



# ZAKOUMA

NATIONAL PARK  
CHAD

AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

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

Partner: The Republic of Chad

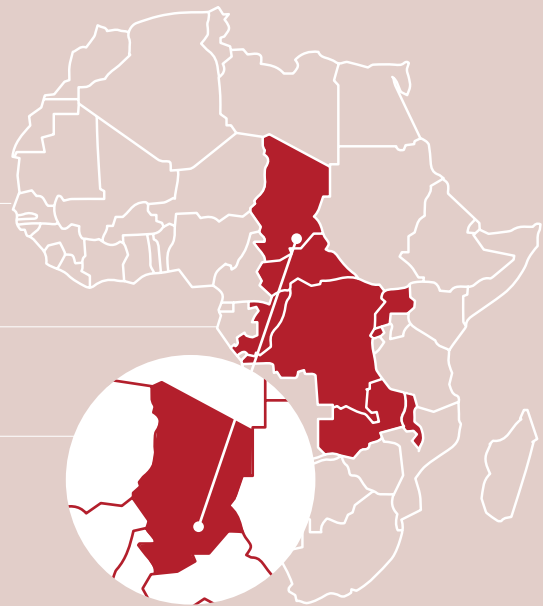


30 elephant calves born in 2015

80 elephant calves counted in 2016



650 children attended four Elephant Schools  
which serve the community



## The Story of Zakouma

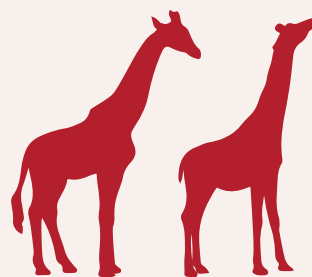
In spite of regional conflict, Zakouma remains one of the few intact Sudano-Sahelian ecosystems in Africa, and it is a critical representative habitat for Central and West African animal species, making it one of the most important protected areas on the continent. Since 2010 when African Parks assumed management of the park, elephant poaching in Zakouma has come almost to a halt, and the population has stabilised and is growing with at least 80 calves under the age of three years counted in 2016. Due to improved management and an effective ranger team, Zakouma is emerging as a coveted tourist destination, and is bringing needed stability to the area.



Parc National  
*Zakouma*  
TCHAD



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50%

Zakouma is home to 50 percent of Africa's Kordofan giraffe.

## The Challenge

The Chadian government were progressive in recognising the vital role Zakouma played in conservation, declaring it a national park in 1963. This increased protection meant that animal populations flourished, however, this also brought unwelcome attention from poachers, some from as far as Darfur, Sudan. Travelling on horseback and armed with high-calibre weapons, poachers would slaughter as many as 60 elephants in a single attack, causing the elephant population to drop from 4,350 individuals in 2002, to just 454 in 2010.

## Highlights

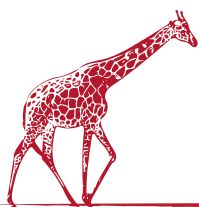
- Rapid Response Units have almost completely halted poaching in the park.
- After eight years of poaching, elephant numbers are on the rise with the population surpassing 500 in 2016.
- Species including giraffe, roan antelope, Lelwel's hartebeest and buffalo have all recovered, with buffalo now numbering in excess of 10,000 from an original 200 in 1986.
- Four 'Elephant Schools' provide education to more than 650 local children.
- Zakouma's Tinga Lodge and Camp Nomade have increased in tourism revenue by 27% since 2014.

## The Solution

African Parks overhauled law enforcement in 2010 to protect the park, its wildlife, and the surrounding communities. As a result, for the first time in years elephants harboured within the park's safe borders are producing new-born calves. The adjacent communities, whose villages had previously been targeted by the same criminal groups, are now also experiencing the benefits of increased park security resulting in educational opportunities, improved livelihoods, and an overall better existence.

## Next Steps

- 1 Formulate a land-use plan to create an elephant corridor beyond the park, which forms part of a 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> greater ecosystem.
- 2 Improve the educational curriculum and environment following the opening of additional Elephant Schools, which address the challenge of a dispersed local population.
- 3 Continue efforts to reintroduce black rhinos into the park.
- 4 Further boost the number of Chadian visitors to the park, both as tourists and through the outreach programme.



African Parks is a non-profit conservation organisation that takes on direct responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks and protected areas, in partnership with governments and local communities. We currently manage 10 parks in seven countries – CAR, Chad, Republic of Congo, DRC, Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia - with a combined area of six million hectares. Our goal by 2020 is to have 20 parks, and 10 million hectares, under management