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SELATI WILDERNESS  
**FOUNDATION**  
REPORT



# ABOUT THIS REPORT

Dear Reader,

## Scope and boundary

This Annual Report (**Report**) showcases the progress of the Selati Wilderness Foundation (**SWF or the Foundation**) over the past financial year. The Foundation's financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2024 are included herein. The narrative of the Report, however, addresses the SWF's strategies, initiatives and actions, many of which began at least a few years before this. We illustrate our progress against our ultimate objective of making a meaningful contribution to the preservation of the biodiversity within our unique wilderness region. 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 protecting it.

The financial statements are derived from our reviewed financial statements for the period between 1 March 2023 and 29 February 2024. Our independent auditors, BDO South Africa, have conducted a thorough review of our financial results for purposes of providing assurance in this respect.

For stakeholders seeking more information, we encourage direct contact with the SWF or a visit to our website at <https://selatiwf.org/>, where additional details about the SWF and the option to contribute to our causes are available.







## Board responsibility and approval

This Report has not been subject to review by any third party other than through the independent review of our financial information. Our Board of Directors (Board) has, however, carefully reviewed the Report, ensuring the accuracy of the information presented. The Board recognises its responsibility for the overall governance of the SWF, including the integrity of its external reports to stakeholders. It is the Board's belief that the 2024 Report adheres to all relevant legislation and regulations, encompasses all significant matters, and presents a balanced overview of the SWF and its future prospects. We are, therefore, pleased to publish this 2024 Report with the Board's full approval.

The NPC is registered with the Department of Social Welfare as a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) as well as with the South African Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisation. It is also a member of the Independent Code of Governance for NPOs in South Africa.

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

## OUR VISION

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

Set in the heart of the Limpopo Lowveld, South Africa, the Selati Game Reserve area encompasses around 27 000ha of pristine environment with limited commercial tourism facilities.

The Selati Game Reserve (**Reserve**) is an extraordinary biome of geological, faunal and floral treasures, largely unaffected by human presence and thriving with biodiversity. Since its establishment, the main goal has been to offer a space for visitors to forge a genuine bond with nature and reconnect with their roots in the unspoiled African wilderness.

The Foundation's purpose lies in the cultivation of an enduring legacy – to conserve the rich ecosystems and unparalleled biodiversity that thrive in this land. Presently, the Reserve is steadfast in its commitment to sustainable resource management, further enhancing its already impressive track record in conservation.

Rhino poaching, elephant population management, climate changes, and the increasing costs of mitigating human impact on the environment pose significant challenges for Selati landowners, its members and friends of Selati. This informs the quest to find strategic conservation options that can effectively address these issues and to ensure the preservation of the land in its current natural state.





## About the Foundation continued

The SWF was established as a Non-Profit Company (NPC) in 2018 to support this mission with a primary goal to raise awareness and funds in order to retain and enhance the unique attributes of the Reserve and its surrounds for future generations.



Comprising a diverse mix of individuals, including landowners, business executives and conservation experts, the SWF 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.

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.

Additionally, we work closely with landowners and management to foster collaboration, and we carefully choose our ambassadors 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 dedicate ourselves 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 primary goal of the SWF is to support the fulfilment of a collective conservation responsibility in the Selati Game Reserve and its 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 conservation-focused education
- Supporting local rural schools through feeding schemes and infrastructure assistance
- Educating people worldwide on the importance of conservation
- Contributing towards the research of rare and endangered species.

Our Mission – to raise support and funding for our community initiatives, innovative research capabilities and targeted conservation efforts which will enable us to contribute directly to the long-term sustainability and the biodiversity of the region.



### Relationship between Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC and Selati Game Reserve

**The Selati Game Reserve** – comprising an association of landowner-members who jointly own a company which operates separately from the SWF, with its own memorandum of incorporation – was established in 1993, some 25 years before the establishment of the SWF. This was done by way of the amalgamation of several separately owned properties to form one large private game reserve encompassing approximately 27 000ha. A key goal behind the formation of the Reserve was to unlock the benefits of scale by creating a large, contiguous block of land under single management.

The landowners are members of the Selati Game Reserve Association and are bound by its constitution, which regulates the ownership and use of land within the Reserve.

The jointly-owned company, The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited, was established to ensure the appropriate management of the fauna and flora and to manage and operate the Reserve on a sustainable basis. A Board of Directors, consisting of seven non-executive members, including a chairperson and vice-chairperson, oversees the management thereof. Shareholding in the company is decided by way of an allocation of shares based on each member's contribution to the Reserve on joining. The quantum is decided by a formula linking the size of the property and the value of the game contributed. Shareholder participation in the affairs of the company is regulated via the memorandum of incorporation in compliance with the Companies Act 71 of 2008.

Parallel to this, the SWF exists as a registered NPC, 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 is in a unique situation as a conservation foundation, as it enjoys a standing invitation from the Reserve to:

- assist in protecting endangered plants and animals;
- progress conservation initiatives of its own or of like-minded partner organisations; and
- enhance and support the research capabilities of the reserve by providing funding, equipment and logistical support to researchers.

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 include multi-day walking and cycling tours through the Reserve and ride-along trips in the game viewers alongside our Research Team and volunteers. This allows visitors to participate in the research activities such as assisting with rhino monitoring, African wild dog and cheetah interactions, elephant collaring and immuno-contraception interventions.

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 Organisation 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 dictated by its memorandum of incorporation.



# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

## Sustaining populations Selati's innovative approach to lion conservation

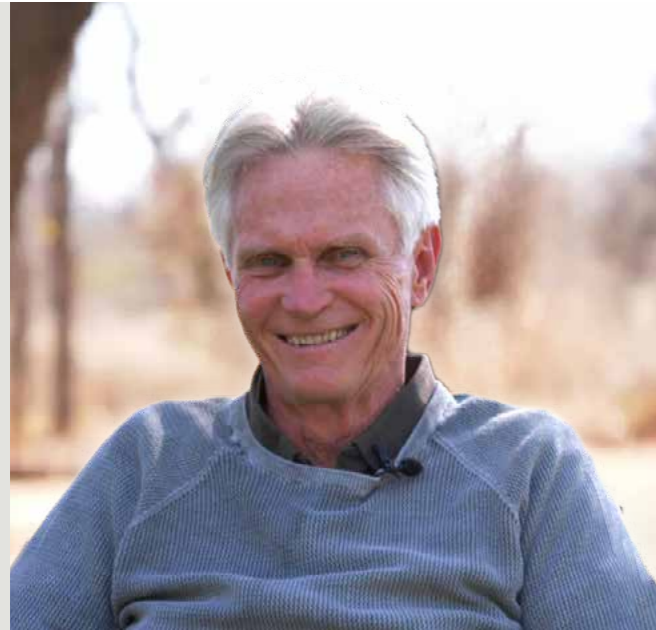
The lions on the Selati Game Reserve are a significant part of the Reserve's rich biodiversity. As part of the Big Five, they contribute to the Reserve's appeal for wildlife enthusiasts and researchers alike. The reserve's commitment to conservation has created a habitat where these

majestic predators can thrive alongside other big game. The efforts by the Selati Game Reserve underscore their commitment to sustainable wildlife management and conservation, ensuring the long-term survival of lions and other species within the reserve.





# Message from the Chairman



**3 Bush Buddies events**  
Introduction of eco-gardens at Gravelotte primary school

**Contraception of 54 adult elephant cows**

**R12.5 million** Donations in cash and kind received since inception

Thanks must go again to our generous donors and partners who have supported the SWF through cash and in-kind donations.

To our partners, supporters, volunteers, managers, leaders and other stakeholders, welcome to our second annual report for the 2024 financial year.

Since our establishment as an NPC, our organisation has been dedicated to securing the long-term sustainability of the Selati Game Reserve, its surrounds and the fauna and flora thereof.

The concept of instituting this NPC at Selati Game Reserve emerged in response to growing challenges that rendered the financial burden of maintaining our wild areas unsustainable from a conservation perspective. It became clear that Selati Game Reserve, along with the conservation-minded public, carries a unique responsibility to maintain this unique ecosystem

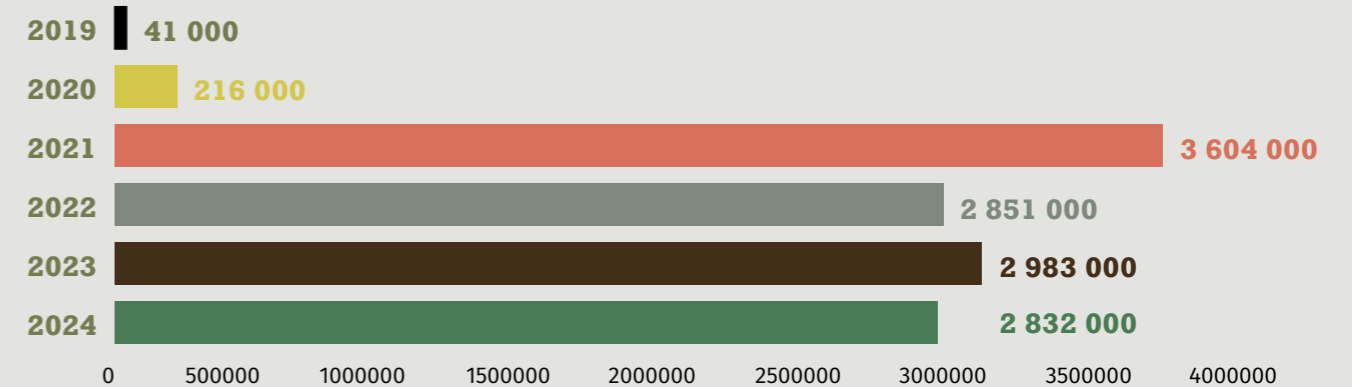
in a world of ever-dwindling natural habitat for wildlife worldwide. In light of this, we set out to attract the help of like-minded individuals and entities to join us in supporting our conservation objectives in an ethical and responsible manner, ensuring full accountability for the efforts under the banner of the Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC.

