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FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

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In proud association with





1. Message from the Chief Operating Officer

As the rains have brought new life to the savannahs and forests of Zimbabwe, so too, the New Year has brought a renewed energy to ALERT, CCWA and ACT.

We have a host of new initiatives under way including;

- the release of three further females into stage two planned for April;
- new community programs such as a community sports and support complex;
- our conservation education plans are getting under way in Victoria Falls;
- we will soon launch our wild lion research programs and;
- we also launch our research study program allowing independent researchers the chance to join the program to conduct studies on our release protocols, which will greatly assist our regular reviews of how we do things.

Other than the official launch of our cub sponsorship program following a successful pilot scheme, we also have a special appeal this month that we hope will become a great fundraising idea for the program and appeal to everyone out there who has a sweet tooth!

Finally this month we say goodbye to Art & Janet Gavazzi who have been managing the Antelope Park stage one program for the last 2½ years. They are moving on to new pastures and we wish them well and thank them both for the huge amount of effort that they have put into the program. We also offer our support to Andrew & Charmian Deysel who will be taking over the role.

Kindest regards

David Youldon

ALERT Chief Operating Officer



2. What is ALERT?



The African Lion & Environmental Research Trust (ALERT) is a non-profit organization working with governments, wildlife authorities and private organizations to identify suitable release sites for African lions. ALERT will also provide infrastructure to those sites to facilitate the release and to protect local communities. It was founded in 2005 to support the work of the four stage African Encounter Lion Rehabilitation and Release into the Wild Program, founded in 1999 at Antelope Park in Gweru, Zimbabwe.

ALERT also carries out scientific research through the **Conservation Centre for Wild Africa (CCWA)**, either in its own right or in conjunction with external conservation organizations and educational institutions. CCWA engages in a diversity of research and conservation related programs, not just for lions but on a wide range of African wildlife to ensure that we can pass on balanced ecosystems to future generations. CCWA is already undertaking a number of research activities throughout Zimbabwe's National Park system.

In addition, the **ALERT Communities Trust (ACT)** is a means to give back to communities bordering conservation areas such that they receive tangible benefits for supporting those conservation programs. A primary element of this is our community education and awareness program to further understanding of the importance and relevance of sound conservation practices. Local communities are involved in eco-tourism ventures related to the conservation programs, and money generated by those programs goes back into development schemes, agreed as priorities with the local community, such as building schools or providing medical supplies.

3. Stage One Update

With so much rain this wet season, the wettest for 120 years some people have said, it has been very difficult for us to safely take the lions out at night to practice their hunting skills. However we have had some successes nevertheless.



Ltalo



Landela

Ltalo & Landela are continuing their good form with three more kills by Landela bringing his total to five, and ten for the pairing.

They are maintaining an astonishing 76% success rate which is a remarkable achievement. On their last hunt they were joined by their brothers **Lokothula & Langa** who got straight into the action.

We were hoping to take the brothers out together before this, but Langa is not integrating back to his brothers as well as we had hoped. They were split into two sets of two in August 2006 when Loko & Langa were taken to stage one in Victoria Falls.

In each pairing a leader and a follower quickly emerged, the leaders being Ltalo & Langa. When the four were reunited at the end of December it was clear that there was going to have to be some sort of battle for supremacy within the group. Although there has been little fighting, the brothers are avoiding each other, and we need them to feel a bond if we are to successfully take them out at night together. Ltalo seems to be coming out on top, and we hope that Langa will soon submit to his position in the pride. Langa & Lokothula came back from Victoria Falls, already with an impressive hunting pedigree having killed two baboon, two warthog and a buffalo.



Nala



Paka

On February 7th **Nala & Paka** were taken on a *Night Encounter*, the first time that these two had hunted together without **Narnia**.

They found a herd of wildebeest, which panicked after they spotted the lions stalking them. The girls immediately sprang into action and rushed headlong into the herd. Nala immediately picked out a female and after a chase clamped her teeth around its mouth but struggled to bring the animal down. Paka nearly caught herself a calf, but after her chance slipped away she came to Nala's aide by latching onto the wildebeest's neck.

The combined effort gave them the advantage and the animal was soon brought to the ground, although the kill has been attributed to Nala. To watch footage as the lions wrestle the wildebeest to the ground visit <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=10232007129&oid=6358705943> You will need to be registered with Facebook to watch the video.



