

THE NIGERIA PROJECT

a broad outline

Marleen Le Febvre
Patrick Egwu

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Photo credits

We would like to thank the following people for kindly allowing us the use of their photo's:

Young Nigerian lions - Talatu Tende

Lioncub - Ulf Ottosson

Dark Chanting Goshawk - Onoja Joseph,

Baby - Putu Karya

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigeria Project was conceived as a concept to create awareness and educate the Nigerian people on the dire situation of wildlife in general and threatened species in Nigeria in particular.

To create a project, where wildlife is restored in an area to be enjoyed by everyone and be the generator of an economic stimulus to that area at the same time, is a dream that is shared by us.

Patrick Egwu and Marleen Le Febvre started talking and over time this idea began to take shape.

We believe it is possible and necessary to turn this dream into a reality.

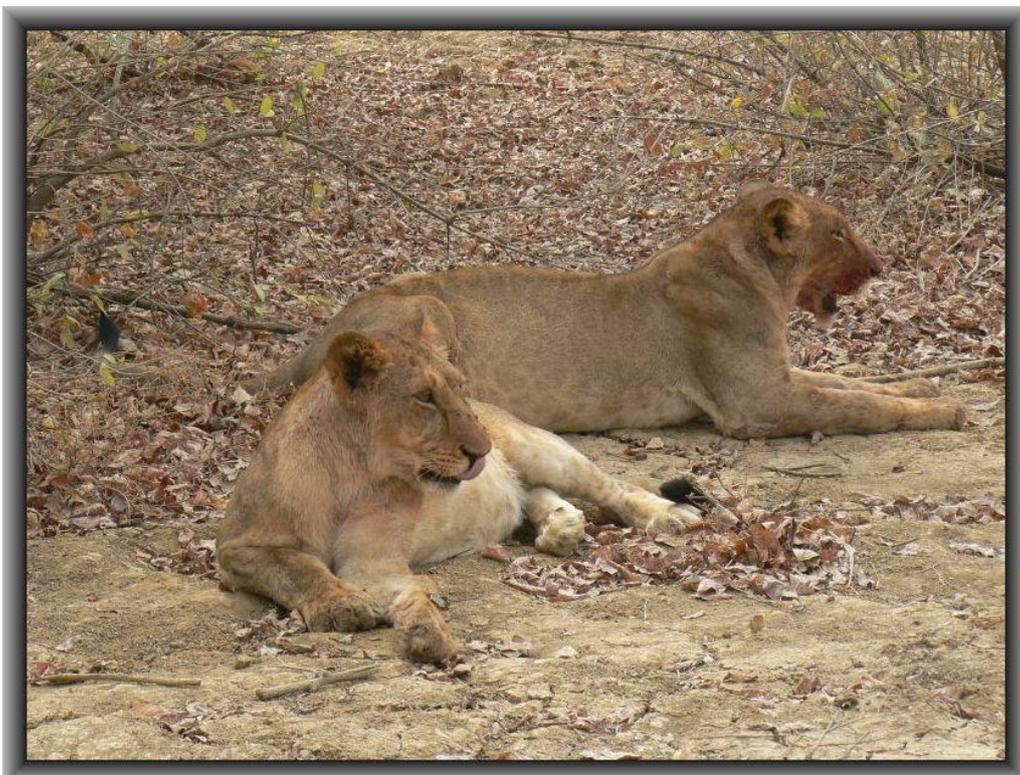
Before too many years the situation of Nigerian wildlife will reach a point of no return, there is still time to save some of the species that are about to vanish completely and forever like the West African lion.

The situation of wildlife in all of Africa is becoming disastrous at an alarming speed because of poaching, illegal trade, hunting and widespread corruption.

The Nigerian project is aiming to cover all these worrisome areas and we have partners, friends and alliances that are experts on safeguarding the project and the wildlife under our care.

After all *They are our responsibility !!!*

Marleen Le Febvre
Patrick Egwu



2. WAR - Wildlife At Risk - WHO ARE WE?



A short introduction to WAR – Wildlife At Risk International

WAR is a global coalition of reliable, knowledgeable and environmentally conscious individuals, groups and experts, who are convened for the sole purpose of :

- Ensuring man's negative influence on our Wildlife Heritage is kept to a minimum
- Ensuring current and future generations will be able to appreciate and understand that nature's 'balance' must be protected and respected
- Recognizing that we have a vested interest in- and responsibility to our future with wildlife !