In discharging this responsibility, we continue to seek the support of like-minded individuals and entities to achieve our conservation and community objectives. Wild spaces and untouched ecosystems are continually under pressure, and it is often the case that emphasis on commercial monetisation to alleviate the financial burden of maintaining these assets results in an overall negative impact. This places reliance on donor support.

Our ultimate goals are set out in our memorandum of incorporation:

*Provide support to and environmental awareness training programmes for pupils at rural schools, primarily in Limpopo, and students at tertiary institutions with the aim of teaching the principles of conservation and sustainability and promoting the wellbeing of the ecosystem.*

## ANNUAL RECEIPTS IN CASH AND KIND (IN RANDS)



*Advance protection of endangered species and other vulnerable ecological aspects through educational awareness and ongoing research projects pertaining to the natural environment.*

*Promote and support anti-poaching initiatives, particularly for the protection of the rhino population on the Selati Game Reserve and surrounding areas and protection of other threatened species of wildlife in general.*

Conservation issues are becoming increasingly topical worldwide, generating much interest and public support. The NPC provides a transparent and direct means of communicating with the public and raising awareness and funds because, as we all know, maintaining and protecting wildlife comes at a substantial cost.

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.

The success of the SWF thus far can be attributed to the support of our stakeholders, including generous donors, dedicated partners, committed volunteers, our passionate staff and our esteemed Board of Directors. This board

consists of a diverse group of five individuals who each bring a wealth of expertise and knowledge to the table. Our most recent appointment to the board is Pieter Wessels. Pieter has added a depth of strategic planning which has led us to our vision statement aligning with our mission.

I am pleased to report that the SWF has had a very productive year. Our key activities have allowed us to resume support for our neighbouring communities via the Bush Buddies and our local school eco-garden programmes, continue support of the management of our elephant populations via the immunocontraception programme, enhance anti-poaching efforts through continued infrastructure development on the Selati Game Reserve, and substantially upgrade the facilities at the Lillie Cycad reserve which contain the last remaining naturally occurring cycad species of *Encephalartos dyerianus* on the planet. We have also implemented our Verreaux's eagle camera project, which was broadcast live to the public via our YouTube channel. This footage has attracted many viewers from around the world and has provided substantial exposure for the SWF and its message.

Thanks must go again to our generous donors and partners who have supported the SWF through cash and in-kind donations.



**Message from the Chairman** continued

*Since inception, five years ago, our donations, both in cash and kind, have totalled R12.5 million, where in-kind donations have amounted to approximately R5.8 million. Our in-kind donations have included software assistance, pro bono veterinary support, vehicles, logistics and sponsorship for elephant immunocontraception.*

In FY24, we were honoured to receive non-profit contributions of R2.83 million. During the course of FY24, the Cycad Project funded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) grant was implemented in agreement with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development and Environment and Tourism (LEDET). This unique public/government partnership allows the SWF to manage and upgrade the facility at the Lillie Cycad Reserve and implement a number of security measures. The additional knock-on benefits for Selati in terms of security and facilities were also felt across the reserve as a whole. This project will be completed during FY25.

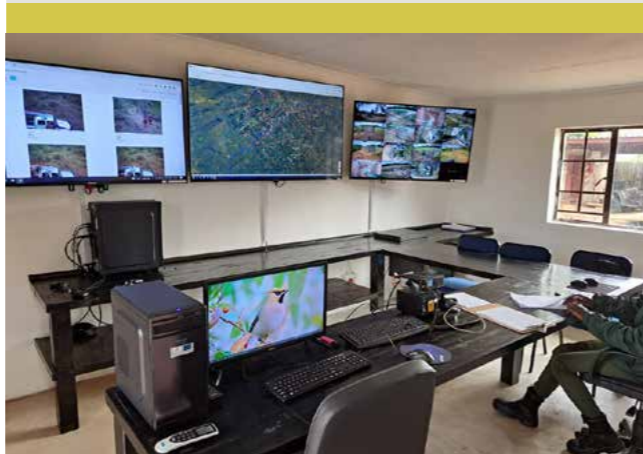
The year also saw the reintroduction of the Bush Buddy programme, and we were pleased to sponsor a local Grade 10 student from a local village into the Selati volunteer and research programme.

Furthermore, we have introduced eco-vegetable gardens at the Gravelotte Primary School to provide sustainable, healthy food sources for the learners and teachers. Going forward, we plan to build on this initiative and to implement conservation classes assisted by our volunteer programme, which brings volunteers in from around the world. This programme highlights the real challenges faced by local rural schools in providing a learning environment that ultimately produces students that can add value to the community at large. We will have achieved our objective if our involvement ultimately encourages learners to become conservation conscious.

**KEY FY24 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**



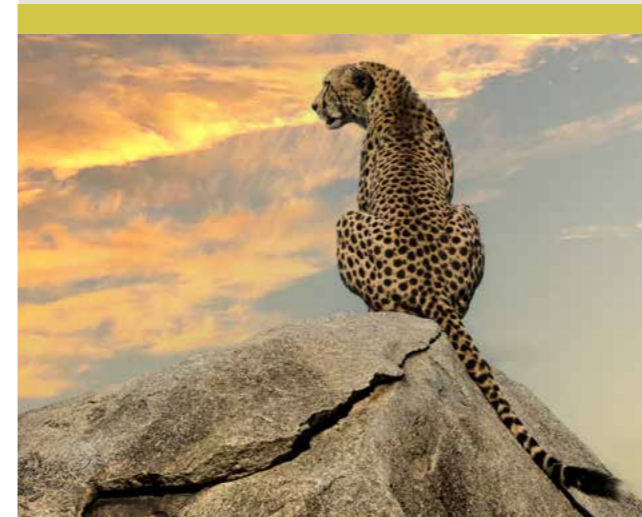
The elephant immunocontraception programme over the past three years on the Selati Game Reserve, has successfully slowed the calving rate of our elephant herds.



The IUCN grant has allowed the upgrade of the Lillie Cycad facility, resulting in zero cycad poaching incidents. The grant allowed for the implementation of a substantial number of security cameras, additional armed patrol guards, security operations room equipment and personnel, and the upgrade to the guard camp itself.



A substantial number of animal interactions focused around the collaring of certain species and ongoing dehorning of our rhino population. The collaring of various species, such as elephants, rhinos (both black and white), cheetahs, wild dogs and lions, aims to enhance monitoring efforts and to ensure their protection. We greatly value our partnership with Wildscapes Veterinary and Conservation Services and others who have contributed and assisted.



Financial support for ongoing cheetah reintroductions onto the reserve was facilitated by our collaboration with the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and our partnership with Four Paws Wines, a wine company that has also generously donated toward the cheetah programme.



We re-established our Bush Buddies programme and implemented eco-vegetable gardens at the Gravelotte Primary School.



A public live stream of the breeding activity of the Verreaux's eagle was successfully implemented.

One of our overarching objectives is to seek annuity income in the form of donations, which will contribute to the financial sustainability of the SWF. To achieve this, we are actively seeking partnerships with like-minded organisations. This year, we successfully set up our innovative live Verreaux's eagle monitoring project, which was released to the public via YouTube and our SWF website. Our goal going forward is to capture the nesting activity of the endangered Martial eagle and stream this to the public to generate an annuity income for our non-profit objectives in collaboration with BirdLife South Africa.



## Message from the Chairman continued

During the course of the year, the SWF donated around R500 000 to the Selati Game Reserve to assist with anti-poaching and in addition also indirectly added benefit to conservation on Selati to the value of around R1.2 million. The added benefit was in the form of funding the additional anti-poaching and operations room personnel, upgrading and installing a solar/battery/inverter system for the operations room and research centre, paying for the animal interaction costs related to helicopters, vets and collars, as well as other items.

As a non-profit and public benefit organisation, we ensure transparency through our annual financial review conducted by BDO South Africa, and these verified Financial Statements are made available to our donors and are incorporated into this report. Our board, comprising five dedicated individuals, strictly adheres to non-profit regulations as specified in the MOI. For more details about our directors, please visit our website at [www.selatiwf.org](http://www.selatiwf.org).

We highly value the collaboration we have enjoyed with conservation partners who have greatly contributed to our success. These include the IUCN, the EWT, the Humane Society International (HSI), BirdLife South Africa, Wildscapes Veterinary and Conservation Services and the University of South Wales. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all individuals and entities that have supported SWF throughout our journey.

