

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of various colors and textures. It features broad, expressive brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, red, green, and purple. A prominent feature is a white grid pattern that is semi-transparent and overlaid on the colorful background. The overall effect is dynamic and artistic.

**INNOVATION
AWARDS 2018**

DISCLAIMER

To keep things fair, all entries included are shown exactly as they were submitted. We Are Africa Innovation Awards has endeavored not to edit for spelling, grammar or readability – as such, please be aware that we take no responsibility for such errors.

CONSERVE AFRICA

For those demonstrating outstanding leadership in the complex area of conservation, embarking on bold initiatives to protect Africa's natural resources.

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

In June 2017, &Beyond celebrated the success of its breeding programme for Africa's rarest antelope species by translocating four Ader's duiker from &Beyond Mnemba Island to a brand new breeding site on the island of Zanzibar. With only between 300 and 600 Ader's duiker remaining in the wild, &Beyond has been managing a breeding programme for the species since 2005, when five of the little antelope were introduced onto &Beyond Mnemba Island, a private island off the coast of Zanzibar. With no natural predators and a plentiful supply of food, the duikers have bred extremely well, with the estimated population on Mnemba growing to 35. As a result and at the request of the Minister of Natural Resources and Fisheries in Zanzibar, four animals were translocated from Mnemba to form a new breeding population on Unguja Island.

RESULTS:

The historic translocation process, which marks the first time that Ader's duiker have been moved from Mnemba, resulted in the creation of a brand new population of the endangered antelope on Zanzibar, while also ensuring that the number of animals on Mnemba does not exceed the resources available on the island. It is estimated that 25 to 30 duiker remain on the island and, should the animals continue to breed at the same rate, &Beyond plans to translocate 10 to 12 of the little antelope every year.

DESCRIPTION:

The translocation was carried out by a team of wildlife and conservation experts, including representatives from Zanzibar's Department of Natural Resources, as well as Dr Dave Cooper, Head Veterinarian for the Provincial Conservations Department in South Africa, and Les Carlisle, &Beyond Group Conservation Manager. The carefully planned translocation techniques used were influenced by prior research carried out by University of South Africa researcher Lorraine Braby, who had collared a number of the small antelopes to collect information on their diet and behaviour in an effort to help further improve the outcome of the breeding programme. The breeding population of Ader's duiker on &Beyond Mnemba Island is one of the only thriving ones in the world. The species is so endangered that the new breeding centre created by this translocation accounts for up to 1% of their entire worldwide.



SIMIEN LODGE

PROJECT TITLE: CONSERVATION CLASSES FOR CHILDREN IN THE SIMIENS

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

The Simien Mountain National Park was the 2nd UNESCO natural world heritage site to be created in the world - Yellowstone was the first. However, as a result of years of neglect largely because of poverty, this incredibly beautiful location has had virtually no environmental planning. Built then years ago, Simien Lodge remains by and large the only accommodation facility in the national park and in many ways we have felt a responsibility to bring in some form of environmental responsibility where government and indeed wildlife charities have struggled. The management hit on the idea that children could be our ambassadors and that by gaining their support, they might be able to influence adults. In July 2017, we decided to close the lodge to clients and to open the doors to the local children. Over two hundred children participated over three days and they received basic awareness information of the subjects that we are all too familiar with in the West - plastic pollution, loss of wildlife through poaching, the importance of variety in nature, etc. The classes were designed to be fun. We did not want the classes to be formal classroom events that they are all too familiar with in their daily lives. There was plenty of animal drawing (with coloured crayons that they don't have at school), short videos, dancing, music and of course the emphasis was put on interaction and participation. We painted all of their faces to resemble animals and they all received T-shirts. Naturally, we fed them well, something that was very welcome for some of the children. The classes were designed to be simple to have the maximum impact. There was nothing elitist about them and children came from all over the park boundary areas. We involved their local teachers too because, after the event, we wanted them to continue to reinforce the conservation message. We guess the bold initiative was that we did not involve the government - we just did it! If we had involved the education ministry, the park office or the local administration, we know that we would have been subject to various layers of bureaucracy. Nonetheless, we filmed the event and subsequently, we have shown them what we achieved over the three days last July. They are now giving us their support to continue the work in 2018.



RESULTS:

The project only started last year so it is too early to quantify with any proper analysis. However immediate results have been striking. For example, there is no longer any litter in the western area of the national park and children no longer throw stones at monkeys. Like many African countries, Ethiopia suffers from a lack of proper waste disposal facilities. One thing that the country does not lack is hands to pick up rubbish. Children know that tourists are bringing incomes into the park and they want to see wildlife in close proximity. The Simien people are very good at handicrafts. By informing them that tourists don't expect to see rubbish (and therefore will not be so inclined to purchase if they do) the children have become very conscious of plastic pollution in the park. Recently some top government officials came to Chennuk which is the location of the wolves and Walia ibex. At the initiative of the school teachers, the children all came to the event proudly wearing the T-shirts that we had provided. This would have been noticed by the Prime Minister.

