

ILRI

INTERNATIONAL  
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE



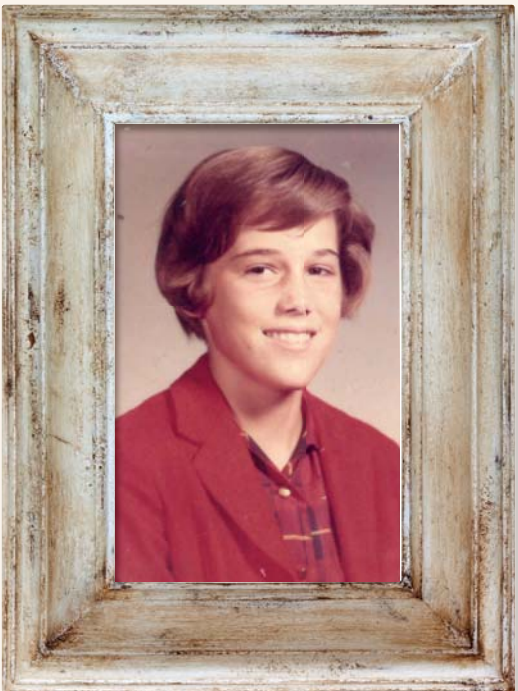
CELEBRATING  
*Susan Macmillan*



# Celebrating Susan MacMillan

A TRIBUTE FROM COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS

30 April 2021





## Jubilant

My affair with ILRI began when it was formed and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading about it through Susan over all these years. I wish her the very best as she shifts to a new stage of life. I hope we still see her work. **Neville Clarke**

## Dedicated

Your contribution to ILRI is amazing and unforgettable. You have been a mentor to many of us here. I want to thank you for all your guidance, support and the opportunity to have learned from you, not only technical knowledge but also how to treat people kindly. Wish you all the best, Susan!

**Chi Nguyen**

## Committed

Keen eye for details-  
"Susan-proof" means that the text is perfect! Thanks a lot Susan!

**Isabelle Baltenweck**



## Committed and passionate

By sharing 6 out of your 40 years of service for ILRI with you, I have admired that communication for you is not a job but a mission - and that your commitment is a passion. Congratulations for an amazing career! Can't forget your curious Somali Goat Mellie! With warm regards and a big hug.

**Uwe Werblow**





## Meticulous

*It is difficult to think of ILRI without Susan Macmillan. It is greatly to her credit that she was able to overcome her fierce loyalty to ILRAD and great initial dismay at the merger with ILCA, to go on to do so much for ILRI. Susan was an inspired writer always thinking of new ways of demonstrating the social and economic worth of animal agriculture and her insistence on perfect grammar is legendary. That dedication to penning the right message was complemented by her determination to keep well informed about emerging scientific discoveries and their potential impacts on humanity. It is good to know that ILRI will still be able to benefit from Susan's wealth of knowledge and invaluable enthusiasm and I wish her and John a very happy retirement.*

*Ralph von Kaufmann*



## Passionate

*Her communication style and talented support. Outside ILRI, Susan introduced me to a forum that I valued very much! **Amos Omoro***

## Committed

The branding of ILRI is quite unique among the CGIAR centres and is clearly associated with one person: Susan Macmillan. Her consistency in style, her catchy titles, the tasteful use of drawings, pictures and the unique human touch of much of the graphic design are all a trademark of ILRI and Susan. She came to Kenya as a young teacher, over the years developed a deep love for the people of Africa and Kenya in particular. This shows in her work. Susan has impressed me by her strong commitment to ILRI and its mission. I remember passing by her office on my way home late in the evening and finding her working on a project. I particularly enjoyed the creative meetings with her, her team and also with the late Jeff Haskins from Burness Communications. Those discussions were very productive in jointly developing strong communication messages. Susan is a perfectionist; at times the final version of a conference poster would get to me minutes before boarding a plane.... I want to thank Susan for her huge contribution to ILRI and its mission. She played an important role in helping me to communicate effectively during my tenure at ILRI. I wish her an easy transition into retirement, good health and energy to enjoy a well-deserved new phase in life.

**Carlos Sere**





## Engaging

Susan, You are one of the best communicators of agricultural issues and outcomes that I know in the industry. Your ability to capture audience attention and engagement of the circumstances and solutions related to ILRI, must mean the Institute has one of the best click-throughs and open-rates in CGIAR! I'm so glad we got to meet during my tenure on the BoT (2012-2018), I enjoyed connecting with you and hearing the approaches you and the team were taking to ensure ILRI was at the forefront of news and media channels. Thank you for your passion for ILRI and livestock in general, bringing your authentic style to communications, and ensuring our messages and stories got out, loud and clear. Congratulations on your retirement! I hope your next adventure is fun and makes your heart happy. Please stay in touch.

**Suzanne Petersen**



## Committed

I have known Susan for nearly 3 decades and her commitment to international livestock research is truly impressive! She always came across as positive despite the ups and downs of funding and the changing priorities of donors. Susan was a constant as DGs (and Board members) came and went—morning, noon and night she always seemed to be there! Well done and thank you Susan!

**Maggie Gill**





# Committed

Many people have served a long time at ILRI, and made amazing contributions, though I know no one who's contributed more to this institution and to its mandate than you, Susan. People know you, possibly better than they know ILRI itself. Your commitment is unmatched—as we heard from Hank and Carlos who have found you on more than one occasion burning the midnight oil at the office.

You may remember in my early days as DG, we held regular town halls, to help bridge the staff divide at the time. Very often you would meet me after those town halls, to give me feedback on what I had said and how I was communicating. This was so valuable and helped me feel less alone.

For what you've contributed to me whilst I was here, in ways that you may not realize or perceive, I want to thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

To John—we thank you for sharing this wonderful woman, born in Detroit, educated in Berkley, and dedicated her life to Kenya, most of which was her life to ILRI.

It is customary that when long service people who live in Kenya leave ILRI, I give them a pass to come back. You can keep your pass Susan, because you will always be welcome here, in our offices, in the hallways, and of course, at the bar, to share that glass of wine where—to quote a famous TV show jingle—everyone will know your name.

Cheers and fare-well always, dear Susan.

**Jimmy Smith**







## There is no word

There is no word that can fully capture all Susan is, and has been to so many of us for so many years. She is committed, to make her work, that of communications more broadly and of the science she translates so eloquently really make a difference to the less well-off. She does this with **passion** and **excellence**. And a measure of **modesty** and **humility** rarely found in one so **brilliant**. What a pleasure and privilege it has been—and I know will continue to be—to work with Susan in different ways over many years. Her **patience** with endless revisions of an op-ed, or a corporate presentation, ensuring that the end product is outstanding will forever remain with me. As will that same patience with my never-ending quest to find out where I should and should not Put **Capital Letters**! Susan I suspect you have little idea how much you have inspired and encouraged me individually, but also many, many colleagues and ILRI as a whole. You have helped us all to elevate our sense of pride in the work that we do for people whose lives depend on livestock. Thank you, and remain part of us always.

