



RESTORATION

NATURE'S RETURN



African Parks
Annual Report 2017



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Three rangers patrol Zakouma in Chad on horseback.
© Kyle de Nobrega

Cover: An Abyssinian roller in Zakouma in Chad.
© Marcus Westberg

Our Portfolio

African Parks is a non-profit conservation organisation, founded in 2000, that takes on the complete responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks and protected areas in partnership with governments and local communities. Our aim is to rehabilitate each park, making them ecologically, socially and financially sustainable long into the future.

At the close of 2017, African Parks had 14 parks under management in nine countries, covering 10.5 million hectares (40,540 square miles) and representing seven of the 11 ecological biomes in Africa. This is the largest and most ecologically diverse amount of land under protection for any one NGO on the continent.



AFRICAN PARKS

Chairman's Message

ROBERT-JAN VAN OGTROP

In July 2017, I was fortunate to be on the ground in Malawi for a few days of the second and final phase of the historic elephant translocation. This project was an extraordinary human undertaking in moving a total of 520 elephants from Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve across 650 km to their new home in Malawi. This successful translocation, which also included 2,000 other animals, was done to help revive Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve – a park that once had over 1,500 elephants but by 2015, after decades of poaching, fewer than 100 remained.

Moving more than 500 of the world's largest land mammals who can weigh up to seven tonnes each by truck, over single-lane highways, bridges and overpasses, through one of Africa's smallest, densest, and poorest countries may sound extreme, even bordering on the absurd. But where these elephants were coming from and where they were headed is a real story of hope and optimism, revival and restoration; it's a story of nature's return.

Standing in Majete Wildlife Reserve with helicopters overhead, radios buzzing, and the ground crew in position with the goal of capturing 150 of the 430 resident elephants, I recalled how just over 10 years ago, not one elephant lived here – they had all been hunted out by the 1990's. And that wasn't all. The last rhino was seen in the 1970's, lions and leopards had long been eradicated, and only a few surviving antelope remained in a forest that was also under threat of being felled for charcoal. Majete had become a wasteland with hardly any employees, no tourists, and the park had generated zero revenue in three consecutive years since 2000. It was a forgotten and lonely place with no perceived value at all.

Or was it? After three years of patient and persuasive negotiations by one of our co-founders, the late Dr. Anthony Hall-Martin, African Parks entered a 25-year agreement with the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife to manage Majete – the first park to fall under our management. Extreme measures were taken, including a series of reintroductions of rhinos, elephants and lions, amounting to a total of 2,900 animals from 14 different species. Ranger teams were trained and well-equipped, laws were enforced and abided by, and community projects were implemented delivering education, healthcare and alternative livelihoods to a once severely underserved community.

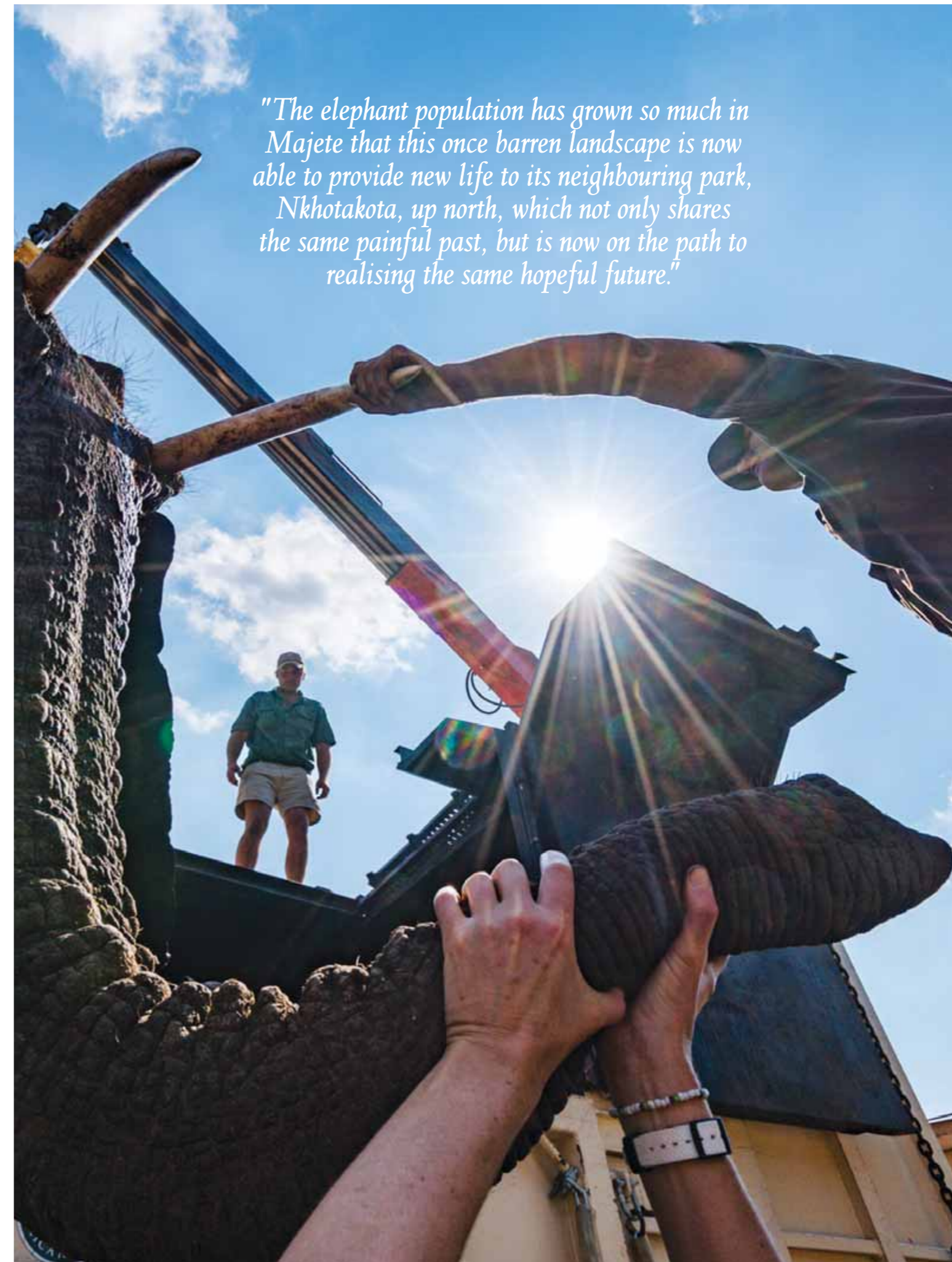
A conservation-led economy started to emerge – and the currency was nature herself. With the return of wildlife, tourists started to visit. With the increase of visitors, additional people needed to be employed. Fast forward 14 years and Majete is now home to over 12,000 animals; more than 9,000 tourists visited the park in 2017, half of whom were Malawian, bringing with them over US\$550,000 which feeds back to the management of Majete and community projects. And in a remarkable sign of community buy-in, and value being realised, not one rhino or elephant has been lost to poaching since 2003. The elephant population has grown so much in Majete that this once barren landscape is now able to provide new life to its neighbouring park, Nkhotakota, up north, which not only shares the same painful past, but is now on the path to realising the same hopeful future.

Our success in Majete no doubt led to the Malawian Government granting us management mandates for both Liwonde and Nkhotakota in 2015, as they were able to peer into a not too distant future and see how a park can be restored, and the benefits derived for wildlife and people alike.

You'll see throughout this report the various levels of restoration that are underway within all the parks under our management, from the extreme species translocations and reintroductions, to the more nuanced impacts effective law enforcement has on providing security for local people. And what we're seeing is that where nature is allowed to return, lies a better existence for all.

We were deeply honoured and grateful to have His Royal Highness Prince Harry join us and strengthen our overall organisation as President of African Parks, and Hansjörg Wyss, who also joined the African Parks Board of Directors. We have experienced some incredible financial and conservation growth over the year and a key focus moving forward is cultivating the right talent, especially within the countries in which we work, to maintain our top quality effective park management. Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the entire African Parks staff for their dedication, passion and hard work.

On behalf of myself and everyone at African Parks, I extend my gratitude to all of those who have supported us over the years, and who continue with us along this journey into a wild and hopeful future.



"The elephant population has grown so much in Majete that this once barren landscape is now able to provide new life to its neighbouring park, Nkhotakota, up north, which not only shares the same painful past, but is now on the path to realising the same hopeful future."

An anesthetised elephant in Majete is gently lifted to be placed in the wake-up crate. © Pete McBride

CEO's Letter & Executive Summary

PETER FEARNHEAD

For too long, good news in conservation has been the absence of bad news. However, this is no longer an acceptable outcome if we are to succeed in conserving Africa's natural heritage. African Parks was founded on the very premise that the remaining intact and wild landscapes of Africa can be successfully conserved, and even those that are degraded can be restored. Fundamentally, we believe that in the wake of conserving and restoring wild landscapes lies a better existence for mankind. And where nature is rehabilitated and restored, so too is our own humanity.

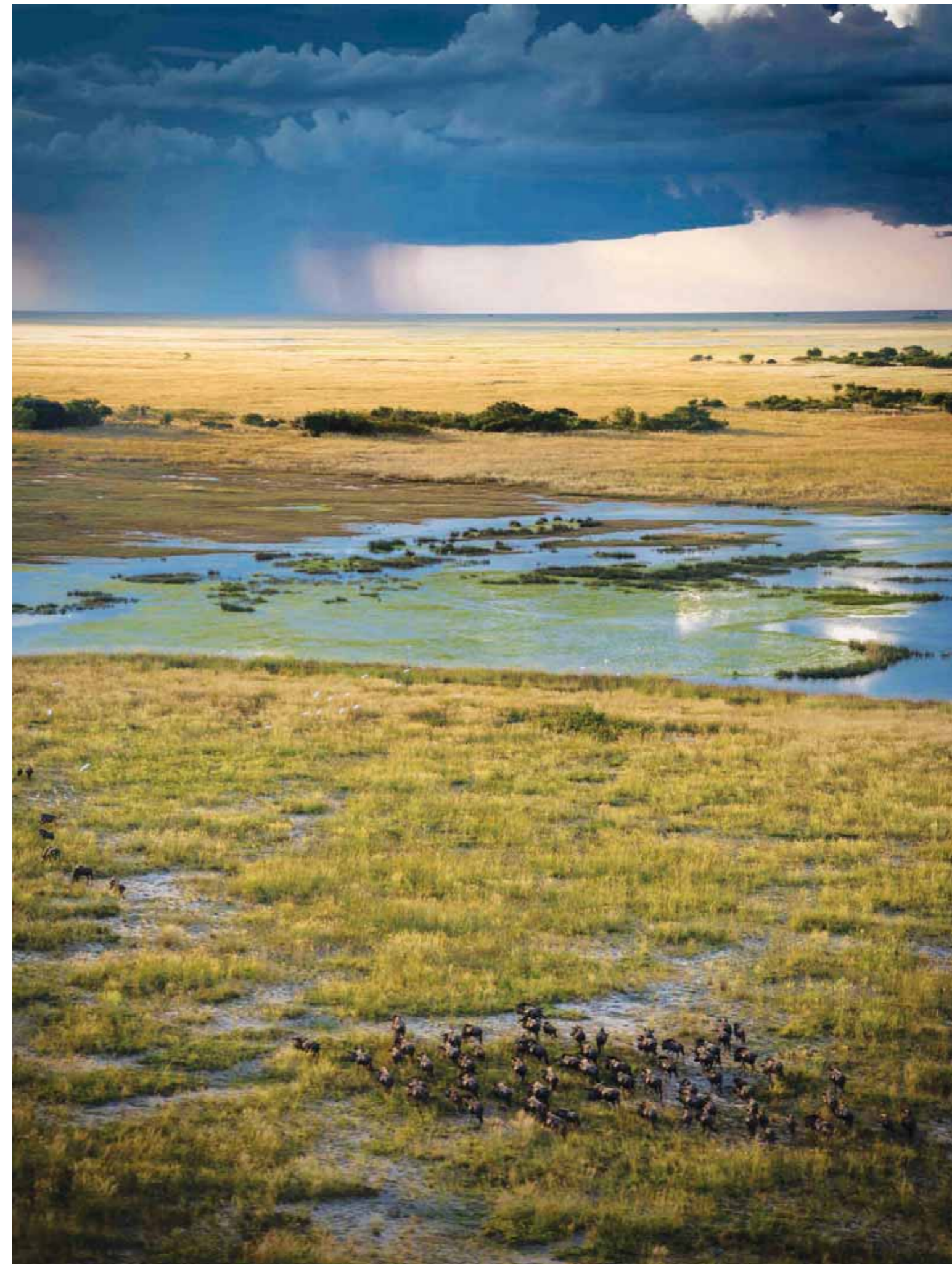
This was so apparent to me as I recently flew over Chinko, a 20,000 km² landscape in the eastern part of the war-torn and ravaged Central African Republic. In 2014, we assumed management of this park which had suffered the brunt of decades of poaching, civil war and brutal ethnic violence. At the time, it was overrun by armed herders and over a hundred thousand cattle during the dry season. With the herders came poaching and poisoning of predators. However, we signed a 50-year mandate, because we saw in this forgotten place possibility. Despite all these threats, remnant populations of almost all the key wildlife species had survived. They were still there, barely persisting, within this unique mixture of tropical forest and savannah that was still remarkably intact. This makes Chinko one of the largest ecosystems with the greatest conservation potential in all of Africa.

In 2014 we saw nothing from the air other than cattle – not one wild animal, and game trails were almost nonexistent. Three years later, in a single flight, we saw buffalo, hartebeest, hippo, waterbuck and bushbuck. Other aerial patrols now have frequent sightings of herds of Lord Derby eland, bongo, roan antelope and even elephants. Lions can be heard calling at night. Life is finding its way back into a core protected area larger than Yellowstone National Park that our Chinko team

has kept free of cattle, creating a sanctuary for nature. 2017 also saw the arrival of over 300 Internally Displaced People finding refuge from militias, who would almost certainly have slaughtered them were it not for Chinko's protection. We have often said that parks can be catalysts for regional stability, safety and security, and Chinko is proof of that.

Ecological restoration is a process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem through active human intervention and action. This is central to the work we do across the continent in every park under our management.

Unfortunately, most remaining wildlife and wild ecosystems today need our direct and active protection, and all too often, extreme interventions to prevent them from disappearing altogether. Wildlife and our last remaining wild places are being destroyed because of human action, or inaction, and because of our own short-term greed.



Liyuwa Plain in Zambia hosts the second largest wildebeest migration on the continent. © Andrew MacDonald

However, the good news is that in as much as the crisis is man-made, so too are the solutions. This is no simple task for issues like climate change and human population growth, but there are immediate actions and solutions to preserving the last of the wild and even bringing back large parts of it. We know that intact ecosystems give rise to a range of benefits including healthy watersheds, clean air, stable weather, carbon sequestration, food security and overall better health for wildlife and people.

Preserving biodiversity and healthy, functioning systems could in fact be the most important solution to the world's most pressing problems, and therefore to our own long-term survival.

African Parks is now responsible for managing 14 protected areas in nine countries, spanning 10.5 million hectares (40,540 square miles) covering seven of the 11 ecological biomes on the continent. This is the largest and most ecologically diverse area under protection by any one conservation organisation on the continent. And it's no small undertaking. We maintain the largest counter-poaching force with 1,000 rangers and more than 5,000 full and part-time staff across the parks. In each one of these protected areas under our management, we are conducting a range of active management interventions – extreme species translocations and reintroductions, providing security to create safer spaces for both humans and wildlife, and

ensuring that local people benefit, thus building constituencies for conservation. Where security is restored and governance established, we see the rise of civility, and the overall return to a better way of life.

2017 was a year of continued impact, including extending our footprint from 10 to 14 parks and surpassing our 2020 goal of reaching 10 million hectares under our responsibility. It was also a year marked by historic translocations and reintroductions.

This is why we wanted our 2017 annual report to focus on restoration – in celebration of the return of these species, and the overall transformation underway in the parks. Each park is on its own unique timeline of rehabilitation and restoration and I am proud to share some of these highlights as well as other key achievements during the year.

2017 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year began with tragedy, with a fatal helicopter crash in Chinko that claimed the lives of David Fine, Sous-Lieutenant Mbenga-Nzongomblo Ponce Pilate, and Shaun Barendsen. This was shattering for everyone, especially the families of the deceased. Our Chinko team, however, persevered valiantly and achieved tremendous success on the ground, keeping 10,000 km² free of cattle all year round, allowing



One of the 18 Eastern black rhinos that was translocated to Akagera, Rwanda. © Warren Smart

remnant wildlife populations an opportunity to return. In July, we found ourselves involved in a humanitarian crisis when over 300 Internally Displaced People (IDPs), mainly women and children, fled to the park for protection. In a country that is ruled by warring political and ethnic factions with no functioning peacekeeping force, these individuals would almost certainly have suffered a cruel death. We established an emergency fund of US\$500,000 to address this crisis, which many of you generously responded to, allowing us to deliver life-saving measures.

As with Chinko, in Garamba we find ourselves being the only stabilising force in the region, and are often the only responders for civilians terrorised by the Lord's Resistance Army and other criminal groups. Garamba has been referred to as ground zero in the elephant poaching wars, and our team continued to hold the line for the remaining 1,200 elephants in the park.

Our revamped law enforcement strategy, which has been supported by the Wildcat Foundation and the EU, resulted in a 50 percent reduction in elephant poaching compared to the previous year.

Thirty-nine elephants were collared in one of the largest elephant collaring exercises in Africa, with a total of 44 collars currently functioning in the park which are

helping us to better protect them from heavily incentivised and armed poachers.

We completed elephant and gorilla surveys in Odzala in 2017, and preliminary results unfortunately indicated a possible decline for both species. While the reduction in numbers could be a function of animal movements, detection, and methodologies, the trends are concerning and could be an indication of poaching. While we will be conducting other surveys to verify our results, our top priority in 2018 will be building capacity to address any escalation in the poaching threat.

In May, we successfully reintroduced 18 black rhinoceroses from South Africa to Akagera National Park in Rwanda, 10 years after they went locally extinct. This was possible because of the vision and commitments made by His Excellency President Paul Kagame and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. After spending seven years securing the park and reducing poaching to an all-time low, Akagera was ready to welcome back this endangered species. Singing children lined the route between Kigali and Akagera, welcoming their return. It was a historic moment, not just for Rwanda but for the species and for conservation around the globe. The park received a record 37,000 tourists for the year, yielding US\$1.6 million in revenue, making this park 75 percent self-sustaining. However, as we experience far too often, there was little time to celebrate. A month after their arrival, our rhinoceros expert Krisztián Gyöngy, who had been researching rhinoceroses for more than five years and who



One of the 520 elephants that was translocated to repopulate Nkhotakota in Malawi. © Frank Weitzer

was instrumental in the Rwanda translocation, was tragically killed by a rhinoceros in Akagera while training rangers.

In August, we completed the historic elephant translocation in Malawi, where 520 elephants in total were successfully moved from Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve and released into Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve. This was an extraordinary undertaking and a remarkable achievement for all three parks.

The elephant translocation received global media recognition, heralding Malawi's commitment and leadership in conserving their elephants, while restoring Nkhotakota ecologically and economically for the benefit of local people.

Tourism is already on the rise in Nkhotakota and by reducing the pressure of Liwonde's elephant population, human-wildlife conflict has dropped dramatically, improving the lives of the surrounding communities. Poaching and snaring have also been brought down to an all-time low, which helped set the stage for two successful cheetah reintroductions carried out in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Two of the females have already had cubs, and we closed the year preparing for the lion reintroduction in early 2018, all part of the vision of restoring predators back to Liwonde.

In Liuwa Plain, we mourned the passing of the legendary Lady Liuwa, the last lioness who roamed the park for years on her own. We undertook several translocations over the years including an additional male in 2017 to help her establish a pride of her own. She died naturally, but not alone, at the extraordinary age of 18, leaving behind a growing pride including four new cubs which were confirmed in December. The long-awaited King Lewanika Lodge opened in the park in April to great acclaim, helping put Liuwa on the international map by being heralded by the New York Times and Travel + Leisure as a top destination in 2018. This will help bring needed visibility and revenue to support the wildlife and the thousands of people for whom Liuwa is home.

2017 was also an excellent year for increasing our conservation footprint to 14 parks. In May, we signed a long-term agreement with the Government of Benin for Pendjari National Park, the largest remaining intact ecosystem in all of West Africa, and a stronghold for the critically endangered West African lion and African elephant. The commitment from the Government of Benin in concluding this mandate so quickly was remarkable, as was their own financial contribution of US\$6 million, which was supplemented by the Wyss Foundation and a groundbreaking US\$7 million partnership with The National Geographic Society. In October, we signed an agreement with the Government of Chad, expanding our mandate to manage 'Greater Zakouma' which includes Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve and other critical corridors for wildlife. The Chadian Government also concluded an MOU with the South African Government, enabling African Parks to translocate a founder population of rhinoceroses to



Around 10,000 people live within Liuwa Plain in Zambia, and depend on the parks' natural resources for their livelihoods. © Mama Meadows

Zakouma, scheduled for May 2018, in large part because of our track record in restoring Zakouma. Survey figures from Zakouma in 2017 put the elephant population at over 527 individuals, indicating a continuing increase.

On 6 December, we signed a 25-year management agreement with the Government of Mozambique to manage Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, the first marine reserve in our portfolio, and a globally recognised seascape.

The addition of these new parks is a testament to the commitment by governments who are determined to arrest the destruction of their natural heritage and to begin the process of restoring it for future generations. It is also a direct result of the transformational, multi-year pledge we received at the start of 2017 from the Wyss Foundation that enabled this expansion.

We are extremely honoured that Mr. Wyss, an exemplary and visionary conservationist, agreed to join our Board of Directors at the close of the year.

During 2017, we concluded a strategic review of African Parks with the pro bono support of McKinsey & Co. This valuable exercise helped shape our perspectives on the

future of the organisation and how we can continue growing our impact on the continent of Africa, the outcome of which was unanimously embraced by all three Boards. Needless to say, there is tremendous momentum that we have every intention to build on in 2018 and beyond. Our successes are the successes of our government partners and funding partners alike. It often strikes me how so few people can make such an incredible impact for the benefit of so many. We could not do this work without you, and I extend my sincere thanks to you all.

Lastly, we could not have ended 2017 any better than announcing that His Royal Highness Prince Harry joined African Parks as our President. He will be working with the Board, myself and our staff to further our mission and advance conservation across the continent. We are extremely fortunate to have someone as committed to conservation as he is working with us, and welcome him to the African Parks family.

The year was filled with great advancements, and truly hopeful signs of gaining ground in conserving Africa's wild landscapes. But we know it is not enough, that we are in a race against time to secure the last of the wild before species are lost forever, and landscapes are beyond restoration. I'd like to end with an inspiring and stirring battle cry from the great scientist, E.O. Wilson, who in *Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life*, a book motivating the need to set aside half the surface of the Earth for nature, writes: "To those who are steering the growth of reserves worldwide, let me make an earnest request: don't stop, just aim a lot higher." And that's exactly what we intend to do.



The famous last lioness, Lady Liuwa, died of natural causes in 2017. © Burrard-Lucas

Restoration

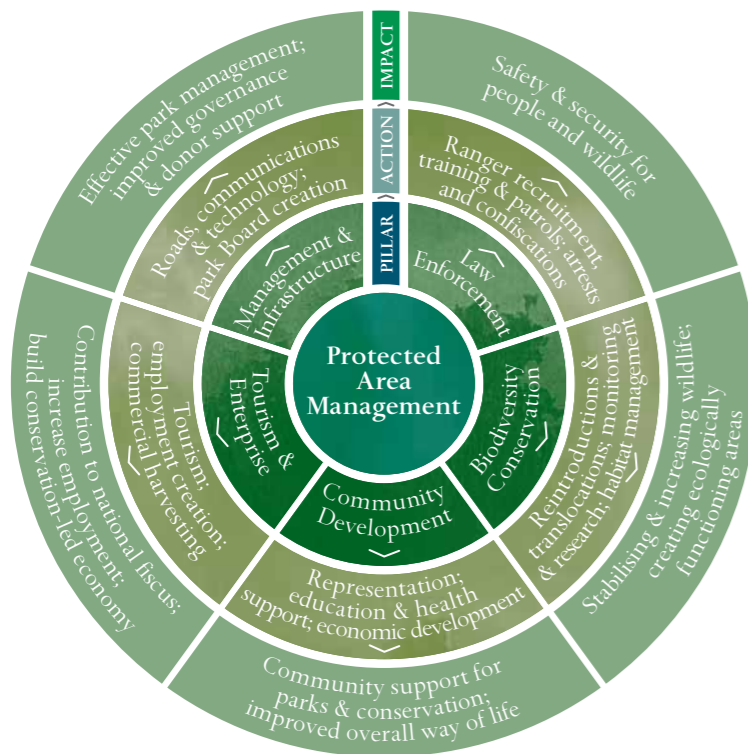
THE ACTION OF RETURNING SOMETHING TO A FORMER CONDITION, PLACE OR OWNER

Ecological restoration is a process of assisting recovery of an ecosystem through active human intervention and action. This is central to the work African Parks does across the continent in every park under our management, from species introductions and translocations, to providing security through our ranger team, the largest anti-poaching force on the continent. Most remaining wildlife and wild ecosystems today need our direct and active protection, and often extreme measures are needed to prevent them from disappearing altogether.

