

The
DECADE
to make
A DIFFERENCE



AFRICAN PARKS



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Kafue National Park, Zambia, is part of the largest transboundary conservation expanse in the world: the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area
© Marcus Westberg
Cover: Through the Rhino Rewild project, 376 southern white rhino were rewilded within South Africa in 2024
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Introduction

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Conservation law enforcement efforts with ongoing ranger training and community engagement has seen a major decline in unsustainable resource harvesting in Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, Malawi
© Marcus Westberg



The African Parks Management Partnership 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 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 2024, African Parks was managing 23 protected areas in partnership with governments and communities in 13 countries.

A Vision for Conservation



VASANT (VAS) NARASIMHAN

Chairperson of the Board of African Parks Network

In 2024, the need to conserve a healthy planet became clearer than ever before. We find ourselves in a crucial decade in the fight to slow down irreversible biodiversity loss, and I'm incredibly proud that African Parks stands at the forefront of positioning conservation as an essential investment.

Africa is host to some of the world's most vital landscapes and an extraordinary wealth of biodiversity. It is also home to almost 1.5 billion people – approximately 18% of the world's population. Conserving Africa's natural resources and ecosystems is not just the right thing to do, but necessary for socio-economic growth and humanity's wellbeing. When effectively managed and conserved, this natural capital can drive sustainable economic development, create jobs, and build resilience against the effects of climate change.

African Parks has an ambitious plan to significantly scale up conservation efforts by managing 30 million hectares of biodiversity across Africa by 2030. Doing so would help meet the global target to conserve 30% of the world's land and marine areas before the end of the decade. But we know to achieve this and sustain lasting impact, solutions must be built in collaboration

with local communities, the primary benefactors and custodians of these landscapes.

Partnerships, with both local people and government, are an essential foundation on which African Parks can realise its vision for the benefit of all. As such, the organisation has remained focused on adapting and evolving to continue strengthening its relationships and improving management in all its operations.

In my visits to Bangweulu Wetlands, Kafue National Park, and Odzala-Kokoua National Park this past year, I saw first-hand how African Parks teams carry out its mission. Each time I visit these parks I'm reminded of their unique beauty and importance. But I'm also struck by how the teams' dedication – often carried out in complex and challenging environments – makes conserving these places possible. The recent successes outlined in this report are the result of this commitment and the partnerships amongst governments, local communities, donors, expert partners, and business leaders, all integral to making this work possible.

We are living through a time of historic change. The aftershocks of the global pandemic and its economic impact are still being felt worldwide. Shifting world leadership and ongoing uncertainty continue to influence the response to pressing global challenges, from climate change to the accelerating loss of biodiversity. As we navigate this increasingly complicated global landscape, our commitment is clear: to champion conservation as an essential investment for the future, to continue working together with our partners, and to boldly adapt and evolve for improved and lasting impact in protecting Africa's biodiversity for the benefit of her people.

Thank you for your support and commitment to this cause. Together, I know we can make a difference that will last for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Vas Narasimhan



Common grass yellow butterfly
(*Eurema hecabe*) in Chinko,
Central African Republic
© Marcus Westberg

The Decade for Action



PETER FEARNHEAD
African Parks CEO

Compiling this report is always a reflective process in as much as it is a welcome opportunity to celebrate the year. This past year was one of our most challenging to date, and I have often found myself using the analogy of it being ‘a year in the kiln’ – difficult at times, but where we have come out the other side stronger, better and more resolute as a team. It is also a time to reflect on what we collectively achieved, all of which was only possible because of the unwavering support of our steadfast partners who understand that challenges only arise from “doing”.

The theme of this report, “**The Decade to Make a Difference**”, emphasises the urgency to act. We are now halfway through a decisive decade – one that will likely determine whether we can halt irreversible biodiversity loss and secure Earth’s future before 2030. Frankly, we do not have the luxury of ‘business as usual’. The impacts of climate change, and the mounting threats to our planet’s biodiversity and natural landscapes, and the ecosystem services upon which we all depend, are accelerating. These challenges contribute to, and are compounded by, increasing socio-political instability. If scaled solutions are not implemented to address these challenges, it is the already vulnerable who will suffer disproportionately.

These realities make our work more demanding, but also more vital than ever before. While we acknowledge the significant progress made, the journey ahead requires even greater determination, innovation, and collaboration to drive lasting impact.

As instability in West Africa continues, threats to rangers and park staff remain ever-present in the Benin parks.

In July, W National Park was victim to an attack by armed militants on a ranger post, resulting in the tragic loss of five African Parks rangers and seven members of the Benin Armed Forces. We are extremely aware of the risks associated with continuing to work in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex. However, we also recognise the critical importance of sustainable management and governance of the Benin parks in improving regional stability, supporting community security and development, and ensuring that the ecosystems upon which so many people depend are conserved. It is likely that there will be more militant attacks, but for now, we remain deeply committed to the Government and people of Benin, and to addressing these challenges in a responsible, proactive manner, while continuously assessing the risks and implications of working in this landscape.

Throughout the year, we navigated scrutiny as a result of critical allegations about aspects of our work. While much of the criticism was flawed, we have nonetheless used it as an opportunity, incorporating the learnings into all that we do. Over the course of 2024, the independent investigation by Omnia LLP into allegations of abusive behaviour by eco-guards in Odzala-Kokoua National Park continued. This process has been extremely thorough, and the recommendations made by Omnia will help us address identified gaps and strengthen us further as an organisation. We have already taken several important steps to strengthen our grievance and redress mechanisms, ensuring a fully integrated rights-based approach to everything that we do. We expect to announce further initiatives in this regard in the coming year – getting this right will be fundamental to the successful scaling of efforts and impact.

Despite the challenges, there were a number of major and very special achievements during the year. We were proud to have completed the survey that confirmed the world’s largest land mammal migration in partnership with the Government of South Sudan; we made an important start to the Rhino Rewild initiative – moving the first rhino to safe and well-managed protected areas; we launched an innovative funding mechanism – the Verifiable Nature Unit – which represents an exciting, easily replicable opportunity to build and diversify our fundraising work; we celebrated over 20 years of partnership in Liuwa Plain National Park; and in December, we embarked on a long-term management partnership with the Ethiopian Government for Gambella National Park. Each of these represents important milestones in our

mission and we remain steadfast in our commitment to playing a pivotal role in Africa’s contribution to the global effort to conserve 30% of the planet by 2030.

We have seen what works and the tangible impacts that effective conservation has – not just in protecting vital natural landscapes and safeguarding biodiversity, but also in fuelling sustainable growth and economic opportunities. We have also seen how important it is to constantly strive to improve and strengthen our ways of working. Nowhere is this more important than in how we engage with the people living in and around the areas where we work. Their active participation and partnership is vital in helping us achieve our mission to protect the landscapes and biodiversity that help sustain us as humanity.

We are determined to rise to the challenge as we enter the second half of this critical decade for Africa and the world. I am confident we will be successful, but I am also more aware than ever that the impact we have is only possible thanks to the trust and commitment of our partners – governments, communities, funders, and technical collaborators. Our teams continue to work in some of the most challenging contexts, and their commitment, passion and resilience never ceases to humble me. Together, we are enabling investment into real change and at scale – one of the most powerful actions we can take for the future of our continent and our planet.

Sincerely,
Peter Fearnhead



Set on the Shire River, Liwonde National Park’s fertile landscape sustains thriving populations of antelope, elephant, predators and birds
© Marcus Westberg



Above: Zambia Minister of Tourism, Honourable Rodney Sikumba (left), HRH Litunga Lubosi Imwiko II (middle), and African Parks CEO, Peter Fearnhead (right), share a moment during the 20-year celebrations in Liuwa Plain National Park, Zambia © Marcus Westberg

The pages in this report provide a comprehensive overview of 2024's park and institutional operations, achievements, and challenges. Below is the **Executive Summary** of some of the most significant news from the year.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

– The official results of the first comprehensive aerial survey of the Great Nile Migration Landscape (GNML) were announced in June by His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit, the President of the Republic of South Sudan. Conducted by African Parks, in partnership with the South Sudanese Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, the 2023 analysis revealed that approximately six million antelope traverse the landscape each year – making it the largest land mammal migration on Earth. Millions of white-eared kob, Mongalla gazelle, tiang and Bohor reedbuck migrate across the GNML every year, with some species also moving into Gambella National Park in Ethiopia. In addition to these findings, tracking data from over 130 animals that were collared across multiple species, combined with assessments of livestock and human activity, are providing critical

insights to help shape effective conservation and community development strategies for the long-term sustainability of the landscape.

After several years of discussions, in December, we were very pleased to conclude a ten-year management partnership with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and the Gambella Peoples' National Regional State (Gambella State) for Ethiopia's Gambella National Park. Lying just north-east of Boma National Park in South Sudan, Gambella falls within the Great Nile Migration Landscape, presenting an opportunity to ensure the integrated management of the entire transboundary landscape, including the migratory species that traverse it. Following the signing, an initial 12-month transition phase commenced, during which time a number of important baseline activities are being undertaken, including establishment of governance structures, an aerial survey, environmental and social due diligence assessments, a human resources transition plan, and extensive stakeholder mapping and engagement.

Another significant milestone for African Parks in 2024 was celebrating over 20 years of partnership with Zambia's Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) in the conservation of Liuwa Plain National Park. It is thanks to the vision of His Majesty the Litunga, Lubosi Imwiko II, who made this partnership possible after realising a solution was needed to restore Liuwa's landscape following decades of unsustainable resource use. As a result, he spearheaded the public-private partnership with African Parks. Today, with over 12,000 people living inside the park, the Lozi people remain the custodians of Liuwa. In November, to commemorate this achievement, we held a memorable celebration in the park, attended by many who have been part of this journey, both past and present.

The development of a new sustainable financing tool, the Verifiable Nature Unit (VNU), which is supported by The Landbanking Group, made notable progress over the year. VNUs measure how well nature is maintained or improved in each successive year. Each VNU represents 1 km² of

nature that is maintained in its current state or transitioned to an improved state from one year to the next, enabling outcomes-based transactions that reimburse the verifiable cost of the conservation effort. The first three transactions took place for Majete, with 202 VNUs issued by the end of 2024, raising US\$965,000 towards conservation finance. This is an exciting development marking the beginning of a new and hopefully effective funding mechanism for conserving and restoring landscapes. In addition, three pilot projects in Garamba, Odzala-Kokoua and Zakouma national parks have been implemented. In carbon finance, the distribution of carbon credit revenue – generated from the effective management of carbon stored within the Chinko Conservation Area – was finalised and approved by the CAR government. The first credits were sold at the end of 2023, with a further 350,000 in 2024, earning US\$4,630,500. Of this amount, 10% was reinvested directly into community development around Chinko to help support livelihoods. In addition, the formalisation of Benin's carbon credit project was completed, in which 68% of proceeds will be allocated to park management costs, ensuring sustained support for

Below: Assessments of livestock and human activity within the GNML, South Sudan, provide valuable insights into community development and conservation efforts © Marcus Westberg



conservation and community development efforts, with 10% going directly to communities and 22% to government.

Progress was made over the year to drive a more deliberate focus on technology, to better support teams on the ground in being more effective and efficient. A Chief Technology Officer was appointed to oversee these developments. These included the establishment of a structured technology operating model, enabling governance, compliance, and strategic competence while supporting park operations. The model incorporates all aspects of the technology portfolio, including upskilling park technicians, leveraging local talent and ensuring regional oversight for the consistent adoption of African Parks' standards. As part of our systems-of-systems strategy, various centralised systems have been integrated to strengthen electronic record keeping.

CHALLENGES – In late 2023, we commissioned an independent investigation by Omnia Strategy LLP, in conjunction with Barristers from Doughty Street Chambers, into allegations of abuses by

seconded eco-guards against local communities living adjacent to Odzala-Kokoua National Park in Republic of Congo. This investigation is nearing its completion, with Omnia having conducted investigative missions in and around the park to collect relevant information from various stakeholders and potential victims. While the investigation has been in progress, gaps in our ways of operating have also been evaluated. As a result, a number of important and necessary steps have been taken to bolster our overall safeguard mechanisms across the organisation, as well as implementing a number of Odzala-specific interventions. The latter included developing an Indigenous Peoples Plan and appointing an ethno-anthropologist to the Odzala Board.

Efforts to improve our communication channels and grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) continued across the portfolio, ensuring that staff and communities are aware of and familiar with them. This was supported through regular community awareness-raising meetings focused on park regulations and the available grievance mechanisms. Each mechanism has been tailored to meet the needs

***Below:** Gambella National Park, Ethiopia, became the 23rd protected area to join the African Parks management portfolio in December 2024 © African Parks*



***Above:** Ongoing training and effective communication ensures conservation law enforcement in Zakouma National Park, Chad, continues to improve © Marcus Westberg*

of the various communities living within or around the protected areas we manage, ensuring that they are relevant and effective. An external review of our Human Rights Statement of Principles, and the Human Rights for Conservation Law Enforcement training curriculum, was concluded and the recommendations incorporated into our policies and procedures. All rangers are receiving refresher training on the updated training curriculum, and a Human Rights and Criminal Justice advisor was also appointed to provide input on and guide the implementation of the GRM.

Efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflict (HWC) across the parks continued, with the drafting and implementation of local park policies, as well as taking a standardised approach to monitoring incidents. However, human-wildlife conflict remains an enormous challenge, with the number of individuals impacted by wildlife, sadly, remaining high, despite ongoing efforts to mitigate this impact. In Garamba National Park, for example, a two-day workshop in Nagero brought together local elders and park staff to share mitigation solutions

including traditional HWC prevention techniques. Nearly 50 participants documented 20 ancestral methods: 5 for livestock protection and 15 for crop safeguarding. Solutions included spreading crushed plants with repellent scents on livestock, using clay and palm-trunk beehives, scattering chilli powder on damp grass to deter hippo, and burning bamboo sticks to mimic gunshots.

INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES – After purchasing the world's largest captive rhino breeding operation in South Africa in late 2023, and embarking on our Rhino Rewild initiative to relocate over 2,000 rhino to safe protected areas across the continent, we are cautiously pleased with the progress made thus far. The first translocations were successfully rolled out to locations within South Africa, with 376 rhino moved in 2024. Of these, 153 are being held at a site in preparation for onward translocation to Garamba and Akagera national parks. Working closely with expert partners and contractors, the team is constantly refining both the methodology and the techniques of translocations, to ensure we maintain



Above: Honey farming expanded in Akagera National Park, Rwanda, with an increase to over 750 beehives contributing to the local economy © Scott Ramsay

absolute professionalism. Thanks also to effective management, and a well-revised feeding scheme carried out by the project team, improvement in the population growth rate has far exceeded our expectations. Although this project remains daunting, it is the positive responses and support from our partners in the sector, as well as our donors that are making it possible, and for which we remain ever grateful.

In efforts to enhance biodiversity conservation understanding, a ground-breaking Molecular Ecological Network Assessment (MENA) pilot project was launched in five locations: Zakouma, Kafue, Odzala-Kokoua, Iona, and Akagera national parks. This initiative uses environmental DNA (eDNA) – genetic traces left behind in water, soil, and faeces – to identify species and map their interactions, unveiling hidden ecological networks and unlocking new insights into ecosystem health. After training over 160 park staff, volunteers and researchers on collection techniques, more than 7,166 samples were collected across the parks, and shipped

to partnering laboratories to begin processing. Collaborative partnerships established with some notable institutions, including Princeton and Stanford universities, will ensure the advancement of this research. As we transition from fieldwork to data analysis, the coming year promises new discoveries and insights that will enhance biodiversity conservation strategies and deepen our understanding of ecosystem dynamics.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT – With a focus on environmental education, more than 25,000 children and 9,000 adults visited parks in 2024, while 18,000 children were engaged in wildlife clubs, enhancing environmental and conservation awareness. In addition, and in support of overall education efforts, 2,057 scholarships and vocational training courses were provided, while a total of 257 schools were supported, of which 15 were constructed this year.

Park-supported socio-economic enterprises benefitted approximately 27,000 community members, generating an income of more than

US\$4.9 million, which includes earnings from revenue sharing schemes. Over 500 casual jobs were created through the construction of the Nyungwe National Park headquarters – these, and many others created across the portfolio, provided income of almost US\$2 million to community members through casual labour. Local procurement expenditure reached US\$102.6 million across the areas we manage.

Ongoing drought across much of southern Africa is having a devastating impact on both wildlife and people. To support communities living around Matusadona National Park in Zimbabwe, a Drought Relief Programme was initiated, together with other supporting organisations. As a result, over 5,000 children received breakfast and lunch at school daily. Each meal thus reduced the pressure on families, while keeping a child in school for another day. Similar schemes are being implemented in Liuwa Plain National Park and Bangweulu Wetlands in Zambia.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION – Park revenue

generation improved across the areas that we manage. In total, 230,000 visitors were received in the parks, of which 65% were host-country nationals, generating over US\$14.3 million in gross revenue – a 13% increase from 2023. Akagera National Park, which has a healthy tourism revenue track record, earned US\$4.6 million in tourism revenue – a 3% decrease from 2023, due partly to Marburg and Monkey Pox virus outbreaks. Still in the early phases of its tourism development, Kafue National Park exceeded expectations, earning US\$1.8 million – a 25% increase from 2023 and the highest amount ever generated for the park. Nyungwe National Park put much effort into its tourism products, increasing its total revenue by 16% since 2023 and generating US\$2.3 million. This overall growth in tourism revenue, which can be attributed to investments in improved and diversified tourism products, improved marketing tools and an increased digital presence, is going a long way to driving sustainability, providing much-needed income for the parks, while creating jobs and contributing to local economies and livelihoods.

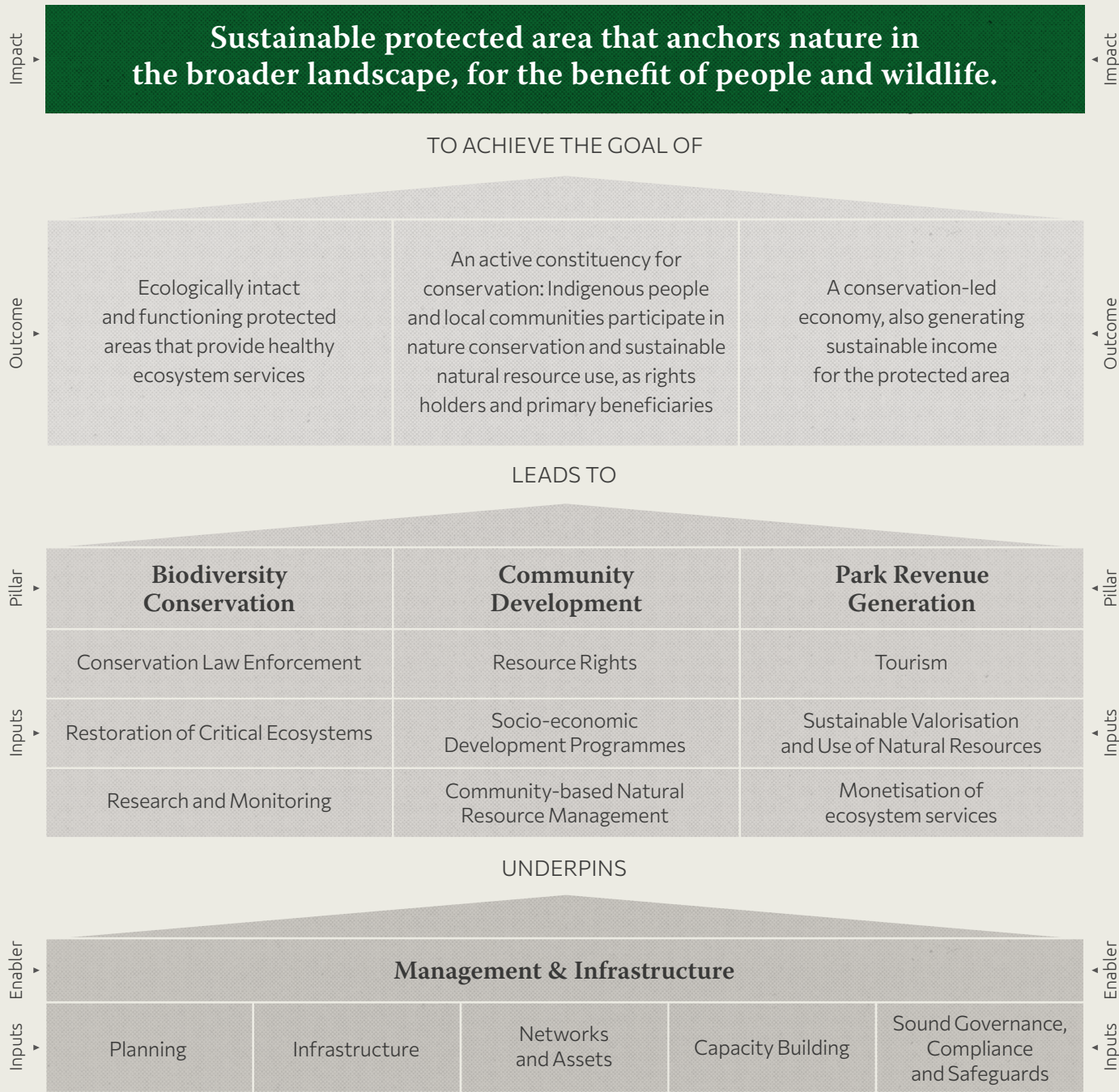
Below: In Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, Chad, wildlife, livestock and people gather around the life-giving semi-permanent pools of water known as gueltas © Marcus Westberg



