ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST
Protecting forever, together.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust

INTEGRATED REPORT

2024 | 2025



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we reflect on the 2024/25 financial year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the resilience, integrity, and innovation that continue to define the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). The challenges facing biodiversity in South Africa, and across the African continent, are immense. Yet, the collective determination of our people, partners, and supporters has ensured that the EWT remains a beacon of hope for our planet's most threatened species and habitats.

This year marked another period of both reflection and renewal. The world continues to grapple with the accelerating effects of climate change, habitat loss, and economic uncertainty. Yet, despite these pressures, the EWT has not only sustained its vital conservation work, but expanded its impact across multiple fronts. Our teams have demonstrated agility, deep scientific expertise, and the courage to innovate, ensuring that conservation remains relevant, measurable, and rooted in community benefit.

Throughout the year under review, the EWT achieved significant milestones across its key focus areas. Our Wildlife and Energy Programme made substantial strides in reducing infrastructure-related threats to species, such as vultures and cranes, while deepening partnerships with the renewable energy sector to create models of coexistence between development and biodiversity.

The Carnivore Conservation Programme continued its leadership in protecting Africa's endangered carnivores, with particular progress shown in expanding safe corridors for African Wild Dogs and Cheetahs across Transfrontier landscapes to secure genetic diversity alongside addressing welfare concerns and expanding the metapopulations through the creation of new packs and coalitions. Our Threatened Amphibian and Reptile Programme recorded new baseline data critical to understanding the health of freshwater ecosystems – a reminder that even the smallest species can tell the biggest stories about environmental change.

In the grasslands and wetlands of South Africa, the EWT's restoration efforts have been transformative, creating resilient ecosystems that benefit both wildlife and people. These achievements are not isolated victories; they reflect a consistent strategic approach – one that blends sound science, strong partnerships, and inclusive community participation.





None of this has been achieved in isolation. During the year, we deepened collaborations with government, business, and civil society. Notably, our work with local communities has moved beyond awareness to genuine co-ownership of conservation outcomes. Through livelihood projects, capacity building, and youth engagement initiatives, the EWT has demonstrated that protecting biodiversity is not just an environmental imperative - it is an economic and social one too. Thus the emphasis in the EWT's vision for the future, the 2050 Future Fit Strategy, on collaboration and partnerships, particularly with landowners and Indigenous People & Local Communities (IPLCs) with the nine Strategic Conservation Landscapes in East and southern Africa. Through these partnerships we strive to create and secure safe spaces for threatened species, facilitate climate change adaptation, expand protected area corridors, reduce wildlife conflict and improve the well-being and ecological resilience of communities.

Our corporate partnerships have remained a cornerstone of our sustainability. We have been encouraged by the increasing number of companies that now view biodiversity not as a peripheral issue, but as integral to their ESG commitments. This collective ambition is central to the EWT's mission to embed conservation within the broader agenda of national development and human well-being.

The year was not without its challenges. The ongoing energy crisis, inflationary pressures, and constrained donor funding environment tested the resilience of many non-profit organisations. Notwithstanding these, the EWT maintained prudent financial management, diversified revenue streams, and reinforced transparency across all operations. We continue to invest in people and technology to ensure that every rand and dollar entrusted to us delivers maximum conservation return.

Our ability to remain adaptive - scientifically, operationally, and strategically - is a testament to the depth of talent within all our teams and the strength of our leadership at every level.

As we look to 2026 and beyond, our focus is clear: The EWT will continue to champion the intersection of conservation and climate resilience, leverage data and digital tools for smarter decision-making, and grow its influence in shaping national and continental biodiversity policy. We will deepen our engagement with the next generation of conservation leaders to ensure that our legacy is not just about the species we save, but also the people we have supported and inspired.

We are entering a defining decade for biodiversity. We are at a juncture where we have just over four years in which to achieve the international targets of conserving 30% of land and sea by 2030, drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions as we work to build resilience and protect vital resources and halt biodiversity loss in the face of unforgiving climate change. The decisions we make now will determine the health of our planet for centuries to come. Thus the importance of the newly-developed Future Fit Strategy, our promise and commit to a sustainable tomorrow in which no-one is left behind. Guided by science, strengthened by partnerships, and driven by purpose, the EWT stands ready.

In closing, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, board members, donors, and partners. Your belief in our mission fuels every success. To the communities who share their land, time, and trust with us, know that you are our most valued allies. And, to all who stand for the voiceless and the vulnerable in nature, your commitment ensures that hope endures.

Together we continue to prove that conservation is not just about saving species. It is about securing the future for wildlife, for people, and for generations yet to come.

Muhammad Seedat
Chairman
Endangered Wildlife Trust



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Twenty-five years. This is the timeframe we used in designing the *EWT's Future Fit Strategy.* What may feel like a long timeframe to some, is reasonable for us, given the time needed for genuine ecological recovery and meaningful social transformation.

The EWT envisions a future where Africa's wildlife and her people thrive together, and where our long-term strategic objectives have turned hope into intention, laying the foundation for a sustainable tomorrow. To achieve this, our 25-Year *Future Fit Strategy* is an ambitious, long-term framework designed to secure biodiversity, restore ecosystems, and build resilient communities across nine Strategic Conservation Landscapes in southern and East Africa.

Our strategy responds to the scale and complexity of environmental challenges that cannot be addressed through short-term interventions alone. It aligns with global conservation targets and our partners' objectives as we navigate a pathway towards sustainability that builds on collective action, and which positions the EWT as a leader in transformative, inclusive, and science-driven biodiversity conservation.

Our Strategy is not just a roadmap - it is a bold commitment to future generations that is ambitious, inclusive, and enduring. It builds on everything that the EWT has achieved over the past 53 years and sets new goals which demonstrate our unwavering commitment to conserving Africa's most at-risk threatened species and ecosystems, while enhancing the well-being and livelihoods of her people.

This 2024/5 Integrated Report marks the first steps in this journey during a year that tested, and proved, our firm resolve to conserving threatened species and ecosystems in Africa, against the backdrop of significant socio-economic and geopolitical challenges.

The EWT leadership set big goals for 2024/5 including targets for our conservation impact, stakeholder relationships, governance, financial sustainability, team development and our strategic direction for the future.

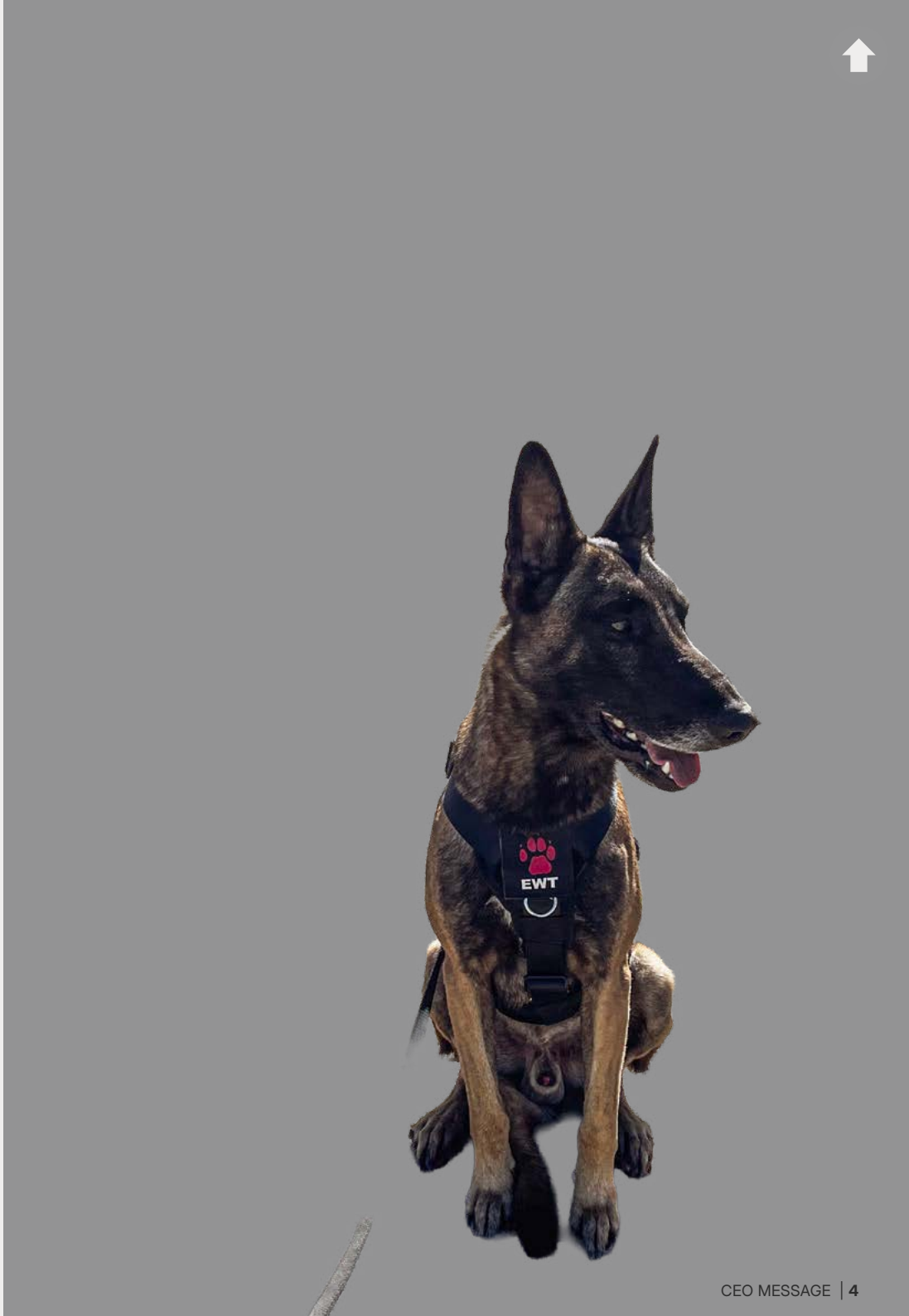
Leading with our people, the backbone of everything we do, we aimed to build a bigger, stronger, and more diverse team. I am pleased that we overshot all our ambitions. Our teams already comprise the most dedicated and talented specialists and, by amplifying our culture of a people-centred workplace that enables fulfilment and encourages and supports aspirational growth, we grew our team by 49% this past year. Our conservation success is largely attributed to the diversity of this growing team that comprises more than 50% women, 56% African, and 4% disabled members. These figures are not statistics; they are a reflection of our commitment to inclusion, equity, and opportunity. Our people-centred culture is building a pipeline of future conservation leaders who embody the values of the EWT. I am immensely proud of the academic achievements of our team members and achieving Master and PhD degrees, whilst working full time and balancing family and personal life pressures is exceptional. Congratulations to Phiona Orishaba (MSc), Gilbert Tayebwa (MSc), Samantha Nicholson (PhD), Christie Craig (PhD), Kyle Walker (MSc), Thabo Hlatshwayo (PhD), and Neha Kooverje (MSc). **To the whole EWT Team, your dedication to conservation and your commitment to excellence is applauded.**

We also exceeded our ambitions for financial sustainability. The EWT remains financially sound and resilient, with our Balance Sheet growing this past year by a notable 6.6% and income increasing by 31.28%. Expenditure on conservation projects increased by 17.43%, reflecting our devotion to ensuring that the majority of our resources support field-based conservation outcomes. The EWT's *Fund for the Future*, which ensures the sustainability of the EWT for generations to come, grew by an incredible 13,900%, a testament to the generosity and belief in the EWT's value-for-money impact shown by the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Foundation and other private donors. To further strengthen long-term sustainability, we successfully registered the Endangered Wildlife Trust USA as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organisation, opening new avenues for philanthropic growth and engagement with our U.S.-based supporters.

Our bold targets for the past year meant that our conservation impact has benefitted even more threatened species, communities, research outcomes and an expanded footprint of well-managed and conserved ecosystems throughout the region. Standout examples of real impact can be found on every page of this report and is proof that the EWT team has delivered measurable impact across all targets.

In our drive to streamline processes and improve efficiency, the EWT continued to develop the use of digital tools and processes, and the development of IT- and AI-enabled tools to maximise productivity and access. Innovation is core to our success, and the EWT is leading in the application of cutting-edge technology to make conservation smarter, faster, and more effective. Through our Eye-in-the-Sky early-warning system, AI-enabled species-detection models, and the use of eDNA, drones, and detection dogs, we are advancing conservation across some of South Africa's most fragile ecosystems, including the drylands, home to more than 8,000 endemic plant species. These innovations are helping us combat land degradation and climate vulnerability, preserve biodiversity, and redefine what's possible in African conservation.

In the Soutpansberg Mountains, our ownership of > 4,000 hectares of irreplaceable land has allowed us to protect and restore one of South Africa's most biodiverse regions. As part of the UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, our role to initiate and expand the establishment of the Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve, spanning ~22,000 hectares, has also included restoring vast native vegetation, and promoting ecotourism and job creation through the ecologically accredited Old Salt Trail.



The 2024/5 financial year was shaped by transformation and tested our tenacity. Despite global and regional challenges, from geopolitical volatility to socio-economic pressures, our conservation programmes have not only endured but thrived.

Partnerships are in the EWT's DNA. Whether working with rural communities, government agencies, private-sector partners, or fellow NGOs, we continue to see the transformative power of collaboration. Together, we are driving species recovery, securing habitats, and building resilience in ecosystems and people's lives.

As we move deeper into the *Future Fit era,* we recognise that environmental urgency and global instability will continue to test us. But the EWT will continue to set, and achieve, ambitious goals that ensure that we continue to deliver impactful, science-based conservation solutions to benefit Africa's people and wildlife. We will continue to innovate, advocate, and lead with integrity, driven by the belief that conservation is not a luxury, but a necessity for all life.

It is impossible to express my gratitude to the staff and the EWT's Board of Trustees. I hope that you appreciate the critical role you all play in securing a future for all. To the funders that keep us doing what we do, you are an indispensable part of this journey.

I now invite you to explore this report and join me in celebrating the resilience of nature, the dedication of our teams, and the power of collective action.

Yolan Friedmann
Chief Executive Officer
Endangered Wildlife Trust



beehives given to farmers using the buffer zones in Kenya



WHO WE ARE

Click to listen

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is a leader in conservation with over 50 years' of impact across East and southern Africa. Our Future Fit Strategy charts a bold path to 2050, securing wildlife, ecosystems, and local communities that define Africa's natural heritage within nine Strategic Conservation Landscapes (SCLs).

Our SCLs have been identified through data-rich mapping of biodiversity, rates of endemism and irreplaceability, water security, climate change and ecosystem vulnerability. As an organisation, we work on the frontlines of conservation, where we protect species, support communities, restore habitats, rewild ecosystems, and fight illegal wildlife trade, while building resilience to climate change. People and climate form central threads, and we partner with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to co-create sustainable, nature-based economies and climate-smart livelihoods, with a strong focus on youth and women. With our partners, we're building a resilient Africa, where ecosystems flourish, species recover, and people lead thriving lives in harmony with nature.

50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION IMPACT:
Protecting wildlife and ecosystems across East and southern Africa

NINE STRATEGIC CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES:
Data-driven regions safeguarding biodiversity, water, and climate resilience

PEOPLE AND CLIMATE AT THE CORE:
Partnering with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to build nature-based, climate-smart livelihoods

WHAT WE DO

Click to listen

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) has a growing footprint across Africa where we conserve threatened species and ecosystems to the benefit of all. This is achieved through a combination of science-based research, innovative conservation practices, and strong community partnerships.

As a public benefit organisation, we promote sustainable living and environmental stewardship by addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, promoting nature-based solutions that protect ecosystems, and improving the well-being of people. We collaborate with a wide network of stakeholders, including national and provincial governments, other NGOs, landowners, rural communities, academia, and the private sector. This inclusive approach ensures that we catalyse collective action to address the most pressing environmental challenges.

The EWT is also a public watchdog, holding government and industry accountable for decisions and actions that compromise environmental sustainability.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- Biodiversity thrives when conservation is built into everyday decision-making.
- Healthy ecosystems provide essential services like clean water, food security, and climate regulation.
- Collaboration across sectors builds resilience and long-term sustainability.

By integrating environmental responsibility into society's core systems, we create a future where both nature and people can flourish.

OUR STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES ARE TO:

- Protect biodiversity
- Empower communities
- Enhance water security
- Improve climate resilience
- Secure vital ecosystem services
- Build a sustainable future

OUR VISION

A healthy and equitable Africa that values and sustains the diversity of all life.

OUR MISSION

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is dedicated to conserving threatened species and ecosystems in Africa to the benefit of all.



WHY WE DO IT

Click to listen

The EWT recognises the importance of conservation impact at scale, which requires collaboration, not only between conservation entities, but also through working closely with government agencies, landowners and Indigenous People & Local Communities (IPLCs). As we look to 2050, our attention is focused on the nine carefully selected SCLs in East and southern Africa through an integrated strategic conservation approach that will engage essential partners to create and secure safe spaces for threatened species, facilitate climate change adaptation, expand protected area corridors, reduce wildlife conflict and improve the well-being and ecological resilience of IPLCs.

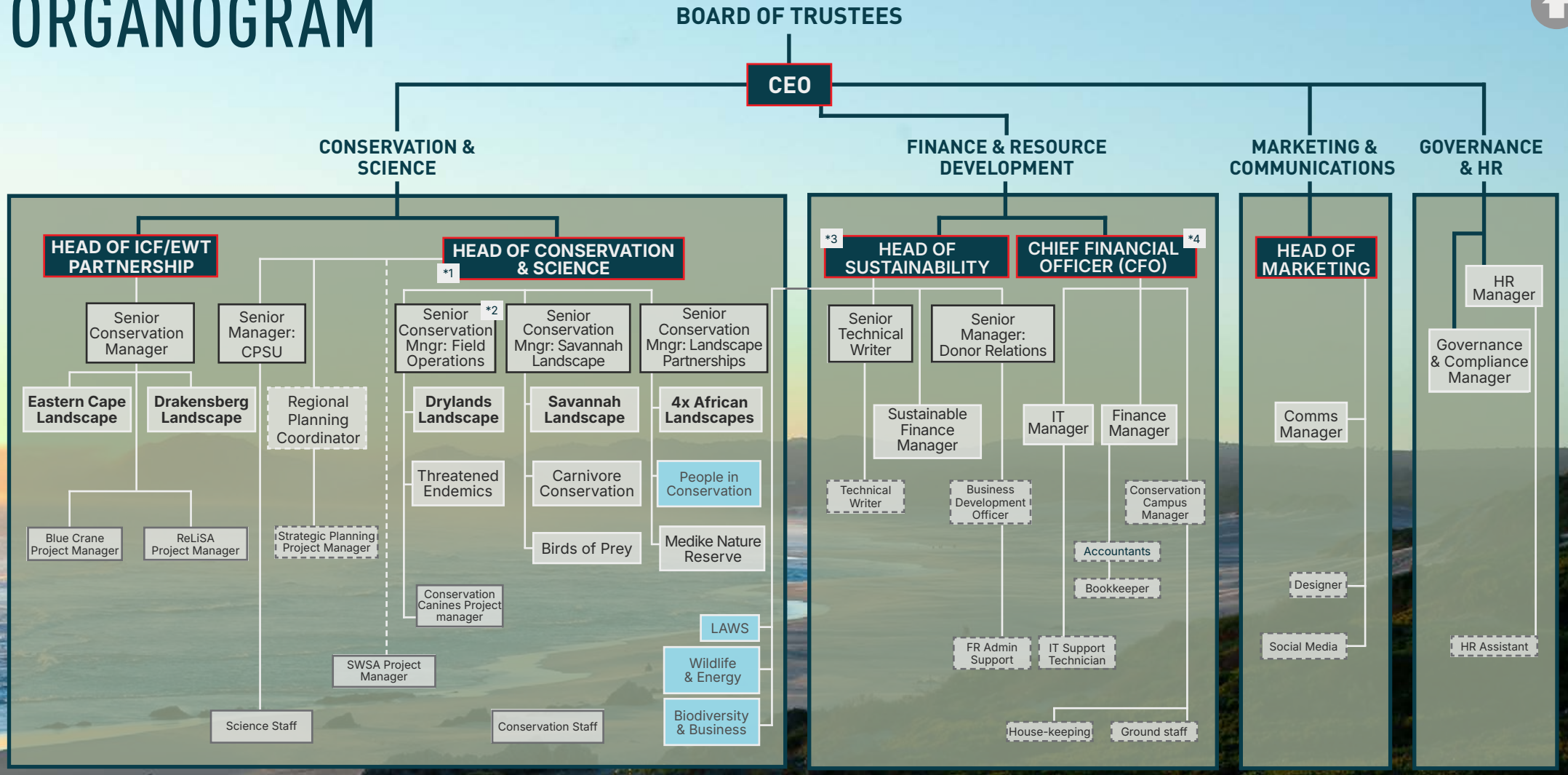
To achieve this we will:

- **Protect biodiversity** through targeted, science-driven efforts to prevent extinctions, restore threatened species populations and protect essential habitats.
- **Secure vital ecosystem services** by securing and restoring Africa's most threatened ecosystems, from wetlands and river systems to grasslands and savannahs.
- **Empower communities** by prioritising the needs and aspirations of local people and build co-developed long-term nature-based solutions for living landscapes.
- **Build a sustainable future** by partnering with companies to transform how they operate, helping them assess risks and opportunities, reduce ecological footprints, and deliver measurable positive impacts for nature.
- **Improve climate resilience** as we work to mitigate the impacts of climate change by prioritising building climate resilience and adaptation into our landscape conservation by protecting and restoring natural habitats, promoting ecosystem connectivity, and supporting natural wildlife movement.
- **Enhance water security** by continuing to prioritise critical waste catchment and freshwater systems in our planning as these are integral to our SCLs.





ORGANOGRAM



LEGEND

Strategic Conservation Portfolio

- **Drylands Landscape**
- **Savannah Landscape**
- **Drakensberg Landscape**
- **Eastern Cape Landscape**
- **4 x African Landscapes**
- Threatened Endemic Species Unit
- Birds of Prey Unit
- Carnivore Conservation Unit
- African Cranes Conservation Programme

Cross-cutting Units

- Conservation Planning and Science
- Wildlife and Energy
- Biodiversity and Business
- People in Conservation
- Wildlife in Trade
- Land, Air, Water & Species (LAWS)

Positions

Conservation position

Support services staff

Management structures

Executive Management

Senior Management team

Management team

***1 - WiT development**
- Biomonitoring (BioBlitz) development

***2 - Drones Unit**
- Fleet Manager
- Field operations

***3 - Bonds, Offsets & credits**

***4 - Risk & insurance**
- BBBEE
- Procurement (incl. vehicles)

OUR STRATEGIC IMPACT

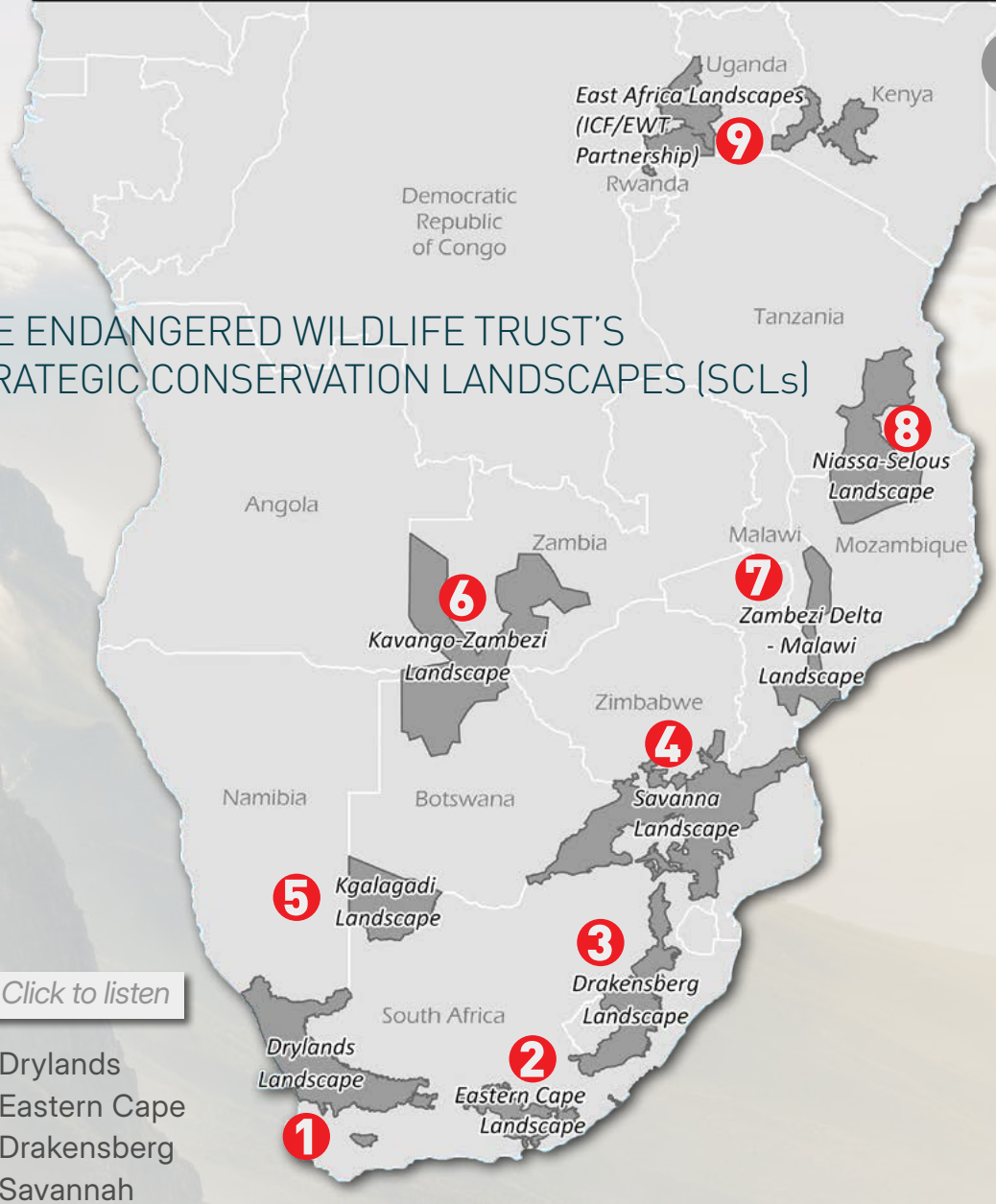
Click to listen

With the EWT's Future Fit Strategy (2025 - 2050) having been approved in September 2024 and with the SCL work plans in the final stages of development, the EWT made great strides towards expanding and scaling-up our reach and impact across the region. The 2025-2050 strategy has resulted in a noticeable growth in the size of the team and our collaborative reach with strategic partners across the East and southern Africa, aligned to ambitious global conservation targets.

This reporting period straddles the transition from the previous five-year strategy, which focused on the EWT's five High-level Goals, and defined our desired conservation and social impacts. Building on this, the EWT Future Fit Strategy is a bold, ambitious and important expansion of our conservation objectives to embrace critically important work across a broader landscape and communities of people and threatened species across East and southern Africa. We will achieve our goals through a range of strategic projects, which are measured by our high-level indicators. The EWT's impact begins at the project level, and by monitoring and reporting on the progress made towards achieving these goals, we demonstrate measurable impacts to our donors, partners and all stakeholders. Furthermore, monitoring our impact, following the globally recognised Conservation Standards approach, enables us to apply adaptive management, which ensures that our actions are efficient and remain relevant in a changing world.

Our Future Fit Strategy focuses the EWT's work on nine SCLs across East and southern Africa. Each of these landscapes will have their own detailed set of five-year goals and indicators in the form of Strategic Work Plans and will be implemented by the specialised conservation and cross-cutting units of the EWT. The EWT Future Fit Strategy also outlines our 16 conservation approaches (view pages 11 and 12) that we, as an organisation, will implement towards landscape-level conservation impact in Africa.

THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST'S STRATEGIC CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES (SCLs)



Click to listen

1. Drylands
2. Eastern Cape
3. Drakensberg
4. Savannah
5. Kgalagadi
6. Kavango/Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA)
7. Zambezi Delta to Malawi
8. Niassa-Selous Ecosystem TFCA
9. East African landscapes under the EWT/International Crane Foundation partnership

OUR FUTURE FIT CONSERVATION APPROACHES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Enable large ecologically functional landscapes to thrive

1. Formally secure core protected areas within large functional living landscapes for the benefit of biodiversity and ecosystem services. (Landscapes 1, 2, 3, 4)

2. Drive the implementation of nature-based solutions, especially focused on habitat restoration towards climate adaptation and resilience, across critical ecosystems within the EWT's priority landscapes. (Landscapes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9)

3. Drive the reduction and ultimate eradication of all critical threats facing species across critical landscapes, such as vultures and carnivores, in order to establish safe spaces for wildlife to thrive. (Landscapes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

At least **2.4 mil ha** of priority areas formally secured as **protected areas.**

20mil m³/yr of **freshwater replenished** in key catchments, primarily through the clearing of at least **4,000 ha** of alien and/or invasive plants.

250,000 ha of contracted priority habitat showing carbon sequestration additionality, equating to around **3.75 mill tons** of soil carbon **by 2050**.

At least **8 mil** ha of priority habitat recognised as **ecologically safe** spaces for wildlife.

Protect the species that make our landscapes function

4. Enable and implement range expansion activities focused on both meta-population management and trophic rewilding through strategic relocations, including, but not limited to, large carnivores. (Landscapes 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

5. Address targeted persecution, illegal trade and associated human-wildlife conflict impacts within priority landscapes, including, but not limited to, snare reduction, improving justice processes and illegal poisoning intervention. (All landscapes)

6. Implement targeted sampling expeditions (bioblitz's) to assess the biodiversity richness of under-sampled and under-studied areas across East and southern Africa, to inform priority conservation actions, and to concurrently share expertise with local conservation biologists. (Landscapes 4, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Maintain and manage at least **8 threatened species populations** to ensure population stability across the region, including re-wilding and active meta-population management

50% reduction in losses of carnivores, cranes and raptors associated with **persecution, illegal trade and human wildlife conflict** in priority areas by 2050.

Unlock our ecological understanding of **at least 50 understudied wilderness landscapes through bioblitz expeditions**, describing at least **5 new species** in East and southern Africa.



Secure our long-term conservation investments by working closely with the people that live and work in our priority landscapes

7. Work closely with all IPLCs groups to drive and establish sustainable living lands that support human resilience and well-being linked to nature-based economy opportunities in priority areas. (All landscapes)
8. Establish long-term strategic conservation partnerships with common goals to collaboratively drive ambitious conservation strategies across the SCLs. (All landscapes)
9. Develop local conservation leadership within IPLC groups and recognise species/landscape champions through support, training and the creation of career pathways. (All landscapes)
10. Facilitate strategic partnerships between relevant sectors operating within and across large landscapes in Africa to enhance and support landscape functioning and the interface between socio-ecological well-being and biodiversity conservation. This includes supporting corporate accountability, eco-tourism, the wildlife economy, policy and legislation, nature-based solutions and climate mitigation and adaptation measures. (All landscapes)
11. Facilitate and drive strategic skills transfer to enable conservation impact across all strategic regions. (All landscapes)

Catalyse and co-develop **at least 10 large-scale climate smart nature-based solutions/ economies** with IPLCs within our SCLs. The key focus is on women and youth implementors to improve social and ecological climate resilience.

An additional **10,000 response personnel and 50 veterinary experts trained** in wildlife poison response procedures.

At least **400 conservation professionals and/or students** upskilled and trained in critical conservation skills.

Cross-cutting approaches that enable efficient impact at scale

12. Drive improved policy and practice linked to quantified biodiversity footprints of local and global businesses across Africa, leading to targeted conservation action across the EWT's SCLs, driven by the private sector. (All landscapes)
13. Scale-up the development and implementation of innovative tools to enable conservation impact at scale, including but not limited to drone technologies, environmental DNA, legal and governance solutions and new interventions linked to renewable energy and linear infrastructure impacts. (All landscapes)
14. Implement targeted conservation actions to reduce the impact of illegal wildlife trade on threatened species. (All landscapes)
15. Implement targeted long-term monitoring systems to guide and inform conservation action. Including innovative technological solutions to improve functional efficiency. (All landscapes)
16. Drive the establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms that enable the implementation of large-scale conservation impact over extended timescales. (All landscapes)

At least **1 mil ha** of threatened ecosystems showing **increases in positive biodiversity** footprints through improved management.

At least 80% of Sustainable Landscape Management funding (for both private and IPLC landowners) **supported** by sustainable financing mechanisms.

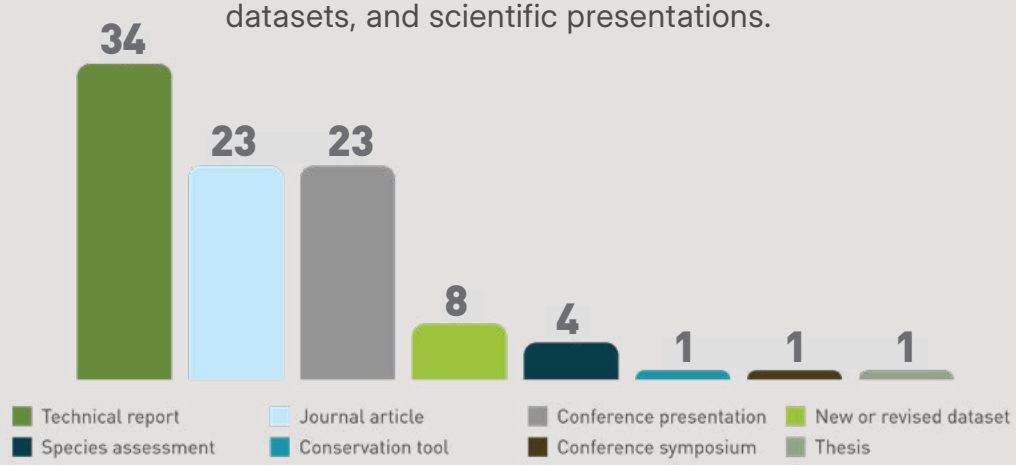
HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1 (2024 / 2025):
IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE OF SPECIES AND HABITATS AND THE THREATS THEY FACE

Knowledge about natural systems and the threats to species and ecosystem is critical for designing and informing impactful conservation actions and formulating effective policies for biodiversity protection.

The EWT tracks this goal through two indicators that capture our research outputs and the data we share.

Indicator 1a. **Number of research outputs.**

The EWT generates and shares knowledge in many different formats, from peer-reviewed papers to technical reports, conservation plans, datasets, and scientific presentations.



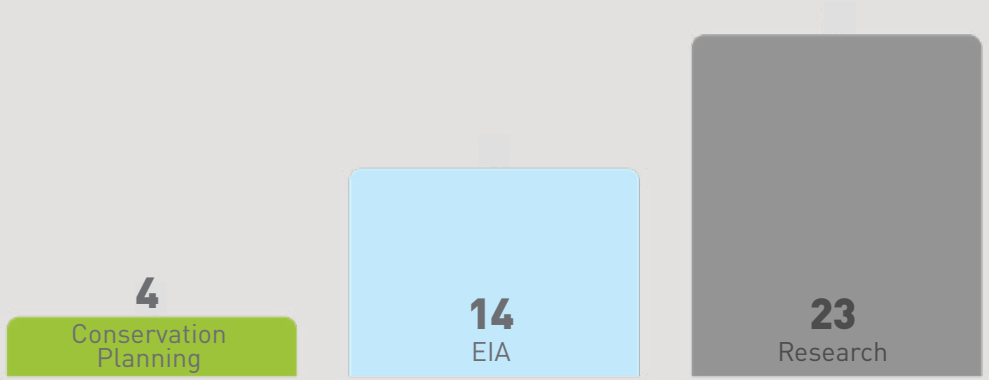
93 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes:

TARGETS 10, 15, 19 & 21

Indicator 1b. **Number of datasets shared.**

Data are critical outputs of many EWT projects. This indicator tracks the number of datasets we produced and/or shared over the reporting cycle.