In addition to our ongoing conservation initiatives, the SWF actively engages with donors on necessary animal interventions. This involves activities such as fitting tracking collars, dehorning rhinos and introducing species onto the reserve. Donors are invited to participate in these initiatives and witness the unique experience first-hand. Moreover, separate donations to the SWF are exclusively allocated to our objectives, with local donors qualifying for tax deductions via the Section 18a certificates issued by the SWF.

Looking ahead, we aim to extend our collaboration with like-minded organisations and create offerings that resonate with the conservation-minded public, focusing on those that offer the prospect of sustainable annuity income. We are proud to see how the reach of our foundation is constantly growing in momentum. Our reputation as ethical and transparent partners, dedicated to conservation objectives and the protection of our own ecosystem as well as that of the neighbouring communities, is noted and appreciated by our donors, sponsors and partners.

In conclusion, I invite you to further extend the reach of our efforts by assisting the SWF in its mission to protect the remarkable biodiversity of this extraordinary wilderness area. Together, we can inspire and educate current and future generations about the importance of preserving our natural heritage. By understanding, valuing and protecting

this particular irreplaceable ecosystem, we can ensure its thriving existence for years to come and provide an example of how these efforts can extend further and be applied in other reserves facing similar threats of habitat destruction, poaching and human encroachment. Thank you to all our donors, partners, volunteers, supporters and fellow directors for your unwavering support in our journey towards a sustainable and harmonious future. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

**Alan du Toit** – Chairman





# OUR PEOPLE

## Champions of conservation Promoting change with passion and purpose

The members of the SWF team play a crucial role in progressing the Foundation's objectives. Despite having day jobs, the members of the SWF team willingly volunteer their time and energy to conceptualising, preparing for, and actioning our initiatives. To this end, the SWF's strategy also involves leveraging and optimising the skills of our stakeholders, including the staff at Big 5 (Pty) Ltd and the landowners. The success of Selati can be attributed to the valuable contributions made by these individuals.

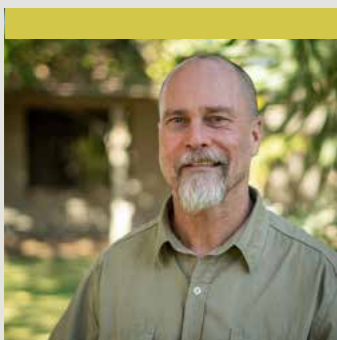
Additionally, the team serve as passionate ambassadors for Selati, taking our conservation message beyond the confines of the Reserve. They actively engage with communities and stakeholders, championing the importance of environmental preservation. By participating in outreach programmes, attending events, and utilising various communication channels, they ensure that our mission resonates far and wide. Their dedication not only raises awareness but also inspires others to join the cause, making our collective impact even more significant.





# Meet the Team

We are pleased to introduce the dedicated team that works on the SWF's non-profit initiatives:



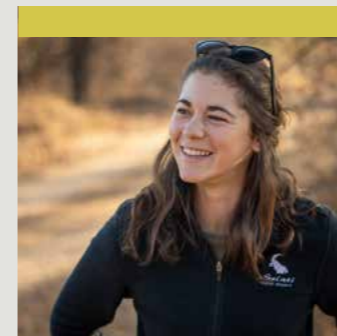
We are very pleased to have **Dave Robertson** on board as the new General Manager of the Reserve. Dave is an experienced wildlife manager, having spent the last nine years working for African Parks in Zambia and Malawi. This work culminated in his being appointed as the Park Manager for the 90 000ha Liwonde National Park. Dave learned his trade in the KwaZulu-Natal Parks from 1998 to 2015 in various roles, ultimately serving as Conservation Manager at iMfolozi and then General Manager at Manyoni Reserve.

The SWF works closely with the Selati General Manager and Dave's experience in fundraising for African Parks will be incredibly beneficial.



**Steve Seager**, serving as the Selati Wildlife Manager, oversees all the wildlife interactions and monitoring activities. He is central to many of the SWF-sponsored and donated wildlife efforts and events. Steve is also the first to abseil over the cliffs at Lillie to position and maintain the cameras at our popular Verreaux's eagle nest.

His enthusiasm and willingness to engage in various conservation projects make him highly valued by the SWF.



**Madeline Siegel** has been monitoring rhino at the Reserve as the appointed Rhino Monitor under the IUCN SOS grant, which has contributed substantially to the anti-poaching efforts on Selati.

Mads is an extremely dedicated conservationist and a critical element in the successful running of the volunteer camp, managing the monitoring activities and animal interactions.



We also welcome **Beth Coetzee**, who will work closely with the SWF in marketing, bookings, fundraising and assisting with the running of the various SWF projects. Beth holds her BSc (Hons) in Zoology with Conservation, is a qualified Level 2 FGASA Field Guide, and was most recently the Director of Marketing at the nearby Stanford Lake College.

We look forward to her enhancing and building the SWF brand and expanding our base in line with our vision.

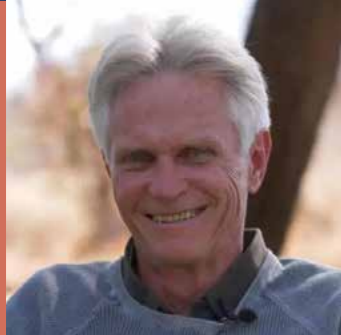


**Nicolene Rossouw** manages our administration, ensuring that accounts are in order, donations received, bills paid and that all administrative tasks are efficiently handled.

Her role is crucial in maintaining the smooth operation of our non-profit activities.



## Our Board of Directors



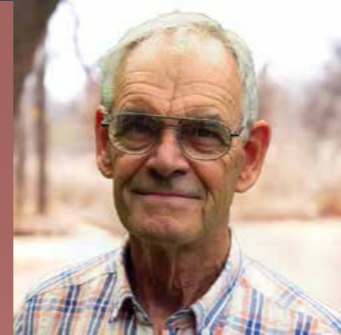
**Alan du Toit (Chairman)**

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 a BSc 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 joined the SWF in 2022 as a director responsible for strategy development and execution. He is the current CEO of Coaxle (Pty) Ltd, the holding entity for a group of data, insight and financial services businesses. He leads a dynamic team of automotive, residential property and financial services experts. As a wildlife enthusiast, Pieter values conserving biodiversity and his personal motto is to leave 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 and 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.



# IMPACT REVIEW

## Reviving the pack: Bold initiative to save the African wild dog

The Selati Game Reserve and the Selati Wildlife Foundation play a crucial role in the conservation of African wild dogs, among other species. The Selati Game Reserve, located in Limpopo, South Africa, is dedicated to preserving and uplifting the surrounding wildlife, which includes a range

of endangered species. The introduction of wild dogs to the Selati Game Reserve is part of a broader conservation strategy that includes habitat management, anti-poaching efforts, and community engagement to foster a sustainable environment for all wildlife species.





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

# Bush Buddies

Bush Buddies is an experiential learning programme involving learners from Zivuko Secondary School in Letsitele and Penryn College in Nelspruit.

The main goal of this initiative is to bring about positive and meaningful transformation in the lives of young individuals. It leverages the Selati Game Reserve as a conducive setting where scholars from various socioeconomic backgrounds can come together to learn more about themselves and the environment. In so doing, our aim is to provide them with the necessary skills to navigate a future world full of uncertainty, with a specific focus on the two major challenges that humanity is currently confronting: climate change and the wealth gap.

In 2024, Bush Buddies resumed after being interrupted for several years due to COVID. There were three interventions during the year comprising two weekends at Selati and a weekend visit to Penryn by the Zivuko learners. Participants were exposed to a structured, enviro-centric programme aimed at fostering relationships across the income divide and a deeper appreciation of the role of conservation in the wellbeing of our fragile planet. Captured below are some highlights from this year's programme.



Aquatic Invertebrate Sampling in the Selati River – learning about the South African Scoring System (**SASS**) for assessing the health of the river proved to be a hit among the participants.



Impala dissection – learning about the anatomy and physiology of this common antelope.



Downtime – soccer in the Selati riverbed provides an opportunity to relax and socialise.



# Gravelotte Primary School

## The Gravelotte School Garden Project

Towards the end of 2023, the SWF partnered with Steven Barnard from the company Garden and Life to launch an inspiring project at Gravelotte Primary School. This initiative aims to teach primary school children how to establish and maintain sustainable eco-gardens, equipping them with essential skills for producing fresh vegetables.

The project kicked off with a hands-on workshop where students received starter packs. These packs included soil mix, tyres, bottles, egg boxes, and seed packets – everything needed to create a thriving garden. Each tyre required a 20kg bag of soil, which the students learned to mix with compost and manure in equal parts to create a nutrient-rich planting medium.

The workshop emphasised the importance of sustainability and self-sufficiency, encouraging students to source additional tyres and soil to expand their gardens beyond the school grounds and into their homes. A number of volunteers from the Selati Research team assisted with the workshop. This initiative aimed to instil a sense of responsibility and environmental stewardship in the young participants.