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Nandi made her first kill on the morning of 7th February when she managed to snag a southern yellow billed hornbill. Known as the bird characterized as Zazu in Disney's The Lion King, the hornbill did not stand a chance against the sharp-wittedness of our little shumba who dispatched said bird in seconds.



Nadia



Ezulu

We have taken the decision to spay some of our female lions so that they can be released as part of the main program, but will not breed and pass on a possible genetic defect. We believe these lions, having been through stage one of the program, have a lot to offer to the survival success of their release groups through protection and hunting, if not breeding. Five lions (**Nala, Narnia, Nadia, Ezulu & Kwali**) have been spayed so far, with the intention of a further two next month (**Alice & Nandi**).

Nala, Narnia & Nandi are inbred, inherited by the program from another owner and saved from likely being shot. They have shown considerable skill at hunting and are all healthy and therefore perfect for a stage two release. Nadia & Ezulu are two highly aggressive females who developed a spinal deformity as cubs, whilst Kwali suffered Horner's syndrome when young, and is also one of our most successful hunting lions. Alice is stunted, but as with all of these lions is in perfect health.



Acacia & Amghela, now 18 months old, have taken part in research walks as their final walks before retiring and moving on to *Night Encounters*. The research is looking at character traits in the lions such as playfulness, boldness, intolerance and aggression. The walks are conducted by guides and eco-tourists over a 7 day period around the third month anniversary of each lion. Each day the lions are assessed against different criteria with an average taken from the week in order to quantify their character trait. We hope that these traits will become predictors of the lions' likely role in a release pride enabling us to better group lions together in the future.



4. Sponsor a Lion

Have you ever thought about **sponsoring one of our lions or need the perfect and original gift for a friend or relative**? Maybe a cub that you walked with, or helped raise! Well, we are happy to now offer you that opportunity.

By sponsoring a lion you will help pay for its food, housing, veterinary bills, micro-chipping, radio collaring, permits, research and its release. You can sponsor an individual lion, or make a big saving for sponsoring multiple lions in a group or a litter, and can pay in either monthly or annual installments.

For your generous donation you will receive:

- A copy of the ALERT DVD
- A photo & biography of your lion by email
- The monthly ALERT newsletter by email
- Quarterly updates & photos by email for your lion
- A 5% discount off of any stage one Lion Walk
- A 5% discount off any African Impact program
- Priority booking to see the release of your lion.



For your chance to make a difference to these lions simply email alert@africanencounter.org with the following details, stating "Lion Sponsorship" in the subject line:

- Full name
- Confirm the email address you would prefer that we use to send you your invoice and updates
- Your mailing address so that we can send you your copy of the ALERT DVD
- Whether you would prefer to make monthly or annual payments
- Whether the sponsorship is for yourself or as a gift. If it is a gift we will also need the recipients mailing and email addresses.

Lion/s	Example	Cost Per Month
Single Lion	Acacia	£10.00
Two Lions	Echo & Etosha	£15.00
Three Lions	Acacia, Amghela & Chengeta	£17.50
Four Lions	Langa, Ltalo, Landela & Lokothula	£20.00
Five Lions	Lungile, Lina, Lisha, Lozi & Luangwa	£22.50

We would ask you to read and agree to the terms and conditions below before sponsoring a lion:

- There will be more than one person sponsoring each lion
- If you sponsor a litter or group, please note that lion groupings change and the litter or group may be split up and placed with other lions
- Sponsorship does not entitle the donor to any rights of ownership or decision making over the future of the sponsored lion
- ALERT reserves the right to use sponsorship money to go to the general use of ALERT to further the program, and not necessarily towards the specific lion being sponsored
- The sponsored lion may not be released if we select that lion to be kept back for breeding
- If your sponsored lion dies or has to be put down for some reason, then you will be offered the option to cancel your sponsorship or to select another lion. No refunds due on sponsorship paid.



5. Reaction to a recent negative article in the UK's Sunday Times

P R E S S S T A T E M E N T

ISSUED JOINTLY BY ANTELOPE PARK, ALERT, AND SIR RANULPH FIENNES IN RESPONSE TO THE SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE "AFRICAN LION ENCOUNTERS: A BLOODY CON," PUBLISHED ON FEBRUARY 10, 2008

"The article "African Lion Encounters: A Bloody Con," which was written by Chris Haslam, and published in the Sunday Times on Sunday February 10, is full of inaccuracies. We feel that this article strongly misrepresents ALERT, a trust that is dedicated to ensuring the future of the African Lion, and Antelope Park, where the program is based.

