



GLOBAL WHITE LION PROTECTION TRUST (WLT)

August 2008 NEWSLETTER

"Our Pride is Returning!"

A roar of greetings and well wishes from all at TSAU!

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2008 R.O.A.R. Award Winners



Individual Category Winner: British wildlife photographer and conservationist, Karen Jane Dudley.
Organisational Category winners: Wildlife Film Company, Aquavision and Baboon Matters

We are pleased to announce our 2008 White Lion R.O.A.R. Award winners! Launched in August 2007, the Award acknowledges individuals and organizations that adhere to sound conservation principles and actively work to protect the rights of all animals - particularly those of the White Lions.

In our **Individual Category**, we acknowledge **British wildlife photographer and conservationist Karen-Jane Dudley** for her ethical and sensitive approach to the photographing of large predators both in zoos and in the wild. Karen-Jane photographed the White Lions in their endemic habitat at the TSAU White Lion Reintroduction Centre

Thank you for
Sponsoring
ONE
"Day of
Freedom"



Through our Days of Freedom Campaign we aim to secure "**365 Days of Freedom**" in the wild for each of the Lions in the Reintroduction Program. One Day of Freedom is calculated according to actual predation and veterinary costs, fence maintenance, anti-poaching activities, restocking of prey-animals, essential habitat management and the cost of monitoring around the clock. One Day of Freedom amounts to **R350 (\$50 or £30)**.

Thank you for
sponsoring *One lion's freedom for one day in the wild.*

Donate...online:
www.whitelions.org

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earlier in the year. She has since drafted a “manifesto for responsible wildlife photography” to help other photographers approach animals in the wild without the typical delusions of human superiority and entitlement.

Also strongly featured in the Individual Category in second place were renowned animal communication specialists **Wynter Worsthorne** and **Anna Breytenbach** for their extraordinary contribution to humanity's understanding of animal-human relations and specifically their respectful approach to communing with our “kings of kings”.

In the **Organizational Category**, two organizations received equal votes. We have pleasure in announcing joint winners: Wildlife film company, **Aquavision**, based in Johannesburg and **Baboon Matters** in Cape Town.

Firstly, we acknowledge with much gratitude **Peter Lamberti and his team at Aquavision** for their commitment to responsible wildlife documentary film making. Aquavision has spent two years filming the White Lions in their natural habitat for a National Geographic documentary due for world-wide release at the end of 2008. Throughout the filming process, the Aquavision team practiced the greatest sensitivity toward the lions, never once violating their rights in the wild for aesthetic purposes. The film crew, with Kira Ivanoff scripting the film, kept a staunch factual compass, fearlessly tackling the many controversial issues surrounding White Lion conservation.

Secondly, we acknowledge **Jenni Trethowan and her team at Baboon Matters** for the organization's tireless commitment to the rescue, protection and rehabilitation of baboons in the Western Cape area. We applaud Baboon Matters for their ongoing education of the public in responsible ‘baboon relations’ and their sincere dedication, facing many odds, to the ongoing wellbeing of baboons in the region.

We also acknowledge Canadian based zoo, **Parc Safari** who featured in a close second position in the Organizational Category. Parc Safari transported three sub-adult White Lions from South Africa to Canada in 2007. Rather than celebrating purely their exhibition value, the Canadian zoo has acknowledged the power of these ‘ambassador lions’ to support the true plight of White Lions in the wild. Parc Safari generously sponsored representatives from the WLT to present on the greater conservation importance of the White Lions at their launch outside

Did you know...?



Photo: The Free Lance Star

The White Lions in the WLT's Reintroduction Program are NEVER touched, handled or approached on foot.

The petting of lion cubs leads to human imprinting and human-imprinted lions cannot be easily reintroduced into the wild. Often adult lions that are human imprinted have only one fate: facing the hunter's bullet in the deplorable trophy hunting activity called “canned hunting”. For this reason, the Global White Lion Protection Trust does not support organizations or wildlife reserves that allow or encourage the petting of White Lions, no matter their stated conservation intentions.

Acknowledging Our Pride and Joy:

Jane McGregor

The Global White Lion Protection Trust wishes to thank Jane McGregor for her commitment to harnessing support for the White Lions in the USA. We are sincerely grateful for her tireless efforts to connect the Trust with like-minded organizations and celebrity contributors. The White Lions represent a global heritage regardless of land and ocean borders.

Montreal. The WLT's scientific team is advising on the responsible management of the White Lions and their genetic importance at their facility. Four prime-time news channels covered the White Lion launch in North America.

WLT Visits the Spirit Bear Project in Canada



In its ongoing study of the White Lions' genetic code, the WLT follows a global precedent set by a scientific team working in British Columbia (Canada) with the so-called "Spirit Bear" (a.k.a. the Kermode Bear). Representatives of the WLT visited the Spirit Bear project in Canada in July

Similar to the White Lion, the Spirit Bear is a unique genetic variant of the Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*), and occurs in only one place in the world: the temperate rainforests of British-Columbia. Also similar to the White Lion, the white coat of the Spirit Bear is believed to be the result of a double recessive allele.

The Spirit Bear has already been classified as a 'sub-species' (*Ursus americanus kermodei*). Since the mode of genetic inheritance is similar to that of the White Lions, indications are that the White Lions can also be meaningfully classified as a 'sub-species' of *Panthera leo*.

In Support of the Tibetan Snow Lion



With all eyes on the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the world has become increasingly aware of the political controversy raging in Tibet. Whilst the WLT remains a non-political organization, it speaks out for peace and freedom for all of humanity and all animal species on the planet.

