


# Care for karajmoja

A stylized illustration featuring a brown handprint with five fingers spread, positioned above two brown ostrich heads. The ostriches are facing each other, with their heads and long necks visible.

Protecting ostriches, people & giraffes

# Where in the world is Karamoja?



# Why Do We Care About Karamoja?

- The Karamoja region is the poorest region of Uganda, and is home to rare populations of both ostriches and giraffes
  - 785,000 food insecure people
  - ~ 54 Rothschild's giraffes
  - ?? # of ostriches
- Ostriches and giraffes are the most sought after animals on the black market in this region



# Kidepo Valley National Park

- Only park in Karamoja:
  - 1442 sq km
  - 462 avian species
  - 80 mammal species
- Only place in Uganda where ostrich can be found
- Only part of Karamoja that remains uncultivated





# Behavioral Evidence of Poaching

- Ostrich retreating immediately as we approached, near the Sudan border
- Poached for meat and feathers





# Behavioral Evidence of Poaching

- Giraffe retreating shortly after our vehicle stopped
- Poached for meat and tail hair



# Protecting Animals by Helping People

- Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) developed a plan for an ostrich farming project in Karamoja:
  - Train local people in business practices, nutrition and ostrich husbandry
  - Incubate eggs collected from confiscated ostriches now housed at UWEC
  - Provide five ostriches per farmer to start, and incentives for growing their flock
  - Help to develop a legal market for ostrich products
  - Encourage eco-tourism





# Protecting Animals by Helping People

- Improved financial and nutritional status should reduce poaching pressure on both ostriches and giraffes
- All UWEC needed to get started was an incubator...

...Send an ostrich incubator to Uganda....?





# Cue the Hurdles...

- SB Zoo focuses on native species conservation, so I was basically on my own
- I knew nothing about incubators
  - They are expensive
  - They are HUGE
  - & What's a hatcher?!
- And very little about ostriches
  - The subspecies conundrum begins...



