



P

EXPLORERS

JUN / JUL 2018

**To The Ends
Of The Earth**

with Todd Gustafson
By Peter Hudson

**Sea Ice &
Polar Bears**

By Geoff York

D850



I AM MAGNIFICENT IN EVERY DETAIL



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Nikon th 100 anniversary



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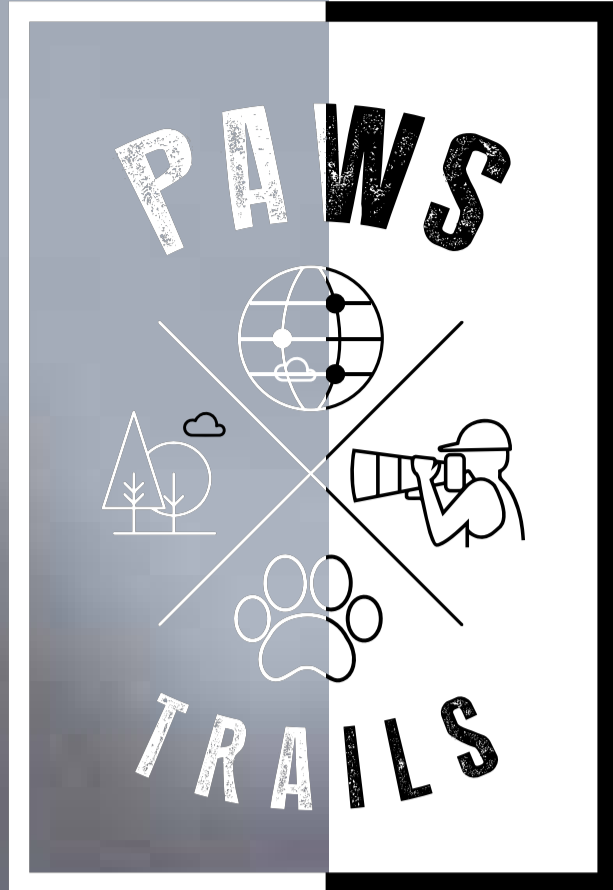
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© Jarbas Mattos



© Megha Mohan

© Tim Auer



092

Sea Ice & Polar Bears
By Geoff York



Hank Tyler
Editor

We are pleased to publish a wide variety of articles from around the world. PT Explorers continues to grow and expand our global coverage. We are proud to feature outstanding wildlife photos.

Peter Hudson's interview with Todd Gustafson captures the amazing photography and publications focused on conservation projects in Africa. Todd's time devotion to conservation has help protect vital habitat for African wildlife.

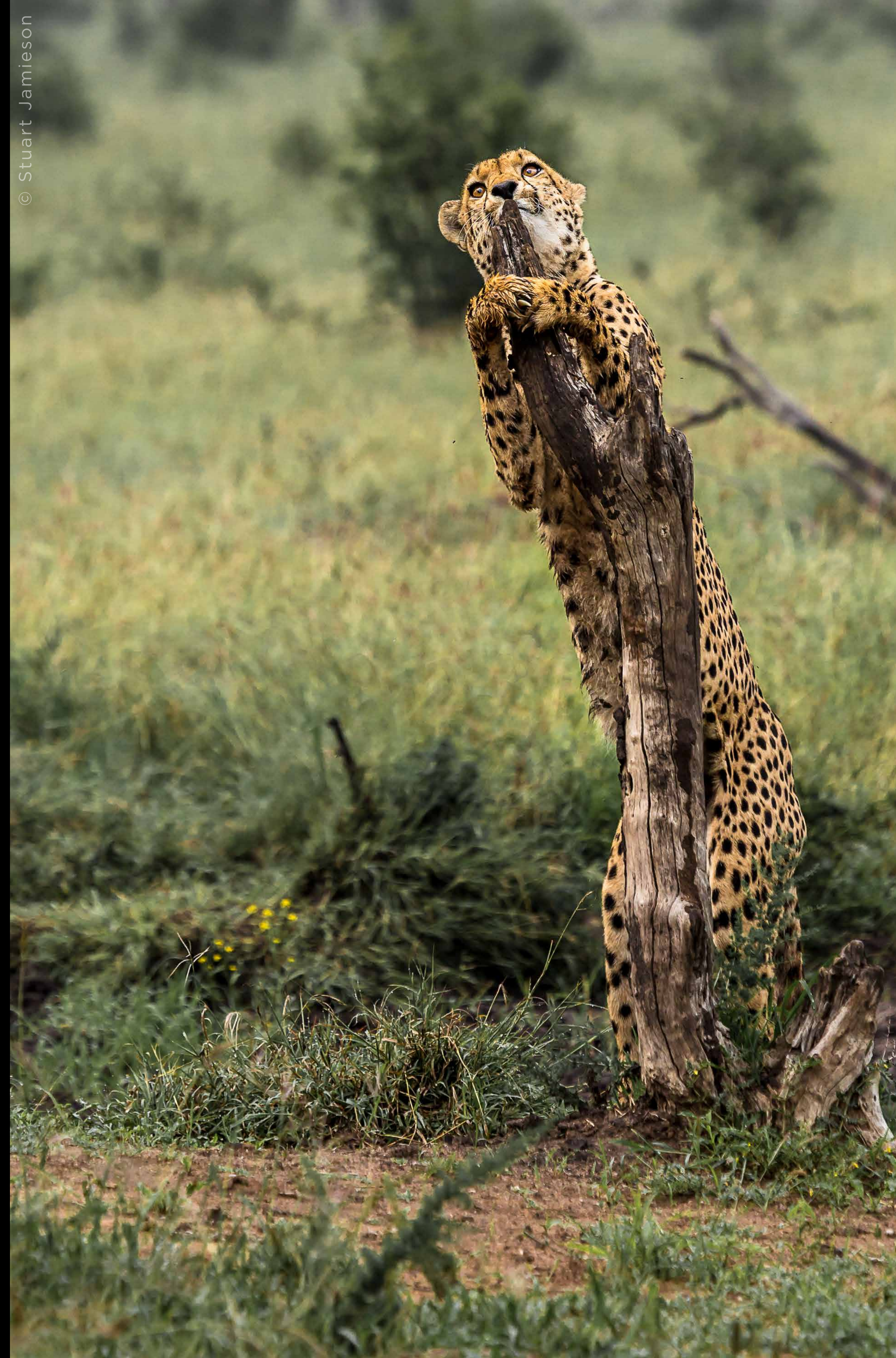
Polar Bear researcher Geoff York reports on his recent visit to the Arctic on his continuing investigation of this large carnivore. Accelerated summer time warming of the Arctic Ocean has greatly reduced ice, and further threatens Polar Bear habitats.

Brazil's nature guide Jarbas Mattos takes us to the Patagonia region of southern Argentina to visit Los Glaciers National Park with its impressive mountain landscape, glaciers and trekking paths.

Zimbabwean wildlife artist Mandy Kehayias tells us about her self-taught art career and particular style. A multitude of national parks in southern Africa offers Mandy opportunities to view a wide variety of butterflies, reptiles, birds and mammals. Her artwork is used to support wildlife conservation projects.

Russian artist, Tatiana Petrova's "Animal Map of the World" is an outstanding example of art and biogeography.

EDITOR'S DEN



PHOTOGRAPHY DIRECTOR'S CHOICE



Stuart Jamieson
Cheetah
(*Acinonyx jubatus*)

Location: Madikwe Game Reserve, South Africa

FOUNDERS' NOTE

Tribes, aborigines or indigenous people, across the world denotes a group of people who are dependent on their land for their livelihood and survival. Inhabitants whose roots to the land can be traced back down the ages, who are largely self-sufficient and stands immune to cultural integration and technological progress of today's age. Down trodden and marginalized in many parts of the world, some of them still stubbornly refuse to be integrated with the mainstream society and prefer to live of the land, clinging on to their ancient traditions and culture. PT Explorers have always advocated for the conservation of wildlife and nature, we think it is time to add the indigenous people of the land to that list. The people who live of the land without exploiting nature has valuable lessons to teach the rest of humanity. Our recent exhibition in Dubai 'The Invisibles' portrayed the lesser known tribes of India. Thanks to the amazing images by gifted Indian photographer Hari Menon, the life of these amazing people could be brought into the limelight.

And we didn't forget our favourite muse, the Masai Mara. Our exhibition for the month of May was of images of the fabulous inhabitants of the Mara. This place never stops amazing us and this exhibition covered a beautiful cross section of the fauna of this wonderful habitat.

The interactive sessions which followed these exhibitions were informative and saw eager participation. We see our core goals of creating awareness about conservation and getting people interested in nature getting to fruition in everyone of our exhibitions and events. This gives us purpose and drive. We are for nature and we are with nature. Let us hold our hands together for this journey!

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Hermis Haridas & Nisha Purushothaman

Founders - PT Explorers



COVER STORY

To The Ends Of The Earth

with Todd Gustafson
by Peter Hudson





Undertaking Conservation Photography at the highest level

Many of us are inspired to use our photographic images to help conserve the animals and habitats that we admire and wish to see protected for our children and our children's children. How sad it would be if the next generation grew up in a world where there were no elephants on the plains of Africa, no tigers in the forests of India or polar bears on the arctic ice.

The global challenges are just so difficult and you feel so insignificant and so it is not easy to see what you can do as one individual. One thing we would all like to do is to take a photograph or a portfolio of photographs that capture the essence of an animal and the imagination of the public or the policy makers to have a positive outcome for conservation. But, in reality - what has been the impact of your photographs? Are the decision makers and funders responding directly because your photograph has caught the imagination of the public? In all honesty - unlikely.



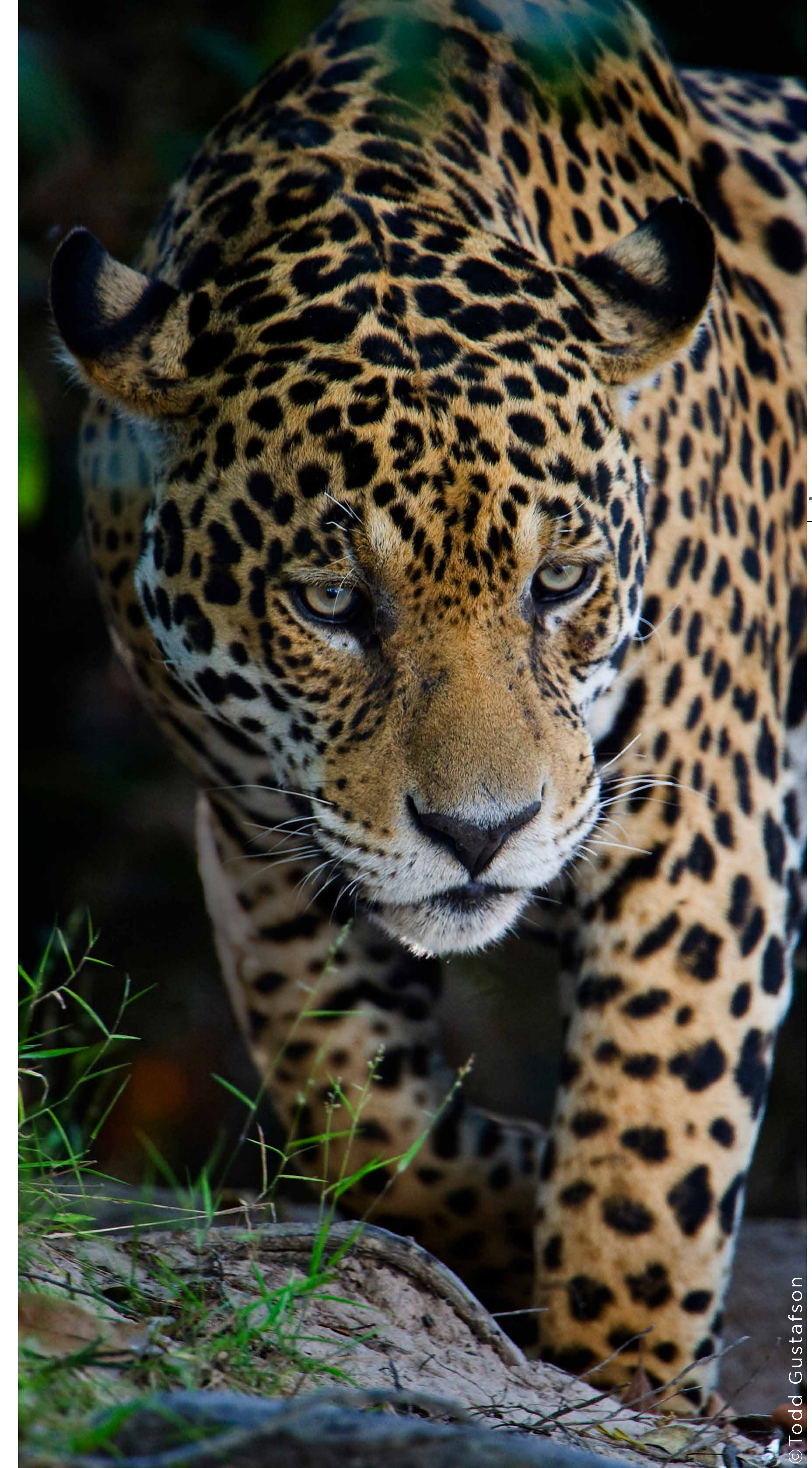
Conservation photography

If we look at the world of photography where are the photographic projects that seem to be having an impact in the conservation world? The charity book series on "Remembering Wildlife" is one fine example. Through the Born Free Foundation a group of conservationists persuaded a number of eminent wildlife photographers to donate images to a book on elephant photographs called "Remembering Elephants". They used a Kickstarter fund to raise money for elephant protection and raised more than \$180,000 all of which has gone to help elephant protection. The first edition of the book is sold out but they now have a second edition being printed. They then expanded this to produce the book "Remembering Rhinos" and have raised more than \$200,000 for Rhino protection in India, Africa, Java and Sumatra. They have now launched "Remembering Great Apes"

One of the photographers in all three "Remembering" editions is Todd Gustafson who has recently launched his own novel, multi-media approach to conservation photography called "To the Ends of the Earth". He is bringing together photography, videos, music and more in a series of films and performances that is going to be shown on TV and is at such a high level of perfection and quality that heads will turn, money is being raised and conservation awareness increased. I think of Todd as a photographer first, a leader of photo safaris second and also as a jazz trumpet player and



©Todd Gustafson



©Todd Gustafson





who undertakes remarkable projects at multiple levels of complexity – and he does every one of them to a breath-taking level of perfection. Todd is a truly remarkable person, a polymath with a great artistic streak and a way of seeing the beauty in life and nature. He sees a scene, maybe a zebra coming to a waterhole, a leopard stalking her prey or a cheetah in full chase and he hears music in his head, he knows the image that will capture the artistic beauty, the video clip that will make your heart stop and the music that goes with it. Not only does his brain operate simultaneously in natural history, music and art mode but he also uses his hands to build and shape his vision and if the best equipment or paper is not available he builds it from the bottom up. If you have ever read the book *“Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance”* then you will understand the mind set of Todd and his *“Zen and the art of wildlife photography”*. I honestly think if he were born a 100 years earlier he would have been grinding his own photographic lenses.

The Road to Conservation Photography

Todd was brought up in East Africa when his father took his family from the USA to become a Lutheran Missionary and he went to build a secondary school in Tanzania. His father was a very busy man but he took the opportunity to look at the wildlife and understand the biology of the spectacular wildlife of Africa. One thing followed another and quite soon his father had gone from being the person who built the school to becoming the headmaster that ran the same school. He didn't have much time but he took his family and squeezed in a couple of

wonderful safaris, taking the young Todd and his siblings into the depths of the Ngorongoro crater for their first real experiences of elephants and lions. His father bought a camera and took a series of inspirational black and white photographs, which I suspect shaped the way the young Todd saw and appreciated the natural world. Todd returned to the USA and became a professional trumpet player, performing with many incredible and famous bands; in particular, Louis Bellson, Clark Terry, and the Temptations. This was no easy job and he was on the road for 120 days a year going from one gig to the next. Todd is a dedicated musician and continues to write music, play live music and produce albums to his credit.

Life as a musician was tough although his wonderful wife Julie “is the wind under his wings” and has an eye for seeing the opportunities and challenges in life and acts as a guiding hand in Todd's creative projects. Quite rightly, she urged Todd to take her to Africa, to show her where he had been brought up and the life he had led. He was inspired, so they took his parents and went back to Africa to his original haunts and to visit some game parks. He bought a cheap camera before he went and took many photos and believed he had a nice portfolio when disaster struck. When he sent the film off for processing they were all lost in the post and he never got a single image back. Initially Todd was devastated but Julie stepped in and said – “well we will just have to go back and try harder”. He did precisely that, bought a new camera with better lenses, and on this trip improved his photographic

techniques and captured some stunning panoramic images, many of which are hanging on permanent display in the Smithsonian, Houses of Parliament and other auspicious venues. His images were used as signage for The Lincoln Park Zoo and started appearing in books and magazines. At this stage, he was already having an impact as a conservation photographer by reaching out to the larger public and influencing decision makers.