Students were trained and then assigned individual gardens to tend to. This immersive experience not only taught them the basics of gardening, but also fostered teamwork, problem-solving, and a deeper connection to the environment. The skills and knowledge gained through this project were intended to benefit the students for years to come, both in their personal lives and potentially in their future careers.

The collaboration between SWF and Garden and Life demonstrated a commitment to community development and environmental education, providing students with the tools and knowledge needed to contribute to a more sustainable future. The SWF will look to continue supporting and expanding this initiative.



# Volunteer Sponsorship

## Empowering Youth for Conservation

In order to achieve our community outreach objectives, we have extended an invitation to local high school and university students to participate in volunteer opportunities. This initiative, in collaboration with the Bush Buddies programme, aims to inspire passionate and enthusiastic learners to delve into conservation efforts. The Bush Buddies programme serves as the initial spark to ignite this interest, and the SWF will further nurture it by selecting suitable students for the Selati Volunteer Programme.

*The Selati Volunteer Programme offers a hands-on experience, enabling volunteers to assist the Selati Research Team with various aspects of wildlife management on the reserve. This immersive experience is designed to deepen participants' understanding and appreciation of conservation work.*



This year, the SWF proudly sponsored Marupeng Mameja, a grade 12 learner from Bokgaga High School in Makhwibidung village, to join the programme. We hope that this opportunity has enriched Marupeng's connection to the bush and that he will become a passionate advocate for conservation in his community.





# BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT IN A CLOSED SYSTEM



# Elephant Impact

African elephants are the world’s largest terrestrial mammals and are considered a flagship species due, among other characteristics, to their considerable cultural and ecological importance, and aesthetic value globally. 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 (**elephants**) has decreased by approximately 60% over the past 50 years.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> 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 anti-poaching policies by a number of Southern African governments.


## CITES

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**) is a global agreement among governments. Its purpose is to ensure that the international trade of wild animal and plant specimens does not endanger their survival. CITES categorises species into three appendices based on their need for protection. Appendix I contains species that are at risk of extinction, allowing trade in these species only in rare situations. Appendix II includes species that are not currently threatened with extinction, but require regulated trade to prevent their populations from becoming endangered.


*While most African elephant populations are included in Appendix I of CITES, those within southern African countries are listed in Appendix II.*

**The population of African Savannah Elephants has decreased by approximately 60% over the past 50 years.**


1 African Elephant: Strong, Smart, but Vulnerable WWF-UK, <https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/wildlife/african-elephants>, (accessed June 12, 2023)  
 2 Michael Chase, et al. "Continent-wide survey reveals massive decline in African savannah elephants", (PeerJ)




**African Savannah Elephant**  
**IUCN STATUS**  
 Endangered




**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Loxodonta africana*




**WEIGHT**  
 4 to 7 tonnes  
 (4 000 to 7 000 kilograms)




**HABITATS**  
 Grassland, Savannah, Shrubland, Desert, Forest




**African Forest Elephant**  
**IUCN STATUS**  
 Critically Endangered



**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Loxodonta cyclotis*



**WEIGHT**  
 3 to 6.6 tonnes  
 (2 700 to 6 000 kilograms)



**HABITATS**  
 Forest, Savannah, Shrubland



**Elephant Impact** continued

**Population density in Selati**

In the period between 1996 to 2002, approximately 68 elephants were introduced onto Selati from the neighbouring Kruger National Park. This population has grown to approximately 180 elephants today. Our annual ecological review, performed by the Agricultural Research Council – Animal Production Institute (ARC), has shown a clear degradation in woody biomass over the years, with Mopani (*Colophospermum mopane*), Red Bushwillow (*Combretum apiculatum*), Marulas (*Sclerocarya birrea*) and Knobthorns (*Acacia nigrescens*) being the most impacted trees on the Reserve. Our ecologists have indicated that elephant densities and total animal biomass thresholds (to which elephants contribute significantly) are above sustainable limits and we can, therefore, expect biodiversity degradation.

*In reserves like Selati, where opportunities for natural dispersal and range expansion are limited, elephant populations and their densities will increase. This increase can lead to significant impacts on their habitats and on the biodiversity of the Reserve.*

**ELEPHANT POPULATION GROWTH SINCE BEING INTRODUCED INTO SELATI**



These numbers are game count numbers and are subject to statistical errors. The numbers are also affected by elephants that break into the Reserve, as was the case in 2021 and 2022.

There is no recommended density of elephants in a given space. Each environment has unique characteristics that will affect its capacity to sustain an elephant population. The relationship between elephant densities and their ecological impact is complex. Experts often advise using the precautionary principle, aiming for an elephant density that does not cause detrimental effects on vegetation and other species. Opinions vary on what constitutes an acceptable threshold of impact on vegetation and the correct balance with other species.

Elephants are mixed feeders, switching from grazing to browsing, particularly in the dry season. In fenced reserves like Selati, where elephants are over abundant, this can lead to detrimental impacts on trees. In addition, where elephants are confined by fences (as they are in the smaller fenced reserves), or human habitation, they use the landscape more intensively, which is more detrimental to vegetation. Elephants are known as keystone species, as such, they significantly influence their environment's diversity and have a large impact on the environment.

*Known as “landscape engineers”, elephants are considered a keystone species which regulates resource availability for other, smaller species by moving the physical environment around them and, in doing so, transforms, maintains and creates habitats.*

At Selati, we are committed to maintaining biodiversity. An overabundance of elephants can convert woodland to shrubland and grassland within a short space of time, reducing or eliminating species dependent on these habitats. In confined areas like Selati, certain bird species, such as raptors and vultures, are particularly threatened as the larger trees are targeted, which impacts nesting sites.

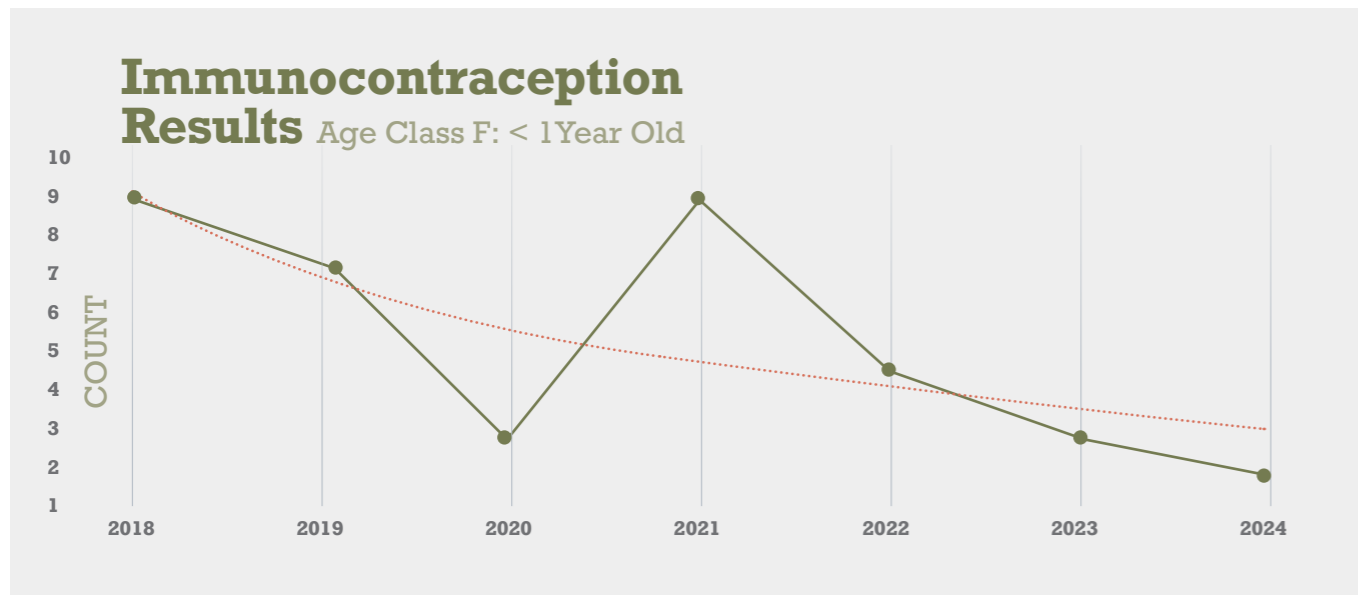
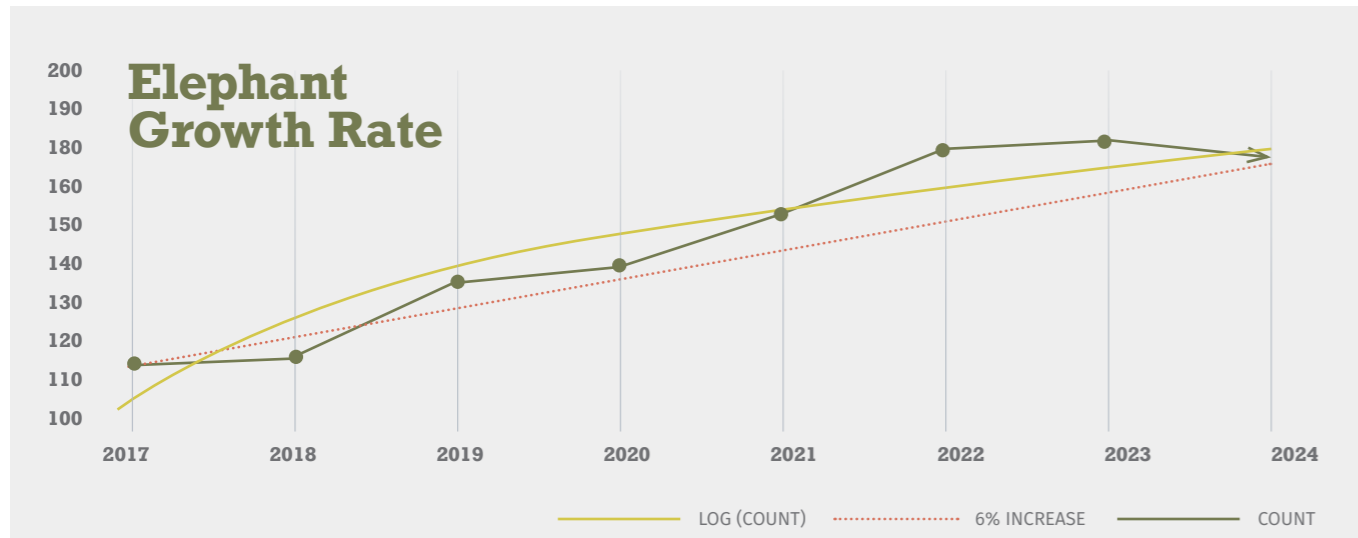