**Shirley Tarawali**

## Rare breed!

Susan is the rare breed of a science communicator on a number of levels. First she has devoted to her self to one subject writing; passionately and eloquently about all live things livestock—the animals and breeds, disease, livestock keepers and pastoralists. Because of her deep knowledge on the subject she has been able to author and write for a number of publications as competently as many trained specialists. As she mentioned, communicators not only need to produce communication products but also need to engage. She has defended and promoted the livestock sector, constantly engaging in the debates with wit and compassion which allows her enter into a conversation with scientists, politicians and even plant based advocates. Based on her knowledge and commitment to livestock keepers she was nominated as an advisor to the World Farmer's Organisation. Finally, Susan bring her own sense of style and panache to her communications. ILRI's brand has been shaped essentially by her style and commitment. Her artwork is seen overall ILRI and her e-letters and social media interactions are more influential than what is put out by ILRI or any other communicator Susan cannot be replaced but we hope to continue to learn from her as she moves on to a new stage of her life!

**Michael Victor**







## Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

I'm not sure I can pick any particular memory, there are many, but with time they have become half forgotten. Instead, I'd rather share the warm feeling and the smile that comes to my face each time I think of her—her energy, her spirit, her collegiality and her indomitable promotion of ILRI, and livestock farmers generates a glow that lit up any meeting room, energized every communications campaign (or half forgotten memory for that matter). Susan is special. She will be missed as much as she is cherished. **Ravi Prabhu**

## Passionate

I have had the pleasure of working with Susan for 20 years. Susan made a vocation of communicating ILRI achievements in many forms. I don't think in the history of ILRI there has been a greater and more passionate champion of ILRI and its mission. Susan and I have been great partners over the years. She has helped me communicate more clearly and emphatically about research. I have always tried to provide scientific caution to nuance the statements made. I have many fond memories of working with Susan. My enduring remembrance of her is how much empathy she has and how she could step into the perspectives of others from farmers, market agents, policy makers and scientists. **John McDermott,**







## Interesting

It has been wonderful working with Susan. I have always appreciated and admired her commitment to strengthen the meaning of our work by helping us tell the story better...oh, and also by getting the punctuation right. That commitment came out often in the questions she would ask in our staff meetings, challenging us to question and rethink our status quo. I will strangle her, though, if she cites one more time IFPRI's 40% budget dedicated to comms as the example we should follow. She certainly has a gift with her superb eye for art to illustrate our work, and for stories we should know about in the Taking Stock she puts together—that I look forward to reading each time. We see that quest for meaning and context when she's out of the office, too, including the ever-evolving Shangri-La she and John have established as a home and as a refuge for stray cats and colleagues. I learned more about the history of ILRAD and ILRI at the get-togethers at her place—sort of a modern version of the literary salon—than from any documents, and those get-togethers will remain among my best memories of Nairobi. But of course the one memory I will never be able to shake is Susan demonstrating to us her high school synchronized swimming moves in a pool in Zanzibar. Nuff said!

**Tom Randolph**

## Multifaceted

Thanks a million Susan for all your amazing work over the 20 years I have been associated with ILRI (just a blink in the eye compared to your record!). I have always appreciated and admired your professionalism, amazing writing skills, deep and true passion for livestock development and livestock keepers, and more than all of those your kindness and friendship. Do you remember that night on the roof of some unidentified building in northern Mali with the mosque chants ringing out and the mosquitoes biting and Modibo, our driver, having fainted trying to cross the river? Or how I kept hovering somewhere in the background each time you broke your arms? (I swear I didn't push you!) Good times, all the very best,

**Delia Randolph**







## Passionate

Susan, I learned so much from you in the 10 plus years we worked together. You were able to translate complicated science into understandable language. I respect your focus, dedication and commitment to communicating ILRI's work. Your branding of ILRI reflects historical context and contemporary relevance. Your care in mentoring young staff will always be remembered. You had your own timetable for deadlines (no comment). An absolute highlight in my career to have worked with you. Don't slow down.

You have so much more to share.

**Bruce Scott**

## Kick-ass

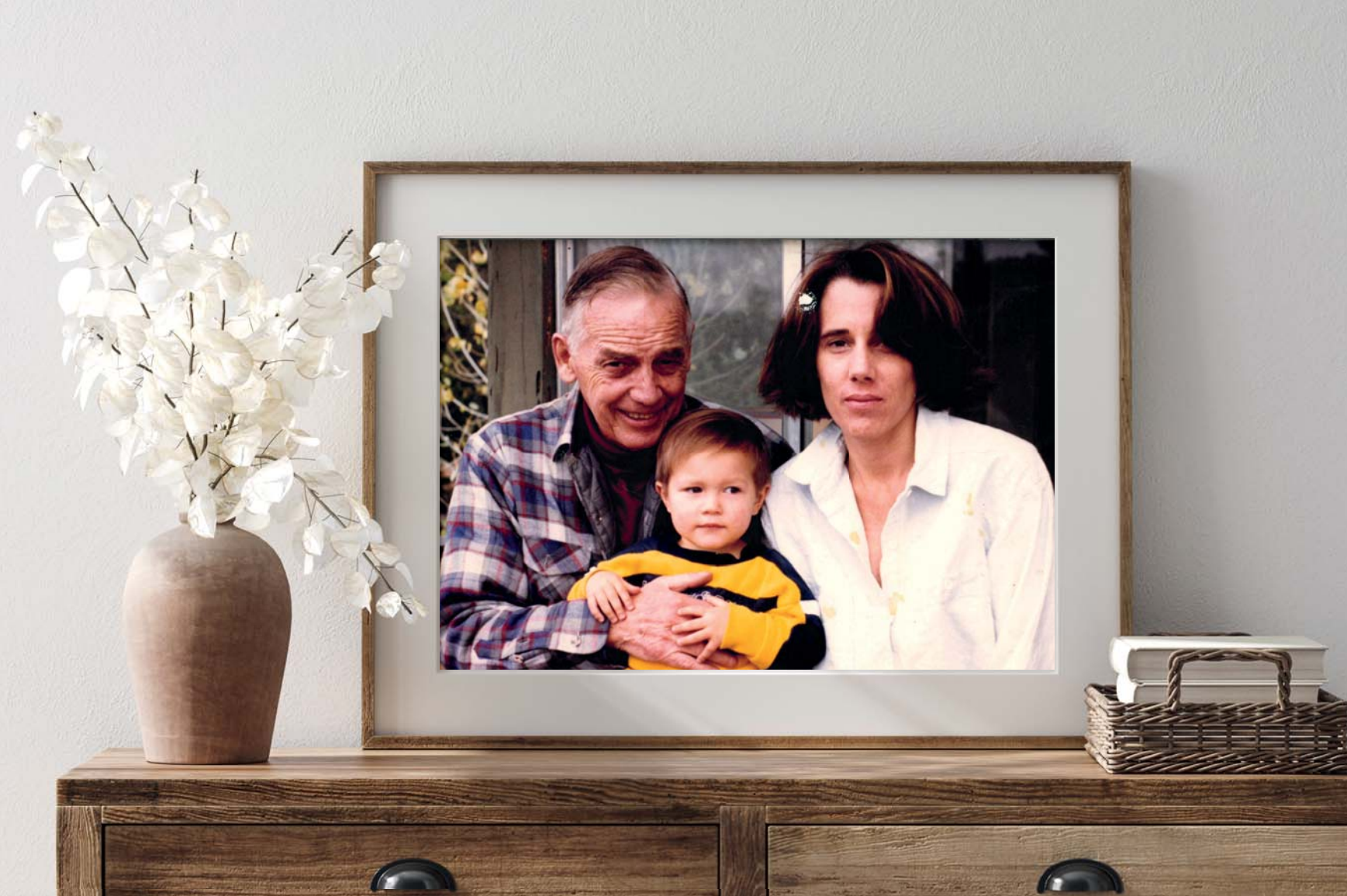
*Susan stands out to me as a real supporter of women—she gets the ambivalence of being a woman, but will also be unwavering in her defense of women. We need more people like her—thanks for showing me that it is possible, Susan. Nicoline de Haan*