DESCRIPTION:

Ethiopia is new to conservation. We do not have the experience of other countries. We have a government that currently has more important issues on its mind that to be particularly worried about wildlife or national parks. Naturally, there is a wildlife authority and a tourism ministry but who have few resources to tackle all the environmental issues that unfortunately are overtaking their ability to manage. So we are delighted to have stumbled on the initiative of using the power of children to take the lead in these issues. Call it child bribery if you like, but the simple act of providing a T-shirt, a hot meal and a day of fun-filled activities has meant that the children of the Simien Mountains are supporting our conservation initiatives. We believe there will be a ripple effect and that adults too will soon see the benefits of caring for one of the most beautiful parks in Africa. Note; this is not the only community project that we have undertaken in recent times. Last year we built 8 classrooms and manufactured countless school desks. But for the purpose of this application in the Conserve Africa section, we wish our Conservation Classes to be considered.

VIDEO LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/W959Kr1Hefo>



TIME + TIDE

PROJECT TITLE: TIME + TIDE CROWNED LEMUR CONSERVATION IN NORTH-EAST MADAGASCAR

INNOVATION
AWARDS 2018

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

In July 2016, 62 Crowned Lemurs from the Bobankora Forest on mainland Madagascar were poisoned. The dried meat was en route to the local restaurant industry when rangers intercepted. These lemurs, which are found only in the North Eastern region, were to be sold at \$1.64 USD per animal. Due to poaching, today only 3 Crowned Lemurs remain in Bobankora Forest. Shocked by this news, Time + Tide developed a collaborative Crowned Lemur Conservation project that couples the social and economic benefits of eco-tourism with immediate conservation action to protect this endangered species. The Crowned Lemur population in Bobankora was no longer viable after this incident, but we discovered fragmented family groups in the nearby Bekaraoka Forest. Accordingly, in January 2017, we entered into a formal partnership with the community of Amparihirano, the custodians of the forest, to boost Crowned Lemur numbers and maximize the local impacts of biodiversity conservation.

RESULTS:

In 2017, community rangers devoted 231 hours to monitoring lemurs in Bekaraoka and sensitizing residents on the harmful effects of encroachment. Additionally, we started a reforestation project, organized 22 visits from a medical doctor and engaged a Master's student on lemur research. Time + Tide facilitated 27 guest excursions to Bekaraoka, which have allowed Amparihirano guides to showcase their wildlife and earn sustainable, legal income. Moreover, in November, we translocated 5 Crowned Lemurs to Nosy Ankao, where they now live in a stress-free environment. Ultimately, our goal is to reintroduce these lemurs and their offspring to rehabilitated, secure mainland forests.

DESCRIPTION:

Time + Tide spent over \$2300 USD on local goods and services in Amparihirano last year, proving that conservation of lemurs is far more valuable than poaching.

VIDEO LINK: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/noxvs38396ypryt/Lemur%20Relocation%20Final%20with%20logo.mov?dl=0>



GROOTBOS PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE

PROJECT TITLE: AGULHAS GREEN CORRIDOR

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

20 years of conservation commitment on Grootbos and the Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy has resulted in a reach of 31 members and 20 000 h, ratcheting up the conservation efforts to a landscape level conservation initiative, in the form the Agulhas conservation corridor. The aim is to expand the conservation footprint, creating a channel of movement and refuge for wildlife and plant species. The corridor requires landowners and public stakeholders to work together to create an integrated conservation force for a greater conservation impact. A camera monitoring project comprising 34 cameras will in a grid-based monitor animal populations such as that of the Cape Leopard. Botanically this corridor is of critical importance to the vulnerable Elim ferricrete fynbos, of which, there is on 4.75% remaining. The Agulhas corridor is working towards 55 000 hectares of conservation corridor, holistically conserving botanical, fauna movements and preserving a vulnerable ecosystem.