Elephant Impact continued



View Al Jazeera video and articles in the KNP magazine.



To manage elephant populations and mitigate their impact on biodiversity, several interventions have been implemented on the Reserve:

- **Range Expansion:** We are currently in discussions with neighbouring reserves to remove fences and expand the elephants' range.
- **Elephant Translocations:** Efforts have been made to translocate elephants to other reserves that can accommodate family groups. However, we have not been successful as logistical challenges limit the feasibility of transporting elephants over long distances and many reserves are in the same situation as Selati.
- **Elephant Vasectomies:** In 2010, 14 adult elephant bulls were vasectomised. This was initially successful until bulls from neighbouring areas entered the Reserve, effectively nullifying the project's effectiveness.
- **Elephant Cow Immunocontraception:** Initiated in 2019, this project involves annual darting of adult cows with immuno-contraceptives. This technique has been very successful in limiting newborns and has minimal detrimental effects on the elephants. A limited number of calves are born each year, which complements herd dynamics given the elephants' family-oriented nature. The goal is to achieve a net zero population growth, balancing newborns with natural deaths. This procedure is carried out annually. The long range (LoRa) gateway systems we have in place, together with the elephant collars, have made this process very efficient. The darting of around 50 cows takes place within a few hours. This project is sponsored by HSI, and we are grateful for their support.



HS Team – Pilot Gerry McDonald, JJ van Altena, Audrey Delsink and Selati Wildlife Manager, Steve Seager

The SWF will continue to support the immunocontraception programme and would like to thank Humane Society International for their valuable annual contributions to the programme.





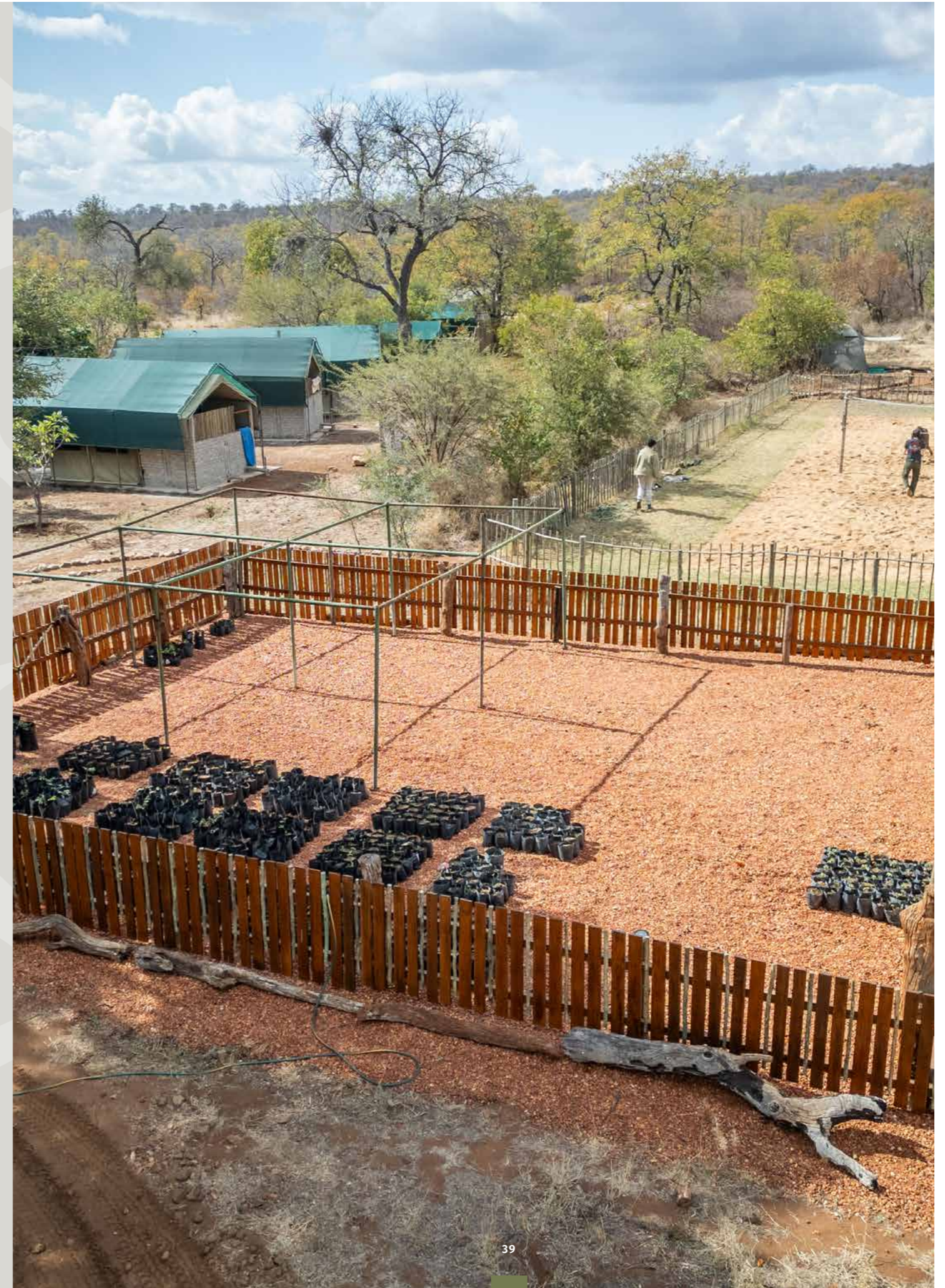
## Marula Cultivation Programme

The impact of elephants on Marula trees (*Sclerocarya birrea*) in the Savannah biome is well-documented. Elephants are often seen stripping bark off Marula trees to access the nutrient-rich cambium layer. The cambium layer is the part of the tree responsible for the transportation of nutrients and water from the tree's roots to the leaves. If the cambium layer is removed around the entire circumference of the tree, known as ring-barking, it may cause the tree to die as it prevents nutrient flow as well as making the tree more vulnerable to insect invasions and fire damage.



In response to these challenges, the SWF has initiated a Marula cultivation programme aimed at mitigating damage within the reserve. A dedicated nursery was established for germinating Marula seeds, equipped with cages, shade netting and composting facilities.

In March 2023, 2 000 seeds were planted, yielding approximately 300 plants. From these, about 250 saplings were successfully transplanted into bags and relocated to the staging area for further growth. The staging area, measuring approximately 12 metres by 10 metres, was prepared with ground sheeting, gravel and a wooden fence to accommodate these year-old saplings.





## Marula Cultivation Programme continued



### Marula Trees

**IUCN STATUS**  
Least Concern



**POPULATION**  
Unknown



**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Sclerocarya birrea*



**HABITATS**  
Savannah, Woodlands,  
Grassland, Bushveld

Upon the saplings' transfer from the nursery, space was cleared for an additional 1 800 seeds to be planted in February 2024, of which 500 sprouted. Each stage of this process provides valuable insights to the Research Team, informing decisions ranging from optimal bag sizes to effective pest and duiker control methods.

The newly reared saplings will bolster the Marula population across the reserve. Furthermore, Selati has taken proactive measures to safeguard existing Marula trees by wire wrapping many adult trees – a strategy now widely adopted in neighbouring reserves for its efficacy and cost-effectiveness in preventing elephant damage.



