

INTO THE LIGHT



AFRICAN PARKS
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Ranger, Pascal Madragule Morekema, in Garamba National Park, DRC © Marcus Westberg
Cover: Three cheetahs translocated to Bangweulu Wetlands, Zambia, from South Africa © Marcus Westberg

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THE AFRICAN PARKS PORTFOLIO

African Parks was founded in 2000 as an African solution for Africa's conservation challenges. We take on complete responsibility for the long-term management of national parks and protected areas in partnership with Governments and local communities. Our goal is to restore and effectively manage these landscapes, making them ecologically, socially and financially sustainable so they can deliver a multitude of benefits for people and wildlife in perpetuity. By the close of 2021, African Parks had 19 parks under management in 11 countries, over 14.8 million hectares (57,143 square miles), covering 10 of the 13 ecological biomes on mainland Africa. This is the largest and most ecologically diverse amount of land under protection by any one NGO on the continent.

AN AFRICAN MODEL FOR CONSERVATION IN AFRICA



H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn

PRIME MINISTER OF ETHIOPIA 2012-2018
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION 2013-2014
**VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AFRICAN
PARKS NETWORK 2021 – PRESENT**

The future of our planet depends on Africa. Over a quarter of the earth's biodiversity exists on this continent, along with the majority of the largest mammal migrations. One tenth of the world's irrecoverable carbon is also stored in Africa – most of which is within the Congo Basin. This rainforest, the second largest in the world and rightfully known as one of the planet's green lungs, sequesters more carbon than all the tropical forests of Asia and the Amazon combined. These landscapes are critical in providing clean air and water, food security, and a better way of life. Yet our wild ecosystems continue to be undervalued, and nature continues to be destroyed.

As the world grapples with the interlinked crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, and global pandemics, investing in and securing protected areas is rising to the surface as one of the surest and most cost-effective actions we can take in ensuring our own survival. While Africa is experiencing unprecedented rates of population growth and agricultural development, science has shown how nature is the engine for our socioeconomic development, and that we must invest in nature-based solutions now, before it is too late.

African Parks believes that what is not managed, in terms of protected areas and national parks, will be lost

– and once lost, they are near impossible to bring back. Which means the wild areas that exist today are only more valuable tomorrow, not just for our continent's people, but for all of humanity.

This is why I joined the Board of African Parks, to be part of a unique African solution for uniquely African challenges. I have seen their Public Private Partnership model, which was pioneered for protected area management in Africa, put to the test and succeed, even in the most unlikely places. In the Central African Republic, a country plagued by decades of civil war, they have the mandate to manage a colossal 55,000 km² landscape called Chinko with the goal of it forming the core of a larger land-use plan for the entire eastern part of the country. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, they have transformed Garamba National Park, a place historically plundered by warlords, where wildlife and people's lives had been destroyed, to it now serving as the most stable place in the entire region, with poaching all but eliminated, and where communities are bringing in over US\$800,000 a year from sustainable agriculture. These kinds of transformations are happening in all the 19 parks under their management, where schools have been built, children can learn, health services are available, and people have jobs. All because nature is being protected.

In September, I helped African Parks enter into two MoUs – one with the Government of South Sudan to work on an agreement to manage Bandingilo and Boma National Parks, the other with the Government of Ethiopia for Gambella and Omo National Parks. The sustainability of these contiguous parks, which span 46,000 km² and host the second largest mammal migration on the planet, has global ramifications.

African Parks offers African governments a unique proposition: a risk-free solution to managing their protected areas to safeguard our continent's biodiversity, while walking pragmatically along the path of sustainable development. It is incumbent on us as Africa's leaders, and to which I am personally committed, to recognise this as a critical option, and to shine a light on the benefit of doing so, to protect our irrecoverable heritage.

Sincerely,
H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn



Ranger, Heritier Madrakele Manda, and his son in Garamba National Park, DRC © Marcus Westberg

BEYOND THE SHADOWS



Peter Fearnhead

CEO'S LETTER & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last two years have been unimaginably difficult for so many. The countries in which we work, and our teams, were not immune and the traumas and challenges have been very real. We did not expect to grow, and yet we did. We did not expect to emerge stronger, and yet we have.

Today, we have at least six new parks in the pipeline, all at advanced stages, which could see us double the footprint of the portfolio we have spent two decades building. We became one of the beneficiaries of the uniquely structured Legacy Landscapes Fund, a new model for sustainable financing for conservation created by the German Government. And we announced the two largest funding commitments ever made in history to the conservation of protected areas in Africa: one from the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation and the other from the Wyss Foundation.

We remain focussed on a tried and tested model, refined over 20 years through both successes and mistakes. It is an approach which is effective, consistent and readily scalable. We have incredibly committed boards, government partners, and strategic funders – who are all courageously stepping up to the challenges of protecting nature for the benefit of humanity. We have defined a clear roadmap identifying the 161 priority landscapes in Africa that must be protected to ensure that Africa's biodiversity, essential for planetary health and our ultimate survival, is not lost. Of these, we believe that only 69 have management solutions in place which will ensure their survival – 92 require solutions! Therefore, the opportunities have never been greater to increase our impact by scaling our work. Nor has it ever been more urgent.

In the following pages you will read about the enduring impacts we are making with your support through the effective management of 19 parks, in 11 countries, across the continent. You'll read about the rise we're seeing in the reclaiming of natural heritage, through the increase of nationals visiting their own parks, up 21% since before the pandemic. You'll read how poaching levels have been kept at an all-time low and how many populations of endangered species are not just stable, but are on the rise. You'll read about the largest white rhino translocation ever accomplished, creating a rhino stronghold in Akagera in Rwanda; and about other historic moves such as bringing wild dogs back to Malawi, and bolstering founding populations of cheetahs in Malawi and in Bangweulu, Zambia.

You'll also read about the life-altering benefits each park is providing to some of the most under-served people on the planet. For example, Garamba in the Democratic Republic of Congo – one of the most challenging places in which we've ever worked. Some years ago, we considered exiting, because the toll on human lives and wildlife was too great, and success seemed too far out of reach. But we didn't; we persisted, together with our partners. Today, Garamba is one of the most stable and safest places in the entire region; not one elephant was recorded poached in the past two years, and community programmes are generating almost a million dollars through social enterprises, of which 100% goes directly to local people. With support from the EU and GivePower, Garamba is also now providing a reliable, clean, and sustainable energy supply to 14,000 households. The park is literally a supplier of light.

Let me close with this. If Garamba can undergo such a transformation, I am filled with optimism that even during times of global instability and economic turmoil, we can steer the course, and leave a lasting legacy. I want to thank the governments who have partnered with us, who are entrusting their valuable natural assets into our care; our funders without whom none of this is possible, and our teams on the ground who make it happen. On behalf of African Parks, thank you for your partnership, and for creating a truly brighter, more sustainable future.

Sincerely,
Peter Fearnhead, CEO



Giraffe in Bandingilo National Park, South Sudan © Ted Woods

OUR GROWTH - Over 2021, we maintained our footprint of managing 19 parks in 11 countries, securing 14.8 million hectares of wild landscapes on the continent. This is the largest and most ecologically diverse portfolio of protected areas in Africa under rehabilitation by any one conservation organisation.

In Zambia, we concluded a 12-month Priority Support Plan for Kafue, which commenced in February and should lead to a full mandate in 2022 for this globally significant landscape. Exciting developments happened in September for Angola, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, with Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) committing our government partners to conclude full mandates for a total of six new protected areas during early 2022. Combined, these additional six landscapes amount to 14.6 million hectares, which would almost double our current footprint. We also submitted an expression of interest for Kidepo National Park and two other adjoining reserves in Uganda. Positive discussions continue on the management of Kundelungu in the DRC with the Institut pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and other partners.

We announced two truly significant, transformational commitments this year: US\$108 million from the Wyss Foundation in June, which over the next five years will support existing and new parks with matching grants; and US\$100 million from the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation in September, where US\$75 million was committed to our endowment – the largest contribution to the endowment in our history, and US\$25 million in support to existing parks. These generous gifts help pave the way for us to begin to scale our work in order to meet our goals over the next ten years. Both Foundations were also founding partners of the newly launched Legacy Landscapes Fund, a uniquely structured fund where Iona in Angola and Odzala in Congo will receive an additional US\$10 million each, provided by the German Development Bank (KfW), thereby ensuring funding of US\$1 million per annum for the next 15 years. These are progressive developments that are working to address the fact that conservation needs “forever funding”, and that “financial capital is necessary to sustain natural capital”.

WILDLIFE - Carrying out wildlife translocations during Covid-19 was no easy feat, compounded by sudden

lockdowns and overnight border closures. But yet we managed to complete some historic moves, as well as document optimistic trends for some of the continent's most endangered species. In July, we reintroduced African Wild Dogs to Liwonde and Majete in Malawi, bringing them back to the country for the first time since their local extinction in the 1980s. In November we translocated a pack of nine animals as part of a reintroduction to Liuwa Plain in Zambia, carried out in collaboration with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife. Both reintroductions represent a major international effort to conserve African Wild Dogs, the second most endangered carnivore in Africa (after the Ethiopian Wolf) with only an estimated 6,600 individuals and 700 breeding pairs left in the wild. This makes it all the more pleasing to share that we recently received news of nine new pups which have been captured on camera trap in Liwonde.

In September, in Zimbabwe, we successfully translocated 223 zebras to Matusadona, to enhance the resident population. Over the course of three weeks, 20 to 30 animals were transported every

two to three days by trucks from Bulyebe Valley Conservancy, who donated the animals. This injection supplements the existing population, and will accelerate the process of making the park a prime wildlife destination. Additional cheetahs were also brought into Bangweulu in Zambia. And in November, we successfully translocated 30 Southern white rhinos from South Africa to Akagera National Park in Rwanda, in the largest-ever single translocation effort of its kind. It was a monumental task that took months of planning, and included a Boeing 747 which was needed to carry 80 tons of cargo, the combined weight of the 30 rhinos, their specially made steel crates, and supplementary food. They made the 3,400 km journey, and all were safely released into purpose-built bomas within Akagera. This effort was made possible due to our collaboration with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), with whom we have had a long-standing and exemplary partnership, and Beyond who contributed the rhinos, and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation (HGBF) who generously funded the entire initiative. We were also pleased to see the good news that the project garnered globally.



One of 30 white rhinos translocated to Akagera National Park, Rwanda © Martin Meyer

In terms of other notable highlights, many of the parks reported poaching levels remaining at an all-time low over the year, with Garamba not losing one elephant to poaching since September 2019 (that we know of), and with elephant calves and giraffe calves continuing to be documented. The Chinko team continued to keep the 24,300 km² core of the larger protected area free of poachers and 90% of this area, free of cattle. Results from Chinko's large carnivore study also showed an increase in key species such as lions, leopards, and spotted hyenas since 2017. Odzala continues to harbour 7,585 Western lowland gorillas, the largest population within a national park in Africa, and over 7,000 forest elephants. While conducting aerial surveys in Bazaruto in Mozambique, our research and monitoring team documented a large group of 57 dugongs on three separate occasions. This is the largest herd documented within Bazaruto, and the largest herd seen along the East African coast since at least the 1990s. Several cow-calf pairs were also recorded, including six pairs on a single day.

OUR COMMUNITY – Once again, as in 2020, we saw all parks being fully operational, with not one staff

member losing his/her job because of Covid. Our team now consists of 3,788 full-time employees, 95% of whom are nationals, and we continue to support thousands of local, part-time workers. Our ranger team grew to 1,328 individuals, and on 18th of September, over 650 of them participated in the annual Wildlife Ranger Challenge, each running 21 km to help raise awareness for the role rangers play in Africa and how under-resourced their colleagues continue to be.

Our community work across the parks continued to change people's lives. Through the parks under our management, as many as 18,000 local community members are directly benefitting from sustainable livelihood opportunities, from being able to participate in beekeeping, fisheries, agro-forestry, and community guide cooperatives, to receiving livestock husbandry and veterinary assistance, to being able to sustainably harvest natural resources the parks provide. As many as 25,000 children also participated in free, educational park visits. And all of this during the continued pandemic. One particular highlight has been the solar project in



A dugong in Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, Mozambique © Rafael Fernandez Caballero



Beekeepers in Garamba National Park, DRC © Marcus Westberg

Garamba which, thanks to funding from the EU and GivePower, has provided a reliable, clean, and sustainable energy supply to 14,000 households for the very first time. Two solar mini-grids have been installed, one in Faradje and another in Tadu, making them the first towns in the region to be electrified. Garamba will also subsidise the cost of solar lamps and kits for another 13,000 households by 2022, with 4,218 households having purchased solar lamps. Maman Bibiani, a mother of eight, as well as serving as a local schoolteacher, said "I'm grateful for all Garamba has done to help our children. The park is a continued source of safety for me and my family, and my entire community; and now one could say it is truly a source of light".

IN MEMORIAM – We were hit extremely hard this year with several losses of truly remarkable people, whose untimely departures gutted us to our core. Several among them included our Director of Human Resources, Ken Wanyoto; Markus Jebsen, who was a founding member of our Asia Pacific

Advisory Group; Khalid Hassan, who was a founding Majete Board Member; and Lee Eliot, our Law Enforcement Advisor in Garamba. These losses were tragic. African Parks, and conservation in general, lost good people and our hearts remain heavy for the family members left behind.

WITH GRATITUDE – In spite of ongoing global challenges, what is happening here across the continent, in terms of the appetite of governments wanting to protect their natural resources, is remarkable. I believe the gains we have made in 2021 are right on course, and are positioning us to scale our work, to protect more of Africa for wildlife and local communities before these areas are gone. And this is only made possible because of our government partners, our entire team at African Parks who carry out our work every day, and because of people like you, who believe in our mission and in our abilities, and are also willing to be part of the solution. Thank you for staying the course with us and for choosing African Parks.

OUR MODEL

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

5 PILLARS: ACTIONS & IMPACTS

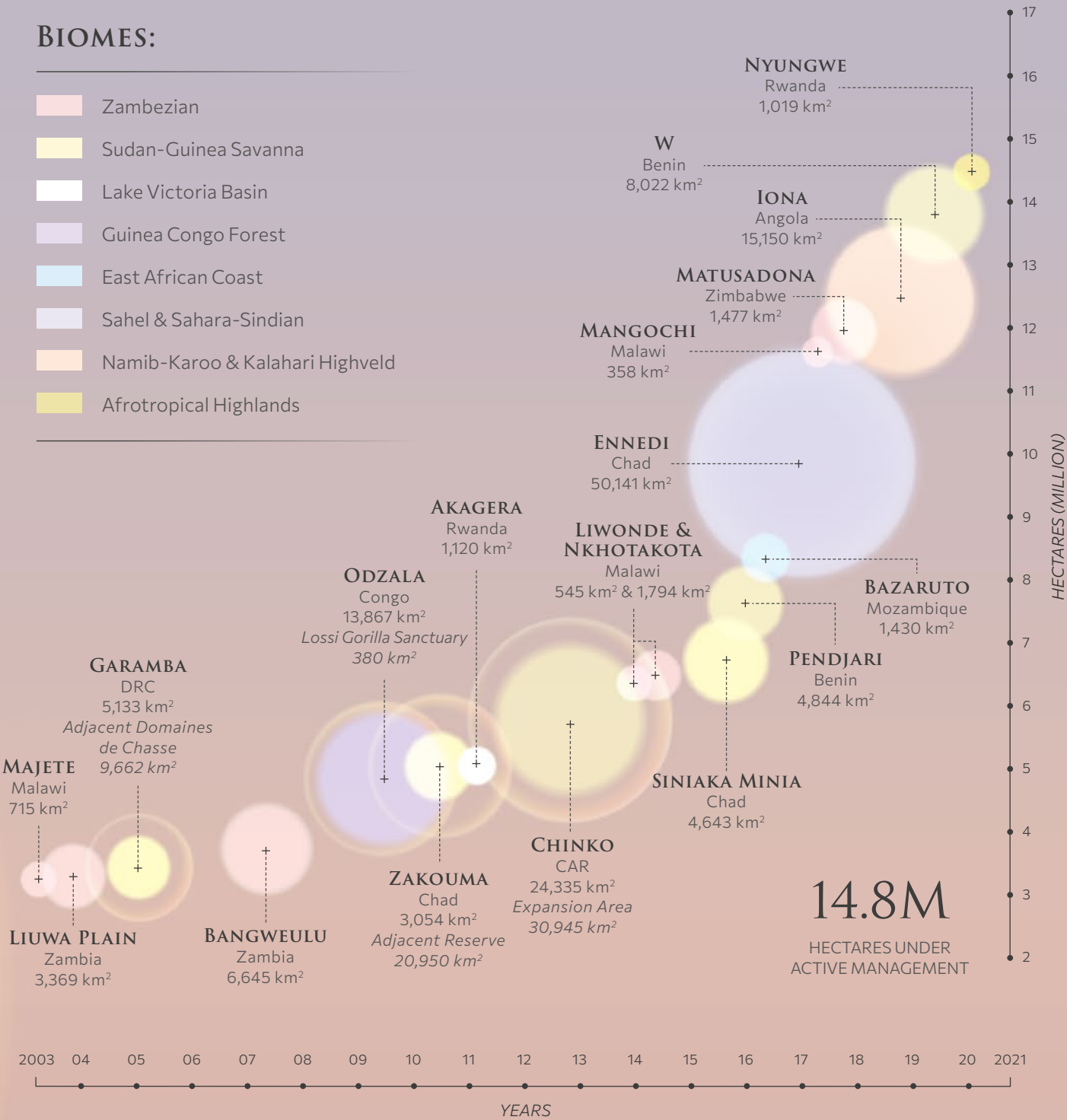


AP Model Est. 2000

In the year 2000, African Parks pioneered the “Public-Private Partnership” (PPP) model for protected area management. Under this model we are fully responsible for all park management functions and are 100% accountable to the Government who remains the owner and determines policy for the landscape. This is achieved through long-term agreements that are on average 20-years (mandates), putting in place funding solutions (money), and establishing good management and clear governance by creating separate legal entities per park or country, each with their own Board representing key stakeholders (management). Once these three elements are in place, we then implement the five pillars (below) designed to restore and protect wild areas for the benefit of people and wildlife, while achieving long-term sustainability.

BIOMES:

- Zambezian
- Sudan-Guinea Savanna
- Lake Victoria Basin
- Guinea Congo Forest
- East African Coast
- Sahel & Sahara-Sindian
- Namib-Karoo & Kalahari Highveld
- Afrotropical Highlands



OUR FOOTPRINT:

PROTECTING AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY

African Parks manages 19 parks in 11 countries, encompassing 10 of the 13 ecological biomes on mainland Africa, ensuring that 14.8 million hectares is under effective management and therefore protected. In just 20 years, we have built the largest and most ecologically diverse portfolio for any one conservation organisation on the continent. Our goal is to manage 30 parks by 2030 across 11 biomes, ensuring that 30 million hectares are well managed, thus contributing to the broader vision of having 30% of Africa's unique landscapes protected in perpetuity.

AND THEN THERE WAS LIGHT

THE STORY OF GARAMBA

Garamba National Park in the north-east corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was declared a national park in 1938 and is one of the most critically important ecological landscapes in Africa. In the 1970s, the park was home to more than 22,000 elephants, and contained the world's largest population of Northern white rhinos, which resulted in it being declared a World Heritage Site in 1980. But by the 2000s, 95% of Garamba's elephants and all of the northern white rhinos were lost. Equally tragic was the utter devastation incurred by local communities at the hands of militarised poachers and rebel groups, who were prepared to kill every last elephant, and anyone that stood in their way.

“THE PARK IS A CONTINUED SOURCE OF SAFETY FOR ME AND MY FAMILY, AND MY ENTIRE COMMUNITY; AND NOW ONE COULD SAY IT IS **TRULY A SOURCE OF LIGHT.**” — Maman Bibiane, a teacher at Institut Faradje, DRC

To stop the park's destruction, the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) invited African Parks to manage Garamba in 2005 to ensure and maintain much-needed stability. Despite significant challenges over the following decade, by 2017 we had redefined Garamba's trajectory through a revised law enforcement strategy and the implementation of a sustainable development strategy. This was supported and encouraged by the ICCN, USAID, UNESCO, and in particular, the European Union, who mobilised 28 million euros to make this a reality.

And it's working. Professionalised law enforcement and world-class technology has almost entirely eliminated poaching, with poached elephant numbers declining from 98 in 2015, to zero in 2021. An increase in arrests and prosecutions has created a notable deterrent to illegal activities in and around the park, and our research is helping us better understand pastoral dynamics in the region and support the management of and engagement with pastoralist groups, who have a direct impact on security and conservation.

With improved security being a foundational component of sustainable development, investments

in green energy solutions and agroecology have been made, and are bearing fruit. Garamba's long-term sustainable development strategy focuses on stimulating agricultural practices to boost “green” economic growth. This includes improving farming methods by supporting community-based sustainable agriculture and phasing out shifting cultivation; access to social services; developing and maintaining road access; and access to renewable energy.

Through the park's Farmer Fields School (FFS) approach we are on track for 1,500 farmers to be trained by 2024 in sustainable methods. Through this programme, participants, who are selected according to specific social and technical criteria, are trained to apply sustainable techniques such as halting the use of slash and burn methods, and to train other farmers. Environmental education has also become a backbone to Garamba's conservation approach with 450 children from 15 schools receiving weekly practical sustainable agricultural and environmental education.

Annually, community farmers produce approximately 50 tonnes of fish, 5.6 tonnes of chia, and 440 kg of honey. These projects, along with cacao, livestock and other initiatives, generated \$US800,000 in revenue in 2021, 100% of which was returned to local communities. By the close of 2022, we estimate that \$US1.2 million will be generated through community-based enterprises run or supported by Garamba. Over 150 km of roads have been developed or maintained, and 82,000 villagers now have access to potable water. Upgraded medical infrastructure operated by GNP staff is servicing 10,000 people and eight mobile clinics provided free health care and medicine to more than 6,000 people in 2021.

And lastly, with the help of the EU and GivePower, Garamba provides solar energy to 14,000 households and small enterprises, who until this point never had a clean, reliable energy source. The transformation that has taken place within and radiating out of Garamba, is nothing short of remarkable. Where Garamba was once a place synonymous with despair, it now serves as a living symbol of progress and possibility, for people and for wildlife.



2021: BY THE NUMBERS

ECOLOGICAL :

WHAT IS NOT MANAGED WILL BE LOST

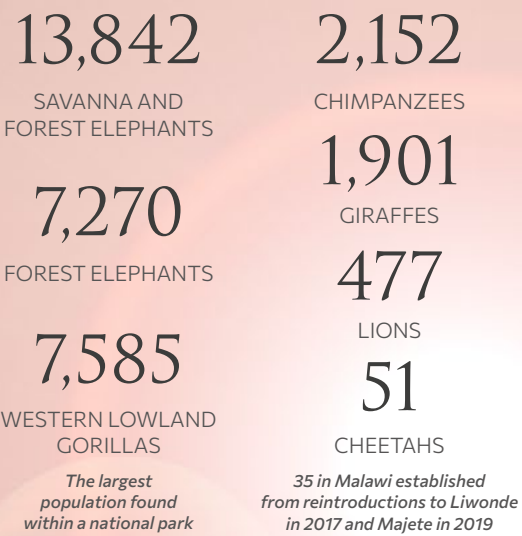
Functioning wild ecosystems are imperative for human survival, and when well-managed they provide benefits such as clean air, water, and food security. Our rangers create safe places so ecosystems can function. Once poaching and other illegal threats are prevented, wildlife numbers can rise and key species that were once lost, can be reintroduced.