Within two years of taking his first photograph, Todd had become a professional. He started by taking some stock photographs for magazines and then appreciated that others wanted to come on his trip with him so he started taking guests along on his safaris. He has a gift for education – he is not interested in teaching the technical details of how the camera works but he has an eye for seeing the potential event and he is inspired to produce photographs that tell a story and will provide inspiration to others. He knows when the event is going to take place and lines his guests up to get the killer shot. He will drive up to a group of zebra one day and say to the driver "keep going" knowing that the zebra are going to keep their heads down and just carry on grazing – the next day the with the same animals, he may well pull up in a location that places himself and his clients in the optimal location for an interesting stalk by a lion or a mass entrance of the zebra into water. This innate ability to know what the animal is going to do next is special.

The project: To the Ends of the Earth

Todd's new project is one of the most exciting conservation photography events

there has ever been. He and Award Winning St Louis based William Mathis has produced the most spectacular series of very high-quality books, based on his own photographs. Matched these books with a new Public Television series of films coming out on TV in which he and his son Anders have done much of the filming. He has written the music and plays several of the instruments. What is more he is giving a significant amount of the proceeds to a number of leading conservation charities in an effort to improve conservation of habitats and species.

Let me just identify these charities and what they do since they tell you how keen he is to see the money have an impact. The whole project is closely aligned with Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots that strives to make the world a better place by showing the youth and decision makers of tomorrow how to think about making the world a better place. The second is Project Tiger, an Indian government program seeking to help Indian states conserve tiger habitat. Another is Rain Forest Corridor Expansion in Costa Rica and another the Oceans Foundation who seek to turn your support into really active conservation projects in the ocean. All of these are doing fantastic work to help save the whole planet for our children and doing this by specifically conserving habitat and by improving species protection.

The underlying motivation behind this project is to actively help conserve and protect wildlife and their habitats and at the same time to allow everyone the experience the wonders of a wildlife safari in East Africaand who better to





show you this than Todd? He shows us the day to day lives of animals from the birth of the gazelle to its untimely death in the jaws of a cheetah. We see the struggles that animals must face while seeking food, seeking mates, giving birth, interacting with other species. The themes parallel what Todd calls the “Human Condition” - what we as humans have to face on a day to day basis and how we can be more connected to the natural world.

Hand made by William Mathis, the books are phenomenal - these are 20”x 20” books (50cm x 50cm) bound in leather on the most exquisite handmade paper. Going out and finding a publisher that could produce books of such quality is almost impossible so Todd took the job to William. They needed paper that was acid free, archival, could be printed on both sides and the paper grain must flow in a direction to give the maximum strength at the fold. The paper had to be in a roll so they could accommodate a number of 80 inch (200 cm) panoramic photographs that fold out from the center of the book. That’s right - single images 80 inches wide by 20 inches tall (200 x 50 cm) in a book format! He was inspired by the original book by James Audubon on the “Birds of America” which has 428 engravings of 39” x 26” (99cm x 66cm) and produced back in 1828. Indeed, Todd and William worked with paper mills to find a paper that matched the color and texture of these famous tomes. The next problem was consistently printing large photographs straight - apparently modern printing techniques mean that the paper doesn’t always run perfectly straight in the print feeder so Todd had to build - from scratch - a paper feeder that

would ensure there was exactly one inch of white paper around the edge of each page, even on the 80-inch panoramas. William takes the prints and hand binds each book using traditional 16th century techniques and applying silk thread, strips of linen and glue to hold the book together. The book is leather bound and embossed in gold with the beautiful “To the Ends of the Earth” logo.

There are three volumes - the first focusses on the mammals of East Africa, the second the birds of East Africa and the last is the broader Natural World. The photographs on facing pages are often matched so one animal species is a reflection of another - two predators with the same look peering straight into the camera lens or an artistic parallel of each other . These are not books you buy on line from Amazon but books that cost thousands of dollars and are here as a testimony to nature and Todd’s interpretation. Highly collectable books that are a part of our natural heritage while being a great investment.

The books are accompanied by a series of three films and these are truly spectacular. You are going to love them as a photographer, as a wildlife watcher, as a conservationist, for the human connection and for the pure artistry. Jane Goodall does the narration and she talks in a simple and eloquent manner that keeps you spellbound while you watch the dramatic and the unexpected. Todd keeps this thread between the struggle for existence and the connection between humanity and the natural world so you don’t feel so much like an interloper watching the private life of an animal so much as part of the experience. This is



what they are trying to do so you feel responsibility for these animals, and appreciate that the fate of the human race is clearly dependent on the fate of our natural wildlife systems. If you are a wildlife photographer then you must watch this film – and you must see his website <http://www.totheendsoftheearth.world>. In the film you go with Todd and experience the safari, you stand behind him as he takes photographs of a magnificent bull elephant with huge tusks emerging from the marsh in the Ngorongoro Crater. Your heart leaps and pounds to the music – music all written by Todd and performed with a 65-piece orchestra. You appreciate that Todd really is a flexible artist and in his head he sees images and hears music so when that elephant comes out of the swamp he knows the music that describes its majesty and presence. The films are going to be shown initially through Public

Television in the USA and will be available on DVD and no doubt multiple other channels. I hope to see the DVD appear on Netflix. The lush sound track will be available on CD.

This really is a remarkable and inspirational project. I must say that I look at what Todd has achieved and I want to get out there and take new photos, look to see how I can match my photos as he does and of course to take up video. At the same time I am so inspired by how William and Todd have pushed the whole project themselves and to a wonderful level of perfection all in the name of animal and habitat conservation.

to read more:

<http://www.totheendsoftheearth.world>

<http://www.gustafsonphotosafari.net>

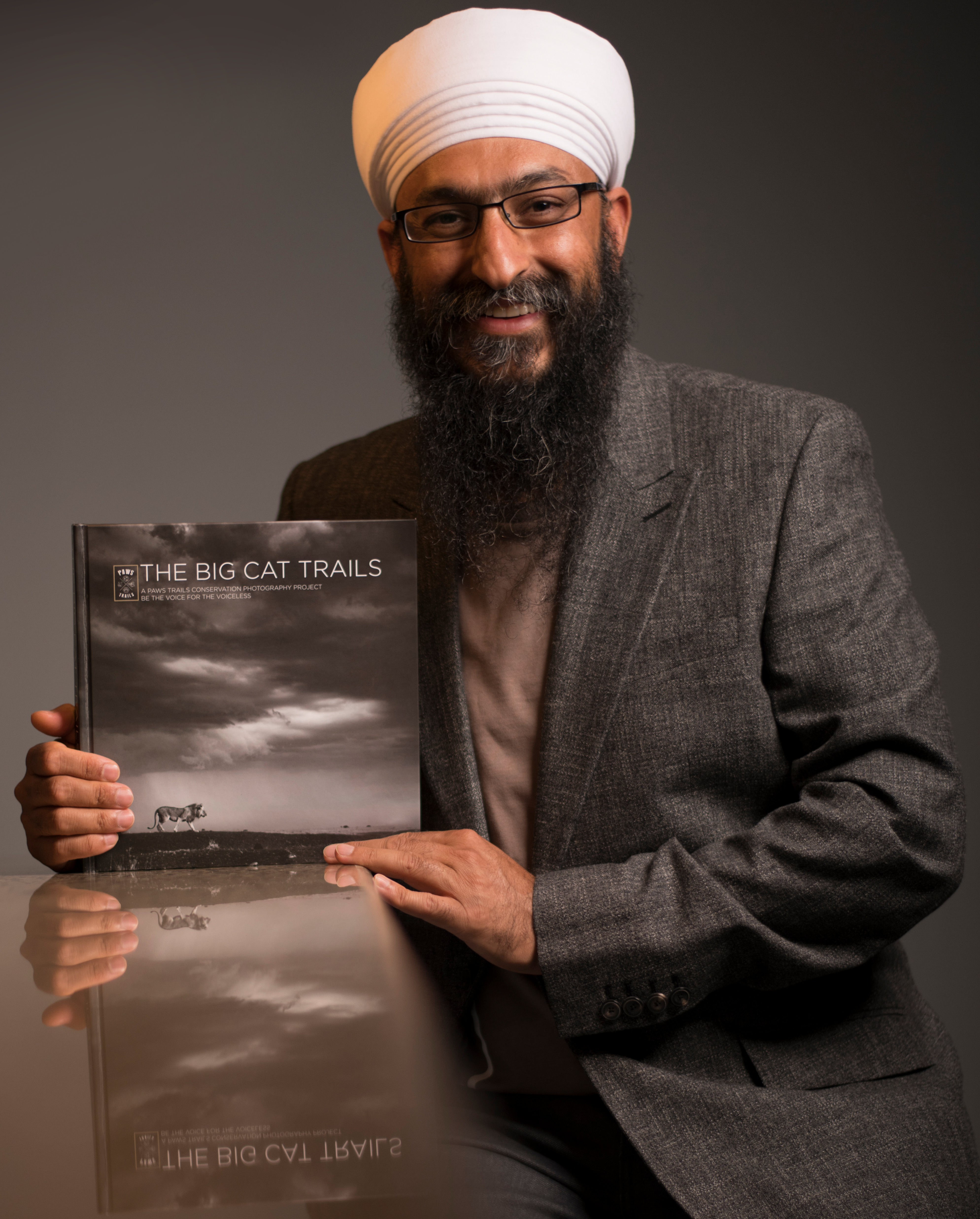




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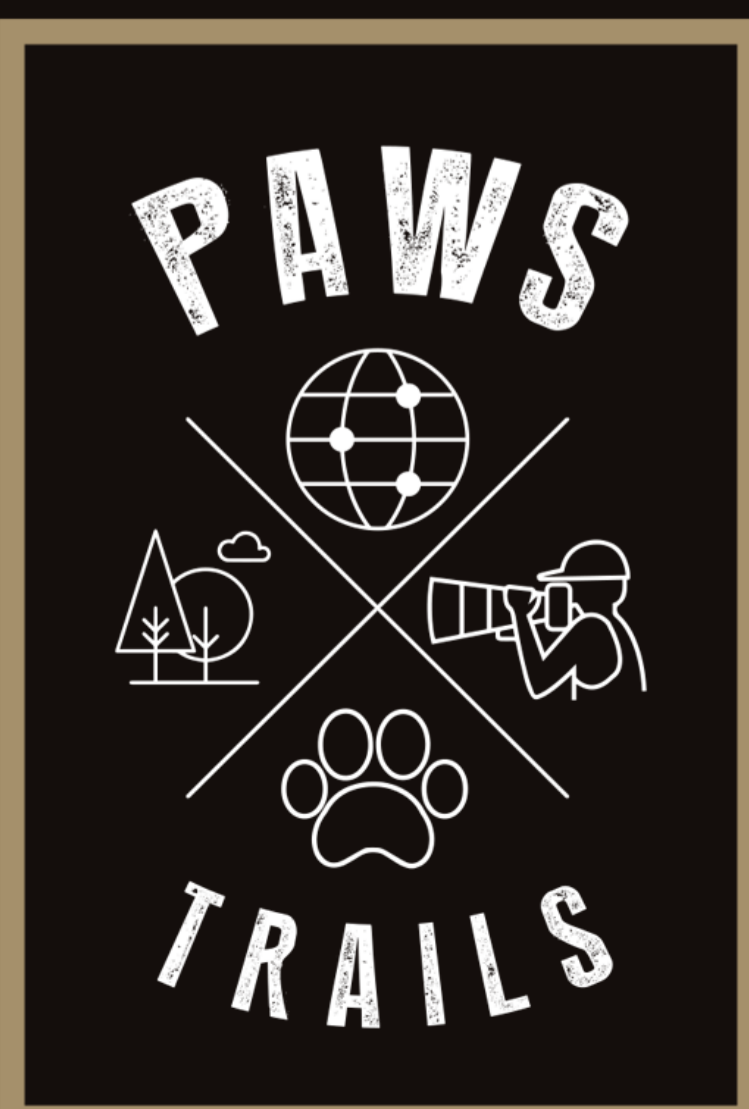
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CONSERVATION

Argentinian Patagonia – A South American Paradise

By Jarbas Mattos



Jarbas Mattos is a nature and wildlife photographer and guide based in São Paulo Brazil, from where he travels and leads photographic expeditions to Brazil and Patagonia and is seeking the best moments in nature.

See: jarbas mattos.46graus.com
facebook.com/Jarbas-Mattos-Photographic-Expeditions-775901302441401/

Patagonia - Santa Cruz Province, Argentina El Calafate and El Chaltén

Patagonia, is a geographic region located in the southernmost part of the Southern Cone, in South America. With 1,043,000 km² it covers territories in Argentina and Chile, separated mainly by the Andes Mountain².

Approximately three quarters of the Patagonia belongs to Argentina and the remaining fourth to Chile. There is no general consensus on the limits of the Patagonian region; in Argentina it is usual to consider as belonging geographically to Patagonia, all the territories south of the Colorado and Barrancas rivers.

In Chile it is traditional and of greater consensus to consider as Patagonian the territories that extend to the south of the Gulf of Reloncaví, to the north, to Estreito de Magalhães. Within the Patagonian territory is included the Great Island of Tierra del Fuego and the archipelago near it to Cape Horn. Some people also consider as the northern limit of Patagonia, the area of Bio Bio river. Patagonia has a population of 1,999,540 inhabitants, but is sparsely populated because of it's huge size, twice the size of California.

Patagonians

The name Patagonia is said to be derived from Patagones, as the Tehuelche Indians,



the region's original inhabitants, were called by 16th-century Spanish explorers. According to one account, Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese navigator who led the first European expedition into the area, coined that name because the appearance of the Tehuelche reminded him of Patagon, a dog-headed monster in the 16th-century Spanish romance *Amadís of Gaul*.

The Argentinean Patagonia can be divided into two regions, Patagonia Norte and Patagonia Sul, both separated by parallel 42 ° S. Another division of Patagonia Argentina, more popular, is based on mainly ecological considerations and divides it into:

- Andean Patagonia - is the western portion, which coincides with areas of the Andes. Predominantly mountainous region, full of natural lakes, glaciers and forests. Main tourist destinations: San Martín de los Andes, Villa La Angostura, Bariloche, Esquel, El Calafate, El Chaltén and Ushuaia.
- Extraandina or Atlantic Patagonia - is the eastern portion, facing the Atlantic Ocean. Arid and desert landscape, with some shrubs. Its main tourist attraction is the observation of the marine fauna. Main tourist destinations: Puerto Madryn, Península Valdés, Trelew and Punta Tombo.

Santa Cruz Province, Argentina - El Calafate e El Chaltén

Andean Patagonia

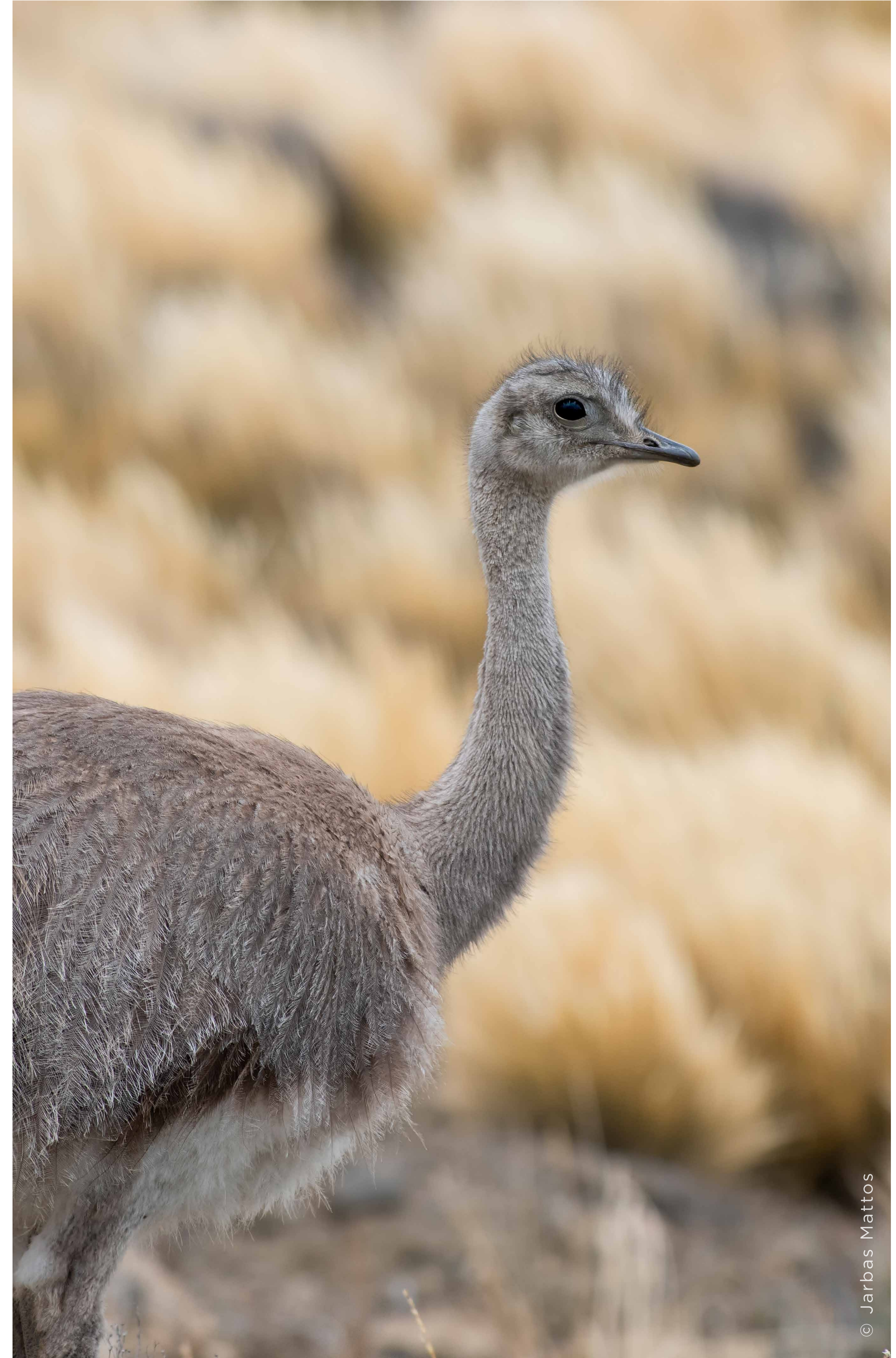
It is formed by the Patagonian Andes,

originated by the Andean folding in the Cenozoic era. The zone extends from latitude 30° south to the southern tip of the American continent. In the east, it is bordered by the plateaus of Patagonia and, in the west, by the Pacific Ocean.