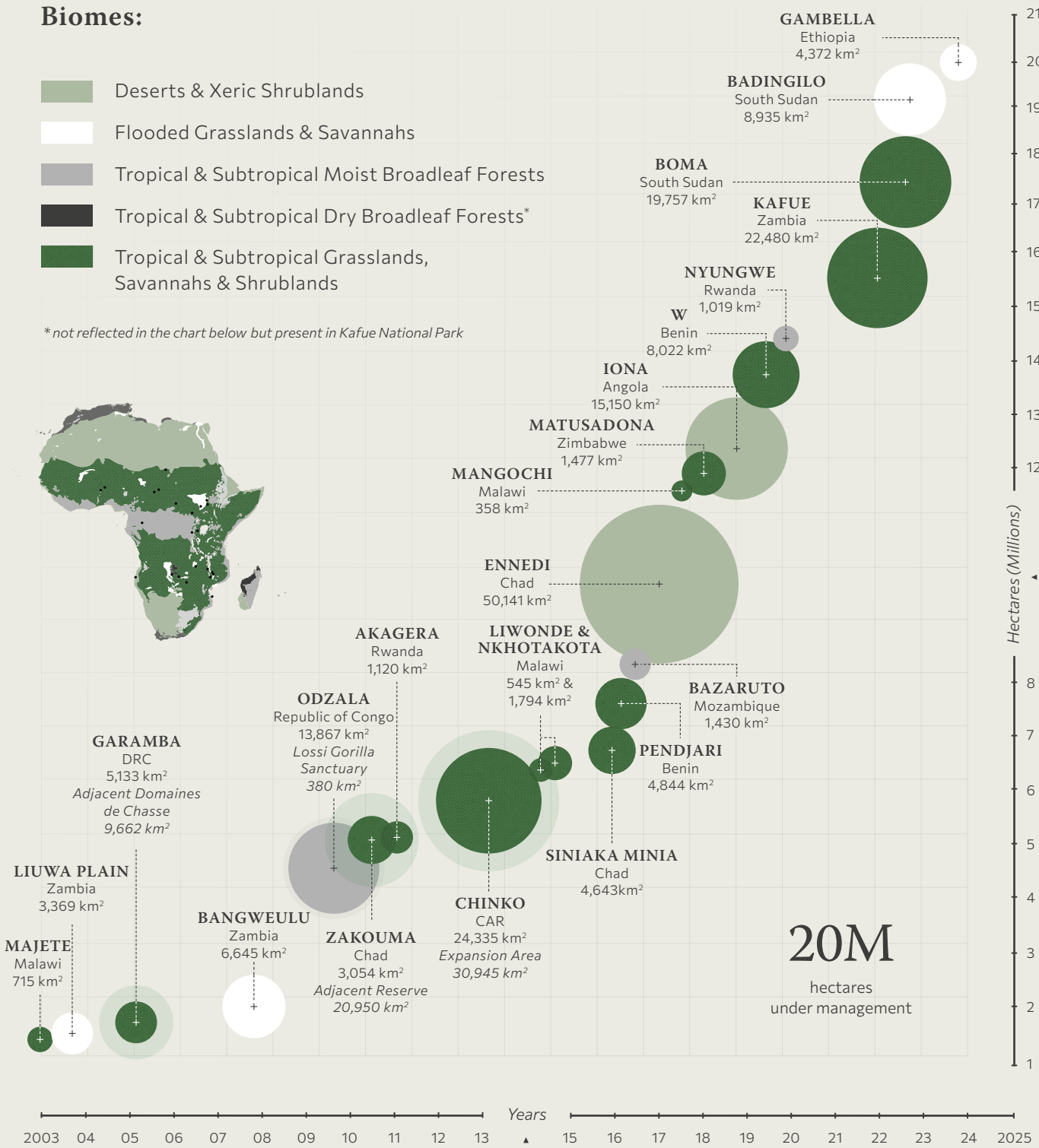
Our Model

Protected areas that are restored and managed sustainably benefit both people and wildlife. African Parks pioneered the ‘Public-Private Partnership’ model as a protected area management solution over 20 years ago. Through this partnership model, we are responsible for all park management functions and are 100% accountable to our government partners, who remain the owners and policy-makers of the landscapes. This is achieved through long-term management partnerships (mandates), putting in place funding solutions (money), and establishing park management on the ground (management). Each project typically has its own legal entity with its own local governing board that represents key local stakeholders. In each park we implement three integrated pillars, underpinned by management and infrastructure (below), with the objective of ensuring that each area becomes ecologically, socio-politically and financially sustainable.

3 Pillars: Actions & Outputs



Biomes:



Where We Work

African Parks manages 23 protected areas in partnership with governments and communities in 13 countries, ensuring that over 20 million hectares are effectively managed. This diverse portfolio encompasses five of Africa’s seven major biomes.

Our goal is to sustainably manage 30 protected areas covering 30 million hectares by 2030, thus contributing to the broader vision of having 30% of Africa’s ecosystems, and the important biodiversity they contain, secured and valued in perpetuity.

Embedding Human Rights into Conservation

African Parks is committed to upholding and promoting the human rights of indigenous people and local communities as we work to fulfil our conservation mission. This commitment has been reaffirmed in our revised African Parks Human Rights Statement of Principles (which also resides on the website), and progress is being made to integrate human rights more fully into our operations.

Over the past year, we have addressed various incidents where actions by rangers allegedly fell short of these international human rights standards or the

organisation's standard operating procedures. These allegations of misconduct, and of abuses against local people at some parks with which we have management partnerships, were published in the media or addressed directly to African Parks. Regardless of the source of information, all allegations were taken seriously. Some related to incidents of which we had been aware, and which had been investigated and concluded. For the remaining allegations, new investigations were conducted – including an independent investigation by Omnia Strategy LLP at Odzala-Kokoua National Park. These inquiries, and recommendations from experts, have enabled us to identify gaps in our processes, and opportunities for improved safeguards for local communities.

Significant effort is being applied equally to measures to prevent abuses from occurring. During 2024, all conservation law enforcement staff were trained on an updated human rights curriculum developed by external experts. This is complemented by sensitisation

of communities on their rights, which is being led across a few parks by human rights NGO partners, who also contribute to monitoring and reporting of grievances. Improvements have been made to other reporting channels, and to local implementations of the grievance and redress mechanism (GRM). At the institutional level, an independent panel will be appointed to review all allegations of grave misconduct, and of serious human rights impacts. This panel of legal and human rights experts will provide credible and impartial resolution of serious grievances presented to the organisation.

Another preventive measure that is being rolled out progressively is the Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD). This formal assessment identifies risks and potential adverse impacts linked to the management of the protected area – including human rights risks. Based on each assessment, action plans are defined to avoid risks and to mitigate adverse impacts. The ESDD has been completed for six parks, and the remaining parks will be assessed during 2025

and 2026. Implementing the assessments and resulting action plans will require investment in additional resources. These include safeguards specialists in the parks and at Head Office, and collaborations with human rights experts and NGO partners.

Embedding human rights into conservation is a journey that African Parks has embarked on and to which we have committed fully. Alongside the early improvements in our systems and processes, we recognise the instances in the past where we could have done better for the local communities who depend on natural resources for their livelihoods – and who also contribute to the conservation and sustainability of protected areas. We will continue to learn, and to raise the standard on an approach to conservation that is rights-based and sustainable across all dimensions.

Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Republic of Congo, is one of the most biologically diverse and species-rich areas in the world © Irene Galera

Impact by Numbers

African Parks provides effective protected area management through long-term partnerships with governments and communities. These partnerships 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.

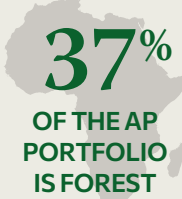
ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY Functioning ecosystems are imperative for human survival. Our numbers show how we are building ecological resilience across the protected areas we manage.

Across all protected areas, since AP management partnerships commenced:

2X
MORE PATROL DAYS
yet, per patrol day, a
± 50%
DECREASE IN ARRESTS
AND CONFISCATIONS
suggesting security
& community work is
reducing illegal activity


90%
DROP IN
ELEPHANT
POACHING


***83%**
OF KEY SPECIES
have stabilised
or increased


37%
OF THE AP
PORTFOLIO
IS FOREST

34%
MORE EFFECTIVE FOREST
CONSERVATION in AP-managed
areas than in similar protected areas

11B
TONNES OF CO₂
stored in AP-managed
protected areas

THIS IS
EQUIVALENT
TO 2.37 BILLION
PEOPLE'S ANNUAL
CO₂ EMISSIONS




513K+
FIREARMS, SNARES
AND ROUNDS OF
AMMUNITION
REMOVED
since inception

**RHINO REWILD
YEAR IN REVIEW**

7.8%
NET RHINO POPULATION
GROWTH, UP FROM
1.5% GROWTH
55%
DECREASE IN RHINO
ORPHANAGE INTAKE

**17% continued their
decline in first years of
AP management, but have
since (2016) showed signs of
stabilisation and/or recovery.*

SOCIO-POLITICAL SUSTAINABILITY Well-managed protected areas support healthy ecosystem services that sustain community livelihoods. Adequate management and resources improve access to healthcare and education for local communities, enhancing quality of life, building active participation and a strong constituency for conservation amongst local people.

Across all protected areas in 2024:

500K+
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
reached through community
meetings and events



99K
PEOPLE SUPPORTED
WITH HEALTHCARE



2K+
SCHOLARSHIPS
and vocational
training provided
34K+
PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION
of which 73% are children
**Plus 18K children
supported by wildlife clubs**

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

Across all
protected areas in 2024:
US \$102.6M
SPENT ON LOCAL
PROCUREMENT
US \$4.9M
INCOME FOR
COMMUNITIES



US \$51.1M
IN TOTAL SALARIES
5,896
FULL TIME EMPLOYEES
97% of park staff
are nationals



2,223+
TONNES IN
NATURAL RESOURCES*
sustainably harvested
across AP-managed
protected areas in 2024
27K+
BENEFICIARIES
of community enterprise
projects in 2024


636K
TOURIST VISITORS
over the past 5 years
65% of which are local
US \$44.3M
IN TOURISM REVENUE
flowing back into parks
over the past 5 years

**such as fish, honey and non-timber
forest products like mushrooms*



Reed frog (*Hyperolius sp.*), in
Chinko Conservation Area, CAR
© Marcus Westberg

The Parks

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Iona National Park is situated in the south-west corner of Angola and constitutes the northern tip of the Namib Desert, considered to be the oldest desert in the world
© Jorge Ferreira



Angola

IONA NATIONAL PARK

15,150 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2019

PARK MANAGER : PEDRO MONTERROSO

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

KEY PARTNER International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF)

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

National Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (INBC)



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. MINAMB is responsible for the formulation, execution, and control of policy regarding environmental protection, including environmental quality, pollution control, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, conservation areas, and enhancement of Angola's natural heritage, as well as the use of renewable natural resources. The INBC ensures 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 Mr Miguel Xavier is the current Director General of the INBC.



A FOUNDATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE — 2024 was a year of significant strides in developing Iona National Park’s infrastructure, which is an essential requirement for effective management of the protected area. Marking this progress was the inauguration of the Pediva Headquarters (HQ) on 18 May by President João Lourenço. The facility, comprising 26 buildings — including offices, workshops, and residential units — now serves as Iona’s first park-based headquarters, centralising all management activities and enhancing regional tourism and development.

The year also saw the diversification of the park’s operational fleet with the acquisition of a grader,

a Cessna 180 aircraft and a patrol boat, alongside three new Land Cruisers. The grader expanded road maintenance capabilities, improving access within and around the park. The aircraft has become integral to surveillance operations, aerial patrols, wildlife monitoring and rapid response planning. The patrol boat will bolster conservation law enforcement along Iona’s coastline, deterring illegal activities. VHF, LoRa, and internet systems were installed, providing approximately 65% radio coverage throughout the park, although communication challenges persist due to land obstructions around Pediva HQ.

High-level engagements throughout the year, including the President’s visit and meetings with the Provincial Governor of Namibe and other national authorities, highlighted the government’s commitment to the park’s development. The President praised the achievements and emphasised that this management strategy should be implemented in other national parks across Angola. Strengthened by its partnership with the Angolan Government, ongoing investment in infrastructure, and a growing conservation-led economy, Iona is on the road to becoming a model for protected area management in Angola.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — In collaboration with Giraffe Conservation Foundation, thirteen Angolan giraffe were reintroduced from central Namibia — the park’s second giraffe translocation. Unfortunately, four giraffe mortalities were recorded in the park, all of which were from natural causes. The current giraffe population stands at 20 individuals. The annual collaring operation tagged or collared a range of species, including Hartmann’s mountain zebra, oryx, springbok, kudu, zebra-donkey hybrids (‘zonkeys’), cheetah, and brown hyaena. Building on last year’s data, these efforts provide crucial insights into species behaviour and movements. The cheetah and brown hyaena collaring, possibly the first of these species in Angola, will add to the knowledge of how these predators navigate the landscape. The zonkey tags will provide information and insight on how these hybrids impact zebra breeding.

Monitoring of illegal fishing in Tigres Strait remained a priority, with investigations revealing over 100 seal mortalities, probably due to entanglement in fishing nets. Joint operations with government authorities led to the apprehension of nine boats and the confiscation of fishing materials. Sixteen new locally recruited wildlife monitors underwent Basic Field Ranger training, joining the existing 21 monitors in supporting the park’s rangers with their enhanced tracking skills. Iona’s first female wildlife monitor section of six women was established.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — In support of formal education, 20 scholarships were provided and 280 students received school meals at two primary schools. Environmental education initiatives included three school visits to the park and a wildlife mural at Curoca Primary School, painted primarily by team member Leonardo Aguiar, to promote conservation awareness. Three trained literacy teachers launched a pilot programme with 210 sessions.

Ninety trained volunteers reached over 17,000 people through household visits, an effective method for engaging Iona’s semi-nomadic populations. Topics covered included park activities, land use planning, and human-wildlife conflict (HWC). A total of 37 HWC incidents were recorded, mostly livestock predation. Iona is focusing on improving response efforts with the development of its HWC policy.



20 Angolan giraffe

1,547 local people benefitted from healthcare

6,000 cattle vaccinated

Collaboration with Namibian organisation Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) increased, fostering cross-border knowledge exchange with Namibian conservancies. Five Iona team members observed IRDNC’s Human-Wildlife Support team and its predator-proof boma designs. In turn, Iona hosted six IRDNC and community representatives, facilitating discussions on regional conservation. To ensure that park staff respect and promote human rights at all times, Iona is formalising its Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM), which includes Rights Observers to assist communities in submitting grievances.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — Tourism activity in Iona increased significantly, with 4,723 visitors recorded — an 80% rise from 2023 — of whom 57% were Angolan nationals. Developments included reviewing the Iona National Park tourism map, seven new gate officials, bringing the total to 18, and the introduction of a digital data entry system to streamline visitor management.

The Ponta Albina entrance gate was renovated to improve visitor services.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — In November, the first Advisory Committee meeting was hosted. This provided a platform for local stakeholders, including traditional authorities and representatives of marginalised community groups, to engage and offer recommendations on park management. Lastly, the park underwent its internal operations audit, covering all departments, including a separate internal audit for Conservation Law Enforcement, demonstrating overall high compliance with organisational SOPs and a marked improvement in park management.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- Enhance Conservation Law Enforcement operations
- Supplement existing Hartmann’s mountain zebra population
- Finalise Land Use Plan
- Continue supporting formal and environmental education
- Continue engagement with stakeholders on revenue use and tourism development



Iona National Park’s conservation law enforcement team is made up of 32 rangers and 37 wildlife monitors
© Jorge Coelho Ferreira



In Pendjari National Park, the annual community fishing season provided 81 fishers with over 10,000 kg of fish
© Marcus Westberg

Pendjari National Park — W National Park



Benin

PENDJARI NATIONAL PARK

4,844 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

PARK MANAGER : HABTEYESUS M. TADESSE

MAJOR FUNDERS Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), European Union, Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines (FSOA), Government of Benin, Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wyss Foundation

W NATIONAL PARK

8,022 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2020

PARK MANAGER : ABDEL-AZIZ BELLO

MAJOR FUNDERS Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), European Union, Fondation des Savanes Ouest-Africaines (FSOA), Government of Benin, Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wyss Foundation

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Government of Benin



The Government of Benin signed an agreement with African Parks in 2017 to rehabilitate and develop Pendjari National Park, followed by W National Park in 2020. The restoration of the parks forms part of the “Revealing Benin” national investment programme. José Tonato, Minister of the Living Environment and Transport in charge of Sustainable Development (Ministère du Cadre de Vie et des Transports, Chargé du Développement Durable), Abdel Aziz Baba-Moussa, Director General of the National Centre for the Management of Wildlife Reserves (CENAGREF), and Achille Houssou, Managing Director of the National Agency for the Promotion of Tourism Heritage, have all been instrumental in this partnership.



A CONSERVATION STRONGHOLD — Pendjari National Park is part of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex, providing a crucial refuge for the region’s last populations of elephant, korrigum, lion and cheetah. Despite the ongoing security challenges, the park, in collaboration with government and local communities, remains committed to biodiversity conservation and ensuring that critical conservation efforts, research and wildlife monitoring continue.

Every two years an aerial survey estimates large mammal populations and tracks animal movements. In April, the survey reported encouraging results, including a notable increase in elephant numbers over three years, now estimated at approximately 2,800. This rise is probably due to elephant migration from neighbouring countries seeking sanctuary in Pendjari,

where enhanced management and conservation law enforcement has reduced illegal hunting. The survey also confirmed that most elephant herds avoid human presence and unsecured areas, reinforcing the need for safe, well-managed, protected areas in the WAP Complex.

As part of Pendjari’s ecological monitoring, six elephant were successfully collared this year, bringing the total to 12. These collars provide valuable data on movements, enabling more effective conservation management strategies. To restore populations of endangered species, 27 antelope — including korrigum, hartebeest, waterbuck and western kob — were relocated within the park to a dedicated breeding boma. This initiative is already showing success, with four korrigum calves born this year.

Driven by a common objective to conserve an exceptional transboundary natural heritage, the three countries of the WAP Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) collaborated at a workshop held in Cotonou in October, where protected area managers focused on developing common conservation strategies through translocation programmes for key species. Pendjari is demonstrating that, even in

the face of adversity, conservation strategies can yield tangible results for biodiversity. With ongoing support and partnerships, Pendjari remains a vital stronghold for West Africa’s wildlife.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — As highlighted above, Pendjari’s aerial survey suggests a growing elephant population, while ecological monitoring, including elephant collaring and an antelope restoration initiative, is ongoing. Monthly Local Operational Coordination Committee meetings were held, ensuring continued synergy between conservation law enforcement teams and national security personnel. Specialised training programmes enhanced ranger capability, including refresher human rights training, for all rangers to align operations with current threats and best practices. World Ranger Day was commemorated on the 31st of July, honouring the dedication and sacrifices of rangers and Beninese soldiers who lost their lives, including the tragic loss of five rangers killed just days before, on the 24th of July, in an attack by an armed group in the park.

To support local livestock health and minimise disease transmission between domestic animals and wildlife, the annual vaccination campaign was completed, reaching over 20,000 cattle. A dedicated livestock vaccination site was also constructed to enhance future health interventions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — To continue improving community engagement and communication, 12 community facilitators led over 200 awareness sessions on conservation, reaching approximately 6,000 people. Eight sporting events were held as part of the “Fitness des Parcs Nationaux” tour, engaging 4,600 participants, raising awareness of wildlife conservation and strengthening partnerships. In educational support efforts, six school facilities — two schools and four canteens — were rehabilitated, benefitting 2,687 pupils. Five schools received tables and benches, and 200 orphans were provided with educational materials. Conservation awareness sessions engaged over 2,000 pupils, and five new wildlife clubs were established, bringing the total to 18 clubs.

In ongoing support of community enterprise developments, women’s cooperatives produced

337 litres of neem oil and collected 3,008 kg of shea nuts, while 82 beekeepers produced 1,419 litres of honey, and the annual community fishing season provided 81 fishers with over 10,000 kg of fish. In total US\$29,893 was earned from community enterprises.

In addition, 283 hectares were converted to improved sustainable farming practices, in the controlled occupation zone (ZOC) and Seri area, benefitting 163 farmers. Over 177 tonnes of cotton, 100 tonnes of soybean, and six tonnes of maize were harvested.



~ 2,800
elephant

US\$1.5 million
earned from
carbon credits

5,526
indigenous
trees
planted

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — The formalisation of Benin’s carbon credit project was completed, securing a concession agreement in which 68% of proceeds will be allocated to park management costs, ensuring financial viability and sustained support for conservation and community development efforts, with 10% going directly to communities and 22% to government.

African Parks Benin hosted the first National Parks Information Forum in Cotonou, bringing together stakeholders to share updates on the parks and gather feedback for future improvements. Pendjari actively promoted its “PUR” product line at three major commercial fairs: the Porto-No Mad Festival, International Sustainable Tourism Meetings, and the Cotonou Barbecue Festival.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Pendjari’s VHF network remained fully operational throughout the year, ensuring secure and reliable communication across 95% of the park; this was extended with the installation of a fourth VHF repeater. Fleet capacity was significantly improved with the acquisition of an aircraft, vehicles, motorcycles and a tractor, enhancing both field and aerial operations. A total of 97 km of road was upgraded and five drifts constructed, facilitating all-season access to and from the Pendjari operational base.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- Ensure year-round accessibility of key roads and maintain uninterrupted communication systems
- Improve park Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) score
- Updated Land Use Plan to be validated by all stakeholders



Some of the last populations of West African lion find refuge in Pendjari National Park
© Marcus Westberg



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR CONSERVATION

— W National Park forms part of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex, the largest expanse of intact biodiversity in West Africa, on which thousands of communities rely for the vital ecosystem services it provides. These communities include nomadic pastoralists, who move herds of livestock across the region in search of grazing and water each year. Enhancing support for communities around the park is crucial to strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts. Consequently, the park has made significant progress in community development with a collaborative approach to land and livestock management.

Initially to implement the livestock management plan, two pastoral zones were established in the buffer area

surrounding the park. These zones were developed in consultation with local leadership and integrated into the Land Use Plan, which was validated in November. The Land Use Plan considers the needs of both farmers and herders, thereby limiting conflicts between these groups and developing sustainable land use practices. To improve health and limit disease transmission between livestock and wildlife, cattle vaccination campaigns are rolled out annually. This year, 27,000 cattle belonging to 925 local herders were vaccinated. Beyond practical benefits, the initiative is also a vital engagement tool to build trust between the park and local communities, while raising awareness about park boundaries, wildlife protection and human-wildlife conflict. To reduce the need for herders to use the protected areas, 10 hectares of panicum grass were cultivated this year, expanding fodder plots to 16 hectares, supporting grazing rehabilitation by offering sustainable feed alternatives.

Despite the security challenges in Benin, these efforts by the teams in W National Park are going a long way to ensure that biodiversity conservation succeeds in the WAP Complex, and supports the livelihoods of neighbouring communities.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — The 2024 aerial survey reported encouraging results, including a possible increase in elephant numbers, resulting, most likely, from improved management and conservation efforts as well as migration from neighbouring regions. Seven elephants were collared, bringing the total to 12, as well as one lion, all providing movement data and improved understanding of key species home ranges.

