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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Dear Reader,

Scope and boundary

We present our Annual Report (Report) as a reflection of the journey of the Selati Wilderness Foundation (SWF) from its inception. Whereas the financial information set out on pages 70 to 88 reflects only the 2023 financial year, the narrative of the Report illustrates a five-year review of the SWF's progress in achieving our ultimate objective of making a meaningful contribution to the preservation of the biodiversity found within our unique wilderness region between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2023. We aim to serve as a source of education and inspiration for both present and future generations, fostering an understanding of the importance of our heritage and instilling a deep sense of appreciation and commitment towards its protection.

The financial information contained within this Report is derived from our audited financial statements for the period between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023. Our independent auditors, BDO South Africa, have conducted a thorough audit of our financial data, providing assurance of its accuracy.

For stakeholders seeking more information, we encourage direct contact with the SWF or a visit to our website, where additional details and the option to contribute to our cause are available.

Board responsibility and approval

This Report has not been subjected to third-party assurance investigations, other than the independent audit of our financial information. Our Board has, however, carefully reviewed the Report, ensuring the accuracy of the information presented.

The Board of Directors recognises its responsibility in upholding the integrity of the SWF. It is their belief that the 2023 Report adheres to all relevant legislation and regulations, encompasses all significant matters, and presents a balanced overview of the SWF and its future prospects.

With the Board's full approval, we are pleased to announce the publication of the 2023 Report.

Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisation. It is also a member of the Independent Code for no

The NPC is registered with the Department of Social Welfare as a Non-Profit Organisation as well as with the South African

Recognition

Glossary

The Selati Game Reserve takes its

name from the Great Selati River

that traverses the northern sector

of the reserve from west to east.

The river was named after the

Selati Gold Fields - the scene of

a nearby minor gold rush in 1865.

The gold fields were named after

Chieftainess Shelati of the Tebula

tribe who lived in the Murchison

range to the north of the area.



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About the foundation continued

The SWF was established in 2018 with the aim of raising funds to further conservation efforts on the Selati Game Reserve and surrounding wilderness areas, subsidising anti-poaching activities and offering support and upliftment to local communities.

Comprised of a diverse mix of individuals, including landowners, business executives and conservation experts, the SWF Board (**Board**) ensures comprehensive decision-making and drives impactful conservation strategies forward. This diversity of expertise enables us to take a holistic approach, addressing the various facets of conservation effectively.

Furthermore, the SWF directs resources towards developing state-of-the-art technology platforms that support our conservation efforts and research. We prioritise the advancement of a robust and active research capability, positioning ourselves as thought leaders in wildlife research and its practical application. In collaboration with the Reserve, we actively contribute to shaping the Reserve's brand as a premier research destination.

At the SWF, we foster close collaboration with landowners and management, and our ambassadors are selected from organisations and individuals who share our common vision. This high level of involvement amplifies our collective impact, strengthening our commitment to preserving the natural heritage we all hold dear.

Our objectives and impact go beyond the boundaries of the Reserve, reaching local communities and schools through a range of support initiatives. We are dedicated to uplifting and empowering these important stakeholders by implementing feeding schemes, providing infrastructure assistance, and delivering environmental awareness training. The tireless efforts of our committed staff, alongside the invaluable contributions of passionate volunteers, bring our community projects to life.

Our "Reason to be"

The SWF operates to assist in fulfilling the unique conservation responsibility we all have at the Selati Game Reserve and surrounds. The specific objectives of the SWF are:

- assisting with the protection, management and educational awareness of endangered species of fauna and flora;
- supporting anti-poaching efforts on Selati and in the greater Kruger National Park area;
- contributing to local community upliftment through skills development and conservationfocused education;
- supporting local rural schools through feeding schemes and infrastructure assistance;
- educating people worldwide on the importance of conservation; and
- contributing towards the research of rare and endangered species.

The funds generated by the SWF play a vital role in advancing our conservation-focused education, wildlife monitoring, endangered species protection and scientific research capabilities.

Relationship between Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC and Selati Game Reserve

The Selati Game Reserve Association (Reserve) comprises an association of landowners governed by a constitution and an operating company with its own memorandum of incorporation (MOI). These are run entirely separately from the SWF. The Reserve was established in 1993, some 25 years before the establishment of the SWF, and this was done by way of the amalgamation of several separately-owned properties to form one large private game reserve encompassing approximately 27 000 ha. The purpose of the formation of the Reserve was to create an adjoining block of land under single management.

The constitution of the Selati Game Reserve Association regulates the ownership and use of land by members within the Reserve.

The Big Five Game Company (Pty) Ltd was established to ensure the appropriate management of the fauna and flora and to manage and operate the Reserve on a sustainable basis. Its management is overseen by a Board of Directors comprising seven non-executive Board members, including a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Members are allocated shares in company management according to a combination of their land size and value, as well as the value of game introduced, and vote according to the percentage shareholding.

Parallel to this, the SWF exists as a registered NPC with its own MOI, focused largely on the conservation of the various endangered species living on the Reserve and interacting – and aligning itself – with national and international organisations with targeted conservation initiatives. The SWF has a unique advantage as a conservation foundation as it enjoys a standing invitation from the Reserve to:

(i) assist in supporting endangered plants and animals;

(ii) progress conservation initiatives of its own or of like-minded partner organisations; and (iii) to contribute knowledge and data to the global wildlife conservation community, all within its borders.

Additionally, the Reserve actively contributes to the SWF's fundraising efforts by offering unique conservation experiences in the Reserve, complemented by valuable wildlife insights derived from the Reserve's research initiatives. These experiences, including multi-day walking and cycling tours through the Reserve and ride-along trips in the game viewers alongside our Research Team and volunteers, allow visitors to participate in the research activities such as assisting with rhino monitoring, African wild dog and cheetah interactions, elephant collaring, and immuno-contraceptive encounters.

A portion of the fees charged by the Reserve in respect of these unique conservation experience packages are donated as conservation levies to the SWF and this is, in itself, a selling point. Local visitors to the Reserve who make additional donations to the SWF also benefit through the receipt of section 18a tax certificates by virtue of the Public Benefit status of the SWF.

While the Reserve and the SWF share common objectives in respect of the protection of endangered wildlife, the SWF handles donations transparently and channels funds only towards anti-poaching efforts, protecting endangered wildlife and supporting local communities and schools, as required by its MOI.



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Cheetah Introduction

An investment into the future of a species

Historically, cheetah have been sighted on the Selati Game Reserve in the early years even before the Reserve was established. It is presumed that with the development of game farms in the area and increased fencing, the movement of cheetah who require large ranges, had become restricted, their numbers were impacted upon by predators, traffic, hunters, human animal conflict and poachers.

In early 2015, an opportunity was presented to Selati by SANParks to introduce three young cheetah from the Mountain Zebra National Park in the Eastern Cape.



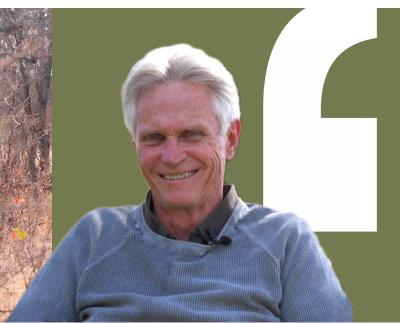
Read more about the detailed history of the re-introduction of cheetah onto the Selati Game Reserve.

Current world cheetah population around 6 500 to 7 000

Most cheetah occur outside of protected areas Over half the world's cheetah occur in Southern Africa



Message from the Chairman



Thank you to all our donors, partners, volunteers and supporters for your unwavering support in our journey toward a sustainable and harmonious future. Together, we can make a lasting difference.



Alan du Toit Chairman

I extend a warm welcome to the readers of this first Report of the SWF. The SWF was established as an NPC in 2018 and achieved Public Benefit status in March 2019. I am pleased to report that, since then, our organisation has made enormous progress on the journey to securing the long-term sustainability of the Selati Game Reserve and the surrounding wilderness areas adjacent to the Kruger National Park, working with a variety of partners and the support of local communities.

Our journey began in 2018, when the landowners of the Selati Game Reserve were facing a substantial financial burden associated with maintaining our wild areas, which was underpinned by an ongoing drought, the pressing challenges of rhino poaching and the need for elephant population management. It became clear to us that, as custodians of these ecosystems, we carry the unique responsibility and we cannot walk this road alone. In light of this, we set out to "spread the word" and attract likeminded individuals and entities to join us in supporting our conservation objectives.

This collective effort led to the establishment of the Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC, guided by our vision:

To be renowned for our role in conserving the biodiversity of this unique wilderness area, while educating and inspiring current and future generations to understand, value, and protect this irreplaceable heritage.

The success of the SWF can be attributed to the support of our stakeholders, including generous donors, dedicated partners, committed volunteers, our passionate staff and our esteemed Board. The Board consists of a diverse group of five individuals who each bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the table. I would like to express my gratitude to the late Dr Salomon Joubert, former executive director of the Kruger National Park and one of our original SWF Board members, for his invaluable contribution in assisting with the establishment of the non-profit company and setting the SWF on the right path.

87%

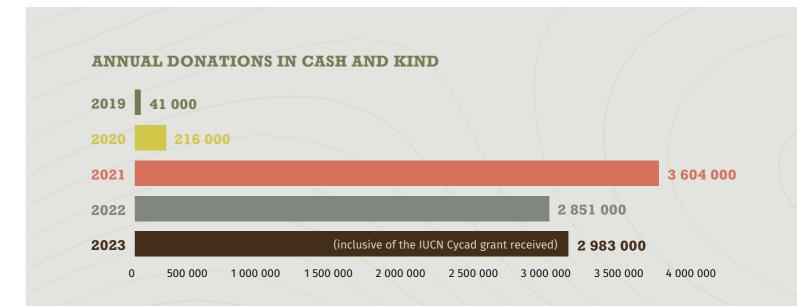
decrease in rhino poaching in the last 2 years compared to the previous 4 years with zero poaching in the FY23 year LoRa coverage increased to

91%

of the total Reserve area

R9.7m

Donations in cash and kind received since inception.



Message from the Chairman continued

Aligned with our vision statement, our mission is:

To raise support and funding through community initiatives, innovative research, and targeted conservation efforts that directly contribute to the long-term sustainability of the region's biodiversity.

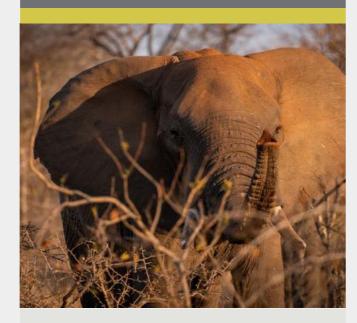
While these ideals seem ambitious, I am pleased to report that the SWF has exceeded its initial expectations. Since inception we have been able to initiate support for our neighbouring communities, provide a meaningful solution to the growing elephant population, enhance anti-poaching efforts through infrastructure development on the Selati Game Reserve, and assist with implementing a ground-breaking network system for monitoring endangered species and supporting anti-poaching teams in the field. We have also established the Bush Buddies outreach programme, which aims to address the issues of sustainability and income disparity via an experiential intervention on the Selati Game Reserve involving groups of youths from different economic backgrounds.

We need help on this journey and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors and partners who have supported the SWF with cash and in-kind donations. Over the years, our annual donation income has stabilised at around R3 million, as is indicated in the Annual Donation Income graph on the previous page.

The last three years' income was significantly boosted by the two grants awarded to the SWF by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Save Our Species), totalling approximately R2.4 million received to date. The first grant was instrumental in substantially improving our anti-poaching capabilities and the second, once implemented, will ensure the protection of the highly endangered Lillie Cycad (*Encephalartos dyerianus*). We anticipate executing the second IUCN Save Our Species grant in the upcoming 2024 financial year.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN CONSERVATION

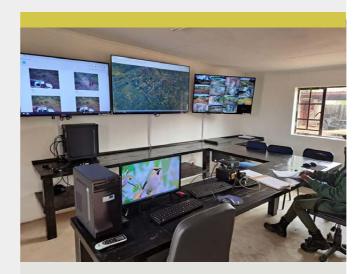
Since the establishment of the SWF, several key accomplishments in conservation stand out:



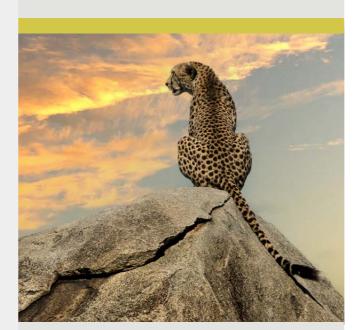
The elephant immunocontraception programme over the past three years on the Reserve, which has successfully curbed the calving rate of our elephant herds.



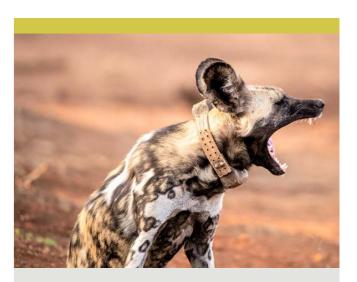
The dehorning of all rhinos on the Reserve, made possible through generous donations and our partnership with Wildscapes Veterinary and others.



The IUCN grant awarded in 2021 significantly strengthened our anti-poaching efforts and resulted in substantially reduced rhino poaching with zero rhino poaching incidents in FY23. It allowed for the construction of a 24-hour monitored operations room, thereby enhancing monitoring capabilities on the Reserve.



Financial support for ongoing cheetah reintroductions onto the Reserve, facilitated by our collaboration with the EWT and our partnership with Four Paws, a wine company that has also generously donated toward the cheetah programme.



The collaring of various species, such as elephants, rhinos (both black and white), cheetahs, wild dogs, and lions, to enhance monitoring efforts and to ensure their protection.

An advantage that comes with a closed system like the Selati Game Reserve is that the management of species necessitates interventions with many of these species. We have capitalised on this by promoting opportunities for small groups of people who are prepared to contribute to conservation in return for unique wildlife experiences of being alongside the professionals as they immobilise animals to carry out collaring and, the case of rhino, dehorning operations.

The SWF has also been fortunate to receive generous in-kind donations, including software assistance, pro bono veterinary support, vehicles, logistics and sponsorship for elephant immunocontraception. Since our inception, the total value of in-kind donations has amounted to approximately R5.3 million.

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Message from the Chairman continued

One of the challenges of being reliant on donation income is that it is usually unpredictable and lumpy. To counter this, we are actively seeking partnerships with like-minded organisations to explore ways of creating annuity income in the form of donations, which will assist the financial sustainability of the SWF. We have a number of projects in the pipeline which we hope will bear fruit in the near future.