## Visionary

*Susan initiated a network of comms people from Nairobi-based CGIAR centres. I have fond memories of our monthly meetings at About Thyme. Susan Onyango*





## Amazing...

I got to know your name long before coming to ILRI, I read the stories you wrote and looked forward to each piece, because they were passionate and 'out of the box'. It's been a pleasure getting to finally know you...but I feel the loss that when I finally joined, you are leaving! All the best as you transition to the next amazing step of your life!  
*Ester Njuguna-Mungai*

## Expert

Susan is one of the best communications experts I have met! The dedication she has shown to ILRI over the years is unsurpassed! Susan's ability to work so well with others is truly a gift. She is incredibly good at what she does. I wish Susan the very best in her future endeavours.

**Ann Mureithi**

## Amazing artist

I have never worked closely with Susan, but I have always appreciated the wonderful art within her marvelous communication talents. Susan has livestock and livestock keepers in her soul, and could use anything around to communicate to them and to translate their feelings and lifestyles to any audience. Thanks Susan, your fingerprints will be perceived in and on ILRI's work for ages.

**Christian K. Tiambo**

## Vivacious

Every time I am with Susan, I feel like the world is such a vibrant canvas of life, colour and discovery! I can only wish to continue to have the same passion for the world as she does. You are truly an inspiration, Susan!

**Mireille Ferrari**





## Communicative

Thanks to the excellent work of Susan, and the way she translated comprehensible scientific messages in fascinating stories comprehensive for a non specialist, I remained up to date with the results and progress of livestock research in Africa. Well done Susan and many thanks!

*Guido Gryseels*

## Insightful

Susan is and always will be a force. Extremely passionate, diligent, yet, generously selfless.

**Muthoni Njiru**

## Dedicated

We first met in DC at a CGIAR annual meeting. I was a filmmaker and my wife and I set up a hospitality suite in one of the conference hotels. Susan brought her first films for ILRI with her for everyone to watch and we had a spirited discussion about how to honour the language of the people in the film and still make sure viewers could understand it. I had opted for subtitles but Susan argued that even subtitles took away from listening to the authentic voices of the speakers. That was in ~1996. Later, I visited as she was implementing the new branding for the Institute. I thought it then and still do, that it was fantastic. Hard to imagine ILRI without her.

**David Mowbray**

## Glamorous-yet-hard-bitten-in-a-Hollywood-news-houndy-sort-of-way

Sitting in her office catching up on institutional news on occasional visits to ILRI. Rocking on the chair that her husband made before Cyndie and I left ILRAD. Reading her idiosyncratic newsletters to the Ag world.

**Samuel James Black**





## Dedicated

I will remember Susan for many days to come. I worked with Susan when preparing for the storytelling session for the 2019 LPM. Her input, feedback and patience all through the practice session, and her smile during the session encouraged me to keep going. But even greater than that, is the mindset shift (for me) that was created from that opportunity. Most people want to see you succeed than fail. Therefore, make the most of the opportunities that come along for they allow you to envision/ imagine what could be. Thank you Susan. Best wishes.

Anita Mutua



## Passionate

Susan is so brilliant, so insightful, so fun, so wonderful. I've had the pleasure of knowing her for about 30 years, almost my entire career. I've always cherished working with Susan. She is such a talented writer, story teller, communicator. Her energy is boundless. She is an underappreciated "great" in our world of communications and agriculture. I've also so appreciated all of the many times we've dined together under the stars whether at an Italian restaurant in Nairobi or at her masterpiece of a house. Many hours of stories and laughter. Congratulations on a such a storied career and life!! I know you will have such fun in this next chapter!! Love you Susan! Can't wait to see you the next time I'm in Nairobi!!!! And please come back to DC!!!!

Ellen Wilson





## Creative

Susan did an interview of me a couple of years ago, and it was one of the most enjoyable such experiences I've had! She was prepared, asked great questions, and did an excellent job in reflecting our interview. A thorough professional who will be greatly missed at L&R!

*Elsa A. Murano*



## Ardent!

A great and warm team player! Among many precious opportunities I got to interact with Susan, working with her in the GLAD project since 2016 has been awesome! She would always reach out to me to check her staff time and to get other budgetary info.

Susan is very good and passionate at what she does.

**Simon Turere**





## Mentor

Susan, thank you for the many wonderful experiences of working with you and learning from you. I'll always treasure learning to create photo films and that first outing to capture stories of Maasai livestock keepers in Kitengela after the 'Duckrabbit' training that you organized! Your willingness to listen and readiness to 'push' your team into new experiences helped me learn and do my work in new and more fulfilling ways. May your 'retirement' be happy and adventure-filled!

**Paul Karaimu**



## Beacon

Susan you are a beacon, your inner light shines brightly, you bring in and nurture increasingly more light and you generously share your light with others, showing us all the way ahead.

Keep the light shining!

