

March 2021 Sustained Grantee Spotlight: African People & Wildlife

With virtually no part of the globe untouched by the COVID-19 pandemic, African People & Wildlife's work in Tanzania has resulted in some very bright spots for women and girls and for the world around them. Despite a halt in tourism that caused national economic challenges, the work continued, women created and earned, and lions and other wildlife were protected.

In 2020, 25 new women's groups joined the APW Women's Beekeeping Initiative, bringing the total to more than 100 groups, with more than 1,500 women across northern Tanzania serving to improve their livelihoods, gain respect at home and in the community, and protecting the natural world. Despite challenges, the year was the initiative's most productive so far, with more than 4.5 tons of wildlife-friendly honey harvested. The Mama Asali Women's Enterprise Center will open soon, following pandemic-related delays, providing an entrepreneurial hub for and by the women beekeepers.

Conservationists also increased their data driven approach to saving wildlife. In July 2020, APW received the prestigious Special Achievement in GIS Award at Esri's 2020 User Conference. Chosen from over 100,000 eligible candidates, the team was honored for its innovative application of mapping and analytics technology as well as its thought leadership in the field of conservation.

In January 2021, APW welcomed its first Women in Conservation interns, made possible by Dining for Women's sustained grant designed to empower Tanzanian women to become professionals and leaders in the field. Janeth will capture photos, videos, and stories about APW's work, and Fatuma will help streamline operations.

Laura Milton, the organization's Director of Marketing and Communications, recapped this most unusual year for DFW members:

"The communities and wildlife in our conservation landscapes have faced many challenges in the face of COVID-19. As tourism ground to a halt in early 2020, the pandemic threatened local livelihoods and put wildlife at increased risk of poaching and revenge killing. Like many nonprofit organizations, African People & Wildlife experienced funding shortfalls during this unprecedented time. Thanks to Dining for Women and other valued supporters, we were able to keep our most urgent programs running. Our team increased local safety and preparedness by pausing some activities and sharing information with residents and local leadership about COVID-19.

During this crisis, our fellow community members and staff have shown incredible resilience and perseverance. Through our holistic approach, local people continue to benefit from conservation in multiple ways, which uplifts communities while protecting the environment. As we move forward, African People & Wildlife will continue to strengthen the positive ties between people and nature and help to ensure a healthy future for our planet."

Read more about APW's 2020 wildlife successes at <https://africanpeoplewildlife.org/stories-of-resilience-from-2020>.