

**African Parks** Annual Report

**2015**

CONSERVATION AT SCALE











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To our men we have lost in the fight to protect Africa's  
wildlife and safeguard communities, and to those who put  
their lives on the line each and every day, we pay tribute  
to your commitment and honour your sacrifice.

Your friends and family at African Parks

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# 6 Million Hectares

African Parks is a non-profit organisation that takes on direct responsibility for the rehabilitation of National Parks and Protected Areas in partnership with governments and local communities. We currently have mandates to manage **10 National Parks and Protected Areas** with a combined area of **six million hectares** in **seven countries**:

- Chad
- Central African Republic (CAR)
- Republic of Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- Rwanda
- Malawi
- Zambia

We also currently have an MoU to assess opportunities in Ennedi, Chad and a tripartite agreement to assess opportunities in Gambella, Ethiopia.





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### 2020 OBJECTIVE

**20 PARKS**  
.....  
**10 MILLION  
HECTARES**

**Cover photo:** Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Congo  
– Burrard-Lucas



## AFRICAN PARKS NOW MANAGES 10 PROTECTED AREAS COVERING SIX MILLION HECTARES IN SEVEN COUNTRIES

### WILDLIFE

Over **1,200 elephants** under African Parks' protection in Malawi

**30 elephant** births at Zakouma

**Zero elephants** poached in Majete since 2006 and zero rhinos poached since 2003

**2 rhino calves** and two lion cubs born in Majete

**7 lions reintroduced** to Akagera for the first time after a 20-year absence

**200 chimpanzees** discovered at Chinko

**45% increase** in endangered black lechwe, from 35,000 in 2013 to 50,865 in 2015

**428,468 white-eared kob** at Gambella, making up the second-largest mammalian migratory movement in Africa

Reintroduced a founder population of **critically endangered red-necked ostrich** to Ennedi

Extremely rare **Saharan crocodiles** present at Ennedi

### STRENGTHENED LAW ENFORCEMENT

**600 rangers**, largest counter-poaching force for an NGO in Africa

Over **8,015 patrols** and **564 arrests**

Over **14,703 poaching snares** removed

**5 rangers** from Zakouma ran a 90 km endurance race in Ennedi to honour their fallen comrades

### TOURISM

**US\$2,242,000** in overall revenue

**Camp Salamat and Camp Nomade** gained instant popularity at Zakouma

Revenues increased by more than **20% over 2014** numbers for Zakouma and Akagera





## LOCAL ECONOMIES

**26,000 cocoa saplings** planted in villages around Odzala

**Over 400 labourers** employed by Chinko, produced 250,000 bricks, excavated 3,000 tons of stone, and worked on 180 km of road

**3.7 tons of honey** produced by Akagera and Bangweulu

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**400 villagers** from 39 villages treated by Odzala's Mobile Health Clinic in just 4 months

**5,000 households** benefitted from anti-malaria initiatives around Majete

**6,100 patients** treated at the Garamba-subsidized Nagero Hospital

**100 tons** of maize distributed to Liuwa residents due to the drought

## TRAGIC HUMAN COST

**Eight** law enforcement personnel killed in the line of duty

## EDUCATION

2 additional "Elephant Schools" built at Zakouma; **2,600 students** visited the park

**US\$14,000** in scholarships provided to Majete-area students and over 2,551 students reached across 81 schools

More than **1,300 schoolchildren** visited Akagera to participate in conservation lessons

**29 parent-teachers**, compensated by Chinko, taught community children at 11 villages

Over **700 Liuwa students** took part in a drama festival or environmental education lessons

**4 tons** of textbooks distributed to 20,000 students by Garamba staff





# Chairman's message



Robert-Jan van Ogtrop  
– **Chairman of African Parks Network**

2015 was a year of extraordinary achievement in moving us towards our 2020 vision, but it was also a year of heart-breaking loss. Most tragic of all were the deaths of eight men, in three different incidents during the year, in Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These men's lives were lost in defending the park and its wildlife against heavily outfitted and incentivised ivory poaching gangs.

With each incident, the outpouring of support for these men, their families, and African Parks was astonishing. It showed the surviving rangers on the ground that they were not forgotten; it boosted morale and prevented broken spirits, and resources were provided for added technology, aircraft support, and reinforcements to help secure what is truly the most violent and deadliest place in Africa for rangers and elephants. We felt the world's embrace, and for that, we were all grateful.

African Parks has come a long way since the first park – Majete Wildlife Reserve – a landscape literally devoid of wildlife, was brought under management in 2003. Twelve years later, Majete serves as a story of restoration and a living example of what is possible. Due to steadfast law enforcement, translocating and reintroducing various species, and working with local communities, this landscape has rebounded so much that elephants will be moved from Majete to help repopulate Nkhotakota in 2017, and replicate our successes.

In just 15 years since inception, African Parks has the largest amount of area under conservation management across Africa, more than 1,400 employees on staff, the largest ranger force, and we are providing protection to thousands of threatened species, as well as to surrounding local communities. We are resolute in our mission, and in preserving our approach – because it works. But we would not be where we are today without the support, commitment and collaboration from so many extraordinary individuals: from those who are part of our Boards and our institutional funders, and those who make up our inspirational family of donors, to our government partners and influencers, and those who are the foot soldiers and responsible for achieving all of our shared successes on the ground. This network of support is a determining factor in helping us achieve our grand vision of assuming management of 20 parks by 2020, and positively impacting upon an impressive 10 million hectares of wild landscapes across Africa.

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“The threats and pressures are mounting, and we cannot wait for the world to fix these larger problems. But what we can do today is continue to secure vast areas, and protect wild functioning ecosystems with thousands of species, including some of the most threatened on the planet – elephants, rhinos, lions and gorillas.”

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As an African conservation non-profit with a business approach at our core, we are committed to working across sectors with entities, including governments, businesses, institutions and other NGOs that can help us better protect these vast national parks and protected areas. It is these partnerships that will help us secure a future for the wildlife that live within these landscapes, and collaborate with and provide for the local communities in and around these parks who are the ultimate and long-term custodians of these ecosystems.

African Parks is beginning to be recognised for the scale and the impact of our work, which is a testimony to the practicality of our model, the magnitude on which we operate and the results we deliver. Since 2003, we have maintained a razor-sharp focus on our model and our mandates, and are able to point to proof of concept – from restoring wildlife populations and creating booming tourism opportunities in places like Rwanda and Malawi, to stopping the wholesale slaughter of elephants and providing security to both people and wildlife in Chad, and serving as one of the largest employers in some of the most unstable places in the world like the CAR, DRC and Congo, where we are delivering economic benefits, and changing people's lives.

African Parks provides the best solution to securing Africa's wild landscapes now, and for decades to come, given that our management mandates are for 20 to 50 years. The threats and pressures are mounting, and we cannot wait for the world to fix these larger problems. But what we can do today is continue to secure vast areas, and protect wild functioning ecosystems with thousands of species, including some of the most threatened on the planet – elephants, rhinos, lions and gorillas. And while we are buying time, we are actually showing what is possible; we are realising hope, and providing a lifeline and building that needed bridge into a brighter future I think we all hope we'll meet, while possibly influencing those greater outcomes along the way.

On behalf of myself and everyone at African Parks, we thank you for your ongoing support and commitment.

**Robert-Jan van Ogtrop**

Chairman African Parks Network



A ranger in Garamba National Park, DRC, stands with a confiscated elephant tusk – *Jerome Starkey/The Times*



# CEO's report



Peter Fearnhead  
– CEO of African Parks Network

**As an organisation with the most amount of area under conservation in Africa, and the largest non-governmental counter-poaching force across the continent, the scale of our operations is giant, and the responsibility even more so. We work every day to protect populations of Endangered species across six million hectares. We safeguard local communities and plan with them for their futures; and we train and equip our 600 rangers who risk their lives day in and day out in the battle for Africa's wildlife and wild places. And it is a battle, and lives are lost.**

2015 will forever be marked as a tragic year, where eight men (five rangers and three members of the FARDC, the Congolese Armed Forces) were killed by heavily outfitted elephant poachers in three incidents in Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is the battlefield in the fight for ivory, where more than 22,000 elephants once roamed, but fewer than 1,500 remain. Our teams there are doing everything possible to stem the tide, and protect the largest remaining population in the DRC to see this herd flourish once again.

The cross-collaborations required to secure not just Garamba, but the greater landscape, are at a scale unto themselves. This includes local, national, and regional

government support, funding from the European Union (EU), United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) and major individuals, aid from AFRICOM and MONUSCO, to conversations on Capitol Hill in Washington DC to influence global wildlife trafficking and garner support to help stabilise the region. While African Parks is the boots on the ground, the daily management of the parks, and is site-based conservation at its best, protecting Africa's wildlife and providing security is a global effort. Global in terms of funding, in the need for local and international policies that impact every link across the chain of enforcement, and multi-lateral reform that addresses some of the world's most pressing problems, including terrorism, resource exploitation, climate change, poverty and human health.

Our mission and our work across our parks are at the centre of all of this. This is why we chose the theme of this year's Annual Report to focus on the scale of our conservation impact now – from the strength of our operations, governance, and the real difference our well-equipped and trained rangers make on the ground, to the results of our conservation measures, and the economic value we deliver to communities who live in and around the parks. Our work currently spans 10 national parks, seven countries and over six million hectares. The scale of our work is giant, in area, manpower, and responsibility – to the wildlife we are protecting, the communities to whom we offer safe harbour, to our funders for accountability, and to the rangers who put their lives on the line. I am proud to share a summary of our impacts in just this past year alone, which position us well to achieve our visionary goal of 20 parks by 2020, protecting more than 10 million hectares across Africa.

2015 was a year of exceptional growth. African Parks was granted another 20-year mandate by the Government of Malawi to take over the management of two new parks, Liwonde National Park and Nkhosha Wildlife Reserve.

Liwonde supports the largest remaining population of elephants in the country, along with a diversity of other species including hippo, hyaena, buffalo, and black rhino, as well as a calf that was born in November. While taking on a new park always comes with challenges, the level of human-wildlife conflict we experienced in Liwonde has been unprecedented. With no time wasted, conflict mitigation schemes went into full force using aircraft to help push elephants back into the park; we launched community engagement programmes to inform people how to avoid and prevent conflict situations; and in December, we broke ground on the 140 km-long electric perimeter fence, an 18-month project that will be instrumental in providing safety for both people and wildlife.



While Nkhotakota conserves pristine miombo woodlands and is a major catchment area for Lake Malawi, in terms of wildlife, it is a depleted park where less than 100 elephants remain, down from more than 1,500 elephants that used to inhabit the park. As with Liwonde, the first order is to secure the park and put a halt to the poaching of wildlife and other illegal use of natural resources, remove snares and gin traps, and train the rangers to be the effective guardians needed to protect the landscape; and we're well on our way. So much so that we're planning one of the largest elephant translocations in history – moving 500 elephants into Nkhotakota over a two-year period (approximately 250 from Liwonde and 250 from Majete) starting in 2016. The scale of this operation is immense and the logistics impressive – with helicopters, trucks, and the needed manpower and expertise to carry this through – all with one goal in mind: to restore, to rebuild, to provide hope, to provide the chance of long-term survival for these elephants; and to bring biodiversity back to the park and build a conservation-led economy for the benefit of Malawi.

Majete Wildlife Reserve, our longest managed park, also in Malawi, had another banner year with not one elephant or rhino poached. Majete is a true conservation success story, with African Parks having transformed it from a once neglected, rarely visited park with little

wildlife in 2003, to it now being recognised as Malawi's first Big Five destination, a result of effective law enforcement and community engagement, as well as the more than 2,500 animals that have been translocated over the years which have now bred and grown to over 8,000 animals. Uniquely, we have seen conservation come full circle. In 2006, African Parks translocated 70 elephants from Liwonde to Majete, after elephants had been poached to local extinction in the late 1980s. Due to solid protection efforts, not one rhino has been lost to poaching in Majete since 2003, and not one elephant since 2006, elephants are now nearing capacity in this reserve. The translocation worked, and now approximately 250 individuals will be moved from Majete to Nkhotakota in 2017, and join the first tranche from Liwonde. Majete's story of revival serves as proof of concept, and no doubt helped win the confidence of the Malawian Government in our ability to manage Nkhotakota and Liwonde.

In this vein of restoration, Akagera National Park in Rwanda saw the return of lions, not just to the park but to the entire country after a 20-year absence since being poisoned by cattle herders returning after the genocide in 1994. Seven lions were translocated from South Africa in July. Outfitted with GPS collars and undergoing rigorous monitoring, there is already evidence that some of the lions have been mating,



A herd of Central African Savannah buffalo in Zakouma National Park, Chad – *Jean Labuschagne*





A Lesser Jacana at Bangweulu Wetlands, Zambia – **Lorenz Andreas Fischer**

with at least one female pregnant. African Parks assumed management of Akagera in 2010, and since that time, poaching of all wildlife has been greatly reduced, thanks to the effective law enforcement team, including canine anti-poaching units. This level of security gives us great hope for the planned translocation of black rhinos into the park in 2016 – the last one was seen in Akagera in 2007. 2016 will prove itself to be a year of many movements, logistical feats, and a series of long-awaited homecomings.

Bangweulu, which means “where the water meets the sky”, is one of Africa’s most spectacular and important wetland systems, as well as an essential resource for local communities who depend on its supply of fish and other protein for their survival. Since African Parks took over management of the park in 2008, there has been a strong recovery of some of the wetlands’ most iconic wildlife, including the magnificent and prehistoric-looking shoebill stork, and two species of antelope – the sitatunga and black lechwe. Black lechwe are listed as Endangered and are only found in Bangweulu, but our most recent aerial survey results indicate that this charismatic antelope is on the rise. The population is now estimated to be around 50,000, up from 35,000 in 2013, which is an astounding 40 percent increase.

At African Parks, we take the long view. We have to – it’s the only way to ensure that these parks will continue to function, provide needed ecological and human benefits, and deliver their intrinsic but also financial value long into the future. This is where community livelihoods along with tourism play a major role. In November, we secured an agreement with Norman Carr Safaris to manage a high-end lodge in

Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia which will be constructed in the course of 2016. This will bring additional resources, opportunities, and visibility to this magnificent, although lesser-known park, which hosts the second largest wildebeest migration in all of Africa.

In Odzala-Kokoua National Park, in the Republic of Congo, home to over 22,000 gorillas, we made great progress in the habituation programme being led by three primatologists, with the aim of having one of four groups (of about 20 gorillas) habituated by the end of 2016. This initiative will support the very much needed community-based tourism to the park. We also launched our mobile medical unit in August, which in just four short months has reached and treated more than 500 community members living in the area; where we are focusing primarily on malaria, and delivering medications that save lives.

Our three-year run of not having lost one known elephant to poaching was sadly broken in 2015 in Zakouma National Park, in Chad. In one incident two adult females were poached, which also resulted in the death of a calf, and in the second incident, a bull was poached bringing the toll to four for the year. Despite this setback, we have still maintained positive growth overall for this once annihilated population, with multiple calves being born in 2015 and the herd now approaching our short-term target of 500 animals. Also for the first time, wild dogs made an appearance near the park – a sign of not only this species’ resilience but also of the safe harbouring the park provides. Camp Nomade, our nomadic tourist offering, opened to rave reviews and we look forward to it generating revenue in the months to come.

One of our newest parks Chinko, in the Central African Republic (CAR), which was taken under management in late 2014, is both our largest site and one of the most expansive remaining uninhabited wild areas in all of Africa. Remarkable progress was made in 2015 with the construction of the headquarters and in securing a core protection zone, a 100,000 hectare area within the park, with effective law enforcement and patrolling being done systematically for the first time. The intention is to keep poachers and cattle herders out of this area, and as a result, we're seeing resident wildlife utilising this "safe zone", including elephant, giant eland, buffalo, bongo, chimps and duikers, in just one year. Our plans in 2016 are to replicate this by securing yet another 100,000 hectare zone, doubling our impact in creating safe areas for the remaining wildlife. Our footprint extends, as it always does, beyond wildlife and wild areas – African Parks is the second largest employer in all of the CAR, and a stabilising force in the entire region.

We also made excellent progress on new parks with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Ennedi in Chad, which has already been granted Protected Area status in this magnificent part of the Sahel-Sahara; early operations in Gambella, Ethiopia, including the collaring of another 56 animals to help us get a better understanding of this huge ecosystem; and the approval of Shaba and Buffalo Springs in Kenya by our Board.

The goal is to conclude signed mandates for all three new parks in 2016, formally integrating them into the African Parks portfolio, increasing our footprint, and getting us closer to our goal of 20 parks.

At the end of each calendar year, we take stock, reflect, and also give thanks to our most steadfast supporters and partners. While we're looking back at what we accomplished, what challenged us and even what we lost, it's also the time to look ahead, to formulate a view of what could be, in order to chart a path to get there. And what we are aiming towards, our vision, is 20 parks by 2020. It is aspirational, but also achievable, if the right components align. Africa's wildlife, its wilderness, and the people who depend on it, require our joint commitment. Our wins are your wins, and we know you feel the losses as well. We could not do the work we do if it weren't for your incredible ongoing support and partnership, and for that, I extend on behalf of everyone at African Parks, our deepest thanks, as well as our gratitude for continuing with us along our journey into 2016 and beyond.

**Peter Fearnhead**

CEO African Parks Network



Local communities in Bangweulu, Zambia, depend heavily on fish for their survival – **Burrard-Lucas**



Tourist destination Camp Nomade opened to great acclaim in Zakouma, Chad, in 2015 – **African Parks**



Akagera in Rwanda saw the return of lions in 2015 after a 20-year absence – **Adam Bannister**



# Institutional information

As at 31 December 2015

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

## **AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK**

### **Board**

Robert-Jan van Ogtrop (Chairman)  
Mavuso Msimang  
Rosette Rugamba  
The Honourable James Lembeli  
Valentine Chitalu  
Peter Fearnhead (CEO)

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Andrea Heydlauff (Director, Communications)  
Andrew Parker (Joint Operations Director, Anglophone)  
Ayesha Jackaria (Chief Financial Controller)  
Jean Marc Froment (Conservation Director)  
Leon Lamprecht (Joint Operations Director, Francophone)

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PBO No: 930028082

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### *Executive Management*

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Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Congo – *Michael Viljoen*

Hon Chief Justice Anastasia Msosa  
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Kampamba Kombe (ZAWA)  
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Samy Mankoto  
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Leon Lamprecht  
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Ahmat Hassan  
Ahmat Siam  
Amir Adoudou Artine  
Carlo Paolini  
Djimet Mahamat  
Gilles Desesquelles  
Jean Marc Froment  
Mahamat Ali Hassan  
Mahamat Zakaria  
Modjingar Kladoumbaye  
Senoussi Djimet



# Conservation at Scale

**The theme of this Annual Report is to showcase our impact now, where we have come from, and where we aspire to be. Since 2003 when we assumed management of the first park, Majete, in Malawi (See: The Transformation of Majete), African Parks has brought under management 10 parks in seven countries amounting to over six million hectares. Under this current portfolio, we are protecting more than 15,000 elephants, we have the largest counter-poaching force under one non-governmental organisation in Africa, and in some places we are not just one of the largest employers, but the only stabilising**

**force in the region. We are preserving some of the largest migrations in the world, and bringing back species that were once locally extirpated.**

**O**ur parks create jobs, support schools and health clinics, and provide living examples of restoration and hope in some of the most unlikely places on the planet. Our 2020 vision is to bring 20 parks under management, protecting more than 10 million hectares. African Parks has been scaling up, replicating and expanding our impact with every new park addition, and every injection of resources – human and financial – into each park we currently manage, and we are poised to nearly double our impact in the next few years.

Making an impact at scale is a common theme within the non-profit sector. There is not one way to measure scale, and debates ensue about impact, how to measure it, how to “scale-up” – and has largely been driven by donors questioning the impact of their investment, understanding the returns, and pushing

## ABUNDANCE AND BIODIVERSITY

African Parks has a track record in restocking, reintroducing and reinvigorating once empty landscapes into thriving natural ecosystems that deliver needed benefits to local communities. The 2,500 animals that were reintroduced over a 10-year period into Majete starting in 2003 comprised of 14 species. Fast-forward to 2015, and plans are underway to translocate up to 500 elephants from Majete and Liwonde (parks that are now at capacity for elephants, of which the former had none until 70 were moved there by African Parks in 2006) to Nkhotakota, an empty park poised for rebirth. And in 2015, African Parks brought seven lions back to Rwanda after an almost 20-year absence since being hunted out after cattle herders returned from the genocide. As the lions were sourced from South Africa, it was also arguably the longest wild lion translocation in conservation history.