41 DATASETS SHARED DIRECTLY

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes:

TARGETS 5 & 14

Click for more information on the Kunming-Montreal Gbf targets

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2 (2024 / 2025):
TARGETED INTERVENTIONS REDUCE THE THREATS TO SPECIES AND HABITATS

This goal is measured through a direct reduction in a threat (Indicator 2a) or the implementation of a conservation strategy to reduce known threats (Indicator 2b). Direct improvements in the status of a species or habitat are captured under Goal 4.

Indicator 2a. **Number of target populations and habitats for which threats have been reduced.**

This indicator provides a count of the number of target species populations or priority habitats where the EWT has measurably reduced key threats following a targeted intervention (strategy). This indicator includes only those where threats are measurably reduced in the reporting year.



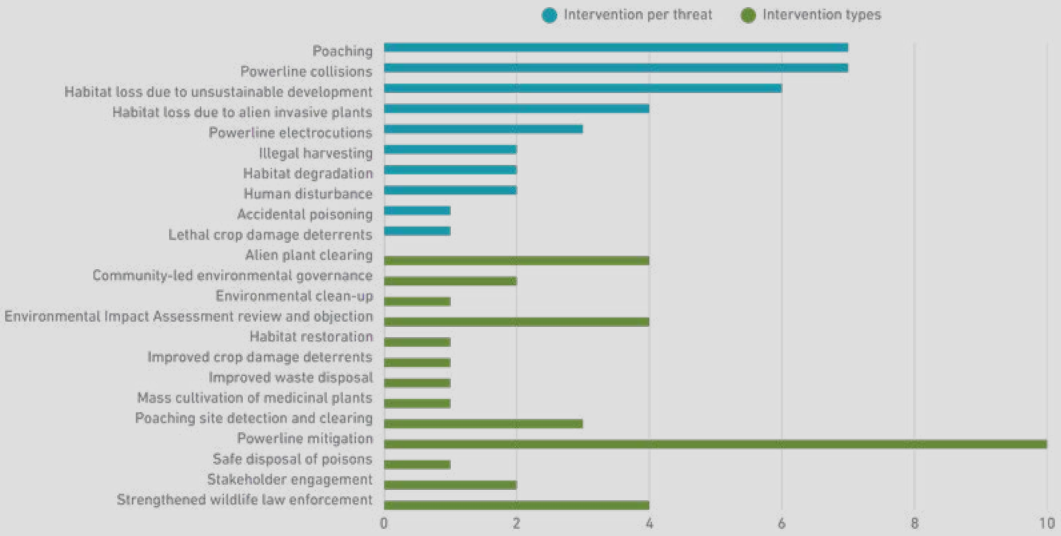
6 POPULATIONS FOR WHICH THREATS HAVE BEEN REDUCED

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes:

TARGETS 4 & 5

Indicator 2b. **Number of proven interventions that reduce broad-scale threats to focal species or habitats.**

This indicator accounts for broad-scale threat reduction from proven conservation interventions that cannot be attributed to specific populations.



35 PROVEN INTERVENTIONS TO REDUCE BROAD-SCALE THREATS

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes:

TARGETS 4, 7 & 9

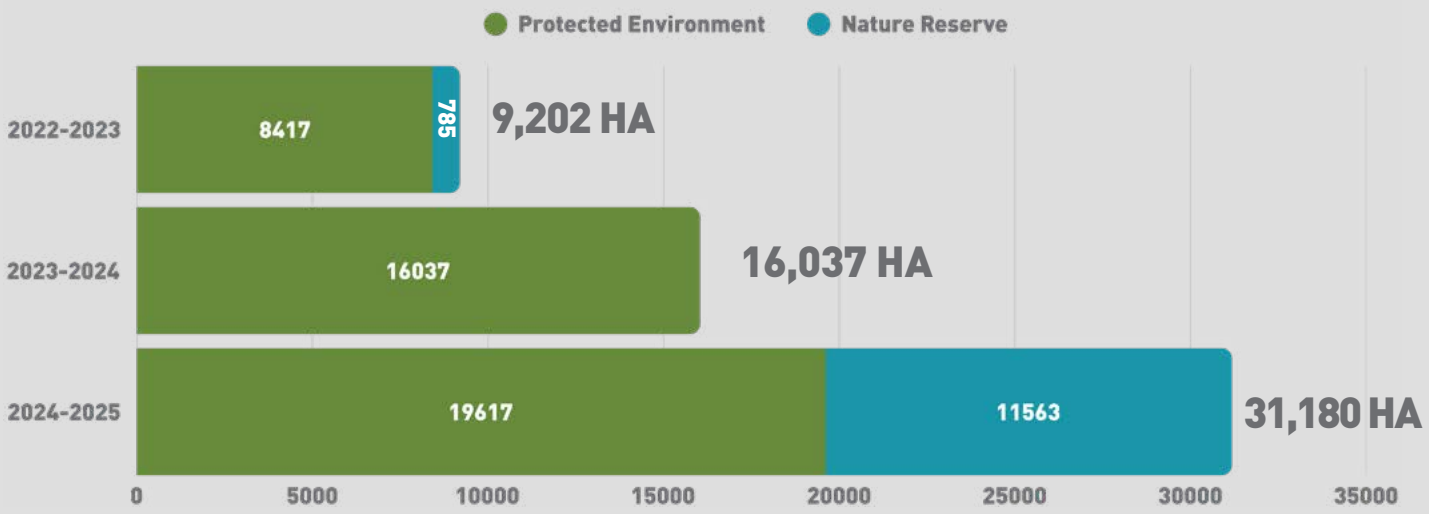
Click for more information on the Kunming-Montreal Gbf targets

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3 (2024 / 2025):
FORMAL PROTECTION OF PRIORITY HABITATS

Protecting and conserving natural places is widely recognised as one of the most important strategies for combating the effects of biodiversity loss and climate change across the planet. Through this goal, the EWT contributes to national and global targets for protected area expansion.

Indicator 3a. **Area of priority habitat with improved formal protection.**

This indicator measures the total land area within priority habitat with increased formal protection, such as, the total land area within priority habitat where landowners have provided letters declaring their consent to proceed with the declaration of new protected areas. This recognises the fact that we cannot control when a land parcel is gazetted as a protected area and acknowledges that interim milestones should still be tracked.



31,180 HECTARES OF PROTECTED ENVIRONMENTS

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) target towards which this work contributes: *TARGET 3*

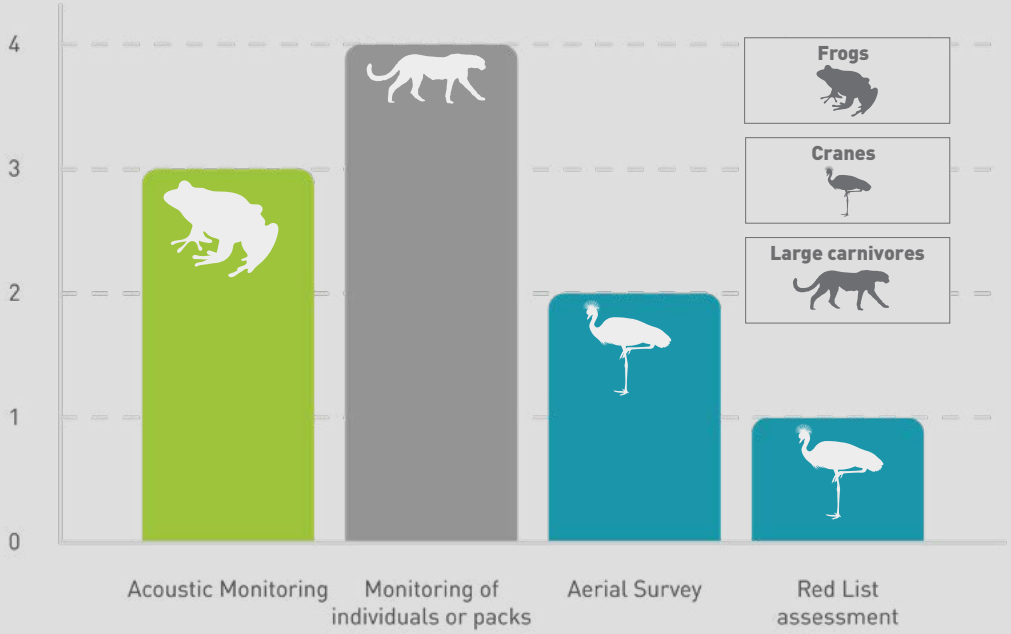


Click for more information on the Kunming-Montreal Gbf targets

HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4 (2024 / 2025):
CONSERVATION ACTIONS LEAD TO THRIVING SPECIES AND RESILIENT HABITATS

This goal is focussed on improving the status of biodiversity and rehabilitation of threatened or protected habitats.

10 POPULATIONS FOR WHICH ANNUAL CONSERVATION GOALS WERE MET



Indicator 4a. **Number of populations with improved conservation status.**

Under this indicator, we record the number of populations of target species whose status we have improved through our conservation actions. These are typically measured by population trends, improvements in breeding success, and range expansion.

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes: TARGET 4 & 8

114,819 HA OF LAND WITH IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

Indicator 4b. **Area of land with improved management.**

This indicator measures the amount of land that has undergone some form of improved land management change, rehabilitation, or restoration process, which will lead to improved ecosystem function, health, and resilience. This is directly linked to climate change adaptation in landscapes, as a result of Ecosystem-based Adaptation approaches.

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes: TARGET 1, 2 & 8



Click for more information on the Kunming-Montreal Gbf targets



In discussion with Traditional Health Practitioners



Creating jobs on Medike Nature Reserve

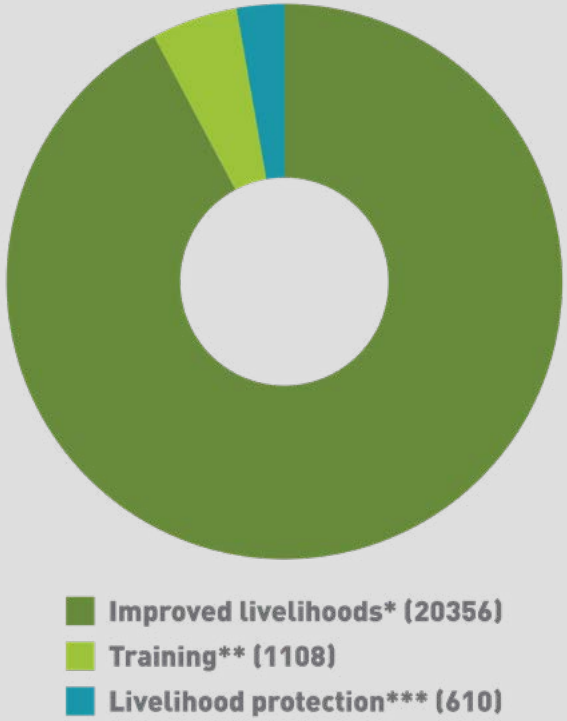
HIGH LEVEL GOAL 5 (2024 / 2025):
CONSERVATION ACTIONS AND IMPACTS DRIVE MEANINGFUL CHANGE TO THE BENEFIT OF BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE

This goal is focussed on improving the status of biodiversity and rehabilitation of threatened or protected habitats.

Indicator 5a. **Number of people whose well-being has directly improved.**

This indicator tracks the beneficiaries of EWT activities that deliberately aim to improve the well-being of people. These benefits may accrue from developing biodiversity friendly businesses or enterprises, supporting improved livelihoods, or training and upskilling.

22,074 PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED WELL-BEING



Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes: TARGET 11, 22 & 23

* **Improved livelihoods:** Number of people whose livelihood (income) has directly increased, either through employment or through income-generating activities

** Any form of training that improves people's lives through gaining additional skills that allows them better employment opportunities or allows them to improve their work or income generation

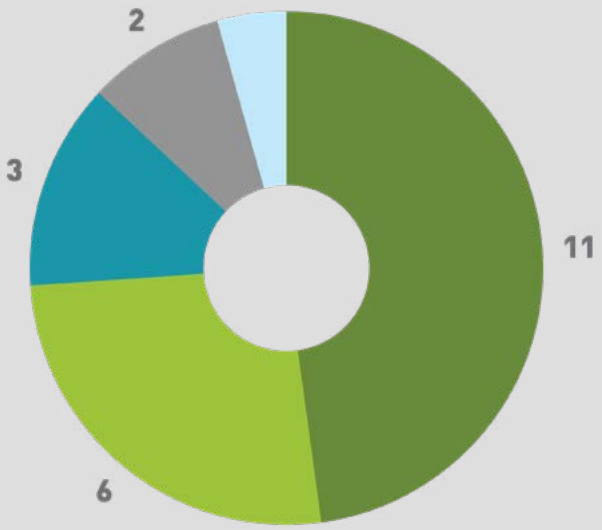
*** **Livelihood protection:** Number of people whose livelihood has been maintained/ sustained through our work. E.g. by placing livestock guarding dogs to protect livestock or protecting springs to ensure that they still have water to use

Click for more information on the Kunming-Montreal Gbf targets

Indicator 5b. **Number of businesses or agencies with improved environmental policies and/or operations.**

This indicator refers to any organisation or government agency that has improved its business operations or policies to the benefit of biodiversity and the environment, as a result of EWT interventions.

23 BUSINESSES OR AGENCIES WITH IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



- Improved environmental policies and operations
- Improved poaching screening operations
- Improved species management
- Improved integration of human rights considerations in anti-poaching operations
- Improved operations and management of protected area

Relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets towards which this work contributes:

TARGET 15, 20 & 23



THE EWT'S GLOBAL IMPACT

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As we see ongoing and significant expansion in technological development involving complex Artificial Intelligence (AI) advances and applications in our daily lives, people are increasingly engrossed in the fast-paced life of the modern world.

As conservationists, we work to ensure that people across all walks of life retain a respect and appreciation for the natural world. Increasing climate change impacts and associated ecosystem service challenges ensure that human consciousness remains closely linked to our planetary health. Africa is one of the last continents with vast natural resources and intact mega-fauna. With the fastest-growing young population of any continent, the African population is predicted to almost double in the next 25 years. It is, therefore, imperative that we work closely with the people of Africa to co-exist with our natural systems and species.

Globally there have been a number of big strategic policy decisions. Among these was in February 2025 when the resumed COP16 negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the first global strategy to finance biodiversity. 2024 was recognised as a significant year for global sustainability, with the convergence of major United Natons (UN) events, including the three Rio Conventions (CBD COP16, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP29, and the Convention on Desertification and Land Degradation's COP16), and the 6th UN Environment Assembly. This year also highlighted the severe impacts of climate change in Africa, with unprecedented floods and droughts leading to significant economic losses and wildlife mortality.

The EWT's Strategic Conservation Strategy drives targeted conservation work across East and southern Africa, contributing to 16 of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Regionally, we have also led the development of the Mammal Red List of South Africa, Lesotho, and Swaziland and the Amphibian Red List for South Africa. Our staff also play key roles among several of the IUCN's Commissions towards achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets.

VIEW THE EWT STAFF AFFILIATIONS

REFER TO THE STRATEGIC IMPACT SECTION OF THIS REPORT FOR DETAILS ON GBF TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS



Image credit: John Davies

CLIMATE CHANGE

Click to listen

Scientists, economists and politicians have known for more than half a century that the climate is changing. Human activities have been considered the main driver of climate change since the 1800s, largely due to the burning of fossil fuels which generate greenhouse gas emissions caused by increased levels of methane and carbon dioxide in the air. The term global warming was first used by geochemist Wallace Broecker of Columbia University in an article published in Science in 1975.

Climate change and the related phenomenon of global warming are causing a range of increasingly negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity specifically. These include changing rainfall patterns and more extreme weather conditions, rising sea levels, more frequent and severe cyclones, and increased climate-related migration. Deserts are expanding, heat waves and wildfires are becoming more common, and soils are degrading. From a biodiversity conservation perspective, climate change impacts species interactions and compositions, alters ecological cycles such as pollination and migration, threatens food security, and reduces the resilience of ecosystems. Since the establishment of the EWT in 1973, the organisation has become the recognised leader in integrating biodiversity conservation into climate change action.

Many of the threatened species that the EWT works to conserve are range-restricted and/or occur in fragmented habitats. This means that their ability to adapt to the effects of climate change through mobility is limited. Thus, our concern that climate change has adverse and unpredictable impacts on people, wild species, and habitats, which requires a concerted response to minimise these effects. Our work within areas of strategic water source importance, where climate change will have a profound effect on the region's water security, forms an important part of the EWT's effort.

To mitigate climate change through the reduction of carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, the EWT supports and promotes the responsible development and use of renewable energy working in support of, for instance, the Just Energy Transition to a more integrated and climate-friendly energy mix that minimises impacts on critical biodiversity and ecosystems.

We do this by:
Providing data and maps that identify critical areas to avoid. These are integral to the Threatened Species No-go Mapping Tool, the national online environmental screening tool which the EWT helped to develop, and other associated platforms.

Engaging the renewable energy sector to prevent unsustainable development and to develop innovative conservation solutions to the threats posed by renewable energy infrastructure and other developments. During the past financial year, the EWT submitted comprehensive input into over 100 renewable energy development applications in South Africa to reduce negative impacts and enhance the positive potential of this sector to sustainably benefit the environment.

Actively discouraging the unsustainable extraction of additional fossil fuels, such as shale gas, through hydraulic fracturing, or expanded coal mining that contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbates climate change impacts. The EWT achieves this by commenting on, and objecting to, unsustainable development applications.

In South Africa, we work with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to develop mitigation strategies for wind energy developments and their potentially harmful interactions with species of conservation concern.

The EWT's renewable energy infrastructure project, now in its second year, supports decision-making towards achieving South Africa's Global Biodiversity Framework 30x30 targets by enabling improved planning around competing land needs for conservation, renewable energy, and agriculture. We are in the final stages of developing a national spatial plan that will consider these different competing agendas and best inform them of their placement across the landscape. This will provide a model to achieve the national 30x30 targets, as well as reaching the 2030 Renewable Energy Development Goals, a critical step in supporting South Africa's journey to reducing its national carbon footprint, with minimal impact on biodiversity and the environment. This work is carried out in collaboration with national and provincial government partners, Independent Power Producer associations, and Eskom Holdings. By aligning conservation planning with renewable energy development, this initiative demonstrates how South Africa's JET can be biodiversity-positive and socially just.

CARBON & CONSERVATION: SCALING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS ACROSS WORKING LANDSCAPES

The EWT, in partnership with the International Crane Foundation (ICF), continues to unlock the potential of carbon markets as a sustainable financing mechanism for conservation. Under South Africa's Carbon Tax Act (Act 15 of 2019), landowners who adopt practices that enhance carbon sequestration and ecosystem health are eligible to participate in carbon offset markets, receiving payment in the form of Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) and traded in the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM)

Our flagship grassland carbon project in South Africa's Drakensberg, is now officially registered with Verra, an international carbon standard organisation. This registration represents the culmination of efforts started in 2017 to create carbon market access for farmers and land users in South Africa. With the first issuance of credits expected by the end of 2025, the project is set to generate around 240,000 VCUs annually, supporting conservation across thousands of hectares of vital habitat.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR WORK IN THE SOUTPANSBERG

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR WORK WITH CRANES

Beyond this milestone, the EWT and the ICF are actively working to expand landscape-scale carbon initiatives, especially in agricultural regions where ecosystems like rangelands, savannahs, and thickets offer both ecological and economic value.

These working landscapes face increasing pressure from overgrazing, land degradation, and unsustainable farming practices. However, they harbour significant hidden potential for carbon sequestration, particularly through better grazing management, restoration of indigenous vegetation, and reduction of bush encroachment. Linked to this, climate adaptation through targeted habitat restoration in the form of alien invasive tree clearing is critical to improve water yield in grassland and savannah systems and to in-tern to improve ecological resilience in the face of extreme climate events. The EWT's projects, in the Northern Drakensberg and Soutpansberg, are having significant impacts in this space. By investing in regenerative land use practices, these systems can be transformed into climate-resilient production landscapes that benefit biodiversity and support rural livelihoods.

Click to listen





CARBON & CONSERVATION: NEW DEVELOPMENTS

- **Rangelands:**
  Feasibility studies are underway in key livestock zones to evaluate the carbon credit potential of adaptive grazing, improved fire management, and invasive species removal. These practices boost soil carbon and improve grassland health and productivity.

- **Savannah Ecosystems:**
  Opportunities for emissions reductions are being explored through early dry-season fire management and rewilding projects that enhance natural ecosystem processes. These approaches align with emerging savannah-specific carbon methodologies used elsewhere in Africa.

- **Thicket Biomes:**
  In Eastern and Southern Cape thicket zones, the EWT is examining restoration models that include shrub planting, erosion control, and livestock exclusion to rebuild carbon stocks and restore ecosystem integrity. These models build on past lessons and recent science on long-term carbon stability in these biomes.

These new initiatives reflect a strategic shift towards integrating conservation with climate resilience at the landscape level, especially in areas previously outside the scope of protected area funding.

By leveraging carbon markets alongside biodiversity credits and water funds, the EWT aims to develop blended finance mechanisms that secure stable, long-term investments in South Africa's working lands while delivering tangible benefits for communities, ecosystems, and climate mitigation.

240,000 CARBON CREDITS GENERATED ANNUALLY
Funding conservation and sustainable farming across key landscapes

100+ RENEWABLE ENERGY APPLICATIONS REVIEWED
Guiding South Africa's clean energy growth to protect biodiversity

NATIONAL SPATIAL PLAN IN DEVELOPMENT Balancing conservation, energy, and agriculture to meet 30x30 goals





THE EWT BOARD OF TRUSTEES & EXECUTIVE FIELD TRIP

In February 2025, members of the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Board of Trustees and Executive team stepped out of the boardroom and into the bush, embarking on the organisation's first-ever joint field trip. Against the backdrop of the majestic Waterberg Biosphere and Marataba landscape, this milestone experience brought leaders together not only to witness conservation in action, but to reconnect with the heart of the EWT's mission: protecting forever, together. The visit served as a powerful reminder that effective governance begins with understanding, understanding the people, the places, and the wild spaces that the EWT exists to safeguard.

The purpose of the visit was to deepen the Board's understanding of the EWT's on-the-ground realities, showcase the impact of its landscape-based conservation model, and strengthen governance through shared learning, reflection, and strategic alignment.

The three-day itinerary offered an in-depth view of the EWT's partnerships and programmes in one of South Africa's most ecologically and strategically significant regions. The delegation travelled from the Midrand headquarters to Welgevonden Game Reserve, where they were welcomed by CEO André Burger, along with representatives from the Waterberg Biosphere and the Waterberg Landscape Alliance. Presentations by EWT team members, including Olivia Sievert, Eugene Greyling, Joseph Hlako, and Derek van der Merwe, provided insights into the region's conservation priorities, community partnerships, and ecological challenges.

A visit to the Wild Dog and Cheetah holding facilities at Welgevonden offered an up-close perspective on the science and logistics underpinning predator reintroductions. These interactions reinforced the scale and complexity of EWT's conservation work and provided valuable context for strategic decision-making at Board level.

At Marataba, a private landholding within the Marakele National Park, the group was hosted by General Manager Naude Smit. Presentations by Emile Honiball (EWT) and Kelly Abram (Waterberg Landscape Alliance) provided valuable insights into ongoing conservation efforts, biodiversity stewardship, and collaborative landscape management across the Waterberg region.



The field immersion culminated in a focused Board workshop that addressed several key governance matters: operationalising the EWT USA structure, transformation and succession planning, risk appetite and frameworks, and the continued roll-out of the Future Fit Strategy. These deliberations, framed within the shared context of the field experiences, fostered more grounded and informed discussions on the organisation's strategic direction.

The final day included a visit to the Waterberg Joint Operations Centre and the Welgevonden Reaction K9 Unit, where participants were introduced to the reserve's integrated security systems and area-integrity operations. While these initiatives fall outside the EWT's direct programme focus, they provided valuable insight into the collaborative ecosystem that supports biodiversity protection in the region.

Beyond the formal agenda, the trip fostered camaraderie, trust, and a renewed sense of shared purpose. Around evening fires and during early-morning drives, Trustees and Executives connected not only with nature but with one another, reflecting on the EWT's legacy, its evolving role in a rapidly changing conservation landscape, and the importance of leadership grounded in firsthand experience.

This inaugural joint field trip embodied the essence of the EWT Pack: learning together, leading with purpose, and ensuring that governance remains deeply connected to the people, places, and partnerships that define the organisation's mission, protecting forever, together.

PEOPLE

IN CONSERVATION



Click to listen

Over the years, the EWT has developed a range of initiatives to address the needs of people living in the areas where we operate. Our projects vary from education and training to the development of climate-compatible agriculture and other livelihood initiatives. We also strive to address other natural resource challenges such as human-wildlife conflict and illegal hunting or harvesting. The People in Conservation Programme was established in 2019 to strengthen these efforts and enable us to develop a more integrated and holistic approach to incorporating people into conservation, thereby improving outcomes for both people and the environment. We empower people through the co-development of targeted strategies that address conservation challenges, improve human well-being, and promote equity and environmental justice.



Traditional Health Practitioners discussing plant species during a visit to the Thohoyandou Botanic Gardens

TARGET SPECIES

We support Traditional Health Practitioners and other stakeholders to scale cultivation of diverse medicinal plant species to enable them to gain ready access to legally sourced plants they need for traditional medicine. We particularly target the following six Red Data listed plant species: the Pepper-bark tree (*Warburgia salutaris*), Climbing Onion (*Boweia volubilis*), Forest Elephant's Foot (*Dioscorea sylvatica*), File-leaf Haworthiopsis (*Haworthiopsis limifolia*), Giant Alepidea (*Alepidea amatymbica*), and Wild Ginger (*Siphonochilus aethiopicus*).



STRATEGIC IMPACTS

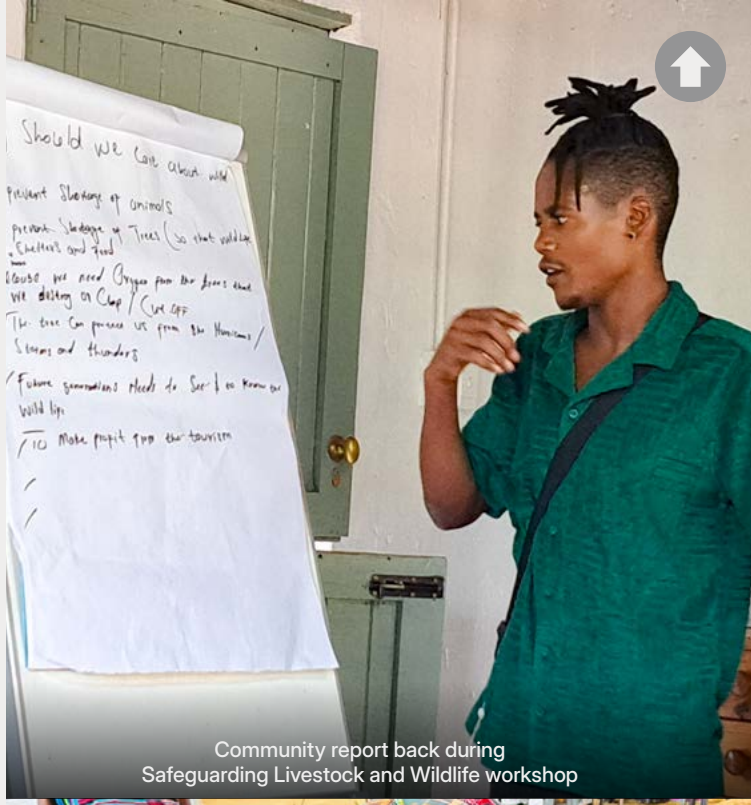
FOSTERING BEST PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ACROSS THE EWT

In Limpopo Province, we supported conservation-compatible agriculture initiatives near the Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve (WSNR). During this project period, we supported a group of young, unemployed agricultural graduates who were running an Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AgriSETA)-accredited **training programme for 200 community members**. The EWT provided the group with seeds and basic equipment for a demonstration plot to establish a vegetable garden at home, contributing to their household's food security. Our work also raises awareness and appreciation of the WSNR, promoting conservation-friendly land use.

During a highly successful series of workshops aimed at strengthening local capacities to protect livestock and wildlife from frequent incidents of trespassing, snaring, and theft on communal properties, community participants identified a need for training on bushcraft, first aid, and land management. In June 2025, we conducted a **Level 1 First Aid training course for 35 participants from three communities** in the Western Soutpansberg. These efforts contribute to an initiative that supports communal and private landowners in developing skills to improve land management and occupational health and safety, among other capacities.

In November, we hosted a workshop at the EWT's Medike Nature Reserve (within the WSNR) for Thobela (Chief) Kutama and 25 village leaders. We were able to showcase the community-based conservation initiatives we are implementing, which include Education for Sustainable Development, women's health, sustainable agriculture, livelihood development, and cultivation of medicinal plants. The leaders were very supportive of these efforts, and our initiatives to develop mechanisms rooted in customary law and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) to address illegal harvesting, snaring, and other wildlife offences.

What's next: We plan to continue supporting communal landowners and communities in improving land management through training. We are also developing a course to improve local leaders' understanding of the importance of ecological goods and services in land use planning and development.



Community report back during Safeguarding Livestock and Wildlife workshop





MEDICINAL PLANT PROJECT

The team distributed an **additional 200 Pepper-bark trees to Traditional Health Practitioners and community members in Vhembe, totalling 900** since the start of the project. The leaves of the Pepper-bark tree contain the same phytochemicals as the root and bark, which was historically used in traditional medicine. Further scaling cultivation, together with substitution of leaves in the place of unsustainably utilising bark and roots, has the potential to reduce the detrimental impacts of illegal harvesting from wild populations, providing for better species protection.

In February, we conducted two field trips to the Thohoyandou National Botanical Gardens with Traditional Health Practitioners and harvesters. During these engagements, Traditional Health Practitioners, EWT staff, and horticulturalists from the South African Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) identified approximately 30 species that participants would like to cultivate. Based on this, SANBI horticulturalists from both the Thohoyandou and Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens in Johannesburg have committed to assisting us in producing seedlings and sourcing propagation material, which will significantly contribute to our goal of expanding cultivation of medicinal plants in South Africa to reduce overharvesting in the wild.

Collaborating with horticulturalists from SANBI, we developed a three-day training course on the Cultivation of Medicinal Plants, which included a manual and starter kits. We trialled the course in March and April 2025, reaching **205 traditional healers and harvesters from 17 villages** in the Soutpansberg and Bochum areas of Limpopo. Besides teaching participants basic cultivation techniques, the course covered legislation and engagement on sustainable harvesting practices. Participants received a starter kit with secateurs, gloves, a manual, and five seedlings. We conducted follow-up visits to participants' homes to assess the planting and survival of the seedlings. We are now refining and adapting the training to improve cultivation outcomes.

What's next: Expanding our work with medicinal plants offers genuine opportunities for growth. Feedback has been very positive from healers, harvesters, and traders alike. In the coming year, we will carry out further monitoring to assess seedling survival rates and identify gaps and opportunities for improvement to increase conservation and human outcomes.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

People in Conservation is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work: The Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Fund, Fondation Franklinia, the UK Government through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, the National Lotteries Commission, and Ore & Metal Company Ltd t/a Ore & Metal Services, Go2Africa, and the Ford Wildlife Foundation and the SANParks-SAPPI-ARC partnership for the donation of Pepper-bark trees to the project.

THE PACK

Dr Jennifer Botha
Proramme Manager

Phomelelo Malatji
Socio Ecologist: Medicinal Plants

Lufuno Konanani
Socio Ecologist: Medicinal Plants

Mukundi Mukundamago
Social Ecologist: Sustainable Living Lands

FIND OUT MORE

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CARNIVORE

CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Click to listen

Carnivores are among Africa's most charismatic yet threatened species and need innovative strategies to ensure their survival. The EWT's Carnivore Conservation Programme carries out large-scale, collaborative, field-based projects to expand the range, numbers, and conservation status of threatened carnivores. We work to re-establish, sustain, and grow carnivore populations across critical landscapes, while actively reducing threats to their continued existence. Our efforts promote positive human attitudes towards carnivores and support legislation that offers them protection.

TARGET SPECIES

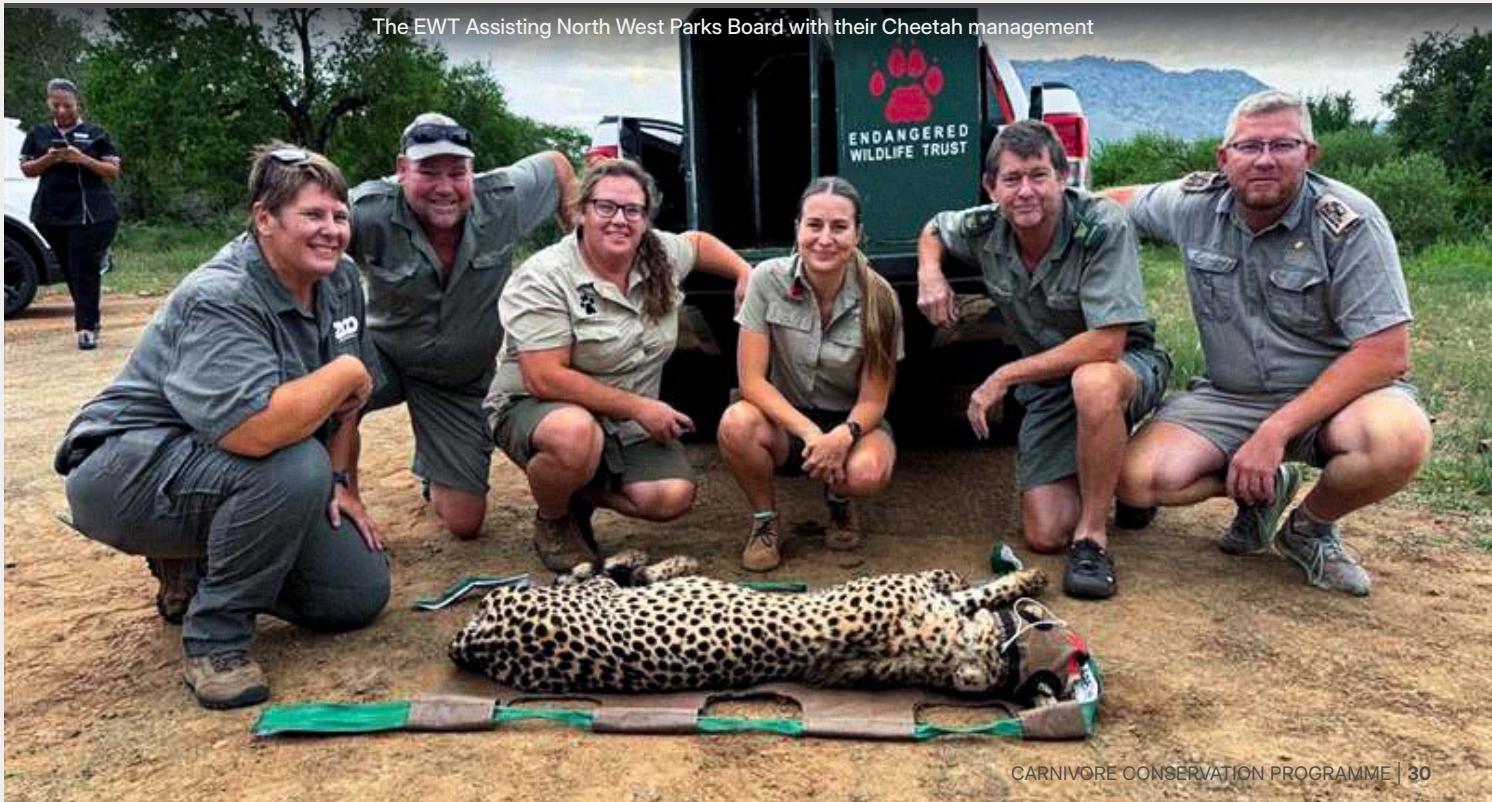


STRATEGIC IMPACTS

LARGE CARNIVORE RANGE EXPANSION

We continue to restore large carnivore populations through reintroductions, translocations, and monitoring. Our efforts focused on African Wild Dogs and Cheetahs, while also addressing African Lions, Leopards, and Spotted Hyaenas in suitable landscapes. These activities support healthy genetics, reduce conflict, and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems. This year, we coordinated multiple **African Wild Dog translocations** across South Africa and into neighbouring countries, involving **more than 20 individuals.** These moves addressed welfare concerns, expanded the metapopulation, and created new packs. A highlight was assisting Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in rescuing a pack with pups under severe threat.