The mountain ranges are separated by valleys occupied by lakes or crossed by rivers. The highest altitudes are the mountains Cerro Torre and Fitz Roy, with respectively 3,133m and 3,405m. The Patagonian Andes have regions with eternal snows at lower altitudes, thanks to low temperatures and moist winds from the west causing heavy snowfall in the area. The abundant rainfall allows the development of the temperate forest on the slopes of the mountains. In the valleys, protected areas, the population is established, with emphasis on the cities of El Chaltén, and near the Perito Moreno Glacier the city of El Calafate.

El Calafate, Argentina

El Calafate is a small town located where the Andean Patagonia meets the Extraandina Patagonia also known as Atlantic Patagonia. In other words El Calafate is located in the region where the cold, arid and semi desertic Patagonian Meseta (*Plateau*) meets the typical cold and humid mountain climate of the Andean Mountains, with many rivers and streams that freeze in winter. El Calafate lies on the shores of Lago Argentino that is formed by the melting of the Andes, and that is the largest source of freshwater in Argentina. This huge lake covers almost 1,500 square kilometers and has a milky blue color, result of glacial meltwater. The lake is part of the



© Jarbas Mattos

National Park of the Glacier of Argentina and is home to majestic glaciers like Perito Moreno, one of the only glaciers in advance of the area, Upsala and Spegazzini.

The city of El Calafate is situated at the equivalent latitude of the city of London, Europe and has a much better microclimate than the one of the Patagonic plateau where it is settled. That happens because of the waters of Lago Argentino and also because the mountains nearby. The area around El Calafate has a dry climate and the temperatures goes from 22°C in summer to minus 6°C in winter.

El Calafate is the gateway for those who want to visit the Glacier National Park (Parque Nacional Los Glaciares) and the city of El Chalten considered the capital of trekking in Argentina. The city was founded in 1927, and the name El Calafate comes from a small bush endemic from Argentinian and Chilean southern Patagonia, the Calafate (*Berberis microphylla*). The El Calafate fruit is much appreciated to be used in sweets, ice creams, typical dishes and even consumed raw. Its origin is told in a legend of the local indigenous peoples:

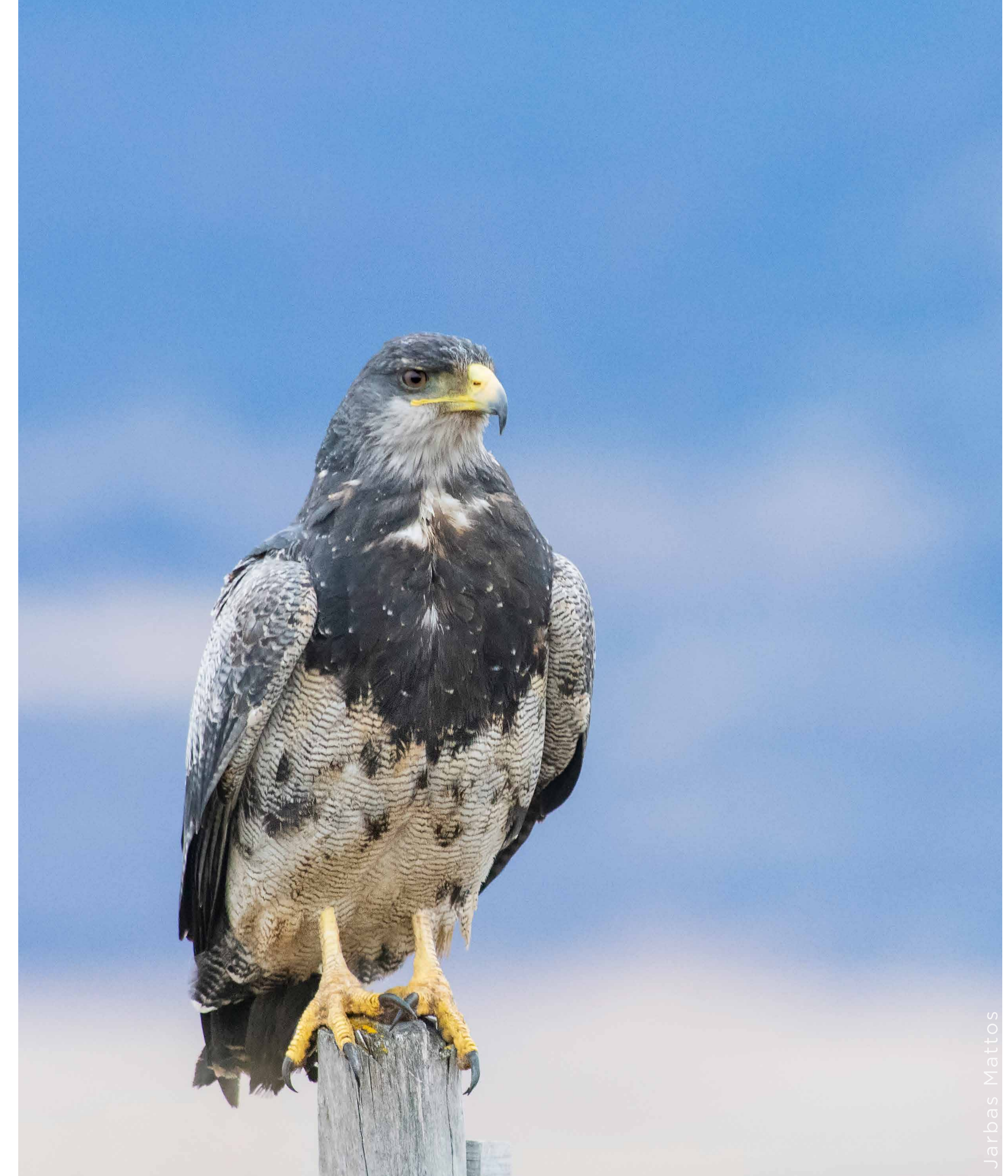
It is said that in autumn, the ñires, lengas and coihues forests begin to assume a characteristic tone, announcing the change of season, which produces a multicolor effect on the trees, which varies from an intense red, gold and orange transformation that has been repeated year after year for thousands of years. In this landscape lived the Tehuelches, who were the original owners

of the land, and who in the winter migrate on foot to the north looking for food and shelter, where the cold is not so intense. In one of these migrations, legend says that Koonex, an elderly healer of the tribe, owing to her age, could not walk any longer, and decided to let the natural law of life fulfill its destiny. After this situation, the women of the tribe began to make an awning with guanaco skins, adding abundant firewood and food.

After his farewell, Koonex fixed his tired eyes in the distance, watching until the people of his tribe disappeared behind the edge of a plateau, and so began to feel the silence as a heavy torpor as he saw that all living beings and even the colored sky disappeared slowly so that it could die.

Many suns and many moons passed, until the arrival of spring that brought the first buds of flowers, the swallows, the plovers, the happy Rufous-collared Sparrows, and the parrots to these lands.

Legend says that after spring came a band of happy singing birds landed on Koonex's awning leathers, and from there they heard the voice of the old healer, who chided them for having left her alone for a long time, the long and rigorous winter. A surprised sparrow replied, "We left because in the fall food is scarce, apart from the fact that in winter we have no place to shelter ourselves," I understand, Koonex replied, "so from now on you will have food in autumn and shelter in the winter, and so I will never be alone again - then the old woman was silent. A gust of wind knocked over the leathers of the awning, and the voice



Jarbas Mattos

disappeared, but instead of Koonex's body there was a prickly bush with beautiful scented yellow flowers.

And when summer came, the delicate flowers became fruit, and before autumn they began to ripen, adopting a bluish color and exquisite taste with high food value.

Legend tells that since that day some birds no longer migrated and those who had left, after hearing the news, returned to experience the new delicious fruits whose flavor captivated them.

It was thus that after the Tehuelches returned and also experimented the fruit, they spread their seeds throughout the





© Jarbas Mattos

region, so it is said in the region that “he who eats the Calafate fruit always returns”

The city of el Calafate has a good and well structured hotel chain to suit all budgets, and restaurants from simple snack bars to sophisticated restaurants serving international dishes made with local ingredients and recipes.

El Calafate has many attractions for the tourist that seek contact with nature in Patagonia and among them a must see is the Glaciar Perito Moreno in the Glacier National Park (*Parque Nacional Los Glaciares*). Perito Moreno has over 250 square kilometers of area and 30 km of extension, being the third largest reserve of fresh water of the world, it's

ice walls goes up 74 meters above lake level and down more than 160 meters deep. The Park has several walkways that give you various viewing angles of the glacier with seven observation points, located at different heights and distances, connected to each other and that can be traveled as you wish. Visiting Perito Moreno is a fantastic tour and will remain in the memory of those who visit it forever.

Besides the Perito Moreno glacier there are many options for tours that please all tastes; you can make 4x4 safaris in the surroundings of Lago Argentino and in the mountainous area around the city, horseback riding in Lago Roca, visit the estancias and farms to know the culture of the Patagonian gaucho and

to experience an authentic Argentine asado, go on a river cruise in the green waters of Lago Argentino and sail up the Upsala channel to see the Upsala Glacier, etc... Or you can do as I do and go after the wildlife around the Argentino Lake and the Reserva Natural Laguna Nimez. The Laguna Nimez is an important conservation and stopping place for many species of migratory birds. It is also home to dozens of species of Patagonian birds -more than a hundred species can be seen here. Some of the birds that can be seen there are: Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant (*Muscisaxicola maculirostris*), Thorn-tailed Rayadito (*Aphrastura spinicauda*), Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*), Chiloe Wigeon (*Anas sibilatrix*), Chilean Elaenia (*Elaenia chilensis*), Upland Goose (*Chloephaga picta*), White-tufted Grebe

(*Rollandia rolland*), Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*), Buff-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*), Chilean Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), White-winged Coot (*Fulica leucoptera*), among many others.

In the areas around El Calafate there're also chances to see mammals like the Patagonian Mara (*Dolichotis patagonum*) considered to be a near threatened species and protected by law, the South American Gray Fox (*Lycalopex griseus*) also known as the Patagonian Fox, the Andean Fox (*Lycalopex culpaeus*), sometimes known as the Zorro Culpeo, a South American fox species and the second largest native canid on the continent, after the maned wolf. We also have very good chances to see the

Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) especially in the steppe area on the way to El Chalten and in the arid mountainous environment surrounding El Calafate and the Big Hairy Armadillo or Large Hairy Armadillo (*Chaetophractus villosus*) found in most of Patagonia area.

El Chaltén national capital of trekking in Patagonia

El Chaltén is a small and charming city in Patagonia, located 220 km from El Calafate and encrusted right in the middle of mountains, lakes and glaciers, and at the foot of Mount FitzRoy alongside the massif of the same name and the massif Tower in the Andes mountain range. It is one of the top destinations for mountaineers and hiking enthusiasts from around the world as well as everyone who likes to be in touch with nature.

Located within the Los Glaciares National Park, its rock and ice mountains are among the most beautiful in the world.

“At the bottom of this Ensenada, which form the mountains, there are two stones like two towers, one higher than the other, whose very sharp points exceed all the neighboring ranges and are called by the Indians: Chalten. half a league away, you can see a very steep ravine in the lagoon, and it is formed of snow “

Antonio de Viedma, November 21, 1782. Perhaps the first non-tehuelche observer of Mount Fitz Roy.

The Fitz Roy and Tower massif

Although formed by the same type of

rock, and sometimes called generically FitzRoy, they are two different massifs separated by Torre Glacier and its lagoon (*Lago torre*).

Most tourists who visit the region go after its unique nature and its diverse trails, being one of the top destinations for mountaineers and hiking enthusiasts from around the world, as well as everyone who likes to be in touch with nature for other activities like birdwatching, photography or just to sit and watch the mountains in their daily metamorphosis as the light goes forward and backward while time passes.

The Andes mountain range in southern Argentina in the eastside of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field are considered by many well-travelled trekkers and climbers to be the most beautiful mountains in the world. Some of the most beautiful trails in the area are:

- Mirador de los condores y las aguilas: between 40 minutes to 1 hour
- Chorrillo del Salto: Duration: between 30 to 45 minutes.
- Laguna de los 3 and El Glaciar de los 3: between 4 hours 30 minutes with a very hard trail in the last 1h 30minutes.
- Glaciar piedras blancas: Almost 3 hours 30 minutes
- Laguna Torre: Almost 3 hours 30 minutes
- Loma del pliegue tumbado: Besides it being a 4 to 5 hours hard trail, it's one of the most beautiful!
- Laguna toro: Between 5 and 6 hours the place is super quiet because there are not many people, so if you're lucky, you can spot a South American Puma (*Puma*



concolor) or maybe Huemul also known as the South Andean Deer (*Hippocamelus bisulcus*). The road varies, between meadows, forests and stones, and it's a really beautiful place!

Though the climate can change quickly in Patagonia, the best time to visit is from September to April. Visiting from June to August is not recommended because of the cold temperatures and many attractions being closed due to snow.

Considered one of the wildest areas in the world, Patagonia is a true natural paradise. It's characteristic fauna and flora, together with the unique silence, broken only by the wind, makes this region perfect for those travelers who wish to disconnect from the world and come into direct contact with wild nature.

It's violent geological past continuously molds this varied and dynamic region. You will find irregular mountains that form ice rivers, filled with some of the most pure water in the world.

The Patagonia is a poetry of brute force and majestic beauty, of fiords and forests, ice fields and gelid lakes, steep skies and steppes combed by wind, it's the true "*Land of the End of the World*" or maybe as I said sometime, the beginning of everything.





A tiger with orange fur and black stripes is lying down in a natural, rocky, and wooded environment. The tiger is looking towards the right of the frame. The background is filled with trees and dense vegetation, creating a sense of a wild habitat. The lighting is soft, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting.

