



Telling the story of

Conservation

In Africa

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In 2008, MAPA project set out on a daunting but urgent mission: to map every protected area on the African continent. Be it world famous, well-run parks or derelict ghost reserves that exist in nothing but name. Every road, and every culvert, gate, and t-junction had to be plotted and put up for the world to see on Google Earth. The world, however, needs to see more of Africa than just roads, gates and culverts...



Every one of these roads crawls, bumps and stretches across landscapes that capture the imagination: herds of wildebeest trekking across the Sudd and Serengeti, rivers teeming with hippos and crocodiles, forests where gorillas and chimpanzees roam, and woodlands resounding with the melodious chirping of many an endemic bird.



Sadly, the herds are dwindling, the rivers being dammed,



What story is MAPA project attempting to tell?



forests reigned by poachers and anarchy, and woodlands slowly disappearing into charcoal bags.



Mount Mabu, Mozambique

The story of Africa's areas of exceptional biodiversity, endemism and conservation priority: Biodiversity hotspots, Endemic bird areas, RAMSAR sites, Biosphere reserves and World heritage sites

But there is hope...



Fighting to preserve the landscapes that define Africa are the guardians and custodians of conservation:



The story of Africa's 51 countries and all of her protected areas - IUCN category i, ii and iv national parks, reserves and partial reserves - be they teeming with wildlife or villages.



Amboseli National Park, Kenya

The story of the species that live within and around these parks, the threats they face, and the people and projects that work to preserve them.

Non-governmental organizations, institutions and individuals observing, studying, watching, tagging, ringing, sampling, analyzing deep in the central African forests, far out in the Kalahari-, Namib- and Sahara deserts, trekking across the Simien mountains, diving on the coral reefs of East Africa...



A story of blogs, video clips, telemetry tracks, magazine articles, photos, websites and academic journal articles - anchored in the landscape and accessible by KML on Google Earth.

Theirs - the story of Africa's conservation landscape - is the story the world needs to see. And this is the one MAPA project wishes to tell. One waypoint at a time.