

# ANCHORING AFRICA'S RESILIENCE

AFRICAN PARKS



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



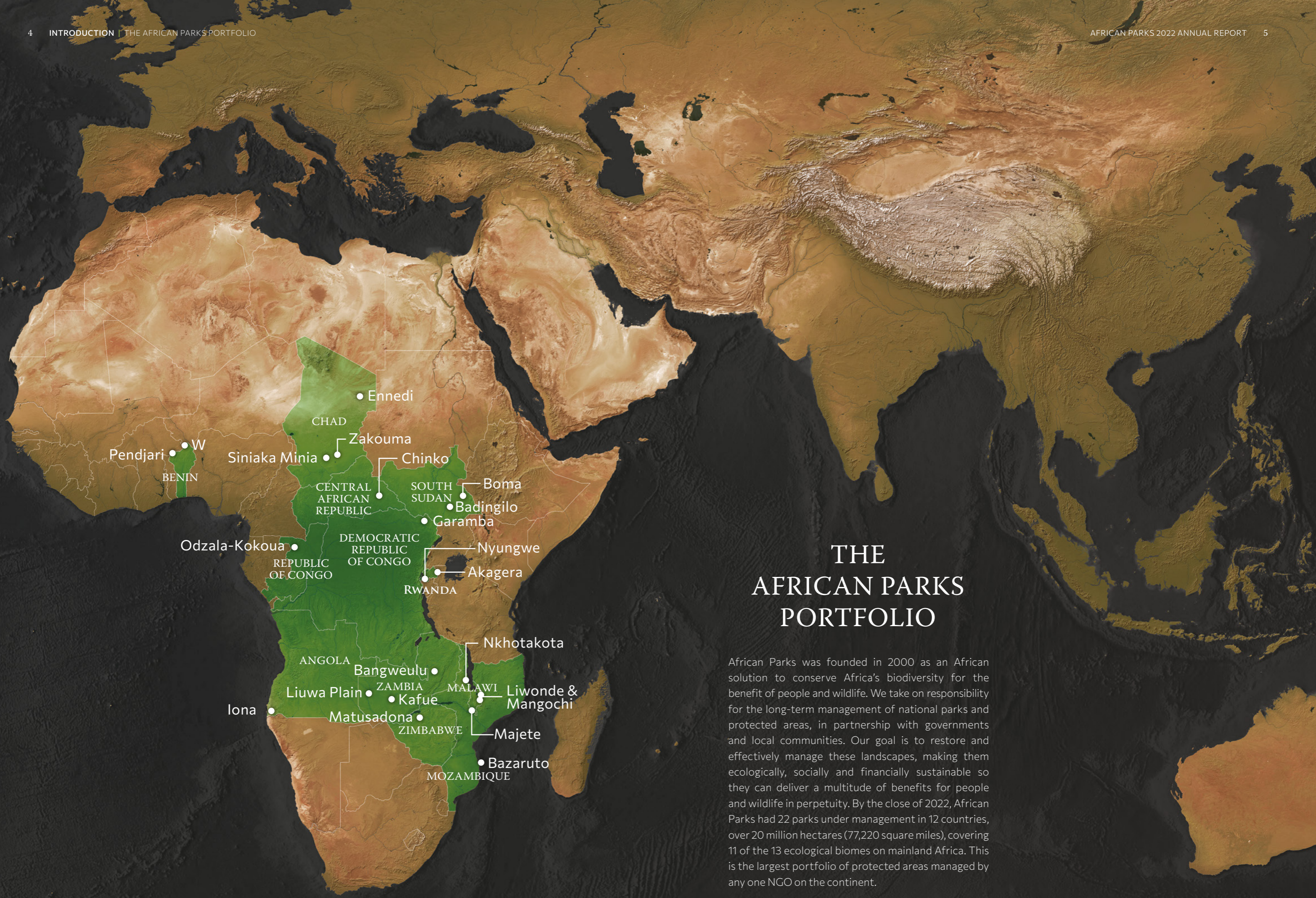
Galan mountain in Boma National Park, Sudan Sudan. Together, Boma and Badingilo national parks in South Sudan make up nearly three million hectares of landscape that supports one of the largest land mammal migrations in Africa © Marcus Westberg

Cover: In Chinko, CAR, nomadic herders are guided along designated corridors where they can graze their cattle without impacting on the park's biodiversity © Marcus Westberg

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# INTRODUCTION

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• Ennedi  
 CHAD  
 • Zakouma  
 • Siniaka Minia  
 • Chinko  
 • Boma  
 SOUTH SUDAN  
 • Badingilo  
 • Garamba  
 • Nyungwe  
 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
 • Akagera  
 RWANDA  
 • Nkhotakota  
 • Bangweulu  
 ANGOLA  
 • Liwonde & Mangochi  
 • Kafue  
 ZAMBIA  
 MALAWI  
 • Matusadona  
 ZIMBABWE  
 • Majete  
 • Bazaruto  
 MOZAMBIQUE  
 • Odzala-Kokoua  
 REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
 • Pendjari  
 BENIN  
 • W

## THE AFRICAN PARKS PORTFOLIO

African Parks was founded in 2000 as an African solution to conserve Africa's biodiversity for the benefit of people and wildlife. We take on responsibility for the long-term management of national parks and protected areas, in partnership with governments and local communities. Our goal is to restore and effectively manage these landscapes, making them ecologically, socially and financially sustainable so they can deliver a multitude of benefits for people and wildlife in perpetuity. By the close of 2022, African Parks had 22 parks under management in 12 countries, over 20 million hectares (77,220 square miles), covering 11 of the 13 ecological biomes on mainland Africa. This is the largest portfolio of protected areas managed by any one NGO on the continent.

## A GLOBAL SOLUTION: INVESTING IN NATURE



Vasant (Vas) Narasimhan  
CEO OF NOVARTIS

**CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AFRICAN PARKS  
NETWORK, DECEMBER 2022 - PRESENT**

Humanity needs nature to survive. Science tells us that 30% of land and marine areas should be conserved and protected to reduce the impact of climate change and maintain healthy ecosystem services, such as food security, and clean water and air. While global awareness of the critical need to protect nature is growing, we need to scale the solutions that can deliver tangible results on the ground.

Africa harbours a staggering 25% of the world's biodiversity, and protecting it is integral to our very survival. However, the continent also has a population growth rate that is three times the global average. Coupled with the impacts of climate change, weak governance, and competing governmental needs, this has meant that most of the protected areas harbouring rich biodiversity are severely under-resourced. If we do not act now to address these challenges, the continued loss of remaining nature will perpetuate a spiral of socio-political instability.

Three years ago, I had the pleasure of joining the Board of African Parks – an African conservation organisation that was founded to address this very issue. By partnering with governments and local communities, African Parks provides a management solution to ensure these critical landscapes receive the resources needed to thrive. The results over the past two decades have been remarkable, with the portfolio having grown to 22 protected areas in 12 countries, covering 20 million hectares. To put this into perspective, that is five times the size of Switzerland, where I live today.

In addition to its scale and impact, what also struck me about African Parks are the values that it upholds, which align so closely to my own. I have had the privilege of visiting seven of the parks currently managed by African Parks. During each of these visits, I have been moved by the unwavering passion and commitment of the team, the focus on accountability and tangible results, and importantly, the courage to step into some of the most remote and challenging, yet important areas on the continent.

As I step into my new role as Chairperson of the Board, I do so with optimism but also with a profound sense of responsibility for the task at hand. So little time remains to move the dial in protecting the nature we still have. As a global community, we can't afford to continue only talking about solutions – we need to implement them. This past year, we as African Parks refined our strategy and are in the process of strengthening our institutional capacity, bolstering our ability to scale further. However, we are also heading into our largest funding gap yet. While we work on sustainable funding mechanisms, I hope and trust that we, as a global community, will rise to the occasion and be part of the solution.

African Parks has shown that, if holistically managed, protected areas and the nature they protect create a foundation for sustainability and the resilience required for socio-economic development. Nature is our greatest tool in addressing climate change. By protecting and restoring these natural systems, we ensure that the ecosystem services they provide are safeguarded into the future, for the benefit of people and wildlife.

I want to sincerely thank the governments and communities who understand the importance of protecting their natural assets and for embracing partnerships to help them achieve their objectives. I am also deeply grateful to our current donors, whose generosity helps make all of this happen. We continue to look to you for support in helping us raise US\$150 million over the next three years as we work towards achieving our goal of managing 30 protected areas by 2030. Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Robert-Jan van Ogtrop, who successfully steered the organisation as Chairperson over the past 13 years.

I look forward to the journey ahead, and I am optimistic that together we can make 2023 a breakthrough year in our efforts.

Sincerely,  
Vas Narasimhan, Chairperson



## BUILDING RESILIENCE



Peter Fearnhead

### CEO'S LETTER & EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following a solid year of growth in the number of parks under management, and progress in each and every one, I am proud to be presenting our 2022 Annual Report. Despite the lingering challenges that remained as we emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic; the hard-hitting consequences of climate change, especially flooding in Malawi; the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, which resulted in a shift in funding priorities; and the escalation of militant extremism in Benin, we navigated the year better than any of us might have imagined. We became stronger as a result of the lessons we learnt, humbled by the hardships that our people bore, and resolute for the future.

The addition of Kafue National Park in Zambia, and Boma and Badingilo national parks in South Sudan, grew the portfolio considerably to 22 parks and 20 million hectares of land now under formal management agreements. Furthermore, positive discussions with the governments of Angola and Ethiopia also progressed a number of parks through our park development pipeline. These new parks represent some of the biggest conservation projects we have ever committed to undertaking, and we look forward to rising to the challenge entrusted upon us by governments. Guided by our now familiar "161 Strategy" – our road map to ensuring Africa's 161 "anchor areas" are effectively managed (read more about this on pg. 18) – we are making steady progress towards realising our goal of protecting 30 parks by 2030.

In December, we said a heartfelt goodbye to our long-standing friend and Chairperson of the African Parks Board, Robert-Jan van Ogtrop. We are deeply grateful to Robert-Jan for the integral role he played in growing and developing African Parks as an organisation. In his place, we welcomed

Vasant (Vas) Narasimhan as our new Chairperson who we believe, with his considerable experience in leading a multinational corporation, combined with his passion for conservation, will provide strong leadership as we embark on a new chapter.

With the number of people living in Africa estimated to triple by 2100, and the global spotlight on the climate and biodiversity crisis, the need to find solutions to protect nature for the benefit of humankind could not be more urgent. African Parks is an African innovation, conceptualised in Africa, and designed to take on this challenge. Our mission is to be the leading conservation organisation on the continent, as measured by impact. We are an integral part of Africa's resilience and together, with our government and community partners, we aim to help safeguard the continent's wild places, its natural resources and the livelihoods of millions of people who draw on nature for survival.

In this report, we share not only our successes and the positive impacts we have made, but also our challenges and the lessons we have learnt. We recognise those who lost their lives at the forefront of these conservation efforts, and our ongoing commitment to reduce the likelihood of such losses occurring in the future. In conclusion, we demonstrate how we remain committed to our purpose, and that to achieve success we need to stay the course.

In light of the climate and biodiversity crises we are navigating, the foundational role of well-managed protected areas and the importance of working together with governments and local communities to successfully safeguard them to ensure that they benefit the people living in and around them, has never been clearer.

In closing I want to thank our government partners who are entrusting their nation's valuable natural assets into our care; our funders for their ongoing support, enabling us to do what we do; and to the remarkable people on the ground for their dedication and hard work and without whom none of our work would be possible. Thank you all, for your loyalty, for staying the course, and for your commitment to African Parks and to conservation on the African continent.

Sincerely,  
Peter Fearnhead, CEO



In Kafue National Park, Zambia, three herds of approximately 1000 buffalo each move across the park in the dry season, amongst other smaller herds © Mike Dexter

**OUR GROWTH** — During 2022, we saw substantial additions to our portfolio and by year's end, we were managing 22 parks in 12 countries. In June, we signed a revised agreement to extend our management of Zakouma National Park in Chad by a further ten years. This was followed by a landmark commitment that came after several years of negotiations – the signing of a 20-year agreement with the Government of Zambia on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to manage and protect the 22,400 km<sup>2</sup> Kafue National Park.

In August we realised another major commitment by signing a ten-year renewable agreement with the Government of South Sudan to manage Boma and Badingilo national parks. Together, these two parks are the cornerstones of a five-million-hectare landscape that supports one of the largest land mammal migrations in Africa. Every year, over one million white-eared kob move between Badingilo National Park flanked by the White Nile, through Boma National Park and towards Gambella National Park in Ethiopia, before returning when the seasons change. This project is arguably the most ambitious commitment we have yet

undertaken and the task that lies ahead is enormous. We first need to understand this ecosystem, including the complex and oftentimes violent interactions amongst various ethnic groups that live in and off the landscape, and then to put in place the basic infrastructure and agreements to effectively manage this ecosystem. The opportunity is vast, so too are the challenges, but we remain confident that it is possible.

**OUR CHALLENGES** — In February, the violent extremism in Burkina Faso and the broader Sahelian region spilled over into northern Benin, culminating in three devastating attacks in W and Pendjari national parks. Seven African Parks employees (four rangers, two drivers and the Francophone chief instructor), as well as a Beninese soldier, lost their lives in these incidents. In the months that followed, attacks continued both in and around Pendjari and W, with several casualties sustained by the Beninese army. We took immediate action to secure our personnel by evacuating staff not involved in park law enforcement activities, reinforcing our bases, and adapting our way of operating. We also met with the President of Benin to discuss our role in W

and Pendjari national parks and the challenges we face. The Beninese Government expressed strong support for our continued management of both parks and committed to providing additional security to create a safer environment in which our staff could operate.

**In Malawi, we lost a ranger in Liwonde National Park and also in Majete Wildlife Reserve.** Both deaths were a result of assault by poachers. These tragic incidents highlight the significant risks faced by rangers in protecting biodiversity and the critical importance of continued training, equipping our teams to ensure they can conduct their work in as safe a manner as possible. In addition, our organisation-wide death and disability benefit goes some way to reducing the economic burden incurred by the dependents of our employees killed in the line of duty. As poor governance, poverty and climate change leads to increased tension and pressure on natural resources, it becomes increasingly important that we retain consistent and positive engagement with local communities to build strong partnerships and relationships. In this way we reduce the likelihood for friction in these challenging environments.

**Early in the year, Cyclone Ana wreaked havoc across much of Malawi.** Majete Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde

National Park experienced extreme flooding and extensive damage to infrastructure. Thankfully, no human lives were lost in the parks and the few animals which escaped the parks were retrieved. African Parks supported national relief efforts with helicopter transport to inaccessible areas as well as food provision and medical support to affected communities.

**LESSONS LEARNT** — Given the scale of our operations, it's inevitable that we'll be faced with difficult and heart-breaking incidents every year. We take each of these challenges as an opportunity to learn and improve our management in all areas under our responsibility so that, where possible, we can prevent them from happening again.

**The loss of lives to militant attacks in W National Park, in Benin was one of our most severe challenges to date.** Our immediate response was to ensure the safety of all park staff. In addition, we pulled our operations back from areas under threat, away from the volatile border areas in the north. All roads coming in and out of the park were monitored, and our rangers received specialised training in identifying improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The Benin Government, ensured we had the support of the national army which was deployed



Memorial erected in W National Park, Benin, in honour of those lost in the February 2022 militant attack inside the park © African Parks

along the border to reduce the threat of militant action infiltrating Pendjari and W national parks. We have also maintained close engagement with local communities who have played a vital role in contributing to efforts in creating security within their regions.

We have faced extremely challenging circumstances before, including in Garamba National Park when the Lord's Resistance Army was ever present, but this is an entirely new threat that we are facing. We do not know how the situation will play out, as the solutions go beyond park management, but for the time being we are resolute in our commitment to the Government of Benin and the local communities, who would have the most to lose if our efforts fail. In situations where we are faced with such significant threats, we undertake a thorough assessment of whether our staff (management), our funders (money) and our government partners (mandate) support us remaining in the area before making the decision to continue operations. Valuable lives have been lost and many people wounded, yet the commitment by our team to safeguard these parks for both wildlife and communities within West Africa's last remaining intact ecosystem has been humbling. Ultimately, the

loss of these two parks would be a significant setback to conservation and people in the whole of West Africa. We have learnt that remaining committed to our staff, local communities and to conservation in the parks we manage for as long as it's possible for us to do so, is the backbone to the mandates we sign.

Over the years, and especially in 2022, Bangweulu has had a number of unfortunate interactions between resident communities and the park rangers, which have led to both injuries and fatalities. Although some of these were sparked by efforts to reduce illegal activities, it is likely that some were incorrectly handled by the conservation law enforcement team and possibly compounded by complicity of some law enforcement officials in the poaching syndicates. Bangweulu is the only park where African Parks does not have full management over conservation law enforcement, which is executed by the national authority. This arrangement makes it very difficult to manage staff, and reinforces the merit of the standard African Parks model which brings park law enforcement under our management. Efforts are being made to urgently rectify this challenging arrangement.



Community members around Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, Malawi, planted over 84,000 fruit and indigenous trees in 2022 in projects supported by African Parks © Thoko Chikondi



Through the Constituency for Conservation Index (CCI) survey, the needs of communities can be identified and supported. Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Republic of Congo © African Parks

To assess the impact of our community development efforts in building a support base for conservation we rolled out our first Constituency for Conservation Index (CCI) survey across all parks. Overall, the results were encouraging with a 65% average score, reflecting a positive sentiment towards the parks' presence and living alongside wildlife, as well as good relations between the communities and park management. However, the survey also confirmed that there is more work to be done to meet the needs and expectations of community members. With these insights from the study, we can refine our community development plans and improve community engagement going forward. As we learn better ways of communicating, building trust and understanding expectations, all areas of engagement between park management staff, including rangers, and community members will improve.

Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) is an ongoing challenge both for people and animals across the parks we manage. Community members need support to secure their livelihoods in areas where wildlife and people must coexist. For this reason, our efforts to find workable long-term interventions is a major focus. These interventions are in addition to fencing, ranger patrols and wildlife monitoring to reduce negative impacts of wildlife on communities. A number of projects have

proven very successful, such as using chilli fences to prevent elephants raiding local crops in Odzala-Kokoua, Matusadona and Liwonde national parks. Others, such as the use of beehive fences in Odzala-Kokoua failed, after it was discovered that bees won't colonise in hives hanging low in the rainforest. To reduce the impact of HWC incidents such as loss of livestock to predation and crop raiding, mitigation funds have been set up in W National Park and Liuwa Plain National Park to compensate households. In addition, financial incentives also encourage communities to put their own mitigation efforts in place – such as keeping cattle in bomas to reduce predation. Overall, as we continue to work on effective conflict mitigation interventions, we have learnt that ongoing education and awareness raising is key to reducing conflict incidents as people learn ways to coexist with wildlife in and around the parks we manage.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — Again this year we undertook major feats in translocating wildlife to ensure range expansion and population increases for Africa's most vulnerable species.

In January and February, we moved over 900 buffalo from Zakouma National Park to Siniaka-Minia Wildlife Reserve in Chad – the largest-ever buffalo



Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, Mozambique, is home to the last known viable population of dugong in east Africa © Rafael Fernandez Caballero

translocation to take place. Despite some losses, the project was largely successful and once additional infrastructure is in place, a second phase will occur in 2024. At the end of July, we concluded our second-largest elephant translocation to date: moving 263 elephants from Liwonde National Park to Kasungu National Park in Malawi in collaboration with Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). In addition, 431 other animals were moved from Liwonde to Kasungu and 947 to Mangochi Forest Reserve and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. In April, we welcomed our first rhino calves from the 30 white rhino that had been moved from South Africa to Akagera National Park in Rwanda in 2021.

In November, tragedy struck when we lost Liwonde National Park's pack of 18 African wild dogs as a result of poisoning. This is a major setback for wild dog conservation in Malawi. To help prevent losses like this we continually provide comprehensive poisoning awareness training for our rangers and anti-poison awareness workshops in communities surrounding the parks. Thankfully, the wild dogs in Majete Wildlife Reserve are thriving, giving us confidence that Malawi's wild dog population still has the opportunity to recover.

To end the year, the research team in Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (BANP) in Mozambique made a successful application to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to reassess the status of the East Africa dugong, of which the last-known viable population exists in Bazaruto. As a result, the IUCN approved the relisting of the East Africa subspecies of dugong, from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red Data List.

**IN COMMUNITY** — The African Parks team now consists of 4,273 full-time employees, 97% of whom are nationals. In addition, we continue to support thousands of local, part-time workers. Our ranger team grew to over 1,430 individuals and in September, teams from across the parks – from the desert of Iona in Angola to the flooded plains of Zakouma in Chad – participated in the 21km Wildlife Ranger Challenge. This annual event raises awareness for the role that rangers play in conservation, not just on the frontline in protecting biodiversity, but also as conservation ambassadors, teachers and community support workers.

Our community work across the parks continued to impact the lives of thousands of people. Today, over 27,500 people are benefitting from sustainable

livelihood initiatives supported by the parks including beekeeping, fisheries, agroforestry, guiding cooperatives, and training in livestock husbandry, veterinary assistance, and sustainable farming practices. This year, 53,000 people were treated by African Parks supported hospitals and clinics; over 9,600 adults and children received environmental education and more than 2,400 scholarships were provided. More than 5,000 community meetings were held to keep stakeholder communication channels open and engage on socio-economic initiatives, education and human wildlife conflict challenges.

One particular highlight for 2022 was the official opening of the Gishanda Fish Farm outside Akagera National Park in Rwanda in collaboration with FoodTechAfrica. Supported by the Rwandan and Dutch governments, Gishanda uses sustainable methods of farming tilapia to provide a much-needed protein source for communities. Through the construction of the fish farm 111,000 fingerlings were released to restock Lake Gishanda; two villages

were electrified; a primary school built for 370 students; eight permanent jobs and regular casual jobs created; and a community-run organic vegetable farm established using the grey water from the fish farm. In addition to being a first for us at African Parks, it has been a great learning opportunity and is an excellent example and a sound benchmark for a sustainable circular economy that benefits communities and biodiversity.

**IN TOURISM** — We experienced impressive growth in visitor numbers across most parks, with a 30% increase in revenue compared to pre-Covid-19 levels. Some parks noted their best performances to date, and we are encouraged by the continued support from local tourist markets. Akagera National Park achieved record earnings of US\$3,7 million, Nyungwe National Park US\$780,000 and Majete Wildlife Reserve US\$650,000. Every dollar earned by the park remains in the park, and goes towards the management of conservation and community initiatives associated with protected area management.



