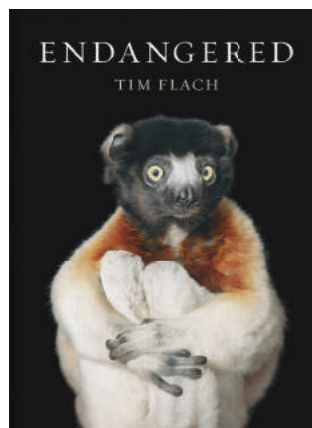
### Clues down

- 2 Grassy tract (6)
- 3 The eastern lowland (or Grauer's) is a critically endangered one (7)
- 4 Upper part of the home associated with energy-saving insulation (4)
- 5 A wetland with trees (5)
- 6 Carbon \_ , an asset bought and sold in emissions trading schemes (6)
- 7 Groups of fish swimming in coordinated fashion (7)
- 12 Rock formed from lava or magma (7)
- 14 Toothed Arctic whale the males of which are noted for their long tusks (7)
- 15 The will of consumers that's fuelling the supply of illegal wildlife products (6)
- 16 See 18 down
- 18 & 16 down Transportation pathways of the illegal wildlife trade (5,6)
- 20 \_ pressure, a vehicle's fuel efficiency is reduced when it's too low (4)

SPRING 2018 ANSWERS:  
Prize word: FORESTS.  
Across 1. TRAFFIC 5. Pets 8. Bill 9. Coral Sea 10. Ore 11. Everest 13. Estuaries 17. Compost 19. Soy 21. Poaching 22. Efts 23. Loss 24. Tsunami  
Down 2. Rhinos 3. Filters 4. IUCN 5. Polar 6. Tsetse 7. Drivers 12. Subsoil 14. Eastern 15. Bonobo 16. System 18. Packs 20. Eggs

## WIN A COPY OF ENDANGERED

We have three copies of this stunning photo book to give away!



Through a series of heartbreakingly beautiful and intimate portraits, photographer Tim Flach introduces some of the world's most threatened wildlife. Travelling around the world – from forest to savannahs and polar seas to coral reefs – he highlights primates coping with habitat loss, elephants battling to survive poachers, and numerous bird species captured as pets. Flach believes we need to reconnect with the wild and appreciate things before they're gone – for our own wellbeing. To be in with a chance of winning a copy – courtesy of Abrams, and worth £50 each – just follow the instructions (below), and mark your entry 'Endangered Comp'.

## GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

Celebrate your love of elephants with this charming tagua nut pendant, a beautiful gift that makes a real difference. We have three to give away!

Our cute little elephant pendant is skilfully hand-carved from a tagua nut. The nut grows on a type of palm that grows in the South American rainforest. It's often known as vegetable ivory, as it's a sustainable and environmentally sound alternative to animal ivory.

By purchasing this ethical and unique piece of jewellery, you'll be helping our partners to support and train artisans in Sosote, Ecuador.

For your chance to win, follow the instructions (left) and mark your entry 'Elephant comp'. For more perfect presents, visit [wwf.org.uk/shop](http://wwf.org.uk/shop)

WIN!  
AN ELEPHANT  
NECKLACE



### HOW TO ENTER ACTION GIVEAWAYS

Send an email with your name, address and phone number, and Elephant Comp or Endangered Comp in the subject line, to [competition@wwf.org.uk](mailto:competition@wwf.org.uk)

Alternatively, post your entry to **Action Mag, WWF-UK, Living Planet Centre, Rufford House, Brewery Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 4LL.**

Only one competition per entry please.

The closing date for the competitions is Friday 27 July 2018. For terms and conditions, visit [wwf.org.uk/compterm](http://wwf.org.uk/compterm)



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## IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE POLAR BEAR PATROL + COUNTING MOUNTAIN GORILLAS



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