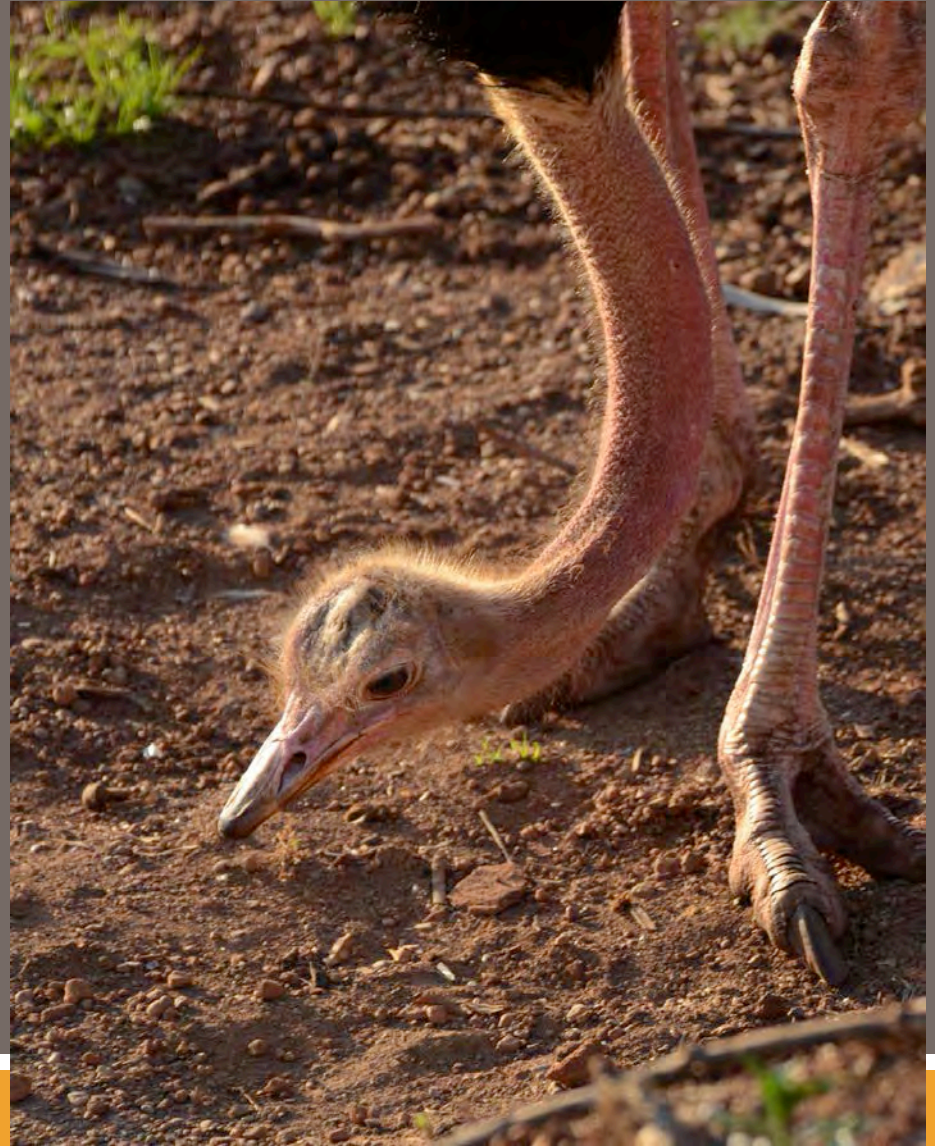
# The Subspecies Question

- *S. c. camelus* vs *S. c. maasiacus*
- No one could say definitively which occurred in Karamoja
- Literature showed their ranges meeting near Karamoja
- Photos shared by UWEC were not conclusive
- While on the feed truck at UWEC, Sheri innocently asks:

“Why are these ostriches bald?”



