



Turtles

YOUR ADOPTION UPDATE · SUMMER 2020



HAPPY ENDINGS, NEW BEGINNINGS

WITH MARINE TURTLES IN LAMU SEASCAPE
IN SAFE HANDS, WE'RE MOVING OUR
URGENT EFFORTS TO FIJI

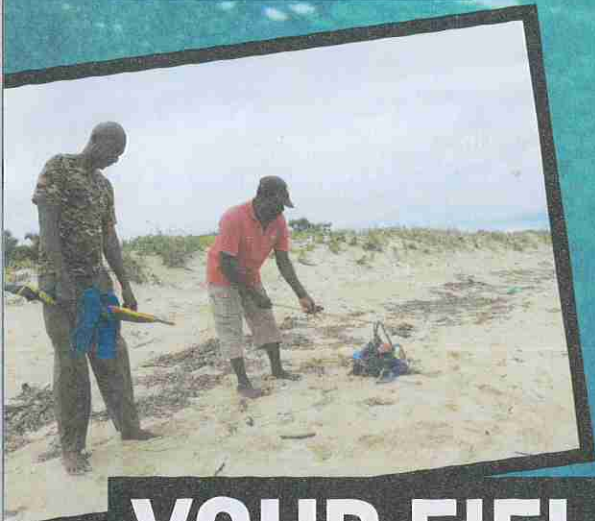
ALSO INSIDE

MEET YOUR ADOPTED
MARINE TURTLES

FIGHTING FOR YOUR WORLD

NURTURE NATURE
IN YOUR GARDEN

MARINE TURTLES



YOUR FIELD REPORT



COMPILED BY HASSAN MOHAMED, WHO COORDINATES WWF'S TURTLE PROGRAMME IN

KENYA, WHICH YOUR ADOPTION HAS SUPPORTED



Main: Hawksbill turtles have a brighter future thanks to you

Left: Removing a hazardous discarded net

Right: Some of the beach monitoring team members you've supported

This is your last marine turtle field report from Lamu seascape, but for a very good and important reason

Amazing adopters like you have played a massive role in protecting Lamu seascape's marine turtles since 2015, and we couldn't be more grateful for your incredible support. You've helped us train the monitoring teams and gain the trust of local communities – many of whom are actively helping to protect the marine turtles that nest on their beaches. We couldn't have done it without you, and we'll never forget all the brilliant support you've given us. But your help is now urgently needed elsewhere.

Ocean temperatures are rising and the fragile coral reefs that many marine turtle species depend on are bleaching and dying at an alarming rate. Thankfully,



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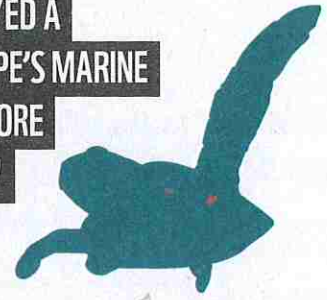
HAWKSBILL TURTLES NEST THREE TO FIVE TIMES BETWEEN JULY AND OCTOBER, WITH ABOUT 150-200 EGGS PER CLUTCH

it's not too late to change things. Scientists have identified 50 reefs that seem to have the best chance of withstanding the impacts of climate change and surviving in the long-term. We need to double our efforts to protect these vitally important reefs, including those around Fiji in the South Pacific. One of which lies off Vanua Levu, Fiji's second-biggest island.

Of course we'll continue protecting marine turtles here in Lamu seascape, but from now on the funding you so generously give through your adoption will support crucial projects in Fiji, as part of the globally-important Coral Reef Rescue Initiative. You can read more on page 6. Meanwhile, let's celebrate some of the successes you've been part of in Lamu seascape, where you've made a world of difference to marine turtles.

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“AMAZING ADOPTERS LIKE YOU HAVE PLAYED A MASSIVE ROLE IN PROTECTING LAMU SEASCAPE’S MARINE TURTLES SINCE 2015, AND WE COULDN’T BE MORE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT”



IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING

With your help, we pioneered satellite tagging of marine turtles along the Lamu seascape coastline, revealing information about the turtles’ behaviour and migration routes. We’ve also piloted camera tagging in Kiunga marine protected area, to record underwater images of marine turtle habitats and identify emerging challenges such as plastic pollution.