The Tibetan flag (above) is banned in Tibet. The white Snow Lion depicted on the flag represents Tibet's victorious accomplishments of a unified spiritual and secular life. Further details on the flag's symbology can be viewed on the website of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile. www.tibet.net

Never Give Up by His Holiness the Dalai Lama:

"No matter what is going on, never give up. Develop the heart. Too much energy in your country is spent developing the mind instead of the heart. Be compassionate; not just to your friends but to everyone. Be compassionate, work for peace in your heart and in your world. Work for peace. And I say again, never give up, no matter what is going on around you. Never give up."

Courtesy: South African Office of Tibet

United Kingdom "Ghost of Africa" Tour



Author and WLT CEO, Linda Tucker, will be in the UK from the 23rd of September to the 6th of October. The **Ghost of Africa Campaign** will commence on the Isle of Wight and culminate in four fundraising events on the mainland.

The WLT embarks on a 15-day educational and fund-raising tour in the United Kingdom on the 23rd of September. Activities presently confirmed for the **Ghost of Africa Campaign** include an educational tour to three schools on the Isle of Wight, four fundraising events - one of which will have WLT advisor, Dr Ian Player, as a guest speaker – and, two awareness raising seminars. The detailed schedule can be viewed on the WLT website on www.whitelions.org. We would appreciate pride-members in the UK supporting the tour.

WLT Supports AAF in its Call to Stop Moon Bear Bile Farming in China



The WLT lends its voice to other global animal welfare causes, such as the plight of the Moon Bear in China. Moon Bears are currently being abused in the most gruesome ways for bile farming.

The WLT has drafted a letter to the Chinese Government urging China to cease the practice of Moon Bear bile farming in favour of alternative sources.

The WLT's primary goal remains the urgent protection of the critically endangered White Lions. However, the King of Beasts ROARS in support of other organizations' ceaseless efforts to conserve many other threatened and mistreated animal species.

Whilst we are unable to fund other worthy causes directly, given our own dependence on donated funds, we are able to lend a mighty voice of support to

An E-Gift For a Loved One



Make a donation to the White Lions or sign up membership in honor of a loved-one and add a personal message.

Or, ask friends and family to make a donation to the White Lions on your behalf as a birthday gift.

We will confirm your payment and acknowledge your **"e-gift" via email** to your email address and ensure your loved-one receives their [personalized "e-gift"](#).

How?

Email your payment confirmation and the gift recipient's name and personalized message to: nikkie@whitelions.org

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Banking reference:
"gift+surname"



other animal welfare organizations, such as the Asia Animal Foundation (AAF) (www.animalasia.org). The AAF has mounted a mission to rescue Moon Bears from China's shockingly gruesome bile farms into a Rescue Centre for protection and rehabilitation. The WLT has added its voice to other animal welfare organizations globally in a letter to the Chinese Government urging China to cease the practice of Moon Bear bile farming with immediate effect. View the WLT letter on our website: www.whitelions.org.

Excerpt from "21 Most Asked Questions About White Lions Answered"



Jason Turner is our Lion Ecologist and Senior Scientific Advisor.

Jason heads the Scientific White Lion Reintroduction Project at the TSAU! Centre for White Lion Reintroduction.

Contact Jason on scientific issues pertaining to the White Lions at Jason@whitelions.org

The Trust has compiled a set of 21 scientific questions most asked about the White Lions. We hope that our standardized responses to these questions will help clarify the facts pertaining to the White Lions, their history, their conservation value and their ability to survive in the wild. We will be including an excerpt from the Q&A in each newsletter issue.

Read the full Q&A online: www.whitelions.org

Question: Is there any 'evidence' indicating that White Lions **can** be classified as a subspecies?

After five years, we are at a fairly early stage of our research, but there is a fair amount of evidence - as well as precedents set by groups working with other species - to indicate that White Lions should be classified as a subspecies. By way of example, the lions of the Sabie Sands region (in the Greater KNP) have been recognized as one of four uniquely defined lion groups in Africa⁵. Because the Timbavati and central / southern Kruger Park, generally speaking, have a similar geography, vegetation, geology, fauna and flora, and history compared to the Sabie Sands region - and the lions in this region would most probably fall in the same lion group - the White Lion could therefore, also receive a unique protective status.

[Read Full Q&A](#)



Linda Tucker, CEO

Volunteer for an Internship at TSAU Centre for White Lion Reintroduction



The Global White Lion Protection Trust offers an **exclusive opportunity** for suitable candidates to do an internship at TSAU's Centre for White Lion Reintroduction.

Candidates can gain **hands-on experience** whilst making a valuable contribution to the long-term conservation of the white lions. Interns can expect to be involved in the following:

- Lion monitoring and tracking
- Field research
- Vegetation and habitat management
- Environmental educational programs
- Cultural development and educational programs
- Anti-poaching patrols

For more information contact our Financial Administrator Nikkie Ravenhill on nikkie@whitelions.org.

Announcements and Cautions:

- Please be aware of websites that claim to align with the Global White Lion Protection Trust. Many 'piggy-back' off our market profile and reputation. Please be aware that www.whitelions.org.za is in **NO WAY** affiliated to the Global White Lion Protection Trust.
- The Global White Lion Protection Trust publicly disassociates itself with the following organisations:
 - Inkwenkwezi
 - Lion and Rhino Park
 - Seaview Game and Lion Park

Apologies From the Public



All is forgiven! Thank you for owning up.

[See letters of apologies from the public.](#)

info@whitelions.org

<http://www.whitelions.org>

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