

The ICF **Bugle**

Volume 35, Number 2

May 2009

Spirit of Africa

You are Invited

ICF proudly unveils

Spirit of Africa - four new naturalistic outdoor exhibits featuring the magnificent African cranes

Saturday, June 20, 2009

The new displays highlight ICF's conservation solutions to protect and restore ecosystems shared by the people and cranes of Africa.

See page 6 for more details on the day's activities...

Visit this Summer

The Grand Opening ceremony for *Spirit of Africa* will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the ICF headquarters in Baraboo. The entire day (9:00 am - 5:00 pm) is admission-free and will include guided tours of the new exhibits and other African-themed festivities.



African Cranes on a Glacial Landscape

By Erica Cochrane, Education Director and Jim Harris, Vice President



It's April 24, early morning, and our dreams of Africa visibly rise over ICF's ancient, glacial landscape. Above, the sky has a big look, the beauty of spring in Wisconsin. Our new emerging exhibits will evoke African themes in a rolling landscape of grassland, wetland and oak savanna. Photo by Rob Carr

On June 20, ICF will open the *Spirit of Africa!* This new outdoor exhibit features the four crane species found only in Africa – the Grey Crowned, Black Crowned, Wattled, and Blue Cranes.

For those who have visited ICF before – after you walk through the Cudahy Visitor Center and turn left toward the world's 15 species of cranes – you will have a sudden surprise. Visitors new to ICF will also be amazed. You will see an undulating landscape laid down as a glacial terminal moraine over 10,000 years ago. Before you, the land drops into a depression that was grassland where ICF's Wattled Cranes rambled for the past decade to the delight of thousands of visitors. Now, a newly created wetland will reflect the changing sky.

But first you will take the high ground to the left – all on slopes easy to navigate – and soon walk out from under the prairie sun into the first of three shelters and an amphitheater. You will meet – and look eye to eye with Grey Crowned Cranes. Look closely, you may even be able to see a water droplet poised on the tip of a beak, just like on the cover of this *Bugle*. Here, we feature the first of four conservation heroes – in this case Maurice, whom Kerryn Morrison writes about on pages 4-5. You will see some of the wetland-friendly products Maurice has helped local people produce, people living beside and now protecting their wetlands and cranes while they find new ways for livelihood. This season, our Gift Shop will feature sustainably produced and uniquely African products from various communities.

Kerryn herself is our featured hero of the Blue Crane exhibit. The majestic Blue Crane is the national bird of Kerryn's native South Africa. But you will have to visit ICF to learn why her tribute includes a solar lantern, or to see where the

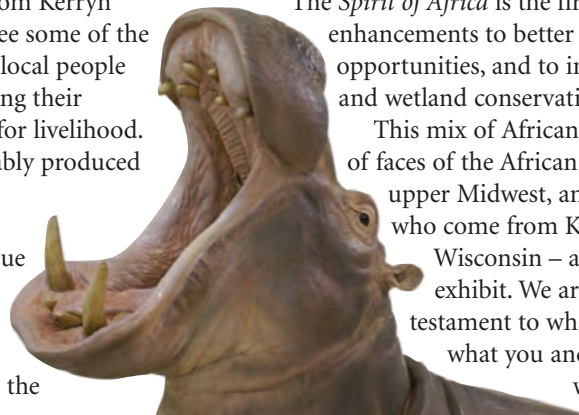
hippo awaits you, close beside the dugout canoe that you can stand in and look out across the great floodplain mural of Southern Africa.

The *Spirit of Africa* embodies conservation in the most practical ways too. The rain runoff from the shelter roofs feeds water into the wetlands. A solar heating system uses a specialized fluid that supplies hot water and heat for our Grey and Black Crowned Cranes, who cannot endure Wisconsin winters. A solar light tube system will funnel full spectrum sunlight into the Crowned Crane holding building to reduce electric lighting and provide a healthier environment. A large solar panel array will produce more power than needed to run the exhibit – earning ICF credit for putting excess power back into the grid. We originally considered planting lush tropical vegetation for the Grey Crowned Cranes and arid Sahel scrub for the Black Crowned Cranes, but we opted instead for Wisconsin-native vegetation, ecological equivalents of what the cranes know back home, thus reducing the need for watering and fertilization.