CREATING SAFE SPACES



THREATENED WILDLIFE UNDER OUR PROTECTION



KEY WILDLIFE TRANSLOCATIONS 2021

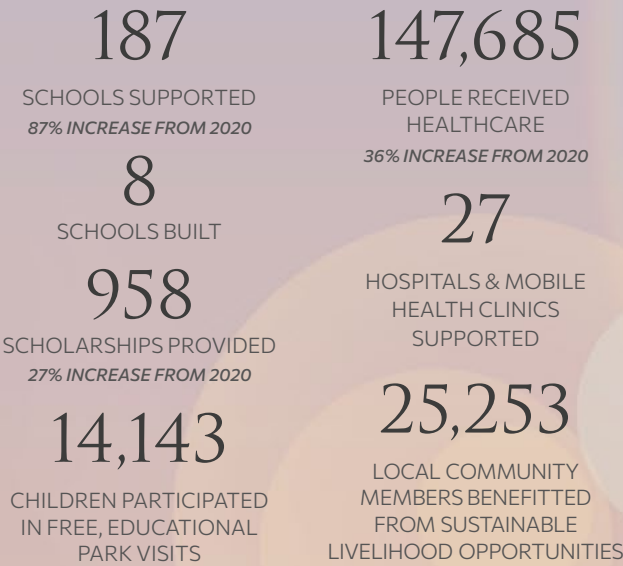
2021 saw some historic translocations and reintroductions with the largest single rhino lift ever conducted, with 30 white rhinos to Akagera, Rwanda; 223 zebras to Matusadona, Zimbabwe; the return of wild dogs to Malawi with 14 to Majete and Liwonde, and another 11 to Liuwa in Zambia; 10 giraffes to Majete, and 5 cheetahs to Bangweulu, Zambia.

Top: Rangers in Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi © Naude Heunis Bottom: A gorilla in Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Congo © Andrew Beck

SOCIO-POLITICAL:

WHERE WILDLIFE THRIVE, PEOPLE THRIVE

Well-managed parks can reap dividends for vulnerable communities. Our model ensures government and community representation on each park Board, so they have a stake in management decisions. We invest in schools, teacher salaries, medical units, and in sustainable livelihoods to build a constituency for conservation who are responsible for the future of these wild places.



ECONOMIC:

BUILDING A CONSERVATION-LED ECONOMY

Well-managed parks generate revenue from job creation, tourism or other sustainable development projects. As more jobs are created, more salaries and taxes are paid, stimulating a conservation-led economy. While there was still a reduction in tourism revenue, local tourists returned, and many parks continued to serve as the largest employer in their region.



Top: School children in Liuwa Plain National Park, Zambia © Mana Meadows Bottom: King Lewanika Lodge in Liuwa Plain National Park, Zambia © Time+Tide

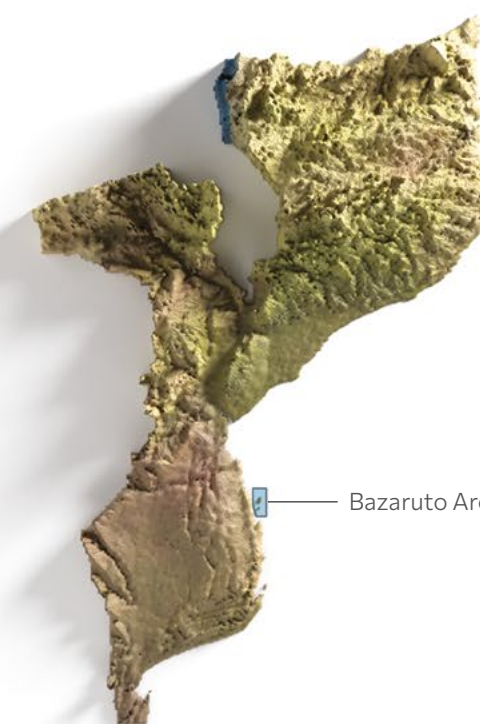
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MOZAMBIQUE

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC)



Bazaruto Archipelago

BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK

1,430 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

MAJOR FUNDERS Oppenheimer Generations Foundation & The Wyss Foundation

A SEASCAPE OF HOPE



PARK MANAGER
Armando Guenha

MOZAMBIQUE – At 1,430 km², Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (BANP) is Mozambique's oldest marine reserve, and the first seascape to fall under African Parks' management. In 2017, the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) invited African Parks to help protect one of the most critical sanctuaries in the Indian Ocean. As a refuge for 2,000 species of fish and 500 species of marine and coastal molluscs, Bazaruto is also a haven for some key megafauna including dolphins, sharks, whales, manta rays, turtles, and the largest viable dugong population on the East African coast.

2021 marked both the 50th year anniversary of Bazaruto's establishment as a national park, as well as the discovery of the largest herd of west Indian Ocean dugongs seen in over 30 years. This significant finding is a tribute to the commitment of those who have helped protect this unique marine reserve over the decades. Together with ANAC, our future impact is looking even more promising. We continue to nurture our relationships with communities and ensure they benefit from this rich ecosystem. We are developing and maintaining sustainable tourism, and making headway on the expansion of the Marine Protected Area into the north of the park, encompassing extensive mangrove swamps that are critical for a multitude of marine species, including the majority of dugongs in the region.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - Bazaruto is home to the largest viable dugong population on the eastern coast of Africa, and harbours at least six recorded species of dolphin, three species of baleen whales, over 180 species of birds, 45 species of reptiles, and 2,000 fish species. An aerial survey conducted in 2021 revealed approximately 325 dugongs, while a second

count in December found a single herd of over 55, including multiple calves. This is the largest herd of western Indian Ocean dugongs seen since the 1960s. The turtle-nest monitoring programme progressed with two additional turtle monitors adding to the protection and awareness of turtle conservation. All five species of turtles occurring in the park are now nesting on the archipelago. Although this season's (October 2020 to February 2021) number of recorded nests was lower than the previous season, with 55 nests and 2,019 live hatchlings, the previous two counts remain higher than any other since turtle monitoring began in 1994. In addition, 70 turtles were successfully released from nets.

In October a coral resilience assessment was carried out by an international team of marine experts, to provide a baseline for coral reef conservation management. To assist in a long-term coral monitoring programme, four rangers and our Assistant Research Coordinator qualified as PADI open water scuba divers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Since 2020, the now 51-strong law enforcement unit, in collaboration with the Maritime Authority and local police, has helped reduce illegal activities by 28%. This is an indication of improved boundary control and collaboration with the BANP and prosecutors. Eleven arrests led to six prosecutions, with 100 illegal gill nets confiscated amongst other illegal fishing gear.

Training courses on scuba diving, vessel boarding, and searching techniques were launched throughout the year to improve responsive action. Three new skippers were recruited to captain each law enforcement boat year-round, which has increased our presence and response throughout Bazaruto's seascape.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - We continued investing in community relationships by maintaining open communication with leaders and members, with 118 community meetings held over the year. Fifty-six community members enrolled in training courses provided by the park including cooking, pastry making, carpentry, and eco-tourism. Six community guides attended a training course, provided in conjunction with University Eduardo Mondlane.

As part of the integrated Water and Conservation Agriculture project, funded by the World Bank, five groups were trained in conservation agriculture to improve community access to nutrition and provide income to the community.

In a bid to keep the islands and ocean clean while creating jobs, 50 men and women were employed to collect rubbish. Over 114 tonnes of waste including plastic, glass, and metal, was taken out of the park and sent to Maputo for recycling. In commemoration of World Environment and World Oceans days we carried out beach clean ups on three islands.

A total of 66 students received scholarships, bringing the total number of supported scholars to 244. The first phase of the Community Development Plan was undertaken to understand the needs of our stakeholders.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - The park's management team expanded with 13 new recruits including a new Research Coordinator, an Infrastructure and Logistics Manager, a Chief of Maintenance, a waste coordinator, and a store and book keeper.

A Hydraform block machine was purchased to produce a variety of cost-effective bricks. Seven eco-points for rubbish collection were constructed, along with a perimeter wall for the Operations office in Vilankulo. More solar systems were purchased to be installed

at outposts around the park. Particular attention was paid to fire management, with the creation of firebreaks and firefighting training for 33 rangers.

TOURISM - There was a 64% increase in visitors from 2020, generating US\$364,908. The preliminary phase of a tourism monitoring plan to manage tourism and improve visitor experience without compromising the park's ecological integrity was completed. Three new information points on Vilankulo beach were installed, as well as an information desk at the airport. And lastly, Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards ranked Bazaruto as the best African island destination in 2021.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Complete critical law enforcement and tourism infrastructure
- Implement Tourism Development Plan
- Work with ANAC to declare new Environmental Protection Area from Save River to Pomene
- Continue monitoring population size of key species and habitats through regular monitoring programme
- Finalise and implement Community Development Strategy



Rangers remove an illegal anchor rope in Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, Mozambique © Andrew MacDonald



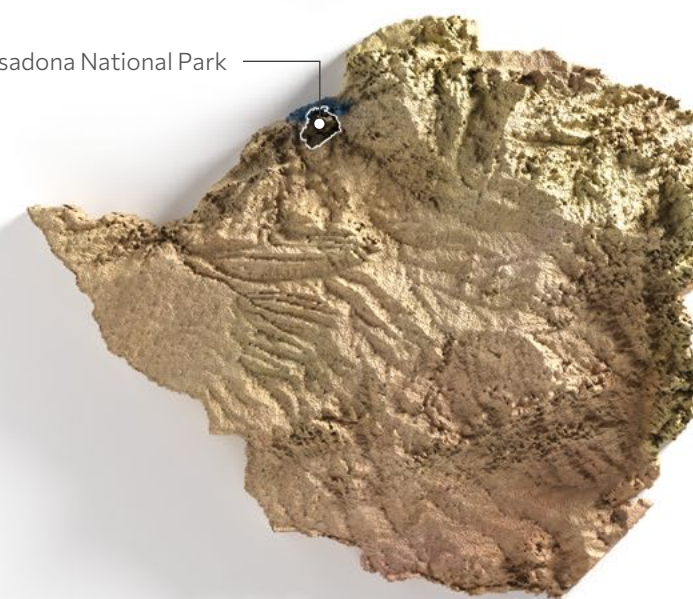
Elephants swimming in Lake Kariba in Matusadona National Park, Zimbabwe © Michele Fortmann

ZIMBABWE

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA)

Matusadona National Park



MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK

1,477 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2019

MAJOR FUNDERS Dhanam Foundation,
Stichting Natura Africae & The Wyss Foundation

A WATER-RICH WILDLIFE HAVEN



PARK MANAGER
Robert Reid

ZIMBABWE - Matusadona National Park is the first protected area in Zimbabwe to come under our management, and gets its name from the rolling Matusadona hills that form part of its water rich landscape. In 2019, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) invited African Parks to assume management of this unique landscape, to realise their vision of revitalising Matusadona for wildlife and communities. Proclaimed a national park in 1975, Matusadona was once a conservation stronghold for elephant and black rhino, but over the decades, the park was negatively impacted by the same human pressures seen across the country and continent. Since the inception of the Matusadona Conservation Trust and with renewed resources, the park is fast becoming a safe haven not only for wildlife, but also as a potentially thriving tourism destination.

Home to elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard, and various plains game, Matusadona further received 223 zebra this year to augment its populations. To better understand the park's elephant movements and gain an understanding of the human elephant conflict, ten individuals were successfully collared. Effective law enforcement, coupled with community engagement, has seen a noticeable reduction in poaching of both fish and land mammals, which in turn has revived legal fishing enterprises while implementing an understanding of preserving natural resources. Reinvestment into the tourism industry has contributed to job creation and supporting local enterprise, health, and education, while gaining public support for the park. This engagement is delivering tangible benefits to communities and fostering trust, allowing people to feel part of and therefore protective of their natural heritage, so that Matusadona's exceptional landscape can be preserved for generations to come.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - Over three weeks in August, 223 Burchell's zebra, donated from Buby Valley Conservancy, were successfully translocated to the park in an effort to boost game populations and restore the ecosystem. Ten elephants were collared, providing us with valuable information to help provide better protection, understand habitat-use, and reduce conflict situations with communities. A photographic hippo survey identified over 2,100 hippos along the Matusadona shoreline – an increase from approximately 250 animals in the early 1980s. Lion movements and their numbers changed substantially over the year as two prides splintered, producing a number of new cubs each and bringing the population to approximately 36. A Panthera camera trapping programme for leopards was completed, with initial data estimating a stable population density of four leopards/100 km² – the complete analysis will be available in 2022. A Tigerfish study, to help better understand the effects of gill-netting, progressed well and a noticeable reduction in poaching of fish has improved legal fishing for permit holders and the recreational houseboat industry.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Training programmes, done by Tikki Hywood Foundation, were provided for police, public prosecutors, and Matusadona rangers to improve docket preparation for the courts. The improvement of equipment and patrol procedures has increased our ranger mobility, and foot patrol coverage has drastically expanded. Apart from one elephant carcass found from a 2020 poaching incident, there were no known elephants poached in the year. Illegal gold panning along the Ume river has declined following arrests and community engagement. In total, 311 arrests were made resulting in 230 prosecutions with the remainder warned and cautioned or given fines.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) continued to be a challenge, mainly with lion and elephant incidents which resulted in seven human fatalities around the park and multiple livestock losses, making our HWC monitoring system critical in understanding where issues are and how best to tackle them. Much of our efforts involved sensitisation of communities to wildlife and included: teaching many of the farmers surrounding us how to manufacture chilli bricks to burn as an elephant deterrent; improved fences around vegetable gardens to prevent crop-raiding; and aiding livestock husbandry practices with another local NGO, Wildlife Conservation Action. In education, our first bursaries were rolled out to ten disadvantaged students and the first school visits to the park started, which were well received and supported by the Ministry

of Education. Through a partnership with World Bicycle Relief, 200 bicycles were donated to schoolchildren who live four kilometres or more from their school. Two radio programmes have been aired every month since June discussing various education and wildlife programmes, reaching many thousands of people.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Extensive upgrades and refurbishment to management accommodation, staff housing, ablutions, office, workshops, stores, and Tashinga campsite were carried out. Radio towers were built and radios imported and installed, providing comprehensive coverage and internet links in the park. Extensive road repairs were undertaken with 300 kms of road opened or re-graded and drainage lines installed. The hangar was completed and our new plane imported.

TOURISM - Our Tourism Development Plan was completed and approved by our board. Visitor numbers remained fairly low with just 140 international guests and 1,851 domestic guests. Despite this, the historic

Fothergill Island reopened and has been well received, with discussions underway with operators to grow the weekly flights from Victoria Falls. Changa Safari Camp, Rhino Safari Camp and Spurwing Island Lodge are re-investing in expanding their offerings, while outside the park houseboat visits have increased with renewed enthusiasm for the fishing and game viewing along the shoreline.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Complete all refurbishment and construction earmarked for 2022
- Implement the Tourist Development Plan
- Develop a Black Rhino Management Plan
- Improve mobility and coverage for effective law enforcement
- Open Tashinga tented camp
- Extend mandate to Basin 4 in Lake Kariba Recreational Park
- Formalise a wildlife community forum with the area chiefs and Nyaminyami Rural District Council



Zebra capture at Buby Valley Conservancy for translocation to Matusadona National Park, Zimbabwe © Mana Meadows

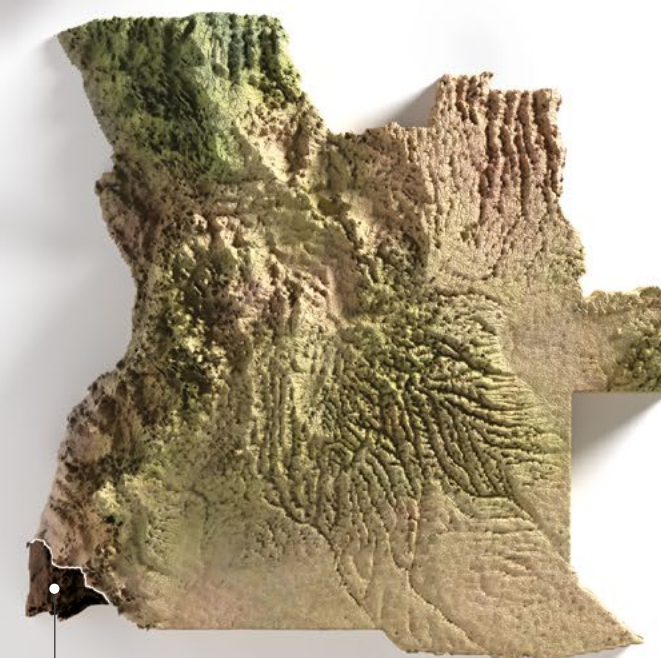


Oryx, are an iconic species in Iona's desert landscape, Angola © Javier Lobon Rovira

ANGOLA

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

National Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (INBC)



Iona National Park

IONA NATIONAL PARK

15,150 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2019

MAJOR FUNDERS Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, Stichting Natura Africae & The Wyss Foundation

KEY PARTNER International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)

A REMOTE STORY OF REVIVAL



PARK MANAGER
Bruce Bennett

ANGOLA – Iona National Park holds a unique blend of harsh beauty and abundance. Its remote coastal position and arid landscape supports a wealth of biodiversity, including over 37 mammal, 250 bird, and 63 reptile species. Spanning 15,000 km², the park forms part of a transfrontier conservation area including the Skeleton Coast and Namib-Naukluft National Parks in Namibia, covering nearly 50,000 km². Proclaimed a reserve in 1937 and upgraded to a national park in 1964, this region endured the nearly four-decade-long, tragic Angolan civil war. In this time, rhino and elephant populations were eradicated, infrastructure destroyed and tremendous hardship endured by local communities. But some life held on. Today, viable populations of zebra, oryx, and springbok remain, and there are remnant populations of cheetah, leopard, and brown hyaena. In December 2019, the Angolan government saw the potential of this extraordinary landscape and partnered with African Parks to revive Iona, ensuring its long-term ecological, social, and economic sustainability for both wildlife and the people who live there.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - A ground survey conducted in March over Iona's mountainous regions revealed unique biodiversity with flora that is not found anywhere else in the region. Also discovered was clear evidence of human and livestock presence, even on the very highest peaks, disproving previous thoughts that the mountaintops were free from such threats. The six-year long drought continued through the year, resulting in a decline in wildlife numbers as animals migrated out of the park in search of nutrition. Despite challenges in locating and capturing, we continued with the cheetah and brown

hyena collaring project, which will provide a deeper understanding into their range areas and insight into possible conflict with communities.

The government-managed project to create Angola's first Marine Protected Area (MPA) adjacent to Iona progressed slowly during the year, and we are looking forward to including the management of the MPA under our mandate for Iona in the near future. Once in place, the protection of this rich marine ecosystem will ensure the recovery of vital fish stocks and other marine species in the region.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - In addition to the rangers seconded from the government in 2020, 42 more were deployed to Iona, creating a team of 60 field rangers. All rangers completed basic field ranger courses and 39 passed, of these 16 were selected for leadership training and allocated to 'rank' positions. Those that did not pass the course were assigned to gate and guard duties. All were adequately kitted out with uniforms, field equipment, rations, and transportation. Coupled with our Community Observer Programme, which provides on-the-ground intelligence, our law enforcement team maintained good relations with traditional leaders, local and national police, public prosecutors, and the court, improving overall security of the park and limiting illegal activities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - One of the most pressing challenges for Iona is the impact of unregulated human activity in and around the park. To mitigate this, a Community Engagement Strategy has been developed and various projects are now being implemented in support of overall community engagement and education. Throughout the year, the community team ensured strong relationships were maintained with local communities especially through regular community meetings. A census of communities living in and around the park, establishing community numbers, their distribution, and the livelihoods on which they depend, was initiated to better understand human needs. Regular environmental education meetings were also held to inform local pastoralists on sustainable conservation values and the effects of overgrazing, land clearing, and farming in water-scarce regions. The well-established Community Observer Programme is proving vital to the day-to-day management of the park, as regular reports are received from trained volunteers on wild and domestic animal movement, human-wildlife conflict, and illegal activity in the park.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - By year-end all necessary authorisation to build the new headquarters at the selected Pediva site had been obtained. All senior management positions were filled and appropriate candidates identified for outstanding roles. Eight new Land Cruisers, three tractors, and one earth-mover were acquired to aid construction and maintenance. Tools and spares were also received, and experienced personnel employed to operate and maintain the vehicle fleet. Although documentation supporting the creation of an African Parks Angolan entity was signed and submitted in 2020, finalisation of this process is ongoing and Iona was still operated under its government entity in 2021.

TOURISM - Along with the rest of Angola, Iona felt the impact on tourism due to Covid-19 and visitor numbers and revenue remained low, with only a few local

residents and expatriates entering the park. However, a Tourism and Commercial Development Plan was drafted to identify activities and their requirements, which we plan to implement in 2022.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Complete NGO registration within the Republic of Angola
- Implement key aspects of the Community Outreach Strategy
- Complete the construction of the Pediva headquarters to accommodate staff
- Select, train and equip additional law enforcement staff
- Implement an approved Tourism and Commercial Development Plan
- Implement a comprehensive wildlife monitoring programme



Springbok in Iona National Park, Angola © Afonso VazPinto

MALAWI

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Malawi Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW)



MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE

715 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2003

MAJOR FUNDERS US Department of State, WWF Belgium & The Wyss Foundation

LIWONDE NATIONAL PARK & MANGOCHI FOREST RESERVE

903 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2015

MAJOR FUNDERS People's Postcode Lottery, US Department of State, WWF Belgium & The Wyss Foundation

NKHOTAKOTA WILDLIFE RESERVE

1,794 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2015

MAJOR FUNDERS US Forest Service, WWF Belgium & The Wyss Foundation

A SHINING EXAMPLE OF TRANSFORMATION



PARK MANAGER
John Adendorff

MALAWI – Majete Wildlife Reserve was the first park to fall under African Parks' management 19 years ago, and is a living example of how sound management and community buy-in alters a landscape into a mutually beneficial asset for both people and wildlife. In 2003, the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) partnered with African Parks with a joint vision of transforming an empty forest into a thriving ecosystem. Originally drained of wildlife from decades of poaching, with only a few remaining antelope, 12 employees and zero tourism income, Majete has become one of Malawi's premier wilderness destinations.