We supported African Parks in Malawi and Mozambique with carnivore monitoring, collaring, and feasibility studies for future reintroductions. Corridor assessments between the Zinave, Banhine, and Gonarezhou National Parks confirmed significant wildlife movement, but also highlighted increasing human–wildlife conflict, which we will work to address in collaboration with our partners.



The EWT Assisting North West Parks Board with their Cheetah management



ADVISORY AND COORDINATION ROLES

Our technical expertise is increasingly sought across Africa. We joined the Painted Wolf Foundation's technical committee; continued to coordinate the Wild Dog Advisory Group, **bringing together over 60 stakeholders globally**; and we hosted the Cheetah Advisory Group in 2024/2025. These fora strengthen collaboration and ensure science-based conservation decisions.

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

We presented the 2024 Cheetah Population Viability Assessment and Harvest Model to the South African Scientific Authority, guiding sustainable live off-take within the managed metapopulation. We also supported the development of Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) for Cheetahs, Africa Lion, and Leopards, and are leading the BMP for Cheetah, which is due in 2026.

What's next: We will support the Peace Parks Foundation to introduce small carnivores (e.g. Black-backed and Side-striped Jackals) into Zinave National Park; expand the African Wild Dog metapopulation range by securing new release sites in southern Africa; conduct a risk assessment on disease-related constraints affecting Cheetah relocations; and scale up cross-border collaboration to strengthen corridor protection and conflict mitigation.

THE PACK

Derek van der Merwe
Programme Manager

Cole du Plessis
Project Manager

Marnus Roodbol
Project Manager

Olivia Sievert
Project Coordinator: Cheetah Conservation Project

Kelsey Brown
Senior Data Scientist

Ronja Haring
Field Officer

Joseph Hlako
Field Officer

Eugene Greyling
Field Officer: Carnivore Range Expansion Project

Kyle Walker
Field Officer

Lesego Mthethwa
Field Officer

Alison Govaerts
Data Analyst

Osvaldo Abroa
Field Officer: Zinave Carnivore Conservation (hosted through PPF agreement)

Domingoes Marquez
Field Officer: Limpopo National Park Lion Conservation (hosted through PPF agreement)



Lion census Kruger National Park



SPECIES MONITORING

In July 2024, we launched a spatial capture-recapture survey of Lions in the Xanatseni North region of the Kruger National Park. A small team carried out the **survey over three months, identifying 97 individual lions**. Initial results indicate a worrying decline in the northern Kruger population, probably due to a recent rise in targeted Lion poaching. Our findings will offer SANParks reliable data on Lion numbers to help develop effective predator management plans.

Clear signs of this poaching wave appeared in February, when we found three Lions that had died in snares – traps originally set for bushmeat but increasingly aimed at carnivores for their valuable body parts. Two lion brothers roaming Limpopo National Park, Mozambique, lost their lives just seven days apart, while a lioness relocated to northern Kruger Park was snared along the park's western edge. The rest of her pride has yet to be found. Body parts from two of the Lions were harvested.

Working under the Cheetah Advisory Group and in collaboration with partners, including the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), we completed the 2024 Population Viability Assessment and Annual Harvest Model for Cheetah as part of the Non-Detrimental Findings requirements outlined by CITES. As a CITES Appendix I species, Cheetahs are threatened by trade, making this work crucial for informing South Africa's Scientific Authority on sustainable live off-take quotas for restoration beyond the country's borders.

Our role in uniting conservation efforts extends globally through the Cheetah Advisory Group, a network of nearly 300 stakeholders. This year, we held four meetings to promote transparency and information-sharing on complex issues, including Project Cheetah and the impacts of disease risk on relocations.

In October, our team visited Liwonde National Park, Malawi, to assist African Parks with carnivore monitoring. We **successfully recollared their African Wild Dog Pack**, enabling monitoring before the rainy season.

We collected extensive wildlife movement data in the corridor areas between the Zinave, Bahine, and Gonarezhou National Parks in Mozambique and Zimbabwe, respectively. There was notable wildlife movement within corridors connecting these parks, including elephants and large carnivores such as lions, Spotted Hyaenas, and African Wild Dogs. Significant human-wildlife conflict was also documented, with lions and African Wild Dogs predating on community livestock. Our work emphasises the **vital importance of these corridors for wildlife movement** between parks and highlights the urgent need to address human-wildlife conflict.

What's next: We aim to finalise our research on the sustainable live off-take of Cheetahs in South Africa to help restore populations further north. We will present these findings to the Scientific Authority. We also intend to finalise the Cheetah BMP to guide the species' conservation in South Africa. Additionally, we plan to support communities affected by wildlife corridors in Mozambique and other key areas across East and southern Africa, with measures to reduce predation and counteract retaliatory actions against large carnivores that often follow.



FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Programme Manager, Derek van der Merwe - *DerekV@ewt.org*

LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ASSOCIATED TARGETED WILDLIFE-CONFLICT MITIGATION

During the African Wild Dog winter denning season in the Lowveld, proactive engagement with farmers is essential. In numerous cases, we **helped to resolve conflict situations amicably** through open communication and tailored conflict mitigation measures.

The Livestock Guardian Dog (LGD) Project continued to deliver strong results. We placed eight dogs across the Waterberg, Mokgopong, and Pienaarsrivier regions, where livestock predation was previously unsustainable due to ongoing stock losses by predators. Farmers reported **almost immediate reductions in losses**, leading to improved tolerance for predators and fewer retaliatory killings. The project demonstrates how practical interventions can protect both livelihoods and wildlife.

Another notable success was the high level of engagement in the Waterberg region, where farmers not only received livestock guarding dogs, but also participated in training, mentorship, and regular follow-up visits. Demand now exceeds supply, emphasising the value communities place on this intervention. This work fosters tolerance toward predators, decreases retaliatory killings, and improves community–conservation relationships.

What's next: We will expand the LGD Project into high-conflict areas of Limpopo, Mpumalanga and other key carnivore landscapes, prioritising communities bordering protected areas; and strengthen veterinary support, farmer training, and long-term monitoring to ensure the success of placed dogs. Simultaneously, the programme will foster stronger partnerships with local communities and cooperatives to raise conservation awareness and promote coexistence between people and carnivores.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Carnivore Conservation Programme is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Abax Investments, African Wild Dog Survival Fund, Aha Hotels and Lodges, Bakwena, MSD Animal Health, Briandez Legacy Trust, Caspar Jebsen, Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Trust, Eukanuba, First Advisory Group, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Gaie Fergusson, Global Affairs Canada, Go2Africa, Holtzman Foundation, Hope for Wildlife, Investec, James Westwood, Jill Warnick, Kevin Richardson Foundation, Lion Recovery Fund, MetroFibre, Oak Foundation, Painted Wolf Foundation, Painted Wolf Wines, Paul King, Relate, Rob Hibbert, Singita Lodges, Tandy Foundation, Tania Ihlenfeldt, and Woolworths.



BIRDS OF PREY

PROGRAMME



Birds of prey are an iconic component of the landscapes they inhabit. From vast savannahs to mountain ranges, forests, grasslands, and river systems, they are essential flagships for healthy habitats across Africa. Our goal is to protect and improve the conservation status of threatened birds of prey and to safeguard the habitats in which they live, directly benefiting a diversity of other wildlife, as well as people. We action strategic monitoring, applied research, and field-based conservation projects for a wide range of threatened nocturnal and diurnal birds of prey throughout southern Africa, to reduce key threats and expand safe spaces for raptors to thrive. We achieve this through a combination of practical interventions, innovative technology, national and global partnerships, community work, legislative support, and targeted conservation planning, based on robust science.

TARGET SPECIES



- White-backed Vulture
- White-headed Vulture
- Hooded Vulture
- Cape Vulture
- Lappet-faced Vulture
- Bearded Vulture
- Pel's Fishing Owl
- Martial Eagle
- Wahlberg's Eagle
- Bateleur
- Tawny Eagle
- Black Harrier

THE PACK

John Davies
Programme Manager

Dr Lindy Thompson
Research & Monitoring Coordinator

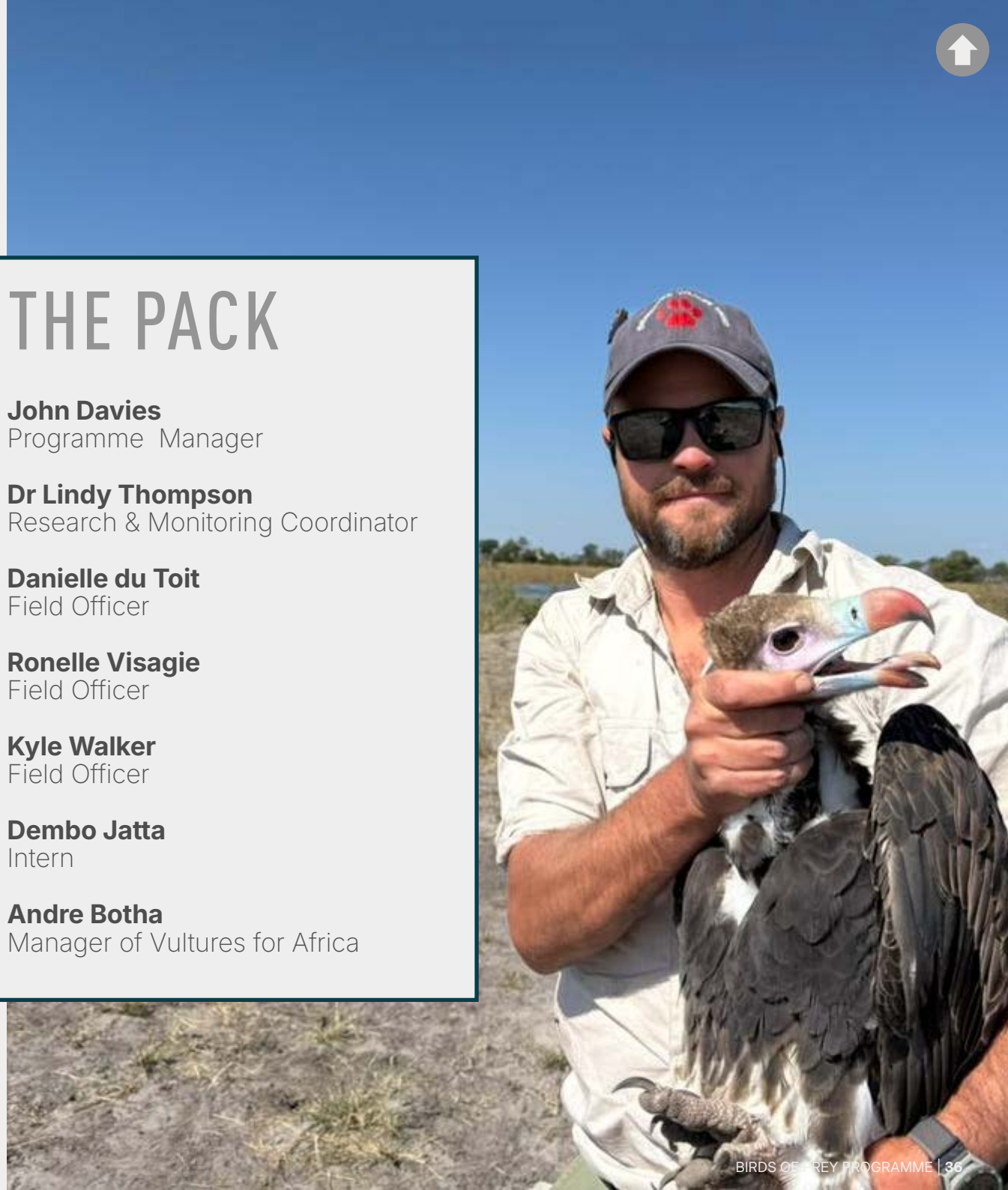
Danielle du Toit
Field Officer

Ronelle Visagie
Field Officer

Kyle Walker
Field Officer

Dembo Jatta
Intern

Andre Botha
Manager of Vultures for Africa





STRATEGIC IMPACTS

RAPTOR RESEARCH AND MONITORING UNDERPINS CONSERVATION DECISION-MAKING

This year, we made significant progress in our collaborative project with the University of Pretoria, investigating raptor health in the Lowveld. The Raptor Health Project forms part of a broader research effort to assess the prevalence of infectious diseases in vulture populations, with a particular focus on avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

In 2025, across the Greater Kruger landscape, **111 vultures were sampled for PCR analysis**, and of these, 102 vultures were also sampled for serology. Through ongoing field sampling and laboratory analysis, we are gaining critical insights into the health of these birds, and the potential threats diseases pose to them. Early findings are already revealing important results, with **52% of 102 sampled vultures testing positive for previous avian influenza infection**. Although there have been no significant mortality events detected in the southern African vulture population linked to avian influenza, it has been known to significantly impact other birds of prey across the globe, as well as species such as waterfowl which are known carriers of the virus. By identifying and monitoring such pathogens, we can inform targeted conservation actions and management strategies to safeguard vulture populations across the region.

We continued our valuable research collaboration with the FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology at the University of Cape Town. This focuses on developing wind turbine collision-reduction tools for collision-prone species, including the Martial Eagle. In parallel, we analysed long-term raptor road count surveys, which have revealed worrying declines in raptor populations across the arid landscapes of the Karoo and southern Kalahari. These findings highlight the urgent need for targeted conservation measures to address the threats facing these species.

Importantly, we have sustained long-term monitoring of raptor nests across southern Africa, **monitoring over 1,200 breeding pairs** to maintain a clear picture of population trends and emerging threats. This year, we launched a key project within the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA) to establish baseline data for vulture populations in this raptor-rich landscape. These baselines will play a critical role in informing management plans and guiding conservation actions to safeguard these species into the future. Through the Vultures for Africa (VfA) programme, we expanded our network of satellite-tracked vultures across multiple range states, including Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia and Chad. This has enabled vital insights into movement ecology, existing and emerging threats, and cross-border conservation priorities, while at the same time strengthening our tracking network.



SEE US IN ACTION

This year, we initiated an exciting Lesser Kestrel research project in collaboration with the National Research Council of Italy – Water Research Institute, the University of Milano, and the University of Palermo. A total of **34 birds were trapped, ringed, and fitted with transmitters,** revealing extraordinary migratory journeys spanning thousands of kilometres to Asia and Russia.

Our datasets have also supported several noteworthy research projects, including a continent-wide investigation into mortalities of GPS-tracked raptors. The results will help us to understand key threats and the development of a multi-species assessment of wind turbine collision risk across Africa. Collectively, the programme's research has been pivotal in our contribution to the latest Regional Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini, providing critical species assessments for the recent revision. Notable assessments included the Lesser Kestrel, Martial Eagle, Bateleur, Pel's Fishing Owl, Hooded Vulture and Tawny Eagle. By delivering accurate, up-to-date information on their conservation status, we aim to elevate the profile of these iconic species and support targeted conservation actions to ensure their long-term protection and effective management across the region.

What's next: We aim to continue to monitor critical populations across southern Africa and develop research to continually fill in critical knowledge gaps to better understand and protect priority species and their habitats.

SECURE SAFE SPACES FOR BIRDS OF PREY TO THRIVE

While habitat loss, persecution, climate change, and electrocutions or collisions on power lines threaten all birds of prey, the decline of African vultures in savannah systems is driven primarily by direct and indirect poisoning. At the heart of our raptor safe space efforts is the Vulture Safe Zone (VSZ) Project, through which we work with a growing network of landowners, farmers, and communities to reduce – and ultimately eliminate – threats to vultures across vast landscapes. We prioritise areas critical to vulture survival, including roosting and breeding sites, key foraging grounds, and regions where vultures once thrived, with the aim of re-establishing populations in areas where they are under most threat or have become locally extinct.

Vultures often become unintended casualties of poison baits placed for livestock predators like jackals and caracals, contributing to the alarming decline of local vulture populations across southern Africa. Recognising the need for a different approach, we provide alternative solutions to landowners for predator management. In our Karoo and Eastern Cape VSZ, we successfully undertook two predator management workshops. This work centres on reducing the use of poisons to control livestock predators and developing effective alternatives to predation management. We have also finalised plans to support our growing network of landowners within our Karoo VSZ by **removing over 500kg of obsolete poisons** from farms. By assisting farmers to safely dispose of these hazardous substances, we promote more sustainable and wildlife-friendly livestock management practices.

Across southern Africa, we have successfully expanded our network of committed landowners, with approximately **one million hectares now designated as vulture-safe** through our various VSZ projects, including the Kalahari, Karoo, Lowveld and Maloti-Drakensberg regions. Within these zones, we have initiated work to reduce risks for vultures, including safe-proofing farm reservoirs to prevent unnecessary drownings, minimising exposure to lead, and improving overall land management practices to benefit both wildlife and landowners. Encouragingly, the VSZ initiative has been adopted and integrated into the recently gazetted National Vulture Biodiversity Management Plan, guided under the auspices of the National Vulture Task force. We are working with BirdLife South Africa and BirdLife International to develop a Vulture Safe Zone Alliance to coordinate, formalise and implement the work across southern Africa.

What's next: We are determined to surpass the 1.5-million-hectare milestone in the coming year, strengthening our impact on the conservation of these magnificent birds. We aim to integrate the VSZ initiative into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Vulture Strategy.

FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Programme Manager, John Davies - *JohnD@ewt.org*





Mass poisoning event in the northern Kruger National Park

CLICK HERE TO REPORT WILDLIFE POISONING

SPECIES PROTECTION

Africa's vultures are among the continent's most iconic wildlife, yet their continued existence is in crisis. In 2017, seven of 11 African vulture species were uplisted to Endangered or Critically Endangered, primarily due to the impact of wildlife poisoning events. This year, we recorded **1,309 vulture deaths** across Africa, including **667 fatalities in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area** (GLTFCA) alone. Poisons also claim other scavenging raptors and carnivores like lions, leopards, and hyaenas, cumulatively undermining the critical ecosystem service provided by nature's "clean-up crews."

To combat this crisis, we harness the *Eye in the Sky* rapid poisoning detection system, alerting rangers to poisoning events and enhancing law enforcement efficiency. In partnership with the Peregrine Fund, the North Carolina Zoological Society, and other key partners, we expanded the system's reach substantially. This now includes **512 GPS-tracked vultures covering 6.5 million km² across eight countries** including South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, South Sudan, and Uganda, with 42 partners using the system.

In the past year alone, *Eye in the Sky* detected **20 major wildlife poisoning events and located 11 poison bait sources** before any further wildlife died, a groundbreaking achievement. Key successes included early detection and intervention in a lion and vulture poisoning incident in Mozambique's Niassa Special Reserve, as well as rapid decontamination in Botswana's Okavango Delta. Thanks to an early alert provided by our system, we coordinated the largest vulture rescue on record after a mass poisoning in Kruger National Park. We helped **save 83 birds from near-certain death**, rehabilitating and successfully releasing these poison victims. Over the past eight years, the EWT has refined raptor treatment protocols to achieve a **98% post-treatment survival rate**. This year, we expanded our "vulture vet" network, **training 16 veterinarians** across South Africa, Mozambique, and Botswana in specialist poisoning response techniques.

Our *Eye in the Sky* system is transforming anti-snaring efforts. Primarily focused on the western boundary of Kruger National Park and Letaba Ranch, we **detected and removed 3,975 snares and found 197 snared animals** this year. We also coordinated the elimination of 3.5 tonnes of snares stockpiled over five years at Letaba Ranch, partnering with Down to the Wire to repurpose the metal into jewellery that now funds wildlife veterinary work. Given the rise in targeted snaring and poisoning of lions and hyaenas for traditional medicine, rapid response is critical.

What's next: We will continue to refine the Eye in the Sky's algorithms to increase its already impressive effectiveness in rapidly pinpointing poisoning events. We plan to incorporate Bateleurs into the system, as these raptors are some of the first to scavenge and find carcasses, typically arriving before vultures. We also aim to train and grow the network of response teams, especially local partners, across project sites and enhance the rehabilitation facilities we work alongside.

STRATEGIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Saving the Maloti-Drakensberg's Threatened Vultures project, supported by the European Outdoor Conservation Association, in partnership with Wildlife ACT, made significant progress in Bearded and Cape Vulture conservation across Lesotho and South Africa. Through river clean-ups, we engaged local schools and communities, **clearing 37 km of riverfront to reduce plastic** pollution. We set up two vulture viewing hides and feeding sites - one operational in Underberg - attracting **over 231 visitors in its first year**, and another nearing completion in Molumong, Lesotho. Community engagement was a key focus, with **six education sessions reaching over 350 participants,** covering vulture conservation, poisoning response, and sustainable livestock management. Additionally, we trained local conservation champions to support vulture monitoring, maintain the hides, and lead future education efforts.

What's next: Priorities include completing the Molumong hide, strengthening community-led conservation, expanding environmental education, and improving waste management in partnership with local authorities. With continued support, these conservation hubs will serve as critical strongholds for Bearded and Cape Vultures in the Maloti-Drakensberg for years to come. Acknowledging the importance of local communities in raptor conservation, we plan to engage more widely with local people, including sensitive areas bordering the Kruger National Park, where poison-related incidents are increasing.





EMPOWERING CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS

In Limpopo National Park, Mozambique, our team trained Peace Parks Foundation rangers to use the *Eye in the Sky* system more effectively on the EcoRanger platform. We also assisted with the development of a basic poisoning response strategy for the park. All SANParks section and regional rangers in the Kruger National Park have been fully trained in the use of *Eye in the Sky*, equipping them with a cutting-edge tool to effectively protect South Africa's iconic wildlife.

What's next: We will continue to train field teams in the effective use of the Eye in the Sky system as it becomes operational over wider landscapes across East and southern Africa.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

The EWT strengthened its leadership role through participation in several international meetings and symposia. Besides representing the Convention on Migratory Species Raptors MoU and highlighting the need for coordinated vulture conservation action at the African Union/SADC Regional Conservation Symposium in Cape Town, we also attended the Wingspan Conference in Brussels, Belgium, addressing the global impact of energy infrastructure on birds. These engagements not only expanded EWT's international footprint but also influenced key conservation policies affecting Africa's vultures.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Birds of Prey Programme is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Alu-Cab, BEWILD, BlueSky Society Trust, Briandez Legacy Trust, Branfere, Bushwakka, Charl van der Merwe Trust, Dream Resorts, Gauntlett Trust, Geants du Ciel, Global Affairs Canada, Investec, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, National Geographic Society, Plum Foundation, Puy du Fou, Roy McAlpine Charitable Foundation, INL, Cennergi, Scott Ramsay and Singita Lowveld Trust.

Our work is made more impactful through key partnerships with African Parks, Chuilexi Conservancy, Connect Trust, Elephants Without Borders, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Gonarezhou Conservation Trust, Niassa Carnivore Project, Niassa Special Reserve/Wildlife Conservation Society, Peace Parks Foundation, Raptors Botswana, South African National Parks, Wildlife ACT, and an important collaboration with Contemplate Wild and the North Carolina Zoological Society. We are grateful for the involvement of veterinarians and expert wildlife rehabilitators from the Briner Veterinary Services, Dullstroom Bird of Prey Centre, Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, and Wildscapes Veterinary and Conservation Services.

THREATENED AMPHIBIAN

PROGRAMME



Click to listen

Declines and extinctions of amphibians surpass those of any other animal class, with **nearly half of all known amphibian species worldwide at risk of extinction**. Freshwater ecosystems, which support over 10% of all known species and are vital for amphibians, are also declining. In Africa, amphibians and their habitats reflect this global trend, with **over 30% of endemic species facing serious threats** and experiencing declines. To ensure their survival, it is essential to protect aquatic ecosystems and related terrestrial habitats. **Protecting these ecosystems benefits amphibians, human communities, and economic growth.**

The EWT was the first South African NPO to focus on frogs for conservation, using frog species as flagships to conserve key habitats. By monitoring species and habitats, we enhance the management of critical amphibian areas, and use research to guide conservation efforts. Our efforts have expanded to include threatened reptiles like the Albany Adder and Durban Dwarf Burrowing Skink. Additionally, we advocate for **social change to foster behavioural shifts towards frogs** and raise awareness of the importance of their habitats.

FIND OUT MORE

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TARGET SPECIES



- Amathole Toad
- Table Mountain Ghost Frog
- Rose's Mountain Toadlet
- Moonlight Mountain Toadlet
- Rough Moss Frog
- Western Leopard Toad
- Micro Frog
- Cape Platanna
- Pickergill's Reed Frog
- Kloof Frog
- Durban Dwarf Burrowing Skink
- Albany Adder

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

CONSERVING THREATENED FROGS AND REPTILES OF THE EASTERN CAPE



In partnership with Bionerds, we recorded the **first documented breeding calls and mating activity in 40 years for the Critically Endangered Amathole Toad.** While they breed every year at our protected sites, these behaviours have never been documented before. Their calls provide valuable acoustic data that we can use to help determine species numbers at these breeding sites. Our efforts to formally protect these key wetland sites through Biodiversity Stewardship have also significantly increased – we have one site in the final stage of declaration and have developed a landscape expansion strategy to expand our footprint in this biodiversity rich region.

What's next: We plan to continue monitoring focal breeding sites, expand formal protected area declaration across the region and implement long-term management in collaboration with landowners. Additionally, we aim to broaden our geographic scope across the wider landscape and strengthen conservation partnerships with other organisations to boost our collective impact.



Amathole Toad

CONSERVING THREATENED FROGS AND REPTILES IN KWAZULU-NATAL

In July 2024, the **four-hectare Widenham Wetland was declared a Protected Environment.** This relatively small wetland is located within the city of Durban and serves as a key rehabilitation site, supporting a vital population of the Endangered Pickersgill's Reed Frog. Widenham is significant because it connects to a larger wetland system that we are working to safeguard. This will help facilitate connectivity between key breeding sites. Additionally, we launched a Widenham rehabilitation plan in collaboration with the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality and Verdant Environmental, aimed at improving the condition of this important wetland.

Our KwaZulu-Natal team continues to grow. We welcomed **13 new staff members**, including waste collectors, invasive plant controllers, and an invasive plant coordinator. All new staff come from the communities where our projects are located.

We are working in these areas to improve socio-ecological resilience by improving awareness of their importance, both for the ecosystem services they provide and for conservation, through our education and awareness strategy. One of our new approaches has been the introduction of an EWT picture game that connects learners to the significance of wetland systems and how they can be sustainably utilised within a legal framework. We plan to use this educational resource through an awareness campaign at Adams Mission. During the year, we **visited six local schools and engaged with more than 150 learners** who live in, and depend on local wetland systems, fostering a sense of respect for their surrounding environment.

Our new KwaZulu-Natal staff were essential in **clearing 70 hectares of wetland habitat at Adams Mission of invasive alien plants**, and played a key role in developing partnerships to target waste removal. Funders and key stakeholders approved our concept of Centralised Waste Disposal Zones, and we have now installed these at Adams Mission to combat wetland waste. At these zones there are branded containers where community members can drop off waste to be collected by municipal services. Collaborative clean-up days saw us **remove over 100 bags of rubbish** from vital wetland ecosystems. Adams Mission has now been categorised as a Nature Reserve, following our presentation to the stewardship review committee. Wetland health has remained stable over the past year, and survey results show an improvement in overall attitudes towards conservation and the ecosystem services the wetland provides.



We initiated work on one of South Africa's most threatened reptiles, the Critically Endangered Durban Dwarf Burrowing Skink, which has a very small range overlapping with Durban's urban area. Completing a habitat protection feasibility study, establishing a stakeholder action group, and starting processes to expand protected areas for the core zone at Treasure Beach, including monitoring, will offer significant conservation advantages for this species. Our initial survey efforts identified over 40 individuals, including a new record for the recently declared Widenham Wetland Protected Environment, emphasising the importance of this site for threatened biodiversity. Through our intervention and collaboration with the eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality, **Treasure Beach was granted Nature Reserve Status** – a crucial step in safeguarding critical burrowing skink habitat. We further acted by **clearing a hectare of invasive alien vegetation** to help restore this delicate ecosystem.

What's next: We aim to complete the Widenham Rehabilitation Plan, increase our species monitoring across all sites in KwaZulu-Natal, and expand our focus to additional wetlands. At Adams Mission, we will work to finalise a protection agreement, develop sustainable finance solutions to ensure our Waste Zones are not reliant on external funding, and invest in infrastructure that will safeguard natural springs to provide local communities with potable water. Our work on the Durban Dwarf Burrowing Skink has established a strong foundation for focused conservation action for this threatened fossorial species. We plan to extend our efforts on protected area expansion, habitat management, and monitoring to several other sites over the next 12 months.



The Critically Endangered Rose's Mountain Toadlet

CONSERVING THREATENED FROGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE

We are proud to add the **country's most threatened amphibian, the Critically Endangered Rose's Mountain Toadlet,** to our portfolio. In August, we began work with multiple partners to monitor breeding and implement management actions. Unusually, this frog is voiceless, so standard passive acoustic monitoring methods will not detect it. To address this challenge, we plan to employ innovative survey techniques, such as **environmental DNA and detection dogs**, alongside established population estimates to survey this voiceless species. These initial systematic surveys will establish important baselines, enhancing our understanding of the species' distribution and conservation requirements.

Working with Bionerds, we presented three sites in the Western Cape to the provincial Stewardship Review Committee. The sites, Wilde Hondeness 2, Boven Speelmans Rivier 2, and Kleinverhoode, together cover an **area of 1,100 hectares, and all were granted Nature Reserve status.** This will secure essential conservation real estate for the **Critically Endangered Rough Moss Frog**. To further protect this species, we partnered with the Klein Swartberg Conservancy to conduct invasive alien plant clearing at key wetland breeding sites. To date, we have **cleared 150 hectares**, mostly pine trees, helping restore natural water dynamics, which will assist in protecting their ecologically sensitive breeding sites. Working with our partners, we successfully completed occupancy and habitat surveys for the Table Mountain Ghost Frog. We also conducted **nine bioblitzes** across a priority corridor connecting protected areas in the Overberg. Based on this work, we are developing threat assessments for the Western Leopard Toad, Micro Frog, and Cape Platanna to inform conservation efforts.

What's next: Our focus is to secure an expanded network of new protected areas over key amphibian habitats. We have been working with landowners to survey and monitor target species, map invasive plant density, and manage wetland ecosystems. We are now finalising formal protection processes across several sites in the Western Cape, and management plans are to be collaboratively developed. This will safeguard and actively improve thousands of hectares of unique freshwater ecosystems for several species of endemic threatened amphibians and the ecosystem services they provide to people.

UNDERSTANDING AFRICA'S FROGS TO SAFEGUARD FRESHWATER HABITATS

This year, we focused on research needed to guide future conservation priorities for southern Africa's frogs. Collaborating with partners, including the IUCN and Anura Africa, we continue to lead the Third Global Amphibian Assessment at a regional level. This involves finalising new IUCN Red List Assessments for South Africa's threatened frogs and working with leading scientists and conservationists across the region to identify the primary threats and key areas for southern African amphibian conservation. We also showcased the EWT's amphibian programme internationally; at the 10th World Congress of Herpetology in Borneo. This event marked the **first global gathering of the IUCN Amphibian Specialist Group**, and the EWT's involvement was crucial in highlighting our regional efforts.

What's next: This is an exciting phase for our programme, and we aim to use our research to identify key conservation gaps in southern Africa, while beginning to establish and expand local partnership opportunities across the region, building capacity, and expanding our staff to address the gaps in amphibian conservation across Africa.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Threatened Amphibian Programme is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Anglo American, Ford Wildlife Fund, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Moody's Foundation, One&Only, Rainforest Trust, Re:wild, and Synchronicity Earth.


Amathole Toad



The Critically Endangered Rough Moss Frog

THE PACK

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Waste Collector

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Dr Christopher Brooke
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AFRICAN CRANE

CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



Click to listen

Working in partnership with the International Crane Foundation (ICF), our joint programme goal is to **secure and improve the conservation status of Africa's four resident crane species** by reducing threats to the wetland and grassland habitats, upon which they depend. Working closely with local communities and key national and global stakeholders, we achieve this through targeted conservation actions, at key crane sites, that effectively reduce threats to both species and their habitats. We empower and support individuals, community groups, and organisations to manage catchments for the benefit of both people and cranes, ensuring that conservation is integrated into local decision-making and practices for sustainable impacts on both species and habitats.

The relationship between the EWT and the ICF evolved in April 2025. We continue to work under the strategic partnership between the two organisations in South Africa and on relevant projects in other parts of Africa. However, the ICF will operate independently across the Sahel and Sudan Savannah regions, and in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Zambia, where it is registered. This report, therefore, covers the full reporting period for South Africa, and the period from July 2024–March 2025 elsewhere.

TARGET SPECIES



FIND OUT MORE

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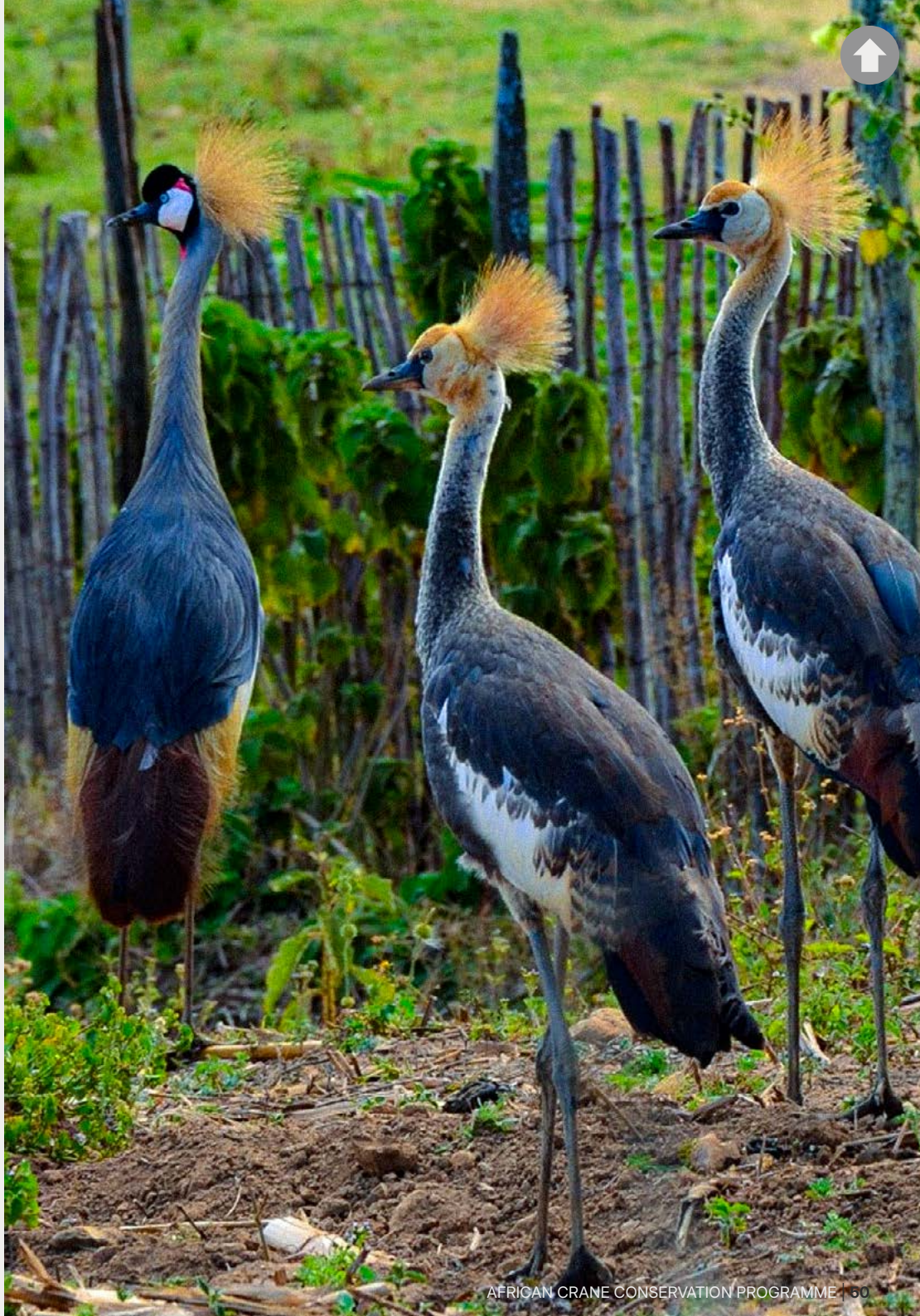

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

UGANDA PROJECT

The **Grey Crowned Crane is the most threatened crane species in Africa**. Rukiga and Lwengo's wetlands in Uganda face increasing agricultural pressure from a growing human population. These wetlands are essential for humans – for food and water security, and flood prevention – and for the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane, Uganda's national bird. Our project's key activities include providing alternative sustainable livelihoods and healthcare services, reducing unplanned pregnancies, along with habitat restoration, soil, and water conservation, ensuring long-term wetland health for both people and cranes.