INSPIRING PEOPLE

You’ve supported community beach clean-ups to remove hazardous rubbish that can stop marine turtles from reaching the best nesting spots and obstruct turtle hatchlings as they scuttle to the sea. You’ve also supported sustainable ventures such as ‘trash for cash’, in which local youth and women’s groups turn flip-flops washed up on Kenya’s beaches into toys and other handicrafts they can sell.



SHARING INFORMATION

Another hugely important improvement you’ve been part of is ensuring that all the beach monitoring teams use the same systemised survey methods. It means the data they collect can be fed into a central database for analysis. This will help build a clearer picture of nesting patterns and inform scientists of any changes that could be linked to poaching, climate change or other threats. And that’s not all.



BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Thanks to you, we’ve forged strong partnerships with local communities and government agencies such as Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute, leading to the development of the National Sea Turtle Conservation strategy. This Kenya-wide strategy sets robust guidelines for managing marine turtle habitats, helping to protect green, olive ridley, loggerhead, leatherback and hawksbill turtles long into the future. *Thank you!*



KEEPING MARINE TURTLES SAFE

You’ve helped to strengthen and expand our beach monitoring patrols, with 22 marine turtle nesting beaches patrolled last year alone. The teams recorded 115 nests, of which 105 hatched successfully, producing 11,309 hatchlings. They also relocated a total of 5,441 eggs to safer places, giving the tiny turtle hatchlings the best chance of survival. You’ve provided these teams with essential monitoring equipment, including GPS devices and flipper tags for identifying individual turtles. You’ve also given them essential kit such as tents, torches and sleeping bags, to help in monitoring beaches overnight.