While the reintroduction of founder populations of indigenous species is a feature of the African Parks model, protected areas also benefit simply by being well-managed. Effective management results in the restoration of habitats, growth in wildlife populations and the general turnaround of the parks. All the parks in our portfolio undertake large-scale aerial surveys, commonly every two years, to estimate wildlife numbers and distribution, which provides a baseline for conservation strategies and ensures our efforts are having the needed impacts. We undertake extensive collaring exercises by wildlife vet specialists to protect and track the range of animals during seasonal and migratory periods. Species currently fitted with satellite devices across the parks include elephant, buffalo, rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, giraffe, hyaena, wild dog, wildebeest, lechwe, roan antelope, hartebeest, kudu and white-eared kob. Some of these species take part in three of the largest animal mass-migrations: wildebeest in Liuwa, wattled cranes in Bangweulu Wetlands, and white-eared kob in Gambella.

African Parks supports research by local and international academics and graduate students in the field, efforts that inform our own conservation objectives and the identification and mitigation of threats. In Odzala, home to 22,000 gorillas, our five-year gorilla habituation programme is being led by three primatologists and is designed to complement the best gorilla viewing experience in central Africa. This initiative will help support the very much needed community-based tourism in the park to the benefit of surrounding communities.



for more. And for good reason. In conservation, we have few options but to deliver our interventions over larger areas. By adding new sites, or expanding the capacity of existing ones, we know we can protect more wildlife, save more habitats, and positively affect more peoples' lives in terms of economics, health, and education. For conservation in Africa, we have to expand our reach. The threats are too many, and the consequences too catastrophic if we don't.

Since its inception in 2000, the African Parks management and operational model has placed the organisation in a strategic position to undertake

conservation at a large scale in Africa. Indeed, the urgency of saving wildlife and their habitats has directed donors towards supporting large-scale management initiatives that affect entire landscapes. However, there is more to scale than spatial geography and temporal frames. Scale also requires consideration of wildlife range, abundance, and diversity, as well as strategic partnerships with governments, funders, communities and other stakeholders. African Parks has understood this from the beginning, and ensures that management is aimed at achieving long-term sustainability, at scale, by working alongside local communities to improve livelihoods as a result of park policies.

## A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION



A male lion in Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi. Prior to 2003, the park was devoid of most wildlife but today includes lions, elephants, rhinos, leopards and thousands of other animals – **Morgan Trimble**

Majete Wildlife Reserve, situated in the Lower Shire Valley within Africa's Great Rift Valley, was depleted of wildlife when African Parks assumed management in 2003. Scouts had been under-resourced and inadequately trained, and elephants had been poached to local extinction in the 1980s. It was a "paper park" in every sense – one that existed only in name and on a map, but which afforded no real protection, resulting in an empty forest. Over a 10-year period, African Parks restocked the reserve with more than 2,500 animals, including species that make up the Big Five (elephant, lion, leopard, rhino and buffalo) and other historically occurring species. Rigorous law enforcement was implemented, as well as rural community engagement and development. Today, the reserve is home to more than 8,000 animals, not one rhino has been poached since 2003 nor one elephant since 2006, and it is widely regarded as one of Malawi's leading wildlife sanctuaries and a shining example of how an area can be restored, and flourish once again.

Majete's restoration illustrates the scale and complexity of the initiatives implemented by African Parks, and the results that have followed illustrate the benefits to local conservation and communities. Employment continues to rise as a result of park operations – including infrastructural developments, ecotourism, and community programmes – which have positively impacted the 21 surrounding villages and tens of thousands of local people. Every year, almost seven percent of deaths in Malawi are malaria-related (Source: World Bank), so in 2014, a state-of-the-art malaria research and prevention centre was built with funding from African Parks with the goal of reducing malaria by 80 percent in surrounding communities by the end of 2018. In 2015, African Parks conducted studies across 5,000 households as a first step in determining sustainable, community-based mitigation and prevention strategies to help hit our goal, and save human lives. The story of Majete is one of restoration, bringing back wildlife, and impacting human lives. It is conservation done at a scale that matters – for Malawi, and the people and animals who live there.



## COMMUNITIES

In order for protected areas to survive they need to be valued by local communities, and to be valued, communities need to benefit economically. African Parks partners with local authorities and traditional leaders to ensure conservation brings economic opportunities and security to regions around the parks, engaging with them through a range of communication mechanisms and representative bodies. Our aim is to initiate project interventions that can be developed into enterprise and business opportunities. Through our investment in value chains, capacity building and skills transfer, communities are able to extract sustainable benefits. From addressing and mitigating human-wildlife conflict to empowerment through education, improving livelihoods, and developing mechanisms through which conservation and tourism impact positively on communities, we foster tangible and emotional ownership by communities surrounding the parks.

One of the main priorities for local people is job creation and African Parks is one of the main employers in the regions where we operate. Each park employs between 80 and 250 local community members in park operations. Plus, for every tourism bed provided, three direct jobs are added. Local community members benefit from temporary employment, often in maintenance or construction, such as in Chinko, where 330 workers were hired in 2015 to construct bricks, excavate stone, and build roads and river crossings. African Parks

also supports small business development and the sustainable use of natural resources, typically fish, for consumptive use and income generation.

We advance formal education through scholarships, environmental education programmes and provision of teachers' salaries, school supplies, and technological equipment. We also improve social service infrastructure, particularly through the construction of schools, classrooms, and medical clinics. The malaria centre in Majete is one of our major innovations, while the Nagero Hospital just outside Garamba sees salaries and operating costs funded by African Parks, allowing for the provision of medical care to more than 6,000 patients every year.

We utilise Community Development Funds wherein a percentage of overall park revenue (five to 15 percent) is committed to local communities and used for projects they identify – like health, education or infrastructure repair measures. In addition, an Anti-Poaching Fund – set up in many of our parks and linked to the cessation of poaching and other illegal activities – makes monthly payments to communities for projects of their choice.

In 2015, African Parks contributed an estimated US\$11.4 million to local communities in the form of salaries for employees and contract staff, the local purchasing of services and supplies, and community funds. For the three-year period 2012 to 2015, the total amounted to an estimated US\$40 million. The scale of the African Parks-driven conservation economy is irrefutable.

## A MAJOR LEARNING CURVE



An Elephant School in Zakouma, Chad – *Jean Labuschagne*

The Elephant School Programme at Zakouma National Park, in Chad, which began in 2013, provides educational opportunities in a country where literacy rates for Chadians under the age of 24 are at 52 percent (Source: UNESCO). The schools get their name from being located in elephant corridors, as well as having curricula that are guided by a strong conservation ethos in a region where communities play a vital role in protecting the park's expanding elephant herd.

Three of the eight planned schools have been built to date in Goz Djarat and Ibir, two towns outside the park, providing 507 junior students and 159 senior school students with educational facilities. Two hostels, 13 teachers' houses, and a football pitch have also been constructed. Zakouma provides school furniture and funds the salaries of six teachers plus the cost of learning materials. The programme aims to complete the remaining schools by 2018.

## THE BUSINESS OF SUSTAINABLE FISH



In 2015, despite the very dry conditions, the value of the fish trade in Bangweulu's six chiefdoms totalled US\$6 million – **Morgan Trimble**

In 2012, research conducted by the management team at Bangweulu Wetlands confirmed that the sustainability of the fisheries in the six chiefdoms that make up Bangweulu Wetlands were threatened by increased population growth. About 50,000 people in the area are dependent on the fisheries for their livelihood. Twenty-four community members were recruited to form a Fisheries Committee in the chiefdom of Chiundaponde, which outlined regulations in accordance with the Fisheries Act and technical advice provided by the Bangweulu team. The priority areas were: the introduction of an annual, three-month “closed” season to enable fish to breed, banning the use of mosquito nets, limiting access for outsiders and advancing the importance of education to develop other skills and reduce dependency on fishing for income. The Fisheries Committee also played a key role in educating the communities in Chiundaponde on fishing issues. The first annual closed season was implemented in 2013, with noticeable increases in fish stocks after each closed season (particularly catfish) and an improved compliance from fishermen with each year. In 2015, despite the very dry conditions, the value of the fish trade in Chiundaponde was approximately US\$1 million and a total of US\$6 million for all six chiefdoms. Following the successful implementation of sustainable fishing in Chiundaponde, the Bangweulu team will replicate the strategy in other areas.



## INSIGHT INTO INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction and upgrades of infrastructure provide the foundation of park management. Key projects to date include:

A 400 km road network, **144 km** perimeter fence, **16** bridge crossings, **44** scout accommodation units, a safari lodge and a visitors' centre and the malaria research camp in Majete.

Start on a **140 km** electrified perimeter fence at Liwonde.

A **17,000 ha** wildlife sanctuary at Nkhotakota.

Park headquarters, two bridges, an airstrip, **19** scout houses, two bush camps and a campsite in Bangweulu.

Park headquarters, an electrified **120 km** boundary fence, a ranger-training facility, four management houses, a research and volunteer unit, a safari lodge, a mobile camp, three campsites, and a visitors' centre in Akagera.

Park headquarters, a communications control room, a rapid response facility, **three** hangars, **two** forward operating bases, **two** repeaters and **two** observation posts, **40** rangers' houses and a safari lodge in Garamba.

Clearing of **42 km** of roads twice a year in Odzala.

Production of **250,000** bricks on site for building projects in Chinko.

**Eight** bush airstrips, an all-weather airstrip, VHF repeater towers, stables, a radio room, a domestic campsite, a mobile camp and the renovation of a safari lodge in Zakouma.



Infrastructure development is a key component of park management. In Chinko, CAR, 250,000 bricks were produced on site for building projects – **Brent Stirton**

## BOOTS ON THE GROUND

African Parks has the largest counter-poaching force under one non-governmental organisation across Africa, and it is the only conservation organisation on the continent responsible for all aspects of the counter-poaching efforts in the protected areas it manages. We currently employ and deploy approximately 600 highly-trained and equipped rangers\* in the field. All are trained in paramilitary techniques, and in Garamba, rangers are trained in full military techniques. In addition, there are three elite Mamba Rapid Response teams, so named for the fast-moving and lethal snake.

When we assume management of a park, rangers are often untrained, unmotivated, ill-equipped, lack uniforms, and are poorly disciplined. Insufficient funding and lack of expertise and motivation has often limited the number and range of patrol activities. The government seconds law enforcement personnel to the project, we train them (on an ongoing basis), arm and equip them, foster an *esprit de corps*, remunerate them, and deploy them, extending both range and efficiencies. Deployments include foot, vehicle, aerial, horse, boat, motorbike, and bicycle patrols, as well as species-specific patrols, the manning of control posts around parks and the implementation of dedicated investigative missions. To supply the best intelligence, we set up extensive informant networks in communities surrounding the parks. Our communications systems and control rooms utilise sophisticated technology to allow our law enforcement personnel to operate safely and proactively.

Our “boots on the ground” approach results in securing not only parks themselves, but in increasing the security of entire regions, to the benefit of local communities.

## GEOGRAPHICAL AND TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTIONS

Typically, African Parks seeks to manage national parks and wildlife reserves 500 km<sup>2</sup> or greater in size, and which include a range of biomes, or habitat types. The national parks and protected areas under African Parks’ management include seven of the 15 recognised biomes, and amount to a total of six million hectares of land under protection that has been rehabilitated or is in the process of being rehabilitated.

Chinko in the Central African Republic (CAR), at 17,600 km<sup>2</sup>, qualifies as the largest protected area for which we have a mandate.\*\* It is a vast, largely uninhabited wilderness of rich biodiversity, making it a significant opportunity for unparalleled large-scale conservation. The potential rewards are matched by the challenges; once a wildlife paradise teeming with animals – including thousands of elephants, buffalo and lions – Chinko has been decimated since 1986 by rampant ivory and bushmeat poachers, predominantly Sudanese militia and herdsmen. African Parks has always had a long-term

perspective and this is particularly relevant in Chinko where we have our longest mandate of a 50-year commitment. We are working to turn this landscape around, and in just one year, we began patrolling and secured a 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> core protection zone, with plans to double this in 2016.

At the other end of the spatial spectrum is 548 km<sup>2</sup> Liwonde National Park in Malawi. Although small in size, it protects the largest elephant population in Malawi (roughly 800 individuals), a scale consideration in its own right. Liwonde illustrates that spatial and impact scales are not always synchronised and that African Parks takes on geographically smaller projects when the conservation impact is disproportionately favourable.

On a temporal scale we endeavour to secure long-term mandates from our government partners, usually signing management agreements for 20 years or more with the right to renew. Given the strong locally-appointed boards in place, the participation of key stakeholders in the management of the park, and the financial accountability mechanisms in place, it is likely that government partners will wish to continue the successful formula already put in place at the end of the contract period. The fact that governments enter into agreements with African Parks to manage multiple parks in their countries – as is the case in Malawi, Zambia and now Chad – is testimony to the scale of our conservation and community development results.

## COLLABORATIONS ARE KEY

In all our protected areas, we act as a managing agent bringing together donors, stakeholders, and resources from across the globe. This includes liaising with conservation and commercial management experts, government partners, wildlife authorities, local police and courts, traditional leaders and local communities, as well as coordinating financial and staffing resources across a vast area. Our collaborative approach includes dialogue, engagement, participation and an integration of knowledge and values into the management and operational plan for each park. We also partner with other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on compatible programmes and areas of synergy, commonly for specific conservation initiatives and to advance the socio-economic development of local communities.

## SYSTEMS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

More than 1,400 people are employed permanently by African Parks. Of the total complement, approximately 600 are law enforcement personnel. The vast remainder are employed in park management functions such as financial accounting, administrative, hospitality, community engagement, and logistics positions.

Each park is a separate business unit and legal entity, managed and operated by an African Parks-appointed management team, headed by a park manager. Appointments are based on skills and experience.

\* Rangers are also known as law enforcement officers, scouts and guards.

\*\* Ennedi, where African Parks has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chadian Government to assess its potential as a protected area, is 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size.



Each park management unit is responsible for compiling detailed business plans, determining capital investments, operating costs, and income levels every year. Each has its own set of accounts and auditors; and every park has its own Board of Directors comprised of notable local individuals appointed by African Parks.

The African Parks head office is located in Johannesburg, where there is a small executive team of seven, along with 13 other staff. African Parks controls all donor funds to the organisation and specific parks, as per donor agreements, and we are accountable to donors and governments alike for effective and transparent management. Every year, African Parks' group financial statements and performance are audited independently. At an organisational level, African Parks Network is the strategic decision-making entity for the organisation while two sister organisations in The Netherlands and America function as key partnership and fundraising entities.

### THE FINANCING FACTORS: FUNDERS AND REVENUE

There is a high price to conserving large habitats and protecting endangered species in Africa. The reality is that biodiversity riches are often to be found in poor, remote, strife-ridden areas, warranting significant financial resources to secure and protect them.

Protected area management and the growth of the portfolio of land under our protection are entirely donor-dependent. The growing recognition, track record, and impact of African Parks has resulted in a continual increase in donor funding to the organisation; in 2015, US\$18 million was raised. A large part of the overhead costs of the organisation are covered by endowment income.

The current donor base includes: institutions, foundations, high net-worth individuals, lotteries, other conservation organisations, governments, multilateral institutions and corporates. Currently, our donor base is located predominantly in Europe (largely in The Netherlands and Belgium) and the USA (Mid Atlantic and north-eastern regions). We are poised

to further strengthen our strategic fundraising efforts through expansion into new geographic territories and the launch of a new donor fundraising and management system.

Park revenue also contributes to funding and has increased to over US\$2.2 million in 2015. However, most new projects do not generate income in the short term and protected areas in remote conflict areas often remain donor-reliant for the long term. Akagera, Majete and Zakouma are the primary contributors to tourism revenue, with a combined tourism revenue of US\$1.8 million in 2015.

### THE SIZE OF THE BUDGET

African Parks is extremely fortunate to have an endowment provided by the organisation's founder, Paul Fentener Van Vlissingen. Thanks to this extraordinary gift, in addition to the generosity of some of our other donors, 100 percent of donations go directly to the parks where they have the greatest impact. While we are growing and scaling our operations, our overhead has remained lean at 12 percent of the total group spending of US\$24 million in 2015. Our goal is to remain nimble, efficient, and ensure that the allocation of resources is done in the most effective and impactful way possible, to continue to deliver results needed on the ground. The annual operating budget for each park in 2015 varies between US\$1.2 million to US\$2 million. However, for those faced with extraordinary challenges, such as Garamba National Park in the DRC, which is facing an onslaught of poachers from North and South Sudan and the Lord's Resistance Army, the annual budget for that park alone can stretch to as high as US\$5 million. This figure includes nearly half a million dollars needed in law enforcement salaries, as well as the steep costs of simply running a helicopter even once it is owned outright, which amounts to approximately US\$760,000 a year. We work to allocate our funding towards our most important priorities, and to combat the most pressing threats. That is a promise we make to realise our vision, and to deliver on our commitment to our donors and partners, without whom none of this would be possible.

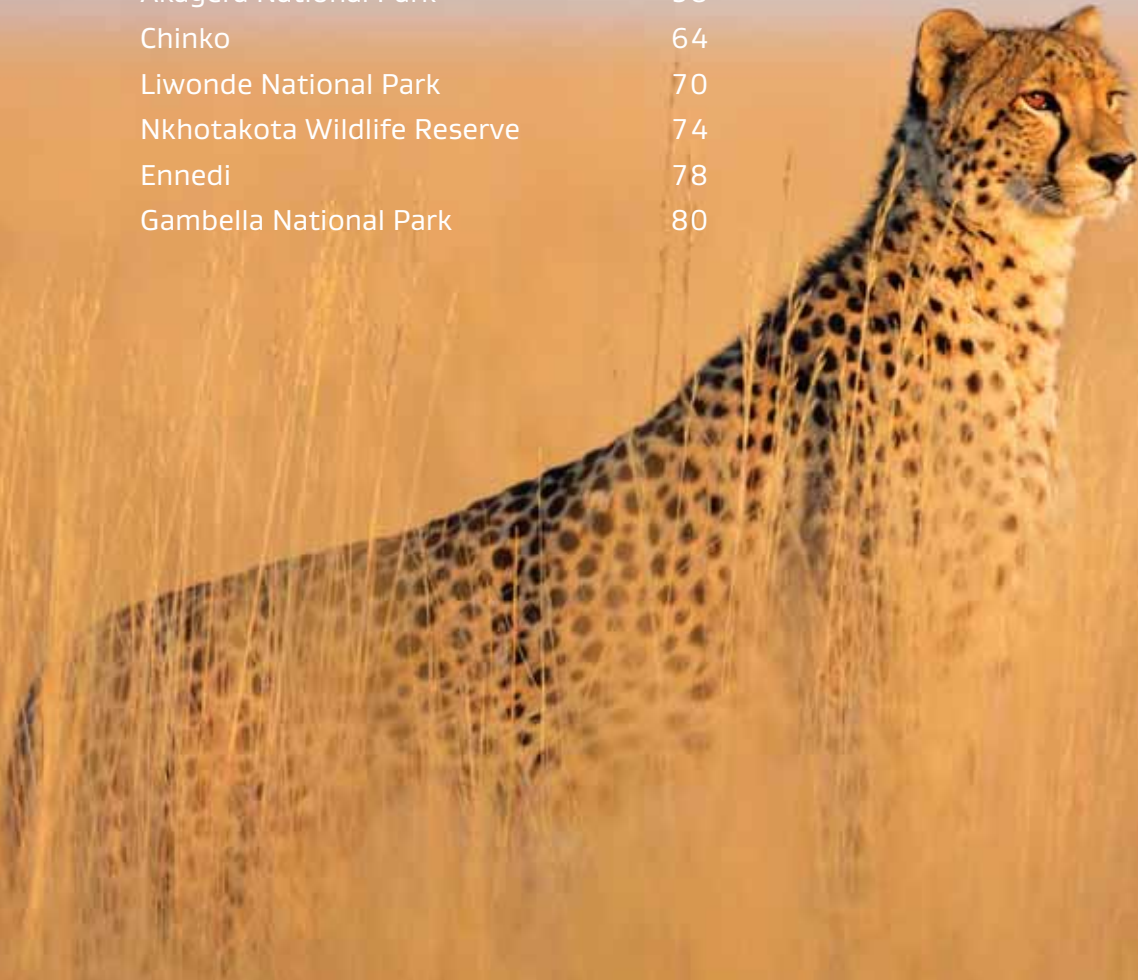
## CONCLUSION

African Parks has come a long way since our inception in the year 2000 and from when management was granted in 2003 of the first, and now a flagship park, Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi. We have remained focused, and slowly and steadily climbed to where we are today spanning 10 protected areas in seven countries, proving the model, learning from our failures while replicating the successes. What allows us to quickly decipher what is working, or more importantly what is not, lies rooted in our philosophy and our mandate of taking on the complete and total management of a park or protected area, and being 100 percent accountable.