The article claims that "as many as 59 lion cubs raised at Antelope Park have been sold to big-game-hunting operations to be shot for sport." **No lion from Antelope Park has ever been, and never will be, intentionally sold for canned hunting.** African Encounter is completely against canned hunting. Our freely available information clearly states this. A total of 39 lions have been sold by Antelope Park since the current owners acquired the property in 1987. 37 of those lions were sold, in two groups, one in 1999 and the majority in 2002 to a captive centre in South Africa. There was a pre-condition on the provision of an export permit by the Zimbabwe Wildlife Authority that those lions could not be used for canned hunting.

Furthermore, the lions that were exported were to be monitored by the relevant wildlife authorities within South Africa to ensure that the provisions of the sale were upheld. Two further lions were sold to a private breeder within Zimbabwe, not associated in any way with hunting, in 2005. No other sales of lions have ever taken place.

The article also states that tourists and volunteers "are told that the lion cubs are being raised for release in the wild," and that "captive-bred, hand-reared lions have the potential to become man-eaters, and thus can never be allowed to roam free." At no time are any visitors to the project informed that the captive bred lions will be released into an unfenced area. **We are fully aware of the fact that captive bred lions without a natural fear of humans can become man-eaters, and this is why this form of release has never formed part of the release program. All the information provided by Antelope Park and ALERT clearly states that the captive lions are rehabilitated into a fenced, managed eco-system, free of humans, where they will have offspring. These cubs are raised by the pride (stage 3 of the program), in a natural environment free of any human contact. They will therefore be able to be released into the wild with the same avoidance behaviours towards humans as any wild born lion.**

Furthermore, the article states that Antelope Park employs tourists and gap-year students as guides. Antelope Park does not use fee-paying tourists or gap-year students as guides. These self-funded eco-tourists pay for the opportunity to work alongside our guides and lion handlers to further the conservation, research and community work that we undertake.

As a specific example of these eco-tourists, the article mentions "agencies such as Real Gap." David Stitt, Managing Director of Real Gap, comments: "As market leaders in the gap break market, Real Gap's policy is to endorse responsible conservation programs. Antelope Park is an ethical, well-managed program. It is clear in all our correspondence with our volunteers that the lions that they work with are part of a captive program. Our volunteers do not have physical contact with those lions in the stages of the program where the aim is eventual release into the reserves and national parks."

In addition, the Sunday Times article quotes two scientists, Dr Sarel van der Merwe and Dr Luke Hunter of the Wildlife Conservation Society, on the pitfalls of releasing lions into the wild. Antelope Park has actually received a letter from Dr van der Merwe advising us and supporting us on the work and research that we were doing. In an email that was sent on June 12, 2004, he told us the following: **"Generally speaking, the feeling amongst scientists is that captive bred lions cannot survive in a natural environment. I beg to differ. I have reviewed too many reports to the contrary...I believe one can rehabilitate the lions."**

Additionally, we have also received the following from Dr Pieter Kat, a senior lion expert, in June 2005:

"...we can begin programs of lion reintroduction in a wide variety of depopulated areas. Such programs will not only be immediately positive, but will also place lions squarely in the category of animals like rhinos whose plight seems to be better appreciated by the international conservation community. This is why I am appreciative and excited to be involved by the initiatives taken by Antelope Park. Through years of self-funded and determined effort, they have developed a



program of re-introduction that has a very good chance of success. **Predators of any description are notoriously difficult to reintroduce, but now we have at least a workable plan.** As I said, the future of African lions is in African hands. Let us salute those who have been steadfast to ensure this future, and recognize that any action is better than the currently looming extinction of an African icon if we do nothing."

In August 2007, we released our first pride of lions into stage two; a managed ecosystem where the lions have been successfully hunting for six months now. **They have brought down prey from warthog to adult giraffe,** which is a remarkable achievement from the captive cubs that they were. The ALERT and Antelope Park program is also involved in conservation of other species, research and community development in order to provide sustainable programs to the benefit of Africa's wildlife and its people.

With regards to the treatment of our lions, a letter we received from WWF Southern Africa Regional office (written on January 10, 2005) following visits by independent ecologists, Zimbabwe Park And Wildlife Authority, and Society for the Protection of Animals, states that the Antelope Park program is **"highly ethical and extremely well managed."** Keith Dutlow BVSc, MRCVS and Lisa Marabini BVSc, MRCVS, two vets we have been working with during the past two years, complied to this in a reaction to the article, stating that "as independent consultant vets to Antelope Park since February 2006, we can attest that since that time, no animal has ever been de-clawed, de-fanged, or drugged for entertainment purposes. Also, every lion at Antelope Park has been micro-chipped and no lions have been sold to other operators nor removed from the program under suspicious circumstances since our involvement."

