In central Australia, Aboriginal women give the name “Awely” to the ‘Law’ of Dreamtime that governs their connection with the earth. In particular, Awely is represented in paintings and dance. The name expresses our commitment to protecting this link between humanity and the rest of the natural world.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Small projects that make a big difference

While the tiger has just been officially added to the list of species that have disappeared from Cambodia, recent studies inform us that this magnificent feline has seen an increase in its global population for the first time in a century.

Having first of all been killed for their skins and as trophies in the 19th and 20th centuries, tigers are still endangered by hunting in many regions. They now also face a new main threat: in China, powdered tiger bone is considered a miracle cure and the feline is not only poached in very large numbers but also reared on farms that feed this lucrative illegal trade. Magic tiger-bone potions have pushed the feline to the edge of the abyss in many areas of the world. Despite figures showing the population to be on the rise (3,890 individuals today against 3,200 in 2010 according to WWF), we shouldn’t claim victory too soon.

Our fieldwork in Nepal, in particular, shows — as do many scientific studies — that the feline is far from being out of danger. Until recently, the Shuklaphanta reserve was home to one of Nepal’s densest tiger populations. Demographic pressure in the buffer zone means that forest resources such as firewood are highly exploited and wooded areas are being gradually eaten away by livestock grazing. This has put the whole ecosystem out of balance and tigers have paid the price, with their population now numbering no more than a few individuals.

At Awely, we believe in small projects that involve the local populations whose role is essential to achieving real, long-lasting conservation results. Initiatives such as sustainable microprojects, alternatives to firewood collection, the introduction of cattle breeds that are better adapted to local conditions and provision of seeds for fodder combine with awareness-raising campaigns to reduce the pressure on the forest and on tigers.

Whilst one cannot deny the crucial work that large NGOs do to increase awareness on a global level and put pressure on politicians and economic stakeholders, it is clear that small projects with often very limited budgets can really shake things up. This is because, in these projects, the people at the centre of protection measures are the very people who are confronted by conservation problems every day. Their actions to protect a small patch of forest or a tiny scrap of coastline and ocean are what will guarantee the long-term future of a project and bring results that make the outcomes of larger organisations pale into insignificance.

With Awely, we believe in these small initiatives now more than ever. That is why all of our projects are carried out by local actors, with the ongoing participation of local populations. The results that we have achieved up to now encourage us more and more to continue working in this way and it’s thanks to your support that we are able to do this.

Emmanuelle Grundmann
President of Awely
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Renaud Fulconis

Awely’s strength lies in its team. A tightly bonded, motivated and enthusiastic team that was strengthened in 2015 — the year of our tenth birthday — with the arrival of Céline Nurthen Grégorine Rémond, Palmeira Espinhal, and a new executive board. Nonetheless, and quite paradoxically, this strength is fragile. Fragile, because it depends, in these difficult economic times, on the funding that enables us to exist and to coordinate our programmes. Regrettably, this situation means that we have been unable to renew Céline’s contract, as head of communication.

We are lucky to have partners by our side who renew their support year after year and others who donate from time to time, but we must redouble our efforts to multiply and diversify our sources of funding. The work that we carry out in the field, coordinated by Eva Gross with Nicolas Bost and Bibhuti Lahkar, is just the tip of the iceberg. Each initiative that we put in place requires hours of administrative work, communication, evaluation, strategic discussions, budget meetings, writing of project reports and press releases, partner meetings, creation of educational tools, and more. Fundraising is an important part of this varied range of tasks through which we are constantly moving the organisation forward.

In their natural ranges, elephant, rhinoceros and tiger populations, to name but a few examples, continue to be decimated. Wildlife trafficking is far from coming to an end and, in parallel, human pressure on natural resources has never been higher. In view of these alarming facts, we owe it to ourselves to build our strength considerably in order to help counter this situation.

So, an immense thank you to those of you who put your trust in us or have renewed your involvement. And if you are yet to join us, please do! Supporting us begins by talking about us with the people around you, or making a donation — however modest. Sincerely, more than ever, in our work for animals and people, we need you!

Renaud Fulconis
Executive Director and founder of Awely

PARTNER EDITORIAL

Xavier Prudhomme - Director of the Bonobo Jeans brand

Surprisingly, Awely and Bonobo Jeans are about the same age. For our part, our slightly crazy project was to create a jeans brand that matches the spirit of the age and is firmly rooted in the present; that’s to say, one that’s accessible, strongly connected to the community and responsible.

And amongst the organisations working with bonobos, we chose to support Awely.

So we found each other through our shared connection to bonobos. For us, the bonobo is our namesake, chosen for the way it shares, brings harmony and pleasure, as well as for its capacity for peaceful coexistence. We try to live by these values every day. For Awely, the link comes from their work to protect bonobos, humans’ close cousins, which are threatened by poaching.

Since then, Awely and Bonobo Jeans have grown up together. Our teams are particularly attached to this partnership because it was born out of a sincere and concrete initiative for Corporate Social Responsibility and it goes to the heart of what our organisation is all about.

Put simply, our project in Congo with Awely speaks to us about how it’s possible to reconcile economic development and respect for the environment. Awely’s teams regularly inform us of their successes and failures in the field, in a country where everything is complicated. This helps us put the difficulties that we might encounter in our daily lives into perspective and to favour concrete actions, even small ones, which are a step in the right direction, rather than declarations of intention or doubt.

Almost ten years later, we are still convinced that Awely’s unique approach — grounded on respect and on the shared interests of people and the environment — is modern and appropriate.
Awely, Wildlife and People is an international organisation based in France, founded and directed by Renaud Fulconis. For more than ten years, we have been working to protect endangered wildlife (elephants, tigers, bonobos, gorillas, rhinoceroses) and to improve the lives of local communities in Africa and in Asia. In all of our programmes, we place men and women at the heart of our work, because we believe that improving the situation of impoverished people who live in close contact with animals is the only way to make an effective long-term contribution to wildlife conservation.
Our Red Caps Coordinator in Zambia, Billy Banda, in one of our lemongrass fields.

**ACTORS**

**Red, Green or Blue Caps?**

The Red, Green and Blue Caps are the members of our teams in the field. Their name refers to the coloured hats worn by each team. Team members all come from the regions where we carry out our programmes. After being trained, they are charged with putting in place the actions needed to achieve our objectives.

**What are these objectives?**

Generally, they all relate to the conservation of biodiversity and endangered species, and to development. Indeed, one of Awely's key characteristics is that we place humans, poverty reduction and the development of local initiatives at the heart of our actions for animals.

**Red, Green, or Blue; what's the difference?**

On our Red Caps programmes, we work to mitigate conflicts between humans and wildlife and to build a more harmonious coexistence between the two. As for the Green Caps, they put in place actions designed to improve the situation of an emblematic endangered species whose existence is threatened by human activities. Such threats are characterised by intensive hunting, illegal trading, or the degradation of natural spaces. Finally, the Blue Caps — who are making their debut in 2016 — are involved in programmes that aim to preserve or regenerate an ecosystem.

**What is a conflict between humans and wildlife?**

This is a situation that is detrimental both to villagers and wildlife. For example, it may involve farmers whose fields or granaries have been destroyed by an elephant and who then call for the animal to be killed, or even a cattle breeder who poisons a lion that has attacked his animals. Such conflicts are numerous and are becoming one of the major threats to large mammals. This situation continues to worsen as a result of ever-increasing human populations and shrinking natural spaces available for animal populations.

**What are Awely’s actions?**

Firstly, all of our teams do extensive research work because we want to know the precise origins and extent of the problems that we aim to solve. Then, based on these results, we implement programmes that encourage a more harmonious coexistence between villagers and animals. These may involve, for example, prevention or protection measures, or microeconomic development projects that generate income without overexploiting natural resources. In this context, we strongly encourage local initiatives.

We aim to promote the autonomy of local communities in a way that, in turn, benefits biodiversity and the species that we want to protect. At the same time, we develop educational projects and resources that are used by our staff during workshops, meetings and activities, which mainly take place in schools.