In conservation law enforcement efforts, capacity-building continued with specialised ranger training, including human rights, equipping teams to operate safely and effectively in line with evolving security challenges. World Ranger Day was commemorated on the 31st of July, honouring the dedication and sacrifices of rangers and Beninese soldiers who lost their lives, including the tragic loss of five rangers killed just days before, on the 24th of July, in an attack by an armed group in the park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — With ongoing support from the park, local cooperatives continued to grow, with 60 beekeepers producing 471 litres of honey, 36 fishermen and 22 fishmongers harvesting 8,562 kg of fish and 67 community members collecting nine tonnes of baobab fruit. The vegetable oils cooperative, consisting of 47 women, processed 4,600 kg of neem and balanites seeds into 250 litres of oil. In socio-economic developments, 20 young people from local communities completed a three-month vocational training programme, equipping them with skills to develop and sustain their own businesses.

Sports events were a powerful tool for community engagement to raise conservation awareness and strengthen relationships. Eight fitness activities were held under the “Fitness des Parcs Nationaux Tour”, attracting 4,600 participants, while a football match and traditional wrestling tournament brought together 15,500 community members. Education initiatives remained a priority, with 25 community teachers supported across 24 schools, and materials distributed to 20 schools. In environmental education, over 4,636 students and 235 teachers participated in environmental education programmes, while 18 school-based wildlife clubs engaged over 400 members. A new multi-year education initiative was also launched, providing long-term support for 25 vulnerable students.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — In a major step toward long-term sustainability, the formalisation of Benin’s carbon credit project was completed. Under this agreement, 68% of proceeds will be allocated to park management costs – ensuring financial support for ongoing conservation and community development efforts – 10% directly to communities, and 22% to government.



38,510 people engaged in community and awareness meetings

1,080 indigenous trees planted

27,000 cattle vaccinated

To promote conservation-linked products, the park showcased its “PUR” range at four commercial fairs: the Porto-No Mad Festival, International Sustainable Tourism Meetings, the Cotonou Barbecue Festival, and the Alibori Intercommunal Fair. Commercial activities developed this year generated US\$20,800 gross income for the park operation, and US\$20,422 for communities, from the sale of products such as honey, shea brandy, fish, baobab powder and pellets, and neem and balanites oils.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — In August, a Local Monitoring Committee was established, coordinated by the National Agency for Tourist Heritage (ANPT), comprising local authorities, community leaders, representatives of farmers and herders, and the Village Associations Union for Wildlife Reserves Management (AVIGREF). The committee aims to enhance collaboration between stakeholders and address key community challenges.

Infrastructure improvements included satellite internet at the operational base and optical fibre internet at the Kandi administrative office. The Alfakoara operational base saw several upgrades, including the construction of five rooms for staff, an extension to the machine shed, a 150 m perimeter wall extension and the reopening of 82 km of perimeter roads. The ranger camp was upgraded with new facilities, including a sports hangar, obstacle course and instructor rooms.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

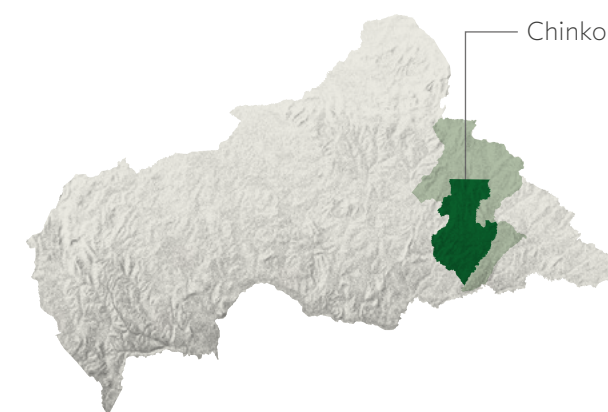
- Reinforce communication and tracking systems for enhanced security
- Improve park Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) score
- Undertake quarterly aerial monitoring of elephant
- Ensure no new fields cleared beyond the agricultural front line



Over 27,000 head of cattle from 925 herders around W National Park were inoculated in an annual vaccination campaign to help improve herd health and reduce disease transmission
© Marcus Westberg



Chinko holds some of the largest populations of bongo antelope in Central African Republic
© Irene Galera



Central African Republic

CHINKO

24,335 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2014

Broader Landscape: 30,945 km²

PARK MANAGER : JEAN-BAPTISTE MAMANG-KANGA

MAJOR FUNDERS Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), European Union, Good Energies, Group Bel, Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), Rainforest Trust, The Rob Walton Foundation, USAID

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing



In 2014, African Parks received the mandate to manage Chinko in partnership with the Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, which holds primary responsibility for sustainable management of forest resources, commercial forestry operations, and governance of protected areas in the CAR. An updated and revitalised mandate for Chinko was further signed in April 2020. The Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing is represented by Minister Gervais Mbata.



A NEW CURRENCY FOR CONSERVATION — Over the past two years African Parks and the Government of Central African Republic have partnered to pioneer a successful carbon funding project, using credits generated from the effective management of carbon stored within the Chinko Conservation Area (CCA). The first credits were sold at the end of 2023, followed by 350,000 in 2024, earning US\$4,630,500.

Under the agreement with the Government, 10% of the funds went directly into a new community fund, established to benefit the 170,000 people living around Chinko, who also decide how the funds are used. Through open discussions across eight districts and more than 40 villages, they identified key funding priorities, including road maintenance, borehole construction, teacher salaries, school renovations,

and support for local enterprises. A handbook has also been developed to assist with financial and technical management, as well as guide fund allocation and oversight.

The fund focuses on communities most reliant on the natural resources within and around Chinko, directing support where needed and encouraging Land Use Plan (LUP) adoption. It also complements government plans, enhancing access to clean water, education, markets, and roads while promoting sustainable resource management. Looking ahead, local associations have begun developing their own carbon projects with technical support from African Parks. We look forward to sharing the results of these in 2025.

With the community fund supporting local development — improving skills and livelihoods — people are beginning to understand the benefits of conservation. Alongside Chinko's TANGO programme, which promotes participatory land use planning with nomadic pastoralists, the carbon funding project marks another bold solution to ensure a sustainable landscape approach that benefits communities and conservation.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — The annual inventory of flagship wildlife species in the CCA was conducted by ECHO agents, who recorded animal tracks along open trails. A total of 1,117 km of transects were surveyed, with an additional 204 km covered in the areas of hunting interest leased to National Safari Company. Key wildlife populations have either stabilised or continued to grow, with African buffalo numbers increasing, making Chinko and Zakouma home to the largest buffalo population in West and Central Africa.

Four research teams (two international and two local) worked on various topics. These included a study on chimpanzee behaviour in Chinko; the production of the first small mammal inventory focusing on rodents, bats and shrews; and a study on invasive plants. Two local students documented the spread of invasive black rats in Kocho.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Land use planning was completed with defined zones managed by community governance structures. As a result, four new community fishing reserves were established. Focused on embedding sustainable resource use practices and generating income for local people, the Community Development team also trained and supported 200 fishermen in sustainable acadja fishing across four groups in Bangassou, Rafai, Ouango and Bema. This method creates fish habitats by placing thick bundles of wood and branches in shallow waters, which attract wild fish. Their efforts yielded 600 kg of fish.

To further support sustainable natural resource management, education authorities in Mbomou approved Chinko's environmental education guide, advancing conservation knowledge within the communities. Youth clubs expanded to eight, engaging 180 young people in environmental awareness. For the first time students performed 12 street theatre shows on biodiversity, fishing and hunting. Stakeholder meetings in Bangassou, Bria, and Birao gathered 250 community members to discuss priorities and key achievements, while two major awareness campaigns reached 16,910 people in 27 villages.

Over 50% of Chinko's food — cassava, rice, coffee, peanut butter, and meat — was locally sourced, generating income for local communities. Farming support grew

to 26 groups with 11 new ones trained in cassava, groundnut and maize cultivation. Two new village savings and loans associations brought the total to 62, supporting financial resilience. A total of 2,942 people received income-generating training. Participants voluntarily saved money weekly, managed by AVEC, a village savings and loan association, which they could access with interest at year-end.



**US\$4.6 million
earned from
carbon credits**

**52 active
wildlife
camera traps**

**US\$5.8 million
invested into
the local economy
(including
salaries)**

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — The money accrued by the sale of the carbon credits was divided between the communities (10%) and park operational costs, including staff salaries and community development initiatives (55%), with the balance given to the Government of CAR and the project's operating costs. Camp Chinko, an exclusive seasonal sports fishing camp, received four guests. Highly satisfied with their experience, the fishermen donated an additional US\$100,000. Overall, Chinko's revenue generation progressed well, ending the year at 53% self-sustaining.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Chinko marked a decade of conservation on 13 June with a celebration in Bangui, attended by ministers, MPs, donors, and partners. The park hosted several high-level government visits throughout the year, highlighting its growing national importance. Progress toward national park status advanced with the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) study, refining boundaries and securing IUCN Protected Area registration. Key developments included 105 km of new roads, Kocho base upgrades, and the completion of the Ndolo Mirado platform for wildlife viewing.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

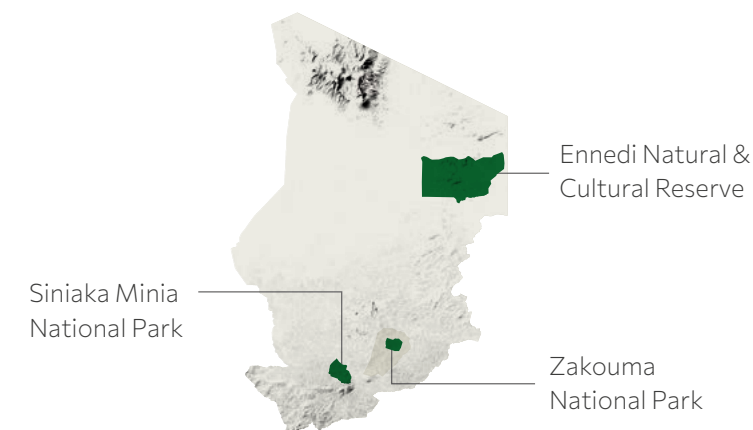
- ▶ Implement community projects funded by carbon credit revenue
- ▶ Maintain 35,000 km² of the CCA free from illegal human activity
- ▶ Incorporate the northern Yata-Ngaya and south-eastern Zemongo landscapes into the CCA, increasing the area managed to approximately 112,000 km²
- ▶ Establish Chinko National Park between the Chinko and Mbari rivers
- ▶ Launch the Ndolo Mirador platform for community and school visits

Chinko supports local radio stations to strengthen its link with communities and to raise awareness around biodiversity conservation
© Irene Galera





Ennedi comprises over 50,000 km² of natural sculpted landscape, desert-adapted flora and fauna, and globally significant rock art
© Brent Stirton



Chad

ENNEDI NATURAL & CULTURAL RESERVE

50,141 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

PARK MANAGER : ISSAKHA GONNEY GUIRKI

MAJOR FUNDERS European Union, Fondation Segré, Stichting Natura Africae, The Rob Walton Foundation

ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK

3,054 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

PARK MANAGER : CYRIL PÉLISSIER

MAJOR FUNDERS Dhanam Foundation, Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), European Union, Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

SINIAKA MINIA NATIONAL PARK

4,643 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve : 20,950 km²

PARK MANAGER : CYRIL PÉLISSIER

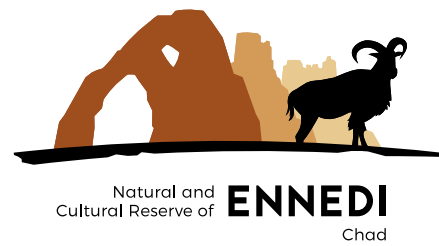
MAJOR FUNDERS Dhanam Foundation, European Union

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

The Republic of Chad



The Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (MEPDD) is the Governance authority of protected areas in Chad, with whom African Parks has signed management agreements for the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem [including Zakouma National Park, Siniaka Minia National Park and Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve], Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve and the Aouk Project. In 2010, the Ministry and African Parks signed a public-private management agreement for Zakouma National Park, followed in 2017 with a 10-year agreement for the development of the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem, and a 15-year agreement for the creation, funding and management of the Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve. MEPDD is represented by its minister M. Hassan Bakhit Djamous.



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RENAISSANCE — Known for its unique caverns and rock formations, Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve (ENCR) has been inhabited for centuries, as evidenced by colourful murals depicting human activity and the presence of wildlife such as the cuffed mouflon, red-necked ostrich and addax antelope. In 2024, the reserve’s archaeological significance played a pivotal role in its conservation and tourism strategy, with ground-breaking discoveries spotlighting Ennedi’s history and illuminating its rich cultural and natural heritage.

Nine archaeological survey missions were undertaken, leading to the identification of 348 new sites, some of which had remained hidden for centuries. These discoveries, from ancient rock art to metallurgical workshops, provide a glimpse into past civilisations

that thrived in this harsh yet extraordinary environment. To safeguard these invaluable treasures, ENCR has partnered with UNESCO and global experts to develop effective protection strategies. Led by a team of Chadian archaeologists, four of the most significant sites were further explored and evaluated by an international consultant, thereby ensuring global recognition of their cultural importance.

Sharing these discoveries with the world is key to their preservation. Twelve guided tours were organised in Ennedi, welcoming 213 visitors who were provided with a rare first-hand experience of these ancient sites. Additionally, public awareness sessions engaged 238 local and national stakeholders, nurturing a collective sense of responsibility for Ennedi’s cultural assets. These efforts to educate and involve communities are crucial to create a shared vision for the reserve, where heritage conservation and sustainable tourism are interconnected. Cementing Ennedi’s status as a key player in global conversations on archaeology and cultural heritage, two academic articles were published and international conferences attended. These included a colloquium in Côte d’Ivoire on the contribution of women in the pastoral economy as represented in Ennedi’s rock art. As conservation,

research, and community engagement continue, Ennedi is shaping into a model for sustainable heritage preservation, where the past and present are intertwined in a living story of resilience.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION —

Through the dedication of 13 eco-monitors, key species such as red-necked ostrich, addax, dorcas gazelle, mouflon and West African crocodile were closely monitored, providing improved data collection and critical insights into the health and distribution of these species. Sougounaw Farm, dedicated to breeding red-necked ostrich, underwent comprehensive structural upgrades, including improved fencing, following expert recommendations to align with international breeding standards, creating a secure environment for the ostriches to thrive. Since their reintroduction in 2021, a total of 87 ostriches and 57 chicks, now inhabit the reserve, with 10 birds at Sougounaw.

In a major milestone, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Chadian National and Nomad Guard (GNNT) and the Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas to bolster the reserve’s security framework. Foot, vehicular, and camel-mounted patrols (meharis) covered a total distance of 57,493 km, helping to prevent illegal activities within the reserve. Ranger teams, information analysis staff and eco-monitors benefitted from capacity-building programmes, including exchange visits to other parks, advanced medical training, human rights training and literacy courses.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — In partnership with three local NGOs and the Delegation of National Education and Civic Promotion, four MOUs were signed to strengthen education. These agreements supported salaries for 13 community teachers and enabled the operation of ten schools; 349 students, including 91 girls, benefitted from both the national education curriculum and an environmental education programme. Over 1,500 people were reached with “Les Petits Mouflons”, the environmental educational truck that ensures remote communities also have access to education and awareness raising. Two primary schools (Aloba Community School and Archei Public School) were

renovated, including a school canteen at Aloba to improve nutrition. Literacy courses were run for 45 women vegetable gardeners in Fada and Nohi, further promoting economic development and improved nutrition.



144 critically endangered red-necked ostrich

166 women in market gardening

348 new archaeological sites recorded

The ENCR Land Use Plan (LUP) progressed through seven community consultation sessions, ensuring participatory zoning and drafting of management regulations. These sessions upheld the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). A grievance management mechanism was established, offering a platform for addressing community concerns and establishing trust between stakeholders. Finally, a basic necessity survey was conducted to assess and prioritise community needs, ensuring that future interventions align with local priorities and support sustainable development within the reserve.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION —

In addition to 12 guided tours of the new archaeological sites, three public awareness sessions engaged 238 locals to promote cultural preservation. In addition, three public awareness sessions engaged 238 locals to promote cultural preservation. An ecological continuum workshop in Fada integrated cultural preservation with environmental stewardship, while initiatives like the valorisation of four key archaeological sites added to the reserve’s tourism product. Contributing to tourism infrastructure was the renovation of Camp Oudoubah which is now ready to receive visitors. To expand accommodation options, four guest houses are under construction.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — The reserve’s ranger camp was renovated and two new staff houses completed, improving living and working conditions for staff.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- Maintain zero poaching incidents
- Reintroduce oryx and additional addax antelope
- Conduct feasibility study for giraffe translocation
- Approve and implement the ENCR LUP and enhance community engagement
- Formulate and implement the tourism development plan



The multitude of preserved archaeological sites, consisting of engravings, rock paintings and mausoleums, are testament to the historic role people have played in Ennedi’s landscape
© Marcus Westberg



RESILIENCE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE — In 2024, the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem (GZE), which includes Siniaka Minia National Park and the Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve, faced severe climate change impacts. A cycle of drought followed by extreme flooding put immense strain on wildlife, local communities and park infrastructure. During the dry season, acute water shortages heightened pressure on both wildlife and pastoralist

communities, who are heavily reliant on the landscape's resources. Likewise, widespread flooding during the wet season disrupted park operations and further impacted local livelihoods.

The prolonged scarcity of water led to the loss of several hundred animals, while local communities faced failed harvests due to both drought and flooding. Livestock losses and damaged infrastructure, including impassable roads, compounded these challenges, straining access to resources and economic activities. In response, Zakouma's park management implemented emergency measures, including supplying water to maintain key natural water points during the dry season, while developing contingency plans to sustain operations during extreme flooding. As a result of these challenges, a comprehensive review of wildlife and habitat management at a landscape level is underway so that the park is permanently

prepared for future extreme weather events, alongside efforts to improve community support.

Intact ecosystems are critical in regulating climate and enhancing resilience to extreme events. Protecting these systems remains one of the most effective ways to ensure both wildlife and communities can withstand climate shocks. While these events in the GZE brought devastating consequences, without the restoration and effective management of these protected areas, the impacts would have been far worse.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION —

In addition to an aerial wildlife survey across the GZE, other initiatives to guide strategic conservation interventions for biodiversity and key species were rolled out. GPS collars were fitted on 10 elephant, two tiang and one lion, enabling tracking for both surveillance and research. The international waterbird census was conducted at the Ramsar sites of Plaines d'Inondation des Bahr Aouk et Salamat (in Zakouma) and Lac Fitri, in collaboration with the RESSOURCE+ project and partners, including the Office Français de la Biodiversité, Tour du Valat Foundation and FAO. Sadly, of the five rhino translocated in December 2023, two were lost in the year. One female died in April when she wandered away from permanent water in response to distant early rain but, not finding any surface water, she unfortunately succumbed to dehydration. The second was a male, that was killed in November during a skirmish with a younger rhino bull.

Sixty field rangers carried out 210 patrols across Zakouma, the Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve and corridors, by foot, vehicle, boat, and horseback. A half-year refresher training programme was conducted, along with specialised training in equine care.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Engagement remains central to community development and conservation efforts in Zakouma, with over 8,000 people attending community and awareness-raising meetings. The two Zakouma PeriFerrick (transhumance engagement) teams conducted 342 awareness sessions for over 4,400 pastoralists, providing information on available routes, access to resources and human-wildlife conflict mitigation.



**60
field rangers**

**US\$1.4 million
spent on local
salaries**

**397
scholarships
provided**

Environmental education activities continued around the park. The Camp Dari environmental education hub received over 6,500 visitors who gained first-hand experience of the park, while over 660 children participated in additional Wildlife Clubs. One school in Biéré, a village in the Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve, was rehabilitated, 19 teachers across 16 schools were supported, and 397 scholarships awarded to students. Healthcare support was bolstered through the employment of two full-time nurses stationed in Ibir and Goz Djarat, two localities in Bahr Salamat, improving access to medical services for local communities. The park-supported health posts provided care to over 9,200 community members.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION —

Overnight tourism numbers dropped slightly with Camp Nomade selling 285 bed nights and Camp Tinga 1,213, while over 2,540 local people visited the park as day visitors. In total, US\$516,000 was earned in tourism revenue — a slight increase from US\$503,000 in 2023. Contributing to local economies, 249 nationals are employed full-time by the park, earning over US\$1.4 million in salaries, while US\$869,170 was spent on local service providers and purchases of local goods.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT —

The official welcome ceremony for five black rhino that were reintroduced to the park in December 2023 was held at an event in January, which also celebrated the park's 60th anniversary and Siniaka Minia's reclassification as a national park. Attendees included the Chadian Minister of Environment, the South African ambassador, representatives from France, the U.S., the E.U., local governors and traditional chiefs, amongst other local, provincial, national and international dignitaries.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- Ensure key species populations remain stable
- Maintain 1,500 km² of Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve free from illegal hunting
- Reduce vehicle maintenance and operation costs by at least 25%



Zakouma National Park serves as a sanctuary for West and Central African wildlife, many of which are threatened within this ecoregion
© Irene Galera



A NEW CHAPTER FOR CONSERVATION — After being incorporated into the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem (GZE) in 2017, Siniaka Minia Wildlife Reserve took a significant step in 2024 by officially becoming a national park. This transition marks a milestone in the long-term conservation of the park's rich biodiversity.

Siniaka Minia is a vital part of the broader conservation strategy in south-eastern Chad, playing a crucial role in maintaining wildlife corridors that connect to Zakouma National Park. This connectivity is essential for ensuring the movement and survival of key species such as northern lion, cheetah, Kordofan giraffe, buffalo, greater kudu and roan antelope. With its new national park status, conservation efforts are further strengthened, providing better protection for these species and improving ecosystem stability.

However, water scarcity remains a pressing challenge, as decades of instability and illegal hunting led to a reduction in large mammals which, in turn, caused waterholes to silt up, limiting their ability to collect and retain water. This has

significantly reduced the number of animals the park can support, posing a major hurdle for conservation and restoration efforts. Work is underway to desilt existing waterholes and introduce sustainable water management strategies, including rainwater harvesting and controlled water distribution, to enhance long-term availability.