We are privileged to have reputable partners who have significantly contributed to our success. These include the IUCN Save Our Species, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), the Humane Society International, BirdLife South Africa, Wildscapes Veterinary, and the University of Wales. I would like to express my sincere thanks to these and all the other entities and individuals that have supported the SWF on its journey.

On the community front, we are preparing to restart our Bush Buddies programme. This successful initiative was started by the Selati Game Reserve in 2016, but had to be mothballed during the two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme aims at addressing challenging conundrums

of the income gap and climate change that humanity is facing at this time. These are deep-rooted problems which are not going to be resolved without a significant shift in mindsets and attitudes across the globe. Young people attending school today are going to be profoundly impacted by these phenomena. Using the faciliatory powers of the wilderness, the thrust of the programme is to bring about meaningful change to young lives by bringing together scholars from different backgrounds (Letsitele-based Zivuko Secondary School and Nelspruit-based Penryn College) to learn more about themselves and the environment and, in so doing, equip them better for navigating a future world of uncertainty, particularly in relation to climate change and the income gap.

In another community initiative, we have supported the Gravelotte Primary School by renovating and improving a hall and playground to comfortably accommodate a group of Grade R learners. In the coming year, we plan to implement conservation classes and assist with ecovegetable gardens to provide sustainable, healthy food sources for the learners and teachers.

Governance

The directors of SWF are acutely aware of the governance and fiduciary responsibilities placed upon them and the diligence this requires in ensuring that donor funds are raised and deployed in accordance with the MOI of the organisation and in compliance with all governing legislation and regulations. We undertake an annual review of our annual financial statements, by our appointed auditors, which are made available to all our donors and stakeholders.

Looking to the future

Like many other non-profit organisations, the SWF faces numerous challenges, including the increasing competition for funding from various wildlife conservation charities worldwide and the need to stay abreast of regulatory requirements. Despite these challenges, we have also identified emerging opportunities to broaden our conservation message and engage the public more effectively.

Looking ahead, a key focus for the SWF is to achieve financial sustainability through secure annuity donations. In this regard, we will collaborate with like-minded entities to create offerings that resonate with the conservation-minded public.

Currently, we are working on a project involving the larger birding community. The SWF has invested in innovative technology which allows us to monitor and live-stream the nesting activity of birds. We have cameras set up on Verreaux's eagle and Martial eagle nests, which open a window of insight to the activities of these magnificent raptors during their breeding cycle. We plan to raise conservation funds in the coming financial year by making the live-stream available to the birding fraternity in a novel way that will illuminate the story unfolding on the nest.

Another exciting initiative involves linking the sales of a specially-branded wine to raising funds for our cheetah reintroduction efforts at Selati.

In conclusion, I invite you to join us on our mission to safeguard the remarkable biodiversity of this extraordinary wilderness area. Together, let us continue to inspire and educate current and future generations about the importance of cherishing and preserving our natural heritage. By understanding, valuing and protecting this irreplaceable ecosystem, we can ensure its thriving existence for years to come. Thank you to all our donors, partners, volunteers and supporters for your unwavering support in our journey toward a sustainable and harmonious future. Together, we can make a lasting difference.





Elephant Management

The elephant population at Selati has grown substantially to the present number of around 170 elephants.

A total of 68 elephants were reintroduced into Selati from the Kruger National Park between 1996 and 2002. The management and control of Selati's elephant population is an emotive issue and subject to debate across the world. Elephant numbers on the Selati Game Reserve have more than doubled since the reintroduction of the species.

Proper stewardship in the conservation of all species, both fauna and flora, on Selati requires that we find ways of managing our elephant population, particularly considering that, if left unchecked, population growth amongst elephants is 5–7% per annum.

ELATI WILDERNESS FOUNDATION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Read more information about the Giants of Selati Fund.

The African elephant is the largest land animal, weighing up to 6 350kgs

Highly intelligent, communicate through various means

Keystone species, shapes ecosystem and supports others





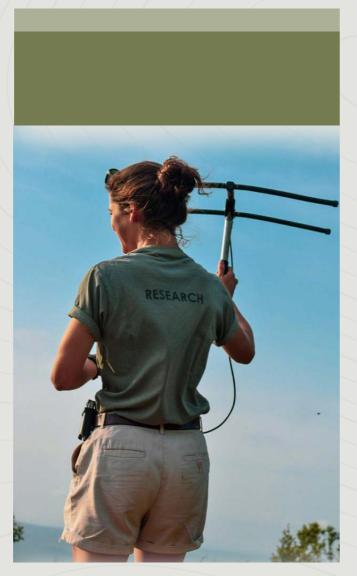


Technology and monitoring

Over the past few years, the Reserve has invested in different technologies with the strategy to maximise the effectiveness and longevity of Reserve monitoring through a synchronised platform that spans multiple departments.

In wildlife conservation, where the stakes are high and steadily climbing, knowledge really is power. By providing a means for more extensive, detailed and efficient data collection, modern technology has become indispensable in conservation efforts and has greatly improved the monitoring of wildlife, thereby assisting managers in making informed decisions. Over the past few years, the Reserve has invested in different technologies, with the strategy to maximise the effectiveness and longevity of Reserve monitoring through a synchronised platform that spans multiple departments.

The Research Team combines older monitoring techniques such as camera traps and very high frequency (VHF) collars, with newly added elements to their toolbox, including drones and tracking collars with a long-range (LoRa) component.







With the support of IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union

Technology has also been central to the SWF's anti-poaching objectives. Using funds donated by the IUCN Save Our Species grant, we have been able to build an Operations Room on the Reserve in order to ensure 24-hour monitoring through the CCTV system and the intelligent WPS live camera traps. The ArcGIS platform has enabled us to monitor vehicles, fences and wildlife in real-time through our LoRa wide-area network **(LoRaWAN)** and tracking devices.

Types of technologies

VHF RADIO TELEMETRY

VHF radio telemetry collars were one of the first real-time monitoring methods used to track individuals across a vast area. A transmitter attached to the collar on an individual pulses signals in the VHF portion of the electromagnetic spectrum at regular intervals.

Our team use handheld VHF receivers equipped with antennas to detect the signals emitted by the transmitters. These receivers are tuned to the specific frequency of each wildlife collar, allowing the monitors to track specific animals in the field.

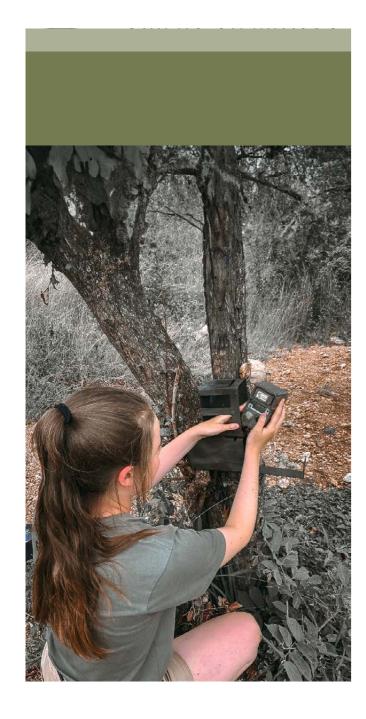
The collected data, specifically the location and movement patterns of the tracked animals, is analysed to gain insights into animals' behaviour, migratory routes, ranges and other interactions with their environment. This information helps the Management and Research teams to make informed decisions on conservation efforts and habitat management.

While this old technology is incredibly useful, radio telemetry can only pick up an animal's signal if the person using the telemetry is within line of sight of the animal, which can be tricky when working in a large landscape.

While newer technologies surpass certain capabilities of VHF telemetry, the equipment continues to be a technology we use every day for real-time tracking.



Technology and monitoring continued



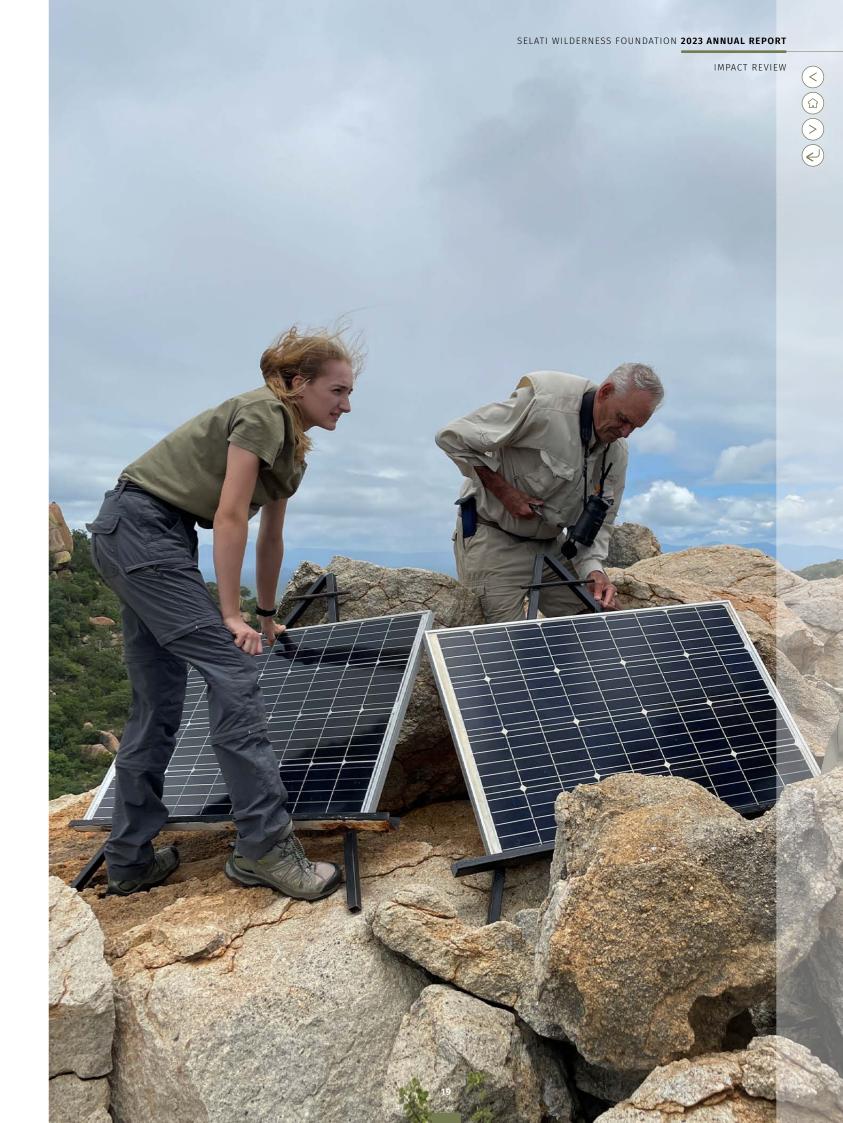
CAMERA TRAPS

Camera traps offer several advantages in wildlife tracking. They can operate for extended periods with minimal maintenance, capturing data continuously and without human presence, providing a non-invasive approach to monitoring wildlife. Additionally, numerous cameras can cover large areas and record data day and night, enabling the Research Team to study nocturnal or elusive species.

Camera traps use motion sensors or heat sensors to detect the movement or body heat of animals passing in front of the camera. In some cases, camera trap images can help identify individual animals or groups based on unique markings, scars, or other distinguishing features. This allows the team to track them over time and gather information about their movements, social structure and life history.

As we have been using camera traps in the Reserve for many years, we have located ideal camera trap locations through years of experience and multiple experiments. Significant sightings are likely to be close to waterholes, rubbing posts, actively used game paths and open areas. These camera traps assist with identifying and recording endangered species such as rhino and alert the Research Team if certain known individuals are not seen for a period of time. We have also recently deployed "intelligent" WPS cameras that can detect human presence and then provide notifications to the anti-poaching teams to follow up on. These have been highly successful in curbing poaching.

Overall, camera traps are valuable tools in wildlife tracking, providing valuable visual data that complements other tracking methods and contributes to a comprehensive understanding of animal behaviour and ecology, in addition to assisting with anti-poaching efforts.







One of the newest achievements is the procurement of a drone for monitoring in difficult to traverse areas. Drone wildlife monitoring allows you to cover larger areas and enables efficient monitoring, counting and protecting of wildlife. It provides GPS location and, with advanced imaging technology, drones capture high-resolution images and videos, enabling detailed habitats and species distribution analysis. By providing real-time data, drones aid in identifying potential threats to wildlife, such as poaching and habitat destruction.

The small and almost silent drone has been instrumental for Selati's black rhino monitoring. As a species, the black rhino is known for preferring dense bush with adequate browse. As a result, it is difficult to identify the individuals and have an adequate view before they run off. The drone allows for less invasive monitoring with a more successful outcome, giving the Research Team more insight into social interactions, body condition and new calves that are often not visible in thick vegetation.

LORA NETWORK EXPANSION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Selati Wildlife Research Team, led by Steven Seager, began to research alternate tracking technologies and also to review the current methods and practices in monitoring. With the front-end user experience in development, a new technology began to hit the conservation sector: low-power wide-area networks (LPWAN), mainly SigFox and LoRa. After further research and various innovative trials, the Selati Research Team decided to invest in the LoRa technology and build their network across the Reserve.

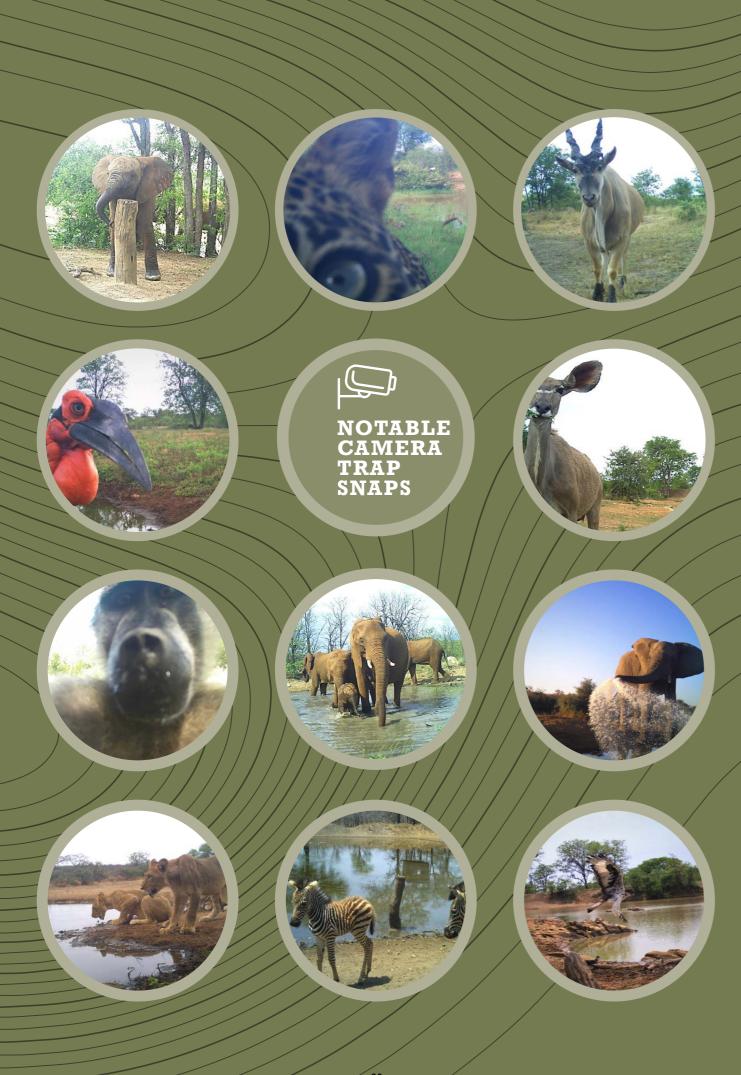
Significantly, the improved network capabilities of the Reserve will offer the potential to incorporate extra monitoring features. These include remote fence monitors, water tank probes and weather stations.