Healthcare was provided to approximately 10,000 people at African Parks supported hospitals in communities around Garamba National Park, DRC, in 2022 © Marcus Westberg

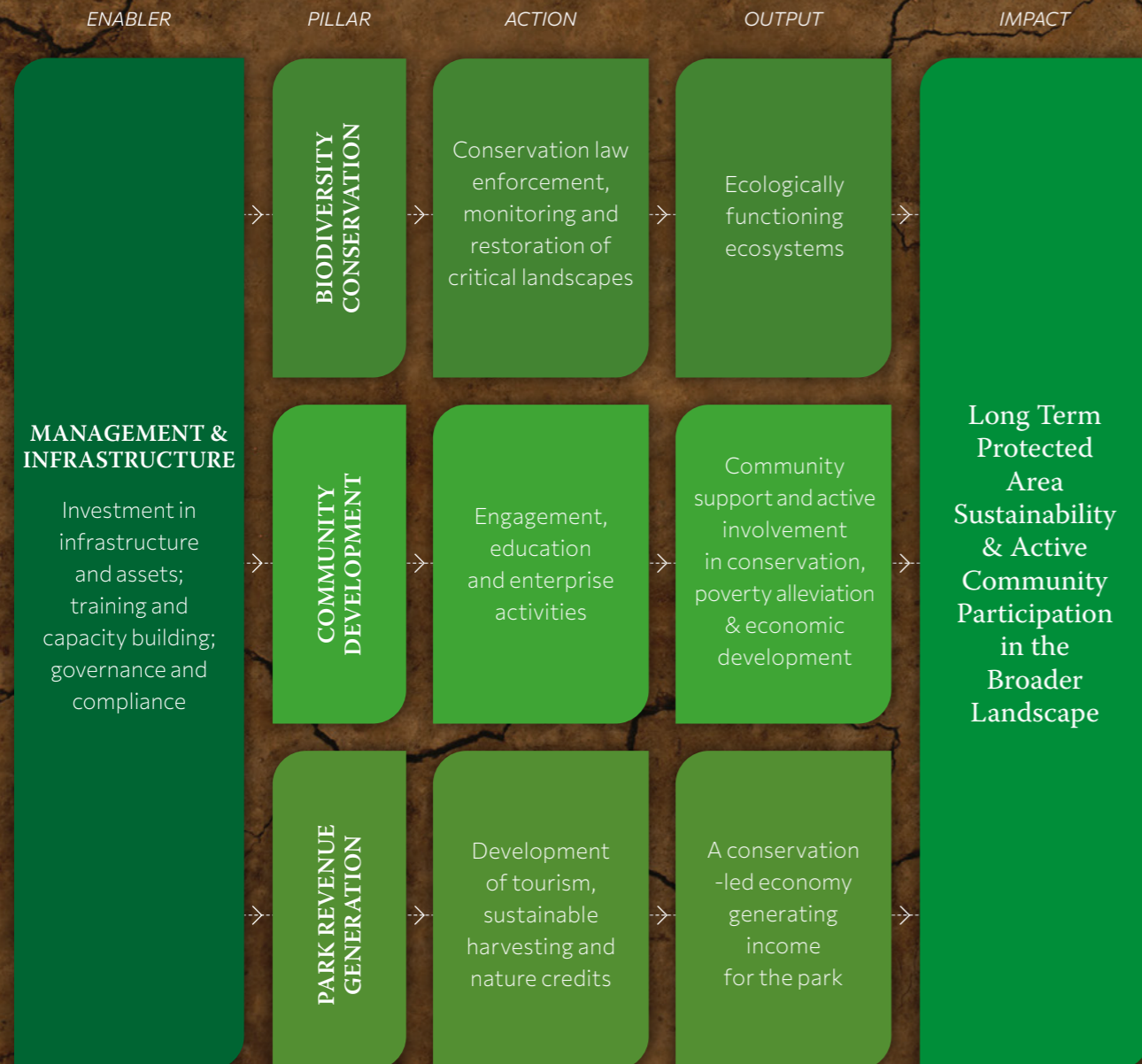
# OUR MODEL

FOR A FUTURE OF RESILIENCE

In the year 2000, African Parks pioneered the “Public-Private Partnership” (PPP) model for protected area management. Under this model, we are fully responsible for all park management functions and 100% accountable to the governments who remain the owners and policy-makers of the landscapes. This is achieved through long-term renewable agreements that are on average 20 years (mandates), putting in place funding solutions (money), and establishing good

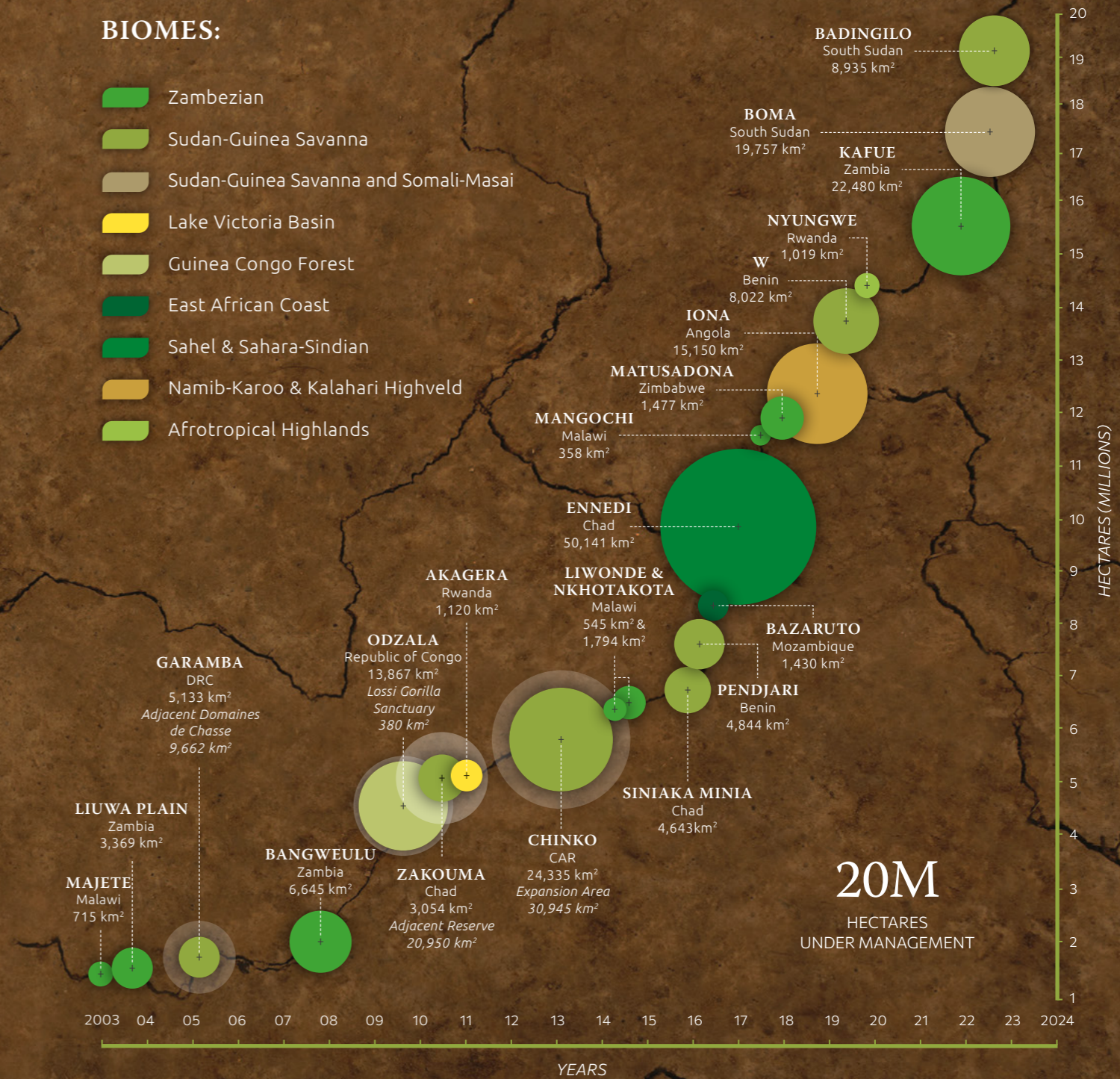
management and clear governance by creating separate legal entities per park or country, each with their own board representing key stakeholders (management). Once these three elements are in place, we implement the three pillars supported and underpinned by management and infrastructure (below) designed to restore and protect wild areas for the benefit of people and wildlife, while achieving long-term sustainability ecologically, socio-politically and financially.

## 3 PILLARS: ACTIONS & OUTPUTS



## BIOMES:

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



# OUR FOOTPRINT

PROTECTING AFRICA'S BIODIVERSITY

African Parks manages 22 parks in 12 countries, encompassing 11 of the 13 ecological biomes on mainland Africa, ensuring that 20 million hectares are under effective management and, therefore, protected. In just 22 years, we have built the largest and most ecologically diverse portfolio

for any one conservation organisation on the continent. Our goal is to manage 30 parks by 2030, ensuring that 30 million hectares are well managed and to contribute to the broader vision of having 30% of Africa's unique landscapes protected into perpetuity.

# PROTECTING AFRICA'S INTACT NATURE:

## The Most Effective Action to Increase Resilience

**To find ways to harbour resilience, we first have to look after the very system that sustains life on Earth: nature.**

The global population increase is happening predominantly in Africa. By 2100, Africa's population will be three times what it is today. With this rapid growth and significant use of natural resources globally, the impact of ecological degradation is becoming critical. We urgently need to act to protect nature, to ensure resilience against extreme climatic events which cause drought, flooding and famine, if we are to survive as a human race.

Nature is the planet's inbuilt mechanism for regulating climate and building resilience against extreme climatic

events. But for nature to be effective, biodiversity - which consists of all species interacting with each other and their environment - must be intact and fully functional. Protecting and conserving the natural systems that still exist, in conjunction with reducing greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, is the only way to keep global warming at bay. These are the most immediate and effective solutions we have at our disposal.

The urgency of protecting the planet's biodiversity to safeguard critical ecosystems that sustain all life on Earth is being acknowledged globally. However, to build resilience in nature and people, we must look after what we already have. Protecting nature that is still intact costs an average of US\$6/ha per year, compared to US\$1,500/ha to restore ecosystems that have been destroyed. Not only is biodiversity protection more cost effective, it is also a lot quicker than restoring nature to the level of providing a full suite of vital ecosystem services. And we no longer have the luxury of time.

**Approximately 8,500 protected areas exist in Africa. But most of these are too small or degraded to effectively safeguard globally significant ecosystem**

**services to ensure ecological resilience against climate change effects.**

In 2020 African Parks conducted an analysis of Africa's protected areas. Considering the size of the areas, the integrity of habitat and the strength of their legislation, 161 protected areas were identified as "anchor areas" that harbour significant biodiversity, sequester carbon, deliver clean air and water, and provide food security for people.

**These 161 anchor areas represent nearly a quarter of the total size of all protected areas in Africa.**

When these areas are effectively managed, they will become the foundation for the protection and restoration efforts of the broader landscape, providing functioning ecosystem services and stability from which communities can benefit. This approach can form a backbone in Africa for the ambition to protect 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030 to create climate resilience for the continent and its people.

African Parks assessed that only 40% of the 161 protected

areas are adequately resourced and managed for long-term sustainability. The remaining areas require urgent attention to eliminate the biodiversity threats they face, such as habitat degradation and species loss.

However, effective management and financial assistance to protect biodiversity is a shared responsibility of governments, management organisations, donor organisations, the private sector and local communities.

**For this joint responsibility to be successful, it is crucial that there is clear and collective accountability for results on the ground.**

Humankind has drawn on the natural capital of the world, greatly impairing its ability to support life on Earth. While creating a healthy, resilient Earth may not be within our reach in this lifetime, we need to substantially address the root cause of the problem - inadequate protection of existing natural systems - while ensuring socio-economic stability to give the most vulnerable communities of the world the resilience to survive this critical period in our planet's history.

# IMPACT BY NUMBERS

African Parks provides effective park management to ensure lasting positive impacts through long-term renewable agreements that help protect ecosystem services, improve socio-economic benefits, and establish security and governance. Here we look at our impact and where we have increased our ability over the long-term to safeguard biodiversity for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

**ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY** Functioning wild ecosystems are imperative for human survival. Our numbers show how we are building ecological resilience across the parks under our management.

**SOCIO-POLITICAL** Well-managed parks that support healthy ecosystem services to sustain community livelihoods, health and education, improve the lives of thousands of individuals, and help build a strong constituency for conservation amongst local people.



APPROXIMATELY  
**2.5M**  
PEOPLE BENEFITTING  
from ecosystem services and  
socio-economic initiatives



**294,385**  
PEOPLE RECEIVED  
HEALTH CARE  
over the past  
five years



OVER  
**10,000**  
STUDENTS VISIT  
the parks for  
environmental  
education each year



**14,174**  
COMMUNITY MEETINGS  
held to strengthen community  
engagement over the past five years



**4,865**  
YEARS' WORTH  
OF SCHOLARSHIPS  
have been provided  
over the past five years



**ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY** Well-managed parks generate revenue from job creation, tourism and other sustainable development projects, stimulating a conservation-led economy.



**500K**  
TOURIST  
VISITORS  
**65%**  
LOCAL  
over the past five years



**30%**  
INCREASE  
IN TOURISM  
REVENUE  
since pre-Covid-19

**US\$27M**  
IN TOURISM  
REVENUE  
flowing back  
into the parks,  
over the past  
five years



**4,273** FULL-TIME  
EMPLOYEES  
of which 97% are nationals



**US\$130M** paid in salaries  
**US\$20M** paid in taxes  
over the past five years



**27,675** LOCAL PEOPLE  
BENEFITTING  
from sustainable livelihoods initiatives in 2022



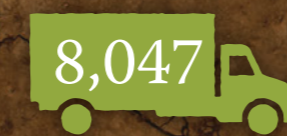
**50%**  
INCREASE IN  
WILDLIFE NUMBERS  
after five years of management



**70%**  
REDUCTION IN POACHING within  
the first five years of African Parks  
assuming management of a park



**151**  
TRANSLOCATION  
EVENTS



**8,047**  
ANIMALS  
TRANSLOCATED  
made up of



**32**  
DIFFERENT SPECIES  
including



**105**  
RHINOCEROS



**3B**  
TONNES  
OF CO<sub>2</sub>

Stored in  
**22**  
PARKS  
Across  
**12**  
COUNTRIES



**100,851**  
traps (including gin traps)



**879**  
firearms



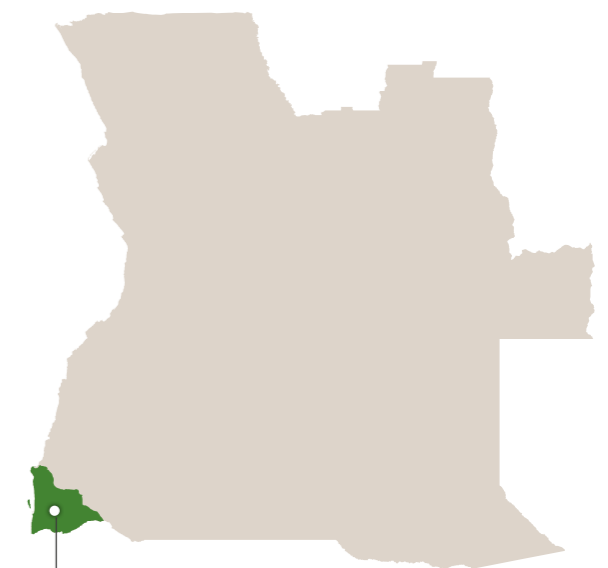
**46,980**  
rounds of ammunition  
CONFISCATED OVER  
THE PAST FIVE YEARS



**26,632** NOMADIC HERDERS engaged in 2022 to reduce  
the impact of cattle grazing in protected areas

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Iona National Park

# ANGOLA

## GOVERNMENT PARTNER

National Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (INBC)

## IONA NATIONAL PARK

15,150 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2019

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation,  
Rob Walton Foundation, Legacy Landscapes Fund  
& Stichting Natura Africae

**KEY PARTNER** International Conservation  
Caucus Foundation (ICCF)

## A LANDSCAPE OF RESILIENCE



**PARK MANAGER**  
Pedro Monterroso

**ANGOLA** — Despite its remote location and arid landscape, Iona National Park is home to a unique, rich biodiversity, supporting over 37 mammal, 250 bird, and 70 reptile species. Contiguous with the Skeleton Coast National Park in Namibia, Iona forms 15,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the 50,000 km<sup>2</sup> Iona-Skeleton Coast Transfrontier Conservation Area. Although declared a national park in 1964, the decades-long civil war wrought devastation on Iona, causing massive declines in wildlife populations leading to the local extinction of rhino and elephant, as well as tremendous hardship for communities in and around the park. Seeing the dire need, and potential, to protect this extraordinary landscape, the Angolan Government partnered with African Parks in December 2019 to revive Iona and ensure its long-term ecological, social, and economic sustainability, for both its wildlife and its people. Today, remnant populations of zebra, oryx, and springbok sustain cheetah, leopard and brown hyaena. Community engagement and development is a core focus, with the needs of the 7,000 people living in and around the park a key consideration, as effective management of the park takes hold. In less than five years, with the commitment of the government, Iona is taking promising steps toward emerging as a sanctuary for the sustainable coexistence of people and wildlife.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — The amphibian and reptile species inventory was updated, based on results of the Skeleton Coast-Iona (SCIONA) project 2021 survey. An encouraging 75 species were recorded – five amphibians and 70 reptiles – 40 for the first time in Iona. The feasibility of translocating Angolan giraffe to Iona, in collaboration with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, was investigated and a favourable due diligence completed. Introducing an initial group of giraffe looks promising for 2023. The six-year

drought continued to impact wildlife populations, forcing animals such as oryx, springbok and zebra to congregate around the scarce pasture and water sources in the park or disperse outside. A SCIONA study showed that human activities, such as livestock herding, force wildlife into suboptimal habitats, and that sharing the land increases competition for resources. The results highlight the need to secure space for wildlife while promoting human-wildlife coexistence and will be useful in the Land Use Plan. The government project to proclaim Angola's first Marine Protected Area, contiguous to Iona, progressed slowly, with public consultations held in Moçâmedes and Tômbwa, and outsourcing baseline studies.

Collaboration between Community Observers and the park's conservation law enforcement team continued to produce good results, enabling a rapid response to poaching through proactive information gathering. To highlight this collaboration, 90% of all firearms retrieved were through the Community Observer Programme or voluntarily surrendered by community members. The 21 Community Observers who completed the Basic Field Ranger course in late 2022 joined the Iona team as Wildlife Monitors, to support the ranger force from January 2023. This Wildlife Monitor Team is a first for both Iona and the community members who will now receive salaries to protect wildlife. Control Room staff and conservation law enforcement leadership training provided foundational knowledge and techniques for intelligence-based patrols and operations. Regular meetings between law enforcement leadership and the police facilitated information exchange and collaboration.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The Community Observer Programme expanded, with 320 observers providing valuable information to mitigate the impact of unregulated human activity in and around Iona. Projects supporting community engagement were ongoing. Regular community meetings were held, focusing largely on environmental education and the importance of conservation, 96 with traditional leaders (Sobas), to maintain strong relationships with communities. To improve the Community Strategy and integrated Land Use Plan, a census of communities in and around the park was taken, registering just over 7,000 people. Eight scholarships were provided to students originally from the park and 110 students at two primary schools were given meals. US\$104,356 was spent on community development, including education and health care support, a 98% increase from 2021.



Community work in Iona National Park is ongoing with education, health and socio-economic projects to benefit communities around the park, primarily Himba people © Marcus Westberg

### **PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

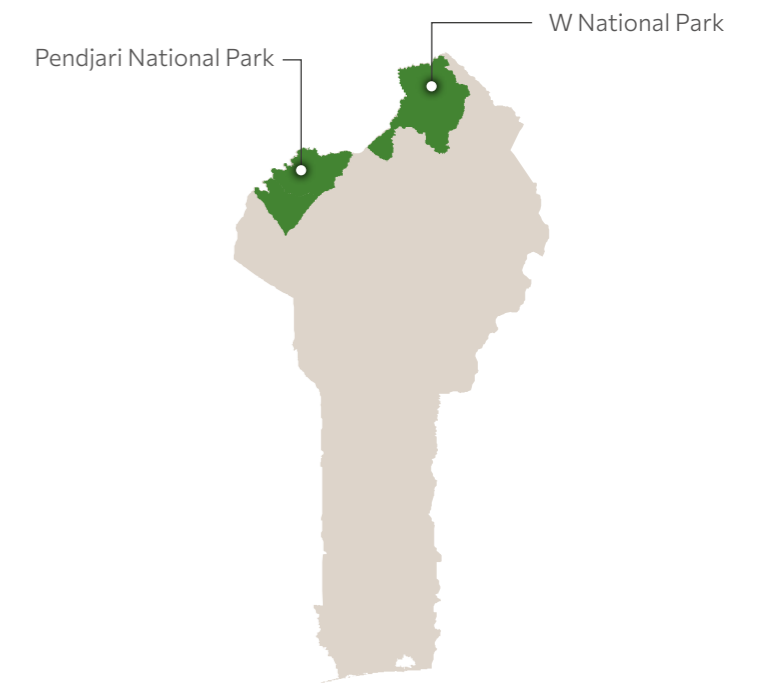
— After more than two years African Parks' NGO registration in Angola was confirmed, which will facilitate multiple administrative processes for Iona, including the import of goods and certain tax and duty exemptions. The first meeting of the Supervisory Committee, comprising key representatives of the government and African Parks, was held to discuss management and review plans for 2023 – a major step in developing the partnership. A delegation from the Ministry of Environment, the Instituto Nacional da Biodiversidade e Conservação (INBC) and the provincial government visited Iona, demonstrating their commitment to building a foundational working relationship. The Long-Term Sustainability Strategy (LTSS) workshop was held to define Iona's sustainability goals from an ecological, socio-political, and financial point of view. The management team was strengthened with new appointments, including a Funding and Reporting Manager and a Conservation Manager who was subsequently promoted to Park Manager. Construction of the new park headquarters at Pediva began, with occupation expected by mid-2023. Seven vehicles and 17 motorbikes were added to the park's vehicle fleet. The total capital and operational expenditure for the

park increased by 66%, and payroll costs by 71%.

**TOURISM** — The Tourism Development Plan is underway and will be finalised in 2023. New systems for distribution of park rules and indemnity forms, and signage for the three park gates were put in place, highlighting the partnership between African Parks and the INBC. Iona's local tourism operators, and the park's fame as a remarkable fishing destination, brought in 998 visitors.

### **OBJECTIVES FOR 2023**

1. Incorporate aerial surveillance into conservation law enforcement efforts and biodiversity monitoring
2. Build capacity and expand the community development team for improved strategy and efficiency
3. Develop and implement the Tourism Development Plan, Land Use Plan, and Biodiversity Monitoring Programme
4. Translocate Angolan giraffe and run feasibility assessments for other wildlife reintroductions
5. Finalise construction and occupation of the new park headquarters at Pediva



# BENIN

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**  
Government of Benin

## PENDJARI NATIONAL PARK

4,844 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

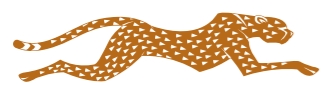
**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation, Government of Benin, Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines (FSOA), U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wildcat Foundation & Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund (LRF)

## W NATIONAL PARK

8,022 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2020

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation, Government of Benin, Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines (FSOA), U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wildcat Foundation & ECF: Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund

# CREATING AN ANCHOR OF STABILITY



**Pendjari**  
National Park  
Benin

**PARK MANAGER**  
Habteyesus Tadesse

**BENIN** — Situated within the largest remaining intact wild ecosystem in west Africa, Pendjari National Park creates an integral part, 4,844 km<sup>2</sup>, of the transfrontier W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex. Decades of regional instability, insufficient resources, and human pressure increasingly threatened the remaining wildlife, and the communities surrounding the park. In 2017, recognising the value of safeguarding protected areas to conserve wildlife, and for the socio-economic development of their country, the Government of Benin invited African Parks to assume management of Pendjari. Since then, Pendjari has become a source of stability for both people and wildlife. Uncontrolled resource use and rampant poaching have been contained, while employment opportunities, education and health care have reached thousands of people.

Despite increasing militant activity spilling into Benin from Burkina Faso in 2022, leading to some violent attacks in the region, park management, and a dedicated team of rangers, have managed to retain safety inside the park during a very challenging time. A revised security strategy, to ensure protection of the park, its wildlife and people, has been implemented and a sense of improved safety is being felt as communities, park management and government work together to ensure stability. Infrastructure investment, such as improved fencing and other mitigation measures, has accounted for a 70% drop in human-wildlife conflict (HWC), while socio-economic initiatives, such as beekeeping and soya production, are creating new opportunities for hundreds of households. Despite its challenges, in one of the most precarious regions in Africa, Pendjari remains a place of hope, encouraging the people of Benin to continue protecting its fragile biodiversity for future generations.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — The volatile security situation around the park affected many projects planned for 2022. Only one of two aerial censuses were carried out, showing a stable trend in elephant, buffalo, hartebeest and roan antelope numbers. Despite completion of feasibility studies, and signing of an agreement with the Central African Republic, for the reciprocal translocation of giant eland and Buffon's kob, the project was put on hold. Following a feasibility study the translocation of red river hog was also put on hold, along with those of red-necked ostrich, black rhino, cheetah and giraffe. Three elephant were collared for monitoring. Three boreholes were constructed for improved water availability for wildlife and three weather data collection stations installed. A glossary for riparian flora species was developed in the local language, in collaboration with the Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and the Laboratory of Applied Ecology in Benin.