We are at an exciting and important point where we can see a near future that envisions 10 million hectares, almost double our current portfolio, of wild landscapes under management in Africa. This amounts to protecting tens of thousands of elephants with the largest counter-poaching force for any one NGO in the world, a force who also provides safe harbour to local communities living around those parks. This vision includes landscapes where rhinos and lions and other iconic species once recently extirpated are rebounding; and where we see flourishing parks whose economic value has been unlocked, impacting the countless people living in these places for years to come. This is conservation at scale.

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## Majete Wildlife Reserve

Malawi



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

**SINCE 2003**

**700 km<sup>2</sup>**

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Malawi Department of National Parks  
and Wildlife (DNPW)

**0**

RHINO POACHED SINCE 2003

**81**

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

DONNA AND MARVIN SCHWARTZ WERE  
THE MAJOR FUNDERS OF MAJETE IN 2015







Elephants drinking from the water's edge in Majete, Malawi – *John Dickens*





Craig Hay,  
Park Manager

**Majete ended its thirteenth year with its streak of zero poaching incidents of rhino and elephant intact. As Majete reaches a level of maturity uncommon among African protected areas, it seeks to find new ways to sustain park operations and enhance the surrounding community while maintaining its reputation for absolute wildlife security.**

### PARK MANAGEMENT

In January, Patricio Ndadzela, Majete's Park Manager, moved into the role of Country Director for Malawi, and Craig Hay, previously the Majete Field Operations Manager, assumed the position of Park Manager.

Many of the park infrastructure projects focused on tourist-related enhancements, while others fell under the category of general upkeep. A viewing platform was built on Hall Martin Drive, a viewing deck and rest shelter were erected at Kapichira Falls, and construction began on a swimming pool at the Day Visitor Centre.

Heavy rains and flooding early in the year caused substantial damage to roads and fencing, necessitating the reconstruction of four road drifts and two of the Nyala loop roads. The swing bridge access to Mkulamadzi Lodge washed away twice and had to be replaced, and the boat jetty on the Shire River was permanently relocated due to changes in the river bank. The 144 km perimeter fence was patrolled twice daily throughout the year to check for damage. Ongoing fence maintenance work included chemical weeding, erosion control measures and the replacement of 100 fence posts and over 800 metres of fencing.

Several official delegations visited the reserve to gain first-hand experience of the African Parks model. Visitors included: the Minister of Natural Resources,



The lioness "Shire" gave birth to two cubs – **Brigitte Denis**



Two rhino calves were born in 2015 – **Cherie Uys**



Majete is situated in the Lower Shire Valley, a section of Africa's Great Rift Valley in Malawi – **John Dickens**

Energy and Mining; a group from the US House of Representatives; government officials from Isiolo County in Kenya; members from the Malawi Parliamentary Conservation Caucus; and the Board of the Public Private Partnership Commission.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Overall, Majete maintained its exemplary law enforcement record. The law enforcement team was equipped with new uniforms, tents and GPS units to support field operations. Patrol efforts included 119 long patrols (four days in length) and 2,384 one-day patrols. The number of anti-poaching operations increased from six to 16, resulting in the recovery of stolen solar panels in a cross-border collaboration with Mozambique, along with 27 arrests for the illegal possession of bushmeat, trespassing, illegal fishing and wire theft. A range of weapons and poaching equipment were confiscated, including 13 gin traps, five muzzle-loading guns, and numerous wire snares and fishing nets. Seven new scouts were recruited in

November and underwent a three-week mentorship programme. The new recruits brought the total number of scouts to 36.

### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

For a reserve that began with depleted populations of all major species, Majete's turnaround story continues to be a source of pride for African Parks. More than 8,800 animals were counted in an aerial game census at the end of September – a number in utter contrast with the original figure of 250 animals in 2003. Elephant numbers increased to over 389, as did the buffalo population, the latter having grown 44 percent from 2012 figures to 1,319 individuals. The elephant population has become so robust as to warrant translocation of up to 200 elephants from Majete to Nkhatakota as part of one of the largest elephant translocations in history.

Daily monitoring of the park's black rhinos continued, with two dedicated tracking teams completing 656 patrols.



The law enforcement team confiscated a range of weapons and poaching equipment in 2015, including 13 gin traps, five muzzle-loading guns, and numerous wire snares and fishing nets – **Morgan Trimble**



Two rhino calves were born – a male and a female – while one rhino was ear-notched for identification and monitoring purposes. The park's five adult lions continue to thrive, with the female known as "Shire" giving birth to two cubs. A number of the nine resident leopards were seen and captured on camera traps throughout the year.

The Majete Research Programme hosted two post-graduate students from Stellenbosch University in South Africa, who began an elephant demographics study, as well as an assessment of the impact of the park's community resource harvesting programme. In addition, seven groups of Earthwatch volunteers were hosted during the year.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Majete Malaria Project completed the second year of its five-year programme, and remained the focus of much of the park's community engagement efforts. The goal of the programme is to reduce the malaria incidence by 80 percent and malaria prevalence by 50 percent in the communities surrounding the reserve. Studies across 61 villages and more than 5,000 households were performed to measure the effectiveness of larval-source management and household anti-malarial measures. The results continue to inform the best practices for preventing and mitigating malarial infection rates.

A total of 103 sensitisation meetings took place over the year, reaching more than 5,400 community members. Topics covered included poaching, bushfires and fence vandalism. The meetings also addressed matters relating to community micro-projects, including honey production through the beekeeping clubs. Currently, the park facilitates 23 beekeeping clubs comprising 247 beekeepers. Honey income for the year amounted to about US\$6,000, while income from crafts netted

US\$1,000 – numbers consistent with 2014. The community-run campsite netted US\$6,000 that was used for micro-projects identified by the community, including roofing at two clinics and two schools.

The Majete Scholarship Programme continued to support 100 schoolchildren, along with four university students, funding tuition fees totalling US\$14,000. In addition, the Environmental Education Programme reached 81 schools, with 2,551 children participating in lessons. A total of 28 teachers were trained as wildlife club patrons, and provided with learning and support materials.

### TOURISM

Promotional packages were developed and offered to 300 tour operators. Other initiatives included a promotional stall at the annual Lake of Stars Music Festival and participation in the Blantyre Street Carnival. A new tourism map and promotional brochures were produced, while an advertising signboard was put up at the Chikwawa turnoff at Blantyre.

Articles promoting Majete appeared in a number of publications, including *The Irish Independent*, *The Irish Times* and the Kenya Airways, South African Airways and Malawi Airlines inflight magazines. Coverage was also achieved on Malawian TV, while a radio advert was produced and aired on *Capital Radio* in English and Chichewa.

However, the conditions for tourism growth were challenging. Occupancy at Thawale Lodge averaged 28 percent, the same rate as 2014. Visitor numbers to the reserve dropped slightly from 8,012 to 7,318 with gross revenue totalling US\$368,000 – a seven percent decrease from the previous year. A decline in visitation by resident expatriates appeared to be the underlying cause, and focused efforts to remedy this were



Majete's Environmental Education Programme reached 81 schools with 2,551 children in 2015 – **Horst Klemm**



Over 7,300 tourists experienced the “warm heart of Africa” by meeting with local communities around Majete in 2015  
– **Morgan Trimble**



The US House of Representatives visited Majete in 2015  
– **African Parks**

proposed, including the implementation of walking safaris. The number of Malawian visitors to the reserve dropped by 26 percent compared to 2014, and was most likely due to competition from a new lodge outside the park. Another factor was the significant depreciation of the Malawi kwacha against the US dollar, which negatively impacted the spending power of local residents.

#### OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Drive tourism marketing to achieve gross revenue of US\$468,000.
- Investigate and introduce alternative sources of revenue, including game sales.
- Maintain and improve ageing fence infrastructure through erosion mitigation measures and initiate the annual steel fencing replacement programme.
- Strengthen Majete’s community engagement programme by scaling up viable income generating activities such as beekeeping.



# Liuwa Plain National Park

Zambia



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

**SINCE 2003**

**3,660 km<sup>2</sup>**

## PARTNERS

Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife (formerly ZAWA) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE)

**80**

ARRESTS, LEADING TO 67  
CONVICTIONS AND 56 FINES

**5**

CHEETAH CUBS WERE BORN IN LIUWA  
DURING 2015

THE DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY AND  
WWF-NETHERLANDS WERE THE MAJOR  
FUNDERS OF LIUWA IN 2015



**LIUWA PLAIN**  
NATIONAL PARK

ZAMBIA





A pride of lions in Liuwa, Zambia – *Burrard-Lucas*





Liuwa is home to a variety of antelope species, including wildebeest, zebra, red lechwe and tsessebe – **Burrard-Lucas**



Robert Reid,  
*Park Manager*

A severe drought resulted in major ecological and social challenges in the park, but in spite of this, there was still life and regeneration with the births of five cheetah cubs, an increase in tourism revenue, and the signing of the agreement for the new luxury camp. The Law Enforcement team expanded operations resulting in a substantial increase in poaching-related arrests.

#### PARK MANAGEMENT

One of the most impactful developments of 2015 was the growth of the middle management team with three key positions, including a new community manager, workshop manager and financial accountant. Our partnership with ZAWA during the year continued to strengthen, allowing for progress in many areas. The Forward Operating Base was built in the central area of the park for the Law Enforcement team, providing faster support and access from within the park.

Improvements were made to the road network to aid in the expansion of the “self-drive” tourism market. Significant upgrades were also made to the accommodation units at Matiamanene Camp in anticipation of fly-in tourists through Norman Carr Safaris.



Six hyaena were fitted with GPS collars in 2015 to track their movements – **Burrard-Lucas**

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

The planning, operations, de-briefing and analysing of patrol data has improved to the point that management and patrol teams can better identify, monitor and respond to incidents. The patrol units achieved a total of 9,200 man-days, which included 77 long patrols (10-days in length), 14 short patrols (two to five days), and 34 day-patrols. In addition, there were 24 (10-day) motorbike patrols, and 47 investigative and intelligence-led operations in response to informant reports. These combined efforts resulted in 80 arrests leading to 67 convictions and 56 fines. Confiscations included 30 firearms, 43 rounds of ammunition, hundreds of mosquito nets (used as drag-nets for illegal fishing), 90 wire snares and 600 kilograms of dried bushmeat.

The 16 village scouts hired in the first half of the year completed their training at Chunga Wildlife College in Kafue National Park and joined the team on a



The Law Enforcement team removes a snare from an injured wildebeest – **Burrard-Lucas**



Dutch donor group visiting Liuwa in December 2015 – **African Parks**

permanent basis. In addition, two senior members of the law enforcement team completed training courses at the South African Wildlife College and a third received training in tactical investigations.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The ongoing drought exerted economic and conservation pressures on Liuwa and the 10,000 residents who live within its boundaries. Rainfall figures were extremely low with only 560 millimetres recorded, less than half the normal total. As a result, the flooding of the Zambezi River never occurred and only a handful of the usual 500 water-holding pans held any water at all by the end of the dry season.

These conditions led to an almost total collapse in the traditional fishing industry. Compounded by partial crop failure and the need for protein, snares were set at an alarming daily rate, even within patrolled areas.

The drought also impacted wildebeest movements with herds spending disproportionately more time in the Upper-West Zambezi Game Management Area. Wattled and crowned crane had an extremely low-percent breeding success rate, while Liuwa's red lechwe left earlier than usual for the Luanginga River system and were exposed to poaching activities outside the park. As distressing as the consequences of the drought were to observe, such occurrences are natural in normally functioning ecosystems, and while not immediately apparent, often drive positive long-term changes.



The bi-annual aerial census took place in April, and changes in numbers were expected given the impact of the drought on spatial distribution, impacting the accuracy of population estimates. According to the census results, wildebeest and zebra numbers dropped by 25 percent compared to the previous census carried out in 2013. However, the level of observed statistical variance was extremely high, making it difficult to draw any firm conclusions from these data. A total count is to be conducted in 2016 to get a more accurate number.

Liuwa's lions extended their range substantially and the park's cheetahs continued to do well. Two of the cheetahs had litters, one consisting of a single cub and the other of four cubs; and unofficial reports continued to come in from surrounding communities of sightings of wild dogs outside of the park.

Multiple successful collaring exercises took place in collaboration with the *Zambian Carnivore Project* (ZCP). A combination of VHF/GPS collars and satellite collars were fitted on 12 wildebeest, three lions, three cheetah, two red lechwe, a roan antelope and six hyena.

Efforts to update the Land Use Plan document alongside the General Management Plan for Liuwa are ongoing, along with plans to establish the Liuwa-Mussuma Transfrontier Conservation Area between Zambia and Angola.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community efforts focused on communication and education with a key result being the election of the Community Resource Board (CRB) which was conducted with 10 Village Action Groups (VAG). Meetings were held with Indunas (local chiefs) to address conservation issues within the park and find solutions. The Community Development Fund, which allocates funding for community-chosen projects, closed with a balance of over US\$44,000 to be allocated in 2016. Community projects funded by the Anti-Poaching Fund included the repair and purchase of hammer mills and the dredging of canals. As a result of the drought, the community team distributed more than 100 tons of maize from the *Zambian Government* to residents living in and around the park in an effort to reduce poaching-related activities.

Liuwa's Environmental Education Programme (LEEP), involving a drama festival, conservation lessons and film nights, focused on educating children and adults on the value of conserving wildlife and safeguarding the environment. Thirty-one students were awarded full scholarships under the *African Parks Scholarship Programme*, which provides funding for school and boarding fees, books and uniforms and is highly valued among the local communities.



Over 700 Liuwa students took part in a drama festival and environmental education lessons – *Burrard-Lucas*



Matiamanene Camp offers guests a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of Liuwa – **Burrard-Lucas**

## TOURISM

During 2015, tourism in Liuwa was boosted on both the revenue and development fronts. An agreement was concluded with Norman Carr Safaris to build and operate Mambeti, a new luxury camp, and the company also operated fly-in safari packages to Matiamanene Camp between May and December. A total of 50 guests stayed at Matiamanene during the season, resulting in US\$23,710 in revenue for the park.

Efforts to grow self-drive tourism included distributing information on access, facilities and wildlife through the African Parks website and on social media. The park team's efforts were rewarded with visits by 484 self-drive tourists, a marked increase from 2014. Total tourism revenue for the year ended on US\$106,876, a noteworthy 21 percent gain on tourism income for 2014.

Liuwa's wild dogs were the subject of an episode in the acclaimed BBC documentary series *The Hunt*, filmed in Liuwa in 2013. Several film crews visited the park during 2015, including teams for *The Discovery Channel*, *The Smithsonian Channel* and *The Love Nature Channel*. The park team also hosted a crew

from the *Zambia Broadcasting Corporation* (ZBC TV), a journalist from *Travel Africa Magazine* (UK) and world-renowned photographer, Will Burrard-Lucas.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Support and oversee the construction of Mambeti.
- Conclude the amended park management agreement with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife.
- Incorporate the Upper-West Zambezi Game Management Area into the mandated agreement.
- Complete the General Management Plan in conjunction with the DNPW; develop a new Land Use Plan in collaboration with the DNPW and the BRE.
- Complete a total aerial survey to verify wildebeest and zebra numbers and inform a protection strategy.
- Secure purchase of a new office, workshop site and staff housing site.



## Garamba National Park

Democratic Republic  
of Congo (DRC)

AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

SINCE 2005

National Park: **4,900 km<sup>2</sup>**

Domaines de Chasse: **7,527 km<sup>2</sup>**

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Institut Congolais pour la Conservation  
de la Nature (ICCN)

8

MEN LOST THEIR LIVES, KILLED BY  
ELEPHANT POACHERS

6,100

PATIENTS TREATED AT  
AFRICAN PARKS-FUNDED  
NAGERO HOSPITAL

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE WILDCAT  
FOUNDATION WERE MAJOR FUNDERS OF  
GARAMBA IN 2015







Two elephants in Garamba, DRC – *Jean Labuschagne*





Garamba's resident kob antelope are on the rise – *Jean Labuschagne*



Jean Marc Froment,  
*Acting Park Manager*

Erik Mararv,  
*Park Manager*

**Garamba remains one of Africa's most highly threatened parks. Its remote, diverse habitat is ideally suited for elephants and an easy target for poachers and militarised rebel groups. 2015 was marred by the tragic deaths of eight law enforcement personnel, killed by poachers in three separate incidents, and the loss of 107 elephants to poaching. Still, the resolve of African Parks' team and the rangers on the ground remained steadfast. A new management agreement was negotiated – reaffirming African Parks' commitment to the park and its surrounding community and security collaborations were formed with the Congolese Army and the African Union Regional Task Force with support from AFRICOM and MONUSCO.**

## PARK MANAGEMENT

Infrastructure developments to advance anti-poaching efforts included the construction of Rapid Response Facility: sleeping quarters for 10 men, an armoury, a briefing and debriefing area, a weapon-cleaning station and a store area for ranger equipment. Other security-related projects included the completion of the helicopter hangar, improvements to the workshop, the construction of an undercover carport, and upgrades to the control room.

Communications upgrades included the installation of a new digital VHF radio network with GPS-tracking capabilities, providing the park team with coverage throughout the core area. Three repeaters were installed on Bagunda and Bawesi hills, as well as at the Nagero headquarters. The repeater sites at Bagunda and Bawesi will also serve as observation posts, and a forward operating base was installed at Bagunda where an all-terrain transport vehicle is now based year-round to support ranger teams, irrespective of flooding conditions. Two additional security observation posts were constructed in the southern sector of the park.

While the focus was on infrastructure development to support law enforcement, other management efforts included a socio-economic study of the greater Garamba Complex, to serve as a foundation for future land-use planning and zonation. The park also hosted more than 180 official visitors during the year. Delegations included members of the collaborating



Garamba is on the frontlines of the elephant poaching crisis and tremendous efforts were made in 2015 to increase patrol efficacy  
– *Jerome Starkey/The Times*

armed forces, the Vice Prime Minister of the DRC, the Governor of Kisangani, and the Director General of the ICCN.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Despite a very challenging year marked by the devastating deaths of eight men (five rangers and three members of the Congolese Army assisting with patrols), who lost their lives fighting elephant poachers, morale remained high among the dedicated protectors of Garamba. The death of their colleagues has intensified their desire to capture and prosecute the poachers that plague Garamba. Due to being on the frontlines of the elephant poaching crisis, additional international attention on Garamba has brought more resources to bear on park protection, including the formalisation of ongoing support from the Congolese military (FARDC).

Statistics for the year reveal the scale of law enforcement operations necessary to sustain park operations. A total of 369 long patrols (nine days in length) and 47 short patrols (three days) were

conducted, during which 45 arrests were made and 31 pieces of ivory, 14 firearms and 229 rounds of ammunition were confiscated. There were 28 encounters with poachers, resulting in the eight deaths and two rangers wounded. The African Parks helicopter, which came under heavy fire in one of the three fatal attacks, continued to be a vital tool in anti-poaching efforts, with over 50 hours spent on tactical infiltration of poaching terrain alone.