What do we do?

1. Be the voice of the animals under threat by lobbying on behalf of the WAR coalition, currently over 70 organisations strong, with governments, authorities and key people to create awareness and urge for immediate action.
2. Working on the ground, actively participating in the fight against poaching by working towards keeping animals safe and helping them to survive the onslaught. As the poaching situation all over Africa is escalating we are working towards securing protected areas in as many African countries as possible.

Part of the WAR projects will be to help set up centers in these areas that will serve as animal orphanages/rehab/breeding facilities as well as be a place for the education of people about wildlife and conservation. Involving people from the local communities in the projects by creating jobs for instance as keepers/guards/staff etc.is an essential part of our projects. These projects can grow organically and can involve a multitude of possibilities to branch out depending on the local circumstances.

WAR is a registered NGO with our headquarters in the Netherlands
Registration number Chamber of Commerce Amsterdam: 57342725

www.war-international.org

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/WAR-Wildlife-At-Risk-International/195153390619509>

3. WAR - OUR PARTNERS against crime

- **ELEPHANT ACTION LEAGUE**

The Elephant Action League (EAL) is a new independent organization able to operate both in the field in Africa and Asia, and in the more sophisticated and tricky world of global communication and advocacy.

EAL is legally established in Los Angeles, California, with representatives in New York, the UK, the Netherlands, Italy and Kenya.

Its Mission is to fight elephant exploitation and wildlife crime.

We raise much needed money to fund specific, concrete projects on the ground, such as anti-trafficking & anti-poaching activities, training for rangers/law enforcement, investigations on wildlife trafficking and human-elephant conflict (HEC) mitigation, all activities that are beneficial to both elephant/wildlife and people.

We are also working on creative and strong global communication campaigns in order to re-position elephant and wildlife exploitation in the public's mind and to pressure consumers of ivory, rhino horn and other wildlife products.

While we believe it's important to talk to everyone and to exchange thoughts also with people who don't agree with us, we are not afraid to take a strong stand against what is illegal, cruel, based on ignorance and ethically unacceptable.

The EAL's team is very diverse and includes individuals with varied expertise, from wildlife conservation to business to security/investigation to communication to entrepreneurship. A unique blend of high-level professionals, with true networking power and the capacity to deliver.

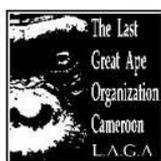
- **EAGLE NETWORK**

Originated from LAGA which was the first Wildlife Law Enforcement NGO in Africa and unique in the world in its approach and activities, working in close collaboration with Governments.

Today LAGA has built legitimacy for a new model of interaction between an NGO and Government. Seven months after its registration LAGA brought about the first wildlife prosecution in Cameroon. From 2006, every week a major illegal wildlife dealer has been arrested, around 87% of these are behind bars from the moment of arrest with no bail granted. Prosecutions are satisfying and have reached the maximum jail term of 3 years. Damages awarded have reached \$35,000 for a wildlife case. Media efforts result every year in 365 media pieces put on TV, radio and written press- one per day.

The Government of Cameroon is one of the few parties of CITES (the UN Convention on Trade in Endangered Species) to include an NGO on the delegation and went further to nominate LAGA for the Bavin international Award. An award LAGA received by the Secretary General of the convention.

With organisations duplicated from LAGA today the EAGLE NETWORK spans already quite a few African countries like Cameroon, Tanzania, Togo, Gabon, Central African Republic, Congo and Guinea.



LAGA
Wildlife
Law
Enforcement



WAR - ASSISTENCE TO GOVERNMENTS

In collaboration with the E.A.G.L.E. NETWORK and financially backed by the Elephant Action League Organisation we offer support to establish new offices in African countries to help with the prosecution and conviction of crimes of wildlife trade. The original concept of LAGA - Last of the Great Apes organisation was established by Ofir Drori and has been duplicated in several African countries. Laga is a Non-Governmental Organization that fights corruption in order to bring about arrests and prosecutions of major wildlife criminals dealing in endangered animal species.