After reintroducing approximately 3,000 animals from 17 species, including rhinos, elephants, leopard, buffalo, cheetah and giraffe, this year's reintroduction of wild dogs completed our goal of returning every locally extinct predator back to the park. Today, the reserve harbours almost 12,000 large animals which contribute to repopulating other reserves, employs 165 permanent staff, and provides a sustainable source of employment, enterprise, education and health services for surrounding communities. A thriving community-run honey industry producing nearly two tonnes of honey a year and a newly established fish farming project are well underway. In a bid to instill an appreciation for biodiversity conservation in young Malawians, Majete's Youth Adventure Programme has become extremely popular. This once-failing reserve is now a shining example to other governments and communities, and testament to what can be achieved through a well-managed protected area.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - In July, three male cheetahs were translocated to Majete from South Africa to boost the genetic viability of existing populations, and we welcomed the first litter of cubs born in the

reserve. In the same month, 14 African wild dogs were successfully reintroduced (after a 60-year absence) as part of the Wild Dog Range Expansion Programme in collaboration with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). Six dogs from Mozambique were translocated to Majete, a further eight were translocated to Liwonde National Park. In October, ten giraffes arrived from South Africa, bringing the local population to 23. Two new rhino calves were also documented in the reserve. Fourteen lions were radio-collared over the year, leaving just one remaining group to be collared. A photo analysis was also completed using whisker spot patterns to better understand lion population demographics, which resulted in 30 lions being identified.

We continued to support pangolin conservation efforts in collaboration with the Tikki Hywood Foundation, improving our ability to care for and release pangolins rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Eleven pangolins were released into the reserve, three of which were tagged for post-release monitoring. Since the installation of a LoRa network system to help improve wildlife monitoring, one elephant, one cheetah and two giraffes received LoRa tags, with promising results.

Majete experienced one of the driest years on record with just 327 mm of rainfall. Two new boreholes were drilled and equipped with solar pumps to increase water availability largely for the reserve's herbivores. The 2022 aerial census will help us understand the overall impact the drought had on key species in the reserve.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Majete's rangers maintained their impressive 19-year track record of not having one rhino, elephant or other high-value species poached. The introduction of Majete's K9 unit with the arrival of two highly-trained dogs in June has enhanced the reserve's law enforcement capacity significantly. Their presence has decreased lead time to arrests and serves as a deterrent for illegal activity. Majete's 36 field rangers carried out 1,923 patrols resulting in 16 arrests and nine convictions, with a total of 53kg of bush meat confiscated. A new boat was received to facilitate access up the Shire River, which is a known poaching hotspot. The new LoRa network system has provided valuable support, allowing operations at Majete headquarters to make decisions based on real-time information.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Majete's Community Extension Programme continued to support local employment, enterprise development, skill-building, and health and educational services. Forty men and women farmers were trained on smart agriculture

farming practices, including irrigation. Majete's beekeeping enterprise grew to 792 beekeepers and over 1,000 new beehives installed. In total 1.8 tonnes of honey were produced. The park's fish farming groups completed their first two fish harvests despite drought conditions, which park management alleviated by installing a borehole and solar pump. Two solar powered irrigation schemes became operational, powering over 100 households. Majete's Youth Adventure Programme was introduced with 40 participants from across the country. A Technical and Skills Development Programme was initiated, upskilling 21 youths in cellphone and computer repair, electrical installation, refrigeration, and Information Technology. As a result, 13 participants have since secured jobs and six have opened their own computer and cellphone maintenance shops.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - The Pwadzi Ranger Camp was completed, with the Namitsempha Ranger Camp and Pende Ranger Camp upgrades nearly complete. Three LoRa towers were installed in strategic positions, providing the park with an 80% network coverage. Two LoRa sensors were fitted to fence-lines and 124 km of 144 km of the fence-line upgrade was completed

to predator-proof standard, which has resulted in a noticeable reduction in human-wildlife conflict.

TOURISM - Despite Covid-19 impacting previous years, tourist numbers improved overall, with higher numbers of locals visiting Majete and generating US\$336,763. Two guides went to Zambia for guide training to improve the guest experience. Mwembezi restaurant was renovated and reopened. Accommodation upgrades were completed at Thawale and the high-quality facilities are gaining in national reputation.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Install LoRa tags on a range of high-value priority species
- Complete wildlife aerial census
- Complete Namitsempha Ranger Camp and Pende Ranger Camp upgrades
- Deploy the K9 unit effectively to continue enhancing law enforcement strategy
- Implement specialist tourism activities such as cheetah tracking walks
- Upgrade the environment education facilities to improve youth engagement programmes



Majete supported a community reforestation project that planted 28,343 seedlings in 2021 © Marcus Westberg

A COMMUNITY BENEFIT & RESOURCE



PARK MANAGER
Dave Robertson

MALAWI – In 2015, the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) partnered with African Parks to transform Liwonde National Park into a secure wildlife haven and to realise its full potential as a precious resource for Malawi and its people. In 2018, the government extended our mandate to incorporate the contiguous 358 km² Mangochi Forest Reserve, increasing our footprint by 60%. Years of poaching and deforestation had taken its toll on the park and human-wildlife conflict was rife, but over the past six years Liwonde has re-emerged as a valuable asset to Malawi and is now one of the most sought-after wildlife destinations in the country.

This relatively small, yet richly biodiverse national park has set a benchmark for ambitious restoration initiatives that help re-establish key species. Since we commenced management, one of the largest elephant translocations in history saw the relocation of 366 elephants in 2016 to alleviate pressure on Liwonde's habitat, reduce conflict and repopulate Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. Cheetahs were reintroduced in 2017, with an additional two in 2021; lions were introduced in 2018, followed by the largest single translocation of black rhinos in 2019. And in July this year, African wild dogs were reintroduced after a 60-year absence. Through enterprise development, education, healthcare, and employment, Liwonde and Mangochi have become a vital source of benefit for thousands of people living around the park, which has only been made possible through positive engagement, goodwill, and sustainable partnerships.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - In July, Liwonde received eight African wild dogs from South Africa,

from which nine pups were born within months of their arrival. Nine lion cubs were also born and were the first to all survive since the pride's reintroduction in 2017. To ensure genetic diversity, two male cheetahs were translocated from South Africa, and one female cheetah sent to the Zambezi Delta in Mozambique. The Park's black rhino population grew by two new calves. Seven pangolins, confiscated from the illegal trade, were successfully released, but six, which were in very poor condition, were sent to Lilongwe Wildlife Centre for rehabilitation, where sadly they all succumbed. In a joint project with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Lilongwe Wildlife Trust, seven white-backed vultures were tagged, of which three were fitted with GPS backpack trackers, providing valuable data on their movements. One African Fish Eagle and a juvenile Bateleur were also ringed as part of the project.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Liwonde experienced its fourth consecutive year of zero poaching for both rhino and elephant. Ten new field rangers were deployed, adding to the now 65-strong ranger force. New firearms, ammunition, equipment, and uniforms were issued, along with musketry training for all new rangers. All rangers passed the regular refresher training courses as part of the parks' retraining programme. Bush meat poaching and illegal fishing remained a challenge, with 111 arrests. In total 3,815 snares were recovered, 5 gin traps, 101 boats and 73 canoes confiscated and destroyed, as well as numerous illegal fishing nets. As part of a trial K9 unit, state-of-the-art kennels were built to house two highly-trained tracker dogs, along with accommodation for the handlers.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - In educational development, US\$75,765 was spent on scholarships, a US\$46,390 increase from 2020. An assessment showed a large improvement in students' literacy as a result of the Happy Readers project. Two classroom blocks, a teacher's house and 260 school desks were sponsored for schools with the support of Malawi Community Hubs, a UK registered charity, and Youth for Development and Productivity (YODEP), a nonprofit organisation that addresses socio-economic issues in communities. In conjunction with Americares, two health centres were upgraded, including the addition of a maternity wing at Namanolo Health Centre. The Spicy Farmers project proved a major success, with nearly 77 tonnes of chillies harvested. A significant drop in elephant breakouts was also noted thanks to the 'chilli elephant barrier' created by the project. The Honey with Heart project progressed with 194 new beehives – nearly doubling the honey harvested last year and generating



Vet, Rowan Leeming, and EWT's Cole du Plessis, monitor 14 African wild dogs on their way to be reintroduced to Malawi © Warren Smart

US\$12,040. Vegetable and livestock farmers thrived with irrigation assistance to improve crop growth and the Goat Pass-On Project, which addresses protein needs in communities. Over US\$12,000 was raised from selling surplus produce above own-use consumption.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - A new Field Operations Manager was appointed, opening the way for more effective management of Mangochi. Three duplex units were constructed at Makanga Ranger Camp and four fence camps were built in Mangochi. Access was improved in priority areas and 21 km of new road opened in Mangochi. Thirty-one kilometers of 'Kenya' elephant proofing fence was constructed along the main Liwonde boundary to aid in reducing conflict. A total of 51 km of fencing has now been erected which is proving extremely successful in reducing elephant breakouts, which are down by 57% since 2020. Ten kilometres of new boundary fence was erected in Mangochi with only 8 km remaining to be completed, but ongoing community resistance has temporarily halted the project. This is being addressed with the Traditional Authority and the District Council, and we are hopeful of a resolution in 2022.

TOURISM - Local tourism increased and of the 14,000 visitors received, 8,614 were Malawian citizens. A call for expressions of interest for tourism developments in both Liwonde and Mangochi was put out early in the year, with a viable operator selected who has received provisional approval for the development of two separate camps. We are expecting development to commence in 2022. One ranger, Nelson Chikwewa, attended an intensive guiding training course in Zambia to improve his overall guiding skills from driving to hospitality and safety.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Translocate 250 elephants to Kasungu National Park with IFAW
- Increase chilli and honey production
- Move Chikata ranger camp to a strategically suitable location
- Finalise concession agreements and commence construction for two new camps
- Maintain zero loss of elephants and rhinos to poaching
- Resolve the dispute and obtain agreement on the Mangochi boundary

ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST RESTORATION EFFORTS



PARK MANAGER
Samuel Kamoto

MALAWI - Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve is Malawi's oldest and largest reserve – a 1,794 km² landscape of dense canopy woodland intersected by three major rivers leading to Lake Malawi. In 2015, the Malawian government invited African Parks to enter into a long-term agreement to manage the reserve, and to assist the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in carrying out a new vision for Nkhotakota. Years of poaching had reduced the elephant population to a mere 100 animals, and what was once a sanctuary for wildlife had been diminished to nothing more than an empty forest.

But over 2016 and 2017, in one of the world's largest wildlife restoration initiatives, 500 elephants and 2,000 other animals were translocated to help revive Nkhotakota. In just six years this vast woodland has been transformed into a thriving haven for wildlife. Improved security has resulted in a 50% drop in illegal activities within the park. The livelihoods of community members have been greatly enhanced through employment, enterprise initiatives, and support in mitigating human-wildlife conflict. Thousands of students are benefitting from educational support and outreach, while a growing number are receiving environmental education through wildlife clubs and park visits. As life has returned to this reserve, a new potential is being realised, safeguarding biodiversity while reinvigorating tourism, generating revenue, and building long-lasting value for local communities.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - Wildlife monitoring continued with a camera-trap survey to establish population estimates for key species. The first round of data was analysed and used to train

software in automatic species identification and develop population modeling. A report on elephant abundance was completed, using previously collected photographic data that revealed an estimate of 629 elephants. Together with the Malawi College of Medicine, we embarked on a tsetse fly research project to ascertain tsetse density and prevalence of sleeping sickness in communities around the reserve to assist in combatting the disease. Despite elephant breakouts remaining an ongoing challenge, human-wildlife conflict cases decreased 61%, with 85 reports this year compared to 220 in 2020.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Eleven new rangers joined our law enforcement team, bringing the total to 57. The reserve's law enforcement strategy was refined and the results proved to be very effective, with a 50% reduction in illegal activity. The completion of Chipala Ranger Camp in the north west of the reserve significantly reduced poaching incidences in this area. No known elephants were poached in 2021, a first since our management commenced in 2015. Thirty-two of 48 arrested poachers were convicted, representing an 82% conviction rate. Six years of accumulated effort combined with an increase in patrol coverage is beginning to show its worth, with fewer wire snares detected. This year 640 snares were removed from the park, compared to 1,729 in 2020.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Emphasis on clear communication with communities had a notable positive effect and there was no documented unrest over issues related to park management. In conjunction with Majete and Liwonde, a national stakeholders' meeting was held in Blantyre to update partners and stakeholders on achievements and challenges African Parks faces in the country. Communities took it upon themselves to conduct weekly perimeter fence checks to aid in maintenance and prevent vandalism. In education, 60 students were enrolled in the scholarship programme, bringing the total number of scholarships to 215, and 400 students visited the reserve on environmental education outings. An estimated 100,000 indigenous trees were planted through school wildlife clubs.

The Mthyoka Community Irrigation Scheme ensured food security for multiple households through maize and vegetable growing, as well as supplying 55 households with safe drinking water. Beekeepers produced 1.72 tonnes of honey through the Honey with Heart project, nearly doubling 2020's income. Neighbouring communities continued to benefit from the Resource Use Programme (RUP), which allows communities to

harvest park resources without compromising the ecological integrity of the reserve. These include palm fronds, thatch grass, bamboo, reeds, wild fruits, and vegetables. In health, a sleeping sickness testing and treatment campaign was carried out in partnership with the district government hospital, and 1,600 people were tested in 13 prone areas.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Construction of the strategically positioned Chipala Camp ranger houses was completed. The tented Youth Hostel has been completed with a kitchen and two ablution blocks. The road network was improved for visitors and park management, with 37 km being cleared and 60 km of perimeter fence line, roads, and maintenance tracks upgraded. To stop crop raiding elephants from breaking out, 58 km of Kenya fencing was erected to the east and south of the reserve. A digital radio repeater was installed at Mbengwa Hill, and all base and mobile radios were serviced.

TOURISM - Although an improvement from 2020, visitor numbers remained low with 1,273 paying visitors, generating US\$7,331. Livesi Camp was

upgraded to a self-catering visitor camp with four tent platforms, a dining area, and ablution blocks. We completed our Tourism Development Plan and made progress maintaining our social media platforms with weekly postings. Road and infrastructure signage was also increased and improved. As part of a cultural project, we commenced identifying artefacts and exhibits collected from neighbouring communities, and engaged with locals to develop a culture inventory of traditional tools, implements, dances, and foods, which will be displayed at the Environmental Education Centre at Park Headquarters.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Develop management and conservation plan for the lake salmon fish
- Restock the reserve with plains game (impala, zebra, warthog, waterbuck, sable, and buffalo)
- Reduce key illegal activities in the reserve by 70%
- Develop a plan for reduction of alien invasive plant species
- Implement the Honey with Heart project to produce 3.5 tonnes of honey

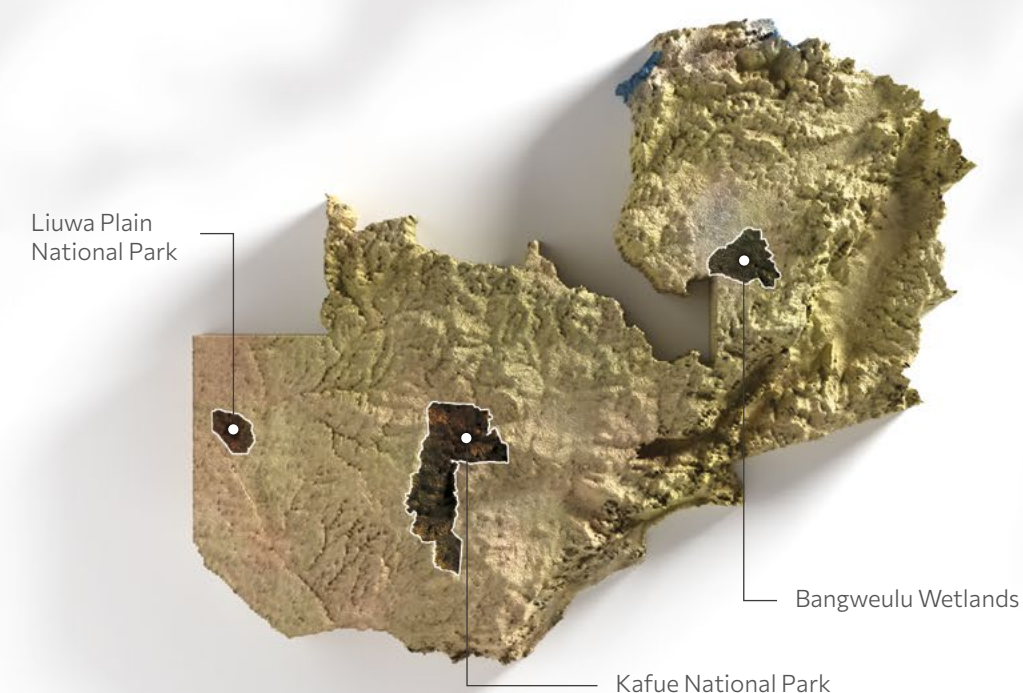


A local woman who is part of Nkhotakota's sustainable Resource Use Programme has access to the reserve to harvest mushrooms © Thoko Chikondi

ZAMBIA

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)



LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK

3,369 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2003

MAJOR FUNDERS People's Postcode Lottery, Stichting Natura Africae, The U.S. Department of State, WWF The Netherlands & WWF Zambia

PARTNERS Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE)

BANGWEULU WETLANDS

6,645 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2008

MAJOR FUNDERS Stichting Natura Africae, The U.S. Department of State, WWF The Netherlands & WWF Zambia

PARTNERS Zambian Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW) and the Six Community Resource Boards

KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

22,480 KM²

12-Month Priority Support Plan February 2021 to end February 2022 (signed 4 Feb 2022)

MAJOR FUNDER Dutch Postcode Lottery Dream Fund

PARTNER Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

A STORY OF PRIDE & CUSTODIANSHIP



PARK MANAGER
Deon Joubert

ZAMBIA - In the 19th century, the King of Barotseland appointed his people as custodians of the landscape that is today Liuwa Plain National Park. But by the early 2000s, decades of unsustainable land use, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict had caused a rapid decline of wildebeest and zebra; the grasslands were threatened by agriculture, and just one lonely lioness remained. In 2003, African Parks was invited by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) to help restore the King's legacy and revive this globally significant landscape. Immediately, effective law enforcement strategies were implemented that reduced the prevalence of poaching, and sustainable land-use and fish harvesting methods were introduced to communities. Food security projects and enterprise opportunities began enhancing the livelihoods of thousands of people living within the park. In 2008, a series of lion reintroductions began, followed by eland and buffalo, to provide a healthy prey base for the growing predator populations.

Today, the park hosts the second-largest wildebeest migration in Africa, is a stronghold for hyaena, cheetah, and lions, and is a sanctuary for over 299 bird species. The park is the largest employer in the region and provides critical educational and health benefits to community members. Over 200 children have received scholarships, and more than 4,000 local farmers have benefited from skills training and human-wildlife mitigation tools. Through ongoing community engagement and integration, Liuwa has contributed to uplifting the community's social economic status with employment and tourism revenue, while at the same time helping to renew people's feeling of custodianship for the landscape once again.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - The annual aerial survey held in July documented an increase of wildebeest from 31,956 to 34,752, and a stabilised zebra population of 4,027. One old male lion was lost after wandering into Angola where his collar stopped transmitting, but a litter of three new cubs was born. Fifteen cheetahs were monitored, of which two females produced cubs, but both litters died of natural causes. Seven of eight snared hyaenas were successfully released, and two new clans were fitted with satellite collars by the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP), to better understand their movements. As a result, we received the first evidence of hyaena moving between the Greater Liuwa Ecosystem and Angola, proving the importance of corridors in the north-west of the park for gene flow. Eleven African wild dogs, three females from Kafue and eight males from South Africa, were relocated to Liuwa where they are being monitored in a boma before being released in 2022. As part of the plan for the long-term restoration of African wild dogs in the park, a domestic dog rabies vaccination programme saw 2,381 dogs and 115 cats vaccinated around the park. This provided the added benefit of helping to eradicate rabies from the communities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Ten new rangers completed the Basic Field Ranger (BFR) course, bringing our law enforcement team to 72 field rangers, who conducted 10,902 field days and patrolled 25,685 km. A total of 31 arrests were made, resulting in 26 prosecutions. Although Liuwa was not the source of ivory, over 200 kg of ivory was confiscated along with 375 kg of bushmeat. Three pangolins were recovered live outside the park by the investigations team and released safely back into protected areas.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Field workers from the conservation agriculture programme with Total Landcare (TLC) were employed by African Parks in a sustainable agriculture component of the Game Changer Project, which focuses on upskilling community members to enhance food security. In addition, 23 new Farmer Field Schools (FFS), an agricultural education programme, were set up in the park, bringing the project total to 209 FFS with over 4,635 student farmers signing up to learn about conservation-based farming methods. Nearly 10,000 Land Use Plan zonation posters were distributed in community areas to increase awareness of the zone restrictions, such as grazing limitations in certain areas. The fish-drying facility at Munde School opened for operation and 418 kg of dried fish was produced; 1,220 kg of honey, produced by 130 beekeepers, was harvested in the new

honey processing facility; 215 kg of dried mango was produced and an additional fruit dryer was purchased for the drying facility. Forty students enrolled at Kalabo and Mongu Vocational Trades Institutes to pursue various trade courses including masonry, carpentry, electronics, auto mechanics, and tailoring. The Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) approved the Community Research Board Agro-vet shop. Once stocked, the shop will ensure community members easy access to equipment and seeds, helping to promote sustainable and climate-adapted farming methods.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - The new park headquarters were officially completed. Thirteen Induna houses were fitted with a base station digital radio to improve communication from the BRE in their individual domains. The Fisheries Management Trade Policy was finalised to support ecologically sound traditional fishing practices and trade. In addition, a Fisheries Development Fund was created to support the fisheries' ongoing development.

TOURISM - For the third year running, BBC film crews were hosted in the park and the filming of the Dynasties Two documentary series was completed. Compared to the Covid-19 impact on 2020, visitor numbers increased to 626 paying guests, 451 were campers, 53 day visitors, and 122 visitors to the five-star King Lewanika Lodge, generating US\$124,890 in tourism and filming revenue.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Incorporate a portion of the Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area into African Parks' management mandate
- Regulate and monitor resource use for the Fisheries Management Trade Policy and the Land Use Plan for community development
- Maintain genetic integrity of species and minimise disease transmission
- Increase tourism revenue by a minimum of 25%
- Double output from the enterprise development projects



Liuwa Plain National Park hosts the second-largest wildebeest migration in Africa © Andrew Macdonald for Time + Tide Africa

A GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT WETLAND



PARK MANAGER
Phil Minnaar

ZAMBIA - In 2008, African Parks was invited to enter a long-term agreement with six Community Resource Boards (CRB) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), to help protect the exceptional landscape of Bangweulu. As one of Africa's most important wetlands Bangweulu, which means "where the water meets the sky", is a 6,645 km² community-owned protected area, that is a lifeline for both wildlife and the approximately 50,000 people who live within its boundaries. Made up of Game Management Areas (GMAs) where local communities have retained the rights to sustainably harvest its natural resources, Bangweulu has the obligation to preserve both livelihoods and biodiversity.