Cranes inspire people to work together worldwide to advance conservation solutions that benefit cranes, people and other wildlife. The *Spirit of Africa* is the first new exhibit in a series of planned enhancements to better connect our visitors to conservation opportunities, and to inspire action and support for crane and wetland conservation here and around the world.

This mix of African themes and a Wisconsin landscape, of faces of the African cranes reflected in waters of the upper Midwest, and our crew of conservation heroes – who come from Kenya, Mali, South Africa, and

Wisconsin – are perhaps the central message of this exhibit. We are one world. The *Spirit of Africa* is a testament to what caring people can do; a testament to what you and I can do if we choose to make that world of difference.



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Notes from ICF President Jim Hook . . .

Journeys

In economic times like these, one is mindful of human needs.

Conservation can seem less immediately urgent. Yet the two-week trip my wife BG and I made to India in late January reminded us how people need conservation, and how cranes are a prime vehicle for engaging people in successful solutions to the needs of humans as well as wildlife. Our travels began with a train trip to Agra and we saw numerous Sarus Cranes in the fields and small wetlands right along the track. From the Taj Mahal, we headed west into Rajasthan where we visited Keoladeo National Park. Water has returned to the park after several years of drought and along with it significant numbers of migratory and resident species, including the beautiful Painted Stork. We traveled west and north through Jaipur and Jodhpur before reaching Phalodi. We awoke early the next morning to seek out Demoiselle Cranes as they left their overnight roosting areas to fly to Khichan, a very small town just outside Phalodi. Thousands of cranes fly to what appears to be a school yard where for generations, the local farmers have put out grain. What a sight!

The best part of our trip occurred when we caught up with our Indian colleague, Gopi Sundar, and explored Uttar Pradesh where we met many people Gopi has involved in his crane work – activists, artists, businessmen and government conservationists. We saw hundreds of Sarus Cranes living peacefully among farmers and small villages, and Gopi's sharp eye ensured that we saw many species including an endangered Black-necked Stork pair with three recently fledged chicks. Seeing the juxtaposition of wetland and agricultural crops and reflecting on the impact drought has had on important bird areas such as Keoladeo, it was easy to grasp the critical importance of water to cranes and human communities. Now more than ever, issues of cranes on farmlands, of protecting water supplies, and identifying action plans that truly improve the quality of life need strong spokespeople and catalysts.

Here in Baraboo, we are almost ready to open our long anticipated new outdoor exhibit featuring the four species of African cranes. This effort follows the

successful precedent of our Whooping Crane Exhibit which has inspired visitors for fifteen years. Our theme, *Spirit of Africa*, reflects the growth in our educational focus that weaves landscapes, species and culture into a very powerful experience.

It is only fitting in this spirit that we welcome to ICF Steven Segang, a colleague who serves as a Rural Eco-Warrior with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), our partner in South Africa. At home, Steven's main aim is to develop sustainable environmental projects in schools. He will be with us for six months, interacting with visitors and learning through our Conservation Education Department.

The *Spirit of Africa*, and Steven's presence, reminds us of a vital function of the cranes – through the cooperative programs ICF has so long delivered, people across four other continents get to know one another and discover shared needs and hopes. Only through such understanding and common cause can we hope to solve the major threats we face.

We also want to share our excitement about the return

of an old friend, Dr. Rich Beilfuss. After three years in Mozambique as Director of Scientific Services for Gorongosa National Park, Rich will rejoin ICF as Vice President of Programs in September. Rich brings originality and enthusiasm that will further strengthen our programs area and is already working on priorities and new ideas with ICF staff.

And finally, on a very serious note, we want to thank you for your continuing support of ICF during these difficult and challenging financial times. Know that your contributions, as always, are directed to their intended use and that we continue to demonstrate our Charity Navigator *Hall of Fame* credentials – which acknowledge our superior performance in converting the dollars we receive into the programs that support our mission. Yes, as for most non-profits, these are tough times, and we are focused on very strong cost control and belt tightening. But we will maintain our core strengths to ensure we are well poised to serve future conservation needs. These are times of opportunity as well, to make real change on behalf of vital communities for cranes.



Gopi Sundar and Jim Hook in Uttar Pradesh, India.