One of our most significant achievements is the ongoing adoption of climate-smart farming and alternative livelihoods. Farmers in our project areas are reporting **up to 30% higher yields by adopting climate-smart agriculture** techniques, introduced through our demonstration sites. These sites showcase practices such as water conservation, kitchen and homestead gardening, soil nutrient management, and the use of improved crop varieties. By learning and applying these methods – especially water conservation strategies that help crops survive dry spells – farmers have been able to increase their harvests and strengthen their resilience against climate variability. Aside from enhancing food security and household income, this success also encourages neighbouring farmers to adopt similar approaches, amplifying the overall impact.

These results **directly benefit the cranes by reducing pressure on wetland habitats**, vital for their survival. This results in fewer wetlands being drained or degraded for farming, thereby safeguarding the cranes' nesting and feeding grounds.

Similarly, the introduction of mushroom farming in Rukiga and at the Kiyanja-Kaku Wetland in Lwengo has proven very effective, as this innovative venture delivers quick returns, requires minimal space, and does not encroach on wetlands, allowing families to earn additional income, while easing pressure on crane habitat.

At the same time, **12 underground 20,000-litre rainwater harvesting tanks** in Lwengo and Mbarara have improved water security for nearly **3,000 people**, supporting households, small-scale irrigation, and livestock, while additional tanks in Rukiga have increased water access at community sites and a primary school. Once again, this reduces human activity in the critical crane wetland areas.

Our ecosystem restoration efforts have **rehabilitated over 100 hectares of Kiyanja-Kaku Wetland** in Lwengo, with hundreds of community members clearing invasive Mimosa pigra, among other species, and **planting 5,000 indigenous trees**. Six Village Wetland Management Committees now oversee these gains, ensuring long-term stewardship. Meanwhile, along the River Rwizi in Mbarara, **soil and water conservation across 22.25 hectares and the planting of nearly 1,000 bamboo seedlings** are stabilising eroding banks and protecting water quality.

The cranes are responding: a recent count recorded **403 Grey Crowned Cranes in Ntungamo, a 43% increase** from 282 the previous year. Additionally, **11 chicks were ringed for monitoring** across Lwengo, Rukiga, Ntungamo, and the Rwizi corridor, providing a good baseline for movement monitoring.

Together, our outcomes demonstrate that with the proper support, wetlands can be restored and safeguarded while livelihoods and biodiversity flourish.







Mushroom Harvesting

RWANDA PROJECT

Protecting the wetlands around Rugezi Marsh, our integrated programme is improving household nutrition and income, while reducing erosion and runoff that threaten critical crane habitat. **Rugezi Marsh is Rwanda's most important breeding site for the Grey Crowned Crane**, and a vital ecosystem for local communities – providing water, supporting agriculture, and buffering against floods.

Through the Farmer Field School model, farmers produced **12,565 kg of Irish potatoes from 4,000 kg of seed** and sustained dry season vegetable harvests through home gardens and drip irrigation – tangible gains that boost food security and reduce pressure on the marsh.

Like our project sites in Uganda, mushroom farming has rapidly become a game-changer. Expanded with **26 new huts and 7,800 tubes** in Ruhunde and Rwerere, families **harvested 836 kg**, with 571 kg sold for income, 251 kg consumed, and the rest shared – providing quick, protein-rich nutrition from a small footprint that does not require wetland cultivation. With local prices typically ranging from $1 to $1.50 per kg, mushrooms provide an affordable alternative to meat and a resilient livelihood that directly reduces dependence on marsh resources.

On a landscape scale, **distributing 2,525,000 Napier Grass cuttings to 4,930 households** is stabilising farmland terraces, curbing erosion, and protecting water quality in the marsh. The health-centre gardens at Rwerere and Rusasa produced 1,100 kg of cabbages, 430 kg of carrots, 40 kg of marrows, 58 kg of beetroots, and 15 kg of tomatoes – produce used for nutrition programmes, reinvested to sustain the gardens, and showcased to encourage replication in 40 nearby households. These results strengthen local stewardship, enabling people to thrive while safeguarding the breeding marsh of the Grey Crowned Crane.

WESTERN KENYA PROJECT

Kenya's western region is a stronghold for the Grey Crowned Crane. The long-term survival of cranes in these human-dominated landscapes depends on adopting wetland management systems that strike a balance between community needs and habitat conservation, with local communities playing a crucial role.

Across the region, we are protecting crane wetlands, while driving national policy alignment. On 3 March 2025, Kenya's National Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of Grey Crowned Cranes was launched. The EWT and the ICF co-led and funded the development of this Action Plan, playing a key role in the launch event and subsequent implementation to practitioners.

In Nandi County, Conservation Agreements – where farmers commit to habitat protection in exchange for livelihood support – **created a vegetated buffer zone securing six hectares** at King'wal wetland, safeguarding habitat for **11 breeding pairs of cranes**. Households also planted 7,080 indigenous trees, 17,700 Napier cuttings, and 3,580 grafted Hass avocados, while 60 households in Trans Nzoia established buffers with 5,000 trees, 7,000 Napier cuttings, and 2,000 avocado trees. Access to safe water improved through **nine 10,000-litre rainwater tanks at six schools** in Homa Bay, benefiting approximately 2,600 learners and teachers. The protection of two springs in Nandi serving 420 households all cumulatively contributed to reducing wetland disturbance.

Our rescue network, collaborating with Raptors Rehabilitation Trust Kenya, and releases through Ecoscapes Sanctuary, **treated 10 injured cranes.** Monitoring recorded 5,336 adult cranes, 151 juveniles, and 16 chicks across various sites.

Our capacity to sustain our impact grew through the **training of 77 Kenya Wildlife Service rangers** across three counties, mapping 21 wetlands in Uasin Gishu, engaging over 5,000 people via the August Crane Festival, and piloting bird-deterrent tape with the National Irrigation Authority in Ahero. A promising step towards reducing crop damage and resultant human-wildlife conflict.





KAFUE FLATS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The official launch, in October 2024, of the **20-year co-management agreement,** under the banner of the Kafue Flats Restoration Partnership and the vision of "A Thriving Wetland for All," marked a transformative milestone for conservation in Zambia. It formalised collaboration between the ICF, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, and WWF Zambia on the Kafue Flats floodplain in southern Zambia. This long-term agreement is important because it secures sustained investment, government commitment, and coordinated action to protect the Kafue Flats, including the two national parks – Blue Lagoon and Lochinvar – and the game management area that it encompasses. It also enhances our legitimacy and presence, which are vital for building the trust of the seven traditional leaders and their communities.

Law enforcement in the region was bolstered by 98 field staff, Wildlife Police Officers and Community Scouts, who completed over 15,000 patrol days. These efforts resulted in the apprehension of dozens of suspects, confiscation of illegal firearms, boats, and game meat, and a decline in poaching and illegal fishing.

Ecological restoration progressed with the **removal of 129 hectares of invasive Mimosa pigra**. Community engagement included **climate-smart agriculture training for 33 students**, and validation workshops for the General Management Plan, ensuring local voices influence the future of the Kafue Flats.

SAHEL & SUDAN SAVANNAH REGION: BLACK CROWNED CRANE PROJECT

The **Black Crowned Crane is the least well-known crane in the world.** Like other resident African species, it is also threatened, with populations declining due to habitat loss, disturbance, and illegal trade. Our programme is dedicated to securing the future of this iconic species across key countries within its range, including Senegal, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Chad, by combining research, habitat protection, community engagement, and partnership development.

In Senegal, flock monitoring and nest surveys by eco-rangers continued to provide vital data for conservation management, while work continued with agricultural groups to improve crop yields and livelihoods. In Ethiopia, the completion of the Boyo Wetland Conservation Plan has laid the groundwork for government-led habitat protection. In South Sudan, working with African Parks, aerial surveys of Boma and Bandingilo National Parks, delivered the first counts of crane populations, which will guide future conservation efforts. These initiatives are all building local capacity, strengthening partnerships, and laying the foundation for the long-term recovery of Black Crowned Crane populations.

DRAKENSBERG & WESTERN CAPE PROJECT

South Africa's Drakensberg and Western Cape regions are crucial strongholds for Grey Crowned, Wattled, and Blue Cranes - flagship species representing wetland and grassland health. Our partnership collaborates with landowners, communities, and government to protect habitats, support livelihoods, and promote science-based conservation.

In the Drakensberg, spring protection projects at KwaMkhize, Mqatsheni, and Hlatikulu now supply **clean water to over 1,000 people,** while community-led land-use planning has **designated 800 hectares of high-value grassland for conservation and grazing.** Financial literacy and cooperative support have helped local farmers to deliver fresh produce to regional markets and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), boosting rural economies.

Aerial and drone surveys, along with increased engagement of farmers, led to the **discovery of new Wattled Crane nest sites** across the Drakensberg, and enhanced **monitoring of over 50 Blue Crane nests** in the Western Cape. Conservation planning workshops for Wattled and Blue Cranes, held with the IUCN and government authorities, produced new management plans that will guide conservation efforts in the years ahead.

Carbon offsetting projects, **covering 93,000 hectares** with an additional 53,000 hectares in development, are leading the way in sustainable finance for conservation and encouraging good rangeland management. **Alien plant removal has restored 90 hectares of grassland**, and stewardship agreements, for Vulture's Peak and Kiepersol, will add over 1,100 hectares to South Africa's protected area network. Together, these initiatives are reversing declines, building resilience, and ensuring cranes and communities flourish in South Africa's changing landscapes.

PROGRAMME OPPORTUNITIES

1. The growing recognition of **cranes as flagship species for wetland and grassland conservation** is opening doors for new partnerships, funding, and policy support at national and international levels.
2. Advances in community engagement, sustainable finance, such as carbon offsetting, and technology for monitoring, are enabling us to scale up our impact and secure habitats for both cranes and people.
3. Our presence on the ground, as implementers working with key partners, with programmes well-aligned with local and government priorities, is increasingly making us a partner of choice among communities, governments and other stakeholders.



Credit: J Van der Westhuizen

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The African Crane Conservation Programme is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Aqualia International Foundation, Beit Trust, Bob Hallam, Cara Foundation, Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation, Coca-Cola South Africa (Global Water Challenge), Conservation International, Darwin Initiative, Dietrich American Foundation, Dohmen Family Fund, Elephant Charge, Fondation Segré, Fred Beall, HCI Foundation, the German Federal Government's International Climate Initiative (IKI), Indwe, International Crane Foundation's Conservation Impact Fund and Protected Areas Fund, James and Marilyn Anderson, Jeanne Eloranta Family, Jeff and Lori Sundberg, JRS Biodiversity Foundation, Nashville Zoo, Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium, Leiden Conservation Foundation, Millstream Farm, N3 Toll Concession, Nimick Forbesway Foundation, Paul L King, Rainforest Trust, Richard Murray, Sallyann Garner, Sharon Fisher, Whitley Fund for Nature (through the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association), WWF Zambia.

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DRYLANDS

CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

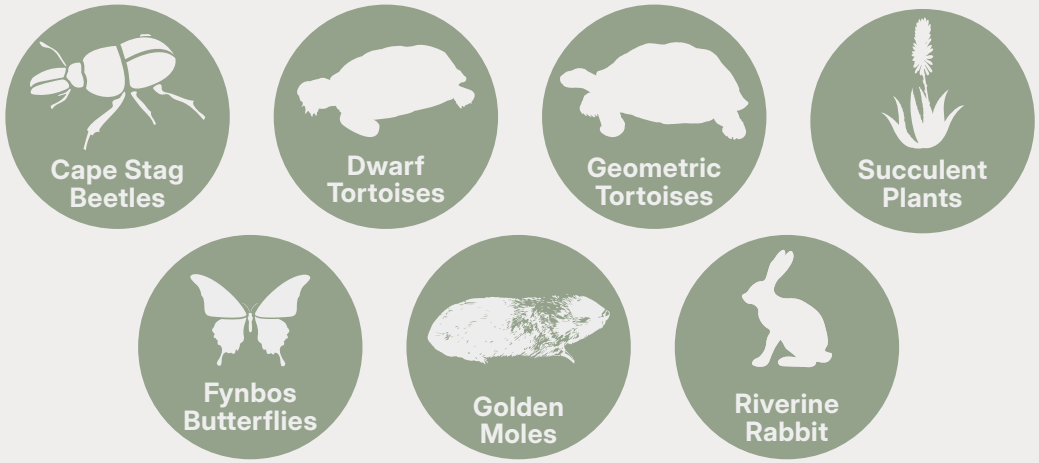


Click to listen



Drylands span 60% of South Africa; a semi-arid landscape that will be severely affected by climate change and unsustainable developments. Here, we aim to **promote, sustain, secure, and restore the ecological integrity** of critical dryland areas and associated biodiversity. We celebrate our flagship species and landscapes. Our approach is inclusive, pragmatic, innovative, science-based, and promotes the sharing of knowledge for a more sustainable approach to managing drylands. We achieve this by collaborating with landowners, communities, government agencies, and other civil society partners who rely on these fragile ecosystems. Over the past year, we have worked alongside these stakeholders to conserve these ecosystems, habitats, species, and local communities.

TARGET SPECIES



STRATEGIC IMPACTS

HABITAT PROTECTION

As part of our initiative to use carbon credits to fund the long-term support of the protected areas declared by the EWT across South Africa, we have secured the **participation of five farmers, covering an area of over 70,000 hectares**.

The Anysberg Biodiversity Stewardship cluster is now in the final stages of the declaration process, with two properties awaiting final signature by the MEC and three properties currently in the Public Participation phase. The declaration of these properties will protect several of our target species, most particularly the Riverine Rabbit.

The EWT entered into a conservation servitude agreement with Lokenburg Farm, specifically to conserve habitat for the Speckled Dwarf Tortoise. Lokenburg is a privately owned 4,420 ha sheep farm in the Northern Cape, close to Nieuwoudtville.

We also collaborated with the Bionerds to clear alien vegetation at a priority site for the Dickson's Copper Butterfly, **removing 29 hectares of invasive vegetation** while gathering additional information for the management plan for this Threatened butterfly's habitat.

What's next: Over the next year, we will strive to declare significantly more protected areas, particularly in the Succulent Karoo, where there are extensive biodiversity rich areas in need of formal protection.



SPECIES PROTECTION

Our work with scent detection dogs, primarily sniffing out smuggled succulents, continued. We collaborated with the South African Police Service and CapeNature on joint operations in March and May to combat biodiversity crime through targeted roadblocks.

We responded to a call for help from the Worcester Geometric Tortoise Reserve after an uncontrolled fire ran through the core species habitat. Our actions **rescued 62 Critically Endangered Geometric Tortoises**.

A research project using DNA metabarcoding is underway with the aim of bridging the knowledge gap of the dietary components of the Critically Endangered Geometric Tortoise. Continued monitoring of the species will determine an updated estimated population size on various properties and update mark-recapture methods.

What's next: Funding-dependent, we aim to scale-up our succulent plant protection work, taking our current efforts to the next level. We also plan to expand dwarf tortoise conservation work considerably while continuing our efforts with partners to monitor the Geometric Tortoises.

ADVANCE CONSERVATION GENETICS

Significantly, our DNA work on Riverine Rabbit scat samples has **revealed over 7,000 variable SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) markers** across the rabbit genome. These markers will enable us to conduct in-depth population genetic analyses, even to profile individual rabbits from their scats.

The team assisted with the **first-ever dry season eDNA sampling for the Rose's Mountain Toadlet** project and completed the DNA extractions for these samples to inform fieldwork planned for the new financial year.

What's next: We will expand eDNA sequencing to locate new sites where Rose's Mountain Toadlet might be present and expand eDNA operations to provide consulting support to EIA assessments. Our efforts will intensify to understand the population genetics of the Riverine Rabbit, guiding more targeted conservation strategies for the species. Golden moles will also receive more attention as we explore the complex genetic relationships among several species in the Groenriviermond area of the West Coast, and possibly even identify a new species.

EMPOWER LANDOWNERS AND OTHER CONSERVATION STAKEHOLDERS

We partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to host a workshop for Mountain Zebra Camdeboo Protected Environment (MZCPE) landowners on sustainable land management and how individual farm management plans will integrate with the broader MZCPE management plan. The workshop enabled the team to establish a baseline of existing knowledge on farm conservation planning and provided training to landowners on developing farm conservation plans. The workshop also offered guidance on how to apply for small grants, enabling sustainable land management actions to be implemented on their respective properties.

We held the **first of three Karoo Succulent Safe Space Feedback Workshops** with landowners, organisations and community members who had participated in our Karoo Succulent Safe Space feasibility study. We now have commitments from farmers' associations, AgriForum, the South African Police Service's Stock Theft Unit, and individual landowners, to our Karoo Succulent Safe Space approach.

Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) Intelligence and Investigation Unit also attended. Namibia is facing a similar succulent poaching threat and has established a Protected Plants Task Team to address the issue. The Safe Space project plan has now been finalised, as part of the Succulent National Response Strategy and Action Plan.

The team represented the EWT at the *Fynbos Forum*, showcasing our work in golden moles, a rare and endemic species, as well as the Speckled Dwarf Tortoise and the Riverine Rabbit, all of which are found in the Fynbos Biome. We also elaborated on our collaboration with one of our farming champions.

Our programme work featured prominently, both locally and internationally. In September, drylands specialist officer Esther Matthew represented the EWT at the National Geographic Explorer Hub Coordinator workshop and Explorer festival in Lima, Peru, showcasing her scent detection work. She also represented the EWT at the National Geographic Society's Collaborative leadership workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, where she promoted our work with scent dogs to detect illegally traded succulent plants.

The EWT's work is integral to the conservation of dwarf tortoises across the Karoo. **The first Dwarf Tortoise Action Group meeting was held** in Kirstenbosch in October 2024 and was attended by Southern Africa Tortoise Conservation Trust (SATCT), SANParks, CapeNature, and private stakeholders – 19 attendees in total.

We also played a key role in planning and hosting the first EWT African Canines in Conservation Conference, held at the EWT's Conservation Campus in Midrand in March. **Over 100 attendees participated in person**, and around 50 online. The event featured a line-up of international speakers from the UK, USA, Tanzania, and Australia. It was very well received, with many requests for this workshop to become an annual event.

What's next: We need to increase engagement with stakeholders in the mining and energy sectors to guide environmentally-sensitive expansion, as the drylands are increasingly a target for these operations.





ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

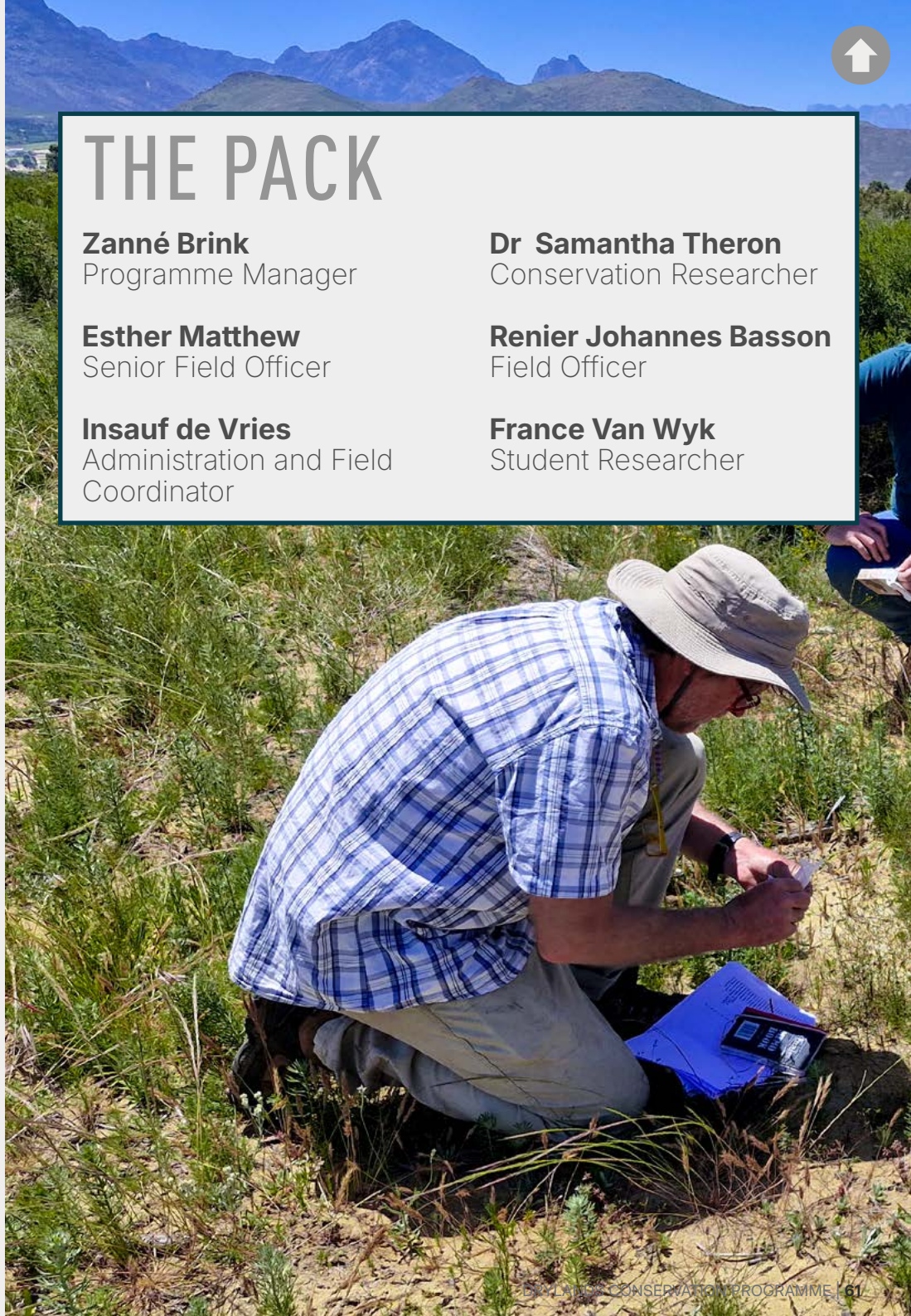
We **visited five schools and six tourism offices** in the Western Cape to raise awareness about threatened butterflies. We **exposed 233 learners and 12 tourism representatives** to this critical messaging. We **upskilled three young entrepreneurs** from Touwsrivier and assisted them in developing their own eco-tourism business plans, and to purchase the equipment and technology they need to initiate their businesses. The team assisted the youths to attend the Nature, Environment, Wildlife and Filmmaking (NEWF) Congress in Durban, which aims to change the narrative around wildlife documentaries and environmental storytelling to enable African stories to be told by African people. The congress provided an excellent opportunity for networking and helped the three young entrepreneurs further develop their talents.

What's next: We need to reincorporate much of the sustainable land management work that the programme is well known for, helping people to use their fragile dryland habitats more sustainably and to protect the ecosystem services they provide.

DRIVE NATURE-BASED TOURISM VENTURES

The team hosted the Table Mountain Fund Board and three school groups at Papkuilsfontein Farm where they visited the *Fynbos on the Edge* project. The board members and youths completed the EWT-developed hiking trail, the via ferrata, and enjoyed September's glorious flower spectacle. This work is important in exposing local communities and our funders to the potential for ecotourism in the area.

What's next: We will continue to work in the Nieuwoudtville area to promote nature-based tourism ventures as alternative income options.



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DEVELOP BASELINES AND IMPROVE CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE

Insect surveys in the Langeberg Mountains enabled us to record a new site locality for Cape Stag Beetles. Near Nieuwoudtville, in the Northern Cape, we also recorded a potentially undescribed species of dung beetle.

Our monitoring and biodiversity surveys, conducted with our conservation partners, the Dwarf Tortoise Conservation NGO and the Turtle Conservancy, have contributed to updating species distribution records to inform ongoing conservation efforts.

With support from the Mapula Trust and the Turtle Conservancy, we conducted numerous field trips to study the Geometric Tortoise. Foot patrols by 10 individuals were supplemented by **two sniffer dog teams, which registered a 30% increase in tortoise finds.**

What's next: We will continue with baseline studies, particularly related to Cape Stag Beetles, dwarf tortoises, and golden moles, to provide effective baselines for our work and to guide conservation actions.

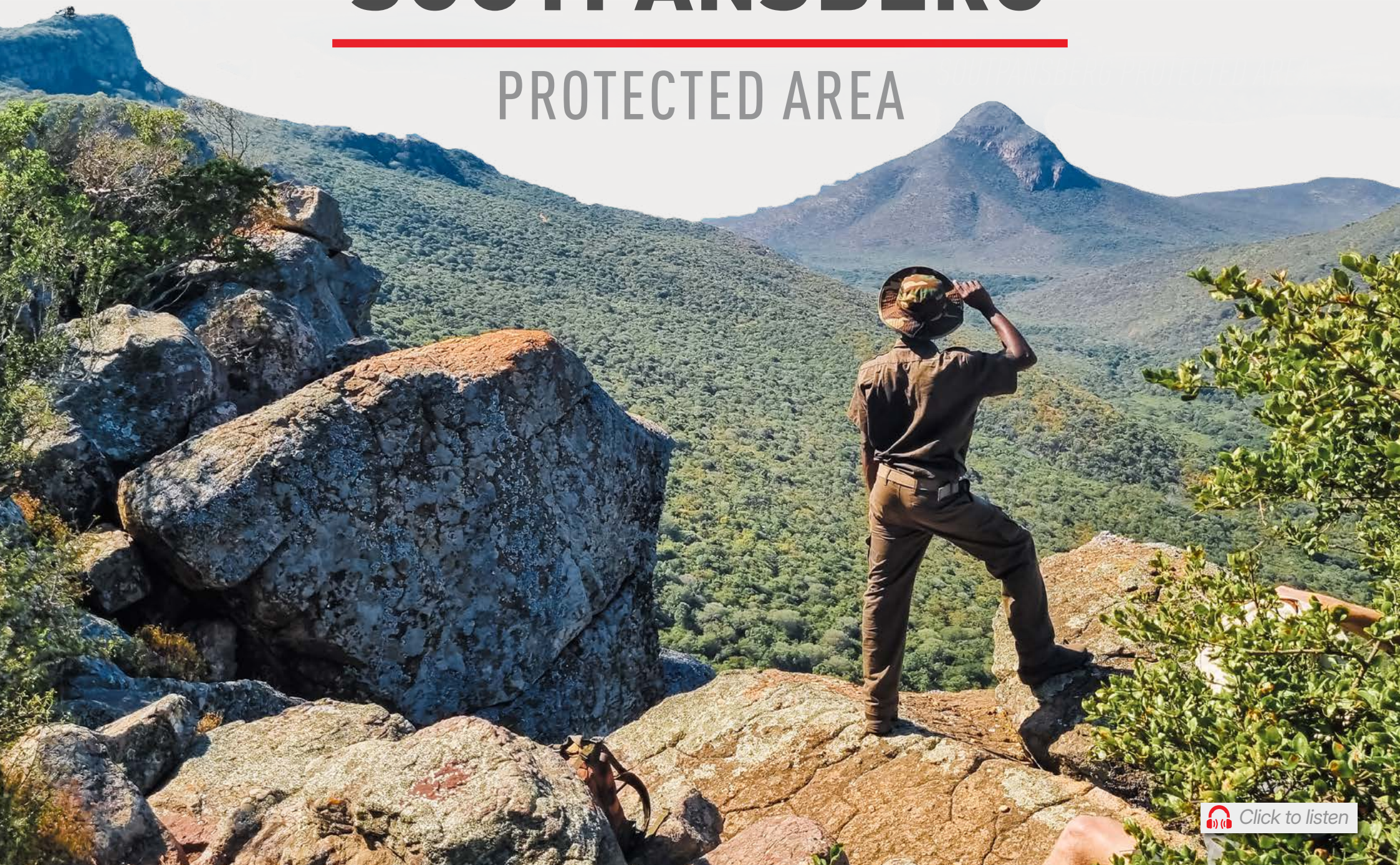
THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Drylands Conservation Programme is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Anglo American, Disney Conservation Fund, Ford Wildlife Foundation, IUCN Netherlands, Mapula Trust, Mohamed bin Zayed Conservation Fund, Rainforest Trust, Re:Wild, Table Mountain Fund, Turtle Conservancy, UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge, United Nations Development Programme, and Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP).

SOUTPANSBERG

PROTECTED AREA

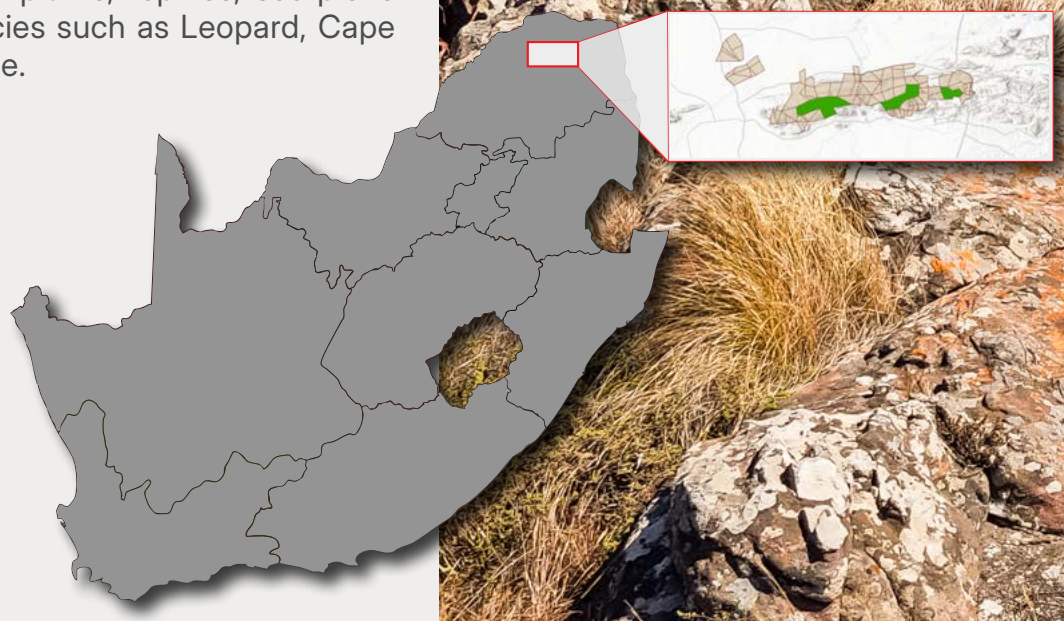


South Africa's Soutpansberg Mountains are renowned for their **high levels of species endemism** and unique ecosystems. They form part of the core area of the UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve, which also includes the northern Kruger National Park and the Mapungubwe National Park and Cultural Landscape. The region is a recognised Centre of Endemism and a Key Biodiversity Area. **Five different biomes are present in the western Soutpansberg**. Despite this, large portions of the mountain receive no formal protection. In response to a pressing need to secure more of this area formally, the EWT launched a project in 2017 to establish the Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve (WSNR). This will create an **unbroken protected zone covering over 50,000 hectares**, safeguarding numerous threatened and locally endemic species, and providing benefits to local communities. Through this initiative, we have also been able to create long-term, meaningful jobs for rangers. The Soutpansberg Rangers are the boots on the ground who do the hard work to restore degraded landscapes, protect threatened species through patrols, maintain our reserve's infrastructure, and entertain our guests on guided hikes. With **nine rangers all hailing from local communities**, and in many cases the bread-winners of their families, the benefits of these long-term positions are felt by those closest to the ground.

TARGET SPECIES

Threatened and endemic (range-restricted) species, including many plants, reptiles, scorpions and spiders. The Soutpansberg is home to multiple Threatened species such as Leopard, Cape Vulture, Mountain Reedbuck, and the Lobatse's Hinge-backed Tortoise.





STRATEGIC IMPACTS

HABITAT AND SPECIES CONSERVATION

In January 2025, the Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve (WSNR) was declared; a significant milestone for the protection of this biodiversity rich mountain. The WSNR **includes 14 properties owned by eight landowners, covering 11,607 hectares.** This achievement brings new energy for expanding the protected area and raises important awareness about the Soutpansberg. The declaration is creating a snowball effect, with other landowners now inquiring about, or committing, to join the reserve. We have mapped an **expansion zone covering over 140,000 hectares**, forming a corridor between the existing Studholme Nature Reserve in the East, across to the western end of the mountains, and North to Langjan Nature Reserve. To support this, we completed a biodiversity stewardship assessment for the entire expansion zone and submitted it to the Limpopo provincial environmental review committee. This will help facilitate smoother processes for the future expansion of the WSNR.

We initiated a second expansion phase of the WSNR, with five additional landowners joining the WSNR Association. Once completed, this second phase will expand the protected area of the WSNR by an **additional 16,000 hectares.**

As part of the EWT's membership of the WSNR Association and adoption of the WSNR Framework Management Plan, we continue to improve the standards of the EWT's Medike Reserve. Our efforts have included upgrading roads, refurbishing guest accommodation, and enhancing reserve infrastructure. Notably, we **completed the first large block burn on Medike East**. This is likely the first controlled management burn the property has experienced in decades and is a crucial step towards **restoring the ecological function** of the reserve.

We initiated a cycad monitoring and detection project, using the Soutpansberg's cycads to test drone technology for mapping and detecting these plants. Over several surveys, we developed a model using Artificial Intelligence to identify cycads on remote cliffs. This work produced very promising results, and once we have refined our methods, our goal is to deploy this technology to locate and monitor other Critically Endangered cycads elsewhere in the region. The data will also enable us to establish a baseline of all the Soutpansberg's cycad populations for ongoing long-term monitoring.

What's next: Following the approval of our Future Fit Strategy, we have been exploring potential for protected area expansion projects, building partnerships and collaborations throughout the region. This includes a project to conduct biodiversity stewardship assessments in two community properties on the western boundary of Kruger National Park for SANParks. We also have the opportunity to ensure that the EWT is well positioned as an implementing agent across the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve by integrating into the VBR strategy sessions. We will continue to work very closely with neighbouring landowners on the western Soutpansberg, with a view to expanding the WSNR further in a third phase of expansion.

The Soutpansberg, like many areas, faces an increasing pressure from rural development, from sand mining, resource harvesting, to large scale industrial development. All this results in an increase in pressure and reliance on natural resources and land. To address this, the EWT is actively working to secure critical biodiversity areas in the broader region as protected areas, to ensure that biodiversity also has a home in a shifting, development landscape. Alongside this, we will also continue to fundraise for our 'Rangers for 30 x 30', creating local jobs in the wildlife economy and contributing to local rural economic development.