**Eric Ouma**

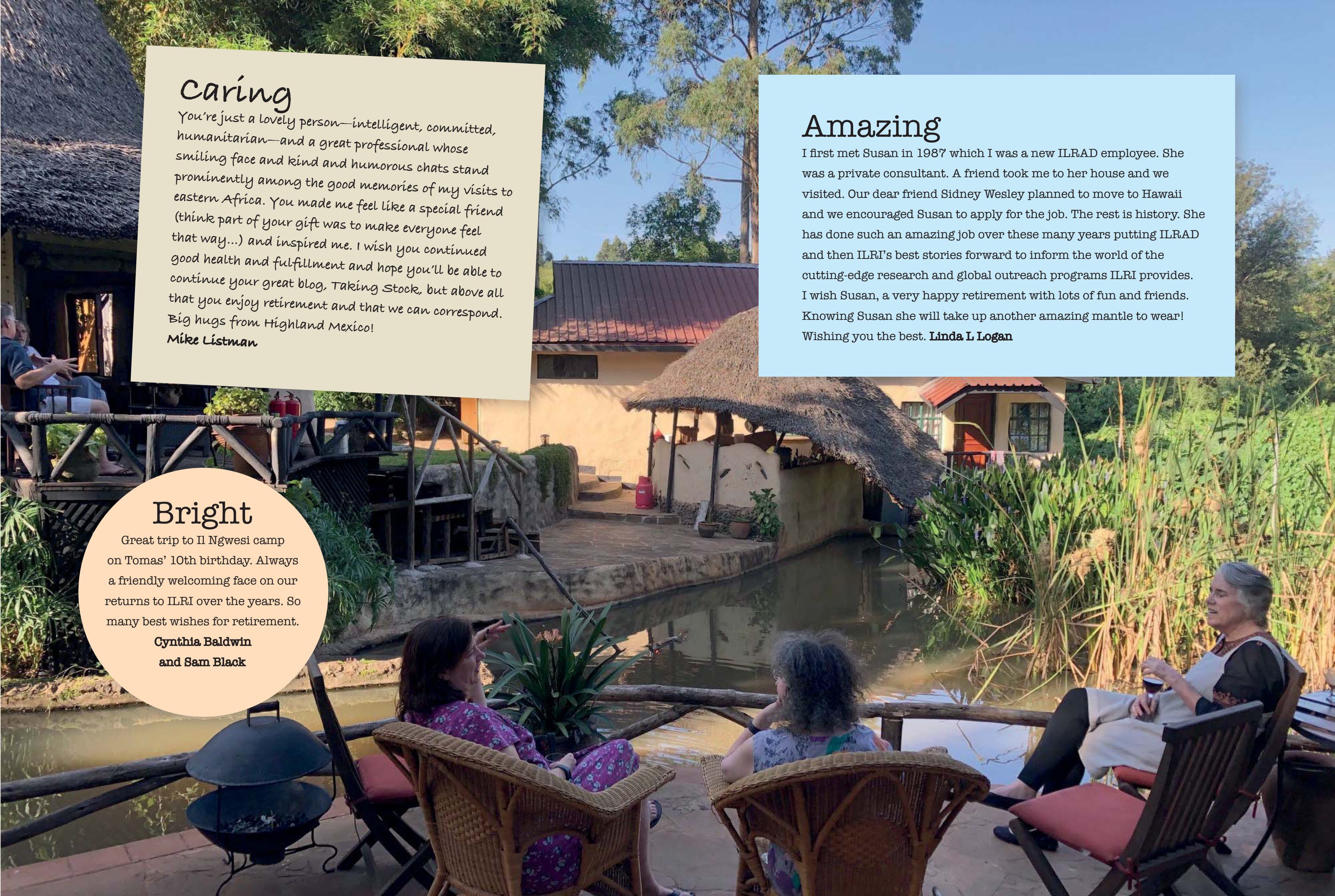


## Multipotentialite

Where to start... overall - using a livestock metaphor - Susan takes to everything like a duck to water. Every new app or tool has an immense fascination for Susan and she eagerly dives into the deepest end and somehow surfaces swimming and encouraging all around to get in as well... Such enthusiasm helped drive us all forward. I've chosen as my favourite picture her old twitter profile as it used to frequently pop up on my screens.

**Peter Ballantyne**



The background image shows a tropical camp setting. In the foreground, three people are sitting in wicker chairs on a stone patio, looking towards a pond. A woman on the left is wearing a purple floral dress, a woman in the middle has curly hair and is wearing a blue patterned top, and a woman on the right is wearing a white apron over a dark top. In the background, there are several huts with thatched roofs and a red metal roof. A wooden bridge with a railing is visible on the left. The scene is surrounded by lush greenery and trees.

## Caring

You're just a lovely person—intelligent, committed, humanitarian—and a great professional whose smiling face and kind and humorous chats stand prominently among the good memories of my visits to eastern Africa. You made me feel like a special friend (think part of your gift was to make everyone feel that way...) and inspired me. I wish you continued good health and fulfillment and hope you'll be able to continue your great blog, *Taking Stock*, but above all that you enjoy retirement and that we can correspond. Big hugs from Highland Mexico!

**Mike Listman**

## Amazing

I first met Susan in 1987 which I was a new ILRAD employee. She was a private consultant. A friend took me to her house and we visited. Our dear friend Sidney Wesley planned to move to Hawaii and we encouraged Susan to apply for the job. The rest is history. She has done such an amazing job over these many years putting ILRAD and then ILRI's best stories forward to inform the world of the cutting-edge research and global outreach programs ILRI provides. I wish Susan, a very happy retirement with lots of fun and friends. Knowing Susan she will take up another amazing mantle to wear! Wishing you the best. **Linda L Logan**

## Bright

Great trip to Il Ngwesi camp on Tomas' 10th birthday. Always a friendly welcoming face on our returns to ILRI over the years. So many best wishes for retirement.

**Cynthia Baldwin  
and Sam Black**





## Committed

I was very fortunate to be a staff member for several years on the ILRAD/ILRI campus in Nairobi and to interact regularly with Susan. Her commitment, intellectual rigour and interpersonal skills were impeccable and her professionalism was superb. For the years when I was "out-posted", Susan's communications and support were invaluable and her enthusiasm unmatched. In sum, her contributions to establishing and projecting ILRI's culture, programs and outputs were outstanding. A very hard act to follow!!

**Bill Thorpe**



## Informative!

So often, messages from Susan liven up an otherwise long and turgid inbox - and they are usually so forward looking. Thanks for doing your job so well - and very best wishes for your 'next phase'.

**Richard Golding**





## Communicator-extraordinaire

Retirement is not end of work, it is end of employment. Enjoy the abundance of your own time and savor all you enjoy to do.