AFRICAN PARKS' MODEL FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

African Parks was founded in 2000, and pioneered the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for protected area management, whereby African Parks maintains the full responsibility and execution of all management functions and is accountable to the government, who is the owner and who determines policy. This is achieved through three approaches: long-term agreements (mandates); putting in place funding solutions (money); and establishing good governance and management, by creating separate legal entities registered in the host country, with a Board representing key stakeholders (management).

Once the mandate, money and management are in place, African Parks implements the below five pillars encompassing a multitude of actions that lead to the restoration of protected areas, and ultimately their long-term sustainability.

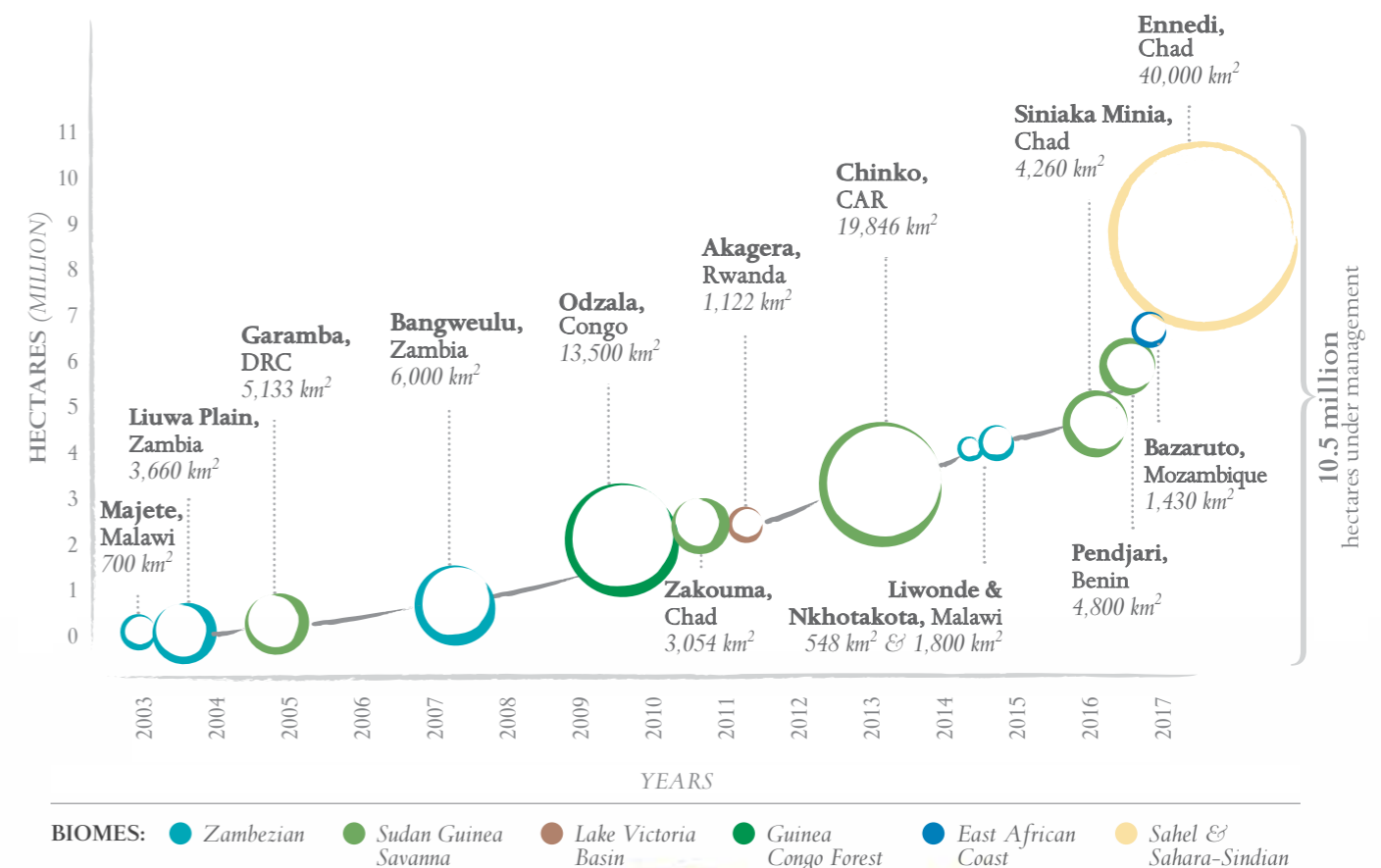


- 1. Law Enforcement:** a foundational component for the long-term sustainability of any park
- 2. Biodiversity Conservation:** the active management of wildlife and their habitats
- 3. Community Development:** the process of building constituencies for conservation through economic development
- 4. Tourism & Enterprise:** well-managed parks contribute directly to local and national economies
- 5. Management & Infrastructure:** which are essential for governance and effective park management

African Parks

AREA UNDER RESTORATION

African Parks manages 14 parks in nine countries, representing seven of the 11 biomes in Africa, amounting to 10.5 million hectares undergoing restoration and being protected. Over the past 14 years, we have built the largest and most ecologically diverse portfolio for any one conservation organisation on the continent. Our goal is to manage 20 parks by 2020.



Our Rangers

A FORCE FOR GOOD

Rangers are the foot soldiers, the boots on the ground, and the first and last line of defence protecting the world's wildlife from all the threats around them. African Parks has an anti-poaching team of 1,000 rangers who make up our law enforcement team, which is the most critical and foundational component for the long-term sustainability of any park. Our rangers are often the only security and stabilising force, not just for the parks, but for entire regions. Their presence and actions are restoring security, creating safe places for both wildlife and people far beyond the parks' boundaries.

1,000

RANGERS

➕ LARGEST COUNTER-POACHING FORCE FOR ANY ONE NGO IN AFRICA

SNARES REMOVED



48,151

wire snares and gin traps

CASE STUDY

CHINKO

19,846 km²

In 2014, African Parks signed a 50-year agreement for Chinko, a park overrun by cattle and poachers. By 2017, 58 rangers and aerial surveillance kept poaching threats and cattle out of a 10,000 km² area. Wildlife has replaced livestock and eland, bongo, forest hogs, lions and elephants are slowly coming back. Chinko employs 450 people and funds salaries for dozens of teachers and nurses who serve the local communities. Weekly markets support the growing workforce, and Chinko remains the largest employer outside of the capital, and one of the only examples of good governance. So much so that 380 IDPs fled to Chinko, seeking refuge and safety. This once lawless landscape now provides education, health care, law enforcement and an economy, while also providing a safe haven for people and wildlife.



10.5M

hectares under protection

PATROL EFFORT

113,159

patrol days in 2017

50%

conviction rate
555 arrests
282 convictions



CONFISCATIONS

54,493

WHAT WAS SEIZED
49.8 tonnes of bushmeat
3.6 tonnes of illegal fish
162 illegal firearms
846 illegal fishing nets

549

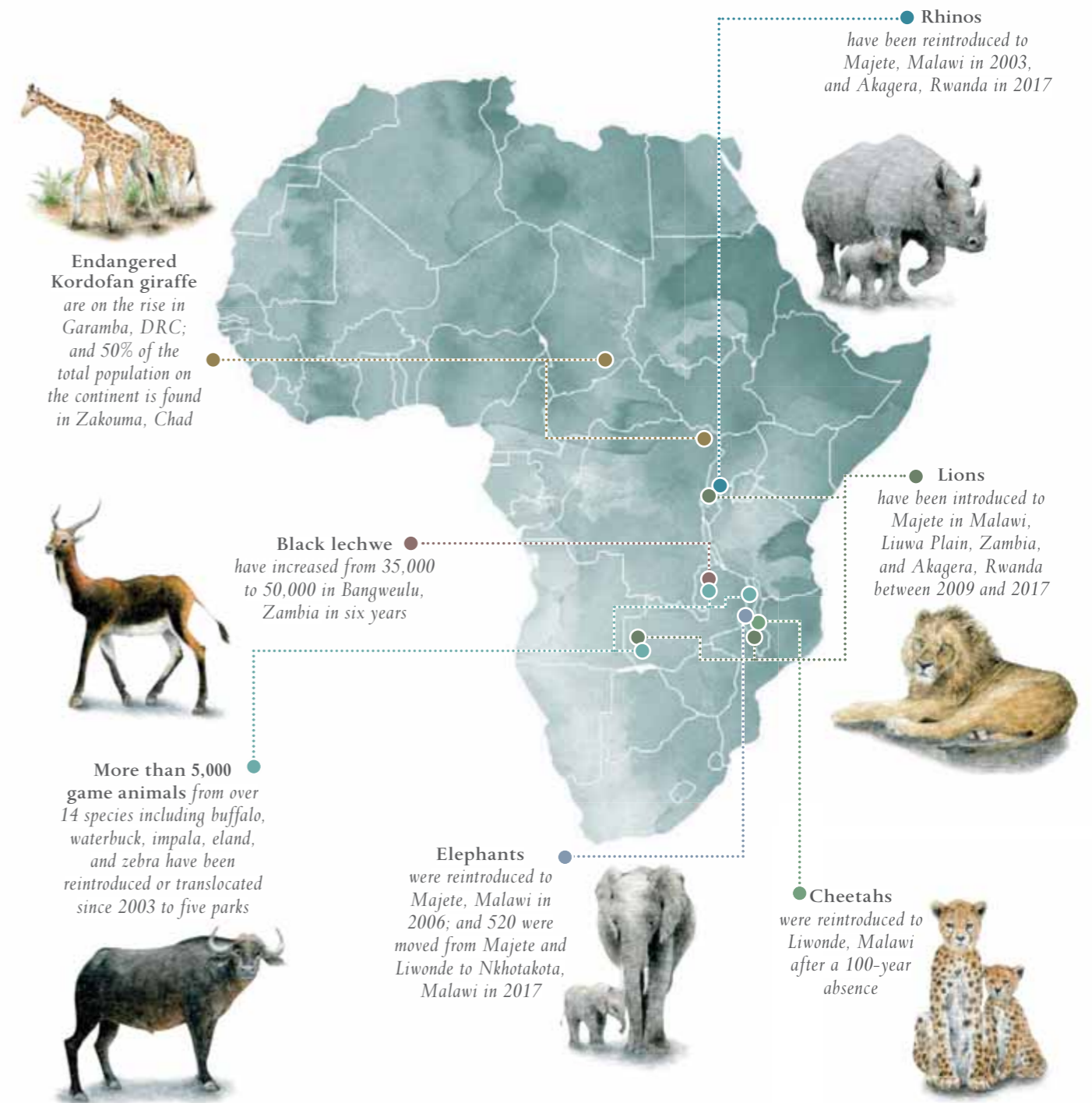
RANGERS TRAINED

TYPE OF TRAINING
243 basic field ranger training
268 advanced tactical training
48 medical training

Biodiversity Conservation

NATURE'S RETURN

African Parks has undertaken a multitude of wildlife reintroductions and translocations over the years, bringing back species that had gone locally extinct, like elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards, and cheetahs, or needed to be supplemented, with numerous game animals, to at least five parks under our management. In other parks, due to our conservation efforts, we are seeing populations of key species like elephants in Zakouma, black lechwe in Bangweulu and giraffe in Garamba, stabilise and increase on their own after years, if not decades, of decline.



Community & Economic Impact

WHERE WILDLIFE THRIVE, PEOPLE THRIVE

Parks are a choice of land use, and therefore local people need to benefit from their existence to value them. African Parks provides a multitude of benefits to surrounding communities including establishing mechanisms where local people can engage with the park and ensure their perspectives are considered in management decisions. We construct schools and provide educational support in the belief that education will always reap long-term societal dividends, and we facilitate enterprise development that enhances sustainable livelihoods. It is these efforts that help to build a critical constituency for conservation, and will ensure the long-term survival of these protected areas.

JOB CREATION
US\$8.5M PAID IN SALARIES

2,032 full-time employees
 3,182 part-time employees

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

76,000

children received access or support for education provided by the parks

65,000 of these received environmental education
 11,000 have access to education
 160 schools and 271 teachers were supported by the parks

more than **2 MILLION** local people benefited from the parks' existence

HEALTHCARE
66,000

people received access to health services provided by the parks



CASE STUDY
GARAMBA, DRC
 5,133 km²

Community engagement and development is central to the long-term sustainability of the park, with a key focus on education, healthcare and alternative livelihoods. Two primary schools and one secondary school were supported during the year, with teachers' salaries supplemented and environmental education support given. More than 280 students visited the park, and more than 1,500 students were exposed to sensitisation activities on the environment and human health issues including hygiene, malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention. Over 9,700 people benefitted from healthcare services provided by Garamba, which included the Nagero Hospital and mobile clinics operating in the park's periphery.

TOURISM
US\$3.9M IN REVENUE
 FROM **75,000** VISITORS
 TO **10** PARKS

CASE STUDY
AKAGERA, RWANDA
 1,122 km²

A record 37,000 tourists visited the park in 2017, half of whom were Rwandan nationals, generating US\$1.6 million in revenue, making Akagera 75% self-sustaining in just seven years.

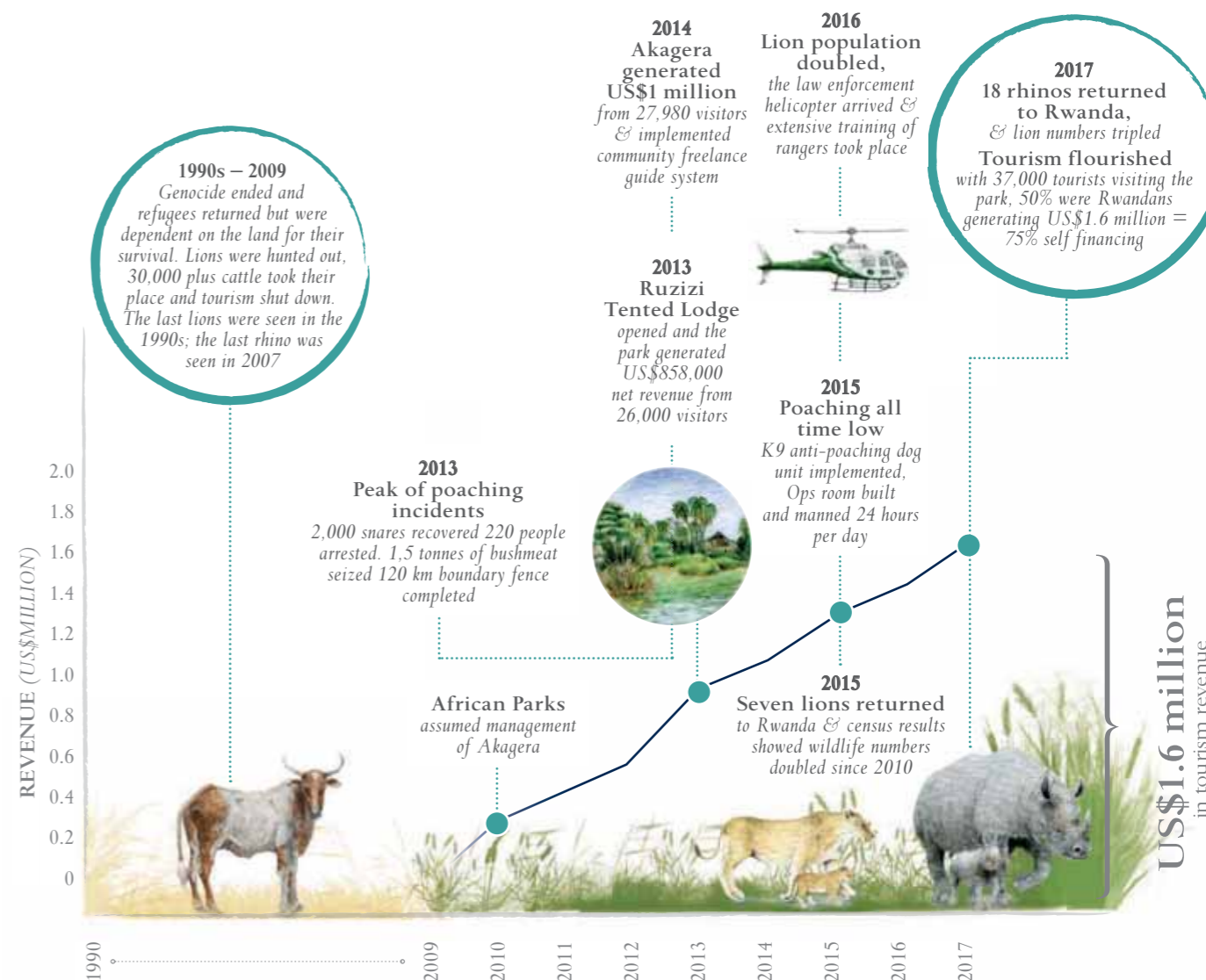


A Story of Revival

AKAGERA CASE STUDY

While peace was finally restored in 1994 after the genocide, Akagera's downward trajectory was just beginning. Refugees returning to Rwanda turned to Akagera's game animals for protein, and to the savannah to feed their tens of thousands of long-horned cattle. Lions were hunted to extinction and the rhinos disappeared. By late 2000, biodiversity was lost, and with it so was employment and tourism, and the park's value was diminished to the point of not existing at all.

But in 2010 African Parks assumed management of Akagera in partnership with the Rwandan Development Board shifting the park's trajectory from one of oblivion to prosperity and hope. Law enforcement was overhauled – snares were removed, arrests made and bushmeat confiscated. Ruzizi Tented Lodge was opened in 2013 immediately improving tourism revenue. In 2015, Karengye Bush Camp also opened, a K-9 anti-poaching dog unit was deployed, seven lions were reintroduced, and tourism revenue surpassed US\$1.2 million. In 2016, the helicopter arrived, poaching was at an all-time low, and preparations were made for the rhino translocation. In 2017, 18 Eastern black rhinos touched-down in the Kigali airport and were delivered back to the park, and to Rwanda, after a 10-year absence. More than 37,000 tourists visited Akagera that year, half of whom were Rwandan nationals, bringing in a record US\$1.6 million making the park 75 percent self-financing in just seven years.



In Remembrance

In 2017, we were devastated by the tragic deaths of David Fine, Mbenga-Nzongomblo Ponce Pilate and Shaun Barendsen in Chinko in the Central African Republic; Joel Merino Ari and Sergeant Gerome Bolimola Afokao in Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Krisztián Gyöngyi in Akagera National Park in Rwanda and Musa Kafanu in Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia. Their passing was an enormous loss of seven committed and passionate individuals, for the world of conservation and for the loved ones they left behind. From everyone at African Parks, we honour their commitment and pay tribute to them and to their families. We are deeply grateful for their bravery, passion and dedication in helping to protect Africa's wildlife, and the people who call these places their home.

African Parks supports all permanent staff in the event of death or accident in the amount of six times their annual salary, in addition to funds raised through campaigns and generous donors in support of surviving family members. Our condolences, grief, and gratitude extend to these brave men in perpetuity, and they will never be forgotten.

Tragically, the following three men passed away on 24 January 2017 in Chinko, in the Central African Republic (CAR) when the helicopter that had been chartered to assist with our law enforcement work, crashed, killing all three on board.



David Fine

David Fine was the Head of Law Enforcement at Chinko in the CAR. After serving 15 years in the French Special Forces, David decided to use his expertise and incredible skill set to focus directly on anti-poaching activities in Central

Africa. David was excited to be working in Chinko and hoped to achieve a higher standard of park management and successfully conserve and restore key wildlife species and bring stability to the region. He left behind one young child.



Sous-Lieutenant Mbenga-Nzongomblo Ponce Pilate

Sous-Lieutenant Mbenga-Nzongomblo Ponce Pilate was the Assistant Law Enforcement Manager in Chinko from March 2016, when he was sent from the CAR Ministry of

Defense to support Chinko's conservation efforts. Highly driven and eager to learn he tirelessly worked with Chinko's management team to build up a law enforcement team from scratch. He was an inspiration and a true role model for the rangers. He left behind a spouse and three young children.



Shaun Barendsen

Shaun Barendsen was a pilot from a private charter company in South Africa. Shaun was a skilled professional and well-known for his hard work, not only when flying helicopters but also when teaching people to fly. His death is a significant

loss to the aviation industry in South Africa.

The following two men were tragically killed on 11 April 2017 in Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during a shootout while confronting Sudanese poachers removing tusks from freshly killed elephants. They left behind 10 children between them, and their loss was devastating to all who knew them.



Joel Merino Ari

Joel Merino Ari was 27 years old and had been a ranger with Garamba National Park since 2013. Joel Ari, who held the rank of First Class, was a fearless and intelligent ranger who worked as his Section's Secretary from 2015 to 2016.

Following this assignment, he was promoted to the Team Leader of the Fifth Section until his tragic death. He loved his work and was very disciplined and exemplary in his performance of it. Faithful to his friends and family, Joel Ari is survived by his wife, a young daughter and son.



Sergeant Gerome Bolimola Afokao

Sergeant Gerome Bolimola Afokao was seconded to Garamba National Park by the Congolese army, and he occupied the position of

Section Chief in the Military Police Section of OPS Uele Zone in Dungu. He was a skilled and courageous soldier; and his team was proud of his leadership and his bravery. He left behind a wife, and eight children – five sons and three daughters.



Krisztián Gyöngyi

In a tremendous blow to everyone who knew him, and to rhinoceros conservation, Krisztián Gyöngyi was tragically killed on 7 June 2017 by a rhinoceros in Akagera National Park in Rwanda while tracking animals in the park. Kris was instrumental in

supporting the reintroduction efforts of the black rhino into Akagera and was on the ground, training rangers in tracking of rhino. Krisztián was a rhinoceros specialist, with more than five years of experience monitoring and conserving the species in both Majete Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde National Park in Malawi. He earned his Master's degree studying the habitat capacity of the black rhinoceros in Majete, and he had been carrying out his PhD research on the conservation ecology of the black rhinoceros in Liwonde since 2012. He leaves behind his wife and his young daughter.



Musa Kafanu

Musa Kafanu, a ranger in Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia, passed away on the 29 August due to unknown causes. He had worked for Liuwa Plain since 2003. Musa was attached to the buffalo patrol team in 2011, and spent seven years monitoring the park's reintroduced buffalo

population. Sadly, his wife passed away in 2014, and he leaves behind five children who have relocated to Sioma to live with their grandparents. His eldest child is sponsored under the African Parks scholarship program. Musa Kafanu was a highly disciplined and hard-working individual and his passing was felt by all members of the Liuwa team.