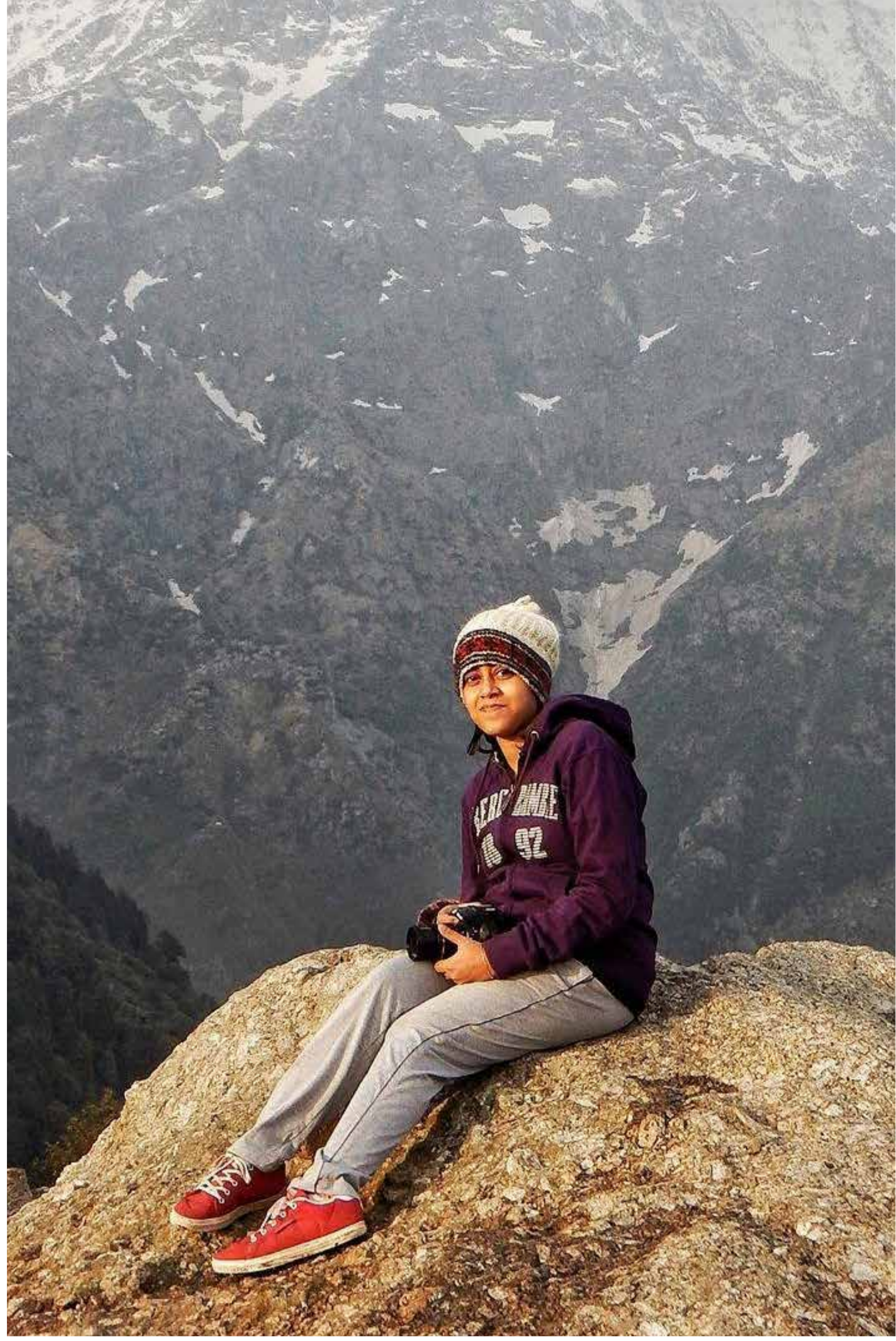
CONSERVATION

Protected Areas In India For Wildlife Conservation: Parks, Forests, Reserves, Sanctuaries.

By Amrita Das

Images by:

Keyur Nandaniya, Ansar Mohammadali,
Lavanya Venugopal, Pramod CL,
Prasenjit Choudhury & Samiran Halder



Amrita Das is a lawyer from Bhopal, India and works as freelance legal editor. Amrita is passionate about protecting earth's environment and an avid photographer.

Amrita is an intrepid traveler who likes to visit and photograph the wild lands of India.

(This is Third Part of Six Part Article)

Park Forest Reserve Sanctuarie



Important wildlife projects by Indian government

Project Tiger: The Government of India has taken a pioneering initiative for conserving its national animal, the tiger, by launching the 'Project Tiger' in 1973. From 9 tiger reserves since its formative years, the Project Tiger coverage has increased to 47 at present, spread out in 18 of our tiger range states. This amounts to around 2.08% of the geographical area of our country. The tiger reserves are constituted on a core/buffer strategy. The core areas have the legal status of a national park or a sanctuary, whereas the buffer or peripheral areas are a mix of forest and non-forest land, managed as a multiple use area. The Project Tiger aims to foster an exclusive tiger agenda in the core areas of tiger reserves, with an inclusive people oriented agenda in the buffer.

Project Tiger is an ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change providing central assistance to the tiger States for tiger conservation in designated tiger reserves.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body of the Ministry, with an overarching supervisory / coordination role, performing functions as provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The ADG (Project Tiger) and his officers also service the NTCA. The Regional Offices of the NTCA have been recently established at Bengaluru, Guwahati and Nagpur, each headed by an IGF and

assisted by an AIG.

The allocation for Project Tiger during the XII Plan is Rs 1,245 crore. The expenditure during 2012-13 and 2013-14 are Rs 163.87 crore and 169.48 crore respectively.

Current Activities:

Providing central assistance to States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger for tiger reserves, for activities (recurring / non-recurring), as reflected in the Annual Plan of Operations of tiger reserves, based on their Tiger Conservation Plans is an important activity. This, interalia, includes protection, habitat amelioration, day to day monitoring, eco-development for local people in buffer areas, voluntary relocation of people from core/critical tiger habitats, and addressing human-wildlife conflicts, within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and guidelines of Project Tiger / National Tiger Conservation Authority.

The NTCA / Project Tiger also conducts the country level assessment of the status of tiger, co-predators, prey and habitat once in four years, using the refined methodology, as approved by the Tiger Task Force.

Special thrust on tiger protection and antipoaching operations

The illegal demand for body parts and derivatives of tiger outside the country continues to be a serious threat to wild tigers. Therefore, protection is accorded topmost priority in Project Tiger / NTCA. The States are engaged in an ongoing manner through the NTCA Headquarters





as well as its Regional Offices, while issuing alerts, besides closely working with the CBI, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and the Police Departments. The following actions are taken in this context:

Alerting the States as and when required

Transmitting backward / forward linkages of information relating to poachers

Advising the States for combing forest floor to check snares / traps

Performing supervisory field visits through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and its regional offices

Providing assistance to States for antipoaching operations

Using information technology for improved surveillance (e-Eye system) using thermal cameras launched in Corbett

Launching tiger reserve level monitoring using camera trap to keep a photo ID database of individual tigers

Preparing a national database of individual tiger photo captures to establish linkage with body parts seized or dead tigers

Assisting States to refine protection oriented monitoring through monitoring system for tiger's intensive protection and ecological status (M-STripES)

Providing grant through NTCA for patrolling in tiger rich sensitive forest areas outside tiger reserves

Assisting States to deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff [In all, approximately 24 lakh man-days are generated annually with 50% central assistance amounting to around Rs. 24 crores (excluding matching 50% share given by States) under Project Tiger. In case of Northern- eastern States the share is 90:10 i.e. 90% central assistance and 10% matching share given by states. Many local tribes constitute such local workforce (besides non-tribals), eg. Baigas, Gonds in Madhya Pradesh, Gonds in Maharashtra, Chenchus in Andhra Pradesh, Sholigas in Karnataka, Gujjars in Uttarakhand and Irulas in Tamil Nadu to name a few. The deployment of such local tribals has been fostered / encouraged in the last two years].

Supporting States for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force

Managing moving tigers in human dominated landscapes

In several productive tiger landscapes, tigers move out from the core/critical tiger habitats/source areas. This is an innate behaviour owing to their social dynamics. Since the tiger landscapes have human settlements and varied land uses, there are frequent human-tiger/ wildlife interface issues. The NTCA / Project Tiger is actively engaging with the States to address such issues and a SOP has been put in place in this regard.

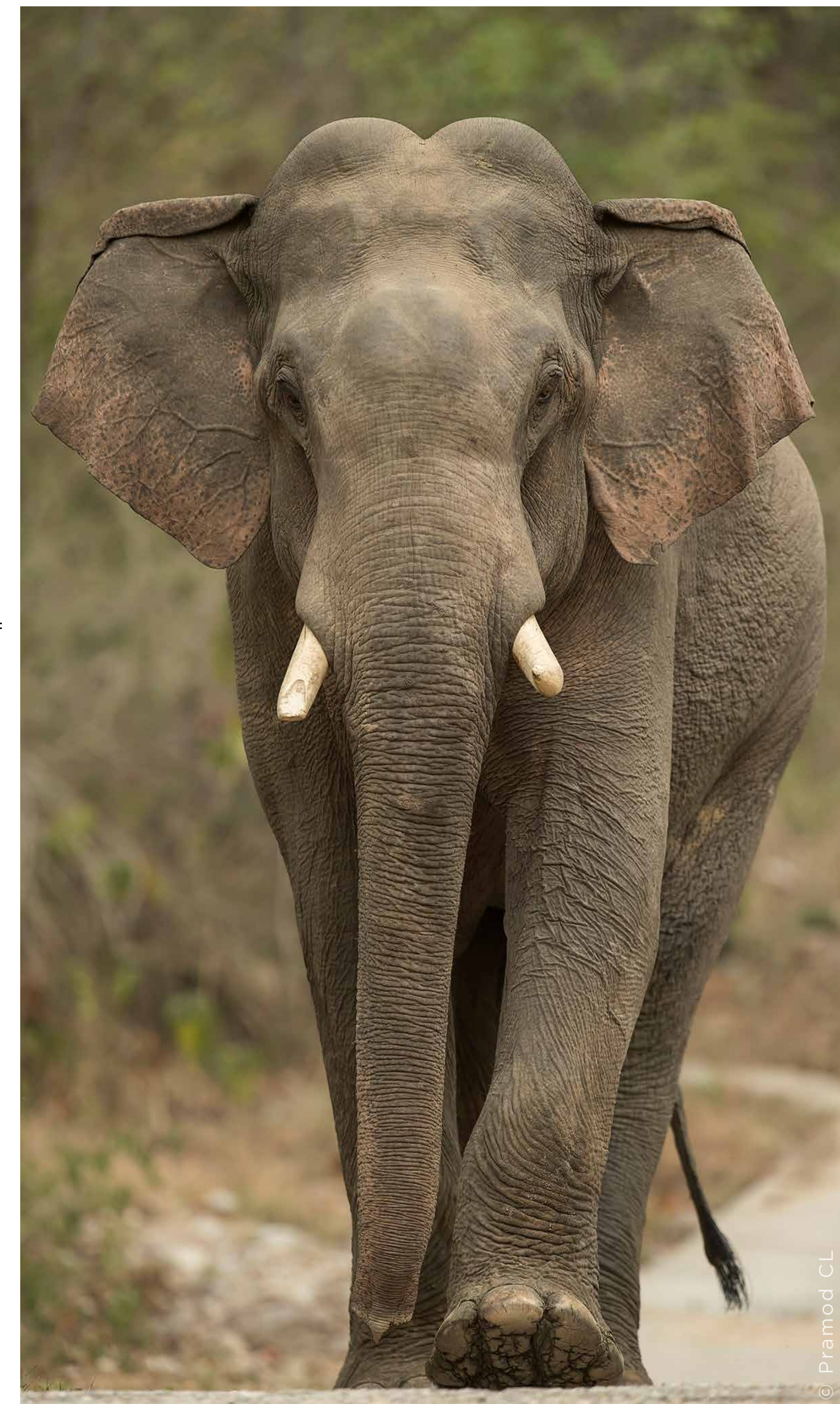
Project Elephant:

Project Elephant (PE) was launched

by the Government of India in the year 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with following objectives: to protect elephants, their habitat & corridors, to address issues of man-animal conflict, welfare of domesticated elephants.

Main activities under the Project are as follows:

- Ecological restoration of existing natural habitats and migratory routes of elephants;
- Development of scientific and planned management for conservation of elephant habitats and viable population of Wild Asiatic elephants in India;
- Promotion of measures for mitigation of man elephant conflict in crucial habitats and moderating pressures of human and domestic stock activities in crucial elephant habitats;
- Strengthening of measures for protection of Wild elephants from poachers and unnatural causes of death;
- Research on Elephant management related issues;
- Public education and awareness programmes;
- Eco-development;
- Veterinary care





Crocodile Conservation Project:

Indian Crocodile Conservation Project is one of the most successful conservation initiatives in the world. It has pulled back the once threatened crocodilians from the brink of extinction and placed them

on a good path of recovery. The broad objectives of activities under crocodile project were

- to protect the remaining population of crocodilians in their natural habitat by creating sanctuaries;

- to rebuild natural population quickly through 'grow and release' or 'rear and release' technique

- to promote captive breeding;

- to take-up research to improve management; and

- to involve local people in the project intimately.

Apart from these projects, Government of India also has been handling projects like Vulture Conservation and India Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020.

SNIPPET

For the first time in a very long time there is a splash and blur of colour that has not been seen in decades in Gorongosa National Park. Through the partnership of the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Gorongosa National Park a bold move has been made to reverse the fate of Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) in Southern Africa.

On the 16th of April 2018 the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Gorongosa National park made the historic translocation of Wild Dogs from South Africa to Mozambique. It is truly an extraordinary event as this is the first attempt to reintroduce Wild Dogs into Mozambique. It is an amazing account of conservation in action – an ambitious undertaking to restore Wild Dogs to an incredible ecosystem.

Throughout Mozambique, Wild Dog have disappeared from much of their former range, with Gorongosa losing their population during the 1977-1992 Civil War. Gorongosa National Park is Mozambique's mothership natural area – where the Government of Mozambique has united with the Carr Foundation on a long-term, 25-year restoration project to restore a vast and diverse natural ecosystem, in the heart of Mozambique. With



©Gorongosa National Park

Gorongosa Fighting Back

By Gorongosa N.P. and Endangered Wildlife Trust



©Gorongosa National Park

many species making a strong return in just over a decade, including tens of thousands of herbivores, the return of big carnivores is the next natural step.

Founder individuals of the Wild Dog pack came from South Africa's Endangered Wildlife Trust's – Managed Metapopulation. The Metapopulation

is the largest population of Wild Dog in South Africa, in a group of managed reserves and National parks', numbering 250 individuals in 28 packs, (more than that of the Kruger National Park). Over the last 20 years this population has increased dramatically and has ensured the rise in Wild Dog numbers by 100% and the increase in their range by 25%.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust, along with local partners Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife (EKZNW), the KwaZulu Natal state veterinary department, WildlifeACT, Maremani Game Reserve, LEDET, and the Bateleurs captured males from uMkhuze Game Reserve in KwaZulu Natal that had dispersed from their pack in late 2016 and free-roaming KwaZulu Natal females who had been earmarked for the reintroduction into Gorongosa. The two unrelated groups of Wild Dog were brought together in a boma at Phongola Nature Reserve in KwaZulu Natal South Africa to bond. To allow for close monitoring once released, the pack were fitted with GPS and VHF collars. As infectious diseases are a big threat to Wild Dog all the individuals were vaccinated against Canine Distemper and Rabies.

The new pack was transferred by Air from Phongola boma to Gorongosa as the trip by road would be a two day drive through long, scorching and difficult roads, making air transfer with the Bateluers the safer option, thanks to the administration of a combination of safe drugs by a qualified veterinarian from Ezemvelo KwaZulu Natal Wildlife (EKZNW).

The experienced guard of both vet and the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Metapopulation Coordinator kept a watchful eye on the sedated pack, giving the sleeping males and females a novel way to bond, called the olfactory acclimatization technique. In the newly constructed boma in Gorongosa the bonded pack is to be held for six to eight weeks before being released. This is to allow the pack to get habituated to the

local area and for the males and females to get accustomed to one another. Gorongosa's Carnivore Conservation Team will monitor the health and status of the pack during this time before the packs release from the boma.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust will work closely with the Gorongosa team to train a new generation of Mozambican ecologists and vets in Wild Dog recovery and management.

Being described as one of the most diverse parks on Earth, Gorongosa covers a vast expanse of 400 000 hectares and is recognized as one of National Geographic's "Last Wild Places", it is therefore truly breathtaking to see the return of Wild Dog to this part of Southern Africa.