**How are all these actions coordinated from a distance?**

This is another aspect that is special about Awely. We attach considerable importance to ensuring that our programmes are developed with local staff. In this way, we work with locally based organisations and we benefit from their experience. It is thanks to them that we can ensure that the work of our Caps — whether Green, Red or Blue — is carried out according to our recommendations. However, we also maintain regular, direct contact with our team by phone, email or Skype, and visit each project at least once a year. During these visits, we evaluate our results using various indicators that help measure the strengths and weaknesses of each programme. These findings enable us to tailor our work accordingly and ensure that each project benefits from the experience gained in the others.
Awely’s Green Cap programme began near the Dja wildlife reserve in Cameroon in 2013. This magnificent tropical forest in the heart of central Africa is a UNESCO world heritage site known for its primary forest, gorillas, chimpanzees and forest elephants.

Nicolas: Donald, how long have you been working for the conservation of great apes in Dja?

Donald: For many years! I’ve been working for Projet Grands Singes (PGS) since 2006 and for Awely since 2013.

Nicolas: What are the main threats facing great apes in Dja?

Donald: Gorillas and chimpanzees live in Dja, both of which are on the IUCN’s Red List of Threatened Species. Poaching and deforestation in areas surrounding the reserve could lead to the extinction of these species in the medium term. Poverty levels are so high that many villagers survive by poaching. The great apes are killed there for their meat (which is consumed or sold), for trophies (e.g. their hands), and even to supply the trade in young primates.

Nicolas: What have been your main tasks since the opening of Awely in Dja?

Donald: As the local coordinator, I am responsible for developing actions to help gorillas and local communities. We decided to start the programme with the construction of a primary school, which already benefits 80 children. I am in charge of supervising building work, hiring teachers, carrying out a socioeconomic survey of local households in order to identify their needs, and recruiting volunteers to lead activities in our conservation centre.

Nicolas: What has been your main task since the opening of Awely in Dja?

Nicolas: How can building a school improve the situation for gorillas and other wildlife species in the reserve?

Donald: The school will help the local population recognize that the gorillas and wildlife in general have their place in the environment that they share with them. Without this, the ecosystem is “broken” and each link in the chain — including humans — will suffer the consequences.

Nicolas: Don, what, in your opinion, has been the best result of our programme since its creation?

Donald: The fact that the children from the village benefit from a quality education in a good school. There was no school and no teacher for ten years. Now they can all speak French and most have learned to read.

Nicolas: Over the years, you have always shown real commitment to your work with Awely and PGS. What gives you such determination?

Donald: Firstly, it comes from the satisfaction shown by the population in the field as well as from the encouragement and support given by Awely and PGS senior staff, and from government authorities that never fail to congratulate us on our actions when we are together for meetings and workshops.

Nicolas: Thank you, Donald. We wish you and your incredible teaching team every success.

Donald: Thank you very much.
OUR TEAM
In Europe and In the Global South

Over the past ten years, our actions for the conservation of endangered species and for local development have been possible thanks to the strong and cohesive Awely team, whose members are truly committed to making a long-term and meaningful difference.

From our offices in France, Germany and India, to each programme zone in Africa, Asia and South America, our teams share Awely’s values of dedication, integrity, and transparency. We also benefit from the expertise and support of many volunteers and experts from a wide range of different fields.

HEADQUARTERS FRANCE AND INDIA

Renaud Fulconis
Director-Founder
Eva Gross
Director of Programmes
Nicolas Bout
Programme Coordinator
Dr Bibhuti Lahkar
Program Coordinator - Asia
Grégoire Rémond
Graphic Designer - Web Designer
Palmira Espanhol
Administrative Assistant

OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

Emmanuelle Grundmann
President
Hervé Santerre
Vice-President
Freja Fyhn
Treasurer
Rose Leroy
Committee member
David Marinho
Committee member
Lou Lecuyer
Committee member

DR OF CONGO – BASANKUSU

John Bolola
Green Cap
Gérard Bayolo Iselengwa
Team member
Rosette Bolefa Efomi
Team member
Jean-Pierre Entambé Botay
Team member
Félix Daniel Ilfo Ilenga
Team member
Doris Badikabibie Mapete
Team member
Prosper Likembe Ekila
Team member
Jean-Thomas Lomboto Bemolo
Team member

DR OF CONGO – NKALA

Felly Bantsabaru
Green Cap

NEPAL – SHUKLAPHANTA

Pramod Subedi
Green Cap
Samir Malla
Green Cap

CAMEROON

Donald Mphili
Green Cap
Jean Eugène Ankeuh Méléné
School Principal
Gérald Melame
Teacher
Yves Dobo
Teacher
Cécile Dobe
Cook

NEPAL – BARDEA

Pradeshu Chaudhary
Red Cap
Sher Bahadur Pariyar
Red Cap
Rabin Chaudhari
Red Cap
Kushiram Chaudhari
Red Cap

ZAMBIA – SOUTH LUANGWA

Billy Banda
Red Cap
Frackson Sakala
Red Cap
Jobson Tembe
Red Cap
Elias Zulu
Red Cap
Ruth Chitendi
Red Cap
Given Musulomoka
Volunteer
Jimmy Mwale
Volunteer

ZAMBIA – LOWER ZAMBEZI

Stephen Kallo
Red Cap

INDIA

Manjit Basumatary
Red Cap
Kripa Nanda Rai
Red Cap
Kamal Machary
Red Cap
Kumar Brahma
Red Cap
Sanjib Daimari
Red Cap

Credit: © Fabien Lemaire
Credit: © Fabien Lemaire
Whilst, for the most part, our projects are coordinated from a distance, we visit each of them at least once a year. This enables us to motivate our teams, meet partner organisations, evaluate the effectiveness of our actions, and refine our strategies for the future.
General Objectives

• Provide alternatives to activities that put human pressure on the ecosystem.
• Maintain the situation where bonobos are not hunted or eaten.
• Improve villagers’ very poor daily diet.
• Raise local awareness of sustainable development and bonobo conservation.
• Habituation of a group of bonobos by a local team.

Objectives 2015

• Maintain the situation where bonobos are not hunted or eaten.
• Continue cultivation of plants and vegetable seeds in the plant nursery.
• Create family gardens for more households.
• Develop an awareness-raising programme to improve local understanding of bonobo conservation and sustainable development.
• Continue patrols for tracking and habituation of bonobos.

Programme

RD DU CONGO
Nkala – Green Caps

Nkala, Bandundu Province and ten grassland and forest villages

Species involved
Bonobo (Pan paniscus), other endangered and hunted species

Target groups
Rural communities (hunters, farmers), 4,758 inhabitants

Local partner
Mbou Mon Tour

Project Highlights

January 2015
Evaluation of bonobo tracking
MMT’s scientific partner evaluates the quality of tracking on the different sites.

July 2015
Development and tracking
Agreement by EA2A to finance 6 months of additional bonobo tracking by Awely.

December 2015
Closure of Nkala programme
Having achieved its objectives, Awely closes the project and moves to Equateur Province, where bonobos are still endangered.

Weakenesses

The isolated location of Bolobo — two days’ journey by dugout canoe and several hours by motorbike from Kinshasa — means that efficient communication is essential.

This, however, was always very difficult due to the absence of a reliable telephone network, almost permanent internet connection failures from our closest access point at the WWF base in Bambu (30 km from our offices), and an electricity supply that depended on our two generators.

Strengths

The results of this programme are very positive. The bonobos are still protected and the pressure of hunting on the forest, minimal. The family gardens, which strengthen food security, are being extended throughout the region. Villagers are motivated by support from partners and their involvement is increasing: the local population has proposed designating part of the forest as a community reserve!

Bonobos are our closest cousins, sharing 98.4% of their genetic makeup with humans. Their future is in grave danger due to deforestation and hunting for their meat.
Alongside the organisation, Gacebb, we have put a stop to the hunting and consumption of bonobo meat in the Basankusu region.