Lufthansa

ICF's official airline

The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sauey, Ph.D (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph.D.

Editor: Betsy Didrickson

Bugle comments or questions?
Please write Betsy at Bugle@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI. 53913

Memberships are vital to ICF. Please join or give a gift membership to a friend at the following annual rates:

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Cranemaker	\$10,000

Africa: A Continent of Diversity

By Kerry Morrison, ICF/EWT Partnership for African Cranes Manager



AFRICA – a continent often thought of only in terms of war, crime, corruption, genocide, unrest, starvation, poverty and drought. Africa, however, to those who inhabit its lands or know it well, is a vibrant continent of cultures, languages, incredible landscapes and beauty with an abundance of unforgettable wildlife. Straddling the equator, the continent boasts a diversity of biomes including, yet not limited to, deserts, grasslands, savannas, forest habitats and snow covered mountain tops. The diversity of languages alone is staggering, with South Africa having 11 official languages alone and Zambia around 80 indigenous languages. Africa's wildlife is breathtaking and well known throughout the world, yet new species are still being discovered. The Highlands Mangabey, a monkey, was discovered in the remote mountains of southern Tanzania in 2005 – not a subspecies, but an entirely new species!

Africa is also a continent where true leaders arise despite the challenges that surround them. Nelson Mandela, fondly referred to as Madiba across the continent,

is the best known example. There are many other people, however, who contribute significantly to the continent and to its environment. From countries often thought of as lost and untouchable have arisen real eco-heroes, committed to the plight of Africa's wildlife and making a difference.

Zimbabwe is a country known around the world for its unforgiving and tyrannical leadership, a country whose economy has crashed beyond anyone's wildest imaginings, where money has almost no meaning as inflation rises daily and where all one hears are stories of strife and unrest. Yet, a team of individuals have stood tall through all this and worked toward conserving Zimbabwe's remaining Wattled Crane population. Dr. Chip Chirara, Osiman Mabhachi and Togarasei Fakarayi of BirdLife Zimbabwe have worked tirelessly with local resettled communities in the Driefontein Grasslands to ensure that communities work collaboratively on projects, secure a good supply of water through the restoration of windmills in the area and assist with the delineation of wetlands and the establishment of habitat management plans. As a result of the experience that Osiman gained through these projects in Zimbabwe, he has now been employed under the ICF/EWT Partnership to coordinate our community based projects.

Kenya, a country once known for its stability and peace, erupted overnight when elections were reportedly rigged. The ICF/EWT Partnership works with the Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Initiative in Western Kenya – one of the

hardest hit areas during the unrest. Maurice Wanjala, the initiative's founder, found himself fleeing from his home for his and his family's life. Yet, even at this time, he considered carefully where to move so that he would be strategically placed for crane conservation activities to resume as soon as stability returned. Maurice continued working with communities to create awareness of cranes and to assist them in developing and maintaining their community based programs that included income generating activities.

Rwanda, suffered through the 1994 genocide, where between 800,000 and 1,000,000 people were killed. Yet a mere 10 years later, enthusiastic and passionate individuals have found their feet again and are out making a difference. One such person is Ndimukaga Marc, a research assistant volunteer for a locally based NGO Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR). He contacted the ICF/EWT Partnership with his concern about the number of Grey Crowned Cranes being kept in captivity as domesticated pets. Since then, he continues to monitor and report back regularly on the situation.

So yes, Africa is a continent of challenges, but there are many unsung heroes ready to take the challenge and secure Africa's wildlife for future generations. They are passionate, committed individuals with a strong vision to make a difference. They do not merely live with a dream, they get out there and make it reality doing whatever it takes!



Lufthansa

Lufthansa Airlines has been vital to the planning and teamwork involving ICF staff with on-the-ground conservation for African cranes. Kerry Morrison, the program manager for our ICF/EWT Partnership for African Cranes, has flown without charge with Lufthansa twice a year to ICF. Among many other benefits, she has brought a field perspective to our planning and development of the new *Spirit of Africa* Exhibit. This month, Lufthansa flew Kerry with her colleague Steven Segang to ICF. Steven works with rural communities in a Blue Crane area of South Africa, and will be meeting ICF visitors and introducing them to *Spirit of Africa* and our work. Our deep thanks to Lufthansa.



