

Professor Markus Borner

1945 - 2020

It is with heavy hearts that we learn of the passing of a colleague and dear friend; Professor Markus Borner. Markus was the former Director of the Frankfurt Zoological Society Africa Program, an Honorary Professor of the University of Glasgow and an Adjunct Professor at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania. He dedicated close to 40 years of his life to the protection of the Serengeti ecosystem and the people living within it, for which he received the prestigious Blue Planet Prize in 2016.

For us, Markus's passion and commitment remains a cornerstone and major influence behind why we do what we do. At the start of our journey, he supported our approach to conservation through endless debate and disagreement, but mainly through a mutual understanding of the issues facing the world's areas of natural importance and the need for finding creative and sustainable ways to support them.

Vivid memories of time in Africa around the campfire, listening to stories of a life spent protecting the nature that he loved will stay with us forever, as will those of one of the most terrifying flights from Tanzania to Zambia when he was piloting his beloved zebra motif Cessna!

Markus taught us much - he was an encyclopedia on African conservation. His vision and desire to make a difference by thinking differently coupled with his wicked sense of humour will be missed by many.

A giant in conservation and a unique human being, he will be sorely missed.

For more on an extraordinary life:

https://www.af-info.or.jp/better_future/html/vol_V/2016/Prof_Borner/2016b_Borner1.html



"In the future the greatness of a Nation will not be judged by its advance in technology or by its achievements in architecture, art or sports, but by the amount of nature and biodiversity that it can hand over to the next generation."

Markus Borner



Workshopping a sustainable business plan for Gonarezhou National Park - 2009



Markus at home in the Serengeti

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Serengeti National Park Sustainable Tourism Summit - 2008



A Zambian flight to remember in the 'Zebra Cessna' - 2009





Reintroducing Rhino to the Serengeti - 2009



Markus's retirement party - 2011



Working on an East African marine program - 2011