Credit: © Cyril Ruoso

GLOBAL OBJECTIVES
• Evaluate the impact of hunting and consumption of bushmeat on bonobos.
• Put a stop to bonobo hunting and the sale of their meat.
• Develop alternatives to the sale and consumption of bushmeat.
• Reduce pressure on the natural resources of the forest.

OBJECTIVES 2015
• Improve the situation for bonobos, which are hunted and eaten.
• Continue to monitor bushmeat markets.
• Continue bonobo monitoring by hunters.
• Develop goat breeding as an alternative source of food and income with 10 village associations.

Programme
DR OF CONGO
Basankusu - Green Caps

Precise location
Basankusu, Équateur province and ten villages, ~200 km²

Target groups
Hunters, sellers and consumers of bushmeat, 1,600 people

Species involved
Bonobo (Pan paniscus), other endangered and hunted species

Local partner
GACEBB

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS
Illegal bushmeat hunting for sale and consumption is a serious threat to the bonobo population in the Basankusu region (located some 800 km north of Kinshasa). The situation is worsened by the conversion of natural forest into industrial palm plantations (for the production and sale of palm oil), and local deforestation caused by unsustainable, itinerant agricultural practices. These factors have led to this great ape, endemic to the DRC, being endangered (IUCN, 2016) and threatened with extinction.

In 2008, our Green Caps started working to improve the situation for bonobos and raise the living standards of local populations. After assessing the threats to wildlife and establishing villagers’ needs, several training courses laid the foundations for the development of microprojects: small-animal breeding, a bakery, soap-making, a community pharmacy, micro-shops...

These initiatives made it possible to improve the everyday life of local populations, whose lives are still very impoverished. An awareness-raising and environmental education programme was put in place with great effectiveness, reaching more than 15,000 people. Hunters have been recruited to monitor bushmeat markets and bonobos, and this has been ongoing since the programme’s inception.

In 2013, Awely had to depart for administrative reasons. The remaining members of our team created GACEBB, which continued the work with our financial support and guidance.

In 2015, Awely and IUCN-SSSI supported GACEBB’s successful development of a goat breeding initiative with 10 farmers’ organisations. Our programme coordinator did a field assessment in October. In light of the programme’s very positive report and the pressures still threatening the bonobos, Awely decided to strengthen its support for GACEBB through reinvesting its Green Caps project and supporting the development of a community fish-breeding initiative.

WEAKNESSES
The programme area is located a long distance from the capital (~800 km), meaning that traveling to the site requires an internal flight + 3 days’ journey by dugout canoe + several hours’ travel by motorbike. The poverty level of the local population is very high and hunting places significant pressure on the forests, which are at risk of being emptied of wildlife. Finally, the bonobo-protection projects are disadvantaged by a lack of conservation partners and the almost total absence of wildlife-protection authorities.

STRENGTHS
The local team is highly motivated, versatile, well organised and respected by villagers. Villagers, in turn, are increasingly involved in the programme. The project is therefore gaining recognition on a local and national level. A vast 15,000 km² area of forest is still intact and offers a good quality natural habitat for wildlife.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

August 2015
Marionette Shows
Presentation of the thirty-sixth marionette show. 6,123 spectators in total in 2015.

October 2015
Awely evaluation mission
Project visited by Nicolas Bout and Bonobos’ presence in the forest confirmed.

December 2015
Development of fish-breeding
Training in fish-breeding for coordinators from 5 village associations and creation of the first fish-farming pools.
GLOBAL OBJECTIVES

- Reduce human pressure on the Dja wildlife reserve, to benefit gorillas and other species sharing the ecosystem.
- Develop sustainable alternatives to the use of natural resources and the hunting and consumption of bushmeat.
- Raise community awareness about sustainable development and the importance of conserving the gorilla habitat.
- Encourage younger villagers to take actions to safeguard and preserve their natural heritage.

OBJECTIVES 2015

- Ensure the successful running of the primary school, which educates 80 schoolchildren.
- Develop the awareness-raising activities held in the school’s conservation centre.
- Increase conservation awareness in ten villages.
- Carry out chicken farming and vegetable growing trials at the school and teach related skills.
- Evaluate the conservation status of gorillas and other species in the forest surrounding the school.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

The western lowland gorilla is a critically endangered great ape that is present in the Dja wildlife reserve in Cameroon. Their numbers are unknown and recent patrols have identified alarming levels of poaching. Such illegal hunting mainly serves to feed the bushmeat trade. Alongside deforestation and the Ebola virus, it represents a main cause of the disappearance of gorillas.

In the short term, the intensification of poaching threatens the exceptional biodiversity of the Dja wildlife reserve (5,260 km²). The reserve’s status as a UNESCO world heritage site, which it has held since 1987, is now at risk of being lost.

Our school became fully operational in 2015 and accommodation for the three teachers and their families was built. An on-site cantine was set up in order to give the 80 schoolchildren a daily meal, tackling the problem of malnutrition. The school principal took up his post in September.

With the launch of the education centre, two volunteers came to work on site. They led a range of activities that were well received by an audience of enthusiastic children: reading, drawing, video projections of cartoons and films, games, outings… all of which aimed to raise awareness of nature conservation and sustainable development. A kilometre-long forest path was opened and used for educational trails.

Donald Mbholi, our coordinator, has collected information about household habits, resources and needs, in several villages. Analysis of this data and comparisons with previous studies will guide us as we propose alternative strategies for improving food and economic security that match the local population’s needs and interests and limit the pressure placed on gorillas and their habitat.

Lastly, Awely has been cited as an exemplary partner and our team has accepted invitations to present our work to the wildlife reserve authorities and education authorities on several occasions.

WEAKNESSES

- The school’s isolated location, 4 hours by track from Yaoundé, and the lack of staff are disadvantages for the development of the project.
- More financial resources and staff are needed to continue running our educational projects and wildlife monitoring.
- The reserve authorities’ limited resources and recent evidence of intensive poaching are very worrying issues, which represent a threat to the site’s UNESCO status.

STRENGTHS

- The team of teachers and Green Caps is highly professional and dedicated. This has enabled the construction of the school building to be completed and has improved the functioning of the school, to the benefit of pupils.
- The local education authority and reserve authorities would like to collaborate more closely on this programme, a situation which will support the development of new aspects of the project.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

March 2015

Arrival of the first volunteers
The first volunteers lead conservation centre activities for the protection of gorillas and the forest.

August 2015

Socio-economic study
Socioeconomic data collection is completed in the region’s households.

September 2015

Primary school resumes after the summer break
The school’s three classes welcome 65 schoolchildren, between 6 and 16 years of age, for the 2014-2015 school year.
GLOBAL OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the use of forest resources in order to decrease human impact on the natural forest ecosystem.
- Improve the tiger habitat through reducing cattle grazing and other anthropogenic influences.
- Provide access to alternative sources of energy and income to reduce dependency on forest resources.
- Create a good environment for tiger-conservation activities and sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES 2015

- Reduce the use of firewood and other forest resources through developing alternative energy sources for 100 households.
- Reduce the number of cows entering the forest for grazing by introducing in-stall cattle feeding for 400 households.
- Increase awareness among tiger-conservation issues and knowledge of techniques for sustainable development within nine target communities.

NEPAL

Shuklaphanta - Green Caps

Precise Location
Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR), northern and southern buffer zones

Species involved
Tiger and its prey species

Target groups
Households of nine user groups from the buffer zone, SWR committee and schoolchildren

Partner organisation
National Trust for Nature Conservation

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

The year 2015 was a truly difficult period for Nepal. With the disastrous earthquake in April and strikes, riots, curfews and border-closures from July to October, the basic conditions for the project were poor. Nonetheless, Green Caps, Pramod Subedi and Samir Malla, did their very best to move around our nine target villages in order to talk to villagers, encouraging them to continue their income-generating activities and to refrain from using forest resources. The Caps carried out ongoing monitoring of project activities and whenever the situation allowed, they conducted workshops and training sessions and distributed materials for micro-projects.