Home to the endemic black lechwe, sitatunga, the critically endangered shoebill, and 10% of the world's wattled cranes, the park has become a sanctuary for wildlife to thrive after years of poaching and unsustainable use took its toll. The black lechwe population and fish stocks are on the rise and serve as critically important resources for local communities; a rehabilitation and breeding facility is ensuring the long-term survival of the iconic shoebill and, after a 100-year absence, cheetahs have been reintroduced. Community enterprise opportunities, education, and health services are reaching more people every year, and Community Resource Boards are committed to enhancing nature-based tourism in the region. Bangweulu is a living example of what can be achieved when government, communities, and African Parks work in partnership.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - In collaboration with the government, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Ashia Cheetah Conservation, and National Geographic, we continued the cheetah reintroduction project to

help restore the landscape and aid tourism. In addition to three cheetahs released late 2020, a further seven were introduced this year. Of the ten, unfortunately four succumbed, post-release, to natural causes, but the remaining six are in good health. A comprehensive Shoebill Management Plan was finalised with a Shoebill Rehabilitation and Breeding facility to be constructed on Chikuni island, to help grow the numbers of this critically endangered species. The annual game survey was conducted in two phases, with an aerial count in May followed by a foot count in October and November. All counts showed numbers of buffalos, tsessebe, sitatunga and zebra are stable and on an upward trend. With the recovery of black lechwe the species can now serve as a critical protein source for local communities, reducing illegal bushmeat poaching substantially.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Bangweulu's law enforcement team included 85 rangers, 10 of whom underwent specialised training in Kafue National Park. Chikuni law enforcement camp was rebuilt into the water-based central operational point within the core conservation area, from where all waterborne operations are conducted. Land-based operations were officially designated to three law enforcement camps and operations are conducted from these scout camps in Kopa, Chiundaponde, and Chitambo. One shoebill chick was confiscated and brought to Nkondo main camp to be assessed and rehabilitated until it can be released into the park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - In a historic moment after years of disputes and legal battles over tribal matters, a reconciliation process between Kopa and Chiundaponde royal establishments culminated in the handing over of the traditional power of authority by HRH Senior Chief Kopa to HRH Chief Chiundaponde, symbolised by the royal walking stick. This action will have an enormous effect on the future stability and development of the project within the chiefdoms, and on the protection of Zambia's natural and wildlife resources.

Through gender-integration training, women were encouraged to participate in the 2021 CRB elections, and out of 60 newly elected board members, 12 are now women. The Bangweulu Project partnered with Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project (CTAOP) to promote reproductive health programmes. Six Reproductive Health Youth Clubs were successfully established to provide education and awareness. In partnership with Book Aid International (BAI) and Zambia Library Service (ZLS), mini school libraries were established in 52 primary schools with 10,400 books donated by BAI.



Francis Chewe celebrates BookAid International's donation of 10,400 books with students from beneficiary schools in Bangweulu © Jason Mulikita

Thirteen schools continued to be supported within Bangweulu, with 27 students receiving scholarships. The second Zedupad and Modular Centre, providing technical education resources for 1,000 students annually for wildlife conservation, was completed in Kabinga, with the handover taking place in March 2022.

Over 600 bee farmers produced honey in the Chiundaponde and Kopa chiefdoms; 1,319 hives were deployed and 3,478 kg of honey harvested. The honey storage and processing facility at Nkondo camp was upgraded to move from traditional honey practices to a cold press system to meet premium retail standards. Seventy leather tanners and makers were trained and qualified in leather production to produce items from lechwe offtakes. To support this industry, tanneries are under construction in the Chitambo and Chiundaponde chiefdoms.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - A new Project Field Operations Manager was appointed and is contributing valuable expertise to the running of the park. Staff accommodation was upgraded, and the last law enforcement house in the Kabinga chiefdom was completed. The Lulimala and Kubaka Baka River bridges

that link Chitambo and Chiundaponde chiefdoms were completed, and a 40-metre communications tower was built at Nkondo Project headquarters to enhance communication.

TOURISM - Tourism numbers improved from 2020, with an increase in international visitors entering the park generating US\$289,170. Kayeshi Safari Camp was upgraded to international safari standards; and the construction of Nakapalyo guesthouse was completed and will be used as additional accommodation for guests.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Nurture stronger relationships with all stakeholders
- Support women's empowerment through enterprise development
- Build and establish a Shoebill Rehabilitation and Breeding facility
- Increase revenue generation through the Lechwe Harvest Programme and establishing a leather market
- Improve law enforcement through the arrival of new transport upgrades

AN ICONIC AFRICAN PARK



PRIORITY SUPPORT PLAN PROJECT LEADER Craig Reid

ZAMBIA - Kafue National Park is one of the largest parks in Africa and is situated in the world's largest transfrontier conservation area, the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA TFCA), which straddles the boundaries of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. At 22,400 km², Kafue consists of intact woodlands and a network of rivers and wetlands dominated by the Kafue River, representing one of the last expansive tracts of the iconic Zambezian ecoregion. This globally significant landscape provides a vital opportunity to conserve critical populations of savannah wildlife, including elephants, large predators, 21 antelope species, and 515 known bird species.

In February, the Government of Zambia invited African Parks to enter into a MoU to implement a 12-month long Priority Support Plan (PSP), for the protection and development of Kafue. Initial funding was provided by the Dutch Postcode Lottery's Dreamfund grant of US\$3 million, which went towards preventing poaching, improving infrastructure tourism, and building community trust, while we continued negotiating towards a long-term mandate. In this short period, law enforcement efforts have been vastly improved through support to a previously unaided law enforcement staff, training, and new equipment. One hundred and forty-five jobs have already been created, and education has received an injection with upgrades to school buildings and a pilot literacy programme underway. We remain committed to reaching an agreement with the government for a full mandate to ensure Kafue's potential is realised and protected in perpetuity, providing hope to the people and wildlife of this magnificent landscape.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - A full aerial survey was conducted across the park and the Game Management Areas in October, with final numbers still to be released. Sixteen elephants and two buffalo were collared for monitoring purposes, to understand their movements and to improve protection measures. With uncontrolled and illegally ignited fires being a key threat to the landscape, two fire management teams were formed and equipped to manage fires. They were successful in extinguishing a number of frequent fires, including a large one on Busanga, while firebreaks as preventative measures were burned at numerous different sites around the park.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - All law enforcement officers received new uniforms and patrol equipment, and ten additional scout teams were supported with rations and air and road transport to effectively patrol the park in collaboration with other NGOs supporting law enforcement. EarthRanger was established as an effective law enforcement management tool and a bonus incentive scheme was initiated to motivate scouts. We established an aerial unit with an ultralight aircraft and a helicopter for emergency responses and deployments into remote and inaccessible areas. In total, 88 arrests were made and 17 illegal firearms, 448 snares, 35 bicycles, and approximately two tonnes of bushmeat confiscated.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Since the start of the PSP period, 145 full-time jobs were created, 98% from local communities. A pilot literacy programme, Happy Readers, was rolled out at two schools. Maintenance and water solutions were provided at two schools.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - To carry out the PSP, an Implementation Team consisting of seven key management roles was deployed. Temporary accommodation, funding mechanisms and systems were established to rapidly propel on-the-ground operations. A number of strategic visits to the park by government officials were hosted to showcase the work achieved. Two 'hand-over' events for key equipment and infrastructure were held with a similar intention. A major building maintenance project was implemented to upgrade headquarter buildings, water and electricity systems as well as providing internet and mobile communications. Over 2,000 km of roads were cleared and upgraded; two aircraft hangars and a helicopter landing pad were constructed, two airstrips were renovated

and maintained; four bridges were rehabilitated, and a waste processing facility constructed. The construction of a state-of-the-art law enforcement control room was 80% completed. A new radio system to cover the entire park was also planned with implementation beginning in 2022.

TOURISM - Kafue Tourism Operators Association was engaged to ensure coordination of support for tourism operations, which included the inspection and registration of five airstrips, tsetse fly target deployment, and road improvement. The compilation of a regional tourism access plan was facilitated to

help build an understanding of the broader tourism environment and its challenges. To create public awareness a social media presence was established; various media articles were published in the local press and a billboard was erected on a main arterial road in Lusaka profiling the park.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

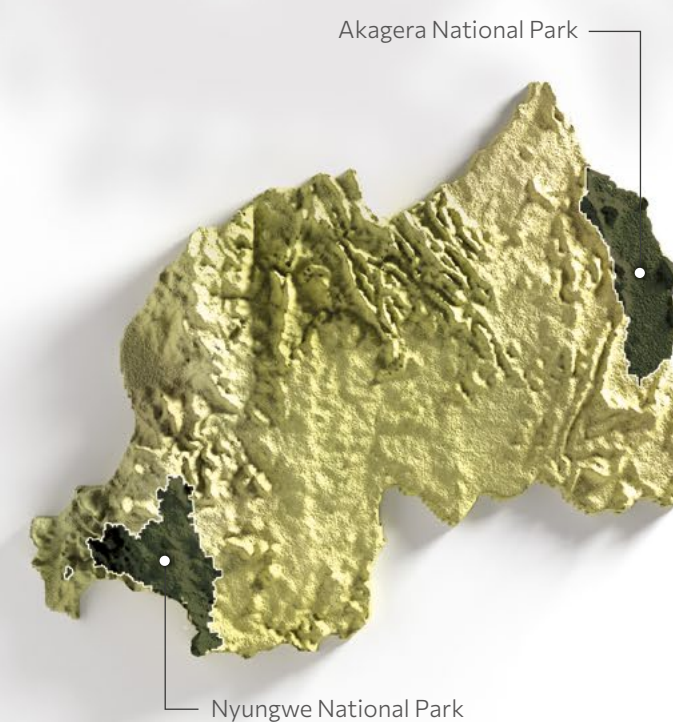
- Secure the long-term mandate
- Recruit key management staff
- Recruit and train new law enforcement officers
- Roll out the five-year Business Plan goals



A male lion in Kafue National Park, Zambia © Andrew Beck

RWANDA

GOVERNMENT PARTNER
Rwanda Development Board (RDB)



AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

1,120 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

MAJOR FUNDERS The Government of Rwanda, The Wyss Foundation, Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, Annenberg Foundation & Howard G. Buffett Foundation

NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK

1,019 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2020

MAJOR FUNDERS Fondation Segré, The Government of Rwanda, The Wyss Foundation, People's Postcode Lottery & Stichting Natura Africae

A VALUED NATURAL ASSET



PARK MANAGER
Ladis Ndahiriwe

RWANDA - In 2010, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) partnered with African Parks to transform Akagera from being a depleted and undervalued resource, into one of the most coveted wildlife destinations in all of Africa. In addition, it is now also a source of sustainable revenue for local communities. Effective law enforcement and robust community programmes were the foundation for the park's rehabilitation. Within five years of our management poaching was practically eliminated, allowing wildlife to increase and for key reintroductions to occur, such as lions in 2015, black rhinos in 2017 and 2019, and in 2021 30 white rhinos were introduced, which was the largest single rhino translocation to date.

Since 2010, wildlife numbers have grown from less than 5,000 to almost 12,000. Fisheries, bee keeping, chicken and mushroom farming, as well as a guiding cooperative and cooperatives providing casual labour, all stem from the park and provide cornerstones for community livelihoods. In 2019 (pre-Covid), the park was 80% self-financing from tourism and fisheries revenue. Self-financing is our goal over these next few years, as we rebuild and see tourism increasing once again. The Rwandan government is showing, through Akagera's own revival, how protected areas, with clear vision and under the right management, can support people and wildlife long into the future.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - In partnership with the RDB and andBeyond, we successfully translocated 30 Southern white rhinos to Akagera from Phinda Private Reserve, in an effort to expand their range state and provide a species safe haven. Five black rhinos received new VHF transmitters for more efficient tracking and monitoring. In August, the biennial aerial census counted 11,891 large mammals,

including 133 elephant who enjoyed a 20% increase in population since the 2019 aerial census. Buffalo also increased to nearly 4,000 animals and the lion population stands at 37. Notable bird sightings are on the rise, with rare species returning to the park. Shoebill sightings in the Kilala wetlands area occurred regularly between May and August and vulture sightings have increased, largely due to the return of predators, with lappet-faced, white-headed and white-backed vultures spotted throughout the year. A Ruppell's Griffon vulture was sighted in December – a first since the last recorded sighting in 2006. Four African barred owlets, which were once considered a “rare vagrant” in Rwanda, were also spotted.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Field rangers and other law enforcement staff underwent special training conducted by the Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB) and RDB. The training focused on wildlife and environmental law, crime investigation and reporting. From June to September, in collaboration with African Parks instructors from Benin, Malawi, and Zambia, Akagera's rangers also partook in a six-week annual ranger refresher course. Through the year 22,758 ranger field days were completed to find and deter illegal activity in the park, resulting in just 16 arrests, indicating the efficacy of Akagera's law enforcement and the strong support from communities. Only 13 animals were recorded lost to bushmeat poaching, five of which occurred outside the park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Our community team hosted 63 pre-recorded and live radio broadcasts at two local radio stations with topics including wildlife ecology, tourism, and co-existing with wildlife. In addition, the team attended 263 village meetings where park conservation and human-wildlife conflict concerns, such as crop damage by hippos, were discussed and addressed. Over 11 tonnes of honey were harvested by 376 beekeepers, earning them almost US\$50,000. The fishing agreement with the COPABARWI fishing cooperative continued, with over 130 tonnes of fish harvested from the park's lakes, earning over USD\$102,000 for their 20 members. The fishery activities also contributed 5% to the overall park income, helping diversify revenue streams. In addition, 36 cooperative members, including beekeepers, fishery, freelance guides, and farmers, were sponsored by the park to attend training on business management, finances, and marketing. Over 18,000 trees across 17ha were planted in communities adjacent to the park, primarily in schools. As part of the national Revenue Sharing Scheme, which requires

national parks to contribute 10% of their revenue to communities, Akagera contributed US\$119,029, with the funds contributing to various development projects including connecting two villages with electricity.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Ladis Ndahiriwe, previously Operations Manager, replaced Jes Gruner as Park Manager, while Jes Gruner was appointed African Parks Regional Operations Manager. After extensive staff training in various skills during Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, 2021 saw a stronger management team emerge. Various new roles were filled as key personnel were promoted or transferred to new departments. A new ranger post on Kageyo peninsular was constructed to replace the temporary structure, and development began at Mutumba gate area to allow for a functional entrance and exit for pre-booked guests.

TOURISM - Tourism slowly improved post Covid-19

with over 20,000 visitors entering the park, including 5,996 international guests, generating US\$1.6 million in revenue and contributing 47% towards the park's total operating budget, a 34% increase from 2020. A coffee shop and campsite were opened at Lake Mihindi, as well as a new souvenir shop at the park's north exit.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Implement invasive species removal programme
- Continue developing tourism offering towards self-sustainability with the introduction of the first electric safari vehicle and a 20-seater cruise boat for sunset cruises on the lake
- Continue digitising for paperless systems
- Find synergies with operations at Nyungwe National Park to share knowledge and resources
- Continue work to make Gishanda Community Fish Farm operational



Tourism is vital to Akagera's sustainability and helped to make the park 80% self-financing in 2019 © Scott Ramsay

BENEFITTING WILDLIFE & PEOPLE



PARK MANAGER
Protais Niyigaba

RWANDA – Following a successful 10-year partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) that has seen the ecological and economic revival of Akagera National Park, African Parks was invited by the government in October 2020 to enter into a 20-year agreement to manage Nyungwe National Park, the largest expanse of forest in Rwanda. Covering 1,019 km² of dense Afromontane forests, bamboo-covered slopes, grasslands, and wetlands, Nyungwe feeds two of the world's largest rivers, the Congo and the Nile, and is a vital biodiversity hotspot. Over 1,068 recorded plant species, 322 bird species and 75 known mammal species, including 13 of Africa's primates such as chimpanzees and the elusive Hamlyn's and L'Hoest's monkeys, are found in this exceptional landscape.

Historically, Nyungwe's rich fauna and flora has been exposed to a variety of threats including poaching, illegal mining, and agricultural encroachment, all of which have endangered its unique biodiversity and prevented it from reaching its true potential as a tourist destination and a support system for local communities. Today, due to our newly launched law enforcement strategy and community development, illegal activities are being curtailed and tourism is taking hold with visitor numbers on the rise, creating employment and local enterprise opportunities. In just one year, with sound conservation, tourism, and other sustainable revenue-generating activities under way, Nyungwe is well-placed to support healthy terrestrial ecosystems to benefit wildlife and people long into the future.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION – In collaboration with Bat Conservation International, two bat sensors were deployed to determine the distribution

of the critically endangered Hill's horseshoe bat and to detect the variety of other bat species. The use of roads around the park was monitored to assess the impact of motorists on wildlife, resulting in sufficient data to enforce better road use. From April to December alone, 53 animals (40 mammals, 9 reptiles, and 4 birds) were killed by vehicles, while 37 vehicle accidents were recorded. The park-supported nurseries have propagated 15,000 seedlings of 15 indigenous tree species, with the aim of using them for restoration projects in degraded parts of the forest, as well as promoting indigenous tree propagation in forestry and agro-forestry. In addition, 1,277 hectares of indigenous forest regeneration was assisted through the removal of exotic plants. We also embarked on a large drive to on-job-train a team of 26 new primate trackers to monitor chimpanzee groups and monkeys (colobus, silver monkey, and grey-cheeked mangabey) through daily habituation processes, under the supervision and mentorship of 10 senior trackers. Data collection from six camera traps recording elusive and canopy dwelling species will be used to provide baseline animal population sizes. The results will be available in 2022.

LAW ENFORCEMENT – A large part of the year was spent establishing an effective law enforcement strategy and combatting illegal activities in the park. As a result, 923 arrests were made (24 poachers, 72 illegal miners, 121 tree cutters, 422 livestock fodder cutters, and 132 firewood collectors) and 6,640 snares removed from the park. A training facility was created for up to 40 rangers to be trained in refresher courses.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – A new Community Liaison Manager, Pierre Ntihemuka, was employed as well as four community liaison officers from surrounding communities to help manage and prevent human-wildlife conflict situations. Sixteen cases were assessed and all compensation application processes were facilitated by the Special Guarantee Fund of Rwanda. To help deter beehive raiding by chimpanzees, a demonstration adapted apiary was built near Nyungwe headquarters. If successful, the model will be duplicated and rolled out to community settlements. Over 80 community environmental awareness meetings were held, reaching over 6,000 community members and local leaders. In addition, 1,000 children from school environmental clubs visited the parks to encourage conservation awareness.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT – Our six-month transition of staff from the RDB to Nyungwe Management Company ran smoothly. The majority were the 120 law enforcement staff who went through a selection and training process, with 85 of them transferring to Nyungwe management. The park management unit grew from just one employee in October 2020 to five members, including Park Manager, Protais Niyigaba, a community development manager, head of law enforcement, financial controller, and an operations manager. The year ended with 215 contracted staff and a further 250 part-time from various cooperatives. Infrastructure improvements included: the rehabilitation of Gisovu headquarters; the renovation of the park reception and coffee shop, three ranger posts provided with potable water and nine connected to the electricity grid, including Uwinka park reception; 12 kms of the Uwinka-Banda community access road upgraded; one new ranger post constructed, and one ranger post and two guides' homes at Uwinka renovated. All tourists trails in the park were also rehabilitated and maintained.

TOURISM – Over 9,434 tourists, of which 34% were Rwandan nationals, visited Nyungwe, generating over US\$325,667. A community freelance guide concept was initiated, similar to Akagera, and after six months' training a team of 15 are now guiding tourists. A field guide book was also created on tourism activities in the park, including a tourist map. The first draft of the Tourism Development Plan for Nyungwe was compiled and will be approved in 2022. A new waterfall trail, Ndambarare, was identified and cleared for use.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

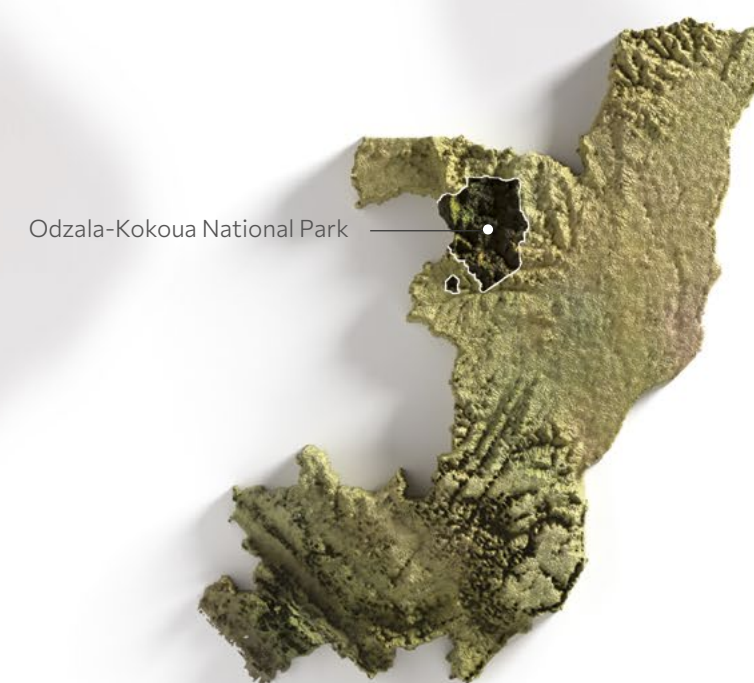
- Complete construction of key components of Gisakura headquarters
- Complete Uwinka reception and facilities and develop an eco-lodge
- Ensure all rangers complete the Basic Field Ranger course
- Maintain budget operating costs
- Recruit 80 community eco-guards in four cooperatives



CONGO

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment



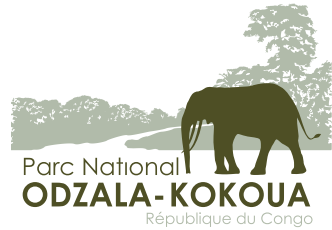
ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK

13,487 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary: 380 km²

MAJOR FUNDERS Arcus Foundation, Bennink Foundation, Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, Elephant Crisis Fund, The European Union, US Department of State, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WWF The Netherlands, People's Postcode Lottery & DOB Ecology

THE GREEN LUNG OF AFRICA



PARK MANAGER
Jonas Eriksson

CONGO - In 2010, African Parks entered into a 25-year agreement with the Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment to protect the globally significant Odzala-Kokoua National Park (OKNP). The park is situated in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet – the Congo Basin, which is the world's second largest tropical forest, known as 'earth's green lungs' as it provides vital ecosystem services and supports 75 million people in the region. In this basin, Odzala harbours the largest wild population of western lowland gorillas in Africa, and a significant portion of the continent's forest elephants. Recognising Odzala's ecological and socio-political value, the government reaffirmed our management agreement in 2020, strengthening our partnership for the remaining 15 years of its term and incorporating the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, a 380 km² adjoining habitat, within our mandate.