As a national park, a new chapter has begun for Siniaka Minia, giving it the highest national conservation status, which will see long-term benefits, both for biodiversity and as a national asset for the people of Chad.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION —

To establish a baseline for the newly-designated Siniaka Minia National Park, an aerial survey was conducted across the landscape. The results will inform strategic conservation interventions for key species and help assess the effectiveness of African Parks' management efforts to date. Further supporting conservation management, 80 camera traps were deployed across the park to gather data on wildlife presence, diversity and movement. At the end of the year, monthly buffalo population counts were initiated to monitor population trends and distribution. To help safeguard biodiversity within the protected area, six field rangers patrolled the park, its surroundings and the wildlife corridors, completing 74 patrols and covering approximately 15,000 km.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — The establishment of Siniaka Minia National Park brings new opportunities for local people, building on existing socio-economic initiatives. This year, 23 cooperatives, comprising 733 members, engaged in "Green Value Chains", focusing on honey, shea butter, chebe powder, vegetable production, poultry and balanites oil.

Four TANGO transhumance engagement teams conducted over 200 awareness-raising sessions, reaching over 11,400 individuals. These teams work closely with pastoralist communities, providing critical information on safe passage, access to food, water, supplies and medicine. They also act as unarmed mediators in cases of illegal activity and play a key role in helping to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. To improve reliable access to water for

sedentary communities and their livestock outside the park, four new water points were established at the Mouraye and Amkhidere ponds, as well as the Koubi and Moreh wells.



4,158 km² given National Park status

28,455 community members attended engagement meetings

80 wildlife camera traps

In ongoing educational activities, 13 teachers and ten schools were supported by the Teachers' Association, in collaboration with park management, while three schools in Cissi, Koubi, and Koutoutou, on the park's periphery, were newly built or renovated, improving access to learning. Additionally, 258 scholarships were awarded to encourage education and literacy.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT —

The reclassification of the reserve as Siniaka Minia National Park was officially enacted on the 19th of February, marking a significant milestone in its conservation and long-term management. To strengthen operations, all park staff were relocated from Melfi to a new operational base in Samer, promoting coordination and efficiency.

With Siniaka Minia's national park status and the separation of the management unit from Zakouma National Park, additional local employment opportunities will be generated. By the end of 2024, 44 permanent staff members, of which 43 are nationals, were employed.

Siniaka Minia's progress was showcased during the African Parks Chad annual event in N'Djamena in November, highlighting the collective conservation and community development achievements of the organisation in collaboration with partners, donors and local communities.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Complete construction of park headquarters at Samer
- ▶ Reduce poaching of buffalo to zero
- ▶ Ensure zero presence of livestock in the park's core zone
- ▶ Implement environmental education programme in 11 schools
- ▶ Implement and operationalise grievance mechanism and safeguard policies



Siniaka Minia National Park brings new opportunities for local people, building on existing socio-economic initiatives
© Marcus Westberg

Garamba
National Park



Democratic Republic of Congo

GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK

5,133 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2005

Adjacent Domaine de Chasses 9,662 km²

PARK MANAGER : PHILIPPE DECOOP

MAJOR FUNDERS Barrick Gold Corporation, European Union, Okapi Fund (Fonds Okapi pour la Conservation de la Nature en RDC), The Wildcat Foundation, US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), USAID

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)



DRC's Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) is a public entity housed under the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development tasked with the sustainable management of biodiversity in protected areas in the DRC, in cooperation with local communities and other partners. The ICCN oversees a natural and cultural heritage comprising nine national parks and a network of 80 reserves, covering over 13% of the country's area. African Parks' collaboration with the Institut began in Garamba National Park in 2005. The ICCN is currently led by Director General Milan Ngangay Yves.

Garamba National Park has become an anchor for regional stability and thanks to intensive conservation efforts, home to over 20,000 animals, from lion to chimpanzee
© Brent Stirton



A DECADE OF RECOVERY — Over the past ten years, Garamba National Park has seen a remarkable recovery of its species population numbers, thanks to dedicated and effective conservation management efforts. By 2020, ivory poaching had decreased by 90% and elephant numbers had stabilised; buffalo and hippo numbers have steadily increased; and, in 2023, 16 white rhino were successfully introduced, contributing to the park’s overall ecological balance. Notably, the park’s

population of Critically Endangered Kordofan giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*), has also grown from just 22 individuals in 2012 to a confirmed 95 in December 2024.

With only around 2,300 Kordofan giraffe remaining, this subspecies of northern giraffe faced near-extirpation due to regional instability, habitat destruction and illegal hunting. Today, Garamba’s giraffe are the only remaining population in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Since late 2016, with support from the government and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), Garamba’s conservation strategy was bolstered with targeted investments in conservation law enforcement, community development and ecological monitoring, all contributing to the health and restoration of Garamba’s biodiversity.

Today, two geographically isolated giraffe populations remain within Garamba, one in the southern part of the park and another in the Gangala-

na-Bodio Hunting Domain. In collaboration with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, Garamba advanced its monitoring strategy, completing over 5,500 km of aerial surveys in 2024 and conducting extensive ground observations. These initiatives allowed researchers to monitor the populations at the individual level, tracking population growth and demographic shifts. With the populations’ security in good standing, Garamba has now begun to investigate the challenge that inbreeding may pose, given the initial small number of individuals. As a result, 22 biopsy samples were collected in 2024 to assess genetic diversity, with plans to expand sampling of the population. This research, along with strong partnerships and dedicated conservation efforts, will inform prospective strategies to ensure a viable population for generations to come, securing the future of one of Africa’s iconic species.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — For the second year, the Kordofan giraffe population exceeded its projected growth, increasing from 65 to 82 between 2021 and 2023, and to 95 in 2024. Seven elephant were collared, bringing the total to 34, thereby improving monitoring efforts. Over 100 camera traps were deployed; those in Azande and Mondo Missa recorded species rarely seen in Garamba, including chimpanzee, white-bellied pangolin, sitatunga and bongo. A monitoring mission confirmed the presence of a previously undocumented chimpanzee group in Mondo Missa region.

A workshop in Nagero focused on prosecuting wildlife crimes strengthened the capacity of 12 magistrates from Haut-Uele and Ituri provinces. A three-year investigation resulted in the arrests of a transnational wildlife trafficking network and the seizure of 318 kg of pangolin scales, which equates to more than 500 animals. The Elephant Protection Initiative provided inventory training on managing confiscated wildlife products, documenting evidence and security.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Farmer Field Schools (FFS) certified 536 farmers this year, of which 133 were selected as relay farmers to train others, joining 238 previously certified relay farmers who now lead networks ensuring continued

application of their skills. This network has expanded agroecological practices to nearly 4,000 additional farmers across Garamba. Notably, lead farmer Jean-Pierre Tandema used his FFS income to build a maternity ward in Bilali, reducing the need for women to travel 15 km for medical care.



**14,255
local people
benefitted
from
healthcare**

**95
Kordofan
giraffe**

**34 elephant
collared**

The two solar mini grids in Faradje and Tadu now provide power to 425 customers, of which 45% comprise small and medium enterprises. Construction has begun on the third mini grid in Dungu town following the approval of planning permissions for the power station and technical premises.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — The Garamba Board approved the 2024–2028 Commercial Development Plan, outlining key strategies for boosting revenue generation. To enhance tourism skills, one guide completed a seven-week intensive guide training course at Majete Wildlife Reserve, while the Head Chef of

Garamba Lodge completed a five-week exchange visit to Ruzizi Lodge in Akagera National Park to build kitchen operations and stock management capability.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — A total of 593 km of roads were maintained and opened to improve access and connectivity. Garamba’s Field Operations Manager visited Akagera National Park to observe and evaluate road maintenance and garage operations, the goal being to identify best practices that could be implemented in the park. The park’s staff training plan was implemented, offering sessions for 41 trainees on various topics, including fire management, machine maintenance, first aid, driving, kitchen management and human relations.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

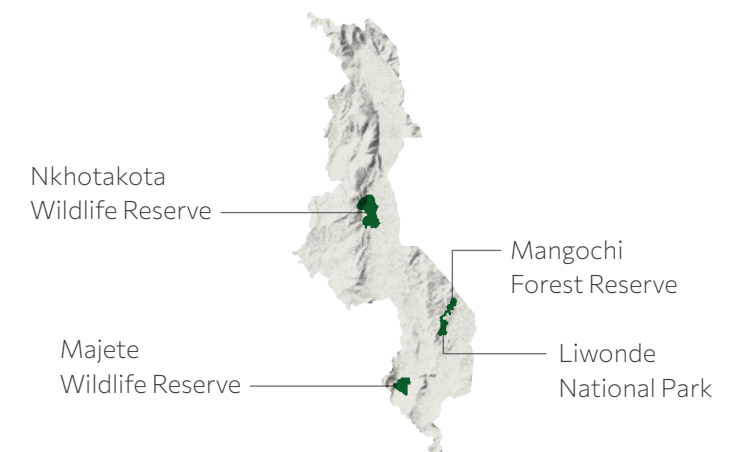
- ▶ Introduce additional rhino to establish a viable breeding population
- ▶ Implement updated Land Use Plan with community input and consent
- ▶ Enhance Grievance Mechanism, aiming for 100% resolution and documentation of all cases
- ▶ Issue Verifiable Nature Units (VNUs)

Tree pangolins (*Phataginus tricuspis*), also known as white-bellied pangolins, find sanctuary in Garamba National Park
© Marcus Westberg





The Shire River in Majete Wildlife Reserve is a popular gathering point for elephant
© Marcus Westberg



Malawi

LIWONDE NATIONAL PARK & MANGOCHI FOREST RESERVE

903 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2015

ACTING PARK MANAGER : SHAIBU KADEWERE

MAJOR FUNDERS The Rob Walton Foundation, US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), WWF Belgium, Wyss Foundation

MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE

715 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2003

PARK MANAGER : JOHN ADENDORFF

MAJOR FUNDERS WWF Belgium, Wyss Foundation

NKHOTAKOTA WILDLIFE RESERVE

1,794 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2015

PARK MANAGER : DAVID NANGOMA

MAJOR FUNDERS US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), WWF Belgium, Wyss Foundation

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Malawi Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW)



African Parks' longest-running partnership is with Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), since the agreement for Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2003. DNPW manages and conserves wildlife resources and administers the Wildlife Policy and National Parks and Wildlife Act. In 2015, African Parks and the DNPW signed an agreement for Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde National Park, and in 2018 for Mangochi Forest Reserve. African Parks partnered with the Department of Forestry; all agreements were facilitated by the Public-Private Partnership Commission. Mr Brighton Kumchedwa is the current Director of the DNPW.



A COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

— The restored Environmental Education Centre at Liwonde National Park became a transformative hub for conservation education over the year, hosting 5,048 visitors from surrounding areas as well as from Mangochi Forest Reserve and other localities further afield. With upgraded facilities, including a modern auditorium, the centre provides interactive learning opportunities through workshops, media presentations and educational camps, engaging schools and community groups. In total 3,499 students and 509 local adult community members have participated in day programmes, nurturing environmental awareness and advocacy. These numbers reflect the park’s strong

commitment to promoting environmental education in local communities, and more specifically the learners from the 94 schools that surround the park.

A significant highlight of the centre was the introduction of hostels, which helped create immersive overnight learning experiences for over 640 visitors. Staying within the park allows participants to experience nature both by day and during the night, which goes a long way in deepening their understanding of diverse ecosystems and the importance of conservation. This has been reflected in the students’ increased enthusiasm and their clear desire to stay at the centre for as long as possible.

This initiative has created a holistic educational experience that is adding significant value to Liwonde’s broader educational efforts. In addition, the centre is further fostering conservation awareness in Malawi by nurturing advocates for environmental conservation. Looking ahead, the park aims to expand its reach and track the long-term impact of these programmes on schools and communities.



Healthy wildlife populations in Liwonde National Park ensure that the park is a reliable source for species translocations to other parks in Malawi
© Frank Weitzer

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — The 2024 aerial census counted over 12,000 animals in Liwonde, providing essential population estimates for effective conservation management. As an important addition to monitoring efforts, a rhino tagging exercise took place, fitting eight rhino with Africa Wildlife Tracking VHF transmitters. The rhino were chosen to ensure even distribution across the park.

A wild dog pack was reintroduced into Liwonde following the learnings of previous years. Nine wild dogs were translocated from Welgevonden, South Africa, and placed in two bomas. While two females were lost when the packs were combined, subsequent bonding efforts were effective and the remaining seven were successfully released into the park. Although the pack produced a litter a few months later, it also suffered some setbacks, losing males to a snare and poachers respectively, and a female and pup to unknown causes. The five remaining wild dogs (two males and three pups) are being closely monitored by the park and the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust. The park is optimistic about saving the remaining dogs through comprehensive conservation law enforcement, community engagement interventions and education. To enhance conservation law enforcement efforts, 19 new rangers were recruited and underwent Basic Field Ranger training.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Supporting positive community engagement and awareness raising, over 250 community meetings were held around the park, with 187 community enterprise development meetings taking place. The Happy Readers project expanded to two more schools, now benefitting 21 schools and at least 16,684 primary school learners. Overall, 94 primary schools were reached through literacy initiatives including the Reading Around the Reserve project, which ensures an adequate supply of books to improve student literacy.

Although drought affected honey harvests, the Honey with Heart project continued to gain momentum with the hope that future years will deliver better yields. A total of 120 Langstroth beehives were distributed to communities surrounding the park, bringing their number to 720, and reaching 668 farmers, up from 600 beehives and

589 farmers in 2023. Spicy Farmers, a sustainable livelihood initiative that harvests chillies grown on ‘chilli elephant barriers’, earned over US\$17,000 from chilli sales this year, with more than 170 farmers benefitting. Tropha is the official off-taker of the chilli, which is then sold on to Nando’s. The Malombe fish farmers harvested 274 kg of fish, some of which was shared amongst the fishers for household consumption, while the surplus was sold to vendors.



**95
scholarships
provided**

**8
black rhino
tagged**

**US\$48,300
generated from
community
enterprises**

Three irrigation schemes were also supported by the park, directly benefitting over 240 community members. These schemes not only enhance food production for communities surrounding the park but also generate income through surplus crop sales, strengthening both food security and livelihoods. Additionally, as part of waste management efforts, the Makhanga women’s paper recycling group began transforming wastepaper into recycled products such as notepads, which are sold at the park gates.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — Chinguni House, a self-catering tourist accommodation facility overlooking the Shire River, with a capacity to accommodate 10 guests, was completed. Overall, the park generated US\$645,826 from tourism during the year, a slight increase from 2023’s US\$626,478.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Construction of Chisopi ranger camp, designed to serve as a ranger outpost with accommodation for nine rangers, was completed. Ntulira Ranger duplex, which will house two rangers and their families, was also completed, and Naifulu hut, an essential outpost for rhino tracking operations, was renovated.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Conduct a socio-economic survey to better understand community needs
- ▶ Construct 93 km of Kenya fence to mitigate human-elephant conflict
- ▶ Roll out a community fence protection scheme across 50% of the fence line
- ▶ Increase employment opportunities for Chinguni House



A MODEL FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION — In partnership with The Landbanking Group, the first Verifiable Nature Units (VNUs) were introduced in Majete Wildlife Reserve, a pioneering step towards developing conservation financing. VNUs measure ecological integrity, assessing how well nature is being maintained or improved year by year. Each VNU represents 1 km² of nature that is maintained in its current state or transitioned to an improved state from one year to the next, enabling outcomes-based transactions that reimburse conservation efforts. By the end of 2024, 202 VNUs were issued in Majete, showcasing the potential of this mechanism to incentivise and sustain nature conservation.

The success of VNUs in Majete is rooted in two decades of effective management and positive community collaboration which has transformed a once ecologically devastated landscape. As a

result of an effective management partnership between African Parks and the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Majete is now a functional ecosystem supporting healthy wildlife populations and creating an anchor from which thousands of people benefit today. Approximately 3,000 animals from 17 species have been reintroduced, increasing large mammal populations to over 12,000, enabling Majete to become a source of wildlife to help restore other parks in Malawi. Infrastructure development — including 350 km of roads and advanced communication systems — supports effective conservation law enforcement and biodiversity conservation, while over 60 locally employed rangers ensure that laws are upheld.

Community collaboration has been integral to supporting this transformation. Through environmental education, approximately 2,000 children visit the reserve annually, fostering an awareness for biodiversity conservation. Sustainable livelihood programmes, such as fish farming and beekeeping, directly benefit local communities. A 144 km predator-proof fence minimises human-wildlife conflict, and over 45,000 people now benefit from sponsored healthcare initiatives yearly. These efforts ensure

that communities see tangible benefits from conserving nature. Majete's revival and its role as the pilot site for VNUs demonstrate how strong partnerships with government and communities, combined with innovative financing, can lead to effective and sustainable solutions for safeguarding protected areas.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Majete's biennial aerial census recorded more than 12,400 large herbivores and 1,200 primates, predators, ground hornbills, and vultures. Nineteen lion were fitted with new collars, bringing the total of active collars to 35. Lion in inaccessible areas, where pride dynamics are not well understood, were targeted, helping to add to crucial data for Majete's Predator Management Plan. Two male lion were translocated to Liwonde National Park to enhance genetic diversity. Wild dog saw success with a new litter of five pups, bringing the total born in Majete since reintroduction to 27. Five wild dogs were also relocated to South Africa to support metapopulation expansion, while five cheetah cubs were recorded in September and a third rhino calf was documented in October's census.

Capacity building remained a priority, with five female rangers completing Basic Field Ranger training, forming Majete's first all-female patrol team. A staff member was trained in Zimbabwe on wildlife immobilisation, increasing in-park expertise for collaring and conservation interventions. Despite a decrease in animal breakouts, incidents involving leopard, buffalo, and elephant persisted, highlighting the need for rapid response systems, early detection, thorough fence patrols, community engagement and collaring with geofences, for key species.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Community engagement efforts reached 46,862 people through mass awareness meetings covering human rights, grievance mechanisms, family planning, and environmental stewardship. In addition, staff members gave motivational talks at eight schools, demonstrating the important relationship between Majete and surrounding communities. Over 2,000 community members (adults and children) visited the reserve, providing invaluable first-hand wildlife

experiences. A pesticide awareness and poison response workshop was held, aimed at reducing toxins in the ecosystem, particularly for oxpeckers. In May, MBC TV and two community radio stations broadcast "African Parks Corner", a seven-month series promoting conservation.



**23,000
indigenous
trees planted
in villages
and schools**

**US\$903,265
in tourism
revenue
generated**

**202
VNUs sold**

Sustainable enterprise initiatives reached 1,211 people — double the number in the previous year — diversifying income means and skillsets through projects such as elephant dung papermaking, beekeeping, fish farming, irrigation schemes, poultry clubs, and goat pass-on schemes. Eleven community-based organisations planted over 23,000 indigenous trees in villages and schools with seedlings provided by the reserve.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION

Nearly 15,000 people visited Majete, of which over a third were nationals, generating a record-breaking US\$903,265 in revenue (including the 50% community-sharing portion derived from the

Community Game Capture Campsite). The tourism team focused on making visits more accessible for Malawians, offering discounts, enhancing day-visitor activities like game drives and picnic areas, and providing competitive packages at the conference facility. As a result, 7,649 day-visitors were welcomed.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

— The new Savannah aircraft began providing essential operations support, including surveillance, fire management, wildlife tracking and flood damage assessment. A new game viewer and education classroom at the on-site education centre allowed the team to extend and improve its educational outreach.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- Update Predator and Elephant Management Plans
- Begin establishment of a buffer zone, paying landowners to reforest
- Deploy tracking devices on black rhino to enhance remote monitoring
- Diversify visitor base and expand activities



Over 2,000 community members (including children) visited Majete in 2024, receiving valuable first-hand wildlife experiences
© Marcus Westberg



AN ENTOMOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH — Nkhokotakota Wildlife Reserve, Malawi's largest and oldest reserve, has long been known for its rich biodiversity. But it was only this year that a groundbreaking entomological study revealed just how much life exists and remains undiscovered within its woodlands and rivers.

Led by renowned entomologist Professor Raymond Murphy, the year-long survey covered all four seasons, capturing the intricate world of insects that play a fundamental role in maintaining the ecosystem's health and functionality. Often overlooked, insects are crucial pollinators, decomposers and prey for other species, making their abundance a key indicator

of a healthy ecosystem. From a collection of over 2,000 specimens representing 1,004 species across 12 orders, the study identified over 70 new records for Nkhokotakota, with at least seven species believed to be entirely new to science. It is hoped that this will be confirmed when experts carry out further taxonomic analysis in 2025, in collaboration with the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST).

While this survey has provided valuable insights into Nkhokotakota's insect biodiversity, the discovery of new species, and rediscovery of long-hidden species, also highlight the dynamic nature of insect populations and the critical role of holistic conservation efforts. It also opens the door to further skills development. Nkhokotakota ranger Patrick Chisale, who joined the research team, has become an entomology enthusiast and budding scientist who is now aiming to pursue a career in this field.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — In addition to the insect study, camera trap data and species estimates indicate increasing animal populations, highlighting the success of Nkhokotakota's ecological restoration

programme. Tracking efforts continued, with collars fitted on eight elephant, three kudu and two eland. As a result of its thriving biodiversity, the reserve was nominated as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), a site of global importance to the planet's overall health.

Efforts to conserve the mpasa or lake salmon (*Opsaridium microlepis*) in the Bua River progressed with the launch of the Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Plan, a district-based multi-stakeholder effort championed by the Restoring Fisheries and Sustainable Livelihoods (REFRESH) project. Working with communities along the 15 km stretch of the Lower Bua, activities include conservation law enforcement, preventing illegal fishing and catchment rehabilitation. Other anti-poaching measures led to a decline in camps and snare poaching.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — In ongoing community engagement efforts, four stakeholder meetings were conducted to review community development strategies, human-wildlife conflict (HWC) policy, and to raise awareness about the grievance redress mechanism.

Environmental education outreach programmes reached 12,627 learners through school visits, tree planting and anti-litter events, while over 1,400 adults and children from surrounding communities visited the reserve through the Environmental Education Centre. A total of 127 students received scholarships for secondary, tertiary, and vocational education. To further literacy amongst local children, a reading project was piloted in three schools, and Nkhokotakota participated in the launch of a Wildlife & Environmental Education Resource Book for primary schools, in collaboration with Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and the Ministry of Education.