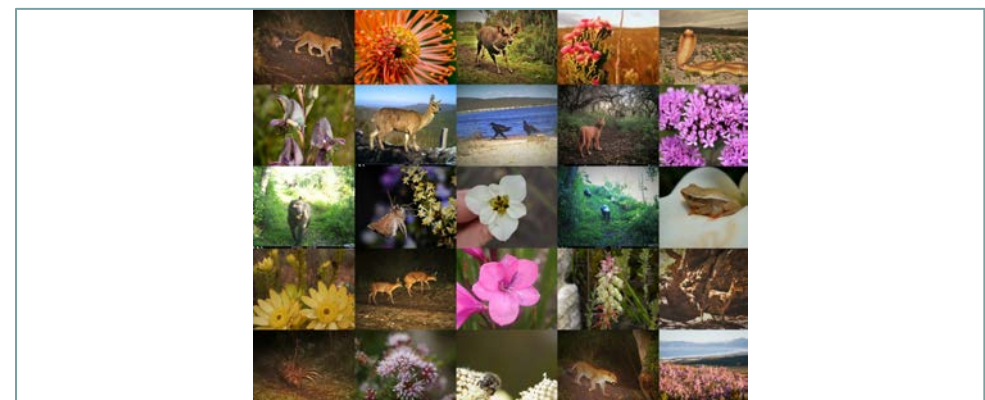
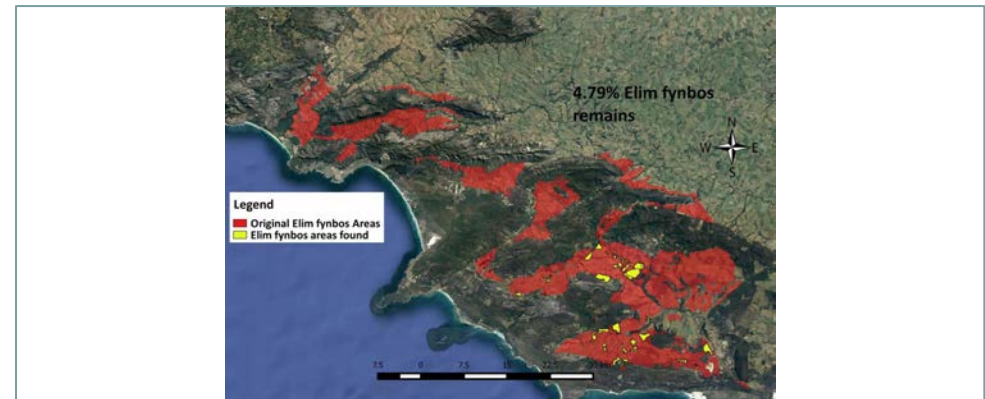
RESULTS:

To date 2 conservation servitudes have been signed. These pieces of land have been signed into conservation into perpetuity. These conservation servitudes provide the critical links linking up the 55 000h Agulhas corridor vision. A 3rd servitude is in progress (80 h). More than 1 100 plant species have been documented, a culmination of the 20 years of botanical work conducted. Species not previously known to be in the region, have been confirmed by motion cameras (Cape Leopard, Bushpig, Bat eared fox). Endangered vegetation has been mapped and it has been determined that 4.75% of Elim ferricrete fynbos remains.

DESCRIPTION:

The Agulhas corridor is working towards 55 000 hectares of conservation corridor, holistically conserving botanical, fauna movements and preserving a vulnerable ecosystem.

VIDEO LINK: <http://bit.ly/2GJBe0N>

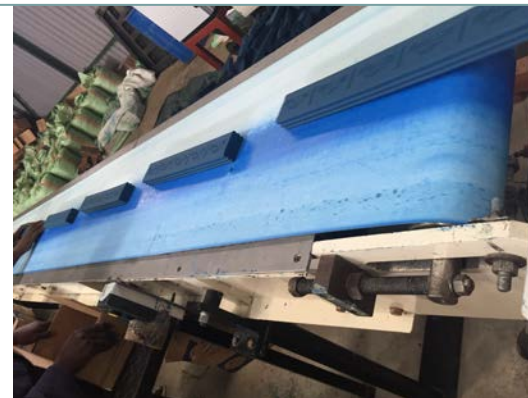


PARC NATIONAL DES VIRUNGA

PROJECT TITLE: VIRUNGA DEVELOPMENT

WHAT WAS THE OBJECTIVE?

The Virunga National Park is located at the centre of a conflict zone in eastern DRC that has cost the lives of some 5 million people over the last 20 years. The illegal exploitation of natural resources in the region has not only eroded the ability of state institutions to uphold the rule of law, contributing to instability and armed conflict but also led to a paradox whereby extreme poverty develops alongside an abundance of natural resources. In response, the park authorities launched the “Virunga Alliance”, a partnership between the national government, the private sector (e.g. Howard Buffet Foundation) and civil society institutions. The “Virunga Alliance” pursues a triple objective: (i) conservation and restoration of the park’s natural resources, (ii) poverty reduction for the neighbouring population and (iii) reducing insecurity by addressing the root causes of armed groups - unemployment. Focusing on building run of the river hydroelectric plants in the surroundings of the park to provide cheap and reliable electricity has enabled the following projects to go ahead: Revolutionary Micro loan program - a world first, where loan repayment is directly proportional to electricity consumption thus in line with the current economical reality of the loan holder. In addition we offered free business plan development training to local entrepreneurs. Sicovir - launch of the only highly industrial factory around the park, the soap factory employs over 200 people and produces 500 tons a month. We are launching a new program to support artisanal palm oil farmers to greatly increase their production “technical assistance, re plantation and processing” The illegal charcoal trade is the biggest source of revenue for armed groups and the ecological threat to the park (deforestation). We are building a bamboo processing plant to launch an ecologically friendly and cheap alternative to illegal charcoal.



RESULTS:

Revolutionary Micro loan Program - over 70 companies and 100s of households have already benefited from this program.
Sicovir - 20 to 500 tons per month of soap; employment of 200 people, high quality and cheap soap for the local population.
Charcoal - this pilot plant will produce over 250 tons of eco charcoal a year.

DESCRIPTION:

The conservation of the park depends on the economical welfare, security and stability of the surrounding region. Virunga Developments core mission is to create an environment where both the park and the local community have a brighter economic and peaceful future.