As many game reserves lack basic 3G or 4G internet coverage, this poses a challenge for device connectivity over a wide area. Wireless IoT (Internet of Things) solutions, such as those based on LPWAN, offer major potential for wildlife conservation efforts. IoT solutions to these reserves is to cover the conservation area with a reliable network, which serves to collect data from sensors distributed throughout the area. Once these end-devices are deployed and connected to the network, ecological teams can securely track wildlife movement. With the ideal topography, Selati erected three towers on the highest points of the Reserve, which resulted in 95% of the Reserve receiving LoRa coverage. This progress, backed by the SWF, significantly elevates the Reserve's capabilities in animal tracking, personnel monitoring and various other inputs. Significantly, the improved network capabilities of the Reserve will offer the potential to incorporate extra monitoring features. These include remote fence monitors, water tank probes, and weather stations. This collective advancement reinforces the Reserve's prominence and effectiveness in managing and overseeing its wildlife, resources and operational aspects.

In August 2022, the first two LoRa horn pods were fitted onto two black rhinos during a dehorning operation. While still in the early phases of testing, this newly developed tracking device uses the latest technology and has thus far proved to be promising for the future of rhino monitoring. Always with the goal in mind to protect our endangered species and improve our wildlife monitoring.

A landscape of LoRaWAN gateways provides a secure network that uses a low-power-efficient bandwidth to send small packets of data (e.g. GPS-coordinates) over a long distance. This is ideal for near real-time animal tracking through various collars and solar devices. The LoRa protocol and technology is energy-efficient, meaning that LoRa devices can achieve a longer life span compared to traditional cell networks and satellite collars. Once the network is set up, it is substantially less expensive to run.

We were able to deploy collars and horn pods on various endangered species with this new technology, thus enabling us to monitor their movement better, faster and more efficiently, resulting in a significant improvement in their protection.







Technology and monitoring continued

Fast Facts

© 25

Ecological camera traps



Camera trap photos per month

VHF collars



LoRa network towers

Drone

It is with thanks to the IUCN Save Our Species grant to the SWF that we were able to improve our LoRa network with additional gateways to increase signal coverage across the Reserve. This grant also allowed the installation of additional camera traps, the procurement of a drone for monitoring and multiple LoRa tracking devices. With this new technology, 2022 saw the highest level of wildlife monitoring, and therefore protection, in the Reserve's history.





With the support of IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union







Security on Selati

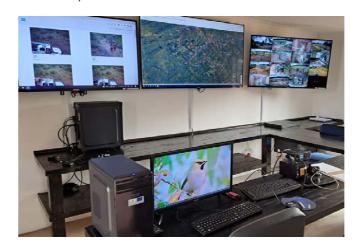
Over the last decade, international crime syndicates have targeted South Africa for its biodiversity of fauna and flora. Populations of, among others, white and black rhino, pangolins and certain rare cycads have been decimated. On Selati, which encompasses an area of 27 000ha, where biodiversity conservation is the focus, an appropriate level of security that can respond to ongoing threats is essential.

As with the rest of the rhino population range, this region has been witnessing an alarming surge in rhino poaching starting in 2008. From 2013 through to 2017 over 1 000 rhinos were being poached annually, posing a serious threat to their population. Tragically, even our Reserve has not been spared from this rampant illegal activity. Adding to the concern, the Reserve is also home to the world's sole remaining wild population of Encephalartos dyerianus cycads, which has also attracted the attention of poachers.

Over the past two years, the additional implementation of various anti-poaching measures, with assistance from the IUCN Save Our Species grant via the SWF, have resulted in a substantial decline of poaching activities on the Reserve.

TECHNOLOGY TACTICS

The construction and installation of the Operations Room on the Reserve was completed in April 2022 as part of the SWF's campaign to clamp down on poaching incidents. Trained environmental guards were employed as the Operations Room's dedicated monitors. With CCTV operating at all the gates, we are not only able to record and observe the entries, but also able to monitor and control access.



Technology has played a crucial role in combating poaching, with camera traps being a standout example. These traps send real-time notifications and images to authorised devices monitored by anti-poaching teams, proving highly effective. Notably, these camera traps possess the capability to differentiate between various animal species, humans and vehicles.

Another significant technological advancement is the ArcGIS dashboard, which integrates the LoRa technology with interactive mapping software, further enhancing security measures. The ability to track rare and endangered wildlife with LoRa tags on the Reserve has been invaluable. To bolster surveillance, fixed LoRa tags are installed in vehicles, while mobile LoRa units are provided to individuals on trails and contractors. All these movements are closely monitored through the Operations Room, empowering security teams with precise monitoring capabilities.

Being made aware of an incident in real-time allows for immediate deployment of the anti-poaching reactionary force, if necessary, and enables the anti-poaching team to respond more safely and effectively, with forewarning of the nature and size of the threat at hand.

Anti-poaching strategies are continually being revised in order to stay abreast of, and be effective against, an ever changing poaching threat. The SWF have, during the course of the year, funded two additional anti-poaching teams and was also instrumental in deploying the Hemmersbach Rhino Force team to assist on a zero cost basis our existing antipoaching force.

We are pleased to report that there have been no rhino losses on the Reserve during the past 18 months.

Technology and monitoring continued

Hemmersbach Rhino Force have also sponsored a dedicated vehicle and fixed-wing and helicopter surveillance flights over the Reserve. These happen regularly and are a deterrent to any poachers in the area.

As a Reserve, we were one of the founder members of the Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Foundation (GKEPF). Combining the security and counter-poaching function across the landscape, GKEPF has helped to bring together the Private Reserves, National and Provincial Government institutions, as well as Peace Parks Foundation and World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA). Selati is part of the Greater Kruger Area which covers an area in excess of 20 million ha of unfenced wilderness.

The call to have a united response was brought about by the unprecedented onslaught of rhino poaching, but elephant ivory, pangolins and other species in the illegal wildlife trade are also a joint focus. Collectively, we are trying to counter the measures that the international crime syndicates deploy in sourcing these illegal wildlife products. GKEPF plays a pivotal role in co-ordinating and directing operational aspects in anti-poaching operations and supporting community work, supplying technology and other higher-level support.





Photography by Marius Swart

WILDLIFE



PRE SER VAT ION

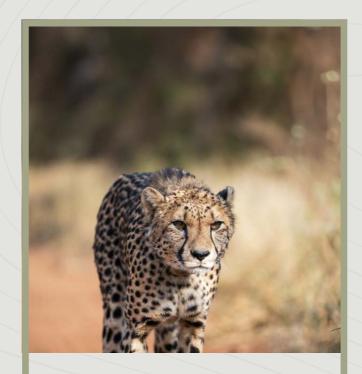


Cheetah reintroduction at Selati

Over time, cheetah populations have been affected by predators, vehicular traffic, hunting, conflicts between humans and animals and poaching. Each additional loss poses a significant threat to the survival of a steadily diminishing population.

Selati's relationship with the EWT has enabled the SWF to financially support the introduction of cheetah onto the Reserve as part of EWT's **Metapopulation Initiative.** These cats have been successfully reintroduced onto Selati. **The aim is to raise cheetahs in the wild rather than to breed them in captivity.**

The Metapopulation Initiative swaps cheetah between participating reserves to simulate the natural expansive distribution of cheetah populations in order to prevent inbreeding and improve genetic diversity.

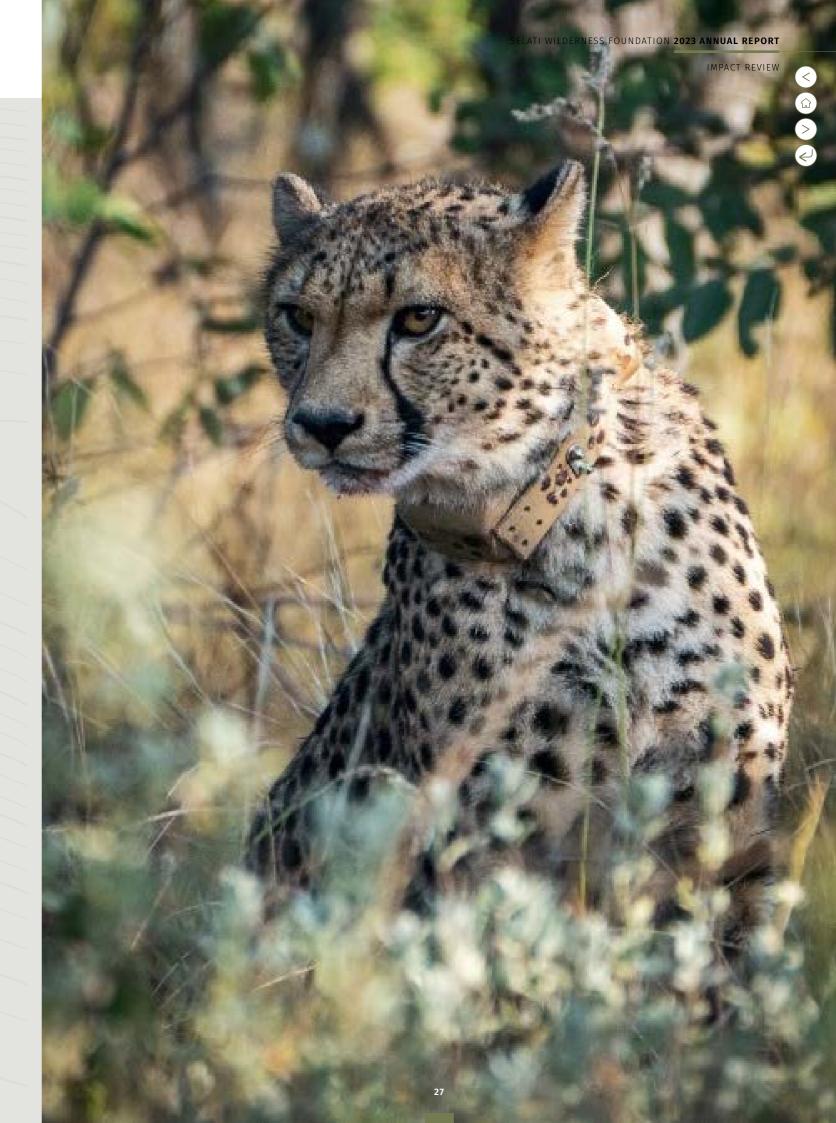


2023 Status

The female cheetah pictured here was introduced to the Reserve in May 2023.

She has settled in very well and has adapted quickly to her environment. Following the stress of transport, we would typically expect that animals would not be able to hunt or eat for a number of days. On the day following this cheetah's release onto the Reserve, however, she hunted and ate an impala with very promising confidence and dexterity.

She has been fitted with a collar so she can be monitored closely by the Research Team with the help of our volunteers.







heetahs reintroduction at Selati continued

• Between 2000 and 2010, two male cheetahs were regularly seen in the north-eastern area of Reserve.

After 2010, only one of the males was occasionally seen.

2015

- Selati had the opportunity to introduce three young cheetahs from the Mountain Zebra National Park.
- During the translocation, however, one male died from the stress and, later, the female was found dead, likely killed by a leopard.

The surviving male was released onto the Reserve.

2016 - 2017

• Efforts were made to find a female cheetah and, eventually via EWT, a mature female was sourced from Welgevonden and introduced onto the Reserve.

She gave birth to a litter of seven cubs, which unfortunately did not survive infancy.

2018

• In November, she gave birth to a second litter of five cubs.

2020

• In January, four of the five cubs were healthy. Two males from the litter were swapped with another coalition of males from Nambiti Game Reserve to maintain genetic diversity.

During the same year, two female cheetahs were killed one by poachers and the other by a leopard.

2023

• One of the males escaped through the fence during the floods and was euthanised after being hit by a car.

The surviving brother has learnt to hunt on his own and has adapted to living independently.

Cheetahs reintroduction at Selati continued

KEY CHALLENGES

HUMANS

Human threats to cheetahs include vehicular traffic, trophy hunting, conflicts and poaching. Cheetahs are often killed in retaliation for the real and perceived threat they pose to livestock, or fall victim to the poisoned meat left by farmers for other predators. They are legally killed by trophy hunters and are illegally poached for various parts of their body, particularly their bones. Each additional loss poses a significant threat to the survival of a steadily diminishing population.

HABITAT

When it comes to habitat, cheetahs typically favour open grasslands, savannas and semi-desert areas. These habitats provide them with the necessary conditions for their hunting strategies, which rely on their incredible speed and agility. The presence of tall grasses or scattered trees and bushes is advantageous for their camouflage and stalking behaviour. The Selati topography, therefore, is not an "ideal" cheetah environment. The terrain is rocky with abundant vegetation and limited open plains. Additionally, the establishment of game farms in the region and the construction of fences have limited the movement of cheetahs, which depend on expansive territories. The cheetahs introduced thus far, however, have adapted very successfully to the Selati environment and have proven to be adept and resilient hunters.

SURVIVAL RATE

While cheetahs are formidable hunters in their own right, they can fall victim to larger predators, such as lions and hyenas. These predators can pose a threat to cheetahs, especially during feeding times when they may try to steal the cheetah's kill. Additionally, cheetah cubs are particularly vulnerable to predation, and their survival rate is relatively low due to predation by lions, leopards and hyenas. Selati has a healthy population of the main predators, which makes cheetah reintroduction challenging.