All the best Susan! **Mwai Ndegwa**

## Creative

Susan, you have been an inspiration for me and many others. Your energy, your outside-of-the-box thinking and readiness to challenge the status quo are truly inspiring. I wish you all the best as you transition to (hopefully) less ILRI work and more new challenges. **Silvia Alonso**

## Super-engaged

Always open to ideas and full of energy.

**Eric Fevre**

## Caring

Thanks for your immense contributions to ILRI over the years. I remember your visit to Mozambique in 2009 I think with Steve Mann for a photographing session. We visited villages around the country and the pictures of the families we spent time with stayed with me forever. You taught me to listen and communicate with clarity. You demonstrated care and encouragement to us and our partners. Enjoy the next chapter of your life. All the best with your endeavours.

**Siboniso Moyo**







## A real diamond

Neil Diamond wrote a song for the Monkees that best describes Susan. Okay slightly tweaked for her and with apologies to Mickey Dolenz.

*I thought Comms was only good in fairy tales  
Meant for someone else but not for me  
Time was out to get me  
That's the way it seemed  
Useless waffle haunted all my dreams*

*Then I saw her prose, now I'm a believer  
Not a trace of doubt in my mind  
I'm in awe, I'm a reliever  
I couldn't spare her if I tried*

*I thought Comms was more or less a givin' thing  
Seems the more I gave the less I got  
What's the use in typing?  
All you get is slapped  
When I needed Susan I got crap*

*Then I saw her prose, now I'm a believer  
Not a trace of doubt in my mind  
I'm in awe, I'm a reliever  
I couldn't spare her if I tried*

*Time was out to get me  
Now that's the way it seemed  
Useless waffle haunted all my dreams*

*Oh then I saw her prose, now I'm a believer  
Not a trace...*

Tony Simons



## Best

Sending you my  
very best, Susan!  
Derek Baker

## Icon

Susan, you are the ICON  
of ILRI. You are the one who  
comes to mind as the true  
symbol of ILRI.

Thank you for many years  
of service to humanity.

Tadelle Dessie

**Phenomenal**  
It's always been an absolute  
pleasure working and  
interacting with you. All  
the very best (and keep  
blogging)! An Notenbaert

4 March 2016, New Delhi





## Energetic

Susan is the face of ILRI communications. She is an asset to ILRI, willing to help and guide others in matters of communication.

**Terry Muindi**

## Eclectic

Susan was already at ILRI when I first started—and there long after I left, forever enthusiastic, creative and innovative. It was hard to find her gloomy and fed up. I wish her all the very best in the future, I know she will never be bored and never sit and wonder how to fill her time. She is an inspirational lady.

**Dannie Romney**

## Passionate

Susan your talent to illuminate the world of livestock helped keep the discussion textured, inclusive, and beautifully described—both in words and images.

**Robynne Anderson**

## Encyclopaedic

Susan has the most amazing memory of ILRI - she knows everyone who has worked for ILRI/ILRAD/ILCA and what they did. She is the embodiment of institutional memory. I have known and worked with Susan for the past 14 years. In my early days in Delhi I pointed out that nearly all the images used by ILRI were from Africa and she readily took up the challenge. I knew she had been listening to me when one year the ILRI calendar had more pictures from Asia than from Africa - many of them taken by Stevie Mann when Susan and he spent more than two weeks on an extended tour of India taking photographs, many of which still appear in ILRI material. Susan has also taught me a lot about how to communicate. We have worked together on so many brochures, stories, blogs and of course on the 700+ page impact book. She is always full of good ideas which she describes with so much enthusiasm. Her enthusiasm and energy remind me of someone who is starting out on their career, not someone who is retiring. It is often said that no-one is irreplaceable in an organization, but in Susan's case I can't imagine anyone replacing her. Thank you Susan, for the irreplaceable things that you have done for ILRI and for me. **Iain Wright**

## Enthusiastic

I will miss your blogs. You have been a real contributor to the visibility of ILRI worldwide. You are irreplaceable.

**Michel Dione**





## Dedicated

Susan once shared these three words that I always had on my desk, which helped to organize work: gather, order, present. Her blogs and stories are always so beautifully written, they serve as examples for all of us in CGIAR and beyond. But Susan is not only a great writer, she is a fan of life in all its aspects and she is fun too. I enjoyed every meeting, every social event where Susan was present, she suddenly made every group smarter by starting good conversations.

A bientôt Susan!!  
**Geneviève Renard**



## Passionate

When a new staff member would be introduced at Friday morning teas in the mid 2000's, Susan would systematically ask them: "what is your passion?". I thought the question a little quirky at the time, but experience has taught me that Susan was absolutely right. To make a true difference in this world—which is really about touching people's lives in one way or another—sustained inspiration, determination and pursuit of excellence are all required. Susan has been a true example of what being passionate means all these years. Wishing you a post-employment period as fulfilling and exciting as the first part of your career Susan!

**Brigitte Laude**

## Driven

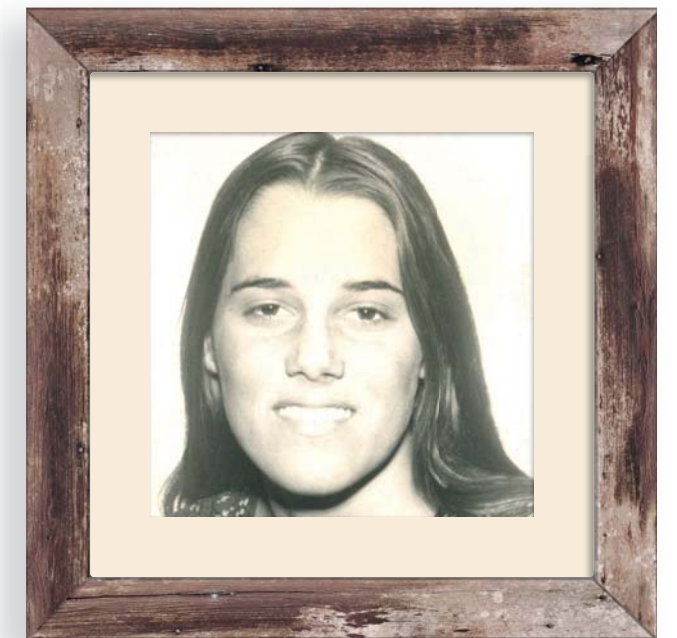
Susan is one of those people who you could just have random conversations with, while discussing some output, get distracted but then come right back to the topic seamlessly! Thanks Susan for all your tireless work and dedication to put livestock on the global development map!

**Rupsha Banerjee**

## Inspiring

Susan is very open minded. She also appreciates all people, gives her full attention when interacting with you, and is ready to give everybody—no matter what their "level" is in the organization an opportunity to excel. It is rare to find somebody with the heart and enthusiasm that Susan has.