To reduce dependence on firewood collection for cooking, the project supplied over 100 energy-saving stoves and 15 biogas plants in 2015 to families that are highly dependent on forest resources. Energy-saving stoves cut firewood consumption by half and furthermore, improve the health of the cooks by enabling them to work in an area free from the smoke of an open fire.

A basket-making training session was provided for villagers; the 30 women who attended learned to create colourful products using Shuklaphanta elephant grass, which increases their potential to earn a sustainable income without harming natural resources. The 30 women who were trained as tailors as part of the Green Caps project in 2012 have now also learned how to repair their sewing machines, saving them time and money when their machines have a problem.

In order to reduce cattle-grazing within the tiger habitat, the Green Caps encourage local people to keep their cattle in stalls and promote replacing traditional breeds with more efficient ones. The Green Caps' other related tasks include supplying grass seed and fodder trees to more than 400 households to meet the needs generated by increased stall-feeding, and supporting artificial cow inseminations.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

February 2015
Free health camp
350 needy people received treatment by doctors and learned about forest protection.

July 2015
Tiger Rally
In the South of Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve, 350 women and men stood up for tiger conservation.

November 2015
Basket-making training
30 women were trained in making colourful baskets from grass.

WEAKNESSES

Due to the political situation this year, educational activities in schools and villages could not be carried out as planned. However, a volunteer drama group was set up and they will show their drama production on tiger conservation to village audiences in 2016.

STRENGTHS

At the end of difficult year, this project proves to have been very efficient, with 2015 seeing the launch of many different activities. The tailors shops are now all running satisfactorily, so that no further support is needed. After five years of operation, the project is now well rooted in the communities and is based on a strong and trusting relationship. Even in those areas where we have faced great difficulties in the past, our Caps are now able to implement successful project activities.

Credit: © Cyril Ruoso

As well as being hunted for their skin and to supply the market for traditional Chinese medicine, tigers also suffer the effects of conflicts with villagers and a shrinking natural habitat; they are more endangered than ever.
Elephants, which are very common in the area, are often involved in conflict with villagers.

**Programme**

**ZAMBIA**

**South Luangwa – Red Caps**

**Precise Location**
Lupande Game Management Area, east of South Luangwa National Park

**Target Groups**
Farmers’ groups in high-conflict areas, rural villagers

**Species Involved**
African elephant, hippopotamus, bush pigs, predators

**Partner organisation**
Conservation South Luangwa, Chipembele WET

**ACTIONS AND PROJECTS**

*Alternative crops grew more slowly than expected, as farmers faced major drought problems during the sowing period. Lemongrass, however, is growing very well and turmeric has shown good development in two out of four farms, as has ginger in one out of four farms. New marketing options need to be identified in order to generate increased sales of lemongrass tea and dried chilli.*

**WEAKNESSES**

In July, the project welcomed a new Red Cap to the team: Frackson Sakala is now in charge of carrying out project activities in Malama chiefdom. This chiefdom is particularly important as it suffers from high levels of wildlife damage and retaliation activities. Frackson collects information on HWCs, supports farmers in the construction of elephant-safe grain stores and monitors all project activities, such as chilli farming and chilli bombing.

**STRENGTHS**

In July, the project welcomed a new Red Cap to the team: Frackson Sakala is now in charge of carrying out project activities in Malama chiefdom. This chiefdom is particularly important as it suffers from high levels of wildlife damage and retaliation activities. Frackson collects information on HWCs, supports farmers in the construction of elephant-safe grain stores and monitors all project activities, such as chilli farming and chilli bombing.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

- Reduce the number and severity of crop losses caused by wildlife.
- Reduce property destruction due to elephants.
- Limit retaliatory killing, problem animal control and poaching.
- Improve farmers’ and villagers’ tolerance towards wildlife.

**OBJECTIVES 2015**

- Extend the conflict-free zone and community-based guarding system.
- Carry out maintenance of elephant-safe grain stores.
- Provide training and support for using chilli bombers.
- Test and process crops that are unattractive to elephants.

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

**April 2015**

**Pilot Conflict-Free Zone**
Eleven farmers’ groups jointly guarded a farming block with great success.

**June 2015**

**Education campaign**
An outdoor exhibit and street drama presentation on ways to live peacefully with wildlife reached more than 4,000 people.

**December 2015**

**New chilli bombers on site**
20 farm guards were trained in using new chilli bombers to scare elephants away from crops.
Limiting conflicts is one of the keys to securing a brighter future for this emblematic animal.

Progamme
ZAMBIA
Lower Zambezi - Red Caps

Early 2015 saw lots of crop raiding incidents by elephants and hippos in our project villages of Chiawa GMA. As farming in Lower Zambezi starts with the onset of rains around December, crop raiding typically occurs from January to March. Many fields are located close to the Zambezi River in order to use its water for irrigation. These fields are prone to damage by hippos, which leave the water at night to feed and travel up to ten kilometres to do so.

To protect fields from damage by hippos, a new mitigation technique has been developed within this project: an electrified polytape fence has been erected along the border of farms near the river. These fences are normally used to keep cattle or horses on pastures and have not yet been used with hippos. The test is ongoing and results will be obtained in 2016.

This year, eight elephant-safe grain stores have been constructed in the project area, bringing the total to 24. To foster the building of further such stores in the villages, a construction manual has been developed and printed by Awely with illustrations supplied by EcoSys. Another new initiative on this project was a three-day anti-snaring campaign held in October. This educational event with presentations, group-discussions and a street drama competition was a great success. The event had a positive effect on the attitude of participants, and rangers reported stronger community support and cooperation during their patrols.

At the end of 2015, a new pilot plot was set up to test different crop types for their attractiveness to elephants. The plot was prepared in good time, but rains failed in December, meaning that the study had to be postponed until early 2016 when there is increased likelihood of having sufficient rainfall to carry out the experiment.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

Early 2015 saw lots of crop raiding incidents by elephants and hippos in our project villages of Chiawa GMA. As farming in Lower Zambezi starts with the onset of rains around December, crop raiding typically occurs from January to March. Many fields are located close to the Zambezi River in order to use its water for irrigation. These fields are prone to damage by hippos, which leave the water at night to feed and travel up to ten kilometres to do so.

To protect fields from damage by hippos, a new mitigation technique has been developed within this project: an electrified polytape fence has been erected along the border of farms near the river. These fences are normally used to keep cattle or horses on pastures and have not yet been used with hippos. The test is ongoing and results will be obtained in 2016.

This year, eight elephant-safe grain stores have been constructed in the project area, bringing the total to 24. To foster the building of further such stores in the villages, a construction manual has been developed and printed by Awely with illustrations supplied by EcoSys. Another new initiative on this project was a three-day anti-snaring campaign held in October. This educational event with presentations, group-discussions and a street drama competition was a great success. The event had a positive effect on the attitude of participants, and rangers reported stronger community support and cooperation during their patrols.

At the end of 2015, a new pilot plot was set up to test different crop types for their attractiveness to elephants. The plot was prepared in good time, but rains failed in December, meaning that the study had to be postponed until early 2016 when there is increased likelihood of having sufficient rainfall to carry out the experiment.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Reduce the number and severity of crop losses caused by wildlife.
- Reduce property destruction by elephants.
- Limit retaliation killings, problem animal control and poaching.
- Improve farmers’ and villagers’ tolerance towards wildlife.

OBJECTIVES 2015

- Continue detailed human-wildlife conflict assessment.
- Support the construction of elephant-safe grain stores in needy areas.
- Train farmers in chilli growing and the use of conflict-mitigation techniques for crop protection.
- Test new HWC mitigation tools.
- Deliver an educational campaign on conservation.

Weaknesses

- Drought caused major problems for the chilli farmers in early 2015. Only 4 out of 27 farmers managed to produce a good harvest and sell chilli. Especially in the initial nursery phase, the young chilli plants are very sensitive and need watering if rains fail. With farmers not being familiar with this technique, many chillies dried up in the nursery stage. Therefore, more emphasis has been put on the topic of irrigation in the chilli workshops.