THE BENEFITS OF CHEETAH REINTRODUCTION

The advantage of reintroducing cheetahs was based not only on the conservation of this unique species, but also aimed at enhancing the biodiversity and balancing the ecological aspects of the Reserve.

- As the planet's fastest land animals, cheetahs are able to reach speeds of up to 130km/h when hunting, making them formidable hunters.
- The prey of choice for cheetahs are the smaller and younger herbivores. On the Reserve, the prey of choice is impala, the population of which is currently higher than the recommended upper limit for the Reserve.
- Cheetahs are thus important in contributing to balancing the predator/prey relationship for the overall benefit of the ecosystem.
- Eco-tourists value the ability to observe Cheetahs in the wild which in turn supports the conservation efforts of the Reserve.

Fast Facts

6 700

Population of cheetahs in the wild

4 300

.....

Approximate number of cheetahs in southern Africa

33%

of global cheetah population live within protected areas

Total cheetah range depleted annually by

2 – 3%

Cub survival rates in the Serengeti around

5%

Classified as

VULNERABLE

on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

View episode 1 of our 8-part Conservation Series

We created four breathtaking short documentary films, featuring Wildlife Experts and the Selati Research Team, around different conservation topics and our efforts at Selati Game Reserve.





As part of the Selati Cheetah Project, the Four Paws Wine Company has pledged its support to the SWF and has provided much-needed financial support by sponsoring a LoRa tracking collar, which has been placed onto one of our cheetahs and currently provides valuable real-time tracking data.

In addition to this, it has formulated two signature wine blends and named them after two of the farms that form part of the Reserve: "Huja" and "Lillie".

The SWF is very proud to participate in an initiative that pairs the SWF's prioritisation of wildlife preservation with Four Paws' sustainable farming ethos and practices.



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Managing elephant populations

The African Savannah Elephant and African Forest Elephant, the two subspecies of African elephants, are endangered and critically endangered, respectively. These rankings on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species have come about as a result of the decrease in elephant populations across the continent. Whereas African Forest Elephants are native to the Congo basin and the humid forests of Guinea, African Savannah Elephants inhabit the grasslands and dense bush of sub-Saharan Africa, including the South African Lowveld in which the Selati elephants find their home.



The population of African savannah elephants (hereafter "elephants") has decreased by approximately 60% over the past 50 years.1 Scientists have estimated that population growth will continue to shrink at a rate of 8% per year as a result of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss and conflicts with humans.2 The elephant population in southern Africa, however, is stable and increasing as a result of sustained conservation efforts by non-profit organisations and heightened enforcement of antipoaching policies by a number of African governments.



African Elephant: Strong, Smart, but Vulnerable WWF-UK, https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/wildlife/african-elephants (accessed June 12, 2023)
Michael Chase et al. "Continent-wide survey reveals massive decline in African savannah elephants" PeerJ (2016) 4:e23 54 https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.2354



Managing elephant populations continued



Population density in Selati

Selati received 68 elephants from the Kruger National Park between 1996 and 2002 and was able to successfully reintroduce them. Over the past 20 years, this number has increased to around 177 elephants, a number that consulting ecologists consider to be at the upper limit of a beneficial population density for the Reserve.

Known as "landscape engineers", elephants are keystone species which regulate resource availability for other, smaller, species by moving the physical environment around them and, in doing so, transform, maintain and create habitats.

Population density of elephants on the Reserve is relevant because, while elephants play an important role in the ecosystem, their behaviours can be damaging to overall biodiversity when observed on the larger scale. Elephants are a keystone species and, as such, have a disproportionate impact on the ecosystem. Known also as "landscape engineers", elephants regulate resource availability for other, smaller, species by altering the physical environment around them and, in doing so, transform, maintain and create habitats. Elephants are key role-players in the seed dispersal of plants, often travelling long distances after ingesting the seeds before releasing them elsewhere. Elephants also feed on the foliage of tall trees, pulling the branches and trunks lower toward themselves and making the bottom boughs available to smaller herbivores.

Elephants' interactions with trees, however, can be problematic when large numbers of trees, especially near water sources, are ring barked or pulled down. This results in a loss of tree cover and shade, as well as a loss of safe nesting spaces for other endangered animals such as the Martial eagle and many species of vulture, all of which are species protected within the Reserve.





statistical errors. The numbers are also affected by elephants that

The management and control of elephant populations is a controversial topic and is subject to debate across the world. Proper stewardship in the conservation of all species, both fauna and flora, on Selati requires that we find ways of managing our elephant population, particularly considering that, if left unchecked, population growth among elephants is 5% to 7% per

Giants of Selati: immunocontraception project

As a result of this annual population growth rate, we have proactively implemented a non-hormonal immunocontraception programme, named Giants of Selati, to effectively manage the elephant population within our fenced Reserve, while simultaneously preserving the essential biodiversity of the ecosystem.

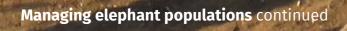
Initially, as part of the elephant population management efforts of the Reserve, we undertook a vasectomising programme in 2012 on 14 elephant bulls on the Reserve. This was sponsored, in part, by Disney Animal Kingdom and veterinarians from the USA, together with their South African counterparts. The programme was initially successful until such time as outside foreign adult bulls breached the Reserve from the Kruger National Park and other surrounding reserves.

Predicted population growth requires us to put plans in place to ensure that the density remains at a sustainable level. To do so, the Reserve initiated a PZP (porcine zona pellucida) immunocontraception vaccine for 63 cows in 2020, 48 in 2021 and 52 in 2022. It takes three years for it to take effect as the gestation period for an elephant cow is 22 months, and the vaccine does not prevent the females from giving birth if already pregnant. For the initial 2020 programme, the SWF successfully launched the Giants of Selati fund, which raised sufficient funds to cover this operation in its entirety. We were also assisted by veterinarian Dr Johan Marais, from Saving the Survivors, who donated his expertise and time.

For the next two years, the SWF entered into an agreement in terms of which the Humane Society International fully sponsored the event. The results of this programme are starting to become evident, with only three new born calves been counted during the last annual census.

The increase in elephant numbers from 158 to 177 over the previous two years is due mainly to outside elephants breaking into the Reserve, as well as a limited number of new calves being born. The number of new calves have decreased substantially as the contraception programme takes effect.







IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE ABOUT THE PZP IMMUNOCONTRACEPTION VACCINE:

- This procedure has been researched and applied on private reserves in South Africa since 2000. There are currently some 800 to 1 000 elephant cows on the programme on 26 reserves.
- The procedure requires administering a vaccine via drop-out darts to adult cows. This is done by use of a helicopter and does not require immobilisation of the cow.
- This vaccine prevents the cow from conceiving for a period of up to one year and thereafter annual booster doses are administered.
- The vaccine has been shown to have no hormonal side-effects on the cows and will not harm the foetus should the cow already be pregnant.
- Should the cow perish from natural causes, the vaccine is also safe in the food chain.
- The procedure is completely reversible.
- Only a percentage of the cows are treated, which allows for calves to be born periodically in order to maintain a normal social structure. This incremental population growth is designed to counterbalance the natural mortality rate in order for populations to remain stable.

This programme requires annual funding to ensure its efficacy and we need your help. **Donate now** and help make a difference to all the fauna and flora on Selati.



In May 2023, an elephant was spotted on the Reserve with a deep cut around its leg from a snare. The Research Team immediately set up a snare removal/injury treatment operation. With the assistance of The Aspinall Foundation, which quickly agreed to fund the helicopter hours for the operation, the pilot was able to locate the elephant quickly and one of our local wildlife veterinarians was able to dart the elephant in order to administer treatment with minimal stress. He and his team treated the injuries and shared some knowledge about the elephant. Fortunately the snare had already fallen off. The Research Team, with its volunteers, coordinated and supported the whole operation and was able to collect valuable data.

Snares are set up by poachers to catch animals effectively at a low cost. While we were able to react quickly, we also endeavour to inhibit the setting of snares in the first place. Snares are fatal for some animals and those that do manage to escape are left with serious injuries.











View episode 3 'Elephant Management' of our 8-part Conservation Series on YouTube

We have completed four breathtaking short documentary films, featuring Wildlife Experts and the Selati Research Team, around different conservation topics and our efforts at the Reserve.

Read more about the Elephant

Immunocontraception project at http://selatiwf.org/elephant-management/









Refuge for black and white rhinos

Selati provides a safe home for black and white rhinos. The Reserve has come under increased pressure to protect its rhino population following the dramatic upswing in rhino horn poaching that has taken place across the country over the last nine years.

The wellbeing of these endangered species is a major focus of the management and owners of the Reserve.

They are keenly aware of the responsibilities of their custodianship role and how managing the rhino population on the Reserve impacts the overall effort to safeguard and conserve the species in Africa.





The Reserve is the custodian of rare black rhinos on behalf of the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Board. This programme, known as the **Black Rhino Range Expansion Project**, is sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and seeks to extend the range of the endangered black rhino. The Reserve was the first site in Limpopo to be selected for this project because of its high biodiversity and ecology. Selati thus has committed to the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Board and the WWF to provide a secure environment for these animals.

Protecting our rhinos

Anti-poaching measures include the dehorning of animals and an elaborate and intensive monitoring programme for both species. The camera trap data and LoRa monitoring technology is key to the management and protection of our rhino populations and is both collated and reported to the Reserve management on a regular basis. The Selati Research Team, together with our partners, are at the forefront of developing and implementing tracking technology for rhinos. During the year, the SWF have sponsored a dedicated black rhino monitor to actively track and monitor the black rhino population.

Dehorning rhinos, as a conservation strategy, is aimed at reducing their attractiveness as poaching targets due to the high value of their horns in illegal wildlife trade. Although not a permanent solution, dehorning may act as a short-to-medium-term measure to buy time for other conservation efforts – such as strengthening law enforcement, raising awareness, and implementing community-based conservation programmes – to take effect.



The Research Team is tasked with the continual and intensive monitoring of the population of black and white rhinos using camera traps, radio tracking and a monitoring drone.

The main benefits of dehorning include:

Deterring poachers: Removing the horns significantly reduces the financial incentive for poachers to target rhinos. Poachers often risk their lives to acquire rhino horns due to their high demand in traditional medicine and luxury goods markets. By removing the horns, the potential profits from poaching decrease substantially, making rhinos less appealing targets.

Reducing danger: Poaching incidents can lead to violent confrontations between poachers and rangers, resulting in injuries or death to both humans and rhinos. Dehorning reduces the likelihood of such confrontations, making rhinos safer in their natural habitats.

Conserving the species: Poaching is one of the major threats to rhino populations, leading to a decline in their numbers over the years. Dehorning helps safeguard the rhino population by discouraging illegal hunting and allowing the animals to continue their role in maintaining ecosystem balance.

Minimal relative impact: When done correctly and by experienced professionals, dehorning does not harm the rhinos. Rhino horns are composed of keratin, similar to human fingernails, and removing them does not cause pain or significant behavioural changes in the animals.³

The costs involved in dehorning are, however, not one of its benefits. The process required is complex and costly and requires specialised veterinary teams, equipment, and logistical support. The cost of dehorning can vary depending on factors such as the number of rhinos involved, the location of the operation, and the specific safety measures required.

These costs are also ongoing as rhino horns, made of keratin, have the ability to regrow over time. To maintain the effectiveness of dehorning as a deterrent against poaching, the process needs to be repeated approximately every 18 to 24 months. This ongoing process demands continuous monitoring and resource allocation to ensure its success.

Although listed as one of the benefits, the impact of dehorning is a controversial and hotly-debated issue. Some critics argue that dehorning may affect the rhinos' social interactions, mating behaviour, and territorial defence capabilities. This underscores the importance of approaching dehorning as a temporary solution as part of a comprehensive conservation strategy, combining various approaches to protect rhinos effectively.



Rhino poaching statistics

Reflecting on a tumultuous decade

Refuge for black and white rhinos continued

After six years (2013 – 2018) of relative success in minimising poaching incidents on the Reserve, it was crucial for us to understand what led to the devastating spike in incidents between 2019 and 2021.

After extensive investigation, it became clear that the spike could be attributed to one individual who had worked with small teams in his poaching exploits. This poacher had been caught and convicted after operating on the Balule and Klaserie reserves adjoining the Kruger National Park years prior. During COVID-19 he was, unfortunately, pardoned and released.

He returned to poaching rhinos and was relentless in his attempts to infiltrate the Reserve, as well as others in the area. Our team obtained camera trap footage of him walking on rhino tracks with an assistant. He was also captured on a camera trap attempting (and failing) to steal one of the Lillie Cycads during this time. The outsourced field ranger security team at the time was unable to stop this poaching onslaught.

In January 2022, notice of a vehicle tagged as a possible poaching threat was received and this vehicle was pulled over in Hoedspruit. The poacher in question was a passenger in this vehicle and, on searching the vehicle, two rhino horns were found in the engine bay.

Through fast-tracked DNA analysis done in Onderstepoort in Pretoria, we were able to prove that the horns were those of a white rhino cow that had been poached a couple of days before, in the Reserve. He was re-arrested at the scene.

Since his re-arrest and the appointment of the Reserve's new security service provider, we have not had one poaching incident. In this way, the SWF was able to make a tangible difference using the funds granted by an IUCN Save Our Species Rapid Response Grant.

The direct poaching threat has been addressed with newly appointed field rangers, a fully equipped Operations Room, and additional new equipment in the form of real-time information camera traps and mobile monitoring devices facilitated by the LoRa technology. Regular fixed-wing surveillance flights are also undertaken over the Reserve. This, apart from being an obvious visual deterrent, allows the ground teams to respond to carcasses spotted on the Reserve using coordinates provided by the pilot, and to determine whether humans were involved in the animal's death.

Although the international demand for rhino horn remains a big factor, we are pleased to have been able to respond in a way that has increased the risk for poachers to enter the Reserve.

SELATI GAME RESERVE RHINO POACHING HISTORY

2011 1 2012 4

2013 0 2014 1

2015 0 2016 1

2017 0

2018 1 2019 6

2020

2022

2023 0

See our rhino sales policy at

https://selatiwf. org/wp-content/ uploads/2021/11/ Rhino-sales-policy.pdf

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Ethical population management

A primary objective at the Reserve is the management and safeguarding of the biodiversity of the habitat. This necessitates the management of rhino numbers and from time-to-time animals are sold to third parties.