To read more please visit:

www.gorongosa.org



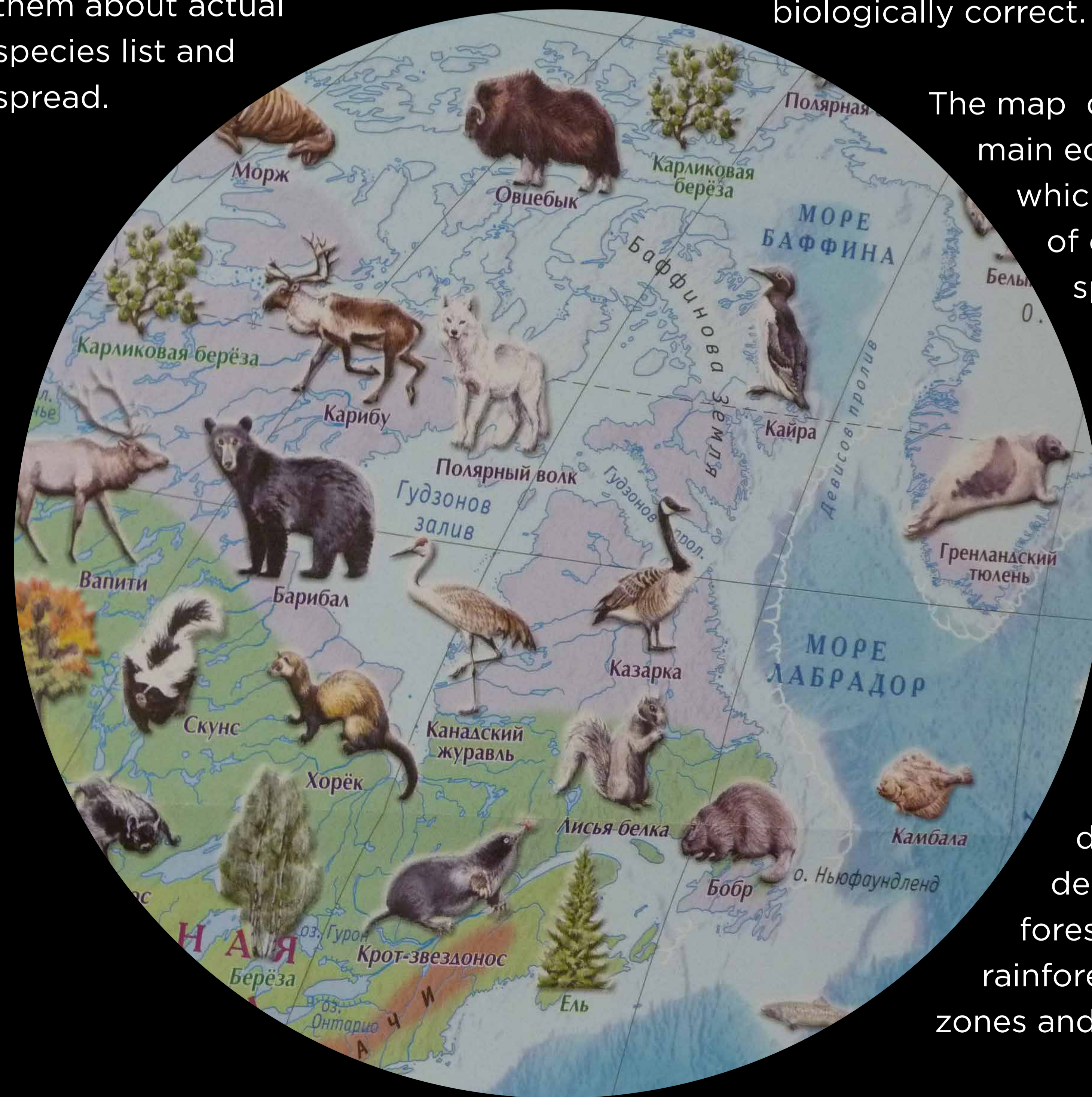
Map “Animals of the World”

By Tatiana Petrova

I'm happy to announce that the Map “Animals of the World” is released. It is a result of my 4 months' work in 2017 on drawing all the more than 300 images of animals and some of plants. A publishing company “Karta LTD” specializing in maps invited me to join their project of this educational map. They provided the range maps and whole design, and I was doing all the drawings and consulting them about actual species list and spread.

I was glad to participate in this work because it was a way to apply my knowledge of both biology and the appearance of multiple animals of the world. Many of them I have seen and drawn before and others were new challenges, to study their shapes and colors. Publishing is a way to share my love of animals with people. I wanted to make the map not just beautiful but also biologically correct.

The map depicts ranges of main ecological zones which include images of characteristic species of fauna and flora. Thirteen ecological zones are shown here, including Arctic and Antarctic desert, tundra, forested tundra, taiga, deciduous forests, forested steppe, steppe, evergreen forests, deserts and semi deserts, monsoon forests, equatorial rainforests, mountain zones and savannas. The map



is foldable and printed on both sides, one side is a map of the world and other side is a map of Russia. It is a popular edition of the map and it is interesting both for kids and adults.

The language of the map is Russian. It is available to purchase in internet bookstores such as Ozon.ru, Labirint.ru,

Bookvoed.ru. Cost varies around USD2. labirint.ru/books/622869/

ozon.ru/context/detail/id/143489481/

bookvoed.ru/book?id=7847506



SPECIES

Hyaena...
(Hyaenidae)

By Sumesh Sankarathodi

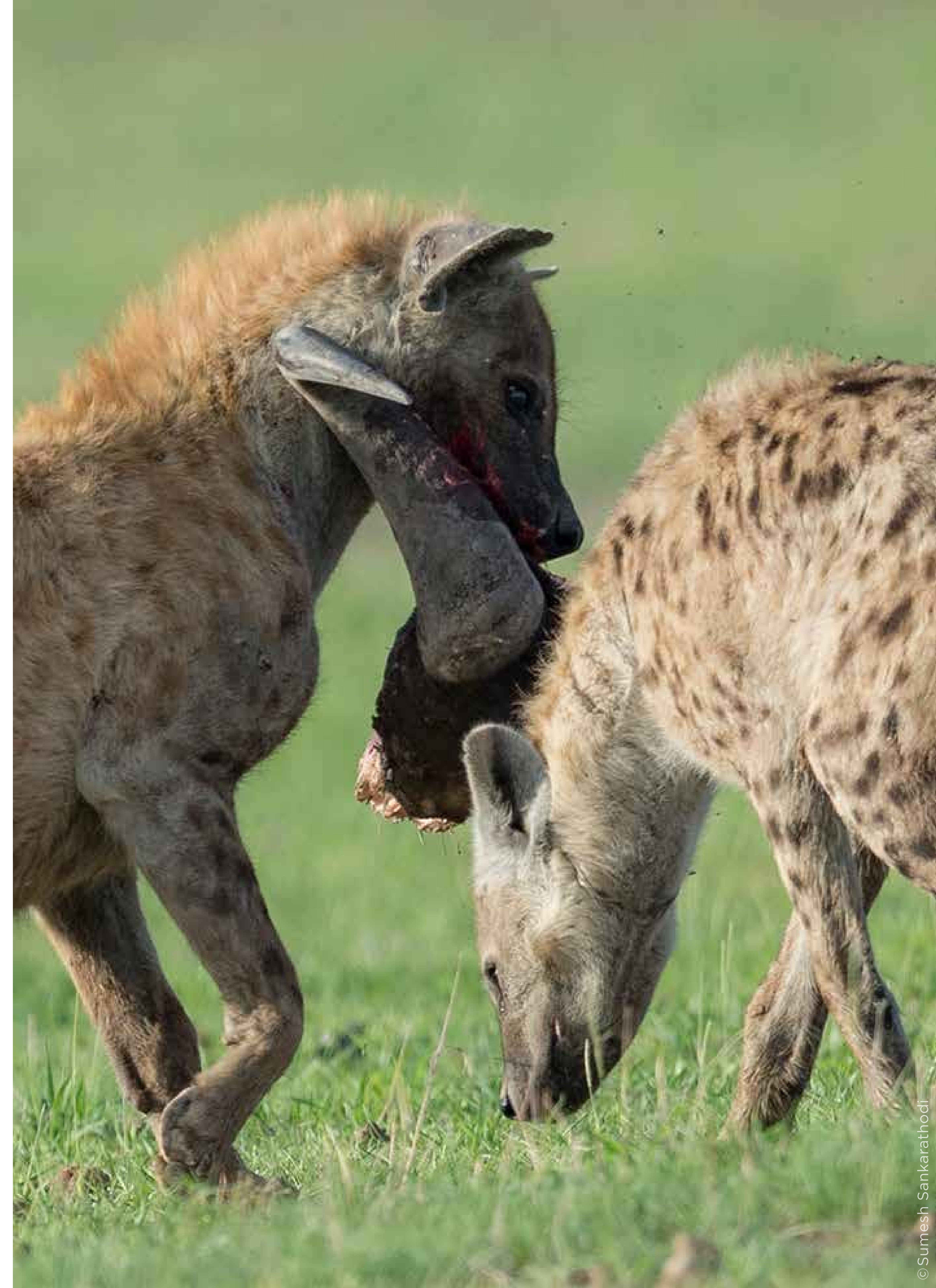




Sumesh Sankarathodi is a passionate travel & wildlife photographer, an Indian citizen presently employed as an engineer in Muscat -Sultanate of Oman. As he has gracefully sailed into the world of photography since 2008, he has realized that more than a passionate hobby, 'wildlife photography' has provided him an opportunity to understand Mother Nature.

He captures those little moments around him and treasures those frames. Being a responsible wildlife photographer, he wishes to explore nature with passion & purpose.

**See: sumeshphotography.com
[instagram.com/sumeshphotography/](https://www.instagram.com/sumeshphotography/)**





From an average, pampered and short-sighted tourist to the academically inclined wildlife intellectual, all are obsessed with the Big Five of Mother Africa. In this unending vibrant picture, there is one entity who is highly misunderstood, shunned and deviled all for the untidy behavior, habits and prejudiced world-view. That is the quintessential Hyena!!..

It is true that one finds it difficult to fall in love with these dangerous, bold, cunning and dirty animals!

The Hyena clans especially *Spotted*

Hyenas) are rude, boisterous, highly obnoxious social groups. Hyenas rip, claw, and fight with one another for left-over food. Even if they do not have anything else to do, they spend their time fighting, pushing and shoving each other. Apart from these behaviors which invite their awful reputation, mythology around the world contribute more to condemn them.

Sordid myths and notorious stories about hyenas abound. For centuries as per the Christian belief, hyenas are said to have souls of the damned, trapped inside them. In Tanzania and India, legend holds that witches ride hyenas. As per the

Ethiopian folklore, people who possess the evil eye can change themselves into hyenas. In some other part of the world, hyenas are believed to dig up and consume bodies of the dead, which is heresy. All together, they represent a symbol of evil. History demeans, these animals with hateful traits!!

Under the family 'Hyaenidae' there are four species: Spotted Hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*), Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), Brown Hyena (*Hyaena brunnea*) and Aardwolf (*Proteles cristata*). Spotted hyenas are predominant in number and size and also most commonly sighted

in the African plains. Spotted hyenas are noisy in behavior and thus known as "Laughing Hyenas". When a clan is on a hunt, they call and squeal to one another, which creepily sounds like cackling demons. Spotted hyenas hunt in packs mostly but turn scavengers occasionally.

Other hyena classes are little different in their behavioral aspects. Stripped hyenas are less noisy and are mostly scavengers in nature, compared to Spotted hyenas. Apart from a bio-scientific view, for a layman observer, there are no admirable traits in them, be it their looks or behavior!

Having said the prejudiced side of them, it's hard not to accept them!!!. Before we label them negatively, there are interesting facts that make these creatures wonderful in their existence.

Hyenas are highly sociable, extremely intelligent and very complicated animals!!!..

A study done by Duke University showed that a captive pair of hyenas performed better at problem-solving and social cooperation than chimpanzees. Even more amazing is that during the study, the hyenas solved all the problems in silence, using only non-verbal signals for communication.

Hyenas are socially organized animals, being part of separate territorial clans and defend their home ranges from other intruding clans. They stay in dens, where the cubs are raised and individuals meet. The den is usually situated on a high ground in the central portion of their territory and are connected by a series of underground tunnels.

The birth and growing up years of a hyena is not easy!!The battle of survival starts from their birth. Female hyenas have only two nipples; so litters of more than two, start their fight for survival then on. This leaves the weaker cubs with lesser chance of survival. Less than 40% survive from their birth to adulthood.

Hyenas are not just sneaky scavengers. Ninety-five percent of what a hyena eats comes from their own hunt. They are highly skilled hunters and a pack / clan can collectively bring down preys as large





as Zebra, small Buffalos and Wildebeest. At the same time, like all other animals of the African plains, they will also steal absolutely anything, that isn't nailed down.

Being social animals, hyenas communicate with one other through specific calls, postures and signals. They quickly make their various intentions known to other members of the clan, or to outsiders. Their wailing calls and howling screams can alert other members of the clan up to three miles away, mostly about a food source. As per experts' opinion, Spotted hyenas do not laugh for fun, but the pitch and the frequency of their laugh can give their age and social

status in the clan.

To signal an attack, hyena's tail is carried straight. When they are extremely excited, the tail will be held up and forward over the back. When they are anxious or afraid, they tuck their tail between the legs, hold it flat against the belly and escape instantly. And while at leisure and undisturbed, its tail hangs down.

Unique to hyenas, are their amazing bone-crushing and powerful teeth and jaw structure, supported by strong neck muscles. Short, powerful canines are on display towards the front of the jaw, but deep towards the back of the jaw,

where they exert the most leverage, are seen massive carnassial, which crush the skeletons of prey as big as wildebeest. Due to high intake of skeletal portions along with the bone marrow of their prey, their droppings are chalky white in color and highly visible. Like any other canines, they hunt their prey by chasing and grabbing them with their mouths rather than their paws. But, like felines, they groom themselves often and mark their territory with their scent.

Quite uncommon to the world of mammals, the spotted hyena lives in a matriarchal society. In a clan, female power rules. Females appear larger, more muscular and definitely more aggressive, compared to their male counterparts. Thus the females lead the group. Ironically, the most reputed male in the clan is subordinate to the lowest ranking female. Even 'baby girl' rules over the 'boys'!!.

Another challenge for the males come, when they reach sexual maturity at an age of two. They are forced to leave the group where they are born and find themselves another group. The process of getting accepted into a new group involve skirmishes and attacks on these young males by the dominant females of the new group. Even after their acceptance into the group, there is always an ongoing struggle for food and mate through constant harassment by the females.

Hyenas are the biggest threat for lions in the ecosystem. The struggle for existence, competitions and fights are a routine between the lion prides and the

hyena packs. They both hunt in the same territories and target the same prey and steal the kills of one another. Thus leading to animosity between these two. They even chase and kill younger members of each other, when given a chance. Most of the times, hyena packs overrule lions in terms of their number, boldness and muscle strength. They are also efficient in beating other big cats, especially the Cheetah.

Conclusion

A dis-reputed untidy, irritable and unpleasant animal as projected through history and present folklore, and continuing to receive the disrespect in their ecosystem, ignored by nature and wildlife photographers, hyenas have been 'the social outcast', since time immemorial. Their physical features finely crafted by nature and their scavenging nature, prevents the ecosystem from being piled up by decaying left-over carcass. Their intelligence and well-coordinated social behavior during their evolution is their biggest strength against all the other big cats. In conjunction with the wisdom that "everything in nature has a purpose and its own beauty", these so-called "dirty creatures" are wonderful in their own way by contributing to the balance of nature and teaching us interesting lessons in team work and co-ordination.

Acknowledgement:

I would like to express my sincere thanks of gratitude to my friends Dr Mithun C Mohan & Ms. Deepti Ramakrishnan for their support in preparing this article.





Mara Trails
By Megha Mohan

CUB'S CORNER

CUB'S CORNER



Megha Mohan, the only daughter of Mr. Vinaya Mohan and Mrs. Subha Vinayan, was born in Dubai in February 2008. She, a Grade 6 student of the prestigious JSS Private School in Dubai, is very ardent in reading books, diligent in vocal classical music and zealous in learning the art of photography because of her love towards the nature's flora and fauna.

She is greatly career ambitious and enthusiastic about pursuing masters in mathematics and dreams to do PhD from the most prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and achieve greater heights in photography and excel in Carnatic music.

**facebook.com/
Megha-Photography-172011119621178/**

My dad is an enthusiastic, imaginative and most adventurous nature filled wild life photographic expert. When I am with my dad, I get to hear more about DSLR cameras and different aspects of photography, which made me dream about travelling to different places and start clicking some magical moments. I often accompany my dad to most of the brilliant photographic exhibitions in UAE and this motivated me to learn the art of photography.

Knowing my interest, my dad gifted me his precious first camera D700 - a flagship camera from NIKON. He then







enrolled me with Mr. Mohammed Asif Arfan who mentors a small group of passionate photographers through 'Shutter Bugs Creative Forum' in Dubai, UAE. Arfan sir taught me the theoretical as well as the practical aspect of photography. It was quite thought provoking to know how a camera works!! I feel blessed to have him as my mentor and lucky to be his favorite student. I am very proud to be a shutterbug!!

I started with street photography, which was quite captivating. During weekends, Arfan sir used to take us to the creek side early in the morning and we used to discuss about the light and different moments we get to capture there. But when I see my dad's photographic page, I get fascinated about the wildlife and animal behavior. I then started to aspire

of wildlife safaris. On my 10th birthday my dad surprised me with a vacation trip to Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya for 8 days and it was truly a dream come true for me. I started to count days and hours for my travel. But then I was nervous, as I had no experience in wildlife photography. Thanks to Arfan sir, who understood my anxiety and helped me with a quick session of tips and tricks just before we travelled.

It was a long trip from Dubai to Mara. But I was not tired. It was so serene and I could feel the breath of fresh air. It was drizzling and I felt that Mara gave me her best welcome!!

Nature was at its best in Mara. It was very cold during the day with beautiful clouds and rainy at night, which made

the sunrise and sunset extra ordinarily breathtaking.

