

e-Leaf: Volume 4, Number 1

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Working for  
Wilderness  
Wildlife  
and People

*Leaf*

*The Latest WILD News -- The e-Leaf Working for Wilderness, Wildlife and People*

## **E-Leaf July 2002**

Thank you very much for your support and involvement, helping us keep it WILD! We've been very busy in Africa and elsewhere, and this current edition of e-Leaf brings you up-to-date. Your donations have made all this possible, and more...your gifts go directly to work on the projects I highlight below, and others you see on [www.wild.org](http://www.wild.org)!



Take a minute to scroll down and read the summaries, with attached images. There is more detail just a click away, at the bottom of each story.

Thanks again -- very much. Stay with us, be prepared for the next e-leaf, and keep it WILD....

*Vance*

Vance G. Martin  
President.

### **1. Mali - West Africa - Elephants in the Sahel!**

A WILD Foundation delegation recently visited the West African country of Mali to review possible avenues of future work, part of which was at the Gourma Reserve with renowned elephant expert Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton. We joined his team for two days as they made some very exciting discoveries on a herd of elephants that are the last such herd in the Sahel (the area surrounding the Sahara Desert) and the most northern herd of elephants in



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Africa.

Iain and his team from Save The Elephants (STE) [[www.savetheelephants.org](http://www.savetheelephants.org)] recovered a few of the elephant collars which had been recording GPS location data for over two years. When downloaded, the data confirmed that the migration of this remarkable herd of elephants circumscribes an area of 24,000 square kilometers, even extending into the northern part of Burkina Faso! This is twice the largest migration ever recorded for any African elephants.

WILD will be involved with STE, and provide support for this program and the government of Mali as they seek to both understand and protect this amazing and healthy herd of over 400 elephants.

[more....](#)

## 2. Impumelelo Yesandlwana - ("Success for the People of Isandlwana!")



After two and a half years this project continues to move ahead strongly. Carol Batrus, Community Development Advisor for The WILD Foundation, now reports that the project is entering Phase 2. Day to day project activities are being taken over by her Zulu counterpart, Miss Elizabeth Dlamini and 4 other helpers, all of whom were born and raised in the village of Isandlwana

(in Kwazulu Natal, 4 hours north of Durban, South Africa).

Our project in the village has brought organic horticulture training (permaculture), English language classes, quilting and craft lessons (in partnership with Embocraft), drilled several new wells and repaired numerous others, and more.

One of the fundamental program objectives was to establish a micro lending program, so that the people of the village had access to small amounts of start-up funds for "cottage business". Several sewing groups, poultry producers and others are now taking advantage of this...and paying back their loans!

As part of this project, this year we will institute training for conservation and natural history guides, to help establish another small business. This will allow local, rural residents to guide tourists on to the Isandlwana battlefield and adjacent game reserve. Stay tuned for these results!

[more...](#)

### 3. Rural Quilting and Environmental Education Project

WILD and our sister organization in South Africa, the Wilderness Foundation, have teamed up with Embocraft to follow up on our successful, rural quilting program for environmental education. We tested this program prior to the 7th World Wilderness Congress, and it was very successful - all the quilts were sold at the Congress!

We've now embarked on a program with Embocraft in which up to 100 quilts will be produced for display at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in early September (the follow-up to the Rio Earth Summit, 1992). The theme of these quilts are all environment-related. Rural people take part in a 2-day workshop in which they are taught craft skills, and during which they participate in a story-telling process which leads to the production of wonderful, small paintings and appliqué on the subject of trees, wildlife, and water. These are then sewn together in lovely quilts.



To assist this process, WILD has supplied Embocraft with a Condor minivan to visit rural villages to conduct the trainings.