The Parks

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A hyaena walks across the plains under rumbling skies in Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia. The park is home to a thriving population of over 500 hyaenas. © Matt Blair



MALAWI

Majete Wildlife Reserve

700 km²

African Parks Project since 2003

Government Partner: Malawi Department
of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

The Wyss Foundation and WWF-Belgium
were major funders in 2017



Majete

CRAIG HAY | PARK MANAGER

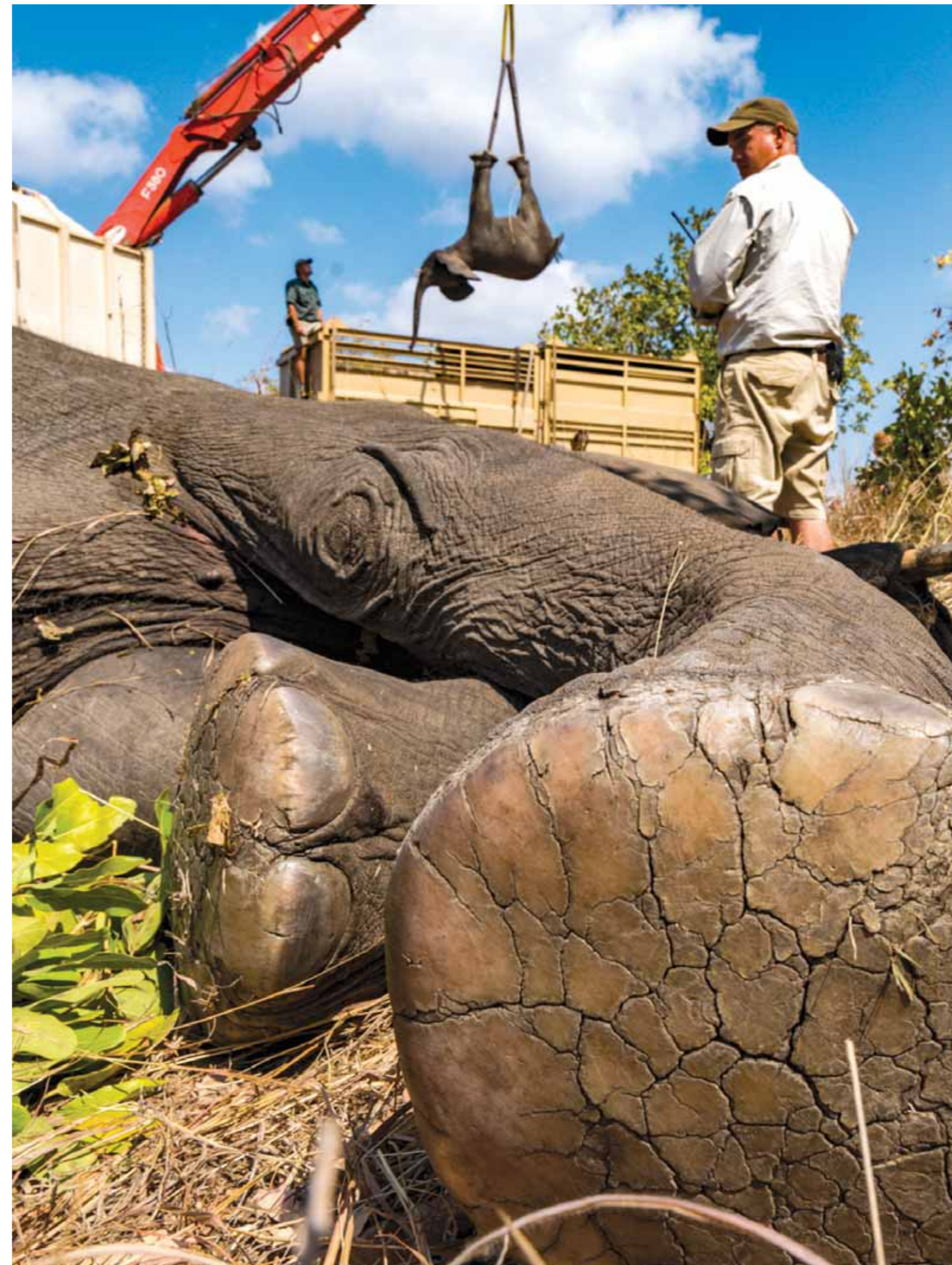


MALAWI – Over just 14 years, Majete has transformed from a once empty forest with no employment or tourism and only a few remaining antelope within its perimeter, to a productive and flourishing haven for Africa’s most iconic wildlife, generating revenue and benefits for local communities. Decades of lawlessness and poaching had seen the reserve’s wildlife, including elephants, completely eradicated by the 1990’s. But this all changed in 2003, when African Parks signed a 25-year management agreement with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to manage Majete, the first park to enter our portfolio. We immediately began to revive the park through a series of species reintroductions: rhinos in 2003, elephants in 2006 and lions in 2012, bringing back 2,900 animals overall representing 14 different species. With their return, tourists started to come to the park, and much needed revenue followed, feeding back into the management of the reserve and supporting local communities. Today, Majete is flourishing, so much so that wildlife is being moved to populate other parks and private reserves within the country. We’ve maintained a 14-year track record of zero poaching of rhinos and elephants since their introduction; 154 elephants and 345 other animals were successfully translocated to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve completing the historic ‘500 Elephants’ translocation, and tourism increased 14 percent from last year, with over 9,000 visitors, half of whom were Malawian nationals bringing in over US\$550,000 to the reserve and communities. Majete is a tale of a park rising from the ashes – living proof of how a park deemed to be a wasteland can be revived and restored and serve as a life-source for wildlife and humans alike.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Majete Wildlife Reserve was at the centre of the historic ‘500 Elephants’ translocation that took place during the last two years. The reserve provided the final 154 elephants and 345 other animals, comprising of waterbuck, zebra and eland, to help repopulate Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve 650 km north of Majete. Another 113 animals including zebra, eland, kudu, impala, waterbuck and warthog were also captured from Majete during the same period and sold to three private ranches for tourism. In just over a decade, Majete Wildlife Reserve has become a flourishing source for wildlife and is helping to repopulate other reserves in the country. The translocation was a globally significant event for Majete and Malawi and helped position the Malawian Government as an emerging leader for conservation in Africa.

We maintained our remarkable track record of not having lost one rhino or one elephant to poaching since their reintroductions in 2003 and 2006 respectively. One of the rhinos gave birth in the park, joining two other calves who were born in 2016; the elephant population was on the rise with 430 elephants estimated in the beginning of 2017 before the translocation of 154 elephants, taking the number down to approximately 270 at the end of the year. Three lion cubs were also born, bringing the small but growing pride to 11. Planning began for the translocation of up to five lions that will be brought to Majete during the course of 2018, to help grow and genetically enhance the pride. Field work on the ecology and conservation of zebra, hyaenas, leopards and lions was conducted by two Master’s students from the University of Stellenbosch throughout the year.



A family group of anaesthetised elephants that were translocated to Nkhotakota, Malawi. © Pete McBride



Two lionesses, one with a GPS collar, within Majete. © Marcus Westberg



Rangers patrol the park 24 hours a day, seven days a week. © Nico Wills



Local children hold donated saplings provided to communities. © Marcus Westberg

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Thanks to our well-trained and equipped ranger team, we have managed to maintain zero losses of all of the high-value species including rhinos, elephants and lions since their reintroductions as long as 14 years ago. The team of 29 full-time rangers conducted 6,442 patrol man-days, resulting in 30 arrests and 15 convictions, with only 12 snares removed compared to 87 the previous year.

Every ranger received refresher training at the beginning of the year; 12 received tactical tracking training, four underwent medic training in Liwonde National Park, and recruitment began for bringing on new rangers on board, with 10 selected. The Domain Awareness System (DAS) was installed and fully operational by the end of the year; a new operations room was constructed, and the radio network was upgraded to an improved digital radio system.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community engagement is essential for building a constituency for conservation and Majete made significant advancements over the year with education and income generation schemes for the local communities. Increasing access to education was a key focus of the park in 2017. To that end, 30 schools from surrounding villages were visited by the park's Extension Officers and supported in visiting the park; two school blocks were completed, impacting

1,951 school children; and the Majete Scholarship Programme continued to support 105 'scholars in need' and five university students. The Environmental Education Centre extension was completed and officially opened by the sponsor of the project, Ms. Anne Hoiyer. Majete also contributed towards the construction of a community-based Child Care Shelter providing healthcare and other basic needs to children living around the reserve.

Communities took part in various sustainable income generating activities including the production of beaded jewellery, woven baskets and sewn products, honey production and community visits generating approximately US\$12,000 in income for community members. The community campsite also generated an additional US\$11,000 which helped support the purchasing of bicycles for community policing, scholarships and the renovation of school and healthcare clinic structures. The resource-use programme, which allows for the supervised harvesting of sustainable resources in the reserve, saw 15,835 bundles of grass collected, worth approximately US\$8,000. In addition, 109 beekeepers were supported and produced 1.2 tonnes of honey, generating approximately US\$4,500 in revenue. The reforestation project, which encourages communities to plant trees to reduce pressure on natural resources, resulted in over 11,000 seedlings being planted in schools and villages.



0 rhinos and elephants poached since 2003

Community livelihoods continued to improve as a result of our partnership with the Hunger Project, which works with 113 villages around Majete. Seven boreholes were drilled, providing clean water for almost 2,000 people, 430 families were trained in sustainable farming methods, and 110 people (45 women and 65 men) were trained in carpentry, tailoring and tinsmithing. Treating and preventing Malaria is a primary concern in and around Majete. The collaborative Majete Anti-Malaria Project supported by Stichting Dioraphte in partnership with African Parks, the Malawi College of Medicine, University of Wageningen, the University of Amsterdam and others, made good progress on the goal of reducing the incidence of this deadly disease by 80 percent by 2018.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Majete hosted two weeks of fire training, an important component of park management, where participants from Majete, Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve (all under management by African Parks) participated in learning how to fight and manage wildfires, as well as providing overall fire safety. The important dialogue continued regarding the mitigation and compensation measures for Majete as a result of the proposed development of the irrigation canal, which will extract water from the dam in the reserve to support farmers and promote agriculture.

Construction projects during the year included the extension of the Environmental Education Centre, two staff accommodation units, the law enforcement operations control room and the expansion of office space at the headquarters for the finance team. Majete also hosted the African Parks management meeting in September, during which all the Executive and Senior Management teams from across Africa came together for one week to discuss updates and plans for 2018.

TOURISM

In a move to increase tourism to Majete, a management agreement with the Sunbird Hotel Group was signed for Thawale Lodge and Mwembezi restaurant and was fully operational in February. Overall, visitor numbers increased 14 percent to 9,174 tourists visiting Majete during 2017, half of whom were Malawian nationals; and gross park revenue increased 31 percent to US\$558,000 including the sale of game animals to other private reserves for tourism, which amounted to a net income of US\$23,000.

Improvements were made to the curio shop at the Heritage Centre, where locally produced crafts and products were made available for sale; and an older Land Cruiser pickup was converted into a game viewer for additional tourists, bringing the fleet to four.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Strengthen law enforcement capabilities through training and equipment
- Maintain ongoing track record of zero losses of rhino and elephant from poaching
- Introduce up to five lions to genetically improve the resident pride, and secure funding for the reintroduction of giraffe
- Create a successful honey production scheme to produce seven tonnes of honey
- Increase tourism revenue with a new addition of a bush camp site
- Improve infrastructure with the addition of houses for law enforcement and tourism personnel; implement a water purification plan and replace 30 km of the perimeter fence



ZAMBIA

Liuwa Plain

National Park

3,660 km²

African Parks Project since 2003

Government Partner: **Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)** and the **Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE)**

Acacia Partners, **WWF-Netherlands** and **WWF-Zambia** were major funders in 2017

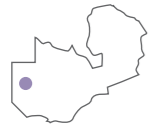


One of the two resident male lions rests with his cub in Liuwa Plain in Zambia. © Andrew MacDonald



Liuwa

DEON JOUBERT | PARK MANAGER



ZAMBIA – Liuwa Plain has one of the oldest conservation histories in Africa, where the King of Barotseland, Lubosi Lewanika, appointed his people in the 19th century to be the custodians of the park. They maintain that sentiment today. With 10,000 people living within the National Park, Liuwa is a living example of how people and wildlife can co-exist and benefit in a shared landscape. Each year, this 3,660 km² park hosts the second largest wildebeest migration on the continent – without fanfare, this is one of the most glorious spectacles on the planet. But this was not always the case. Prior to assuming management of Liuwa in 2003, wildebeest and zebra were in steep decline, grasslands were threatened by rice fields, and all but one lonely lioness roamed the plains, calling for signs of her own kind only to resort to human companionship when she realised nobody else remained.

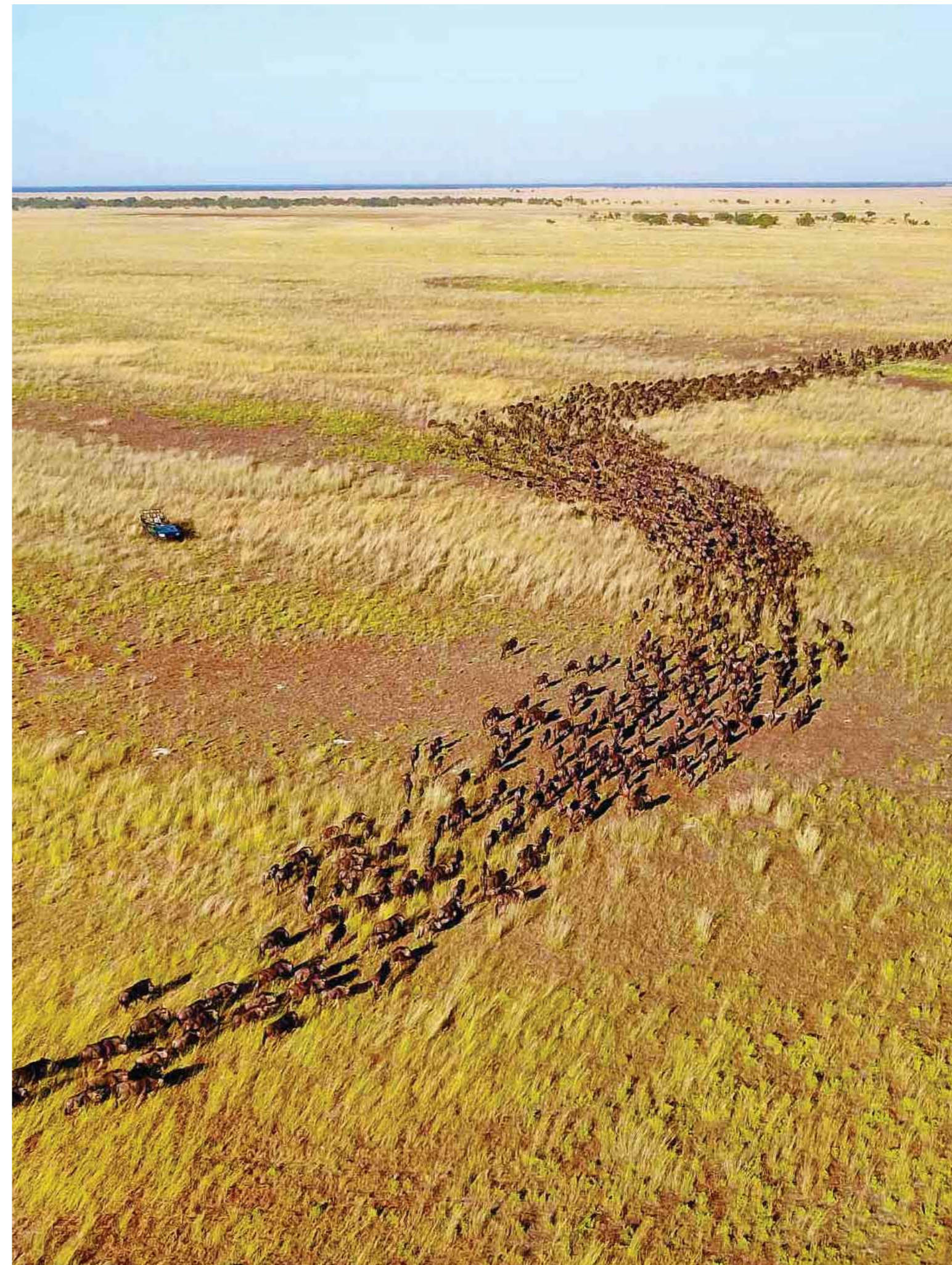
In 2008, African Parks began a series of reintroductions to reunite this last lioness with a pride; and thus new life began. She slowly joined a pride that grew to 10 lions, and over a similar period, eland and buffalo were also reintroduced. The plains game animals began to rise, providing a healthy prey base for the growing pride, along with supporting cheetahs and hyaenas. Poaching levels subsided, and land-use plans began to be implemented along with sustainable fish harvesting and other livelihoods for local people. A new high-end lodge was opened in 2017 – King Lewanika – named after a King who foresaw the role people would play in the preservation of this landscape; and to great acclaim. The New York Times, Travel + Leisure and others are naming Liuwa and the lodge as a coveted destination, where tourism supports the conservation of the wildlife and prosperity of the people in this sacred land. Sadly, 2017 saw the passing of the legendary lioness, Lady Liuwa as she was affectionately known. She died in August, at the ripe old age of 18, of natural causes – practically unheard of for a wild lion. But she did not die alone; and she left behind a legacy of a small but growing pride of lions, living their lives together on Liuwa's flourishing plains.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

August 2017 marked the passing of the legendary lioness fondly known as Lady Liuwa, who died of natural causes at 18 years old. Due to years of poaching and illegal trophy hunting, lions were completely eradicated from Liuwa in the 1990's, except for this one lioness. She roamed the plains for years as the sole survivor in the park, and with no lions to be found she looked to humans for companionship. African Parks assumed management of Liuwa Plain in 2003, and we waited to see if any lions would return naturally from within the larger landscape, but none ever did. After a series of lion introductions of both males and females, a

pride started to form. After waiting for over a decade, Lady Liuwa bonded with one female named Sepo and was finally reunited with her own kind. Unable to produce her own cubs, she helped Sepo raise numerous litters over the years. Sadly, just a month after Lady Liuwa died, Sepo was killed defending her cubs from a competing male. However, four new cubs were documented at the end of the year, adding to the small but growing pride of Liuwa's lions.

A park-wide aerial game census was completed in July, with counts showing increasing numbers of wildebeest, eland, and buffalo, while tsessebe, lechwe and zebra remained stable. The latter could be the result of counting methods



An aerial view of the wildebeest migration, the second largest on the continent, in Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia. © Andrew MacDonald

and nocturnal movements of the animals. The carnivore populations are thriving and are being actively monitored by our partners at the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP), who play an integral role in helping us protect these species. The male lion reintroduced in 2016 has settled and is interacting regularly with the resident male. Both males and one female lion were re-collared in December. Cheetah numbers are on the rise with all the cubs having dispersed, and four new cheetahs received collars, bringing the total to seven. Liuwa is a haven for hyaenas, and their population continues to surge with over 500 individuals recorded, 14 of which were collared, and a new clan was identified in the north of the park. An additional 19 wildebeest received collars, bringing the total to 32.

Lady Liuwa passed away at 18 years old leaving behind a growing pride



Fifty-five arrests were made, with 45 convictions. Confiscations included 10 firearms, 48 rounds of ammunition, 36 snares, 263 kg of bushmeat, 796 kg of illegally harvested fish, 224 illegal fishing nets as well 31 kg of ivory. A wide variety of other poaching paraphernalia was also confiscated. We received a record of 200 applicants to go through Basic Field Ranger training; 21 were shortlisted and 12 completed the course.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Liuwa is home to more than 10,000 people who legally live within the park, and are on the frontlines of being vulnerable to climatic change and variable weather, including droughts and floods, making community development all the more important. Liuwa supported 28 schools impacting 8,300 children both inside and outside of the park. Scholarships were provided to 77 students to attend Kalabo Secondary School and other schools surrounding the park; 37 boarding students received assistance from the park, and 14 community teachers were provided with monthly stipends over the year to improve capacity within community schools. Over 24 monitoring visits were made in conjunction with the Zambian Ministry of Education to the schools utilising ZeduPads, a rugged

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The focus for 2017 was on intensifying field effort and efficiently managing resources to ensure scouts spent more time in the field, and to good effect. With the integration of the monitoring tools, CyberTracker and SMART, presence and patrol coverage of our law enforcement teams were greatly improved. The scouts completed an impressive 14,499 patrol man-days, covering 42,955 km, of which 14,469 km was on foot – a 20 percent increase from 2016.



Local children in Liuwa use donated ZeduPads. © Mana Meadows



The newly opened King Lewanika Lodge in Liuwa. © Time + Tide

tablet pre-loaded with thousands of lesson plans and in eight languages, and we provided power by purchasing 20 deep-cycle batteries to recharge the ZeduPads. Liuwa staff also hosted environmental and conservation 'lessons' within the park to 1,083 students. A total of 3,000 citrus seedlings sponsored by the Zambian Forestry Department were distributed by Liuwa's community team to several conservation clubs. Eighteen agricultural training sessions were conducted with a total of 460 pupils attending, and three schools successfully established gardens and orchards.

A total of 1,222 community members attended 22 meetings hosted by African Parks about the Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR). Liuwa's community team worked with communities to develop proposals for 42 projects to be funded by the World Bank including horticulture and winter maize production. Nineteen Village Action Group meetings took place, attended by 136 people to review the 2009 land-use plan and how to prevent and resolve human-wildlife conflict and promote conservation in Liuwa. And lastly, we were honoured with a visit to the park by Her Royal Highness Senior Chieftainess Mboanjikana of Libonda and the Libonda Kuta, whom we hosted at Matiamanene Camp in order to showcase Liuwa's tourism facilities and community projects.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Deon Joubert joined African Parks as Liuwa's new Park Manager, along with a new Special Projects Manager and land-use planner. The main focus was on completing the high-end tourism lodge, King Lewanika, on time and within budget. This was accomplished under challenging conditions, as the park received over 1,000 mm of rain

during the construction period. Three Induna houses were built and two more were renovated and were handed over to the Chiefs. Digital radios were installed, providing improved communications throughout the park. Two new Land Cruisers were purchased, along with four new motorbikes, and the ultralight received a new engine.