Together we are continuing to protect one of Africa's most biodiverse landscapes, engaging with communities and ensuring natural resources are preserved for future generations. While bushmeat poaching remains a constant threat, our highly trained law enforcement unit, coupled with education and conservation-based community enterprise opportunities, has managed to stabilise illegal activity within the park. Children are receiving education for the first time in their lives, and thousands of people are benefitting from annual mobile clinic missions. Odzala has become a light in the jungle, not only for its abundant and precious wildlife, but also for the people who are seeing the value in protecting this landscape.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - A research collaboration with Harvard University commenced

in July to study the effect gorillas and elephants have on natural forest clearings (bais), which consisted of data collection using drones and a 3D mapping system. Surveys to better understand elephant migration corridors as well as gorilla populations in the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary were conducted. An aerial survey of large mammals conducted over the savanna landscapes of Odzala and its surrounds found healthy populations of 1,153 buffalo, 179 elephants, and 820 chimpanzee nests. By year end, 56% of Odzala's elephant collars were active (13 of the 25 initially deployed in 2015). The gorilla habituation programme in Lossi resumed with Covid precautions, allowing the research team to spend short periods of time monitoring a group of approximately 30 gorillas. Prospecting a second group in the east of the park also resumed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Odzala's 95 field rangers performed over 4,000 patrol days and engaged in over 200 specialist training days, including technical training on information analysis, human rights, crime scene management, and judicial procedures. The surveillance of the rivers and bais became more effective by using the ULM aircraft for aerial patrols, as well as the park's intelligence unit to improve the coordination of anti-poaching efforts. A total of 29 arrests were made, leading to 24 prosecutions. Four forest elephants were reported poached, which is down from 2020's five elephants and 2016's all-time high of 17 known poached elephants. In total, 149 poacher camps were dismantled, and 43 kg of ivory, 14,099 kg of bushmeat, 14,325 snares, 35 firearms, and 51,802 rounds of ammunition were confiscated.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - With 12,000 people living around the park, we continued with our priority goal to secure the long-term sustainability of Odzala by developing close partnerships with communities to support livelihoods and reduce exploitation of the park's resources. Sixty-five community members are now directly involved with enterprise projects, while more than 3,000 people benefitted from our mobile clinic health system. The park's environmental education team met with 890 school children to create awareness of the importance of biodiversity conservation. In addition, a further 700 children and 230 local authorities were invited to the park and shown the work that is being done. Community representatives produced a report examining the communities' expectations, management propositions, and recommendations for the Park Management Unit. In enterprise developments, cocoa farmers increased to 42, beekeeping continued to

develop, and 25 market gardeners were trained as part of a pilot market gardening activity.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Odzala retained a permanent team of 263 staff members, of which 253 are Congolese nationals. A Savannah ULM, which has been instrumental in research, law enforcement, and logistic activities, was purchased. Upgrades to the southern and eastern sector bases' staff houses and office buildings commenced and road access has been completed to three bases. Authorisation was obtained to rehabilitate a former camp in Moyoye into staff housing. Among other equipment purchased, two Land Cruisers, one Hilux, four motorbikes, one tipping truck, and five boats were added to the parks' transport fleet.

TOURISM - Odzala had a significant opportunity to highlight the park's tourism potential and the work of African Parks in Congo when the Chamber of Foreign

Trade invited OKNP to represent the country's natural heritage in the Congo pavilion at the World Expo in Dubai in an ongoing exposition until 2022. The feasibility study regarding the development of a seasonal "fly-camp" was finalised and will be tested as a pilot product in 2022. Camp Imbalanga was upgraded and four new viewing platforms were constructed for visitors and observers. Thirteen local community members from the eastern sector villages were recruited and trained to work as eco-guides for visitors.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Conduct large mammal survey
- Establish effective fire management with aerial monitoring
- Complete construction of the third operational base in the northern sector
- Build elephant proof fence around Mbomo village
- Implement revised tourism development plan



Odzala's mobile health clinic treated 5,142 people in remote communities in 2021 © Marcus Westberg

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)

Garamba National Park



GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK

5,133 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2005

Adjacent Domaine de Chasses 9,662 km²

MAJOR FUNDERS Kibali Gold Mine, Elephant Crisis Fund, The European Union, The Wildcat Foundation, UNESCO, US Agency for International Development, US Department of State, The Rob and Melani Walton Foundation & People's Postcode Lottery

AN ANCHOR OF SAFETY & SUSTAINABILITY



PARK MANAGER
John Barrett

DRC - Bordering South Sudan, Garamba's savannah is surrounded by dense tropical forests and is one of Africa's oldest national parks, as well as a UNESCO World Heritage site. During three decades from the 1980s to 2000s, Garamba was overrun with rebel forces and heavily militarised poachers, leaving human and environmental devastation in their wake. In 2005, realising the desperate need to safeguard the region, the Institut pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) entered into a long-term agreement with African Parks to provide stability and protect what wildlife remained. In 2016, we significantly overhauled our law enforcement approach and since 2017 not one ranger has been killed on patrol and elephant poaching has dropped to near zero. Tens of thousands of people living around the park have benefitted from the safety and stability the park has provided and, in addition, are supported through the provision of schools, healthcare, and investments in sustainable development and enterprise. In 2021, a solar energy programme was launched with the construction of mini-grids supplying power to communities in Faradje and Tadu, two key centres adjoining the Garamba Complex, improving the lives of thousands of people. In under two decades, Garamba has emerged as an anchor for regional stability and a sanctuary for its precious wildlife, while an emerging conservation-led economy has evolved, providing people with real options for a better and brighter future.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - In February, 18 elephants were collared with either replacement or new collars, amounting to 27 active elephant collars by year-end. The biennial aerial survey in May counted over 20,000 animals from 23 species,

with most populations showing stable or marginal increases since 2019. An ongoing camera trap survey has recorded groups of chimpanzees with juveniles, as well as red river hog, giant forest hog, bongo, tree pangolin, sitatunga, duikers, leopard, and golden cat. In total, 30 species were recorded, including five species of primates, of which there were five groups of chimpanzees (21 individuals). We continued monitoring the Kordofan giraffe population which is on the rise, with an estimate of 70 individuals by the end of 2021, a 44% increase since 2018. This growth trajectory is promising, considering that the National Giraffe Action Plan stated a goal of achieving 70 individuals by 2024.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Thirty three new rangers completed an internally run Basic Field Ranger (BFR) course joining the now 241-strong ranger team. In addition, 50 rangers received leadership training. A total of 38 people were arrested in and around the Garamba Complex for poaching as well as possession of illegal firearms. A total of 45 kg of ivory; 129 kg of pangolin scales (including 43 kg seized in Uganda as part of a joint operation); 146 kg of bushmeat; 15 illegal firearms; 37 pieces of illegal ammunition; 117 snares; four animal skins and 272 pieces of illegally harvested wood were confiscated in the year. A mobile court was held in August where ten cases were heard and a total of 31 years in prison was sentenced, showing the efficacy of mobile courts in upholding national laws. As a result of a one-year study in collaboration with Chinko, a report on pastoralism was produced highlighting the dynamics of pastoralist groups in eastern central Africa and their impact on security, conservation, and local communities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - As part of our solar energy programme, which is being funded by the European Union, Nuru Energy, and GivePower, mini-grids were built in the towns of Faradje and Tadu, giving power to over over 14,000 households. In education developments, Camp Dungu opened in March and hosted 689 visitors, 60% pupils under 15 years old, all of whom attended environmental education activities. Several community surveys were conducted throughout the year, notably one where 283 people were interviewed on security, conservation, and enterprise development, to ascertain the perception of local communities on the parks' activities. Results indicated that the majority feel security and conservation in the park has improved; and people are satisfied with the park's sustainable development activities from which they

benefit. For the future, a quarter of the interviewees requested launching reforestation projects, as well as continuing social infrastructure rehabilitation (health posts, schools, roads), and developing agriculture.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Staff were trained from all departments in a variety of subjects, including the use of computer applications, driving, mechanics, plumbing, and English. A variety of infrastructure development projects were initiated and completed, this included procuring a 35,000 litre fuel tank to maintain a two-month stock of diesel; renovating 26 ranger houses and 28 colonial-era houses; extending the main office building and renovating two pontoons over the Dungu River at Nagero and Gangala Stations for increased access during the wet season. A LoRa network was installed and integrated into ArcGIS and EarthRanger.

TOURISM - Tourism remains limited in Garamba but investment has been made in valuable skills training

to improve the overall guest experience. Four of our leading lodge chefs received six weeks' training from Chilean chef, Victor Vilugron, on kitchen hygiene and developing menus using locally-sourced items. To improve field guiding skills, two consultants from South Africa conducted a guide training course for ten staff members, including law enforcement and operations personnel. Refurbishment and maintenance of Garamba Lodge took place throughout the year to improve the tourism standard for guests.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

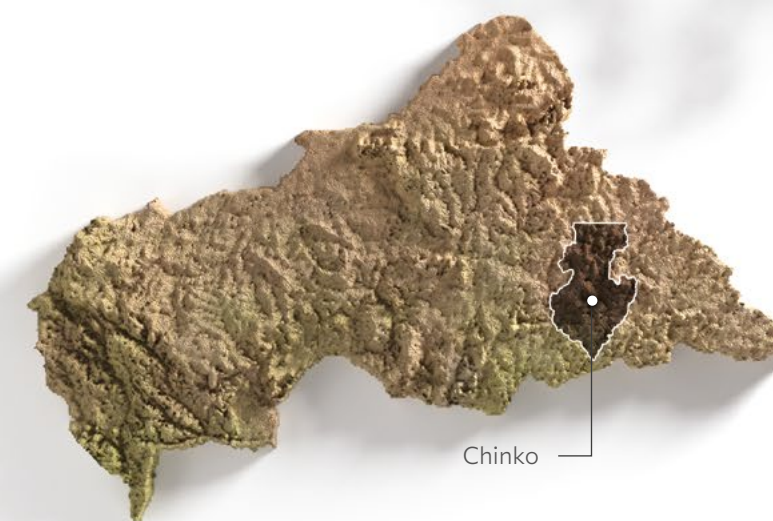
- Conduct reintroduction feasibility studies for key species
- Produce and implement the Commercial Development Plan
- Find a solution for illegal miners to operate within a legal framework
- Develop a carbon credit mechanism
- Develop two additional solar mini-grids: one in Nagero and one in Dungu



Garamba's canine unit forms part of its strategic law enforcement approach © Marcus Westberg

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

GOVERNMENT PARTNER
Ministry of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing



Chinko

CHINKO

24,335 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2014

Expansion area: 30,945 km²

MAJOR FUNDERS Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund, People's Postcode Lottery, Elephant Crisis Fund, The European Union, The Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, US Agency for International Development, US Department of State, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service & Rainforest Trust

A LIFE-GIVING WILDERNESS



PARK MANAGER

Jean Baptise Mamang-Kanga

CAR - Nestled in the far eastern part of the CAR, and shrouded by decades of civil war, rampant poaching and armed herders, Chinko is emerging as one of the most hopeful conservation stories on the continent. In 2014, the Government of the CAR invited African Parks to manage Chinko with the shared vision of transforming the park, to enable stability to return, wildlife to recover and to improve people's livelihoods. In just a few years, this is becoming a reality. Poaching and cattle in the core park area have been entirely eliminated, so that the once-elusive and nearly extinct elephant population is returning; carnivores, including lions, hyenas and wild dogs, are on the rise; and for the first time, a rich diversity of fish species is being documented. Nearly 300 local people are employed by the park, making it the largest job provider in the region. Chinko is also the only provider of essential services such as health and education, as well as skills training and community enterprise support.

In April 2020, the government and African Parks signed a revised public-private partnership agreement for 25 years, increasing the core protected area to 24,335 km² and taking the total area to 55,000 km² under protected management. Going forward, African Parks' vision is to see the protection of CAR's biodiversity expanding, bringing the total area under conservation and sustainable resource management to over 103,000 km². In one of the most volatile and unlikely places in the world, will be one of the largest managed wildernesses in Africa.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - Ongoing camera trap surveys indicated a steady recovery of all large mammal populations including giant elands and leopards. A second survey for Northern lions and spotted hyenas showed an increase in both populations

compared to the 2017 survey, a direct result of reducing impact of transhumance pastoralists. The elephant population is estimated to be around 80 individuals, up from the initial 10-20 that were seen in 2014. Elephants in the south and east of the park have begun to show relaxed behaviour along with increased breeding rates, a result of reduced illegal activity in the Chinko Conservation Area (CCA). A scientific fish and river survey conducted with 40 local fishermen found 100 species of freshwater fish in the Chinko and Mbari river system. At the same time, discussions on long-term sustainable fishing in the Mbomou drainage area were held in several stakeholder workshops. The second REDD+ vegetation inventory, for emissions reduction from deforestation, was successfully completed with the inclusion of three additional regions in the north, east and southeast, totaling 120 plots.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Sixty transhumance agents were deployed in the field, including 60 ECHO monitors, all of whom are local employees, increasing our team's sensitisation capacity to peacefully prevent herders from illegally driving cattle through Chinko, and instead guiding them towards designated corridors. In addition, 24 external sensitisation agents were hired from selected herder communities to establish an efficient remote sensitisation programme.

The team of 33 rangers completed over 4,486 km of reconnaissance foot patrols to secure the 24,300 km² area of the park. A team was trained and deployed along the park's southern border to respond to increasing illegal fishing activity on the Chinko River. Illegal fishing has been significantly reduced with 168 nets seized, amongst other fishing equipment. As a result of targeting high risk areas and disrupting information networks, no poaching activity was detected inside the park during 2021. Chinko's surveillance aircraft played a critical role in supporting this effort, flying over 202,977 km of aerial reconnaissance patrols throughout the year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - A second Protected Areas and Periphery Committee meeting was held in Bangassou with 53 participants attending, representing a major consultation meeting between stakeholders in the CCA. Approximately 20 radio programmes were broadcast as part of the community environmental education initiative, with topics including sustainable hunting, fishing, and agriculture as well as livestock management and sustainable land use. A total of 250 market gardeners received support in the form of seeds, as well as training in farming with food crops, while 1,500 members from 60 local credit saving associations were

trained and provided with toolkits to improve their saving and credit systems, strengthening economic activities in villages around the CCA. Seventy-five beekeepers were trained and provided with beekeeping materials, and 36 households and six groups of herders were provided with goats and training on the management and care of livestock.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Despite challenges over the year due to insecurity and rebels blocking road access, which prevented the acquisition of supplies, Chinko continued with full operations. An important airlift operation resupplied rations and fuel to support much-needed ground patrols, as well as aerial surveillance. In total, over 1,938 hours were flown between the three ULM aircraft, as well as 148 helicopter hours for deployments and 269 hours on the Caravan for logistics. All transport infrastructure maintenance progressed. Two new houses for management staff were completed, as well

as one for ranger accommodation, and construction on three staff houses and store blocks commenced. Large investments were made to renew and expand the park fleet, which included a grader, front-end loader, two dump trucks, and two Land Cruisers, all to arrive at the beginning of 2022.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Expand and maintain infrastructure, transport fleets, communications and road network
- Expand law enforcement operational capability
- Continue to engage with communities through sensitisation agents
- Improve wildlife documenting to enable evidence-based decision making
- Increase revenue generation through commercial activities
- Implement 3E+ plan (engagement, education and enterprise) to integrate into the land use plan



Chinko sensitisation agent working with a local herder to improve understanding of designated cattle corridors, CAR © Marcus Westberg

BENIN

GOVERNMENT PARTNER
Government of Benin



PENDJARI NATIONAL PARK

4,844 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

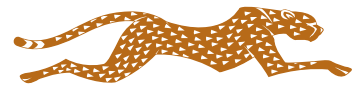
MAJOR FUNDERS Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines (FSOA), Government of Benin, National Geographic Society (NGS), The Wyss Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

W NATIONAL PARK

8,022 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2019

MAJOR FUNDERS Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines, Government of Benin, Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund, PATRIP Foundation, Elephant Crisis Fund, The Wyss Foundation & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

PROTECTING HOPE



Pendjari
National Park
Benin

PARK MANAGER
Jean Yves Kompoguè

BENIN - Pendjari National Park forms part of the 32,250 km² transnational W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex, spanning Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger, which is the largest remaining, intact wild ecosystem in west Africa. Historically, the region suffered political instability, lax management, insufficient resources, and growing human pressures, all of which threatened the remaining wildlife and livelihoods of communities dependent on the park. However, in 2017 the Government of Benin recognised the link between securing its protected areas and sustainable development for the country. In May that year, they invited African Parks to assume management of Pendjari.

Since then, and with a lifeline of US\$23 million committed by the Benin Government, The Wyss Foundation, National Geographic, and The Wildcat Foundation, Pendjari's rejuvenation has been palpable. In five years, this volatile landscape, inundated by uncontrolled use and rampant poaching, has become a safe haven for growing wildlife populations and a vital source of employment, education, healthcare, and stability for thousands of people. A multifaceted law enforcement strategy has ensured a level of security in the region; infrastructure investments and other measures have accounted for a 70% drop in human-wildlife conflict, while enterprise developments are adding to local revenue streams and significantly increasing food security for local communities. Despite its challenges, in one of the most precarious regions in Africa today, Pendjari is emerging as a place of hope and safety, encouraging its people to continue protecting its fragile biodiversity for future generations.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - A biennial wildlife aerial survey was conducted over the WAP Complex

between April and May, of which 29% of Pendjari was covered. Across the complex 13,026 animals were documented, including an estimate of 4,056 elephants, of which 2,083 are in Pendjari – the largest population in the region and up from the 2017 estimate of 1,700. Buffalo were estimated at 14,294, with 7,157 in Pendjari. Both species' populations showed an increasing trend across the complex over the past five years. As part of a five-year large carnivore monitoring programme we conducted a count of lion and hyena, deployed 166 camera traps, and conducted a genetic and health analysis of lion and cheetah populations using biological samples. Initial results revealed lions increasing by 60% and cheetahs by 10% over this time, while spotted hyenas decreased by 10% in Pendjari.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - Our main challenge for 2021 was the rising regional instability and insecurity around the WAP. As a result, key activities focused on professional-level training including advanced tracking, leadership, and special unit reconnaissance training. Our law enforcement team continued effective collaboration with the Benin military (FAB) to ensure the correct allocation of resources to national and park security respectively. In addition, specialised training in conducting investigations as well as training analysts and investigators to curb wildlife crime was also undertaken, contributing to overall security of the region. A total of 162 arrests were made, with 31 firearms, and 136 kg of illegal wildlife products confiscated, amounting to 88 prosecutions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - As part of enterprise development, we monitored fishing in the Pendjari rivers at six fishing sites (three sites on the Pendjari River for professional fishing and three sites on the Magou River for subsistence fishing). In total, 49 tonnes of fish – 40 tonnes for commercial purposes and nine tonnes for subsistence – were harvested, generating US\$109,090. A strategy was also developed with the fishermen's association to contribute fish to 18 elementary schools around the park, improving the nutritional quality of school meals.

Surpassing our target to reach 3,500 community members in environmental education and biodiversity conservation, 3,279 students and 254 teachers visited the park over the year. In addition, eight new environmental clubs opened through which seedlings were produced for reforestation, as well as clean-up campaigns organised.



Children in a school supported by Pendjari National Park, Benin © Marcus Westberg

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Two new bypass roads were constructed in the park and ten culverts installed along the main road, while the landing strip at Mare Cachée was completed to increase deployment capacity in remote areas and provide access to this tourist concession. Over 100 km of seasonal roads were maintained, as well as 80 km of permanent trails. The Batia store was renovated along with improvements to the new gate of Batia, and a borehole drilled to provide potable water for the Tanguiéta community. The fence line was completed and only six human-wildlife incidents were reported compared to 162 in 2020. Three water points were restored for wildlife and tourism as well as the solar energy system to ensure water provision. A solar extension was installed at the operational base to increase the park's power capacity. The construction of a park health clinic was completed, which can now accommodate and treat five patients at a time.

TOURISM - Visitor numbers improved with 1,759 visitors, of which 1,322 were domestic, 293 international

and 144 resident visitors, totalling a 70% increase from 2020. Construction of the high-end lodge at Mare Cachée progressed, as well as improvements at Pendjari Lodge to enhance the park's overall tourism offer. Twenty-three local tourist guides received specialised practical training, while community tourism on the Tanguiéta-Batia axis developed. This included the development of three "Pure Pendjari" products for sale: honey, pepper, and shea butter.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Maintain access to key sites for all operations and constant surveillance of park assets
- Continue restoring wildlife populations through planned species translocations
- Continue implementing community tourism and commercial development through the creation of wildlife circuits in the different tourism zones
- Strengthen collaboration with keys stakeholders to increase enterprise activity and productivity
- Coordinate security activities in the Pendjari Complex with all stakeholders

A STRONGHOLD FOR WEST AFRICAN WILDLIFE



INTERIM PARK MANAGER
Abdel-Aziz Bello

BENIN - W National Park (WNP), named after the shape of the Niger River, is connected with Pendjari National Park through hunting concessions, and together the parks form a significant portion of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex, a globally significant 26,361 km² transboundary landscape representing west Africa's largest intact wild ecosystem. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this remote region has suffered from rising militant extremism and a historical lack of management, as well as of human and financial resources. Acknowledging progress made by African Parks in Pendjari National Park since 2017, the Benin Government, together with West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA), coordinated a Priority Intervention Plan (PIP) with African Parks in September 2019 to provide an urgently needed wildlife refuge for which W National Park was intended. In June 2020, the Benin Government committed to W's long-term protection, concluding a full management agreement with African Parks.

Since then, a highly competent law enforcement unit has been established, strengthening control of the park and reducing illegal activities in the region. Positive community engagement has heightened environmental awareness and sustainable enterprise development, while improved infrastructure and a livestock management plan has alleviated agricultural pressure on the landscape. Relations with local communities have improved considerably through transparent communication and through delivering critically-needed community support from Covid prevention to improved livestock husbandry. As a result, the value of a secure and stable W National Park is being recognised, not only for the safety of the fragile ecosystems in the region but also for people reliant on it.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - An aerial wildlife survey was conducted over the entire WAP Complex between April and May, documenting 4,056 elephants and 14,294 buffaloes, of which 808 elephants and 1,499 buffaloes were found within W-Benin. To improve monitoring, nine critically endangered West African lions, 20 elephants, and three hartebeest were collared. A biological sampling operation was carried out to assess the genetic deficiency of species, including elephant, lion, buffalo, and four antelope species, which is exacerbated by inbreeding due to low animal densities, as well as to assess the level of disease contamination from cattle-borne diseases. A long-term sustainability strategy, to provide an overarching management plan over the next 30 years, and a research framework for wildlife was developed. A five-year environmental and social management plan, based on an environmental and social impact study of all infrastructure projects, was initiated. A water management plan for wildlife, livestock, and people was implemented with two new dams and two seasonal wildlife water points upgraded.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - With an increase in regional instability and rise in violent extremism in neighbouring Burkina Faso, the Benin military (FAB) increased their presence in the northern area of the park, and monthly meetings were held to support and coordinate on law enforcement operations. The fourth Basic Field Ranger training session was completed, with 32 new rangers joining the now 114-strong field ranger team. A total of 634 arrests, of which 74 were active poachers, were accomplished. Nine elephant carcasses were found inside the park, but only two were confirmed poached. Four kilograms of ivory were confiscated and the ivory sellers were sentenced to 13 months' imprisonment.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - Sixteen community facilitators were trained and deployed to raise awareness of the park and wildlife conservation. A total of 1,534 community meetings were organised, engaging 57,966 people, including local and socio-professional leaders. Through the livestock management plan, 30 professional herders were deployed inside the park to sensitise herders on grazing access and to secure the core 1,500 km² area of the park which was kept livestock-free during the rainy season – a first for WNP since its creation. A livestock health support plan was implemented with 5,000 cattle vaccinated against Pasteurellosis and CBPP (Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia). With agricultural encroachment being a major threat to conservation management within WNP, a 124 km road was constructed in the

southern part of the park demarcating the boundary, and agreements were signed with local authorities to adhere to the limits. This will curb encroachment and provide a zone within which communities will be assisted to farm sustainably. A five-year commercial plan was also established to develop revenue streams for the park and communities, this includes a pasture taxation plan, a sustainable fishing plan, and marketing organically grown products. The brand "Pure W Benin" was created, in alignment with "Pure Pendjari", a community-based project to support the local economy, producing and marketing locally-sourced products such as shea, honey, and cereal flours, all of which are packaged and distributed throughout Benin.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - WNP's operational base, Alfakoara, was maintained and expanded to accommodate over 120 staff members. Earth movement machinery, five vehicles, one truck, and 22 motorbikes were purchased and delivered to the base, adding to overall efficiency. Over 200 km of new roads were opened and 58 km upgraded to improve access and surveillance, bringing

the road network to 883 km of seasonal roads and 172 km of permanent roads. Installation of a VHF radio network commenced to cover the majority of WAP Benin protected areas.