<http://www.laga-enforcement.org/Default.aspx?base>

- SECURITY

WAR works together with Top Specialists in the field of Security, Military and Anti Poaching

Maisha Consulting <http://maisha-consulting.com/>



This gives us the option:

- to advise
- to actively assist
- to participate in efforts to develop new ways to combat this poaching WAR

WAR is facilitating access for parks management and anti poaching forces to:

- Networking and sharing of intelligence,
- Basic military training modules for rangers and higher cadre personel

-WILDLEAKS

WAR works closely and in collaboration with WildLeaks which is the first, secure, online whistleblower platform dedicated to Wildlife & Forest Crime.

The Mission of WildLeaks is to receive and evaluate anonymous information regarding Wildlife & Forest Crimes and transform it into actionable items.



<https://wildleaks.org/>

4. PROJECT OUTLINE

Mission:

To sustainably manage Nigerian wildlife which is a vital segment of the natural resources of Nigeria, for the betterment of the Nigerian people.

To protect the Nigerian environment while at the same time stimulating the local economy.

Vision:

Through our pioneering and innovative ambition, we plan to create a wildlife/eco-tourism economic hub not just in Nigeria, but to benefit the entire West and Central African sub-regions.

A place where wildlife and environment would be regenerated to its former state of a few hundred years ago.

A place that visitors from all across the globe will be drawn to for the simple pleasure of experiencing and enjoying an intact example of West African wildlife.

A place that will be of immense value and interest to researchers from all over the world. A place that will serve both Nigerian as well as international students of various backgrounds and fields of study.

Goals:

(1) To save Nigeria's remaining populations of wild elephants, lions, leopards, and buffalo, as well as to re-introduce the Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) to the Nigerian wild.

(2) To increase eco-tourism revenue for Nigeria and generate and stimulate employment for Nigerians in local communities

(3) To provide and stimulate Education programs on various levels

(4) Create awareness re wildlife, conservation and wildlife crime

Strategy:

To establish and develop a protected area of about 150 to 200 square miles, within which we will have a wildlife orphanage, breeding center, educational center, and veterinary training facilities, with special emphasis on the Big 5 - elephant, lion, leopard buffalo, and rhino.

Key components:

(1) Lion and leopard breeding

(2) Elephant orphanage

(3) Reintroduction of black rhino

(4) Development of eco-friendly facilities and attractions (such as eco-friendly tourist lodges and waste disposal/ fertilizing methods, amongst others)

(5) Physical demarcation of the protected area, so that the area is well protected from intruders like poachers, cattle-herders, etc, so neighboring communities are also protected from disturbance from the wild animals within the protected area

(6) Comprehensive and intensive anti-poaching, enlightenment, and educational campaigns

5. PARTNERS for the project

The basis of the project is a duplicable strategy from a “BLUEPRINT” scenario. This blueprint can be laid down anywhere as long as certain requirements are met.

Key ingredients have to be present in order to make the project a success. By success we mean the ability of the project to continue in a sustainable manner.

Our aim is to create an economically healthy project that benefits the local situation on many levels.

On our own we cannot realise the complete success of a project but, together with our partners; Governmental authorities, other organisations, corporations and coalitions working on a local, regional, national and even international level, it is possible to create a completely sustainable situation. Collaboration therefore is of vital importance to us but more important... to the project.

Essential to each project is the collaboration of the partners with each other, local authorities , local community and corporate community.

Every contributing /collaborating party brings its/her own specific contribution to the project. This can consist of funds, goods, specialized knowledge, land, realty, workers, connections, subsidies etc.

WAR (Wildlife At Risk) International always aims to work closely together with

*EAGLE NETWORK – Ofir Drori

*Top specialists in Security and Anti Poaching

*EAL – Elephant Action League

For the Nigerian Project we have partnered with

Patrick Egwu– Patrick Egwu Executive Ltd /Nigerians for Wildlife

LOCATION

At this point all options re location are open. For the benefit of this project outline we have chosen to take OYO state as an example.

