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'60 Minutes' to feature HREI founder Greg Carr currently working in Mozambique

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COEUR d'ALENE — Greg Carr isn't really the type to clamor for attention. Despite the philanthropist's renowned streak of charity over the past decade, including a pivotal role in establishing the **Human Rights Education** Institute in Coeur d'Alene, the Idaho-born businessman is equally recognized for his taciturn modesty. If not for the buildings and memorials the former Prodigy chairman leaves in his wake, few might be able to trace his contributions across the globe.

But all that changes this Sunday when "60 Minutes" will feature a segment on Carr's latest obsession: Restoring the Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique.

"I'm very glad to have these issues out there," said Carr, calling from a hotel in Maputo, Mozambique, on Thursday. "People can have a chance to learn a little bit more about Africa."

For the past four years, the former Internet tycoon has invested all his attention and about \$40 million into Mozambique, a poverty-ravaged, South African nation still picking up the shards of civilization after 16 years of civil war.

His nonprofit Gregory C. Carr Foundation, formed in 1999, is fixed upon restoring the vast savannas and wetlands of the national park, where the country's species have been picked off by poachers throughout the nation's tumultuous past.

Literally trucking in animals across thousands of miles of African road to restock the delicate ecosystem, Carr and his team plan on transforming the park into a tourist attraction and stable job source. Eventually, the surrounding villages, and the entire country, will use Gorongosa as a foothold to hoist itself into a self-sustaining economy, he said.

"I wanted a project that combined nature preservation and **human** development, and so I did a little study and came across this national park that was forgotten," Carr said. "Really at the end of the day, I want this to be (the villagers') project. It's their national park, it's their country. The idea is to teach **human** beings and nature to work together so in the end I can leave and let them continue without me."

So far, funding the entire project out of his own pocket, Carr has also foot the bill to construct health clinics and schools for local villages where hundreds will benefit from such facilities for the first time. His organization is also training an anti-poaching team to ensure the scarred jungle can heal for good.

He flies to Mozambique every other month to work with his team of native scientists and biologists, he said. The first years were spent in endless safaris, camping out in tents among the park wilderness.

"It's true jungle," Carr said with a sigh. "You wake up early in the mornings, the birds are singing. We saw a lion in camp once, standing **right** in front of us. Elephants are poking their noses over the fence. I feel like I'm seeing some of the best that this planet has to offer."

He'll be embedded there for some time, as his foundation made a 20-year contract with the Mozambique government to run the park.

Meantime, he rarely finds chances to stop by his Massachusetts home, and instead divides his time between Africa and his home-town of Idaho Falls.

"Idaho and Mozambique, that's it," he said and chuckled.

His native state is one of many Carr has showered with the rewards of his financial finesse.

Wielding a master's in business from Harvard University, Carr built a technology empire over the '80s and '90s with telecommunications manufacturer Boston Technology Inc. and Internet giant Prodigy Inc.

The business mogul sold his stock in 1999 to create his foundation and fund his true ambition: Promoting **human rights** and the arts. His donations and contributions have been set at a frenetic pace, pumping his hard-earned millions into projects across the country and around the world.

And he wasn't about to leave his home state behind.

"He loves Idaho, he's been a wonderful friend to our community," said Tony Stewart, board member of the Kootenai County Task Force on **Human** Relations and longtime friend of Carr's.

After the Aryan Nations in Hayden Lake lost a crucial lawsuit in 1999, Carr purchased the group's compound and donated it to North Idaho College to convert into a peace park.

He also donated \$1 million to the then-called **Human Rights Education** Foundation in 2002 to form an institute and restore the vine-shrouded building on Mullan Avenue for its headquarters.

"We never dreamed of having a real center and hiring a staff," said Mary Lou Reed, board member of the HREI. "By trusting our group with that large amount of money, that responsibility gave us the inspiration and the energy and the means that it makes sense to have a **human rights** center in Coeur d'Alene."

Stewart dubbed Carr's recognition on "60 Minutes" — 7 p.m. Sunday on CBS — as overdue.

"I would say that individuals like Greg Carr are the future hope of our planet," he said. "His whole life is dedicated to making this a better world, and he's done it."

Carr

Courtesy photo

Over the last four years, Greg Carr has invested all his attention and about \$40 million into Mozambique, South Africa.

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