Following a poaching incident by an unidentified helicopter that resulted in the slaughter of eight elephants, an early warning system was put in place at strategic control posts. High-quality optical equipment was also purchased for use at the posts to boost the detection range for unauthorised aircraft.

Ongoing skills advancement of rangers continued. The entire Garamba ranger team underwent refresher training while 30 rangers were selected and trained for the elite, rapid response “Mamba” and reconnaissance teams. Rangers were also trained in helicopter protocols, including ascent and descent techniques. In addition, all teams were equipped with satellite tracking devices





Director General of the ICCN (Pasteur Cosma Wilungula), Scientific Director of the ICCN (Jeff Mapilanga), CEO of African Parks (Peter Fearnhead), Park Manager (Erik Marav) and Assistant Park Manager (Ghislain Somba)  
– **African Parks**

that provided two-way communication between the operations room and the men on patrol. Another introduction was the installation of Spidertracks for the park aircraft, a real-time tracking alert that enables pilots to send emergency signals.

### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

At least 107 elephants were poached in the Garamba Complex during the course of the year. The local population is estimated to be approximately 1,300.

In addition to the law enforcement steps taken to enhance their protection, an additional 11 elephants were fitted with GPS collars in 2015, bringing the total to 26.

On a more positive note, Garamba's other resident mammal species continued to enjoy gradual growth. Included among these were kob, hartebeest, waterbuck, warthog, and roan antelope, and significant efforts are underway to protect the remaining 36 Kordofan giraffes that remain in not just Garamba, but all of the DRC.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings took place every month between the park and traditional authorities, and a committee was established to ensure that local communities were kept abreast of park issues and developments.

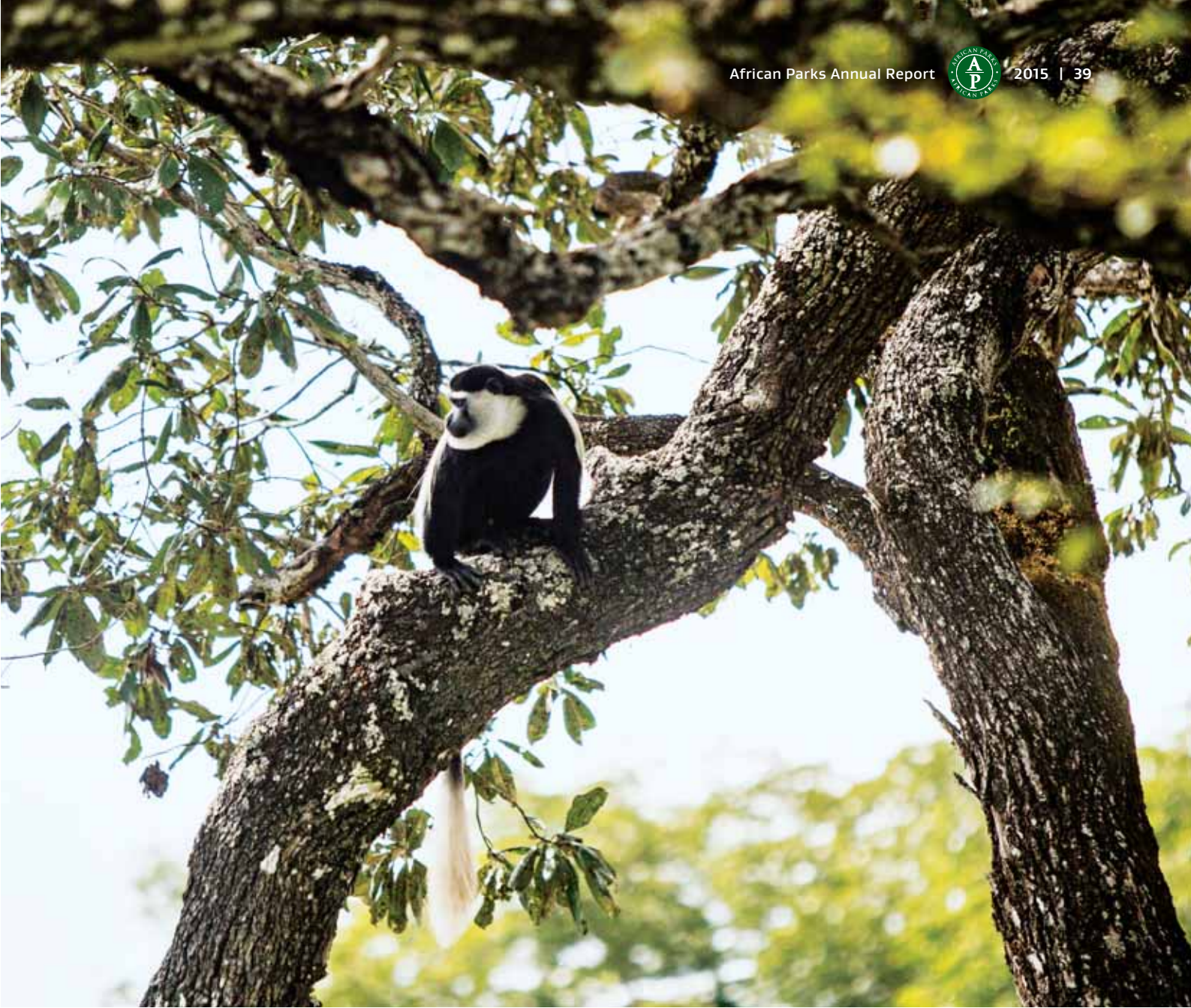
Education continued to be a key focus of community engagement efforts. Twenty-five nature clubs were set up at schools outside the park and more than 1,500 adults and children participated in conservation "movie nights". In collaboration with the regional education department, a total of 18 conservation-themed debates were held in the four major towns surrounding the park, each attended by about 750 students. The park team also assisted with the transportation and distribution of four tons of textbooks for 20,000 students.

More than 6,100 patients were treated at the Nagero Hospital where operational, staff and medicine costs were funded by African Parks. In addition, 30 families enlisted for family-planning counselling.



Education continued to be a key focus of Garamba's community engagement efforts in 2015 – **Karen Lubbe**





Several primate species occur in the park, including Guereza Colobus – **Jean Labuschagne**

Human-wildlife conflict, involving elephants and hippos, continued to be a challenge with 84 cases recorded over a four-month period alone. Data on the incidents were collected by a French agricultural research centre to inform a set of preventative measures.

Fauna & Flora International supported Garamba's community efforts through provision of micro-credits allocated toward a programme to assist internally-displaced persons in starting small businesses, and in capacity building within the park's community conservation unit.

### TOURISM

A total of 254 people stayed at Garamba Lodge during the year, of which 183 were officials, 60 were donors and tourists, and the remaining 14 were film and media crews.

The deaths of the rangers elicited widespread condemnation in the African and international media

while the comprehensive measures being implemented by African Parks were highlighted in *National Geographic*, *The Times* (UK), the *Washington Post*, *HBO*, *CBS* and *Fox News*. In addition, African Parks published *Garamba: Conservation in Peace & War*, a collectors' edition that chronicles the achievements and challenges in the park over the past 100 years.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Continue to develop an anti-poaching strategy to reduce elephant poaching numbers, with significant input from law enforcement consultants and government resources.
- Implement an informant network around the park and the periphery of the park.
- Construct additional management and ranger accommodations.



## Bangweulu Wetlands

Zambia



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

**SINCE 2008**

**6,000 km<sup>2</sup>**

GOVERNED BY

Bangweulu Wetlands Management Board

PARTNERS

Six Community Resource Boards (CRBs)  
and the Zambia Department of National  
Parks and Wildlife (formerly ZAWA)

**45%**

INCREASE OF BLACK LECHWE  
SINCE 2013

**50%**

MORE HONEY HARVESTED  
THAN IN 2014

WWF-THE NETHERLANDS AND  
WWF-ZAMBIA WERE MAJOR FUNDERS  
OF BANGWEULU WETLANDS IN 2015







Bangweulu's famous black lechwe – *Mike Dexter*





All wildlife populations showed positive growth, especially for black lechwe which increased by 45 percent since 2013 – **Megan Loftie-Eaton**



**Mike Wadge,**  
*Park Manager*

**Bangweulu continued to improve law enforcement through proactive anti-poaching initiatives, resulting in a high number of arrests. Community engagement programmes and awareness meetings encouraged compliance with the annual fishing ban, thereby allowing fish stocks to increase. An aerial survey confirmed an increase in the black lechwe population, the hallmark species of Bangweulu – while tourist numbers also showed significant growth.**

### **PARK MANAGEMENT**

2015 saw many needed infrastructural improvements at Bangweulu with the construction of four new family units of scout housing at Chiundaponde, improvements to the plumbing and sanitation systems, including construction of 14 latrines, structural completion of the Muwele Fish Market, new stables at Nkondo to accommodate the four horses used for patrols, and upgrades to the causeway between Muwele and

Chikuni. Overall, these improvements supported and enhanced law enforcement, community commerce, accessibility, and liveability.

Craig Reid moved on from Bangweulu but stayed with African Parks to manage Liwonde, a new park in Malawi, and affected a successful handover to the incoming Park Manager, Mike Wadge.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The size and effectiveness of Bangweulu's law enforcement staff continued to grow in 2015. Five new village scouts were recruited and underwent ZAWA training, increasing the law enforcement cadre to 61. A total of 197 patrols were conducted, comprising 156 long patrols (11 days in length), eight short patrols (three days), 31 day-patrols and two boat patrols. A total of 76 poachers were arrested and 28 firearms were confiscated. A special investigation into the sale of bushmeat resulted in the arrest of four suspects, three of whom were convicted. For most of the year, there were few signs of illegal Mukula wood harvesting compared to 2014, but law enforcement teams continued to monitor the situation closely.

In Bangweulu's unique environment, where 50,000 Zambians share space with wildlife, poaching is a sad inevitability. Still, only 61 animals were poached, predominantly black lechwe. One adult elephant was killed but the motive remained unclear, as the ivory was not removed. Five zebras were snared, killing one, but the rest were successfully treated and recovered



fully. By year-end, the number of recovered snares started declining, a consequence of law enforcement teams systematically targeting areas where they were being set.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

All wildlife populations showed a positive growth trajectory, with the exception of the remnant elephant population that declined from five to four. An aerial census of Bangweulu's black lechwe population confirmed a population of 50,865 – a 45 percent increase from 2013. A single herd of 540 tsessebe was observed in December, indicating a 54 percent increase from 2013. Hyenas were also sighted regularly, and yellow baboons were recorded at Nkondo for the first time.

Shoebill – a prehistoric-looking threatened water bird – continued to be a species of focus in 2015. Eight new nests were discovered by the Shoebill Guard Programme, which was successful in halting the illegal trade in chicks sourced from the nesting areas under protection. The two captive-reared shoebills which had been abandoned, Seymour and Russik, were released into the wild and both fared well in their new environments. Seymour, in particular, showed no signs of imprinting on humans, while Russik fished independently and became fully self-sufficient. In 2016, the shoebill survey will take place (delayed due to the absence of a suitable airplane pilot), and the employment terms for Shoebill Guards will be revisited to ease the emerging conflict among fishing communities near the nests.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Much of the ongoing stakeholder engagement strategy for 2015 dealt with educating local people about the annual fishing ban. The success of the ban is dependent



Bangweulu's Chiefs and Community Resource Board members at the stakeholders' Annual General Meeting – **Joseph Chisaka**



A snare is removed from a zebra. By year-end the number of recovered snares started to decline due to law enforcement teams preventing them from being set – **African Parks**



Bangweulu's law enforcement team with confiscated mosquito nets. While they protect local communities against malaria, their use in fishing is prohibited due to their harmful ecological consequences – **Carl Huchzermeyer**





Eight new shoebill nests were discovered and protected by the Shoebill Guard Programme, which was successful in halting the illegal local trade of chicks – **Megan Loftie-Eaton** (left) – **African Parks** (right)

upon buy-in from local fishermen, so it is essential that the community is adequately informed on the prohibitions and benefits associated with it. In 2015, the Fisheries Committee continued to hold sensitisation meetings focusing on far-lying fishing camps that were not reached in 2014. Five week-long sensitisation trips were held, impacting over 1,500 people in 25 fishing camps spread across the Chiundaponde Chiefdom.

The trips focused on fishery bylaws, but also addressed other conservation issues such as shoebill protection, poaching, and illegal use of mosquito nets for fishing. Feedback from fisherman was positive and catches remained steady.

The beekeeping programme continued to grow, with 85 new beekeepers from the Kopa Chiefdom joining in 2015. The honey harvest yielded 2.3 tons, almost 50 percent more than in 2014, which was packaged and sold in the marketplace. The maize production programme that provides agricultural inputs for farmers to discourage slash-and-burn farming also progressed. A total of 185 households benefited from the programme compared to 160 in 2014.

Education has always been a focus at Bangweulu. The schoolroom that will house the Zedupad digital self-learning programme neared completion, while 40 Zedupad tablets (iPads which are preloaded with



More than 1,500 people were impacted during five week-long “sensitisation” trips informing people of the fishing ban – **Morgan Trimble**



Children explore the Zedupad, Zambia’s answer to the iPad which is preloaded with lesson plans, including conservation material. The digital self-learning programme neared completion in 2015 – **African Parks**





A single herd of 540 tsessebe was observed in December, indicating a 54 percent increase from 2013 – **Megan Loftie-Eaton**

the national educational curriculum for grades one to seven, including 12,000 classes in eight local languages and English) were procured and also uploaded with conservation education material. Ideal for rural communities, the tablets and learning centre will significantly improve the level and breadth of education for the 780 students at Chiundaponde Primary School.

### TOURISM

Bangweulu benefited from the recent upward trend of tourist interest in northern Zambia, with 402 visitors to the park, up from 268 in 2014. This 33 percent increase resulted in total revenues of US\$115,705, largely attributable to the increase in hunting tourism after ZAWA lifted the nationwide moratorium on prescribed hunting. Hunting is closely monitored within Bangweulu, and quotas to ensure sustainability are strictly enforced.

A number of upgrades took place at Makanga Camp, many aimed at improving the experience for hunters. Meanwhile, the Shoebill Camp continued to be managed by the Kasanka Trust in 2015 and will continue to be through July 2016 whereafter management will re-capitalise, market and manage the camp.

Media visits included the hosting of a team from the UK *Travel Africa* magazine and website.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Improve the efficiency of the law enforcement team through better utilisation of the motorbike and horse rapid response units.
- Identify and target specialist birding safari operators to increase tourism from this sector in tandem with the redevelopment of Shoebill Camp.
- Complete the fish market at Muwele and monitor operations to secure better fish prices for local communities.
- Advance community projects such as a reproductive health and family-planning initiative through the support of a dedicated reproductive health Community Development Facilitator. Three other newly appointed Community Development Facilitators will be deployed in those chiefdoms in the project area where previously there has not been a presence.
- Open the Zedupad self-learning centre to improve the levels of education for students at the Chiundaponde Primary School.



# Odzala-Kokoua National Park

Congo



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

**SINCE 2010**

**13,500 km<sup>2</sup>**

**GOVERNING BODY**

Fondation d'Ozala-Kokoua

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**

Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development

**106**

TRAINED ECO-GUARDS

**400**

VILLAGERS TREATED BY  
AFRICAN PARKS-FUNDED  
MOBILE HEALTH CLINIC

THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE AND WWF-THE NETHERLANDS WERE MAJOR FUNDERS OF ODZALA IN 2015











Odzala-Kokoua lies in the heart of the world's second largest tropical rainforest and is home to iconic species like forest elephants and gorillas – **Burrard-Lucas**



Pascal Ngoma,  
*Acting Park Manager*

**Odzala is renowned for its chimpanzee, gorilla and forest elephant populations. In 2015, these species were the focus of many conservation, law enforcement, and community engagement efforts. Community initiatives like the Community Cocoa Project and the Mobile Health Clinic progressed positively, as did conservation initiatives that benefit local communities like the Gorilla Habituation Programme.**

## PARK MANAGEMENT

**E**rik Marav transitioned from his role of Park Manager of Odzala to that of Garamba; Pascal Ngoma, the Assistant Park Manager, was appointed Acting Park Manager.

Thanks to funding provided by the Chinese Embassy, a new road to the eastern base was established for the use of tourists and eco-guards – which neared completion by the end of the year. New construction included an eco-guard training centre at Lebango, tented bungalows for visitors at Mbomo headquarters, and a new roofed car park. This complemented general upgrades to the Mbomo headquarters and to security fencing.

Tragically, Odzala pilot, Bill Fitzpatrick, was killed in a plane crash due to unknown causes on a flight from Dakar to Odzala in June 2014. A memorial service was held in New York in his honour in the summer of 2015, and his commitment to conservation will always be remembered.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Like many of the most beautiful, wild places on the planet, Odzala experiences a continued threat from poachers. The carcasses of 14 poached elephants were found during patrols, as well as one snared leopard. Over 70 kg of ivory was confiscated from poachers, comprising six tusks and a further 24 pieces. Fifty-four poaching camps were identified and destroyed, along with 7,531 snares – a significant increase from last year's total of 4,300. A total of 74 illegal firearms and 4,408 rounds of ammunition were confiscated, along with 11 live animals which were released back into the wild. Over the year, 40 poachers were arrested, 12 of whom have been sentenced.

Given the extremely remote nature of Odzala, law enforcement personnel must be trained for longer patrols and greater time spent in the bush; many of the

most vital wildlife habitats are nestled deep in the rainforest, far from roads. A total of 177 patrols were conducted during the year, comprising 149 long patrols (11 to 20 days in length), seven short patrols (two to four days), 12 river patrols and nine ambush patrols. This amounts to 54 more patrols than in 2014, an increase attributable to the 31 new eco-guards employed and trained in cooperation with the Congolese military during the year. The training increased the total number of eco-guards at Odzala to 106.

All eco-guard teams were equipped with satellite tracking devices that provided two-way communication between the operations room. Another technological addition was the installation of Spidertracks to the new park plane – a real-time tracking alert with a manual function that triggers an emergency signal when an aircraft veers off course or experiences distress.



Due to the remoteness of Odzala, law enforcement teams must be trained for longer patrols and greater time spent in the bush  
– **Pete Oxford** (Top) – **Saturnin Ibata** (Bottom)





The Odzala Gorilla Habituation Programme, a key tourist draw, advanced throughout the year  
– **Burrard-Lucas** (left) – **Paul Godard** (right)

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Five research and monitoring programmes were conducted during the year, focused on the conservation of important species found within Odzala. This included the collaring of seven additional elephants, bringing the total number of GPS-monitored elephants to 14.

It is assumed the impressively healthy population of 22,000 gorillas has remained stable since the 2012 survey, along with 2,700 chimpanzees, making this a stronghold for primates in the region. Another survey will take place in 2016. The Odzala Gorilla Habituation Programme – designed to acclimate gorillas to the unobtrusive presence of human visitors – advanced throughout the year, with one group in particular followed daily from June onwards. Individuals have shown mostly positive, non-aggressive behaviour. The hope is that once habituated, the gorillas will tolerate tourists, thereby opening a considerable revenue stream for the park.

Other research and monitoring programmes included the observation of various animal species found at the park's *baies* (natural forest clearings), a study on Odzala's gorilla population post-Ebola by Rennes University in France, and a study on the distribution, population size, genetics and feeding ecology of the spotted hyaena. The park's research department introduced Smart and Cybertracker conservation monitoring software to enhance their ability to collect important species data. Concurrently, all eco-monitors received training on the usage and application of the new technology.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement initiatives are a high priority at Odzala, given that the park is surrounded by 10,000 people and some 39 villages, all of which depend to varying degrees upon the natural resources within the park.

The roll-out of Odzala's community engagement plan progressed well and saw the implementation of a number of new initiatives, including the launch of a well-equipped mobile health clinic, which services the 39 villages surrounding the park with free consultations and treatments, along with medicines at subsidised rates. Since its launch in September, over 400 villagers have received treatment. In addition, Odzala funded the salary of a new doctor at the newly refurbished local government hospital at Mbomo.