To support sustainable initiatives, 200 farmers received training and assistance in chilli production, yielding 1,189 kg. The Environmental Education Centre trained 53 mango processing group members, conducted village savings and loans training for 34 members and supported four beekeeping clubs. The Likowa Beekeeping Cooperative was established, with 490 Langstroth hives distributed to 19 clubs, resulting in a 4,012 kg honey harvest. To enhance agricultural productivity, microbial inoculants were distributed

to 2,000 households to improve groundnut and soya bean yields. The Ching'amba mushroom processing facility was equipped and connected to the national hydro-electric power grid. Additionally, 4,500 solar lights were distributed to communities through Watts



25,6 tonnes of natural resources sustainably harvested

12,627 students reached through environmental education

7 newly-discovered species

of Love, expanding access to sustainable energy. Through the goat pass-on project — where farmers pass on a goat's first offspring — 100 goats were given to 50 new beneficiaries, ensuring the programme's expansion. In total, sustainable enterprises generated US\$62,136 in community income, benefitting over 1,500 people.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — The Nkhokotakota Wildlife Reserve Tourism Plan was published and approved. The Chipata Mountain Hike was initiated with Team Adventure, a local adventure travel and tourism organisation. A total revenue of \$US50,870 was generated from park entry fees, activity and concession fees, local sales and the Mphatso Restaurant. Over 3,800 guests visited the park — up from 2,587 in 2023 — of which 30% were local.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Four additional overnight structures were built on the fence line, bringing the total to 15. These accommodate fence monitors who maintain daily checks on the fence power and report breakouts or damage, as well as enhancing the team's presence around the reserve, significantly deterring illegal activities. The Kenya-style fencing, which is vital in keeping wildlife inside the park and mitigating HWC incidents, was extended to 75 km. Rainwater harvesting facilities, including 5,000 litre tanks, were also installed to provide potable water for the monitors. Four ranger houses at Kaludwe were repaired, while a new entry gate was constructed at Wozi to regulate unauthorised nighttime passage through the park.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- Secure mandate to manage the Lower Bua River
- Boost tourism through investments in upgrades and capacity
- Increase staff capacity with training and new recruits
- Maintain full functionality of all repeater stations to support IT needs



Park-supported sustainable enterprise initiatives generated over US\$62,000 in community income, benefitting over 1,500 people around Nkhokotakota Wildlife Reserve
© Naude Heunis



The warm waters of Bazaruto Archipelago National Park provide a safe haven for migrating humpback whales to give birth to and nurse their calves between July and October
© Andrew Marshall



Bazaruto Archipelago

Mozambique

BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK

1,430 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2017

PARK MANAGER : ARMANDO GUENHA

MAJOR FUNDERS TUI Care Foundation, Wyss Foundation

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC)



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



PIONEERING MARINE CONSERVATION — Building on marine conservation efforts in Bazaruto Archipelago National Park (BANP), some significant milestones were achieved in 2024. In a first for Africa, African Parks and the Mozambican government, in partnership with James Cook University, launched an important dugong satellite tagging project. Tagging 11 dugong with transmitters, this innovative initiative provided critical insights into the mammals’ movements across the park and surrounding seascapes, identifying areas requiring enhanced conservation efforts for the species.

Sea turtle tagging continued into its second year with an additional 23 turtles tagged with satellite transmitters and nearly 50 with flipper tags. With the intention of identifying overlaps between turtle

habitats and artisanal fisheries, the data revealed that turtles frequently remain in small seagrass patches or move between shallow and deep-water meadows with the tides. With this information, alternative fishing methods can be promoted to help reduce bycatch in these popular fishing areas. In addition, the conservation team recorded 86 turtle nests across the park, a record number since monitoring first began in the early 90s.

By providing critical insights into how key megafauna utilise the park’s habitats and broader seascape, these projects now inform practical conservation measures, from targeted conservation law enforcement to community development programmes. At the same time, both projects enabled valuable opportunities to upskill researchers and skippers from the BANP communities, so that local knowledge is further developed to continue contributing to Mozambique’s marine conservation.

CONSERVATION BIODIVERSITY — To strengthen conservation law enforcement capacity, 20 new rangers were recruited and underwent Basic Field Ranger training, increasing the ranger team to 87

fully trained personnel. Collaboration with local and national law enforcement authorities remained key to successful strategies, with 48 joint operations conducted in the Vilankulos and Inhassoro districts. Community engagement efforts, including awareness campaigns during routine patrols and community meetings, were rolled out to help reduce illegal activities and uncontrolled fires within the park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT —

With a focus on education and women empowerment, lectures were held on family planning and women’s health, gender-based violence, nutrition and maternal and child health. Prenatal consultations were also provided, while protection kits were distributed to people with skin pigmentation problems in Bengueria, consisting of healing products, moisturisers, sunscreens, and sunglasses. By the end of the year, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, mobile health clinics reached over 4,000 patients on the islands of Bengueria, Bazaruto and Magaruge.

To support environmental education for adults, awareness campaigns regarding protected and prohibited species were held, reaching over 2,000 people, while the “Sports Preserving the Environment” championships attracted over 1,400 attendees. To raise awareness about waste, a community waste collection day was held, resulting in 188 tonnes of waste — including 89 tonnes of plastic — being collected. With the plastic collected, 85,072 paving bricks were produced at the Bazaruto recycling centre — more than double the bricks produced in 2023.

The eight eco-clubs continued to support the BANP Environmental Education Programme, engaging 256 students and teachers. Now in its sixth year, the student support programme benefitted 519 students with teaching materials and scholarships, up from 418 in 2023. A total of 127 graduates benefitted from park-supported vocational courses in 14 specialties including industrial welding, chemical processes, mechanics, catering and hospitality, bricklaying, tiling, electrical installation, carpentry and plumbing.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — The impact of

extreme weather events and the political unrest both contributed to a reduced number of visitors, resulting in less revenue being generated than in 2023. The park received 27,818 visitors, a 5.4% decrease from 2023. Despite these challenges, the park generated US\$585,123. Compliance

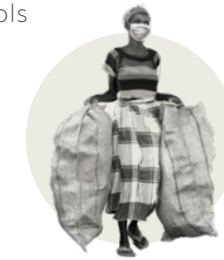
checks were conducted to ensure that all tourism centres adhere to park regulations, promoting sustainable tourism and protecting the park’s ecosystems from negative impacts. The park also adopted a Sustainable Tourism Model (STM), a system designed to monitor key sustainable tourism indicators. With this system, surveys were conducted across the three islands and at Vilankulos Airport. The Inhassoro tourism office and information point in Vilankulos were completed and are now operational.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT —

Four management council and steering committee meetings were conducted to enhance stakeholder engagement, strengthen collaboration and align priorities for effective park management. As a result, support from various stakeholders has significantly increased, improving the park’s ability to implement conservation and development initiatives, while fostering partnerships to advance the park’s long-term strategic objectives. In support of conservation law enforcement efforts, judges and prosecutors from provincial and district levels visited the park and a round table discussion on legal matters of park management relevance took place. Construction of the park office at Vilankulos and a ranger training centre at Mupale on Bazaruto Island began, with expected completion by the end of the first quarter of 2025.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Invest in tourism infrastructure to improve efficiency of tourism operations
- ▶ Continue efforts to reduce seine netting through improved socio-economic opportunities
- ▶ Improve environmental compliance through increased engagement with tourism service providers
- ▶ Increase employment opportunities for surrounding communities



**89 tonnes
of plastic
collected**

**23,600m²
of invasive
plants cleared**

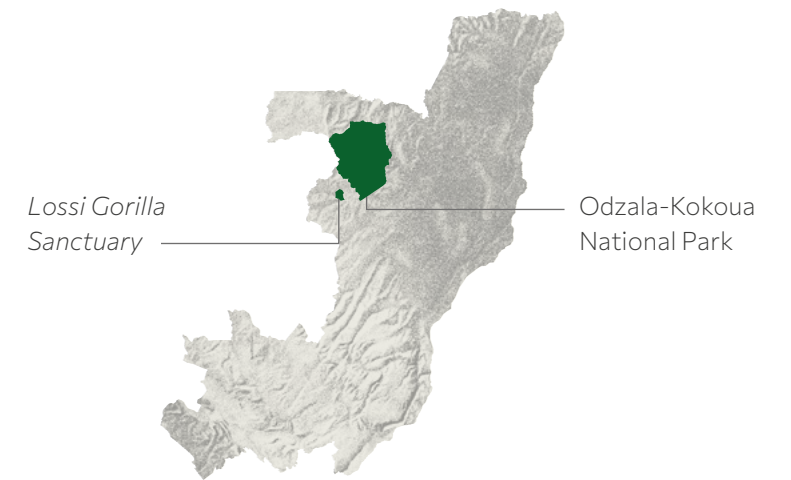
**127
vocational
graduates**



Sea turtle tagging in Bazaruto provides critical insights into how the various species utilise the broader seascape, helping to inform conservation efforts
© Natalie Dos Santos



Continuous observation of gorilla groups contributes to valuable research of the western lowland gorilla population in Odzala-Kokoua National Park
© Gerhard Hùdepohl



Republic of Congo

ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK

13,867 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary : 380 km²

PARK MANAGER : JEAN-YVES KOUMPOGUE

MAJOR FUNDERS DOB Ecology, Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), European Union, Legacy Landscapes Fund, Stichting Natura Africae, The Rob Walton Foundation, US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment



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 mandate, with 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.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

— In mid-2023, African Parks was made aware of allegations of human rights abuses involving eco-guards and members of the Baka community in Odzala-Kokoua National Park. In response, Omnia Strategy LLP, a law firm specialising in international human rights, was commissioned to undertake an independent investigation, which continued throughout the course of 2024, and included various missions on the ground. Simultaneously, efforts were made to strengthen safeguard mechanisms and deepen the organisation's understanding of the cultural and livelihood needs of all communities living around the park, in particular relating to the Indigenous (or Autochthones) Peoples.

A key initiative was a study on the Baka people, conducted by ethno-anthropologist Dr Jean-Pierre Nguède Ngono. Insights from this study have been applied to develop a customised engagement plan

for Indigenous People with a high dependence on the forest and its resources. Conserving the park ensures the sustainability of these resources and their continued benefit to local people.

This year, markers were placed along twenty-two community access pathways to clearly identify zones in the park with different land uses and resource harvesting rules. A longer-term project aims to secure permanent land rights for individuals, and so far, traditional land rights have been mapped for an initial 23 households. The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) has been integrated into the five-year rolling business plan. As part of this long-term commitment, Dr Nguède Ngono was appointed to the Odzala-Kokoua-Lossi Foundation Board to ensure that Indigenous perspectives and needs continue to be considered in the park's management.

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen community engagement, the existing village associations (ASDD – Associations de Surveillance et de Développement Durable) were reinforced, enabling communities to actively participate in the governance of natural resources. In addition, Focal Points were appointed at the village level. These community representatives serve as a direct link with the park and are chosen from the villages they represent. In villages with both Bantu

and Autochthone members, a Focal Point is selected for each ethnic group. The initial focus of trained Focal Points has been to support community sensitisation on the grievance mechanism and human-wildlife conflict management. Sensitisation at the village level has been complemented by activities to mitigate the impact of human-wildlife conflict (HWC). Over 100 people received support through the devastation insurance programme. One community received an elephant-proof electric fence, while eight were assisted with HWC trenches to prevent elephants from entering and destroying crops. Additionally, three communities introduced an adapted chilli-bottle fence designed to be more weather-resistant.

These initiatives, together with the IPP, are part of an integrated effort to support the development of the entire community around the park. By establishing trust, securing land rights, and creating livelihood opportunities, long-term stewardship of Odzala's forests and wildlife is being strengthened in partnership with local communities.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — Sixty camera traps were set up to collect information on wildlife activity in Odzala's remote northern sector, while eight elephant and four spotted hyaena collars were monitored daily, supporting better understanding of movements and HWC mitigation. In particular, the elephant collar data showed the critical importance of the IFO Ngombé forest concession as a key linkage to the larger landscape, especially Ntokou-Pikounda National Park. Meanwhile, the four collared hyaena remained deep in the forest, hunting buffalo and even young elephant at large baïs (forest clearings).

The second round of the VNU (Verifiable Nature Unit) pilot data collection was completed, with a third planned for 2025. Through this outcomes-based mechanism, land stewards are rewarded for conservation and restoration efforts. Each VNU represents 1 km² of nature to be maintained in its current state or transitioned to an improved state from one year to the next. Success is measured by evaluating human pressures on land, species loss, and whether healthy ecosystems can be sustained.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — To align conservation with economic sustainability, several initiatives have

been developed in collaboration with communities and spearheaded by Nature+. A key focus is non-timber forest products such as wild mango, with local community members leading harvesting efforts in the park's eco-development and buffer zones. These harvested fruits are either sold independently or processed into products such as soap, oil, or powder. Cocoa production has also been integrated into the local economy, with over 40 growers working directly with the park. To increase cocoa production, some 15,000 additional cocoa trees were planted in existing plantations.



**8 active
elephant collars**

**100 people
benefitted
from HWC
insurance
programme**

**25 scholarships
provided**

In educational support, one school was constructed, while a total of nine schools were supported with 12 teacher salaries and 25 scholarships. Environmental education reached over 2,500 students through Nature Clubs and in-school modules.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — Park revenue generation continued to grow, with over 500 bed-nights sold at Camp Imbalanga, up from 350 in 2023. Building on this success, Camp Imbalanga will expand in 2025, while the Imbalanga Education Centre will be constructed to support practical conservation education initiatives. Tourism activities across the park generated over US\$300,000, covering 5% of core operating expenses.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Odzala strengthened regional conservation efforts through a new agreement with the neighbouring IFO Ngombé forestry concession, formalising a management partnership for conservation law enforcement and wildlife surveys across the 11,000 km² area. This collaboration enhances the connectivity of protected areas in the northern Congo landscape.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Establish six Eco teams with 50% indigenous representation
- ▶ Complete all VNU missions and begin triennial biomonitoring survey
- ▶ Maintain elephant poaching at less than 0.25% of the estimated population
- ▶ Continue initiating key actions of the Indigenous Peoples Plan
- ▶ Increase Camp Imbalanga bed-nights to 750

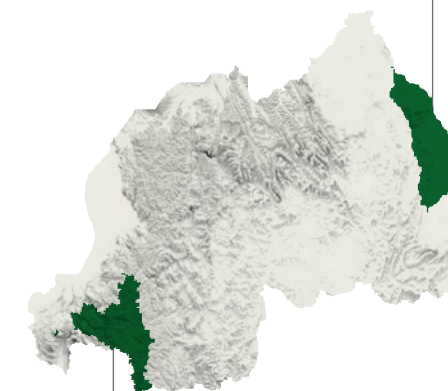


Regular meetings form part of ongoing efforts to strengthen community engagement and development in and around Odzala
© Irene Galera



Nyungwe National Park is home to 13 different primate species, including Rwenzori black-and-white colobus (*Colobus angolensis ruwenzorii*)
© Marcus Westberg

Akagera National Park



Nyungwe National Park

Rwanda

AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

1,120 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2010

PARK MANAGER : LADIS NDAHIRIWE

MAJOR FUNDER Howard G. Buffett Foundation

NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK

1,019 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2020

PARK MANAGER : PROTAIS NIYIGABA

MAJOR FUNDERS Hempel Foundation, Wyss Foundation

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Rwanda Development Board (RDB)



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, African Parks recognises RDB CEO, Francis Gatare, and senior management for their unwavering support of Akagera and Nyungwe.



NINETY YEARS TO RENEWAL — For 90 years, Akagera National Park has stood as a testament to Rwanda's commitment to conservation. Established in 1934, Akagera is one of Central Africa's largest protected wetlands and Rwanda's last remaining refuge for savannah-adapted species. In 1975, the park achieved one of its first major conservation milestones: the reintroduction of elephant. A herd of 150 elephant roaming outside the park faced increasing conflict with local communities, prompting a bold translocation effort for its time. With support from the World Wildlife Fund and the Rwandan and Belgian Governments, 26 young elephant were moved into Akagera, laying the foundation for a thriving population and future wildlife reintroductions.

During the 1970s and 1980s Akagera flourished, with strong populations of buffalo, zebra, and lion. Masai giraffe were introduced from Kenya in 1986, and their descendants still roam the park today. In 1997, the park was reduced by two-thirds to accommodate returning refugees after the 1994 genocide. In the years that followed, unchecked illegal hunting and human-wildlife conflict led to the local extinction of lion and rhino populations. In 2009, the Rwandan Government invited African Parks to partner with the Rwanda Development Board in managing Akagera to support its conservation efforts and desire to use tourism as a driver for improving the country's economy. As a result, over the past 15 years the park has experienced a remarkable revival. Lion were returned in 2015, eastern black rhino in 2017 and 2019, and 30 southern white rhino in 2021. Monitoring and research have provided deeper insights into conservation efforts, while surveys, in particular amphibian and reptile surveys, have helped add new species to the park's records. Almost 500 bird species have also been documented, promoting Akagera as an important ornithological site.

Today, Akagera's tourism has become a major generator of revenue for the park, earning 97% of the park's total annual revenue in 2024, with 45% of visitors being Rwandan. Flowing directly back into the park, these funds further stimulate a conservation-led economy through job creation and other sustainable development projects. In addition, 10% of the park's income is contributed to Rwanda's revenue-sharing scheme, which supports local projects, including schools, healthcare, and cooperatives. At 90 years old, Akagera stands as an outstanding model — proof that, with commitment and strong partnerships, even a once-threatened landscape can be restored to its full potential.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION —

Four lion and six elephant were collared, with transmitters also fitted onto seven white and three black rhino, for improved monitoring to enhance conservation efforts. Monthly biodiversity surveys are helping track diversity, abundance and environmental changes, with 31 species of dung beetle and 179 species of butterfly recorded, including four newly verified for the park.

In conservation law enforcement efforts, multiple training programmes were conducted, including topics such as leadership and human rights. A total of 33 new rangers completed the Basic Field Ranger course, bringing the team to 92 rangers. New reporting systems were implemented, including EarthRanger's lion kill monitoring, which will contribute towards knowledge of lion dietary preferences and track impacts on specific herbivore species.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — To further enhance the benefits of a conservation-led economy, eight fishing cooperatives received training in catfish farming and sustainable fishing and processing at Gishanda Fish Farm, while restocking initiatives boosted local fish supplies. Five cooperatives completed a three-month beekeeping programme, resulting in an increase in beehives from 307 to 779 and introducing value-added beeswax products. Business plan training was conducted for five cooperatives, equipping members with strategic planning skills for sustainable growth.

To encourage positive community engagement and awareness of biodiversity conservation, over 18,000 community members were engaged through 207 meetings, while environmental film shows reached 33,000 people. Bringing together approximately 25,000 local people, the Rhino Velo Race, Rhino Foot Race and Lion's Cup football tournament successfully conveyed anti-poaching and community development messages.



179 butterfly species recorded

40,000 indigenous seedlings produced annually

2,000 students sponsored to visit the park

A culture of reading was promoted through a competition for six schools, utilising resources from both school and local libraries and attracting over 3,700 attendees. The event celebrated exceptional readers and storytellers, with winners receiving educational supplies and all schools receiving sports equipment.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — Over US\$4.7 million was earned in total park revenue, of which 97% was through tourism activities. As a result of the Marburg and monkeypox virus outbreaks

in August and September, and Karege Bush Camp being closed for renovation for three months, tourism revenue dropped slightly by 3% compared to 2023. In total, the park welcomed 56,219 visitors.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT —

Five rooms for visiting staff, researchers and guests were added to the Volunteer House. New ranger posts were built at Nyamwashama and Gishanju. A number of eco-friendly initiatives were rolled out, including the introduction of lean cookstoves, operating on agroforestry waste pellets and reducing costs by 50% compared to gas cookers; a new solar hot water system was installed at Gishanda; and an electric vehicle was acquired for testing for tourism activities.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- Receive 70 white rhino as part of the Rhino Rewild programme
- Maintain track record of zero poaching of key species
- Conduct a socio-economic survey to assess Akagera's community impacts
- Achieve 43% occupancy at Karege Bush Camp
- Achieve over US\$5.6 million in gross revenue



Lake Rwanyakizinga is one of ten lakes that form the Akagera wetland, the largest protected wetland in Central Africa
© Scott Ramsay



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY COOPERATIVES — Creating alternative livelihoods through small-scale enterprises remains a major focus in Nyungwe National Park. By establishing community cooperatives, the park is nurturing sustainable resource use while enabling local communities to engage in income-generating activities that stimulate the local economy.

This year, beyond small-scale enterprises, the park integrated community labour into its infrastructure development. The construction of the new park headquarters provided an excellent opportunity for additional employment, with at least 300 community members employed daily throughout the 16-month project. This ensured that the park’s development directly benefitted local families. Additionally, building materials were locally and sustainably sourced, further supporting the regional economy.

In total, 35 community cooperatives received support, with 16 engaged in income generating activities (IGAs) such as pig rearing, fish farming and community-based tourism. Another nine provided employment opportunities through service-related activities, including freelance guiding, porter groups, and casual worker cooperatives. A standout initiative is the mushroom farming project, which launched in November 2023. By February, the first mushroom tubes were produced and by December, over 4,600 kg of mushrooms had been harvested for market — demonstrating the project’s potential to provide a reliable source of income for local communities. In tourism-related cooperatives, the Nyungwe Community Freelance Guides Cooperative is striking. Comprising 27 community guides, including six new guides who joined during the year, its members have been trained in nature interpretation and guiding, enhancing visitor experiences while creating sustainable livelihoods.

To ensure the long-term success of these initiatives, 42 representatives from 14 cooperatives underwent training in financial management, tax compliance, governance and cooperative management. Additionally, five cooperatives were formally registered with the Rwanda Cooperatives Agency (RCA), strengthening their legal and operational standing. With park financial support increasing for projects such as the Cyamudongo

Community Tourism Centre and beekeeping initiatives, collective earnings across all cooperatives reached US\$651,770. Today, the cooperatives include over 1,600 members, benefitting an estimated 6,870 household members engaged in sustainable economic activities. The impact of Nyungwe’s investment in community cooperatives has been far-reaching — encouraging shared responsibility for biodiversity conservation, strengthening local economies and building a conservation-led future.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — A hundred new camera traps were activated to detect elusive species and illegal activities, while EarthRanger was used to collect data on chimpanzee and colobus monkey groups. A chimpanzee population of approximately 256 individuals was recorded. The roosting sites of the Critically Endangered Hill’s horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hilli*) and the Cameroon leaf-nosed bat (*Doryrhina camerunensis*) continue to be monitored in collaboration with Bat Conservation International and the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association.