TOURISM

The new high-end King Lewanika Lodge operated by Time + Tide opened in April to great acclaim. It has been recognised by Travel + Leisure, The New York Times, and Men's Journal as being a top destination for 2018. Liuwa received over 1,166 tourists who generated US\$177,557 in gross revenue, a 30 percent increase from 2016. The park trialled a self-catering tented camp in November; results were favourable, and the camp was at capacity for 20 out of 30 nights, with a 67 percent occupancy rate. New campsites will be investigated in 2018 to maximise this opportunity and generate more income.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Incorporate the Upper West Zambezi GMA into the Liuwa mandate
- Increase tourism revenue to US\$200,000
- Develop a dedicated self-catering tented camp
- Complete the park management plan
- Complete the land-use plan
- Complete phase one of the new headquarters



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Garamba National Park

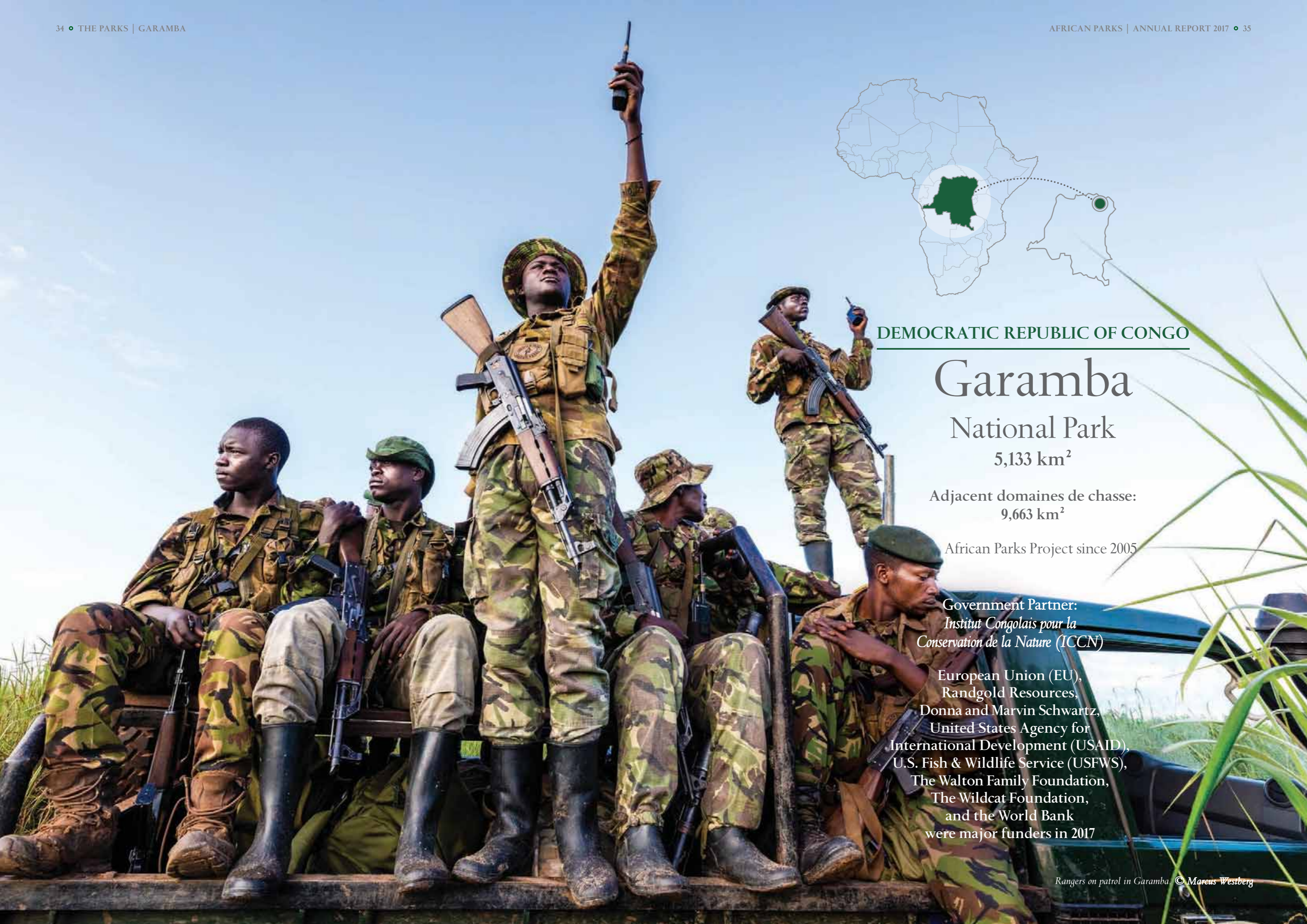
5,133 km²

Adjacent domaines de chasse:
9,663 km²

African Parks Project since 2005

Government Partner:
*Institut Congolais pour la
Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)*


European Union (EU),
Randgold Resources,
Donna and Marvin Schwartz,
United States Agency for
International Development (USAID),
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS),
The Walton Family Foundation,
The Wildcat Foundation,
and the World Bank
were major funders in 2017





Garamba

JOHN BARRETT | PARK MANAGER



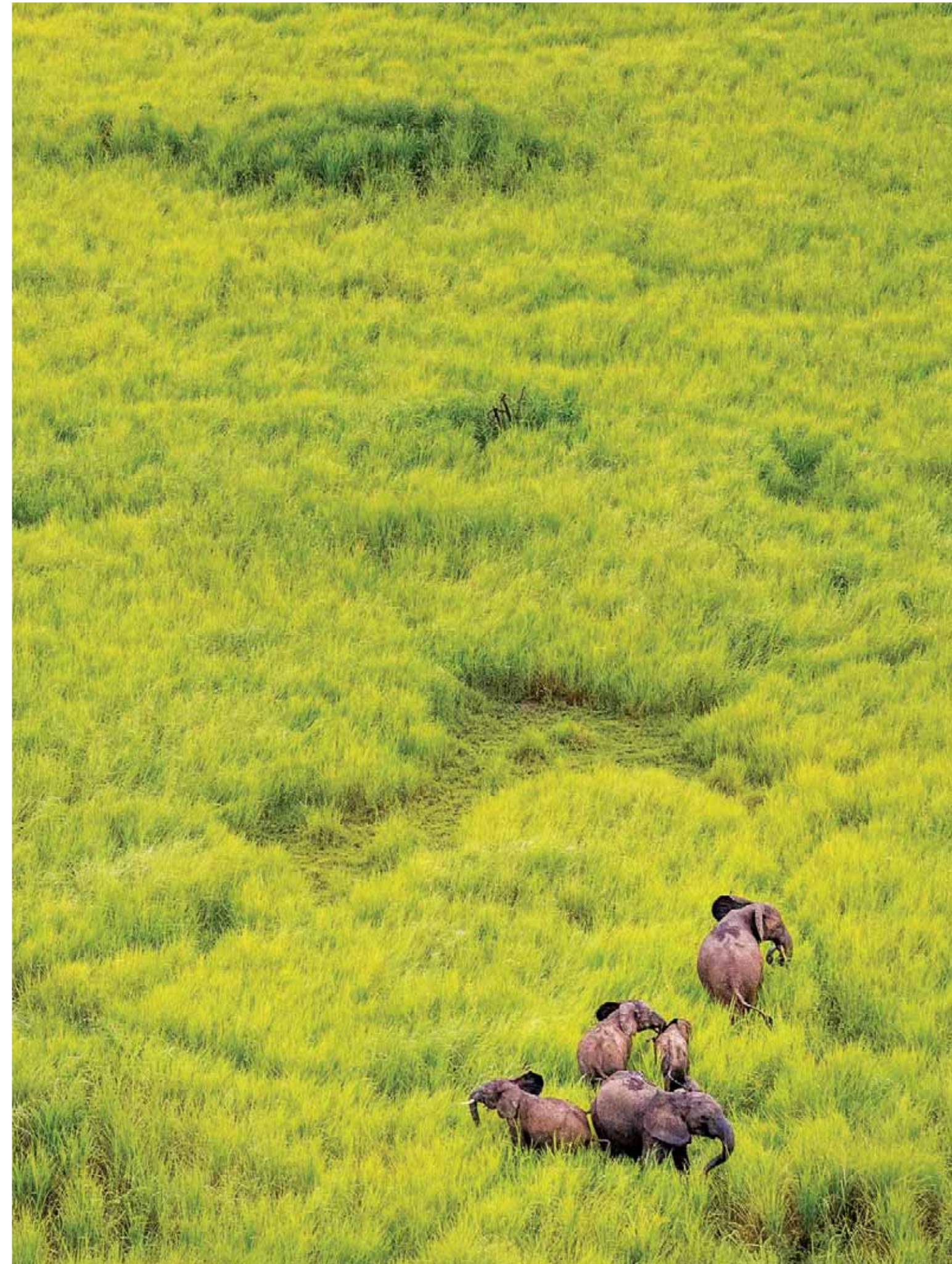
DRC – Garamba National Park is situated in north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) bordering South Sudan. This stunning landscape, however, is often referred to as ground zero in the elephant poaching wars in Africa. Garamba is one of Africa's oldest national parks, designated in 1938, and in 1980 was declared a World Heritage Site, but due to its tragic past, was included into a list of endangered World Heritage Sites by 1996. Home to 22,000 elephants as recent as the 1970's, militarised poachers reduced the population to fewer than 1,200 today; and the northern white rhinos were poached to local extinction in the early 2000's. These highly incentivised poachers made up of South Sudanese armed groups, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and others, stop at nothing to target the remaining elephants for the sale of their ivory to fund their criminal activities, wreaking havoc on the region's wildlife and the local people.

To stop the park's complete destruction and bring stability to the area, African Parks signed an agreement in 2005 to manage Garamba with the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN). Since then, we have had our share of losses. Elephants continued to be poached over that first 10-year period, albeit at a slower rate than before, and the human toll has at times been too hard to bear, begging the question: can we be successful? In 2016, the resounding answer was that we must be, as our absence would mean the complete loss of this natural heritage and devastation for the local people. But we needed to adjust our approach to match the threat level. To that end, we completely overhauled our law enforcement strategy with critical support from the Wildcat Foundation, the EU and USAID; we better outfitted and trained our rangers to be able to meet these threats head-on; new technology is aiding our efforts, and we are finally gaining ground. Poaching of elephants was down 50 percent in 2017 for the first time in years; surveys have shown a significant reduction of illegal activity in the park; key wildlife populations including giraffe and hartebeest have stabilised or are on the rise. In a region with little to no economic opportunity, Garamba employs almost 500 full-time staff with 2,000 more on short-term contracts – all are from the area. And, our growing ranger force is providing security to tens of thousands of people living around the park, providing life-saving support to refugees and residents, creating safe places for decency and civility to return to this corner of the world again.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Protecting the park's remaining 1,200 elephants is of top concern, and in 2017, a total of 40 new elephants were outfitted with GPS/VHF collars, with main support provided by the EU, bringing the total number of collared elephants to 44. These collars provide valuable data to aid in our management and protection efforts; they tell us about elephant home ranges and movements and survivorship, and allow us to more effectively direct our patrols to counter poaching threats. Sadly, 50 elephants were poached during the year, but this figure is 50 percent below the 99 elephants that were poached in 2016, and is a marked decrease due to our revised law enforcement strategy. Garamba is home to the last remaining population of

Kordofan giraffe in the DRC and is also a priority species for conservation efforts. A National Giraffe Strategy and Action Plan were developed by an MSc researcher in partnership with the Giraffe Conservation Fund, and will be implemented in 2018. We re-established the chimpanzee monitoring programme, documenting 37 nests in a core area just outside of the park; and nests were recorded inside the park for the first time in recent history. An aerial survey was conducted over the southern and central blocks within Garamba, indicating a stable or increasing trend for all surveyed species (aside from elephant), including giraffe and buffalo, and there was a significant decrease in illegal human activity compared to results from the survey conducted in 2014.



A small family unit of elephants within Garamba. © Marcus Westberg

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Our revised law enforcement strategy had advanced over the course of 2017, and the impacts were palpable. The ranger team grew by 23 percent, patrol man-days doubled, and aerial surveillance was constant compared to 2016. The much-needed new weapons arrived in Garamba, thanks to the Wildcat Foundation who also supplied stores for patrol sustainability, boots and other essential personal equipment. This was a significant step in improving the safety, effectiveness and morale of the rangers as the older weapons and gear were in poor condition and unreliable. We transitioned to new field rations for the rangers, which require less cooking time in the field, reducing the risk of detection and increasing patrol efficiency. A paramedic joined the team permanently, and 14 rangers were provided medic training, allowing us to deploy a Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT) in response to incidents. Almost 70 percent of the ranger force underwent advanced tactical and investigative training. This included improved handling of incidents, evidence collection, case handling and legal aspects of law enforcement – which helped to dramatically increase arrests and convictions. The long-awaited helicopter arrived in the park full-time in August, enhancing surveillance, rapid deployment, transporting eight-man teams at a time, and responding to urgent situations. Overall, the entire ranger team conducted an impressive 30,986 patrol man-days. A fruitful collaboration with National Geographic and ESRI has rapidly enhanced the development of GIS to help combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade, and a partnership was also forged with the

US Coast Guard Academy in the development of Remote Sensing for detecting changes in the Garamba landscape.

Despite all this progress, we were devastated by the tragic loss of Joel Merino Ari, a long-term ranger with Garamba, and Sergeant Gerome Bolimola Afokao from the FARDC who were killed on 11 April. While out on patrol, their unit heard gunshots and followed signs until they came across a group of six poachers who were in the process of butchering a freshly poached elephant. The poachers fired upon our rangers, fatally wounding both men, who left behind 11 children between them.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

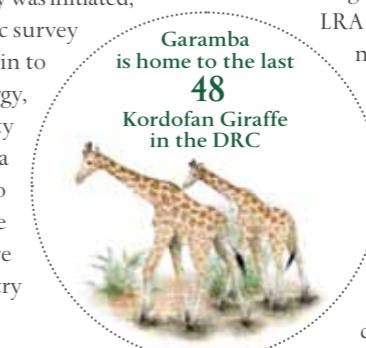
Community engagement and development is central to the long-term sustainability of the park, with a key focus on education, healthcare and alternative livelihoods and increasing economic benefits that are delivered to local communities. Two primary schools and one secondary school were supported during the year, with teachers' salaries supplemented and environmental education support given. More than 280 students visited the park, and more than 1,500 students were exposed to sensitisation activities on the environment and human health issues including hygiene, malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention. Over 9,700 people benefited from healthcare services provided by Garamba that included the Nagero Hospital and mobile clinics in the park's periphery.



Infrastructure is a critical foundation to support all park functions. © Marcus Westberg

Two micro-projects were selected in fish and goat farming and the local NGOs implementing both were each provided with US\$5,000. We began implementation of the Sustainable Development activities which are critical for the long-term survival of the park; the land-use plan study was initiated, commencing with a park's socio-economic survey of the park's periphery that will continue in to 2018; a feasibility study on renewable energy, looking at the potential of hydroelectricity and solar energy to benefit the area commenced; an illegal mining study to understand the scale and threats for the region commenced; and preparations are underway for the agro-ecology/agro-forestry study, to be conducted in 2018.

round access to key areas previously unattainable by vehicle during the wet season. Three current airstrips that were maintained; four old airstrips that were previously unusable were re-opened, and two more airstrips were built. The Grand Magasin store building that was burnt down by the LRA in 2009 was completely refurbished and is now in use. And a new and faster internet system was installed.



TOURISM

Given the security situation, tourism has not been a main priority over the years. However, given our recent advancements and enhanced law enforcement efforts, coupled with the sheer beauty and magnificence of this World Heritage Site, efforts were made to reinvigorate Garamba's tourism potential. A consultant spent four months in the park assisting with improvements to the main lodge and providing hospitality training; and a feasibility study on the potential development of an area of the park for a low impact, high-end tourism product to be conducted in 2018 was initiated.

The sustainable development component of our work in Garamba will be a key focus in 2018 and beyond, whereby a comprehensive strategy will include ameliorating key threats while also developing socio-economic benefits with local communities to conserve the area's biodiversity long into the future.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

With over 2,500 full and part-time staff, Garamba remains one of the largest employers in the region, contributing almost US\$2.5 million in salaries. To provide for our growing team, ranger and staff housing increased significantly with the completed construction of 65 new ranger houses and five managers' houses. The logistical road network was upgraded, resulting in an improved ability for year-round vehicle access within the core regions of the park. A total of 230 km of road was graded and 607 km manually maintained using local community teams. In addition, 139 km of road was opened again for the first time in over 10 years – alongside the South Sudan border and in an area outside of the park. Two bridges were constructed across the Dungu and Garamba Rivers supported by the Kibali Gold Mine, allowing for near year-

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Continue to secure the park and reduce incidents of elephant poaching and other illegal activities
- Implement the National Giraffe Protection Strategy
- Continue to improve the infrastructure of the park including the construction of the new Operations Centre
- Improve road access to the southern part of the Gangala na Bodio domaine de chasse
- Re-site and construct new observation posts and vehicle control points
- Develop and implement the new Environmental Education Programme
- Formulate a Sustainable Development Strategy in conjunction with local communities



Garamba provided healthcare to 9,700 local people. © Marcus Westberg



ZAMBIA

Bangweulu Wetlands

6,000 km²

African Parks Project since 2008

Governed by: Bangweulu Wetlands
Management Board

Partners: Six Community Resource Boards
and the Zambia Department of National Parks
and Wildlife (DNPW)

WWF-Netherlands and WWF-Zambia
were major funders in 2017



Bangweulu

JONATHAN CHISAKA | PARK MANAGER



ZAMBIA – Bangweulu means ‘where water meets the sky’ – which is a perfect description for these globally important and stunning wetlands. This park is unique in that it is a community-owned protected wetland, home to 50,000 people who retain the rights for sustainable harvesting of natural resources and depend fully on the richness the park provides. Due to human needs and lack of alternatives, however, Bangweulu has suffered for decades from rampant poaching and unrestricted fishing. But this began to change when African Parks signed a long-term agreement with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to work with the communities to sustainably manage the wetlands for wildlife and people.

2017 saw fish stocks increase significantly due to a well-supported three-month fishing ban that resulted in improved catch rates and a rise in sales, economically benefiting the communities. Poaching has been contained and black lechwe increased from 35,000 to over 50,000 in the past five years; the globally significant shoebill stork population also grew, with 10 nests that were protected by community guards and at least six chicks successfully fledged. A significant game translocation occurred, with 250 animals including zebra and impala brought in to bolster remnant populations. Four new horses were added to the effective equine anti-poaching unit, increasing patrol coverage to new areas. Healthcare was delivered across all six Chiefdoms and 60 schools were supported by the park. Bangweulu Wetlands, the largest employer in the region, is positioned to become a leading example of community-driven conservation on the continent.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Bangweulu is one of the most important and biologically diverse wetlands on the continent. Its vast swamps, interspersed with canals, channels and lagoons, serve as a critical waterway and supply for the survival of countless species including people. The wetlands are home to over 433 bird species, including 10 percent of the global wattled crane population and a globally important population of the endangered and prehistoric-looking shoebill. Shoebills are experiencing significant declines across their range in Africa as a result of nest disturbance, taking of chicks for the live bird trade, and habitat modification. A Shoebill Nest Protection Plan was developed in 2017, with the support

and participation of the local communities, to ensure the conservation of this unique bird. Ten guards were employed from local communities to protect nesting sites in important breeding areas for the species – and to great success. Ten nests were monitored, and six chicks successfully fledged.

Black lechwe, a water antelope endemic to Bangweulu, has been heavily hunted over the years, for protein. In 2010, the population was estimated to be around 35,000, but due to effective anti-poaching measures they have rebounded and since 2015 have remained steady at just over 50,000 individuals. The long-term restoration of the park continued in 2017, with the translocation of large game



An endangered shoebill which was protected by the community guards in Bangweulu. © Morgan Trimble

animals to increase genetic diversity and help the existing remnant populations of wildlife recover. With generous support from the Foundation Segré, 100 impala, 75 hartebeest, 24 roan and 50 bushbuck were all successfully moved in June to Bangweulu. The remaining 350 animals will be translocated by the end of 2018.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

While anti-poaching measures have improved the overall protection of the park, poaching and illegal fishing continue to be the main threats largely due to the rise of the meat and fish trade occurring in nearby urban centres. Over the year, the law enforcement team, made up of 18 Wildlife Police Officers and 46 community scouts, conducted an impressive 7,843 patrol man-days resulting in 597 kg of bushmeat seized, 251 snares removed and 245 illegal fishing nets destroyed. Overall, 82 arrests were made, with 68 convictions including several notorious poachers in the area. Four new horses were added to the equine anti-poaching unit, increasing patrol coverage and effectiveness. Five rangers underwent Basic Field Ranger training while three rangers completed the Advanced Tactical Training course.

Unfortunately, poachers are often a threat to both animal and human life. In September a Wildlife Police Officer, Obino Chikuba, was seriously injured when armed poachers opened fire at a patrol team in the park. Obino was airlifted



6 threatened shoebill chicks fledged, and were protected by 10 guards

to Lusaka where he received treatment for his injuries, which included a gunshot wound to the head, leaving parts of his right leg and arm paralysed. He is still undergoing treatment, but is home with his family in Zambia; and the shooter was arrested.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With more than 50,000 people who co-own the park and live in and depend upon its natural resources for their livelihoods, it is critical that communities value conservation as a land-use choice through deriving tangible benefits from the conservation of this wetland. This is done through engagement on various levels, from providing life-altering health and educational services to being able to harvest and benefit from improved fisheries. Much of our community work is done through the well-established community institutions called Community Resources Boards (CRBs) who contribute to the decision-making in the park. Over the year, a number of projects were implemented using the community development fund where a total of US\$30,000 was disbursed through the CRBs to all six Chiefdoms. Funding was allocated to the construction of health facilities, teachers' accommodation, income generating activities and education, including scholarships for children. Ten students were funded to become teachers, while one female student was sent to nursing school, helping to cultivate individuals who can deliver these services in their respective Chiefdoms.



Sustainable fisheries are an essential source of food and income for the local people. © Mana Meadows

Sixty schools are supported by the park including the Self-Learning Modular Centre with 40 ZeduPads (pre-loaded solar-charged educational tablets) directly impacting and delivering an education to more than 1,000 students. For the first time, the programme was also extended beyond the children to adults, and women in particular were able to obtain information suitable for adult learning. The increasing population growth rate of the communities puts added pressure on the park's natural resources and the general well-being of the community. In 2016, a Reproductive Health Facilitator was employed to work with and inform local communities about family planning options. The programme was well received, and we saw a remarkable increase in the number of women attending family planning sessions and students discussing issues related to reproductive health and early marriages.

Due to the remoteness of the park and lack of employment opportunities, community members rely heavily on fishing as a primary source of both income and protein, and are particularly vulnerable when fish stocks decline. A successful and sustainable co-management plan, which included a three-month fishing ban during the fish breeding season, was well supported by communities to protect spawning runs, and resulted in higher fish stocks than prior years, leading to improved catches. Fishermen were able to sell their fish at a market built by African Parks, contributing to raised incomes for community households.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Bangweulu expanded its physical footprint into three additional Chiefdoms to help with improved park management. This included newly constructed law enforcement staff housing and offices, armoury facilities to improve firearm storage, and a warden's house. Stables for the anti-poaching horse unit were refurbished and extended to accommodate the four newly acquired horses. Senior

staff houses were constructed, along with 20 km of new road networks.

TOURISM

Bangweulu Wetlands has been recognised by the Zambian tourism industry for having great potential to generate significant revenues. Park management began development of a comprehensive tourism strategy to aid in the development of a tourism circuit. This includes upgrading the David Livingstone Memorial site, Nsalu Caves, Nakapalayo Community Cultural Camp, Nkondo Visitors' Camp and Nsoke Community Camp, which is planned for 2018. The tourism the park did receive in 2017 was mainly from the sustainable hunting of black lechwe, which contributed to 92 percent of the income generated in Bangweulu, was a total of US\$141,605. Construction on the park-owned Shoebill Island Camp began and will be completed in 2018. The camp is being completely rebuilt as an upmarket tourism destination to maximise the potential of these wetlands as a coveted destination in the region, delivering critically needed revenue to the park.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Install and implement the Domain Awareness System (DAS) to improve park-wide management
- Continue ongoing enforcement of the fishery management plan, including managed fish bans and assisting fishermen with reducing post-harvest losses and access to markets
- Complete the translocation of game animals to help repopulate the park
- Extract full value from the sustainable hunting zone with a focus on black lechwe, tsessebe and sitatungas with a target turnover of US\$250,000
- Ensure the commissioning of Shoebill Island Camp with a target of producing US\$50,000 for the park



Rangers in Bangweulu undergo refresher training. © Mana Meadows



CONGO

Odzala-Kokoua

National Park

13,500 km²

African Parks Project since 2010

Governing body: Fondation Odzala-Kokoua

Government Partner: Ministry of Forest Economy,
Sustainable Development and Environment

European Union (EU), Swedish Postcode Foundation,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS),
WWF-Netherlands and WWF-US
were major funders in 2017



Odzala-Kokoua

PATRICK DARCIS | PARK MANAGER



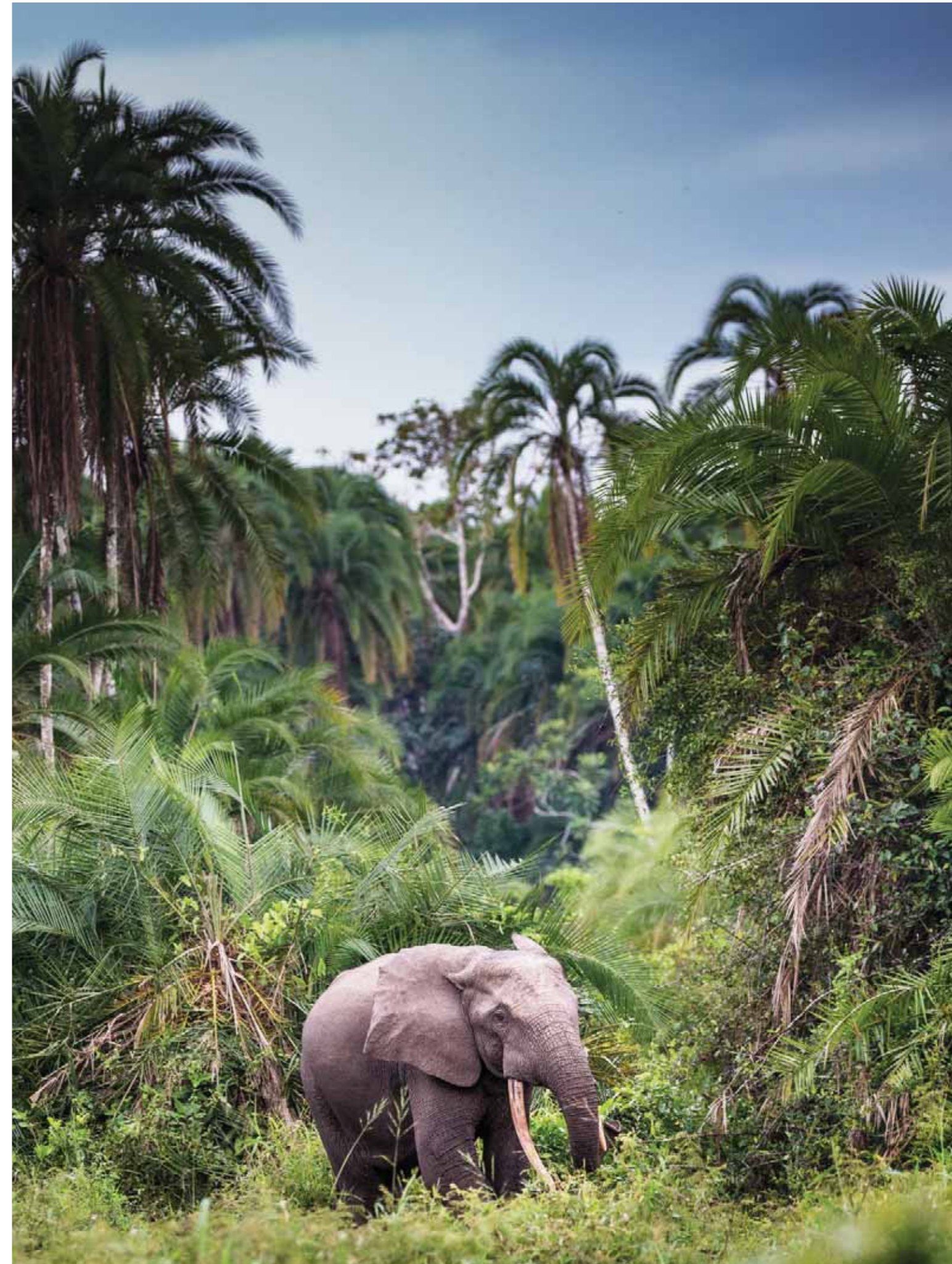
CONGO – Odzala-Kokoua is one of Africa's oldest national parks, designated in 1935, and having received a Biosphere Reserve status in 1977. Covering an expansive 13,500 km² area, Odzala lies in the heart of the Congo Basin. It is the second largest rainforest in the world, spanning more than two million square kilometres across six countries and accounting for 18 percent of the world's remaining rainforest. The biological diversity and endemism is extraordinary here, especially considering that humans have occupied the area for over 50,000 years. Today, the basin provides clean water, food and shelter to more than 75 million people. But not all is well under the canopy of this breathtaking landscape, as Odzala has had its share of ups and downs. Conservation efforts were very limited during the Congo Civil War from 1997 to 1999; several Ebola outbreaks threatened the gorilla population and led to the park being neglected, and victim to high levels of poaching for several years; and tourism was all but non-existent, with approximately only 50 visitors or so in 2010.