Strengths

- In late 2015, Nicolas Bout took over the project coordination for Awely. Already our coordinator for the Green Caps projects in Cameroon and DRC, he was thrilled to begin his involvement in his first Red Cap project. In December, he took the opportunity to visit Lower Zambezi in order to see the situation in the field and get to know the social and ecological aspects of the project.

Project Highlights

- May 2015: HWC database training by Eva Gross
  Red Cap Stephen and CLZ staff were trained to use Awely’s HWC database for data entry and analysis.

- October 2015: Anti-snaring campaign
  75 participants took part in a three-day educational campaign including street drama.

- November 2015: Chilli workshops
  Refresher training for 30 farmers and a three-day workshop for 25 new chilli farmers were held.
Like the elephant, the Indian rhinoceros often ventures into crops.

Programme
NEPAL
Bardia – Red Caps

Precise Location
Bardia National Park, parts of the western and southern buffer zone

Target Groups
41,800 inhabitants, mainly farmers, livestock owners and schoolchildren

Species involved
Indian rhino, elephant, leopard, Bengal tiger

Partner organisation
National Trust for Nature Conservation

Actions and Projects
This project’s main challenge is to extend the use of crops that are not attractive to elephants and that have the potential to generate a safe income for those farming close to habitats rich in wildlife. Between the inception of the project and 2015, 150 farmers received training, about 15 hectares of land were cultivated with mint, lemongrass, turmeric and chamomile, and more than 500 kg of essential oils were distilled. High levels of involvement and motivation from local farmers meant that the year 2015 made an encouraging start. With the disastrous earthquake in the Kathmandu area, however, the economic situation changed as the local economy suffered the effects of damaged infrastructure and the loss of marketing options.

Despite these difficulties, the project continues to further the cultivation of aromatic cash crops and is working on linking farmers’ groups to cooperatives and a reliable and fair market.

A tree nursery for native and non-invasive fuelwood trees was developed, ensuring that Bardia’s protected forest resources are not used as the energy source for distilling essential oils — a process that has a high energy demand. More than 8,800 saplings were planted on community land as well as on the private premises of farmers participating in this Red Caps project.

In 2015, a new approach was adopted to improve the health security of villagers in the area. For the first time, young men and women attended First Aid training and are now able to treat wounds, stabilise an unconscious casualty and give life-saving treatment until doctors arrive or the patient can be transported. This training aimed to improve the very poor treatment possibilities for people who are injured by wildlife, but also enhances the overall safety of villagers.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

February 2015
Advanced agricultural training
150 farmers participated in training on aromatic crop production, propagation and storage.

March 2015
Distillation of essential oils from aromatic crops
The distillation unit, installed in 2014, was put into operation with production of chamomile oil.

October 2015
First-Aid Training
In six villages, 72 young men and women were trained to deliver First Aid.

Weaknesses
The year 2015 was very difficult for the project, as two Red Caps — Sher Bahadur Pariyar and Rabin Chaudhari — left on short notice to join the Nepalese Forestry Department as Assistant Forest Officers. In addition, the law and order situation was highly unstable in the Western lowland area of Nepal over the course of the year, meaning that our remaining Red Cap, Pradeshu Chaudhari, had restricted access to the region. The same problem affected Bibhuti’s ability to travel to this area to resolve issues.

Strengths
However, the situation was handled very well by our local partner organisation NTNC who sent their Technical Assistant, Kushiram Chaudhari, to work as an interim Red Cap in the area. He continued project monitoring, maintained the tree nursery and acted as first contact for the project’s target groups. Despite significant difficulties, the project continued to run smoothly at the field level.

Global Objectives
• Reduce the frequency and severity of crop and property damage by elephants and present livestock predation.
• Stop fatal accidents involving wildlife.
• Improve the economic situation of households in the area.
• Reduce anthropogenic pressure on the Bardia ecosystem.

Objectives 2015
• Distil essential oils from aromatic crops.
• Train and support farmers in growing alternative crops that are unattractive to elephants.
• Improve crop protection by maintaining the electric fence and community-based guarding systems.
• Raise students’ and villagers’ tolerance towards wildlife and its conservation.
Due to the unstable law and order situation in the villages to the south of Manas National Park, the project had a difficult start to 2015. In particular, killings and kidnappings were carried out by militants in the remote communities of the Western range. It took several weeks until the Indian army was able to stabilise the situation and movement and meetings were restricted by a curfew. Some schools remained closed for weeks and roads were blocked. For this reason, our Red Caps had to be highly vigilant and reduce their activities to the areas where they live. Only after the election in April was the situation restored and could full project activities resume.

These difficulties were followed by a big change of staff in summer 2015: Red Caps, Kripa Ray, Kumar Brahma and Kamal Machary, left for various reasons and Sanjib Daimari and Manjit Basumatary were appointed as Red Caps.

After a training period of three months, they concentrated on the support and monitoring of the community-based guarding system. This currently includes a total of 72 watchtowers that protect a 7 km line along the protected area. Here, paddy fields directly border with the natural habitat of elephants. Through intensive monitoring, the Caps were able to show that this conflict-mitigation scheme, involving more than 150 farmers, is highly efficient. During a guarding period of 2½ months, the farmers chased away elephants on a daily basis. Elephants only managed to break through the guarding line to feed on the paddy fields five times.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

Due to the unstable law and order situation in the villages to the south of Manas National Park, the project had a difficult start to 2015. In particular, killings and kidnappings were carried out by militants in the remote communities of the Western range. It took several weeks until the Indian army was able to stabilise the situation and movement and meetings were restricted by a curfew. Some schools remained closed for weeks and roads were blocked. For this reason, our Red Caps had to be highly vigilant and reduce their activities to the areas where they live. Only after the election in April was the situation restored and could full project activities resume.

These difficulties were followed by a big change of staff in summer 2015: Red Caps, Kripa Ray, Kumar Brahma and Kamal Machary, left for various reasons and Sanjib Daimari and Manjit Basumatary were appointed as Red Caps.

After a training period of three months, they concentrated on the support and monitoring of the community-based guarding system. This currently includes a total of 72 watchtowers that protect a 7 km line along the protected area. Here, paddy fields directly border with the natural habitat of elephants. Through intensive monitoring, the Caps were able to show that this conflict-mitigation scheme, involving more than 150 farmers, is highly efficient. During a guarding period of 2½ months, the farmers chased away elephants on a daily basis. Elephants only managed to break through the guarding line to feed on the paddy fields five times.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

Due to the unstable law and order situation in the villages to the south of Manas National Park, the project had a difficult start to 2015. In particular, killings and kidnappings were carried out by militants in the remote communities of the Western range. It took several weeks until the Indian army was able to stabilise the situation and movement and meetings were restricted by a curfew. Some schools remained closed for weeks and roads were blocked. For this reason, our Red Caps had to be highly vigilant and reduce their activities to the areas where they live. Only after the election in April was the situation restored and could full project activities resume.

These difficulties were followed by a big change of staff in summer 2015: Red Caps, Kripa Ray, Kumar Brahma and Kamal Machary, left for various reasons and Sanjib Daimari and Manjit Basumatary were appointed as Red Caps.

After a training period of three months, they concentrated on the support and monitoring of the community-based guarding system. This currently includes a total of 72 watchtowers that protect a 7 km line along the protected area. Here, paddy fields directly border with the natural habitat of elephants. Through intensive monitoring, the Caps were able to show that this conflict-mitigation scheme, involving more than 150 farmers, is highly efficient. During a guarding period of 2½ months, the farmers chased away elephants on a daily basis. Elephants only managed to break through the guarding line to feed on the paddy fields five times.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

Due to the unstable law and order situation in the villages to the south of Manas National Park, the project had a difficult start to 2015. In particular, killings and kidnappings were carried out by militants in the remote communities of the Western range. It took several weeks until the Indian army was able to stabilise the situation and movement and meetings were restricted by a curfew. Some schools remained closed for weeks and roads were blocked. For this reason, our Red Caps had to be highly vigilant and reduce their activities to the areas where they live. Only after the election in April was the situation restored and could full project activities resume.