Ninety-one park staff received training in tracking, data collection, first aid and firefighting, boosting the team’s conservation skills. All conservation law enforcement staff underwent refresher training on a variety of essential skills and topics, including human rights. The decrease in snares removed from the park — from 11,259 in 2023 to 6,831 in 2024 — is attributed to intelligence-driven operations, joint patrols and the recruitment of 92 local eco-rangers, whose focus on community awareness-raising is contributing to decreased pressure on the protected area.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — In addition to the development and involvement of cooperatives in park operations, a highlight was the collaboration between Nyungwe and local communities during firefighting efforts, where over 1,200 people, including army personnel, park staff, local leaders and community members, helped extinguish 21 wildfire cases affecting 25 hectares. Over 25 hectares of fire-affected forest were restored through assisted natural forest regeneration and 93,148 indigenous trees regenerated after fern cutting. Park-supported nurseries propagated over 43,960 seedlings for restoration and agroforestry. Additionally, 31.5 hectares were reforested through collaborative

efforts by park staff, eco-rangers and community members. An estimated 1,291 people living around the park were employed in these efforts.

To further environmental awareness and education, over 18,500 people were reached through awareness meetings, over 1,500 children and local leaders visited the park, and 6,500 students engaged in wildlife clubs. Moreover, US\$2,265 was paid to support five community scholarships in neighbouring technical schools to foster employment opportunities.



~ 250 chimpanzees

1,145 casual jobs created

Over US\$994,000 contributed to tourism revenue sharing scheme

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — A total of 26,594 guests visited Nyungwe, marking a 16% increase from 2023, generating over US\$2,332,900. Of the visitors, 37% were Rwandan and 63% international. Five self-catering campsites were built along the 100 km Nshili-Gisovu Trail and one on Mount Bigugu. Construction of Munazi Lodge, the first park-managed lodge, is progressing well and projected for completion in the first half of 2025.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Nyungwe management moved into new facilities at Gisakura, a purpose-built head office strategically positioned near central areas to improve management, operations and logistics. Nyungwe Management Company Ltd (NMC) was recognised for the third consecutive year as the best taxpayer in Nyamasheke District and ranked third in the Western Province by the Rwanda Revenue Authority, contributing US\$994,226 to the national fiscus. This amount excludes contributions to the Tourism Revenue Sharing scheme, which funds priority community projects, and the Special Guarantee Fund, which compensates for wildlife-related damages.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

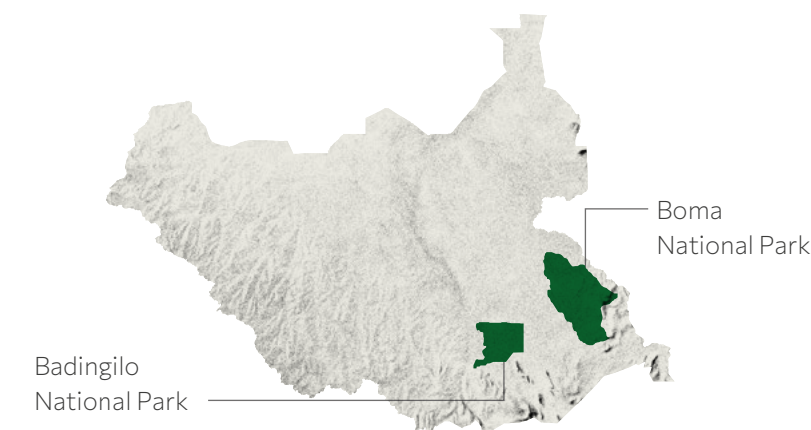
- ▶ Conduct a park-wide survey to monitor wildlife population trends
- ▶ Ensure 90% ranger patrol coverage
- ▶ Secure 389 skilled local staff to support the Business Plan
- ▶ Achieve a 47% sustainability ratio
- ▶ Enhance visitor experience with new and improved products



The construction of Nyungwe’s new headquarters provided additional employment to approximately 300 community members
© Gael Ruboneka



Approximately six million antelope, including tiang and white-eared kob, annually traverse the Great Nile Migration Landscape, of which Boma and Badingilo form a part
© Marcus Westberg



South Sudan

BADINGILO NATIONAL PARK

8,935 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2022

PARK MANAGER : JOHN VOGEL

MAJOR FUNDERS Anonymous Fund of MCF, Edith McBean, Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), Fondation Segré, Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), Mike Michelson, Rainforest Trust, Wyss Foundation

BOMA NATIONAL PARK

19,757 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2022

PARK MANAGER : JAN FOURIE

MAJOR FUNDERS Anonymous Fund of MCF, Edith McBean, Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), European Union, Fondation Segré, Lion Recovery Fund (LRF), Mike Michelson, Rainforest Trust, Wyss Foundation

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT)



In August 2022, the Government of South Sudan signed a 10-year renewable management agreement with African Parks for Boma and Badingilo national parks and Jonglei Landscape (the proposed extension zones of the two national parks and wildlife corridors), covering an area of over 12 million hectares. With this commitment, the South Sudanese Government has ensured the long-term protection of these vital ecosystems benefitting both people and wildlife. This partnership is facilitated by the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), through the South Sudan Wildlife Service (SSWS), the legal authority under the ministry responsible for wildlife and protected area management in South Sudan. His Excellency Rizik Zakaria Hassan is the Minister of the MWCT.



A LANDSCAPE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION —

The official results of the first comprehensive aerial survey of the Great Nile Migration Landscape (GNML), conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT), with support from The Wilderness Project, were announced in June. The findings confirmed that approximately six million antelope, including tiang and white-eared kob, traverse the landscape — making it the greatest large mammal migration on Earth. Recognising this spectacular natural event highlights the need for large-scale, landscape-level conservation efforts.

Quantifying the Great Nile Migration was a mammoth effort due to the vastness of the area and the sheer number of animals involved. However, technologies like satellite tracking and remote sensing enabled accurate data collection on migration patterns and

habitat usage — complementing the aerial survey results — and are essential for developing effective conservation strategies. Despite its significance, the migration faces serious threats. Satellite data revealed that much of the tiang and white-eared kob range lies outside protected areas, exposing them to unsustainable bushmeat harvesting in Jonglei State during the dry season. There have also been declines in most sedentary species, such as elephant and giraffe, as shown by a comparison with surveys from the 1980s — further highlighting the need for focused conservation efforts.

To address this, it's essential to gain the support of the local communities who have deep cultural traditions and livelihood activities that are heavily reliant on the wildlife and the vast landscape. In 2024, significant progress was made in strengthening relationships with local communities and understanding their resource use. The Tiang Task Force (TTF) was also launched, in collaboration with government and local stakeholders, to combat unsustainable levels of commercial bushmeat harvesting.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — Building on the momentum of the 2023 survey, from March to April, a comprehensive wildlife collaring operation was

conducted in partnership with the MWCT to track and monitor species. This major effort involved collaring 125 animals across 13 species, including migratory antelope, elephant, giraffe, cheetah and lion. In addition, the team successfully tagged 15 vultures (9 white-backed, 4 Rüppell's, 1 white-headed), observing healthy populations of the birds and evidence of breeding activity among hooded vultures.

To enhance aerial survey accuracy, the Conservation and Landscape team developed a vibration-reducing camera mount adapted to measure aircraft motion and altitude, ensuring precise photo-strip data. This automated system replaces human observers, eliminating bias and fatigue; months of testing and refinement created a groundbreaking method for reliable and accurate wildlife monitoring.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Aerial surveys over the year provided valuable insight into the location of communities within the landscape, which will go a long way in supporting collaborative community engagement and conducting stakeholder mapping exercises.

Nine TANGO (Transhumance Engagement Officers) teams were formed, comprising 54 members, who are stationed in the primary migration corridors of pastoralist communities. The teams are effective in reaching remote communities where they raise awareness about conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources, while offering insights into human-wildlife interactions. A key focus has been expanding the role of Community Agents (CAs) who serve as focal points to engage with resident communities, assist in conducting community development activities and strengthen ties between communities and park management. While engaging with communities, the CAs monitor activities such as illegal harvesting, bushmeat trade, and charcoal production, and to identify threats to the landscape. In Maruwa (Boma), the Community Based Organisation (CBO) aims at encouraging communities to conserve their resources as they will become beneficiaries of other sustainability projects, such as tourism and high-yield agriculture. A total of 30 beekeepers were trained around Badingilo, resulting in 750 kg of honey harvested in 2024.

In education development efforts, schools were established in Nyat (Boma) and Lafon (Badingilo). Badingilo has become an educational hub, hosting 350 students to learn about conservation and wildlife, while 40 young men from Lafon were enrolled with the South Sudan Boy Scout Association.



10 schools supported

~ 6 million antelope migrate across the landscape

54 TANGO team members recruited in Boma

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — The concept of community-supported tourism has been well received in discussions with the local leaders of Jebel Boma and Vertet County. These conversations have laid the groundwork for a potential pilot tourism project in Maruwa. With a tourism development plan in progress, land was selected by the community for the construction of a tourist camp. The area was chosen for its natural beauty, access to the migratory herds and variety of activities which can be experienced.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT —

Important infrastructure advancements were made in Badingilo, including upgraded accommodation and a centralised control room that streamlines operations previously managed remotely from Juba. In Boma, community team bases were established in locations like Otallo, Maruwa, Pibor, and Kassangor, which serve as hubs for engaging local communities and supporting collaborative conservation initiatives.

The implementation of Starlink and VSAT technology revolutionised connectivity, essential for effective park management. Key positions were recruited to build up teams in both parks.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

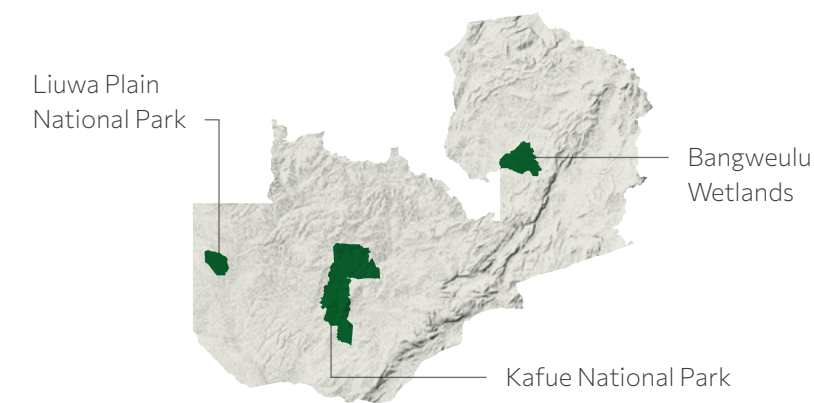
- ▶ Conduct comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercises and initiate socio-economic baseline assessments
- ▶ Boma: Enhance tourism through a community-supported pilot project
- ▶ Boma: Create and implement a transhumance engagement strategy
- ▶ Badingilo: Develop Headquarters and key strategic bases in Jonglei and eastern Equatoria.
- ▶ Badingilo: Initiate land-use plan and establish necessary institutional structures



Collaring Nubian giraffe in Badingilo National Park has helped to better inform conservation efforts for the Critically Endangered species
© Marcus Westberg



The Kafue River, Zambia, is a lifeline for the national park, providing for livelihoods and tourism opportunities
© Marcus Westberg



Zambia

BANGWEULU WETLANDS

6,645 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2008

PARK MANAGER : ANDREW CHOMBA

MAJOR FUNDER Stichting African Horizon

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

KAFUE NATIONAL PARK

22,480 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2022

PARK MANAGER : CRAIG REID

MAJOR FUNDERS Dutch Postcode Lottery, Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF), Swedish Postcode Lottery Foundation, The Wildcat Foundation, US DoS Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), Wyss Foundation

PARTNER Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK

3,369 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2003

PARK MANAGER : DEON JOUBERT

MAJOR FUNDERS Stichting Natura Africae, WWF Belgium

PARTNERS Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE)

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)



The Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), under the Ministry of Tourism, is focused on protecting and conserving Zambia's wildlife estates while enhancing the quality of life among communities and maintaining healthy biodiversity. African Parks commenced its work with the DNPW in Liuwa Plain National Park in 2003 and in the Bangweulu Wetlands in 2008, and in Kafue National Park 2022. Mr Dominic L. Chiinda is the Director of the DPNW.



WOMEN AND YOUTH LEADING CHANGE — For women and youth, the partnership with Bangweulu Wetlands has brought significant change. With the park’s support of Safe Motherhood Action Groups (SMAGs) since 2022, the women of the village of Chiundaponde have received training and resources to encourage and support antenatal care and safe childbirth. Thanks to SMAG members, cultural barriers are being overcome by engaging local leaders to gain trust in women’s healthcare services so that, gradually, more women are attending health clinics for check-ups, leading to a considerable decline in maternal and neonatal deaths. Over a thousand women received antenatal care in 2024, compared to some 700 in the previous year. Complementing this initiative, in 2024 the community began a chicken-rearing project that provided 35 families with chicks, feed and training,

creating sustainable income and improving household nutrition for over 450 people.

Simultaneously, youth groups in the Bangweulu Game Management Area are driving change in reproductive health amongst their peers. Led by Senior Reproductive Health Supervisor, Grenda Ng’andwe, education programmes in schools and community centres have empowered nearly 4,000 youths from surrounding communities with knowledge to make choices that help improve their reproductive health. The initiatives have increased contraceptive use, reduced teenage pregnancies and empowered students to prioritise education. The passionate young leaders are also running conservation initiatives — including reforestation, clean-up campaigns and environmental awareness drives — consolidating the deep link between community wellbeing and ecological sustainability. Despite challenges such as resource limitations, creative solutions like mobile health outreach and local partnerships have extended the reach of these initiatives.

The success of both the women’s empowerment and youth-led programmes demonstrates the impact of holistic, community-driven change, creating a healthier,

economically resilient future for both the Bangweulu Wetlands community and the landscape.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — Although illegal hunting confiscations decreased from 1,144 kg in 2023 to 676 kg in 2024, it remains an ongoing challenge and the focus on additional strategies to reduce demand for illegal wildlife products through enhanced awareness and community engagement continued. As part of these efforts, conservation law enforcement capacity increased, with 36 rangers completing the Advanced Ranger Course (ARC) and 79 receiving Human Rights for Conservation and Law Enforcement (HRCLE) training. Aerial operations increased significantly, with 89 flights recorded, allowing for more effective monitoring of remote regions. This was complemented by 56 camera traps to improve wildlife monitoring in remote and inaccessible areas. In conservation management planning, Community Resource Boards (CRBs), Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), and Bangweulu Wetlands representatives all participated in an animal quota setting workshop, to ensure that sustainable wildlife management strategies align with local needs and ecological requirements.

Four tracking collars were deployed for shoebill, increasing data collection on the birds’ movements and behaviour. Of the 21 shoebill nests recorded, 16 were guarded under the community-based Shoebill Nest Protection Programme, helping to better understand the species’ reproductive success and providing financial incentives for fishermen to appreciate shoebill remaining in the area. Only five chicks were rehabilitated in the year, less than the target goal of eight, due to a marked increase in threats, including illegal nest destruction and fire. In response, the programme has incorporated the support of traditional leaders to emphasise shoebill conservation to the wider community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Five community meetings across the chiefdoms laid the groundwork for Community Resource Board elections. For the first time in Bangweulu, three women were elected as Chairpersons of CRBs, filling 40% of senior positions in Chitambo Chiefdom and achieving equal representation in Bwalya Mponda and Nsamba Chiefdoms.

Ongoing community engagement saw an increase in the number of people reached in community meetings and awareness-raising efforts by 17% and by 53% respectively, focusing attention on challenges like swamp fires and illegal hunting. Grievance mechanism training in Kopa and Kabinga equipped 120 stakeholders with conflict-resolution skills.



3 women leading Community Boards

1,648 households received drought relief food

US\$102,000 in shared revenue distributed

Education saw substantial growth, with schools supported increasing to 18 in 2024, and 39 scholarships awarded. Twelve wildlife clubs continued engaging with students in environmental education. Collaboration with spiritual leaders reinforced conservation support, leading to a collective pledge to protect the endangered shoebill, while a field trip to Chikuni to see the Shoebill Programme encouraged the youth to take an active role in conservation.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — Nkondo Camp focused on elevating the guest experience, with renovations and maintenance completed to deliver a

more comfortable stay for visitors. Preparations at Nsobe and Shoebill camps ensured that they were fully equipped and ready for the tourism season. Although the park saw an increase in local visitors, the decrease in international tourists led to a 21% reduction in tourism revenue overall, to US\$284,563.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Aiming to maintain 150 km of all-weather roads, 262 km of operational roads were constructed. This significant expansion in road infrastructure greatly improves access to remote areas for wildlife monitoring, patrolling and emergency response, as well as tourism operations.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Gather elephant data to inform the Elephant Management Plan
- ▶ Enhance conservation law enforcement strategy for compliance
- ▶ Refine Community Development Plan with stakeholder mapping and Engagement Plan
- ▶ Develop a Land Use Plan and key management plans
- ▶ Further develop and promote tourism products



Listed as Vulnerable, only a few hundred shoebill exist in Bangweulu Wetlands where a comprehensive Shoebill Management Plan supports active protection of these iconic birds
© Mana Meadows



RESTORING A LEGACY — In partnership with the Zambian Government and local communities, and with funding from the Dutch Postcode Lottery Dream Fund, Kafue lechwe (*Kobus leche kafuensis*) were successfully reintroduced to Kafue National Park in June and July. This semi-aquatic antelope, endemic to the Kafue Flats, had been locally extinct in the park for decades, with its population in decline across its limited range.

With an extension in the planning period, more time was afforded for deeper engagement with traditional leadership and community leaders,

ensuring strong community support for the initiative. On the day of the release, the antelope were welcomed by civic leaders from Itezhi-Tezhi district, all six traditional leaders in the areas, as well as other partners and stakeholders, all of whom showed great excitement to see the return of this iconic species. A total of 401 individuals were introduced to the park — 85 males and 316 females — a good sex ratio for population growth. This was a dramatic increase from the planned 250, a testament to the benefit of effective planning and strong partnerships.

Restoring lechwe benefits both the park and local communities: increasing prey density for predators; enhancing nutrient cycling in aquatic habitats; aiding fire management and boosting tourism around Lake Itezhi-Tezhi. The success of the translocation has helped build management capacity for future translocations, including wildebeest and zebra from Liuwa Plain National Park and a potential black rhino reintroduction. The return of the Kafue lechwe is a significant step in restoring the integrity of the Zambezian ecoregion.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — Kafue conducted a collaring operation, fitting 25 elephant and three buffalo with tracking collars to enhance monitoring efforts. One collared bull elephant meandered an astonishing 2,000 km, through the KAZA corridor into Simalaha Community Conservancy in the south and across the Zambezi River to Namibia, before safely returning to Zambia and Kafue a few weeks later, emphasising the critical need for transboundary conservation efforts.

Basic Field Ranger training was undertaken by 50 young people from local communities who joined the now 290-strong conservation law enforcement team. The introduction of a K9 Unit marked a major milestone, greatly improving the team's ability to track suspects, locate snares and detect concealed contraband. Patrol teams covered a total of 147,900 km, the largest patrol coverage in the history of the park.

Progress was made in the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Lake Itezhi-Tezhi fisheries industry. The fisheries have an estimated gross value of US\$4 million per annum, providing sustainable livelihoods for the local community.



401 Kafue lechwe reintroduced

85% increase in visitor numbers since 2022

US\$1.8 million park revenue generated – highest ever

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — Kafue had the highest visitor numbers in its history with 23,828 guests, of which 39% were Zambian. The park generated revenues of US\$1,8 million in 2024, a 25% year-on-year increase from 2023 and the highest amount ever generated.

Kafue was promoted as a destination at several travel trade shows including the World Travel Market and Africa's Eden Shows in Lusaka and Swakopmund. Approval was received from the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment to begin a Fire Carbon Feasibility Study, a potentially significant revenue stream for the park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — Access to clean water emerged as a critical need amid Zambia's worst drought in 40 years. In response, six boreholes were installed in key Game Management Areas, reducing human-wildlife conflict by providing alternative water sources for people and livestock. The Kafue Bursary Scheme was launched, providing 45 scholarships to primary and secondary school students, while 18 young adults received vocational training bursaries.

The Environmental and Social Due Diligence (ESDD) that was conducted across the Greater Kafue Ecosystem (GKE) resulted in the development of an Environmental and Social Action Plan for Kafue National Park. This was coupled with the rollout of the GKE grievance mechanism in all the surrounding communities. Over 60 community meetings were supported, ensuring local voices were heard in decision-making, while 45 radio programmes spread conservation awareness via two community radio stations. Community governance also strengthened, with elections and training held for seven new Community Resource Boards (CRBs), and an exchange visit for 28 CRB leaders to Bangweulu and North Luangwa.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — Construction of staff housing and water reticulation at Kaingu and Lufupa Forward Operating Bases continued. Other infrastructure included a new K9 kennel centre, a kitchen, hangar and accommodation blocks at park HQ, as well as upgrades at three main gates and the five airstrips across the park.

The Commercial Development Plan and Fire Management Planning process began, and the General Management Plan was completed. The Predator Management Plan was also finalised last year. These plans lay the foundation for effective conservation management, vital to the park's success.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Complete construction of the operations outpost in Lufupa Sector in preparation for rhino introduction
- ▶ Finalise conservation law enforcement strategy
- ▶ Translocate 1,600 wildebeest and approximately 150 zebra from Liuwa Plain National Park
- ▶ Increase annual visitor numbers by 20%
- ▶ Complete and implement Fisheries Management Plan



Traditional fishing practices are supported around Kafue National Park to help continue sustaining local livelihoods
© Marcus Westberg



20 YEARS OF COLLABORATION — This year marked 20 years of partnership between African Parks, the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE), and Zambia's Department of National Parks & Wildlife (DNPW) in conserving Liuwa Plain National Park. King Lewanika laid the foundation for Liuwa's conservation, embedding its significance in Lozi culture over 150 years ago. However, decades of unsustainable resource use and the spillover from Angola's civil war in the 1970s led to its decline. In the early 2000s, His Majesty the Litunga, Lubosi Imwiko II, decided to bring in additional support and expertise to assist in conserving this important landscape, ensuring its future once more. Over two decades later, this

partnership has stood the test of time, with over 12,000 people living inside Liuwa, making it a prime example for human-wildlife coexistence.