Furthermore, according to the article, "[n]either the Alert program nor Sir Ranulph Fiennes could be reached for comment." Neither Antelope Park nor ALERT are aware of any attempts of the Sunday Times to contact them for information. In fact, the email below sent to us by Sacha Lehrfreund from the Sunday Times Picture Desk, on 6th February, requesting photographs was responded to immediately with an offer of furnishing The Times with details of our lion rehabilitation and release program, but no such offer was accepted. When no response was received, our marketing department placed a call to the picture desk on Thursday February 7th, but this was rudely dismissed. The paper's representative claimed to have no time to talk to us, and refused to transfer us to any of her colleagues.

*From: Evans, Sara [mailto:sara.evans@sunday-times.co.uk]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 1:46 PM
To: info@africanencounter.org
Subject: Walking with Lions - Pictures for the Sunday Times, London*

Hello

We are running a feature in the Travel section about 'Walking with Lions' and I'm hoping that you could supply us with some photographs from Antelope Park, preferably of people walking alongside lions. We will of course credit your organisation. The article would appear on 10th February and we go to press tomorrow, so I'm hoping that you are able to help at such short notice.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Thanks
Sacha*

*Sacha Lehrfreund
Sunday Times Travel
Picture Desk*

Contrary to the article's claims, **Sir Ranulph Fiennes** was never contacted by the Sunday Times either. His response to the article is as follows: **"I am proud to be a small part of ALERT and I am ashamed of the uninformed Sunday Times article "African lion encounters: a bloody con" as an example of the worst type of libelous, inaccurate writing.** This by a journalist bent on thrashing ALERT, a highly worthwhile body of individuals, black and white, in Zimbabwe whose sterling non profit efforts to protect the endangered African lion deserve praise not lies."

Anyone is free to visit Antelope Park to see for themselves how we operate, and how our various conservation, research and community programs are benefiting Africa. We feel that anyone wanting to make comment about the voracity of our aims should at least make an effort to find out about the program and read the freely available literature."



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6. An Update on Livingstone

Ever since we first started thinking about expanding our Lion Rehabilitation & Release into the Wild Program into Zambia, we also talked about the role of the ACT community development programs that would need to run alongside, but felt that these should begin immediately, rather than wait for the lions to move. The program, operated by our sister organization, **African Impact**, has been incredibly successful with huge support from a wide range of sources. Here are some of the most recent developments:

Sports Program

2008 started off well for our sports developments in Livingstone. The program's project managers and community liaison team were invited to a meeting on the 2nd of February with the Zambian Minister for Sports and asked to give a presentation regarding our proposal to build a sports and community complex. We propose to build a modern complex including a number of sporting facilities as well as a library and counseling rooms; a place where local communities can come to not only enjoy and receive training in team sports, but also make use of facilities such as the library to assist in their education or meet with counselors to talk through issues facing their daily lives.

The Minister was extremely interested in the proposal and impressed with our work in Livingstone's communities so far and instantly gave authorization for the lease of a plot of land called the "Villa Ground"!!

Medical Projects

Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of eco-tourists on the Livingstone program we can now boast a new aspect of the medical project – a **Contraception Awareness program**. This involves education for both males and females on the variations and uses of contraception. This will run along side our already established and successful **HIVE (HIV Education) Program**. We are hoping this is going to be a project that can target males, as they are currently reluctant to attend HIVE.

For some time now we have been supporting the various **Home Based Care programs**, run by local female volunteers from a number of Livingstone's communities. The purpose of these Home Based Care projects is to go into the homes of those who are perhaps house bound due to illness, or bed bound due to old age and disease. The volunteers offer medical advice, general assistance around the home, as well as providing much appreciated company for those people who often see few other people. As part of our support of these locally grown programs we have started several workshops with the Home Based Care volunteers in order to provide additional education so they are able to conduct their roles as HBC Volunteers more effectively. These workshops have included showing the ladies how to take blood pressures, how to read temperatures correctly, how to hygienically change dressings etc. The HBC Volunteers have benefited greatly from these workshops – a benefit which is passed directly on to the community.