With the militant attacks in W National Park in February, a revised park protection strategy was put in place, including vehicle patrols being replaced by foot and motorbike patrols to avoid mined roads. The ranger team was reinforced with more than 15 specialised training and refresher courses and 37 new rangers. The park hosted the second BFR course for the W Niger National Park with direct support from local park instructors. Despite the challenges, 353 kg of bushmeat, 23 kg of fish and 5 kg of elephant tails were confiscated. In total, 15 animals were poached – including Dandani, the collared female cheetah. Eighty-seven arrests made, leading to 18 poachers, 17 fishermen and 26 herders being sentenced or fined. Fifteen animals were, however, still poached – including Dandani, the collared female cheetah.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — In collaboration with the Village Association for the Management of Wildlife Reserves (AVIGREF), increased support was given to vulnerable communities, including a revised security strategy. Reorganisation of land use enabled the recording of all community land users and regulation of more than 3,500 ha of agricultural land. This promoted organic farming, with 180 tonnes of organic cotton produced by 240 farmers, and 12,734 seedlings of various flora planted. It also facilitated HWC management: 11 cases of crop damage by elephant and five livestock predation cases were investigated and the farmers compensated. A total of 986 residents received authorisation to access park resources, such as fisheries, grazing, shea nut and medicinal plants. To provide water for communities and livestock, two



Traditional dancers in Pendjari National Park celebrating the conclusion of a Basic Field Ranger (BFR) course © Marketa Antoninova

waterholes were completed with another four under development. Over 16,790 cattle were vaccinated to prevent the spread of bovine diseases to wildlife. Seventy-three beekeepers produced 750 kg of honey; 303 fishermen sold 12,8 tonnes of fish; and 200 kg of soya seeds were provided for organic soya production. Teaching materials, tables and benches were donated to schools on Pendjari's periphery, teachers' salaries were supplemented, and one school and three school canteens rehabilitated. Ten monthly environmental clubs reached 1,500 schoolchildren.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — Staff housing conditions were improved, with 14 dormitories built for staff and another 14 at the rangers' camp. A medevac doctor was recruited. The land-based deployment plan in response to the security situation was reviewed and is now supported by a B407 helicopter and Cessna 182, with an aviation supervisor, improved maintenance of the airstrip and infrastructure to secure aircraft on the ground. All local staff received health insurance, and a legal framework for staff representation, aimed at improving working conditions, was created.

**TOURISM** — Due to the security situation, tourism

activities were suspended temporarily. However, greater emphasis was placed on community-based tourism, with hiking and an enhanced business development plan implemented to compensate for the shortfall in park income. The park's commercial potential is being developed based on products of the Pure Pendjari brand, which generated US\$16,135. A park regional cooperative of riverine beekeepers was established, and certificates of conformity for Pure Pendjari brand products and barcodes created.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Extend the Lora network and VHF system for better communication
2. Ensure no downtime in aircraft deployments with the purchase of an Ultra Light Motorised (ULM) aircraft
3. Finalise preparations for the development of a cheetah sanctuary within the park
4. Manage the contract with Agri Resources Benin (ARB) to enhance income from Pure Pendjari products.
5. Provide health support to communities with mobile clinics

## STAYING THE COURSE



**INTERIM PARK MANAGER**  
Abdel-Aziz Bello

**BENIN** — W National Park (WNP) is part of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex and, together with Pendjari National Park, forms 12 866 km<sup>2</sup> of the transfrontier landscape which represents west Africa's largest intact wild ecosystem. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this remote region historically suffered years of poor management, a deep lack of financial resources and ongoing militant extremism resulting in severe instability. In 2020, recognising the value of the work done by African Parks in Pendjari National Park, the Benin Government, together with the West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA), concluded a management agreement with African Parks. Since then, conservation efforts in WNP have focused on protecting and monitoring the country's last remaining populations of over 4,000 elephant and 14,000 buffalo, as well as the critically endangered West African lion. Environmental awareness has been developed through positive community engagement: enterprise initiatives have been supported, infrastructure improved and agricultural pressure alleviated through a livestock management plan.

However, in February 2022, militant activity spilled into the park resulting in the loss of eight people, severely impacting on staff morale and park operations. Since then, militants have expanded their presence in the core of the park and its periphery, with frequent attacks, kidnappings and threats to the local population. To counter this increased violence, an ambitious special project was implemented which, together with strong support from the Beninese Government to regain control of the country's security situation, gradually produced positive results and the trend in attacks began to decline. The ranger team complement was increased and, through a series of

training courses, technical support, and a fully engaged park leadership the morale and confidence of the park teams substantially improved, with day-to-day operations regaining traction. Collaboration with government and communities strengthened through these challenging times. Today, the local communities play a fundamental role in contributing to the security in the region, showing their commitment to the values of both the government and the park. Despite the extreme security context, arrests and sentencing of poachers continued, and no significant negative impact on wildlife in WNP was recorded.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — Although an ambitious conservation programme was planned for 2022, the dire security conditions considerably restricted its implementation, necessitating a revised approach from February. For the remainder of the year, monitoring of key species was the focus, with 17 elephant, three lion and two hartebeest collared. Three elephant carcasses were found inside the park, with one confirmed as poached; another six animals were poached, including one lion. Forty-two human-wildlife conflict (HWC) incidents were recorded, with 27 people compensated and human-wildlife management and mitigation programmes developed, including the construction of elephant translocation crates to remove habitually problematic individuals from community areas. As part of the livestock health support plan, 17,196 cattle were vaccinated, reducing the risk of disease transmission from domestic animals to wildlife.

The WNP park protection plan was updated to align the WAP Complex security strategy with the increased threat levels, to ensure operations across the park, strengthen community development, and improve coordination with government. Thirty-nine rangers were recruited, bringing the team to 147 members. Specialised training courses increased the rangers' ability to operate in high threat security areas.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The Land Use Planning (LUP) process continued, with 35 km of community roads upgraded. Sixteen community facilitators organised 1,419 meetings (reaching 31,053 people) to improve communication and understanding of community needs. At the request of local authorities, the 50,000 m<sup>3</sup> Community Guene Dam was rehabilitated. Fourteen teachers were recruited into WNP's education programme and 2,728 students from 77 schools benefitted from environmental education programmes. Seventeen wildlife clubs

operated in schools. Classrooms were refurbished in two schools and support was provided for three school canteens. Over 500 litres of honey were produced by 81 beekeepers, 2,750 litres of shea pulp were harvested and 17.3 tonnes of fish caught for market. In total, enterprise initiatives generated US\$43,308, directly benefitting the communities. WNP participated in three national trade fairs as well as the West Africa Ecotourism Network in Accra, Ghana.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — The 2022 business plan was adapted and a WAP Benin Security Special Project created. A monument to the victims of the February incident was built and ceremonies were organised to honour the men lost. Tactical mentors were deployed to boost the staff and rangers' capacity to deal with challenging scenarios, while helping the ranger units improve their operations. A security coordinator was hired to ensure that appropriate strategies and tactics are in place.

Infrastructure development focused on the Alfakoara operational base. A sports hall, kitchen, storerooms, operations control room and 20 ranger tent platforms were constructed. Two nurses and a medical mentor were positioned at Alfakoara and advanced medical training for rangers improved on-site medical competence. Sixty-four kilometres of new roads

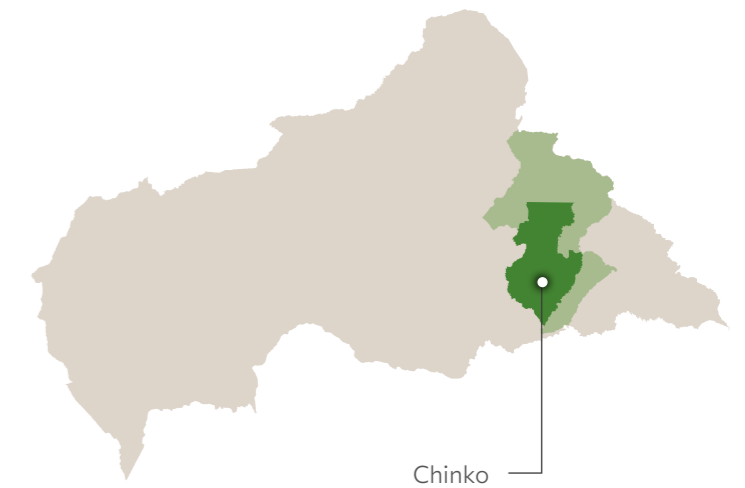
were developed, providing good coverage mainly of the Djona area of the park. A B206 helicopter was used to enable rapid and safe deployment of teams to the field and provide rapid medical evacuation in the event of an incident. Five VHF towers were installed in strategic locations across the park. Initial sabotage of pylons delayed operation, but two were eventually equipped and are functional, enabling communication to over 50% of the park and ensuring efficient and well-coordinated field operations. The carbon audit was completed with South Pole and Verra, with the final interviews of local staff and communities taking place.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Increase park protection capacity, in cooperation with security forces, to ensure no civilian personnel casualties
2. Complete and fully operationalise the VHF network
3. Deploy Echo-Tango teams (unarmed guards), to dialogue with local communities and collaborate with regional authorities
4. Reach at least 3,000 children through environmental education programmes
5. Implement reforestation plan in compliance with the Environmental Impact Study recommendations



W National Park provides refuge for some of Benin's last remaining populations of elephant, buffalo and the critically endangered West African lion © Julien Chevillot



# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**  
Ministry of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing

## **CHINKO**

24,335 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2014  
*Expansion area: 30,945 km<sup>2</sup>*

**MAJOR FUNDERS** USAID, Rainforest Trust,  
Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund (LRF),  
European Union, Rob Walton Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife  
Service (USFWS) & ECF: Save the Elephants and Wildlife  
Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund

## FORGING CONSERVATION AT SCALE



**PARK MANAGER**

Jean Baptise Mamang-Kanga

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)** — Situated in one of Africa's most remote and volatile regions, Chinko continues to be a remarkable story of hope and success. Since 2014, when the CAR Government invited African Parks to manage Chinko, wildlife began to return and stability, in a region once fraught with civil war, poaching and lawlessness, is becoming a reality. In April 2020, a revised agreement was signed with the government for a further 25 years. Under this new mandate, the Functional Landscape of Chinko was included, taking the area under management to over 55,000 km<sup>2</sup>. As effective management has taken hold, hundreds of people from some of the world's most vulnerable communities are beginning to feel the value of Chinko. Through a transhumance sensitisation programme, focusing on peacefully raising awareness among herders around the park to guide them along designated cattle corridors, the ecological damage caused by cattle is diminishing. Elephant numbers have stabilised and are steadily increasing; the northern lion population, which was almost eradicated, has increased to a few hundred; buffalo numbers are growing annually; and the giant eland and bongo populations are now the largest under effective protection in Africa. Over 300 Central Africans are permanently employed, making Chinko the largest employer outside the capital, Bangui. Enterprise initiatives, and the provision of essential services such as health and education, have improved the livelihoods of thousands of people. Going forward, the vision for Chinko is to continue expanding the core conservation area within the contiguous landscape of eastern CAR, to serve as an ecological corridor from Chad to South Sudan – one of the largest wilderness areas in Africa.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — Camera trap survey results indicated relaxed elephant behaviour

and the presence of eleven wild dogs with juveniles were also observed. This, coupled with a visit by a wild dog specialist from Botswana, gave the biodiversity team a deeper understanding of Chinko's African wild dogs, and how to recognise individuals. In Trois-Rivières, in northern Chinko, a breeding population of eastern chimpanzee was confirmed through camera trap observations and vocalisations. This significant finding has helped increase the known distribution range of chimpanzee in the eastern CAR wilderness. Chinko's first lion was collared to better understand the northern lion population and its movements, while the transhumance 'tango' teams confirmed the presence of a striped hyaena – the first documented evidence in CAR. A feasibility study for the possible reintroduction of black and white rhino, and Kordofan giraffe was carried out. The first comprehensive aerial livestock survey was completed, observing 32,800 cows, 2,140 goats and sheep and 541 herder tents within Chinko's Functional Landscape, adjacent protected areas and buffer zones. A first version of the Land Use Plan for the Functional Landscape was drafted to outline activities in the eastern CAR wilderness and surrounding development zone – an area of more than 230,100 km<sup>2</sup>. The Carbon Credit Agreement, initiated in 2020, was signed between African Parks and the CAR Government this year and a carbon audit took place.

The conservation law enforcement team increased its active protection of the core protected area to 24,300 km<sup>2</sup>, keeping the area free of livestock. Over 560 patrols were carried out, resulting in weapons, ammunition, bushmeat, snares and fishnets being confiscated. Seventeen arrests were made – up from four in 2021 – which led to 14 prosecutions. Forty-two new rangers, including three females, completed their Basic Field Ranger training course. Rangers underwent leadership training, with lectures on conservation law enforcement, biodiversity and first aid. A local human rights focal point person was recruited and conducted training. Control room staff travelled to Chad to support and train incubator partners in implementing effective control rooms, capitalising on lessons learned at Chinko.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The third annual community committee meeting was held, with over 130 participants attending. The creation of a proposed Chinko National Park and buffer zones were discussed with local communities, technicians and authorities, all of whom support the initiative. In September, a workshop was held in Yakoma in the Democratic

Republic of Congo (DRC) with Central African and Congolese fishermen, to discuss the integrated cross-border management of the Mbomu River, currently adversely affected by destructive fishing practices. Food and goods purchased by Kocho headquarters from surrounding communities increased, benefitting six communities this year. Fifteen market gardening groups comprising 380 people received tools and training to help improve their harvests. Nine farmer groups were trained in new crop practices, and 33 primary school teachers from 18 villages received teaching support. A mobile clinic offered dental care, treatment against malaria and other urgent medical care, in Djemah, Derbissaka, Ngouyo and Kitika.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — The Kocho headquarters and Bangui offices were fully refurbished, and new quarters for rangers and visitors completed in Kocho. The community centre in Bakouma was completed. A B2 Squirrel helicopter, used for team deployment, surveillance and, where necessary, medical evacuations, was purchased. The Kocho airstrip was extended to 2,500 metres, facilitating future wildlife translocations

and supply runs. The fleet management team received training on 4x4 driving, vehicle maintenance, safety, communications and accident procedures.

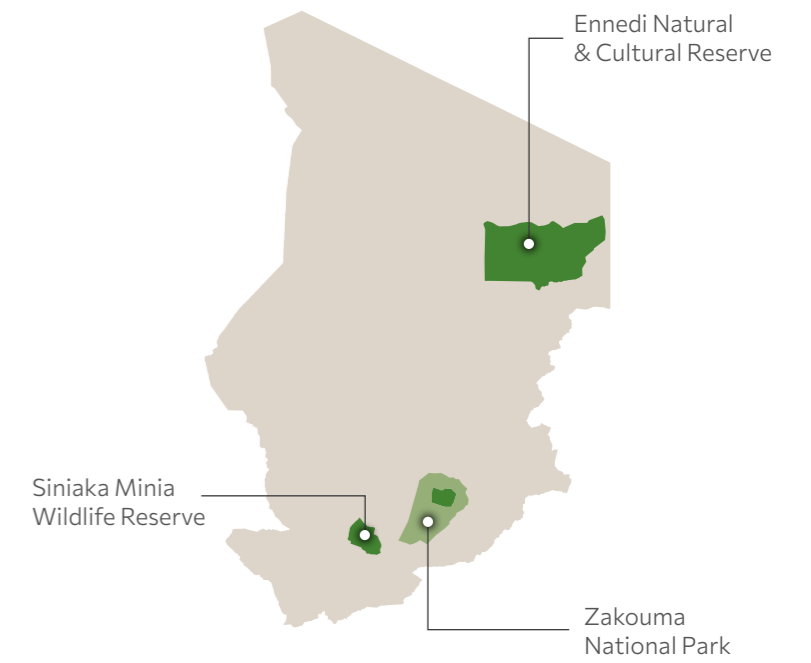
**TOURISM** — Camp Chinko completed its second season of catch-and-release sport fishing on the Chinko River; seven goliath tigerfish were successfully caught and released after taking samples and measurements, as part of a study on the population dynamics of these predatory fish. The camp employed six staff from surrounding communities.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Increase core protected area to 25,000 km<sup>2</sup> and actively managed area to 33,700 km<sup>2</sup>.
2. Finalise Land Use Plan proposal
3. Conclude relevant agreements for a future tourist safari concession
4. Extend community engagement in the northern border of the mandated area
5. Conduct the second livestock survey in the larger contiguous wilderness area



Numbers of the Lord Derby eland, also known as giant eland, are growing as effective biodiversity conservation takes hold in Chinko  
© Irene Galera



# CHAD

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**  
The Republic of Chad

## ENNEDI NATURAL & CULTURAL RESERVE

50,141 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Stichting Natura Africae, Fondation Segré, Dutch Postcode Lottery & European Union

## ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK

3,054 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

## SINIAKA MINIA WILDLIFE RESERVE

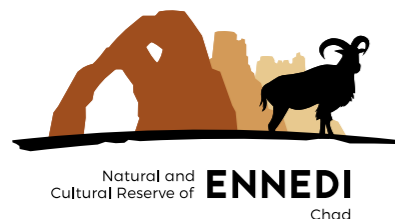
4,643 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

*Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve : 20,950 km<sup>2</sup>*

**MAJOR FUNDERS** European Union, Stichting Nieuwgeluk Philosophy, Annenberg Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wildlife Conservation Network's Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), ECF: Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund & U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL)

The Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve lies within the Ennedi Massif, a mountainous refuge that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016 © African Parks

## SAFEGUARDING AFRICA'S HERITAGE



Natural and Cultural Reserve of **ENNEDI**  
Chad  
**PARK MANAGER**  
Issakha Gonney Guirki

**CHAD** — Situated in north-east Chad in the Sahara Desert, Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve (ENCR) is a unique landscape of exceptional value. The Ennedi Massif, an extraordinary sandstone masterpiece which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016, provides refuge to a variety of unique wildlife species and globally significant archaeological sites dating back 7,000 years. Recognising its significance, the Government of the Republic of Chad invited African Parks in 2018 to help realise a vision to transform and safeguard Ennedi for the benefit of local communities and to preserve its iconic flora and fauna. With over 189 bird species and desert-dwelling mammals including Barbary sheep, striped hyaena and dorcas gazelle existing in the landscape, increased wildlife monitoring has led to a deeper understanding of this important sanctuary. As part of the restorative plan for Ennedi, red-necked ostrich were successfully introduced from Zakouma National Park in 2021, and have since raised a number of healthy chicks. In addition, plans are underway to reintroduce the locally extinct scimitar-horned oryx and critically endangered addax antelope. As an emerging oasis for life, Ennedi has become a refuge for the 30,000 nomadic people who legally move across the landscape every year. In less than five years, through effective management, community engagement and infrastructure and tourism development, Ennedi is becoming a functioning Sahelian-Saharan ecosystem of significant cultural and natural value.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — Through a combination of aerial counts, camera trapping and surveys of fauna, including small mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and insects, more than 60 additional species were identified in the ENCR this year. All the reserve's major taxonomic groups were

inventoried and an ecological diagnosis drawn up for each, including an assessment of conservation issues, threats and management measures. Vegetation monitoring using an enclosure, remote-sensing and field surveys helped to validate the suitability of the ENCR for the reintroduction of oryx and addax. Eight ostrich chicks hatched early in 2022 with ten more at the end of the year. In August, eight ostriches were released into the ENCR from the Aloba Plain prelease site area. Twenty-five ostriches now exist in the reserve and seven in Sougounaw Ostrich Farm in Fada. The second phase of the anthropological study, together with monitoring of the Archei crocodile, has made it possible to update the crocodile conservation strategy and implement appropriate management measures. Climate data was monitored by installing weather stations and collecting water samples.

The archaeology inventory recorded 358 archaeological sites out of a planned 500. Analysis shows that rock painting sites comprise more than half of all recorded sites, followed by habitat sites, prehistoric sites and graveyards. In terms of preservation, only 87 sites are in good condition with almost half in very poor condition. A total of 23% of sites are of major archaeological importance.

Twenty-nine new rangers completed the Basic Field Ranger course, bringing the total to 63 rangers patrolling the reserve, including the north and east. To improve communication and team monitoring on the ground, the control room was activated with four rangers working in rotation. Camel patrols continue to monitor the reserve's least accessible areas, particularly in the mountains, a prime habitat for Barbary sheep, which are highly prized by poachers. The patrols led to five arrests. Two firearms were confiscated during combined patrol missions with Chadian Force de Défense et de Sécurité.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — Staffing of the Community Development Department was completed with a community manager, community assistant, animator and agronomist technician. The reserve funded five community teachers' salaries in four primary schools. In collaboration with local authorities a new community school with two classrooms was built and equipped in Aloba. Opening in September 2022, this was a major highlight for the community as, prior to African Parks' arrival, there was no school in the village, despite there being 95 children of school-going age. A unique environmental education programme was developed where 66 lessons of the existing national



With essential infrastructure development around Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, water supply has been improved for communities © S.V.S - Société de Voyages Sahariens

education programme were complemented with content on the topics of biodiversity, natural resources, waste management, protected areas and archaeology. The final product is a ready-to-use guide for teachers throughout the reserve. In the Fada communal garden, a second borehole with solar panels and a pump was constructed. With this improved water supply, the Fada market gardeners began cultivating 2.75 hectares. In total, more than 100 kg of seeds were provided to 40 market gardeners' associations.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — The permanent ENCR headquarters were completed and officially opened in February 2022 and were fully operational by September. The living conditions of the staff quarters were improved greatly. Sougounaw Ostrich Farm was renovated and equipped to increase breeding capacity, to begin serving as an educational site for tourists, students and local people, and to support the long-term objectives of the red-necked ostrich reintroduction project. The first Field Operations Base, together with an airstrip, was established at

Ndjona, north-east of the ENCR. It will serve as the control point for patrols, and logistical and security support for all short to mid-term missions of technical departments.

**TOURISM** — The ENCR's Tourism Department opened in 2022, and construction of the guesthouse to host VIP supporters and donors progressed well. Ongoing mapping of archaeological sites formed a major part of planning the launch of an exclusive tourist experience in Ennedi in the future.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Increase conservation law enforcement team to 80 members
2. Continue to restore wildlife populations
3. Implement the Tourism Development Plan
4. Promote the ENCR as a tourist destination for high-end international travellers
5. Develop conservation strategies for the archaeological sites

## EXPANDING AREAS OF PROTECTION



**PARK MANAGER**  
Naftali Honig

**CHAD** — In 2010, the Government of Chad invited African Parks into a long-term agreement to manage Zakouma National Park, to protect the last remaining elephant and re-establish stability for the surrounding communities. Before this, Zakouma, characterised by perennial river systems and rich floodplains, had endured decades of instability at the hands of rebels and armed horsemen. Ninety percent of its elephant were lost to the ivory trade and communities lived in fear for their safety. A dozen years later under African Parks management, however, has seen a complete overhaul of community engagement, infrastructure and conservation law enforcement strategies, allowing Zakouma to become a safe haven for both people and wildlife. To build on this success, in 2017 the government invited African Parks to manage the Siniaka Minia Wildlife Reserve (SMWR), Bahr Salamat Wildlife Reserve, and adjoining wildlife corridors, incorporating the entire Greater Zakouma Ecosystem (GZE) of 28,162 km<sup>2</sup> into the mandate.

Under this protection of the vast GZE, not one elephant has been poached since 2016, and numbers are slowly increasing, with approximately 636 counted in 2021 (a 40% increase since 2010). In 2022, over 900 buffalo were translocated to Siniaka Minia from Zakouma, the largest ever buffalo translocation and the first major population seen in Siniaka Minia in over half a century. Tourism has seen a resurgence, with increasing numbers of Chadian visitors to the park in recent years seeking to experience their natural heritage. The GZE has become the largest employer in the region, providing around 260 permanent jobs and supporting a growing number of sustainable

enterprise opportunities. With the courage and persistence of its diverse people, Zakouma National Park, and its greater region, has become an excellent example of what is possible when partnerships are formed with a common vision to protect biodiversity for the sake of people and wildlife.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — The first restoration operation of the SMWR took place with the capture and translocation of over 900 buffalo. Many of these buffalo came from a large herd that occupied the Tororo wetland at the boundary of the park, which was at risk of spilling over into agricultural lands to the north. Despite some losses, the translocated herds have seeded a founder population that is the first significant population seen in Siniaka Minia in many decades. Six black rhino were captured in South Africa, in preparation for translocation to Zakouma in 2023. Zakouma's two wild black rhino females were successfully darted, examined by a veterinarian, and fitted with tracking devices. The veterinarian determined that they were in good health, confirming that Zakouma's habitat is suitable for black rhino. With the lessons learnt from this previous translocation in 2018, we can now apply our improved knowledge to work towards a more successful process in 2023.