Through reintroductions and focused conservation efforts, Liuwa now supports a healthy lion pride of 16 individuals – after just one lioness existed 20 years ago. Growing populations of wildebeest, as well as thriving eland and buffalo, are also indicators of a stable system. The conservation law enforcement team has grown to 83 well-trained, locally employed rangers patrolling by vehicle, motorbike, boat, and on foot. Employment has expanded – 97% of the 147 full-time staff members are Zambian with 40 locally employed seasonal workers, making the park the region's largest employer. Investments in infrastructure, including housing, offices and tourism lodges, have bolstered park operations.

Ongoing community engagement and integration is supporting conservation of the landscape while also ensuring that the traditional rights holders can continue accessing natural resources sustainably.

Education, employment, tourism revenue, and economic initiatives are benefitting thousands of community members every year. Traditional fishing practices are supported and regulated to allow for lasting fish stocks, while beekeeping projects provide alternative incomes.

However, challenges do persist. The 2023/2024 drought devastated livelihoods, leading to food insecurity and a rise in illegal activities such as snaring. In response, food aid distribution to 1,500 vulnerable households began in November. Human-wildlife conflict remains a concern, with a mitigation fund providing relief and prevention tools. Yet, despite these challenges, ongoing collaboration with communities and strong partnerships with the BRE and DNPW have remained central to Liuwa's ongoing efforts, ensuring people and wildlife can continue to coexist in a shared landscape for generations to come.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION — Liuwa's wild dog population split into two distinct packs during the year. While no pups were successfully raised, the formation of the two packs offers new opportunities for breeding success in the future. The fluctuating dynamics within the wild dog population remain an area of close observation as their long-term viability in the park is assessed.

To bolster conservation law enforcement capacity, 13 new scouts completed the Basic Field Ranger course and have since joined Liuwa's ranger team, helping to increase patrols by 40% compared to 2023.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — This year saw the completion of an Environmental and Social Due Diligence assessment, providing critical insights into community dynamics in and around Liuwa Plain. The findings will inform future strategies to enhance both conservation and sustainable community development.

Education support remained a key priority, with 269 scholarships awarded to students in local communities – a 17% increase from 2023. Nearly 700 children visited the park on environmental education programmes and 775 children are members of wildlife clubs.

Two major economic empowerment initiatives were successfully transitioned to full community ownership in 2024: At year-end the Kalabo Agrovet shop was formally transferred to community management. Now in its third year, the shop is an established business that is a supplier of agricultural equipment, seeds and veterinary products, promoting sustainable farming methods and supporting livelihoods in the area. A Hino truck was officially handed over to the Community Resource Board (CRB) to aid transport needs and serve as an additional income stream. Over 4,500 farmers are benefitting from conservation agriculture, while 2,624 are beneficiaries of enterprise development.



**12,500
school
textbooks
sponsored**

**1,500
households
received drought
relief aid**

**20 years of
partnership**

PARK REVENUE GENERATION — The newly built Liuwa Camp, which opened in December 2023, operated successfully outside the seasonal flood period. Revenue generation remained strong, with a slight increase from 2023, totalling US\$316,704. The majority of this was

derived from tourism activities, while enterprise initiatives contributed US\$23,000. In an exciting new partnership with a prominent player in the safari industry, Ker & Downey Zambia was awarded the concession to operate King Lewanika Lodge.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT — The Sibika self-catering units were successfully relocated and rebuilt at the Kwale and Katoyana community campsites, increasing accommodation options for guests while reinforcing community-led tourism initiatives. The park's Project Management Unit (PMU) reached full staffing capacity this year, with all key positions filled. Upgrades were also undertaken at the technical staff village, improving living conditions for personnel.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Translocate 1,600 wildebeest and approximately 150 zebra from Liuwa to Kafue National Park
- ▶ Establish a K9 unit and a predator monitoring team for human-predator conflict prevention
- ▶ Hand over mango and honey enterprise projects to the CRB
- ▶ Sign renewed 20-year mandate, with an increased footprint in the upper west Zambezi Game Management area



Wildebeest numbers have continued to grow in Liuwa Plain National Park with an estimated 45,000 now recorded
© Marcus Westberg



Zimbabwe

MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK

1,477 KM² | AFRICAN PARKS PROJECT SINCE 2019

PARK MANAGER : MICHAEL PELHAM

MAJOR FUNDERS Elephant Crisis Fund (ECF),
Stichting Natura Africae, Wyss Foundation

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA)



The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (PWMA) operates under the Parks and Wildlife Act [Chapter 20:14] of 2001, managing about five million hectares of land, or 13% of Zimbabwe's total land area. Mandated with the protection, management, and administration of Zimbabwe's wildlife, the Authority signed a 20-year mandate with African Parks for Matusadona National Park in 2019. Mr Fulton Mangwanya is the current Director General of the PWMA.

Matusadona National Park's popularity as a tourist destination is growing, with 57% of its total visitor number in 2024 being Zimbabwean
© Melanie van Zyl



Matusadona National Park
Zimbabwe

BUILDING RESILIENCE AMID CLIMATE IMPACTS

— In a region where drought has caused devastating crop failures, Matusadona National Park has been able to provide critical support. Beginning in August, the park’s drought relief scheme delivered daily nutritious meals to 1,353 primary school children, growing to 2,841 by year end. This project not only offered vital nutritional support, but also incentivised children to remain in school. In partnership with the district’s Social Welfare Department, 169 of the most vulnerable families received monthly food hampers. Additionally, daily breakfast and lunch for park staff — 74% of whom come from local communities — enabled them to direct their full wages toward supporting their families. These efforts made a significant impact on local livelihoods while strengthening community support for the park.

Creating another buffer against climate-induced challenges, Matusadona’s recovery of aquatic systems further highlights the vital connection between healthy ecosystems and community resilience. The revival of fish stocks since an active management approach has been implemented has enhanced food security for local fishing communities. Indigenous bream and other slow-maturing species, previously scarce, are returning in abundance. Fishing communities now report record catches, far surpassing those of five years ago. By fostering both ecosystem health and community wellbeing, Matusadona National Park is proving that conservation can be a lifeline in the face of climate challenges.

To ensure that the park endures as a stronghold for wildlife, a focus on sustainable park revenue generation remains a priority for a conservation-led economy which can then continue supporting communities. Despite the persistent drought in Zimbabwe, affecting thousands of people and wildlife, Matusadona National Park remained a premier destination, with tourist numbers on the rise. The launch of the Tashinga cottages has boosted domestic tourism, while regional and international self-drive visitors have steadily increased. This

revenue for the park, together with the help of donors, means Matusadona can continue to be a critical refuge for biodiversity, which is under ever increasing pressure, and a vital support system for neighbouring communities.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION —

Buffalo, sable and elephant that transit between the park and neighbouring community wildlife areas were collared, providing a better understanding of wildlife habitat-use outside the park. This will help identify the few remaining wildlife corridors, as well as inform human-wildlife conflict mitigation. This data complements existing elephant monitoring data that directly informed the Nyaminyami Rural District Land Use Plan, supporting the planned designation of protected corridors and community-owned conservancies. Seven white-backed vultures were tagged to help alert the conservation law enforcement team to the location of large animal carcasses in the Sebungwe Region, which in turn helps in understanding the health of ecosystems.



7
vultures
tagged

567 km
of illegal
fishing nets
collected

28
scholarships
provided

Wildlife Clubs increased from 13 to 15, engaging 450 young members, while over 200 children and adults visited the park, creating awareness about biodiversity conservation through hands-on experiences, including the piloting of virtual reality education tools. The two community fishing camps closest to the park yielded 327 tonnes of fish legally caught through sustainable practices. To refine monitoring and promote responsible harvesting, a new receipt system was implemented, requiring fishers to document both their sales and catches, supporting local livelihoods while helping ensure the sustainable use of Lake Kariba’s fish stocks.

PARK REVENUE GENERATION —

Together with tourism partners and park-managed accommodation, which included the refurbished main campsite, new cottages and bush camp, over 8,500 visitors were welcomed to Matusadona, of which 57% were Zimbabwean. A total of \$US438,373 was generated in revenue — a remarkable 414% growth over the past five years.

PARK MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT —

In January, a two-day flash flood struck Matusadona, causing over \$US100,000 worth of damage to the road network. The roads team rapidly restored access, repairing 128 km of community roads and 489 km of park roads. The team constructed four professionally designed and permanently engineered river crossings and opened 19 km of new roads in the park.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

- ▶ Conduct sable, eland and roan antelope translocation
- ▶ Collar elephant and lion to expand understanding of wildlife connectivity and corridors
- ▶ Nyaminyami Land Use Plan ratification for implementation
- ▶ Enhance conservation law enforcement technology

As part of the Temminck’s ground pangolin research and monitoring project, six pangolins were released into the park in 2024 in partnership with the Tikki Hywood Foundation, ZimParks, and the local Rural District Council. Four of these pangolins had been rescued from wildlife traffickers, while two were voluntarily surrendered by community members, indicating that the project’s educational message is spreading.

An additional 34 newly trained rangers were employed from neighbouring chiefdoms, bringing the total number of rangers to 74. This team is further supported by a specialised four-person information gathering unit whose operations are instrumental in disrupting illegal wildlife trade networks in northern Zimbabwe.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT — The launch of an extensive grievance mechanism across 12 wards adjacent to the park created new channels for dialogue and learning, while the recruitment of 16 community monitors dramatically improved human-wildlife conflict (HWC) responses. The installation of electric-fenced nutrition gardens and solar-powered boreholes has safeguarded 160 families from crop



Environmental education in schools around Matusadona National Park remains a top priority, while Wildlife Clubs engaged 450 students in 2024
© Donal Boyd

Rhino Rewild

PROJECT MANAGER : DONOVAN JOOSTE

MAJOR FUNDERS Pershing Square Foundation, Rathmann Family Foundation, The Rob Walton Foundation

In 2023, African Parks acquired the world’s largest captive-bred southern white rhino breeding operation in South Africa’s North West Province with the objective of rewilding its 2,000 rhino over ten years to well-managed and secure protected areas across Africa. The overall vision for the initiative, known as Rhino Rewild, is that, through the establishment of new, and supplementation of existing, strategic populations, the future of the species will be secured, and that their presence will contribute to healthy ecosystems that benefit biodiversity.

A THREE-PHASE PROJECT

THE RESCUE PHASE – began with the purchase and ongoing management of the farm, and will continue until all rhino are rewilded. The immediate priorities included enhanced security and infrastructure upgrades. Staff housing was upgraded and expanded and a tented camp, for donors and service providers assisting with capture, was completed. Feeding strategies were optimised as supplementary feed quality is crucial to the rhinos’ wellbeing; the confirmation of a new manufacturer led to noticeable improvements in their body condition. Since taking over the farm, an overall growth rate of 7.8% was achieved, up from 1.5% in 2023.

THE REWILD PHASE – will translocate the rhino to safe, well-managed protected areas across the continent, with the aim of translocating an average of 300 individuals per year, in line with the Rhino Rewild Framework, which was developed with the continent’s pre-eminent rhino specialists. This goal was, however, surpassed in the first year of operation, with a total of 376 rhino moved from the facility in 2024. Of this number, 216 were successfully translocated to six different locations within South Africa and 153 staged in a reserve to build their immunity to trypanosomiasis and other parasitic diseases, ahead of their translocation to final sites in 2025. Of the South African locations, one area received rhino after a period of the species’ local extinction, while five received rhino to reinforce existing population numbers.



**376 rhino
rewilded**

**7.8% net rhino
population
growth rate**

**55% reduction in
orphan intake**

The first translocation saw 40 rhino moved 700 km to the 29,866 ha Munywana Conservancy in Zululand, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, in a collaboration of community and private landowners that included the Makhasa Community Trust, the Mngobokazi Community Trust and &Beyond Phinda and ZUKA Private Game Reserves. The introduction of the rhino strengthens the existing population, enhances genetic diversity, supports future translocations and bolsters tourism, a key economic driver for local communities.

In another move that boosted an existing population, 120 rhino were translocated to the member reserves of the Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Foundation (GKEPF) in Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, South Africa. The GKEPF, established in 2016, is an alliance of nine private reserves, one provincial park and one national park that services the conservation needs of the western and eastern buffers of the Kruger National Park and the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier National Park.

A third group was successfully translocated to Dinokeng Game Reserve in north-eastern Gauteng Province, South Africa. Dinokeng, a 19,000 ha conservation area within the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, is a unique collaboration between 180 landowners, including the Gauteng Provincial Government.

THE RENEW PHASE – will verify that, in line with the Rhino Rewild Framework, all recipient locations are “rhino ready” before any translocation; they are effectively managed and continue to monitor and safeguard the rhino, using operational conservation law enforcement measures, to give them the best chance of success.

It is thanks to the encouraging and willing support of our donors and partners, including South Africa’s Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, North West Parks and Tourism Board, Conservation Solutions and Wildscapes, that this initiative is able to achieve its goals.

OBJECTIVES

- Rewild at least 300 rhino per year
- Maintain a growth rate of 5%
- Continue partnering with neighbouring government for rhino translocations



Rhino orphan intakes decreased by 55%, thanks to effective management and overall improved nutrition
© Marcus Westberg

Although Iona is visited by mostly the more adventurous of travellers, many local tourists visit to explore the famed Namib Desert
© Afonso VazPinto

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Scaling Through Partnerships

INCUBATION PROGRAMME

African Parks' objective is to manage 30 protected areas by 2030, and support an additional ten through the Incubation Programme, designed to help scale conservation impact on the continent. The programme focuses on supporting other organisations who share our ambition of effectively managing protected areas, where we assist in developing management agreements with governments and share our governance frameworks, business structures, and best practices.

In 2024, the programme continued to provide consistent strategic and technical support, offering financial assistance through grant-making, and enhancing collaboration and knowledge sharing between African Parks and partner teams. We welcomed two new incubation partners: the Enjojo Foundation, supporting its efforts in South Sudan's Lantoto National Park, and Chewore Conservation Trust, responsible for the Chewore South Safari Area, Zimbabwe. This year, through generous support from the Rob Walton Foundation, we were able to support several incubator partners with direct grants, disbursing a total of US\$1.6 million.

In July, a mutual decision was made to terminate the incubation partnership with Wildlife Africa Conservation, which had been managing Niger's W National Park, a decision driven by deteriorating security conditions and political challenges that impacted management operations. Meanwhile, rising tensions with the Government of Niger and the suspension of funding have created uncertainty regarding Noé's continued management of the Termit and Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve. Finally, in Malawi, slow progress by the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust in establishing the required management agreement and governance structures has necessitated further due diligence in 2025.

The programme's five partners manage seven protected areas covering over 10 million hectares across Africa.

Noé: This international non-profit organisation aims to conserve biodiversity through field-based programmes targeting endangered species and protected areas, contributing to local economies and livelihoods, education and health, improving resilience to climate

change, and encouraging behavioural change through environmental sensitisation. With its "franchise", Parcs de Noé, it has managed Termit and Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve in Niger since 2018, Binder-Léré Faunal Reserve in Chad since 2019 and Conkouati-Douli National Park in the Congo since 2021. With fully staffed park management units and operational research, it is scaling its operational and financial capacity to better understand the areas under its management.

Forgotten Parks Foundation, DRC: The non-profit foundation entered into a public-private partnership (PPP) agreement with the DRC Government to rehabilitate and manage the Upemba National Park in 2017, signing an amendment providing for a long-term management mandate in 2024. The Upemba team reviewed its management structure, implemented efficient systems, and gradually increased its capacity inside the park to manage serious challenges such as Mai-Mai rebels and illegal mining.

Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust, Malawi: This Trust works towards the sustainable use of natural resources to benefit the local communities of Mount Mulanje Biosphere Reserve and to protect and restore the mountain's unique biodiversity. The Trust is currently transitioning from a technical advisory role to the Department of Forestry to potentially commence a long-term management mandate, and is gradually restructuring to fit this specific purpose.

Enjojo Foundation, South Sudan: Enjojo works in partnership with the Government of South Sudan and local communities through a conservation model that fosters peace, supports sustainable community livelihoods and enterprises, and enables socio-economic stability. Lantoto National Park – part of the transboundary ecosystem with Garamba National Park in DRC – faces threats linked to countrywide socio-political instability, as well as local illegal exploitation of natural resources, including mining. Enjojo initiated the foundations for a park management unit, engaging local administrative authorities in support of long-term park management.

Chewore Conservation Trust (CCT), Zimbabwe: CCT has a mission to revitalise and conserve Zimbabwe's unique ecosystems. Initially focused on Chewore South in the Zambezi Valley, a 200,000-hectare area co-managed with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, the Trust is working to see that those living alongside Chewore's wildlife are its primary beneficiaries.

Dried mango production, using mangoes that grow prolifically in the region, is becoming a promising enterprise initiative for local communities living in Liuwa Plain National Park, Zambia
© Marcus Westberg

Catalysts For Conservation

STRATEGIC FUNDING PARTNERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our core group of funders whose steadfast commitment – through largely flexible, multi-year contributions of over US\$500,000 annually – has been instrumental to our work. We are equally grateful to several strategic private funders who, though they choose to remain anonymous, have shown immense generosity. Thanks to the incredible and mostly unrestricted support of these valued partners, we have been able to significantly expand our efforts in protected area management across Africa.



Bel Group – A family company and a major player in the food industry through portions of dairy, fruit and plant-based products, and one of the world leaders in branded cheeses, the Bel Group's corporate mission is to provide everyone with healthier and more sustainable food. Bel is also committed to fighting climate change and is working towards reducing its net greenhouse gas emissions, including contributing towards increasing the capacities of carbon sinks through practices such as the preservation of ecosystems. As such, Bel is partnering with African Parks to fund the Chinko Conservation Area through the purchase of VCS carbon credits that were issued for the first time in 2023.



The Government of Benin – The Government made a significant five-year commitment of US\$6 million 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 conserve, manage, and develop this unique landscape. In addition, the Government of Benin has been instrumental in expanding our conservation footprint into W National Park through a funding commitment of US\$6 million. Its contribution has been critical in attracting other private and institutional funding to support the management of Pendjari and W National Park in Benin, which represents a significant portion of the largest intact wild ecosystem in West Africa.

Bill Pope

Bill Pope – In 2024, Bill visited three parks under African Parks' management: Garamba in the DRC, and Boma and Badingilo in South Sudan. During his visit, he witnessed the breathtaking Great Nile Migration, the largest land mammal migration on the planet. His continued support helps safeguard these extraordinary landscapes and all protected areas under African Parks' portfolio across the continent. As a strategic partner, he has made generous multi-year commitments, reinforcing his dedication to conservation.

The Dhanam Foundation

The Dhanam Foundation – A US private foundation, Dhanam supports nature and wildlife conservation efforts and various initiatives aimed at increasing opportunities to access quality education, including leadership, career development, and scholarship programmes. In 2024, the Foundation continued its commitment to African Parks by supporting the restoration of Siniaka Minia National Park in Chad. It also sustained its support for our dugong conservation efforts in Bazaruto Archipelago National Park in Mozambique.

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 multi-year 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 – Donna and Marvin are extraordinary advocates for conservation and wildlife protection, deeply committed to saving elephant and other large species threatened by poaching. Their partnership with African Parks began in 2012, and they have played a pivotal role in supporting anti-poaching efforts across Central Africa. In 2024, they further reinforced this commitment with targeted support for Garamba National Park in DRC. Beyond their strategic contributions to African Parks, the Schwartzes also provided critical funding to support families affected by violence in W National Park, Benin. Marvin serves on the board of the African Parks Foundation of America.



In Chinko, CAR, unarmed TANGO guards use their cultural and regional knowledge to peacefully negotiate the needs of pastoralists, while encouraging respect of the boundaries that protect Chinko's biodiversity
© Irene Galera



Above: Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) in Akagera National Park, the last remaining refuge for savannah-adapted species in Rwanda
© Hein Myers

Edith McBean

Edith McBean – Edith is a long-time advocate for conservation with a deep passion for species protection and habitat preservation. She has dedicated over three decades to advancing these critical causes. Since 2013, she has played a vital role in supporting African Parks. In 2024, her continued strategic partner-level contribution toward safeguarding the Great Migration in South Sudan and supporting community development efforts in the region exemplifies her unwavering commitment to preserving this remarkable landscape and the surrounding communities. Edith serves on the board of the African Parks Foundation of America.



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 147 non-governmental organisations. Since its founding, the Lottery has

dispensed over €8 billion. Over the last five years, African Parks has received €4.5 million in unrestricted funding. We were also the recipient, together with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Peace Parks, of €16.9 million for a Dreamfund project in 2020 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, Zambia.



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 by the most trusted organisations globally, working to secure a future for elephant in Africa. Since 2015, the ECF has not only contributed more than \$6.6 million to African Parks, but also expertise on best practice 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, driving joint conservation and development goals in Central, East and West Africa. Since 2005, this partnership has fostered stability in fragile regions attracting additional funding and new partners. The EU's support has been critical in managing large landscapes, enhancing safety and security for both people and wildlife, and creating opportunities in green sectors. Together, we remain committed to advancing our shared vision for a sustainable future.



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 the management of Pendjari National Park since 2017. From 2019 to 2020, FSOA provided 85% of funding to implement a Priority Action Plan to secure W National Park, Benin. The Foundation also contributed significantly to the funding of the first three-month plan for the management of W National Park by the African Parks mandate. 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 – Established in 1996, the Swiss foundation is committed to helping safeguard 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\$9 million to support a range of parks. In 2024, Fondation Segré assisted African Parks in Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, Chad, and the Boma-Badingilo landscape in South Sudan.



Good Energies Foundation – A Swiss-based philanthropic organisation funding initiatives that work to reverse the impact of climate change in two key areas: access to clean energy and conservation of tropical forests. Good Energies is part of Porticus, which manages the private philanthropic endeavours founded by the Brenninkmeijer family business owners with the aim to help create a just and sustainable future where human dignity flourishes. The partnership between Good Energies and African Parks revolves around harmonising forest conservation and community development in Chinko Conservation Area, Central African Republic.