Refuge for black and white rhinos continued

In these circumstances, the owners of the Reserve have committed themselves to use their best endeavours to ensure that rhino are only sold to ethical buyers for conservation purposes. This means no rhinos will be sold to individuals or entities where it is known that there is the intention to hunt the animals and no rhino will be sold to individuals or entities known to be connected to the shooting, hunting or poaching of rhinos.







Fast Facts Black Rhino introduced



In 2010, via an agreement with the KwaZulu-Natal Conservation Board, a founder population of black rhino were introduced for the first time onto the Reserve. This project, sponsored by the WWF, is known as the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project.

The black rhino calving success has been positive on the Reserve.

With several cows now approaching maturity, the population growth rate will hopefully increase as those cows promote the recruitment of additional calves.

Black and white rhinos have evolved within distinct ecological niches that minimise competition between the two species.

Black rhinos tend to inhabit more densely vegetated areas, such as forests and thickets, while white rhinos favour open grasslands. These habitat preferences further contribute to the segregation of their ecological roles, allowing both species to coexist without significant ecological overlap or intense competition.



Raptor programmes

Raptor conservation in South Africa is crucial for several reasons, not least of which being that these birds of prey play critical roles in maintaining the ecological balance and overall health of the environment. Here are some key reasons why raptor conservation is crucial in South Africa:

Pest Control: Many raptors, such as owls and hawks, are excellent hunters of rodents. They help control rodent populations in agricultural areas, reducing the need for harmful pesticides and promoting more sustainable farming practices.

Ecosystem Health: Raptors' rodent control function also extends to control populations of small non-rodent mammals, preventing populations of rodents and other small prey species from becoming overabundant and disrupting ecosystems. By regulating these populations, raptors help maintain biodiversity and ensure the stability of the entire ecosystem.

Indicator Species: Raptors are considered "indicator species" because their presence, abundance and behaviour can reflect the overall health of an ecosystem. Declines in raptor populations may indicate environmental issues such as habitat degradation or pollution.

SELATI WILDERNESS FOUNDATION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT IMPACT REVIEW Conservation of Migratory Species: South Africa serves as a critical stopover and wintering site for numerous migratory raptors. Protecting their habitats in the country is essential for maintaining their populations throughout their entire migratory range. **Cultural and Ecotourism Value:** Raptors hold cultural significance for many South African cultures and are often considered symbols of power, strength and wisdom. Additionally, they attract ecotourists and birdwatchers from around the world, contributing to the country's ecotourism industry and local economies.





The Selati Martial Eagle and Verreaux's Eagle projects

Both Martial and Verreaux's Eagles have bred on the Reserve for many years. Despite incidental nest observations having been recorded previously, thorough documentation of a breeding cycle from nest reconstruction to post-fledging has not been undertaken anywhere.

Both the Martial Eagle (Polemaetus bellicosus) and the Verreaux's Eagle (Aquila verreauxii), also known as the black eagle or the African black eagle, are large and powerful eagles found on the Reserve.

The Martial Eagle is known for its striking appearance, characterised by a dark brown plumage, a prominent crest on its head, dark-spotted white underbelly and piercing yellow eyes. A female Martial Eagle is typically larger than a male, and can stand as tall as 83cm and weigh as much as 4.7kg.

Martial Eagles have disappeared from much of their former range and are now categorised as "Endangered" in South Africa, Namibia, eSwatini and Lesotho. This is because, over the past three decades, its population is recorded to have undergone severe decreases.

While a Verreaux's Eagle is also large, it is slightly smaller than the Martial Eagle, with a wingspan of around 2.2m. The Verreaux's Eagle is mostly black, with a white "V" shape on its back and a feathered crest.





The Verreaux's Eagle has been categorised as a nearthreatened species by the IUCN as a result of its relative scarcity and localised distribution. Conservation endeavours aim to preserve its habitats, promote awareness, and study its biology to assure its long-term survival.



With assistance from John Davies of the EWT Birds of Prey Programme (BOPP), we were able to ring and measure a fledgling Martial Eagle in September 2020. We took the opportunity of this nest disturbance to place a live camera trap at the Martial pair's nest. We installed a similar live camera at a known Verreaux's pair's nest for the same reasons.

The SWF has funded the setting up and implementation of the live cameras on both nests. The feed from these cameras are received within the landing pages on the SWF website. The images and live video from the cameras have enabled us to document nest activity and prey species during the entire breeding and rearing process. Collecting data and observations on these birds is important for the scientific community, but is crucial for their conservation. In addition, we have partnered with BirdLife South Africa with a view to bringing this unique wildlife interaction into the lives of many birding enthusiasts by making a livestream of each of the nests available during daylight hours, seven days a week. Access to the live-stream is designed so as to afford the SWF the opportunity to raise funds for

conservation by way of a subscription-based membership. In this trial, it was agreed that the subscription-based membership would become a free membership as we test and learn from different approaches. It is planned that commentary and insights on what is unfolding in the nest will be provided by an expert for the purpose. Members will have access to curated highlights packages and bone fide researchers will be afforded free access to the information generated by this initiative.

The camera systems at both nests now allow us to document the Martial and Verreaux's Eagles' breeding biology including behaviour, incubation, chick development and fledging prey selection, and postfledging dependence on each nest.





The Selati Martial Eagle and Verreaux's Eagle projects continued

Key challenges to raptor conservation

- Increasing habitat loss
- Power line collisions
- Poisoning and human threats

In August 2021, the Martial Eagle system was upgraded to a solar-powered, real-time, motion-activated imaging system capable of capturing still images and streaming continuous live video footage of nest activity. The system hardware was installed in August 2021 in anticipation of the Martial pair returning to start the biennial breeding cycle around April 2022.

Unfortunately, despite a sighting of a Martial Eagle visiting the nest in February 2022, the 2020 pair did not return as anticipated. Instead, we had a showing of a pair much later between June and July 2022. After some initial uncertainty, it transpired that the 2022 female had returned. The male, however, was younger than the 2020 male and, as a juvenile, was too young to mate. We speculate that the female paired up with the new young male following the death of her original partner.



It is hoped that this pair will return to breed next year and, if so, we look forward to capturing the action and telling the story.





successfully implemented and sending live footage via a member registration portal of the SWF website.





from the Verreaux Eagle nest during daylight hours.

The male Martial Eagle which was seen in 2022 was a juvenile and the pair did not nest



January 2023 | Installing an artificial ground hornbill nest on **Selati Game Reserve** with the Mabula Ground **Hornbill Project**

The Southern Ground Hornbill (Bucorvus leadbeateri) is considered internationally as "Vulnerable" throughout their range in Africa by the IUCN, but within South Africa they have been classified as "Endangered", with their numbers outside of formally protected areas still declining.

By providing them with a viable artificial nest on the Reserve we can help boost their numbers and encourage them to breed. The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project works towards slowing and reversing the decline of the species. They focus on installing and monitoring artificial nests and studying the birds' reproduction and behaviour.









Vulture Safe Zone

As a family of birds, vultures are fascinating to some, offputting to others. Factually, however, they play a crucial role as wildlife's most valuable scavengers as they remove carrion, which might otherwise harbour and spread disease, more efficiently than any other bird, mammal, reptile or fish. 4 Vultures also play an important role in nutrient cycling, they are important for many African cultures, and have economic importance for tourism. Most African vulture populations are in rapid decline, largely due to poisoning, the trade in vulture body parts for use in traditional medicine, collisions with - and electrocutions on - energy infrastructure, and land-use changes. Poisonings are rife, but are also often unintended; farmers often lace meat, fruit or water with toxic pesticides in order to kill lions, cheetahs and jackals, which hunt their livestock, or elephants and buffalo, which damage crops.5

Vultures will eat the laced meat – or the carcass of an animal that, itself, succumbed to poison - and even one such occurrence can lead to the deaths of up to 500 vultures.

Darcy Ogada "Effects of vulture declines on facultative scavengers and potential implications for mammalian disease transmission" Conservation Biology 26 3 (2012): pp. 453 - 460 as cited in Meredith Gore et al. "A conservation criminology-based desk assessment of vulture poisoning in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area" Global Ecology and Conservation 23 2020: p. 2

Gore et al. (2020) p. 2

Birds of Prey Programme Endangered Wildlife Trust, https://ewt.org.za/what-we-do/ saving-species/birds-of-prey/ (accessed June 8, 2023)



Conservationists globally have undertaken projects aimed at preserving all species of vulture and their populations. The EWT Vulture and Raptor Conservation and Research Group are involved in the monitoring and study of vultures and raptors. Selati provides a feeding site for these vultures which enables tagging and tracking studies of these vultures to take place. The site attracts and facilitates the study of a large number of rare Hooded, Lappet Face and the vulnerable White-Headed Vultures which are recorded and monitored.

The EWT BOPP currently has five active Vulture Safe Zone projects being managed in different regions of South Africa. Within these zones, conservationists work to reduce the impacts of the causes of population decline listed above. They also engage with landowners, farmers and communities to guide them on how to minimise ecological damage and manage their properties and livelihoods in wildlife-friendly ways.6

To the same end, the Selati Reserve is keen to become part of the Lowveld Vulture Safe Zone, and will soon undergo Phase I, which involves evaluating and disclosing potential threats to vultures on the Reserve. Thereafter, Phase II will involve reducing (or eliminating) any of these potential threats on the Reserve.

POISON PREVENTION

The BOPP Vulture Safe Zone project is endeavouring to create Vulture Safe Zones in both the Lowveld and the Karoo. Their research will cover a large area that is vital for nesting and foraging for vultures. Keeping in mind that vultures have exceptionally large home-ranges, the vultures we are seeing on Selati could come from as far away as KwaZulu-Natal, eSwatini, Namibia, Botswana or Zimbabwe. The Vulture Safe Zones aim to remove the threats to vultures in these areas. In the Lowveld, a vulture poisoning hotspot⁷, we are focusing on the threat of poisoning.

Sixteen Selati staff members attended a Poison Intervention Training Course held at Selati Head Quarters in April 2021 to learn about why people use poison, as well as the risks of poison, the signs of poisoning in mammals and birds, and what to do if they find a wildlife poisoning scene. EWT staff hope to do refresher courses at Selati each year, to keep the signs of poisoning in mammals and birds, and the risks of poisoning, fresh in people's minds.



SUM OF ANNUAL VULTURE MORTALITY FROM THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE POISONING DATABASE

YEAR	2001	2002	2003	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
GLTFCA (Including Zimbabwe and Mozambique	9			71		1			76	191	78	16	88	185	192	237	261		1 405
LOWVELD	23	30		45									66			8			172
TOTAL	32	30		116		1			76	191	78	16	154	185	192	245	261		1 577



THE VULTURE RESTAURANT

A vulture restaurant is a designated, uninhabited site that offers vultures and other scavengers a consistent and safe source of meat. During periods of food scarcity and when young birds are starting to fledge, feeding sites like vulture restaurants can serve as vital sources of sustenance.

In addition to providing a secure food supply, vulture restaurants can offer nearby abattoirs and farmers an economically viable method for disposing of carcasses. By utilising vulture restaurants, these entities actively contribute to conservation initiatives while ensuring the environmentally-friendly disposal of their waste materials.

While it is the intention of conservationists to provide a beneficial source of poison-free food for the vultures, this does not eliminate the risk of them finding carrion elsewhere that could be tainted with fragments of lead from lead ammunition, or with pharmaceuticals such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or drugs used to anaesthetise or euthanise animals.

The Reserve has maintained a vulture restaurant, which was established on Farm Josephine in 1987, prior to the Reserve's inception in 1993. As part of Selati's ongoing research programmes, the vulture restaurant also provides a good area for research and tagging of vultures which provides valuable information on vulture movement and causes of mortality. The SWF has plans to maintain support for the ongoing vulture restaurant and assist with raising funds to support research going forward.

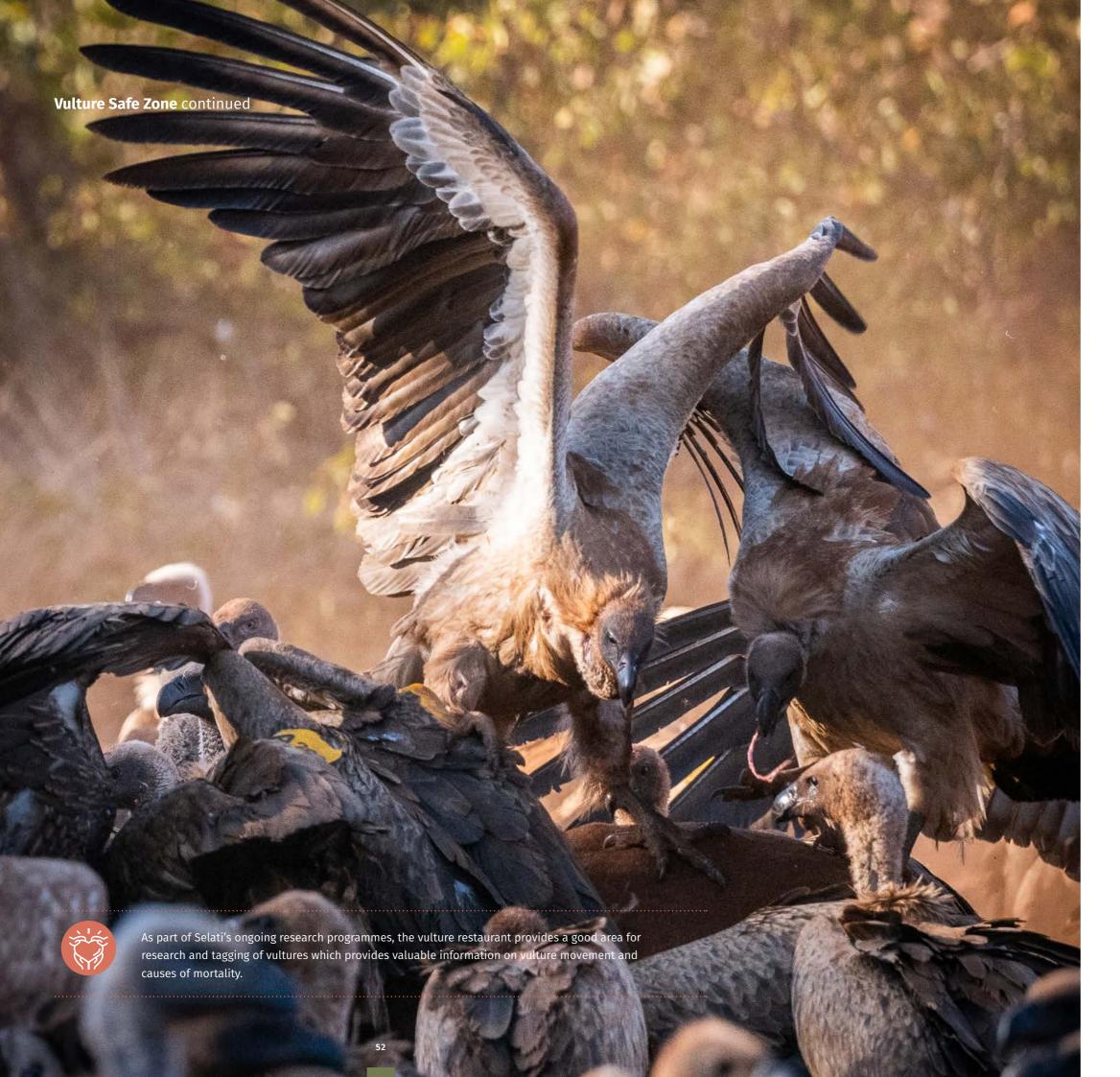
VULTURES OBSERVED ON SELATI INCLUDE:

The Hooded, White-backed, Cape, White-headed and Lappet-faced. All of these (apart from the Cape) are treenesting vultures, while the Cape Vulture nests on cliffs at colonies such as at the nearby Manoutsa (https://www.savenues.com/attractionslm/manoutsa-vulture-colony.php) and Blouberg Nature Reserve in Limpopo. (https://www.bloubergreserve.co.za/about/wildlife.html)

View episode 2 "Vulture Conservation" of our 8-par

We have completed four breathtaking short documentary films, featuring Wildlife Experts and the Selati Research Team, around









Endangered cycads



Home of the Lillie Cycad

Selati supports an extremely diverse geological substructure, which is home to many different plant communities. A vast range of woody plant populations have been discovered, with the most unique being the *Encephalartos dyerianus* – an extremely rare cycad species.