These difficulties were followed by a big change of staff in summer 2015: Red Caps, Kripa Ray, Kumar Brahma and Kamal Machary, left for various reasons and Sanjib Daimari and Manjit Basumatary were appointed as Red Caps.

After a training period of three months, they concentrated on the support and monitoring of the community-based guarding system. This currently includes a total of 72 watchtowers that protect a 7 km line along the protected area. Here, paddy fields directly border with the natural habitat of elephants. Through intensive monitoring, the Caps were able to show that this conflict-mitigation scheme, involving more than 150 farmers, is highly efficient. During a guarding period of 2½ months, the farmers chased away elephants on a daily basis. Elephants only managed to break through the guarding line to feed on the paddy fields five times.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

Due to the unstable law and order situation in the villages to the south of Manas National Park, the project had a difficult start to 2015. In particular, killings and kidnappings were carried out by militants in the remote communities of the Western range. It took several weeks until the Indian army was able to stabilise the situation and movement and meetings were restricted by a curfew. Some schools remained closed for weeks and roads were blocked. For this reason, our Red Caps had to be highly vigilant and reduce their activities to the areas where they live. Only after the election in April was the situation restored and could full project activities resume.

These difficulties were followed by a big change of staff in summer 2015: Red Caps, Kripa Ray, Kumar Brahma and Kamal Machary, left for various reasons and Sanjib Daimari and Manjit Basumatary were appointed as Red Caps.

After a training period of three months, they concentrated on the support and monitoring of the community-based guarding system. This currently includes a total of 72 watchtowers that protect a 7 km line along the protected area. Here, paddy fields directly border with the natural habitat of elephants. Through intensive monitoring, the Caps were able to show that this conflict-mitigation scheme, involving more than 150 farmers, is highly efficient. During a guarding period of 2½ months, the farmers chased away elephants on a daily basis. Elephants only managed to break through the guarding line to feed on the paddy fields five times.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

Due to the unstable law and order situation in the villages to the south of Manas National Park, the project had a difficult start to 2015. In particular, killings and kidnappings were carried out by militants in the remote communities of the Western range. It took several weeks until the Indian army was able to stabilise the situation and movement and meetings were restricted by a curfew. Some schools remained closed for weeks and roads were blocked. For this reason, our Red Caps had to be highly vigilant and reduce their activities to the areas where they live. Only after the election in April was the situation restored and could full project activities resume.

These difficulties were followed by a big change of staff in summer 2015: Red Caps, Kripa Ray, Kumar Brahma and Kamal Machary, left for various reasons and Sanjib Daimari and Manjit Basumatary were appointed as Red Caps.

After a training period of three months, they concentrated on the support and monitoring of the community-based guarding system. This currently includes a total of 72 watchtowers that protect a 7 km line along the protected area. Here, paddy fields directly border with the natural habitat of elephants. Through intensive monitoring, the Caps were able to show that this conflict-mitigation scheme, involving more than 150 farmers, is highly efficient. During a guarding period of 2½ months, the farmers chased away elephants on a daily basis. Elephants only managed to break through the guarding line to feed on the paddy fields five times.

ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

Due to the unstable law and order situation in the villages to the south of Manas National Park, the project had a difficult start to 2015. In particular, killings and kidnappings were carried out by militants in the remote communities of the Western range. It took several weeks until the Indian army was able to stabilise the situation and movement and meetings were restricted by a curfew. Some schools remained closed for weeks and roads were blocked. For this reason, our Red Caps had to be highly vigilant and reduce their activities to the areas where they live. Only after the election in April was the situation restored and could full project activities resume.

These difficulties were followed by a big change of staff in summer 2015: Red Caps, Kripa Ray, Kumar Brahma and Kamal Machary, left for various reasons and Sanjib Daimari and Manjit Basumatary were appointed as Red Caps.

After a training period of three months, they concentrated on the support and monitoring of the community-based guarding system. This currently includes a total of 72 watchtowers that protect a 7 km line along the protected area. Here, paddy fields directly border with the natural habitat of elephants. Through intensive monitoring, the Caps were able to show that this conflict-mitigation scheme, involving more than 150 farmers, is highly efficient. During a guarding period of 2½ months, the farmers chased away elephants on a daily basis. Elephants only managed to break through the guarding line to feed on the paddy fields five times.
A NEW PROGRAMME
Green Caps in India as part of the Manas Tiger Conservation Program

“When partners meet and start a relationship based on trust and mutual understanding, when they join forces to tackle a common goal, each bringing with them the things that they do best and deciding to walk hand in hand long into the future to make a shared vision come true, this can be called love marriage.” At least this is how Günther Haase, KfW consultant, sees it. “Love marriage” was the expression he used to describe the partnership between Aaranyak and Awely in the new joint “Manas Tiger Conservation Project” in collaboration with Panthera and WCT, funded by IUCN and KfW.

The team of two IUCN representatives (Jean-Christof Vié and Suguto Roy) and four from KfW (Uwe Ohls, Günther Haase, Moritz Remé and Frank Brösamlen) visited the project area in Manas National Park and its southern fringe villages for five days in late November 2015. They closely observed how the project plans to work with more than 3,500 beneficiaries in 31 villages to reduce their dependency on the natural resources of the tiger habitat. With this objective in mind, the project includes plans to supply 1,000 energy-saving stoves and to install the first small-scale biogas plants for household use. To decrease the pressure of overgrazing in protected areas, in-stall feeding will be fostered by providing urgently needed veterinary support and implementing improved cattle farming. Multiple training courses for different target groups are programmed for the next three years, to increase the potential for generating sustainable incomes in the local area. These initiatives will run alongside an intensive tiger-conservation educational programme, combining to form a broad-reaching programme with a real Green Caps approach.

Another focus of this project is to enforce the protection of Manas National Park and its adjacent protected areas through training, equipping and supporting the park’s forest protection staff. This component will be carried out by Aaranyak in collaboration with Panthera, WCT and the Forestry department. A further key element of the programme is the active involvement of groups who once fought for the independence of the Bodo territory and who were fiercely active in poaching; they will take up the role of conservation volunteers.

Through this dual approach of law enforcement and community development, we hope to achieve lasting changes that will secure both the future of tigers and the people of Manas. We know that a “love marriage” will only last with constant communication, respectful behaviour and the openness to allow criticism and correction.

Awely is thrilled to be part of this challenging project and promising partnership.

Eva Gross
Director of programmes of Awely
AROUND OUR PROGRAMMES

Our actions in the field are just the tip of the iceberg.

It takes a long journey to reach our programme objectives. Fundraising is part of this process, as are all the actions that we carry out in the spotlight and behind the scenes.
SOLIDARITY LEAVE IN ZAMBIA
Maison du Monde – Hugo’s personal account

In June 2015, a team of seven employees of our partner, Maison du Monde, visited us on our Zambian programme in the South Luangwa region, as part of their solidarity leave. Among them was Hugo Concille, who recounts his experience here.

“My name’s Hugo, I’m 27, I live in Evreux and I’ve been a salesperson at Maison du Monde for two and a half years now. My desire to travel, share experiences and discover new places was the main reason I decided to take part in the solidarity leave offered by my company.

We had a choice of three destinations: Indonesia, Nicaragua and Zambia. I didn’t know anything about Zambia at the time and chose to go there by process of elimination. Starting from the principle that Zambia was the least likely destination for me, I took the plunge!

On this magnificent trip, I met Renaud Fulconis, the director of Awely. When we arrived, he explained why we had come to this wild and sublime country. As well as discovering the local customs, way of life, landscape and nature, we would also be able to witness human encroachment into natural spaces and understand the problems that it can cause.

Awely has a complex challenge, because the organisation aims to find solutions that limit human-wildlife conflicts in Zambia (amongst other projects). During our visit, we were able to assess the damage that elephants could cause to grain stores. These big animals that appear so gentle and majestic are also very powerful and capable of destroying brick walls in order to feast on grain — they can sometimes devour a whole village’s supplies. Villagers, infuriated by repeated attacks over the course of a single season, can end up taking revenge with firearms.