With nearly seven years of no elephant poaching in Zakouma, elephant in the region are becoming noticeably more relaxed, moving consistently outside of the park in the wet season. Through analysing historical elephant movements from collar data, the conservation law enforcement team identified key locations across the landscape to construct operating bases from which to monitor wildlife and illegal activities. The equestrian unit was relaunched in Zakouma, with three horseback teams initiated over the year. Refresher training was conducted, and preparatory work undertaken for specialised horseback training, to ensure a highly professionalised unit by 2023, in both veterinary and operational terms. Horses are one of the most effective means of ground transport in the GZE when flooding during the rainy season makes movement too difficult by vehicle or even motorbike.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — Two Teachers' Associations were created in Zakouma and Siniaka Minia. Thirty-two teachers and 26 schools were supported, including the provision of education (both general and environmental) and school supplies. Three new schools were also constructed.

As part of the environmental awareness programme, over 5,700 children visited Camp Dari. Sensitisation teams were established to encourage nomadic herder groups to use the transhumance corridors around Siniaka Minia to move and graze their cattle. In a pilot project, 29 farmers' organisations were supported by the park to produce vegetables, fruit, chickens, chebe, shea butter, desert date oil and honey.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — Over 200 km of road connecting Zakouma and Siniaka Minia was improved, directly assisting the buffalo translocation and many other logistical moves between the two anchor protected areas, and enabling expansion out of the core parks into the broader landscape.

**TOURISM** — A new partnership agreement was signed in June with the Ministry of Environment and the

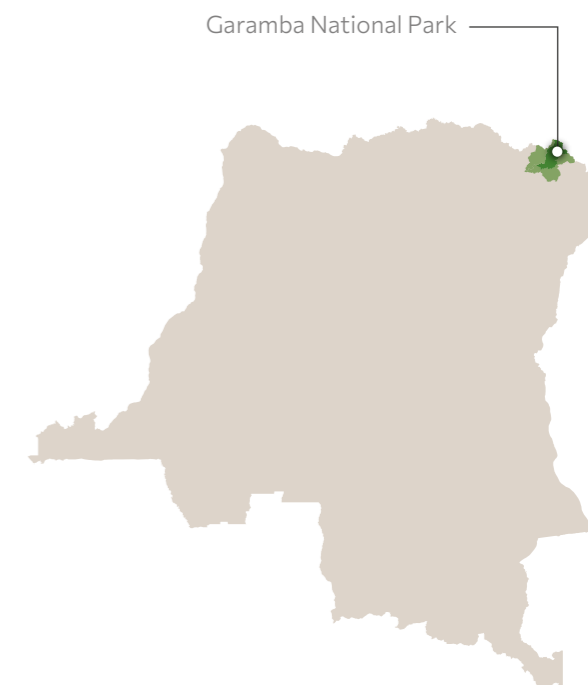
Ministry of Tourism, strengthening ties with African Parks and further encouraging the development of tourism in Chad. The head of department for Tourism in Zakouma received additional training in Akagera National Park in Rwanda and, through an exchange, supported tourism development efforts in Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Siniaka Minia gazetted as a National Park
2. Develop Siniaka Minia National Park headquarters
3. Conduct Basic Field Rangers (BFR) course and leadership training for rangers
4. Introduce six black rhino to Zakouma
5. Obtain government approval for Tourism Development Plan (TDP)
6. Finalise Land Use Plan (LUP)



Over 900 buffalo were moved from Zakouma National Park to Siniaka Minia Wildlife Reserve in 2022 - the largest ever buffalo translocation © Michael Lorentz



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)

## GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK

5,133 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2005

*Adjacent Domaine de Chasses 9,662 km<sup>2</sup>*

**MAJOR FUNDERS** European Union, USAID, Wildcat Foundation, Kibali Goldmines SA, Barrick Gold Corporation, People's Postcode Lottery, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) & U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL)

# REALISING TRANSFORMATION AND HOPE



**PARK MANAGER**  
John Barrett

**DRC** — Situated in the north-eastern corner of the DRC in an area once overrun by rebels and ivory poachers, Garamba National Park (GNP) holds a story of success like few others. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and characterised by savanna and equatorial forest, it was once home to over 20,000 elephant and large herds of Kordofan giraffe. In 2005, the DRC's Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) realised the significant value of protecting Garamba from total devastation and invited African Parks into a long-term agreement, to create stability and, after enduring decades of volatility, protect both the people and wildlife of the park. The challenge that lay ahead was huge and between 2005 and 2016 instability in the region continued to threaten communities and the lives of rangers, while elephant poaching was ongoing. Over this period many lessons were learnt, as we focused on finding a solution to protecting the park and ensuring the safety of staff and communities, during a time of intense political instability. As a result, African Parks, together with the ICCN, revised its approach by implementing new systems to overhaul conservation law enforcement and bring stability to the park and its surrounds. Since then, the results have been substantial – not one ranger has been killed, and elephant poaching has been almost completely eradicated.

Today over 20,000 animals from 23 species are thriving in the park, including lion, buffalo, giraffe and forest species such as chimpanzee, giant forest hog and golden cat. Thousands of people are realising the benefits of living in safety, while schools, clinics and socio-economic initiatives are improving their daily way of life. Hundreds of households, enterprises

and services are receiving power from a solar energy project; sustainable farming methods are being implemented through a Farmer Field School programme; and over 10,000 people receive free health care every year. Once a place of despair, Garamba is now a living symbol of progress, stability and possibility, for both people and wildlife.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — Fifteen elephant were collared, bringing the total to 40 active elephant collars. The critically endangered Kordofan giraffe population grew from 65 individuals in 2021 to 71, surpassing the projected population growth rate. Five camera traps were deployed in Azande Domaine de Chasse, all providing excellent data on forest species, including chimpanzee, golden cat, blue duiker, bongo, and red-tailed monkey. The Research and Monitoring team, with chimpanzee researcher Dr Anne Laudisoit, visited Azande, the first research team to visit the area in decades. Extensive signs of elephant were found as well as many chimpanzee nests in gallery forests, confirming the presence of this key species in the Azande section of the protected area. Red colobus monkey was recorded for the first time in the Garamba Complex since an expedition in 1952.

In park protection, training began for 40 rangers, to secure the Intensive Protection Zone for the upcoming white rhino reintroduction in 2023. Leadership and instructor training took place, as well as refresher training for the canine unit, with an additional two new handlers joining the team. Two Basenji puppies joined the team – the first of this breed to be trialed as part of a canine unit. Known as the 'barkless dog', Basenjies are resistant to local diseases such as trypanosomiasis. The canine unit carried out 38 detection and tracking patrols.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The two solar mini-grids in Faradje and Tadu are now providing power to 379 customers, of which 44% are small and medium enterprises. Plans for the third solar mini-grid in Dungu town were finalised in December and it is expected to bring electricity to 772 users by the end of 2023. A total of 572 farmers (33% women), completed their 2-year training course through the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) programme designed to train farmers in sustainable agriculture methods. Besides the adult farmers, 961 pupils were trained through junior FFSs, in partnership with 30 primary schools, on sustainable agriculture crops and market gardening. Cacao and papaya fields were developed outside the park under an MoU with the private

company ENVIRIUM. Twenty-five new fishponds were initiated, bringing the total to 86 in operation, producing 1.45 tonnes of tilapia.

Camp Dungu hosted 1,430 people (56% under 15 years old) who visited the park during the dry season. Over 380 environmental awareness-raising sessions for 11,742 community members were conducted. Health care was provided to 9,930 people at the African Parks supported hospital in Nagero, while the mobile clinic team visited 20 remote villages within the Garamba Complex, reaching 3,334 community members. A primary school was built in Gangala-na-Bodio village and a school building in Nagero rehabilitated, providing a better learning environment to over 1,000 pupils.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — Over 400 km of road network within GNP was maintained to facilitate patrols and management. A new grader was purchased for road maintenance and repair within the protected area. The electrical system in Nagero was revamped, with extensive technical support and equipment supplied

from Kibali Gold Mine. The ferry at Gangala-na-Bodio was refurbished to aid park access. New shelters were constructed for rangers in five fixed posts in Garamba.

**TOURISM** — The Commercial Development Plan for 2023 to 2027 was completed. Focusing mainly on tourism, this document aims to guide infrastructure development and marketing to increase tourism to Garamba.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Electrify the town of Dungu with a solar mini-grid
2. Reintroduce southern white rhino with a founder population
3. Develop and finalise the carbon credit mechanism
4. Develop tourism through implementation of the Commercial Development Plan
5. Establish between two and four designated Zone d'Exploitation Artisanales (ZEA) mining zones, with the voluntary relocation of artisanal miners out of the protected area



Bee farmers in Garamba National Park have established a sustainable community revenue stream from 174 beehives in 2022 © Marcus Westberg



# MALAWI

## GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Malawi Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW)

## LIWONDE NATIONAL PARK & MANGOCHI FOREST RESERVE

903 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2015

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation, Stichting Nieuwgeluk Philosophy, U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), People's Postcode Lottery & WWF Belgium

## MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE

715 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2003

### MAJOR FUNDERS

People's Postcode Lottery, Wyss Foundation & WWF Belgium

## NKHOTAKOTA WILDLIFE RESERVE

1,794 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2015

**MAJOR FUNDER** Wyss Foundation, UBS Optimus Foundation UK, U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), People's Postcode Lottery, Annenberg Foundation & WWF Belgium

## SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



**Liwonde**  
National Park  
Malawi

**PARK MANAGER**  
Dave Robertson

**MALAWI** — After decades of poaching and uncontrolled resource harvesting, Liwonde National Park was in dire need of revival. In 2015, recognising the success of Majete Wildlife Reserve under African Parks management, the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) partnered with African Parks to transform Liwonde into a haven for wildlife, and a valuable asset for Malawi and its people. In 2018, the government extended the mandate to incorporate the contiguous 358 km<sup>2</sup> Mangochi Forest Reserve, increasing the area under management to 903 km<sup>2</sup>.

As a result, Liwonde and Mangochi have re-emerged sanctuaries for both people and wildlife. Over the past seven years, cheetah, lion, black rhino and wild dog have been returned to the park. In 2016, 366 elephant were relocated to restock Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and alleviate pressure on Liwonde's habitat. But as elephant numbers continued to swell, a second relocation was needed this year, with 263 elephant, along with numerous other species, moved from Liwonde to Kasungu National Park, establishing Liwonde as a reliable source of growing wildlife populations. Recent surveys confirmed that fish stocks are increasing rapidly and, after being extinct in the park just a few years ago, vulture sightings have become common. Thousands of people living around the park are now benefitting from education, enterprise initiatives and health care. Reading programmes are reaching hundreds of learners, building literacy in communities, while income generating activities, like Honey with Heart and Spicy Farmers, contribute to the livelihoods of more people each year. This relatively small, yet richly biodiverse, national park has become a benchmark of what is possible when there is a focus on restoration supported by long-term partnerships.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — A biennial game census obtained population estimates of large mammals and crocodiles. A fish survey completed by the Fisheries Department confirmed healthy fish stocks, recorded several new species, and confirmed a noticeable spill over of increasing fish stocks inside the park is benefitting fishermen outside its boundaries. A vulture survey was completed with ten satellite tags fitted - including the 50th vulture to be tagged in Malawi. Sixteen new rhino transmitters were fitted, and two calves notched. In addition to the elephant translocation to Kasungu - which saw the 1000<sup>th</sup> elephant moved by African Parks and Conservation Solutions - several others took place this year: 179 buffalo, 373 impala, 186 sable, 225 warthog, 378 waterbuck, and 15 hippo (a first for African Parks), were moved to Kasungu, Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, Mangochi Forest Reserve and Thuma Forest Reserve. Mangochi also received 46 sable, 67 warthog, 22 kudu, 53 waterbuck, 56 impala and 19 hartebeest. Twenty pangolin - most confiscated from poachers, but some found outside the park by community members - were released in Liwonde/Mangochi. In a blow for wild dog conservation efforts in Malawi, the entire pack of 18 wild dog, which included those relocated in 2021, was killed in a poisoning incident.

Ongoing poaching pressure was felt throughout the year, with one elephant and one rhino poached, despite increased efforts in conservation law enforcement and community engagement. Tragically, a ranger was killed during an operation to recover a rhino horn. Several arrests were made and suspects are awaiting trial. In total, 5,158 snares were recovered and 107 boats, 48 canoes and 92 kg of elephant ivory confiscated. A Basic Field Ranger (BFR) course was completed and 11 new rangers added to the ranger force.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — Ten grievance boxes were installed in Traditional Authorities (TAs) around the park, allowing community members to communicate directly with park management, so that appropriate support can be given to communities. Over 4,670 school children and 290 adults visited Liwonde. Scholarships for 105 secondary and tertiary learners were provided. A girls' hostel and kitchen were constructed at Malombe Secondary School. The Happy Readers programme was rolled out to a further five schools, and continued to receive keen interest from the Ministry of Education. A Reading Around the Reserve programme was implemented in conjunction with Book Aid International and 22,172 books distributed. Over 3.1 tonnes of honey were

harvested through Honey with Heart, which has received provisional Malawi Bureau of Standards accreditation for its processing facility. The Spicy Farmers fields did well, despite the effects of cyclones Ana and Gombe. The Goat Pass-On Project continued, providing an additional protein source to communities. Communities were engaged in a sustainable resource use programme in Mangochi to monitor and regulate harvesting of dead and fallen trees for firewood.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — The office, workshop and stores at Masuku in Mangochi, including new accommodation for eight rangers and their families was completed. Six boreholes were drilled and basic solar power installed at Mangochi ranger and fence camps. The fence attendant accommodation at Mbweni and Chisopi was completed, along with two bridges in Mangochi. With the construction of the Chisopi fence, to further alleviate pressure from human-wildlife conflict, the entire Liwonde/Mangochi boundary fence was completed. Only 9 kms of 'Kenya' elephant-proof fencing were completed, due to delays in receiving

fencing materials. The innovative fencing system has proven highly effective in containing elephant and reducing human-elephant conflict in communities around the park.

**TOURISM** — There was a substantial increase in tourism, with 12,368 domestic, 4,959 international and 5,888 Southern African Development Community visitors, indicating, not only a post Covid-19 recovery, but the surge in the popularity of Liwonde. Total tourism revenue increased by nearly 200%.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Establish a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) at a separate base close to Chinguni in Liwonde
2. Establish a campsite in Liwonde
3. Rebuild the Liwonde Environmental Education Centre
4. Develop, construct and stock a community fish farm at Chisawa Village
5. Employ a technical manager to lead the building team, to reduce reliance on external contractors



In partnership with IFAW and DNPW, African Parks, together with Conservation Solutions, moved over 260 elephants from Liwonde National Park to Kasungu National Park in Malawi in 2022 to alleviate elephant pressure in Liwonde and augment numbers in Kasungu © Frank Weitzer

# PROSPERITY THROUGH ACTIVE CONSERVATION



**PARK MANAGER**

John Adendorff

**MALAWI** — With an agreement signed with the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in 2003, Majete Wildlife Reserve is African Parks' longest standing mandate. Nineteen years ago, Majete was an empty forest devoid of wildlife, adding no benefit to the people of Malawi. But, through the management agreement with DNPW, a joint vision to transform the reserve was initiated. Today, Majete is a living example of how sound management and community buy-in transforms a landscape into a mutually beneficial asset for both people and wildlife. After reintroducing 17 new species, including rhino, elephant, leopard, buffalo, cheetah, giraffe, and wild dog, Majete has become a thriving wildlife haven. This year, wild dog and giraffe both produced the first generation of offspring, showing the remarkable success of their reintroduction. Today, Majete is one of Malawi's premier wilderness destinations. Despite being hard-hit by Cyclone Ana and enduring significant destruction, the reserve generated its highest ever tourist income. Over 165 permanent staff are employed and community run initiatives, such as Honey with Heart and a fish farming project, benefit hundreds of community members each year. Majete is a shining example of building resilience and testament to how a well-managed protected area can achieve long-term sustainability.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — 2022 was a milestone year, seeing the first generation of Majete-born individuals from reintroduced species including nine wild dog pups, with eight surviving; five giraffe calves, three of which survived. After struggling to adapt to Majete's conditions, the cheetah have done well, with four of the cubs born in 2021 surviving their first year, and five new cubs born

this year. Using identikits, the 52 lion were accounted for, with 18 cubs born this year. Fifty-three zebra, 48 kudu, 20 eland and 19 Lichtenstein's hartebeest were captured to restock other parks in Malawi. The biennial aerial census counted over 12,000 animals, an increase since 2020, despite the 2021 drought impacting some species. A reserve wide tree survey was conducted, to verify Majete's carbon storage as part of plans to use nature-based financing solutions to further support the park and local communities.

In park protection, a ranger was killed by poachers, a first-ever incident of its kind in Majete since African Parks management. This tragic event reminds us that, despite our successes in reducing poaching levels, the risks related to poaching are constantly evolving and we must continually adapt to mitigate these risks. In response, Majete has increased its focus on community engagement and strengthening the conservation law enforcement team's capability through training and skills development. Thirteen new recruits completed BFR training in Liwonde National Park and joined the Majete team. Eight rangers undertook specialist training in wildlife tracking, four attended a specialist lifesaver course and two underwent training with the Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme. The new Investigations Unit had training with an Information for Conservation Network (ICON) mentor. Development of the new unit was initiated to deliver more strategic park protection operations, such as intelligence gathering, ranger deployment and AI monitoring. Majete continued its record of zero rhino or elephant losses to poaching since their reintroduction in 2003 and 2006 respectively.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The first quarter of the year was spent assisting communities in the aftermath of Cyclone Ana. This included rebuilding houses and infrastructure, restocking fish farms and providing food, and other items, to households. In response to the 2021 drought, the capacity of irrigation schemes and fish farms was improved by installing new solar panels, pumps and water storage tanks. Five new boreholes were drilled, providing potable water, vital at a time when Malawi is experiencing severe cholera outbreaks. The Honey with Heart project produced 2.9 tonnes of honey, generating US\$9,113 in revenue. The year focused on increasing honey yield and quality, while expanding the project to other districts around Majete. The Reading Around the Reserve initiative distributed 6,400 books to primary schools around Majete.



Thawale Camp in Majete Wildlife Reserve. In 2022, tourism revenue in Majete increased by more than 10% compared to pre-Covid-19 records © Gael Vande Weghe

## PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

— Following Cyclone Ana, and three other tropical storms early this year, extensive repairs took place, with grading of 300 km of damaged roads and repairing and reinforcing 35 km of the 144 km fence line. Staff housing was upgraded and two new houses were built. The education campsite was renovated to provide an area for school groups. A honey processing facility was built and certified by the Malawi Bureau of Standards certified, a requirement for honey sales. A new waste management system was implemented at the main staff quarters to improve recycling. Two boreholes fitted with solar pumps were drilled in the south, to improve dry season water availability for wildlife and to distribute elephant throughout the reserve, alleviating pressure on areas close to existing water sources.

**TOURISM** — The previous 2018 tourism revenue record was broken by an increase of more than 10%. The former Tourism Manager's house was converted

to a family unit, increasing occupancy at Thawale to 20 beds. A biopool was built at Thawale, providing a unique guest experience with its natural filtration system using vegetation and wildlife. Although Thawale did well this year, Majete's concessions had some challenges. Mkulumadzi Lodge suffered considerable damage from Cyclone Ana and was closed for the first quarter of the year. Five of its eight units were flooded, while the main reception and swimming pool areas were also impacted.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Fit GPS collars on elephant to gain an understanding of their landscape utilisation
2. Upgrade entrance facilities to include a day visitor centre
3. Expand Honey with Heart project to increase harvest to 5,000 kg
4. Continue upgrade of the environmental education facilities
5. Generate income from carbon financing

## BALANCING BENEFITS AND RESOURCES



**PARK MANAGER**  
David Nangoma

**MALAWI** — At 1,794 km<sup>2</sup>, Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve is Malawi's oldest and largest reserve – a dense canopy woodland intersected by three major rivers leading to Lake Malawi. However, by 2014, years of ivory poaching had reduced the elephant population to a mere 100 animals, and what was once a sanctuary for wildlife had been diminished to an empty forest. To help realise a new vision to transform Nkhotakota into a sanctuary for wildlife and an asset for the people of Malawi, the Malawian Government invited African Parks in 2015 to sign a long-term agreement to manage the reserve and assist the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW).

Since then, the reserve has initiated a number of historic reintroductions. Over 2016 and 2017, in one of the world's largest wildlife restoration initiatives, 500 elephant and 2,000 other animals were introduced to Nkhotakota. And, in 2022, over 800 animals of nine species were introduced, in a landmark move to revive the reserve's wildlife populations. These two significant wildlife reintroductions rekindled hope, not only for tourism, but for the very integrity of the reserve as an important wildlife habitat. Ongoing ranger training, technology advances, and support from traditional leadership, the national police and key stakeholders continue to improve park protection every year. Employment and enterprise activities, such as beekeeping, fish farming and chilli production, together with investment in education, health care, nutrition and infrastructure, are benefitting thousands of people. As life has returned to this reserve, new potential is being realised, safeguarding biodiversity, while reinvigorating tourism, generating revenue and building long-lasting value for local communities.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — A total of 813

animals were successfully released into the reserve from Liwonde: in a first for African Parks, 15 hippo were translocated (sadly, three died in the process), together with 20 eland, 26 kudu, 29 zebra, 217 impala, 75 warthog, 107 sable, 99 buffalo and 230 waterbuck. Two leopard cubs were sighted in October for the first time. Ten elephants were collared, bringing the total to 26 tracked on the EarthRanger system. A bird survey updated the reserve's listing to 324 species. A specialist from Malawi University of Science & Technology conducted fieldwork with students on entomology, ichthyology, botany and water quality of the Bua River system, yielding noteworthy data for park management.

A joint operation between conservation law enforcement and the Malawi Police led to the arrest of 1,502 suspected illegal gold miners, who had encroached into the reserve between July and December, with 82 convictions by the Nkhotakota Magistrate's Court. Due to African Parks following up on disciplinary processes, two rangers were unfortunately among the arrests. Eleven field rangers completed Basic Field Ranger (BFR) training and joined the ranger team, bringing the ranger complement to 62. Four rangers attended Lead Ranger Life Saving training in Majete; the Head of Conservation Law Enforcement participated in training on the management of arms; an introductory course on investigations was conducted for 12 rangers. The impact of the training was very evident among our ranger staff. Twenty-seven human-wildlife conflict (HWC) incidents were reported, some involving bush pig and elephant raiding maize and groundnut fields, with one recorded human injury.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — A total of 169 community meetings were held focusing on upholding the law, proper use of resources and harvesting. The Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve Association held its AGM, where key issues raised included the need to close the unfenced portion north of the reserve, elephant straying into community lands, and tsetse fly infestations affecting livestock. Awareness and education sessions on tsetse flies were conducted with the Nkhotakota District Health Office. A sleeping sickness screening exercise identified 17 positive cases that were immediately admitted for treatment. A total of 1,000 tsetse targets and 100 tsetse traps were installed around the reserve. Scholarships were given to 206 students and eight volunteer teachers received support. Over 9,000 community members were engaged in enterprise initiatives, including 525

beekeepers and four groups trained in dried mango processing. Communities and schools planted over 84,000 fruit and indigenous tree seedlings. The Sasani community health clinic was handed over to the Nkhotakota District Council, providing 15 villages, and over 1,910 households, with essential health care services. A classroom block for 160 students was built, six boreholes drilled, over 50 km of community roads graded, the Nkhotakota District Hospital sewer system rehabilitated, and a fishpond built in Mpamantha area to improve nutrition. Mushrooms, bamboo, palm fronds, thatch grass and medicinal herbs were sustainably harvested from the reserve, benefitting 5,399 people. A total of US\$172,998 was spent on community development and US\$32,957 generated from community enterprise projects. Nkhotakota's community and conservation law enforcement programmes were aired on television by the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, promoting environmental awareness.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — A 32-bed tented youth hostel, two chalets at Livezi Bush Camp, senior staff housing and two duplexes at Likoa ranger camp were constructed. A new Caterpillar 140 motor grader ensured that more

than 110 km of roads could be graded, including a new 34 km management road connecting Chipala and Kaludwe ranger bases, to reduce ranger deployment time and ease mobility north of the reserve. Other construction included major renovations and fence enclosure of the Nkhotakota townhouses; erection of 35 km of 'Kenya' (elephant-proof) fencing to further alleviate human-elephant conflict; and repair work on the south-western boundary of the reserve.