Oyo State is an inland state in south-western Nigeria, with its capital at Ibadan. It is bounded in the north by Kwara State, in the east by Osun State, in the south by Ogun State and in the west partly by Ogun State and partly by the Republic of Benin.

Geography

Oyo State covers approximately an area of 28,454 square kilometers and is ranked 14th by size. The landscape consists of old hard rocks and dome shaped hills, which rise gently from about 500 meters in the southern part and reaching a height of about 1,219 meters above sea level in the northern part. Some principal rivers such as Ogun river, Oba, Oyan, Otin, Ofiki, Sasa, Oni, Erinle and Osun river take their sources from this highland.

Climate

The Climate is equatorial, notably with dry and wet seasons with relatively high humidity. The dry season lasts from November to March while the wet season starts in April and ends in October. Average daily temperature ranges between 25 °C (77.0 °F) and 35 °C (95.0 °F), almost throughout the year.

Agriculture and Economy

The northern part of Oyo State is wood and tall grass savannah while there are mixed forest, savannah and grassland in the south. Agriculture is of major economic importance in the state. Main crops grown are corn, cassava, millet, yams, rice and plantain. Cocoa, oil palm and cashew are major cash crops cultivated. There is also a significant amount of cattle rearing with ranches in various parts of the state. Oyo State has a large amount of solid mineral such as marble, granite, red clay, kaolin and gold. A number of industries in the food sector can be found in the state.

Education

Oyo State has one federal university - University of Ibadan, one state university- Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, two private universities- Lead City University and Ajayi Crowther University, Oyo as well as a number of polytechnics.

Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and recreation features in Oyo State include Old Oyo National Park, Ibadan Zoological Garden, Ado Awaye Suspended Lake and Alafin's Palace



Oyo State Old Oyo National Park

6. THE ROAD TO....

With all the components in place, from major to minor - the wild animals, the orphanage/rehab center, decent roads, passable jeep tracks and affordable safe lodging facilities, it would be a venue that wealthy upper and middle-class Nigerians will want to visit in great numbers.

Nigeria by African standards is wealthy, and so is a huge amount of her population.

Additionally, we have a huge market - over **160 million** people of which at least one-third to 50% are middle-class and above. This equals roughly **55-80 million** people.

With these figures in mind, our project doesn't need to rely on foreign visitors as is the case in most other African countries, although overseas visitors will be a bonus.

It is of vital importance that we get all the logistics flawlessly accurate

- Steady supply of electricity and running water,
- Secure game viewing vehicles, cars for staff, Anti-Poaching Unit/ security personnel, de-snaring and veterinary unit etc. with a regular maintenance program,
- Easy access to transportation for visitors from the nearest big town to and from our reserve, a shuttle bus service for visitors from our reserve to the nearest city and airport. Good catering , etc.

BENEFITS

The benefits of our project to the local community:

Economical

Our project will bring significant economic- and educational benefits. This project will provide a great variation and number of job opportunities - animal trackers, game guards, Anti-Poaching unit(s), game wardens, drivers, mechanics, front office staff, hospitality staff, vets, teachers, tourist guides, admin staff, managerial positions, and numerous others too many to mention here.

Educational

Educationally, it will be interesting to look at several possibilities. An option might be to establish a medium sized well run school within or on the boundary line of our reserve, so that we can tactically imbibe the culture of wildlife conservation into the local young people alongside general education.

This school and/or an educational center with the possibility of specific courses, combined with gamedrives for school classes for a day's outing or midweek field trip, could be looked into.

We can also offer a wildlife veterinary training experience for students in Nigeria and international students for placements at a fee. Concessions can be offered to Nigerian students. The following courses and/or placements can be offered.

1. Veterinary procedures in the field and clinic.
2. Medical training on sick and injured animals.
3. Wildlife rehabilitation. This could be open to high school graduates.
4. Rehabilitation Management.
5. Disease control and blood sampling.
6. Learning about veterinary drugs.
7. Wildlife welfare/care

8. Offences against wildlife

Tourism

The reserve will also not only serve as a center of natural resources and education for surrounding communities, but also as a hub for researchers from far afield as well as specialists from the veterinary world, etc...