Cycads have fallen victim to widespread poaching across the globe, but particularly in South Africa, resulting in a devastating decline in numbers. A number of endemic cycad species have been declared extinct, while others have been reduced to fewer than 100 in number. Of the approximately 343 species of cycad remaining, South Africa is home to 37, which equates to more than half of the number of cycad species found in Africa.

Known as the Lillie Cycad, or *Lillie-broodboom, Encephalartos dyerianus* is endemic to South Africa and is prized by private collectors for its rarity. Cycads are typically sought-after plants because of their stature and attractiveness as ornamental landscaping plants. The Lillie Cycad has characteristically blue-green colouring on its leaves and cones, and dense foliage comprising rigid, leathery leaflets on elongated leaves which can reach up to 1.3m.⁸ These cycads are listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix I, which details critically endangered species of plants and animals globally.

The granite hills of the Lillie Cycad Reserve (in the southern part of the Reserve) are home to the only known naturally occurring colony of this species in the world. These cycads are protected day and night by armed patrols.

In partnership with government and the Department of Nature Conservation, a proposal to re-establish and grow the population within new areas has been approved. Chris Oosthuizen and the SWF Chair, Alan du Toit – with input from Arnold Frisby, a plant ecologist from Pretoria University – have compiled a proposal for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism that recommends and requests the establishment of a cycad nursery on Selati.

The report outlines a proposal to actively cultivate *Encephalartos dyerianus* seedlings for the purpose of augmenting the population in the current habitat and establishing new populations at suitable sites in Selati. This involves the pollination and collection of seed from the Lillie Flora Nature Reserve for controlled germination within a dedicated on-site nursery prior to planting in the wild.

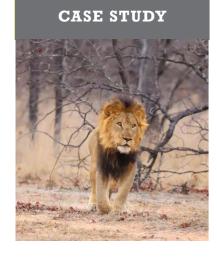
The SWF has received a substantial grant from the IUCN Save Our Species to protect the Lillie Cycad Reserve. This grant will be implemented during the course of the current financial year.



Lavranos & DL Goode, "Encephalartos dyerianus" PlantZAfrica.com. South African National Biodiversity Institute, September 2022, https://pza.sanbi.org/encephalartos dyerianus (accessed July 2023)



CON SER VAT ION



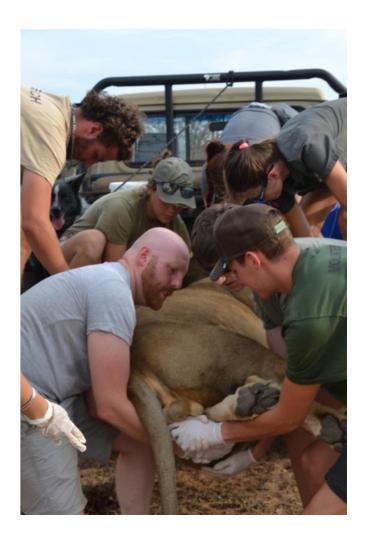
Selati's pride

The decline in the numbers of lions in sub-Saharan Africa can be attributed to the illegal trade of lion prey for their meat, targeted poaching of lions for body parts, habitat loss and fragmentation and conflict with humans due to the threat lions pose to livestock.

Selati Game Reserve manages species for biodiversity, which means maintaining a delicate balance between predators and prey species. Without contraception, lion populations can quickly get out of control and will outcompete more vulnerable predators such as cheetahs and wild dogs. An overpopulation of lions can also cause a steep population decline in large and sparse antelope species such as sable and eland. The contraception used for Selati's female lions only lasts 12 to 24 months, which makes it fully reversible and allows the management to decide which females should be placed on contraception and for how long.

In a combined operation between the Selati Research Team and Dr Johan Marais of Saving the Survivors, three lionesses were located and re-collared, while two were given a long-term contraceptive implant. The collars, drugs and Dr Marais' time were all funded through Saving the Survivors. Although Selati Game Reserve is close to 28 000ha, it is unique in that it currently has only one pride of lions. Due to the lions having such a large home range and not having the threat of encountering other lions, the pride often fragments into smaller groups during the day. This fragmentation makes our monitoring more difficult as tracking a single animal typically does not result in a visual of the whole pride. As a result, we need to collar multiple individuals in order to monitor the population as a whole.

The collaring of lions is a critical component in Selati's overall vision of creating a sustainable ecosystem which maximises diversity at all levels. In order to create a sustainable ecosystem and effectively manage it, we need as much information as possible regarding the population dynamics of our top predators. Fitting collars on key individuals allows us to track the lions using radio telemetry and LoRa technology, meaning we can monitor the pride on a weekly basis. Through this monitoring, we collect data on pride dynamics, parentage and genetics, diet and prey preference, habitat usage, behaviour, growth and development, and more. This knowledge is then used in combination with data of other predators, general game, and veld condition to give insights into the Reserve's carrying capacity so that no one species outcompetes another.



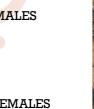
Current Population



SUB-ADULT MALES













CON SER VAT ION

CASE STUDY



Wild dogs

African wild dogs, also known as painted dogs or African hunting dogs, are listed as "Endangered" by the IUCN. There are several key reasons why this is so, many of which are common to nearly all species with declining populations.

THESE INCLUDE:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation;
- Poaching and hunting;
- 3 Conflict with humans and poisoning; and
- 4 Climate change.

CERTAIN FACTORS ARE RELATIVELY UNIQUE TO WILD DOGS, AND THESE ARE LISTED BELOW:

1. Disease and competition:

Wild dogs are susceptible to various diseases, including rabies, canine distemper and parvovirus, which can spread from domestic dogs.

This susceptibility to diseases can lead to significant population declines. Moreover, wild dogs face competition from larger predators like lions and hyenas, which can result in conflicts over resources and put pressure on their survival.

2. Low reproductive survival rates:

Wild dogs have relatively low reproductive survival rates compared to other large carnivores.

Although they typically have large litters, not all pups in a litter survive to adulthood. This slow reproductive survival rate makes it challenging for their populations to recover quickly from declines.

3. Lack of public awareness and support:

When compared to more well-known species, such as lions and elephants, wild dogs rarely attract the same level of attention and support. Limited public awareness and understanding of the importance of wild dogs in the ecosystem can hinder conservation efforts and funding.

A population of nine wild dogs was introduced onto the Reserve in April 2022. The alpha female gave birth one month after introduction, with six pups surviving their first year of life. The dogs are predator-aware and have proved to be incredibly successful hunters. In partnership with EWT, several of the wild dogs have been collared, which has facilitated the monitoring of their behaviour and compatibility on the Reserve.

5







COM MUN ITY



Community outreach



Gravelotte Primary School provides schooling to the children of Gravelotte and the surrounding rural areas. In 2019 and 2020, the SWF collaborated with its headmaster in establishing a very necessary early-learning centre for its Grade R and Grade RR learners.

The SWF believes in working with local communities, and its collaboration with the school is aimed at benefiting the entire community. It appreciates the significance of early childhood education in establishing a child's social, emotional and cognitive development and provided financial assistance for the centre and undertook various projects to improve the school's facilities, including installing toilets, plumbing, renewing flooring, lights, windows, refurbishing doors and painting. The Selati Game Reserve staff also contributed their time and labour to these projects.

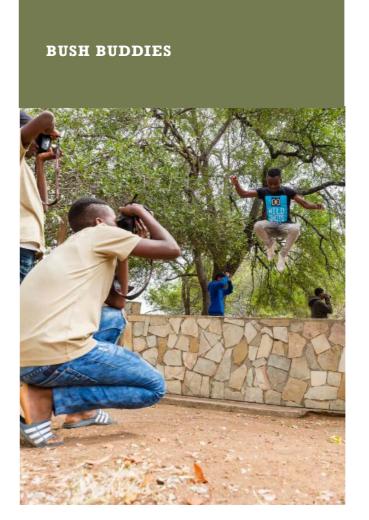
Many of the students travel long distances to attend the school, and their parents make sacrifices to afford the fees because they value the safe environment and dedicated teachers.

When the headmaster took on the role in 2014, the school was facing challenges such as declining student numbers and the closure of the boarding facility. At that time it was plain to him that, although limited, the school's infrastructure and its immediate environment and community offered the resources required to re-establish the school as a central part of the community.

The school has seen positive results following the establishment of the centre, with the student population now at 280 learners. By all accounts, the Grade R programme provides a strong foundation for the learners as they progress to Grade 1 and beyond and classes have proved to be engaging for the children. Many of the students travel long distances to attend the school, and their parents make sacrifices to afford the fees because they value the safe environment and dedicated teachers.

The SWF has furnished and equipped the classroom and has appealed to members and friends of Selati for donations of books, toys suitable for children aged 4–6, and furnishings such as bookshelves, a teacher's desk, and play mats. Together with the headmaster, the space has been developed to accommodate activities such as a reading corner, play area, and group work area.

The SWF has also established a fund to help provide school uniforms for the learners. In the coming year it is planned to assist the school with eco-vegetable gardens that will provide sustainable sources of healthy food. There are also plans afoot to engage with learners around the ecological challenges that are prevalent and relevant to our joint local environment.



Through the Bush Buddies programme, students from different backgrounds come together to learn about conservation and establish friendships. The programme emphasises offline interactions, allowing students to get to know each other without the use of cellphones or social media. Bush Buddies pairs learners from Penryn College in Nelspruit with learners from Zivuko Secondary School in Letsitele, creating connections between young people that may not otherwise exist.

The weekends take place in the Selati Game Reserve and provide a range of opportunities to learn bushcraft basics, identifying and tracking animals, as well as how to assess river health, map the heavens and dissect an animal. At the same time, the learners are able to observe over 50 species of mammals on the Reserve.

Bush Buddies pairs learners from Penryn College in Nelspruit with learners from Zivuko Secondary School in Letsitele, creating connections between young people that may not otherwise exist.

In 2019, the Bush Buddies programme collaborated with Wild Shots Outreach to offer a photography workshop for academically meritorious students. Wild Shots Outreach uses photography to engage with young people who live around the Kruger National Park and to educate them about conservation. During the programme, one student from Zivuko Secondary School, Jaytee Makhubele, was recognised for her photography skills as she showed an understanding for the topics covered during the conservation discussions and exhibited a natural eye for composition. As a result, she received an Olympus camera sponsored by Wild Shots Outreach. Her achievement in photography is a testament to the programme's effectiveness in nurturing talent and passion in young individuals.

Wild Shots Outreach, which uses photography to engage youth in conservation, has taken approximately 220 learners through its workshops. Graduates of the programme have gone on to pursue careers in the industry or pursue tertiary education.

The SWF aims to break down barriers and promote intersocietal understanding between members of the next generation through this experiential event on the Reserve. The purpose is also to foster interest and passion for conservation. Ultimately, the SWF and the Selati Game Reserve aspire to contribute to the social upliftment of all South Africans through sustainable conservation practices.

2









Our Board of Directors



Alan du Toit (Chairman)

Alan is an owner on the
Reserve who has served on
the Selati Board of Directors
for many years. He is a current
Exco member at Selati. Alan
graduated with B.Sc Honours in
Geology and Geophysics and is a
conservationist.



Rob Snaddon

Rob was the driving force in negotiating with surrounding farmers and owners in creating the Selati Game Reserve and the establishment of the Constitution. For a large portion of Selati's existence Rob was its chairman and guided the Reserve to what it is today. Rob was previously Managing Director of the family company HL Hall & Sons for many years and until recently was non-executive chairman of their Board of Directors.



Garth Batchelor

Garth studied Zoology at the University of Natal, his Honours at Rhodes and completed an M.Sc and Ph.D at the Rand Afrikaans University. He worked as Director for Environmental Management for the Mpumalanga Provincial Government. Garth is well-known for his research on birds and has received two Owl Awards from BirdLife South Africa. His research on Crowned Eagles was also acknowledged by the Endangered Wildlife Trust when he received the "Raptor Conservationist of the year Award" in 2013.



Pieter Wessels

Pieter is the newest Board member, joining the SWF in 2022. He is the Managing Director of Lightstone, a data and insights provider in the automotive and residential property industries. He leads a dynamic team of auto experts that provide workflow, data and analytical solutions to the automotive industry. As a wildlife enthusiast, Pieter values conservation and believes in leaving the world better than how you found it.