The Community Cocoa Project, designed to provide local villagers with a sustainable alternative source of income to hunting launched in 2015. Over 43,000 cocoa saplings were planted in four villages around the park. Unfortunately, only 26,000 of these grew successfully



The Community Cocoa Project launched in 2015 as an alternative sustainable income source to bushmeat hunting  
– **African Parks**





Odzala harbours more than 444 avian species, including the great blue turaco – **Michael Viljoen**

on account of dry conditions and disease. A total of 58 villagers received training on growing and harvesting cocoa and 42 are continuing with the project.

Human-wildlife conflict continued to be a challenging issue; in particular crop-raiding by elephants, buffalo, chimpanzees and gorillas. To help compensate villagers, an insurance scheme was initiated whereby 46 villagers were paid out for their claims amounting to US\$13,000, which was distributed in 2015.

Local villagers benefited from a community fund that sees five percent of commercial revenue channelled towards local projects selected by the community. Since its introduction in 2012, the fund has generated approximately US\$81,600 for community projects.



Prefet Monsieur Francois Guimbi (right) with the Mbomo village Sous Prefet Monsieur Andre Joel Sikangui (left) at Odzala – **Patrick Darcis**

## TOURISM

In July, the Congo Conservation Company (CCC) opened a new mid-range lodge called Mboko Camp. The offering comprises 12 suites that can accommodate 28 guests, two of which are family rooms which can sleep up to four people, and a campsite. A total of 135 bednights were sold at Mboko Camp during the year. Following the departure of Wilderness Safaris, CCC refurbished Ngaga and Lango Camps and took over the management and marketing of the two luxury facilities. Lango hosted 226 guests, and Ngaga a total of 314 guests during the year. Park entrance fees from visitors totalled US\$6,016 and community fees amounted to US\$14,879.

Five film and media teams visited Odzala during the year, including *BBC Natural World TV*, *ARTE TV* from France, *Asahi TV* from Japan, an EU film crew and a local journalist from *Depêches de Brazzaville*.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Revise the patrol strategy to improve control of the entire park plus train additional eco-guards.
- Continue the gorilla habituation at multiple sites within the park.
- Survey transects to evaluate wildlife population trends in order to better protect them.
- Develop and implement a tourism development plan to increase tourism numbers and revenue.
- Build relationships with local and national authorities to highlight the socio-economic benefits of conservation for local communities and the country.
- Construct additional accommodation at park headquarters to facilitate stakeholder and donor visits.



## Zakouma National Park

Republic of Chad



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

SINCE 2010

3,054 km<sup>2</sup>

GOVERNMENT PARTNER  
The Republic of Chad

30 ELEPHANT CALVES BORN IN 2015

650 CHILDREN ATTENDED THE  
THREE ELEPHANT SCHOOLS

THE EUROPEAN UNION WAS A MAJOR  
FUNDER OF ZAKOUMA IN 2015







Kordofan giraffes  
at Zakouma National Park – *Michael Viljoen*





The elephant herds in Zakouma National Park form a densely packed swirl as a defence mechanism – **Marc Dethier**



**Rian Labuschagne,**  
Park Manager

The birth of 30 elephant calves, the construction of one additional “Elephant School” for community scholars, and the openings of Camp Salamat and Camp Nomade were proud highlights of 2015; however, two poaching incidents brought an end to the park’s three-year streak without a single known elephant poached. Despite these and other challenges, Zakouma remains the largest stronghold for elephants in Chad, undeterred in its progression toward becoming a premier wildlife-viewing destination and a driver for economic and educational transformation among local people.

### PARK MANAGEMENT

The correct park boundary was agreed upon by government and demarcated following many years of the incorrect alignment, which resulted in about 35 km<sup>2</sup> of important grazing being lost to

wildlife. An important milestone, it will prevent the unsustainable use of park resources by nomads and farmers, who have been given a grace period of one year to utilise the previously disputed area.

Zakouma’s vast, seasonally fluctuating landscape has always required extra effort in transportation and navigation. To that end, infrastructural updates focused on upgrades to remote anti-poaching outposts, the two aircraft and associated hangar and airstrips, and major road repairs were made between Zakouma and Goz Djarat.



Zakouma is undeterred in its progression toward becoming a premier wildlife-viewing destination – **Anita Mishra**



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Zakouma's dedicated law enforcement teams entered 2015 riding a three-year streak of zero known poaching incidents and a long-awaited increase in the elephant population. This was especially significant given that Zakouma saw its elephant population decimated from poaching by over 90 percent from roughly 4,000 in 2002, to 444 in 2012. In two separate poaching incidents, three adult elephants were killed, while two calves orphaned during the attacks died later as a result. All except two tusks, weighing an estimated five kg, were removed from the park. The two incidents highlighted the challenges inherent to preventing poaching at the hands of very small well-incentivised groups of individuals.

To ensure that these incidents are not repeated, the efficacy of the law enforcement teams was improved through further training, additional equipment, and capacity building. Two training interventions were conducted by a law enforcement expert: the first focused on advanced weapon training for the rapid-response "Mamba" team, radio operators and drivers, and the second on advanced shooting and refresher training for the horse patrol teams. Ongoing

improvements were made to the digital radio network and the three Toyota Prado vehicles purchased for law enforcement were converted into specialized anti-poaching vehicles for the Mamba team. Designed as troop carriers, they have been modified to handle the muddy conditions that characterise the critical periods for poaching at the beginning and end of the rainy season. A total of 194 long patrols (six to 10 days in length) and 13 short patrols (less than six days) were undertaken during the year, resulting in 95 arrests – mostly for illegal fishing, but also for illegal grazing inside the park and meat poaching outside the park.

In an impressive show of endurance and commitment, a team of five Zakouma rangers and their leader completed the gruelling 90 km course of the Le Treg Ultra trail event. The race was run in blistering heat through the towering sandstone arches of Ennedi. Their participation was motivated by the desire to honour the memory of six Zakouma rangers killed by Sudanese elephant poachers in an ambush in 2012 and to send a message of encouragement to all rangers fighting poaching in Africa.



Five Zakouma rangers and Jean Labuschagne completed the gruelling 90 km course of the Le Treg Ultra trail event in Ennedi, Chad – **Andrew Brukman**



Zakouma's law enforcement teams received further training, additional equipment, and capacity building – **Michael Viljoen**



## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The park's elephant population continued to grow with between 25 and 30 calves born during the course of the year, bringing the total population ever-nearer to 500 individuals. Four additional elephants were collared as part of ongoing efforts to protect herds by tracking their movements.

Sixteen birds were added to Zakouma's bird species list, with 389 species now having been sighted in the park to date. Black-breasted barbets were seen on numerous occasions in fruiting fig trees, while a pair of Pel's fishing owls were added to the park and country list. Nine African wild dogs were sighted and photographed just outside the park, while unverified information was received of a second pack with pups. Leopards were seen more often, while kob, greater kudu and oribi were seen outside of their normal range during the dry season.

Illegal commercial fishing within the park periphery became a major challenge as insecurity in the Lake Chad region and rapidly depleting fish stocks drove Boudouma fisherman towards Zakouma. This development poses a major threat to the park's wildlife,

particularly birds, as well as local communities who depend on this important fish breeding ground.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

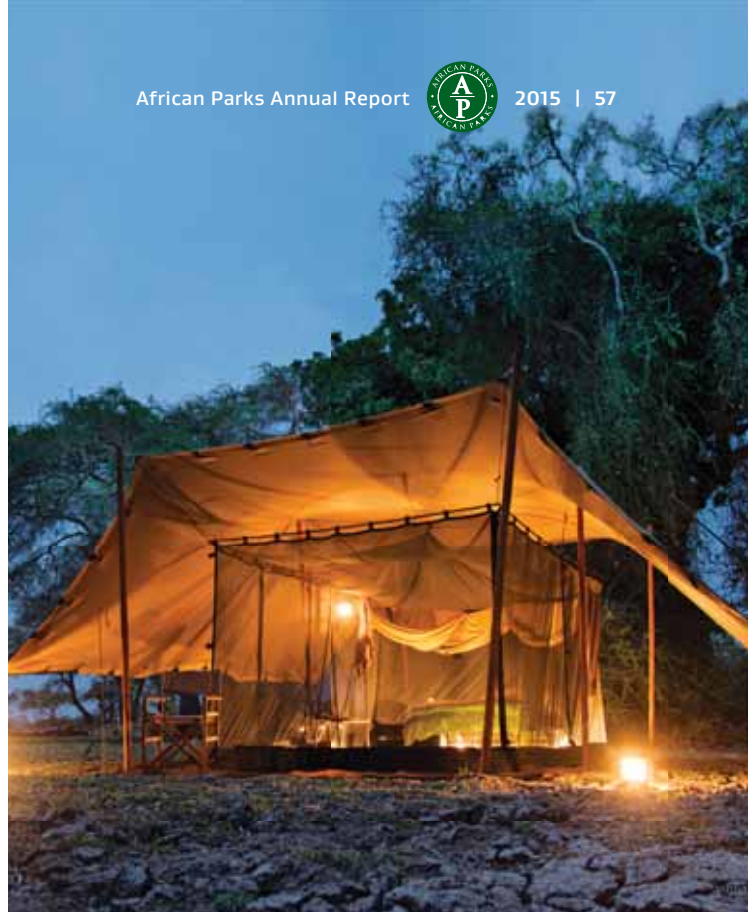
The Land Use Plan, which includes zoned elephant corridors, was supported by the local population and approved by regional government. The approval was preceded by a series of sensitisation meetings in the region and the erection of informational signboards about the corridor on the main N'Djamena to Am Timan road. The Shuwa Arabs of Chad, a nomadic community who herd their camels, horses, cattle, goats and sheep into the areas around Zakouma during the dry season, donated a stallion to Zakouma for use in the park's patrols as a token of cooperation.

The village radio system continued to play an important information-gathering role in the park's anti-poaching efforts. Each of the 12 community radio stations made daily contact with the control room and reported any suspicious activities, which helped to pre-empt poaching incursions, while the communities themselves benefited from improved security. Information received via the village radio system led to the arrest of three poachers.



**Clockwise:** Women from Goz Djerat help build and decorate the structures for Camp Nomade – **Adrian Bantich**, The Director of Biodiversity Conservation, National Parks and Hunting, Mr. Ahmat Siam, presents a certificate to Soumain Ahmat Assil at the passing-out parade – **Lorna Labuschagne**, Children from the community attend Zakouma's Elephant School – **Jean Labuschagne**





Sixteen species were added to Zakouma's bird species list, with 389 species being sighted in the park to date, including the black-crowned crane – **African Parks** (left). Zakouma's premier tourist mobile camp, Camp Nomade, opened to rave reviews in 2015 – **Jamie Thom** (right)

The school building programme progressed with the completion of the Goz Djarat primary and secondary schools. Two dormitory blocks, a supervisor's house, and a fence was constructed around the schools. A primary school was also built in Ibir. The three Elephant Schools, so named for their strong conservation ethos, provide education for more than 650 children.

In addition, a new economical design for school benches was implemented at Zakouma, along with new bunk beds. A total of 180 school benches, 30 desks for school teachers and 55 bunk beds were completed ahead of the new school year.

Conservation and environmental educational visits to the park continued to be an important element of Zakouma's community engagement focus, with some groups staying overnight at Camp Salamat, the visitor and camping complex available free of charge to Chadians. More than 2,600 schoolchildren and local villagers visited the park during the course of the year as part of this education programme.

## TOURISM

Tourism revenue totalled US\$219,825, a 27 percent increase on last year's amount of US\$160,000. This was largely due to improved occupancies at Tinga Camp, but was also attributable to the soft opening of the park's new, upmarket, mobile-tented offering, Camp Nomade. Twenty-four specialist private guides were invited to experience the camp, along with 12 paying guests. Deposits received for Camp Nomade for the 2016 season totalled US\$95,343.

The official opening of Camp Salamat took place in January 2015 and was attended by the Chadian Minister of Agriculture and Environment, as well as the Minister of Planning and the EU Ambassador to Chad. A total of 734 independent Chadian visitors stayed free of charge at Camp Salamat over the course of the year.

A number of influential media visited the park, including *National Geographic*, *TV Tchad* and *50/50* – a South African conservation TV programme. Zakouma also received extensive media coverage in key print and electronic media, including *The Financial Times*, *CNN International TV*, *Condé Nast Traveller*, and *Porter Magazine*.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Finalise the adoption of the Land Use Plan by the Chadian Government.
- Work closely with the nomadic community and local villagers on the eastern border to ensure full acceptance of the correct boundary.
- Continue efforts to reintroduce black rhinos to the park.
- Further boost the number of Chadian visitors to the park, both as tourists and through the outreach programme.
- Further improve levels of environmental education through the Elephant School Programme.







# Akagera National Park

Rwanda



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

SINCE 2010

1,122 km<sup>2</sup>

#### GOVERNING BODY

Akagera Management Company (AMC)

#### GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Rwanda Development Board (RDB)

7

LIONS INTRODUCED AFTER 20 YEAR  
ABSENCE

22

PERCENT INCREASE IN TOURISM  
REVENUE SINCE 2014

THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION AND  
THE RWANDAN DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
WERE MAJOR FUNDERS OF AKAGERA  
IN 2015







Lions were reintroduced to Akagera National Park after an absence of 20 years – **Gael van de Weghe** (left)  
An aerial survey confirmed significant wildlife population increases of each major species at Akagera – **John Dickens** (right)



Jes Gruner,  
Park Manager

**Lions were reintroduced to Akagera National Park after an absence of 20 years, a milestone achievement for both the park and the country. The new feline residents attracted an increased number of tourists and the park continued to engage with local communities to promote a harmonious co-existence between people and wildlife. As a result of effective ongoing law enforcement efforts, illegal activities declined further with the lowest-ever poaching figures recorded in five years. Meanwhile, an aerial survey confirmed significant wildlife population increases of each major species at Akagera.**

### PARK MANAGEMENT

**I**nfrastucture projects included new roads, renovations and maintenance work. The buildings at the old *pêcherie* site were renovated into a

training facility for 120 Rwandan rangers and kennels were constructed for the dogs in the new anti-poaching canine unit, as well as a dormitory for their handlers. Repairs were carried out at park headquarters, the senior manager's block, the volunteer accommodation, the staff canteen and two ranger posts.

The park road network was improved through the grading of 95 km of existing road and construction of a new 30 km road to facilitate law enforcement and tourism access. In addition, the lakeshore road was widened to enhance elephant-viewing opportunities for visitors.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

Highly effective law enforcement since 2010 has resulted in annual declines in illegal activities, as reflected by numbers of arrests, seizures, and poaching incidents. In 2015, there were only 12 arrests, down from 57 in 2014 and 220 in 2013; and 153 snares were removed from the park compared to the 595 in 2014 and 1,997 in 2013. Only five animals were found poached, the lowest figure recorded since African Parks took over the management of Akagera in 2010. A total of 3,436 patrols were conducted during the year comprising 1,764 days, 61 canine patrols, 920 long patrols (10 days in length) and 415 boat patrols, as well as 276 night ambushes.



Thanks to generous support from a U.S. foundation, we launched a K9 law enforcement team. In October, following a seven-month training programme, the 17 handlers and their eight highly-trained dogs began conducting daily patrols in the park. Other law enforcement training efforts included a six-week refresher course for the entire law enforcement department on weapon handling, patrol tactics and discipline, while the Lion Guardians, a Kenya-based conservation organisation that promotes the co-existence of people and lions, spent three weeks training the rangers on patrolling in lion territory and mitigating human-lion conflict.

The law enforcement office was expanded to include an operations room which will in future be equipped with a live feed illustrating ranger locations and collared animal movements. A GIS operator and a night-shift radio controller were recruited to man the radio 24 hours a day.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

After years of preparations, the long-awaited reintroduction of seven lions – two males and five females – occurred in June. This was historic in that

lions were brought back not just to Akagera, but to Rwanda after a 20-year absence since being poisoned by cattle herders returning after the genocide in 1994. The lions were initially accommodated in a custom-made boma in the north before being released into the wilderness of the park. The lions were monitored continuously by the Akagera park team through their GPS collars and visual sightings, and there was evidence that some of the lions had already been mating, with at least one female possibly pregnant.

An aerial census showed very encouraging results of growth all round: 12,275 large mammals were counted, up 64 percent from the previous count of 7,892 in 2013. The elephant population remained stable while the hippo population increased by 43 percent to 1,565 and the zebra count was up by 45 percent to 1,827.

Monitoring via GPS collars revealed elephants moving into the southern area of the park for the first time since African Parks jointly took over the management of the park in 2010. This was previously a heavily poached area that the elephants had learned was unsafe, and their presence there is a sign of the impact new management has had on the security of Akagera's wildlife.



Akagera launched the K9 law enforcement team consisting of 17 handlers and their eight highly-trained dogs – **Jes Gruner**





As part of the community beekeeping programme at Akagera, 83 new hives were built, with another four co-operatives established, bringing the total number of beekeepers to 120 – **John Dickens**

Research programmes included a year-long project to determine the species composition and population densities of fish, especially in Lake Ihema. The results of this study will help inform future decisions concerning the lake ecosystems. In addition, 39 grey-crowned cranes were released into the park as part of a Rwandan rehabilitation programme that rescues these endangered birds from illegal captivity and unprotected areas in Rwanda and returns them to Akagera.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Most of the community engagement this past year took the form of lion sensitisation projects. This included meetings with villagers to discuss their experiences living with lions while also educating them on lion behaviour. The second annual Lion Cup football tournament was staged, in which 16 teams participated, attended by more than 10,000 spectators. An awareness poster campaign and a series of radio broadcasts also covered questions and concerns about the lions.

Environmental education continued to be an important component of the community engagement programme. During 2015, more than 1,300 schoolchildren visited the park to participate in interpretative conservation lessons. Community enterprise projects thrived. The COPRAMA beekeepers' cooperative had a successful year, producing 1.4 tons of honey during its second year of operation. Through sales at the Akagera Curio



The Governor of Eastern Province visited Akagera in July 2015 – **Sarah Hall**

Shop and wholesale channels, the honey produced revenue of US\$4,200 for its 30 beekeepers. A total of 83 new hives were built by AMC, while another four cooperatives were established, bringing the total number of beekeepers to 120.

Other community projects thrived as well. The Umoja Women's Cooperative received training on tailoring and basket weaving, and generated income of US\$1,700 through the sale of their merchandise, also at the Akagera Curio Shop. Park staff continued to assist with the Kageyo woodlot where 11,000 fruit and wood trees are being grown to provide sustenance and legal timber for fuel. The Guardian Project Goat Initiative, created to provide a source of income and food for local people (and to deter poaching of bushmeat), benefited from the birth of over 200 kids in 2015.



Employment by the park continued to be of significant benefit to communities. Since 2010, in excess of US\$5 million has been paid in salaries to locally hired staff.

## TOURISM

Tourism revenue accounted for US\$1,225,469, a 22 percent increase on the total for 2014. The growth was, to some degree, attributable to the lion reintroduction and the resultant surge in domestic tourism in the months following their arrival. A record high of US\$140,000 in revenue was achieved in July. Visitors in all residency categories increased, with 32,239 total visitors, an overall 15 percent increase on 2014 figures. Of these, Rwandans accounted for 54 percent, a positive sign both for Rwanda and for Akagera.

The mobile, seasonal Karenge Bush Camp was launched in August and was well received by the travel trade and tourists. Revenue from the ever-popular Ruzizi Tented Lodge continued its upward trajectory increasing by 19 percent to US\$459,000. Plans for a five-star lodge in the north of the park are under discussion.

Rwanda received a high degree of positive media coverage. The lion reintroduction in particular received

widespread, positive press in local, international and social media, including *Rwanda TV*, *TIME Magazine*, *CNN*, and *National Geographic*, *Yahoo* and *Discovery News*. A 22-minute documentary was produced and aired several times on Rwanda TV, and was also translated into Kinyarwanda and shown on a mobile, open-air cinema around the park, viewed by more than 7,000 people.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Source and reintroduce black rhino into Akagera, a species last seen in Rwanda in 2007.
- Secure funding for the development of a five-star, eco-lodge in the north of the park.
- Move Karenge Bush Camp to the north of the park and continue to focus on increasing revenues.
- Conduct ranger and refresher training for the law enforcement team to continually improve skill levels.
- Expand honey production to 2.75 tons to increase revenue for Akagera's beekeepers.



