



Born Free's Global Friends Programme



Report

Summer 2018

Who is Born Free?

We are an international wildlife charity with the following mission and purpose:

- We work tirelessly to ensure all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect and are able to live their lives according to their needs;
- We oppose the exploitation of wild animals in captivity and campaign to Keep Wildlife in the Wild;
- We promote Compassionate Conservation to enhance the survival of threatened species in the wild and protect natural habitats while respecting the needs and safeguarding the welfare of individual animals;
- We seek to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world.

Our origins lie in Zoo Check, an organisation established in March 1984 by Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers – the stars of the film *Born Free* – along with their son Will Travers.

In 1987, Zoo Check became a registered charity and a few years later extended its work to encompass the conservation of wild animals in their natural habitat. As a result, Zoo Check changed its name to Born Free.



Today, Born Free supports and co-ordinates activities in four main programme areas – Animal welfare, Conservation, Policy, and Communities and Education. The charity has offices in Kenya and Ethiopia, and operations in South Africa and Sri Lanka, as well as supporting projects in several other countries.

What is Born Free’s Global Friends Programme?

Since 2003, Born Free has been working with local schools and communities in remote areas throughout Africa and more recently Sri Lanka.

Why we do this: We believe animals have the right to be treated with compassion and respect and be free to thrive in the wild.

What we do: We promote tolerance and co-existence amongst local communities living alongside wildlife in environmentally fragile areas or areas supporting high biodiversity by encouraging environmental education-based solutions and creating positive opportunities for children.

How we do it: Through this small grants programme we support school and community environmental education-based approaches to:

1. Reduce human-wildlife conflict
2. Reduce poaching and improve attitude towards the protection of wildlife
3. Promote sustainable resource management
4. Protect ecosystem services
5. Reduce pollution
6. Encourage good animal care and livestock husbandry

Education Ambassador:



Katie Marshall, Classical Singer

“I am a classical singer and as a schoolgirl myself I hope to help raise awareness of the amazing work Global Friends does in providing educational opportunities for children, and helping their communities to find local solutions to problems that affect them – and the wildlife they share their lives with – so that they can all live happily together and Keep Wildlife in the Wild.”

Recent Grant Recipients

Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, Malawi

Partnership:

Supported by Born Free since 2007, the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT) runs the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, Malawi's only wildlife rescue centre, along with the country's Wildlife Emergency Response Unit – providing veterinary services to all of the country's national parks, wildlife and forest reserves.



In addition, they have a long-standing education programme which offers both rescue centre-based and countrywide outreach education.

Local wildlife/environmental challenges:

1. Human-wildlife conflict
2. Illegal activities (illegal poaching etc.)

Achievements in 2014/15:

A beekeeping project provided an entrepreneurial opportunity for the local community while also giving them the knowledge to allow them to keep bees. In addition, and most importantly, this project improved their understanding of the importance of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem, both for food security and for wider pollination and biodiversity.

Achievements in 2016/17:

Inspiring people to care about and respect elephants through support for the production of *Elephant I miss you*, a LWT film that reached 118,000 Facebook followers in the first year alone. A film looking at the impacts of elephant poaching on the environment: <http://www.elephantimissyou.com/>

Achievements in 2017/18:

Support for a pedal powered cinema roadshow of *Elephant I Miss You* enabled the LWT team to reach an estimated 3,600 people in remote and rural areas.

In addition, set up costs for a women's co-operative has helped to establish a small jewellery business providing animal-friendly souvenirs for tourists and a sustainable income for the 20 women involved.

Planned activities 2018/19:

A three-part play is being written in partnership with a local school group tackling the various elements of wildlife crime, each focusing on the crime from a different person's point of view. This play will then be performed as street theatre, radio broadcast and through the education programme to schools.

Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Uganda

Partnership:

Supported by Born Free since 1998, Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT) is a local NGO focused on Chimpanzee conservation in Uganda. Their flagship project is Ngamba Island, a chimp sanctuary located on Lake Victoria. The island is home to 47 chimpanzees, all of whom were rescued from the pet and wildlife trades.

Local wildlife/environmental challenges:

1. Water & sanitation (drought, pollution etc.)
2. Habitat degradation (siltation etc.)

Achievements in 2014/15:

Water tanks at Koome Church of Uganda Primary School have meant that the children no longer need to travel to the lake shore to collect water. Now the tanks are at the school, they can easily collect it from the roof tops. In addition, the establishment of a fruit tree garden and a tree nursery has allowed the children to learn new skills and practice them, including caring for the fruit trees, mixing of soils, potting, preparing the site and daily maintenance of the tree nursery.

