

BEYOND THE SHADOWS



Peter Fearnhead

CEO'S LETTER & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Peter Fearnhead, CEO



Giraffe in Bandingilo National Park, South Sudan © Ted Woods

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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



Beekeepers in Garamba National Park, DRC © Marcus Westberg

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

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

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

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