The new seasonal mobile tented Karenge Bush Camp in Akagera was launched in August 2015 – **Sarah Hall**



# Chinko

Central African Republic  
(CAR)



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

**SINCE 2014**

**17,600 km<sup>2</sup>**

GOVERNED BY  
Chinko Project Board

GOVERNMENT PARTNER  
CAR Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries,  
Wildlife and Rural Development

**200**

CHIMPANZEES DISCOVERED  
AT CHINKO

**60**

RANGERS MADE UP THE  
FIRST ESTABLISHED LAW  
ENFORCEMENT UNIT

THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION,  
ADESSIUM FOUNDATION, THE WILDCAT  
FOUNDATION AND DONNA AND MARVIN  
SCHWARTZ WERE MAJOR FUNDERS OF  
CHINKO IN 2015











Chinko's rich biodiversity includes the dafassa waterbuck – **Brent Stirton**



David Simpson,  
*Park Manager*

**Despite the challenges inherent to operating in a country beset by ongoing civil war, Chinko's first year was marked by many successes, including the establishment of its first law enforcement unit and expansion of the patrol area to provide total security for the 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> central Ngoy Protection Zone. Eco-monitors – guards converted mostly from former poachers – were trained in communications, monitoring and observation activities, putting their expertise in the topography and wildlife distribution of Chinko to good use. Other notable achievements included the completion of several vital infrastructure projects, including the construction of the park headquarters, two landing strips, a law enforcement training centre, garage, and hangar.**

## PARK MANAGEMENT

Infrastructure construction began with the creation of a central control room, powered by solar panels allowing for the continuous monitoring of deployed rangers, aircraft and vehicles. This was accompanied by the construction of a large storage facility for rations and equipment, a garage workshop, 10 offices at the park headquarters, staff accommodation, four forward operating bases, and eight mobile bush camps.

Access improvements focused on upgrades to the 180 km road network in the park and the construction of 50 km of new roads. In addition, two airstrips were built in the Ngoy Protection Area, while two ferries were refurbished and seven bridges repaired. In addition, two airstrips were built in the Ngoy Protection Area. These upgrades facilitated the deployment of rangers throughout the park.

Infrastructure projects created employment for 190 staff, and an additional 250 staff on short-term contracts during the dry season. Instability in Bangui, and the CAR in general, made it extremely difficult to bring in supplies due to the closure of airports and national roads. Bricks were produced on site – a total of 250,000 – to circumvent the challenges, while 3,000 tons of stones were gathered locally and used in the construction of new park facilities.



Visits by high-profile delegations in February included the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife and Rural Development, as well as the second-in-command at the Ministry of Defence. The Director of Wildlife also visited the park and toured the surrounding villages accompanied by the Park Manager. Local community leaders were hosted on several occasions, including the initiation ceremony for Chinko's first ranger unit.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nearly 200 applicants were narrowed down to a total of 60 candidates who were able to pass the gruelling two-month field ranger training course. Because most were inexperienced recruits, ongoing training continued after the completion of the initial phase. The group of 60 rangers was subsequently divided into four teams of 15 and in September they were deployed on their first day-long patrols. In October, the patrols were extended to three days a week on a rotational basis. In December, 45 rangers were deployed on 24 day-patrols, with one team on rotational leave. All deployments were in the Ngoy Protection Area.

Some recruits were unable to meet the tough physical requirements for the ranger training, but were very

competent in terms of tracking, especially those who were former poachers. In order to retain their valuable bush skills, a team of 40 eco-monitors was selected from this group and underwent a two-week training course in GPS, first aid, wildlife identification, camera trapping and sample collection. They were deployed in



60 candidates passed Chinko's gruelling two-month field ranger training course – **Brent Stirton**



Chinko's eco-monitors were trained in communications, monitoring and observation activities, putting valuable bush skills to good use – **Brent Stirton**



the Ngoy Protection Area where they managed camera traps, conducted line transects, and walked the boundary road reporting weekly on any suspicious tracks or activity. They also engaged with pastoralists in the area, informing them about the delineation of the Protection Area. All the data provided by the eco-monitors were logged by the research team for incorporation into anti-poaching and conservation initiatives.

### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Chinko's rich biodiversity was reaffirmed by camera trap surveys that re-established the presence of chimpanzees (about 200) after researcher, Thierry Aebischer, discovered them, as well as white-bellied and black-fronted duikers. Other key sightings included forest elephants, Lord Derby eland, wild dogs and lions. In terms of bird species, white-necked pigeons and grey ground thrushes were observed, bringing the number of bird species recorded to date to over 280. A total of 60 camera traps were set up in the Ngoy Protection Area, the southern Vovodo part of the greater Chinko area, and the largely inaccessible centre of the park to establish the presence of new species.

Salt licks were dug and covered with a mix of soil and salt over a 500 km<sup>2</sup> expanse in the Ngoy zone. The licks were used to attract wildlife away from areas where

they are threatened by poaching from cattle herders to areas where they can be better protected.

The Lord Derby eland collaring project, which will involve the capture and breeding of the iconic species, was rescheduled for February 2016.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A small clinic was built for park employees and staffed with a full-time doctor, who trained three local, full-time nurses. The medical team conducted weekly training on first aid, hygiene and health for the rest of Chinko's staff force. In addition, they visited surrounding villages to assist with the training of nurses. Medical supplies for the staff clinic were donated by Human Bridge, a Swedish-based organisation, although their arrival was delayed by the unrest in Bangui.

A lack of teachers proved a major challenge for schools located outside Chinko. In order to address the scarcity, the Chinko team devised a "parent-teacher" system, using parents who are literate to teach reading and writing on a rotational basis. Twenty-nine "parent-teachers" were employed and compensated by the park to teach at schools in 11 villages.

In another community initiative, the park team helped establish a weekly market in Bakouma, the nearest



Chinko is home to the endangered Lord Derby eland – collaring of this iconic species will take place in 2016 – **Adam Parkison**





29 parent-teachers were compensated by Chinko for teaching community children at 11 villages – **Ryan Youngblood**

town, providing local farmers and traders with a facility at which to sell their produce and wares to local residents. The initiative also helped to service the ration and supply needs of Chinko itself.

### TOURISM

CAWA (Central African Wildlife Adventures) hosted 23 tourists during the first quarter but given the unrest and security issues in the country there were, understandably, no tourism activities for the remainder of the year (CAWA has since closed down). A visit by a leading journalist and conflict photographer on assignment for the German publication *GEO* led to in-depth coverage on the diversity of Chinko and its challenges.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Collar Lord Derby eland with satellite collars to track their range and movement.
- Expand the Ngoy 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> Protection Area to 2,000 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Build permanent staff accommodation and install a VHF system, and construct roads, bridges and airfields in the expanded area of the Protection Area.
- Obtain weapons to issue and equip the law enforcement team to effectively protect the park.
- Reduce logistical costs and control operational expenses to mitigate potential instability in the CAR.



Visits by high-profile delegations included the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife and Rural Development – **Brent Stirton**



# Liwonde National Park

Malawi



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

SINCE 2015

548 km<sup>2</sup>

GOVERNED BY

African Parks Limited in partnership with the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

800

ELEPHANTS CONFIRMED  
IN THE PARK

25

COMMUNITY MEMBERS EMPLOYED TO  
CONSTRUCT THE NEW PARK FENCE

THE WYSS FOUNDATION, THE WILDCAT  
FOUNDATION AND THE PEOPLE'S  
POSTCODE LOTTERY WERE MAJOR  
FUNDERS TO LIWONDE IN 2015







Liwonde's ecosystem ranges from fertile floodplains to towering baobabs and woodlands  
– *Central African Wildlife Safaris*





Craig Reid,  
*Park Manager*



Several rhinos were fitted with GPS transmitters, and camera traps were deployed throughout the rhino sanctuary to allow for constant monitoring – *Frank Weitzer*

**Liwonde National Park is a stunning landscape of a wide variety of habitats situated along the Shire River, supporting the largest remaining population of elephants in Malawi. On 1 August 2015, African Parks formally assumed management of Liwonde making it the steward of the vast majority of Malawi's remaining elephants. With this great responsibility comes great challenges, including mitigating elephant-human conflict and disrupting the entrenched poaching network in and around the park.**

### PARK MANAGEMENT

With roughly 800 elephants in a relatively small area, the immediate focus was upon putting systems in place to protect the species and engage the community. This included recruitment of members to the management team, remaining staff assessments, surveying of the park boundary in preparation for fencing, and inspecting existing buildings. Once a clear picture of the state of operations was established, work began in December on constructing a 140 km electrified perimeter fence.

By year-end, 13 km, nearly 10 percent, of fully-electrified fencing had already been completed. This fence will protect both people and wildlife, a top priority given, that half a dozen fatal human-wildlife conflicts took place in the first two months of operation alone.

Much of Liwonde's existing infrastructure was in a state of disrepair. The entrance gate was maintained and the bridge at the park entrance had to be entirely replaced, while upgrades were carried out at the park offices, education centre, Chinguni airstrip, and road networks. An architect was appointed to redesign several buildings and Internet and phone communications were improved through the installation of a VSat system at the park headquarters.

Key procurements included vehicles, motorbikes, tractors, an aircraft, and various smaller items necessary for daily park operations. Most inherited vehicles, trailers and boat engines needed repairing; and several useful donations were received, including a new tractor for the rhino sanctuary from the International Trust for Nature Conservation. Also received were an operations room, radio system and an aluminium boat with an outboard engine from the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

The new park team hosted several official visitors, including the First Lady of Malawi and representatives of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

The primary challenges confronted in 2015 were an under-equipped and unmotivated staff, a bloody history of elephant poaching and wildlife snaring, and frequent human-wildlife conflicts.

The carcasses of 12 elephants, all killed within the past year, were discovered in the park – an alarmingly high number indicative of the lax park security in the past. Happily, African Parks' staff were able to reduce proliferation of poaching and only six elephants were lost since assuming management. The carcass of a black rhino that had been missing since earlier in the year was also located. These fatalities, combined with the removal of 6,629 snares and 11 gin traps, as well as the treatment of eight animals with snare and gin trap wounds, pointed to an urgent and desperate need for improved law enforcement measures. Compounding this was a situation of unregulated, illegal commercial fishing on the Shire River – something that was drastically improved by implementation of daily boat patrols.

To address the challenges, all rangers underwent a two-month evaluation and mentorship programme and the best candidates were selected for retention. An incentive scheme was introduced to reward law enforcement staff for results emanating from patrols.



The scope and mobility of patrol units was expanded, while the control room was manned 24/7, allowing for constant monitoring of law enforcement staff and collection of key operational data. These efforts led to 24 arrests for poaching, 39 for illegal fishing and 81 for trespassing and illegal firewood collection. A total of 43 boats, 64 canoes and hundreds of nets used to fish illegally were destroyed. Two firearms and 29 rounds of illegal ammunition were also seized during operations. A total of 48 long patrols (six days in length), 222 short patrols (less than six days), and 46 water patrols were undertaken from the beginning of August to the end of the year.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Despite high levels of poaching, Liwonde's ecosystem remained healthy, with robust wildlife numbers revealed by a 2014 aerial survey, including 770 elephants and a healthy population of black rhinos. A black rhino calf was born during the year, while other females were suspected to be pregnant. A number of rhinos and two elephants were fitted with GPS transmitters, and camera traps were deployed throughout the rhino sanctuary, to allow constant monitoring. The rhinos also benefit from a specialised law enforcement team dedicated to their protection. To supplement our understanding of Liwonde's ecosystem, studies on resident bat, carnivore, Lillian lovebird, and black rhino populations continued.

Liwonde is to play an instrumental role in one of the largest known elephant translocations in history. In July 2016, Liwonde will provide the first instalment of the eventual 500 elephants to be relocated to Nkhotakota. Moving these elephants out of Liwonde will ease pressure on some tree species, as they are already at carrying capacity for these large herbivores. The benefits will extend to local people, who often have their crops raided by elephants. The combination of the translocation and the fence will eliminate human-wildlife conflict and ensure that the pressure on elephant-favoured resources such as baobabs is reduced.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Meetings were held with communities, traditional leaders, the Liwonde Association (a government-formed body to represent the interests of local communities) and several NGOs, providing numerous opportunities to engage with residents on human-wildlife challenges and the fencing of the park. A new Community and Extension Manager was also appointed and a comprehensive Community Engagement Strategy developed. To address the water access issues related to the building of the new fence two boreholes were drilled within neighbouring villages to ensure water access.

Levels of human-wildlife conflict at Liwonde is at an unprecedented level. During the first five months of operations, 11 people were killed, five by elephants and six by crocodiles. To mitigate this conflict in the short term, pending the completion of the 18-month fence project, the park team used aircraft and flares to drive elephants back into the park. Boat patrols on the river also served to discourage fishermen from putting their lives at risk of crocodile attacks.

Fence construction employed 25 community members at any one time. In addition, fence attendants will be recruited to work on each of the four fence zones, resulting in full-time employment for about 85 people. After just five months, the positive economic impact of park operations on the local economy was evident with the influx of US\$228,482 in the form of salaries for local staff, equipment, services and provisions.

## TOURISM

Since taking control of the gates on the first of September, visitor numbers were high: 1,398 Malawians, 813 residents and 1,528 international tourists visited the park. The conservation education camp near the park headquarters at Chinguni was also well-utilised by over 1,000 schoolchildren and free-entry visitors. These visits generated US\$19,459 in tourism revenue, which was added to the US\$41,778 secured from the existing tourism concession in the park.

A Tourism Development Plan is being developed to ensure that new tourism developments do not negatively impact the park, its wildlife, or its surrounding human populations.

A successful media trip was hosted in December for Malawian print and broadcast media, resulting in national coverage on *MBC TV*, *The Nation* and *BNL Times* about the fence and interim measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Complete 100 km of fencing to secure the park and alleviate human-wildlife conflict.
- Capture and translocate up to 250 elephants from Liwonde to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.
- Recruit and train 15 additional rangers to complement the existing team in order to more effectively manage the park.
- Train rangers in smartphone field data collection technology and implement in the field.
- Launch an effective community engagement programme tailored toward community socio-economic development.



## Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve

Malawi



AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT

**SINCE 2015**

**1,800 km<sup>2</sup>**

GOVERNED BY

African Parks Limited in partnership with  
the Malawi Department of National Parks  
and Wildlife (DNPW)

**170 km<sup>2</sup>**

SANCTUARY  
CONSTRUCTION BEGAN

**47**

INCIDENTS OF HUMAN-WILDLIFE  
CONFLICT RESPONDED TO BY SCOUTS

THE WYSS FOUNDATION AND THE  
WILDCAT FOUNDATION WERE MAJOR  
FUNDERS OF NKHOTAKOTA IN 2015







A half-collared kingfisher at Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve – *Mike Dexter*





Nkhotakota is dominated by tall miombo woodland, rugged topography and extensive riparian systems, all of which create a unique and compelling sense of wilderness – **Mike Dexter**



**Samuel Kamoto,**  
*Park Manager*

**African Parks was eager to take over management of Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve due to the enormous potential it holds to become a premier sanctuary for wildlife in Malawi – particularly for elephants. On 1 August 2015, African Parks was formally awarded management and immediately set about securing the park by overhauling existing law enforcement staff, implementing regular patrols, and completing aerial reconnaissance. These efforts, combined with community engagement programmes, have laid the foundation for the largest elephant translocation in history. Beginning in July 2016, around 500 elephants will be moved from two other Malawian African Parks Protected Areas – Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve – to Nkhotakota.**

### **PARK MANAGEMENT**

**T**he new Park Manager, Samuel Kamoto, ensured a smooth managerial transition from the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). One of the first tasks undertaken was an inventory of assets inherited from the DNPW, followed promptly by vast improvements to existing infrastructure, including Internet installation, the overhaul of plumbing systems, and ongoing construction of the Kaludwe Camp (accommodation for scouts and their families.)

To prepare for the arrival of the elephants, construction of a 170 km<sup>2</sup> sanctuary began in December 2015. This sanctuary will also accommodate a number of other reintroduced species, including waterbuck, impala, warthog, buffalo, sable, and kudu from Majete and Liwonde. In time, reserve staff hope to reintroduce roan antelope, eland, Lichtenstein's hartebeest, zebra, and to utilise the sanctuary as a breeding area for various antelope species. These efforts will restore Nkhotakota's ecosystem, made fragile by years of decline and local extinction of these species.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Upon taking over the park, Nkhotakota staff discovered that less than 60 percent of the reserve was being patrolled annually, and that patrol equipment was non-operational. Bolstered by donor contributions, scouts were provided with new field equipment and uniforms. Field and ration allowances were increased to enable lengthier patrols (six days compared to two), and vehicle patrol tactics were amended – allowing for patrolling of a greater area than had previously occurred. All scouts underwent a five-week training course in basic skills and safety. At the end of the year all scouts were evaluated and the best candidates were selected for retention.

As a result of the additional resources, training and focused efforts of the law enforcement team, a total of 100 one-day patrols and 57 long patrols (six days each) were undertaken from August to December, successfully extending the patrol range to 80 percent of the reserve area. This was complemented by 13 hours of aerial patrolling, which provided a better understanding of the main threats to park security: human settlement encroachment, marijuana cultivation, poachers' camps and illegal timber harvesting. This helped boost staff morale, it demonstrated the strength and calibre of law enforcement, and set a strong "zero-tolerance" precedent.



These renewed law enforcement efforts yielded arrests of 50 poachers, the removal of more than 300 wire snares, the destruction of more than 500 kg of marijuana, and a multitude of seizures comprising six illegal firearms, 62 bags of charcoal, 68 fishing nets, four fishing spears, 10 hunting spears, 74 pieces of hardwood, 95 kg of fish and 19 kg of bushmeat.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Water levels in the Bua River and other watercourses remained generally low due to limited rainfall, as the drought-like conditions throughout Malawi were felt in Nkhotakota. This resulted in most of the wildlife gravitating to the areas in which water remained, such as pools in the Bua, Dwangwa and Kaombe Rivers. Unfortunately, the high concentration of animals in these areas also made them easier to poach, and one elephant and six antelope were killed by poachers.

Positively, the elephant population, of approximately 120 animals, is larger and healthier than originally thought. The bulk of Nkhotakota's remaining elephant population generally remained in the Bua River Catchment, and the herds appeared to be breeding well. A cross-section of ages was observed in all groupings – a good sign for the overall health of the population.

Warthog and kudu were observed in the reserve, giving hope for the repopulation of these species. Despite an ongoing problem with fish poisoning, fish stocks appeared healthy, while the park's birdlife remained prolific.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Reserve staff engaged with the District Commissioners of the four neighbouring districts, as well as traditional authorities, community committees, NAWIRA (Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve Association), NRCs (National Resource Committees), councillors and members of Parliament. The meetings provided a platform to explain the African Parks model and plans for the reserve for the next five years. To further increase awareness, leaflets on African Parks and its vision for Nkhotakota – including the planned construction of the sanctuary fence – were produced and distributed in both English and the local Chewa language.

Human-elephant conflict was a major challenge for the reserve and its surrounding communities, with regular incidents of crop raiding in neighbouring maize, sugarcane, banana, cassava and rice fields. Scouts responded to 47 incidents of human-wildlife conflict between August and December. Community engagement efforts were often oriented around educating people about co-existing alongside wildlife and how African Parks' development of the reserve will help mitigate conflicts.

One of the highlights of the community engagement programme was the joint effort to remove snares. Working together with the NRCs, the reserve team conducted a community wire sweep, during which more than 300 wire snares were removed from the reserve. Wire snares are one of the most pernicious and commonplace poaching mediums.

In just its first five months, the reserve contributed US\$135,578 to the local economy through the payment of salaries for local staff and the purchase of supplies and equipment, a figure that is expected to increase significantly as the fence-building operation grows.

## TOURISM

Total visitors for the last five months of 2015 amounted to 251 paying visitors plus 114 visits by students. Tourism revenue for the period totalled US\$3,110.