My dad had booked two vehicles - one for him with off road permit and other for my mom and me. My dad used to leave the camp very early in the morning where as me and my mom left little late. We did about 13 game drives and I was quite lucky to see almost all animals in Mara. The game drives are quite unpredictable since we don't know what is going to happen the very next moment. I used NIKKOR 70-200mm lens and was fortunate enough to capture the elephant fight, baby elephant alongside its mother, 2 kills, the five cheetah brothers, a baby rhino with its father and mother, a family of hippos, a huge pride of lions with 9 cubs, lion drinking water, a pregnant giraffe, leopard in a tree, leopard drinking water, hundreds of baboons, etc etc. I

kept on ticking my bucket list and was thrilled to wake up every morning for a game drive. My dad was astonished to see the shots that I captured and encouraged me to take more and more vivid shots. Our driver who is a native of Masai mara helped me to learn more about the animal behavior.

Those eight days were the best vacation in my life and I do not know how to thank my dad for giving me such an awesome birthday gift. Now my next ambition is to visit Kamchatka in Russia to see the brown bears and the salmons!!

Sooner or later I look forward to have a collection of lenses just like my dad and am confident to come up with few brilliant, most striking images, during my many more vacation adventures.





THROUGH THE LENS

©Pratik Humnabadkar

The Royal Fighters

By Pratik Humnabadkar

THROUGH THE LENS



Pratik Humnabadkar is a passionate wildlife photographer from Pune, India who is into wildlife photography for more than five years. He started his career in wildlife photography with a point and shoot camera before upgrading to a SLR camera.

He likes to click birds and animals in nature and showcase this collection to people from India and rest of the world and spreading awareness about the beauties that exist in nature.

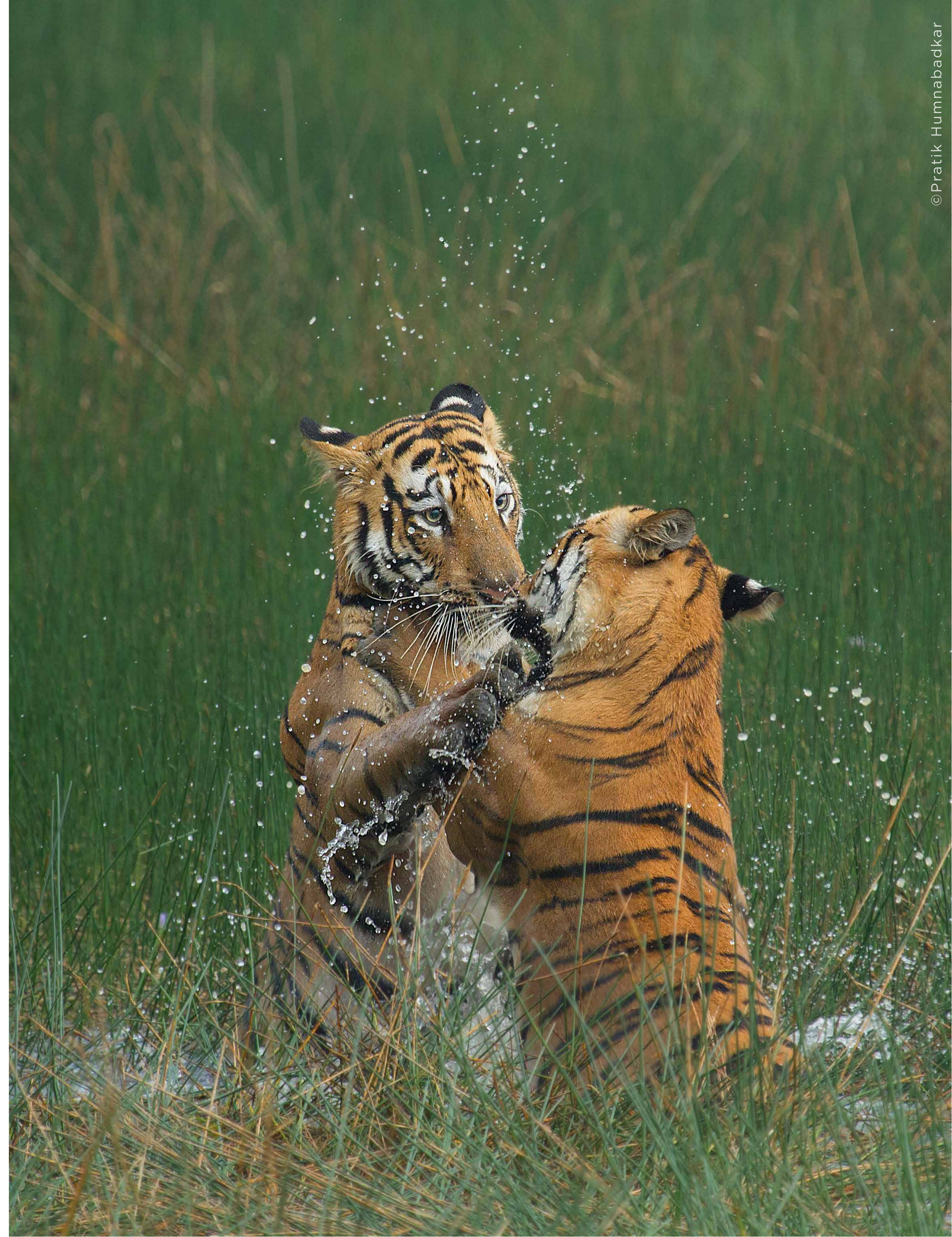
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[instagram.com/pratikhumnabadkar](https://www.instagram.com/pratikhumnabadkar)**

I visited Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Chandrapur district, Maharashtra state, India in November 2016 with some of my friends. The main intention of our trip – safari to watch and photograph tigers and wild dogs. As luck would have it, we were to witness something totally unexpected. It turned out to be an action packed safari, which is a dream for any individual who wants to witness something unique in the wild.

In the photo, there are two wild tigers, the smaller one is Maya a female tigress and the second one, bigger in size than her is her un-named male cub. This is a phase in their life where the mother tigress trains

her cub until it becomes old enough. Tigers normally leave their mother's side once they are old enough and go out in search of their own territory. The sequence in this photo is a friendly fight between mother and cub where the cub learns hunting techniques, making him ready to tackle any situation in the future. There is no winner or loser in this fight and so is a friendly/joyful one. She will teach her cub different skills and protect him from other dominant male tigers in their territory.

This action happened in four sequences in a marshy area. The whole scene lasted around 15-20 minutes. The location was



a lake in Pandherpauni region of this national park. The water must have been two -three feet deep as the tigers were half above the water level, with some areas of the lake being upto five feet deep as there is lot of water in this lake in winter. No injuries were seen to both tigers.

It was a very exciting moment as such scenes are very rare and even rarer to witness. There are only a handful of photographs of tigers from other national parks playing in the marshes. So I was very lucky to witness this moment. It was a delight to witness it and in that excitement I was jumbled whether to take photos or just enjoy the action, but still managed to get these shots of it.

General Tadoba Information:

It is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park. Tadoba-andhari Tiger reserve was created in 1995. The area of the Reserve is 625.40 sq. km which includes area of Tadoba National Park and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary. "Tadoba" is taken from the name of the god "Tadoba" or "Taru", worshipped by the tribal people who live in the dense forests of the Tadoba and Andhari region, while 'Andhari' refers to the Andhari river that meanders through the forest. The main attraction at the Tadoba National Park are jungle safaris. Open-top jeeps and buses with trained local guides are available for visitors.

Flora:

Tadoba reserve is a predominantly southern tropical dry deciduous forest with dense woodlands comprising about 87 per cent of the protected area. Teak is the predominant tree species. Other





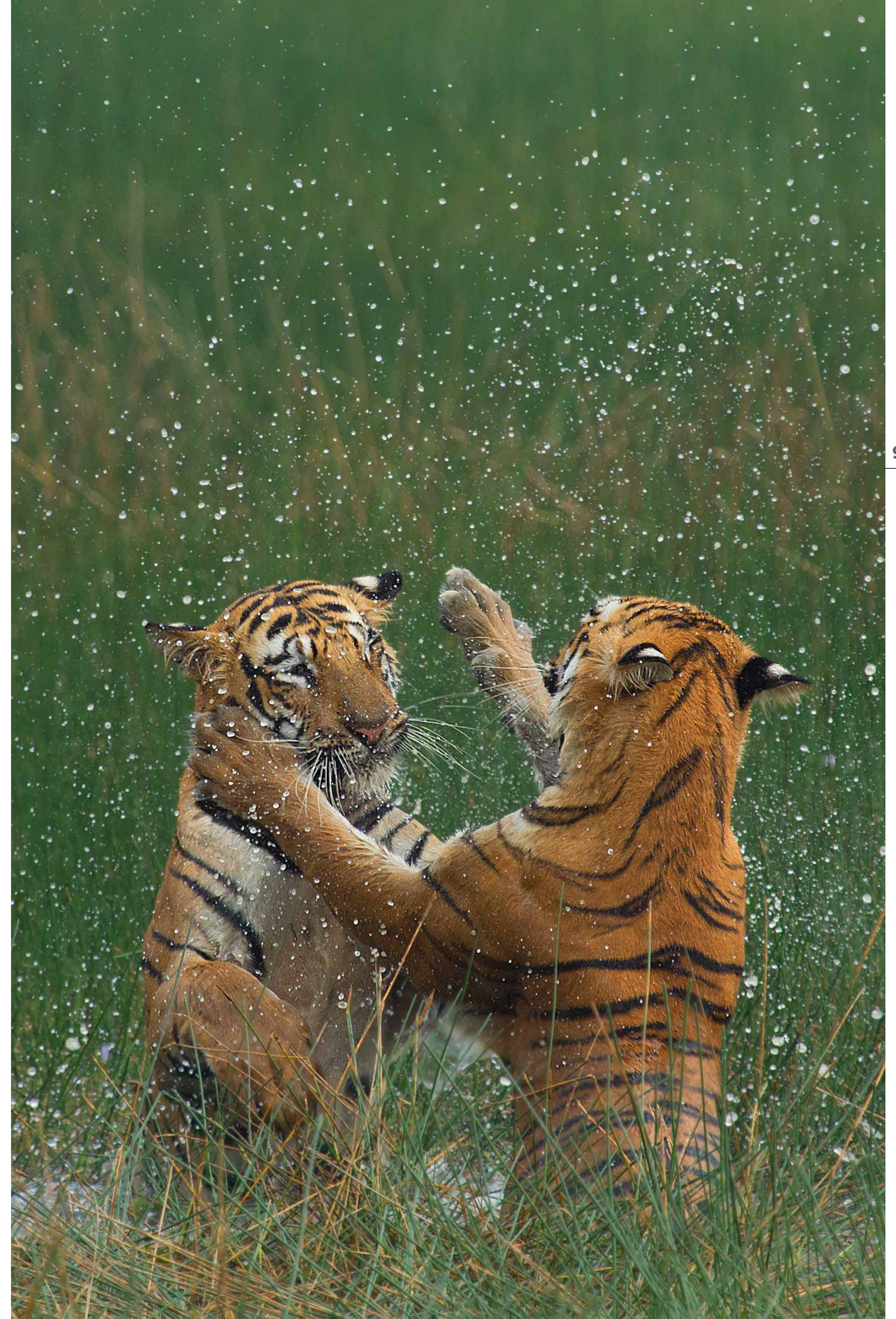
deciduous trees include Ain (*Crocodile bark*), Bija, Dhauda, Hald, Salai, Semal and Tendu. Beheda, Hirda, Karaya Gum, Mahua Madhuca (*Crepe myrtle*) and Lannea Coromandelica (*Wodier tree*) are other common species. Patches of grasses are found throughout the reserve. Bamboo thickets grow throughout the reserve in abundance.

Fauna:

Aside from the keystone species, the Bengal Tiger, Tadoba Tiger Reserve is home to other mammals, including: Indian Leopards, Sloth Bears, Gaur, Nilgai, Dhole, Striped Hyena, Small Indian Civet, Jungle Cats, Sambar, Barking Deer, Chital, Chausingha and Honey Badger.



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TRAVELOGUE

Sea ice, Polar bears, and change on a trip North- all the way to the Geographic Pole

By Geoff York

Photos By
Kt Miller & Tim Auer

TRAVELOGUE

G



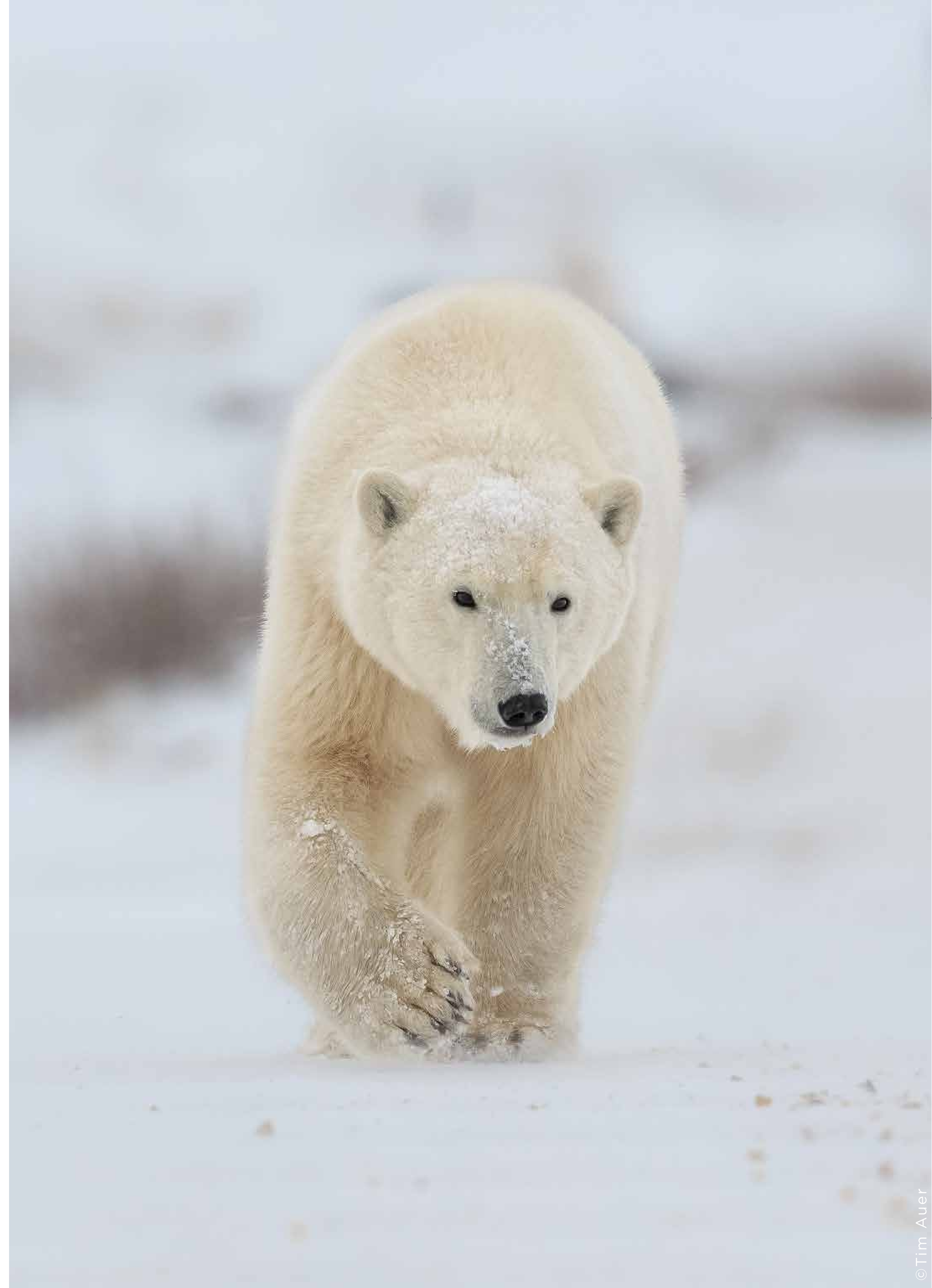
Geoff has 20 years of Arctic field experience, including 14 consecutive years of polar bear capture and handling efforts in the Chukchi and Southern Beaufort Seas. Prior to joining PBI, Geoff was the Arctic Species and Polar Bear Lead for WWF's Global Arctic Program. While at WWF, Geoff immersed himself in international policy issues and was fortunate to work on field projects in Canada, Norway, Russia, and Alaska. Prior to that, he worked as a biologist and program manager for the U.S. Geological Survey's Polar Bear Project, the leading polar bear research team in the U.S., headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska.