TOURISM - A five-year Tourism Development Plan was completed with the prospect of initially developing daily and local tourism in the Djona area and cultural tourism around the park. Tourism activities are planned to resume once the security situation around the park is stabilised.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Upgrade and open 71 km of all-season roads
- Improve wildlife access to permanent water
- Develop and manage community enterprise
- Manage regional transhumance, local pastoralism, and agriculture according to a Land Use Plan
- Reinforce overall security around the park with aerial surveillance, deployment of demining expertise, and reinforcement of ranger capacity through ongoing training





CHAD

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

The Republic of Chad



ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK

3,054 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

SINIKA MINIA WILDLIFE RESERVE

4,643 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve : 20,950 km²

MAJOR FUNDERS Fondation Segré, Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund, Elephant Crisis Fund, The European Union, US Department of State, People's Postcode Lottery, US Fish and Wildlife Services & Annenberg Foundation

ENNEDI NATURAL & CULTURAL RESERVE

50,141 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

MAJOR FUNDERS European Union, The Dutch Postcode Lottery & Fondation Segré

CONSERVATION AT SCALE



GENERAL MANAGER
Naftali Honig

CHAD - Characterised by perennial river systems, rich floodplains, and seasonal wildlife migrations, Zakouma National Park is a unique story of revival for central Africa. Once a stronghold for well over 4,000 elephants, by 2010 the park had lost 90% of its elephants to ivory poachers, while further havoc was wreaked on the park and local communities by poachers on horseback. But in that same year, the Government of Chad invited African Parks into a long-term agreement to manage Zakouma, to protect the last approximately 500 elephants, and to re-establish stability for the surrounding communities. The Park's law enforcement and community engagement strategies were immediately overhauled and the results were palpable. Zakouma became known as a place of safety, a source of employment, and a service provider to communities previously desperately in need.

In the last five years, no elephants have been poached and the 2021 aerial census documented over 600 elephants in the park. To build on this success, African Parks was invited in 2017 by the government to manage the Siniaka-Minia Wildlife Reserve (SMWR) and Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve, including adjoining wildlife corridors, giving African Parks the mandate to manage the entire Greater Zakouma Ecosystem (GZE) of 28,162 km² and have an even greater impact for wildlife and local communities. Despite the global pandemic, tourism has continued bringing much-needed revenue to the park and local people; and the GZE has remained the largest employer in the region, providing 253 permanent jobs as well as a myriad of enterprise opportunities. The GZE is exactly where conservation needs to be headed, with government and long-term funding support, spanning vast landscapes, where people and wildlife can and do mutually benefit.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - Results from the dry season survey showed notable increases in key species since the last one in 2018. A total of 636 elephants were counted, a 17% increase since 2010. With a significant number of adult females documented accompanied by calves, we expect the population to experience a boom from 2028, when these calves reach reproductive age. Since the 2018 survey, Kordofan giraffe, of which 50% of their remaining population in Africa resides in Zakouma, have also increased 25% from 1,233 to 1,546; buffalo are up 30% from 12,014 to 15,528; roan antelope almost 20% from 719 to 854 and the tiang population is up 50% from 1,904 to 2,869. An extensive collaring operation was conducted in March with 17 elephants, six lions, and nine giraffes being collared. The first-ever camera trap study was conducted in Siniaka-Minia Wildlife Reserve, detecting 28 different species including leopard, giraffe, greater kudu and serval. Elephants were documented using old migratory routes during the wet season in Siniaka-Minia, a place where they were last seen in 2011, and again in the northern corridor, where their last presence was recorded in 2012. A lion survey was conducted over 25,000 km within the GZE, identifying 105 individual lions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - 2021 marked five straight years without a single recorded poached elephant. Under the leadership and training of our Francophone Chief Instructor, the late Jerome Lidoine, our law enforcement unit was enhanced to adapt to the heightened instability following the death of the Field Marshal of Chad, President of the Republic, Head of State, Idriss Deby Itno in April. In June, rangers successfully averted an attack by a small rebel militia that entered the Siniaka-Minia Wildlife Reserve, protecting both human and wildlife populations. Over this period rangers were also trained to improve legal follow-ups to assure court cases against poaching and illegal fishing have more dissuasive outcomes, and in total 157 arrests were made in the GZE throughout 2021.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - A new wave of support from community members for enterprises, including the production and selling of shea butter, honey, balanitès oil, and vegetables was nurtured. In total, 564 community members benefitted from 23 enterprise industries. As part of our environmental awareness programme, Camp Dari received 5,409 visitors throughout the year despite Covid-19 and civil unrest, of which 4,486 visitors visited Zakouma's



Growing elephant herds in Zakouma National Park, Chad © Brent Stirton

environmental outreach programme. Construction began on three new schools; one school was electrified and four new teachers were recruited, bringing the total to 24 teachers supported by the GZE. In a bid to reduce illegal wood harvesting, 500 women were trained to cook on fuel-efficient stoves, of which 80 households from nomad communities received metal cooking stoves. The process to reclassify SMWR as a National Park advanced and will be continued in 2022.

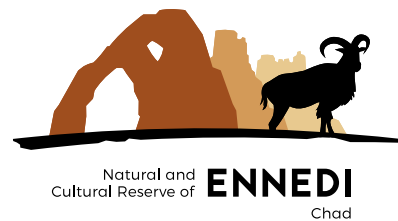
PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Preparation for the 2022 buffalo translocation was undertaken, with 230 km of road constructed between Zakouma and Siniaka-Minia. A new LoRa network was installed across the park to improve communication networks. The new park operations office block was completed and construction on the new headquarters in Siniaka-Minia commenced, while the law enforcement office and aircraft hangar were completed.

TOURISM - Over the tourism season that runs from December to May, we welcomed 5,821 tourists, of which 5,553 were national and expatriate visitors. Tinga Lodge and Camping received 412 visitors, and 5,409 stayed in Camp Dari.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Continue developing Siniaka-Minia National Park infrastructure and logistics
- Ensure that a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) is developed and implemented across both parks
- Adapt the law enforcement strategy to protect elephants when they range beyond Zakouma
- Introduce further black rhinos to Zakouma and other species to Siniaka-Minia
- Develop and implement the Tourism Development Plan
- Implement initial GZE Land Use Management Plan and complete Siniaka-Minia's designation as a National Park in Chad

AN OASIS OF HOPE



PARK MANAGER

Issakha Gonney Guirki

CHAD - The Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve (ENCR) is an ancient and extraordinary sandstone masterpiece, located in a remote area of the Sahara Desert. Home to an array of unique wildlife species, and globally significant archeological rock art sites dating back 7,000 years, Ennedi's significance was officially marked when the Ennedi Massif was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016. Acknowledging the exceptional value of the landscape, in 2018 the Chad Government invited African Parks to help realise their vision to preserve and transform the ENCR into a valued destination to benefit local communities and safeguard its iconic flora and fauna.

The reserve serves as a significant sanctuary for over 189 bird species as well as iconic, desert-dwelling mammals including Barbary sheep, dorcas gazelle, and striped hyaena. With the landscape now benefitting from effective protection, wildlife restoration projects are becoming a reality. The red-necked ostrich was successfully translocated from Zakouma National Park to the ENCR, and the critically endangered addax antelope is poised for reintroduction in 2022. Not only is Ennedi a haven for wildlife, it has also become a refuge for the 30,000 nomadic people legally moving through the landscape each year. With community reverence, government vision, and African Parks' commitment, Ennedi has emerged as an oasis for all life.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION - Eleven red-necked ostriches, translocated from Zakouma National Park, were released in the reserve, with pairs having already built nests by the end of the year – which is a significant success so soon after release. In addition, 14 more ostriches were received from Zakouma to be held at Sougounaw Ostrich Farm in Fada for later release into the park. Plans to reconstruct larger and irrigated

pens for the ostrich breeding facility in Fada were completed. Mapping for five possible release sites for the locally extinct scimitar-horned oryx and critically endangered addax antelope was undertaken with a team covering nearly 1,000 km to select three possible sites: the Mourdi depression in the north for the addax antelope, and two sites in the south and east for the scimitar-horned oryx. An ethnozoological survey was carried out collecting testimonials from 200 people to better understand past and present interrelations between human cultures and extinct wild species. With this data we can estimate dates and causes of species disappearance, as well as map the historical range of each species in the reserve.

LAW ENFORCEMENT - The first-ever 39 rangers to complete the Basic Field Ranger (BFR) course were deployed to the field, ten of whom participated in an intensive ground search for ostrich nests in Zakouma National Park for relocation to Ennedi. Following the release of 11 birds, several teams were deployed to monitor the ostriches on a rotational basis. In April, the reserve deployed the first camel patrols to ensure surveillance in the reserve's least accessible areas, which is crucial in the mountainous prime habitat area for Barbary sheep – highly prized by poachers. By year-end, ten camels had been added to the department with an average of one camel patrol every month. This enabled ENCR rangers to apprehend their first transgressors, capturing and handing over seven poachers to the authorities.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - The public garden in Fada was rehabilitated for a horticultural apprenticeship that links and trains local women's groups in growing food crops. The project was well received by the community and over one tonne of produce was harvested, which is primarily used for household consumption, with the surplus sold. Going forward, a committee has been set up to oversee the garden's long-term management. The community department of the ENCR and the Com Nord project collaborated in developing a waste management project in Fada. As a first step, a full cartography of 600 open-air waste pits around Fada was conducted. A questionnaire survey was also designed to collect information about waste production in households within Fada.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT - Construction of permanent headquarters advanced, nearing completion by year end, with the workshop and office complexes

completed. Construction of a VIP guest house to host visitors and donors also commenced. At the Sougounaw Ostrich Farm in Fada, the night shelters were equipped with additional infrared panels and reinforced fencing in preparation for new chicks. In addition, the planning for a new enclosure for the farm was developed to support the long-term objectives of the reintroduction project. The ENCR's archeology department was established with the arrival of Dr. Djimet, who serves as the Head of Department. The main objective throughout 2021 was the construction of a database of 500 archeological sites of the reserve. By year end, 330 sites were inventoried, building the foundation for the long-term preservation of Ennedi's priority archeological sites. While the analysis of the sites is not yet complete, rock painting sites constitute

the most abundant in the surveyed areas, representing more than half of all recorded sites, followed by habitat sites, prehistoric sites, and graveyards.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

- Complete preparation for the first addax antelope translocation
- Continue with archeological site assessment
- Release second generation red-necked ostriches
- Augment law enforcement unit with second selection of 40 eco-guards
- Strengthen primary schooling and environmental education throughout the reserve
- Finalise Tourism Development Plan, to reignite tourism to the region



Red-necked ostriches and their chicks in Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, Chad © Elsa Bussiere

SCALING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

INCUBATION PROGRAMME

Our vision is to directly manage 30 protected areas by 2030, across 11 biomes, encompassing 30 million hectares of globally significant, wild landscapes across the continent. However, in 2020, African Parks conducted an analysis identifying that 161 parks out of the 8,496 formally registered protected areas in Africa (per the World Database of Protected Areas) have the greatest chance of being viably functioning landscapes, and that they harbour globally significant biodiversity, sequester carbon, and provide meaningful ecosystem services. Of these 161 “anchor areas”, 92 require urgent intervention before they are lost.

To help address this challenge, scale our impact, and invest in practitioners who share in our ambition of effectively managing protected areas through long term management agreements, we launched an “Incubation Programme” in 2018 with the goal of having 15 additional protected areas managed by select partners, spanning a further 10 million hectares by 2030.

With rigorous criteria and a vetting process, our Incubation Programme identifies other organisations, NGOs, and operators who with mentoring and technical support can be cultivated to replicate our model of delegated management. Our guidance includes: the development of management agreements with government partners (if not already obtained); sharing our business structures, governance disciplines and best practices; conducting operational audits to identify gaps; and mentoring to build confidence and expertise. Incubation is conducted on both an operational and institutional level, with the support and exchanges adapted to the partner’s own specific needs and circumstances.

Incubator sites are chosen under similar conditions for how we manage our own growth, in terms of the potential of the landscape to expand under a management mandate to incorporate adjacent protected areas; strategic locations encompassing specific biomes, species; management synergies; and opportunistic growth by request of governments.

We are proud to share the first Incubation Projects which include three NGOs currently managing five sites spanning 81,736 km² (8.17m hectares). They include:



Wild Africa Conservation (WAC), Niger: an international NGO created to act alongside the Government of Niger and local communities in the management, rehabilitation, and conservation of W National Park in Niger, where they play an integral role in the Niger portion of the W-Arly-Pendjari complex.

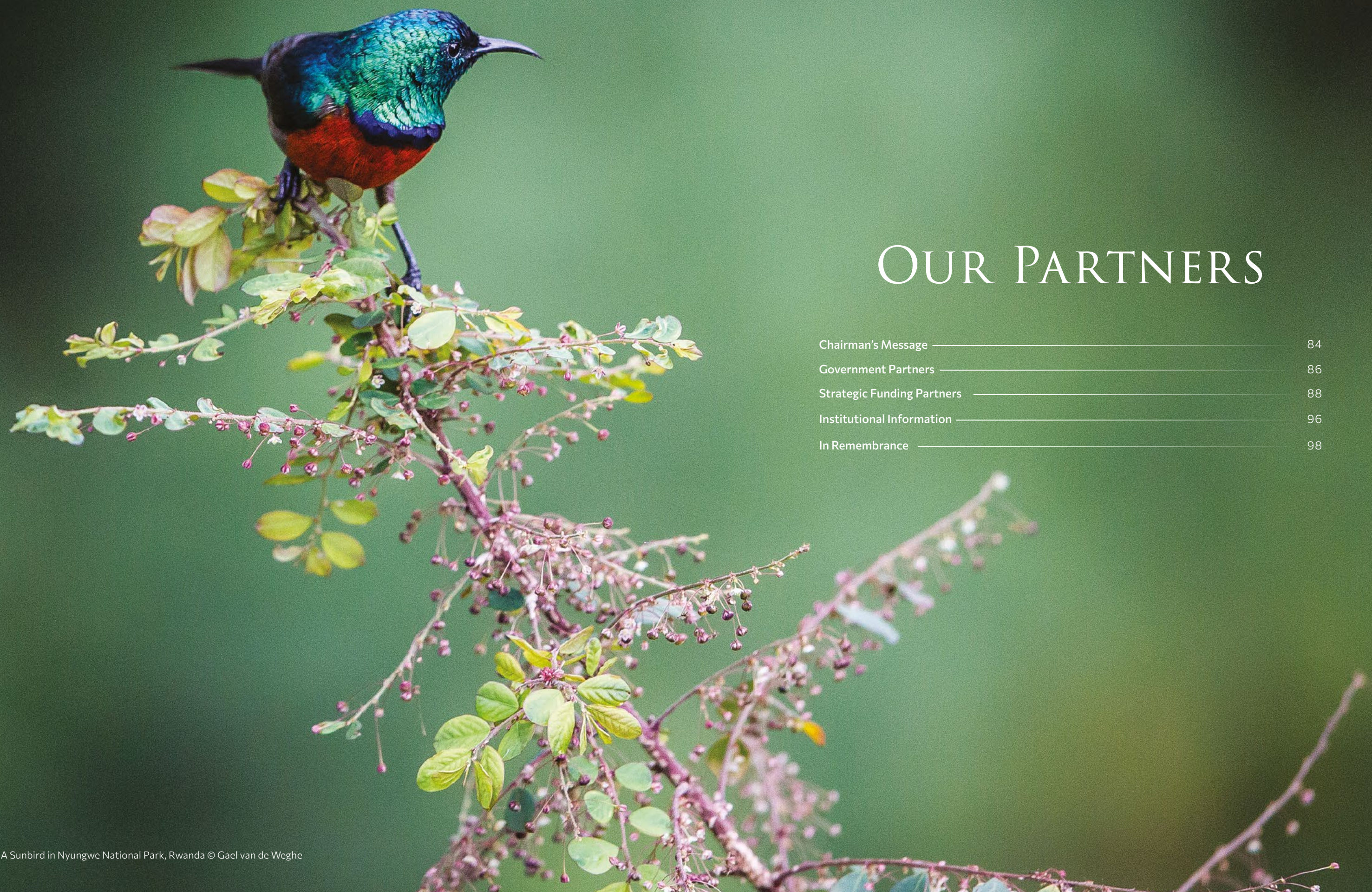


Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT), Malawi: a local NGO that works for the improved conservation of the unique ecology and endemic biodiversity within the Mount Mulanje Global Biosphere Reserve, and the sustainable use of the natural resources to benefit local community livelihoods. The Reserve is in the southwest of Malawi near the border with Mozambique and contains rich biodiversity with a high level of endemism.



Noé: an international non-profit organisation that aims to conserve biodiversity through field-based programmes targeting endangered species and protected areas, and through environmental education programmes encouraging behavioural changes. Noé has been fully managing Termit and Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve in Niger since 2018, Binder-Lére Faunal Reserve in Chad since 2019, and Coundouati-Douli National Park in Congo since 2020.

We look forward to reporting on their progress and bringing new partners into this programme.



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NATURE: THE FOUNDATION OF SUSTAINABILITY



Robert-Jan van Ogtrop

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The last two years have put the value and vulnerability of nature in crystal clear focus. The latest 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report boldly states that time is running out for humanity to secure a liveable future. The report however also gives us a tiny sliver of hope: that we are not out of time, yet. The science is clear – while the earth is at a grave tipping point, the surest way to prevent further catastrophes, from climate change to global pandemics to economic collapse, is to protect nature. While we need action from all sectors and all actors to do this, African Parks provides one very clear solution for protecting nature now, for people and for planet.

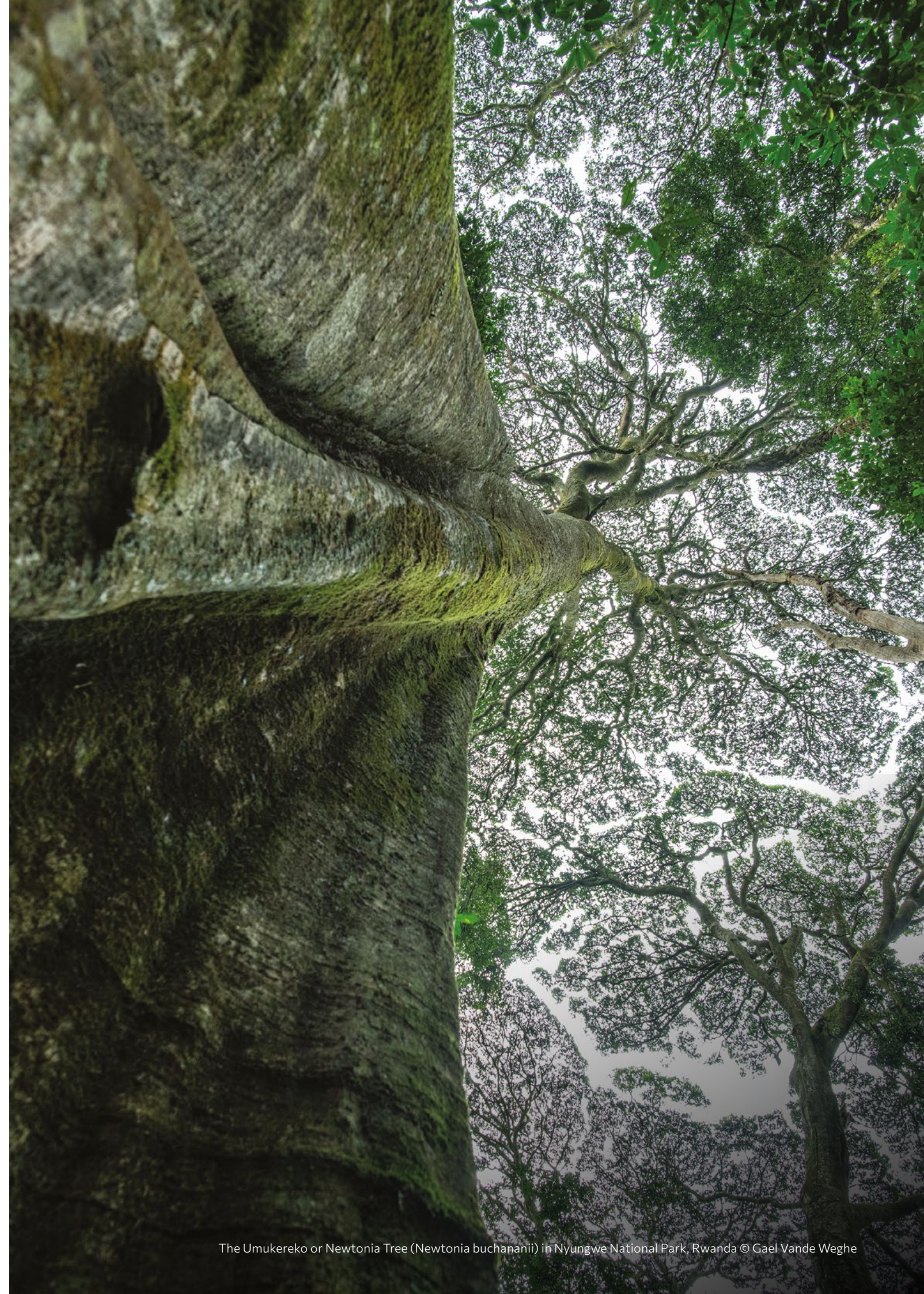
When I became Chairman 12 years ago, African Parks was managing just four parks in three countries, which was no small feat at the time. It had taken eight years to convince those first few governments to trust us with the protection and effective management of their natural assets. Fast forward to today, and African Parks is managing 19 parks across 11 countries spanning 14.8 million hectares – the largest area under protection for any one NGO in Africa. As I write this, there are at least six parks in the pipeline in Angola, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Zambia – mega transboundary parks that, if brought under African Parks' care, would almost double our footprint by securing 30 million hectares under active management.