Gregory and Jennifer Alexander

Gregory and Jennifer Alexander – Gregory and Jennifer Alexander make conservation investments to address the declining biological diversity of life on Earth. They support 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, they have provided unrestricted support to African Parks, while also investing in African Parks' Incubator Programme, which assists selected NGOs with the implementation of the African Parks model.



The Hempel Foundation – The Danish Hempel Foundation is a shareholder of the Hempel Group and a dedicated philanthropic organisation. The Foundation is committed to making a difference by empowering children to learn, and by addressing the biodiversity crisis, focusing on three crucial areas: sustaining specific key biodiversity areas, the development of new sources of finance for biodiversity conservation, and strengthening collective efforts. The Hempel Foundation has supported African Parks since 2022, starting with Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda, followed by Boma-Badingilo in South Sudan in 2023 and Gambella National Park, Ethiopia, from 2024.



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 wildlife conservation projects, as well as operational and security improvements, at Rwanda's Akagera

National Park. In 2021, the Foundation took the lead in supporting the historic translocation of 30 white rhino to Akagera National Park. Continuing its commitment, in 2024, the Foundation provided ongoing support to safeguard Akagera's flourishing rhino population.



Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF) – LLF is an international fund, established by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as an independent charitable foundation under German law. Its financial resources stem from public and private sources. In addition to funding from the German Government through KfW Development Bank, NORAD and the French Agence Française de Développement, each site needs to have a private match-funding partner. LLF addresses the biodiversity financing gap by sourcing significant and sustained long-term funding from both public and private donors, thus contributing to conserving biodiversity within a 30x30 framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Two protected areas managed by African Parks are among the pilot sites receiving funding from LLF: Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo and Iona National Park in Angola.



LGT Venture Philanthropy (LGT VP) – LGT VP is an independent charitable foundation established in 2007 with teams in Switzerland, Sub-Saharan Africa and India. The Foundation strives to improve the quality of life of people facing disadvantages, contribute to healthy ecosystems, and build resilient, inclusive and prosperous communities. The multi-year partnership with African Parks centres on advancing the urgent global mission of protecting 30% of the Earth by 2030 to prevent irreversible biodiversity loss, while simultaneously providing sustainable livelihoods to communities living in and around protected areas.



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 over US\$5.4 million 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

***Below:** Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve, Chad, is a water-rich desert landscape and home to a diversity of species, such as this black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) © Kyle De Nobrega*



***Above:** In Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, Mozambique, socio-economic initiatives are improving the livelihoods of people, while nurturing a growing constituency for conservation © Tate Drucker*

65,000 km² wilderness that has immense potential for lion recovery.

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 €25 million 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 2024, the Fund contributed €1.5 million to African Parks.

Mike and Georgia Michelson

Mike and Georgia Michelson – Mike and Georgia were introduced to African Parks in 2024 and made a multi-year commitment to support our conservation efforts in South Sudan, helping to conserve the Great Nile Migration and the region's vast landscapes for the benefit of biodiversity and wildlife. Their generous support enables African Parks to expand our work in the region and collaborate with local communities on the sustainable management of

their land and natural resources. Committed to advancing conservation at scale, Mike looks forward to visiting some of the parks we manage in 2025.



Paul G. Allen Family Foundation – Founded in 1988 by philanthropists

Jody Allen and the late Paul G. Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, the Foundation works to enhance the arts and culture experience, mobilise young people to drive change, and advance science and technology solutions that address wildlife conservation, ocean health and climate change. The Foundation also funds cutting-edge research in all areas of bioscience through the Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group. In 2024, the Foundation committed its support to African Parks' eDNA pilot, advancing the use of Molecular Ecological Network Analysis (MENA) to quantify and monitor changes in ecosystem structure, composition, function, and intactness. This pioneering initiative is designed to assess the ecological integrity of protected areas, enhancing conservation decision-making and contributing to global biodiversity targets. Piloted across diverse biomes, the project is establishing key indicators of ecological integrity in



Above: Education efforts continued around W National Park, Benin, with over 800 children across 20 schools receiving educational materials and over 4,500 children in 119 schools benefitting from environmental education © Marcus Westberg

restored and conserved ecosystems. In its first year, over 5,500 samples were collected across five parks – Zakouma, Odzala-Kokoua, Akagera, Iona, and Kafue – laying the foundation for scalable, science-driven tracking of conservation impacts.



People's Postcode Lottery –

Since 2015, African Parks has received more than £11 million, awarded by Postcode Planet Trust, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery. This unrestricted funding is helping African Parks protect wildlife and habitats in conservation areas.



Pershing Square Philanthropies (PSP) – PSP supports innovative leaders solving humanity's big societal, environmental, and health challenges.

PSP made a commitment to support African Parks' Rhino Rewild initiative, aimed at rescuing and rewilding over 2,000 southern white rhino. This leadership gift has provided strong operational and security for long-term impact, helping to build capacity and ensure the success of this historic conservation effort.



RAINFOREST TRUST

Rainforest Trust – For over 30 years, Rainforest Trust, a US-based non-profit, has

been dedicated to supporting the creation and expansion of protected and conserved areas worldwide. Focusing on regions critical for threatened biodiversity and large wilderness areas, Rainforest Trust, in partnership with donors, local NGOs, and communities, is working to establish formal conservation across an area of over 100 million acres. In 2021, Rainforest Trust partnered with African Parks in a collaborative effort to bolster the legal framework of the conservation area to create Chinko National Park in the Central African Republic (CAR). This initiative serves as a catalyst for broader regional conservation endeavours. Building on this success, Rainforest Trust entered into a second partnership with African Parks in 2024 to facilitate the restoration and expansion of Boma and Badingilo national parks in South Sudan to safeguard the remarkable antelope migration. African Parks is grateful for Rainforest Trust's pivotal role in contributing to a combined commitment of US\$11 million.



Rathmann Family Foundation –

The Rathmann Family Foundation leverages the talents, experience, and passion of its members and communities by supporting individuals and organisations dedicated to making a meaningful impact. Since 2015, the Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of African Parks, continuously expanding its commitment. In 2024, the Foundation made a multi-year investment in Rhino Rewild, strengthening our efforts to rewild over 2,000 southern white rhino to well-managed protected areas across Africa.

Rob Walton Foundation

The Rob Walton Foundation (RWF)

– RWF supports ambitious projects, partners and programmes to foster a planet where people and nature thrive. With the passion of its founder, RWF works with urgency and an earnest belief that it will take all of us to reach global conservation goals, protect biodiversity, and create opportunity for communities. Rob Walton has been an invaluable partner to African Parks since 2003, providing support to safeguard the long-term health of protected areas. In 2021, RWF made a transformational US\$100 million five-year commitment, the largest endowment gift in African Parks' history. Portions of the Foundation's annual contributions have supported various parks within our portfolio, including Chinko, Ennedi, and Liwonde, as well as sparked matching grants to Iona and Odzala-Kokoua, in conjunction with the Legacy Landscapes Fund.

Moreover, RWF has made pivotal commitments to support the development of the African Parks Conservation Academy, advance the reach and effectiveness of the Incubation Programme, and help launch the Rhino Rewild effort to rescue and rewild over 2,000 southern white rhino. These efforts reflect the Foundation's unwavering dedication to nurturing conservation leadership and building capacity for long-term impact.



Stichting African Horizon –

African Horizon's mission is to support nature conservation and protected areas in Africa. The multi-year partnership with African Parks focuses on Bangweulu Wetlands in Zambia, enabling projects that safeguard the biodiversity of this unique landscape, while at the same time providing benefits to over 50,000 people living in the Wetlands who are in urgent need of sustainable livelihoods.



Stichting Natura Africae –

A charitable foundation established in 2017 by Dutch entrepreneur Jan Verhagen, 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 conservation of an ecosystem's wildlife. The Foundation provided €4.25 million in 2024, supporting park operations in Liuwa Plain, Odzala-Kokoua, Iona, Ennedi, and a special drought relief programme in Matusadona. The grant also provided catalytic funding to strengthen African Parks' community development work, in particular related to education.



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) –

The Agency has been implementing the Central Africa Regional Programme for the Environment (CARPE), an important effort to conserve the Congo Basin's ecosystem, assisting governments and local communities to work together to sustainably manage natural resources and make long-term plans for forest land use. With a commitment of US\$27 million over the last eight years (2016-2024), USAID has been providing support to African Parks to improve protected area management and wildlife conservation in the Garamba Complex and the Chinko Conservation Area within the Mbomou-Uele border region, straddling the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR), and to promote sustainable livelihoods among households inside and on the periphery of these protected areas. Apart from a myriad conservation and sustainable livelihood impacts 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 Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) –

INL advances security, stability, and the rule of law, prerequisites for sustainable economic development and conservation of natural resources. Since 2017, INL has partnered with African Parks on critical law enforcement support in protected areas, enhancing the professionalisation and effectiveness of rangers across Africa. While standardised

operational capacity transcends all protected areas under African Parks’ management, 10 protected areas have received direct support in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic, Benin, Malawi and Zambia. INL’s support has led to the development of leadership and core training infrastructure, enables air surveillance, improves the welfare of rangers and canines, enhances technology for communication, wildlife monitoring and information management, and advances national and regional collaboration with other security and conservation partners. Evidence management training and support of judicial systems have also contributed to notable increases in wildlife crime convictions. These interventions not only safeguard wildlife, but also contribute to increased security of neighbouring communities and regional stability.



The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – The USFWS operates to conserve and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. Since its initial partnership with African Parks in 2013, USFWS has

consistently provided support to bolster our conservation endeavours in key protected areas across Central and West Africa. In 2024, USFWS continued its commitment by supporting the management and conservation of Odzala-Kokoua (Republic of Congo) and Zakouma (Chad), as well as backing elephant conservation initiatives in Chinko (CAR), and Pendjari and W national parks in Benin.



The Wildcat Foundation – A private philanthropic foundation dedicated to the long-term conservation of endangered wildlife and wild places in Africa, the Wildcat Foundation supports innovative approaches that disrupt traditional wildlife conservation paradigms, with a focus on comprehensive training, equipment, and technology for rangers. Since first partnering with African Parks in 2014, the Foundation has remained a steadfast supporter, investing in eight parks across seven countries. This commitment was championed by the late David Bonderman, who we lost in 2024, whose visionary leadership and deep

Below: Kafue National Park’s rivers and floodplains are home to some 4,000 hippo © Marcus Westberg



Above: Collaring elephant in Boma and Badingilo national parks, South Sudan, enables accurate data collection on migration patterns – complementing aerial survey efforts © Marcus Westberg

dedication to conservation left an enduring impact. His legacy through the Wildcat Foundation has strengthened conservation efforts across Africa, ensuring the continued safeguarding of critical ecosystems. In 2024, Wildcat continued its vital support for the development and implementation of conservation law enforcement strategies in Garamba National Park in DRC and Kafue National Park in Zambia.



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 Belgium became a strategic funding partner in 2017, supporting the Malawi parks and Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia.



The Wyss Foundation – The Wyss 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 in Rwanda, followed by a significant investment in Malawi’s Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. In 2017, the Foundation made a ground-breaking commitment of US\$65 million to provide ongoing support for Akagera and the Malawi parks, along with start-up funding for five new parks. This enabled the addition of Pendjari and W in Benin, Bazaruto Archipelago in Mozambique, Iona in Angola, Matusadona in Zimbabwe and Nyungwe in Rwanda. In 2021, the Foundation furthered its support of African Parks with another extraordinary commitment of US\$108 million, which will provide for the continued support of current Wyss-funded parks, as well as start-up funding for a further five new parks. Three parks recently added to our portfolio – Kafue in Zambia, and Badingilo and Boma in South Sudan – are benefitting from the Wyss Foundation’s latest commitment and five others from renewal commitments: Bazaruto, Pendjari, Majete, Nkhotakota and Liwonde.

Institutional Information

We are ever grateful to our Boards, for their governance, leadership, oversight and financial support. The details of the governance structures are as of 31st December 2024.

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In Remembrance

Each year, we face the sorrow of bidding farewell to valued colleagues and friends, some lost under tragic circumstances. In 2024, we honour each life lost and the vital contribution each made to the African Parks’ mission of conserving landscapes across the continent. Their dedication and impact will not be forgotten. We extend our deepest condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones.

On the night of the 24th of July, five African Parks Rangers were killed in a terrorist attack by an

unidentified armed group not far from the Mékrou River in W National Park, Benin. In the same incident, seven members of the Benin Armed Forces (Forces Armées Béninoises) were also killed. Below, we pay tribute to the brave individuals who were killed in the line of duty:

ABDOUL-MALICK BARASSOUNON joined W National Park in 2020. He was a quiet, self-effacing, and hard-working man.

BASSITH GADO joined W National Park in 2020. He was a highly motivated and diligent worker.

ERIC OKOUMANSOU joined W National Park in 2023. He was committed in his quiet way to the vision of W National Park.

SALOMON GUERA KORA joined W National Park in 2020. He was a conscientious, highly motivated ranger.

SOUMAILA AMANI joined W National Park in 2020. He was a dynamic and innovative team leader.

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

ALBERT MUPANGACHABE joined Bangweulu Wetlands in 2013. He passed away on the 18th of April.

ETIENNE AGELE SEYI joined Garamba National Park in 2018. He passed away on the 9th of May.

CHARLES NGANGOYE joined Odzala National Park in 2016 as a driver. He passed away on the 1st of July.

ALPHONSE KOUAGOU joined Pendjari National Park in 2020. He passed away on the 14th of August.

AL-HAFIS ADIM joined Zakouma National Park in 2014. He passed away on the 13th of November.

WAHABOU BORI SOULEMANE joined W National Park in 2020. He passed away on the 13th of December.

HYACINTHE ALETSA PAGOPI joined Garamba National Park in 2013. He passed away on the 14th of December.

JEAN-VINCENT EYANA joined Odzala National Park in 2019 as a law enforcement manager. He passed away in 2024.



The islands of Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, Mozambique, are inhabited by over 7,000 local people who rely on the marine resources for subsistence and small-scale commercial fishing
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2024 Financial Highlights

2024 was a positive financial year for African Parks. We not only managed to close our biggest ever funding gap at US\$24,8m but we also managed challenging global impacts and special project interventions.

Challenging global impacts included significant inflationary pressure especially on commodities like fuel, spare parts and rations which make up close to 15% of our operating expenditure. Additionally, we had pressure on logistics with the slowdown in global trade. This was especially felt on shipping which was already under pressure due to instability around the Red Sea. This placed a lot of pressure on our imports. To offset this impact, we have been focussing on improving local procurement over the last few years and at 67% of total expenses this has helped us keep the inflation number in check. The other factor that affected many organisations was high interest rates. Since African Parks is not geared, this had almost no direct impact on the organisation except for improved interest earnings on free cash flow.

Our investment into reserves has stood us in good stead again with our cash flows and cash position being positive throughout the year. We were operating on three months’ cash cover throughout. We have estimated that three to five months’ cash cover would be ideal. This would ensure we are not over-invested in reserves, which could result in donor funds not being spent where needed most and not under invested so that our operations suffer from cash flow constraints.

We were unable to completely close the funding gap during 2024 using donor funding only, and we had to resort to a cost reduction exercise. We managed to reduce our operational budgets by US\$4,5m across the parks and HQ. This exercise was based on unfunded activities that could be delayed to 2025.

Basis of preparation

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

At a park level, funding received from grants is only drawn once the expenditure related to that funding has been incurred. Therefore, our income at African Parks Network (APN) has increased by 10% where 4% relates to an increase due to maturing parks in Kafue, Boma, Badingilo and new projects like our Incubator Programme. Close on 2% of our budget has been spent on legal fees due to the Omnia investigation with the remaining 4% relating mainly to inflation.

Grant funding accounted for 80% of the group’s total income at US\$124 million (\$118m – 2023), with the remaining 20% coming from commercial income (17%) and endowment income (3%) respectively. Grant funding is made up of: individual donors and foundations 66% (64% – 2023), institutional funding 20% (21% – 2023), conservation organisations 5% (5% - 2023), lotteries 4% (3% - 2023) and local government funding 3% (2% – 2023).

Endowments have shown strong growth with African Parks Foundation of America (APFA) managing US\$71,2 million (US\$67,2 million – 2023) while still contributing a \$2,85m drawdown. Stichting African Parks Foundation (SAPF) managed €40,6 million (€36,2 million – 2023) while contributing a €1,5 million drawdown. These endowments provide African Parks with unrestricted funding in the form of annual drawdowns that, to a large degree, assist in funding institutional oversight.

Both endowment funds are invested in a mix of equity, bonds and cash according to the funding committee’s investment policy. The endowment fund assets are held on the balance sheets of SAPF and APFA, both foundations being affiliated entities of APN.

APN controls group spending through careful annual budget pre-approval and monitoring processes. Actual spend against these budgets is monitored every month through the monthly management accounts. The total budget approved by the APN Board for operational and commercial expenditure for 2025 was US\$175 million (2024 – US\$144 million).

Of our investment in **CAPEX**, US\$10m was made into “brick and mortar” ensuring that infrastructure in the parks can enable our operations to run as efficiently as possible.

Of the ratios that we keep a close eye on, there were two that stood out in terms of good performance.

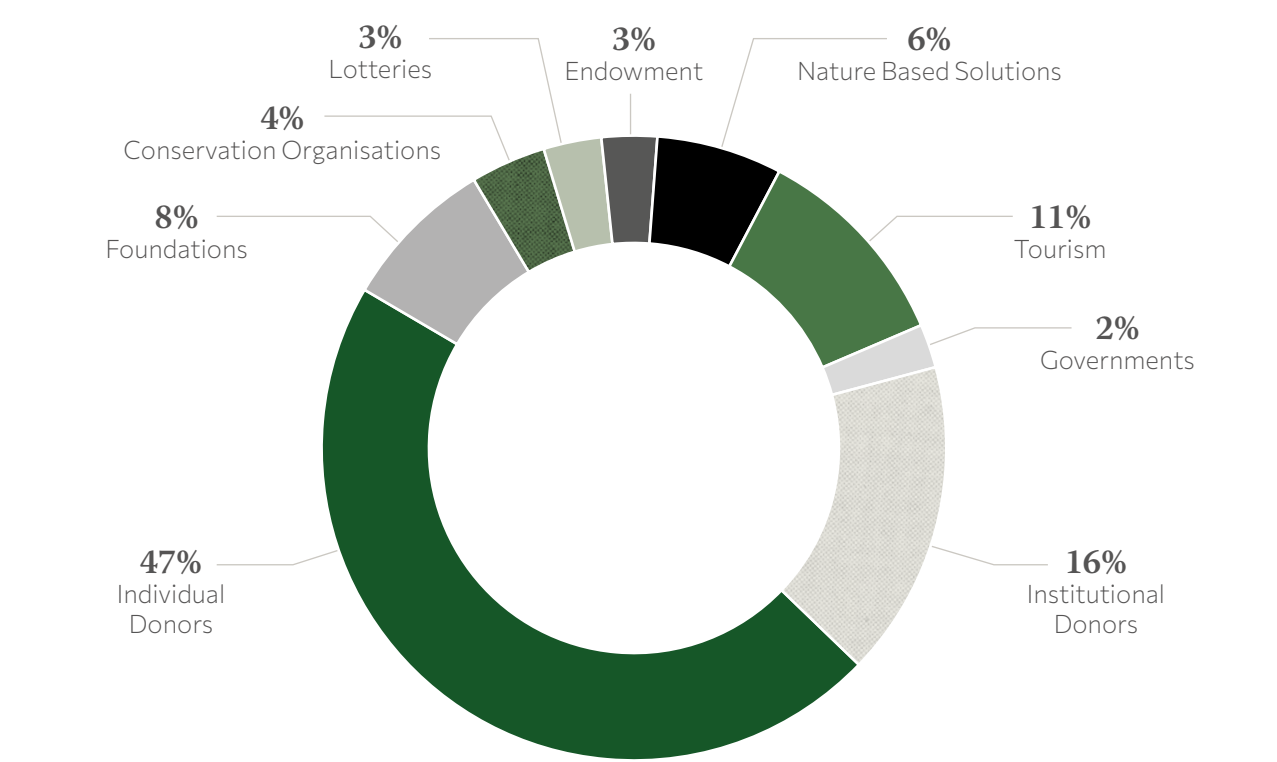
Firstly, the employee cost to total OPEX cost ratio. This improved from 41% in 2023 to 39% in 2024. This ratio is vital as it indicates our ability to leverage our people to perform activities rather than just “drawing a salary”. Secondly is our sustainability ratio. This ratio indicates our ability to use transactional

activities like tourism and carbon to fund the parks we manage. This ratio has improved from 14% in 2023 to 22% in 2024 at a consolidated park level largely due to us receiving our first Carbon funding cash flows. Both these point to improvements in efficiencies and sustainability.

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS VS ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024

	Protected areas US\$'000	Projects Rhino Rewild/ Aouk/ Incubator US\$'000	African Parks Network US\$'000	Total for 2024 US\$'000	Total for 2023 US\$'000
Income	121,584	8,220	21,477	151,281	136,812
Grant funding	93,662	7,715	18,717	120,094	118,050
Gross commercial revenue	13,774	505	2,199	16,478	14,469
Nature based solutions	9,647	-	-	9,647	-
Endowment income	4,200	-	-	4,200	4,293
Other income	301	-	561	862	-
Total spending	121,662	8,333	19,599	149,593	136,031
Operating expenditure	106,876	7,353	17,139	131,367	106,989
Capital expenditure	14,786	980	2,460	18,226	29,133
Net surplus before taxation	(78)	(113)	1,879	1,688	781

2024 TOTAL INCOME UTILISED



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 approving 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 typically 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 the local boards and 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, Denmark, the UK, and the USA. These are: Stichting African Parks Foundation (The Netherlands); African Parks Foundation Switzerland; African Parks Foundation Germany; African Parks Association Denmark; 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

When you donate to African Parks, you are investing in the future of Africa's landscapes, wildlife, and people. Your support not only helps protect vital ecosystems but also strengthens local communities and contributes to global environmental health. Through our work, we are creating safe places where employment opportunities are generated; sustainable enterprises are supported; schools are built; mobile health units are deployed; and conservation-led economies begin to grow. We operate at scale, overseeing every aspect of protected area management with full accountability. Every dollar we receive is directed toward delivering the most immediate and lasting impact. Our vision is ambitious: to conserve 30% of Africa's biodiversity by 2030. With a proven track record and a clear strategy, we believe this goal is within reach. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to a future where nature is safeguarded for generations to come.

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

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