My travel companions and I also got the chance to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty (quite literally!) making chilli bricks out of dried chilli and elephant dung, which are another way of keeping elephants away from crops. When these bricks are placed in the four corners of a field and lit, they burn slowly and give off an unpleasant smoke that acts as an irritant for elephants and keeps them at a distance.

As well as these well-thought-out crop solutions, Awely has other tools for preventing possible conflicts. One of these is an innovative tool called the “chilli-bomber”. It’s a kind of compressed air gun that is used to fire ping-pong balls filled with chilli oil onto greedy elephants that ignore villagers’ other attempts to scare them away.

My hope is to make a contribution to this cause, through my own actions now and in the future.

Awely works to put in place solutions that prevent such occurrences. They propose planting crops of chilli and lemongrass, for example. These prove to be lucrative for farmers and avoid crop-raiding because they don’t attract wildlife. Elephants are put off by the odor of these plants, so prefer to stay away and feed elsewhere.

I hope to make a contribution to this cause, through my own actions now and in the future.

As well as these well-thought-out crop solutions, Awely has other tools for preventing possible conflicts. One of these is an innovative tool called the “chilli-bomber”. It’s a kind of compressed air gun that is used to fire ping-pong balls filled with chilli oil onto greedy elephants that ignore villagers’ other attempts to scare them away.

The trip helped us all to understand the importance of protecting biodiversity and the life that it sustains, and to recognise the problems that can take hold. I’m very proud of having shared this experience with Renaud, who is a remarkable man. Awely’s work will always be a true inspiration to me and I hope to make a contribution to this cause, through my own actions now and in the future.”

Hugo,
TIGERS AND PEOPLE

United for the safeguard of tigers

In April 2015, we launched our new initiative, Awely, Tigers and People, with the support of Amneville Zoo. This initiative, which establishes us as one of France’s leading tiger-conservation organisations, has several objectives. It builds on the work that we have been doing for tigers in Nepal since 2009 and also supports the actions of three other organisations that protect this emblematic endangered animal.

We should remember that the world tiger population — which a century ago numbered 100,000 individuals — now stands at just 3,500, the majority of which are in India. At a time when they were regarded as unwanted pests, legal hunting across all tiger habitats and their systematic slaughter in China caused their numbers to plummet. Legislation has changed since then and their status as a protected species has slowed the decline, but the situation is far from being resolved. Indeed, despite China having banned the use of tiger bones in traditional medicine in 1993, traditional medicine still considers them to have significant curative powers, in the absence of any scientific evidence. This explains the presence of over 200 tiger farms in the country, where more than 5,000 individuals are kept in appalling conditions. The situation is supported by the government, whose contradictory discourse fools nobody. Meanwhile, tiger poaching continues. If initiatives like ours needed any further justification, the current state of affairs leaves their importance in no doubt.

WE DEVELOP AND SUPPORT FOUR PROGRAMMES ON FOUR CONSERVATION THEMES.

In Bangladesh, we bring our support to the WildTeam organisation, which organises daily anti-poaching patrols in the Sundarbans — the world’s largest mangrove, in the south of the country. In India, we support the work of Aaranyak, our partner organisation of many years, joining forces with them on the Manas Tiger Conservation Program which is presented in this report. In Vietnam, we have forged a link with Education For Nature and support their awareness-raising activities for members of the general public. Vietnam and China are the world’s biggest consumers of tiger-based products.

Finally, in the south of Nepal, we continue to run community-based conservation initiatives to reduce the negative impact that villagers can have on the tiger’s habitat.

JOIN US!

When small donations start to add up we can achieve big things. By giving financial support to our actions you contribute directly to preserving this amazing animal.
DISCOVERING THE POLYLEPIS
A film about the world’s highest altitude forests

Polylepis forests are found in the Andes, and especially in the Vilcanota Mountains near Cusco, in Peru. These trees live at the world’s highest altitudes, sometimes in the snow as high as 5,000 metres above sea level.

Last July, I met Constantino Aucca Chutas, in Cusco, Peru. He is the latest winner of our Jean-Marc Vichard Conservation and Development Award. The award, which was initiated and coordinated by Awely and financed by Amneville Zoo, aims to reward the person who best shows how it is possible to improve biodiversity through working for the reduction of poverty.

I was accompanied by David Marinho and Thierry Coullez of DTMC productions as we followed Constantino and his colleague and friend Gregorio for 12 days, on the steep slopes of the Vilcanota Mountains, discovering the extraordinary Polylepis. Constantino is the founder and director of Ecaoan, the organisation that puts these trees right at the heart of their work. The film, “Discovering the Polylepis” centres on the journey of discovery through which we explored the forests and met members of the Quechua populations who share the same environment.

Over 26 minutes, it details the importance of this ecosystem and the benefits that the trees bring to the men and women who live lower down the mountain.

Renaud Fulconis
Executive Director and founder of Awely

It can be viewed on YouTube, on our channel, AwelyTV.

Production: David Marinho and Thierry Coullez – DTMC production
Music: Vincent Jacq and Xavier Plouchart
Sound: Sylvain Jampy
Graphic animation: Adrien Boutin
Translation: Rose Leroy

Polylepis forests are found in the Andes, and especially in the Vilcanota Mountains near Cusco, in Peru. These trees live at the world’s highest altitudes, sometimes in the snow as high as 5,000 metres above sea level.

Last July, I met Constantino Aucca Chutas, in Cusco, Peru. He is the latest winner of our Jean-Marc Vichard Conservation and Development Award. The award, which was initiated and coordinated by Awely, and financed by Amneville Zoo, aims to reward the person who best shows how it is possible to improve biodiversity through working for the reduction of poverty.

I was accompanied by David Marinho and Thierry Coullez of DTMC productions as we followed Constantino and his colleague and friend Gregorio for 12 days, on the steep slopes of the Vilcanota Mountains, discovering the extraordinary Polylepis. Constantino is the founder and director of Ecaoan, the organisation that puts these trees right at the heart of their work. The film, “Discovering the Polylepis” centres on the journey of discovery through which we explored the forests and met members of the Quechua populations who share the same environment.

Over 26 minutes, it details the importance of this ecosystem and the benefits that the trees bring to the men and women who live lower down the mountain.

Renaud Fulconis
Executive Director and founder of Awely

It can be viewed on YouTube, on our channel, AwelyTV.

Production: David Marinho and Thierry Coullez – DTMC production
Music: Vincent Jacq and Xavier Plouchart
Sound: Sylvain Jampy
Graphic animation: Adrien Boutin
Translation: Rose Leroy
TIGERS IN DANGER
A year-long adventure with Les Productions du Moment

It is difficult to share our experience, approach and actions for the protection of tigers with a wide audience. The upcoming film should contribute to doing so and help us become more well-known by the general public.

In March 2015, the Parisian audiovisual production company, “Les Productions du Moment” began shooting a film that highlights the actions of many people in France whose work is dedicated to the preservation of tigers and sharing educational information about the species.

The film — broadcast on the Reportages programme on TF1 on Saturday, 7 May — features Renaud Fulconis, director of Awely, as its unifying theme. It was produced by Marie-Paule Vettes and Alexandre Gosselet and shows, in particular, the link between Awely and Amneville Zoo, our main partner in the Awely, Tigers and People initiative.

Viewers also meet Michel Louis, founder and director of the zoo, in Tiger World alongside Rémy Flachaire, the show’s tiger trainer. Also in Amneville, the film follows Marion Cabrol, director of education at the zoo, and Hervé Samirre, the zoological director; at the auction presented on the next page of this report. Finally, we meet Rémy Desmantes, who breeds tigers in the Loiret area of France.

In addition, the film crew accompanied Renaud and Marion on a visit to the Sundarbans in the south of Bangladesh, where there are only approximately 100 remaining wild tigers and where we support the WildTeam organisation in their work to combat poaching.