Our 20-year track record is proof of how to protect nature and, in turn, how nature creates the very foundation of sustainability. We have shown how, through our Public Private Partnership model of full, delegated responsibility, poaching can be practically eliminated; parks can approach financial self-reliance; and can provide employment and safety, food security, health, and educational services for some of Africa's most vulnerable people. Research has also shown that protected areas under fully delegated mandates generate almost 15 times more funding than state-run areas, and stimulate the rural economy, increasing both tax revenue to governments and incentives for conserving nature among local communities.

Our model works. We also now have a roadmap for expanding our impact. A mapping analysis we conducted in 2020 shows us the most critical and viable landscapes. There are just 161 of them, all of which need to be protected now to ensure the long-term sustainability of Africa's biodiversity. This analysis sets the stage for our, and the continent's, conservation efforts for the next ten years. Along with bringing new parks fully under our management, our unique Incubation Programme also sees us invest expertise and technical support in local and international NGOs and practitioners who meet a set of criteria, including passion and strong will, to replicate our model. If there was ever a moment in our African Parks history to scale – it is now.

What is most heartening to me is that we are not alone. I wish to personally thank each and every one of our current government partners who are a powerful coalition, heeding the call to set aside 30% of the planet for nature, and choosing us as partners to protect Africa's natural assets for a sustainable future. I also wish to thank our current funders – without whom we would not be where we are today, nor would we have the ability to consider scaling during what is the most urgent decade for our planet.

Sincerely,
Robert-Jan van Ogtrop



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

The success of African Parks' management function is dependent on its host countries, their ministries, wildlife institutions and traditional authorities. Prioritising and strengthening these relationships is essential in gaining support and working together to achieve our common goal of protecting critical landscapes across Africa. The statutory role of our government partners is enshrined in our agreements, and their participation is guaranteed through approval of park business plans and budgets, as well as representation on each park's board. We thank them all for the trust and confidence bestowed upon African Parks and their commitment to biodiversity conservation.



THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN

The Government of Benin signed an agreement with African Parks in May 2017 to revitalise, rehabilitate and develop Pendjari National Park. In June 2020, W National Park was added to our portfolio. The restoration of these parks is one of 45 flagship projects of the "Revealing Benin" national investment programme, announced by the Presidency of the Republic of Benin in December 2016. The Minister of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable), José Tonato, the Director-General of the National Centre of Management of Reserves and Protected Areas (CENAGREF), Abdel Aziz Baba-Moussa, and Edmond Toli, the Managing Director of the National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and the Development of Tourism, have all played an instrumental role in this partnership.



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

In 2014, African Parks received the mandate to manage Chinko in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing, which retains primary responsibility for sustainable management of forest resources, commercial forestry operations and governance of national parks in the CAR. An updated and re-enforced mandate for Chinko was further signed in April 2020 with the Minister, Idriss Amit, who has been instrumental in supporting the growth of protected area management in the CAR.



THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD

The Republic of Chad is African Parks' partner in the management of the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem, an extensive ecosystem, including Zakouma National Park and Siniaka Minia Wildlife Reserve as well as the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi and the Aouk Project. In 2010, under the advice of the European Union, the Chadian Government approached African Parks to assume management responsibility of Zakouma to help end the ongoing scourge of elephant poaching. The mandate agreement was signed in June 2010 and in October, African Parks commenced management of the park and its periphery. In 2017, a new 10-year agreement was signed for the development of the Functional Ecosystem of Zakouma, and another 15-year agreement for the creation, funding and management of the new Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi. M. Mahamat Ahmat Lazina is the Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (MEPDD) and M. Abderamane Chaibo is the Director of Wildlife.



THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development executes national policy regarding sustainable development, forest economy and the environment on behalf of the President of the Republic of the Congo. In 2010, African Parks signed its first management agreement with the Ministry for Odzala-Kokoua National Park. In 2020, an amendment was signed to the management agreement with the Minister, Madame Rosalie Matondo for additional protection of this unique landscape. Under the Ministry, African Parks works with Agence Congolais pour les Forêts et les Aires Protégées (ACFAP), which is represented by its Director-General, Jean Bosco Nganongo.



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

The Institut Congolais Pour la Conservation De La Nature of the DRC (ICCN) is a public entity housed under the Ministry of Environment and is charged with the sustainable management of biodiversity in protected areas in the DRC in cooperation with local communities and other partners. ICCN manages a natural and cultural heritage made up of nine national parks and a constellation of 80 reserves covering over 13% of the country's area. We began our work with the ICCN in Garamba National Park in 2005. ICCN is currently under the leadership of Director General, Olivier Mushiete.



THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

The relationship with Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) is the longest running partnership for African Parks, dating back to the agreement for the Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2003. DNPW is a Government of Malawi agency responsible for management and conservation of wildlife resources and the administration of the Wildlife Policy and the National Parks and Wildlife Act. In 2015, we signed an agreement with Malawi government through DNPW to manage Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde National Park. In 2018, Liwonde National Park was extended to include Mangochi Forest Reserve. Here African Parks has also partnered with the Department of Forestry, the government agency responsible for planning and providing technical extension and guidance as well as facilitating forestry development on customary land and forest reserves. The Malawi Public-Private Partnership Commission (PPPC) facilitated the signing of these agreements. Mr Brighton Kumchedwa is the current Director of the DNPW.



THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

In December 2017, African Parks signed a 25-year co-management agreement with Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC), under the then leadership of Mateus Jose Mutemba, to restore, develop and manage Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, and revitalise it to become one of the leading and most productive marine protected areas in Eastern Africa. Celmira Frederico Pena da Silva is the current General Director of ANAC.



THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) is the government agency responsible for managing Rwanda's national parks and protected areas. Its mission is to transform and develop Rwanda's economy by enabling its private-sector growth. African Parks began its work with the RDB in Akagera National Park in 2010 and in Nyungwe National Park in 2020. In both agreements we recognise Ms Clare Akamanzi for her unwavering support of Akagera and Nyungwe.



THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

The Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), under the Ministry of Tourism works to protect and conserve Zambia's wildlife estates and improve the quality of life among communities, while maintaining

healthy biodiversity. African Parks began its work with the DNPW in Liuwa Plain National Park in 2003 and in the Bangweulu Wetlands in 2008. Dr Chuma Simukonda is the current Director of DNPW.



The Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) is recognised by the Zambian Government as an official Community Administrative entity in Western Province and, as such, is an essential partner in the Liuwa Plain project. His Majesty the Litunga Lubosi Imwiko II and the Limulunga Kuta (Parliament) played an instrumental role in assisting the Zambian Government to conclude an agreement with African Parks in 2003. Since then, the Litunga has maintained an active role in guiding the project through the participation of two BRE representatives on the Liuwa Board.



THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) operates under the Parks and Wildlife Act [Chapter20:14] of 2001. The Authority manages about five million hectares of land - or 13% of Zimbabwe's total land area. Mandated with the protection, management and administration of the wildlife of Zimbabwe, the Authority has a proud history of sound management that endeavours to preserve the unique flora and fauna heritage of Zimbabwe. African Parks signed a 20-year mandate with PWMA for Matusadona National Park in 2019. Mr Fulton Mangwanya is the current Director General of PWMA.



THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

African Parks signed a long-term management agreement for Iona National Parks with the Angola Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment (MCTA) and the National Institute of Biodiversity and Conservation (INBC) in 2019. The MCTA is the ministerial department responsible for the formulation, execution, and control of the Executive's policy regarding environmental protection. This includes the preservation and conservation of environmental quality, pollution control, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, conservation areas and enhancement of the natural heritage, as well as the preservation and rational use of renewable natural resources. INBC was created to ensure the implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Policy and management of the National System of Conservation Areas. Mr Filipe Silva de Pina Zau is the current Minister of MCTA and Mr Albertina Nzuzi Matias is the current Minister of INBC.

CATALYSTS FOR CONSERVATION

STRATEGIC FUNDING PARTNERS

We are deeply grateful for a core group of funders who provide largely flexible, multiyear funding of more than US\$500,000 per year. We also acknowledge several European strategic private funders who prefer to remain anonymous. Together, these strategic partners have anchored our work and enabled our growth with their incredibly generous and mostly unrestricted support.



Acacia Conservation Fund (ACF), the philanthropic operation of Acacia Partners, makes conservation investments to address the declining biological diversity of life on Earth. ACF supports results-orientated, entrepreneurial organisations that maximise the impact of their philanthropic dollars and focus on proving and then expanding their impacts over time. Since 2015, ACF has provided unrestricted support to African Parks, also investing in African Parks' Incubator Programme, which trains select NGOs on the implementation of African Parks' model.



Adessium Foundation is a grantmaking foundation working towards the benefit of nature and society. Its mission is to contribute to a balanced society by supporting initiatives and organisations in the Netherlands and Europe that are committed to an open and just society, healthy ecosystems, and equal opportunities for everyone. Adessium has been a funder of African Parks since 2008, funding both the portfolio of protected areas and institutional development.



The Government of Benin made a significant five-year commitment of US\$6m when President Patrice Talon invited African Parks to assume management of Pendjari National Park in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex that spans Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger. The aim of the partnership is to preserve, manage, and develop this unique landscape. In addition, the Government of Benin has been instrumental in expanding our footprint into W-Benin through a funding commitment of US\$5m. Their contribution has been critical in attracting other private and institutional funding to support the

management of Pendjari and W- Benin, representing a significant portion of the largest intact wild ecosystem in West Africa.

The Dhanam Foundation The Dhanam Foundation is an independent non-profit private foundation based in Palo Alto, California. Established in 2004, the Foundation primarily focuses on education, child welfare, and human services. In 2015, the Foundation began to include nature conservation and land protection as part of its philanthropic portfolio. The Foundation made a US\$510,000 commitment to African Parks in 2021 to support the restoration of Matusadona Park in Zimbabwe as a wildlife sanctuary and safari destination with globally significant populations of elephant, buffalo, and rhino.



The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is Germany's leading provider of international cooperation services. As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. Since the start of African Parks' engagement in the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex, GIZ has provided funding to support the aerial survey in 2019 and a feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the Arly and W Burkina Faso in 2020. In 2021, GIZ made a significant contribution to the implementation of conservation, development, and community development activities in Pendjari and W Bénin, and cofounded a Priority Intervention Plan in W Niger.



DOB Ecology is a Dutch foundation believing that strong and healthy ecosystems are vital ingredients for life, well-being, and sustainable development. The mission of DOB Ecology is to support partners that work to protect and restore threatened ecosystems and (re)build the conditions for resilient livelihoods of local communities. The multiyear partnership between DOB Ecology and African Parks revolves around intelligence-based conservation in Odzala Kokoua National Park.



Donna and Marvin Schwartz are extraordinary advocates for conservation and animal-related causes. They have a special interest and strong commitment to saving elephants and other large species threatened by poaching. The Schwartz family's relationship with African Parks began in 2012, and they have provided critical support to our anti-poaching



Mutinta Chiyomba, Liuwa Plain's Tourism Assistant © Mana Meadows



Spoonbills in Bangweulu Wetlands, Zambia © Lorentz Fischer

work in Central Africa. Their generosity has supported diverse efforts in Garamba, Chinko, and Odzala-Kokoua, as well as other parks with significant elephant populations, such as Zakouma National Park in Chad.



The Dutch Postcode Lottery has been raising funds since 1989 to support organisations working towards a fairer and greener world. At least 40% of every ticket sold goes to charity. The lottery has steadily grown to become the biggest charity lottery in the Netherlands, supporting 150 non-governmental organisations. Since its founding, the lottery has dispensed over €7.1b. African Parks has received €16.1m since 2010. In 2018, we received a multiyear Extra Project award for Ennedi. In 2020 we were the recipient, together with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Peace Parks, of €16.9m for a Dreamfund project, to boost the ecological and socio-economic development of the world's largest terrestrial transfrontier conservation area, the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA). In 2021 African Parks received €900,000 in unrestricted funding.



The Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), a joint initiative of Save the Elephants and the Wildlife Conservation Network, is a flexible and responsive fund that supports the best efforts from the most trusted organisations globally, working to secure a future for elephants in Africa. Since 2015, the ECF has not only contributed more than US\$3.9m to African Parks, but also expertise on best practices in elephant conservation. This has benefitted

critical surveillance, intelligence-based protection, and human-elephant conflict mitigation activities for some of our most threatened elephant populations in central, western, and southern Africa.



The European Union (EU) has been a long-standing funder, first supporting our growth into central Africa in 2005. Their investment over the years has helped create areas of stability in a volatile region, and helped attract additional funding and partners. The EU has been critical in managing large landscapes, namely Garamba National Park and its periphery, Chinko Conservation Area, Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem, Odzala-Kokoua National Park, and W National Park in Niger. Improved management of these ecologically important landscapes through effective park management and governance, safety and security for people and wildlife, and opportunities in green sectors for local populations contribute to the EU NaturAfrica initiative.



The Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines (FSOA) or West African Savannah Foundation, is a conservation trust fund promoting the preservation of protected areas of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex, while advancing education, science, and local economic development. The Foundation was set up by the Benin Government and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with financial contributions from the Benin Government, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and

Financial German Cooperation (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau – KfW). The Foundation has been providing significant annual financial contributions to the successful management of Pendjari National Park since 2017. In 2019-2020, it provided 85% of funding to implement a Priority Action Plan to secure the Beninese W National Park, which evolved into a full management mandate to African Parks in June 2020. The Foundation also committed promptly to cover full funding to establish the first three-month plan from the African Parks Mandate for the management of Park W-Benin, up to December 2020. In 2021, FSOA provided a contribution of US\$1.5m to Pendjari and W parks in Benin. Its larger vision is to create a sustainable source of funding and support the synergy of actions within the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex.



FONDATION SEGRÉ

Fondation Segré is a Swiss foundation established in 1996, committed to helping protect the biodiversity of our planet through active conservation of threatened species and their habitats, and restoration of degraded ecosystems. Fondation Segré became a strategic funding partner of African Parks in 2016 and has since supported the organisation with over US\$6m, which has contributed to a range of parks. In 2021, Fondation Segré supported African Parks in Nyungwe, the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem, and Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve.

The Head and Heart Foundation

Head and Heart Foundation supports organisations that protect and promote the earth's biodiversity and conserve the natural resources and climate that species need to survive and thrive. The Head and Heart Foundation generously supports African Parks' mission to conserve Africa's national parks for current and future generations.



The Howard G. Buffett Foundation views its resources as rare risk capital that can improve conditions and create change in the most difficult circumstances and geographies. Since 2014, the Foundation has supported a range of habitat and animal conservation projects as well as operation and security improvements at Rwanda's Akagera National Park. The Foundation also contributed to security and operations at Garamba National Park in support of its anti-poaching efforts, and in 2020 donated all proceeds from the sale of its Ukulima Farm in South Africa to African Parks' ongoing operations. In 2021, the Foundation was the lead supporter of the historic translocation of 30 white rhinos to Akagera National Park.



The Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF) is an ambitious new financing instrument aimed at protecting the world's most outstanding natural places and closing the funding gap



School children visiting Garamba National Park, DRC © Marcus Westberg

for biodiversity conservation in the Global South. It is a joint initiative by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), KfW Development Bank (KfW), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Campaign for Nature (CfN), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). All pilot sites have a philanthropic funding partner, and African Parks is receiving funding from LLF and the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation for both Odzala and Iona.



**Lion
Recovery
Fund**

The Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), an initiative operated and managed by the Wildlife Conservation Network, is a nimble and flexible fund that invests in the most innovative and effective projects across Africa to recover lions and restore their landscapes. Since 2017, the LRF has contributed more than US\$2.6m to African Parks. This funding has benefitted eight different African Parks sites, with a particular focus on several parks in west and central Africa, given the extreme vulnerability of lion populations in these regions. The LRF has invested heavily in African Parks' Chinko site in Central African Republic, part of a vast 65,000 km² wilderness that has immense potential for lion recovery.



The National Geographic Society uses the power of science, exploration, education, and storytelling to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. Pendjari National Park in Benin is supported by the Society's Last Wild Places initiative. Since 2018, the Society has been supporting Pendjari with a five-year multimillion-dollar grant in partnership with The Wyss Foundation and the Government of Benin.



The Oppenheimer Generations Foundation provides catalytic, flexible, and discretionary funding in support of their commitment to build sustainable and prosperous societies. The Foundation began funding Bazaruto Archipelago National Park in 2018, committed US\$2m over five years to bring this marine area under African Parks' management and unlock the value for its communities.



PATRIP Foundation is a non-profit organisation that channels multi-donor funds into cross-border projects aimed at increased stability and integration in fragile regions. PATRIP is improving the security, conservation, and social development of the border regions of northern Benin as a donor to W National Park through funding €1.7m worth of infrastructure



Two of 30 white rhinos translocated to Akagera in Rwanda from South Africa in 2021, in the largest single rhino translocation ever © Drew Bantlin



Colobus Monkeys in Garamba National Park, DRC © Marcus Westberg

inside and outside the park. This project is financed by the German Federal Foreign Office through the PATRIP Foundation and the German development bank KfW.

Fentener van Vlissingen Family

The late Paul Fentener van Vlissingen provided the bulk of the initial funding that established African Parks in 2000. In 2010, his daughters Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen committed €25m to the African Parks Endowment Fund in accordance with their father's final wishes. Income from this Fund is earmarked primarily for African Parks' overhead costs. During 2021 the Fund contributed US\$1.8m towards the African Parks network.



People's Postcode Lottery manages lotteries on behalf of 20 postcode trusts. A minimum of 33% from each ticket goes directly to charities and good causes across Britain and internationally. Since 2015, African Parks has received more than £6.7m in funding raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery. In 2021, an additional £2.3m was awarded to African Parks through the Postcode Climate Challenge, an initiative designed to support positive climate action. This funding was used to help secure ecosystems and mitigate climate change in Chinko, Odzala-Kokoua, Liuwa Plain, Nyungwe, and Garamba National Park.



The mission of the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation is to elevate people, planet, and purpose by changing what people feel is possible and know is doable. The Rob and Melani Walton Foundation seeks partners who focus on the essential and interconnected elements of sustaining life, advancing all forms of knowledge, promoting understanding of healing, and increasing the sustainability of people and our planet. Melani and Rob have been invaluable partners to African Parks since 2003, providing support to safeguard the long-term survival of parks and wildlife across the continent. They have supported the reintroduction of species such as lions and black rhinos to Akagera National Park, the development of evidence-based performance metrics, and our close collaboration with governments and communities to identify and share best practices. In 2020, the Foundation made a transformational US\$100m dollar five-year commitment to African Parks, with US\$75m going to the creation of the Rob and Melani Walton Endowment, the largest endowment gift in African Parks' history, and US\$25m for park operations on the ground. In 2021, funds from the Foundation supported park operations at Chinko, Odzala-Kokoua, Iona, Akagera, Garamba, and Bangweulu. Additionally, a portion of the Foundation's annual contribution is used for five-year matching grants to Iona and Odzala-Kokoua in conjunction with the Legacy Landscapes Fund.



Giant tortoise in Chinko, CAR © Marcus Westberg



Stichting Natura Africae is a charitable foundation established by Jan Verhagen, a Dutch entrepreneur, in 2017. Natura Africae is dedicated to the conservation of national parks and protected areas in Africa, and recognises the reciprocal relationship between the livelihoods of local communities and the successful protection of an ecosystem's wildlife. The foundation provided €5m in 2021, continuing its long-term commitment to Liuwa Plain National Park and the Bangweulu Wetlands. It also supported community and infrastructure projects in Iona National Park in Angola, and Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda.



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) operates the Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE) with the aim of conserving the ecological integrity of the Congo Basin Forest for the benefit of local people and the global community. With a commitment of US\$26m since 2018, we are able to carry out the core protected area management of Garamba National Park and Chinko Conservation Area. In addition, African Parks in a consortium with African Wildlife Foundation is improving community resilience and wildlife conservation in the Mbomou-Uele border region. Apart from a myriad of conservation and sustainable livelihood outcomes being achieved, this USAID partnership is contributing towards the establishment of a foot-hold for governance, security and stability for the surrounding communities and the wider DRC-CAR-South Sudan trans-boundary landscape.



The United States Department of State, through both the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Bureau of African Affairs (AF), advances good governance and peace and security, prerequisites for sustainable economic development and the protection of natural resources. Since 2017, INL has committed over US\$7m to African Parks to provide critical core support, and enabled the professionalisation and effectiveness of our law enforcement across the African Parks' portfolio, especially in Chad, Central African Republic, Malawi, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, and Benin. They have supported leadership development and core training infrastructure. Through INL support, intelligence units have been established in every park, to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement operations, and for regional and national collaboration with other security and conservation partners. These interventions are enhancing parks' capacity to counter poaching and wildlife trade, promoting regional stability and the security of neighbouring communities.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) operates to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. USFWS first partnered with African Parks in 2013 and has awarded grants to support our anti-poaching programs in Chinko, Garamba National Park, Odzala-Kokoua National Park and Zakouma National Park. In 2021 USFWS continued to support the management and protection of Chinko and renewed its support of Zakouma and Odzala-Kokoua National Parks.



The Wildcat Foundation is a private philanthropic foundation whose purpose is to help save and provide for the long-term conservation of endangered wildlife and wild places in Africa. It supports innovative new approaches that disrupt traditional wildlife protection paradigms, focusing largely on medical training, aircraft, equipment, and technology for rangers. The Wildcat Foundation first partnered with African Parks in 2014, supporting the historic 500-elephant move in Malawi. Over the years, Wildcat has invested in seven parks across six countries. In 2021, Wildcat continued its support of the development and implementation of law enforcement strategies at Garamba, which has resulted in a 95% reduction in elephant poaching.



World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has been supporting African Parks since 2007, with the goal of promoting the African Parks management model across Africa. WWF Zambia contributes to core operating costs and conservation projects at Liuwa Plain National Park and Bangweulu Wetlands. WWF the Netherlands provides support to the Zambian parks and Odzala-Kokoua National Park. WWF Belgium became a strategic funding partner in 2017, supporting the Malawi parks and Liuwa Plain.