African Parks entered into a 25-year long agreement in 2010 with the Ministry of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment to protect this globally important park. Bushmeat poaching here has been and continues to be a major threat, with almost 36,000 snares removed in the last year alone which is a major concern for Odzala's western lowland gorillas, of which significantly 20 percent of the remaining global population are found in the park. Forest elephants are also of key concern. Elephant and gorilla surveys were completed in 2017, and our preliminary survey results revealed a possible reduction of both species compared to results in 2014. While surveying forest elephants is exceptionally challenging given the habitat, and some of this variation over the years may be due to movements as well as survey methodologies, the trends for both gorillas and elephants are concerning and could be a result of poaching both inside and outside of the park. Odzala is a vast wilderness, but the threats are many, and the survival of Congo's elephants and gorillas, and the long-term future of this historic park depend on our intervention.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

We deployed a large-scale camera trapping monitoring programme with cameras installed at 15 baies, or forest clearings, and in forested sites along the national road for key species. Initial results have helped determine two important elephant migration routes, and a diversity of species were identified, including a male and a female leopard. Twelve GPS collared elephants were tracked over the year. Thirty-three new forest baies were identified, with some of them showing high levels of wildlife presence and activity. However, our preliminary elephant and gorilla

survey data revealed some distressing information of a possible 30 percent decline for each species compared to results from 2014. A key priority from a biodiversity perspective is to determine whether the perceived decline in the elephant and gorilla populations is accurate or whether it is a result of the high variability in the data. If the former, it will be imperative to fully understand the underlying reasons so that all necessary actions can be taken. The threat of poaching is, however, constant and an internal think-tank on strategies to address this problem was held in 2017 and results will be implemented in 2018.



A critically endangered forest elephant bull in Odzala in Congo. © Scott Ramsay/Love Wild Africa



Odzala's eco-guards in the Congo conduct patrols along the extensive waterways throughout and around the park. © Marcus Westberg



Dr. John provided healthcare to over 900 people around Odzala. © Marcus Westberg

We continued our research collaboration with the German Primate Center and the Czech Institute of Vertebrate Biology on gorilla health within the park. The multi-year habituation programme for the second gorilla group progressed well over the year. The long-term vision for this programme is to habituate several gorilla groups to help increase tourism potential and revenue to go back to local communities living around the park. Sadly, though, the silverback from the first habituated gorilla group died due to natural causes when fighting with another male, and his death caused the group to disintegrate. Our research into the local bushmeat trade and practices continued and helped to identify 14 commercial bushmeat traders in the area.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

We implemented three types of patrols over the year: mobile, fixed position and intelligence-gathering; and data collection followed the SMART model. Seventy-two rangers, or eco-guards as they are called in Odzala, were employed, carrying out 8,818 patrol man-days. They confiscated 53 illegal firearms, 15,977 bullets, and 36 ivory tusks weighing 126 kg. Over 36,000 snares were removed, 32 tonnes of bushmeat were seized and 136 poaching camps were destroyed. Sadly, 42 poached elephant carcasses were found. Additionally, skins and live animals including several primate species, were also confiscated and were rehabilitated in order to be able to be released back into the wild. Thirty-seven poachers were arrested and 36

were sent to the regional High Courts. Our team organised a conference in the northern sector of the park, with 32 Police Officers in attendance to discuss the park's activities and aspects of oversight and protection of Odzala. We trained 28 new eco-guards with the Congolese army, who also helped to arrange previous training sessions in operations for the eco-guards.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With 70,000 people living around the park and 10,000 living inside, community engagement and development is a critical need. At least 20 community projects on agriculture and husbandry were implemented and monitored, with US\$30,000 being provided by the Odzala-Kokoua Foundation Community Development Fund. The cocoa project is faring well, as 30,000 of the 40,000 seedlings that were planted two years ago in four villages are producing fruits and yielded the first harvest. Several local communities requested assistance from the park staff to help with preventing poachers coming into their villages, and to stop them from entering inside Odzala. In the northern sector of the park, local communities voluntarily dismantled their snares and turned them in to park staff for a small financial reward in order to reduce the bushmeat trade from in the park. The community team ran an extensive human-wildlife conflict awareness campaign following a rise in conflict with gorillas on the cocoa



More than 800 students received an education and learned about conservation in Odzala. © Warren Smart

farming project plantations. With a focus on prevention and mitigation, the team visited 20 villages to discuss challenges and present the park's insurance scheme, and the park paid out US\$25,000 in compensation for damages incurred by local villagers from elephants, gorillas and buffalo. More than 800 students were supported by Odzala, along with one wildlife club comprising 265 children. A hospital was supported, along with one mobile clinic that was funded by the park; the latter served over 900 people who previously had no access to healthcare.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Several renovation projects were undertaken over the course of the year, with two bungalows being built and 90 percent of the work being completed on three new houses, an armoury, four offices and two storage containers. The water distribution system was improved, a wood storage area built, and fencing material to help reduce wildlife conflict was brought in and will be installed in 2018. A six-tent camp was built in the northern part of the park for eco-guards while out on patrols. A 1.5 km road was upgraded to reach the Lobo Research Center, which is the base for all research conducted in the park; and 6,000 bricks were made to construct additional buildings there in 2018.

TOURISM

To help generate needed revenue and deliver benefits back into the surrounding communities, a Tourism Development Plan was created and endorsed by the Congo Conservation Company (CCC) and the Congolese Ministry. The CCC managed three lodgings (Mboko, Ngaga and Lango Camps) and a total of 1,138 bed-nights were sold to tourists over the year, almost six times more than in 2016; and revenue generated amounted to US\$12,500.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Revamp the law enforcement strategy to prevent elephant and gorilla poaching
- Develop an effective communication strategy with the communities
- Deploy a social mapping team to better understand local communities
- Activate a human-wildlife conflict team
- Implement camera trap studies in important baies to monitor wildlife populations
- Intensify research and prevention of the bushmeat trade; coordinate with WWF and WCS for actions in Northern Congo



CHAD

Zakouma

National Park

3,054 km²

African Parks Project since 2010

Government Partner:
The Republic of Chad

European Union (EU),
Fondation Segré and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
were major funders in 2017



Zakouma

LEON LAMPRECHT | PARK MANAGER



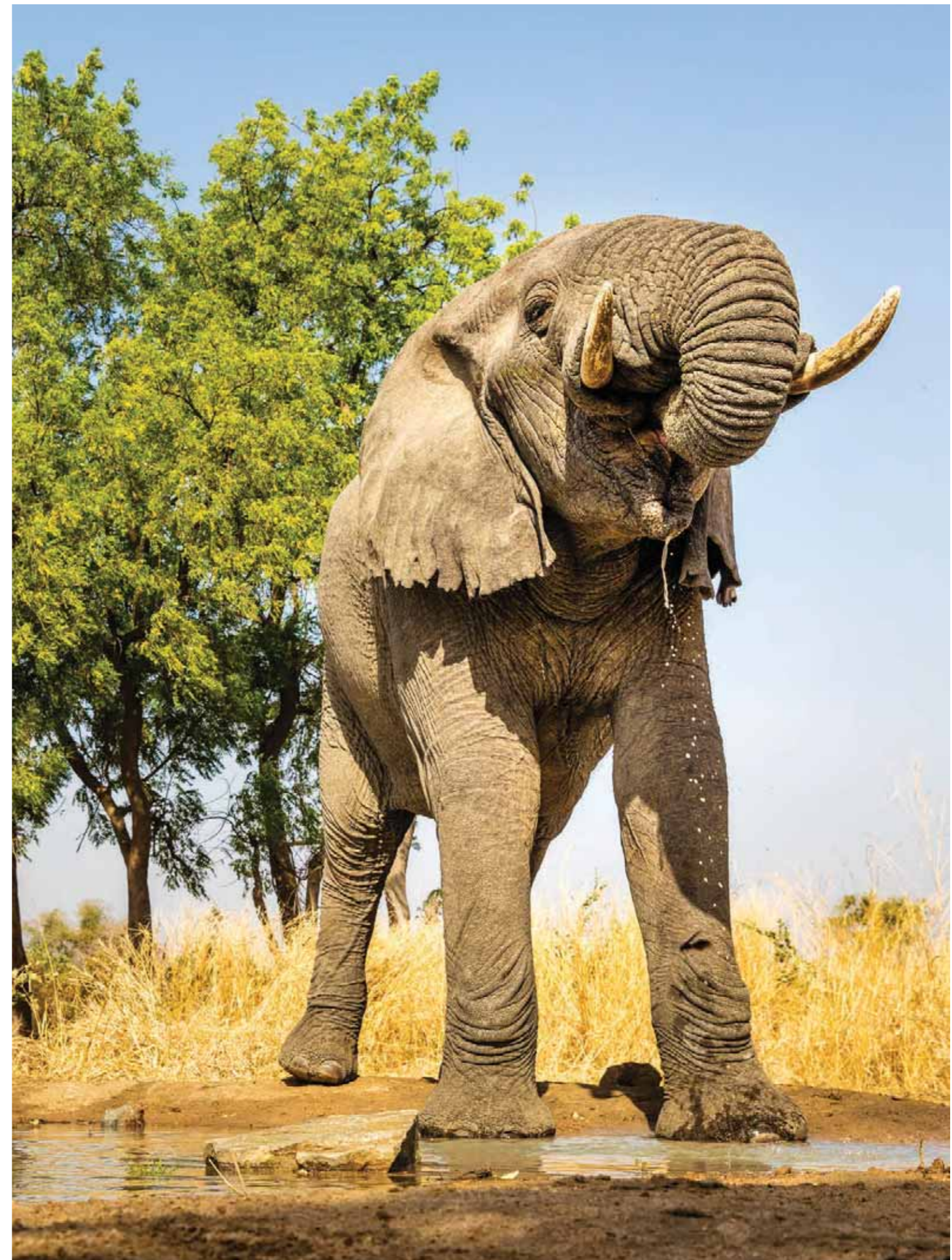
CHAD – Between 2002 to 2010, 95 percent of Zakouma’s elephants were poached – almost 4,000 were killed for their ivory by men on horseback, often taking out multiple family units at the same time. These poachers were also leaving a path of destruction and instability for the local communities in their wake. In 2010, African Parks, on invitation by the Chadian Government, signed a long-term agreement to manage Zakouma and stop the bloodshed. Our first step was to overhaul law enforcement, but it wasn’t for the faint of heart. In 2012, six of our rangers were gunned down execution-style during their morning prayers. But our rangers, with their indomitable spirits, didn’t give up. Because of their efforts and effective community work, only 24 known elephants have been lost to poaching since 2010. Along with providing law enforcement, we built ‘Elephant Schools’ for local communities, providing desks, blackboards and teachers’ salaries, helping more than 1,500 children get an education. We built airstrips, and VHF radios were installed so community members could contact our control room with information about any illegal activity. People were employed to help manage the park, making Zakouma one of the largest employers in the region. With law enforced and security reclaimed, tourists began to visit, delivering needed revenue back to the park and local communities.

And then something miraculous happened. Elephants were able to be elephants once again, and for the first time in years, they began to breed and could raise their young. In early 2017, we counted 81 calves under the age of three. In 2011, we counted one. Elephants have now surpassed 527 individuals and are on the rise for the first time in a decade. In October, we doubled our footprint around Zakouma by signing an MOU with the Government to manage the Greater Zakouma Ecosystem which includes Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve and other critical corridors for wildlife. The Chadian Government also signed an MOU with the South African Government enabling us to translocate a founder population of rhinos to Zakouma in 2018, entrusting us with the safety of this highly valued and endangered species. We’ve come a long way since 2010. The story of Zakouma is of a park rising from the ashes and becoming an unlikely tale of redemption, for people and animals alike.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Zakouma’s elephants were on the increase in 2017 for the first time in over a decade. The population surpassed 527 individuals, and 81 elephant calves under the age of three years old were counted. One elephant bull died close to the park’s headquarters in September, and four old AK-47 bullets were found in the carcass, but it was unclear whether that was the cause of death. Additionally, four other carcasses were found of elephants that had died of natural causes, and the ivory was recovered. We concluded assisting the Ministry of Environment in establishing Chad’s National Elephant Strategy and will be involved in the implementation of the strategy in areas managed by African Parks within Chad. Preparations for the historic rhino

reintroduction to Zakouma, upon official request by His Excellency President Déby in 2015, were carried out throughout the year. This included the construction of the rhino sanctuary and holding bomas, as well as extending the rhino base airstrip for improved access and protection. A delegation made up of representatives from the South African Department of Environmental Affairs, South African National Parks, the Chadian Ministry of Environment and Fisheries and the South African Embassy in Chad visited the park in May to determine the suitability of Zakouma for rhinos. An MOU was subsequently signed in October between the Chadian Government and the South African Government to translocate a founder population of black rhinos in 2018; the species was last seen in Zakouma in the 1970s.



One of Zakouma’s bull elephants takes a slow drink at a watering hole. © Marcus Westberg

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Refresher ranger training continued, with the focus on medical and rifle training provided by a team from the US Embassy and supported by US-AFRICOM, who were on site in Zakouma. The park's Intelligence Officer received training in Garamba National Park in the DRC, followed by Garamba's Anti-Poaching Information Coordinator continuing the training and implementing an intelligence database in Zakouma. Five rangers completed a Basic Combat Tracking course in Akagera, in Rwanda; and nine rangers graduated from a Basic Field Ranger training course to supplement the Mamba and horse patrol teams. In total 76 rangers were employed, conducting 14,803 patrol man-days, and 111 arrests were made through the year. Ranger equipment including uniforms, boots and tents, were purchased and received at the end of 2017. Support to the local environmental law enforcement officers, who are employees of the Government, continued with financial aid for patrols along the periphery of the park as well as patrols in the Bahr Salamat Game Reserve. Due to the terrain, horse patrols are an effective way to help monitor and patrol areas of the park, and three more horses were purchased to supplement the horse patrol teams, making it a complement of 40 horses in total. A consultant came to Zakouma in June to assess the equipment utilised by rangers for horse



Rangers maintained 0 elephants poached in the park since January 2016

patrols; as a result, new and improved saddles and saddle bags were designed and will be available in 2018.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sensitisation meetings with all relevant villages on the land-use plan were completed. While the park's boundary issue was resolved by the government in 2015, additional and stronger beacons were installed on the south-eastern park boundary, which was also enforced. Planting of crops was supposed to cease after the 2016 wet season. During the 2017 wet season, however, the planting of crops in the disputed area continued, with the Chadian Government trying to find alternative solutions. A meeting was held with the nomads, farmers, local government and other stakeholders to discuss the corridors used by the nomads for their return north at the end of the dry season to help minimise their impact.

More than 1,242 children received an education in 2017 in schools built and teachers funded by African Parks; the park continued to build needed infrastructure for a secondary school in one village; six 'Secko' schools were supported by Zakouma, including employing a teacher for each school; and four 'Elephant Schools' continued to be supported. These schools are built efficiently, at a low cost, and for villages that currently have no schools, helping to advance



Children from a nomad community living near Zakouma receive an education for the first time, in an outdoor classroom. © Marcus Westberg

the 'Elephant School' programme. An environmental education consultant visited Zakouma at the beginning of this year to put in place an environmental education syllabus for the schools, and to further train the Extension Officers. Environmental awareness and educational visits by 3,546 school children and local villagers to the park continued staying in Camp Salamat, which is free for national visitors.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Key infrastructure developments included constructing the bomas for the rhinos' arrival and the rhino sanctuary. Fifteen ranger houses were built, and the construction of a secondary school began with foundations being laid and school benches constructed and painted in the Zakouma workshop. The school was built to the west of the park to complement the existing secondary school in the north of the park. The construction of an all-weather road, a small evacuation bridge and an airstrip were completed, providing improved access to assist with anti-poaching support in this area. One Toyota and one Nissan station wagon were converted to Law Enforcement wet-season vehicles. The park's boat was used intensively on the Salamat River during the wet season for access and patrolling while the aircraft was being repaired.

TOURISM

During the four-month tourism season in 2017, Zakouma saw 2,225 tourists primarily from within Chad, Europe and the United States contributing US\$766,223, an 83 percent

increase from 2016. Numerous staff members who support and manage the three tourism options within Zakouma received hospitality training at the Hilton Hotel in N'Djamena. Two private guides also visited Zakouma in November 2017 to provide training for the drivers, community guides and Camp Tinga hospitality staff, and to assist with the design and construction of two game viewing hides. Rachel Nuwer visited the park and subsequently wrote an article about the rise of Zakouma, conservation and tourism for National Geographic; and a BBC crew visited in November to film a feature story that aired on the 27th of December for their end of year special, which was guest edited by His Royal Highness Prince Harry. The story featured the challenges and successes of Zakouma and aired on BBC Radio, television, and online.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Continued emphasis on law enforcement with a strong focus on elephant and rhino protection and a target of zero loss
- Successfully reintroduce a founder population of black rhino
- Collar 30 additional elephants in the Greater Zakouma ecosystem
- Recruit a Field Operations Manager and a law enforcement team in the Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve
- Increase park revenue through the implementation of the tourism development plan
- Implement the 11th European Development Fund investment plan in the Greater Zakouma complex



A group of Zakouma's rangers visit a community Chief. © Brent Stirton



RWANDA

Akagera National Park

1,122 km²

African Parks Project since 2010

Government Partner:
Rwanda Development Board

Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs,
the Government of Rwanda, Howard G. Buffett Foundation,
The Walton Family Foundation
and The Wyss Foundation were major funders in 2017

One of the 18 reintroduced black rhinos, in a specially made enclosure called a boma, before being released into Akagera. © Gaël Vande weghe



Akagera

JES GRUNER | PARK MANAGER



RWANDA – Akagera is almost unrecognisable today compared to just 20 years ago when it was on the verge of being lost forever. While peace was finally restored in the 1990's after one of the bloodiest human events in the 20th century, Akagera's demise was just beginning. Refugees returning to Rwanda after the genocide were still battling for their own survival and turned to the forests for timber, wildlife for protein and wild savannahs for their livestock. Lions were hunted to local extinction, rhinos disappeared, and the park's wildlife was displaced by tens of thousands of long-horned cattle. Biodiversity was lost, and with it so was employment and tourism. The park's value was diminished to the point of not existing at all. Which makes where Akagera is today with its story of revival even more remarkable.

In 2010, African Parks assumed management of Akagera in partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), shifting the park's trajectory from one of oblivion, to prosperity and hope. After years of preparation, 2017 saw the historic return of 18 Eastern black rhinos, not just to Akagera but to all of Rwanda after a 10-year absence, thanks to support from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. Two new male lions were also translocated to the park to enhance the growing pride, which has now tripled since their reintroduction in 2015. Key wildlife populations continued to rise, with poaching essentially halted. And more than 37,000 tourists visited the park, half of whom were Rwandan nationals, bringing in a record US\$1.6 million in revenue and making the park 75 percent self-sustaining in just seven years.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

After six years of working to secure Akagera National Park, and in fulfilment of a promise Howard G. Buffett made to His Excellency President Paul Kagame over a decade ago, a founder group of 18 Eastern black rhinos was successfully translocated to Akagera in May 2017. This saw the return of the species after nearly a 10-year absence, a fact that made global headlines and was a milestone for the range-wide conservation of this endangered species. School children lined the streets to celebrate their arrival and a special audience was granted with His Excellency President Paul Kagame, during which African Parks was able to thank him for restoring the species to his country and for expanding the black rhino's range. While this event solidified Akagera as Rwanda's only Big Five park, bringing hope and optimism, tragedy struck soon after when our rhino expert, Krisztián Gyöngyi, was killed by a rhino while out on foot tracking

wildlife in the park on 7 June 2017. Kris was an expert in rhino ecology, having conducted his Master's and Doctoral research over the past five years in both Majete and Liwonde in Malawi. He was in Akagera to train the rangers in tracking and protecting the newly reintroduced species. His death was a devastating loss for his family and all who knew him, and a giant blow to rhino conservation in Africa.

Along with the 18 rhinos, an additional two male lions were translocated from South Africa to enhance the genetic diversity of the existing lions, increasing the number to 19; almost tripling the population in just three years. Four lion tracking collars were replaced on the original founder group of seven who were reintroduced in 2015, to continue long-term monitoring and aid in their protection. Forty-five confiscated endangered grey crowned cranes were released by the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association into an enclosure in Akagera, from where over 100 rehabilitated



Akagera's K9 anti-poaching dog unit has helped reduce poaching to an all-time low since 2010. © Tom Parker



School children line the streets to celebrate the historic return of the black rhinos to Rwanda. © Gaël Vande weghe

cranes have previously been released, for re-entry into the wild. Wildlife populations across the park continued to steadily increase. The fourth comprehensive park-wide aerial census of large key species and the first systematic aerial surveillance of the wetlands was completed. Results indicated steady growth of elephant, lion, hippopotamus, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, topi and crocodile.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Poaching levels continued to remain at an all time low over the seven years of managing the park, with only two people arrested and six snares collected over the course of the entire year. Akagera gained a full-time helicopter, thanks to the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, providing for improved park-wide surveillance and aiding in rhino monitoring. Sixty-eight rangers were employed, and conducted 4,881 total patrols (an increase of 372 compared to 2016) including 729 boat patrols and 363 canine patrols.

Technology is a vital component of our effective law enforcement strategy and Akagera has served as an important piloting ground for new technological advancements to help in protected area management. The park hosted the Domain Awareness System (DAS) user meeting for numerous conservation groups from across Africa. This was after a year

of having successfully rolled out the data integration system to aid in monitoring and anti-poaching measures, which we have been developing with Paul Allen's Vulcan Ltd. In collaboration with Smart Parks, a LoRa Network was also installed throughout Akagera. It is a private, low cost, solar-run network that has the potential to enable park management to monitor all activities and wildlife within the park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building local support is key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of Akagera; well-run protected areas deliver many needed benefits, not only for wildlife, but for surrounding communities. Over US\$519,000 was spent on salaries, purchasing building materials, paying for technical support, community activities and food, all contributing to the local economy.