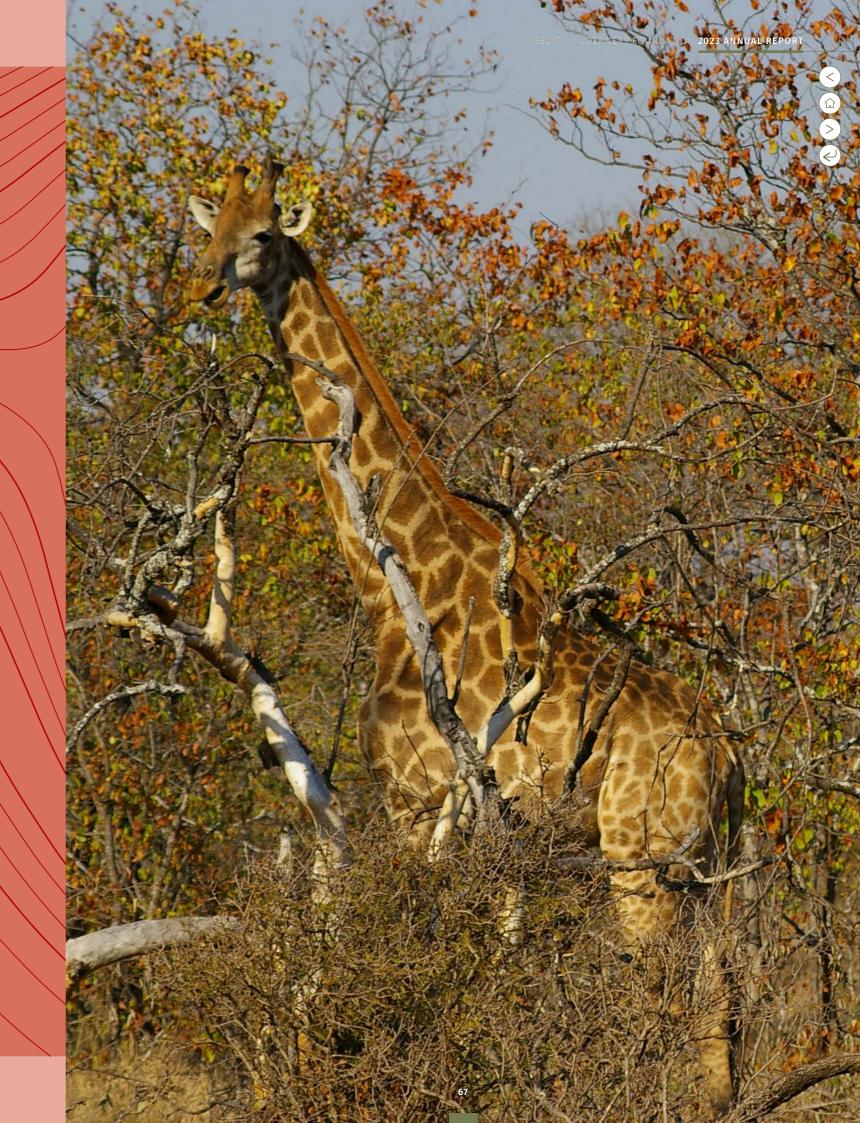
Val Joubert

Val is a conservationist and was a resident owner in Selati Game Reserve from 1996 to 2022. Born in Canada, raised and educated in England. Val has lived in Africa since 1982, starting in Zambia's Luangwa Valley and then moving to Botswana's Linyanti and Selinda areas with late husband artist Keith Joubert. She has travelled extensively in Africa's wildlife areas as a freelance travel writer and photographer and has also owned an art gallery in Chobe, Botswana.

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SUP PORT











Support our work

As a registered NPC, we handle donations transparently and channel funds towards anti-poaching efforts, protecting endangered wildlife and supporting local communities and schools.



Support our work

Account name: Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC

Name of bank:

Investec Bank Limited

Branch name:

Grayston Drive

Branch code:

580105

Account number: 1001 222 9229

Swift code:

IVESZAJJXXX

Join as a volunteer

The SWF actively supports the Selati Research volunteer team.

- By joining the team you will experience the adventure of a lifetime and make a real impact on wildlife. Whether you are seeking a meaningful holiday, a purposeful sabbatical, or an opportunity to conduct field research, Selati Research is the perfect place for you.
- As a volunteer, you will play a vital role in progressing conservation efforts at the Big 5 Game Reserve. You will work alongside the dedicated Selati Research Team, directly contributing to real conservation work and actively assisting endangered wildlife species.
- Join the Team in their daily tasks of monitoring, data collection and maintenance of camera traps, among other conservation and research-related activities. You will also have the chance to support office work, processing camera trap footage and entering valuable data. For longer stays, you may even have the opportunity to develop your own research project if desired.
- Immerse yourself in knowledge as you learn about the Reserve's ecology and the vital role each species plays in the ecosystem. Gain a deeper understanding of the environmental impact of population growth and decline. Enhance your knowledge of animal behaviour, tracks and signs during exhilarating daily game drives.



- Get up close and personal with wild animals as you help monitor endangered and vulnerable species like lions, cheetahs, African wild dogs, and rhinos. Contribute to data collection efforts for leopards, elephants, hyenas, and many more fascinating creatures. Experience moments when darting and immobilisation is necessary for tasks such as fitting collars, treating injuries, or relocating animals. You will be actively involved in these vital tasks.
- While conservation work can be challenging, we believe in balance. Take breaks and explore the Reserve, creating unforgettable memories along the way. Enjoy sundowners, climb koppies for breathtaking views, or even indulge in a thrilling sleep-out in the bush. Engage in lively conversations with like-minded individuals, sharing your passion for wildlife and conservation over braais.
- Join us at Selati Research and become part of a team that is actively making a real difference. Embark on an extraordinary journey, create lasting memories, and contribute to the preservation of our precious wildlife. Apply now and be part of the adventure!

Contact information

Selati Game Reserve is located near the town of Gravelotte in Limpopo Province, South Africa between: longitude 30° 38' 42" E and 30° 54' 26" E and latitude 23° 54' 25" S and 24° 05' 09" S

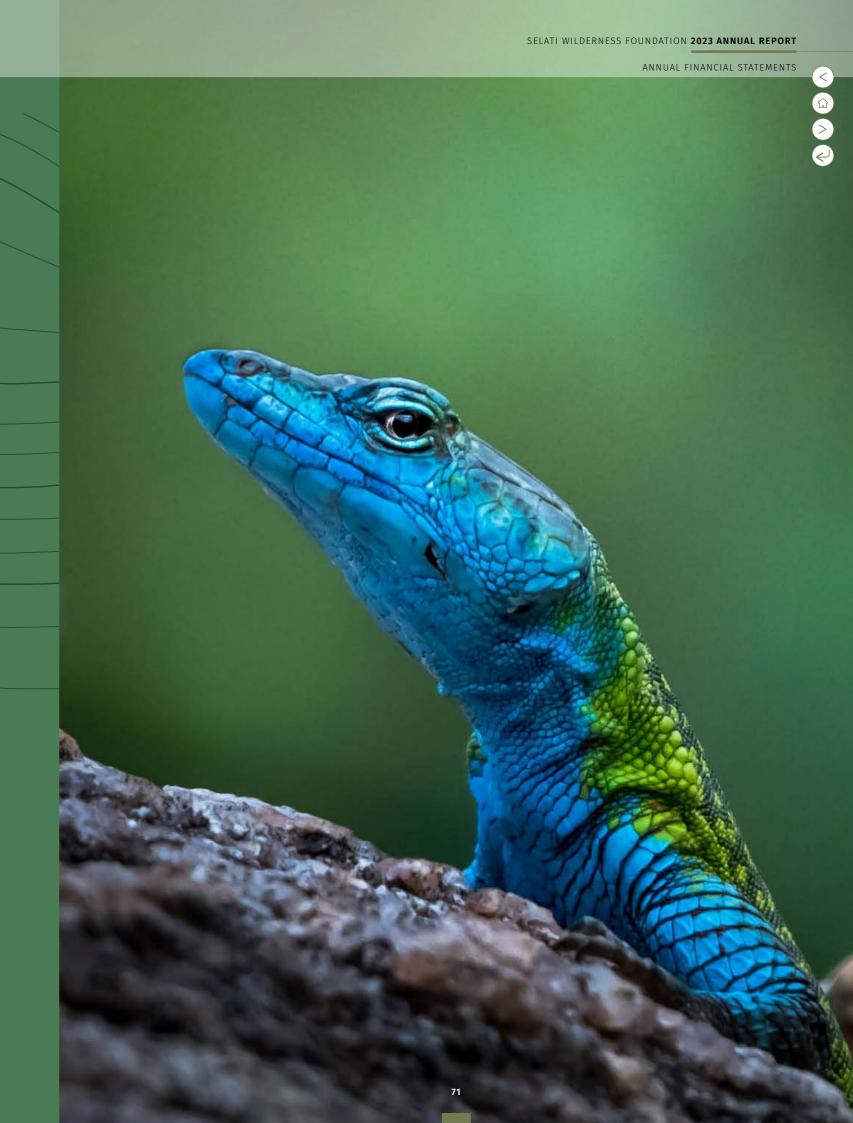
admin@selatiwf.org
015 318 4432

The Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC, founded in 2018, is a registered non-profit company (registration number: 2018/090330/08) and is registered with the South African Department of Social Development as a Non-Profit Organisation. The SWF is also registered with the South African Revenue Service as a Public Benefit Company, which allows for tax efficient donations to be made.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023



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ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

General Information

Country of incorporation and domicile

South Africa

Nature of business and principal activities To promote environmental awareness, to lend support to rural schools,

to advance the protection of endangered species and to promote and support

anti-poaching activities.

Directors **GR Batchelor**

> AK Du Toit VA Joubert **RWL Snaddon** PH Wessels

Business address Selati Game Reserve

Farm Arundel 788LT Gravelotte

0895

Banker Investec Bank Limited

Reviewer **BDO South Africa Incorporated**

Registered Auditors

Company registration number 2018/090330/08

Tax reference number 9058722258

Level of assurance These financial statements have been independently reviewed in compliance with

the applicable requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa.

Preparer The annual financial statements were independently compiled by:

BDO Business Services Proprietary Limited

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Issued 8 September 2023

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Accounting Policies

Detailed Income Statement

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

Page Directors' Responsibilities and Approval Directors' Report Independent Reviewer's Report Statement of Financial Position 77 Statement of Comprehensive Income 78 Statement of Changes in Equity 79 Statement of Cash Flows 80

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The reports and statements set out below comprise the annual financial statements presented to the directors:

Directors' Report



Directors' Responsibilities and **Approval**

The directors are required by the Companies Act of South Africa, to maintain adequate accounting records and are responsible for the content and integrity of the annual financial statements and related financial information included in this report. It is their responsibility to ensure that the annual financial statements fairly present the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for the period then ended, in conformity with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa.

The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa and are based upon appropriate accounting policies consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The directors acknowledge that they are ultimately responsible for the system of internal financial control established by the company and place considerable importance on maintaining a strong control environment. To enable the directors to meet these responsibilities. the directors set standards for internal control aimed at reducing the risk of error or loss in a cost effective manner. These standards include the proper delegation of responsibilities within a clearly defined framework, effective accounting procedures and adequate segregation of duties to ensure an acceptable level of risk. These controls are monitored throughout the company and all employees are required to maintain the highest ethical standards in ensuring the company's business is conducted in a manner that in all reasonable circumstances is above reproach. The focus of risk management in the company is on identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring all known forms of

risk across the company. While operating risk cannot be fully eliminated, the company endeavours to minimise it by ensuring that appropriate infrastructure, controls, systems and ethical behaviour are applied and managed within predetermined procedures and constraints.

The directors are of the opinion, based on the information and explanations given by management, that the system of internal control provides reasonable assurance that the financial records may be relied on for the preparation of the annual financial statements. However, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or

The directors have reviewed the company's cash flow forecast for the year to 29 February 2024 and, in the light of this review and the current financial position, they are satisfied that the company has or has access to adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The independent reviewer is responsible for independently reviewing and reporting on the company's financial statements. The financial statements have been examined by the company's independent reviewer and their report is presented on page 76.

The annual financial statements set out on pages 77 to 88, which have been prepared on the going concern basis, were approved by the directors on 8 September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

AK Du Toit

The directors have pleasure in submitting their report on the annual financial statements of The Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC for the year ended 28 February 2023.

1. Nature of business

The Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC was incorporated in South Africa. The company operates in South Africa.

The principal activity of the non-profit company is to promote environmental awareness, to lend support to rural schools, to advance the protection of endangered species and to promote and support anti-poaching activities.

There have been no material changes to the nature of the company's business from the prior year.

2. Review of financial results and activities

The annual financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa. The accounting policies have been applied consistently compared to the prior year.

Full details of the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the company are set out in these annual financial statements.

3. Directors

The directors in office at the date of this report are as follows:

Directors	Changes
GR Batchelor	
AK Du Toit	
VA Joubert	
RWL Snaddon	
PH Wessels	Appointed 30 August 2022

4. Events after the reporting period

The directors are not aware of any material event which occurred after the reporting date and up to the date of this report.

5. Going concern

The directors believes that the company has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and accordingly the annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have satisfied themselves that the company is in a sound financial position and that it has access to sufficient borrowing facilities to meet its foreseeable cash requirements. The directors are not aware of any new material changes that may adversely impact the company. The directors are also not aware of any material noncompliance with statutory or regulatory requirements or of any pending changes to legislation which may affect the company.

6. Review

The financial statements are subject to an independent review and have been reviewed by BDO South Africa Incorporated.



Tel: +27 12 433 0160 www.bdo.co.za

221 Garsfontein Road Building 5, 2nd Floor Menlyn, Pretoria, 0081 PO Box 95438 Waterkloof, 0145

South Africa

SELATI WILDERNESS FOUNDATION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

1,806,819

1,404,805

as at 28 February 2023

Total Equity and Liabilities

Statement of Financial Position

R 480,027 10,800 54,253	316,962 10,800
10,800	
10,800	
10,800	
	10,800
	10,800
54,253	
	71,733
261,739	1,005,310
326,792	1,087,843
06,819	1,404,805
961,945	1,344,751
	60,054
9	961,945 844,874

Independent Reviewer's Report

To the directors of

The Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC

We have reviewed the financial statements of The Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC set out on pages 6 to 15, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 28 February 2023 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Independent Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on these financial statements. We conducted our review in accordance with the International Standard on Review Engagements (ISRE) 2400 (Revised), Engagements to Review Historical Financial Statements. ISRE 2400 (Revised) requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, taken as a whole, are not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with ISRE 2400 (Revised) is a limited assurance engagement. The independent reviewer performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Basis for Qualified Conclusion

As is common with similar organisations, it is not feasible for the company to institute accounting controls over cash receipts prior to initial entry of the receipts in the accounting records. Accordingly, it was impractical for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually

Qualified Conclusion

Based on our review, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Conclusion paragraph, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC as at 28 February 2023, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa.