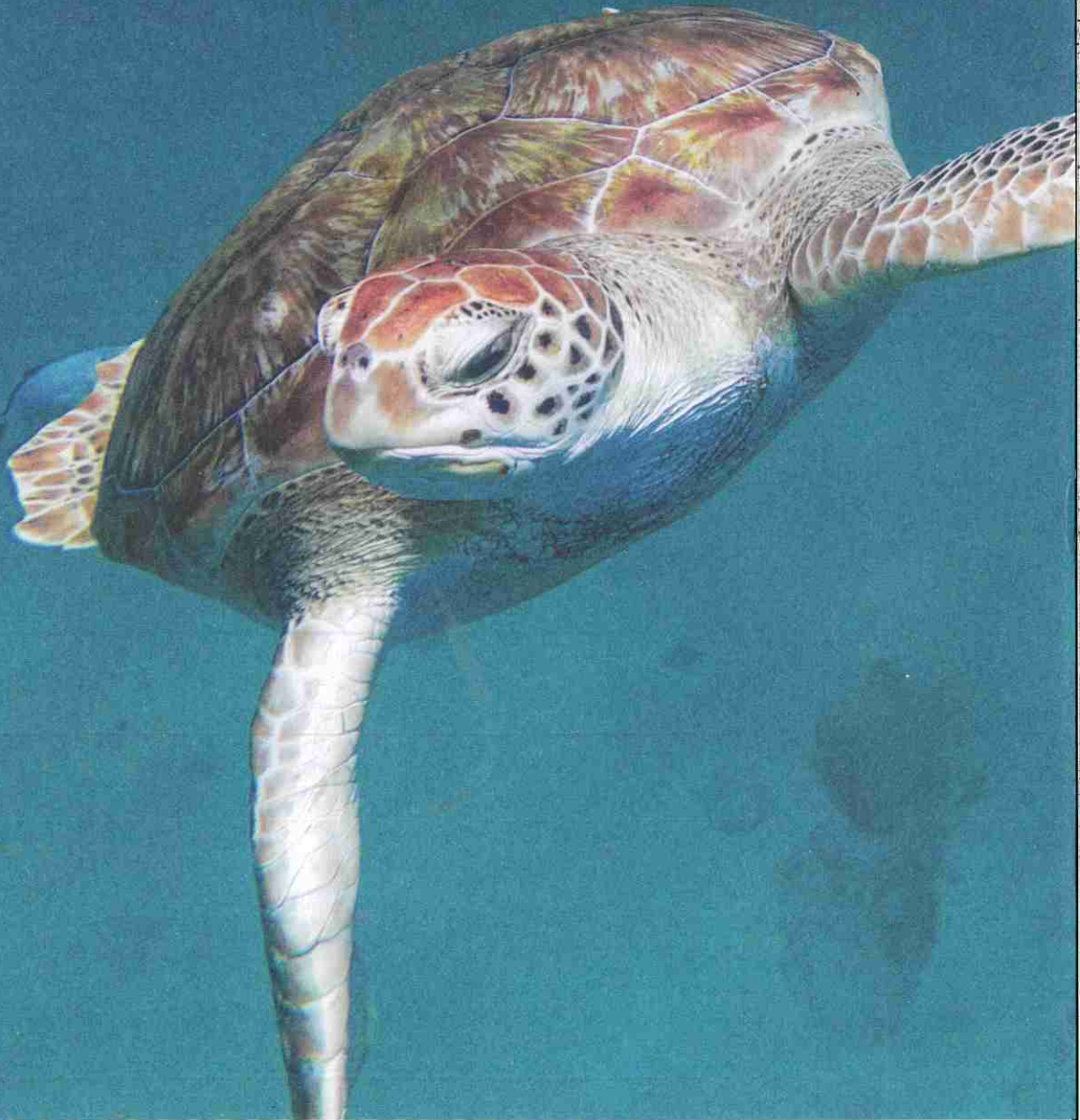


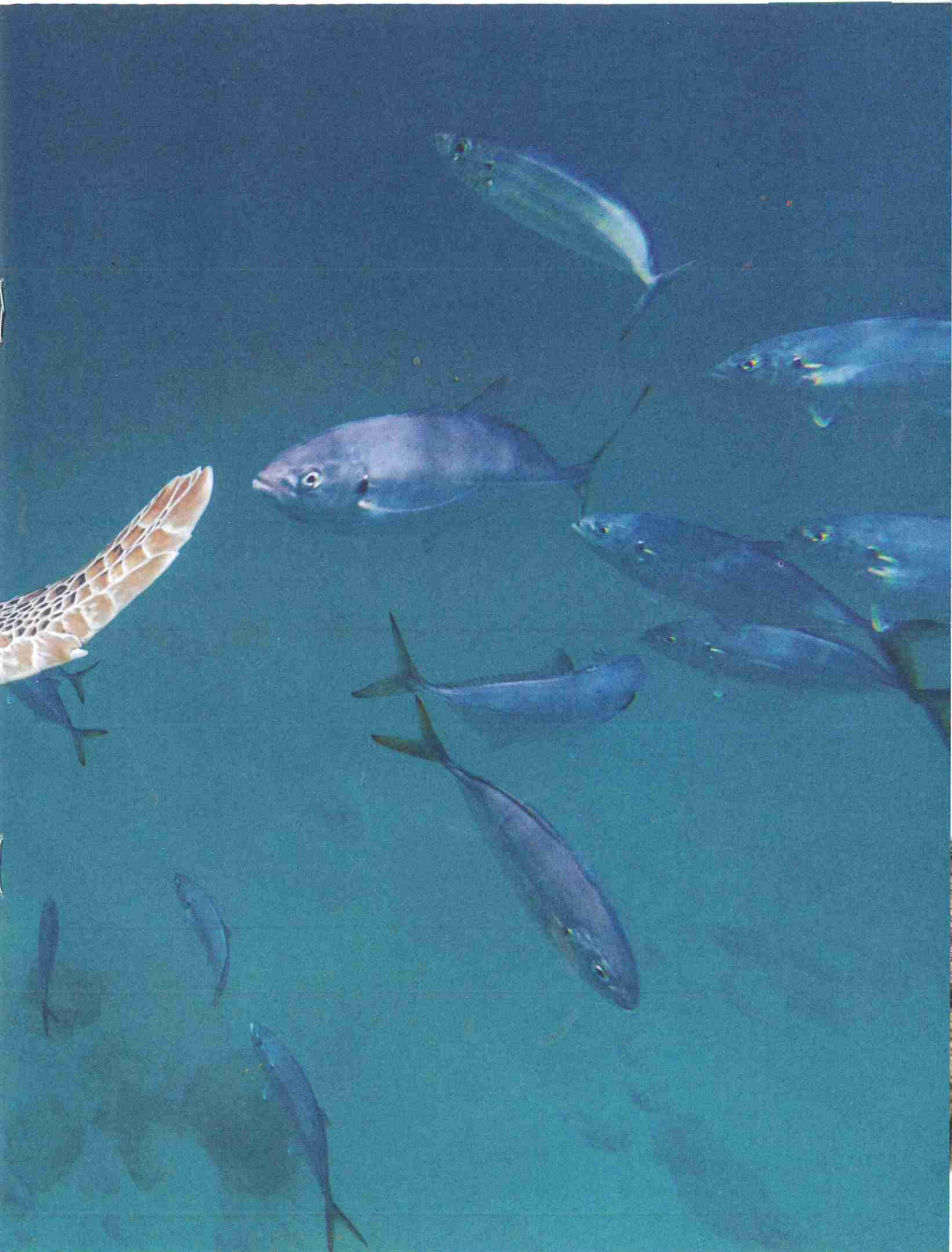
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WWF