During the year, 1,624 local students visited the park as part of the annual environmental education programme and more than 2,400 students from 37 Rwandan schools were granted free or discounted entry. Over 8,000 trees were planted on the park's periphery to provide alternative sources of timber and reduce the pressure on Akagera's wild resources. Ninety-two beehives were donated to communities and



Beekeeping is a sustainable livelihood supported by the park. © John Dickens



One of the lionesses that was reintroduced. © Vysakh Nambiar

more than 2,940 kg of honey was harvested by four cooperatives on Akagera boundary. The park held numerous film and sporting events, attracting more than 16,000 spectators thus increasing the local visibility of the park and building a constituency for conservation.

Mitigating and preventing human-wildlife conflict is a critical measure to build ongoing support from local communities for the park and its wildlife. Nine hyaenas were caught outside of Akagera in community traps and were successfully released back into the park. Two four-week old hyaenas were also brought to the park headquarters by a local community member and are being raised by park management for future release into the park.

US\$1.6M
in tourism
revenue from
37,284 visitors
in 2017



PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Employment was on the rise in 2017, with 220 full-time and 107 part-time employees. The Rwanda Red Cross certified 100 Akagera staff members in First Aid, increasing our capacity of skilled individuals that are able to deliver basic but often life-saving support in rural areas. Approximately 28 km of new road networks were created to provide improved access to certain areas in the park and to assist with rhino monitoring patrols. Construction began on the community centre, which will be a multi-use space, completed in phases, beginning with an environmental education and community training area, office, retail area and demonstration garden. A dormitory will also be added to allow children to travel from other parts of Rwanda to visit the park.

TOURISM

New records were set for the number of visitors and tourism-generated revenue for Akagera in 2017. A total of 37,284 visitors made their way into the park; 50 percent of those were Rwandan nationals, and together they contributed US\$1.6 million in net park revenue, an increase of 20 percent since 2016. This revenue contributed to 75 percent of Akagera's annual expenditures, making this park almost completely self-sustaining.

Ruzizi Tented Lodge maintained a five-star rating on TripAdvisor and received a Certificate of Excellence for the third year in a row. Park guides, along with Ruzizi and Kareng Tented Camp staff, received training to help improve the visitor experience. We were honoured with a park visit by His Excellency President Paul Kagame, who came to Akagera for a day trip in September. He dined at Kareng Bush Camp and was guided by a Community Freelance Guide – one of the 18 freelance guides who were recruited from the local community and trained to work as guides in the park since 2014.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Ensure the security of the black rhinos and see positive growth
- Achieve park visitation of 1,800 local children and local society leaders
- Complete the five-star eco-lodge and have it open for tourism
- Generate a net revenue of US\$1.7 million and receive 36,000 visitors to the park
- Complete phase two of the community centre including an education and training space



CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Chinko

19,846 km²

African Parks Project since 2014

Government Partner:
Ministry of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing

European Union Békou Trust Fund, Fondation Segré,
The Walton Family Foundation,
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
were major funders in 2017



Chinko

DAVID SIMPSON | PARK MANAGER



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – Nestled within the eastern part of the Central African Republic (CAR) in a war-torn region plagued by instability and deadly ethnic violence, lies a wildlife refuge called Chinko. Despite decades of civil war, intense poaching, illegal grazing and heavily armed herdsmen, remnant populations of key species persisted and habitats remained intact, making this one of the largest ecosystems with the greatest conservation potential in all of Central Africa. The year began with tragedy when a fatal helicopter crash claimed the lives of David Fine, Sous-Lieutenant Mbenga-Nzongombo Ponce Pilate, and Shaun Barendsen. This was shattering for everyone, but our Chinko team persevered valiantly and achieved tremendous successes on the ground.

Over the year, thanks to effective law enforcement, our team managed to secure this 19,846 km² landscape, keeping main threats at bay, and a 10,500 km² area completely free of cattle. Prior to African Parks signing a 50-year mandate with the government in 2014, hundreds of thousands of cattle flooded the park. Today, they are only found on the boundary, and where they once grazed, herds of buffalo, hartebeest and hippos have taken their place. Eastern Lord Derby Eland are on the rise and nine more were collared in 2017; increasing signs of lions and elephants are being documented, and animals are finding their way back into existence. And while wildlife is benefitting from the safe haven within the park's boundaries, so are people. A humanitarian crisis developed when more than 380 Internally Displaced People, mainly women and children, fled to Chinko – the only safe area – to prevent near-certain death, and were protected by the park and our rangers. In restoring security, Chinko has become a primary source of stability and safety in an entire region, for people and wildlife alike.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Important research and monitoring continued throughout the year, with the fitting of GPS satellite collars on nine Eastern Lord Derby Eland, four roan antelope and three Lewell's hartebeest. These individuals were monitored daily by our aerial surveillance team to collect essential data on their movements within the park, as well as on survivorship, to help inform our protection and management efforts for these understudied species. A ground survey in April indicated a 90 percent decrease in illegal human presence,

and a steady increase of key wildlife including the Eastern Lord Derby Eland, bongo and the giant forest hog in the same 10,500 km² area surveyed in 2014. Additionally, increasing signs of lions, hyaenas, wild dogs and even elephants with calves were documented during the latter part of the year; and a marked increase in the number of hippopotamus sightings indicated increased health of river systems. This can all largely be attributed to successfully keeping cattle, armed herders and poachers out of the park for the entire year.



Chinko provided life-saving support to 380 Internally Displaced People fleeing from ethnic violence. © Charlotte Mararv

LAW ENFORCEMENT

2017 began with a tragic helicopter crash on 24 January, killing all onboard, including two African Parks employees: David Fine, who was Chinko's Head of Law Enforcement, and Sous-Lieutenant Mbenga-Nzongomblo Ponce Pilate, Chinko's Assistant Law Enforcement Manager; and the chartered pilot Shaun Barendsen. The helicopter was returning from a routine patrol and crashed on approaching the helipad. This was a tremendous blow for the team and for the families left behind by these dedicated and passionate individuals. But the resolve of Chinko's team remained steadfast and they effectively addressed the many challenges the area faced over the year. Fifty-eight rangers conducted 423 foot patrols, covering almost 80 percent of the park and resulting in the seizure of 2.3 tonnes of illegal fish, 600 kg of bushmeat, 200 illegal fishing nets destroyed and 22 firearms confiscated. A training camp was built on site and became operational. All the rangers completed refresher training and Advanced Tactical Training.

Our request for Chinko's exemption from the United Nations arms embargo was finally granted, enabling us to significantly enhance our law enforcement capability and our anti-poaching work. This proved vital, given the security situation around Chinko, where numerous armed groups vied for power. Despite this, Chinko's core protected zone (an area completely free of threats) was expanded from 3,000 km² to 10,500 km² – three times the goal for 2017. That core zone was kept free of



cattle due to improved law enforcement techniques and daily aerial surveillance. By the end of the year, all threats were kept out of the entirety of the 19,846 km² park. A third aircraft was added to the fleet, which will allow for aerial coverage of the entire park in 2018.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local people living around Chinko are some of the most forgotten people on the planet. Decades of civil war, brutal ethnic violence, corruption and overall instability has created a humanitarian crisis. People are fleeing for their lives, and are lacking in even the most basic needs, from education and healthcare to employment opportunities. There was significant upheaval that escalated in 2017, with raids and ambushes on local civilians and villages leading to hundreds of deaths in the region. In March, 380 Internally Displaced People (IDPs), mainly the elderly and women and children, fled to Chinko, seeking refuge in the park to avoid being slaughtered. With no other law enforcement or security forces present, Chinko's staff provided them with shelter, food, water, healthcare and other life-saving provisions for the rest of the year. In neighbouring communities, 300 houses that had been destroyed by militias were also rebuilt by Chinko's staff. The Chinko team held the line in this forgotten place, with wildlife and human lives equally dependent on the park, more so now than ever.



One of the nine Lord Derby eland that were collared in 2017. © Dominique Prinsloo

As a result of this tumultuous and dangerous period, and for safety purposes, most of the community initiatives took place within Chinko's headquarters. Planning commenced on the construction of the Community Centre, which will be completed in 2019. And with the dry season, came the arrival of transhumance herders from the north, wishing to enter the park with their cattle. Our sensitisation teams were deployed to speak with the herders and raise awareness about Chinko, and its borders were able to direct them around the protected area.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

In Chinko, the escalation of the civil war in eastern CAR cascaded into the park with non-core staff having to be evacuated as a result of the unrest, and the contracts of several employees being terminated for their participation in the unrest. Infrastructure development continued with the completion of Chinko's workshop and one staff house, with a second one nearly finished. The construction of the office block was ongoing, and housing for all the staff members has been greatly improved. Existing roads and airstrips were maintained, and the local water source was refurbished.

Chinko's management team was strengthened with the arrival of new a new Finance Manager, Special Project Manager and Community Development Manager. New control mechanisms were implemented by the finance and human resource teams and management structures were reinforced. In December 2017, the park organised a conference focused on "Exploring the intersection between conservation and peacebuilding in Central Africa", and targeted key stakeholders including donors, conservationists and institutions.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Maintain the minimum core protection zone of 3,000 km² free of cattle and humans
- Continue construction of infrastructure at Chinko headquarters
- Further the development of the Greater Chinko framework and action plan
- Draft a land-use plan and Transhumance Plan to address longer-term challenges of people and livestock moving through the area
- Strengthen Chinko's core management team with the recruitment of a General Manager to advance the Greater Chinko Plan, which includes implementing a sustainable land-use system for the protection of the whole Chinko drainage basin
- Conduct a park-wide wildlife survey from March to May 2018



The Chinko team kept a 10,500 km² area free of livestock. © Brent Stirton



MALAWI

Liwonde

National Park

548 km²

African Parks Project since 2015

Governed by: African Parks Limited in partnership with
Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

Dutch Postcode Lottery, The Wyss Foundation
and WWF-Belgium were major funders in 2017



A darted bull elephant waits for the anesthetic to take effect in Liwonde. © Frank Weitzer



Liwonde

CRAIG REID | PARK MANAGER

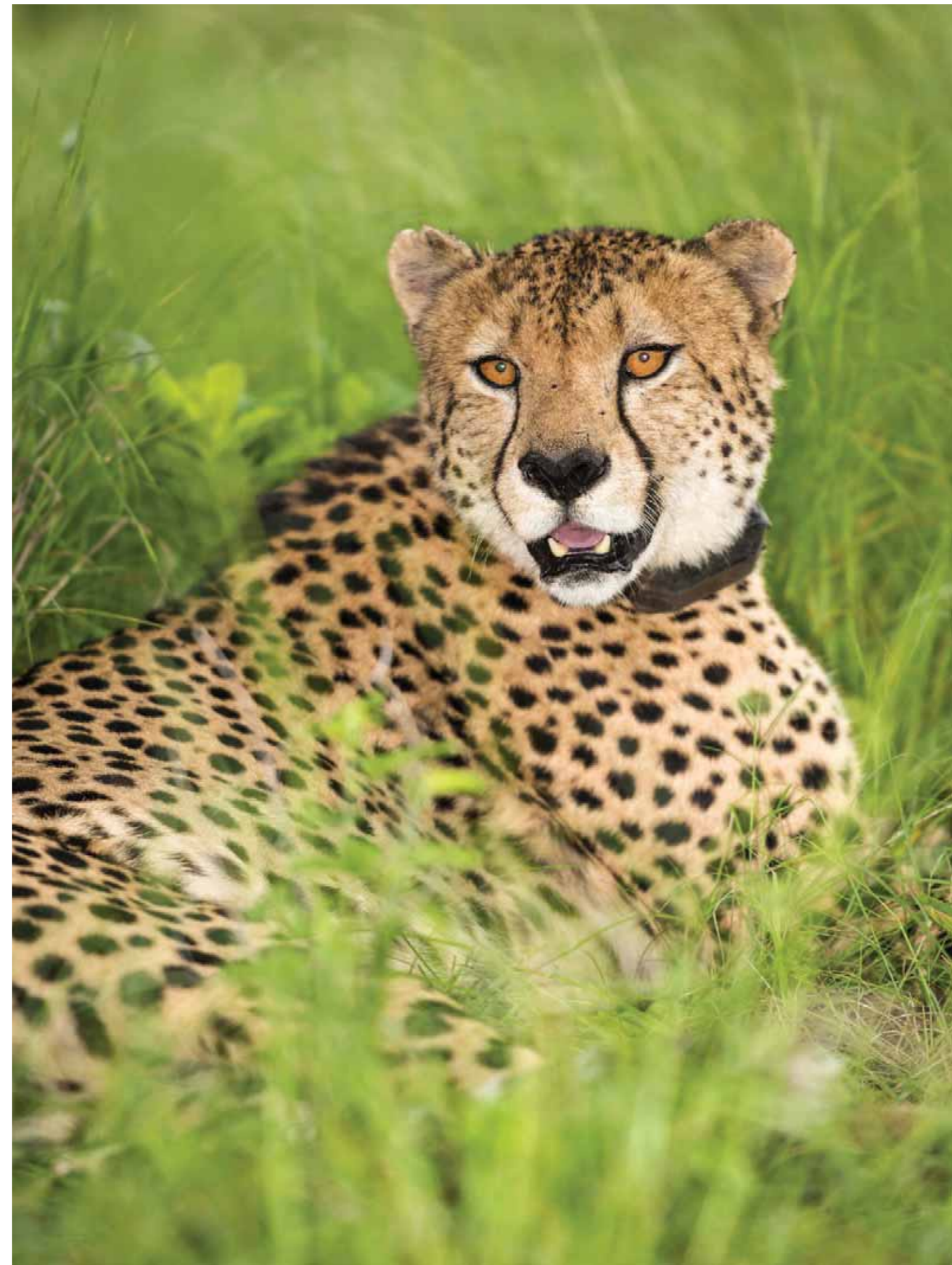


MALAWI – When African Parks assumed management of Liwonde National Park in Malawi, in partnership with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in 2015, the park was riddled with tens of thousands of wire snares – more snares existed than large animals – and had some of the highest human-wildlife conflict levels in the region. People were killing everything in the park, and tragically were also being killed by elephants and crocodiles. It was lawless and fraught with challenges. African Parks immediately began constructing an electric fence to keep wildlife inside the park. Just one year later, Liwonde was at the epicentre of one of the largest elephant translocations in history, through which a total of 336 elephants were relocated to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, reducing pressure on Liwonde’s natural habitats while helping to solve the deadly conflict situation. Since 2015, over 31,000 snares have been removed from this 548 km² park, and poaching is now under control. After restoring security, cheetahs were reintroduced in 2017, bringing the species back to the park after 100 years, and lion reintroductions are planned for 2018. Wildlife populations are on the rise, and so are the people who are coming to the park to marvel at the revival. The number of tourists is up 25 percent and revenue has increased by 70 percent since 2016. In just two short years, Liwonde has been given a second chance, and it is being restored and transformed, right before our very eyes.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

A total of 105 elephants were captured in 2017 and translocated to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, with 34 of those going to Nyika National Park, further north in Malawi. It marked the completion of the historic two-year ‘500 Elephants’ initiative, which overall reduced the local elephant population from 869 to around 550. The initiative was aimed at repopulating Nkhotakota, and also restoring balance in this small park by reducing the negative pressure of large herbivores on habitats as well as reducing the dangerous levels of human-wildlife conflict that were negatively impacting the surrounding communities. As part of the translocation process, Liwonde also provided 101 buffalo to Nkhotakota, while additional animals were translocated from Majete Wildlife Reserve to Liwonde including seven hartebeest, 19 sable, 25 eland, and 27 zebra to help improve the viability of these populations. The overall translocation was hailed as a conservation success and generated significant positive attention from around the world.

The endangered black rhino is a key species in the park, and at the close of the year the population was at 10 animals after one was poached. This small population was enhanced by the birth of three new calves, one of which sadly died from natural causes. Liwonde reached an important milestone with the reintroduction of seven cheetahs, the first to return to Malawi in 20 years and to the park in 100 years. They were introduced into a state of the art predator enclosure for habituation and then released into the wild. Two of the females produced litters at the end of year, delivering seven cubs between them. This successful collaboration with the Endangered Wildlife Trust was the first chapter in a long-term vision to restore predators that were once present and improve the ecological functioning of the park, while also enhancing tourism. By year end, most of the arrangements required for the lion reintroduction, planned for early 2018, were in place.



One of seven adult cheetahs that were reintroduced to Liwonde, marking the return of the species for the first time in 100 years. © Sean Viljoen



Liwonde's rangers confiscate illegal items, including fishing traps found within the park. © Sean Viljoen

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Liwonde's team grew from strength to strength this year. Much emphasis was placed on capacity building, with several rangers participating in various tracking courses. Some became Instructors, enabling more training to be done in-house. The first African Parks Standard Obstacle Course was constructed with support from The Thin Green Line Foundation, aimed at training new recruits while providing for conditioning of all rangers. A partnership was forged with the British Military who provided tactical support and mentorship to the rangers over a three-month period. Technological advancements were made throughout the year including the introduction of CyberTracker units to collect field data; the Vulcan Ltd. Domain Awareness System (DAS) was rolled out to enable real-time monitoring and Poacher Cameras were trialled with Panthera as illegal activity detection tools. The park also benefitted from having the helicopter present for the entire year.

The significant investments in the law enforcement team paid rich dividends, with 6,295 patrol man-days being achieved and 79 poachers arrested, resulting in 60 convictions. Included in this number are three individuals who poached a black rhino in the park in July. The horns were recovered, and the perpetrators were swiftly brought to justice by the Malawian Courts, receiving a combined 36 years in prison. This record sentence was a result of the newly revised Wildlife Act which made global headlines, demonstrating Malawi's strong commitment to conservation. One elephant was poached, but the ivory recovered. This is in stark contrast to the first year-and-a-half of operations during which 27 elephants and one rhino were killed. A reduction in the number of snares set in the park was seen in the removal of 9,584 compared to over 16,000 in 2016.



7 cheetahs were reintroduced to Liwonde after a 100-year absence

Four firearms and 33 gin traps were recovered and 126 boats used for illegal fishing in the park were seized.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Successful restoration of a park requires that local communities must value and benefit from the park's existence; and this begins with active community engagement. African Parks is a significant employer in the area, providing 185 full-time jobs to local employees and up to 250 to temporary employees. Combined with tourism jobs and the local procurement of goods and services, the park is a significant driver of the local economy. Malawi is an impoverished and densely populated country, and people living in and around Liwonde have limited choices for making a sustainable livelihood.

To improve the local economy we distributed 450 goats to households, and supported 26 Moringa growers, 13 beekeeping groups and 17 micro irrigation groups. We negotiated with buyers to secure a market and take this to scale to produce meaningful benefits for communities over time. Three boreholes were drilled outside the park to provide safe and sustainable water supplies; and two were drilled inside the park to feed reticulation schemes in the villages beyond the fence. A ferry was donated to a community that manages the transfer of people across the Shire River and the proceeds from this supports a local school. The completion of the 140 km electric perimeter fence has dramatically reduced the historically chronic levels of human-wildlife conflict, now allowing people to live and work more safely around the park.

Delivering education is necessary to create a constituency for conservation, helping children value the park as they grow up. Liwonde contributed to infrastructure at five schools including classroom and administration blocks,



Kester Vickery helps an anaesthetised elephant to the ground during the translocation in Liwonde National Park. © Frank Weitzer

supplying materials to refurbish classrooms and donating 100 school desks. More than 3,142 children went through Liwonde's environmental education programme, and the park provided 11 university and 23 secondary school students with scholarships to continue their studies. To stimulate community involvement in tourism, we continued with the Community Guides programme, which trains and supports young local people in marketing their services as tourist guides at the main entrance. They were provided with uniforms and a new kiosk as their base. We anticipate this opportunity to grow as tourism visitation increases.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The rhino sanctuary was expanded, increasing to four times its original size to reduce territorial impacts and to plan for a growing population. Considerable effort went into grading over 160 km of roads for the elephant translocation. The roads were used for tourism thereafter, vastly improving visitors' experience. Improvements to the main road will facilitate easier access to the tourism lodges and provide staff access deep into the park during the wet season. These improvements were all made by a small local contractor, demonstrating one of the many economic benefits park restoration provides to local communities. The entrance gate upgrade was completed, and a shop opened as an outlet for Malawian produce. The Environmental Education Centre was further upgraded, and the Park Manager's house was completed by mid-year. Three management boreholes were drilled in the park and the two airstrips were maintained and registered, and more work was done on securing the aircraft hangar, including a bulk fuel supply for the helicopter. Three 30-metre towers were constructed to support the installation of infrared cameras in 2018, and a boatyard was excavated to facilitate management and tourism boating operations, which will also be completed in 2018.

TOURISM

The ecological restoration of Liwonde through the translocation of elephants, the introduction of cheetahs and increasing wildlife numbers through better security is having a direct positive impact on tourism and revenue generation. Tourist numbers increased by 25 percent from 12,945 in 2016 to 16,384 in 2017, also increasing revenue by 70 percent from US\$196,303 to US\$329,699 by year-end. Two concession agreements were signed for new tourism lodges in the park and are expected to be operational in 2018, further increasing revenue and helping to make Liwonde a greater asset to local communities through job creation and associated enterprise development. The park received top-tier local and international media coverage associated with the elephant capture, cheetah translocation and the British Military deployment to the park, helping to increase visibility and position Liwonde as a burgeoning wildlife destination in the region.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Reintroduce two unrelated prides of lion
- Reintroduce leopard from within Malawi
- Assume management of the 375 km² Mangochi Forest Reserve, contiguous with Liwonde
- Increase income through the operationalisation of two new tourism lodges
- Further invest in technological support for law enforcement operations
- Maintain focus on mitigating human-wildlife conflict



MALAWI

Nkhotakota

Wildlife Reserve

1,800 km²

African Parks Project since 2015

Governed by: African Parks Limited in partnership with the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)

Dutch Postcode Lottery, People's Postcode Lottery, Stichting Dioraphte, The Wyss Foundation and WWF-Belgium were major funders in 2017



Nkhotakota

SAMUEL KAMOTO | PARK MANAGER



MALAWI – Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve has had a difficult past. Decades of poaching and lawlessness saw a previously productive 1,800 km² reserve with 1,500 elephants in the 1990's reduced to fewer than 100 individuals. Game animals were hunted out. Nkhotakota had become an empty Reserve. With wildlife practically gone, there was no reason to visit Nkhotakota, no revenue, no productivity, and little to no value for the surrounding communities. But African Parks had a different vision for the most extensive remaining wild landscape in Malawi, one that included bringing it back to life. Upon assuming management in 2015, we immediately began preparing Nkhotakota for one of the world's largest wildlife translocations. By August 2017, over a two-year period, the park received almost 500 elephants and 2,000 other animals. Poaching has been dramatically reduced through the presence of a well-trained and equipped ranger team, tourism has begun to increase, and the birth of new calves born in the park from the 2016 translocated elephants has already been documented. Extreme measures were taken to actively restore this landscape, and it was an extraordinary collaboration between the Government of Malawi, our donors and the team in Nkhotakota. It is early days, but in only two short years, already this park symbolises possibility and what nature can do with our help if only given the chance.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Nkhotakota was the beneficiary of one of the world's largest elephant translocations when in 2017 the park received the second and final group of 225 elephants. In total, 520 elephants were rehomed over a two-year period during July and August of 2016, and 2017 with a total of 486 elephants moved to Nkhotakota from Majete Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde National Park (34 elephants were moved from Liwonde to Nyika National Park). Also included were 101 buffalo, 101 waterbuck, 25 eland and 25 zebra in 2017, which amounted to a total of 1,855 game animals

being moved into Nkhotakota over the same two-year period. GPS radio collars were fitted on most of the elephant bulls and the matriarchs to help monitor their movements and better protect them in their new home. This was an extraordinary undertaking with the goal of helping to repopulate and ultimately revive the park ecologically after decades of poaching, and to improve tourism for much-needed revenue. Given this influx of hundreds of new elephants, there were several incidents of elephants breaking out of the fence, mostly east of the park, but they were attended to quickly, and most of the animals were pushed back into the park within 24-hours.