Teaching Projects



Maanu Mbwami has had a makeover!! We have been working hard to finish painting of the school, and the new classroom and many more developments have been planned for the future to benefit this school even further. To go alongside **Adult Literacy Club**, a successful project which gives adults the chance to improve their reading and writing, we have now extended it to children who need additional support to accompany their lessons. **Children's Literacy Club** has been successful so far at Livingstone Primary, and will soon be taken to other schools as well. **Reading Club** has already been extended to Nakatindi and thanks to very generous donations of children's books we can now extend to other schools as well.

At **Dambwa Christian School** there were many items of classroom furniture such as desks and chairs that were in need of some serious TLC; so, armed with hammers, nails, and wood glue, our team gave the schools furniture a re-vamp, and plans to offer the same to all the other schools that we work with.

We also welcomed a visit from a representative from the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development on the 28th of January 2008. Elizabeth Mfune-Mubukwanu visited Maanu Mbwami Community School and was highly impressed by our work.

Here is a quote from her report: **"As a department, we truly appreciate your dedication and you recognize, as we do, the valuable role you play in building brighter futures for Zambia's next generation. Thank you for your continuing support. It is through the positive efforts of organizations like yours that we can change a lifetime for a child in need."**

If you would like to take part in these or any of our other community development programs you can join the project for a month or two. Visit www.africanimpact.com for details.

As for the lion program we understand from the Environmental Council of Zambia that their review of the Environmental Impact Assessment of our proposed lion release sites within the Dambwa Forest is now ready and we expect publication of their report imminently.

We still await a decision from the Zimbabwean government as to the status of the export permit for lions from Antelope Park to Livingstone.

A host of further community development programs are planned for when the lions move to Zambia and will be announced nearer the time.

7. Founder and ALERT Trustee Andrew Conolly answers your questions

Andrew Conolly, with his wife Wendy bought Antelope Park in 1987. A third generation Zimbabwean, Andrew, now 56, started out as a cattle rancher and Bulawayo business man.

When you were young, was opening a game park what you wanted to do or did you have other plans?

I have always been interested in ranching, both game & cattle and when Antelope Park became available I was immediately interested as it had a wide variety of game species already on it and I felt it was an ideal operation to expand game ranching. The Park also featured a beautiful dam and was therefore a perfect site on which to build a lodge.

Did you always have a passion for lions or did this come after finding them on the property when you bought it?

I had no special interest in lions before I bought Antelope Park, but I took on the six captive lions that were already on the property. In the early days Wendy and I would take the cubs out for walks and we started to notice their natural instincts coming out. From then I wondered if it would be possible to rehabilitate the lions. In the late 90s I read headlines such as “Kruger Lions Dying Like Flies” and began to think about the need for a rehabilitation program. From those initial thoughts, I developed the idea of the staged program, which has obviously grown since then.

How difficult is it to keep the program running in a country like Zimbabwe?

The main issue of course is financial support; there are many people that see Zimbabwe as high risk. Also, there are misplaced impressions of the country; many people think it unsafe when it really is not. These are all challenges, but with so many people supporting it, we find a way and keep the program developing.

There have been many critics of the program, what do you say to them?

There are many people who had doubts before they visited us and were able to see first hand what we are doing. There are a lot of impressions of what we do that simply are not true. The most common is the danger of releasing captive lions into the wild as they have a higher chance of becoming livestock predators, but this has never formed part of our program, and we hope that people read our literature rather than make false assumptions.

There is clearly a huge team of people involved in the programs that ALERT is now operating. How much are you still involved in the day to day running of the various projects?

Not as much as I would like, but I need to concentrate on the bigger picture and finding new release sites for example, but I have 100% confidence in the team that is involved on the ground, doing incredible work every day of the year.

Is the program as it exists today what you envisioned when you first started it?

Absolutely! We set out with a clear goal and have worked towards it and seen the successes at each stage. We haven't got as far in the program as I would have liked due to financial constraints, but the program is going in the right direction.

What are you most looking forward to in the development of the program?

My dream is to watch a pride of lions, born in our stage three and released into the wild in stage four, coming down to a waterhole and making a kill. What will make that so special is to know that through our community initiatives the local communities will be supportive and protecting those lions and they in turn are acting as ambassadors for all of the other animals and people within that area. That would be the moment I can sit back and know that we have succeeded.

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Alternatively, simply click on the CAF image.