FOR YOUR WORLD





THE MARINE TURTLES OF FIJI

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW ADOPTED MARINE
TURTLES, WHICH LIVE OFF THE COAST OF FIJI'S
SECOND-LARGEST ISLAND, VANUA LEVU

Hello, or as we say, 'bula vinaka' turtle adopters! My name is Laitia Tamata and I'm WWF's coastal fisheries officer in Fiji. I'll be compiling your field reports, and I can't wait to bring you news about the incredible marine turtles that nest, feed and migrate here.

TURTLE PARADISE

Fiji's pristine coral reef, soft sands and warm, clear waters make it the perfect habitat for marine turtles. It's home to five of the seven species: green, hawksbill, olive ridley, leatherback and loggerhead. Female green, hawksbill and leatherback turtles return each year to nest on Vanua Levu's beaches, and on three small islands off its north-west coast – Yadua, Kia and Katawaqa.

Through your adoption you'll be supporting the community-based beach monitoring teams, known as Daunivonu, who keep a close eye on the nesting beaches. They collect crucial data on marine turtles and their nests, eggs and hatchlings, and relocate any nests at risk of flooding at high tide. The Daunivonu also look for signs of threats such as poaching, and they work with local communities to help increase their understanding of the significant role marine turtles play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. These amazing underwater mariners transport nutrients from their coral reef feeding

grounds to their nesting beaches, maintaining a natural balance.

You'll be helping to fund all kinds of other vital work too, such as encouraging the use of safer fishing gear to reduce the risk of marine turtles being accidentally caught and drowned. Fishing with 'circle hooks' instead of traditional 'j' hooks can reduce accidental capture of turtles by up to 80%, and we're pushing for more fisheries to use them. Plus, we're lobbying to have observers aboard fishing vessels, to help monitor the gear and methods they use, and advise on less harmful alternatives.

On a wider scale, your support will give a massive boost to our work to influence national policy, including the Fiji Marine Turtle Recovery Plan. As you'll have read in your field report, the coral reef off Vanua Levu is one of only 50 in the world thought to be able to withstand and recover from the effects of climate change, giving us a fighting chance to protect it and the life it sustains. Many marine turtle species rely on the coral reef for food and shelter, so tackling the threats they face goes hand in hand with safeguarding their environment for people, wildlife and our planet. It's great to have you on board, and I look forward to telling you more about the fantastic work you're now supporting. 🐢



Main: Laitia with a tagged green turtle

Inset: Daunivonu monitors attach a flipper tag to a turtle

DID YOU KNOW?

**HAWKBILL TURTLES
MAINLY EAT
SPONGES BUT WILL
ALSO EAT OTHER
INVERTEBRATES
FOUND AROUND
CORAL AND
ROCKY REEFS**



WINNING FOR YOUR WORLD

Thank you! Not only are you helping protect marine turtles – you're also supporting vulnerable wildlife, people and wild places right across the planet. Here are some of the brilliant recent achievements you've been part of



1 KENYA

YOU HELPED CREATE A BUZZ FOR ELEPHANTS

You helped provide 150 beehives for women in Kenya's Mara ecosystem – and that's good news for elephants too. As human populations rise and natural habitats shrink, people and elephants are increasingly coming into conflict. Elephants can destroy people's crops, and can be dangerous too – but they're scared of bees.