REHABILITATION OF PRIORITY HABITATS

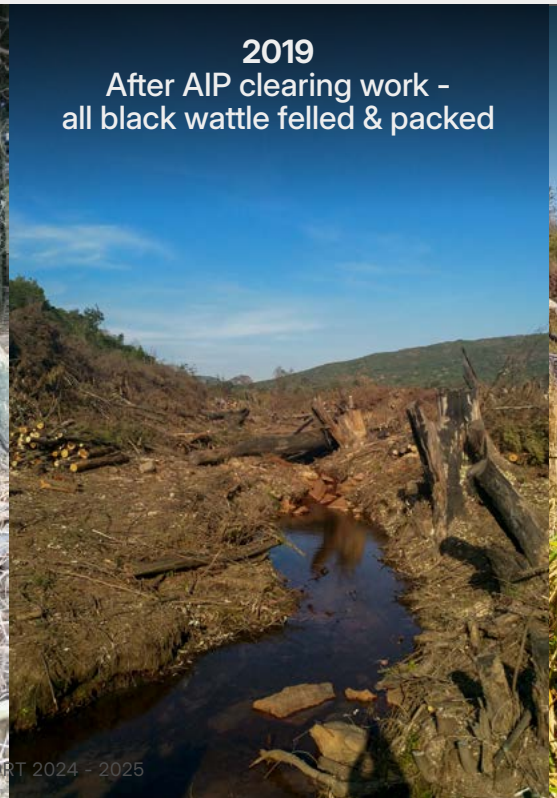
The restoration team carried out follow-up work on Wallace Dale, an area we had worked on several years ago, and cleared an additional **two hectares of dense Eucalyptus** on the neighbouring Luvhondo Nature Reserve. WSNR landowners are also implementing their own habitat restoration plans, including bush encroachment control and follow-up efforts with their teams on sites that we had previously cleared.

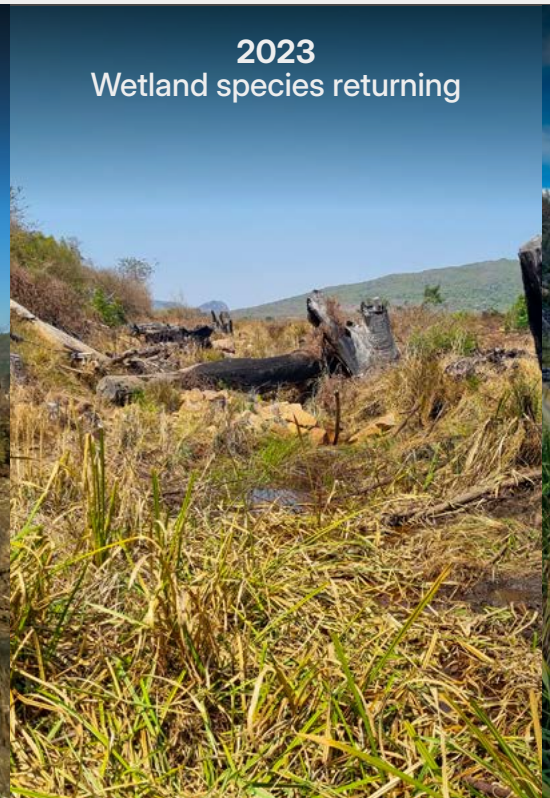
During annual monitoring, the wetlands on Sigurwana, where our team first started work in 2018, are **recovering remarkably well, replenishing water into the system as well as restoring habitat for several species**. We attribute this success to annual follow-up work by the Sigurwana team, which ensures the removal of all emerging exotic tree seedlings and regrowth. This project demonstrates what can be achieved in habitat restoration through the dedicated efforts of our rangers, and in partnership with landowners.



What's next: Our restoration ranger team will continue their work at multiple sites, restoring wetlands and riverine habitats through invasive alien plant control. We aim to expand the team and our impact through further fundraising for this work. We will also work to standardise our monitoring of restoration sites, including the development of a monitoring framework for the WSNR, to more accurately capture our restoration impact and species recovery.









BECOME AN ECO-TOURIST, VISIT THE EWT'S MEDIKE NATURE RESERVE

Eco-tourism can significantly help cover the costs of maintaining protected areas, while also empowering and training local people for new roles that offer long-term benefits, thus boosting local economic opportunities.

We maintained a strong focus on upgrading Medike's infrastructure to accommodate guests visiting the reserve. We also welcomed back return visitors, including 'In the Company of Horses' and the Blue Sky Society – Be Wild, whose guests participated in hiking trail marking on Medike. The Soutpansberg offers an excellent opportunity as a **destination for hiking and trail running**, attracting many outdoor enthusiasts.

The Old Salt Trail, developed by our team, offers a fantastic opportunity for hikers to fully engage with the mountains, and we have renewed our focus on marketing the trail. In collaboration with Africa Massive, we trialled a trail running event on Medike, with the Land Rover Owners Club manning the support stations and the Soutpansberg Athletics Club providing some capable runners. Organised by the EWT, we established a Soutpansberg hikers' group as part of a series of 'Sunday Training Trails.' This has provided an opportunity for ranger guides to gain experience while giving local hikers a chance to connect with nature.

What's next: The newly-declared Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve will concentrate on creating a marketing strategy and materials, highlighting activities and accommodation options available on properties throughout the reserve. Increasing visitors to the WSNR will also boost local opportunities, service demands, and training needs. We will prioritise additional enterprise development opportunities connected to the WSNR to help secure long-term financial sustainability for each property and support rural economic growth.



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THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Soutpansberg Protected Area is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

IKI German Climate Fund, Fondation Franklinia, Taronga Conservation Society, Tim Gregory, Wild Estate, the Roberts and Doug Wilson.

CONSERVATION CANINE

UNIT



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The EWT's Conservation Canine Unit is a specialised unit established to support conservation efforts through scent detection and tracking dog services. The unit also assists as a service provider to our conservation partners, private landowners, and other stakeholders, enabling the dogs to perform a variety of priority conservation-focused tasks.

Anti-poaching dogs are trained to track people, locate snares, find arms and ammunition, and help with the detection of spent cartridges at crime scenes. Our wildlife detection dogs are proficient in detecting various plant and animal samples as well as locating poisons and snares, broadening their potential for conservation applications. We are continuously exploring new applications for our conservation canines to ensure that the EWT operates as an industry leader in the field of conservation dogs.

TARGET SPECIES



STRATEGIC IMPACTS

SCENT DETECTION DOGS FOR SNARE DETECTION IN AND AROUND PROTECTED AREAS

We refined our techniques to locate wildlife snares following a successful trial at the EWT's Medike Nature Reserve in 2024. Through this trial, we demonstrated that while field rangers could find between 10% and 20% of snares we placed, a **dog and handler team accompanied by rangers could find between 50% and 100% of snares**. In 2025, we worked at Letaba Ranch in Limpopo, which has significant issues with snaring. Here, after a week of tracking and removing snares in difficult conditions, the team returned with a much greater understanding of how training methods and deployment should be adapted to optimise the deployment of snare detection dogs. A notable takeaway is that canine teams should be permanently stationed at relevant reserves to ensure a quick response once incursions are detected. This is because extreme temperatures and other environmental factors significantly impact the persistence of poachers' scent.

What's next: Through the next year, we seek opportunities to permanently deploy canine handler teams to snaring hotspots alongside rangers, enabling rapid deployment of the teams to track poachers and detect snares.





Detection training at the EWT's Conservation Campus

EXPAND CONSERVATION CANINE SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORT CONSERVATION PARTNERS, INTERNAL EWT PROGRAMMES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The Succulent Karoo is the most diverse succulent hotspot in the world. The area is under significant threat from escalating poaching of endemic succulent plants – found nowhere else in the world – that are prized by collectors in Asia and Europe. These plants are small and inconspicuous, making them easy to hide in parcels and transport by road and air. Poachers rely on existing postal networks to move poached plants across the country to ports of exit. The EWT currently has **five dogs trained and able to detect four of the 10 succulent plant (Conophytum) species** most targeted by poachers. We have been working closely with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to search vehicles and screen parcels at postal hubs. Our aim is to reduce poaching activities through the interception of illegally harvested plants, thereby disrupting the supply chain, assisting the SAPS in their duties, and ultimately bringing criminals to justice.

The EWT Conservation Canine Unit has detection dogs placed at Sabi Sands Game Reserve, Makalali Game Reserve, and Pilanesberg National Park. The dogs screen vehicles in these protected areas, **searching for ammunition, lion bones, elephant ivory and rhino horn**. This additional layer of security serves as a considerable deterrent to poachers, and our ongoing presence at these reserves has contributed to the downturn in poaching events at all three locations.

What's next: We will build on our existing successes with our succulent detection work by engaging further with authorities, understanding poaching trends and training our dogs on relevant targets as determined by the SAPS. We have also been cleared to work at OR Tambo International Airport, where we will be screening cargo in 2025 and 2026, with a specific focus on detecting rhino horn.

EWT CANINE AMBASSADORS PROJECT

In March, the EWT Conservation Canine Unit hosted our first **African Canines in Conservation Conference** at the Conservation Campus in Midrand. The two-day event, hosting **speakers and delegates from 19 countries**, focused on the use of dogs for conservation research projects and the science behind utilising working dogs to benefit the conservation of wildlife. The event included aspects associated with improving the efficiency of conservation dog teams and was aimed at improving knowledge about canines working within the conservation field.

What's next: Following the excellent feedback received from delegates, the Conservation CanineUnit aims to make this a biennial event.

CONSERVATION CANINES: THE FUTURE

Through the EWT's Future Fit Strategy, the unit will expand its scope to assist with surveys on selected threatened endemic and range-restricted species that we focus on. These include insects such as Cape Stag Beetles, amphibians like Rose's Mountain Toadlet, and reptiles including Dwarf Tortoises. The conservation challenges are similar for many of these species, namely that they are very secretive and thus challenging to locate and protect. Their cryptic behaviour lends itself to using the EWT's canine detection dogs as a critical component of these surveys.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Conservation Canine Unit is grateful to the following sponsors for their ongoing commitment to our work:

DERTOUR Foundation, Genesis K9, Global Conservation Force, MediPet, Mohamed bin Zayed Conservation Fund, MSD Health (Bravecto), Platinum Life, Rogz, Royal Canin, Scent Imprint, Sylvania, Tourvest, Taronga Zoo, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Endangered Inks

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FIND OUT MORE

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BIODIVERSITY & BUSINESS

UNIT



Click to listen



The EWT's Biodiversity and Business Unit (BBU) – formerly the National Biodiversity and Business Network – plays a leading role in driving the integration of biodiversity into corporate strategy and operations, with the goal of achieving measurable, positive biodiversity outcomes. The unit advances this mission through thought leadership and advocacy, easy-to-use tools and instruments, and hands-on implementation enablement, to assist businesses to identify and address their biodiversity impacts and dependencies, and the associated risks and opportunities. In doing so, we focus on connecting biodiversity and business operat ions, driving policy development, and enabling business case development, ensuring that biodiversity is valued, embedded, and acted upon at every level of business decision-making.



STRATEGIC IMPACTS

BIODIVERSITY FOOTPRINTING OF ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES

We play a leading role in developing and applying biodiversity footprinting approaches that help companies understand, quantify, monitor, and disclose their impacts on natural systems.

We undertook **biodiversity footprint assessments across 25 of Anglo American's global sites**. The results were publicly shared at side-event at the 16th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cali, Colombia, and have been instrumental in supporting the company's goal of delivering and measuring net positive impact on biodiversity by 2030.

We piloted one of the largest TNFD (The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures) LEAP (Locate, Evaluate, Assess, Prepare) assessments globally for a multinational commodities and mining company. This included developing a global machine-learning model known as GECKO (Global Ecosystem Condition Knowledge Outcome) to **assess ecosystem conditions at more than 100 sites.** GECKO addresses limitations of existing global indices by producing fine-scale, robust metrics for ecosystem integrity. A **novel ecosystem service risk analysis was developed for 33 priority sites**, while in-depth ecosystem condition assessments at five of these sites demonstrated the critical importance of integrating local expert-led insights in understanding business impacts on biodiversity. Key impacts included regional training workshops across Africa, South America, North America, Europe, and Australia, as well as actionable recommendations to guide the company's group-wide biodiversity policy implementation.

Many of the companies we work with have a direct impact on grassland ecosystems. Our field-based grassland condition monitoring partnership with Mondi is helping to establish a rapid, accurate methodology to assess grassland condition. Piloted in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga during 2025, this work has strengthened scientific understanding, validated desktop condition scores, and provided businesses and landholders with a practical tool to prioritise management interventions and monitor their impact.

A pilot biodiversity footprint assessment, with Harmony Gold, provided the foundation for the company to establish appropriate biodiversity targets.

What's next: Biodiversity footprinting remains at the core of our work. We are expanding its application: from ecosystems to species-level indicators, from bespoke company methodologies to reference condition benchmarking, and through independent expert review and validation to strengthen credibility and comparability. Repeated application of the footprinting methodology will also establish a monitoring pathway, allowing businesses to track progress over time against robust biodiversity baselines.

With many of our corporate partnerships, we are now entering the next phase: linking footprint insights directly to action. This includes developing integrated biodiversity action plans that provide a unified, company-wide perspective across operations, as well as footprint-informed management planning that translates monitoring results into operational decisions and conservation priorities. In parallel, we are ensuring alignment with emerging global frameworks and standards (including TNFD, GRI-101, and the Global Biodiversity Framework), and guiding businesses through stewardship and offsetting pathways to secure durable, measurable biodiversity outcomes in line with international best practice.




Endangered Wildlife Trust
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On 2 December, the National Biodiversity and Business Network (NBBN) hosted the...
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BIODIVERSITY DISCLOSURE PROJECT

As part of a two-year partnership with Business for Nature, we convened a series of Business Advisory Group (BAG) dialogues with companies, advisory bodies, and government partners – namely the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI). These dialogues created a valuable platform for open exchange. While most South African corporates remain at an early stage of biodiversity integration, they consistently highlighted the complexity of navigating the evolving, and increasingly compliance-driven, framework landscape.

To help address this challenge, the unit conducted a **disclosure study of six leading South African companies,** mapping their public reporting against all 23 targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The study found that actions currently being taken by companies aligned with 18 of the GBF targets, and not just target 15, 'the business target', revealing opportunities to link their broader reporting to biodiversity. These insights, together with those from the BAG dialogues, informed the **development of a Biodiversity and Business Action Plan** (BBAP), a cross-sectoral and sector-specific roadmap to guide corporates in achieving biodiversity goals by 2030. Capturing insights from companies themselves, the BBAP reflects progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and offers practical guidance to support businesses on their journey. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the GBF, and South Africa's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the BBAP makes it clear that far greater corporate awareness of, and commitment to, international biodiversity frameworks is essential for South Africa to achieve its 2030 goals.

The culmination of this work was the launch of the BBAP at our flagship *Biodiversity is Your Business* hybrid webinar, which brought together **26 companies across 10 sectors, alongside 67 representatives** from government, NGOs, academia, and other interest groups. To amplify its reach, we showcased the BBAP and related work at the National Capital Accounting Forum hosted by Stats SA, in an investor dialogue with the International Finance Corporation, and on the global stage at the CBD's COP16 in Colombia.



FIND OUT MORE

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What's next: The EWT's Biodiversity Disclosure Project will build on this foundation by making biodiversity–business integration increasingly accessible and actionable for companies. We will continue to create open dialogue platforms that connect business, government, and civil society; deliver capacity-building initiatives that equip companies to set and implement meaningful biodiversity strategies; develop practical, sector-specific guidance to help corporates navigate the framework and compliance landscape; and ensure these outputs feed directly into national policy processes of global significance.

UNIT OPPORTUNITIES:
A FUTURE FIT BIODIVERSITY AND BUSINESS UNIT

To ensure that the unit's strategic approach reflects the latest developments in the business sustainability landscape and is geared towards meaningful impact, we engaged the consultancy Regenisense to help design a new strategy. Developed through input from internal and external stakeholders and a rigorous co-design process, we will release the framework before the end of 2025. It will equip the unit with cross-cutting tools to integrate biodiversity and business in ways that deliver tangible results, while aligning with the EWT's Future Fit Strategy. This positions the unit to drive interventions that are both credible in the corporate sustainability space and impactful in conserving species, landscapes, and ecosystem services.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Biodiversity and Business Unit is grateful to the following funders and partners for their ongoing commitment to our work:

Allan Gray, Anglo American, Business for Nature, Capitals Coalition, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Glencore International, Harmony Gold, Mondi PLC, South African National Biodiversity Institute, Sasol Limited

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WILDLIFE & ENERGY

PROGRAMME



Click to listen

Energy and linear, or transport, infrastructure can significantly impact wildlife in a variety of ways, including electrocution, collisions caused by the poor visibility of lines and conductors and the poor management of bird nests and roosts on energy infrastructure, as well as through roadkill. Through our work, we aim to positively influence the wildlife management policies and practices of utilities, reduce their impact on wildlife, enhance the quality of supply to customers, and ultimately phase out problematic processes and hardware. This will substantially minimise detrimental wildlife interactions with electricity and linear infrastructure in Africa.

TARGET SPECIES

- African Grass-Owl
- Ludwig's Bustard
- Kori Bustard
- Denham's Bustard
- Southern Black Korhaan
- Blue Korhaan
- Karoo Korhaan
- Blue Crane
- Wattled Crane
- Grey-crowned Crane
- Cape Vulture
- African White-backed Vulture
- Lappet-faced Vulture
- Hooded Vulture
- Bearded Vulture
- White-headed Vulture
- Martial Eagle
- Tawny Eagle
- Verreaux's Eagle
- Southern-banded
- Snake Eagle
- African Hawk Eagle
- Black Harrier
- African Marsh Harrier
- Lesser Flamingo
- Greater Flamingo
- Great White Pelican
- Pink-backed Pelican
- Secretary bird
- Black Stork
- Marabou Stork
- Southern Bald Ibis
- Yellow-breasted Pipit
- Botha's Lark
- Rudd's Lark
- Giant Bullfrog
- Oribi



STRATEGIC IMPACTS

REDUCING WILDLIFE ELECTROCUTIONS ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

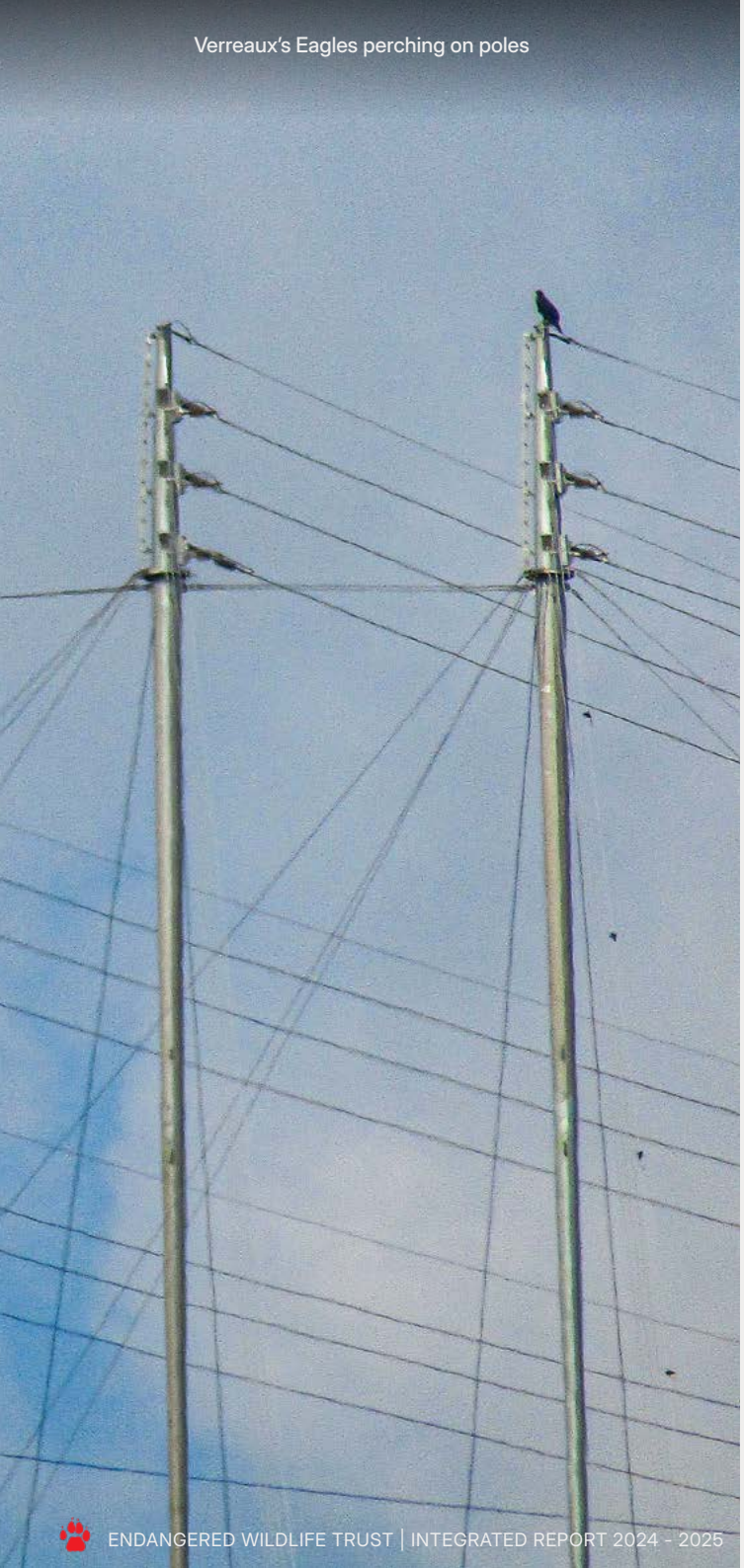
The electrocution of vultures and other birds remains a serious issue in Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) in South Africa. Accordingly, we submitted a draft report to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), as well as a spatial summary of high-priority power lines for mitigation to prevent bird electrocutions in the Stormberg and Cookhouse REDZs in the Eastern Cape. The report pinpointed high-risk infrastructure and offered recommendations for bird mitigation. Notably, current recommendations focus solely on electrocutions. Through the report, we strongly urged that collision risk also be recognised as a significant threat and that appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures be identified.

The EWT **contributed to the NRS 116-1 Guide for designing wildlife-friendly overhead distribution lines** – part 1, which focuses on medium voltage lines in new constructions. The document that is in advanced draft stage will be key for advising power lines that service renewable development and other utilities such as municipalities that may not be governed by Eskom. The document is targeted at operators, structure designers and consultants.

The Programme is not only mitigating risks, but also shaping guidelines, policies, and standards nationally by supporting work done on the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ), and wind and solar siting and avifaunal monitoring.

A cornerstone of our partnership with Eskom Distribution in South Africa has been the sustained training and capacity-building of staff across the country. Through workshops, site-based learning, and the integration of best practice guidelines, we have enhanced the ability of lineman teams to identify, prevent, and mitigate wildlife risks linked to electrical infrastructure. This investment in people ensures that knowledge is not confined to reports, but is embedded directly within operational practices. It also strengthens Eskom's compliance with biodiversity safeguards and improves the resilience of electricity supply by reducing wildlife-related outages.




Verreaux's Eagles perching on poles

Our own long-term biodiversity monitoring programme at Eskom Generation's Sere Wind Farm has reached a pivotal stage. This year, the data generated provided **critical evidence for adaptive management decisions**, particularly in relation to shutdown-on-demand protocols and turbine siting considerations for future Eskom Generation projects. The monitoring also fed into Eskom's corporate sustainability reporting, strengthening its alignment with international biodiversity standards (such as IFC Performance Standard 6). Importantly, the lessons from Sere are now being scaled across Eskom's renewable energy portfolio, ensuring that biodiversity considerations are hardwired into the Just Energy Transition projects. This represents a clear example of localised monitoring delivering national level strategic impact.

The Longyuan Mulilo De Aar example underscores the critical **importance of integrating biodiversity considerations at the earliest stages** of energy infrastructure development, rather than relying on costly retrofits once construction is complete. Building on this lesson, the Wildlife and Energy Programme will spearhead the development of a comprehensive technical guideline tailored for Independent Power Producers (IPPs), utilities, engineers, and avifaunal specialists. These guidelines will serve as a practical, accessible resource to embed bird and wildlife-friendly design into renewable energy projects from inception. Importantly, they will also provide assurance to financial institutions and investors that their capital supports infrastructure aligned with global best practice and environmental safeguards.

What's next: The Programme will explore innovative tools and partnerships to drive systemic change, including:

- Piloting the use of AI-enabled sensors and predictive modelling to map high-risk areas for bird collisions and electrocutions before infrastructure is built.
- Establishing an open-access platform that collates guidelines, case studies, and mitigation outcomes, supporting practitioners, policymakers, and financiers across Africa.
- Embedding community perspectives in siting decisions and mitigation planning, ensuring projects not only safeguard biodiversity but also contribute to local well-being in line with Just Energy Transition principles.
- Expanding the use of drone technology, acoustic monitoring, and real-time telemetry to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of biodiversity monitoring programmes.

Through these innovations, the Wildlife and Infrastructure Unit will remain at the forefront of integrating biodiversity protection into Africa's rapidly evolving energy landscape, ensuring that renewable energy expansion is both environmentally responsible and socially inclusive.



REDUCING WILDLIFE COLLISIONS ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

In April, the EWT participated in the first workshop of the Global Multi-species Action Plan (MsAP) for Bustards in Islamabad, Pakistan. Ludwig's Bustards – native to the arid regions of southern Africa – are at high risk of collisions with power lines, resulting in significant mortalities. The initial draft of the MsAP has been completed and will be proposed for adoption at the 2026 Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) i6 in Brazil. Our involvement in this process will **ensure Ludwig's Bustard and bustard power line collisions are prioritised** on the MsAP's agenda.

At a continental level, the EWT continues to contribute to best practice guidelines for managing and mitigating the impacts of wind energy facilities. In July 2024, along with BirdLife South Africa and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), we convened a workshop in Stellenbosch where we identified global best practices in collision risk mitigation. These included shutdown-on-demand processes to protect wildlife and species-specific biodiversity offsets to address bird fatalities at wind power projects. This information will be utilised to inform policy, develop best practice guidelines, and implement practical actions to mitigate risks.

The rapid expansion of the solar and wind energy sectors, the development of Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ), and proliferation of Independent Power Producers feeding into the national grid offer significant opportunities to enhance the programme's impact in the energy sector. We can provide essential advisory and implementation support to promote the environmental health of the Just Energy Transition. Our work in REDZ includes pre-construction monitoring of birds for a proposed transmission power line between Mkhuze and Umfolozi in northern KwaZulu-Natal. This is the first detailed pre-construction study to evaluate the avifaunal impacts of such a transmission line. Our findings will inform future pre-construction assessments of power lines in other sensitive areas. We also aim to develop a guideline for monitoring power lines.

The Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs (DARDLEA) appointed the EWT to undertake the **Mpumalanga Bird Flyways Research Project** in collaboration with the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency and Birdlife South Africa. This crucial work will assist in planning wind energy development within the province, identifying flyways where threatened bird species are most at risk of collision with wind turbines. Through this project, we captured and tagged birds of conservation concern that are likely to be sensitive to emerging wind developments. These included Greater Flamingos, Blue Korhaans, Cape Vultures, Wattled Cranes, and Jackal Buzzards. The flight paths generated by these birds confirm their use of some proposed wind energy development sites in the area. Our preliminary data suggest that f**lamingos are most at risk of colliding with wind turbines,** especially as they primarily fly at night when visibility is poor.

What's next: At present, there is no collision mitigation to protect sensitive nocturnal birds, such as flamingos and bustards, from turbine collisions – blade patterning and shut-down on demand are used for birds that fly during the day. We aim to develop effective collision avoidance measures for nocturnal flying birds. In the meantime, areas frequented by these species should be avoided when placing turbines.

We will continue to work with Eskom to test collision mitigation devices for different bird species. The EWT will also play an important role in ensuring that the new knowledge from bird collision mitigation research is incorporated into utility policies and guidelines.

REDUCING WILDLIFE COLLISIONS WITH TRANSPORT

The ecological impacts of linear transport infrastructure development on animal movement ecology remain poorly understood in many global south countries. Transport corridors fragment natural ecosystems, causing movement barriers to migrating species which often coupled with incidents of wildlife roadkill as animals attempt to move across road corridors. Poorly designed transport infrastructure that lack biodiversity connectivity passages continue to accelerate the vulnerability of threatened species across Africa, requiring coordinated efforts to improve the alignment of linear infrastructure development with biodiversity conservation frameworks.

In the past year, the Wildlife and Transport Project, in partnership with concessionaires, has continued to develop our wildlife roadkill database for three major South African Toll Concessionaires. We have expanded research on transportation ecology in Africa, invested in capacity building and skills transfer through training route patrollers, and have provided potential solutions to minimise wildlife road mortality, resulting in the emerging scientific discipline of Road Ecology.

By continuing to drive active monitoring of wildlife roadkill incidents on major highways in South Africa, we have been able to **scale up mitigation measures to reduce incidents**. To address the high number of incidents involving raptor species, such as the African Grass, Marsh, Spotted Eagle and Barn owls, we erected an additional **15 raptor perches along the N3 Toll route in the past year.** These perches are installed using a predictive model identifying roadkill hotspots and preliminary results indicate a considerable decline of incidents along the sections of the road where perches have been installed.




African Grass Owl using the EWT perch on the N3 highway

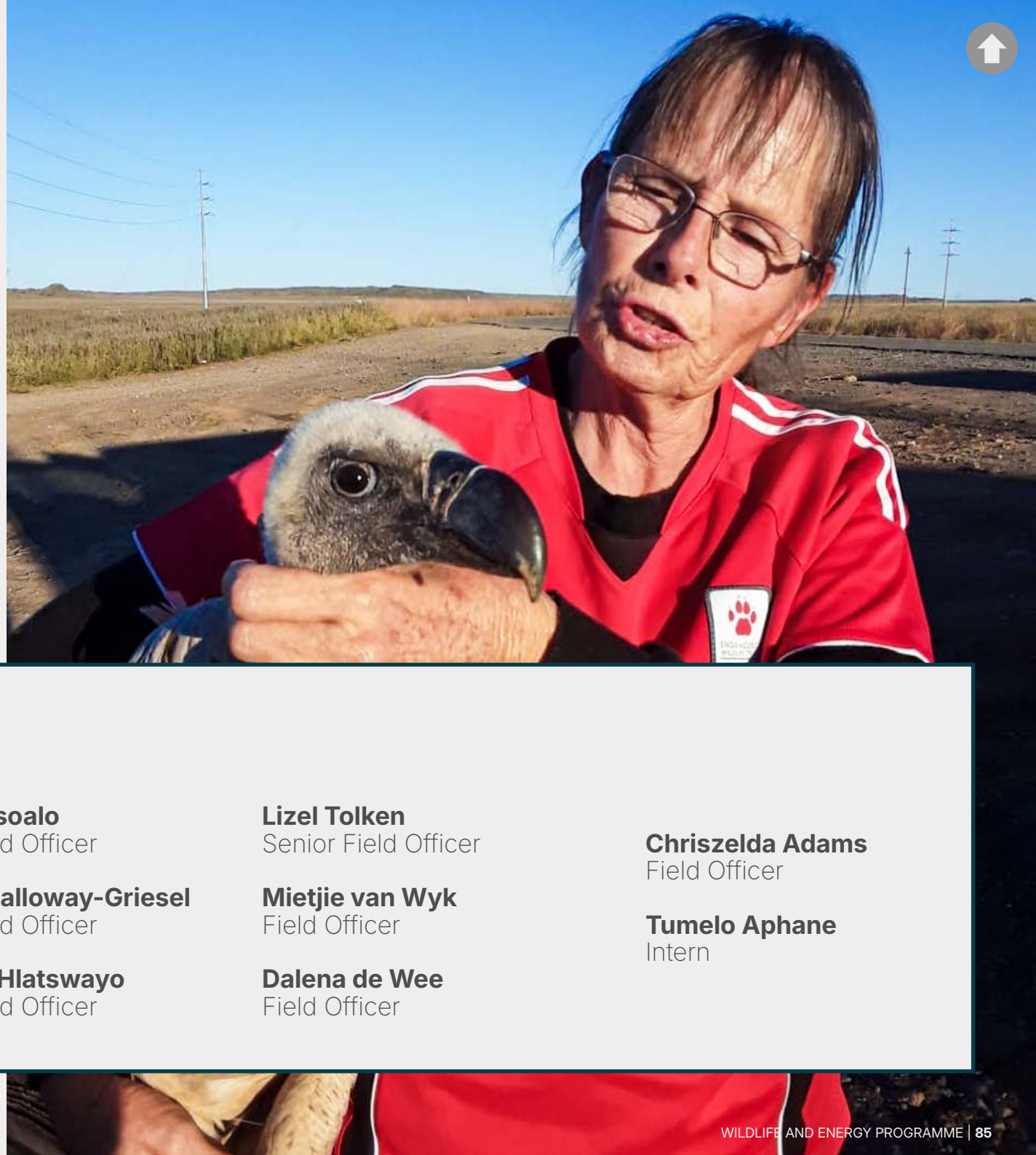
Additionally, we are identifying culverts close to areas with the highest roadkill incidents with the aim of fitting these with roadside funnel fencing. This will channel wildlife into the culvert providing safe crossing corridors, reducing the time they access and spend on the road and improving road safety for both people and wildlife. The data collected will be compared to information sourced from previous installations to determine the impact of this intervention.

The EWT has also supported the development of a Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIRP) framework to guide sustainable transport development planning and integration of ecological connectivity in transportation planning in developing countries. In addition, existing South African policies on sustainable transport infrastructure were collated and analysed to assess their implementation and effectiveness in mainstreaming ecological connectivity in their framework of green transport planning. As a result, a synthesised analytical framework for promoting transport infrastructure sustainability in developing countries that presents a user-centric integrated model was designed. These frameworks serve to promote sustainable transitioning to a greener economy in road-infrastructure-development planning.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Wildlife and Energy Programme is grateful to the following consultees and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Bustards without Borders, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, National Transmission Company of South Africa, Longyuan Mulilo De Aar, Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs (DARDLEA), and the National Transmission Company of South Africa (NTCSA), Bakwena N1N4, N3 Toll Concessions, Trans African Concessions.



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DRONE

UNIT



Click to listen

The EWT has been a fully licensed unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operator since 2021 and presently has seven drones registered with the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). Each drone is suitable for different flying missions, and seven licensed drone pilots operate under the EWT's UAS Operating Certificate (UASOC). The EWT UASOC, pilots, and aircraft are managed by the EWT Drone Unit, which provides support to EWT projects and external stakeholders. The EWT Drone Unit aims to deliver specialised services to conservation partners and other stakeholders at competitive rates, thereby facilitating services and high-impact conservation projects that were previously unattainable.



STRATEGIC IMPACTS

IMPLEMENTING DRONE SOLUTIONS FOR CONSERVATION

In June, we partnered with Eskom to **map 130 hectares of grassland** at Lethabo Power Station in the Free State. The high-resolution orthomosaics, created from hundreds of stitched drone images, proved to be an effective method for supporting the power station's monitoring of alien invasive plants and their control efforts. During our visit to Lethabo Power Station, we also **mapped the known African Grass Owl habitat**. Our focus was on mapping the grass species *Imperata cylindrica*, which African Grass Owls favour for building nest tunnels. The aerial photographs and stitched orthomosaics, rendered in NDVI (normalised difference vegetation index), accurately distinguish *Imperata* from other vegetation in the scene. This approach could be useful in quantifying the breeding habitat available to Grass Owls within known territories and in identifying suitable habitats elsewhere.

In August, we used drone photogrammetry to **map 380 hectares of wetland vegetation** at Ratel River and Groot Hagekraal in the Overberg. The Ratel River section bisects part of Agulhas National Park. We completed this mission for the Grootbos Foundation, which the EWT's Threatened Amphibian Programme subcontracted to study aspects of the area's fauna.

An important aspiration for crane conservation in the Drakensberg has been to test the use of drones for monitoring and identifying crane nest sites. So far, drones have proven effective in reducing the time needed for nest site monitoring, enabling us to use resources more efficiently. Additionally, we have been able to survey large, inaccessible wetland areas, which has helped us discover two new Wattled Crane nest sites. The African Crane Conservation Programme now has its own dedicated drone for these activities.

