



# ZAKOUMA

NATIONAL PARK  
CHAD

## AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

Zakouma is part of Greater Zakouma  
and totals 3,054 km<sup>2</sup>

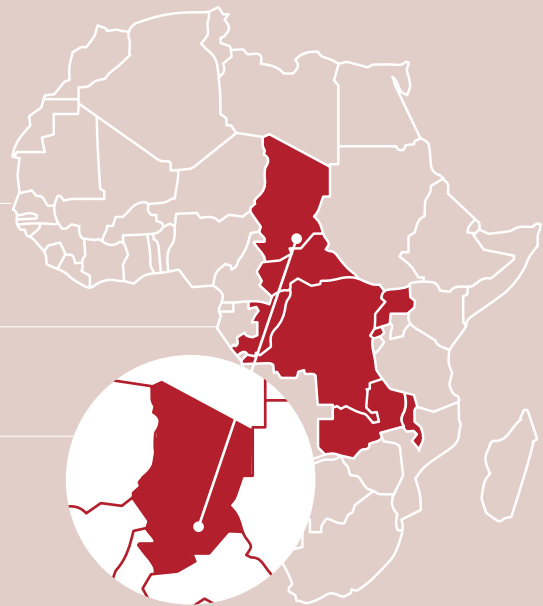
Partner: The Republic of Chad



127 elephant calves counted in 2018



Over 1,500 children benefitted from  
Zakouma's community education initiative  
in 2017



## The Story of Zakouma

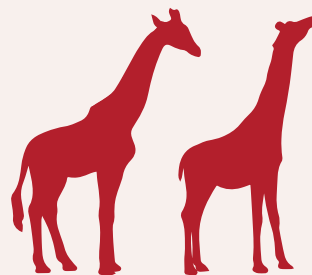
Zakouma National Park in the Republic of Chad, is a unique and critical conservation area for key species in Central Africa. It was once a stronghold for African elephants with numbers ranging well over 4,000 in early 2000. By 2010 however, 95% of Zakouma's elephants were eliminated, killed for their ivory by poachers who often wreaked havoc on local communities creating instability in the region. In 2010 African Parks, on invitation by the Government of Chad, signed a long-term agreement to manage Zakouma to protect the remaining 450 elephants and re-establish stability in the surrounding communities. The park's management and law enforcement were immediately overhauled and due to effective efforts and community work, not a single elephant was poached in the park between 2012 and 2014. The elephant population began to increase for the first time in a decade and surpassed 550 individuals at the end of 2017. Zakouma's transformation since 2010 has also allowed for tourism to flourish delivering much-needed revenue to the park and surrounding communities.



Parc National  
**Zakouma**  
TCHAD



© Michael Viljoen



50%

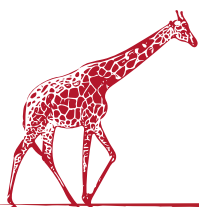
Zakouma is home to 50 percent of Africa's Kordofan giraffe.

## The Challenge

The Government of Chad was progressive in recognising the vital role Zakouma played in conservation in the country, declaring it a national park in 1963. This increased protection at that time meant that animal populations flourished, however, this attracted unwelcome attention from poachers, some travelling from as far as Darfur in Sudan. Travelling on horseback and armed with high calibre weapons, poachers would slaughter entire family units in a single attack, causing the elephant population to drop dramatically from 4,350 individuals in 2002 to just 454 in 2010.

## Highlights

- In October 2017, African Parks doubled its footprint around Zakouma by signing an MoU with the Government to manage 'Greater Zakouma', an expansive 30,693 km<sup>2</sup> area which includes Zakouma National Park, Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve and other critical corridors for wildlife.
- Law Enforcement has almost completely halted poaching in the park.
- After eight years of poaching, elephant numbers are on the rise with the population surpassing 550 in 2017.
- Over 1,500 children received an education from Zakouma's community education initiatives in 2017.
- Zakouma's tourism saw 2,225 tourists visit the park in 2017 which contributed an 83% increase in revenue generated compared to 2016.



African Parks is a non-profit conservation organisation that takes on the complete responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks in partnership with governments and local communities. We currently manage 15 national parks and protected areas in nine countries covering 10.5 million hectares: Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Zambia

## The Solution

African Parks assumed management of Zakouma in 2010 and immediately overhauled law enforcement to protect the park, its wildlife, and the surrounding communities. Strong community engagement led to local people working with park staff to alert the team to any criminal activity. Schools were built, tourism infrastructure developed, and Zakouma has become the largest employer in the region delivering much-needed benefits to once underserved communities.

## Next Steps

- 1 Continue efforts to successfully reintroduce a founder population of black rhinoceros to the park.
- 2 Continued emphasis on law enforcement with a strong focus on elephant and rhino protection and a target of zero losses.
- 3 Recruit management and law enforcement teams in the Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve.
- 4 Increase park revenue generation to US\$1 million through the implementation of the tourism development plan.