Finally, in trend with global developments in the tourism industry, our aim is to make the reserve environmental friendly. Not only in relation to conserving “the bush”, but also in terms of human wastage, use of energy sources, materials etc.

Eco Lodges are a proven good investment and can serve as accommodation not only for tourists but also for those seeking to learn about animal welfare, learning about conservation and environmental issues.

95% of employment should ideally be from within the community.

Tourism surcharges can be used to fund for instance the orphanage, this should be widely published so it will be viewed as a good cause.

More income could be generated through student placements and camps for student tours.

Organic Growth

As this is an organically growing project that greatly depends on the local situation and possibilities it will be essential to start with the most important factors. These can be several and chosen on their respective need for the project to take off.

This could be the orphanage as people like to come visit small animals, the Eco Lodge which will provide revenue and job opportunities immediately, the investment line which will provide capital to establish parts of the project.

Important is to keep a check and balances progress report going to monitor the cash flow.

All parts of the project will contribute to the overall plan and one part can carry another funding wise.

As this is a project that will grow organically there is no final accomplishment in the sense of planning, construction and execution but the ultimate goal will be to create a self-supporting and sustainable project. Our aim is to create an economically healthy project that benefits the local situation on various levels.

The objective is to always make the circle round. Any contribution to the project will ideally have to pay its way back into the project and create a little extra so the project can continue to grow and sustain itself.

Sound business principles and good marketing and investment strategies will be the basis of each and every part of the project.

7. SPECIALISTS

For essential parts of the project specialist expertise is a requirement...just to mention a few examples

ANIMALS

-Elephants:

-Specialists on elephant orphan care and husbandry – the WAR Orphan Emergency team will train a local team on the specialized care and treatment of elephant orphans.

Daphne Sheldrick

Jenny Perepezcko

Dr Aishatu Abubakar - Chief wildlife veterinarian at The Presidency in Abuja

-Lions:

geneticists – breeding specialists – specialists on rehab and release back to the wild

Dr Jumoke Morenikeji, the director of the University of Ibadan (UI) Zoological Gardens in the city of Ibadan in Nigeria.

Tony Fitzjohn

Philip Henschel - Big cat specialist at Panthera

- Rhinoceros

specialists in breeding program for rhino - specialists in rhino calf care

Daphne Sheldrick

Karen Trendler

David Hume

ECO LODGE

Architects

Interior decorators

Engineers

Staff

INVESTMENT:

options for:

- local + national + international corporate investments

- real estate

SAFETY & SECURITY:

Security and Anti Poaching – Maisha Consulting <http://maisha-consulting.com/>

Dr Aishatu Abubakar - chief superintendent of police with the Nigeria Police Force

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

provide support in cooperation with the EAGLE network

8. FIRST STEPS

1. Connecting with Government and local (Park) authorities to:

- a. Secure area
- b. Permits
- c. Funding

2. Connecting with major corporations , organisations and individuals for the purpose of:

- a. collaboration
- b. funding
- c. co-production
- d. sponsoring with goods

3. 1. Connecting with specialists for collaboration on:

- a. Lion breeding program
- b. Elephant husbandry
- c. Rhino breeding and conservation
- d. Preservation of indigenous flora
- e. Eco building
- f. Investments
- g. Rehabilitation and release for lions, elephants, rhino
- h. Security and Anti – Poaching
- i. financial advisement
- j. Education
- k. Law enforcement.



9. CHALLENGES

As in any new project there are huge challenges.