I will miss you!  
**Julie Ojango**



## Open-minded

Susan is an amazing person. She has so so much experience and still remains humble, curious, open-minded and forthcoming. She is so elegant in showing interest in our work, creating a space to discuss it, and communicating it to the world. Susan and John are the most impressive hosts in a most impressive dream house!

**Alessandra Galie**





## Loquacious, but not garrulous

I have so very many memories of Susan. Her first days at ILRI, finding her feet, her warmth and enthusiasm at all times, her wedding day, what fun that was, her endless positivity, her devotion to the livestock cause regardless, her loveliness. **Brian Perry**

## Generous

Susan, Thank you for always being so open and generous with me and my family. I love yours and John's company, your beautiful dinners, and have missed it so much this past year. You are a brilliant and beautiful soul and I hope to see more of you in "retirement"! **Michelle Geis Wallace**





## Passionate!

I always loved working with you Susan. I have fond memories of our trip to Maputo for the AGM in 2008.

Liz Ogutu

## Enthusiastic

Susan, many thanks for your tireless support of pastoralism over so long and for communicating ideas and debates so expertly and effectively. Even when pastoralism was off the mainstream development and policy agenda, your voice was still there! This was much appreciated by many way beyond ILRI. All the best for your retirement (although please don't stop completely!).

Ian Scoones

## The living beating heart of ILRI

Susan's enormous energy and enthusiasm is probably the first thing everyone notices about her, as well as her encyclopedic knowledge of and passion for the cause of livestock in the developing world. But in addition she is a real mensch, someone with a real sense of honour and responsibility. I expect she'll be around for another three decades still, even as a consultant!

David Aronson



## Kind

Susan, you've been such a force for good in ILRI, championing the institution, nurturing staff and in particular, supporting women colleagues. I've particularly appreciated your eye for great images and the way you've woven these into making ILRI such a strong brand. I've also appreciated the way you've positively supported staff across ILRI with your warm and affirming approach. One specific memory—when I led the Staff APM in 2010 you gave some lovely earrings to my wife Ruth. She still wears them—a nice memory of your kindness all those years ago.

Alan Duncan

## Committed

Thank you for your professionalism and dedication to ILRI during all these years. Wishing you all the best!

Sandro Seixas



## Committed

I have such fond memories of our very first meeting—was for comms people from CGIAR in 1989—in effect my first day on the job at the Crawford Fund in Australia, with so many acronyms to learn and people to meet. But what luck to find such a friendly, committed person who I would go on to work with for over 30 years—it's always been a delight Susan and all the best for the years ahead! You will be greatly missed at ILRI.

Cathy Reade





## Enthusiastic

I really appreciate her early and long-standing support for the rangelands work at ILRI. She helped me to appreciate the importance of the historical as well as current work.

**Polly Ericksen**

## Leader, mentor

Susan has been a leader and a mentor to many of us in the communications team. Those who she took under her wing flourished and became masters of their trades. Her willingness to trust and respect empowered us to take responsibility and grow personally and professionally. When we made mistakes she was there to help fix it, without blaming. No matter if it was three o'clock in the morning the day before the deadline. Susan's creativity and highest commitment to quality writing and visuals raised the bar for all of us who continue to work with her. It is her tireless drive for excellence that created ILRI's trusted brand and shaped its visual identity. But above all her gift to us are her stories. Her body of work put a human face on what would otherwise be abstract research. Susan manages to square that circle: To tell stories that allow us to relate to people and animals alike all the while clearly and simply communicating the science. And like everything else, she does that elegantly, with style and true empathy for her subject.

**Ben Hack**

## Vivacious

Susan is one of the most active, "full of life" persons that I know. Always ready to share, to engage and to give herself fully to whatever she is doing. Her writing styles are amazing and she could not have picked a better profession than communication as it is a natural gift that she has been bestowed with. We will miss her!

**Stella Yinza Kiwango**





# Dynamic and awesome

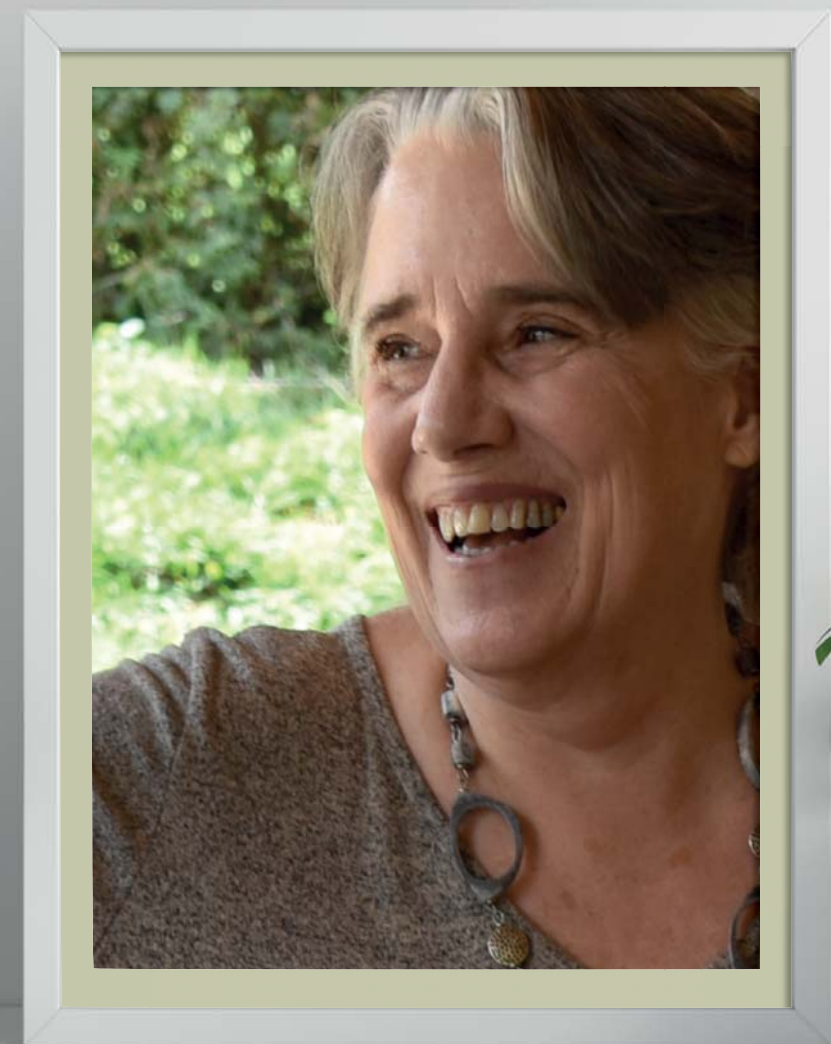
I have long admired Susan since I joined ILRI as a postdoctoral scientist. Today, I attribute my communications role at ILRI to Susan. She brought me in to work on the Impact Book with John McIntire and Delia Randolph and since then joined the bioscience directorate to its enhance visibility. I thank you for this! Susan has breath and depth of institutional knowledge and pays attention to details, asks we follow the style guide, reinforces English 101 and expects that we adhere to the high quality of information being shared with the wider audience which is inspiring. Susan, I am going to miss you and I hope I am as awesome as you are when I grow up :)

**Ekta Patel**

## Impressive

Your legacy of creating objectives and exciting stories on the role and importance of livestock is truly unique and will go on forever.