**TOURISM** — Nkhotakota received 2,619 visitors – 2,052 local, 379 international and 188 resident. Gross revenue generated from entry fees and other tourism associated activities amounted to US\$15,375, representing a 100% increase from 2021's revenue.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Increase tourism revenue by 250% with the addition of Livezi camp
2. Build and operationalise the Control Room
3. Manage the Bua River to ensure mpasa fish migration upstream
4. Harvest five tonnes of honey and ensure a market for all stock
5. Reduce illegal park activities by 80%



Job creation and enterprise initiatives have improved the livelihoods of over 9,000 community members around Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in Malawi, in 2022 © Thoko Chikondi



# MOZAMBIQUE

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**  
National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC)

## **BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK**

1,430 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation &  
Oppenheimer Generations Research and Conservation

## A SEASCAPE OF HOPE



**PARK MANAGER**  
Armando Guenha

**MOZAMBIQUE** — Bazaruto Archipelago National Park is a thriving haven for thousands of marine species and home to over 6,800 people. In 2017, African Parks and the Government of Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) signed a management agreement, that has since seen major advances in understanding Bazaruto's unique biodiversity and ecology. One of the most critical marine sanctuaries in the Indian Ocean, the park protects a host of marine megafauna including dolphins, sharks, whales, manta rays, turtles and the largest viable dugong population on the East African coast. In 2022, following collaborative research work coordinated by park management, the dugong was re-listed from 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List to 'Critically Endangered', giving the species the highest level of global protection. In just five years, park related jobs and socio-economic initiatives are improving the livelihoods of thousands of people and nurturing a growing constituency for conservation as communities realise the benefits of protecting biodiversity. As a result, dugong deaths caused by fishing nets have almost completely stopped and illegal activities in the park have substantially declined. A conservation-led economy is being bolstered through tourism, which is being continuously developed, creating jobs and skills development. Bazaruto is truly an emerging gem of the Indian Ocean and testimony to how an effective co-management agreement has lasting results for both people and the marine ecosystems on which they depend.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — 'The reclassification of the dugong (Dugong dugong) as 'Critically Endangered', based on peer-reviewed research led by African Parks, was a conservation milestone. Aerial dugong counts this year resulted in 119 individuals spotted, with 16 calves, indicating a healthy, stable population of a few hundred. Hundreds

of turtles, sharks, rays, dolphins and whales were also seen during the counts. A total of 76 nests of all five sea turtle species (leatherback, loggerhead, green, olive ridley and hawksbill) were recorded for the 2021/2022 season, with approximately 4,500 live hatchlings counted. Bazaruto is the only known place in the Western Indian Ocean where all five regionally resident turtle species nest. Fourteen Bazaruto turtle monitors, 18 rangers and nine Vilankulo Sanctuary turtle monitors received training, in partnership with Centro Terra Viva (CTV), on turtle tagging, protocols for monitoring and techniques for relocating nests to stable areas. Assisted by an expert from Eduardo Mondlane University, seven piezometers were installed on the inhabited island aquifers to monitor water - one of the scarcest natural resources on the islands - and inform management decisions regarding its usage.

Twenty new rangers were recruited and will start in January 2023. Joint ranger patrols with the local government intercepted 56 individuals, of which 14 were detained and two convicted for turtle poaching. In total, 7,498 patrols were carried out resulting in a continued decline in illegal activities in the park. The Novacat Siganus, which has the capacity for high sea patrols, was refurbished and joined the ranger patrol fleet. In cooperation with local government officials, the park law enforcement team boarded and searched ten fishing vessels that entered the park illegally.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The Community Development Strategy was presented to all stakeholders for final input and improvements. A population census to help guide management decisions on resource usage, and anticipate further impact of population growth, was carried out. The Basisa Bazaruto project employed 51 refuse collectors, who removed over 167 tonnes of waste from the archipelago and its communities. The recycled plastic is being transformed into paving tiles in Vilankulo. The same team participated in other conservation activities, including tree planting to re-establish deforested areas. The park extended its school support to the mainland districts of Vilankulo and Inhassoro, securing education for over 360 pupils. Fifty young people were trained in vocational skills and three new courses were introduced at the request of local lodges: housekeeping, service, and refrigeration. A total of 265 people participated in talks on reproductive health and family planning, given by government health technicians. Efforts to develop new sustainable fishing techniques that will be less destructive than seine netting were well received by the community.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — Construction of a ranger outpost began in the north-western buffer zone of Bazaruto in Nhamabue, where most of the dugongs are found. All outposts were rehabilitated, with the new Chizungune outpost being 80% complete. Construction of a community skills development centre in Pangaia began. Several vehicles were acquired for park operations and logistics, including two tractors for Benguerra and Bazaruto islands to assist with construction and waste collection. A new patrol boat assisted with patrols in the Nhamabue area, while a new research vessel enabled vital survey work. The UGB (beneficiary management unit) system that allows the park to have better management of commercial revenue became fully functional.

**TOURISM** — Overall, the park received 29,200 visitors - a 63% increase on 2021. The Sustainable Tourism Model was completed. An important element of the model is attracting local visitors to the park. Zenguelemo Community Lodge became operational offering affordable accommodation while providing revenue and

jobs for local people. A fourth tourism information point was installed on Inhassoro Beach and a park billboard was put up at the town entrance. The park participated in three national and international tourism fairs.

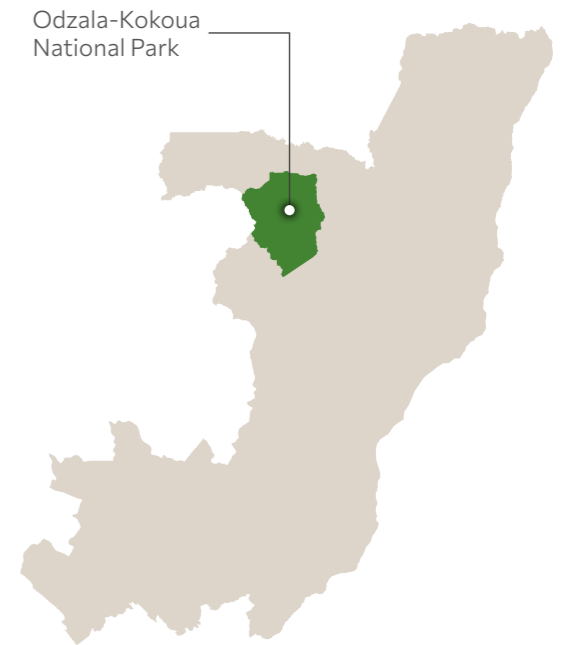
The process of correcting the coordinates of the island tourism concessions began. Concessionaires are required to adhere to their environmental licences, particularly regarding waste removal and construction of unauthorised installations.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Carry out more terrestrial and marine surveys
2. Improve existing monitoring programmes and data collection
3. Carry out a tourism carrying capacity study for diving on reefs, monitor the impact of tourism on the park and enforce necessary restrictions
4. Begin protection of the proposed Marine Protected Area in the north-west of the park
5. Complete the Commercial Development Plan and implement its recommendations



Through a community-based plastic clean up project around Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, recycled materials are produced on the mainland © Adam Rabinowitz



# REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**  
Ministry of Forest Economy,  
Sustainable Development and Environment

## ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK

13,867 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

*Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary: 380 km<sup>2</sup>*

**MAJOR FUNDERS** European Union, Rob Walton Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Stichting Natura Africae, DOB Ecology, U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), Legacy Landscapes Fund & ECF: Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund

# A SANCTUARY FOR ABUNDANT LIFE



## PARK MANAGER

Jonas Eriksson

**REPUBLIC OF CONGO** — Odzala-Kokoua National Park (OKNP) is situated in one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet – the Congo Basin, which is the world’s second largest tropical forest, known as ‘earth’s green lungs’– and provides vital ecosystem services that support millions of people in the region. In this basin, Odzala harbours the largest wild population of western lowland gorillas in Africa, and a significant portion of the continent’s forest elephants. In 2010, African Parks signed a 25-year agreement with the Republic of Congo’s Ministry of Forest Economy to protect the globally significant Odzala. Recognising Odzala’s ecological and socio-political value, the government reaffirmed this management agreement in 2020, strengthening the partnership, and incorporating the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary, a 380 km<sup>2</sup> adjoining habitat, within the mandate. With this partnership one of Africa’s most biodiverse landscapes is being protected, while communities are engaged and supported to ensure the park’s natural resources are preserved for future generations. With a ranger team of over 110 individuals, and an updated conservation law enforcement, illegal activity in the park is being contained, ensuring that poaching levels are at an all-time low. As a result, wildlife numbers are predominantly stable, with some populations increasing. Since 2020, five successful agricultural enterprise projects have been developed and are continuing to expand each year – cacao, black pepper, honey, gardening and wild mango. The launch of the park’s Imbalanga Ecotourism Camp is set to provide sustainable revenue sources and expand the range of income avenues reaching communities. Education, health clinics and infrastructure development are now reaching over 12,450 people, in and around

Odzala, who are seeing the value in protecting this vital and precious landscape.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — Odzala’s triennial forest survey took place throughout 2022 and included the first systematic forest transect survey for the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary since 2006. Complementary methods were used to increase the accuracy of large mammal density estimates. These included camera trap data collection for distance sampling and new dung and nest degradation estimating techniques. Results will be available in 2023. Quarterly aerial savannah surveys showed promising wildlife numbers across the park. Habituation of a new 11-member gorilla group was initiated in the eastern sector of the park near Imbalanga Ecotourism Camp. It is expected that studies of this group will contribute to research and tourism goals over the coming years. Five new elephants were collared, taking the total to 14 collared. Collaring data provides key insights on wildlife corridors, influencing law enforcement deployments and regional management objectives.

Fifty-one new rangers underwent Basic Field Ranger (BFR) training to join the ranger team, which will allow Odzala to maintain a permanent ranger presence across all three park sectors, as well as the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary. In total, 20,220 km were patrolled, leading to 21 arrests, 45 weapons confiscated, 7,517 snares removed, 126 camps detected and 5 kg of ivory confiscated, with an additional 112 kg collected from natural deaths. Human rights formed an integral part of the law enforcement programme, with each ranger attending a human rights session at least once. Going forward, such sessions will be held annually and will be mandatory, to ensure park authorities interaction with communities continues to be undertaken with respect. Odzala also held two informational campaigns, explaining wildlife law and community rights, to reduce misunderstandings regarding conservation law enforcement efforts.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — A total of 12,450 people benefitted this year from education, enterprise development and community engagement projects. Highlights included 398 community meetings, 1,976 community members visiting the park, 2,216 students engaged in environmental education and over 1,000 people attending celebrations on Pangolin Day, Women’s Day and Tree Day. Enterprise projects, including cacao, black pepper, wild mango and bee farming, as well as vegetable gardening, support 162 people. Apprenticeships and student placements

furthered the development of 20 individuals. The community development fund financed local infrastructure projects, which were selected by community members. Two promising methods to combat human-elephant conflict were installed, in the form of trenches and an electric fence, and will be closely monitored in 2023.

## PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

— Odzala’s North Sector Base became operational, the final step in a multiyear decentralisation strategy aimed at increasing operational activities across all park communities and zones. Park deployments also increased through the purchase of ten motorbikes, three vehicles, three boats and the use of one of African Parks’ Cessna 206 aircraft, allowing Odzala’s community, research and conservation law enforcement teams to cover more ground. EarthRanger software installed across the park provided a key strategic shift in data gathering and field-team monitoring, which will significantly improve real-time data gathering and analysis, and ultimately improve field team safety and efficacy.

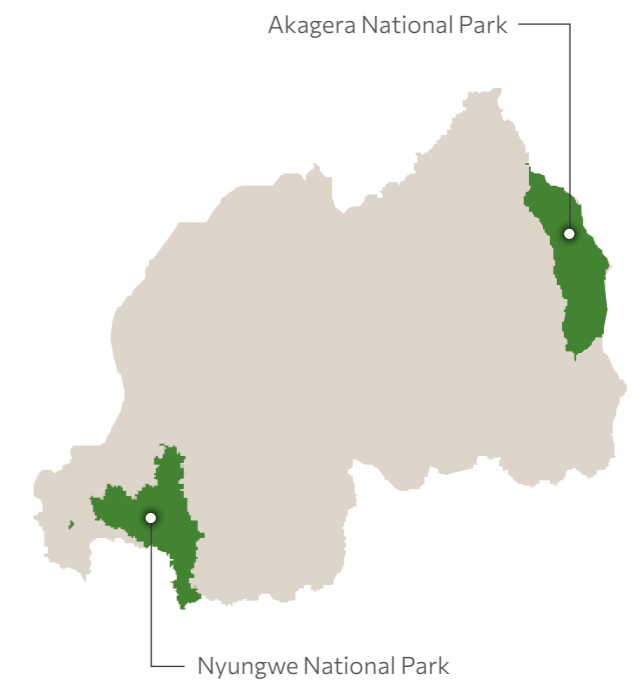
**TOURISM** — Approval was obtained to operate Odzala’s Imbalanga Ecotourism Camp, providing an important opportunity for national and international budget tourists to appreciate the park’s unique habitats. The camp will be fully operational in 2023, with significant benefits foreseen for local employment and community development. The first donor oriented Odzala visit was held, with four donors being hosted by the park.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Zero poached elephants
2. Genetic sampling to give better diversity estimations and great ape health monitoring
3. Odzala school visit programme to reach 2,000 children and the mobile clinic to reach 6,000 community members
4. Ensure that deforestation rates and changes in key ecological habitats remain less than 0.05% per year
5. Work towards generating 5% of the park’s operational budget through commercial revenue



Odzala-Kokoua National Park is home to the critically endangered western lowland gorilla © Andrew Beck



# RWANDA

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**  
Rwanda Development Board (RDB)

## **AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK**

1,120 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Rwanda Development Board (RDB),  
Stichting Nieuwgeluk Philosophy & Fondation Segré

## **NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK**

1,019 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2020

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation, Stichting Natura Africae,  
Rwanda Development Board (RDB) & Hempel Foundation

## A STRONGHOLD FOR COMMUNITY BENEFIT



### PARK MANAGER

Ladis Ndahiriwe

**RWANDA** — Akagera National Park is a shining example of what can be achieved through strong partnerships with governments and communities. Since 2010, when the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) and African Parks signed a long-term management agreement for Akagera, the park has transformed from a depleted, undervalued resource into one of Africa's premium wildlife destinations. By 2019, the park had become 80% self-financing through local enterprise projects and growing tourism. Today, 43% of its visitors are Rwandan citizens. Within five years poaching was virtually eliminated and, through effective conservation methods and law enforcement as well as positive community engagement, Akagera is now home to thriving wildlife populations. Between 2015 and 2019, successful translocations returned lion and black rhino to the park; today the lion population is six times its original number. In 2021, demonstrating that Akagera is a safe haven for species of conservation concern, southern white rhino were introduced, increasing their range state at a time when they faced immense pressures in their native southern Africa.

Hundreds of communities benefit from the park's ongoing livelihood initiatives such as fisheries and beekeeping, and infrastructure projects funded by the Tourism Revenue Sharing Scheme, to which the park annually contributes 10% of its tourism revenue. Gishanda Fish Farm, which opened in 2022, now offers community members an accessible protein source, while enhancing sustainable farming methods and providing new skills and jobs. Akagera's revival, through sound partnerships and a clear vision, demonstrates what is possible to support people and wildlife long into the future.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — In July, the 30 white rhinos translocated to Akagera in 2021 were

released from their boma into the park, with several new calves added to the population, showing that they have adapted well to their new environment. Eight black rhino and seven white rhino received horn transmitters, while two elephant and eight lion were fitted with new or replacement collars. Akagera's lion population grew to 57 individuals after several litters were born at the end of 2022. In addition to closely monitoring key species, monthly butterfly and bird counts were undertaken, to better understand the park's biodiversity. Amphibian and reptile surveys also helped add new species to the park's records. Akagera's Conservation and Research team facilitated and participated in an environmental DNA (eDNA) workshop, with the objectives being to understand the current and historic composition of the park's biotic communities and equip participants with hands-on experience in collecting and analysing eDNA.

Thirty new rangers joined Akagera's team. Poaching incidents increased slightly from last year, with 18 animals poached, mostly outside the park. Twenty-five poachers were arrested, some made possible through community collaboration. Over 160 kg of bushmeat and 1.8 tonnes of fish were confiscated, while 48 snares were recovered, 44 of these in one operation in a remote wetlands area. The park hosted the annual Basic Field Ranger training for rangers from Akagera and Nyungwe national parks as well as a 26-day advanced medical training course for selected rangers.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — Gishanda Fish Farm, situated 10 km from Akagera, opened in October. In collaboration with FoodTechAfrica and supported by the Rwandan and Dutch governments, this innovative project sustainably farms tilapia to produce both ecological and community benefits. This year 111,000 fingerlings were released to restock Lake Gishanda; two villages were electrified; improved infrastructure facilitated the construction of Umunezero Primary School, which now receives clean water from the farm's boreholes, benefitting 370 students; eight permanent jobs and regular casual jobs were created; and a community-run organic vegetable farm, fertilised by the farm's wastewater, was established.

Over 6,000 community members participated in 138 community gatherings to discuss conservation and human-wildlife conflict issues, and engagements with cooperatives to assist in business development. A total of 33,000 indigenous trees (14,700 from

the Akagera tree nursery) were planted along roads, at schools and in villages. Thirty teachers received Eco-Club training and eight Eco-Club events took place, conveying conservation messages to 9,745 adults and children. A new community library was completed and 1,000 books were received from Book Aid International. A total of 399 beekeepers produced 12.5 tonnes of honey valued at US\$60,000. The COPABARWI fishing cooperative, which has an agreement to fish in the park's lakes, harvested 115 tonnes of fish, earning US\$103,000 for itself and the park. Nearly US\$1 million of economic activity flowed from the park into the surrounding communities in the form of revenue sharing, casual wages, local purchases, rentals and payments. Sporting events hosted by the park – the Rhino Velo Bike Race, Lions Football Cup and Rhino Footrace – attracted around 30,000 community spectators, continuing to build goodwill and positive relations.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — After almost ten years as Community Liaison Manager, we bid farewell to Joseph Karama, although he remains part of the Akagera community as a professional guide and lodge owner. Rurama House on Rurama Peninsula was upgraded, and a new jetty installed for boating on Lake Ihema,

replacing the one at Pecherie. Ruzizi Tented Lodge's main area deck was refurbished. The café at the park's reception upgraded its learning centre. Throughout 2022 Akagera hosted numerous delegations from across the continent who came to learn about the delegated management model implemented by African Parks.

**TOURISM** — 2022 saw Akagera earn a record-breaking US\$3.75 million in tourism revenue. Rwandan citizens made up 43% of paying visitors. To meet the increased tourism demand 16 trainee community freelance guides came on board. Ruzizi Tented Lodge and Akagera National Park received a 2022 Travelers' Choice award by TripAdvisor.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Build housing for extended rhino tracker team
2. Improve understanding of Akagera's wetlands through increased monitoring
3. Establish Gishanda Fish Farm as a community catfish farming programme and restock regional lakes with tilapia, while encouraging regeneration of riparian land
4. Achieve 83% sustainability in 2023, aiming towards 100% in 2024



Socio-economic initiatives in Akagera National Park drive financial sustainability for local people with nearly US\$1 million flowing back into communities in 2022 © Scott Ramsay

## NURTURING A CONSTITUENCY FOR CONSERVATION



**PARK MANAGER**  
Protais Niyigaba

**RWANDA** — Covering 1,019 km<sup>2</sup> of dense Afromontane forests, the largest expanse of forest in Rwanda, Nyungwe feeds two of the world's largest rivers, the Congo and the Nile, and is one of Africa's vital biodiversity hotspots. Over 1,068 recorded plant species, 320 bird species and 75 known mammal species, including 13 of Africa's primates – notably, chimpanzee and the elusive Hamlyn's and L'Hoest's monkeys – are found in this exceptional landscape. Historically, Nyungwe's rich fauna and flora was exposed to rampant poaching, illegal mining and agricultural encroachment, all endangering the survival of its unique biodiversity. Acknowledging the successful partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), which saw the ecological and economic revival of Akagera National Park, the Rwandan Government invited African Parks to sign a 20-year agreement in 2020 to manage Nyungwe National Park and ensure its protection for both wildlife and communities. Today, the park is building ownership of conservation among the local communities and developing an ecologically healthy and financially self-sufficient asset. One of the most impactful stories of 2022 was the engagement of 92 eco-rangers, former poachers from the community who have contributed to the removal of 60% of all the poachers' snares from the forest, while improving the livelihoods of their families through a monthly income. In just two years, with sound conservation, tourism and sustainable revenue-generating activities underway, Nyungwe is becoming a stronghold, supporting healthy ecosystems that will benefit wildlife and people long into the future.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — Eight camera traps deployed across the park detected 16 mammal

species (including chimpanzee, monkey, duiker, serval cat and civet). The camera footage helps detect and monitor hard-to-find species without disrupting their behaviour, while also detecting illegal activities. Data on habituated primates collected through EarthRanger, included three chimpanzee groups and three colobus monkey groups. The invasive plant removal protocol was completed and a 19-ha area was cleared. Other sites were mapped, to be cleared of exotic plant species in 2023. The park-supported nurseries propagated 36,604 seedlings of indigenous forest tree species, for restoration and indigenous tree proliferation in forestry and agroforestry. Two hectares of degraded forest near Banda Village were jointly reforested by park staff, eco-rangers and community members. In collaboration with Bat Conservation International and the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association, a critically endangered female Hill's horseshoe bat was fitted with a VHF radio tag, allowing the team to follow her to a roosting site, where nine juveniles were found – the first ever roost observed by scientists. CITES permits were acquired for 41 African grey parrots to be repatriated to Nyungwe from zoos in the United Kingdom, after they were confiscated from illegal traders. Based on data collected on the use of the Kitabi-Gisakura national road that spans the park, which highlighted the impact of motorists on wildlife – including 150 animals killed by vehicles and 56 vehicle accidents – a request was sent to the national agency regulating roads and transport, resulting in five speed cameras being deployed along the route.

In conservation law enforcement efforts, anti-poaching patrols led to 1,145 arrests and the removal of 10,431 snares. The increase in snare numbers is attributed to the increase in patrols, the recruitment of 20 more rangers and the engagement of 92 eco-rangers, who act as conservation law enforcement and community facilitators, forming a link between the community and the park. All 102 rangers attended a refresher course on the penal code and human rights, focusing on self-defence and case studies, and 98 attended Basic Field Ranger (BFR) training.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — In total, 185 community environmental awareness meetings were held, reaching 30,249 people, while the Colobus Cup football competition reached 25,000 participants. Overall, 1,595 children from school environmental clubs and 56 local leaders visited Nyungwe. A total of 109 cases of human-wildlife conflict (HWC) were assessed, and compensation was facilitated by the Special Guarantee Fund of Rwanda. A pig farming



Data collected in 2022 from EarthRanger technology confirmed three healthy chimpanzee groups in Nyungwe National Park © Marcus Westberg

project and demo apiary were implemented to serve as model enterprises which can be replicated by others.