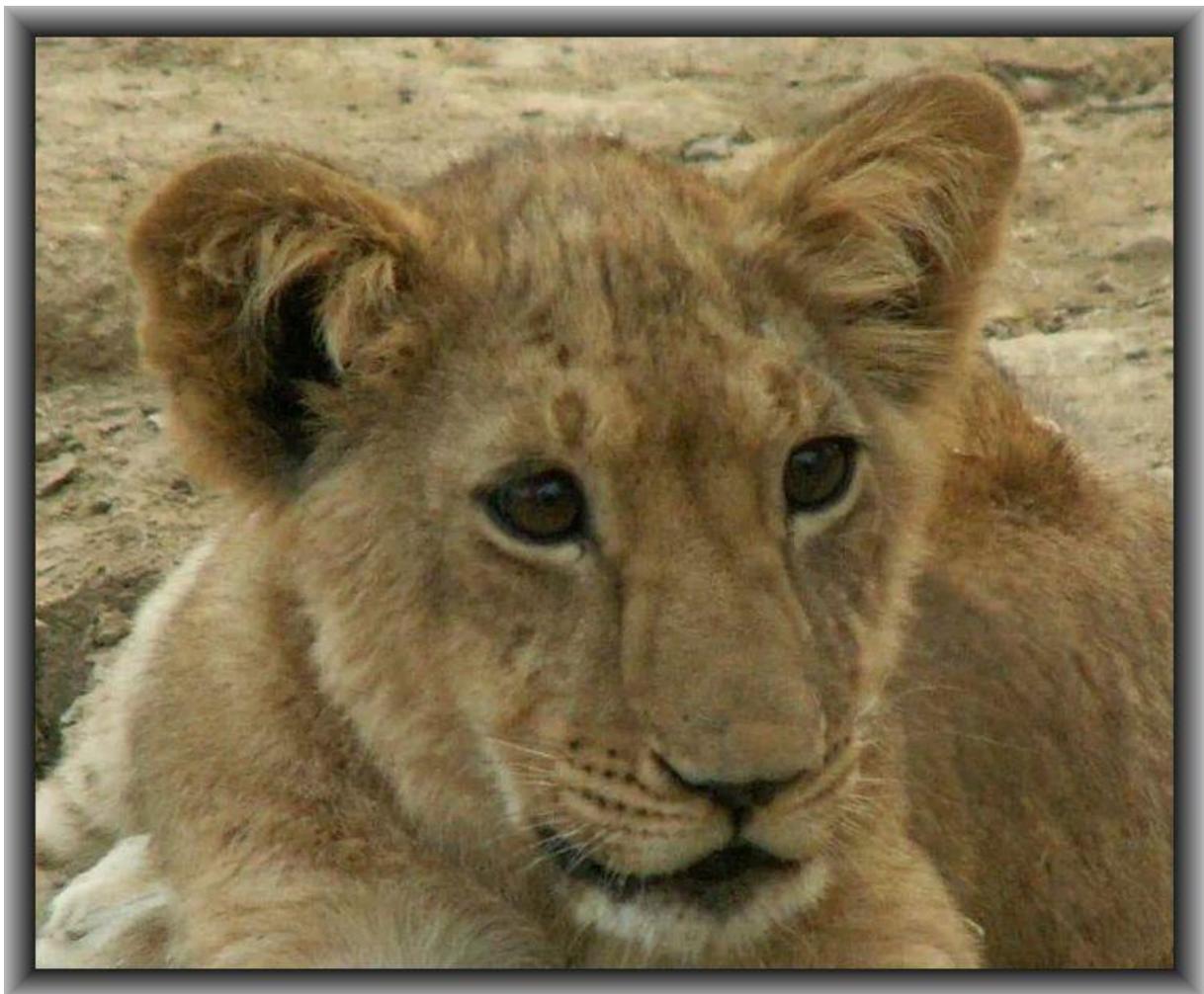
Conception, gestation and delivery to name a few followed directly by the essentials to survival like nurturing, protecting and teaching as well as making sure it remains a healthy and viable project .

Until it can be safely released in order to firmly stand on its own legs it needs to be surrounded by a group of caring, loving, capable and level headed guardians.

To bring a project to its full fruition takes a lot of effort, energy, money, skills and determined people who join together for the sole purpose of making the project a success.

We have started with the 3 of us and we need many more to come and join in. We need the Nigerian authorities, local people, the Nigerian corporate world, International organisations and businesses, other NGO's, groups and individuals to see the vision and make it into a reality.

For many Nigerians a dream come true, for the world a concept that will put Nigeria on the map as a nation that is conserving its wildlife heritage for generations to come while creating economic strongholds in places where there were none.



10. INVITATION TO A PARTY

If you, or your organisation, or your business feel you are interested in the concept of this project please get in touch with us and let's talk some more.....



Contact us:

info@war-international.org



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