Since joining PBI, Geoff has continued his interest in field-based work across the Arctic. He is a member of the Polar Bear Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the U.S. Polar Bear Recovery Team, is current Chair of the Range States Conflict Working Group, and sits on the advisory board for the International Polar Bear Conservation Center in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He has a M.S. in biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a B.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame - the perfect combination for communicating science. Geoff has dedicated his career to the conservation of polar bears and their Arctic home. He is based at Polar Bears International Headquarters in Bozeman, Montana, US.

www.polarbearsinternational.org

As a career Polar Bear biologist and an Arctic enthusiast, the thought of venturing to the geographic North Pole has never crossed my mind. That dot on the map, well into the Arctic Basin, has

held little pull for me, given my interests in Arctic wildlife and places of scenic beauty (like Svalbard, Baffin Island, and Greenland). I've spent much of my career out on sea ice, tracking and capturing





Polar Bears in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas around Alaska. Much like those of us who live near amazing land and seascapes get used to our stunning daily backdrops, so too had I gotten “used to” icescapes: standing on the frozen ocean has lost some of its novelty and appeal. Also, Arctic wildlife all but disappears close to the Pole. Then the call came from Quark Expeditions, a long-term sponsor of Polar Bears International (PBI), would I be able to join them on one of their icebreaker based trips to the North Pole as a guest lecturer? Initially, I actually demurred. After all, there are not thought to be resident polar bears in the Arctic Basin, or if there are, they are few and far between. What would be the connection to our conservation work at PBI? Then I studied the planned routing: Murmansk to the North Pole via Franz Joseph Land.

Now that got my attention.

In the Polar Bear world, most of Russia is a giant blank spot on our population maps. Little to no modern data on the status or abundance of Russian subpopulations exists, so even anecdotal sightings would be of interest. Franz Joseph Land is also a central piece of the Russian Arctic National Park, and prior scientific meetings had introduced me to their lead biologist, who is keen to help fill some of these knowledge gaps. Now that would be a noteworthy and useful aspect of an expedition.

In thinking again about the Pole, I admit achieving that latitude would be of personal interest, but seeing the sea ice in a line-transect across the Barents Sea to the Pole would be even more motivating. The Barents Sea has experienced some

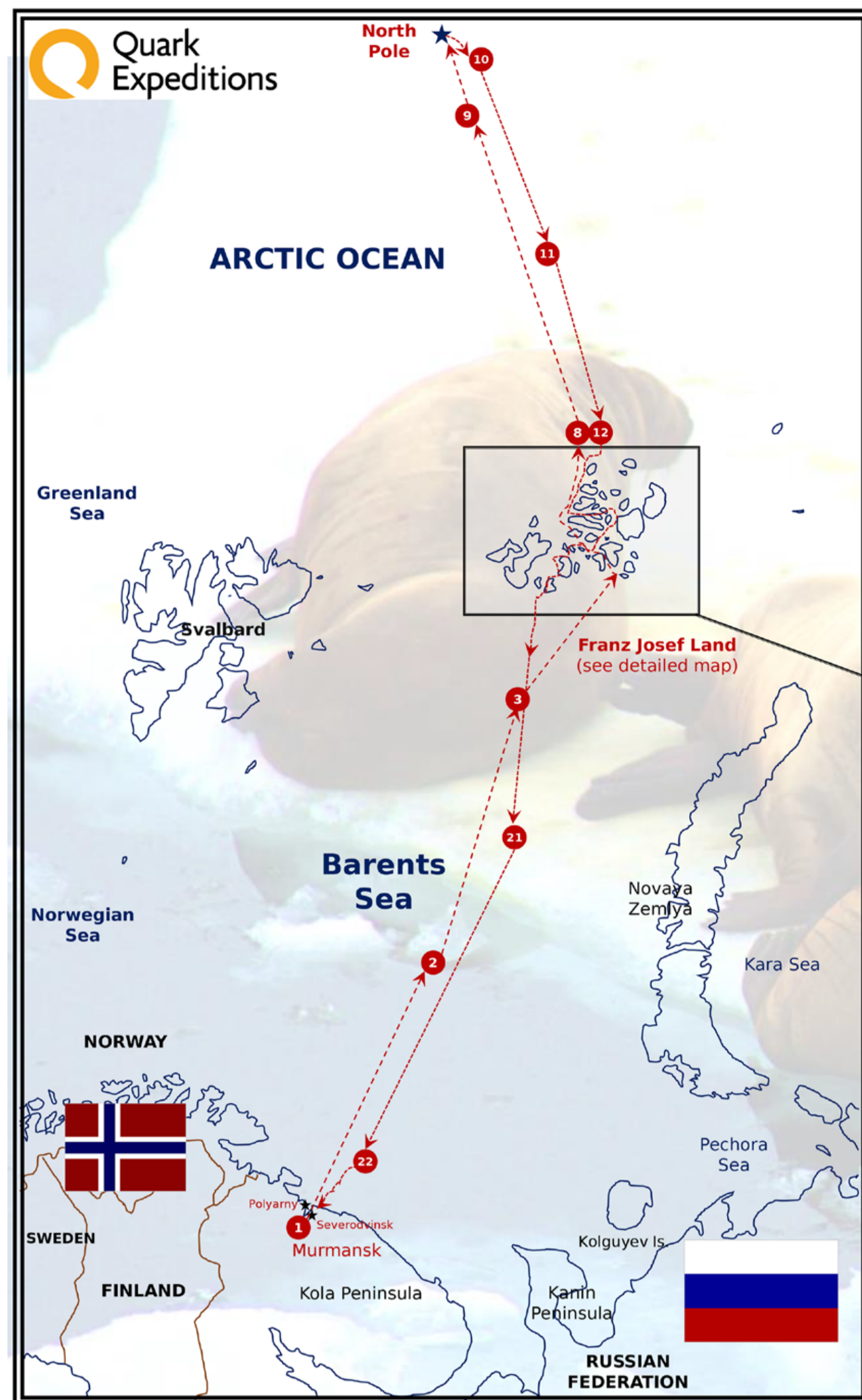
of the most rapid and dramatic loss of sea ice of any location in the Arctic, and like many, I had seen reports of open water near the Pole in some years. What would we find? Lastly, I was intrigued by the ship itself, 50 Years of Victory, having run across her on a prior expedition somewhere in the East Siberian Sea. We were a crew of eight on a small sailing vessel; she is the world’s most powerful nuclear ice breaker.

As our bus pulled into the secure area that is the home port of the Russian Atomic Fleet and several naval ships, the unique nature of our transportation became quite clear. This was no cruise ship, but the flagship icebreaker working the Northeast Passage. Her real work is to safely escort cargo ships and tankers from the Russian Far East back to the

West. During a couple of weeks each year, the crew doubles up and moves to lower decks, making berths available to paying passengers and support crew like myself. Given her cruising speed of around 17 knots, we were soon away from both Murmansk and the mainland coast altogether. We were fortunate to cross the open Barents Sea on both legs, encountering light winds and relatively smooth sailing. Icebreakers are known for their strength, not their comfort.

Franz Joseph Land was everything and more than anticipated. Rich with the history of international Arctic exploration, the stories of the people who visited this place in early times triggered memories of several great Arctic exploration books once read and now sitting on my bookshelf. Seabirds did indeed abound,





Date	North position	Expedition
01AUG2017	69°02'50"N 33°04'00"E	1 Arrival airport Murmansk. Transfer to ROSATOMFLOT Pier. Embarkation (15:30, UTC+1, 13:30). Sailing north (23:00, UTC+1, 21:00) via Severodvinsk and Polyarny towards the Barents Sea.
02AUG2017	72°48'29"N 38°52'18"E	2 Sailing northbound. Safety drills and ops briefings. Seabirds, dolphins spotted.
03AUG2017	79°22'13"N 55°27'18"E	3 Approaching Franz Josef Land. Afternoon (15:00-19:00) landing at Cape Tegethoff. Haul is. Then sailing north through Nagai Channel. Bowhead whales spotted. Late evening (22:00-01:00) landing at Alger Island. Camp Ziegler.
04AUG2017	82°19'49"N 58°46'08"E	4 Polar bears spotted abeam of Jackson Island. Evening (19:00-23:00) helicopter scenic flights.
05AUG2017	87°16'42"N 61°19'08"E	5 Arctic Ocean Northbound. Arrival to North Pole at UTC+1 23:34. Celebration on the bow.
06AUG2017	Drift	6 North Pole. Drift from 03:49 89°49'09"N 22°52'48"E to 16:40 89°45'48"N 30°06'08"E (distance c. 6 NM). Distance covered from 16:40 onward 89 NM with average speed of 13KN.
07AUG2017	85°23'09"N 64°23'08"E	7 Sailing south across the Arctic Ocean.
08AUG2017	81°36'49"N 56°43'11"E	8 Multiple spotting of polar bears when approaching Rudolf Is., at Cape Fligley and abeam of Karl-Alexander Is. Approaching Cape Norvay, Jackson Is. Polar bears and walrus spotted. Landing impossible due ice conditions. Sailing to Apollonova Is. Late evening Zodiac cruising at walrus rookery.
09AUG2017	80°37'13"N 56°53'36"E	9 Early morning scenic flights over Collinson Fjord. Afternoon approaching Champ Is. Landing impossible due polar bear presence. Zodiac cruise. Sailing through Hamilton Strait towards Tikhaya Bay. Late evening Zodiac landing at Tikhaya Bukhta Station.
10AUG2017	77°54'08"N 44°27'28"E	10 Southbound in Barents Sea
11AUG2017	70°36'7"N 34°19'21"E	11 Southbound in Barents Sea. Arrival to rendezvous point at c. 18:30. Distance to Murmansk c. 25 NM. Arrival to Murmansk at c. 20:30.
12AUG2017	69°02'50"N 33°04'00"E	12 Disembarkation.



VOYAGE to the NORTH POLE
Onboard the icebreaker
'50 Let Pobedy' (50 Years of Victory)

Wildlife list - North Pole 2017 Voyages
50 Лет Победы (i/b 50 Years of Victory) - August 1-12, 2017

English	Mandarin	French	Japanese	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BIRDS	鸟类	OISEAUX	鸟类											
Northern Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)	暴雪鹱	Fulmar boréal	フルマカモメ			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Common Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	欧绒鸭	Eider à duvet	ホンケワタガモ				X					X		
Purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)	紫鹬	Bécasseau violet	ムラサキハマシギ										X	
Ruddy turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	翻石鹬	Tournepiere à collier	ホッキョクキョウジョシギ									X		
Arctic skua (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)	北极贼鸥/短尾贼鸥	Labbe parasite	クロトウソクカモメ			X	X					X	X	
Pomarine Skua (<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>)	中贼鸥	Labbe pomarin	トウソクカモメ			X								X
Long-tailed Skua (<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>)	长尾贼鸥	Labbe à longue queue	シロハラトウソクカモメ											X
Glaucous Gull (<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>)	北极鸥	Goéland bourgmestre	シロカモメ				X	X				X	X	
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	银鸥	Goéland argenté	セグロカモメ			X								X
Black-headed Gull (<i>Larus ridibundus</i>)	黑头鸥/红嘴鸥	Mouette rieuse	ズグロカモメ			X								
Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	大黑背鸥	Goéland marin	オオセグロカモメ			X								
Black-legged Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)	三趾鸥	Mouette tridactyle	ミツユビカモメ			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ivory Gull (<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>)	白鸥	Mouette blanche	ソウゲカモメ				X	X			X			
Ross's Gull (<i>Rhodostethia rosea</i>)	楔尾鸥	Mouette de Ross	ヒメクビワカモメ					X						
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisica</i>)	北极燕鸥	Sterne arctique	キョクアジサシ								X			
Little Auk - Dovekie (<i>Alle alle</i>)	侏海雀	Mergule nain	ヒメウミスズメ			X	X			X	X	X	X	
Brunnich's Guillemot (<i>Uria lomvia</i>)	厚嘴海豹/厚嘴崖海豹	Guillemot de Brünnich	ハシフトウミガラス			X	X	X			X	X	X	
Black Guillemot (<i>Cephus grylle</i>)	白翅斑海豹	Guillemot à miroir	ハジロウミバト				X	X			X	X		
Common Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	渡鸦	Grand corbeau	ワタリガラス			X								
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)	家麻雀	Moineau domestique	イエスズメ			X								
Snow Bunting (<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>)	雪鹀	Bruant des neiges	ユキホオジロ									X		
MAMMALS	哺乳动物	MAMMIFERES	哺乳類											
Polar Bear (<i>Ursus maritimus</i>)	北极熊	Ours polaire	ホッキョクグマ					X			X	X		
Ringed Seal (<i>Pusa hispida</i>)	环斑海豹	Phoque marbré	ワモンアザラシ				X	X			X	X		
Hooded seal (<i>Cystophora cristata</i>)	冠海豹	Phoque à capuchon	ズキンアザラシ							X	X			
Bearded Seal (<i>Erignathus barbatus</i>)	髯海豹	Phoque barbu	アゴヒゲアザラシ			X	X			X				
Atlantic Walrus (<i>Odobenus rosmarus</i>)	海象	Morse	セイウチ			X	X				X	X		
Bowhead Whale (<i>Balaena mysticetus</i>)	弓头鲸	Baleine boréale	ホッキョククジラ			X	X							
Minke Whale (<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>)	小须鲸	Petit rorqual	ミンククジラ			X								
White-beaked Dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>)	白喙斑纹海豚	Dauphin à rostre blanc	ハナジロカマイルカ			X	X							X
FISHES	鱼类	POISSONS	魚類											
Arctic Cod (<i>Boreogadus saida</i>)	北极鳕鱼	Morue polaire	ホッキョクダラ					X	X		X	X		

including the rarer Ivory and Ross' Gulls along with sightings of both Bowhead and Mike Whales. We spotted three species of seals, and our wildlife sightings were topped off by close encounters with both Walrus and several Polar Bears that were inhabiting the ice between and to the north of the many islands.

The heaviest ice we encountered was actually a band that get pushed by wind and current up against the northern side of Franz Joseph. Beyond that we encountered a shocking amount of open water, and young, new ice. Thinking of those who risked all to make this voyage, not all that long ago, this ship—in ice not much more than a meter thick—made it look easy. She barely slowed her incredible pace. The sea ice around the pole was similarly young, with only a few small pressure ridges, pocked with melt ponds across the surface. On the day we arrived, at least we had a bit of snow, though mixed with rain as temperatures hovered at freezing. Wildlife had all but disappeared as we left the shelter of the islands—the closer to the pole, the less we saw. One Northern Fulmar cruised round the ship, quite possibly following our progress.

It was here, atop the pole, that I was reminded of how uncommon it is for most to set foot on floating Arctic sea ice, in this case atop many thousands of feet of deep cold ocean. It was here too that I could reconnect, not as a Polar Bear biologist, not while working in my traditional field mindset—but as a person, experiencing an incredibly unique part of our world. While there was joy in that moment, there was also considerable

sadness and a feeling of loss as the thin ice, melt pools, and relative ease of our journey were stark reminders of the change rapidly impacting this place. Changes that if not soon addressed, will have an even greater impact on places much closer to home.

Heading back south, my thoughts turned back to Polar Bears, and the ring of High Arctic islands that may well serve as their refuge during a time of unprecedented change. Though we still lack robust monitoring programs across Russia, Franz Joseph Land has the protections of a full national park, as does part of nearby Novaya Zemlya, and most of Svalbard. While not substitutes for the rapidly receding sea ice, I hope these unique places will at least provide some buffer for polar bears and other ice-dependent species while we work to slow, and ultimately stop the warming, stabilizing the ice and a whole lot more. Returning home to Montana, choked with smoke from over 70 active wildfires, and watching the daily news on the large hurricanes destroying Caribbean communities while flooding Texas and Florida, I'm also reminded that there is no time to waste in stepping up to meet this truly global challenge.

“Sea ice asks no questions, presents no arguments, reads no newspapers, and listens to no debates. It is not burdened by ideology, and carries no political baggage as it crosses the threshold from solid to liquid- it just melts.”

Henry Pollack,
Professor Emeritus of Geological Sciences, UNH





Mandy Kehayias –
African Wildlife Artist

WILD ARTS SHOWCASE



Mandy Kehayias is a self-taught wildlife artist living in Bulawayo, Matabeleland Province of Zimbabwe.

Mandy's art style constantly evolves as she spends more time with wildlife and her artwork.

**See: [instagram.com/mandykehayias_art/](https://www.instagram.com/mandykehayias_art/)
[facebook.com/Mandy-Kehayias-Artist-557359321084345/](https://www.facebook.com/Mandy-Kehayias-Artist-557359321084345/)**

Bulawayo is my home city in the country of Zimbabwe, and southern Africa is where I derive my wildlife artistic inspirations.

I have always drawn or painted as a child and teenager. As a young adult I was not encouraged to follow my passion as it was not regarded as a good job. Now as a mother of two teenage boys I am utilizing my newly found free time and turning my wildlife art into full time creative illustrator-artist. I am constantly learning from

other artists and I continue to explore the wide world of art mediums, yet to settle on one particular medium or style.

My grandmother was a huge influence in my creativity as a child and she taught me how to make something from nothing. I am a self-taught artist having learnt the basics at high school. I have been painting and drawing on a regular basis for the last 15 years but only started seriously developing a style and customer base in the last five years. I have used YouTube and a book



Mandy Kehayias Art



Mandy Keating
2015

published by Mike Sibley called from “Line to Life” to improve my drawing techniques, constantly learning and expanding is the only way I have found to make creating art rewarding. Bulawayo is a long distance from the world’s art centers. The webpage “Starving Artists” has also been a huge influence on my drawings and being comfortable in subject matter that does not often get drawn. I try to stay clear of what everyone else is doing even if it is massively popular and selling well, because there is so much more to be seen and drawn and I want to show the world the other things.