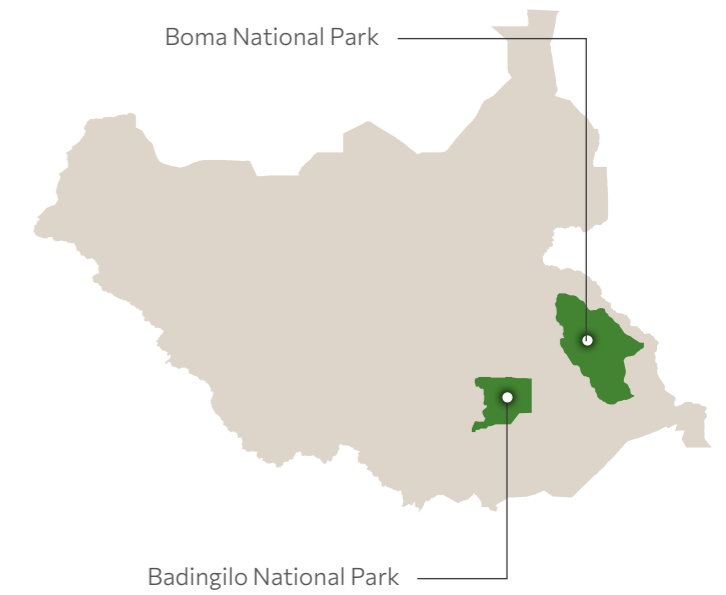
**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — Preliminary work began on the new park headquarters and the first park-managed lodge, but both suffered delays in construction due to complex land acquisition and title transfer procedures. Infrastructure achievements included the completion of coffee shops, campsites and guesthouses at Gisakura and Uwinka, and the electrification of nine ranger posts. The first draft of the Long-Term Sustainability Strategy (LTSS) was completed, for approval in 2023. Three board meetings were held, and the park's contribution to the national fiscal service was equivalent to US\$528,841, excluding the contribution to the two funds that address the immediate needs of communities around the park (Tourism Revenue Sharing that funds communities' priority projects and the Special Guarantee Fund that compensates for losses or damages caused by wildlife). As a result of continued tax compliance, Nyungwe

Management Company Ltd (NMC) was recognised as the best taxpayer in the Western Province of Rwanda by the Rwanda Revenue Authority.

**TOURISM** — Tourist numbers more than doubled from the previous year, with 21,564 people visiting Nyungwe in 2022, of which 35% were Rwandan nationals. Uwinka, Gisovu and Gisakura opened new coffee and retail shops. The new Tourism Development Plan for Nyungwe was completed and approved, as was new pricing to be applied in 2023, which was circulated to the public.

### OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. New management offices and workshops to be completed
2. Complete and begin operating Munazi Lodge
3. Complete the first zipline for Nyungwe
4. Maintain budget operating costs and achieve clear audits
5. Complete the biennial park-wide mammal census



# SOUTH SUDAN

## GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT)

## BADINGILO NATIONAL PARK

8,935 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2022

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Fondation Segré & ECF: Save the Elephants, Hempel Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund

## BOMA NATIONAL PARK

19,757 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2022

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation, Hempel Foundation, Fondation Segré & ECF: Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund

# A NEW FRONTIER OF CONSERVATION



**PARK MANAGER**  
David Simpson

**SOUTH SUDAN** — Together, Boma and Badingilo National Parks make up nearly three million hectares that are home to an abundance of wildlife, including hundreds of thousands of migrating antelope. Situated in the south of South Sudan, both parks form an integral part of a larger 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> ecosystem, that stretches north-west through the Jonglei corridor and to the White Nile. Despite decades of instability and ethnic conflict, and years of instability and ethnic warfare, one of the largest annual land mammal migrations in Africa, that sees hundreds of thousands of white-eared kob, Mongalla gazelle, tiang and reedbuck move north and east towards Gambella National Park in Ethiopia, has miraculously continued. However, ongoing armed conflict has severely impacted the lives of communities in and around the parks, resulting in major pressure on the region's wildlife and their habitats. In 2022, to ensure that this vast ecosystem stays intact to deliver socio-economic sustainability and long-term security for thousands of people, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan entered into a 10-year management agreement with African Parks. Now, with the presence of a permanent management team, and the investment and support of the government and donors, stability can be established, to benefit the large number of communities living within the landscape and conserve the wildlife migration routes. Although the journey ahead is long, this important and critical landscape has been given a second chance to re-establish resilience for both the people of South Sudan and its wildlife.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — The first reconnaissance flights over Boma and Badingilo began in October, with over 153 flying hours completed. As a

result, herds of elephant, Nubian giraffe, eland, Beisa oryx, Grant's gazelle, Bohor reedbuck, lesser kudu, and ostrich, as well as abundant white-eared kob and Mongalla gazelle, were found across the landscape. A herd of approximately 50,000 tiang was observed migrating through the northern part of Badingilo in November, confirming healthy and abundant populations in the ecosystem. Missions to the village of Lafon also confirmed the presence of spotted hyaena and lion in the area. Plans and implementing actions for the mass wildlife collaring mission in 2023 began later in the year.

Law enforcement work began with the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) in forming an understanding of park management situations and on-the-ground realities in both parks. Engagement with the local park wardens also took place to discuss collaborative management of the parks. A ranger training company, Mellivora, was recruited to carry out Basic Field Ranger (BFR) courses in both parks in 2023, while renovations of Bala Camp commenced, in which to conduct the BFR training.

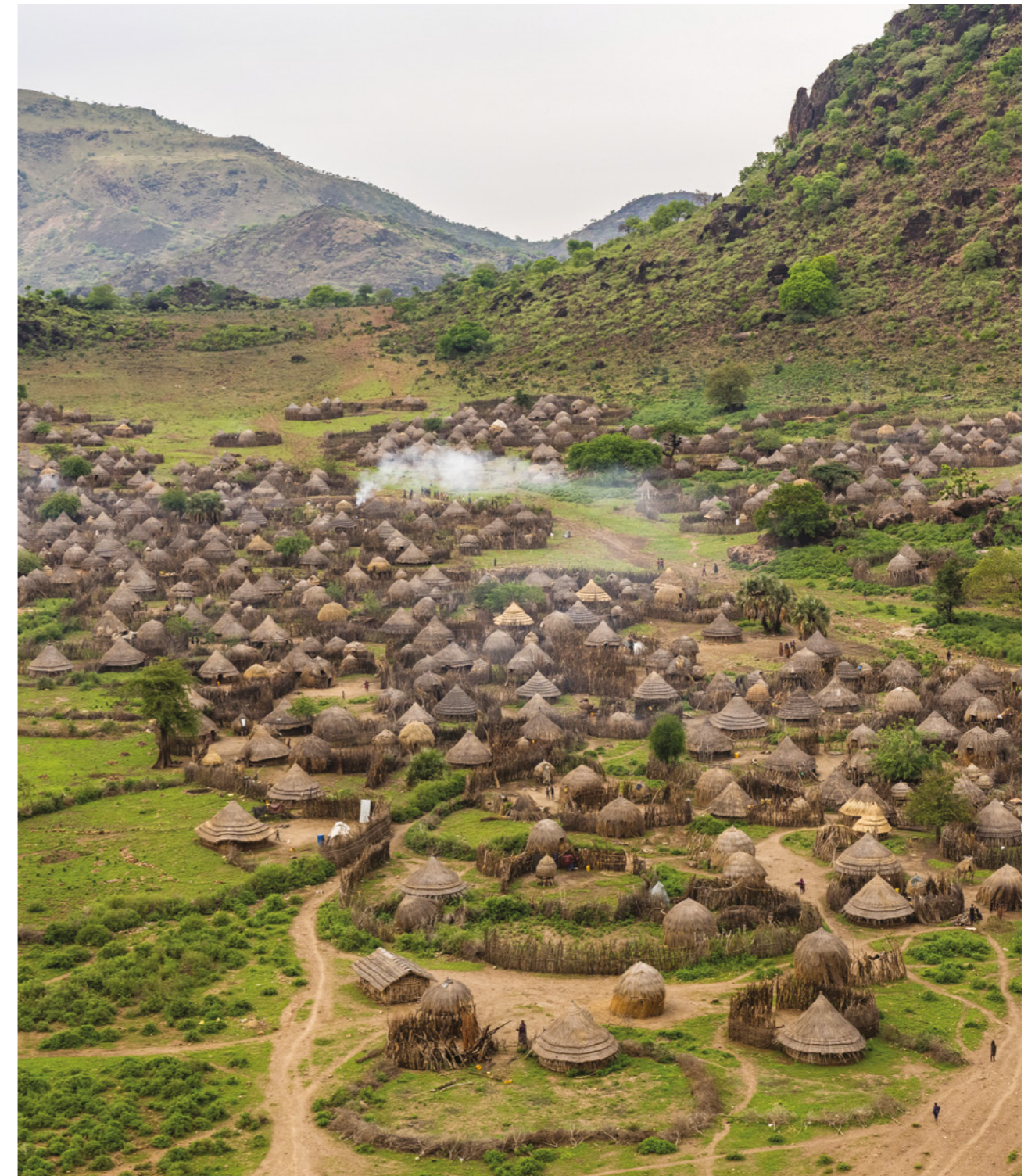
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — Initial meetings were held with community leaders throughout the region to introduce African Parks and discuss its mission in the landscape, as well as understand the needs of community members. At the same time, mapping the threats of the new highway along the western boundary of Badingilo began, to ascertain the level of bushmeat poaching, burning for charcoal and agricultural damage this could promote.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — Recruiting a full park management team began with filling key positions. Meetings with major stakeholders working in the country were held to introduce African Parks and discuss plans and possible collaborations. The five-year business plans and budgets for both parks were prepared and approved. Development of infrastructure plans and scouting for primary headquarters sites for both parks were completed. Four vehicles were procured and put into action and three aircraft were received and registered in country. The restoration of Lafon Base began, including building a hangar for the ultralight aircraft at Lafon. Successful meetings were held with UNESCO to discuss the process of establishing the Boma-Badingilo landscape as a World Heritage Site. Local bank accounts were opened and African Parks was registered as an NGO entity in South Sudan, allowing for a tax exemption status to be obtained.

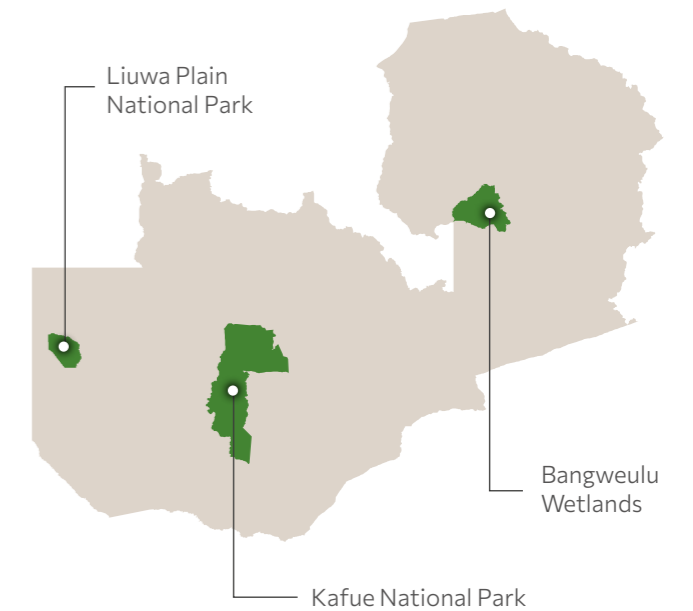
**TOURISM** — The laws and fees relating to tourism were explored, as well as the options for future tourism activities. These options include the possibility of aerial guided trips over the parks.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Continue wildlife monitoring activities, including the collaring of 120 animals, and two aerial surveys
2. Establish law enforcement capacity in both parks, focusing on equipment, establishment of control rooms and BFR courses
3. Establish a Badingilo headquarters and a functional base in Boma
4. Engage with local communities through surveys and discussions to understand the social context
5. Build relationships with MWCT and government officials; establish a Board and host the first meeting



Kassangor community village in Boma National Park © Marcus Westberg



# ZAMBIA

## GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

## BANGWEULU WETLANDS

6,645 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2008

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

## KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

22,480 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2022

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Wyss Foundation, Dutch Postcode Lottery, Paul Tudor Jones, Kenneth C. Griffin, The Bacon Foundation, U.S. DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) & ECF: Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund

**PARTNER** Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

## LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK

3,369 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2003

**MAJOR FUNDERS** Stichting Natura Africae & WWF Belgium  
**PARTNERS** Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE)

# BUILDING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS



**PARK MANAGER**  
Phil Minnaar

**ZAMBIA** — In 2008, the Bangweulu Wetlands Project began when African Parks entered into a long-term partnership with six Community Resource Boards and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). Since then, this community-owned protected area, and one of Africa's most important wetlands, has been transformed into a lifeline for the wildlife and 60,000 people living within its boundaries. After years of unsustainable resource use, poaching has been largely contained and wildlife such as black lechwe, tsessebe, sitatunga and wattled crane have recovered remarkably. The iconic and critically endangered shoebill has a chance of surviving with the completion of a rehabilitation and rearing facility, where chicks are raised for release. After a century of absence, cheetah have been reintroduced annually since 2020.

Thanks to thriving wildlife populations and breathtaking landscape, tourism numbers in the Bangweulu Game Management Area (GMA) are rising every year, contributing to a conservation-led economy and community enterprise initiatives. Strong populations of black lechwe and fish stocks provide an important resource and revenue stream for local communities in the GMA, who retain rights to sustainably harvest the GMA's natural resources. Schools, and a new Modular Centre to advance computer skills, have helped educate hundreds of children, while health services, such as the Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project (CTAOP), which promotes reproductive health in the youth, have benefitted thousands of community members. Once devoid of opportunity, Bangweulu has become an inspiration for Zambia and its people, showcasing how strong relationships between conservation

organisations, communities and government, together with effective management, can transform the lives of people and wildlife.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — The comprehensive Shoebill Management Plan came to fruition this year with the completion of a captive rearing and rehabilitation facility – the first of its kind for shoebills. With support from the African Wildlife Conservation Foundation and Ashia Cheetah Conservation, the facility, equipped with state-of-the-art incubators and brooders, supports every stage of the chicks' development. Five chicks were rescued and successfully reared, to be released into the wild in February 2023. In collaboration with Ashia, two cheetahs were relocated from South Africa to boost Bangweulu's numbers; both adapted quickly and were hunting successfully within a few days. The annual large mammal aerial survey was completed, revealing an increase in key wildlife population numbers.

The law enforcement team focused strongly on harnessing potential and building capacity, including human rights training by the African Parks Chief Instructor, as well as specialist training for two control room operators and one data analyst. This led to improvements in effective data collection, documentation and tracking tools. An airboat was procured, making the mid-reaches of the swamps more accessible for scout teams, and enabling faster reaction times. Ninety-eight arrests were made, down from 116 in 2021. However, prosecutions following arrests increased to 68, from 24 in 2021. Patrols continued to enforce the nationwide fishing ban during the three-month breeding season; this is essential to ensure sustainable fisheries where fishing is the predominant livelihood.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The newly built Modular Centre in Kabinga was officially opened in March and teachers were trained in the use of ZEdupads, educational tablets that enhance teaching and learning. Twelve scholarships were awarded, bringing the total to 39 sponsored students, including scholars in medicine, nursing and teaching. CTAOP youth clubs formed in all six chiefdoms, creating young ambassadors in reproductive health and conservation.

Regular meetings were held with all six chiefs to nurture these important relationships. As part of a participatory discussion on wildlife numbers and quota setting for 2023, CRBs from each chiefdom

observed the lechwe migration. In June, the chiefs visited Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in Malawi, and shared experiences on community participation and development in wildlife management with local traditional authorities.

The lechwe harvest was successful, with 206 lechwe sold as legal bushmeat to local communities and the skins tanned and crafted. Honey harvesting yielded 5.2 tonnes processed and sold. Bangweulu's natural products were showcased at two national agricultural shows, highlighting the potential for revenue generation from sustainable natural resource utilisation. Bangweulu staff attended the Musubilwa Mpemba traditional ceremony for the Unga people, celebrated in June on Bwalya Mponda Island, and the Chinamanongo traditional ceremony of the Bisa people in Kopa – which celebrated “the pot being full”.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — A multi-department government workshop for land zonation, including Forestry, Fishery, and the DNPW was conducted as the first step for Bangweulu's next General Management Plan. Construction of the Chiundaponde leather tannery was completed and building of an advanced crafting facility began in Kopa. The Chikuni causeway, the main access route to Chikuni Island, made good progress and will be completed in 2023. In Kabinga Chiefdom,

six law enforcement houses, an office block, armoury and radio room were built, fully equipping the base. Construction of scout houses for officers on Bwalya Mponda and Nsamba islands began.

**TOURISM** — The reintroduction of cheetah and the new shoebill rehabilitation centre have been notable drawcards for visitors to Bangweulu. An ablution block and three chalets were added to Nsoebe Community Campsite, along with a self-catering dining and kitchen area for self-drive visitors. The campsite was used regularly over the winter period, an ideal time for shoebill sightings. Remote Africa Safaris used the Shoebill Lodge concession over the tourism period, contributing US\$61,000 in concession fees.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Continue to rehabilitate and release shoebill chicks
2. Continue to enhance tourism opportunities across the landscape to increase revenue and job creation
3. Continue to build the capacity of community facilitators to enhance positive community engagement
4. Implement a revised law enforcement strategy for increased stability around the GMA
5. Boost community-driven enterprise development, to showcase the value of sustainable natural resource utilisation



Bangweulu Wetland's community enterprise development projects range from beekeeping to fisheries management, reaching more than 50,000 people living within the protected area © Stephen Cunliffe

# NURTURING A FUTURE OF ABUNDANCE



**PARK MANAGER**  
Craig Reid

**ZAMBIA** — Situated in the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), the world's largest transfrontier conservation area, Kafue National Park is one of the biggest parks in Africa, spanning 22,400 km<sup>2</sup>. Here, the Kafue River dominates a network of rivers, wetlands and intact woodlands, creating an expansive tract of the iconic Zambezi ecoregion, where critical populations of savannah wildlife, including elephant, large predators, 21 species of antelope and over 500 bird species are conserved. In February 2021, the Government of Zambia invited African Parks to implement a Priority Support Plan (PSP), for the protection and development of Kafue National Park. In this 17-month period, with funding provided by the Dutch Postcode Lottery's Dreamfund grant, significant infrastructure investments were made, law enforcement efforts vastly improved, over 200 jobs created and education enhanced through a literacy programme. These efforts paved the way for a long-term mandate and, in July 2022, African Parks signed a 20-year management agreement with the Government of Zambia, for the full protection of Kafue's valuable landscape. Since then, a management team has been recruited; additional law enforcement personnel selected for training; the Greater Kafue Landscape Ltd Board appointed; and operations and infrastructure scaled to meet the needs of managing and protecting this vast and critically important ecosystem.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — As part of the KAZA TFCA elephant survey, an aerial survey was undertaken, focusing on elephant and large mammals across Kafue and the surrounding Game Management Areas (GMAs). In addition, a total of 36 elephant, three buffalo, 16 lion, nine wild dog, five cheetah, two eland

and one hyaena were collared, through partnerships with the Zambian Carnivore Programme, Musekese, Game Rangers International, Mushingashi and Panthera. The results of the survey, together with the collared animal monitoring data, will contribute to a baseline, against which to measure the progress of restoration of the ecosystem and help improve protection measures. Together with monitoring partners, a rescue operation was mounted in the north of the park, to save seven lion cubs whose mothers had been killed in poachers' snares. These animals were secured in an enclosure in Liuwa Plain National Park and will be returned to Kafue, where preparations for their release back into the wild will be undertaken, in early 2023.

With a core management focus on strengthening conservation law enforcement, to conserve Kafue's wildlife populations, the opening of the Law Enforcement Centre at the park headquarters was a significant milestone. A large recruitment and selection drive was undertaken in all the local communities around the park. A total of 80 new scouts were selected for training, with 78 remaining on the course by yearend. All existing law enforcement personnel were assessed with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to identify capacity and challenges. The two light sport aircraft provided aerial surveillance and the helicopter supported conservation law enforcement, through the deployment of teams and reactions to incidents. Over four tonnes of bushmeat and 1.1 tonnes of fish were recovered, together with 671 snares, 54 bicycles and 51 firearms.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — The new park management partnership with African Parks was introduced to the communities around the park by the Ministry of Tourism. Thereafter, initial engagements were held with the Community Resource Boards (CRBs) and chiefs. A Community and Extension Manager was appointed, to lead the development of a full Community Engagement Strategy in 2023 that will guide community development activities, along with key partners such as The Nature Conservancy. Employment opportunities for over 300 people were created in the first six months of the Kafue project. A trial of the Happy Readers literacy programme continued at Chunga and Ngoma schools and infrastructural maintenance support was provided to these two schools.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — The management team grew significantly and by year's end recruitment was 90%



Firefighting teams in Kafue National Park work tirelessly through the dry season securing park infrastructure by creating firebreaks, implementing early season burns and fighting damaging fires © Mike Dexter

complete. The Greater Kafue Landscape Ltd Board was established and held its first successful meeting. Two fire management teams worked through the dry season, securing infrastructure with firebreaks, implementing early season burns and, later, fighting damaging late season fires. A total of 1,211 km of roads were maintained, with grading, bush clearing and cleaning out culverts and bridges. Five airstrips used by tourism operators and management were maintained and annual registrations with the Civil Aviation Authority completed. Good progress was made in maintaining existing buildings, primarily, at Chunga and Ngoma. New buildings included an aircraft hangar, four management houses (three at Chunga and one at Ngoma) and four semi-detached flats, which were almost completed. Phase 1 of the radio network now enables radio communications over most of the park. A second light sport aircraft, nine vehicles, three tipper trucks, a grader and a boat, for operations on Lake Itezhi Tezhi, were purchased.

**TOURISM** — Tourism operators were engaged to ensure communication on key developments in the park; one outstanding Tourism Concession

Agreement (TCA) was secured; and finalising pending new TCAs and outstanding renewals began. Work started on establishing supportive tourism access linkages, such as scheduled flights to connect key tourism nodes, including Livingstone, to the park. Over 9,000 tourists (international – 4,164, domestic – 3,582, resident – 1,325) visited the park between July and December, indicating a post Covid-19 recovery. Destination marketing was done through the popular press, social media and the erection of billboards in Lusaka.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Complete recruitment of the management team and support staff
2. Complete development, and begin implementation of the Long-Term Sustainability Strategy, Community Engagement Strategy and a Tourism Development Plan
3. Complete Phase 2 of the radio network for communications across the park
4. Continue with collaring and monitoring of key species, together with key partners

# HARBOURING A CULTURE OF CUSTODIANSHIP



**PARK MANAGER**  
Deon Joubert

**ZAMBIA** — In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the King of Barotseland appointed his people as custodians of the landscape that is today Liuwa Plain National Park. But, by the turn of this century, decades of unsustainable land use, poaching and human-wildlife conflict in and around external communities had caused a rapid decline in species such as wildebeest and zebra; allowed agriculture to threaten the grasslands; and reduced the lion population to just one lonely lioness. In 2003, realising what was at stake, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE), invited African Parks to help restore the legacy of Liuwa Plain. Immediately, effective conservation law enforcement strategies were put in place to reduce poaching of bushmeat, and sustainable land use and fish harvesting methods were introduced to communities. Food security projects and enterprise opportunities, such as beekeeping, mango drying and fish drying began enhancing the livelihoods of thousands of people living in and around the park. In 2008, a series of reintroductions were rolled out to restore species that once roamed the plains in abundance. Lion were introduced first, followed by eland and buffalo, to provide a healthy prey base for the growing predator populations.

