

Like father like son ... William's nature crusade

By Lucy Cockcroft

PRINCE WILLIAM displayed the same passionate views on the environment as his father when he said that conserving natural resources was the "great challenge facing mankind".

In a speech to mark the 20th anniversary of Tusk Trust on Thursday night, an African conservation charity, the second in line to the throne echoed the beliefs of the Prince of Wales, who for many years has campaigned for harmony with the natural world.

"The imperative of balancing conservation of wildlife and natural resources with the ever growing needs of the human race is at the heart of the great challenge facing mankind today," said the 27-year-old Prince, who has been Tusk Trust's royal patron since 2005.

"Tusk realised this 20 years ago and, in many areas of radical thinking about sustainable development, the charity in its sensitive and self-effacing way continues to illuminate the path for us."

The Prince made his comments at a central London reception for the charity's supporters, staff and trustees. He also spoke about the escalating problem of poachers killing rhinos for

their horns and praised an initiative that saw four rare northern white rhinos shipped to Kenya from a Czech zoo last month.

There are thought to be only 11 of the animals left in the world, most of them in captivity.

Tusk Trust was formed in 1990 by Charles Mayhew and Timothy Ackroyd and has supported more than 100 projects. The charity is involved in 40 projects across 17 countries and encourages sustainable development and environmental education among rural communities.

It is working to conserve threatened species including the cheetah, mountain and lowland gorillas and the African wild dog.

The Prince concluded his address by telling guests at the reception, at HSBC's private banking headquarters: "We must all help, help to ensure that, for the communities Tusk serves in Africa, and for the awe-inspiring wildlife with which they coexist, that the next 20 years are ever more life-enhancing and secure.

"Future generations must have the chance to wonder at the continent's spellbinding natural heritage for themselves. We owe it to them. This legacy is not ours to squander."



Prince William at a reception to mark the 20th anniversary of Tusk Trust