Wattled Cranes by Andre Botha



Maurice Wanjala founded the Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group to encourage Kenyans to conserve local wetlands and the Grey Crowned Cranes that depend on them.

“In East Africa, we are losing our wetlands.

They are being drained

for farming, mined for bricks, and overharvested. With support from ICF and others, my community group is working to stop wetland destruction. We help local communities farm organically, fish sustainably, produce bee products, and create and sell handicrafts—all wetland-friendly practices. Through our efforts, we have reversed the trend of destruction and restored many wetlands to health.”

Grey Crowned Cranes in Decline

Kerryn Morrison

Grey Crowned Cranes have long been considered the most adaptable of the African cranes and hence the crane species least likely to go extinct. Recently, however, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species status for Grey Crowned Cranes has been revised to “Vulnerable” (defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future) as a result of their decline of between 41 and 53% over a twenty year period. Frightening new statistics suggest that their status could be even worse, with an estimated decline of 80% over a forty year period in Uganda and around a 75% decline in Tanzania over the same, or shorter, period.

Although the Grey Crowned Crane decline may be due to several factors, including habitat loss, their capture for trade has undoubtedly become a serious problem – something to which the cranes cannot adapt. Tanzania is the largest exporter of wild caught Grey Crowned Cranes, many of which come from neighboring African countries. The Netherlands was the biggest importer between 1985 and 2000, but over the last five years the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and China have become the major importers of the species.

Every effort should be made to halt the removal of cranes from the wild. States need to refuse the import of wild caught cranes, zoos have to work together to build and maintain viable breeding captive populations, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Secretariat needs to monitor the situation closely and place more stringent controls over countries that do not comply with its regulations. It is only through combined efforts at every level that we can secure a future for Crowned Cranes in the wild. ICF is working with all these partners to secure a better future for Grey Crowned Cranes.

Crane Wallpaper

This stunning image is available to download from ICF’s website as a desktop background (wallpaper).

Go to www.savingcranes.org/screendesktops.html

Photo by Kirsten Oliver, The Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa

Two Grey Crowned Cranes at dawn on the beach at Wavecrest on the Wild Coast, Eastern Cape, South Africa. After roosting on the beach at night, this pair departs back to the inland wetlands shortly after an enchanting interlude of dancing and unison calling at daybreak.



What Matters Most

By Jim Harris, Vice President

These economic times, and the belt tightening for ICF and all conservation organizations, make us examine what matters most. For me, two strands of our work stand out. First, the quote from John Muir that we placed on the cover of ICF's long range plan, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." To safeguard the cranes, we must tackle the large issues. In turn, the charisma of cranes inspires people to solve difficult problems, benefitting many human communities as well as cranes. We have secured water for Zhalong and other globally important wetlands of northeast China, a major precedent with great human benefits. As another example, ICF has worked for 15 years to solve the problem of crane damage to corn in Wisconsin. We believe conservationists must solve the problems wildlife pose to farmers, who host most cranes on their working lands. Again, this achievement has wide significance for wildlife and farmlands worldwide.

Second, crane conservation can only be effective where our programs are also meeting human needs. People whose lives are advancing – and who are beginning to solve the resource issues vital to all of us – become strong allies of cranes. Our programs benefit people. This approach to conservation is all the more important during economic hard times. In many parts of the world, people struggling economically can destroy resources on which they and the cranes depend for the long-term future.

Our summer indoor exhibit at the

Donnelley Family Education Center at ICF showcases the central role that people play in our thinking and our mission. We share the achievements of the project, "Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World." For the past three years, we have had a special focus for our outreach on teachers and students from central Milwaukee. We have linked these diverse, urban schools – where resources are scarce – with students and teachers near the great crane marshes along the crane flyway in eastern China. The exhibit shows how children on different sides of the world share many of the same challenges and dreams, and how students have made a tangible difference for conservation.

At Keerqin, in Inner Mongolia, we are reaching children from villages threatened by prolonged drought, overgrazing, and long-term climate change – here, safeguarding the wetlands and grasslands is vital for the children who must pass this land on to their children... and to the grandchildren of our cranes.

In Wisconsin, ICF staff, numerous teachers, and some very talented and excited Milwaukee children are bridging the gulf that separates not only American from Chinese children, but urban from rural lives right here in Wisconsin. Please come see what the children have done, and what we all can discover!