What's next: The EWT Drone Unit will continuously revise and improve our fleet of drones, ensuring that we have the most up-to-date sensors and aircraft to complete impactful conservation missions.

DEVELOPING AND PILOTING NOVEL DRONE APPLICATIONS

In late August, we visited the Soutpansberg to photograph cycads growing on cliff faces. **Over 700 photographs were taken**, which were used to **train an artificial intelligence (AI) object detection model** for identifying and counting cycads on remote, inaccessible cliff faces. This technique promises to enhance the productivity and efficiency of cycad and other remote species monitoring and will assist to locate new populations.

In October, we documented Cape Vulture nest sites at breeding colonies near Manoutsa, in the Blouberg Nature Reserve, Limpopo. A drone photogrammetry technique was employed to **model three different cliff faces** where the vultures nest in colonies. These models were used to count nestlings, and the results were compared to counts by human observers monitoring the colonies from the ground. Significant differences were found between the count methods, with ground-based counts yielding significantly lower and almost certainly less accurate estimates than drone counts.

The development of the Bushranger drone by The Eye Above has gained significant momentum. The Bushranger is a rugged, advanced vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone equipped with thermal and optical cameras, and a **snare-detecting radar.** It is touted as a prospective game-changer for wildlife protection. The prototype VTOL drone has passed flight testing and is now undergoing systems integration with high-power sensors and software. The prototype was unveiled in Texas, USA, with Hewlett-Packard.

What's next: We will continue our vulture population counts, returning to these colonies during the next breeding season. We aim to model the remaining unmapped cliff faces and to repeat the human-drone count comparison. The EWT will keep working with The Eye Above to field test and develop the Bushranger VTOL drone. This important technology could change the way that anti-poaching teams operate in and around critical protected areas.



identifying and counting cycads on remote, inaccessible cliff faces using drones and arteficial intelligence

FACILITATING CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The EWT Drone Unit is helping conservation partners, such as Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust (PWT), the University of Pretoria's Mammal Research Institute (MRI), and Christo Rheeders Attorneys to legally operate drones by integrating pilots and aircraft into the EWT's UASOC. In July 2024, we registered Chris Wilkinson from the MRI's Whale Unit as a drone pilot with our UASOC. The Whale Unit is now conducting its own flights under our licence to monitor Southern Right Whales and Humpback Whales along the South African coast. In April this year, we added **four more drones to our UASOC.** Two of them now serve for anti-poaching surveillance in Pilanesberg Nature Reserve. We enabled drone pilots from the Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust and Christo Reeders Attorneys to operate their drones legally under the EWT's Unmanned Aircraft System Operating Certificate (UASOC).

What's next: We will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate with like-minded partners, enabling even greater impact of drones in supporting vital conservation efforts.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The EWT's Drone Unit is grateful to the following sponsors/clients and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Christo Rheeders Attorneys, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, The Eye Above, Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust, Tim Gregory, and University of Pretoria (Mammal Research Institute).

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LAND, AIR, WATER & SPECIES

(LAWS) UNIT



Click to listen

The Land, Air, Water and Species (LAWS) Unit provides dedicated environmental legal expertise to advance the strategic objectives of the EWT. The LAWS Unit **bridges the divide between law and science**, with our legal team working with leading scientists and conservationists, to develop legal solutions to complex environmental challenges. Our work also bridges the divide between law and people, through our LAWS Website, and we will continue to make environmental law more accessible and understandable, as well as effective in meeting the needs of South Africans. The vision of the LAWS Unit is: **Robust legal and governance frameworks enable responsible environmental decision-making and activities, resulting in environmental (Land, Air, Water and Species) protection.** To achieve this vision, the LAWS Unit works across three core strategies of promoting conservation, ensuring good governance, and supporting legal compliance and justice.

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

SUPPORTING LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND JUSTICE

This strategic work area considers how the criminal justice system can be better utilised to reduce environmental crimes, including illegal wildlife trade (IWT). We aim to work across all aspects of the justice system, from law enforcement, through prosecutions, to the courts to ensure justice is achieved where environmental crimes are committed.

This year we completed our **first three cases under our Environmental Restorative Justice Pilot Project**. This process consists of four phases: preparation, meeting, agreement, and post-agreement monitoring and evaluation.

In May 2024, we received from a prosecutor, a case referral for two accused, who were charged with trespassing in the Kruger National Park and for possession of a dangerous weapon (a panga). With our partner, the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (NICRO), we completed the preparation phase where the accused were assessed and additional information relating to the arrest gathered. This included home visits and engagement with the South African Police Service to confirm the accused had no prior arrests. Once this phase was concluded, the case, with our assessment, was referred to an expert panel to confirm our approach. This was the first restorative justice process in South Africa for wildlife related offences. We drafted an environmental restorative justice process agreement, which was reviewed and accepted by the prosecutor in this case. In March 2025, we held another restorative justice meeting for a case where the accused had a history of snaring. This case is the most serious wildlife case where we have applied restorative justice to-date, and we believe the negotiated outcomes are meaningful, both in relation to the offences, but also in an effort to prevent future reoffence.

Despite ongoing monitoring and evaluation post the prosecutor accepting the agreement, we became aware in June that one of the accused we worked with had reoffended, known as recidivism. In South Africa recidivism is high, estimated to be between 60-90%. To miniminse the risk of recidivism, we have expanded the risk factors considered in our preparation phase, to include dedicated environmental crime risk factors. These new risk factors are attitude towards wildlife; belief that environmental crimes are victimless; possible involvement in organised crime; financial dependence on poaching; living beyond ones means and any financial crisis.

> **What's next:** Our preparation phase will be expanded with the above risk assessment, and we will continue to test environmental restorative justice processes in at least two other cases, involving 5 accused that have been referred to us.

ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Through the LAWS Unit we undertake activities that contribute to creating robust legal and governance frameworks, that enable responsible and ethical decision-making, in relation to the environment in South Africa, resulting in ecological sustainability.

The LAWS Unit plays an active role in public participation processes. A critical example involved the Draft National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Bill. The Bill will provide for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of ecosystems and species, replacing the present legislation. As part of the public participation process, we facilitated a roundtable discussion about the Bill with other conservation stakeholders. We also hosted a live webinar on the Bill with the Biodiversity Law Centre, which included a **live translation into South African Sign Language**, the first time we are aware of this language being included in the EWT's work. Finally, we participated in a snare mitigation symposium, hosted by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, sharing a legal analysis with recommendations to enhance the law as it relates to snaring.

PROMOTING CONSERVATION

We are involved in two legal cases aimed at preventing unsustainable development in critical environmental areas in South Africa.

The first is protecting the Mabola Protected Environment from coal mining. In this matter, eight civil society organisations, including the EWT, are challenging the various licences and approvals granted to Atha-Africa Ventures (Pty) Ltd's Yzermyn Colliery. The Mabola Protected Environment is a protected area and within a Strategic Water Source Area. Coal mining in the Mabola Protected Environment poses significant threats to people, water security and the environment. By successfully challenging the various licences and approvals granted to Atha Africa, we are pushing to prevent coal mining in this protected and strategic water source area. However, our case suffered a significant setback with the most recent finding of the Supreme Court of Appeal, which we will now challenge in the Constitutional Court. The impact of this finding is significant. As it stands, this would represent the first case in which non-profits are held to pay all legal costs in a suit that aims to protect our environmental laws.

CLICK HERE for more details about the Mabola Protected Environment legal case

The second case is the Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ). We are represented by Christo Reeders Attorneys and are challenging the Environmental Authorisation granted to develop the MMSEZ. Section 24(b) of the Constitution requires the environment be protected for present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures, that among other things, secure ecologically sustainable development, which the MMSEZ is not.

What's next: With the exception of our application for leave to appeal to the Constitutional Court for which leave to appeal must still be obtained, this litigation is on-going. We are bound to the court roll in terms of when these cases will be heard in court.





FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Executive Head of Sustainability, Kishaylin Chetty - *Kishc@ewt.org*

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The LAWS Unit is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work: The Lewis Foundation, the British High Commission, the Embassy of Finland, Christo Reeders Attorneys, Sylvania SA (Pty) Ltd, USAID through the WWF-South Africa Khetha Programme, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Briandez Legacy Trust, Plum Foundation.

THE PACK

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Wildlife and Law Project Manager

Sibongakonke Ngogodo
Project Officer

Kutlwano Mokgoro
Legal Officer

WILDLIFE IN TRADE

UNIT



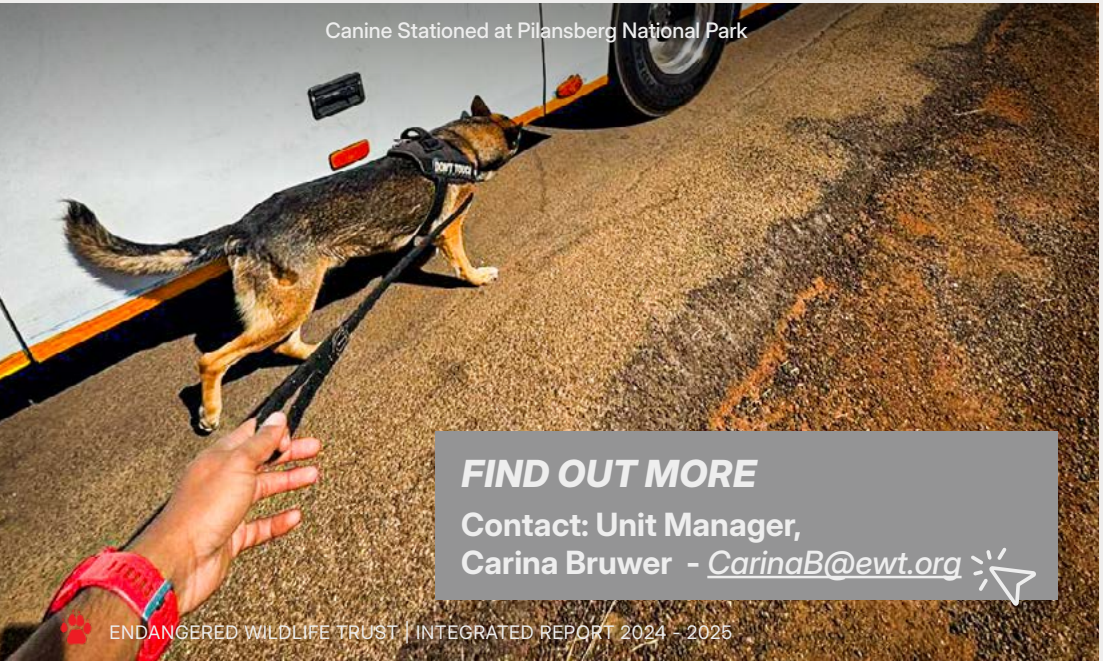
Image Credit: Canva Premium

Click to listen

Illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade presents one of the most pressing threats to biodiversity. To address this, the EWT's Wildlife in Trade Programme (WIT), established in 2017, is well placed to enhance trade-related outcomes that benefit conservation and prevent and combat wildlife trade-related threats that negatively impact the survival and well-being of wild animals and plants across southern Africa. Since our very first Rhino Project, the EWT has championed efforts to strengthen compliance and enforcement, support sustainable legal trade and provide education and awareness of trade-threatened species. We are increasingly assisting wildlife custodians to protect key species through the use of technology. We have also been instrumental in providing evidence-based inputs on contested wildlife uses, such as the captive lion industry, and wildlife welfare standards.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Wildlife in Trade Programme is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work: The Lewis Foundation, the British High Commission, Sylvania SA (Pty) Ltd, USAID through the WWF-South Africa Khetha Programme, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Briandez Legacy Trust.



Canine Stationed at Pilansberg National Park

FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Unit Manager,
Carina Bruwer - *CarinaB@ewt.org*

STRATEGIC IMPACTS

The EWT's Wildlife in Trade initiative aims to reduce the adverse impacts of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) on South Africa's diverse range of plants and animals by enhancing our understanding of IWT and using this knowledge to devise and execute effective on-the-ground measures that minimise the poaching and trafficking of endangered species.

A prime example of our impact has been our interventions at Pilanesberg National Park in the North West province where our teams have contributed to a dramatic decrease in not only rhino poaching incidents but also attempted incursions into the park. The EWT-assisted interventions have included detection dogs screening vehicles at the park's gates, and upgrading ranger accommodation contributing to ranger motivation and welfare. By leveraging technology, such as establishing a network of license plate recognition cameras (LPR), employing thermal cameras at incursion hotspots, and placing satellite ear tags on all rhino to allow for live tracking, the park has been able to effectively implement preventative measures to protect their rhino population.

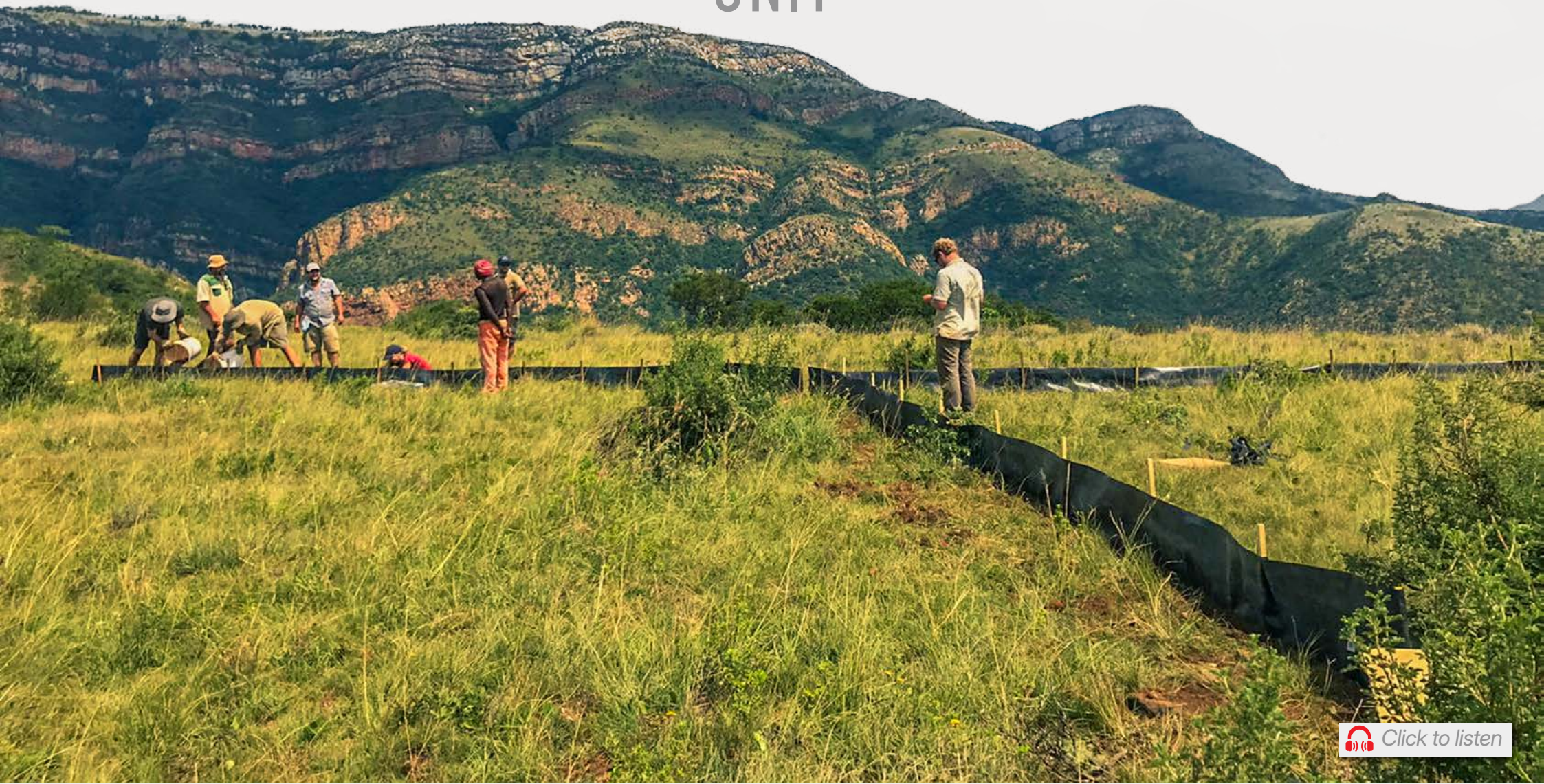
What's next: Looking forward, WIT will focus on interventions aimed along the entire trade value chain, from demand, to harvesting, transport, distribution, and consumption. By taking a holistic approach to stimulating sustainable, legal trade and mitigating illegal, unsustainable trade threats to wildlife, we will not only protect species, but also benefit communities who often experience disproportionate harms due to their proximity to wildlife.

As we implement our updated and enhanced strategy, we will be working in partnership with NGO's and communities to, for instance, improve our understanding of the impact of traditional health practices on indigenous fauna and flora. The aim is to identify opportunities to integrate these practices into legal frameworks and address any practices which are unsustainable and contrary to conservation goals. We will also be working closely with our Drylands colleagues to address the harms caused by the ongoing illegal trade of South Africa's rare and endemic succulents.

CONSERVATION

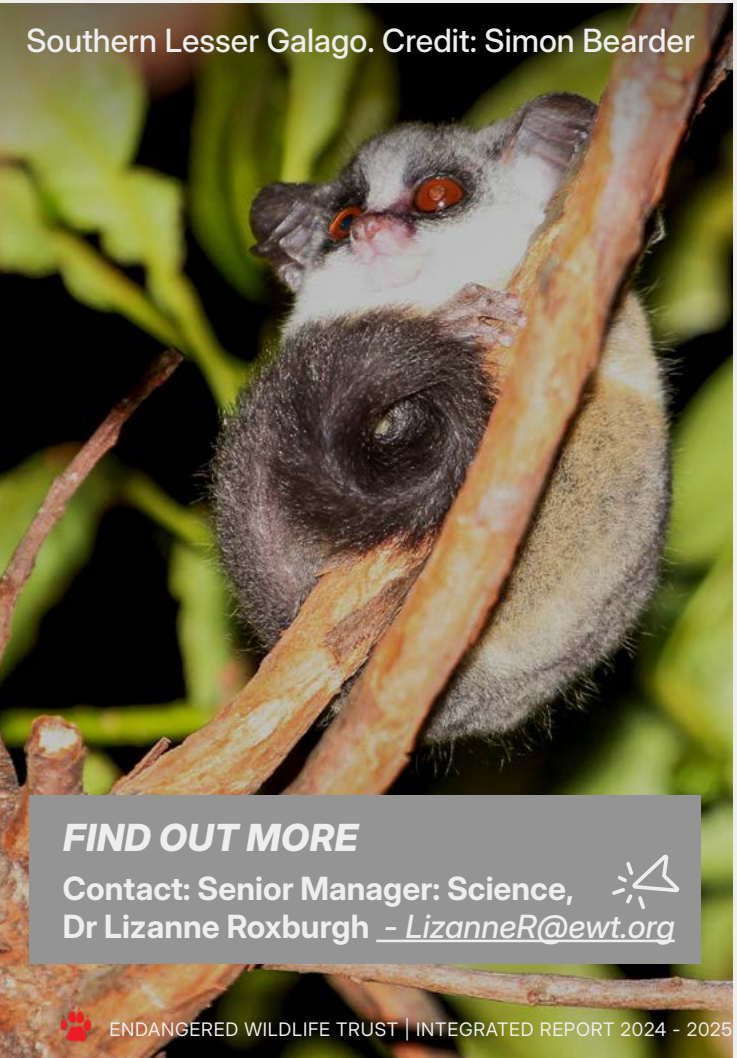
PLANNING & SCIENCE

UNIT



Click to listen

The Conservation Planning and Science Unit helps to build the evidence base for good conservation practice in the EWT and across the sector. We work along the conservation evidence value chain, starting with good project design, data capture and documentation in the field, data curation and management, through to analyses, publication and dissemination of results. We build capacity and provide technical expertise in conservation-relevant science, ultimately leading to robust conservation practice in the field.



Southern Lesser Galago. Credit: Simon Bearder

FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Senior Manager: Science, Dr Lizanne Roxburgh *- LizanneR@ewt.org*



STRATEGIC IMPACTS

FILLING CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE GAPS

By filling knowledge gaps, we provide for better conservation planning, implementation and reporting.

ECOLOGICAL AND SPATIAL PLANNING FOR CONSERVATION IMPACT

We completed the final inputs for avifaunal/renewable energy sensitivity mapping, with assistance from AfriAvian Environmental (Pty) Ltd. The workflow for our 30x30 Renewables Project spatial mapping and scenario planning analysis has subsequently been finalised, and we have successfully run the tool for Mpumalanga, our case study province. The work will now be rolled out across South Africa. This ambitious project aims to develop a spatial plan that will guide the Global Biodiversity Framework's 30x30 goals for South Africa, while taking into account the development of renewable energy and the protection of agricultural lands. The project will provide **significant benefits for both biodiversity and national development targets** and inform pro-active offsets for renewable energy development.

MAMMAL RED LIST REVISION

The *Mammal Red List for South Africa, Lesotho, and Eswatini* is a key document for assessing the population health of mammal species. Updated assessments provide a barometer of species' conservation trends and a measure of emerging threats, guiding targeted conservation actions. Our work in updating these assessments is critical for mammal conservation monitoring and planning. By the end of the 2024/25 financial year, **315 (of 334) mammal species assessments** had been sent out for review through the current update, of which 210 had been reviewed. Of these, we fully completed and finalised 112 assessments. **Four workshops, held with bat experts** in July, as well as t**hree workshops held in October with rodent experts**, helped guide the review process. We also workshopped the potential impacts of climate change for some mammal species, as predicted through species distribution models (SDMs), for incorporation into the updated Red List Assessments.

AFRICAN LION RED LIST REVISION

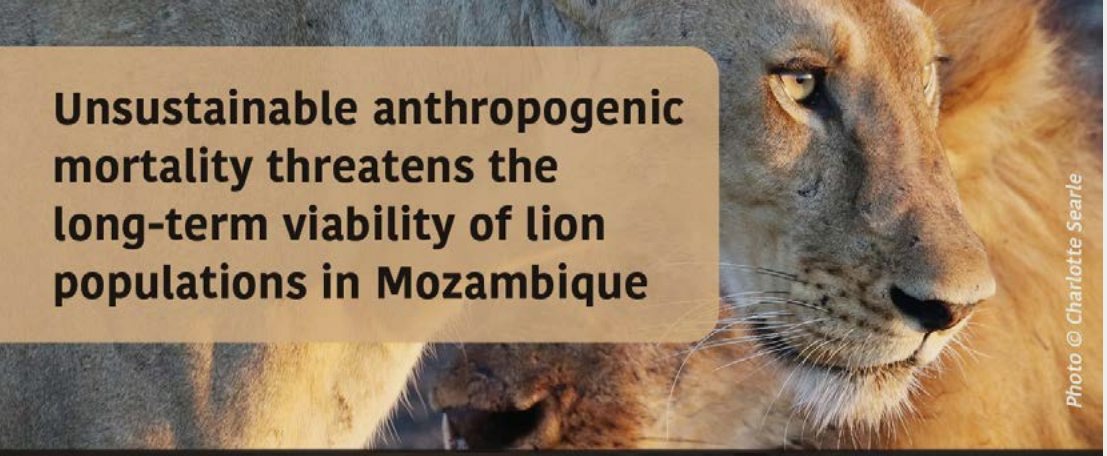
The EWT's African Lion Database (ALD) manager worked with the IUCN Cat Specialist Group and several other lion experts to update the Red List assessment for this species across Africa. This assessment will be released later in 2025. We also produced the **first-ever assessments** – both a Red List and Green List assessment – for the **Northern Lion *(Panthera leo leo)* and Southern Lion *(Panthera leo melanochaita)* subspecies**. The updated Red and Green Status assessments will guide conservation priorities, policy, and funding by providing the most current data on extinction risk and recovery progress. They will inform the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and national decisions which support monitoring of biodiversity targets, and highlight regional differences in threats and conservation needs. Ultimately, these assessments will enable more effective, targeted, and coordinated lion conservation action across Africa. They also establish a baseline to measure future conservation impact and progress over time. The *Green Status of Species* complements the Red List by providing **a tool for assessing the recovery of species' populations** and measuring their conservation success.

The African Lion Database (ALD), an initiative of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Cat Specialist Group, is a dedicated platform for consolidating population, distribution, and human-related mortality data for African Lions across their range. Established in 2018, the ALD was developed as a strategic tool to support lion conservation and management by facilitating data sharing among stakeholders. By improving access to reliable, up-to-date information, the ALD enhances our understanding of the species' status and trends, enabling more effective conservation action and helping direct resources to the most vulnerable populations. Significant **progress was made in expanding the database**, with an increasing number of records compiled, as outlined below.

Metric	Records of population numbers	Individual areas with population data	Ad hoc distribution records	Lion mortality records	Individuals contacted for data
2024	1,025	402	33,044	4,458	521
2025	1,058	402	47,471	4,622	584
Year-on-year increase	**3.2%**	**0%**	**43.7%**	**3.7%**	**12.1%**

Using the database, we identified an **increase in the illegal killings of lions in Mozambique.** This is negatively impacting local populations (e.g., Niassa Special Nature Reserve and Limpopo National Park), an issue we have flagged with the relevant authorities. We also collaborated with the Wildlife Conservation Society, using key data from the ALD, to create an up-to-date habitat model for lions in Africa for the past two decades. This habitat model provides a detailed understanding of where lions currently thrive and how their habitats have changed over the past 20 years. This information is crucial for identifying priority areas for conservation, guiding land-use planning, and mitigating threats to ensure the species' long-term survival.

Additionally, in collaboration with Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, we conducted a preliminary comparative study of African lions across varying land uses and relevant policies. This project was requested by CITES and supports international efforts to regulate trade and protect lions across diverse landscapes.



Unsustainable anthropogenic mortality threatens the long-term viability of lion populations in Mozambique

Photo © Charlotte Searle

Mozambique is a crucial range state for African lions -



home to **~1,500 mature individuals.**

Human activities pose a significant threat, to lions particularly:



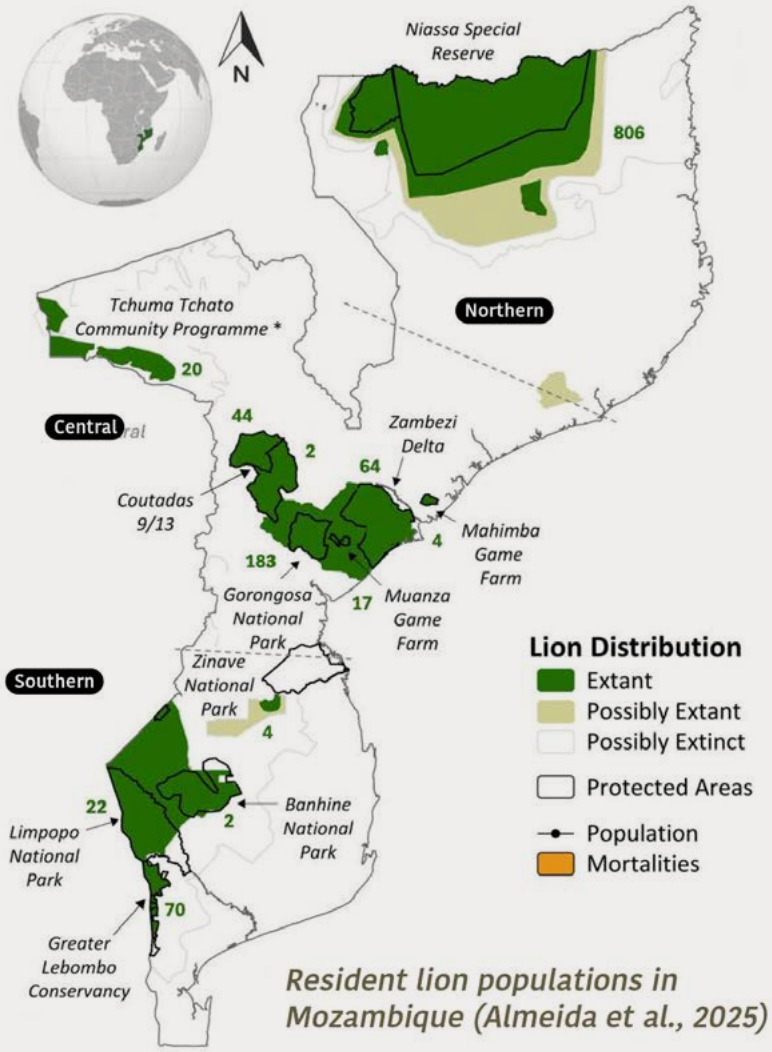
BUSHMEAT BYCATCH



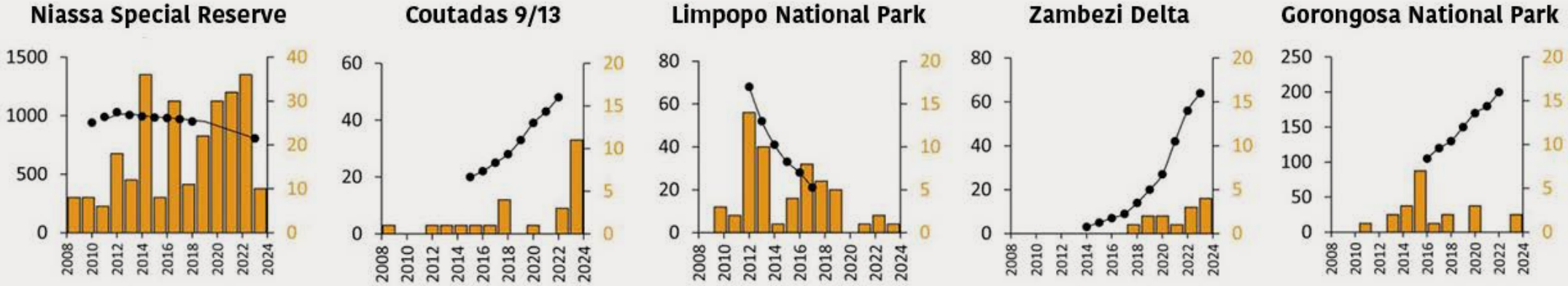
POACHING FOR BODY PARTS



RETALIATORY KILLING



Resident lion populations in Mozambique (Almeida et al., 2025)



Lion population and anthropogenic mortality trends 2010–2023

DATA-TO-KNOWLEDGE FOR EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION

The Conservation Planning and Science Unit ensures that planned EWT projects are ethically sound and are statistically well-designed. We ensure that these data are captured electronically and fed into a centralised EWT Biodiversity DataBank for storage, analysis and dissemination.

This year, the Biodiversity DataBank served as an important repository for capturing thousands of additional records of recent mammal occurrence data (2015-2025) related to updating the Mammal Red List, as well as lion, African Wild Dog, vulture and bustard tracking datasets. Using this cloud-based database, we were able to **automate our production of over 300 mammal distribution maps** for the Mammal Red List, a process that **now takes minutes, rather than weeks.**

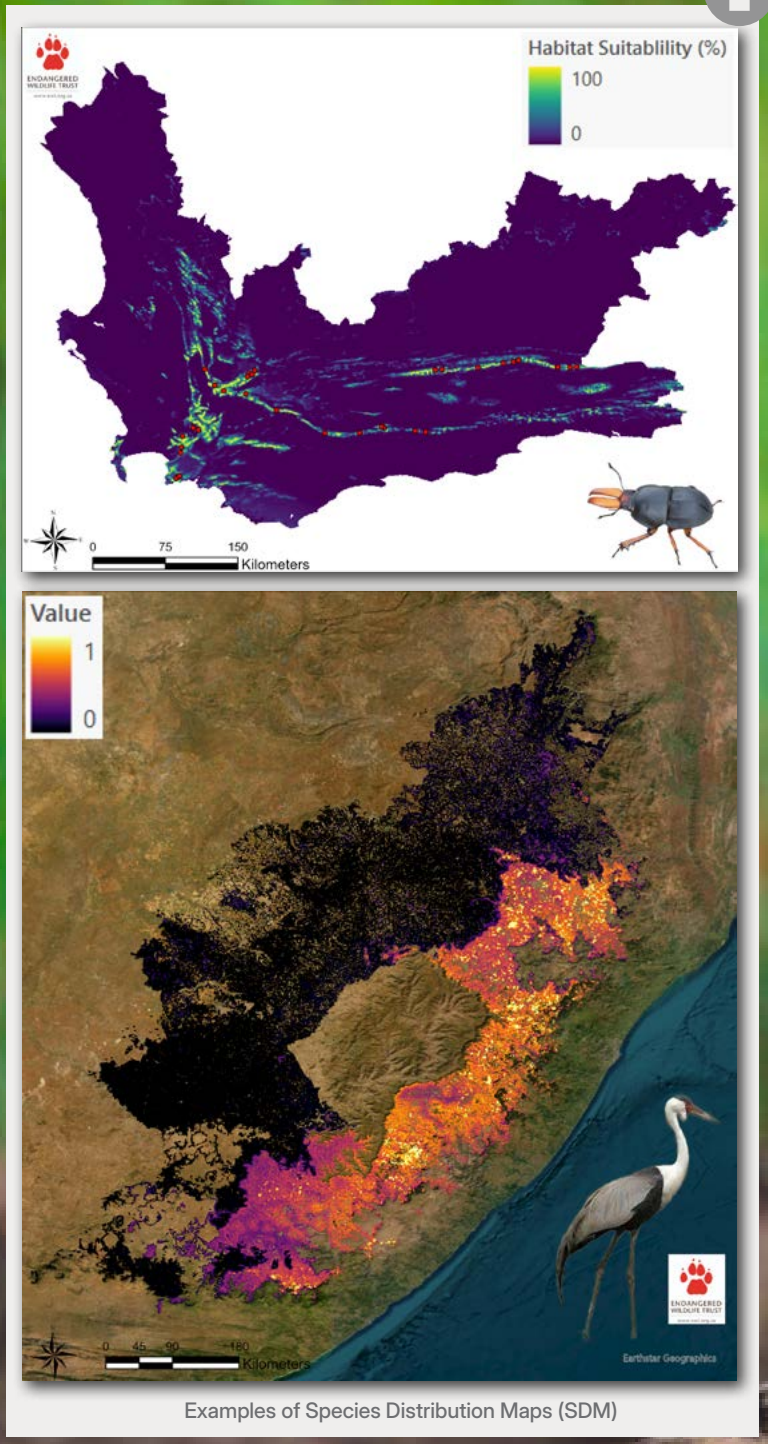
We developed additional Survey123 apps and associated workflows, used by EWT field staff, into cloud-based databases our staff members can easily access for measuring the impacts of their work. An example is the field data collection app for capturing all our carnivore field data that can then be pulled from a consolidated database.

We received **52 external requests for EWT biodiversity data**. We review data requests and share the data, as appropriate, mostly to guide responsible development and conservation research and planning.

ENHANCING THE EWT'S CONSERVATION PRACTICE

The team improved capacity amongst East African staff for effective reporting, including conducting **two adaptive management workshops for our crane work in Uganda** and more broadly for our East African work. A further three weeks in Kenya - a Lake Ol'Bolossat planning workshop, CCNet coaches training, and an adaptive management workshop with the Kenya team - improved monitoring and evaluation capacity across these strategically important areas.

Our unit also **coordinated the development of the EWT's landscape-oriented Future Fit Strategy**. This work guided the development of strategies for the savannah, drylands, Drakensberg, and Eastern Cape Strategic Landscapes.



Examples of Species Distribution Maps (SDM)


Credit: G MIlls



GIS Workshop - Kenya 2024



SUPPORT AFRICAN CONSERVATION PRACTITIONERS, ORGANISATIONS, AND AGENCIES TO IMPROVE THEIR CONSERVATION PRACTICE

SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN PROJECT

Through this project, we aim to provide public access to the species distribution models developed for the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's (DFFE) Environmental Screening Tool, alongside additional distribution data on Near Threatened species. This will be achieved by developing a Land Use Decision Support (LUDS) and Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) tool, in collaboration with the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), which will host the tool on its website. Work continued on developing the training materials to accompany the tool, enabling practitioners to utilise it effectively in driving industry planning processes. We presented the tool at the International Association for Impact Assessment South Africa (IAIAsa) 2024 Conference in August, and to a broader audience through a SANBI Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritisation and Planning (SBAPP) project workshop in March to regional representatives from South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Malawi. The tool will be used to develop and enhance SBAPP processes regionally.