Other Reports required by the Companies Act of South Africa

The annual financial statements include the Directors' Report as required by the Companies Act of South Africa and the Detailed Income Statement. The directors are responsible for the Directors' Report and the Detailed Income Statement. Our conclusion on the financial statements does not cover the Directors' Report and the Detailed Income Statement and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion

In connection with our independent review of the financial statements, we have read the Directors' Report and the Detailed Income Statement and, in doing so, considered whether the Directors' Report is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the independent review, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the Directors' Report and the Detailed Income Statement, we will report that fact. We have nothing to report in

BDO South Africa Incorporated

Registered Auditors Martin McGarrigle

Registered Auditor 08 September 2023

Building 5, Summit Place Office Park 221 Garsfontein Road Menlyn, 0181

BDO South Africa Incorporated Registration number: 1995/002310/21 Practice number: 905526 VAT number: 4910148685

Chief Executive Officer: LD Mokoena

A full list of all company directors is available on www.bdo.co.za

The company's principal place of business is at The Wanderers Office Park, 52 Corlett Drive, Illovo, Johannesburg where a list of directors' names is available for inspection. BDO South Africa Incorporated, a South African personal liability company, is a member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 28 February 2023

	2023	2022
Note(s)	R	R
	4.070.400	4040500
Non-profit receipts 7	1,272,120	1,848,629
Administrative expenses	(31,938)	(18,038)
Other expenses	(1,639,234)	(790,221)
(Deficit)/surplus from non-profit activities	(399,052)	1,040,370
Investment income	16,869	1,878
Finance costs	(623)	(6)
(Deficit)/surplus before taxation	(382,806)	1,042,242
Taxation 8	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(382,806)	1,042,242

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 28 February 2023

N	o+o(s)	Retained income	Total equity
No.	ote(s)	R	R
Balance at 1 March 2021		302,509	302,509
Surplus for the year		1,042,242	1,042,242
Balance at 1 March 2022		1,344,751	1,344,751
Deficit for the year	8	(382,806)	(382,806)
Balance at 28 February 2023		961,945	961,945

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounting policies

for the year ended 28 February 2023







2023 2022 Note(s) R R Cash flows from non-profit operating activities Cash generated from non-profit operating activities 558,211 1,050,273 16,869 1,878 Interest income (6) (623)Finance costs Net cash from non-profit operating activities 574,457 1,052,145 Cash flows from investing activities (318,028)(317,984)Purchase of property, plant and equipment Net cash from investing activities (318,028)(317,984)Total cash movement for the year 256,429 734,161 Cash at the beginning of the year 1,005,310 271,149

5

1,261,739

1,005,310

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 28 February 2023

Total cash at end of the year

Basis of preparation and summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities and the requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa. The annual financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, and incorporate the principal accounting policies set out below. They are presented in South African Rands.

These accounting policies are consistent with the previous period.

1.1 SIGNIFICANT JUDGEMENTS AND SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Critical judgements in applying accounting policies

Management are required to make critical judgements in applying accounting policies from time-to-time. The judgements, apart from those involving estimations, that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the annual financial statements, are outlined as follows:

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The following are the key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

The company reviews the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment when changing circumstances indicate that they may have changed since the most recent reporting date.

Impairment testing

The company reviews and tests the carrying value of property, plant and equipment when events or changes in circumstances suggest that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. When such indicators exist, management determine the recoverable amount by performing value in use and fair value calculations. These calculations require the use of estimates and assumptions. When it is not possible to determine the recoverable amount for an individual asset, management assesses the recoverable amount for the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

The non-profit company has been approved by the Tax Exempt Unit (TEU) of the South African Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisation on 15 February 2019, Public Benefit Organisation number 930062893.

Judgement is required in determining the provision for income taxes due to the complexity of legislation. There are many transactions and calculations for which the ultimate tax determination is uncertain during the ordinary course of business. The company recognises liabilities for anticipated tax audit issues based on estimates of whether additional taxes will be due. Where the final tax outcome of these matters is different from the amounts that were initially recorded, such differences will impact the income tax and deferred tax provisions in the period in which such determination is made.

The company recognises the net future tax benefit related to deferred income tax assets to the extent that it is probable that the deductible temporary differences will reverse in the foreseeable future. Assessing the recoverability of deferred income tax assets requires the company to make significant estimates related to expectations of future taxable income. Estimates of future taxable income are based on forecast cash flows from operations and the application of existing tax laws in each jurisdiction. To the extent that future cash flows and taxable income differ significantly from estimates, the ability of the company to realise the net deferred tax assets recorded at the end of the reporting period could be impacted.

Accounting policies continued

1.2 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment are tangible assets which the company holds for its own use or for rental to others and which are expected to be used for more than one period.

Property, plant and equipment is initially measured at cost.

Cost includes costs incurred initially to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment and costs incurred subsequently to add to, replace part of, or service it. If a replacement cost is recognised in the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment, the carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised.

Expenditure incurred subsequently for major services, additions to or replacements of parts of property, plant and equipment are capitalised if it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the expenditure will flow to the company and the cost can be measured reliably. Day to day servicing costs are included in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

Property, plant and equipment is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses, except for land which is stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation of an asset commences when the asset is available for use as intended by management. Depreciation is charged to write off the asset's carrying amount over its estimated useful life to its estimated residual value, using a method that best reflects the pattern in which the asset's economic benefits are consumed by the company.

The useful lives of items of property, plant and equipment have been assessed as follows:

Item	Depreciation method	Average useful life	
Computer equipment	Straight line	3 years	
Computer software	Straight line	3 years	
Environmental equipment	Straight line	6 years	
Operational sites	Straight line	10 years	

When indicators are present that the useful lives and residual values of items of property, plant and equipment have changed since the most recent annual reporting date, they are reassessed. Any changes are accounted for prospectively as a change in accounting estimate.

Impairment tests are performed on property, plant and equipment when there is an indicator that they may be impaired. When the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment is assessed to be higher than the estimated recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss to bring the carrying amount in line with the recoverable amount.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its continued use or disposal. Any gain or loss arising from the derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment, determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds, if any, and the carrying amount of the item, is included in profit or loss when the item is derecognised.

1.3 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Initial measurement

Financial instruments are initially measured at the transaction price (including transaction costs except in the initial measurement of financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value through profit or loss) unless the arrangement constitutes, in effect, a financing transaction in which case it is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial instruments at amortised cost

These include loans, trade receivables, trade payables and cash and cash equivalents. Those debt instruments which meet the criteria in section 11.8(b) of the standard, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments which are classified as current assets or current liabilities are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash expected to be received or paid, unless the arrangement effectively constitutes a financing transaction.

At each reporting date, the carrying amounts of assets held in this category are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence of impairment. If there is objective evidence, the recoverable amount is estimated and compared with the carrying amount. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

1.4 TAX

Tax expense

The non-profit company has been approved by the TEU of the South African Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisations on 15 February 2019, Public Benefit Organisation number 930062893.

Tax expense is recognised in the same component of total comprehensive income or equity as the transaction or other event that resulted in the tax expense.

1.5 INVENTORIES

Inventories are measured at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, on the first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis.

1.6 REVENUE

Revenue includes non-profit receipts.

Revenue is recognised to the extent that the company has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership of goods to the buyer, or has rendered services under an agreement provided the amount of revenue can be measured reliably and it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the company. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding sales taxes and discounts.

Interest is recognised, in profit or loss, using the effective interest rate method.

Donations received is recognised when the company's right to receive payment has been established.

Conservation levies are received from guests visiting The Selati Game Reserve. Levies are recognised when the non-profit company's right to receive payment has been established.

1.7 BORROWING COSTS

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

ΙΔΙΙΜΙΛΔ	FINANCIAL	STATEMENTS	

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

for the year ended 28 February 2023

2. Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and e	quipment					
		2023			2022	
	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value
Computer equipment	142,120	(38,543)	103,577	105,354	(793)	104,561
Computer software	5,885	(5,721)	164	5,885	(3,759)	2,126
Environmental equipment	273,754	(74,583)	199,171	152,684	(1,688)	150,996
Operational sites	220,139	(43,024)	177,115	59,946	(667)	59,279
Total	641,898	(161,871)	480,027	323,869	(6,907)	316,962
Reconciliation of property,	nlant and equin	mant 2022				
Reconcination of property,	piant and equip	illelit – 2023	Opening balance	Additions	Depreciation	Closing balance
Computer equipment			104,561	36,766	(37,750)	103,577
Computer software			2,126	-	(1,962)	164
Environmental equipment			150,996	121,070	(72,895)	199,171
Operational sites			59,279	160,192	(42,356)	177,115
			316,962	318,028	(154,963)	480,027
Reconciliation of property,	plant and equip	ment – 2022	Opening			Closing
			balance	Additions	Depreciation	balance
Computer equipment			_	105,354	(793)	104,561
Computer software			4,087	-	(1,961)	2,126
Environmental equipment			-	152,684	(1,688)	150,996
Operational sites			-	59,946	(667)	59,279

4,087

317,984

(5,109)

316,962

		2023	2022
		R	R
3.	Inventories		
J.	Buffs	800	800
	Artwork	10,000	10,000
	Attwork	10,800	10,800
		10,000	10,800
4.	Trade and other receivables		
	Trade receivables	10,990	16,075
	Value added tax	42,831	55,226
	Other receivables	432	432
		54,253	71,733
5.	Cash and cash equivalents		
	Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
	Cash on hand	441	1,148
	Bank balances	1,261,298	1,004,162
		1,261,739	1,005,310
6.	Trade and other payables		
	Trade payables	_	60,054
	Income received in advance	830,995	_
	Accrued expense	13,879	-
		844,874	60,054
7.	Non-profit receipts		
	Sale of goods	2,400	6,350
	Donations received	383,483	819,626
	Grants received	685,085	876,303
	Conservation levies	201,152	146,350
		1,272,120	1,848,629

8. Taxation

The non-profit company has been approved by the TEU of the South African Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisations on 15 February 2019 and hence is exempt from paying tax. No provision has been made for taxation due to the exemption.

Notes to the Annual Financial Statements continued

		2023	2022
		R	R
. (Cash generated from non-profit operating activities		
(Deficit)/surplus before taxation	(382,806)	1,042,242
,	Adjustments for:		
[Depreciation	154,963	5,109
I	nterest received	(16,869)	(1,878)
F	Finance costs	623	6
(Changes in working capital:		
I	nventories	-	2,200
1	Trade and other receivables	17,480	(49,635)
٦	Trade and other payables	784,820	52,229
		558,211	1,050,273

10. Contingencies

The first tranche of R830,995 received from the IUCN in respect of the second grant has not yet been executed at year end and therefore the funds received have not yet been spent. The company required consent from the LEDET (government) in order to execute the grant on their property which is surrounded by the Selati Game Reserve which consent had not been received after receipt of the grant by end of February 2023. As a result of the delay, the company was required to request an extension of the grant period as well as changes to the expenditure categories from the IUCN. At year end, authorisation had not yet been received from the IUCN. Due to the above, the company may be required to repay the grant received from the IUCN.

11. Related parties

	2023 R	2022 R
Relationships		
Entities with common directors		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited		
Related party balances and transactions		
Related party balances		
Amounts included in trade payables regarding related parties		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	-	(19,831)
Related party transactions		
Salaries paid to related parties		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	335,148	15,788
Donations paid to related parties		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	5,928	659,959
Donations received from related parties		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	(3,000)	_
Fuel costs paid to related parties		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	93,740	17,542
Other expenses paid to related parties		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	18,009	2,623

12. Going concern

The directors believes that the company has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future and accordingly the annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The directors have satisfied themselves that the company is in a sound financial position and that it has access to sufficient borrowing facilities to meet its foreseeable cash requirements. The directors are not aware of any new material changes that may adversely impact the company. The directors are also not aware of any material non-compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements or of any pending changes to legislation which may affect the company.

13. Events after the reporting period

The directors are not aware of any material event which occurred after the reporting date and up to the date of this report.



Detailed Income Statement

for the year ended 28 February 2023

	2023	2022
Note(s)	R	R
Non-profit receipts		
Sale of goods	2,400	6,350
Donations received	383,483	819,626
Grants received	685,085	876,303
Conservation levies	201,152	146,350
7	1,272,120	1,848,629
Administrative expenses		
Bank charges	(7,213)	(5,375)
Computer expenses	(5,031)	(6,544)
Reviewer's remuneration	(19,694)	(6,119)
	(31,938)	(18,038)
Other expenses		
Advertising	(730)	(4,704)
Anti-poaching initiatives	(173,749)	(600,000)
Buffs	_	(5,800)
Cinematography	_	(1,635)
Consulting fees	_	(10,650)
Depreciation	(154,963)	(5,109)
Donations	(189,370)	_
Employee costs	-	(8,000)
Entertainment	(2,606)	-
Environmental awareness activities	(21,413)	(106,156)
Excise duty and shipping costs	-	(773)
IUCN project expenditure	(1,077,838)	(20,364)
Other expenses	(75)	(200)
Petrol and oil	-	(17,542)
Postage	-	(240)
Secretarial fees	(7,756)	-
Telephone and fax	(1,625)	-
Veterinary services and supplies	(9,109)	(9,048)
	(1,639,234)	(790,221)
Operating (deficit)/surplus	(399,052)	1,040,370
Investment income	16,869	1,878
Finance costs	(623)	(6)
	16,246	1,872
Taxation 8	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(382,806)	1,042,242



Recognition

Our partners

SUPPORTERS AND DONORS INCLUDE

IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature

HSI – Humane Society International

EWT – Endangered Wildlife Trust

BirdLife South Africa

LEDET – Limpopo Economic Development **Environment and Tourism**

Saving The Survivors

Wildscapes Veterinary

University of South Wales

Halls Properties

ArcGIS

Lydenburg Toyota

TechSoup

GivenGain Nkombe Rhino

Council of Contributors

Wildlife Protection Solutions

Max Planck Institute

Babanango Game Reserve

Loop Abroad

Ivan Carter

Outlook Foundation

Greenfield Trust

Hunters Moon Trust

INCE Communications Agency

Four Paws Wine Company

BDO South Africa

SAGE South Africa

Glossary

APNR Associated Private Nature Reserves

BOPP Birds of Prey Programme

EWT Endangered Wildlife Trust

HSI **Humane Society International**

LoRa Low range

LoRaWAN Long-range wide-area network

LPWAN Low-power wide-area network

MOI Memorandum of incorporation

NPC Non-Profit Company

SWF Selati Wilderness Foundation

TEU Tax Exempt Unit

Very high frequency VHF

WWF World Wildlife Fund

IoT Internet of Things

IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature

SOS Save Our Species