The indoor art exhibition, *Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World*, will open on June 20, the same day that the *Spirit of Africa* outdoor exhibit opens at ICF. *Three White Cranes* will show at ICF until October 31.

Schedule of Events for *Spirit of Africa*

Opening on Saturday, June 20, 2009

This admission-free day will begin at 9:00 am with tours of the new exhibits available every hour on the hour through 3:00 pm. There will be a variety of African-themed activities for all ages to enjoy. Lunch will be available for purchase. The dedication ceremony for the new exhibits will begin at 2:00. Afterwards, enjoy light refreshments with George Archibald, ICF Co-founder, President Jim Hook, ICF Board members, African colleagues and ICF staff.

Spirit of Africa Tours

Beginning June 20th, connect with our African cranes on a whole new level by attending an ICF Naturalist guided tour through the new *Spirit of Africa* outdoor exhibit. Please join us for this hour long program that offers an in depth look at the ecological and cultural significance of African cranes, the challenges of crane conservation in Africa and the exciting work ICF is doing to protect cranes on this captivating continent. ICF will be offering daily *Spirit of Africa* tours at 3:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Wish List

1. Our Site Management team would like new or used picnic tables in good condition. Contact Tom Davis at 608-356-9462 ext. 136.
2. Our aviculturists would like an Avian Dissuader, similar to a laser pointer except larger and more powerful. When reintroduced juvenile Whooping Cranes are roosting in an unsafe location the dissuader is used to flush them to safer areas. If you can help out with this "wish" please contact Sara Zimorski at 608-356-9462 ext. 154.
3. ICF would also like new large Kong dog toys for enrichment purposes for African Crowned Cranes. The toys are used for treat dispersal and mental stimulation. Contact Mike Cong at 608-356-9462 ext. 137.



Bhutan in 2010 with George Archibald!

Springtime in the mountains of Bhutan offers displays of many species of colorful rhododendrons and alpine vegetation like Edelweiss and the Blue Poppy, the national flower of Bhutan. Spectacular birds such as the Fire-tailed Sunbird, Blood Pheasants, and Bush Robins can also be seen. ICF Co-founder, Dr. George Archibald, will guide the May 10–22, 2010 tour. For more information contact Julie at julie@savingcranes.org, 608-356-9462, ext. 156.





Thank you *Spirit of Africa* Supporters!

This June, ICF opens *Spirit of Africa*, celebrating the cranes and ecosystems of Africa and the people and strategies involved in their protection. The exhibits were possible through major support from the Dohmen Family Foundation:

“My parents Fred and Mary Dohmen shared an extraordinary gift with our family – their love of animals, education, conservation, Africa and adventure. To honor their passion and inspire others, the Dohmen Family Foundation provided funds to build ICF’s *Spirit of Africa*. Additionally, to help wild cranes and their native ecosystems, we established ICF’s Fund for the Cranes and Wetlands of Africa that supports programs across the continent. We hope our family’s contributions impact cranes and conservation for generations to come.”

In the Spirit of Africa — Bob Dohmen

ICF also recognizes the following individuals and organizations for their special support of *Spirit of Africa* and our conservation programs to protect these birds in the wild:

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Bench Naming Opportunity

Commemorate a meaningful occasion, honor or remember a loved one while helping cranes and conservation by naming a bench within ICF's new Spirit of Africa exhibit.

ICF is pleased to offer lasting recognition opportunities on custom benches throughout our new flagship exhibit celebrating the cranes, people, ecosystems and conservation efforts in Africa. Your gift of \$5,000 (or \$10,000 depending on bench type) will secure naming rights for the lifetime of one bench. A metal plaque secured to the bench will bear your personal message.

Opportunities are limited. Please contact ICF's development team for details at 608-356-9462 ext. 103 or email support@ICF@savingcranes.org.



One of two custom \$10,000 benches available for naming

New "Crownie" Hat!

Embroidered Grey Crowned Crane on 100% cotton baseball cap in an array of vibrant spring colors, as well as the comfortable classics. Velcro closure. \$19.99 + shipping.



For more information visit our web store at: www.craneshop.org or call Barb at 608-356-9462 ext. 121.