The low occupancies at both the luxury Tongole Wilderness Lodge and the moderately priced Bua Lodge illustrated the impact that the steady depletion of wildlife in Nkhotakota has had on their businesses, a situation the new park management team is focused on reversing. Tongole hosted 145 guests during the year, with an occupancy of 11 percent, while Bua Lodge received 431 guests, realising an occupancy of 10 percent. Fifty backpackers were accommodated at the Bua campsite.

High-profile visits included the hosting of Anne Hoiyer, who generously supports the reserve's environmental education programme.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Establish an effective law enforcement team by increasing the unit from 35 to 40 officers, and provide motivation initiatives such as advanced training and monetary incentives.
- Reduce the incidence of human-wildlife conflict.
- Repopulate the reserve with various species of wildlife, including the translocation of up to 250 elephants in 2016 (the remaining 250 in 2017).
- Create a 170 km<sup>2</sup> sanctuary with fencing to accommodate translocated elephants and other wildlife.
- Review and implement Nkhotakota's environmental education programme in local communities.
- Build two management staff houses.
- Maintain and improve existing infrastructure and develop a radio network across the park.



# Ennedi

The Republic of Chad

Rocco Rava,  
Project Manager



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
WITH CHADIAN GOVERNMENT

**SINCE 2015**

**40,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
PARK-IN-PROGRESS**

**150**

ROCK ART SITES WERE  
IDENTIFIED BY AFRICAN PARKS  
FOR INCLUSION IN POTENTIAL  
TOURISM OFFERINGS.

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND  
RAINFOREST TRUST WERE MAJOR  
FUNDERS OF ENNEDI IN 2015

At the request of the President of Chad, African Parks began investigating the viability of establishing and managing Ennedi as a new wildlife and cultural Protected Area. What was discovered was a land of unparalleled beauty and incredible biodiversity, especially given its arid climate. The combination of Ennedi's unique geomorphology and geographical position creates an oasis for wildlife not otherwise found in the Saharan belt, like baboons, hyaenas, rock hyrax, Barbary sheep, patas monkeys, dorcas gazelle, and, remarkably, the last of the Sahara crocodiles. This relative abundance of wildlife is complemented by hundreds of significantly important rock art sites that depict the rich, storied history of this area.

## PARK MANAGEMENT

Based on the success of Zakouma National Park, the President of Chad, Idriss Déby Itno, initiated discussions with African Parks on the possibility of setting up new conservation areas within the country. In February 2015, a 20-month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Chadian Government, providing African Parks the ability to submit a proposal to declare Ennedi, or a portion of it, as a Protected Area. African Parks subsequently appointed Rocco Rava, a geologist and experienced Saharan tourist guide, as project manager to draw up the proposal based on his in-depth knowledge of the area.

Various meetings took place with key stakeholders to build awareness about the development of Ennedi. These included discussions with the Chadian Minister of Public Infrastructure, the Governor of the Fada region and the Garde Forestière. In addition, meetings were held with the European Union to discuss possible institutional funding, while a UNESCO World Heritage Site committee also visited the area on a 10-day familiarisation mission to finalise its management plans for the area.

In order to undertake the assessment, two vehicles were purchased and equipped with tracking devices and contract staff were hired to implement the initial phase. GPS mapping of all the roads, water sources and archaeological interest points was concluded, as well as the establishment of the park headquarters at Fada.

In February 2015, staff from African Parks' headquarters as well as rangers from Zakouma National Park completed the Le Treg Ultra trail run – a punishing 90 km self-navigating and self-sustaining endurance trail run through Ennedi. African Parks aimed to demonstrate the organisation's commitment to the Chadian Government to establish Ennedi as a Protected Area, and the Zakouma participants competed to honour the memory of six fellow rangers who were killed by Sudanese poachers in 2012.



## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Six North Africa red-necked ostriches that had been confiscated during an illegal wildlife trade investigation in N'Djamena were translocated to Ennedi, the first of a two-part reintroduction. The birds were placed in specially designed crates and accompanied throughout the flight by an experienced veterinary team. Although only four survived (three females and one male), the initiative was symbolically important for the project. The ostriches were offloaded into a bullpen in Fada that will function as a breeding facility and by year-end one of the females had started producing eggs.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

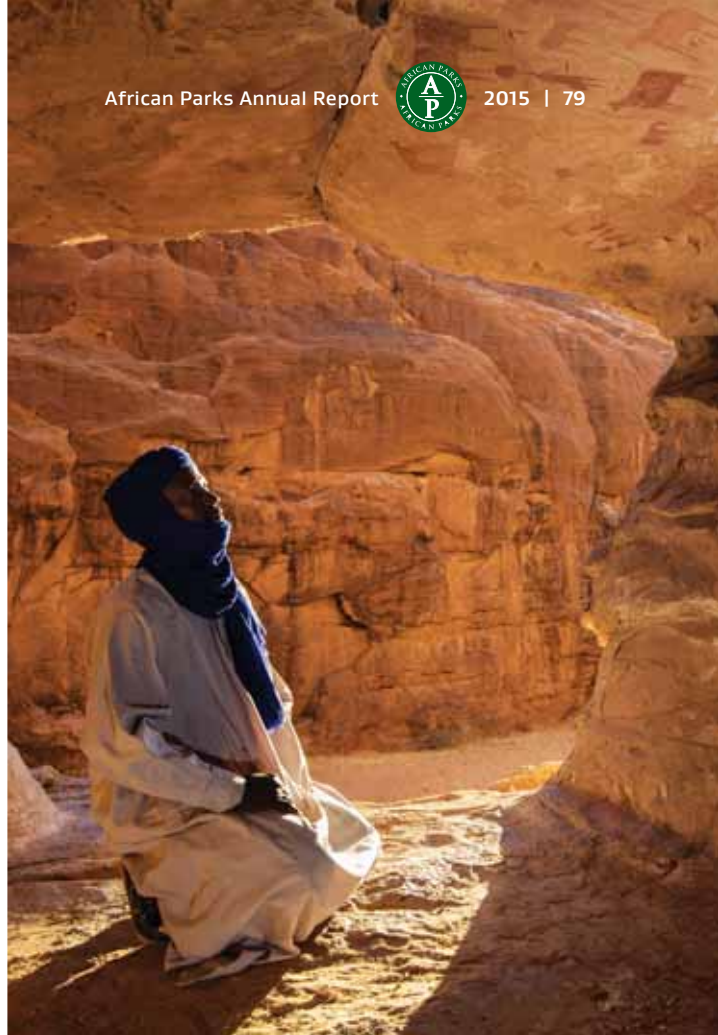
Initial contact was made with various authorities and traditional leaders, during which the potential plans for the establishment of a Protected Area were discussed.

## TOURISM

Ennedi provides for an extraordinary tourism experience due to its landscape, unique wildlife, and globally significant rock art. Nearly 150 rock art sites were identified by African Parks as potential tourism opportunities; these include thousands of paintings and engravings in caves and on walls, some dating back 8,000 years. The rock art illustrates the presence of elephants, giraffes, both black and white rhinos, cheetah, ostrich and hundreds of scenes featuring camels, horses, herdsman and their cattle, warriors and dancing women.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Complete the proposal for the Protected Area status and submit it to the Chadian Government by November 2016.
- Continue engaging with the European Union and other funders to secure funding for the long-term support of Ennedi.
- Continue with the collection of essential data on Ennedi's wildlife, geology and archaeology.
- Complete sensitisation meetings and engagements with local communities, authorities and stakeholders on the development of Ennedi as a Protected Area.
- Complete the park headquarters at Fada.



Nearly 150 rock art sites were identified by African Parks – **Michael Viljoen**



A nomadic community in Ennedi – **African Parks**



Ennedi's unique and striking geography – **Michael Viljoen**



# Gambella National Park

Ethiopia

Martin Rickelton,  
Project Manager

## PARTNERS

ETHIOPIAN WILDLIFE AND  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,  
HORN OF AFRICA REGIONAL  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE  
AND NETWORK, AND AFRICA PARKS



SINCE 2014

4,575 km<sup>2</sup>  
PARK-IN-PROGRESS

56

ANIMALS WERE COLLARED TO  
ESTABLISH THE MIGRATION  
ROUTES OF THE WHITE-EARED  
KOB, AS WELL AS THE HOME  
RANGES OF GIRAFFES AND  
ELEPHANTS WITHIN THE PARK

THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY  
ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD) FUNDS THE  
GAMBELLA PROJECT. IGAD HAS A  
FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH HOA-REC&N\*

**G**ambella is the largest Protected Area in Ethiopia and home to the white-eared kob migration – the second-largest mammal movement on the continent. African Parks was invited to be the implementing conservation partner in 2014, and eagerly took on the opportunity to provide security and structure to an area of great need and potential.

## PARK MANAGEMENT

African Parks submitted its conservation management proposal to the Ethiopian Wildlife and Conservation Authority (EWCA), outlining a four-year plan to

protect the greater Gambella area's tremendous biodiversity through infrastructural development and implementation of a law enforcement presence. The project is being funded by the European Development Fund through the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Infrastructure development was a key focus in 2015. Site visits were carried out throughout the park, with an eye toward where to construct three base camps. The main base camp at Puju saw the construction of new scout accommodation, visitor tents, kitchen and dining facilities, hangar, airstrip, and a 3.5 km all-weather access road.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

All law enforcement operations were managed by EWCA; however, African Parks assisted with the provision of logistical support and training for the park's 36 scouts.

New technology was introduced to enhance the efficacy of anti-poaching operations, planning and design of VHF radio systems, and the implementation of river patrols, the first of which was launched on the Gilo River.

## BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

An aerial survey revealed that both giraffe and elephant populations were healthier than expected. The total of 68 giraffe counted was especially encouraging. The white-eared kob count was 428,468, however, it appears their distribution is being impacted by human presence that could threaten their migration. A stable population of 192 Nile lechwe was counted but the distribution of several other antelope species indicated a slight decline, possibly due to illegal hunting and human pressure. The buffalo and shoebill stork figures were both stable.

The park collaborated with a number of research organisations, including the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, which helped to identify through DNA samples that the Rothchild's giraffe subspecies inhabits the park. In addition, a preliminary elephant count was completed as part of The Great Elephant Census, the largest pan-African survey in 40 years – the results of which are forthcoming in 2016.

\* Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre & Network



Other monitoring projects included the collaring of the first of four lions as part of a study conducted by an Ethiopian research team to establish their range and movements in Gambella. Fifty-six animals were collared by park staff in order to establish the migration routes of the white-eared kob, as well as the home ranges of the park's giraffes and elephants within the region. The movement of the park's resident lechwe population was monitored in order to further investigate how their behaviour might be affected by the agricultural operations upstream of the Duma Wetlands.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Horn of Africa Regional and Environmental Centre and Network headed up the effort to develop an integrated land-use plan for the Gambella region. African Parks assisted in facilitating discussions with local communities to determine the local reliance on natural resources in and around the park, and how conservation efforts can be implemented in a way that benefits both people and animals. The project team employed a Community Liaison Officer and two Community Extension Officers in order to facilitate this engagement.

## TOURISM

The region's tourism potential received a boost when Gambella hosted its first official tourist courtesy of Kenya-based tour operator, Origin Safaris. The guest stayed at Puju Camp after exploring the park in a chartered helicopter.

Opportunities were also explored for the development of community-owned tourism facilities in the Abobo-Gog Lowland Forest, which would potentially form a key part of the proposed network of Protected Areas in the greater Gambella region.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

- Finalise and implement the proposal for a network of Protected Areas in the Gambella region.
- Conclude a mandate agreement with the Ethiopian Government to manage the park.
- Host donor and stakeholder visits to secure funding and financial support for Gambella.
- Build roads, airstrips and camps in order to access the northern and central regions of the park.



Saddle-billed storks – **Pablo Schapira**



56 animals were collared in the park, including the white-eared kob – **African Parks**



New technology was introduced to enhance the efficacy of anti-poaching operations – **African Parks**



# In Remembrance

The year 2015 will be remembered for the tragic deaths of five ICCN guards and three members of the *Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo* (FARDC) who devastatingly lost their lives while protecting Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These eight brave men were killed by heavily-armed elephant poachers in three separate incidents, a sobering reminder of the high human cost of conservation in Africa. From everyone at African Parks, we honour their commitment and pay tribute to the men who passed away, and to their families they left behind:



## DIEUDONNÉ AGOYO MBIKOYO

Dieudonné Agoyo Mbikeyo, who held the position of *garde principale* and had been a guard with the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN) since 2008, was killed by poachers while on a 10-day patrol in the south of Garamba on 25 April. After being shot he managed to return to his patrol camp site to alert his fellow guards before he collapsed and died. His favourite sport was football, and he loved engaging people in debates and spirited conversations.



## JEAN-MARIE ABOLO KPIONYESLINANI

Jean-Marie Abolo Kpionyeslinani had been a guard with the ICCN since 1996 and was an invaluable member of the anti-poaching patrol team. He held the position of *garde principale*, and was one of three men killed in an ambush with poachers in Garamba on 17 June. He was a member of a reinforcement team that was deployed in the African Parks helicopter to support a ground unit that had encountered well-armed poachers close to the park headquarters at Nagero. He enjoyed farming in his spare time, and had a number of small fields near Nagero. He also belonged to one of the local prayer groups.



## LIEUTENANT MOISE MOSPADO

Lieutenant Moise Mospado had been a member of the FARDC since 1997 and was seconded to Garamba to assist with anti-poaching patrols and efforts to protect its heavily targeted elephants. He was one of three men killed in an ambush on 17 June when they were deployed in the African Parks helicopter to support a ground team under attack by well-armed poachers near the park headquarters at Nagero. His favourite sport was Karate, something that he was very good at, and he used to be a driver for the Congolese military before being a soldier. He left behind three children.



## SERGEANT KAMBALE MUSUBAO

Sergeant Kambale Musubao had been a member of the FARDC since 2000 and was seconded to Garamba to assist with anti-poaching patrols. He was one of three men killed during an ambush on 17 June that occurred after they were deployed by helicopter to assist a ground team on patrol that came into contact with a group of well-equipped poachers. The tragic incident occurred close to the park headquarters at Nagero.





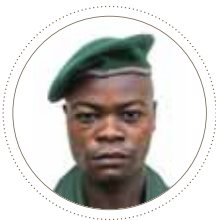
### ANSELME MUHINDO KIMBESA

Anselme Muhindo Kimbesa had been an ICCN guard since 1998, and had been deployed in Garamba since early 2015. Anselme held the position of *officier principal de garde*, and was one of four men killed during an intensive firefight with poachers in the Azande *Domaine de Chasse* on 5 October. Assistant to the Law Enforcement Manager, he was also a member of a patrol team that had been tracking the signal from the collar of a poached elephant when he was killed by poachers. He was one of the youngest members of the team, and leaves behind one child.



### COLONEL JACQUES LUSENGO

A member of the FARDC since 1987, Colonel Jacques Lusengo was responsible for all the members of the Congolese armed forces seconded to Garamba to assist with anti-poaching efforts in and around the park. He was the leader of the group of four men who died at the hands of poachers in the Azande *Domaine de Chasse* on 5 October. Colonel Lusengo was a father figure to all whom he met. He was instrumental in boosting the morale of not only the military seconded to the park, but to all of Garamba's rangers, and was respected by all who worked with him. He ran up and down the airstrip almost every morning while based at Nagero, regardless of the weather, and enjoyed gardening and planting in his spare time.



### ANDRÉ MIGIFULOYO GADA

André Migifuloyo Gada had been an ICCN guard since 2011. He was a *garde principal* in Garamba's anti-poaching patrol unit and was one of four men killed in the cross-fire when they clashed with a large group of poachers in the Azande *Domaine de Chasse* on 5 October. Regrettably, the African Parks helicopter that evacuated the surviving six men (one wounded) sustained massive hits during the operation, rendering it incapable of continuing its rescue mission. André and Djuma Uweko Adalo were closest of friends; the two spent a lot of time together on their off days, and enjoyed watching American war films in their spare time. He was part of the initial intervention team in Garamba, and had shown incredible potential from a very young age. His wife was pregnant when he was killed; she recently gave birth to his son in Nagero.



### DJUMA UWEKO ADALO

Djuma Uweko Adalo had been a guard with the ICCN since 2013. He was a *garde principal*, and was one of four men killed in the Azande *Domaine de Chasse* on 5 October while following up the signal from the collar of a poached elephant. As a member of the anti-poaching team he participated in patrols designed to protect the park, primarily from the groups intent on poaching elephants. He and André Migifuloyo Gada, both from the town of Dungu, had been friends since childhood and could always be found together even in their spare time.

African Parks supports all staff in the event of death or accident in the amount of six times their annual salary, in addition to funds raised through campaigns and generous donors in support of surviving family members. Our condolences, grief, and gratitude extend to these brave men in perpetuity, and they will never be forgotten.







# 2015 Financial Performance

The 2015 financial performance was marked by an overall growth of the organisation through the management of two new Protected Areas in Malawi, through increased efforts in law enforcement, particularly in Garamba, and through the first-time inclusion of the Chinko Project for the full year. 2015 was also the first full year of us operating the helicopter. The overall impact was an increase in organisational spending in 2015 to US\$24 million (2014: US\$20 million).

We are pleased to note that, thanks to our continued donor support, we did not require a drawdown from our internal reserves in 2015. We were able to fund the organisation through our donor support and through operating income generated. This is the second year in a row that we have been able to achieve this. Our internal reserves were at €13 million (US\$14.3 million) at year-end and held by Stichting African Parks Foundation (SAPF).

Presented here are the management accounts of the 10 Protected Areas and African Parks Network, followed by a summary of the audited results for the 2015 financial year. The management accounts included US\$227,000 spent on the Ennedi (Chad) resource and habitat management plan. The differences between the management accounts and audited results are due to consolidated journal entries and other International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) adjustments. The management accounts are prepared on a cash basis and do not contain any 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.

## Financial highlights

The **income** utilised to fund group spending was from three main sources: donor income; gross park revenue and endowment income. The European Union remains African Parks' single largest funder, consisting of over 32% of total donor income. The African Parks Endowment Fund achieved a return of 7% for the 2015 financial year. Part of the investment income generated by the fund is used to fund the running costs of African Parks Network, also referred to as our "overheads". The total funds invested as at year-end were €28 million (US\$30.8 million) and African Parks Network withdrew US\$1.5 million of

the investment income generated during the year. The endowment fund is accounted for in the books of SAPF in The Netherlands.

**Gross park revenue** funded 9% of park operations (2014: 12%). The main contributor towards gross revenue was Akagera National Park at US\$1.2 million, followed by Majete Wildlife Reserve at US\$368,000. The decrease in contribution is mainly due to an increased investment in Garamba (park spending of US\$4.9 million (2014: US\$3.7 million)), as well as the inclusion of The Chinko Project for a full year in 2015 (park spending of US\$2.6 million (2014: US\$646,000)). Both parks have a minimal contribution towards operating income and will unfortunately continue to be so in the foreseeable future due to the instability in the region.

**Group spending**, as reported in the management accounts, increased by 21% to US\$24.6 million. This consisted of operating expenditure, capital expenditure and special projects expenditure. The addition of Nkhotakota and Liwonde contributed US\$1.6 million to the overall group spending and the helicopter operations another US\$750,000. Overheads remained well-managed as African Parks Network accounted for only 12% of total group spending. Special projects are once-off activities undertaken only if we manage to find the funding for it. SAPF and African Parks Foundation of America are not reflected within the group as they are separate legal entities. They are affiliate entities set up for the main purpose of fundraising for the organisation.

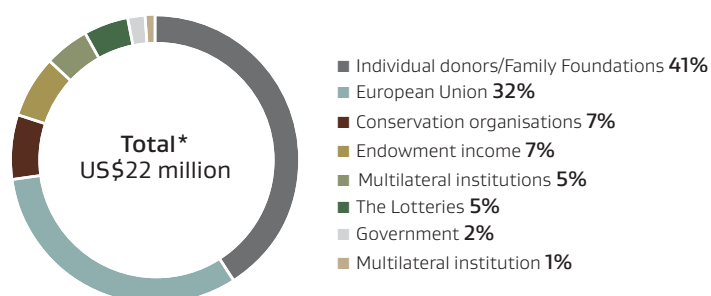
**Capital expenditure** amounted to over US\$3.8 million (2014: US\$4 million) in the current year. This remained high as US\$1 million of this related to the acquisition of capital items in Liwonde and Nkhotakota, namely fencing materials and heavy equipment.