Not only are the hives a great deterrent, they also help local women improve their incomes, building positive feelings towards conservation. In Oloisukut conservancy alone, more than 100 women will benefit from 50 new commercial hives. They can expect to harvest 850kg of honey, worth around 340,000 Kenyan shillings (£2,600), twice a year.

2 BOLIVIA

YOU'RE HELPING FIRE-HIT COMMUNITIES RECOVER

Following last year's devastating forest fires, your outstanding support of our Amazon emergency appeal raised nearly £1 million to aid efforts in Bolivia and Brazil. We provided emergency relief to affected communities, including medicine, food, water pumps and firefighting equipment. We're now working with indigenous communities in Bolivia whose livelihoods have been affected by the loss of sustainably harvested products such as nuts and fruits. Looking ahead, we'll help our partners determine the efforts needed to help forests, biodiversity and communities recover.



3 RUSSIAN FAR EAST

YOU HELPED RUSSIAN TIGERS ROAR BACK

Thanks to you, Amur tigers are making a remarkable comeback in the Russian far east. The big cats had been almost wiped out in Evreiskaya province but, with your support, we've been working with partners to release tigers from a rehabilitation centre back into the wild. A recent survey shows there's now a stable population, with an estimated 20 individuals. Even better, the tigers are successfully breeding: the survey found three females with litters of one, two and three cubs.

There's now real potential for this tiger population to spread into neighbouring areas in Russia and China, taking us closer to our goal of doubling wild tiger numbers.

Minty the possum was injured in a bushfire. Thanks to you, he and other animals are being cared for



4 AUSTRALIA

YOU SUPPORTED BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

The recent bushfires in Australia destroyed over 120,000 sq km of forest and killed an estimated 1.25 billion animals – but you reached out to help. You generously donated more than £2.7 million to our Australia bushfire emergency appeal, enabling us to partner with frontline organisations to rescue and treat koalas and other injured wildlife in affected areas.

With your fantastic support we're also working to assess the damage, protect habitat that escaped the fires, replant trees and advocate for better climate policies from the Australian government. There's still a long way to go, but together we're helping to save what survived and to restore what was lost.



WILDLIFE RESCUE YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY APPEAL HELPED FUND SPECIALIST VETERINARY CARE, FOOD AND WATER FOR STARVING ANIMALS, AND EVEN SNIFFER DOGS TO FIND SURVIVING KOALAS



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RESTORE NATURE IN YOUR GARDEN

BUILD A HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY

Hedgehog numbers are estimated to have fallen by 98% since the 1950s, and these spiny-coated animals desperately need our help. Take some hedgehog-friendly action with your neighbours, by creating an unobstructed pathway through your gardens. Together you'll enable hedgehogs to travel freely as they go about their nightly business.

FEED THE BIRDS

Look after lots of different feathered friends by putting out a variety of bird feed throughout the year, especially during cold or dry spells. With climate change making extreme weather events more likely, providing extra food can really help local bird populations flourish.

LET YOUR GRASS GROW

Leave the mower in the shed and you'll encourage native wildflowers to grow. You'll also help protect the wild creatures that call your garden home, including frogs, newts, mice and slow worms - plus all kinds of beneficial creepy crawlies!

PLANT NATIVE VEGETATION

Growing native wildflowers is one of the best things you can do for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other pollinators. Try planting common knapweed, bellflowers and native British herbs such as wild garlic or corn mint to give our pollinators a helping hand.

EVEN MORE WAYS
YOU CAN HELP

FIND OUT MORE AND
DISCOVER OTHER ACTIONS YOU
CAN TAKE TO HELP WILDLIFE
WHERE YOU LIVE AT:

WWF.ORG.UK/LOVENATURE

As well as helping to safeguard marine turtles, you support our other vital work to help protect our beautiful planet and its wildlife. Thank you.



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All information correct at time of printing, May 2020