Setting up a beekeeping club at Myende Primary School helped to teach the students about the importance of pollinators in the environment while providing the school with a small sustainable income.

A great ape education kit was purchased to help CSWCT staff teach the children at Myende, and other local schools, about the different members of the great ape family and their importance. The materials, including replica gorilla skulls, were used during the World Wildlife Day celebrations 2015.

Achievements in 2015/16:

School toilets at Koome Church of Uganda Primary School were built to help reduce the pollution of Lake Victoria, caused by poor human waste management. Music dance and drama festivals and debates for schools across Koome Island helped to raise awareness of the environment and local environmental issues.

Achievements in 2016/17:

Support for further music, dance and drama festivals and debates provided knowledge, skills in public speech, promoted talent and encouraged research, while creating awareness on key local environment issues.

Support for the construction of a community toilet block promoted proper human waste management in Myende fishing village, therefore reducing the risks associated with the same.

Achievements in 2017/18:

Music, dance and drama activities at Damba School promoted sustainable resource management to communities across Koome Island, strengthening the message delivered in previous years.

A bio-digester was provided for the Myende Community toilet to assist in the completion of this project to help further increase sanitation in the rural island communities.

Planned activities 2018/19:

A series of quiz competitions, games for conservation awareness and sanitation and hygiene competitions will be held in various locations both on islands on Lake Victoria and the mainland to support chimpanzee conservation and celebrate 20 years since the establishment of Ngamba Island.

Pole Pole Foundation, Democratic Republic of Congo

Partnership:

Supported by Born Free since 2008.

Pole Pole Foundation (POPOF) was set up by gorilla tourist guide, John Kahekwa, who recognised the pressure that was being placed on the Kahuzi-Biega National Park's natural resources by the local community. The aim of the Foundation is to improve relations



between the park and the community by offering employment and training to former poachers, as well as by providing development support to schools and small businesses. Born Free has supported a variety of projects in Kahuzi-Biega National Park since 2000.

Local wildlife/environmental challenges:

1. Water and sanitation (drought, pollution etc.)
2. Human-wildlife conflict
3. Livestock
4. Illegal activities (illegal fishing practices, poaching etc.)
5. Unsustainable harvesting (deforestation etc.)
6. Habitat degradation (siltation etc.)
7. Hunting with dogs

Key achievements in 2015/16:

The replacement of rotten poles and planks, including some old leaking irons of the Anga Primary school buildings, ensured they are safe for the students to use. In addition, books were provided that related to the environment.

Finally, some students were given the opportunity to visit the local wildlife (gorillas) through field trips.

Planned activities 2018/19:

Further park visits will be arranged for 64 local students and teachers (15 years and above) to show them the park and their gorilla neighbours in order to strengthen local environmental education. Despite their proximity to the park, the majority of the members of their community will never see the gorillas.

Zambia Primate Project, Zambia



Partnership:

Founded and supported by Born Free since 2002.

The Zambia Primate Project (ZPP) is one of Africa's most established and successful primate release programmes. Its mission is to rescue and rehabilitate injured, orphaned and illegally-held vervet monkeys and yellow baboons for release back to the wild. Primate survival rate six months post-release, currently averages a remarkable 95%.

Local wildlife/environmental challenges:

1. Human-wildlife conflict;
2. Illegal activities (illegal fishing practices, poaching etc.);
3. Lack of awareness/education regarding the key environmental issues

Achievements in 2016/17:

Support for the Primate Protection Education Programme (PPEP) enabled the design of a primate conservation curriculum, aimed at Grade 6 students. PPEP produced a contextually relevant English-language curriculum which included eight lesson plans, a children's activity book and a visual aids booklet. The lessons introduced Zambia's primates, explored threats to primates in Zambia, and urged learners to take positive action against wildlife crimes.

Planned activities 2018/19:

The project will produce and distribute a series of posters, along with radio broadcasts, in the local language and English aimed at educating local communities that monkeys and baboons are wild animals, that it is illegal to hunt, eat or keep them as pets in captivity, highlight the penalties for breaking the law, and encourage and empower people to anonymously report any illegal activity to ZPP.