**Appolinaire Djikeng**



## Storyteller

“Life is about cherishing the past, facing the present, and moving ahead towards new milestones in your future!” The good thing is that you are not disappearing. Before joining ILRI as a board member and long before I became a staff member, I was fascinated by your instinct for great stories. All my colleagues in the animal health industry were fascinated by how you were promoting livestock. With your communication and advocacy, you were promoting ILRI’s reputation and this over many decades.

**Dieter Schillinger**





## Warm

I greatly cherish the warm connection I have with Susan, credited a lot by her personality, unparalleled energy, and commitment. It's a joy to see such a true selflessness changemaker, the sense of unity she brings to teams wanting to make a difference. I have fond memories of the most wonderful dinners and holidays shared, the long midnight talks.

Love and miss you Susan!

**Diana van Dorresteijn**



## Generous

So, really, what is it about Susan?

- A deep level of generosity rare in a human being
- Unrivalled loyalty to people, animals and even institutions!
- Incredible insistence on the highest quality words, ideas, stories, images, textiles, colours. Insistence poured out, day (and night) after day (and night) after day (and night), to show the world the story of poverty and livestock.
- Ridiculously consistent and prolific productivity that will not be matched by the elephant-sized shoes she leaves behind
- A discomforting ability to tell the truth to power, and do it over, and over, and over again
- Unstoppable curiosity about the world and everyone and everything in it
- A smile and laugh that makes you feel like you are finally home
- And a friend without parallel!

**Robin Reid**

## Dedicated

It is impressive that Susan has been with ILRI for decades – ever since I started working for ILRI. I truly respect your professionalism, dedication and your amazing contribution to ILRI over the years. You have inspired us a lot in our profession and also in person. Wishing you all the best.

**Thanh Nguyen**

## Admired

My dear Susan, this is to show my admiration to you for your several decades of work for ILRI. You are truly an encyclopedia of the work, history, and people at ILRI. You together with your comms team (Peter B, then Michael V, Chi N...) helped me understand and know how to practice communication in research. Impressive to see mountains of editing works you did, including the ILRI Impact Book. Animal and Human Health/Food Safety and Zoonosis is probably one of the programs that have worked the most with you, also thanks to your synergy with Delia. You are a lovely, committed and kind colleague and friend. I wish you all the best for the next chapters of life.

**Hung Nguyen**

## Excellent

Susan was a very important person in ensuring excellent visibility for ILRI. She must have had crazy working hours to support demanding clients, and with high expectations. Best wishes for a happy retirement!.

**Ben Lukuyu**





## Dynamic

Some of us have come to assume Susan will always be here sharing timely information, bringing the frontiers of thoughts on livestock's complexities to our inboxes, enthusiastically supporting our shaky attempts at communicating science :-)

**Dolapo Enahoro**

## Humble warrior

Susan is truly an extraordinary person. She is the "humble warrior," deeply committed to alleviating hunger and advocating for the poor people of Africa, but always behind the scenes, always crediting others. She is passionate, and conveys that passion with gifted language. One memory among many: her wonderful, wonderful kindness in the aftermath of Jeff Haskins' death. I feel so lucky to be in Susan's orbit.

**Andy Burness**

## Passionate

Susan, I will thank you all my life for teaching me how to communicate science to the public. You opened my eyes on how to do this effectively. You have been a huge influence in my career. Grateful forever! Enjoy life! A big hug.

**Mario Herrero**



## Thoughtful (both meanings of the word)

Conversations with Susan are always diverse, engaging, interesting and thoughtful. She is also quick to compliment, and I want to believe they're true as they really bolster one's confidence.

**Jane Poole**

## Superstar

Susan, ILRI won't be the same without you! I will miss your welcoming smile, warm words, and general positivity! I will always appreciate that you were one of the first people to make me feel welcome at ILRI when I joined all those years ago. You have made a huge contribution to ILRI and probably know more about what ILRI has done over the years than any other person! Wishing you the best moving forward and hope to keep in touch, X.

**Karen Marshall**

## Enthusiastic!

I have always appreciated her dynamism, good spirit, engagement and attention to the work of the colleagues.

**Maria Alexandra Barreiros Jorge**







## Expressive

Memories of the delights of working with Susan from a social scientist entering the biophysical scientist realm for the first time (as famously quoted by Robin Reid at an annual meeting—"this is not soft science, it is the hardest science"): Starting in the early '90's: New at ILRI. No-one is more welcoming and more informative than Susan—history, context, info on the differing expectations of colleagues (wow!), how to get things done, etc. Working hard at ILRI. Nope, I'm not working into the wee hours and sleeping under my desk like Susan. Gotta up the game! And make sure she goes home at night.... Surviving at ILRI. Lots of institutional change needed. Told that 'it must be nice to leave early' as I rushed out the door to breastfeed my infant. Said "F... Off" as I rushed out the door. Reassured later by Sue Mac and others that I wasn't out of line, he was! Getting deeper into ILRI and more importantly, our incredible global challenges. How best to share our science results, really think about communication from the research and project design stage and not at the end ('here's the findings, you share them!') Developing a livelihoods and poverty program—it was clear it was needed; not so clear how to catalyse and operationalize this; Susan's advice and

innovative ideas were instrumental. Creating a new "Knowledge Into Action" program. So much of this inspired by, and supported by Susan and her team—couldn't have done it without her! Or Robin. Or Phil. Outside work memories: So many fun BBQs, parties and safaris! I'm remembering the one with Russ's beer tap/cooler (designed by Chris Hinson, if I recall correctly? The Hinsonater, wasn't it?) Susan and John's welcoming backyard, almost a safari in of itself. And John creating such a wonderful deck that we enjoyed for so many years! Cooking club with special friends and a skeptical John who turned into quite the chef—great Thanksgiving fried turkey laughs and memories!!! And very special, almost surreal, memories of coming out of the ICU and being sent home to sleep while Susan spent the night at the hospital keeping an eye on Frank so I didn't have to. I learned then the true power of friendship! Susan's numerous and endless contributions to making this world a better place are immeasurable and will be hard for those of us that were so privileged to work with her to adequately capture. Perhaps more revealing is the love we all have for her and so many fond memories associated with her. And they aren't over!