Today, the park hosts the second largest wildebeest migration in Africa, is a stronghold for hyaena, cheetah, and lion, and a sanctuary for over 299 bird species. The park is the largest employer in the region and provides critical education and health benefits to hundreds of community members. Over 200 children have received scholarships and more than 4,000 local farmers have benefitted from skills training. Through ongoing community engagement and integration, Liuwa has contributed to uplifting the communities'

socio-economic status with employment and tourism revenue, while becoming world-renowned as a major tourist attraction. Today, now that the landscape is once again become a source of stability and abundance, the people of Liuwa have found a renewed sense of custodianship.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — The annual aerial survey showed a healthy increase in wildebeest numbers, while zebra remained stable. A red lechwe aerial survey counted 693 individuals. The lion population continues to grow, ending 2022 at 16 individuals, thanks to three litters born this year. The Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) monitored 13 hyaena clans, with 38 cubs documented. A highlight was ZCP's discovery of a new clan of 12 individuals in the north of the park. Three cheetah litters were born in 2022 but unfortunately, like last year, none of the cubs survived due to exposure during the flooding season and predation by hyaena. The 11 wild dog – eight males from South Africa and three females from Kafue translocated in 2021 – were released into the park in April, after an extended bonding process in a split compartment boma. After release they immediately started moving as a pack. One of the females died after being attacked by hyaenas but, in July, the pack began denning and five pups were born in August. Two male pups died, leaving three healthy females. By year end, they had left the den and were seen hunting with the pack on the plain.

In park protection efforts, the effective conservation law enforcement team's close collaboration with community leaders, led to an increase in arrests of more than double those made in 2021. The investigations team was very successful in the larger region in the confiscation of ivory (92 kg). Digital radios installed by African Parks in all the Induna and Community Resource Board (CRB) houses helped considerably in reporting human-wildlife conflict incidents.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — With ongoing challenges around human-wildlife conflict, several community sensitisation meetings were held regarding the human-wildlife conflict mitigation fund. This new proactive approach to human-wildlife conflict mitigation saw 126 cattle farmers being registered. The meetings and the process were supported and organised by the newly elected Community Research Board (CRB). Conflict mitigation tools were also distributed, including 300 cowbells and 400 solar alarm lamps.

The domestic dog rabies vaccination programme continued with the inoculation of a further 2,408 dogs and 212 cats. The CRB Agro-Vet shop that opened in Kalabo was very successful in its first year, providing community members with access to equipment and seeds, and promoting sustainable farming methods. An additional 81 farmers are engaged in practicing sustainable farming methods, bringing the total to 4,721 farmers. Fresh fish, up from 814 kg in 2021 to 2,811 kg, caught by 1,345 fishermen, was purchased and dried at the fish drying facility, before being sold at Kasumbalesa market, with profits going to the CRB. A total of 530 kg of honey was processed from 130 beekeepers. The total income from enterprise development increased by 55% this year. Another 13 students were supported with school fees, taking the total to 219. Twenty-five community teachers' salaries were also paid, 11 more than in 2021.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — A new Community Development Manager and new Commercial Development Manager were recruited. The Fire Management Plan, developed through an extremely robust stakeholder participation process, was finalised and validated for implementation

in 2023. The human-wildlife mitigation fund was also adopted and set to be implemented in 2023. A new Foxbat aircraft was received, as well as a new pontoon, and the Matiamanene airstrip was extended by 300 metres.

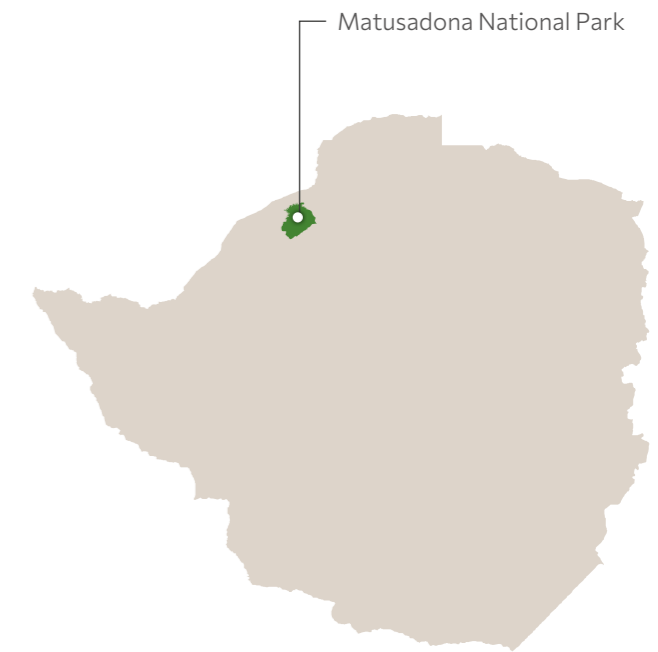
**TOURISM** — Tourists increased this year to 989 paying guests, of which 179 were Zambian nationals. Overall, US\$77,459 of tourism income was generated. Through integrated management of campsites with the CRB, the communities' status has been uplifted through employment and revenue generated through tourism, while simultaneously nurturing appreciation of the importance of wildlife and its management.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Incorporate a portion of the Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area into the park mandate
2. Update and enforce the Land Use Plan (LUP)
3. Construct the new Liuwa Plain Camp to open at the end of the year
4. The human-wildlife conflict mitigation fund to begin operating
5. Enforce the new Fire Management Plan



Rangers in Liuwa Plain National Park assist in park protection through wildlife monitoring and conservation law enforcement © Lorenz Fischer



# ZIMBABWE

**GOVERNMENT PARTNER**

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA)

**MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK**

1,477 KM<sup>2</sup> | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2019

**MAJOR FUNDERS**

Wyss Foundation & Stichting Natura Africae

# A VISION FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE



**PARK MANAGER**  
Robert Reid

**ZIMBABWE** — In 2019, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) invited African Parks to assume management of Matusadona National Park. The vision was to revitalise the park for wildlife and communities. Proclaimed a national park in 1975, Matusadona was once a conservation stronghold for elephant and black rhino but, over the decades, human pressure and over utilisation of resources impacted the park severely. However, since the inception of the Matusadona Conservation Trust (MCT) and African Parks applying an effective, holistic management approach, the park is fast becoming a haven for wildlife, a source of hope for people and a popular tourism destination. Reinvestment into the tourism industry has contributed to job creation and nurtured a pride amongst those who are employed by the park. Effective park protection through conservation law enforcement, coupled with a focus on community engagement, has seen a noticeable reduction in poaching of both fish and land mammals, allowing wildlife populations to grow. With revived fish stocks, the legal fishing camps have become a major financial benefit to communities, as fishermen are able to access protected commercial fishing grounds. As a result, many are beginning to see the direct benefits of sustainable utilisation, not only in improved catches, but also through the support of rangers protecting their fisheries from illegal operators. Through improved housing, education and health facilities, opportunities are being nurtured as people begin to value the results of protecting their heritage and the wildlife with which they coexist.

**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** — The importance of land use planning around Matusadona was highlighted by the widespread movement of elephant

through designated wildlife areas and corridors outside the park. By using satellite collars and regular overflights, an understanding of the areas used by elephant was created. This, together with community engagement work, led to an increase in the reporting of human-wildlife conflict, creating urgency around planned mitigation efforts with rangers and community teams, as well as increased education for affected communities. A significant reduction in illegal fires was achieved through 300 km of pre-emptively burnt firebreaks in the dry season, and deploying rapid response teams.

By re-enforcing legal access to commercial fishing grounds, a growing number of fishermen began adopting sustainable fishing methods, as they recognised the direct benefits of improved catches due to rangers protecting their fishing grounds. As a result, the two fishing camps inside the park averaged 40 tonnes of harvest each month, generating approximately US\$64,000. This is three to fourfold higher than the unregulated fishing camps. There was also an improvement in recreational fishing and, for the first time in years, the Sanyati Gorge had a net-free tigerfish spawning season. Major lake operations took place, with the Lake Kariba Captain and the Nyaminyami Rural District Council (NRDC), to legally register and mark vessels in the seven fishing camps found in the Lake Kariba Basin around the park. Boats found to be unseaworthy, or illegally operated, were confiscated.

Throughout the year, rangers received ongoing training, with legal training for senior law enforcement staff, police and prosecutors in Kariba town, conducted in conjunction with the Tikki Hywood Foundation (THF). This led to an improvement in prosecutions and case outcomes, as well as improving engagement with the Judiciary. The Matusadona plane proved to be extremely effective in directing conservation law enforcement operations and logistical support to the park. It was also useful in getting a bird's eye view of the extent of issues such as illegal fishing camps, gold panning and land use change.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** — Three years of positive engagement with the community have begun to show results, with a strong sense of community buy-in. The Happy Readers Programme was expanded to eight schools doing Level 1 and another three schools at Level 2, with improved literacy demonstrated amongst the children involved in the programme. To further improve education efforts, a

partnership was formed with Book Aid International, to support and promote reading in 35 primary schools, reaching 13,000 children. Wildlife clubs, park visits and regular engagement with communities continued to provide access for community members to Matusadona, facilitating their wildlife experience, while demonstrating the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Human wildlife conflict management outside the park remained a major focus for the teams, with crop damage by elephant and predation on livestock continuing to cause tensions. Efforts to mitigate conflict included projects such as chilli growing and fencing; distribution and training for setting up canvas bomas; educating communities about caring for livestock; and working with the NRDC to prevent illegal agricultural expansion. Together with the PWMA and the various district councils a formal HWC Management Plan is underway, as well as investments in additional resources to tackle this challenge going forward.

**PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** — The new administration block, senior ranger's house, ranger barracks and office were completed. Existing ranger houses were upgraded and senior staff housing almost completed. Road building and maintenance continued. Matusadona hosted an

African Parks Strategic Partnership Event and the Annual Management meeting.

**TOURISM** — Concession agreements were signed with existing operators Changa Safari Camp and Rhino Safari Lodge and several wilderness camps were opened. Improvements to the Tashinga campsite, and tent provision, allowed people to visit Matusadona without having to bring their own equipment. Three game viewing vehicles were purchased and contractual agreements signed to take day visitor drives from houseboats into the park. MCT co-sponsored the Kariba International Tiger Fish Tournament (KITFT). Over 1,300 tigerfish were caught and released over the three days of the competition. Income generated from tourism more than doubled, totalling US\$303,643.

## OBJECTIVES FOR 2023

1. Development of a Predator Management Plan
2. Focus on strategic mitigation plan for human-wildlife conflict
3. Recruit additional rangers through Basic Field Ranger (BFR) training
4. Complete the tender process for a lodge in the Gubu River area
5. Develop a Land Use Plan (LUP) over 2023 to 2024



Tourism provides another revenue stream to local communities living around the park, creating jobs and enterprise opportunities. Matusadona National Park, Zimbabwe © Changa Safari Camp

## SCALING IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

### INCUBATION PROGRAMME

While our vision is to directly manage 30 protected areas by 2030, we recognise that more needs to be done to protect key areas under threat. To address this challenge, we launched our Incubation Programme in 2018, to invest in practitioners who share in our ambition of effectively managing protected areas through long-term management agreements. Our goal is to have ten additional protected areas, managed by select partners, spanning a further 10 million hectares, by 2030.

Through a thorough vetting process, our Incubation Programme engages other organisations who share our values and mission, and who wish to replicate our model of delegated management. With mentoring and technical support, we guide our partners to this end, increasing positive conservation impact. Guidance includes: the development of management agreements with government partners; sharing our business structures, governance disciplines and best practices; conducting operational evaluations to identify gaps; and mentoring to build confidence and expertise. These partnerships are conducted on both an operational and institutional level, with the support and exchanges adapted to the partner's specific needs and circumstances.

Incubator sites are chosen based on similar criteria to those we use to manage our own growth; that is: the potential of the landscape to expand under a management mandate to incorporate adjacent protected areas; strategic locations encompassing specific biomes and species; management synergies; and opportunistic growth at the request of governments.

We are proud to share our current Incubation Partners, which include three Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs), currently managing five sites spanning 81,736 km<sup>2</sup> (8.17 million hectares):



**Wild Africa Conservation (WAC), Niger:** A non-profit organisation created to act alongside the Government of Niger and local communities in the management, rehabilitation, and conservation of W National Park in Niger. WAC plays an integral role in the Niger portion of the W-Arly-Pendjari complex through a Priority Intervention Plan, with the intention to transform this protected area into a full delegated management mandate.



**Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT), Malawi:** A non-profit organisation that works for the improved conservation of the unique ecology and endemic biodiversity within the Mount Mulanje Global Biosphere Reserve, and the sustainable use of natural resources to benefit local community livelihoods. MMCT is currently in the process of changing its mandate from a technical advisory role to a full delegated management mandate and is restructuring the organisation to fit this specific purpose.



**Noé:** An international non-profit organisation that aims to conserve biodiversity through field-based programmes targeting endangered species and protected areas, and by contributing to local economy and livelihoods, supporting education and health, improving resilience to climate change, and environmental sensitisation to encourage behavioural changes. Noé has been managing Termit and Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve in Niger since 2018, Binder-Léré Faunal Reserve in Chad since 2019 and Conkouati-Douli National Park in Congo since 2021. With every year that passes Noé increases its positive conservation impact and now, with fully staffed Park Management Units, is scaling its operational capacity in tandem with conducting research to better understand the areas under its protection.

**We look forward to reporting on our partners' progress and bringing new partners into this programme.**



# OUR PARTNERS

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Great white egret in Zakouma National Park, Chad. The park's floodplains, rivers and marshes are a valuable stopover and breeding ground for migrating birds © Kyle de Nobrega

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

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



**THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA** - African Parks signed a long-term management agreement for Iona National Park with the Angolan Ministry of Environment (MINAMB) and the National Institute of Biodiversity and Conservation (INBC) in 2019. The MINAMB is the ministerial department responsible for the formulation, execution and control of the Executive's policy regarding environmental protection. This includes the preservation and conservation of environmental quality, pollution control, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, conservation areas and enhancement of the natural heritage, as well as the preservation and rational use of renewable natural resources. The INBC was created to ensure the implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Policy and management of the National System of Conservation Areas. Ms Ana Paula Chantre Luna de Carvalho is the current Minister of the MINAMB and Ms Albertina Nzuzi Matias is the current Director General of the INBC.



**THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN** - The Government of Benin signed an agreement with African Parks in May 2017 to revitalise, rehabilitate and develop Pendjari National Park. In June 2020, W National Park was added to the African Parks portfolio. The restoration of these parks is one of 45 flagship projects of the "Revealing Benin" national investment programme, announced by the Presidency of the Republic of Benin in December 2016. The Minister of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development ministry (Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable), José Tonato, the Director General of the National Centre of Management of Reserves and Protected Areas (CENAGREF), Abdel

Aziz Baba-Moussa, and the Managing Director of the National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and the Development of Tourism, Edmond Toli, have all played an instrumental role in this partnership.



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



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



**THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO** - The Ministry of Forest Economy executes national policy regarding sustainable development, forest economy and the environment. In 2010, African Parks signed its first public-private management agreement with the ministry for Odzala-Kokoua National Park. In 2020, an amendment to the agreement was signed with the minister, Madame Rosalie Matondo, adding the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary to the protected area and creating the Odzala-Kokoua-Lossi Foundation as the management entity. Under the ministry, African Parks works with the Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas (ACFAP in French), which is represented by its Director-General, Jean Bosco Nganongo.





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



**THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI** - The relationship with Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) is the longest running partnership for African Parks, dating back to the agreement for the Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2003. The DNPW is the government agency responsible for the management and conservation of wildlife resources and the administration of the Wildlife Policy and National Parks and Wildlife Act. In 2015, African Parks signed an agreement with the Malawi Government, through the DNPW, to manage Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde National Park. In 2018, Liwonde National Park was extended to include Mangochi Forest Reserve. Here African Parks has also partnered with the Department of Forestry,

the government agency responsible for planning and providing technical extension and guidance, as well as facilitating forestry development on customary land and forest reserves. The Malawi Public-Private Partnership Commission (PPPC) facilitated the signing of these agreements. Mr Brighton Kumchedwa is the current Director of the DNPW.



**THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

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



**THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

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



In Innedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, camels form an important part of the park protection strategy, helping rangers patrol the reserve's least accessible areas, particularly in the mountainous areas © Sean Viljoen



In Akagera National Park, Rwanda, national citizens make up 43% of the park's visitors © Scott Ramsay



**THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**

- In August 2022, the Government of South Sudan signed a 10-year renewable management agreement with African Parks for Boma and Badingilo National Parks, including the wildlife corridors and proposed extension zones in the broader landscape – an area extending over three million hectares. With this commitment, the South Sudanese Government has ensured the long-term protection of these vital ecosystems, to secure lasting benefits for people and wildlife. This partnership is made possible by the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), through the South Sudan Wildlife Service (SSWS), the legal authority under the ministry responsible for management of wildlife and protected areas in South Sudan. His Excellency Rizik Zakaria Hassan is the Minister of the MWCT.



**THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

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



**THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

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



**THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

- The Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), under the Ministry of Tourism, works to protect and conserve Zambia's wildlife estates and improve the quality of life among communities, while maintaining healthy biodiversity. African Parks began its work with the DNPW in Liuwa Plain National Park in 2003 and in the Bangweulu Wetlands in 2008. Mr Andrew Chomba is the current Acting Director of the DNPW.

# CATALYSTS FOR CONSERVATION

## STRATEGIC FUNDING PARTNERS

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



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



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

**Bill Pope** Bill Pope – over a 2-week period in February 2022, Bill travelled to four parks under African Parks' management – Zakouma and Ennedi in Chad, Odzala in the Republic of Congo, and Chinko in the Central African Republic (CAR). It was an ambitious trip to some of our most remote parks in central Africa and the Sahel. During this trip, Bill was able to meet some of the incredible people who are working, day in and day out, to protect and preserve these extraordinary landscapes. Inspired by the people and work of African Parks, Bill made a generous multiyear commitment at the strategic partner level.

**The Dhanam Foundation** The Dhanam Foundation – established in 2004 the Foundation is an independent non-profit private organisation based in Palo Alto, California. It focuses, primarily, on education, child welfare and human services. In 2015, the Foundation began to include nature conservation and land protection as part of its philanthropic portfolio. In 2021, the Foundation made a significant commitment to African Parks, to support the restoration of Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe as a wildlife sanctuary and safari destination with globally significant populations of elephant, buffalo and rhino. The Foundation has also provided supplemental funding to support translocations for the park's ongoing restoration.



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



Liwonde National Park supplied 15 hippos, in a first of its kind translocation for African Parks, to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, as part of the 2022 mass wildlife translocation to re-stock other parks in Malawi © Marcus Westberg



The iconic shoebill is getting a second chance of survival in Bangweulu Wetlands, Zambia, with the opening of the first-ever Shoebill Captive Rearing and Rehabilitation Facility, which raises and releases orphaned shoebill chicks © David Findlay

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

**Donna and Marvin Schwartz** – Donna and Marvin Schwartz – extraordinary advocates for conservation and animal related causes, Donna and Marvin have a special interest in, and strong commitment to, saving elephants and other large species threatened by poaching. The Schwartz’s relationship with African Parks began in 2012 and they have provided critical support to our anti-poaching work in central Africa. Their generosity has supported diverse efforts in Garamba, Chinko and Odzala-Kokoua, as well as other parks with significant elephant populations, such as Zakouma National Park in Chad.



The Dutch Postcode Lottery – the Lottery has been raising funds since 1989 to support organisations working towards a fairer and greener world. At least 40% of every ticket sold goes to charity. The Lottery has steadily grown to become the biggest charity lottery in the Netherlands, supporting 148 non-governmental organisations. Since its founding, the Lottery has dispensed over €7.5b.

Over the last five years, African Parks has received €7.5m. In 2018, we received a multiyear Extra Project award for Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve. In 2020, we were the recipient, together with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Peace Parks, of €16.9m for a Dreamfund project to boost the ecological and socio-economic development of the world’s largest terrestrial transfrontier conservation area, the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA), which helped us fund operations in developing Kafue National Park. In 2022, African Parks received €900,000 in unrestricted funding.



The Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF) – a joint initiative of Save the Elephants

and the Wildlife Conservation Network, the ECF is a flexible and responsive fund that supports the best efforts of the most trusted organisations globally, working to secure a future for elephant in Africa. Since 2015, the ECF has not only contributed more than US\$4.7m to African Parks, but also expertise on best practices in elephant conservation. This has benefitted critical surveillance, intelligence-based protection, and human-elephant conflict mitigation activities for some of our most threatened elephant populations.



The European Union (EU) – the EU has been a crucial long-standing partner of African Parks, working together towards joint conservation and development objectives in central Africa. Since 2005, this partnership has helped create areas of stability in a volatile region and attract additional funding and partners. The EU’s support has been critical in managing large landscapes, namely Garamba National Park and its periphery, Chinko Conservation Area, Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem, Odzala-Kokoua National Park, and W National Park in Niger. Through improved management of these ecologically important landscapes; striving towards safety and

security for people and wildlife; and strengthening opportunities in green sectors, we will continue to work towards our common goals, in alignment with the EU’s NaturAfrica initiative.



The Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines (FSOA) or West African Savannah Foundation (WASF) – the Foundation is a conservation trust fund promoting the preservation of protected areas of the WAP Complex, while advancing education, science, and local economic development. The Foundation was set up by the Benin Government and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with financial contributions from the Benin Government, Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Financial German Cooperation (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau – KfW). The Foundation has been providing significant annual financial contributions towards management of Pendjari National Park since 2017. In 2019 to 2020, it provided 85% of funding to implement a Priority Action Plan to secure the Beninese W National Park, which evolved into a full management mandate to African Parks in June 2020. The Foundation also committed to cover full funding to establish the first



In Garamba National Park, DRC, thousands of people are benefiting from effective park management which helps provide food security and potable water © Marcus Westberg

3-month plan from the African Parks mandate for the management of Park W-Benin, up to December 2020. In 2021, the FSOA contributed US\$1.5m to Pendjari and W in Benin. Its larger vision is to create a sustainable source of funding and to support the synergy of activities within the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex.



**FONDATION SEGRÉ** Fondation Segré – a Swiss foundation established in 1996, it is committed to helping protect the biodiversity of our planet through active conservation of threatened species and their habitats, and restoration of degraded ecosystems. Fondation Segré became a strategic funding partner of African Parks in 2016 and has contributed over US\$7m to support a range of parks. In 2022, Fondation Segré assisted African Parks in Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, Akagera National Park and the newly added Boma-Badingilo landscape.

**The Head and Heart Foundation** The Head and Heart Foundation – the Foundation supports organisations that protect and promote the earth’s biodiversity and conserve the natural resources and climate that species



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



**Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF)** – an ambitious new financing instrument, the LLF aims to protect the world’s most



Over 900 children were taught about sustainable agriculture and market gardening through the junior Farmer Fields Schools project in Garamba National Park, DRC, in 2022 © Marcus Westberg



Kafue National Park, Zambia, is one of the last expanses of the iconic Zambezi ecoregion and home to abundant wildlife, including stable numbers of lion © Marcus Westberg

outstanding natural places and close the funding gap for biodiversity conservation in the Global South. It is a joint initiative by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), KfW Development Bank (KfW), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Campaign for Nature (CfN), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The LLF provides financing for a period of 15 years to protected areas, with a long-term, flexible programme approach, in partnership with a philanthropic partner who provides match-funding of US\$1m a year for the first five years. LLF funding commences from year six at the same rate for a further 10 years. Two protected areas managed by African Parks are among the pilot sites receiving funding from the LLF: Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo and Iona National Park in Angola.



**Lion Recovery Fund** The Lion Recovery Fund (LRF) – an initiative operated and managed by the Wildlife Conservation Network, the LRF is a nimble and flexible fund investing in the most innovative and effective projects

across Africa to recover lion and restore their landscapes. Since 2017, the LRF has contributed more than US\$3.98m to African Parks. This funding has benefitted nine different African Parks sites, with a particular focus on several parks in West and central Africa, given the extreme vulnerability of lion populations in these regions. The LRF has invested heavily in Chinko in the CAR, part of a vast 65,000 km<sup>2</sup> wilderness that has immense potential for lion recovery.



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




**PATRIP FOUNDATION** PATRIP Foundation – a nonprofit organisation, the Foundation channels multi-donor funds into cross-border projects aimed at increasing stability and



Black rhino receives a radio transmitter in its horn in Liwonde National Park, Malawi, for better monitoring purposes © Marcus Westberg

integration in fragile regions. PATRIP has been dedicated to improving the security, conservation and social development of the border regions of northern Benin, through funding €1.7m worth of infrastructure inside and outside W National Park. This project is financed by the German Federal Foreign Office through the PATRIP Foundation and the German development bank KfW.