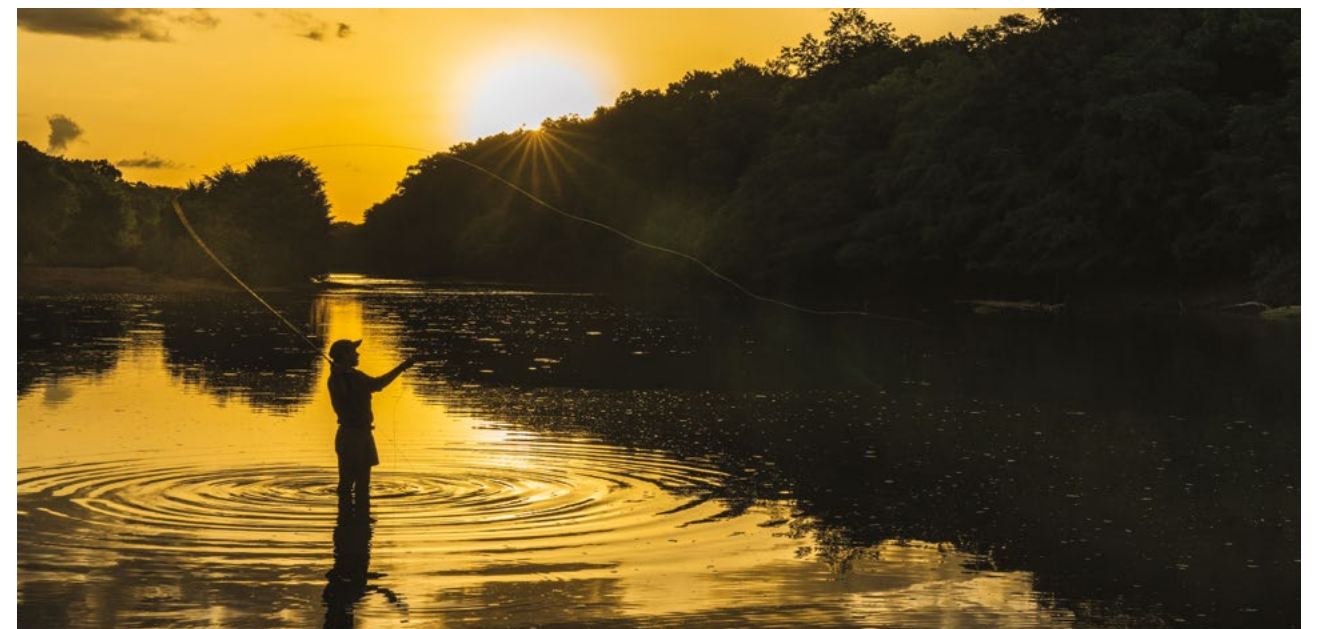


The Wyss Foundation is a private charitable foundation dedicated to supporting innovative, lasting solutions that improve lives, empower communities, and strengthen connections to the land. The Foundation's relationship with African Parks began in 2015 with a grant to support the restoration of Akagera

National Park, followed by a significant investment in Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, both in Malawi. In 2017, The Wyss Foundation made a ground-breaking commitment of US\$65m to provide ongoing support for Akagera and the Malawi parks, along with start-up funding for five new parks. This enabled the addition of Pendjari and W National Parks in Benin, Bazaruto Archipelago National Park in Mozambique, Iona National Park in Angola, and Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe. In 2021, the Wyss Foundation furthered its support of African Parks with another extraordinary commitment of US\$108m, which will provide for the continued support of current Wyss-funded parks as well as start-up funding for five more new parks.



Rainforest Trust raises funds to support the creation and expansion of protected areas critical for biodiversity, saving endangered wildlife through partnerships and community engagement. For over 30 years, the Trust has successfully implemented conservation models that are cost-effective and engage a range of partners, including donors, leading experts, and communities. In 2021, Rainforest Trust partnered with African Parks to support a six-year project to enhance the legal statute of the conservation area to create the Chinko National Park in the Central African Republic, which functions as a catalyst for regional conservation initiatives. Not only does this increase our biodiversity footprint, but it has moved more landscapes, once used for hunting, to protected area status. African Parks is grateful to have the Rainforest Trust as a partner for this US\$8m commitment.



Fly fishing in the Chinko River © Marcus Westberg

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We are extremely indebted to the support of all our Boards for their governance, leadership, oversight and financial support.

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IN REMEMBRANCE

2021 was a year of many profound losses within the African Parks family, with every one of them lost far too soon and many under tragic circumstances. We are forever and deeply grateful for the way that each individual touched our lives and supported the African Parks mission to protect biodiversity across the continent. All have left their mark, and we send our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones.

KEN WANYOTO, African Parks Human Resources Director since June 2019, passed away suddenly in Cotonou on 28th of May while on work-related travel to Pendjari and W National Parks in Benin. Ken was an extremely valued and respected individual, who was deeply committed to African Parks, our mission, and to every single staff member within our organisation.

MARKUS F. JEBSEN, a founding member of African Parks' Asia Pacific Advisory Group, suddenly and tragically passed away on 13th of June. Markus was the Executive Chairman of MF Jebesen Group, a Hong Kong based family-run company tracing its origins back to the 19th century. Markus was a staunch conservationist with a deep passion for wildlife conservation and an unwavering supporter of African Parks' mission.

LEE ELLIOT, who joined African Parks in 2016 as our Law Enforcement Advisor to Garamba National Park, passed suddenly of natural causes on 18th of September. Lee was instrumental in affecting long-lasting, positive change for Garamba and our law enforcement efforts.

AUGUSTIN KABEGE MASIKINI joined Garamba National Park in DRC as a ranger in 2016. He passed away on 27th of January.

EGRESTON CHIWAMBA joined Liwonde National Park in 2016 as a junior fence supervisor. He passed away on 3rd of March.

JEAN DE DIEU MATONGO AGANZO joined Garamba National Park in DRC in 2008 as a ranger. He died on 4th of March.

NYANBE NYANBE joined Liuwa Plain National Park in 2015 as a scout. He passed away on 22nd of May.

GRACE À DIEU GHISLAIN BAGO joined Chinko in 2016 as a radio operator in the law enforcement department. He passed away on 4th of June.

AMEDÉ GANIGOME joined Chinko on June 1st as a runway operator. He passed away in a traffic accident on 4th of June.

SAMUEL OMAR MWENDENDA joined Garamba National Park in DRC in 2016 as a heavy goods driver. He passed away on 14th of June.

ASBESTOS KAMPAMBA for Bangweulu Wetlands as a construction manager in 2009, before being transferred to Kafue National Park. He passed away in July.

CHARLES KURUMA AKOTAWA joined Garamba National Park in DRC in 2008 as a ranger. He passed away on 14th of July.

MOSES W. NYIRENDA joined Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2007 as field ranger. He passed away on 27th of July.

SALIFOU ALAZA joined Pendjari National Park in Benin as a driver in 2019. He passed away on 28th of July.

MOCTAR IDRISOU joined W National Park in Benin as a driver in 2020. He passed away in August 2021.

DAPIATI GNANRIGO joined W National Park in Benin as a ranger in 2020. He passed away on 31st of August.

JEAN-PIERRE NGONGO joined Odzala National Park in Congo in 2015 as a ranger. He passed away on the 6th of September.

CHRYSTOSTOME SOROBA LUMERI joined Garamba National Park in DRC in 2008 as a ranger. He passed away on 22nd of October.

JEN-CLAVER NGOLI joined Odzala National Park in Congo in 2015 as a GIS manager. He passed away on 13th of November.

MAXIME OMOUGNA joined Odzala National Park in Congo as a tracker in 2016. He passed away on 16th of December.

African Parks supports all permanent staff in the event of death, accident, or injury to the amount of six times their annual salary. From everyone at African Parks, we honour their commitment, we mourn their loss, and we pay tribute to their sacrifices.



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2021 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The 2021 management accounts and annual financials include the impact of two new intervention plans as well as three maturing protected areas within the portfolio. The intervention plans are for Kafue National Park in Zambia and W National Park in Niger. The maturing protected areas are the national parks Nyungwe in Rwanda, Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe and Iona National Park in Angola. These new parks have contributed towards an increase in spending across the portfolio. Additionally, activities across the portfolio were normalising after the impact of Covid-19 in the comparative year, resulting in increased activities and improved impacts throughout the parks. This is reflected in an increase on expenses. The group generated US\$4.5m (US\$3m in 2020) in gross commercial revenue for the financial year.

The financial highlights in this section are derived from the summary management accounts for the group. The management accounts are prepared on a cash basis and do not contain non-cash impacts, such as depreciation or profit and loss on exchange rates. All entities within the group aim to achieve a balanced budget by ensuring that income equals expenditure.

Grant funding accounted for 92% of the total income of the group at US\$87m. Individual donors and government funding consisted of 37% and 34% of the total grant funding utilised. The grant funding per the management accounts of US\$87.6m compares to the US\$80.7m in the summarised annual financial statements. US\$6.9m relates to consolidation adjustments posted in the financial statements.

These adjustments ensure that donor income relating to the additions of property, plant and equipment is matched to the corresponding expenses which will

only be occurring as the assets are depreciated. These adjustments effectively result in a deferral of revenue which is carried on that balance sheet under deferred income.

As at 31st of December 2021, African Parks had US\$114.6m in endowments being managed on its behalf. This was executed by Stichting African Parks Foundation (SAPF) with US\$42.9m, African Parks Foundation of America (APFA) with US\$51.7m and Stichting African Horizon is managing shares pledged in private companies to the value of US\$20m. During the course of the 2021-year, African Parks utilised US\$1.7m to contribute towards operations. No other investment proceeds were utilised in 2021. The fund is invested in a mix of equity, bonds and cash, according to the investment policy set out by our funding committee. The endowment fund assets are held on the balance sheets of SAPF in the Netherlands and APFA in the USA, both affiliated entities of African Parks.

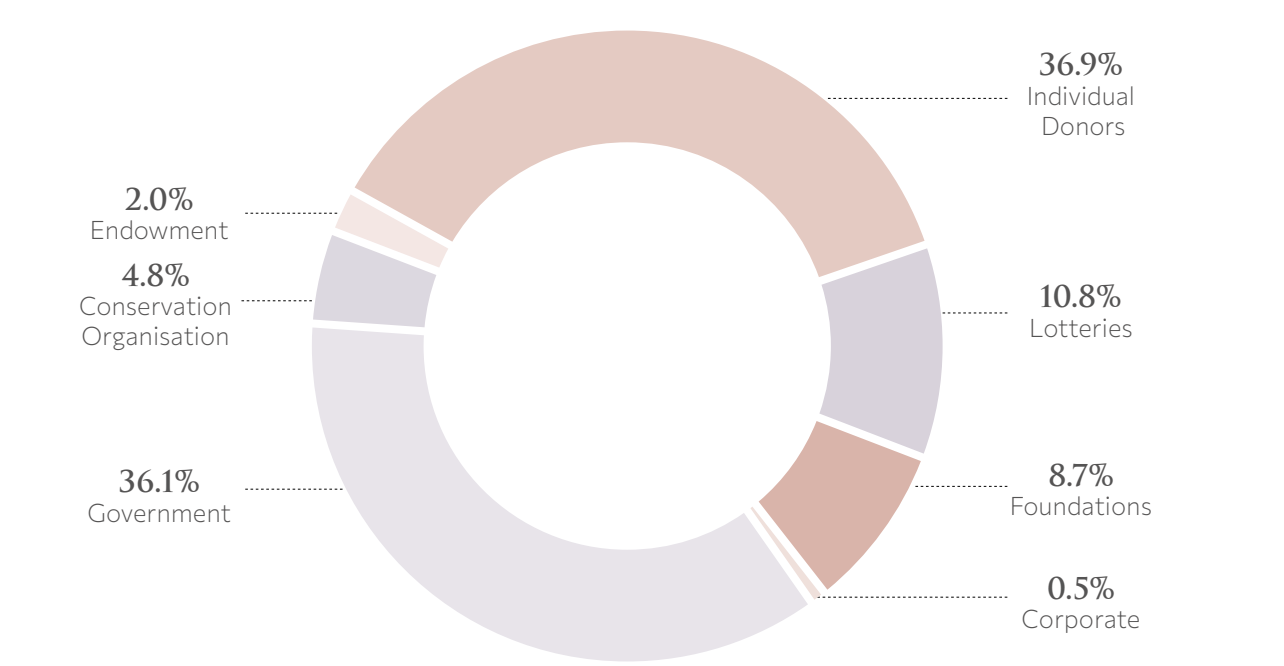
Group spending increased by 29.2% or approximately US\$20.2m in the current year. US\$5.1m of this increase is due to new parks in 2020 with operational expenditure maturing in 2021. These were Nyungwe, Iona and Matusadona. US\$3.3m relates to increased spending due to Intervention Plans executed in Niger and Kafue. The remaining increase in expenditure relates to activities returning to normal across the remaining parks. Among these, Chinko, Garamba and Ennedi activities were the most affected by Covid-19 accounting for US\$5m.

The organisation controls group spending through careful budget monitoring, whereby budgets for the year are pre-approved. The actual spending against these budgets are monitored every month through the monthly management accounts. The total budget approved by the African Parks Network Board for 2021 was US\$91.1m, while the actual spending was US\$83.4m. Note that this figure does not include income or expenses for the US and European fundraising operations, nor for the corresponding endowments or accumulated reserves. This is because the African Parks Network Board does not control these fundraising operations, nor does it approve budgets.

GROUP MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

	Protected areas US\$'000	African Parks Network US\$'000	Total per management account US\$'000	Consolidation adjustments US\$'000	Total per financial statements US\$'000
Income	83,934	10,149	94,091		87,321
Grant funding	79,442	8,134	87,576	(6,918)	80,658
Gross park revenue	4,500	0	4,500	-	4,500
Endowment income	-	1,767	1,767	-	1,767
Other income	-	248	248	148	396
Total group spending	79,429	10,157	89,586		82,761
Operating expenditure	67,011	7,131	74,142	1,381	75,523
Capital expenditure	12,418	3,026	15,444	(8,206)	7,238
Net surplus before taxation	4,505	(8)	4,505	55	4,560

SOURCES OF DONOR FUNDING



SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying summary group financial statements (the “summary financial statements”) comprises a summary of the audited financial statements of the group for the year ended 31st of December 2021 (the “financial statements”).

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The summary financial statements are prepared in accordance with the framework concepts and the measurement and recognition requirements of

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa. They do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act applied in the preparation of the group financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements for the group for the year ended 31st of December 2021. The summary financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

This summarised report is extracted from audited information, but is not itself audited. The annual financial statements were audited by KPMG Inc, who expressed an unmodified opinion thereon. The audited annual financial statements and the auditor’s report thereon are available on the company website. The directors take full responsibility for the preparation of the summarised financial statements and the financial information has been correctly extracted from the underlying annual financial statements.

SUMMARISED GROUP STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

A summarised group statement of comprehensive income is presented below. A consolidated surplus for 2021 of US\$4,423,000 (2020: deficit US\$47,000) was recorded.

	2021 US\$'000	2020 US\$'000	% change
Income	87,321	65,595	
Grant funding	80,713	60,389	33.6%
Endowment income	1,767	1,760	
Other operating income	4,841	3,445	40.5%
Operating expenses	(83,050)	(65,132)	
Employee benefit expenses	(33,782)	(26,556)	
Depreciation	(7,238)	(5,123)	
Other expenses	(42,031)	(33,453)	25.6%
Results from operating activities	4,271	462	
Net foreign exchange differences and finance revenue/(expense)	289	(369)	
Surplus/deficit before taxation	4,560	93	
Taxation	(137)	(140)	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,423	(47)	
Other comprehensive loss	(400)	(16)	
Total comprehensive surplus/ (deficit) for the year	4,023	(63)	

Income recognised is a function of expenses incurred. African Parks works on a balanced budget principle, whereby donor funds received are first recognised within liabilities as unutilised funds. Once utilised, these funds are then recognised as grant funding. Aligning ourselves to the business approach to conservation, costs incurred are first financed through operating income, followed by grant funding. The African Parks overhead costs are financed partly via a portion of the investment income generated by our endowment fund. The endowment fund assets are not recognised on the African Parks statement of financial position

The increase in **grant funding** by 33.6% is due to a combination of:

- Three maturing protected areas within the portfolio being, Nyungwe National Park, Matusadona National Park and Iona National Park;
- Two new intervention plans in Kafue National Park and W National Park in Niger

- The remaining increase in expenditure relates to activities returning to normal again across the remaining parks. The major contributors were Chinko, Garamba National Park and Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve.

Other operating income consists of commercial revenue of US\$4.5m (US\$3m in 2020). Although this is a significant increase this was expected as it was a recovery on the comparative year that was heavily impacted by COVID. Finally, other operating income would also include recoveries from insurance claims received in the year. These are negligible.

Net foreign exchange differences and finance expense consists of realised and unrealised foreign currency gains/(losses) incurred during the year. This also includes US\$48k in interest income from surplus cash invested in South Africa.

ABRIDGED GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 US\$'000	2020 US\$'000	% change
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	51,465	42,524	21%
Non-current asset held for sale	-	4,129	
Right of use asset	188	261	
Current assets			
Inventories	1,147	951	
Receivables and prepayments	16,949	13,241	28%
Cash and cash equivalents	8,912	16,847	(47%)
Total assets	78,661	77,952	
Equity and liabilities			
Capital and reserves			
Foreign currency translation reserve	(2,164)	(1,764)	
Retained earnings	6,540	2,072	
Maintenance reserve	322	322	
Non-controlling interest	(671)	(626)	
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred taxation	938	819	
Lease liabilities	156	226	
Current liabilities			
Provisions	248	318	
Trade and other payables	4,466	2,778	61%
Undrawn funds	17,227	27,284	(37%)
Lease liabilities	74	67	
Deferred income	51,524	46,456	11%
Total equity and liabilities	78,661	77,952	

Capital expenditure amounted to US\$15.4m and represents investment in infrastructure, equipment, motor vehicles, radios, aircraft etc.

The main contributors to the increase in Property Plant and Equipment (PPE) are African Parks headquarters in Johannesburg with the purchase of the Pilatus PC 12 (US\$3m) as well as W National Park (US\$1.7m), Zakouma National Park (US\$1.6m) and Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (US\$1m). It is worth noting that we capitalise all PPE (Individual items exceeding US\$500 and with a life span of more than one year) based on the fact that we control the use of these items. Should African Parks leave a park, it would not be able to retain the use of most of the PPE relating to that park and would need to recognise a loss on “disposal”. All aircraft remain in the name of African Parks and can be re-purposed to other parks.

Non-current asset held for sale represents the Ukulima Farms which were donated in 2017. The farms were sold during 2021 for a price of ZAR61m. For receivables and prepayments US\$12.8m of this balance relates to receivables from donors and US\$3.7m relates to receivables from affiliate entities, such as African Parks Foundation America, the remainder is made up of prepayments, deposits and other miscellaneous debtors.

Cash and cash equivalents represent a combination of funds held locally by the parks within their local banks, funds held by the parks as petty cash and funds held by African Parks in its offshore accounts. The group was exposed to Central African Francs (CFA) and South African Rands (ZAR) at year-end with the parks holding a total of US\$1.8m worth of CFAs and African Parks Head Office holding US\$1.5m worth of ZAR.

A **Deferred Taxation** balance existed within the books of the Rwandan Parks.

Unutilised Funds represent grants received that were not utilised in the current year. The reason for non-utilisation was either because they represent

unearmarked funding that will be utilised in 2022 or because they are earmarked for specific activities that are yet to take place or because they were surplus funds raised. These are held as cash as well as receivables and are only disbursed in the earmarked project and the earmarked period.

THE COMPOSITION OF SUCH UNUTILISED FUNDS WAS AS FOLLOWS AT YEAR END:

Restriction Level	2021 Group	2021 Company	2020 Group	2020 Company
Restricted at Park level	67%	62%	65%	50%
Restricted- aviation reserve	4%	15%	1%	2%
Unrestricted at Park level	22%	0%	21%	0%
Unrestricted at portfolio level	6%	23%	14%	48%

Deferred income represents donor funds that have been spent on the acquisition of property, plant and equipment. Deferred income is released to profit or loss as donor income, as and when these items are depreciated. This treatment of deferred income allows for a better matching of income and expenses.

ABRIDGED GROUP STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Foreign currency translation reserve US\$'000	Maintenance reserve US\$'000	Retained earnings US\$'000	Total US\$'000	Non- controlling interest US\$'000	Total US\$'000
Balance as at 01 January 2020	(1,748)	322	2,106	680	(612)	68
Deficit for the year			(34)	(34)	(13)	(47)
Other comprehensive loss	(16)			(16)		(16)
Balance as at 01 January 2021	(1,764)	322	2,072	630	625	5
Surplus for the year			4,468	4,468	(45)	4,423
Other comprehensive loss	(400)			(400)		(400)
Balance as at 31 December 2021	(2,164)	322	6,540	4,698	(670)	4,028

The **foreign currency translation** reserve is the result of the consolidation of parks that have functional currencies other than the US Dollar.

ABRIDGED GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 US\$'000	2020 US\$'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	14,464	7,668
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(12,278)	(10,130)
Net cash outflow from financing activities	(10,121)	(612)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(7,935)	(3,074)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	16,847	19,921
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	8,912	16,847

Cash and cash equivalents consisted of retained earnings and donor funds received, but not yet spent on the designated programmes.

GOVERNANCE

Sound governance, disciplined internal controls and professional financial management are core focus areas at African Parks.

The main governing body, African Parks Network, based in Johannesburg, South Africa, is a registered non-profit company in terms of Section 10 of the Companies Act of South Africa. African Parks Network is the strategic and decision-making entity responsible for the business plan of each park, determining capital investments, operating budgets, standard operating procedures, and appointing skilled park management.

The African Parks Network Board, consisting of one executive and seven non-executive Board members, is responsible for the overall governance of the organisation. Three specialised sub-committees, the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee, the Remuneration and Human Resource Committee, and the Conservation Committee, ensure additional focus on governance.

Each park managed by African Parks has a local Board set up in-country. Each Board is represented by partner institutions, key stakeholders, and African Parks Network, and is directly accountable to government for the professional management of

the park. Parks are required to operate in accordance with the standard operating procedures determined by African Parks Network.

Park management reporting disciplines include the preparation of monthly management accounts, annual budgets, and annual business plans, which are reviewed and approved by African Parks Network management in Johannesburg. All employees are required to sign a code of conduct and to observe the highest standards of ethics. Liaison with African Parks stakeholders, identified as local government, local communities, donors, employees, and affiliated organisations, is conducted through formal channels of communication as specified in the standard operating procedures manual.

The African Parks Network group financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and are audited by KPMG South Africa.

African Parks Network has affiliated organisations in The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, the UK, and the USA. These are: Stichting African Parks Foundation (The Netherlands); African Parks Stiftung Schweiz (Switzerland); African Parks Foundation Germany; African Parks UK; and African Parks Foundation of America (USA). These entities have charitable status and their role is to further the mission of African Parks. These separate legal entities are governed by independent Boards but are bound by a collaboration agreement that ensures a common purpose for all.

JOIN US

African Parks is the leading organisation in protected area management in Africa.

When you donate to African Parks, you are not only protecting Africa's iconic landscapes and wildlife, you are also contributing to restoring planetary health. Through our work and impact, we are enabling safe places where jobs are created, sustainable enterprises are funded, schools are built, children can learn, mobile health units are deployed, and conservation-led economies begin to grow.

The benefits are many in supporting African Parks. We operate at scale, we are 100% accountable for every single dollar that comes to us and for every single aspect of park management, guaranteeing that funds deliver the most immediate and direct impact. We have

a clear vision for securing 30% of Africa for nature, and the track record to show that it is all possible.

However you wish to support our work, in big or small ways, it all matters. Thank you for your trust and if you would like to find out more, please contact:

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