One of the newly translocated elephants in Nkhotakota, Malawi. © Frank Weitzer



One of the 101 buffalos translocated to Nkhotakota. © Frank Weitzer

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nkhotakota continued to improve its law enforcement effectiveness and capacity through training, mentoring and provisioning of equipment. All rangers were fully outfitted; 100 percent attended a refresher course in Basic Field Ranger training; six rangers completed an intensive ranger medic course; and two others went to Majete and South Africa for advanced courses in security. Nkhotakota hosted a three-day workshop conducted with the DNPW, together with Judiciary and Police staff, to discuss various law enforcement issues, including the significance of the newly amended Wildlife Act which takes a harder stance on wildlife crime in the country.

Twenty-two poachers were arrested with all but one convicted, compared to 86 arrests and only 27 convictions in 2016, showing increased support by the government for cracking down on wildlife crime. Ten animals were poached, two of which were elephants, compared to 26 animals in 2016, four of which were elephants. Over 100 hectares of illegal Indian hemp were destroyed, and 282 bags of charcoal were confiscated. Thirty-three rangers were employed and with 5,623 patrol man-days achieved, resulting in 227 snares removed, and the confiscation of 16 firearms and seven illegal fishing nets. The number of snares and firearms detected decreased dramatically compared to 2016, showing a marked and positive reduction in the park.

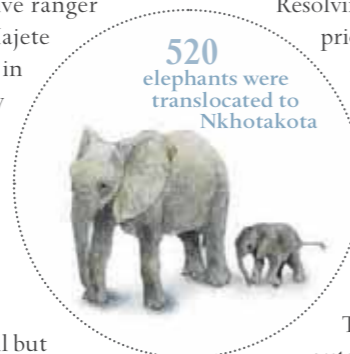
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Nkhotakota's long-term future is largely dependent on the nearly 107,000 people living within five kilometres of the park's boundary, and it is essential that these communities value and in some way benefit from the park's existence.

Resolving human-wildlife conflict has been a top priority, especially given the newly translocated elephants. In areas with high incidences of conflict, firecrackers were provided to neighbouring communities, which worked well in deterring elephants from coming too close to the fence and reduced incidences of breakouts. Six boreholes were drilled outside of the park, providing safe drinking water to at least 500 people.

The park supported the local hospital's outreach programme delivering much-needed health care services including family planning resources to 10 remote health centres in the most underserved areas. Sustainable alternative livelihoods are vital in reducing pressure on natural resources. To that end, Nkhotakota supported 23 Moringa clubs, one mushroom club, and five beekeeping clubs who received training in honey production. Communities were permitted to harvest bamboo, thatch grass, reeds and palm fronds for use and sale, benefiting almost 800 people.

Malawi is one of Africa's most economically challenged nations, and education has suffered. Nkhotakota provided 126 scholarships to these orphans and students most in



Samwe Nkosi ensures for the safe transport of an anaesthetised elephant. © Frank Weitzer

need so that they could continue their education. We built a three-classroom block to allow for more students to attend the Community Day Secondary School. More than 710 students from 22 schools and three communities visited the park for free, and our staff visited 69 schools, reaching more than 11,000 students in our school outreach programme. Eighty-seven community meetings were held, reaching 8,536 people, to discuss issues concerning the electrified perimeter fence, the elephant translocation, encroachment in the park, illegal firearms and poaching. We partnered with the Nkhotakota Community Radio to establish park-specific and conservation-focused radio programme to increase visibility and inform people about the park in a compelling and entertaining way.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Nkhotakota made numerous strides in the completion of essential infrastructure needed for the park. The second phase, consisting of 117 km of perimeter fence line, was completed to reduce human-wildlife conflict. The total perimeter fence, completed as of the end of 2017, amounted to 164 km, and the final phase will be completed in 2018. Numerous houses were constructed or improved for the law enforcement teams and senior and middle managers; an office and workshop complex were built, and the visitor and education centre was almost completed. Two dilapidated park entrance gates were replaced; solar power was installed at three ranger camps; and the road network within the park was increased by 28 km.

TOURISM

Although tourism is not a major push for the first five years of rebuilding and rehabilitating Nkhotakota, there has already been an increase in the number of tourists visiting the reserve since African Parks assumed management in August 2015. This can be attributed to the influx of elephants and other wildlife, and the global media coverage the park received for the historic translocation. In 2017, 1,100 tourists visited the park, up 35 percent from 2016. Revenue also doubled from US\$7,557 in 2016 to US\$14,697. New concession agreements were drafted for Tongole and Bua Lodge, which will be operationalised in 2018. Tongole Lodge added a bush camp that can house 15 visitors and accommodate many more on the campground. These additions and the concession agreements should result in a sharp increase in the revenue generated by 2018 and beyond.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Continue to monitor the elephant population and mitigate human-wildlife conflict
- Conduct ecological research including impacts of introduced elephants
- Modernise law enforcement with technology, upgrades, and advanced training
- Complete phase three of perimeter fencing and other essential infrastructure
- Continue to implement the community engagement strategy
- Operationalise Bua and Tongole tourism concessions to increase revenue



BENIN

Pendjari

National Park

4,800 km²

African Parks Project since 2017

Government Partner: Government of Benin

Government of Benin, National Geographic Society,
The Wyss Foundation and The Wildcat Foundation
were major funders in 2017





Pendjari

JAMES TERJANIAN | PARK MANAGER



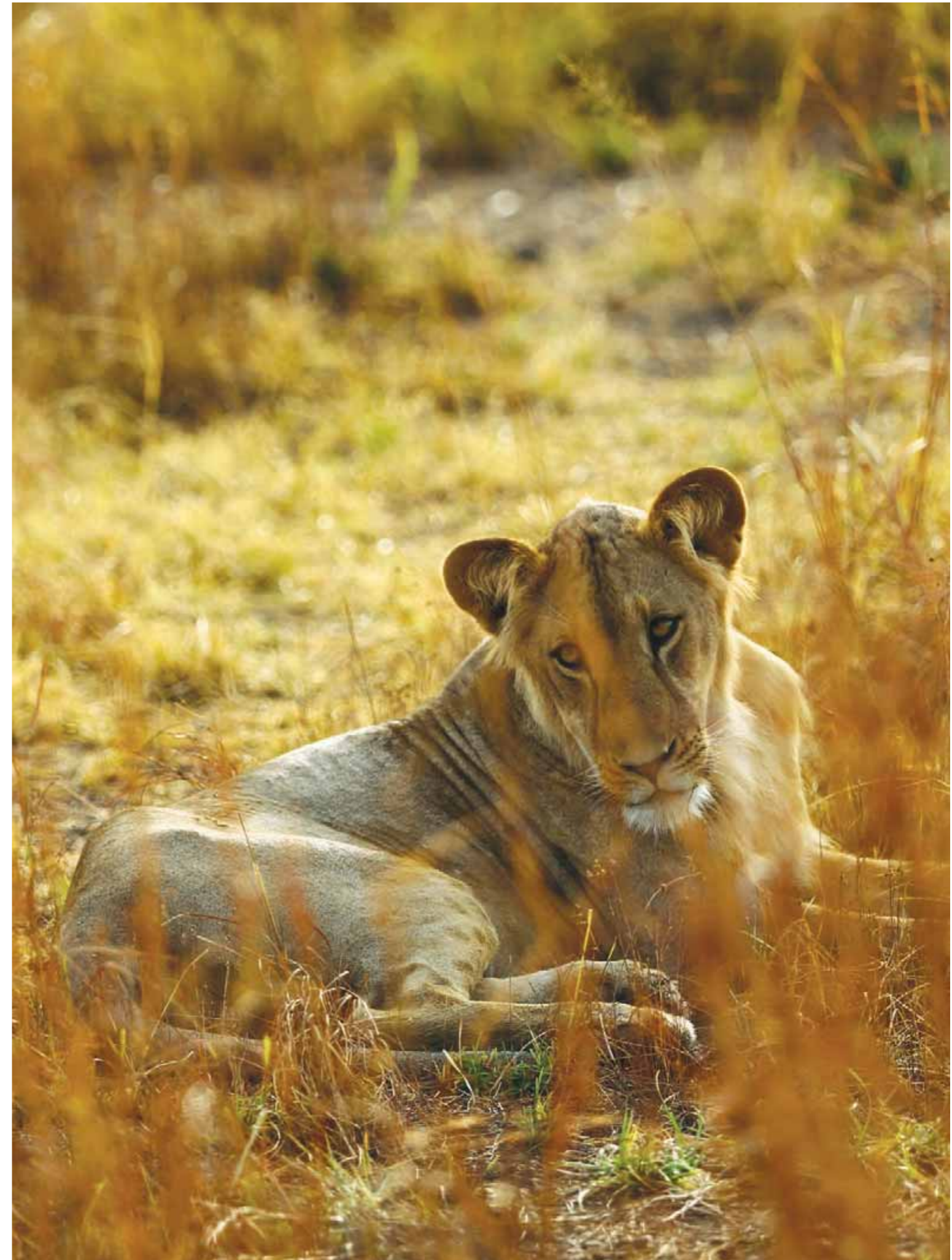
BENIN – Pendjari National Park is one of the most recent parks and the first within West Africa to fall under our management. Pendjari which is situated in the northwest of Benin and measures 4,800 km². It is an anchoring part of the transnational W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) complex, spanning a vast 35,000 km² across three countries: Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger. It is the biggest remaining intact ecosystem in the whole of West Africa and the last refuge for the region's largest remaining population of elephant and the critically endangered West African lion, of which fewer than 400 adults remain and 100 of which live in Pendjari. Pendjari is also home to cheetah, various antelope species, buffalo, and more than 460 avian species, and is an important wetland. But this globally important reserve has been facing major threats, including poaching, demographic pressure on surrounding land, and exponential resource erosion. But the Benin Government wanted to change this trajectory and chart a different path for this critically important landscape within their borders.

In September 2016, after a visit to Akagera National Park in Rwanda, which has been managed by African Parks since 2016, the Benin Director of Heritage and Tourism (APDT) approached African Parks to explore opportunities to revitalise and protect this landscape, and help the Government realise the tourism potential of Pendjari under their national plan “Revealing Benin”. We visited the park that same month, and at the beginning of 2017, the government issued an emergency plan and allocated US\$2 million to begin work right away, even before a mandate was signed. On 24 May, African Parks signed a 10-year management mandate, with the right to renew, and the Benin Government committed US\$6 million over five years, matching the Wyss Foundation's start-up funds of US\$10 million. At the end of 2017, the National Geographic Society also committed US\$7 million, forging a ground-breaking partnership with all parties and thanks to the progressiveness of the Benin Government, a lifeline was thrown to this little-known but globally important protected area.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The W-Arly-Pendjari complex is home to approximately 1,700 elephants, which is the largest and most viable remaining population in all of West Africa. Ten elephants were fitted with GPS satellite collars to improve our understanding of their transboundary movements to Arly National Park outside of the park, as well as to allow us to deliver a more focused and effective deployment of law enforcement teams for better protection. To aid in

developing a comprehensive strategy for the management of the West African lion population in the park, a camera-trapping protocol was put in place in collaboration with Wild Cru, and a wider monitoring programme for lion habitat-use was prepared. An ultra-light aircraft was purchased and assembled, and we began regular aerial surveillance over the park. Discussions also began with several of the national universities to review the collaboration protocols for a research and training programme, which will be operational in 2018.



Pendjari is home to a population of 100 of the last remaining 400 critically endangered West African lions. © Jonas van de Voorde

LAW ENFORCEMENT

A new Law Enforcement Strategy was developed and gradually implemented. It included managing the operations from the new operational base inside the park, allowing for the centralisation of management and the deployment of the ranger teams. It also included the introduction of small, four-man teams to increase their mobility on foot and who were not confined to permanent posts to increase their coverage. The first operations room was put in place to allow for real-time tracking of field teams. New equipment was also delivered and utilised by the ranger teams.

African Parks initiated the creation of a 'Special Brigade' for Pendjari, that allowed for a selection of young men from the local communities to be trained as rangers under African Parks' protocols and standards. A Forestry Officer was selected by African Parks to manage a Special Brigade and to allow for the full application of Beninese law. A new training camp was established in the heart of Pendjari and the first 31 candidates successfully underwent special training and became rangers, beginning their patrols in December, and to good effect. In just one month, the rangers conducted 82 patrols, making up a total of 4,281



100
critically endangered
West African lions
live in Pendjari

patrol man-days. They made 31 arrests and confiscated 210 kg of bushmeat and 516 kg of fish. Thanks to a strong collaboration with a tribunal in Natitingou, the closest town to the park, 100 percent of presented suspects were prosecuted.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Working with the communities who live around Pendjari, of which there is an estimated human population of around 40,000 people, is integral to the work we do, and especially in the first year or two of assuming management of a park, this community engagement is critical for the long-term success of the park. From day one, the Pendjari team developed a strong relationship with the Village Association of Faunal Reserves Management (AVIGREF) which was essential for efficient communications and for sharing information between the new park management and the local communities. Meetings were held in each of the 23 villages to explain African Parks' mandate and vision for the park, as well as the importance of our strategy in helping local communities benefit from effective management and from the park's resources as much as possible. This relationship was further developed with



Ranger recruitment and training was essential in 2017. © Stefan Heunis

collaboration on community awareness, community project preparations and environmental education programmes. In total, 1,124 school pupils and their teachers visited the park through the environmental education programme, and 30 schools were supported by Pendjari overall. Further discussions were held with AVIGREF on the future utilisation of natural resources and community development programmes all of which will be a priority in 2018. Projects for income generating activities surrounding the park, such as honey productions, were also developed for implementation in 2018.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

While African Parks signed the management mandate on 24 May 2017, there was a three-month transitional period with the Wildlife Authority, and full responsibility only began on 29 August. We slowly started to develop a new team and by the end of 2017, there were 74 employees. All administrative procedures were put in place according to African Parks Standard Operating Procedures and all staff were trained by the close of the year. After assessing the previous park management footprint, we decided to move the operations to the heart of the park to allow for full control over the area. There, we constructed a much-needed ranger training camp and built a garage, law enforcement offices and an armoury that were all operational. A borehole and solar system to supply the whole operational base was put in place; and construction began on a new airstrip. Material for three, 40-metre masts and equipment was purchased for the installation of a digital VHF communications system that will be installed in 2018. To allow access to some of the more remote areas of the park, a new 35 km of roads network was graded, and the main tourist circuits were cleared and repaired prior to tourist season for an overall improved experience.

TOURISM

Sustainable tourism development is a top priority and part of the wider strategy of the Government of Benin. In a national plan to showcase Benin to the world, and to invite the world in, the Republic of the Presidency of Benin launched "Revealing Benin", consisting of 45 projects, six of which are for tourism, with one of those being to rehabilitate and revitalise Pendjari National Park. The park saw close to 6,000 visitors over 2017, 38 percent of whom were international, and a figure that has steadily been increasing over the past few years. While visitation is on the rise, much infrastructure and development of new products and a widening of the tourism offering are badly needed. African Parks' first step was to purchase Pendjari Lodge in October, immediately beginning improvements to the structure. A new safari vehicle was introduced and was used for game drives; and walking tours and boat safaris were tested. The main park entrance was refurbished and refresher training was held for the community tourist guides.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2018

- Develop and implement a three to five-year law enforcement strategy
- Implement a fully operational communications system that includes VHF radio frequency throughout the park, and VSAT connectivity at the operational base
- Place 10 lion collars and 10 elephant collars with a fully functioning monitoring system to track movements
- Prepare and sign a new MOU with AVIGREF
- Develop and implement a tourism strategy with revenue targets



One of 10 elephants that received a GPS collar with support from the Elephant Crisis Fund. © Stefan Heunis

Parks in Development

African Parks' vision is to manage 20 parks by 2020, and extensive efforts have been made to continue to grow our portfolio. We began 2017 with 10 parks under management, and while we had to conclude our discussions on Shaba and Buffalo Springs in Kenya, four new parks were brought under our management throughout the year. Pendjari was signed in May; Siniaka Minia and Ennedi were signed in October and November respectively; and Bazaruto was signed in December. This brought us to a total of 14 parks in nine countries, spanning 10.5 million hectares.

When considering a park for inclusion into the African Parks portfolio, we follow three broad criteria that include ecological, socio-political and financial aspects, with the ultimate goal of receiving the mandate for delegated management authority from the government. Positive negotiations continued for Matusadona and Mangochi; and progress was made in advancing other prospective parks as we continue to build the largest and most ecologically diverse portfolio of parks under management by any one organisation in Africa.



Bazaruto is home to the last viable population of dugongs in the West Indian Ocean. © Christian Schlamann

SHABA NATIONAL RESERVE AND BUFFALO SPRINGS NATIONAL RESERVE, KENYA, 370 km²

After several years of negotiations with the Isiolo County Administration, we unfortunately chose to suspend our discussions on Shaba and Buffalo Springs due to a shift in political sentiment following elections in August 2017, which subsequently led to a change in administration. We remain committed to supporting the Isiolo County's administration and their efforts to restore and recapitalise these two compelling and important national reserves, should the prospect of a public private partnership emerge again as a viable and desired option.

ENNEDI NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESERVE, THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD, 40,000 km²

Following three years of discussions, activities, and an extensive investigation into the viability of establishing Ennedi as a new natural and cultural reserve, African Parks signed a 15-year management agreement with the Chadian Government to manage the landscape in November 2017. This agreement did not come into force, however, until February 2018, following a successful January 2018 Board due diligence site visit. The Rainforest Trust provided initial funding to support our investigative work with the goal of designating Ennedi as a formal reserve in order to secure the archaeological and cultural heritage of the region. The Ennedi Massif, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2016, covers a vast 40,000 km² of plateaus, spectacular rock formations, and gorges that house permanent water sources. Despite intense poaching over recent decades, this arid environment is home to 526 plant species, at least 199 bird species, a variety of mammal species including Barbary Sheep, Dorcas gazelle, a possible remnant cheetah population, and a relic Desert crocodile population. Human occupation of the Massif dates back over 10,000 years to the Neolithic Period, and thousands of images have been

painted and carved into this landscape, making it one of the largest and most globally significant rock art ensembles in the Sahara. Today, Ennedi is an important resource for two semi-nomadic ethnic groups in need of pastures and water for their livestock. The long-term vision for this project is to rehabilitate and conserve the natural, historical and cultural heritage of this World Heritage Site. A comprehensive business plan was prepared in 2017, outlining key objectives and strategies to protect the reserve, mitigate key threats, work with local communities, and improve tourism to generate needed revenue. Funding has been secured from two key donors supporting the critically important first few years of the project. The inclusion of Ennedi has added the Sahara-Sindian and Sahel Ecoregions to the African Parks portfolio, and we look forward to working with the Government of Chad to secure and preserve this remarkable and globally significant landscape.

BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO NATIONAL PARK, MOZAMBIQUE, 1,430 km²

On 6 December 2017, after almost three years of negotiations, African Parks signed a 25-year agreement with Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) for the management of Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, the first marine reserve to fall within our portfolio. Our shared vision with the government is to reinstate Bazaruto as one of the leading and most productive marine protected areas in eastern Africa. A remarkable seascape, Bazaruto is an important sanctuary for over 2,000 fish species and iconic marine megafauna including numerous species of whales, sharks, rays, dolphins and turtles. The flagship species, however, is the dugong where Bazaruto is home to the last viable population within the western Indian Ocean. The Archipelago includes five islands that support a local population of approximately 5,800 people, most of whom are entirely dependent on marine resources to survive. With several well-established high-end lodges, the challenge is to position Bazaruto as a well-managed and sustainably thriving tourist destination as well as a safe and productive marine sanctuary where wildlife and people can

both benefit. Since the signing of the agreement, African Parks immediately initiated meetings with local and provincial authorities and administrators, tourism stakeholders and local communities to ensure that all relevant parties were informed as to the change in management and what the plans and priorities will be over the coming years. Detailed business and activity plans have been developed, and the focus in 2018, besides laying the foundational needs to manage this park, will be on applying critical interventions to mitigate poaching, normalise tourism concessions, reduce revenue losses, and enhance benefit flows from tourism and conservation to the resident communities.

MATUSADONA NATIONAL PARK, ZIMBABWE, 1,470 km²

Matusadona National Park represents true African wilderness with its mixed habitats and is situated on the southern shore of the picturesque Lake Kariba, recognised for its iconic drowned forests. While the park's elephant population has experienced poaching pressure in recent years and only a remnant black rhinoceros population remains, Zimbabwe has a proud history of innovative and effective conservation practices and the integrity of Matusadona as a wilderness landscape remains undiminished. African Parks has been in negotiations with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority since 2016 to secure a delegated management agreement for Matusadona, and as of the end of 2017, these negotiations have been nearing a successful conclusion. We anticipate this coming to fruition in 2018. Thereafter, in partnership with the Wildlife Authority, African Parks would work to rapidly restore Matusadona as a sanctuary for the local wildlife, especially elephants and black rhinos, and position

Matusadona as a leading safari tourism destination offering exceptional game viewing from both land and the lake. Discussions have been initiated with key funders to capacitate this project, and we look forward to adding a new country with some of Africa's most incredible protected areas to our portfolio.

MANGOCHI FOREST RESERVE, MALAWI, 378 km²

Since concluding the management agreement for Liwonde National Park in 2015, African Parks has been pursuing discussions with the authorities in Malawi to develop and manage the adjoining Mangochi Forest Reserve as one ecological unit with Liwonde. Unlike Liwonde's floodplain and low-lying tall mopane woodland habitat, Mangochi comprises upland Miombo and montane forest, reaching 1,450 metres above sea level and adding considerable diversity to this connected landscape. The area of wet forest cloaking the summit of Mangochi Mountain is a particularly rare habitat type in Malawi, and the addition of this reserve would increase Liwonde's existing footprint of 546 km² by almost 70 percent. Negotiations have been very positive and are anticipated to come to fruition in 2018, whereby African Parks would be granted a mandate to manage Mangochi under the auspices of our Liwonde management unit. This will secure the Liwonde-Mangochi corridor, allowing for the free movement of animals between the two protected areas. As with Liwonde, an important intervention will be the addition of a secure perimeter fence around portions of the Forest Reserve to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in this densely populated region of Malawi.



Ennedi in Chad harbours a globally significant collection of rock art. © Michael Viljoen

Our Partners

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Students construct protective fencing around one of the many thousands of seedlings provided to communities living around Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi.
© Marcus Westberg

Government Partners

Our work is only possible with the support of our Government and our other local partners in each country in which we operate.

Although the approach adopted by African Parks is one of delegated management, we still remain dependent on our host Ministries, Departments, Wildlife Institutions and Traditional Authorities to serve as the link to various sectors of government to secure approvals, licences, and permits and ensure general political and societal support for our actions. The stronger these relationships, the better the support provided for our activities, and the more successful the project. Their statutory roles are enshrined in the agreements, and their participation is ensured through approval of park business plans and participation on each parks' Board. We thank them all for the trust bestowed upon African Parks.

MALAWI DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (DNPW)



The DNPW is the statutory organisation in charge of national parks, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries as well as wildlife management on communal lands in Malawi. We began our work with the DNPW in Majete Wildlife Reserve in 2003 and in Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and Liwonde National Park in 2015. Brighton Kumchedwa has played an instrumental role, particularly in the conclusion of the more recent projects.

ZAMBIAN DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (DNPW)



The Zambian DNPW works to protect and conserve Zambia's wildlife estates and to improve the quality of life among communities and maintain sustainable biodiversity. We began our work with the DNPW in Liuwa Plain National Park in 2003 and in the Bangweulu Wetlands in 2008. Paul Zyambo is the current Director.

BAROTSE ROYAL ESTABLISHMENT (BRE) – ZAMBIA



The BRE is recognised by the Zambian Government as an official administrative entity in the Barosteland region, and as such, is an essential partner in the Liuwa Plain project. His Majesty Lubosi Imwiko II and the Limulunga Kuta (parliament) played an instrumental role in convincing the Zambian Government to conclude an agreement with African Parks in 2003, and have maintained an active role in guiding the project through the participation of two BRE representatives on the Liuwa Board.

INSTITUT CONGOLAIS POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE (ICCN) OF THE DRC



The ICCN is the semi-autonomous government authority charged with the management of protected areas in the DRC. The mandate of the ICCN is to control and patrol these protected areas, to collect and analyse data from the field and to facilitate tourism possibilities where possible. We began our work with the ICCN in Garamba National Park in 2005 under the leadership of Pasteur Cosma Wilungala.

RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD (RDB)



The RDB is the government agency responsible for managing Rwanda's national parks and protected areas. Its mission is to transform Rwanda into a dynamic hub for business, investment and innovation, with a mission to fast-track economic development in Rwanda by enabling private sector growth. We began our work with RDB in Akagera National Park in 2010. We would like to thank Claire Akamanzi for her excellent support of Akagera.

MINISTRY OF FOREST ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



The Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development has the task to execute national policy as defined by the President of the Republic of the Congo regarding sustainable development, forest economy and the environment. We began our work with this Ministry in Odzala-Kokoua National Park in 2010 under Minister Djombo and welcome Minister Madame Rosalie Matondo who was appointed in 2016.

THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD



The Republic of Chad is African Parks' partner in the management of Greater Zakouma, an extensive ecosystem which includes Zakouma National Park and Siniaka Minia Faunal Reserve. The Chadian Government, on the advice of the European Union, approached African Parks in 2010 to take on the management responsibility of Zakouma in order to put an end to the ongoing scourge of elephant poaching. The mandate agreement was signed in June 2010 and African Parks commenced management of the park and periphery in October of the same year. Siddick Hagggar is the Minister of Environment, Water and Fisheries and Madangah Ngamgassai is the Director of Wildlife.

MINISTRY OF WATER AND FORESTRY, HUNTING AND FISHING OF CAR



The Ministry of Water and Forestry, Hunting and Fishing retains primary responsibility for sustainable management of forest resources, including oversight of commercial forestry operations and management of the national parks of the CAR. We began our work with the Ministry of Water and Forestry, Hunting and Fishing in Chinko in 2014. The current Minister is Lambert Lissane Moukove.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENIN



The Presidency of the Republic of Benin entered into a long-term partnership with African Parks in May 2017 to revitalise, rehabilitate and develop Pendjari National Park, one of the largest remaining protected reserves in West and Central Africa. The revitalisation of Pendjari National Park is one of the 45 flagship projects of the "Revealing Benin" national investment programme, announced by the Presidency of the Republic of Benin in December 2016. The Minister of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministre du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable), José Tonato, and José Pliya, the Managing Director of the National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and the Development of Tourism, have played an instrumental role.

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF CONSERVATION AREAS (ANAC) – MOZAMBIQUE



In December 2017, African Parks signed a 25-year management agreement with Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) to restore, develop and manage Bazaruto Archipelago National Park, and revitalise it to become one of the leading and most productive marine protected areas in eastern Africa.

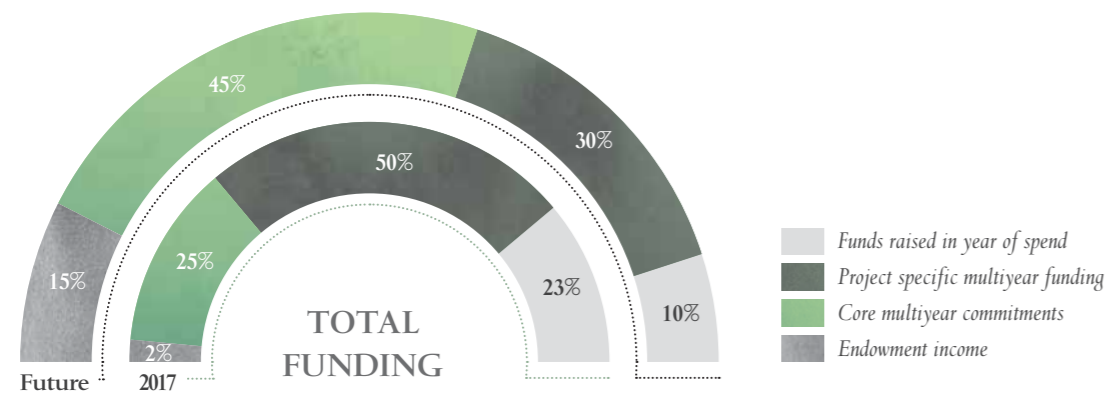
Strategic Funding Partners

African Parks' success and our ability to deliver excellence as we expand into new parks could not be achieved without philanthropic support. A core group of funders serve as our strategic anchors. They provide multiyear commitments of over US\$500,000 per annum which allow us to plan responsibly and with ambition.

We gratefully acknowledge these partners who have journeyed with us and helped demonstrate the success of the public-private-partnership model in the African conservation space. They are powerful catalysts, providing critical funding for urgent and ongoing efforts.

As our annual budget grows in absolute terms, we rely on a diverse base of funding support from public institutions, national governments, individuals and families, foundations, lotteries and other conservation organisations. A solid long term base allows us to mitigate the risks of changing donor priorities, global financial crises and the ever changing needs of a dynamic park portfolio.

The bedrock of our funding is a reliable endowment and multiyear commitments that provide us with the flexibility to direct funds where they are needed most and where they can leverage additional income. We also seek funds from public institutional funders and foundations who can provide significant, often restricted, support for core operations and dedicated initiatives. As this funding security grows, we are able to direct more of our annual fundraising efforts towards filling funding gaps in future years and seeking funding for special projects such as animal relocations, infrastructure and technology upgrades, research initiatives, expansion of community projects, and other projects that enhance our core work and impact.



A pride of lions rest under the shade of a tree in Zakouma in Chad. © Marcus Westberg

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Acacia Conservation Fund (ACF) is the philanthropic operation of Acacia Partners. The Fund is interested in conservation investments that address the declining biological diversity of life on earth. ACF supports result-oriented, entrepreneurial organisations that maximise the impact of its philanthropic dollars and that are focused on proving and then expanding their impacts over time. ACF has provided unrestricted support to African Parks since 2015.



Adessium Foundation is a grant-making foundation working towards the benefit of nature and society. Its mission is to contribute to a balanced society characterised by integrity, a balance between people and nature, and social harmony. Adessium has been a funder of African Parks since 2008, funding both the portfolio and institutional development.



The Howard G. Buffett Foundation seeks to catalyse transformational change, particularly for the world's most impoverished and marginalised populations. The Foundation views its resources as rare risk capital that can improve conditions and create change in the most difficult circumstances and geographies. The Foundation has provided critical support towards tourism and critically endangered species and habitats in Akagera National Park in Rwanda, including funding the reintroduction of rhinos, a helicopter as well as general support.



The European Union (EU) has been a strategic funding partner in Central Africa, providing anchor funding for Garamba, Zakouma and Odzala-Kokoua. Under the 11th European Development Fund, the EU has committed €20 million towards the Greater Garamba area for the period 2016-2020 and €10 million towards the Greater Zakouma area from 2017-2021. The Békou Trust Fund for CAR has also made a €1.5 million commitment to Chinko.

Fentener van Vlissingen Family

The late Paul Fentener van Vlissingen provided the bulk of the initial funding that established African Parks in 2003. 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 this Fund is earmarked primarily for African Parks' overhead costs. During 2017 the Fund contributed over US\$1 million towards African Parks' organisational needs.



The Government of Benin made a significant five-year commitment of US\$6 million when President Talon invited African Parks to take the responsibility to preserve, manage and develop the unique West African Heritage of Pendjari National Park in the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex that spans Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger.



The National Geographic Society is a non-profit organisation that pushes the boundaries of exploration to further our understanding of our planet and empower us all to generate solutions for a more sustainable future. The Society is supporting Pendjari National Park in Benin with a five-year multimillion dollar grant in addition to trading science-based exploration of the park; developing technology to monitor and protect the site; helping to convene stakeholders to develop a large-scale management plan; and helping to make the case for long-term financing and protection.

Donna and Marvin Schwartz

Donna and Marvin Schwartz are extraordinary advocates for conservation and animal-related causes. They have a special interest and strong commitment to saving elephants and other large species that are threatened by poaching. In 2017, their funding provided critical anti-poaching support for African Parks' parks throughout Central Africa.



Fondation Segré is a Swiss foundation established in 1996 that is committed to help protect the biodiversity of our planet through the conservation of threatened species and their habitat and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Fondation Segré became a strategic funding partner of African Parks in 2016 and has supported the Chinko Project, Zakouma National Park and Bangweulu Wetlands with law enforcement and translocations. To date, they have provided over US\$2 million.



The Rob and Melani Walton Fund of the Walton Family Foundation has a philanthropic focus on conservation and biodiversity protection. The foundation has supported African Parks since 2010, providing critical start-up funding for Akagera, and helped enable our work more generally. 2017 marked the third year of the Walton Family Foundation's most recent commitment of US\$5 million grant over five years to continue to strategically grow the African Parks portfolio with a particular emphasis on Akagera.



WWF-The Netherlands has been supporting African Parks since 2007, with the goal to develop the African Parks management model across Africa. Over €6.5 million of funding has gone to core operating costs and conservation projects at Liuwa Plain National Park, Bangweulu Wetlands and Odzala-Kokoua. A group of five families called the "Odzala Circle" contributes the Odzala portion of this funding. Our partnership with WWF in the U.S. currently focuses on Odzala-Kokoua as well. WWF-Belgium became a strategic funding partner of African Parks supporting our Malawi parks and Liuwa Plain.



The Wyss Foundation is a private charitable foundation dedicated to supporting innovative, lasting solutions that improve lives, empower communities, and strengthen connections to the land. In 2017, the Foundation continued their support of Akagera, Liwonde, Majete and Nkhotakota National Parks, and as part of a recent ground-breaking commitment of US\$65 million in the form of challenge grants for five new parks, began support of Pendjari National Park in Benin.



The Dutch Postcode Lottery has been raising funds since 1989 to support a fairer and greener world. Today it is the biggest charity lottery in the Netherlands, with 50 percent of the annual turnover going to over 100 non-governmental organisations. Since the start of the Lottery over €5.4 billion has been distributed to these beneficiaries. African Parks has been a beneficiary of the Dutch Postcode Lottery since 2010 and receives €900,000 in unrestricted funding per year. The Lottery also committed €890,000 for Rapid Response Units (2013-2017) and €2.6 million towards the Restoration of Liwonde National Park and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve in Malawi (2016-2017).



People's Postcode Lottery is a charity lottery, raising money for good causes across Great Britain and globally. A minimum of 32 percent of funds raised goes directly to charities. £282 million has been awarded to date to thousands of good causes. African Parks has been a recipient of funding from Postcode Planet Trust since 2015. In 2017 African Parks received £250,000 as a regular award and £550,000 as an extra award.



The United State Agency for International Development (USAID) operates the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment with the aim of conserving the ecological integrity of the Congo Basin Forest for the benefit of the local people and the global community, while protecting the resource base for future generations. USAID awarded African Parks a US\$10 million cooperative agreement for Garamba and Chinko for 2016-2020. African Parks also participates in the Community Resiliency in Central Africa (CRCA) which supports the vulnerable communities surrounding the parks, as a sub-awardee to Invisible Children.



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) operates to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. USFWS have provided grants to support our anti-poaching programmes in Chinko, Garamba, Odzala-Kokoua, and Zakouma. In 2017 USFWS, alongside USAID, continued to support the management and protection of Garamba and Chinko protected areas in Central Africa, as well as our work with WWF in the Sangha Tri-National and Northern Congo Forest Landscape and provided additional support for elephant surveillance in Zakouma.

Organisational & Individual Funders

African Parks' donors are spread around the world, linked by a shared commitment to safeguard Africa's wildlife and biodiversity. In 2017, we saw this funding base deepen and grow in the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States, and expand into several new geographies.

We are deeply appreciative to all of our donors who make our work possible – including those who prefer to remain anonymous.



An egret balances on a branch in Zakouma in Chad. © Kyle de Nobrega

US\$1,000,000 and above

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Randgold Resources/Kibali Gold Mine
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Brighton Kumchedwa
Mathews Matemba
Hon. Chief Justice Anastasia Msosa
Patricio Ndadzela

African Parks Zambia (Liuwa) Limited

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Kemba Kya Dembil
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Zakouma in Chad is a safe haven for an abundance of wildlife. © Steve Winter

2017 Financial Performance

2017 was the fourth year running where we did not have a funding deficit and therefore did not need to dip into the reserves of the organisation. This achievement was made despite our intensified investment in our existing portfolio as well as the addition of new protected areas. African Parks has more than doubled its investment in conservation in the last four years. Group spending was US\$44 million in the 2017 financial year. We remain grateful to all our donors who continue to make this achievement possible.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

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

The **income** utilised to fund the organisation's operations was from two main sources: donor income and gross park revenue. Individuals accounted for the largest portion of **donor income** at 60%. The African Parks endowment fund achieved a return of 5.1% for the 2017 financial year. A portion of this return was utilised to fund the operating costs of African Parks Network (APN). This is being reflected on the **endowment income** line in the management accounts below. Total funds invested in the endowment fund was €28.8 million (US\$34.5 million) as at year end. These funds are accounted for in the books of Stichting African Parks Foundation (SAPF), an affiliated entity of APN.

Gross park revenue funded 10% of park operations (2016: 10%). Akagera National Park remained the largest contributor towards gross revenue at US\$1.6 million in the 2017 year.

Group spending, as reported in the management accounts increased by 25% to US\$43.5 million. Pendjari National Park contributed an additional US\$2.6 million of spending within the group as the park started operations in April 2017. The Chinko Project and Garamba National Park together contributed an extra US\$3.1 million towards group spending in the current year. The translocation of rhino to Akagera National Park, various game to Bangweulu Wetlands and elephant in Malawi contributed another US\$2.5 million towards group spending.

Overheads, represented by the cost of APN as a percentage of total costs was 10% (2016: 12%). Stichting African Parks Foundation and African Parks Foundation of America are not reflected within the group results as they are separate legal entities. These two entities have the main purpose of fundraising for the group.

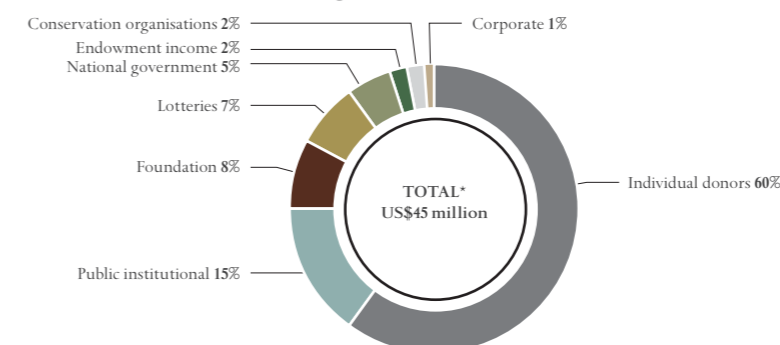
Capital expenditure amounted to US\$10 million (2016: US\$6 million). The total capital expenditure includes US\$1.9 million, being the cost of a new helicopter as well as US\$1.4 million, being the capital investment in Pendjari National Park during 2017. APN was donated an immovable property located in South Africa during the year. Although the value of the immovable property has been included in the annual financial statements, the management accounts do not reflect this as it was an "in-kind" donation. The value of the property was estimated to be US\$6 million.

Group Management Accounts

	Protected areas US\$'000	African Parks Network US\$'000	Total per management account US\$'000	Consolidation adjustments US\$'000	Total per financial statements US\$'000
Income	39,320	4,274	43,594*	(6,718)	36,876
Donor income	35,420	2,793	38,213	(6,626)	31,587
Gross park revenue	3,900	–	3,900	–	3,900
Endowment income	–	1,077	1,077	–	1,077
Cost recoveries	–	225	225	(225)	–
Other income	–	179	179	133	312
Total group spending	(39,279)	(4,256)	(43,535)	6,736	(36,799)
Operating expenditure	(27,957)	(3,838)	(31,795)	(3,688)	(35,483)
Capital expenditure	(10,148)	(276)	(10,424)	10,424	–
Special Projects operating expenditure	(1,174)	(142)	(1,316)	–	(1,316)
Net surplus/(deficit)	41	18	59	18	77

* Excludes in-kind donation of US\$6 million in the form of immovable property. Inclusion of the in-kind donation brings the aggregate donor income to US\$45 million.

Sources of donor funding



* Excludes impact of consolidation adjustment of US\$6.6 million and includes in-kind donation of US\$6 million.

EXTRACTS FROM THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The below were extracted from the audited financial statements of the company. These financials were audited by KPMG South Africa. A complete set of audited financials can be found on our website.

SUMMARISED GROUP STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

A summarised group statement of comprehensive income is presented below. A consolidated operating deficit for 2017 of US\$109,000 (2016: surplus of US\$850,000) was recorded. Since the group operates on a balanced budget system, the deficit in the statement of comprehensive income was mainly associated with movement in provisions, foreign exchange movements and depreciation.

Summarised group statement of comprehensive income

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 US\$'000	2016 US\$'000	% change
Income	36,876	29,686	
Donor income	31,587	24,904	27%
Endowment income	1,077	1,919	
Other operating income	4,212	2,863	47%
Operating expenses	(36,799)	(28,697)	28%
Employee benefit expenses	(13,192)	(9,992)	
Depreciation	(3,583)	(2,517)	
Other expenses	(20,024)	(16,188)	
Results from operating activities	77	989	
Net foreign exchange differences and finance revenue/(expense)	28	(12)	
Profit/(Deficit) before the year	105	977	
Profit/(Deficit) for the year	105	977	
Other comprehensive loss	(214)	(127)	
Total comprehensive (deficit)/surplus for the year	(109)	850	

Income recognised is a function of expenses incurred. African Parks works on a balanced budget principle whereby donor funds received are first recognised as undrawn funds until utilised. Aligning ourselves to the business approach to conservation, costs incurred are first financed through operating income, followed by donor funding. The African Parks Network overhead costs are financed partly via the investment income generated by our endowment fund.

Donor income represents funds received that were used towards the funding of park activities. The total donor income recognised for the year increased by 27% to US\$31.6 million (2016: US\$24.9 million). Donor funds not yet utilised are categorised as undrawn funds.

Other operating income consists of gross park revenue as well as cost recoveries. Gross park revenue for the year was US\$3.9 million (2016: US\$ 2.8 million) and is included in the other operating income figure.

Employee benefit expenses is the largest cost category as our biggest investment remains in the people who ensure the efficient operation of the parks.

Other expenses include various field expenses such as aircraft, motor vehicles, maintenance costs as well as administrative expenses such as audit costs, board costs etc. The overall increase in expenses of 28% was partly due to the addition of Pendjari National Park, a new protected area in the portfolio.

Other comprehensive loss reflects the movement in the foreign currency translation reserve.

Abridged group statement of financial position

as at 31 December 2017

	2017 US\$'000	2016 US\$'000	% change
Assets	US\$'000	US\$'000	
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	19,765	13,375	
Investment property	6,320		
Current assets			
Inventories	402	167	
Receivables and prepayments	14,167	7,219	96%
Cash and cash equivalents	5,272	3,850	37%
Total assets	45,926	24,611	
Equity and liabilities			
Capital and reserves			
Foreign currency translation reserve	(1,631)	(1,416)	
Retained earnings	2,160	2,080	
Maintenance reserve	321	321	
Non-controlling interest	(128)	(153)	
Current liabilities			
Provisions	119	100	
Trade and other payables	2,947	1,720	71%
Undrawn funds	16,367	9,013	82%
Deferred income	25,771	12,946	99%
Total equity and liabilities	45,926	24,611	

Property, plant and equipment include infrastructure improvements, motor vehicles, aircraft, plant and machinery, furniture and fittings and other fixed assets. During 2017, an additional of US\$10 million (2016: US\$6.7 million) was invested in tangible fixed assets. This additional capital expenditure included an amount of US\$1.9 million invested in the purchase of a helicopter for Garamba's operations.

Receivables and prepayments include receivables from related parties of US\$11.8 million (2016: US\$5.7 million). The related parties consist mainly of donors as well as our affiliate organisations, being Stichting African Parks Foundation (US\$4 million) and African Parks Foundation of America (US\$2.5 million). The donations receivable as at year end totalled US\$5.2 million.

Trade and other payables include various accruals and other suppliers.

Undrawn funds represent grants received that were not utilised in the current year. The reason for non-utilisation was either because they represent unearmarked funding that will be utilised in 2018 or because they are earmarked for specific activities that are yet to take place. These are held as cash as well as receivables and are only disbursed in the earmarked project and the earmarked period.

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

Abridged group statement of changes in equity

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Foreign currency translation reserve US\$'000	Maintenance reserve US\$'000	Retained earnings US\$'000	Total US\$'000	Non- controlling interest US\$'000	Total US\$'000
Balance as at 01 January 2016	(1,288)	–	1,450	162	(179)	(17)
Surplus for the year			951	951	26	977
Transfer to maintenance reserve		321	(321)	–		–
Other comprehensive loss	(128)	–		(128)		(128)
Balance as at 01 January 2017	(1,416)	321	2,080	985	(153)	832
Profit for the year			80	80	25	105
Other comprehensive loss	(215)			(215)		(215)
	(1,631)	321	2,160	850	(128)	722

The **maintenance reserve** represents funding held as reserves for future maintenance of the helicopter owned by African Parks Network.

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

Abridged group cash flow statement

for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 US\$'000	2016 US\$'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	2,353	(90)
Net cash outflow from investing activities	(10,084)	(6,736)
Net cash inflow from financing activities	13,859	4,995
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,422	(1,831)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	3,850	5,681
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5,272	3,850

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

Summary Financial Statements

The accompanying summary of group financial statements (the “summary financial statements”) comprise of a summary of the audited financial statements of the group for the year ended 31 December 2017 (the “financial statements”). The financial statements were approved by the Board on 04 April 2018. These summary financial statements were published on 20 April 2018.

The financial statements were prepared by Ayesha Jackaria, CA(SA), Finance and Administration Director, and are available on our organisation’s website. This section provides the abridged summaries of the financial statements with commentary thereon.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The summary financial statements are prepared in accordance with the framework concepts and the measurement and recognition requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa. They do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act applied in the preparation of the group financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements for the group for the year ended 31 December 2017. The summary financial statements are prepared on an ongoing concern basis.

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

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 not-profit company in terms of Section 10 of the Companies Act of South Africa. African Parks Network is the strategic and decision making entity that is responsible for the business plan of each park, determining capital investments, operating budgets, standard operating procedures and appointing skilled park management.

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

Each park managed by African Parks is established as a separate legal entity, registered in the host country, with its own Board of Directors. 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. Each entity is 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 by African Parks Network management in Johannesburg. All employees are required to sign a code of conduct and to observe the highest standards of ethics. Liaison with African Parks stakeholders, identified as local government, local communities, donors, employees and affiliated organisations, is conducted through formal channels of communication as specified in the Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

The African Parks Network group financial statements, comply with International Reporting Standards (IFRS) and are audited by KPMG South Africa. In 2017, as in previous years, each entity received an unqualified audit opinion.

African Parks Network has affiliated organisations in The Netherlands, the USA and Switzerland. These are Stichting African Parks Foundation (The Netherlands), African Parks Foundation of America (USA) and African Parks Stiftung Schweiz (Switzerland). 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 which ensures a common purpose for all.

Get Involved with African Parks

The story of African Parks is written by all of those who support, visit, inspire, advocate for, and promote our efforts. We have already seen that it is possible to put protected areas on a completely different trajectory. Once restored and nature reasserts itself, African Parks acts as a responsible steward, enabling wildlife and communities to thrive.

There are several ways in which you can deepen your involvement and contribute to this environmental legacy:

Make a bequest – by including African Parks in your estate planning and naming African Parks in your will you can help ensure that African landscapes will be here for future generations to enjoy. Bequests can be directed to a specific park or to African Parks' overall portfolio.

Grow the endowment fund – a powerful tool for producing predictable income which provides resiliency and protection from financial volatility while boosting the confidence of all donors and investors. The capital is never eroded while funding is made available for operations on an ongoing basis. It also helps us be both strategic and ambitious in taking on new long-term management mandates.

Create a giving circle – gather a group of friends, family members or like-minded individuals to pool resources and make an annual commitment to African Parks. Groups can, for example, meet together and/or visit a park to connect with the story of conservation first hand and experience the impact that is possible. Our Young Ambassadors group is an example of this approach.

Pledge ongoing support – you can become a recurring donor at any level of giving. The monthly or annual nature of the gift creates a reliable source of funding that allows us to plan more effectively.

We'd love to discuss these and other options with you. Please contact us at:

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Executive Director, USA

If you would like to donate online, please visit africanparks.org/donate



“African Parks has created a culture that demands accountability, they are very transparent, and they deliver on what they say they are going to deliver on. So African Parks for me, is the gold standard for a conservation organisation on the continent of Africa, and when you have the gold standard, that is who you support.”

— Howard G. Buffett



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