**Patti Kristjanson**





## Round up chat testimonials for Susan

29 April 2021

**Meron Mulatu:** Hard to express Susan's contribution in any form.

**Cathy Reade/Crawford Oz:** Watching this, in the Vercoe room, I can't help thinking that John would have also had best wishes to send

**Diana van Dorresteijn:** People who inspire, cajole, care and connect from the heart are to be cherished a lot. Wonderful video! Warm hugs to all of you from the Netherlands, missing you across the seas and Susan (and John) in particular a lot!

**Eunice Machuka:** Hilarious is missing (from some of Susan's articles of Taking stock)!

**Cathy Reade/Crawford Oz:** Wouldn't miss it. Been 32 years of collaboration!

**Zoe Campbell:** Susan caught me early when I joined last year as a postdoc. We had coffee and she was so excited about blog posts that now she has me writing 5-6 a year. They are in my KRAs. Pretty sure I wouldn't have done that on my own. Happy retirement Susan.

**Kristina Roesel:** Susan helped me promote my first book as a co-editor (with Delia) at ILRI in 2014. Thanks to her and the team's effort I felt like a VIP for an afternoon ;-)

**Ram Pratim Deka:** Wish you very good health, peace and happiness, Susan! Sweet memories of our close association will linger in my mind for the years to come!

**Diana van Dorresteijn:** Always putting people first, why Susan is so loved!

**Kristina Roesel:** we love you too, Susan

**Caroline Karwitha:** Thank you for sharing the Infocenter with students. Creative, reflective. Well done Susan.

**Okeyo Mwai:** Susan highlighted my first work on genetic profiling the architecture of indigenous African cattle, especially the Ankole cattle, and it is only fitting that she has been give the Cattle book that summarizes that work.

**Alan Duncan:** Yep—we love you Susan :-)

**Getachew Dinede:** It is a great culture to give credit for one's contribution. Great organization, ILRI.

**Emily Maru:** Susan thank you for all the mentorship and support over the years. Much love...

**Terry Muindi:** you are a wonderful person Susan. All the best!

**Jaindra Tripathi:** Excellent painting by local artist!

**Pacem Kotchofa:** happy retirement time Susan! unfortunately we didn't interact a lot but I did enjoy the couple of time we linked up. all the best

**Christine Mosoti:** congratulations, Susan, what a Stellar career. Enjoy a restful retirement.

**Raphael Mrode:** Best wishes Susan. You are very supportive

**Loyce Mbwaya:** Thank you Susan, you are really inspiring! When I started New staff announcements blog, you assigned Paul as our editor to work with us. All the best!

**Iain Wright:** I have learned so much from Susan about communicating to different people.

**Alessandra Galie:** Susan is such a special person to me, both as a friend and as a colleague. Thanks Susan.

**Jane Chege:** Well done Susan. Wishing you true happiness and good health.

**DTadesse:** a very inspiring picture deserves to Susan

**Kindu Tegegne:** Thank you, Susan, for your great contribution to ILRI and livestock keepers in our continent and beyond.

**Julius Osaso:** Happy retirement Susan, ever so easy to talk to and to bring out the message—even brought in Al Jazeera to Film in the Labs for a story—Amazing

**SKiwango:** Thanks Susan, for everything! You are a star!

**Geoff Alenga:** Susan thanks for making me feel and know I had something of value to bring to ILRI when I was very new

**Nicoline de Haan:** Susan—we are not done yet—we need you for the gender narrative discussion—you are a vital part of the project!

**Gwamwere-Njoroge:** My real personal interaction with Susan was during ILRI's last IPM at Addis Ababa, when she helped me put my personal story into shape....and encouraged me to share in that particular meeting..... Thank you so much Susan....You made what I thought was just my small story to become a real inspirational piece even to my own children.....

**Vivian Atakos:** Always admired Susan's writing. And media engagement skills are top notch

**Siboniso Moyo:** Thank you Susan for spending time with us in Mozambique doing a photo shoot in 2008. The villages we visited across the country left a lasting memory in me. Thanks for your passion in communicating (listening, questioning).

**Ann Mureithi:** Susan is blessed! Superb at what she does. I have always admired her work, especially her writing skill 🙌 Best wishes Susan in your future endeavours! Don't act your age now you're "retiring"... Act the inner young person at heart you always have been! Full of life 😊

**Iain Wright:** Thank you Susan for helping me raise the profile of ILRI in Asia when I first joined ILRI as Regional Rep for Asia. The photos you took with Stevie Mann are still being used.

**Dieter Schillinger:** When I worked still in the international animal health industry, you were seen as the best comm/advocacy model globally. All the companies would have employed you immediately. But you were married with Africa (and John for sure).

**Karl Rich:** many thanks Susan for all of your contributions!

**Annabel Slater:** Thanks all. What an epic and emotional session. Shows ILRI is a great place with heart and good people

**Nehemiah Kimani:** really kind words for Susan... nice video

**Grace Miceka:** We love you Susan.

**TMuindi:** I don't feel like leaving today's session... what a lovely tribute to Susan and fantastic farewell message from Lindsay...



Friends and colleagues  
who contributed financially to Susan's gifts:

Helen Altshul  
Gail Amare  
Robynne Anderson  
David Aronson  
Derek Baker  
Peter Ballantyne  
Rupsha Banerjee  
Burness  
Nicoline de Haan  
Alan Duncan  
Dolapo Enahoro  
Mireille Ferrari  
Alessandra Galie and Ben Hack  
Margaret Gill  
Ilona Gluecks  
Richard Golding  
Jian-Lin Han  
Olivier Hannotte  
Godfrey Jabulani Manyawu  
Elizabeth Jessie  
Eriksen Joanna  
Paul Karaimu  
Steve Kemp  
Theodore Knight-Jones  
Patricia Kristjanson  
Russell Kruska

Li Lin Foo  
Linda Logan  
Karen Marshall  
Terry Muindi  
Maria Mulindi  
Ann Mureithi  
Anita Mutua  
Okeyo Mwai  
Hung Nguyen  
Liz Ogutu  
Robert Oisebe  
Maria Omer  
Amos Omore  
Andreas Palau  
Jane Poole  
Tom and Delia Randolph  
Catherine Reade  
Kristina Roesel  
Nadine Sanginga  
Ian Scoones  
Bruce Scott  
Shirley Tarawali  
William Thorpe  
Niels Tuefel  
Michael Victor  
Iain Wright





THANK YOU  
*Susan!*







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