Applied Conservation Planning is implemented through the IUCN's southern and East Africa Conservation Planning and Specialist Group (CPSG) Regional Resource Centre (RRC), hosted at the EWT. We supported several planning processes that will guide the conservation of threatened species. Stakeholders representing diverse groups attended these processes, bringing together NGOs, community representatives, government at various levels, industry, agricultural associations, fishers, traders, and academia. **Our work advanced critical planning needs** for species including Grey Crowned Cranes, Blue Cranes (report here), Wattled Cranes, Southern African Pangolins (report here), shark and ray planning process in Kenya (working with the Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) and Indian Ocean Humpback Dolphins.

Important outputs included a report on the socio-economic value of the Critically Endangered African Penguin. The report was well received by African Penguin stakeholders.

The IUCN SSC Chairs' office has approved our proposal for establishing the South African Centre for Species Survival and is awaiting sign-off by the IUCN SSC Chairs' Office and CPSG HQ.

INTEGRATION INTO THE EWT'S FUTURE FIT STRATEGY

The Conservation Planning and Science Unit is central in planning for the EWT's Future Fit Strategy. We work with the EWT's management to develop an integrated approach, founded in conservation science, and underlain by the Conservation Standards, that is impact-driven and measurable. Our accompanying theory of change models will provide a solid foundation for this work, a platform to adapt our management processes as the strategy unfolds, and the capacity to store and disseminate all related conservation datasets.

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Conservation Planning and Science Unit is grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Anglo American Foundation, De Beers Group, Eskom, Esri South Africa, JRS Biodiversity Foundation, Leiden Conservation Foundation, Lion Recovery Fund, South African National Biodiversity Institute (via the French Development Agency (AFD and FFEM)).

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CONSERVATION CAMPUS

A LIVING VISION OF SUSTAINABILTY & SANCTUARY



Nestled in the heart of Midrand, the EWT's Conservation Campus is more than a workplace - it's a refuge, a statement, and a living embodiment of our commitment to conservation, people and sustainability. The EWT Conservation Campus design is aimed to reflect our Future Fit values and inspire those who pass through its gates to champion the cause of conservation.

To fulfil our vision for the Conservation Campus, a new Campus Manager was employed in September 2024. Werner Pretorius focussed initially on improving security, ensuring that Occupational Health and Safety standards are met and overseeing the removal of alien invasive species. Over the longer term, the focus on the campus management team is to usher the campus into the vision set for the future - one where we are off the grid and sustainable, have a vegetable garden to support onsite catering, cultivate indigenous medicinal plants for human use, and provide a refuge for people and wildlife in landscapes that reflect Africa's biomes.

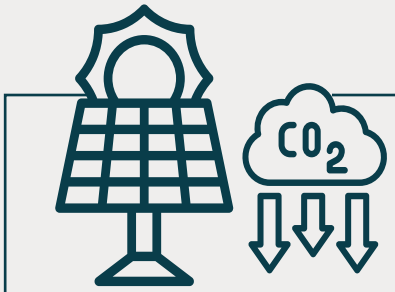
OFF-THE-GRID & ON PURPOSE

Our solar energy system powers the Campus, reducing reliance on the Eskom grid and minimising our carbon footprint. In the year under review, a total of 28.9MWh of energy was produced through our solar system making up a third of the total consumption. This equates to a 28.8 ton CO_2 reduction. With smart energy management and power use reduction strategies, we have created a space that operates efficiently and responsibly.

LANDSCAPING THAT HEALS

In line with our vision to create a campus that provides a sanctuary for both people and wildlife, in the past year the team concluded the first two phases of a five-phase project to remove alien invasive species, such as Syringa Trees, Pompom weed, Verbena, Buckweed and Privet trees. A quarter of a hectare on the northern side of the property has been cleared, exposing the view of the perimeter fence, and opening up more room for indigenous landscaping which represent the habitats and landscapes in which the EWT works. Indigenous landscaping not only restores ecological balance, but also creates a tranquil environment for reflection and connection. Pathways wind through indigenous flora and along the wetland, inviting staff and visitors to engage with nature daily.





28.9 MWH of energy produced by the solar system resulting in a **28.8 TON CO_2 REDUCTION**



EWT Conservation Campus serves as a **REFUGE FOR PEOPLE & WILDLIFE** and a **HUB FOR COLLABORATION**

RECYCLING & RESOURCEFULNESS

Waste is not discarded - it is being repurposed. Our recycling programme is being expanded to be robust and evolving, ensuring that materials are reused, composted, or responsibly processed. As part of a storage clean-up project three cubic meters of paper and one cubic meter of plastic was collected and recycled by the local community, breathing life into struggling households. We aim to be a zero-waste campus, where every item has a second life.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

The safety of a workplace is paramount for both employer and employees. The EWT received our Occupational Health and Safety Compliance Certificate for the Conservation Campus and headquarter operations with the support of Scott-Safe consultants and work is now underway to roll out compliance to regional offices, as well as remote and often isolated teams in the field.

A CAMPUS THAT SPEAKS

The Conservation Campus is not just a place to work - it is a place that speaks to our mission. It's a refuge for conservationists, a hub for collaboration, and a beacon of what's possible when vision meets action.

THE PACK

Werner Pretorius
Conservation Campus Manager

Rudolf Ndwalene
Head Groundskeeper

Takalani Nematswerani
Groundsman

Sizakele Ntsele
Housekeeper

Thembisile Mlimi
Housekeeper

Dorah Mncube
Housekeeper

Lethabo Chabalala
Support Services Intern

FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Conservation Campus Manager, Werner Pretorius - *WernerP@ewt.org*

A **QUARTER HECTARE** of land
CLEARED of alien invasive species



HUMAN RESOURCES

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PAW



Click to listen



The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) derives its strength from its dedicated, committed and capable staff. Despite global geopolitical and socio-economic challenges, the EWT has continued to grow and thrive. The Human Resources department plays a crucial role supporting teams across the organisation to ensure that staff are continuously improving their skills, personal growth and development is supported, staff morale is kept high, the bar is raised on staff benefits and that we have a fulfilling and caring workplace.

THE EWT'S HUMAN RESOURCE OPERATIONS

Year	Total staff (n)	Programme staff	Support staff
2020/21	104	81%	19%
2021/22	110	82%	18%
2022/23	102	80%	20%
2023/24	109	81%	19%
2024/25	155	86%	14%

In the past year, the number of EWT team members grew, and that number continues to escalate as the organisation moves into a more strategic future.

Left: Total number of staff employed by the EWT from 2020–2025 and the percentage of staff in Support Services and programmes.

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Year	Average age (years)	Male	Female	Black	White
2019/20	38.0	50%	50%	46%	54%
2020/21	38.6	49%	51%	46%	54%
2021/22	39.1	49%	51%	49%	51%
2022/23	40.5	43%	57%	47%	53%
2023/24	39.65	46%	54%	50%	50%
2024/25	38.45	48%	52%	56%	44%

We owe our long-term success to our capacity to attract, retain, and develop a multiskilled, multicultural, and multigenerational team of high-performing employees to ensure the EWT's ongoing and sustainable growth.

Left: The demographic makeup of staff employed by the EWT each year between 2019 and 2025.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

As conservation leaders, the EWT recognises the importance of achieving real transformation within the organisation and the broader conservation sector. A diverse employee base is a social imperative and allows us to harness the rich diversity of ideas, culture and perspectives of Africa's people. Progress continues to be made in realising employment equity goals - a goal to which we are committed.

In South Africa, the Employment Equity Act (EEA) aims to redress past injustices by promoting equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment through the elimination of unfair discrimination. This includes implementing affirmative action measures to provide redress to designated groups that were previously disadvantaged in the workplace ensuring equitable representation in all occupational categories and levels in the workforce. In line with this, we have achieved several Employment Equity (EEA) objectives and remain focused on ongoing improvement. To achieve these objectives, an Employment Equity Plan is mapped out which sets five-year goals.

The Employment Equity Committee, in collaboration with the Human Resources Department, is central to monitoring legislative developments and sectoral target updates. This proactive approach reflects our commitment to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and representative workforce, in line with national transformation imperatives.

BROAD-BASED BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT & SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE

Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) is a South African government policy which aims to facilitate broader participation in the economy by previously disadvantaged people, and to redress the inequalities created by apartheid. The EWT thrives to achieve a healthy rating related to working with marginalised communities, collaborating with businesses that have a good track record in terms of black economic empowerment and socio-economic development. To this end, the EWT received a Level 4 B-BBEE Score in the 2022/23 financial year.

46 MORE STAFF members than in 2023/2024;
a **42% INCREASE**





EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

In May 2025, the EWT hosted a Contact Week at the Conservation Campus in Midrand, an opportunity for all EWT staff to meet in person and share information, ideas and project updates. The week also provides an opportunity to learn about projects our colleagues are working on, and share ideas to take the EWT forward into the next 50 years. As part of this year's event, a Wellness Day was held on 21 May which brought together various stakeholders and service providers, kicking off with early morning walks around the Conservation Campus, Zumba and Yoga sessions and healthy snacks.

Talks included topics such as "Connecting to Cycles & Nature", while staff were offered medical checks by an optometrist and audiologist through Discovery; information on mental health support was offered by the SA Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG); Unity Medical Aid Health and Liberty Corporation shared wellness benefits, while 19 staff members supported the SA National Blood Service Blood drive. Blood donation drives are to become a regular feature of the EWT wellness calendar.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Throughout the year, the EWT has actively engaged staff in various diversity and inclusion activities to foster a culture of respect, awareness, and belonging. These included:

- Diversity and Inclusion Engagement workshops
- Awareness campaigns focused on cultural understanding
- Celebrating Women in Conservation
- Celebrating Heritage Day 2024 through storytelling about our different cultures and showing off our cultural attire before enjoying a traditional meal.

REPRESENTATION of PEOPLE OF COLOUR INCREASED
by 10% since 2020/2021

TRAINING & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In the year under review, the EWT registered two disabled unemployed learners for a 12-month NQF Level 2 learnership programme, which they successfully completed in June 2025. These leaners have since been absorbed into administrative roles. In response to South Africa's high unemployment rate, we have extended our support by offering further 12-month learnerships to seven unemployed youth, aged between 18 and 30, in the new financial year.

During this financial year, pack members also achieved new career goals.

- **Ms Phiona Orishaba:** Master of Science Degree in Environment and Natural Resources through Kabale University in Uganda
- **Mr Gilbert Tayebwa:** Master of Science Degree in Environment and Natural Resources through Kabale University in Uganda
- **Dr Sam Nicholson:** PhD 'Population assessment and conservation status of African Lions *(Panthera leo)'* through the University of KwaZulu-Natal
- **Dr Christie Craig:** PhD in Conservation Biology through the University of Cape Town
- **Mr Kyle Walker:** MSc in Biological Science through the University of Cape Town
- **Dr Thabo Hlatshwayo:** PhD in Ecological Sciences through the University of KwaZulu-Natal
- **Ms Neha Kooverje:** MSc in Environmental Science through WITS University

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Twelve EWT pack members completed the Emerging Leaders Development Programme through MANCOSA. Over a period of six months, they learnt leadership theory, strategy, group dynamic and collaborative problem-solving skills. This culminated in a final group project and comprehensive report. This investment in our people is part of the EWT's ongoing commitment to capacity building and conservation leadership.

Seven **UNEMPLOYED YOUTH ENROLLED**
in new 12-month learnerships



ANNUAL AWARDS

The EWT recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements and dedication of our staff through Annual Awards to teams and individuals who have made significant contributions over the course of the year, demonstrating excellence, leadership, and commitment to the EWT's core values and conservation goals. Through the awards we honour the accomplishments of our staff inspiring continued excellence throughout the organisation.

THE 2024 ANNUAL STAFF AWARD RECIPIENTS WERE:	
Programme of the Year Acknowledges teamwork, leadership, and successful delivery against conservation goals.	**African Crane Conservation Programme**
Programme Manager Exemplary leadership, strategic vision, and effective management in advancing a unit's objectives.	**Dr Gareth Tate**
Support Service Manager Celebrates exceptional leadership, innovation, and contribution to the overall success and efficiency of the EWT.	**Ms Lauren Bailey** Dr Tim Jackson (Silver)
Conservation Achiever Awarded for dedication, initiative and excellence in advancing the EWT's conservation mission	**Ms Danielle du Toit & Mr John Davies**
Conservation Supporter Recognises non-managerial support services staff who have made meaningful contributions through their commitment, teamwork, and service excellence.	**Ms Tammy Baker** Mr Lesego Moloko (Silver)
Media Recognises the programme/person who engaged, featured and posted their work more than others in the media platforms during the year.	**Ms Esther Matthew**
Pawprint Honours brand ambassadors—an individual who proudly wears the EWT logo and spreads the word about the EWT.	**Ms Cynthia Chigangaidze**
Trailblazer Honours a staff member that either paves the way or leads in his/her field, setting a precedent for others to follow.	**Dr Sam Mynhardt**
Newcomer Is made to a new staff member who hit the ground running and have carried out their duties with enthusiasm.	**Ms Namita Vanmali**
Honeybee Honours people who provide a solid foundation for the EWT and whose work underpins and enables that of the wider EWT community. These people work tirelessly at essential but often challenging tasks.	**Sere team** (Ms Lizel Tolken, Ms Amala Adams; Ms Dalena De Wee and Ms Mietjie van Wyk)
Honey Badger Recognises an individual who faced huge challenges and overcame them, showing skill, determination and strength of character – a person not to be messed with!	**Ms Ronelle Visagie**
Thabo Madlala Honours individuals who embody compassion, kindness, and a strong commitment to fostering a positive and supportive workplace culture.	**Ms Emma Chisare**

THE FUTURE

In line with the Future Fit Strategy, HR is updating policies related to, amongst others recruitment, and working to introduce regulations to accommodate people with disabilities, and promote diversity and inclusion initiatives.

THE PACK

Masabata Ngcobo
Human Resources Manager

Emma Chisare
Human Resources Assistant

Deon Crous
Human Resources Consultant

Yves Manana
Information Technology Manager

Koketso Ndhlazi
Information Technology Officer

FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Human Resources Assistant ,
Emma Chisare - *EmmaC@ewt.org*




Ford
Wildlife
Foundation
ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE TRUST
Protecting forever, together.
4x4

ENSURING

GOOD GOVERNANCE



Click to listen

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is registered as a non-profit benefit organisation in South Africa and the United States of America (USA).

In South Africa, the EWT is registered as a Trust in accordance with the Trust Property Control Act No. 57 of 1988, with registration number IT 6247 under the Master of the High Court. The Amended and Restated Deed of Trust 2014, filed with the Master of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, serves as the Trust's foundational document, outlining the roles, responsibilities, and governance structure of the Trustees, Board, and committees. Notably, the EWT's Trustees serve in a voluntary capacity, receiving no remuneration for their dedication and expertise. The EWT Management extends its sincere gratitude to the Trustees for their selfless contributions, which are instrumental in shaping the Trust's strategic direction and governance.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust USA (EWT USA) was registered on 4 December 2024 to broaden the Trust's international reach and donor engagement. The EWT USA is a corporation organised and operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes in terms of Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or its successor provisions. The Corporation is registered in McLean, State of Virginia and has been issued an Employer Identification Number (EIN 33-2261884). Registration in terms of Section 501(c)(3) grants the EWT USA tax exemption allowing for tax refund claims against donations made by US citizens.

TRUSTEE MEETINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 50th EWT AGM took place on 5 December 2024 with nine trustees, including the CEO as an Ex-Officio Board member, in attendance. We received one apology.

The 2024-2025 year under review saw two Trustee resignations, with two new Trustee elected to the Board. Mr Muhammad Sadiq Dindar and Ms Vikeshni Vandayar commenced their duties at the first quarter meeting of 2025 after being voted in at the 2024 AGM.

Muhammad Seedat and Paul Smith's current three-year terms of office as Chairperson and Treasurer, respectively, continued and, in accordance with the Trust Deed, will remain in office until the 2026 AGM. Dirk Ackerman will also continue as Vice Chair until the 2026 AGM.

The AGM ratified the Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2024, as audited by Deloitte. The Trustees voted to retain Deloitte as the auditors of the Trust for the next financial year.

The EWT USA is led by:
Mr Ewan Macaulay - President
Ms Yolan Friedmann - Vice President
Mr Dirk Ackerman - Director
Mr David McCullough - Secretary and Treasurer



BOARD AND COMMITTEES

In accordance with the Trust Deed, the Board oversees the administration of the Trust and provides strategic guidance to Executive Management. The Board met four times, excluding for the AGM, during the reporting period to execute its annually adopted work plan. Embracing best practice in corporate governance, the Board conducted a year-end self-evaluation to assess its performance against the work plan. By the reporting period's end, the Board had transitioned to an 11-member composition, including the CEO as an ex-officio member, ensuring continued effective governance and oversight.

BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE PERIOD 2024/25				
Board of Trustees	28 September 2024	5 December 2024	17 March 2025	30 June 2025
Mr Muhammad Seedat – Chair	√	√	√	√
Mr Dirk Ackerman – Vice Chair	√	√	√	√
Mr Paul Smith – Treasurer and Audit Committee Chair	√	√	√	√
Mr Abdul Mohamed	X	√	X	X
Prof Barry Ackers - REMCO Chair	√	√	√	√
Mr Christo Reeders	√	√	√	√
Ms Joanna Goeller - SEC Chair	√	√	√	√
Mr Lloyd Madurai (Resigned 5 December 2024)	√	√	-	-
Dr. Luthando Dziba (Resigned 1 Dec 2024)	X	-	-	-
Mr Mike Esterhuysen	√	√	√	X
Ms Vikeshni Vandayar	-	-	√	√
Mr Muhammad Sadiq Dindar	-	-	√	√
Ms Yolan Friedmann – CEO – *ex officio*	√	√	√	√
Mr Dave McCullough – CFO	X	-	√	√
Mr Lesego Moloko – Sr Governance & Compliance Manager and secretariat	√	√	√	√
The Board Committees assist the Board in the administration of the affairs of the Trust.				

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Paul Smith chairs the Audit Committee (AC). Under his leadership, the AC adhered to its annual work plan, convening four times during the financial year to discharge its financial oversight duties to the Board and the Trust. Key responsibilities included approving the annual budget and monitoring performance against it ensuring robust financial governance and oversight.

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE PERIOD 2024/25

Audit Committee	13 September 2024	19 November 2024	12 March 2025	19 June 2025
Mr Paul Smith – Treasurer and Chair – *ex officio*	√	√	√	√
Mr Abdul Mohamed	X	X	√	√
Prof Barry Ackers	√	√	√	√
Mr Neil Morris	√	√	√	√
Ms Yolan Friedmann – CEO – *ex officio*	√	√	√	√
Mr Dave McCullough – CFO and secretariat	X	√	√	√
Mr Lesego Moloko – Senior Governance & Compliance Manager	√	√	√	N/A
Ms Lauren Bailey – Finance Manager	N/A	√	√	√

The AC, the Board of Trustees, and the EWT Management Team are grateful for the support of Deloitte in carrying out the organisation's annual financial audit.

SOCIAL AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Social and Ethics Committee (SEC), a vital component of the EWT's governance structure, held three meetings during the financial year, in line with its annual work plan. The SEC plays a crucial role in ensuring the organisation's social and ethical integrity, and its work is essential to maintaining stakeholder trust. The SEC acquired an additional member in the form of Ms Vikeshni Vandayar who was appointed onto the Committee.

In line with good governance, the SEC is mandated to monitor the organisation's activities in relation to social and economic development, ethics oversight, stakeholder relationships, and the environment, health and safety. It provides independent oversight to ensure that the EWT conducts its operations responsibly, sustainably, and in the best interests of its stakeholders.

SOCIAL AND ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE PERIOD 2024/25

Social and Ethics Committee	17 September 2024	28 November 2024	19 June 2025
Ms Joanna Goeller – Chair	√	√	√
Mr Mike Esterhuysen	√	√	√
Mr Paul Smith	√	√	√
Ms Vikeshni Vandayar	-	-	N/A
Ms Yolan Friedmann – CEO – *ex officio*	√	√	√
Ms Masabata Ngcobo – HR Manager and secretariat	√	√	√



REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Remuneration Committee (RemCo) met twice during the financial year. The RemCo plays a crucial role in ensuring fair and transparent remuneration practices. This Committee's oversight is essential to attracting and retaining talent. Its mandate includes ensuring that the organisation implements fair compensation practices and maintains remuneration and benefits policies that promote organisational sustainability.

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE DURING THE PERIOD 2024/25		
Remuneration Committee	29 November 2024	19 June 2025
Prof Barry Ackers - Chair 2024	√	√
Mr Dirk Ackerman	X	√
Mr Muhammad Seedat	√	√
Ms Yolan Friedmann – CEO – *ex officio*	√	√
Mr Dave McCullough – CFO and secretariat	√	√

THE PACK

Lesego Moloko
Senior Governance and Compliance Manager

INTERNAL STRUCTURES

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM (EXCO):

The EWT Executive Management Team (EXCO), responsible for driving strategic decision-making and overseeing operations, comprises Yolan Friedmann (CEO), Dave McCullough (Chief Finance Officer), Dr. Ian Little (Head of Conservation), Kish Chetty (Head of Sustainability), Emma Dougherty (Head of Marketing and Communications) and Kerryn Morrison (Senior Programme Manager: Africa), meeting frequently, not less than once a month subject to schedules and holidays.

CONSERVATION EXECUTIVE (CONEX):

The EWT Conservation Executive (CONex) met regularly during the financial year to provide strategic oversight, guidance, and decision-making on matters relating to conservation programmes. The CONex serves as a crucial link between the Executive Management Team and the Conservation Management Team, ensuring an alignment of resources and priorities, accountability for programme delivery, and the delivery of the conservation strategy across the organisation.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT TEAM (CMT):

The EWT Conservation Management Team (CMT) convened 10 times during the financial year, bringing together Support Services and Programme Managers to discuss and address key aspects of conservation, research, ethics, operations, and programmatic implementation. This ensures a comprehensive and collaborative approach to driving conservation impact.

CONSERVATION FORUM (CF):

The EWT Conservation Forum (CF) held 10 meetings during the financial year, fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among all staff members. Field-based staff participated virtually when relevant, ensuring inclusive engagement. The CF facilitates cross-functional understanding between field and head office-based teams, while guest speakers enrich discussions by sharing insights on topics beyond the EWT's core expertise. To accommodate diverse schedules, meetings are recorded and made available for staff to access at their convenience, promoting broader engagement and information dissemination.



GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

The Governance and Compliance portfolio, led by Lesego Moloko, oversaw several key initiatives during the financial year. Working with Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, the EWT ensured the re-registration of all intellectual property (IP) and trademarks, safeguarding the organisation's assets and ensuring compliance with legal requirements. The EWT's Trademark pawprint logo is registered in countries such as South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, eSwathini, Botswana and Lesotho. In the past year, the broader policy framework was reviewed and updated to align with regulatory obligations and industry standards, further strengthening the organisation's governance posture and supporting long-term sustainability. The EWT initiated a comprehensive review of its Trust Deed for the first time in 10 years. Although the revised Trust Deed has not yet been finalised, the process is well underway, reflecting our commitment to maintaining a relevant, robust, and best-practice governance framework.



FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Senior Governance & Compliance Manager, Lesego Moloko - *LesegoM@ewt.org*

CHALLENGES & RISKS

Legal challenges in the Trust:

Mabola Mining Matter: The EWT working alongside coalition partners, has continued its legal opposition to coal mining in the Mabola Protected Environment. A critical part of this has been the challenge against the water use licence granted to Uthaka Energy (Pty) Ltd ("Uthaka").

Through these legal interventions, the EWT continues to mitigate risks that threaten its mission and to defend the integrity of South Africa's protected lanscapes.

CLICK HERE for details about the legal challenge and our application for leave to appeal to the Constitutional Court

PARTNERSHIPS & AGREEMENTS

The EWT's work is strengthened by our partners, and we thus enter into numerous agreements across different sectors and countries to enable and support better delivery of our conservation goals. These agreements, whether collaborative partnerships, grants, sponsorships, or research contracts, give structure to joint action and resource sharing. Each one helps us deliver stronger conservation results, expand our scientific reach, and secure the long-term sustainability of the organisation, while building trust with our partners and stakeholders.

By Type (FY2024/25):

Volunteer Agreements – 7
MoU / MoA / Collaboration Agreements – 10
Contractors / Consulting Agreements (including extensions and addendums) – 14
Grant / Donor / Sponsorship Agreements – 8
Lease / Rental / SLA / Purchase Agreements – 7
Research / Subcontractor / Project Cooperation Agreements – 9
NDA / Confidential / Logo Use Agreements – 4
Environmental Restorative Justice Agreements – 2



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

Yolan Friedmann
Chief Executive Officer

Dave McCullough
Chief Financial Officer

Kishaylin Chetty
Head of Sustainability

Dr Ian Little
Head of Conservation

Kerryn Morrison
ICF/EWT Senior Manager: Africa

Emma Dougherty
Head of Marketing & Communications

SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Lourens Leeuwner
Senior Conservation Manager

Shaun McCartney
Senior Conservation Manager

Dr Damian Walters
Senior Conservation Manager: ICF/EWT

Alison Jånicke
Head of Business Development

Dr Gareth Tate
Senior Conservation Manager

FINANCE

THE STEWARDS OF SUSTAINABILITY



Click to listen

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
To the trustees of the Endangered Wildlife Trust

Opinion
The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in equity and summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2025. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 30 September 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1. However, the summary financial statements are misstated to the equivalent extent as the audited financial statements of Endangered Wildlife Trust for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Summary Financial Statements
The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the trust accounting policies. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon
We express a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 30 September 2025. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was cash donations are a significant source of fundraising revenue for The Endangered Wildlife Trust. The trustees have determined that it is impracticable to establish internal controls over the collection of cash donations prior to the initial entry into its financial records. We were therefore unable to confirm whether all cash donations were recorded.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with the International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Signed by:
Deloitte & Touche
16D775DF4A0743A...

Deloitte & Touche
Registered Auditor
Per: Marlise Hedder
Partner
23 March 2026

MAKING AN IMPACT THAT MATTERS since 1845

Managing Partner: ML Tshabalala

A full list of partners and directors is available on request

B-BBEE rating: Level 1 contribution in terms of the DTI Generic Scorecard as per the amended Codes of Good Practice

Associate of Deloitte Africa, a Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of the EWT's financial position as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	30 June 2025 R	30 June 2024 R
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Land and Buildings		24,377,448	24,377,448
Vehicles and equipment		10,756,292	10,305,553
Total non-current assets		***35,133,740***	***34,683,001***
Current assets			
Accounts receivable		2,482,771	1,382,880
Cash and cash equivalents		83,415,137	77,459,816
Total current assets		***85,897,908***	***78,843,696***
TOTAL ASSETS		**121,031,648**	**113,526,697**
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Trust funds			
Accumulated funds	1.8	13,382,996	13,218,229
Fund for the Future	1.8	12,625,053	-
Total Distributable Reserves		***26,008,049***	***13,218,229***
Non-distributable reserves		34,234,230	33,778,803
Total Trust funds		***60,242,279***	***46,997,032***
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable		2,890,200	2,270,271
Funds held on behalf of other organisations		3,549,830	6,368,425
Deferred revenue		53,344,114	57,132,128
Leave Provision		1,005,225	758,841
Total current liabilities		***60,789,369***	***66,529,665***
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		**121,031,648**	**113,526,697**

Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	30 June 2025 R	30 June 2024 R
Revenue		117,479,540	89,488,880
Expenses		(104,689,719)	(89,397,528)
Total Comprehensive Operational Surplus for the year		**12,789,821**	**91,352**
Income-Programmes		89,508,143	78,949,075
Project income		78,234,368	70,631,323
Income transfer from Support Services		5,926,935	4,398,035
Income from National Lotteries Commission		800,000	-
Interest earned on Project funds		4,546,840	3,919,717
Expenses-Programmes			
Direct Project Expenses		(81,727,957)	(69,598,048)
Projects contribution for Support Services		(7,780,190)	(9,351,027)
Income - Support Services		35,751,587	19,890,832
Support Services Levy received from Projects		7,780,190	9,351,027
Donations	1.8	21,139,633	5,713,622
Bequest Income		8,658,255	5,229,101
Less Income transfer to Projects		(5,926,935)	(4,398,035)
Functions & Eventing Income		2,463,783	2,202,906
Interest earned on own funds		1,636,661	1,792,211
Expenses - Support Services		(22,961,766)	(19,799,480)
Direct Support Services Expenses		(23,473,562),	(20,789,414)
Internal Professional Services rendered to Projects		511,796	989,934
Total Comprehensive Operational Surplus for the year		12,789,821	91,352

Statement of changes in trust funds for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Fund for the Future Reserve	Accumulated Funds	Total
	R	R	R
Balance at 30 June 2023	-	13 126 877	13 126 877
Total comprehensive operational surplus for the year	**-**	**91 352**	**91 352**
Balance at 30 June 2024	-	13 218 229	13 218 229
Total comprehensive operational surplus for the year	-	12 789 820	12 789 820
Fund for the Future Reserve transfer	12 625 053	(12 625 053)	-
Balance at 30 June 2025	12 625 053	13 382 996	26 008 049

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis. The following are the principal accounting policies used by the Trust and are consistent with those of the previous periods.

1.1 Revenue

Gross revenue excludes value-added tax and represents bequests, grants, institutional and bilateral income, individual and corporate donations, interest on cash balances and other voluntary contributions. Project income is recognised as project expenses are incurred. All other income and expenses are recognised on receipt and disbursement.

1.2 Deferred revenue

Revenue received for specific projects is matched against project expenditure when incurred. Unspent Programme Revenue is treated as Deferred Revenue. Deferred revenue relating to completed projects is re-allocated to other projects. Deficits are recouped from other donors or projects.

1.3 Land

The Trust raises funds from donors specifically for the purchase of land, to further conservation and biodiversity protection. Land is recorded at cost and is not depreciated.

1.4 Vehicles and equipment

Vehicles and equipment are included at cost. Cost includes all costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to working condition for their intended use.

Depreciation is calculated by a charge to income computed on a straight-line basis so as to write off the cost or amount of the valuation of the assets over their expected useful lives.

The depreciation rates applicable to each category of fixed assets are as follows:

Vehicles ———— 20% straight-line
Equipment ———— 33.3% straight-line

Donated artwork is not depreciated.

Assets purchased for projects are charged against revenue upon acquisition. The related depreciation of these assets is written down against Non-Distributable Reserves.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an item of vehicles and equipment is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is included in income or deficit for the period.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are measured at fair value and comprise cash on hand, deposits held on call with banks and investments in money market instruments.

1.6 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Trust has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Trust will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the statement of financial position date, factoring in the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows.

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, the receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received, and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.



Flying with the Bateleurs to bring a new breeding population of Cheetah to Mpumalaga

FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Chief Financial Officer, Dave McCullough - *Davemc@ewt.org*

1.7 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Trust's statement of financial position when the Trust has become a party to contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets

The Trust's financial assets are bank balances and cash and accounts receivable.

The accounting policy for bank balances and cash is dealt with under cash and cash equivalents set out in note 1.5.

Accounts receivable are stated at amortised cost.

Financial liabilities

The Trust's principal financial liabilities consist of accounts payable.

Accounts payable are stated at amortised cost.

1.8 Trust funds

Fund for the Future

The EWT's objective is to secure the long-term sustainability of the organisation through the establishment of an investment fund called Fund for the Future. During the current year, a large donation from the Elizabeth Wakeman Henderson Charitable Trust was received, totalling R12.6m. These funds will be allocated to the Fund for the Future fund. Refer to the Statement of Trust Funds where a significant increase since the prior year is reflected.

LITIGATION AGAINST ATHA-AFRICA VENTURES (PTY) LTD (PREVIOUSLY UTHAKA ENERGY (PTY) LTD)

The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and the Federation for a Sustainable Environment (FSE), as part of a coalition, is involved in ongoing litigation related to environmental and water use authorisations granted to Atha-Africa Ventures. The coalition has adverse cost orders awarded against them.

An application for leave to appeal is pending in the Constitutional Court. This application suspends the costs order. It is unlikely that the application for leave to appeal will be heard before early next year (January 2026). Only once the application has been finalised, will there be certainty regarding the cost orders. If the application were to be successful, the costs orders will be set aside.

If not, the bills of costs relating to these cases have then to be prepared and only once that has occurred, would we be in any position to provide an estimate as to the EWT's potential exposure. It is therefore not possible at this stage to estimate the quantum of the costs. The board is confident this appeal will succeed.

Further, the EWT, as a judgment creditor, has initiated liquidation proceedings to procure the winding-up of Atha-Africa Ventures in terms of section 344(f) of the Companies Act 61 of 1973. Pleadings have closed and Christo Reeders Attorneys is currently in the process of obtaining a hearing date, which we anticipate to be in this calendar year. Should we be successful in this application, Atha-Africa Ventures's mining right will lapse in terms of section 56 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002.

THE PACK

Dave McCullough
Chief Financial Officer

Lauren Bailey
Finance Manager

Melissa Govindsamy
Senior Bookkeeper

Jessel Naidoo
Financial Accountant

Njabulo Mthabela
Financial Accountant

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

THE VOICE OF THE EWT



Effective marketing and communications are central to the EWT's ability to inspire action, mobilise support, and unlock the resources required to deliver lasting conservation impact. Over the past year, we have focused on building strong foundations, sharpening our message, strengthening internal alignment, and expanding our reach across Africa and beyond. These efforts are positioning the EWT as a trusted, globally recognised voice for African conservation, while laying the groundwork for ambitious fundraising growth.

2024/5 ACHIEVEMENTS

AMPLIFYING OUR VOICE

The EWT's work featured prominently in the media, with **146 online articles, 70 interviews, 55 broadcast news items, 22 newspaper articles, and six opinion pieces**, reaching new audiences and reinforcing our credibility as a science-led, people-focused conservation organisation.

DIGITAL GROWTH & ENGAGEMENT

Between 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025, the EWT produced **1,357 content pieces** across its social platforms, reaching **107,395 followers**, generating **4,010,041 total impressions**, and **221,212 interactions**.

- **Facebook** maintained a strong presence, reaching 56,799 followers and generating 67,259 interactions - a **131.6% increase in engagement** compared to the previous year.
- **LinkedIn grew from 31,267 to 35,167 followers** with 396,131 impressions, 10,485 reactions and 204 reposts, strengthening professional and corporate engagement.
- **Instagram** nearly doubled its community, **growing from approximately 7,000 to 12,717 followers,** reflecting improved content quality and posting frequency aligned with our social media strategy.
- **YouTube** and **TikTok** are emerging platforms; growth on these channels' signals expanding audiences and potential for future engagement.
- Website metrics show that more people are seeking information about the EWT, with **83,846 page views, 49,011 visits, and 43,143 unique visitors,** demonstrating growing interest in our work.



STRENGTHENING INTERNAL ALIGNMENT

We strengthened our internal communications by consolidating the Marketing and Communications teams into a single department, further supported by a part-time Digital Marketing Manager. This restructuring improved coordination and created a unified voice across programmes.

To enhance efficiency and ensure compliance with IT regulations, all departmental workstreams were migrated into Microsoft Teams, providing a central hub where team members can access information and collaborate more effectively. Between December 2024 and February 2025, a volunteer developed a content library in Teams, giving staff a shared, easily accessible repository of organisational resources.

The team delivered 12 editions of *Corridor Talk*, the EWT's internal newsletter, which is set to transition into a podcast format to improve accessibility and engagement across the organisation. During Contact Week (May 2025), staff received training on the updated Social Media Policy and Film Policy, ensuring alignment with organisational guidelines and promoting consistent practices across the Pack.