Initially I started with graphite pencils as my main medium, enjoying the “*Shades of Grey*” with the odd wash of watercolor or Indian ink. After a few sessions of scenery and backdrop painting for school plays I grew curious about oils and acrylic paints, because of the amazing array of colours that you can find in these paints and so I started exploring the different styles and genera of painting. started drawing colouring books and pages because of a conversation with some friends on how frustrated they were with all the “outside world” influences on our children in the arts, like the constant bombardment of Disney characters. Why couldn’t we have something that was of Africa for Africa and then it struck me to produce colouring books with complex designs to keep children and adults alike entertained for hours with our local scenery and wildlife. My “**Kalahari Colouring**” books have done very well in Bulawayo and Victoria Falls, a famous resort town North of Bulawayo

on the Zambezi River.

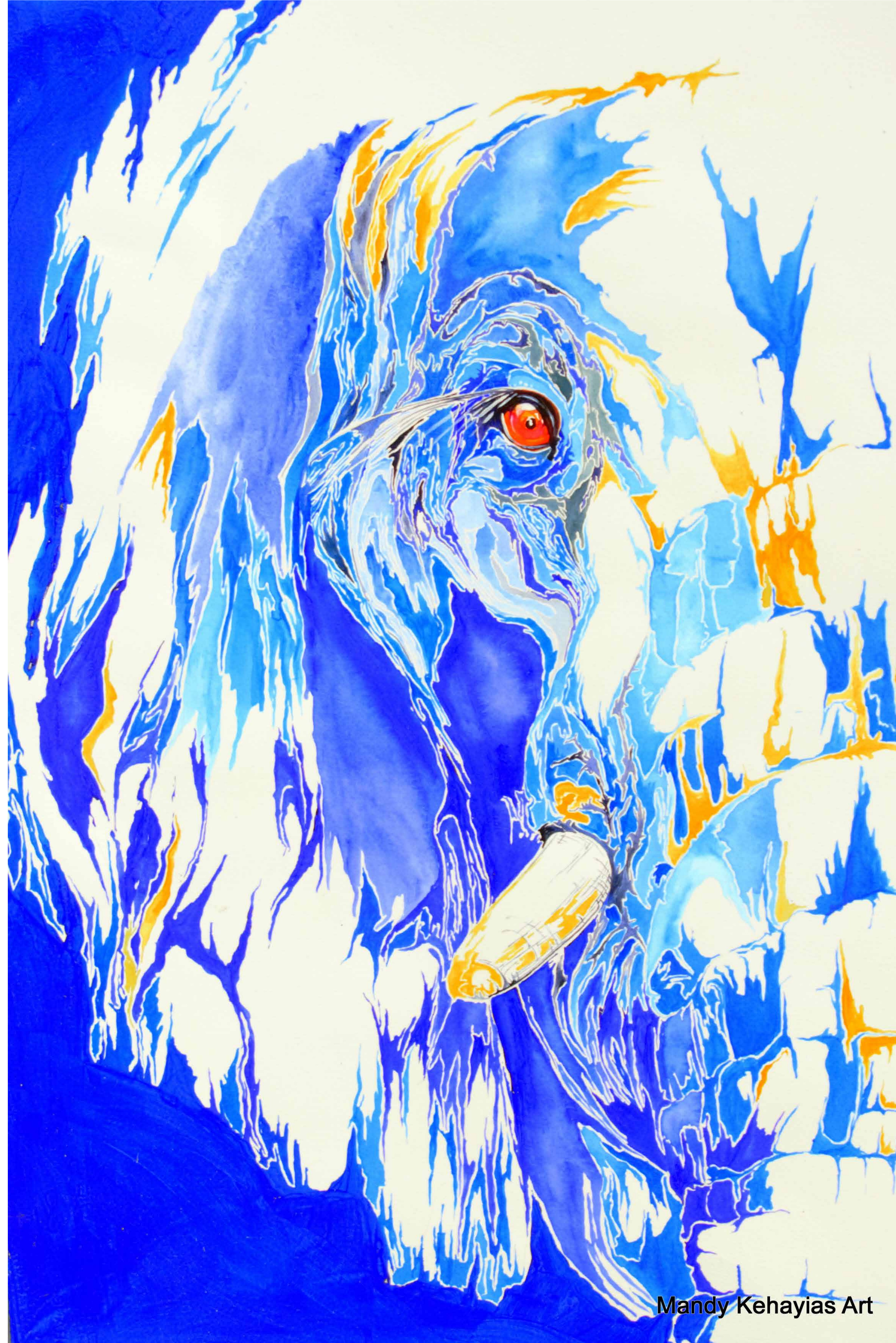
As for subject, well it is a never ending source in Zimbabwe and southern Africa with its incredible wealth in numerous wildlife species and inspiring landscapes, - the inspiration is endless. I paint and draw what strikes me at the time and the style very rarely is the same, with each batch of inspired art. While enjoying the different styles from other artists I find that my own unique interpretation unfolds. I love using bright vibrant colours and to paint designs that make one look twice to discern what they are.

I have entered a number of international Art Competitions; however am yet to win a prize. I find the exposure has helped with my client base and have had buyers from as far as the United States and Australia. I use my clients as my marketing tools. Client enthusiasm and encouragement goes a long way in selling more artwork. Wildlife art is a hugely competitive market and to be noticed you need to be off the wall these days. I sell locally but on a small scale and only to folks who walk into the studio and say “Wow! I want that.” Most of my local art is commission based on what they have seen on social media. I would like to expand my market, and one avenue is through Artprize in Grand Rapids Michigan,US. I receive more exposure on the active social sites of Instagram and Facebook than from my former website.

With so many projects on the go my favorite is the Pangolin, which is interestingly frustrating yet satisfying to



Mandy Kehayias Art



Mandy Kehayias Art

draw and paint. Pangolins are not well known and I feel that I should draw and paint as many Pangolin images as I can before they totally disappear, by the unending poaching. I do love elephants and rhinos too, having had the lucky opportunity to get up close to both species in the bush. Drawing animals is a passion of mine as you can show the energy and life in them through their eyes and expressions.

This Pangolin painting is done in acrylic on heavy watercolor paper 300gsm. The reference photo is from Adrian Stern a wildlife photographer and photojournalist promoting anti-poaching. This painting was used with his permission to highlight to people who care for the orphaned or maimed animals by the style I used. I wanted to draw the observer in by asking "what is that?" To show the viewer that there is more, to encourage questions and broaden minds, that it is not just art, it's a story of the Pangolin with his dedicated caretaker and how they bond giving this small defenseless animal a protector.

Tikky Hywood Foundation (www.tikkihaywoodtrust.org) is a non-government organization that rescues Pangolins and other small wildlife in Zimbabwe and the surrounding countries of Zambia and Mozambique. They are hugely involved in Pangolin rescue and rehabilitation, educating people all over Africa. Their primary conservation focus is the Pangolin, a small and defenseless animal, and how it is endangered due to dramatic increase in poaching. Tikki Hywood was a

passionate wildlife conservationist whose daughter Lisa Hywood started the trust in 1994 in memory of her father.

I have drawn Pangolins for Tikky Hywood's conservation and education programs. I approached them when researching an animal rescue wildlife orphanage I wanted to support. I donated a large graphite drawing for their Art Auction fundraiser in London. Several years later in an awareness campaign my Pangolin colouring pages were used when visiting schools to teach the children about Pangolins Staff educators were wearing T-shirts with my Pangolin illustrations. Not many artists will draw Pangolins as they are an unknown subject matter and thus unpopular for selling, however that does not stop me bringing attention to the unknown by drawing and painting them, thus being their voice.

My friend and artist, Lauren Steyn says "Mandy's art is a vibrant break from the norm, with hints of traditional ethnic African influences, and a style uniquely her own. She is an Artist that is always evolving and improving her own skills. Being mostly self-taught I am in awe of the broad set of projects she always has on the go. From quilt squares to colouring books, and from portraits to wildlife. If she carries on in this road of learning and self-discovery, I believe she will be an artist to be watched as great things will come from her."

Of the many places I have visited these are a few of my favourites.

Hwange National Park which offers

incredible sightings of elephant herds and giraffes from observation towers. Hwange National Park has an abundance of wildlife, which you can drive through seeing quite a variety. We have had to wait with anxious breath for a herd of buffalo to clear the road before driving on. They are incredible creatures that are very intimidating close up, as they are unpredictable.

The Victoria Falls never fails to give you an incredible experience, either with wildlife or the landscape. This landscape is a truly beautiful ribbon of green in the dry sand of the encroaching Kalahari sands. We have been surprised by pods of hippos surfacing in the upper Zambezi River and swimming elephants crossing to the islands to eat the fruits of the tall trees. If it weren't for all the tour operators and their guests it would be paradise.

Matopos National Park is full of huge granite outcrops of rock an intriguing landscape with a lot of history and hidden wildlife.

Antelope Park started by Andrew Connolly as a wildlife preserve near Gweru is two hours north of Bulawayo. This wildlife preserve supports many grassland mammals, and a few hand reared elephants that were orphaned from poaching and culls. The main program at Antelope Park is lion breeding to repopulate our declining lion populations in national parks and wildlife conservancies in the lowveld of Zimbabwe where conventional farming does not work. Zimbabwe has an abundance of

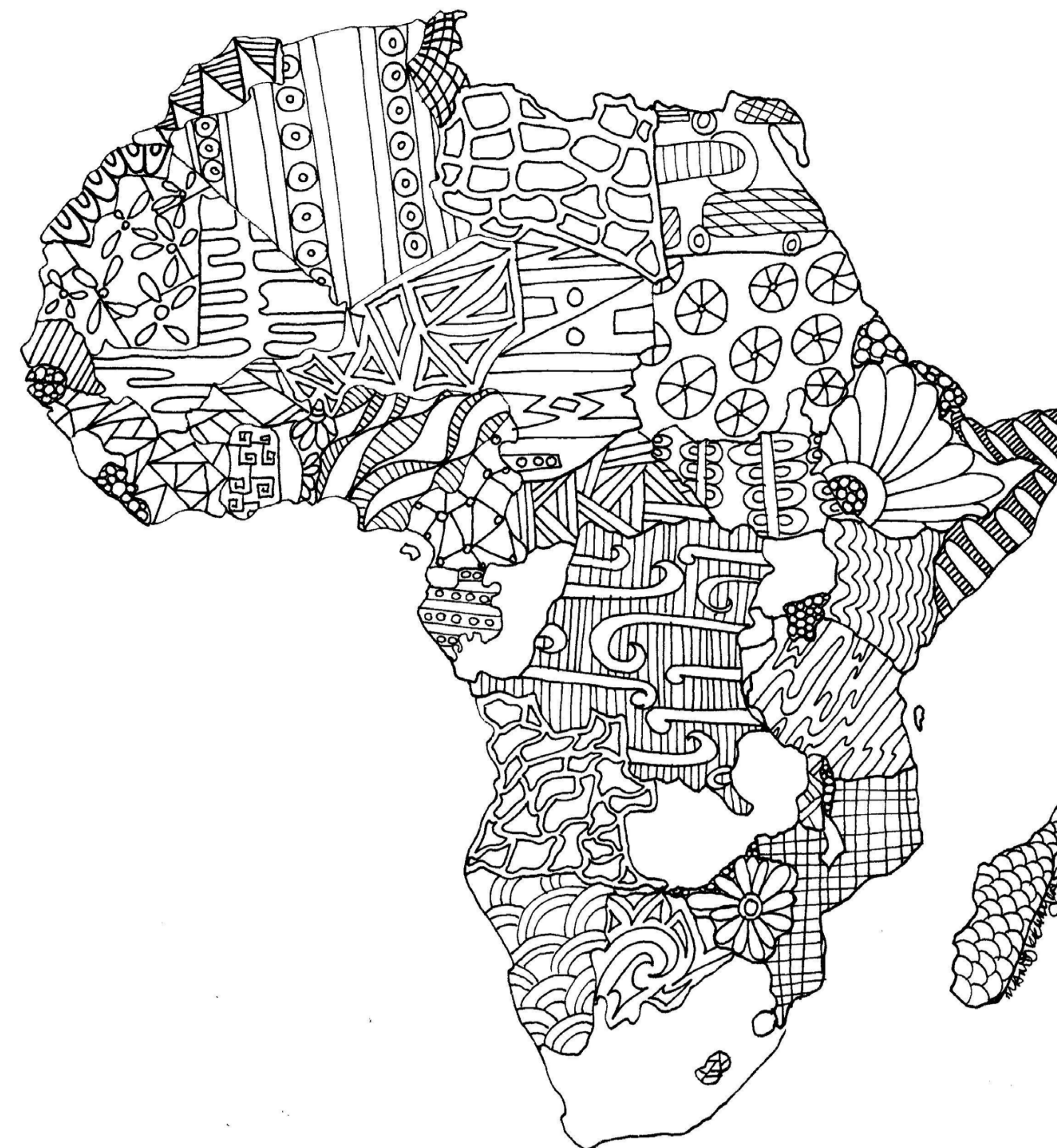
beautiful natural areas, many I am yet to explore like the Mana Pools National park where you can walk with a guide among the game drinking and eating. The Southern African bush offers many inspiring moments for wildlife artists.

I have cousins who regularly frequent the famous Kruger National Park in South Africa and they send me incredible photos of the wildlife. They like me, see the other animals not just the big five - Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Buffalo, Rhino which are often the only animals portrayed as African animals. There is such an abundance of inspiration here that there is no one place I can name that doesn't inspire creativity.

I am lucky enough to have a family of photographers, who let me have access to their photographs as well as the use of photos with permission from local Zimbabwe guides that I know and other professional wildlife photographers I am in contact with. I regrettably don't get out enough time to take my own photographs. With two teenage boys at home, I presently do not have the time to visit the numerous nearby national parks, wildlife reserves and game parks. I am looking forward to when I will have more time to explore the nearby African bush.

In April I visited Kruger National Park with my son and cousins - all I can say is Wow!

It's a fantastic opportunity that I highly recommend for those visiting South Africa, however be prepared with



patience and large SD cards as its magnificent views and wildlife diversity will blow you away. Between my S6 and the two cameras we were carrying Alexi my son and I took over 4,000 photos. While I do admit my photography needs work I have been inspired by what has been captured to expand my artwork from close detailed portraits to vast landscapes full of huge Elephants, Zebras and crazy Wildebeests.

We found a pan (watering hole) where a lot of the large big tuskers liked to hang out. We discovered the old big Elephants were camera shy and often offered their bottoms for photo opportunities. My cousin however with his large lens managed to capture a long distance shot of one, we are still debating on which large tusker it was.

There are currently 24 large tuskers recorded in the Kruger.

The diversity of wildlife is mind boggling, we were able to photograph Roan Antelope, Tsessebe, Eland, Buffalo, Zebras, Wilddog, Leopard, Lionesses, Kudu, Genet Cats, Legavaan Lizards, Hippos, Crocodiles, Rhinos and countless birds. The sunsets were magnificent and different every evening. We drove through areas of mopane trees that looked like someone had trimmed them all to a standard height of 1.3 meters for kilometers.

I am now back in Bulawayo armed to the hilt with new photos and inspiration, and I am looking forward to producing some different inspiring art in the coming months.



Mandy Kehayias Art 2017



Mandy Kehayias Art



YOUR GALLERY



Bhautik Desai

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Location: Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan, India.



YOUR GALLERY

Arindam Saha

Emerald Cockroach Wasp (*Ampulex compressa*)

Location: Rajarhat, Newtown, Kolkata, West Bengal, India.



YOUR GALLERY

Amith Vaprath

Jumping Spider (*Salticidae*)

Location: Kozhikode, Kerala, India.





YOUR GALLERY

Manan Parekh

Tiger (*Panthera tigris*)

Location: Tadoba National Park, Maharashtra, India.



YOUR GALLERY

Hussain A Nalwala

Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*)

Location: Maasai Mara, Kenya.





YOUR GALLERY

Nimit Virdi

Lion (*Panthera leos*) & African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*)

Location: Masai Mara, Kenya.



YOUR GALLERY

Shine Gopinath

Nilgiri tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*)

Location: Munnar, Western Ghats, Kerala, India.





YOUR GALLERY

Mayuresh Parab
Desert Cat (*Felis silvestris ornata*)
Location: Great Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, India



YOUR GALLERY

Padmanabhan Narayanan
Indian Black-lored Tit (*Machlolophus aplanotus*)
Location: Munnar, Kerala, India.



**UPCOMING
FEATURES**



INTO THE WILD WITH VARUN ADITYA



COSTA-RICA By Cynthia Bandurek



INDIA'S PROTECTED LANDS By Amrita Das