**Fentener van Vlissingen Family** The late Paul Fentener van Vlissingen – Paul provided the bulk of the initial funding that established African Parks in 2000. In 2010, his daughters Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen committed €25m to the African Parks Endowment Fund, in accordance with their father’s final wishes. Income from the Fund is earmarked, primarily, for African Parks’ overhead costs. During 2022, the Fund contributed €2m to African Parks.


 People’s Postcode Lottery – the Lottery manages lotteries on behalf of 20 postcode trusts. A minimum of 33% from each ticket goes directly to charities and good causes across Britain and internationally. Since 2015, African Parks has received

more than £8.2m awarded by Postcode Planet Trust, thanks to funds raised by players of the Lottery. In 2022, we were awarded £1.5m through the Postcode Planet Trust, which was used to support the three Malawi parks and Garamba National Park in the DRC.

**Rob Walton Foundation** The Rob Walton Foundation (RWF) – the RWF supports initiatives that advance its founder’s passion for environmental conservation and creative coalition building. Rob Walton has been an invaluable partner to African Parks since 2003, providing support to safeguard the long-term survival of parks and wildlife across the continent. In 2021, operating as the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, the RWF made a transformational US\$100m 5-year commitment, the largest endowment gift in African Parks’ history. Portions of the Foundation’s annual contributions have supported the reintroduction of species such as lion and black rhino to Akagera National Park, as well as sparked matching grants to Iona and Odzala-Kokoua, in conjunction with the Legacy Landscapes Fund.


 Stichting Natura Africae – a charitable foundation established in 2017 by Jan Verhagen, a Dutch

entrepreneur, Natura Africae is dedicated to the conservation of national parks and protected areas in Africa, recognising the reciprocal relationship between the livelihoods of local communities and the successful protection of an ecosystem’s wildlife. The Foundation provided €4,75m in 2022, supporting park operations in Liuwa Plain, Odzala-Kokoua, Matusadona, Nyungwe and Ennedi. The grant also provided catalytic funding to strengthen African Parks’ organisational costs and institutional platform.

 Stichting Nieuwgeluk Philosophy – supports large and small change-oriented initiatives that are sympathetic to people, animals and nature. The Foundation’s goal is to make heartwarming contributions that make a difference to the preservation of a liveable world for current and future generations. In 2022, Stichting Nieuwgeluk Philosophy supported Akagera National Park, Zakouma National Park and the Malawi elephant translocation.

 The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

– the Agency operates the Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE), with the aim of conserving the ecological integrity of the Congo Basin Forest for the benefit of local people and the global community. With a commitment of US\$28.9m since 2018, we have been able to carry out the core protected area management of Garamba National Park and Chinko Conservation Area. In addition, African Parks, in a consortium with African Wildlife Foundation, is improving community resilience and wildlife conservation in the Garamba Complex, which includes communities in the periphery of the park and in the Mbomou-Uele border region. Apart from a myriad of conservation and sustainable livelihood outcomes being achieved, this USAID partnership is contributing towards the establishment of a foothold for governance, security and stability for the surrounding communities, and the wider DRC-CAR-South Sudan transboundary landscape.

 The United States Department of State – through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the Department advances good governance,



A significant number of people, composed of various ethnic groups including the Murle, Jie, Anuyak and Nuer, live inside Boma and Badingilo national parks © Marcus Westberg

peace and security, prerequisites for sustainable economic development and the protection of natural resources. Since 2017, the INL has committed over US\$9m to African Parks for critical law enforcement support in protected areas, enabling the professionalisation and effectiveness of our rangers across the African Parks portfolio, especially in Chad, the CAR, Malawi, Zambia, the DRC, the Republic of Congo and Benin. It has supported leadership development and core training infrastructure. Through the INL's support, intelligence units have been established in every park, to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement operations, and for regional and national collaboration with other security and conservation partners. It also supports technology, communication, air surveillance, mobility equipment and canine units, as well as training on evidence management for wildlife crime prosecution. These interventions are enhancing parks' capacity to counter poaching and illegal wildlife trade, promoting regional stability and the security of neighbouring communities.



The Wildcat Foundation – Wildcat is a private philanthropic foundation, whose purpose is to help save, and

provide for the long-term conservation of, endangered wildlife and wild places in Africa. It supports innovative new approaches that disrupt traditional wildlife protection paradigms, focusing largely on medical training, aircraft, equipment, and technology for rangers. The Foundation first partnered with African Parks in 2014, supporting the historic 500 elephant move in Malawi. Over the years, Wildcat has invested in seven parks across six countries. In 2022, Wildcat continued its critical support for the development and implementation of law enforcement strategies at Garamba, which has resulted in a 95% reduction in elephant poaching. In addition, Wildcat's support was key to a special initiative to strengthen security in Pendjari and W in Benin during 2022.



The UBS Optimus Foundation – a grant-making organization, the Foundation offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programmes that improve children's health, education and protection, those with the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable, as well as programmes that tackle



To better understand community engagement strategies in Iona National Park, Angola, a census was carried out in 2022, registering over 7,000 people living in and around the park © Marcus Westberg



Six wild dog were reintroduced to Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi, in 2021, after a 60-year absence from the country © Gael R. Vande Weghe

environmental and climate issues. In 2022, the Foundation awarded African Parks a multiyear grant in support of Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in Malawi.



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



The Wyss Foundation – the Foundation is a private charitable organisation dedicated to supporting innovative, lasting solutions that improve lives, empower communities and strengthen connections to the land. The Foundation's relationship with African Parks began in 2015 with a grant to support the restoration of Akagera National Park, followed by a significant investment in Malawi's Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. In 2017, the Foundation made a groundbreaking commitment of US\$65m to provide ongoing support for Akagera and the Malawi parks, along with startup funding for five new parks. This enabled the addition of

Pendjari and W in Benin, Bazaruto Archipelago National Park in Mozambique, Iona National Park in Angola and Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe. In 2021, the Foundation furthered its support of African Parks with another extraordinary commitment of US\$108m, which will provide for the continued support of current Wyss-funded parks, as well as startup funding for another five new parks. Two new parks in our portfolio – Kafue National Park in Zambia and Badingilo National Park in South Sudan – are benefitting from the Wyss Foundation's latest commitment.



RAINFOREST TRUST

Rainforest Trust – the Trust raises funds to support the creation and expansion of protected areas critical for biodiversity, saving endangered wildlife through partnerships and community engagement. For over 30 years, the Trust has successfully implemented conservation models that are cost-effective and engage a range of partners, including donors, leading experts, and communities. In 2021, Rainforest Trust partnered with African Parks to support a 6-year project to enhance the legal statute of the conservation area to create the Chinko National Park in the CAR, which functions as a catalyst for regional conservation initiatives. Not only does this increase our biodiversity footprint, it has moved more landscapes to protected area status. African Parks is grateful to have the Rainforest Trust as a partner for this US\$8m commitment.

# INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

We are extremely indebted to the support of all our Boards for their governance, leadership, oversight and financial support. The details of the governance structures are as at 31 December 2022.

## AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK BOARD

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Abdel Aziz Baba-Moussa, Tiémoko Ali Djafarou, Jean

Marc Froment, Enrico Pironio, Toré Sotrate

### W NATIONAL PARK COMMITTEE

Hugues Akpona (Chair), Alfred Koffi Allogninouwa,

Abdel Aziz Baba-Moussa, Jeannot Fransico, Jean Marc

Froment, Enrico Pironio, Georges Sossou

# IN REMEMBRANCE

In 2022 we experienced tragic and shocking losses within the African Parks family – every one is one too many. As we pay tribute to each of these lives, we are grateful for the way that each contributed to and supported the African Parks mission to protect biodiversity across the continent. All of them left their mark, and we send our heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones.

Between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of February, violent extremism in Burkina Faso and the broader region, spilled over into northern Benin, culminating in three devastating attacks in W National Park (WNP). As a result, seven African Parks employees lost their lives to improvised explosive devices (IEDs). We pay tribute to these brave men who were killed in the line of duty:

**JÉRÔME YVES GÉRARD LIDOYNE** joined African Parks in 2017 as a Chief Ranger Instructor. In 2018 he became African Parks' Chief Francophone Instructor. Jerome was uniquely talented and believed passionately in the conservation mission and the value of the rangers on the ground. He was killed on the 9th February.

**ZAKARI ALASSANE DJÉZAROU** joined W National Park in 2020 as a Field Ranger; killed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

**SEKO BAGA BIO MARO AMBALI** joined W National Park in 2020 as a Field Ranger; killed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

**WENTOFIOR FRANCIS** joined W National Park in 2020 as a Field Ranger; killed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

**ADAMOU ALIOU MAMADOU AKIBOU** joined W National Park in 2021 as a Driver; killed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

**TOHOUN WILFRID** joined W National Park in 2021 as a Field Ranger; killed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

**ASSONDOU ABALOU ELYSÉE** joined W National Park in 2020 as a Driver; killed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February.

We also pay tribute to the following rangers who lost their lives in the line of duty in Malawi:

**GIVEN GONDWE** joined Liwonde National Park in 2021 as a Field Ranger; killed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

**BENDIUS AMASI** joined Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2019 as a Field Ranger; killed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

Below, we acknowledge those African Parks staff members who passed away due to other causes:

**MOUSSA KODO** joined Zakouma National Park in 2010 as a Driver. He passed away on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

**GOUDJA MOUSSA GOUDJA** joined Siniaka Minia Reserve in 2020 as a Cleaner. He passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

**EMMANUEL UWITONZE** joined Akagera National Park in 2013 as a Welder. He passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.

**JOAQUINA JOSÉ CHICHAU** joined Bazaruto Archipelago National Park in April 2022 as a Focal Point of the Basisa project. She passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July.

**JOSUE ROÉLING GANIPKIO** joined Chinko in 2021 as a Data Collector Agent of Cellule J2. He passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September.

**EZOUBA PATRICE** joined Odzala-Kokoua in 2013 as a Guardian Agent Logistic. He passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

**SADICK DAUDI** joined Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2008 as a Tractor Driver. He passed away on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August.

**ELIZABETH KHAGALA** joined Liwonde National Park in 2017 as a Field Ranger Senior Parks and Wildlife Assistant. She passed away on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December.

**MUNDUNI NZIA** joined Garamba National Park in 2015 as a Carpentry Manager. He passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

**DARI GNAMMI PIERRE** joined W National Park in 2021 as a Field Ranger. He passed away on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.

# FINANCIALS

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# 2022 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The 2022 year has finally seen most operations shake off the impact of Covid-19 and we are pleased to say that it was truly minimal, with tourism numbers not only returning to normal but exceeding expectations. Unfortunately, at the same time another challenge arose in the shape of massive supply and demand volatility combined with a surge in inflation. It is a testament to our astute and flexible local management teams that this increase in inflation was almost completely negated with teams adhering to budgets while still ensuring that activities took place as per normal.

The 2022 management accounts and annual financials include the impact of three new protected areas within the portfolio. Total spending increased by US\$14,2m or 17,1% on the 2021 year. The three new areas in Zambia and South Sudan have contributed towards an increase in spending of US\$3,8m. Increased activities across the portfolio due to Covid-19's fading impact amounted to US\$4m. Our intervention in Benin as a result of the security threats amounted to US\$1,6m. The remaining increase is due to two maturing parks in Iona and Nyungwe (US\$2,5m) as well as an investment in the institution (US\$2,3m) in order to manage the additional fundraising and oversight requirements by the African Parks head office. The group generated US\$8,3m (US\$4,3m 2021) in gross commercial revenue for the financial year.

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

**Grant funding** accounted for 90% of the total income of the group at US\$98m with the remaining 10% made

up from Commercial Income (8%) and Endowment income (2%) respectively. Grant funding is made up of Individual donors and foundations (69%), government funding (3%) and institutional funding (27%). The grant funding per the management accounts (US\$96,8m) compares to the US\$87,6m in the summarised annual financial statements. US\$9,3m relates to consolidation adjustments posted in the financial statements. These adjustments represent a transfer of funds from revenue into deferred income at a consolidated level to remove the impact of additions to property, plant and equipment on the surplus/deficit being reflected, thereby better matching income and expenditure. It also includes the elimination of intercompany entries as required by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

These adjustments ensure that donor income relating to the additions of property, plant and equipment is matched to the corresponding expenses which will only be occurring as the assets are depreciated. These alterations effectively result in a deferral of revenue which is carried on that balance sheet under deferred income.

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022, African Parks Foundation of America (APFA) managed a US\$57,3m endowment generously donated by Rob Walton Foundation. The principal investment was increased during 2022 to US\$60m but global markets have performed poorly in 2022. The investments are strategic and long term so there is an expectation that the market would recover after this correction. Stichting African Parks Foundation (SAPF) also managed a US\$35,6m endowment and have experienced similar performance issues. These endowments provide African Parks with unrestricted funding in the form of annual drawdowns that, to a large degree, assists in funding our institutional oversight function.

Both funds are invested in a mix of equity, bonds and cash according to the investment policy set out by our funding committee. The endowment fund assets are held on the balance sheets of Stichting African Parks Foundation (SAPF) in the Netherlands, African Parks Foundation of America, both affiliated entities of African Parks Network (APN).

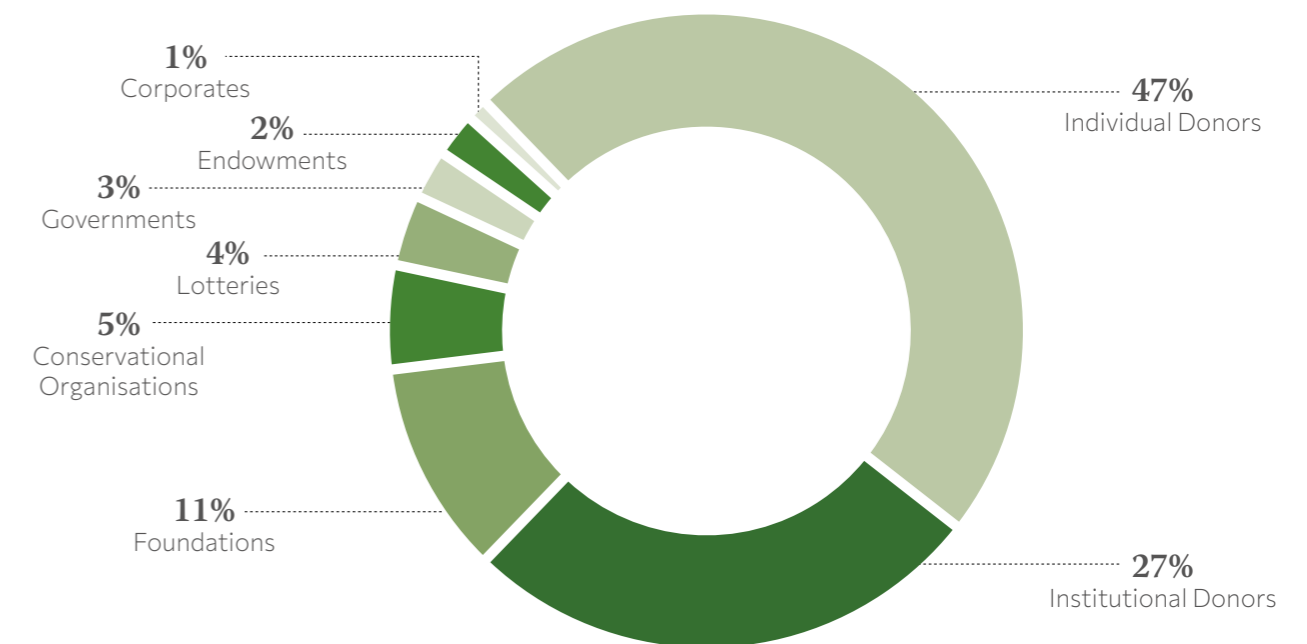
The organisation controls **group spending** through careful budget monitoring whereby budgets for the year are pre-approved. The actual spending against these budgets are monitored every month through the monthly management accounts. The total budget approved by the APN Board for 2022 was US\$103,2m whilst the actual spending was US\$106,4m. Over the course of 2022, APN was able

to reduce certain budgeted operational costs by US\$3,6m with an additional US\$2,8m costs rolling into 2023 due to funded projects not completed in 2022. These savings were offset by unbudgeted new park expenditure for Kafue, Boma and Badingilo amounting to US\$7,3m. Note that this figure includes income and expenses for the US and European fundraising operations.

## GROUP MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

	Protected areas US\$'000	African Parks Network US\$'000	Total per management account US\$'000	Consolidation adjustments US\$'000	Total per financial statements US\$'000
<b>Income</b>	<b>95,531</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>107,231</b>		<b>97,932</b>
Grant funding	87,454	9,424	96,878	(9,299)	87,579
Gross park revenue	8,077	276	8,353	-	8,353
Endowment income	-	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Other income	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total group spending</b>	<b>95,608</b>	<b>10,725</b>	<b>106,394</b>		<b>97,268</b>
Operating expenditure	81,937	8,681	90,618	(1,541)	89,077
Capital expenditure	13,501	2,044	15,545	(7,524)	8,021
Net FX loss	231	-	231	231	231
<b>Net surplus before taxation</b>	<b>(139)</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>(234)</b>	<b>602</b>

## SOURCES OF DONOR FUNDING



## SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying summary group financial statements (the “summary financial statements”) comprise a summary of the audited financial statements of the group for the year ended 31 December 2022 (the “financial statements”).

### BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

Act of South Africa. They do not contain all the disclosures required by IFRS and the requirements of the Companies Act applied in the preparation of the group financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements for the group for the year ended 31 December 2022. The summary financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

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

### SUMMARISED GROUP STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

A summarised group statement of comprehensive income is presented below. A consolidated surplus for 2022 of US\$459,552 (2021: surplus US\$4,423,052) was recorded.

	2022 US\$'000	2021 US\$'000	% change
Income	97,932	87,321	12.1%
Grant funding	85,898	80,713	6.4%
Endowment income	2,000	1,767	13.2%
Other operating income	10,034	4,841	107%
Administrative expenses	(15,464)	(10,473)	47.7%
Employee benefit expenses	(36,990)	(33,782)	9.5%
Depreciation	(8,022)	(7,238)	10.8%
Other expenses	(36,624)	(42,031)	-13.86%
Results from operating activities	833	4,271	
Net foreign exchange differences and finance revenue/(expense)	(234)	289	
Surplus before taxation	599	4,560	
Taxation	(143)	(137)	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	456	4,423	
Other comprehensive income/(loss)	(7)	(400)	
Total comprehensive surplus/ (deficit) for the year	449	4,023	

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

The increase in **income** by 12,1% reflects an increase in operations and this is due to a combination of:

- Three new protected areas: Kafue, Badingilo and Boma
- Two maturing protected areas within the portfolio: Nyungwe National Park and Iona National Park

- Step change in operations in our Benin parks to enable us to better manage the security situation
- Increase in investment in the institutional platform (head office and regional investments)
- The remaining increase in expenditure relates to activities returning to normal across the remaining parks. The major contributors were Chinko, Zakouma and Ennedi.

**Other operating income** consists of commercial revenue of US\$8,3m (US\$4,5m in 2021). This increase is mainly due to the tourism recovery due to the reduction of COVID-19 restrictions. Finally, other operating income would also include recoveries from insurance claims received in the year. These are negligible.

**Net foreign exchange differences and finance expense** consists of realised and unrealised foreign currency gains/(losses) incurred during the year.

## ABRIDGED GROUP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022:

	2022 US\$'000	2021 US\$'000	% change
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	61,364	51,465	19,3%
Right of use asset	642	188	
Current assets			
Inventories	1,176	1,147	
Receivables and prepayments	21,144	16,949	19,4%
Cash and cash equivalents	10,425	8,912	17%
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>96,775</b>	78,661	
Equity and liabilities			
Capital and reserves			
Foreign currency translation reserve	(2,171)	(2,164)	
Retained earnings	7,059	6,540	
Maintenance reserve	322	322	
Non-controlling interest	(733)	(671)	
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred taxation	1,081	938	
Lease liabilities	549	156	
Current liabilities			
Provisions	287	248	
Trade and other payables	9,961	4,466	117%
Undrawn funds	18,816	17,227	(6,1%)
Lease liabilities	90	74	
Deferred income	61,496	51,524	19,3%
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>96,775</b>	78,661	

**Capital expenditure** amounted to US\$15,5m and represents investment in infrastructure, equipment, motor vehicles, radios, aircraft etc.

The main contributors to the increase in Property Plant and Equipment (PPE) are APN headquarters in Johannesburg with the purchase of the B2 Helicopter (US\$1,3m) as well as Headquarters being built in Bazaruto, Iona and Kafue. It is worth noting that we capitalise all PPE (Individual items exceeding US\$500 and with a life span of more than one year) based on the fact that we control the use of these items. Should African Parks leave a park, it would not be able to retain the use of most of the PPE relating to that park and would need to recognise a loss on "disposal". All aircraft remain in the name of APN and can be repurposed to other parks.

For **receivables and prepayments**, US\$12,9m of this balance relates to receivables from donors and US\$6m relates to receivables from affiliate entities such as African Parks Foundation America. The remainder is made up of prepayments, deposits and

other miscellaneous debtors.

**Cash and cash equivalents** represent a combination of funds held locally by the parks within their local banks, funds held by the parks as petty cash and funds held by APN in its offshore accounts. The group was exposed to Central African Francs (CFA) and South African Rands (ZAR) at year end with the parks holding a total of US\$1m worth of CFAs and APN Head Office holding US\$2m worth of ZAR.

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

**Undrawn Funds** represent grants received that were not utilised in the current year. The reason for non-utilisation was either because they represent unearmarked funding that will be utilised in 2023 or because they are earmarked for specific activities that are yet to take place or because they were surplus funds raised. These are held as cash as well as receivables and are only disbursed in the earmarked project and the earmarked period.

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

Restriction Level	2022 Group	2022 Company	2021 Group	2021 Company
Restricted at park level	84%	75%	67%	62%
Restricted aviation reserve	1%	3%	4%	15%
Unrestricted at park level	8%	6%	22%	0%
Unrestricted at portfolio level	7%	16%	6%	2%

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

## ABRIDGED GROUP STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022:

	Foreign currency translation reserve US\$'000	Maintenance reserve US\$'000	Retained earnings US\$'000	Total US\$'000	Non- controlling interest US\$'000	Total US\$'000
Balance as at 01 January 2020	(1,748)	322	2,106	680	(612)	68
Deficit for the year			(34)	(34)	(13)	(47)
Other comprehensive loss	(16)			(16)		(16)
Balance as at 01 January 2021	(1,764)	322	2,072	630	(625)	5
Surplus for the year			4,468	4,468	(45)	4,423
Other comprehensive loss	(400)			(400)		(400)
Balance as at 31 December 2021	(2,164)	322	6,540	4,698	(670)	4,028
Surplus for the year			519	519	(63)	456
Other comprehensive loss	(7)					(7)
Balance as at 31 December 2022	(2,171)	322	7,059	5,209	(733)	4,476

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

## ABRIDGED GROUP CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022:

	2022 US\$'000	2021 US\$'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	17,852	14,464
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(17,858)	(12,278)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities	1,519	(10,121)
Net cash increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,514	(7,935)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	8,912	16,847
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	10,426	8,912

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

## GOVERNANCE

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

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

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

Each park managed by African Parks has a local Board set up in-country. Each Board is represented by partner institutions, key stakeholders, and African Parks Network, and is directly accountable to government for the professional management of the park. Parks are required to operate in accordance with the standard operating procedures determined by

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

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

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

## JOIN US

African Parks is the leading organisation in protected area management in Africa. When you donate to African Parks, you are not only protecting Africa's iconic landscapes and wildlife, you are also contributing to community livelihoods and restoring planetary health. Through our work and impact, we are enabling safe places where jobs are created, sustainable enterprises are funded, schools are built, mobile health units are deployed, and conservation-led economies begin to grow. We operate at scale and are 100% accountable for every single dollar that comes to us, as well as every aspect of park management, guaranteeing that funds deliver the most immediate and direct impact. Our vision is to help protect 30% of Africa's biodiversity by 2030. Coupled with our track record, we believe we have the strategy to make this possible. Your support, no matter how big or small, will help us achieve this goal for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

Thank you for your trust and if you would like to find out more, please contact:

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