


# 5 QUESTIONS 5 REPLIES



Well-known as „Lion Woman“ **Asli Han Gedik** is a successful investment banker. She has also built up a second life as a protector of species. The cosmopolitan daughter of a diplomat has managed to find the perfect balance between the world of finance and nature. She enjoys nights out under the open sky in African nature, with the sounds of nature, the smell of trees and earth. She supports many NGOs that deal with the rescue of endangered animals and animal species, including her own foundation Wild@Life e. V., which last year rescued lions from a zoo in the war zone of Aleppo/Syria. More at [www.wildatlife.com](http://www.wildatlife.com).





### 1 MRS. GEDIK, CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF?

I have been in investment banking for many years and have been both a Deputy General Manager as well as CIO for well-known banks and funds. Since I grew up in a diplomatic family and my education was accordingly very diverse and international, I was always open to many cultures. For example, I went to school in Brussels, Paris and other European cities. After completing university with B.A (High Hon.) in Banking and Finance, I worked in the treasury department of several banks in Istanbul, London and Amsterdam. I have been living in Germany since 2008. In addition to my main profession, I am also a member of the Advisory Board of the Official Monetary and Financial Institute (OMFIF) in London, a board member of the British Chamber of Commerce Rhein-Main and, above all, with Wild @ Life e. V., I run my own foundation for the protection of nature and animals.

### 2 YOU ARE KNOWN AS „LION WOMAN“. HOW DO YOU STAND UP FOR LIONS IN AFRICA?

ASLI HAN GEDIK: The lion is a symbol of courage, strength, beauty and nobility. It is an iconic creature that appears on national flags and company logos. I have always had a passion for Africa because it is the continent of smiling people, breathtaking landscapes and an incomparable fauna - and of course the lion continent. Whereas there were about 200,000 lions in 1975, there were only 30,000 in 2002. In the last 30 years, the lion population has declined by 90 percent and lions are currently classified as „vulnerable“ on the Red List of Endangered Species. At Wild @ Life e.V. we have a 4-stage program that balances the African

ecosystem and ensures that the continent remains in its present state and provides habitat for the remaining lions. We work with communities and policy makers, scientists and business leaders. As part of our „responsible development“ approach, we have launched pilot programs in Zimbabwe and Zambia are successfully implemented and are using the experience gained so that will soon go to other countries.

### 3 HOW DID YOU START YOUR JOURNEY AND WHY?

ASLI HAN GEDIK: I have been active in nature conservation for years - whether for lions, primates, as a ranger for elephants or for Orang-Utans. I work as a banker and use my earned money to really make a difference in a tangible world and to preserve natural habitats. Our ecosystem is very fragile and we are as dependent on these species as they are on us. That is why I have chosen to change something and protect wild species. We must respect nature and animals as what we call our home.



### 4 YOU MENTIONED WILD @ LIFE. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ASSOCIATION?

ASLI HAN GEDIK: As a board member of the Primate Freedom Project, ambassador of the African Lion Environmental Research Trust, European representative of the Orang-Utan Outreach, founding member of Gateway to Hell and member of the Wild-life Action Group, I decided to combine all these activities under one roof and founded Wild @ Life e. V. a few years ago.

Our greatest successes are the liberation of about 500 primates from animal experiments in Nepal, the rescue of the remaining 13 wild animals (bears, tigers, lions, hyenas) from Syria as well as projects with lions in Zimbabwe and orphan elephants in Zambia. For a few months we have been working to save 2 chimpanzees that have been kept in chicken cages in Angola for 20 years. All our projects can be found at [www.wildatlife.com](http://www.wildatlife.com) or Instagram.

### 5 HOW DID YOU START YOUR JOURNEY AND WHY?

ASLI HAN GEDIK: When people ask me why I am giving all my time to such work and concentrate only on this and nothing else... I always say that I work for the next generations. If no one cares about biodiversity on our planet, future generations will know many species only from fairy tale books. We have a duty to preserve the habitat for these creatures. We spend billions to explore other planets, while species that can feel what we feel, communicate with us and make our lives holistic die out. We will continue our work at Wild @ Life to preserve the diversity of species for future generations. I cordially invite everyone to support us in our work.

## SAVE IT TOGETHER!

Every euro helps to protect endangered animals and animal species.

Donation Account: Wild@Life e.V., Deutsche Skatbank

IBAN: DE 12 8306 5408 0004 9477 03

BIC: GENO DEF1 SLR