# The Naked Head Shield





# The Key: Head with Naked Shield

Steve Wylie ✓

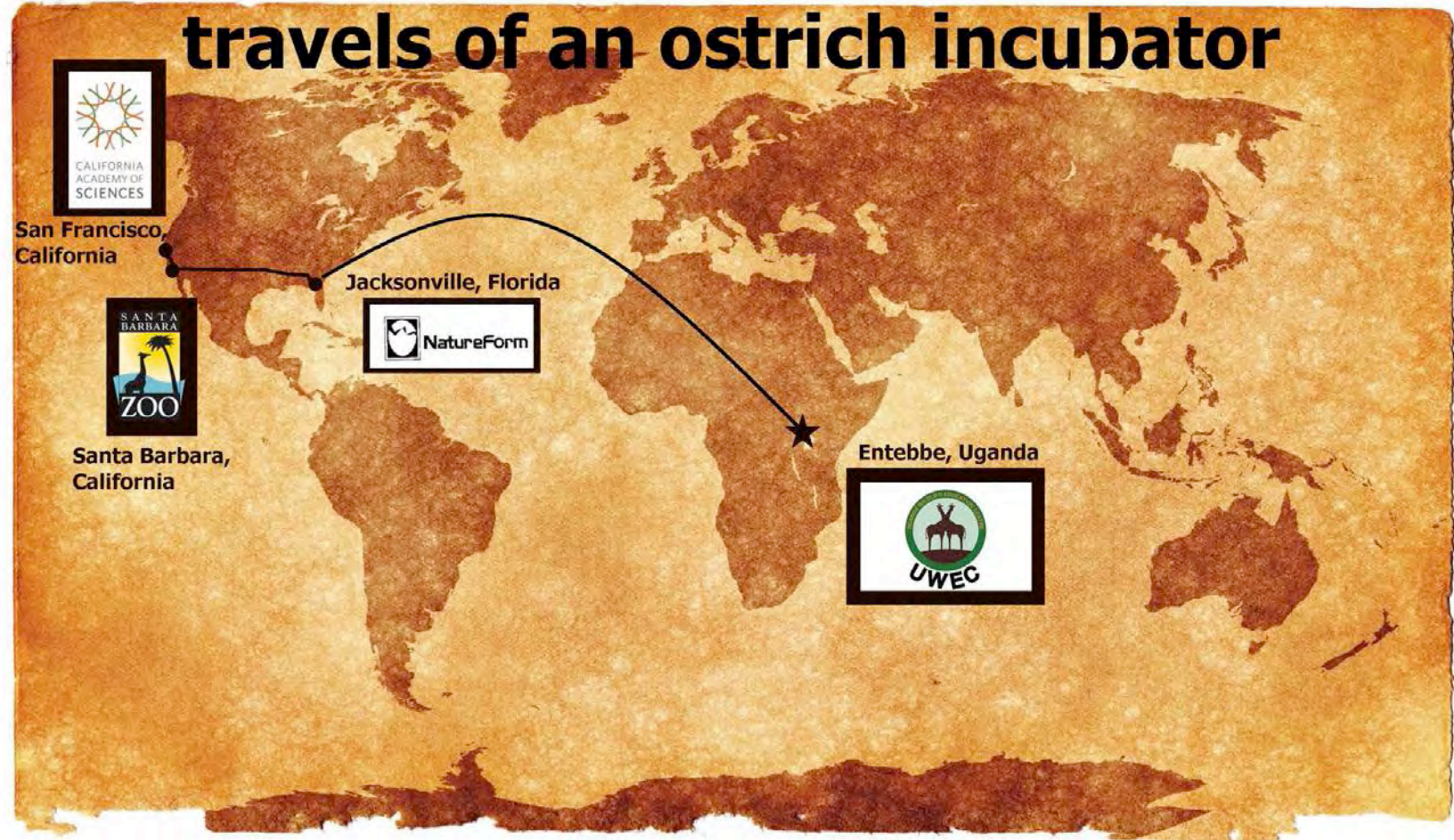
## KEY

### STRUTHIO CAMELUS

1. -NECK AND LEGS, RED .....2  
-NECK AND LEGS, LEADEN BLUE .....4
2. -HEAD, HAIRY ON TOP: SIZE LARGE ..... C. MASSAICUS \*  
-HEAD WITH NAKED SHIELD .....3
3. -SIZE - LARGER ..... C. CAMELUS  
-SIZE - SMALLER ..... C. SYRIACUS \*\*
4. -SIZE - LARGER: TOP OF HEAD, HAIRY: RED ON FRONT  
TARSUS, REACHING WELL ON TO LARGER TOE ..... C. AUSTRALIS \*  
-SIZE - SMALLER: TOP OF HEAD WITH HORNY SHIELD;  
RED ON FRONT OF TARSUS, ONLY REACHING END OF  
TARSUS ..... C. MOLYBDOPHANES



# The Incredible Journey



# Project Status

- 50 egg Natureform incubator & hatcher now at UWEC in Entebbe, Uganda
- Meetings last summer with local leaders and government partners indicate broad support:
  - Uganda Wildlife Authority
  - Karamojong leaders
  - Tourism for Biodiversity
  - African Wildlife Foundation



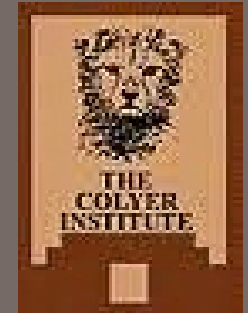
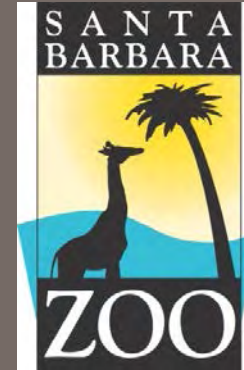


# Next Steps: Kidepo Valley NP

- Perform giraffe census & establish ongoing population monitoring, July 2014
- Obtain permits to carry out genetic testing to confirm ostrich subspecies
- Conduct ostrich census during this trip as well?  
(how the heck would we do this anyway?)



# Thank You to C4K Partners!



- David Bridge
- Georgene Vairo
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- Claudia Praxmayer & Frank Boehnke



& Thank You!

[www.care4karamoja.org](http://www.care4karamoja.org)

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