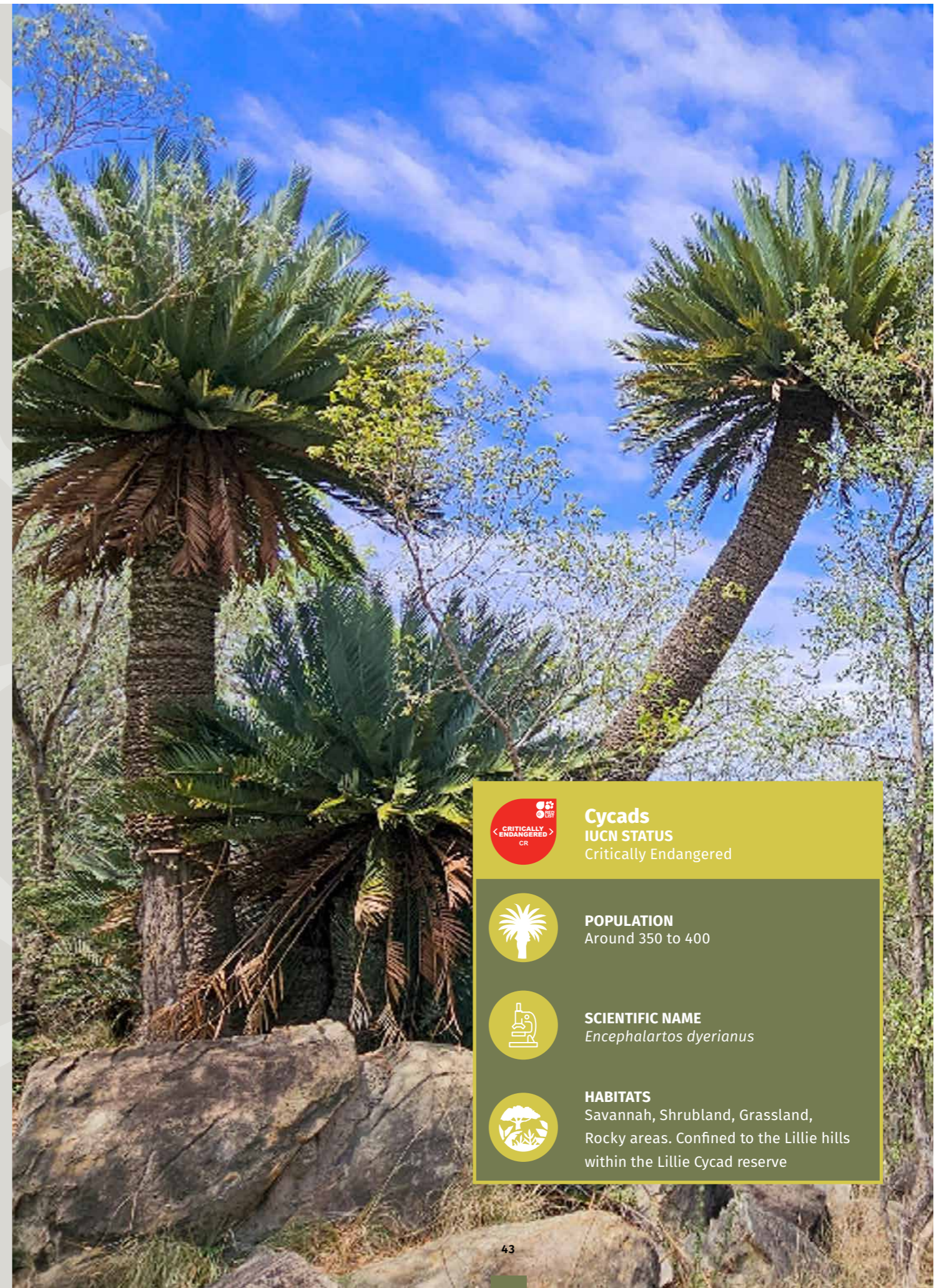
## Endangered Cycads

The Lillie Flora Cycad Reserve (**Cycad Reserve**) is situated at an elevation of around 700m on the Lillie koppies, which fall within the Reserve. The area is inhabited by the *Encephalartos dyerianus* cycad, which represents approximately 99% of the total known population of this specific cycad species worldwide. These cycads are listed in **CITES Appendix I**, which has been assessed as Critically Endangered species of plants for the IUCN red list.



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**  
IUCN STATUS  
Critically Endangered



**POPULATION**  
Around 350 to 400



**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Encephalartos dyerianus*



**HABITATS**  
Savannah, Shrubland, Grassland, Rocky areas. Confined to the Lillie hills within the Lillie Cycad reserve





## Endangered Cycads continued

### Protecting our cycads

The SWF has received a grant from the IUCN Save Our Species to upgrade the guard camp onsite and to further protect the Cycad Reserve. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the SWF and the Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) for the implementation of the grant and the management of the Cycad Reserve by the SWF for a period of one year. During the course of the year, the SWF has implemented several strategies and had the following installed:

- 20 WPS cameras in strategic areas to monitor any unauthorised entry or potential poaching activity on the Reserve. These cameras remotely send images to the operations room situated at the Selati head office. The cameras are equipped with software that allows them to determine a human presence and send an alert to the operations room and also the anti-poaching personnel for follow up. A large screen monitor has been installed in the operations room.
- A two-man, 24/7 armed anti-poaching team to patrol the area and also assist with follow up should it be required.
- A 5 000 litre water tank and pump at the site to supply water to the camp at the top of the Lillie Cycad Reserve.
- A 500 litre mobile tanker to supply water to the installed tank and also provide firefighting ability.
- The upgrade of the guards' camp will follow, as well as the installation of 4KW solar, battery and inverter system to provide power for essentials at the guard camp site.

This project will be completed within the next financial year.



WPS camera picking up human presence



5 000 litre branded water tank



A 500 litre mobile tanker to supply water to the installed tank and also provide firefighting ability





## Endangered Cycads continued

The SWF has also been engaging with experts in the light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology and colour-detecting (RGB) fields to undertake a survey of the Cycad Reserve with a view to understanding the unique nature of the location and to count the number of cycads effectively. Given the terrain that these cycads occupy, this will be a unique project and will have implications on other cycad sites.

*We are pleased to report that zero cycads were poached during this reporting period.*



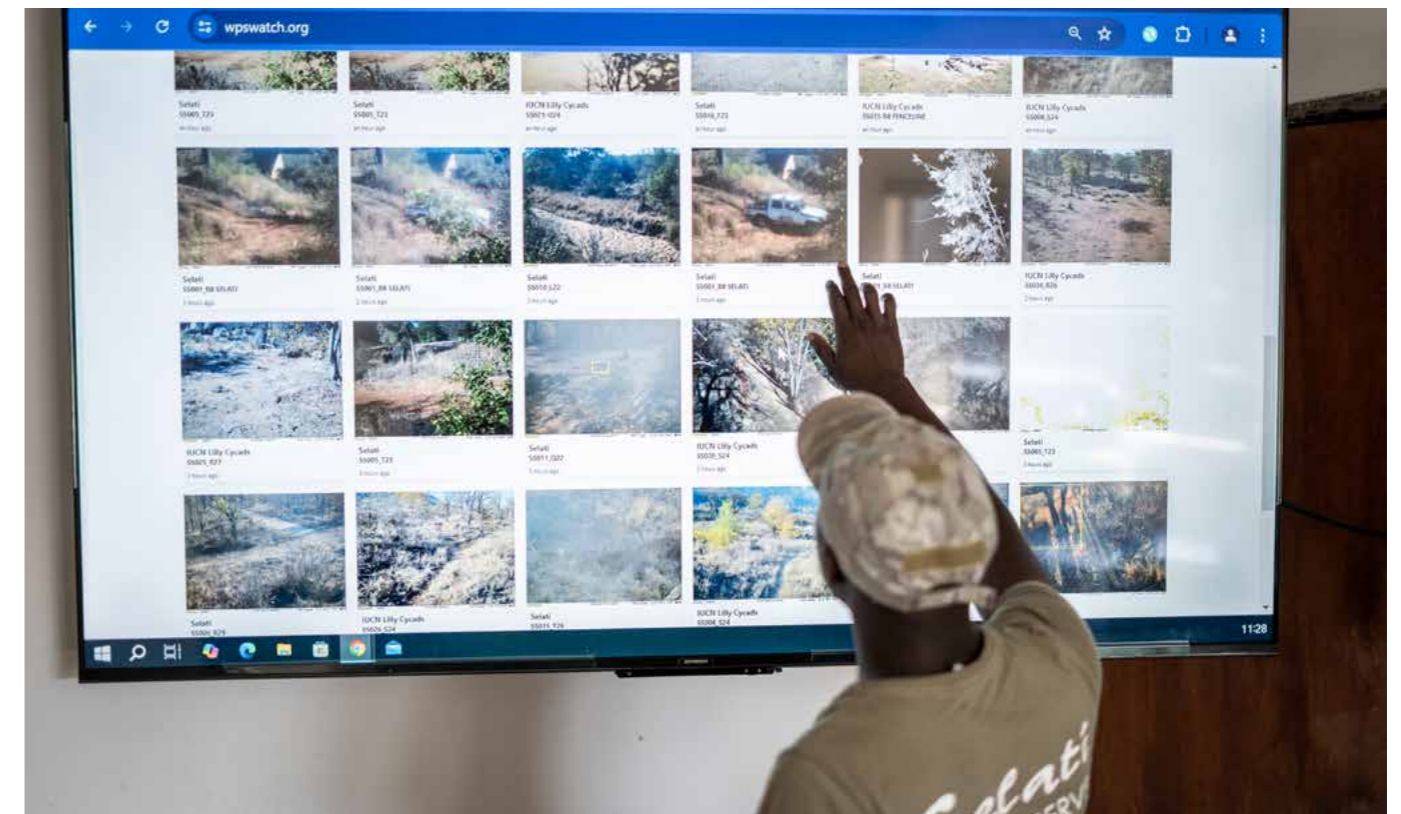
The objectives of this innovative LiDAR and RGB survey are as follows:

- Comprehensive Baseline Data Set:** The topography of the Cycad Reserve is characterised by steep rocky outcrops which makes the gathering of data difficult. By harnessing the capabilities of RGB and LiDAR sensors, the drone survey will enable precise mapping of the topography of the Lillie koppies and the structure and distribution of the vegetation within the reserve. This first comprehensive data set will provide a valuable baseline of information to support studies aimed at understanding the unique and intricate ecological dynamics that sustain *Encephalartos dyerianus* in its natural habitat. It will also enable the development of more effective conservation and protection strategies.
- Population Estimation:** The integration of drone imagery and LiDAR data will facilitate accurate estimation of *Encephalartos dyerianus* population density, providing critical insights into its demographic trends and spatial distribution within the Cycad Reserve for the first time.
- Habitat Assessment:** The comparison of the baseline data with information gained from surveying similar adjacent koppies will enable the investigation of key environmental variables that influence the cycads' distribution and abundance. Such knowledge is fundamental for devising targeted conservation strategies aimed at preserving the plants and ensuring the integrity of their habitat.
- Long-term Monitoring:** The baseline dataset and subsequent monitoring efforts will allow us to track temporal changes in cycad populations and habitat conditions over time.



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

*The SWF would like to express their appreciation to the IUCN SOS group for their support in safeguarding these rare and invaluable cycads.*



**The SWF is also fortunate to have the collaboration of Professor John Donaldson from the IUCN Cycad Specialist Group supporting and advising on the project.**



Professor John Donaldson looking for pollinating beetles



# CONSERVATION INITIATIVES



# Eagle Monitoring Project



The SWF has funded the setting up and implementation of the live cameras on both Martial and Verreux's eagle nests.


The footage from these cameras can be found on the landing page of the SWF website. The images and live video from the cameras have presented us with the opportunity to document nest activity and prey species during the entire breeding and rearing process. Collecting data and observations on these birds is not only important for the scientific community, but also crucial for their conservation. In early 2022 we had partnered with BirdLife South Africa, with a view to bringing this unique wildlife interaction into the lives of many birding enthusiasts by making a live stream of each of the nests available during daylight hours, seven days a week. Access to the stream is designed 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 a panel of experts for this 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.

At the Martial eagle nest, the 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 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 pair did not return as anticipated in 2023. It transpired that the 2022 female had returned, the male, however, was younger than the earlier breeding 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.


Unfortunately, this pair has not returned to breed in their normal location in 2023. We have, however, had sightings of Martial eagles on the reserve and will continue to monitor their activity. We have, however, been very fortunate in being able to shift our focus to the breeding pair of Verreux's eagles, which provided ground breaking footage and images of the entire nesting cycle as described overleaf.

<sup>1</sup> Taylor, M. 2015. Verreux's Eagle The Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. BirdLife South Africa, Johannesburg. Taylor, M.R. Peakock, F. Wanless, R.W. (eds) (This is the most recently published estimate. The figure will have changed since 2015 and will be subject to confirmation in the next population count.)




## Verreux's Eagle


**IUCN STATUS**  
Near Threatened




**POPULATION**  
3 500 to 3 750 mature individuals<sup>1</sup>  
(confidence in these figures are low - Taylor et al 2015)



**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Aquila verreauxii*



**WEIGHT**  
3 to 7 kilograms  
(6.6 to 15.4 pounds)



**HABITATS**  
Savannah, Shrubland, Grassland,  
Rocky areas, Desert



Verreux's eagle

## Our live stream project

In 2023, the SWF launched an innovative conservation initiative with a singular aim: to deepen our understanding of the Verreux's eagles that inhabit the Selati Game Reserve. Utilising cutting-edge live-streaming technology, we offered an intimate view into the breeding behaviour of a pair of these extraordinary birds. As this remarkable project concludes, we invite you to reflect on the significant moments, challenges and triumphs we have documented.



**Eagle Monitoring Project** continued

**Still images of the Verreaux's eagles taken from our live-streaming cameras**



**Eaglet timeline:**

**First egg laid on**

15 May 2023



**Second egg laid on**

19 May 2023



**Egg cracked by parent on**

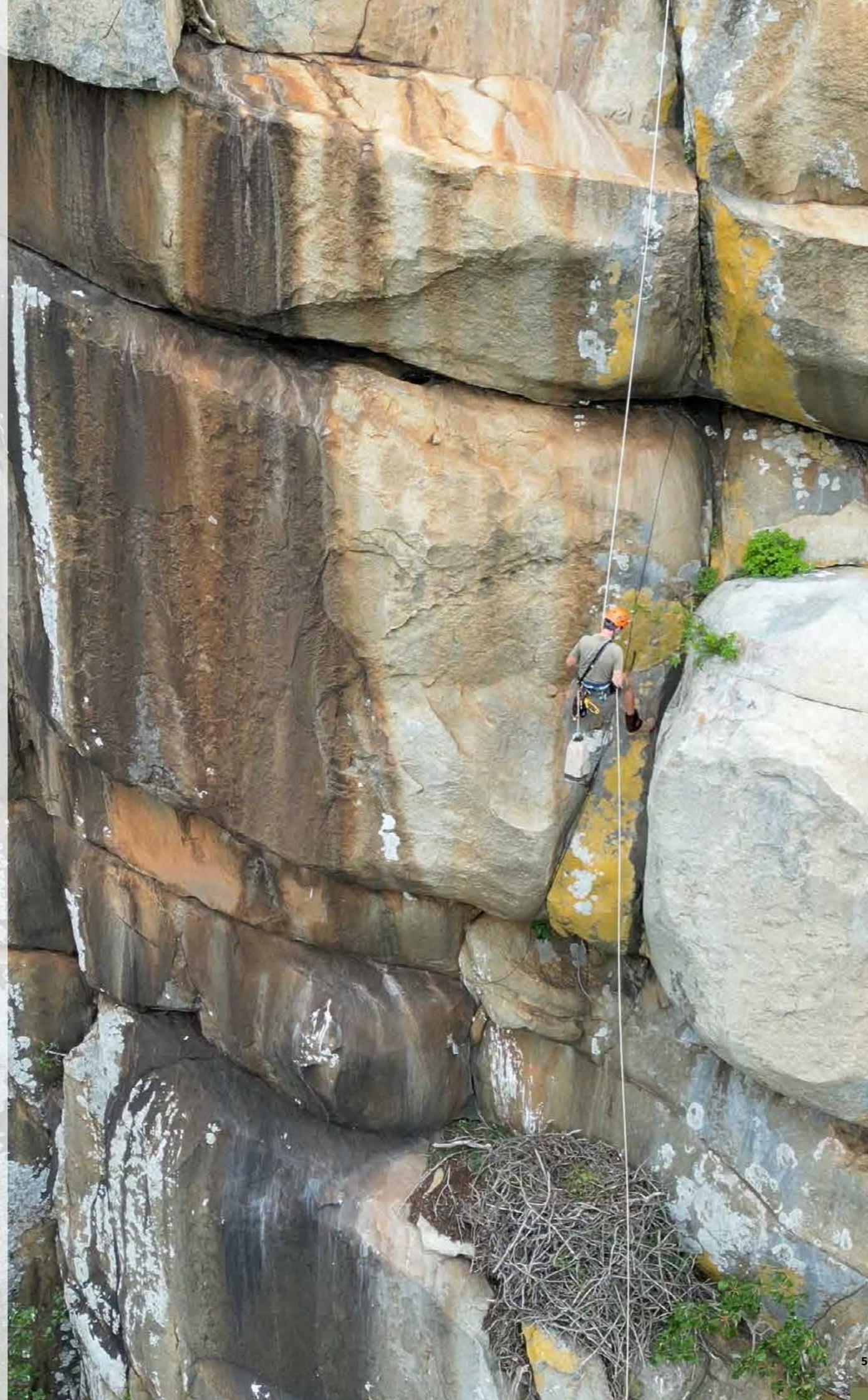
6 June 2023

**Chick hatched**

29/30 June 2023



**Fledgling took flight during the first week of October 2023**



**IMPORTANT MILESTONES AND CHALLENGES**

Our live-streaming technology enabled thousands of nature enthusiasts globally to witness key events in the life of this magnificent eagle pair. The first egg was laid on 15 May, closely followed by a second on 19 May. Though one egg, unfortunately, cracked on 6 June, we were elated when a resilient chick emerged from its shell between 29 and 30 June.

During July, August and September, we had the privilege of closely watching the young chick grow, monitoring feeding patterns and wing-flapping exercises. This was an insightful journey, granting us invaluable data on the behaviour of these eagles.