[more...](#)

### 4. The WILD Awards

On Earth Day, 22 April, we presented our third annual WILD Awards at the United Nations in New York. Our co-hosts this year were the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (our partner in The WILD Awards), Conservation International, and Animal Planet. Awardees such as Patagonia, DelVerde Pasta (Italy), Whole Foods Market, Weyerhauser and others - with their advertising companies - were honored for "advertising with integrity for Nature." These companies use images of wild nature to advertise their products and drive revenue, and substantially "give back" to support wilderness and wildlife throughout the world. For full details, see [www.wildawards.org](http://www.wildawards.org).

### 5. The Kissama Foundation - Operation Noah's Ark!



Our partnership with the Kissama Foundation, Angola, continues to go from strength to strength. A new peace process was signed in May, hopefully bringing to an end 25 years of devastating civil war.

In both 2000 and 2001 we assisted our colleagues in Kissama airlift family groups of elephants from

Botswana and South Africa to Angola, gradually reestablishing the wildlife in the Quicama National Park, an area never land-mined during the war. Our work with the Kissama Foundation is to relocate key wildlife species (that are running out of territory elsewhere in Southern Africa), and provide training and expertise, to rehabilitate parks in Angola.

We are now in full planning and fundraising mode for Operation Noah's Ark. This will see the translocation by ship (donated by the South African Navy) of 200 elephants and many other species of wildlife (zebra, giraffe, antelope, etc.) into the Quicama National Park. For more details see [www.Kissama.org](http://www.Kissama.org).

## 6. Private Wilderness in South Africa!

One of the many accomplishments of the 7th World Wilderness Congress (South Africa, November 2001) was the declaration of the first privately-owned and managed wilderness area in Africa. (Link to WWC page).



As a follow up to this announcement, The Wilderness Foundation, our sister organization in South Africa, now reports that the first wilderness walking trails will begin into this beautiful area in the Eastern Cape, on Shamwari Game Reserve. [more...](#)

## 7. More Follow-up from 7th World Wilderness Congress!

<http://www.worldwilderness.org>

**Baviaanskloof Wilderness Area** - This new (and largest) wilderness area in South Africa became the focus of world attention at the 7th WWC. Several commitments of funding were forthcoming, from the Global Environmental Facility, and others, which enabled a new and major push to complete the designation of this new wilderness area, and integrate the needs of local landowners and rural communities. WILD and the Wilderness Foundation now coordinate a new Project Management Unit,

funded by a consortium including Conservation International, the South African government, and the government of the Eastern Cape, to create a model wilderness and biodiversity project in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

· **Uganda Wilderness Zoning** - As a result of the training program for African conservation professionals conducted prior to the 7th WWC, the two participants from Uganda have just reported that they are now putting into action their training. Upon returning to Uganda they started revising management plans for their National Parks to include significant wilderness zones in each park. Stay tuned for more details!

· **South African Wilderness Rangers visit America** - Because of working relationships established at the 7th WWC, the US Forest Service (Ralph Swain) invited several South African wilderness rangers and guides to participate in a tour of the United States, speaking at several conferences and visiting wilderness areas. The WILD Foundation, through our Wilderness Leadership Institute (educating the American public about international wilderness values) stepped up to the plate and co-sponsored expenses for Pierre Vandenberg (Western Cape Nature Conservation) and Sonia Krueger (Kwazulu Natal Wildlife). Also on the tour was Keith Roberts from our sister organization the Wilderness Leadership School.

· **New Offices for the Wilderness Foundation!** - Immediately following the 7th WWC, the Wilderness Foundation director, Andrew Muir, officially opened his new headquarters and our new office in South Africa. Located on the Shamwari Game Reserve, our new office looks out over the rolling hills and plains of the Eastern Cape. Vance Martin, WILD's President, is on the Board of the Wilderness Foundation, South Africa, and recently returned from the first meeting of the expanded Board..

Plans are now afoot for many projects! Our work in the southern part of Africa will now be coordinated out of this new office. In addition, the lands surrounding the new office will be home to a small breeding herd of the endangered Cape Mountain zebra, part of our program to enhance the plight of wilderness-dependent wildlife. Watch this space for more details!



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