## GROUP MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

	Protected Areas US\$'000	African Parks Network US\$'000	Total per management accounts US\$'000	Consolidation adjustments US\$'000	Total per financial statements US\$'000
<b>Income</b>	21,660	2,977	24,637	(2,079)	<b>22,558</b>
Donor income	19,350	1,072	20,422	(1,649)	<b>18,773</b>
Gross park revenue	2,242		2,242		<b>2,242</b>
Endowment income	32	1,468	1,500		<b>1,500</b>
Cost recoveries		430	430	(430)	
Other revenue	36	7	43		<b>43</b>
<b>Group spending</b>	(21,641)	(2,986)	(24,627)	1,934	<b>(22,693)</b>
Operating expenditure	(17,084)	(2,251)	(19,335)	(1,834)	<b>(21,169)</b>
Capital expenditure	(3,671)	(97)	(3,768)	3,768	
Special projects expenditure	(886)	(638)	(1,524)		<b>(1,524)</b>
<b>Net deficit/surplus</b>	5	(9)	10		<b>(135)</b>

## SOURCES OF FUNDING



\* Excludes the impact of consolidation adjustment of US\$1.6 million.



## ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These audited abridged group financial statements (the “abridged financial statements”) comprise a summary of the audited financial statements of the group for the year ended 31 December 2015 (the “financial statements”). The financial statements were approved by the Board on 8 April 2016. These abridged financial statements were published on 8 April 2016.

The financial statements were prepared by Ayesha Jackaria, CA(SA), Chief Financial Controller, and are available on our organisation’s website. This section provides the abridged summaries of the financial statements with commentary thereon.

### Basis of preparation

The abridged financial statements are prepared in accordance with the framework concepts and the measurement and recognition requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the SAICA Financial Reporting Guides as issued by the Accounting Practices Committee, and also, as a minimum, contain the information required by IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa. They do not include all the information required for the full financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements for the group for the year ended 31 December 2015. The abridged financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

### Significant accounting policies

The accounting policies applied in the preparation of the audited financial statements, from which the abridged financial statements were derived, are in terms of International Financial Reporting Standards and are consistent with the accounting policies applied in the preparation of the previous audited consolidated financial statements.

### Abridged group statement of comprehensive income

An abridged group statement of comprehensive income is presented below. A consolidated operating loss for 2015 of US\$329,000 (2014: US\$412,000) was recorded. Since the group operates on a balanced budget system, the deficit in the statement of comprehensive income was mainly associated with non-cash expenses such as foreign exchange losses and depreciation expenses.

## ABRIDGED GROUP STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015 US\$'000	2014 US\$'000	% change
<b>Income</b>	<b>22,558</b>	17,404	
Donor income	18,773	13,929	35%
Endowment income	1,500	1,345	
Park operating income	2,285	2,130	17%
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>(22,693)</b>	(17,313)	31%
Employee benefit expenses	(7,882)	(6,796)	
Depreciation	(2,155)	(1,653)	
Other expenses	(12,656)	(8,864)	
<b>Results from operating activities</b>	<b>(135)</b>	91	
Net foreign exchange differences and finance revenue	(194)	(503)	(58%)
<b>Deficit before taxation</b>	<b>(329)</b>	(412)	
<b>Deficit for the year</b>	<b>(329)</b>	(412)	
Other comprehensive loss	(120)	(100)	
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>	<b>(449)</b>	(512)	

**Income** recognised is a function of expenses incurred. African Parks works on a balanced budget principle whereby donor funds received are first recognised as undrawn funds until utilised in the project. Aligning ourselves to the business approach to conservation, costs incurred are first financed through operating income, followed by donor funding. The African Parks Network overhead costs are financed primarily via the investment income generated by our endowment fund.



**Donor income** represents funds received that were used towards the funding of park activities. The total donor income recognised for the year increased by 35% to US\$18.8 million (2014: US\$13.9 million). Donor funds not utilised are categorised as undrawn funds.

**Other income** is mainly derived from park entry fees, tourism activities, accommodation income and concession fees.

**Employee benefit expenses** is the largest cost category as our biggest investment remains in the people who ensure the efficient operation of the parks. The total number of full-time staff employed was 1,405 in 2015 (2014: 1,185). Casual staff are employed within the parks for construction, road-works, alien plant control and other projects.

**Administrative expenses** include office costs, consulting fees, board meeting expenses and audit costs.

**Other operating costs** include aircraft expenses, motorised vehicle expenses, repairs and maintenance and anti-poaching scout rations and equipment.

**Net finance costs** include foreign currency exchange losses incurred in the current year.

**Other comprehensive loss** reflects the movement in the foreign currency translation reserve.

## ABRIDGED GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2015

	2015 US\$'000	2014 US\$'000	% change
<b>Assets</b>			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	9,105	7,553	
Current assets			
Inventories	82	157	
Receivables and prepayments	3,879	4,893	(21%)
Cash and cash equivalents	5,681	5,594	2%
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>18,747</b>	<b>18,197</b>	
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>			
Capital and reserves			
Foreign currency translation reserve	(1,288)	(1,168)	
Retained earnings	1,450	1,784	
Non-controlling interest	(179)	(184)	
Current liabilities			
Provisions	135	44	
Trade and other payables	1,665	1,364	22%
Undrawn funds	8,289	9,379	(12%)
Deferred income	8,675	6,978	24%
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>18,747</b>	<b>18,197</b>	

**Property, plant and equipment** include infrastructure improvements, motor vehicles, aircraft, plant and machinery, furniture and fittings and other fixed assets. During 2015, a total of US\$3.8 million (2014: US\$4.3 million) was invested in tangible fixed assets. This included capital expenditure on community projects.

**Receivables and prepayments** include receivables from donors such as the EU and other private donors. These are all contracted donations. US\$2.5 million related to receivables from the EU Commission.

**Trade and other payables** include various accruals and other suppliers.

**Undrawn funds** represent grants received that were not utilised in the current year, either because they represent unearmarked funding that will be utilised in 2016 or because they are earmarked for specific activities that are yet to take place. These are held as cash, as well as receivables and are only disbursed in the earmarked project and the earmarked period.

**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 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	2015 US\$'000	2014 US\$'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	3,307	(194)
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(3,827)	(4,324)
Net cash inflow from financing activities	607	6,530
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	87	2,012
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	5,594	3,582
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>5,681</b>	<b>5,594</b>

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

## ABRIDGED GROUP STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Foreign currency translation reserve US\$'000	Retained earnings US\$'000	Total US\$'000	Non- controlling interest US\$'000	Total US\$'000
Balance as at 1 January 2014	(1,068)	2,083	1,015	(71)	944
Loss for the year		(299)	(299)	(113)	(412)
Other comprehensive loss	(100)		(100)		(100)
<b>Balance as at 1 January 2015</b>	<b>(1,168)</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>(184)</b>	<b>432</b>
<b>Loss for the year</b>	<b>(120)</b>	<b>(334)</b>	<b>(335)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>(329)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive loss</b>			<b>(120)</b>		<b>(120)</b>
	<b>(1,288)</b>	<b>1,450</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>(179)</b>	<b>(17)</b>

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



# Independent Auditor's Report

## on Summary Group Financial Statements

### TO THE MEMBERS OF AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK (NON-PROFIT COMPANY)

The accompanying summary group financial statements of African Parks Network, which comprise the summary group statement of financial position at 31 December 2015, and the related summary group statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended and related notes, are derived from the group financial statements of African Parks Network for the year ended 31 December 2015. We expressed an unmodified opinion on those group financial statements in our auditor's report dated 8 April 2016.

The summary group financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Independent Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act applied in the preparation of the group financial statements of African Parks Network. Reading the summary group financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited group financial statements.

### DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the summary group financial statements on the basis described in the previous section.

### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary group financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

### OPINION

In our opinion, the summary group financial statements derived from the group financial statements of African Parks Network for the year ended 31 December 2015 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements, on the basis described in the previous section.



**Per D. Read**

Chartered Accountant (SA)  
Registered Auditor  
Director, KPMG

8 April 2016







# Funders

We would like to thank all our funders for supporting our work during 2015. Our conservation progress would not be possible without the funding support we receive from governments, multilateral institutions, conservation organisations, family foundations, companies and individuals. This support enables us to make a substantial, long-term impact on wildlife conservation in Africa.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

These funders constitute our core funding partners at either an institutional or a park level. They generally commit to African Parks on a multi-year basis, contributing an annual amount of US\$500,000 or more.

### ADESSIUM FOUNDATION



Adessium Foundation is a grant-making foundation working towards the benefit of nature and society. It aspires to a society that makes responsible use of nature and the environment. Humanity's dependence on healthy ecological systems is a central focus. The Foundation helps to protect important natural resources and combat environmental exhaustion and pollution. Adessium has been a long time strategic funding partner to African Parks, first on a park specific, and later on institutional level. Adessium Foundation made a commitment of €1.025 million for the period 2013 – 2015. An additional €900.000 was committed by the Foundation to fund African Parks' expansion strategy for the period 2014–2017. This additional funding is unrestricted (non-project specific).

### DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY



The Dutch Postcode Lottery was founded in 1989 to support charitable causes. 2.7 million households in The Netherlands participate, vying for hundreds of thousands of prizes each month, while supporting charitable causes: half the price of each ticket is distributed among 95

charitable organisations. Since the Postcode Lottery's founding, the lottery has dispensed over €4.7 billion to its beneficiaries. African Parks has been a beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery since 2010. A total of €4.2 million has been committed by the Dutch Postcode Lottery for the period 2011 – 2015. In 2015, the Lottery renewed their funding commitment of €900.000 per year for an additional five years. This funding is flexible in nature and gives a significant boost to African Parks' ability to manage and grow its portfolio of parks. The Dutch Postcode Lottery committed an additional €890.000 towards the African Parks anti-poaching fund in 2013, to be used over a period of five years.

## EUROPEAN UNION



The European Union (EU) is a strategic funding partner in Garamba, Zakouma and Odzala. The EU committed €5 million towards Garamba National Park from 2010 – 2014, €6.9 million towards Zakouma National Park from 2011 – 2015, and €5 million towards Odzala-Kokoua National Park from 2012 – 2017. In addition, a funding facility of €12.5 million was established during June 2014 and aims to bridge the funding gap between the 10th EDF (European Development Fund) under which the three francophone parks have been funded since 2011, and the 11th EDF. The 11th EDF is expected to start at the end of 2016. Garamba's EU contract under the 10th EDF ended in March 2014 and it is currently using this funding facility. Odzala and Zakouma will start using this funding facility from 2016. The EU remains the major funder of the three parks.

## FENTENER VAN VLISSINGEN FAMILY

The late Paul Fentener van Vlissingen provided the bulk of the initial funding that established African Parks in 2003. In 2010 his daughters Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen committed €25 million 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, allowing new donor contributions to be allocated directly to the parks. In 2015 the Fund contributed US\$1.5 million to African Parks organisational needs.



## Zakouma National Park, Chad – *Jean Labuschagne*

### DONNA AND MARVIN SCHWARTZ

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 mammal species that are threatened by poaching. In 2015, their funding supported Majete Wildlife Reserve's continued growth and allowed for the construction of the Schwartz Family Law Enforcement and Training Centre at Chinko.

### THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION



The Rob and Melani Walton Fund of the Walton Family Foundation ("Fund") has a philanthropic focus on conservation and biodiversity protection. In 2015, the Fund renewed its support with a five year, US\$5 million grant. This funding will help grow the African Parks portfolio to 20 parks by 2020, with an additional priority at Akagera.

### THE WILDCAT FOUNDATION



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 believes traditional wildlife protection paradigms are inadequate to deal with today's poaching and trafficking problems, and it seeks and supports innovative new approaches.

### THE WYSS FOUNDATION



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. In 2015, the Wyss Foundation supported projects in Akagera National Park, Liwonde National Park, and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.

### US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE (USFWS)



The US Fish & Wildlife Service is a government agency whose mission is to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Three grants were awarded to African Parks in 2015 and applied to anti-poaching initiatives in Zakouma National Park and Chinko, and to monitoring programmes and anti-poaching activities in Odzala-Kokoua National Park.

### WWF – THE NETHERLANDS



The mission of WWF (the World Wide Fund for Nature) is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. In 2007, WWF-The Netherlands entered into a 10 year partnership with African Parks to develop the African Parks management model across Africa. For the period July 2014 to June 2017 WWF-The Netherlands has committed €1.5 million in total to core operating costs and conservation projects at Liuwa Plain National Park, Bangweulu Wetlands and Odzala-Kokoua National Park. A group of five families called the "Odzala Circle" contribute the Odzala portion of this funding. In addition €500,000 was made available to WWF-Zambia for the same three-year period of which €330,000 is for direct support of Bangweulu Wetlands.





# Organisational and Individual Donations

We deeply appreciate the organisations and individuals who made contributions to African Parks in 2015. Significant contributions are listed below.

## US\$500,000 AND ABOVE

Adessium Foundation  
Dutch Postcode Lottery  
European Union  
Fentener van Vlissingen Family  
Donna and Marvin Schwartz  
Stichting African Parks Foundation  
The Walton Family Foundation  
The Wildcat Foundation  
The Wyss Foundation  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
WWF-The Netherlands

## US\$100,000 – US\$499,000

Acacia Partners, LP  
Charlie Schwartz  
Dioraphte  
Don Quixote Foundation  
Edith McBean  
Elizabeth and Michael Moran  
Elizabeth Schwartz  
James J. Coleman Jr  
Marc Verhagen and Katrien Cammaert  
People's Postcode Lottery  
Ronald and Christie Ulrich  
Steve and Corinne Koltes

Stichting Amfortas  
The Howard G. Buffett Foundation  
The Odzala Circle  
The World Bank  
Wildlife Conservation Network  
WWF-US  
WWF-Zambia

## US\$25,000 – US\$99,999

Anders Johansson  
Anna McWane Charitable Foundation  
BASf  
Boudewijn Molenaar  
Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs  
Emilia Saint-Amand  
Frederik van Beuningen  
Jonathan Cummings and Holly Hegener  
Jon and Mindy Gray Family Foundation  
Klootwijk van der Worp Nalatenschap  
Laetitia Smits van Oyen  
Piet Klaver  
Rainforest Trust  
René Hooft Graafland  
Robert-Jan van Ogtrop  
Stichting Africom  
Sue and Eugene Mercy, Jr. Foundation  
The George L. Ohrstrom, Jr. Foundation



Liuwa Plain National Park, Zambia – *Burrard-Lucas*

The Goergen Family Foundation  
 The Mailman Foundation  
 The Woodtiger Fund  
 Thomas and Nancy Gallagher  
 Victrix B.V.  
 Vitol Foundation  
 Vulcan

### US\$10,000 – US\$24,999

Anita Mishra and Paolo Mapelli  
 Gilles Lafue  
 Herman and Rita Spliethoff-Peeters  
 Lodewijk and Marijke de Vink  
 Rathmann Family Foundation  
 Robert Mellberg  
 Stichting Groenling

### US\$1,000 TO US\$9,999

David King and Phoebe Weseley  
 Eileen Ludwig-Greenland  
 Fred and Deborah Ulrich  
 Gregor Bergquist  
 Hinderrust Fonds  
 Jonathan B. Mills  
 Joel E. Smilow  
 John Levin

Kerry S. Waits  
 Marshall and Jamee Field Family Fund  
 Norman S. and Joanne B. Matthews  
 Richard Lenski  
 Steltman Juwelier  
 The Jacob and Frances O. Brown Family Fund  
 The Marc Wollinsky and Barry C. Skovgaard  
 Charitable Fund  
 Willem and Thea van den Heuvel

### US\$250 TO US\$999

Andrew S. Paul  
 Gregory Allgrim  
 Henry and Teresa Ramallo  
 Jeffrey Siegal  
 Lauren Frazza  
 Maureen Fitzpatrick  
 Todd O'Connor  
 William Geraghty

### DONATIONS IN KIND

AT Kearney  
 Clifford Chance Amsterdam



# Governance

**Sound governance and professional financial management is a core focus of African Parks and is supported by a professional governance structure.**

The main governing body, African Parks Network, based in Johannesburg, South Africa, is a registered not-for-profit organisation in terms of Section 21 of the Companies Act. African Parks Network is the strategic and decision-making entity which is 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 five non-executive Board members, is responsible for overall governance of the organisation. Two specialised sub-committees, the Audit and the Risk Committee and the Remuneration and Nominations Committee, ensure additional focus on governance.

Each park managed by African Parks is established as a separate legal entity (except for Garamba which has an advisory Board), registered in the host country, with its own Board of Directors. 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. Each entity is obliged to operate in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures determined by African Parks Network.

The financial statements for each park, in addition to the group financial statements, comply with International Reporting Standards (IFRS) and are audited by KPMG, other than Majete, which is audited by Deloitte. In 2015, as in previous years, each entity received an unqualified audit opinion.

The financial statements for each park, in addition to the group financial statements, comply with International Reporting Standards (IFRS) and are audited by KPMG, other than Majete, which is audited by Deloitte. In 2015, as in previous years, each entity received an unqualified audit opinion.

African Parks Network has affiliated organisations in The Netherlands and the USA, Stichting African Parks Foundation (The Netherlands) and African Parks Foundation of America, which have charitable status and whose role is to further the mission of African Parks. These separate legal entities are governed by independent Boards, but are bound by a co-operation agreement which ensures a common purpose for all.

Park management reporting disciplines include the preparation of monthly management accounts, annual budgets and annual business plans, which are reviewed 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 via formal channels of communication as specified in the Standard Operating Procedures Manual.



# Get Involved with African Parks

If you are inspired by the work that African Parks is doing, we invite you to get involved. There are many ways to assist our conservation activities and we would welcome a discussion on how you may like to contribute. Donations can be made via our charitable entities in the USA and The Netherlands and are tax deductible. Donor funding goes directly to our parks with no allocation to administrative or overhead costs.

## STRATEGIC FUNDING PARTNERS

Our strategic partners are governments, foundations, NGOs, corporations and individuals who have the ability to make a long-term impact on wildlife conservation in Africa. These partners represent our core group of funders whose contributions ensure the sustainability of our parks. Funding contributions typically exceed US\$500,000 per year.

## DONORS

Our donors are governments, corporations, foundations, NGOs and individuals who make a financial contribution to the work of African Parks, either at a park or portfolio level.

## ANTI-POACHING FUND

The African Parks Anti-Poaching Fund was established in 2012 in response to the escalating poaching threats and provides a vehicle for our donors to designate specific funds for our anti-poaching efforts.

## ENDOWMENT FUND

The African Parks Endowment Fund was established to contribute to our long-term financing needs. We would welcome the opportunity to engage with you, should you wish to make an enduring contribution in this manner.

## LEGACY GIVING

An increasing number of donors seek to leave a legacy by bequeathing contributions to African Parks after their death, which can be structured in a tax efficient way.

## STOCK DONATIONS

A donation of securities is a powerful way to support African Parks while receiving a significant tax break.

## HOW IS YOUR SUPPORT MADE TANGIBLE?

As a supporter of African Parks, you are invited to visit any of the parks under our management to witness our conservation work in action. You will also be invited to participate in conservation programmes, such as the collaring or translocation of wildlife, research projects or educational safaris. For companies, we offer brand exposure, as well as corporate hosting opportunities at our parks.

Most importantly though, we offer the opportunity to associate with a cause that is delivering tangible conservation results on the ground – ensuring the protection of not only Africa's wildlife but also the ecosystems on which we all depend for survival.

## IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT

### Peter Fearnhead

Chief Executive Officer  
[peterf@african-parks.org](mailto:peterf@african-parks.org)

### Sophie Vossenaar

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### Edward Barnes

Chief Operating Officer, USA  
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### Tineke Floor

Fundraising Director, Europe  
[tinekef@african-parks.org](mailto:tinekef@african-parks.org)

OR CONTACT [info@african-parks.org](mailto:info@african-parks.org)





[www.african-parks.org](http://www.african-parks.org)

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