Filming drew to a close last February, near Denver in the USA, where Renaud visited the world’s largest tiger sanctuary and then the depot of the USFWS — the American federal agency for wildlife management. That’s where, once seized, the country’s illegal animal-related items are sent for destruction or storage. Amongst other things, it houses many tiger skins and heads as well as items related to traditional Chinese medicine that contain animal body parts.
TIGERS GO UNDER THE HAMMER

An event linking art and education

As part of its many tiger-conservation initiatives, Amneville Zoo raised funds through an event that combined art and education.

In April 2015, Amneville Zoo, our partner for the Awely, Tigers and People initiative, organized an event called “Tigers in the town” in order to raise additional funds for this emblematic animal that is so under threat.

With this objective in mind, 10 resin tigers measuring 3m x 1.2m were built and then painted by artists who are well-known in the region and even on a national and international level. They were exhibited at Metz train station courtyard for 5 days before being auctioned off in Amneville Zoo’s new “Tiger world” auditorium, which was inaugurated in 2015. The event raised €22,700 for our initiative.

As the tigers went under the hammer, Renaud Fulconis, director of Awely, presented the range of actions that would be financed thanks to the money generated that evening.

An immense thank you to Michel Louis, Marion Cabrol, Hervé Santerre, Marine Magnol and Yannick Dupire for organising this event and for all of the benefits that it has brought to our work for the preservation of the species.

10 YEARS OF AWELY

We’ve come so far

In April 2015, Awely turned 10. We got together to mark the occasion, to celebrate everything that we have achieved and to thank all those who have contributed to making Awely the unique organization that it is today.

The celebration was held at Amneville Zoo, a partner that has supported our work from the very beginning. Some fifty people attended the event, which was organized by Céline Nuy, our head of communication at the time. Amongst the guests were our partners, members of our steering committee, donors, volunteers, and our entire team. We talked about Awely’s mission and actions, shared highlights from our last ten years of work, and expressed our thanks to our guests and those who could not be present on the day. During a meal served by volunteers from the zoo, each guest was presented with a T-shirt from our partner, Bonobo Jeans, and other gifts from Fondation Le Pal Nature, Palmyre Zoo and Amneville Zoo.
Our first website was launched shortly after Awely was created, in 2005. We replaced it with a new site in 2010. Very recently, that second site has moved over to make room for a new space that we hope you will visit often.

After our website dedicated to the tigers initiative went live at the end of last year, our new general website underwent a complete transformation.

The arrival of our new team member, Grégoire Rémond — who is both a graphic designer and web developer — meant that we were able to give free rein to our imagination.

We wanted this new communication space to be easier to visit, even clearer than its predecessor, and above all, easier to update. With a graphic charter that reflects our desire for simplicity, the site combines video with text and dedicates a lot of space to images. It is available in French and English and will soon see the addition of German and Spanish versions. This indispensable tool for getting to know Awely, our teams, values, programmes and partners also has a news area that we do our best to update regularly.

Finally, it benefits from a simplified and totally secure donations form. Don’t hesitate to click; your support is priceless.

www.awely.org

A NEW OFFICE
In Germany

Eva Gross, director of programmes and Renaud Fulconis, director of Awely, recently met in Germany for the official opening of the Awely office, Germany. In the presence of the members of the executive board: Johanna Kiefer, Stephanie Lienenlüke, Claudia Mehlmann, Cornelia Dippel, Constanze Berwarth, Eva Klebelsberg and Jürgen Gross, they laid down the necessary legal foundations for this new entity.

Awely Germany, which will function as a new organisation, has the objective of raising awareness of our work and, above all, applying for a range of German public and private funding for our different programmes. It will have its own headquarters, dedicated communication tools (including a website) and its own bank accounts. Whilst being part of Awely, Animals and People, it will also be able to undertake completely independent fundraising activities.

ONLINE BOUTIQUE
The online boutique is another new element of our site and the ideal place to give meaning to your purchases, your presents. There, you will find our latest posters, caps, keyrings, notepads, magnets… Other products such as soft toys, T-shirts and vegan cosmetics will soon be added to the range.

The boutique is simple to use, secure, and we deliver worldwide. So do spread the word.

www.awely.org

NEW WEBSITE
A journey through our programmes for animals and people

The ideal tool for finding out everything about Awely.

A NEW OFFICE
In Germany

Eva Gross, director of programmes and Renaud Fulconis, director of Awely, recently met in Germany for the official opening of the Awely office, Germany. In the presence of the members of the executive board: Johanna Kiefer, Stephanie Lienenlüke, Claudia Mehlmann, Cornelia Dippel, Constanze Berwarth, Eva Klebelsberg and Jürgen Gross, they laid down the necessary legal foundations for this new entity.

Awely Germany, which will function as a new organisation, has the objective of raising awareness of our work and, above all, applying for a range of German public and private funding for our different programmes. It will have its own headquarters, dedicated communication tools (including a website) and its own bank accounts. Whilst being part of Awely, Animals and People, it will also be able to undertake completely independent fundraising activities.

ONLINE BOUTIQUE
The online boutique is another new element of our site and the ideal place to give meaning to your purchases, your presents. There, you will find our latest posters, caps, keyrings, notepads, magnets… Other products such as soft toys, T-shirts and vegan cosmetics will soon be added to the range.

The boutique is simple to use, secure, and we deliver worldwide. So do spread the word.

www.awely.org

NEW WEBSITE
A journey through our programmes for animals and people

The ideal tool for finding out everything about Awely.
OUR PARTNERS
Nothing would be possible without them

Their support, trust and involvement enable us to carry out all of our actions and keep making a difference in the long term.

Why support us?
By building a partnership with Awely, Animals and People, you help protect wildlife and ecosystems, and contribute to reducing poverty in Africa, in Asia, and in South America. A partnership with Awely also demonstrates your commitment towards a responsible and sustainable initiative to your employees, clients and other audiences. For each euro donated to Awely, only ten cents go towards our operating costs. Furthermore, if you are based in France, you can benefit from a tax deduction equal to 60% of your donation.

For each euro donated to Awely, only ten cents go towards our operating costs.

For more information, send an email to info@awely.org or call us on +33 (0)2 38 54 24 94.

Add your logo to the list; join us!
FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total operational income</td>
<td>€352,921.00</td>
<td>€337,462.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total operating expenses</td>
<td>€325,414.00</td>
<td>€459,875.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated surplus (including net income)</td>
<td>€212,117.00</td>
<td>€96,312.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tied funds</td>
<td>€62,192.00</td>
<td>€62,192.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net income</td>
<td>€28,263.00</td>
<td>€-115,805.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available cash</td>
<td>€240,944.00</td>
<td>€181,957.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>€18,494.00</td>
<td>€35,727.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>€36,825.00</td>
<td>€15,096.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of financial position prepared by Lorgec chartered accountants, Metz. Pending approval by our external auditor.

Did you know that a donation of a few euros enables us to achieve big things?

The reason is simple: a well-thought-out, well-structured programme that brings strong and long lasting results can be achieved with budgets that big organisations might find laughably small. Here, our running costs are kept to a minimum and our teams are multi-skilled, meaning that we very rarely use outside providers.

With €5, we can print educational materials; with €80, we can start a micro credit programme that generates profits and saves bonobos or elephants; with €150, we are able to finance the salary of one of our team members; with €30 000, we run certain programmes for an entire year.

So, please don’t hesitate. Your support begins with €1.

YOUR SMALL DONATIONS MATTER TO US!

Percentage of our total spending that is allocated to operational costs, compared to the percentage allocated directly to programmes. Certain partners provide funding that can be entirely dedicated to operational costs.

The percentage for each programme includes the total amount spent on each one.
THANK YOU
It really wouldn’t be the same without you!

An immense thank you to all of our partners, volunteers and donors for supporting us and placing your trust in the work that we do for animals and people.


Design: Grégoire Rémond
Photo credits: Awely, unless otherwise stated
Thank you to Cyril Russo and Fabien Lemaire

Texts: Renaud Fulconis, Nicolas Boit et Eva Gross
Translation: Rose Leroy