Together, these initiatives strengthened internal alignment, improved access to information, and enhanced communication across all programmes, building a more connected and coordinated organisation.



GLOBAL POSITIONING

The EWT laid the groundwork for long-term international growth by initiating a phased approach to entering the U.S. fundraising market. Key preparatory steps included going live on the ewt.org domain to strengthen global brand visibility and developing a business requirements specification to guide a website redesign aligned with international fundraising objectives.

In collaboration with the Donor Relations team, the Marketing and Communications team developed a U.S. market entry strategy, which was presented during Contact Week to ensure organisational alignment and staff awareness of upcoming initiatives.

Phase 1: Direct Marketing, Relationship-Building, and Compliance:

Phase 1 focuses on establishing an American presence through direct marketing, relationship-building with high-net-worth individuals and philanthropic networks and ensuring compliance with legal requirements. The EWT USA has been registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public benefit organisation.

CLICK HERE for more information on the the EWT USA's registration as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt public benefit organisation.

Phase 2: Individual Giving Campaigns:

This phase will focus on executing individual giving campaigns to generate unrestricted funding, primarily through digital channels initially. As the EWT establishes a presence and builds networks in the USA these campaigns may expand into broader, through-the-line initiatives to strengthen engagement and reach wider audiences.

These preparatory steps have created a strong foundation for future international expansion, positioning the EWT to implement its USA strategy efficiently and diversify its donor base globally.

ADVANCING THE FUTURE FIT STRATEGY

Building on the Future Fit Strategy in the new financial year, the Marketing and Communications team will turn these foundations into measurable outcomes, launching a new website, expanding digital storytelling and campaigns, and ensuring teams contribute to a single, cohesive EWT voice. These initiatives will strengthen brand recognition, expand digital engagement, and cultivate international networks, positioning the organisation to grow its supporter base, deepen donor engagement, and enhance the impact of its conservation work across Africa.

The EWT went live on the **EWT.ORG** domain, strengthening **GLOBAL BRAND** visibility and reach

THE PACK

Emma Dougherty
Head of Marketing & Communications

Eleanor Momberg
Communications Manager

Kalliebree Keynerd
Digital Marketing Manager

Jo Bert
Senior Graphic Designer

Remi Smith
Digital Designer



FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Head of Marketing and Communications, Emma Dougherty - *EmmaD@ewt.org*

DONOR RELATIONS

THE LINK BETWEEN GENEROSITY AND IMPACT

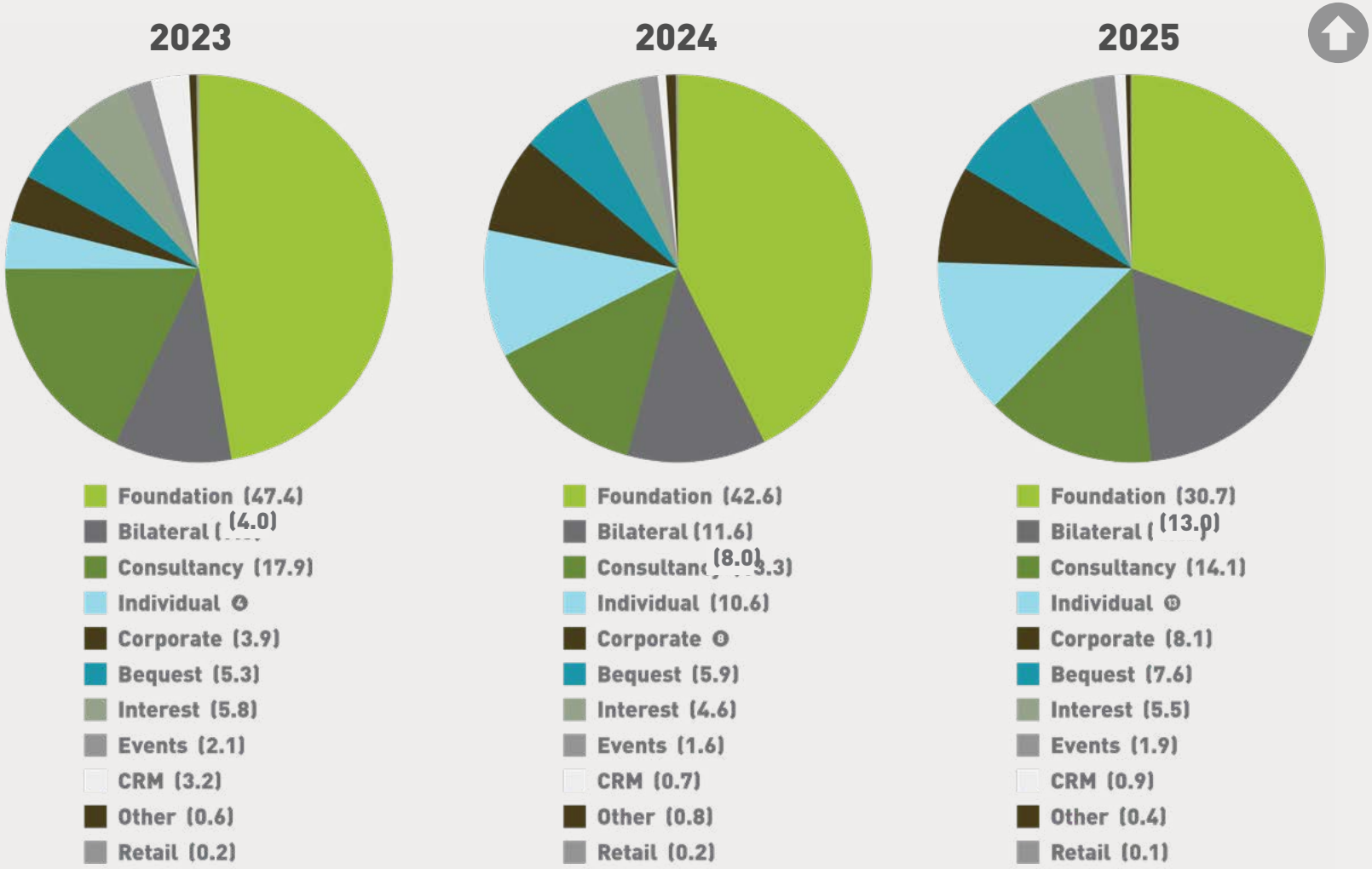


Click to listen

Our support services are funded by the EWT's Framework Donors, including Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust, Rand Merchant Bank, Plum Foundation, Relate, Rhino Peak Challange and Speedspace.

The EWT is fortunate to partner with a wide range of donors who share our passion for protecting biodiversity and ensuring a sustainable future for both people and wildlife. These partnerships are at the heart of our ability to deliver impactful conservation programmes across southern and East Africa. We measured a healthy 11% year-on-year increase in income, similar to the 12% rise in the previous year.

Our donor base is diverse and includes individual philanthropists, corporate partners, trusts and foundations and international development agencies,. Each donor brings unique value, whether through financial support, strategic collaboration, in-kind contributions, or the amplification of our message. From long-standing legacy donors to first-time contributors, we are grateful for every act of generosity that fuels our mission. The annual income was more balanced between income streams than in many previous years, providing greater security than overdependence on any particular stream.





In recent years, we have strengthened our relationships with donors by ensuring alignment between our work and their strategic focus areas - including climate, landscape restoration, community empowerment, species conservation, and youth development. This has allowed us to co-develop funding models that are both impactful and sustainable, while also fulfilling our shared vision of lasting change. Many of our donors have shifted from transactional support to becoming co-investors in our fragile environment, thought leadership, and long-term conservation solutions.

We prioritise transparency and accountability in our donor relationships. Through regular reports, site visits, updates, and compelling storytelling, we keep our partners informed and engaged. Our dedication to monitoring, evaluation, and learning ensures we can demonstrate return on investment and report on tangible outcomes achieved through our work.

Our donor community continues to expand both geographically and in scope. In 2024/25, we gained support from over 30 international donors and welcomed new philanthropic foundations, as well as corporates aligned with the green economy and local South African trusts. International contributions now make up 63% of the EWT's income, up from 53% the previous year. Initiatives such as our "Fund the Future" campaign and various matched-funding models have helped us open new support channels.

Above all, our donors are part of the EWT family. Together, we are building resilient ecosystems, transforming lives, and ensuring future generations can inherit a thriving natural heritage. We thank each and every donor for believing in our work and walking this journey with us.



FIND OUT MORE

Contact: Head of Business Development, Alison Janicke - *AlisonJ@ewt.org*

EXPANDING OUR FOOTPRINT

The EWT has extended its reach globally, with EWT USA now formally registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organisation. This milestone enhances our ability to connect with supporters and partners in the United States, strengthening international collaboration and unlocking new opportunities for investment in conservation across Africa. It represents an evolution of our long-standing relationships, enabling friends and supporters abroad to engage more directly in our mission. Through this step, the EWT continues to build a truly global community dedicated to safeguarding the natural world for generations to come.

THE PACK

Alison Janicke
Head of Business Development

Tammy Baker
Business Development Officer

Dr Tim Jackson
Senior Manager: Resource Development and Grants

Namita Vanmali
Senior Technical Writer

Rebecca Mabuza
Business Development Administrator

THIS WORK IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's Support Services are grateful to the following sponsors and their ongoing commitment to our work:

Cotton road, D Graaff Foundation, The Giving Foundation, Philip Moore Family Trust, Hermans Truck Accident Repair, Barloworld Trust, Jocks of the Bushveld, Alexforbes, Ford Wildlife Foundation, Hersov Foundation, Davies Foundation, Philo de Villers, Plum Foundation, The Sunset Trust, Afrit, Go2Africa, KLB, Levego, Ipsos, Livingstones, Munich Re, Lankester White Safaris, Hire Engineering, Malben Engineering, Applus Steel Test, STAFFORD BROS & DRAEGER PTY LT, Winchers and Winders, NTE, Almar Container Hire, Corundum Tours, DL Wilson Attorney, Econo Risk, Trappers, One and Only



INTERNATIONAL DONORS now contribute **63% OF TOTAL INCOME** - up from 53% the previous year

WHO WE WORK WITH

- Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação (ANAC, Mozambique)
- Africa Wildlife Vets
- African Carnivore WildBook
- African Natural Capital Alliance
- African Parks Network
- Alterra Wageningen University (Netherlands)
- Amathole District Municipality
- Amphibian Survival Alliance
- ANAK (Association Nature Koussabel)
- Anglo American
- Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling (APOPO)
- Anura Africa
- Ashia Cheetah Conservation
- Associated Private Nature Reserves (APNR)
- Association Nature Koussabel, Senegal
- Backwena
- Biodiversity Law Centre
- Bionerds
- Birdlife Botswana
- BirdLife International
- BirdLife South Africa
- BirdLife Zimbabwe
- BirdWatch Zambia
- Blue Sky Society
- BlyOlifant Private Nature Reserve
- Briner Veterinary Services
- British High Commission in South Africa
- Burera District, Rwanda
- Business for Nature
- C4 EcoSolutions
- Cape Leopard Trust
- Cape Parrot Project
- CapeNature
- Cennergi
- Centre for Environmental Rights
- Cheetah Outreach
- Christo Reeders Attorneys
- Chuilexi Concession (Mozambique)
- Clothes To Good
- Community Action for Nature Conservation (CANCO), Kenya
- Community Resource Boards, (Zambia)
- Connect Trust
- Conservation Alpha
- Conservation Coaches Network (CC Net)
- Conservation International
- Conservation Measures Partnership
- Conservation Outcomes
- Conservation South Africa
- Conservation South Luangwa
- Contemplate Wild
- Copperbelt University (Zambia)
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Crane Conservation Volunteers (CCV)
- De Beers Group
- Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment's (DFFE)
- Dullstroom Bird of Prey Centre
- Durham University (UK)
- Dwarf Tortoise Conservation
- East African Energy Programme
- Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency (ECPTA)
- EcoAdvisors
- EdgeAcoustics
- Elephant Charge, Zambia
- Elephants Without Borders

- Embassy of Finland in South Africa
- Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd
- Eskom Reseach Testing and Development
- Eye Above
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (EKZNW)
- Fauna and Flora International
- Fisheries Department (Zambia)
- Fishwater Films
- FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology
- Ford Wildlife Foundation
- Forestry Department (Zambia)
- Frankfurt Zoological Society
- Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
- Freshwater Research Centre
- Fynbos Trust
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Genesis K9
- GIZ (Zambia)
- Glencore
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
- Global Environment Facility Sustainable Land Management (GEF5 SLM) Project
- Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (Zimbabwe)
- Green Dogs Conservation
- GreenMatter
- Grootbos Foundation
- Harmony Gold
- Hawk Conservancy Trust
- In the Company of Horses
- Integrated Polytechnic Regional College – Kitabi, Rwanda
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)
- Investec
- ISimangaliso Wetland Park
- IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group
- Jimma University (Ethiopia)
- Kafue Flats Man and Biosphere Reserve Committee
- Karkloof Conservancy
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- Kimberley Veterinary Clinic
- Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group (KCWCG)
- Klein Swartberg Conservancy
- Kruger to Canyons (K2C) Biosphere Reserve
- Lapalala Wilderness Reserve
- Lapalala Wilderness School
- Leiden Conservation Foundation
- Lepidopterists' Society of Africa
- Lesoba Difference
- Lessons in Conservation
- Lewis Foundation
- Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (Malawi)
- Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment, and Tourism
- Lion Recovery Fund
- Lwengo District Local Government (Uganda)
- Madda Wanabu University (Ethiopia)
- Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife
- Mammal Research Institute: Whale Unit
- Mapula Trust
- Marakele Pty Ltd
- Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior
- Mbarara District Local Government (Uganda)
- Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Uganda)
- Millstream Farm
- Ministry of Environment (Rwanda)
- Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (Zambia)
- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (Zambia)
- Ministry of Tourism (Zambia)
- Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (Uganda)
- Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre
- Mokgadi Guardian Dogs
- Mondi Group
- Mozambique Wildlife Alliance (MWA)
- Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency
- MSD Health (Bravecto)
- N3TC
- Nandi County Government (Kenya)
- National Environmental Management Authority (Uganda)
- National Geographic
- National Institute for Crime Prevention and Reintegration of Offenders (NICRO)
- National Transmission Company South Africa (NTCSA)
- National Zoological Gardens of South Africa
- Ndlovu de Villiers Attorneys
- Niassa Carnivore Project
- North Carolina Zoological Society
- North West Parks and Tourism Board
- Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAERL)
- Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum
- Office Francais de la biodiversite (Ofb)
- Overberg Crane Group
- Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust
- Oxford University
- Peace Parks Foundation
- Raptors Botswana
- Relate Bracelets
- Restorative Justice Centre
- RMB Rand Merchant Bank
- Rugarama Hospital, Uganda
- Rukiga and Lwengo district local governments, Uganda



- Rwanda Development Board
- Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association
- Rwandan Environment Management Authority
- Sabi Sand Nature Reserve
- SANParks Honorary Rangers
- Sasol
- Self Help Africa (Zambia)
- Solidaridad (Zambia)
- South Africa Police Service Stock Theft Unit
- South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)
- South African National Parks (SANParks)
- The Bateleurs
- The Gorongosa Project (Mozambique)
- Tour du Valat
- TRACN4
- Traditional Leaders of the Kafue Flats (Zambia)
- TRAFFIC
- Trans Nzoia County Government, Kenya
- Turtle Conservancy
- Turtle Survival Alliance
- Uasin Gishu County Government, Kenya
- Uganda Conservation Foundation
- Uganda Ministry of Wildlife, Tourism, and Antiquities
- Uganda Wildlife Authority
- Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre
- UK Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge
- Unique
- UNISA
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
- United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Secretariat for Convention on Biological Diversity (UN-SCBD)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- University of Cape Town
- University of Eastern Africa, Baraton (Kenya)
- University of Johannesburg
- University of KwaZulu-Natal
- University of Maryland (TREPA) (USA)
- University of Pretoria
- University of Stellenbosch
- University of Zambia (Zambia)
- Vhembe Biosphere Reserve
- Waterberg Biosphere Reserve
- Waterberg Landscape Alliance
- Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative
- We Act
- Welgevonden Game Reserve
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture
- Wetlands International
- Wildbook (Tech4Conservation)
- Wilderness Foundation
- Wildlife ACT
- Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA)
- Wildlife Clubs of Kenya
- Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
- Wildlife Conservation Network
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- WildScapes Veterinary & Conservation Services
- WWF South Africa
- WWF Zambia
- Zambeze Wildlife Conservation
- Zambian Carnivore Programme
- Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife
- Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP)
- Zoological Society of London



THE EWT AND THE IUCN
(THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE)

The EWT is a long-standing member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation comprising approximately 1,400 government and NGO members. During the year under review, the EWT's staff were represented in the following IUCN roles:

Dr Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi: IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Committee Chair, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication, and the IUCN Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force.

André Botha: Working Group for the Conservation of Ruppell's Vulture in the Mediterranean-region.

Ashleigh Dore: IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy.

Catherine Kuhn: IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

Dr Ian Little: IUCN South Africa National Committee member and EWT vote holder; Regional Chair for East and southern Africa for the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM); CEM Temperate Grasslands Specialist Group, Biosphere Reserves Thematic Group and Ecosystem Restoration Thematic Group; and the Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship Group of the WCPA.

Eugene Greyling: IUCN WCPA Connectivity Conservation Specialist Group.

Kerryn Morrison: IUCN Biodiversity and Family Planning Task Force.

Kishaylin Chetty: IUCN WCPA Protected Area Sustainable Finance Network, Biodiversity and Protected Areas Network, Climate Change Network, Sustainable Finance Specialist Group of the East and southern Africa; IUCN CEM Nature-Based Solutions Thematic Group, Climate Change and Biodiversity Policy and Practice Thematic Groups.

Lourens Leeuwner: IUCN Power line Working Group.



We are particularly active in the IUCN Species Survival Commission, with staff presently contributing to the following specialist groups and bodies under this commission:

- Afrotheria Specialist Group (Dr Ian Little, Dr Samantha Mynhardt – Golden Mole Section Head)
- Animal Health Specialist Group (Andre Botha)
- Bustard Specialist Group (Matt Pretorius)
- Cat Specialist Group, and its subsidiary, the African Lion Working Group (André Botha, Yolan Friedmann, Dr Samantha Nicholson)
- Conservation Planning Specialist Group (André Botha, Kerryn Morrison, Dr Lara Jordan, Dr Lauren Waller)
- Crane Specialist Group (Kerryn Morrison, Dr Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi, Dr Christie Craig, Lourens Leeuwner)
- Hornbill Specialist Group (André Botha, Dr Gareth Tate)
- Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group (Catherine Kuhn)
- Lagomorph Specialist Group (Esther Matthew)
- Pangolin Specialist Group (Dr Darren Pietersen, Dr Lara Jordan)
- Penguin Specialist Group (Dr Lauren Waller)
- Skink Specialist Group (Dr Darren Pietersen)
- Snake Specialist Group (Dr Darren Pietersen)
- South Africa National Species Specialist Group (Dr Ian Little)
- South African Species Specialist Group (Dr Ian Little, Dr Oliver Cowan)
- Southern African Plant Specialist Group (Dr Jenny Botha)
- Species Monitoring Specialist Group (Dr Lizanne Roxburgh)
- Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill Specialist Group (André Botha)
- Terrestrial and Freshwater Invertebrate Red List Authority (Dr Oliver Cowan)
- Vulture Specialist Group (André Botha – Co-Chair, Dr Lizanne Roxburgh, Dr Lindy Thompson).



EWT STAFF AFFILIATION DATABASE

Dr Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi	Regional Coordinator, East Africa African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA); Grey Crowned Crane International Working Group.
Alekzandra Szewczuk	Co-supervisor at University of Witwaterstrand.
André Botha	Chair of the Technical Advisory Group of the Convention on Migratory Species' (CMS); CMS Working Group on the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning (and served on its Lead Task Force); Working Group for the Prevention of Wildlife Poisoning in southern Africa; Director, Board of the Raptors Research Foundation; Overarching Coordinator, CMS Vulture MsAP; DFFE National Vulture Task Force; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team; CITES NDF Working Group – Birds.
Ashleigh Dore	Fellow of the GreenMatter Fellowship; Member of the European Union of Restorative Justice: Environmental Restorative Justice Working Group; PhD Candidate at University of Cape Town; Lecturer at the University of Pretoria; Member of the Wild Dog Advisory Group, Sungazer Working Group; Cape Parrot Action Plan Coordinating Committee.
Bradley Gibbons	Sungazer Working Group; Botha's Lark Working Group.
Caitlin Smith	Arid Zone Ecology Forum (AZEF).
Catherine Kuhn	Board member for NPO Youth for the Environment.
Catherine Vise	Western Soutpansberg Nature Reserve Association; Baobab Foundation; UNESCO Vhembe Biosphere Reserve Development Task Team.
Dr Christie Craig	Secretary, Overberg Crane Group; Research Associate, Fitzpatrick Institute of Ornithology at University of Cape Town.
Cole du Plessis	KZN Wild Dog Management Group; Wild Dog Advisory Group; Cheetah Advisory Group.
Dr Damian Walters	SANBI National Vegetation Map Committee.
Dr Darren Pietersen	Research Associate, Mammal Research Institute, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria; Editor: African Herp News; Committee member, Herpetological Association of Africa; The Biodiversity and Development Institute; Percy FitzPatrick Institute ReptileMAP Virtual Museum; Editor, Herpetology Notes; Reptile Expert Reference Group; Makhado Fire Protection Association Sector Leaders.
Derek van der Merwe	Waterberg Wild Dog Initiative; Wild Dog Advisory Group; Cheetah Advisory Group.
Emile Honiball	Coetzer De Beer Attorneys; University of KZN; Board member for Project Hope Africa.
Esther Matthew	Dog Scent Technology (PTY) LTD; National Geographic Society Explorer; Amphibian Survival Alliances: Future Leaders for Amphibian Conservation; National Geographic Society, Southern Africa Hub Coordinator.
Eugene Greyling	South African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA); Leopard Consultative Forum; Wild Dog Advisory Group; Cheetah Advisory Group; Association of Wildland Fire Fighting.

Dr Gabi Teren	Wits University, School of Animal, Plant and Environmental Sciences; Elephant Specialist Advisory Group (ESAG); CBD Global Partnerships for Business and Biodiversity; The Capitals Coalition Value Commission; IPBES Lead Author of the Business and Biodiversity Assessment; UN CBD Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.
Dr Gareth Tate	DFFE National Vulture Task Force; South African Bird Ringing Unit (SAFRING) Steering Committee; Bearded Vulture Task Force; National Vulture Task Force; Research Associate: FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology, University of Cape Town; Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group, South Africa; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team; Black Harrier Task Force; National Geographic.
Dr Ian Little	Non-executive director of the Biodiversity Law Centre; National Biodiversity Stewardship Technical Working Group and Legal Reference Group; National Biodiversity Offsets Working Group; Chair of the EWT Ethics Committee (EWTEC); Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate, Evidence Advisory Group; eARTh Agency.
Griffin Shanungu	Scientific and Technical Review Panel Focal Point for Zambia, Ramsar Convention. Member of the National Biodiversity Committee (Zambia).
Dr Jenny Botha	SSCN Plant utilisation and sustainable use; SANBI Medicinal Plant Working Group; Venetia Artisanal Charcoal Incubation Programme Project Steering Committee.
Joshua Weeber	South African Regional Reptile Specialist Group; WITS Animal Research Ethics Committee.
Kerryn Morrison	African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement's International Grey Crowned Crane Working Group.
Dr Kerushka Pillay	Centre for Functional Biodiversity (CFB), University of KwaZulu-Natal; Zoological Society of southern Africa.
Kishaylin Chetty	National Vulture Task Force; ; International Association of Impact Assessment; South African Council for Natural and Scientific Professions; Institute of Directors South Africa.
Dr Lara Jordan	Karkloof Conservancy; Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Honorary Officer (Lions River).
Dr Lauren Waller	Research Associate, Department of Biodiversity & Conservation Biology, University of the Western Cape; DFFE Seabird Technical Team; Small Pelagic Scientific Working Group.
Lesego Moloko	Southerners Beekeepers Association; Sandton Toastmasters Club; Central Gauteng Athletes - Audit Committee; Thusanang HIV/Relief NPO.
Dr Lindy Thompson	Bearded Vulture Task Force; DFFE National Vulture Task Force; National Wildlife Poisoning Prevention Working Group; National Lead Task Team.
Lourens Leeuwner	Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group; South African Bat Association Assessment Panel; African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology; Global Conference for Infrastructure and Ecology; African Protected Areas Congress; Envirotech Care Group; EWT/Mondi Partnership Steering Committee.
Mark van Niekerk	Jean Monnet University, Saint Etienne.

Mwape Sichilongo	Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA); BirdWatch Zambia
Oscar Mohale	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Energy Task Force (CMS ETF); Birds and Renewable Energy Specialist Group (BARESG); National Vulture Task Force; African Conference for Linear Infrastructure and Ecology (ACLIE); NRS 114 (Requirements for Bird Mitigation Interaction Devices for use on overhead electrical infrastructure); NRS WG 116 (Guide for designing wildlife-friendly overhead distribution lines); International Council on Large Electric Systems (CIGRE Southern Africa); American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa (AMCHAM) Energy, Climate Change and Sustainability Forum; South African Bat Assessment Association (SABAA).
Ronel Visagie	Northern Cape Raptor Conservation Forum; Mokala National Park SET Working Group and Environmental Conservation Working Group.
Dr Samantha Mynhardt	Stellenbosch University.
Dr Sam Nicholson	University of KwaZulu-Natal; African Lion Working Group; Wild Dog Advisory Group; National Action Lion Task Team (NALTT); Lion Management Forum - South Africa.
Sibongakonke Ngogodo	BRICS Research Institute; South African BRICS Youth Association; Golden Key International Honour Society.
Yolan Friedmann	SANParks Board; SANParks Board Conservation and Socio-economic Transformation Committee; Environmental Subcommittee and Just Transition Working Group, Business Unity South Africa (BUSA); Advisory Board, Global Change Institute (University of the Witwatersrand); Advisory Board, Ford Wildlife Foundation.

The EWT has a number of staff representing us as members of Game Rangers Associations in Africa: André Botha, Mark van Niekerk, Rotondwa Sithagu, Khathutshelo Mukhumeni, Tharollo Mthisi, Pfuluwani Oscar Musevhula, Shumani Makwarela, Richard Ndou, Michael Modimana, Sengani Ramalamula, and Michael Sithagathagha.

Linked to this we also have a number of staff representing the EWT as members of Field Guide Associations in Africa: Eugene Greyling, Dr Gareth Tate, Mark van Niekerk, Rotondwa Sithagu, Khathutshelo Mukhumeni, Tharollo Mthisi, Shumani Makwarela, and Sengani Ramalamula.



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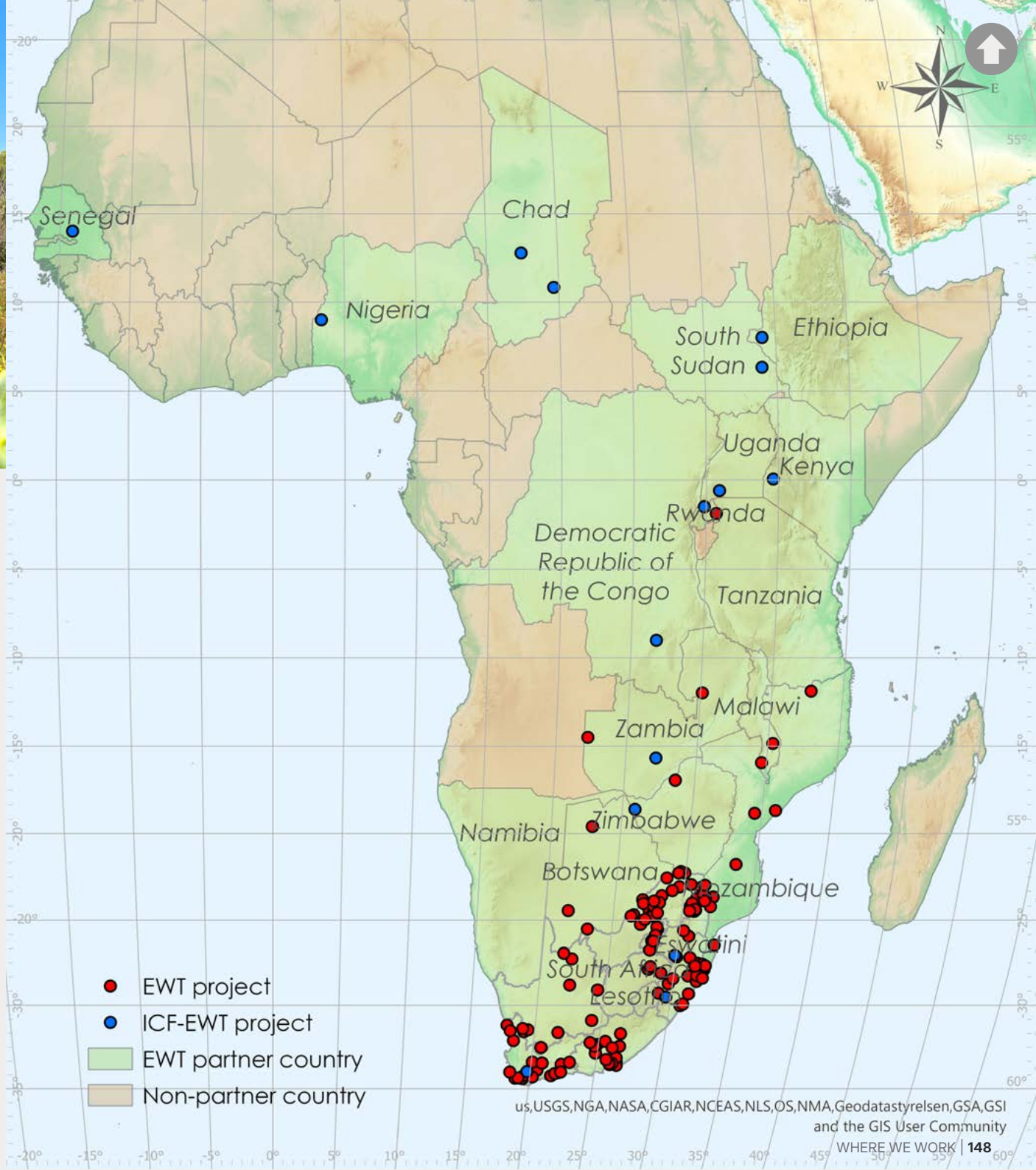
WHERE WE WORK

The EWT focuses its attention on nine carefully selected, large SCLs in East and southern Africa through an integrated strategic conservation approach that engages essential partners to create and secure safe spaces for threatened species, facilitate climate change adaptation, expand protected area corridors, reduce human-wildlife conflict and improve the well-being and ecological resilience of IPLCs.

These include layers such as the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), the Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSA), the National Protected Area Expansion Strategy and the provincial Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) in South Africa, as well as other prioritised layers across the region.



GET INVOLVED

Conservation begins with awareness, and with the choices we make every day. By living more lightly on the planet, reducing waste, conserving energy and water, supporting sustainable products, and making mindful decisions about what we consume, each of us can lessen our impact on nature. Staying informed about how our modern lives affect the natural world is the first step toward change. Individual action, multiplied across communities, becomes the foundation of lasting conservation.

Conservation is a collective effort, it takes people who act, give, and stand for something bigger than themselves. The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) offers many ways to be part of our impact. Support our work by donating, becoming a monthly giver, leaving a legacy gift, or partnering with us on conservation initiatives across Africa. Your contribution helps protect threatened species, restore vital ecosystems, and create opportunities for communities where conservation drives jobs, skills, and sustainable livelihoods. South African donors receive Section 18A tax benefits, and supporters in the United States can make tax-deductible contributions through EWT USA, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Together, we are building a global movement for conservation, ensuring a resilient future for people, wildlife, and the planet. Visit ewt.org to learn how you can make a difference.





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AFRICA

The EWT is registered in South Africa as a Non-Profit Organisation, registration number 015-502 NPO and PBO registration number 930 001 777.

USA

The EWT USA is registered as a 501(c) (3) non-profit conservation organisation in the USA with a focus on supporting conservation and community development in East and southern Africa, US IRS Reg. 33-2261884.

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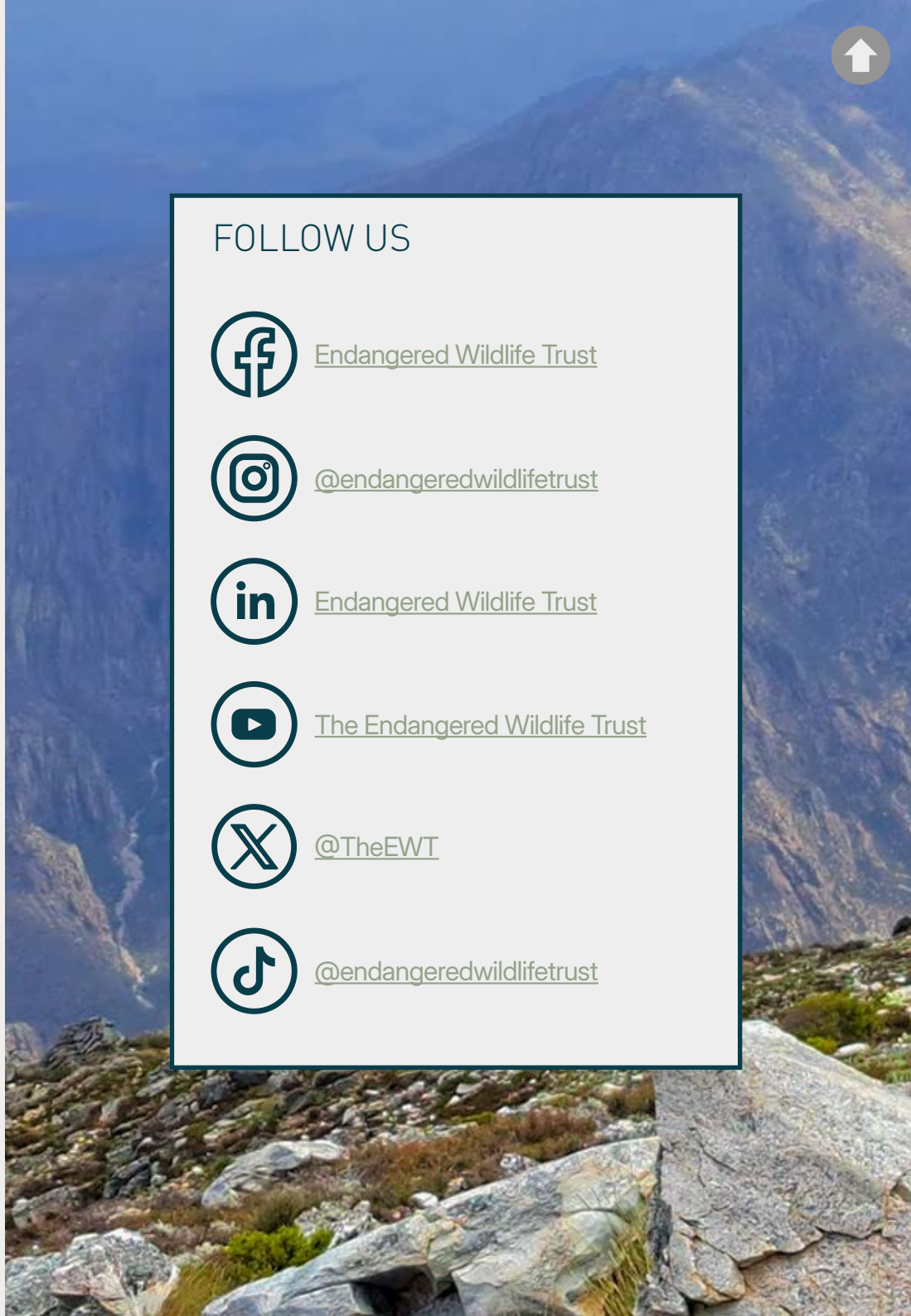

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