Andrew joins Ltalo & Landela as they rest under a shady tree

8. Stage Two Update

Now that the rains have subsided the decision to release further lions at our Dollar Block release site is being actioned. **Phyre, Ashanti** and **Kenge** have been successfully hunting at the site for six months now and have formed a very close bond with Ashanti as the alpha female. They have brought down a number of species from warthog to adult giraffe. As has been published previously, **Luke** has been returned to Antelope Park and **Maxwell** has been held in a holding enclosure for some time now. We were hoping that the three females would show signs of accepting him, however we are not confident that they will do so. Therefore we have decided to also bring Maxwell back to the Park and he will be released in a different pride at a later date.

Three additional females will be taken to the site, bonded with the existing three in the holding enclosures and then released. They will be allowed to live without the complication of dealing with a male for a while in order to cement that pride bond. The male however will be kept in the holding enclosure at the site and we expect that the females will give us signs that they are ready to accept his presence within their pride.

The three females and one male that are being taken are **Nala, Narnia, Athena & Mickey**.

Nala and Narnia have shown time and again how good they are at hunting with eighteen kills to their name. They are now two years and three months old whilst Athena, the sister of Ashanti, is one year older. Mickey is just over five years old.

We are also moving additional game into the area to expand their prey choice including a herd of wildebeest.

Due to the above decision on which lions to take to Dollar Block there has been a slight amendment to the proposed release pride for our Dambwa Forest release pride. That pride will now include: **Milo, Amy, Melanie, Elsa, Cleo, Kwali, Ariel & Paka**.



We are aiming for the re-release to take place on 1st April 2008 for the girls which will also coincide with a CCWA sponsored independent researcher from the University of Zimbabwe's Tropical Ecology Department arriving to conduct a study.

The study will monitor the captive bred lion's adaptation into a semi-wild environment to assess their killing rates and prey selection, to record their group behaviour to determine if a pride has been formed and to assess and evaluate the contribution of captive bred lions to lion conservation in Zimbabwe.

This is the first of a number of studies that we are hosting in order to provide an independent review of the program that will assist us in perfecting our release protocols.

9. The Last Roar

Can't wait for the next newsletter? Then don't forget that you can join us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com and join the group "African Lion & Environmental Research Trust".

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Updates being posted all the time as they happen!

ALERT is also available on the conservation community forum www.safaritalk.net; an internet initiative promoting wildlife conservation, environmental issues, and community and social initiatives in Africa. It is a fairly unique project offering quality exclusive content, not driven by commercial concerns or interests. It is about volunteers getting together from around the world trying to achieve something positive, making the internet work.

www.safaritalk.net is a not-for-gain volunteer administered website, with the primary aim to build a concerned community of ethical travellers and community focused or conservation based organizations and encourage responsible tourism in which all interested parties can interact - including travellers, conservationists, community workers, volunteers, donors, tour operators, safari guides, lodge owners and local people. It is Safaritalk's hope that balanced, informed discussion can take place in which everyone's views are respected and listened to.



ALERT has linked up with Mission Fish, the charity arm of the web market-place phenomenon eBay. **When posting an item for sale on eBay, you have the option of donating a percentage of the sale to a charity.** Simply search for African Lion & Environmental Research Trust in the field and the rest is automatic with Mission Fish making all the necessary transactions for you to ensure the Trust receives the percentage you choose.



Should you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the project you can contact us at alert@africanencounter.org

Thank you

* Note: All donations given to ALERT may be used for any of the projects of ALERT, CCWA and ACT at the discretion of the trustees based on their assessment of the various priorities of those projects at the time the donation is received. Any donor wishing for their donation to be used by a specific division of ALERT, CCWA or ACT, or for a specific project undertaken by any of those divisions should write to alert@africanencounter.org specifying the intended division or project for that donation. Should restricted donations be for projects that are fully funded at the time of the donation, ALERT will contact the donor, where practicable to do so, offering alternative projects for the donation to go towards or offer a refund of that donation.



9. SPECIAL APPEAL: Shumba Famba

We are hoping that with enough interest we can convince a major ice cream manufacturer to support our program by distributing **Shumba Famba ice cream**.

The name Shumba Famba means "lion walk" in the Shona language, local to our program's base in Zimbabwe.

We propose that the ice cream could be toffee flavoured to match a lion's fur colour and contain chocolate lion paws. Any funds generated from this promotion will go directly to creating suitable release sites for lions as well as funding important research and community development schemes.

If you would like to help us make this dream a reality, then please click on the following link and sign our petition:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/shumbafamba/>