Regrettably, we encountered technical difficulties with our camera system at a pivotal moment in late September. High winds are believed to have severed the camera's connection, inhibiting our ability to provide live updates as the young eagle prepared to fledge.

Nevertheless, we obtained visual confirmation of the juvenile eagle in mid-October, marking a successful conclusion to our 2023 project.

*Throughout the project, we curated a selection of video highlights that document key behaviours and events, from initial nest preparation to observed feeding patterns and the fledgling's wing-flapping exercise.*





# Refuge for Black and White Rhinos



Selati provides a safe home for black and white rhinos. Although rhino poaching has decreased on a national level in recent times, the Reserve maintains a vigilant and robust security component to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of these animals.

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 (BRREP), 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 are crucial to the management and protection of our rhino populations, with information regularly collated and reported to the Reserve management.

The Selati Research Team, in collaboration with our partners and with the support of the SWF is at the forefront of developing and implementing tracking technology for rhinos. The SWF will continue to support these research efforts, ensuring the reserve remains a leader in this critical technology.

De-horning 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.*



**White Rhino**

**IUCN STATUS**  
Near Threatened

**POPULATION**  
Around 16 800 in Africa

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Ceratotherium simum*

**WEIGHT**  
1 700 to 2 300 kilograms  
(3 748 to 5 070 pounds)

**HABITATS**  
Savannah, Shrubland, Grassland

**Black Rhino**

**IUCN STATUS**  
Critically Endangered

**POPULATION**  
Around 6 500 in Africa

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Diceros bicornis*

**WEIGHT**  
800 to 1 400 kilograms  
(1 760 to 3 080 pounds)

**HABITATS**  
Savannah, Shrubland, Desert





## Refuge for Black and White Rhinos continued

During the course of this year a total of 25 rhinos were dehorned, made possible by the SWF via sponsorship and donations from various individuals and organisations.<sup>1</sup> In addition to dehorning, six calves were also notched with a unique identification number, DNA was taken, and a body microchip was placed. As the previously tested LoRa foot collars and horn pods did not prove to be a long-lasting monitoring solution, two new technologies were trialled during the 2023 maintenance dehorning.

Twelve solar LoRa horn trackers were deployed in the back horn of adult rhinos (nine onto white rhinos and three onto black rhinos) and four solar GSatTrack ear tags were fitted onto the ears of three white rhinos and one black rhino. The solar horn trackers proved promising for the first couple of weeks after deployment, but then struggled to maintain adequate power supply over time due to the solar panels being covered in mud or not receiving enough sun to charge. All horn trackers failed or fell out within five months, with an average lifespan of 63 days, and those fitted onto white rhino cows lasting the longest. The GSatTrack solar ear tags also performed well after initial deployment, but all migrated out of the rhinos' ears within a few months, despite the lighter weight and new attachment strategy, with the longest lasting five months on a black rhino bull. The average lifespan of the horn trackers was 63 days, with a range of 8 to 130 days.

*The Selati white rhino population grew by 9.3% (during 2024), two of which were born to first-time mothers. The black rhino population grew by an exceptional 26.7%, with two being born to first-time mothers.*

After nearly two years without a poaching incident, Selati unfortunately lost three white rhinos to poaching at the end of 2023 and into the early months of 2024. All poached animals were dehorned, two of the three had dysfunctional tracking devices, and the female was carrying a new calf (as bones of a foetus were found at the carcass) in addition to a calf at foot which survived the incident. Evidence in the form of bullets was found at all three carcasses which will hopefully aid in the identification and future arrest of the poachers.



## Key highlights for 2024:

**6 rhinos notched**  
(five white rhinos | one black rhino)

**3 poaching incidents**  
(all white rhinos)

**9.3% white rhino growth rate**

**26.7% black rhino growth rate**

**25 rhinos dehorned**  
(21 white rhinos | four black rhinos)



<sup>1</sup> Larry Siegel, Conservation International, University of South Wales International Wildlife Biology Course, Hemmersbach Rhino Force, Tintswalo Safari Lodge, YPO, Warriors for African Wildlife (WFAW), Ivan Carter, Daniela Niederer, FIGS Scrubs



## Wild Dogs: A Success Story

African wild dogs, also known as painted dogs or African hunting dogs, are listed as “Endangered” by the IUCN, and are Africa’s second most endangered carnivore. There are several key reasons why this is so, many of which are common to nearly all species with declining populations: *habitat loss, poaching and hunting, conflict with humans and poisoning, and climate change.*



**African Wild Dog**  
IUCN STATUS  
Endangered



**POPULATION**  
Around 6 000 to 7 000



**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Lycaon pictus*



**WEIGHT**  
18 to 36 kilograms  
(40 to 79 pounds)



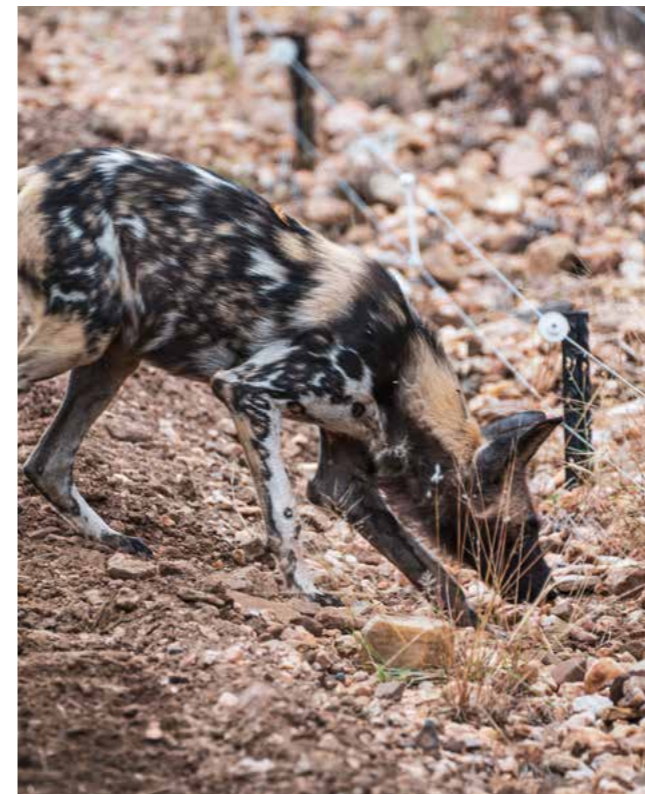
**HABITATS**  
Forest, Savannah, Shrubland,  
Grassland, Desert

*African wild dogs are formidable hunters, with a success rate of 80%, whereas lions emerge successful around 30% of the time.*

### A victory for wild dog conservation on Selati Game Reserve

A pack of wild dogs was introduced onto the Reserve in 2022. Since then, the Reserve’s wild dogs became an integral part of the EWT Wild Dog metapopulation for their Range Expansion Project, contributing to 27 000ha of Wild Dog Safe Space for an endangered species which has disappeared from most of its historical geographical range.

Both the alpha and beta females of the pack have given birth to pups since their introduction. The pups’ survival rate grew from 38% in 2022, where the pack grew by five, to 92% in 2023. This significant growth in survival rate of the pups can be attributed to the pack denning at the adjacent Gravelotte Emerald Mine, where they faced minimal predation risks from other large predators, such as lions. Such a high rate of pup survival is rarely seen in wild dog ecology.





## Wild Dogs: A Success Story continued

### Relocation of the Selati pack

As the pack grew, their prey base had to expand to larger animals. Unfortunately, with so many mouths to feed, the dogs acquired the learned behaviour of getting through the reserve perimeter fences and killing livestock on a neighbouring property, necessitating a difficult decision. Rather than choosing euthanasia, a decision was made in consultation with EWT to relocate the majority of the pack to a holding facility on the Balule Nature Reserve, with plans to release them into the Kruger National Park – an open system providing ample space and prey. Additionally, five wild dogs from the 2022 litter were sent to an EWT holding facility in January 2024 where they were bonded with another pack to bolster genetic diversity. This strategic relocation of the Selati pack was to ensure that they will continue to thrive and crucially, help secure the future genetic viability of this endangered species. Although there have been notable challenges, our wild dog introduction programme has been successful. Together, we have hopefully made a lasting impact on wild dog conservation in Africa, and we have cemented our place as a positive force in the fight to safeguard Africa's wildlife for future generations.

*The Selati wild dog pack had grown to 21 individuals, which constitutes 4% of South Africa's total wild dog population – a great victory for wild dog conservation in the EWT's Range Expansion Project.*

The removal of the wild dog pack from Selati prompted our Research Team to reflect on the sustainability requirements and challenges of maintaining a stable pack on the Reserve. Closer collaboration with EWT and improved management of the breeding cycle could have limited the pack to a more manageable number, thus reducing their wide-ranging movements across the reserve boundaries. These studies and management strategies are ongoing to ensure that the Selati Game Reserve remains a viable site for wild dog introductions in the future.







# Our Cheetah Reintroduction Programme

Historically, cheetah were sighted on the Reserve in earlier years, and 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, and their numbers were impacted upon by predators, traffic, hunters, human–animal conflict and poachers.

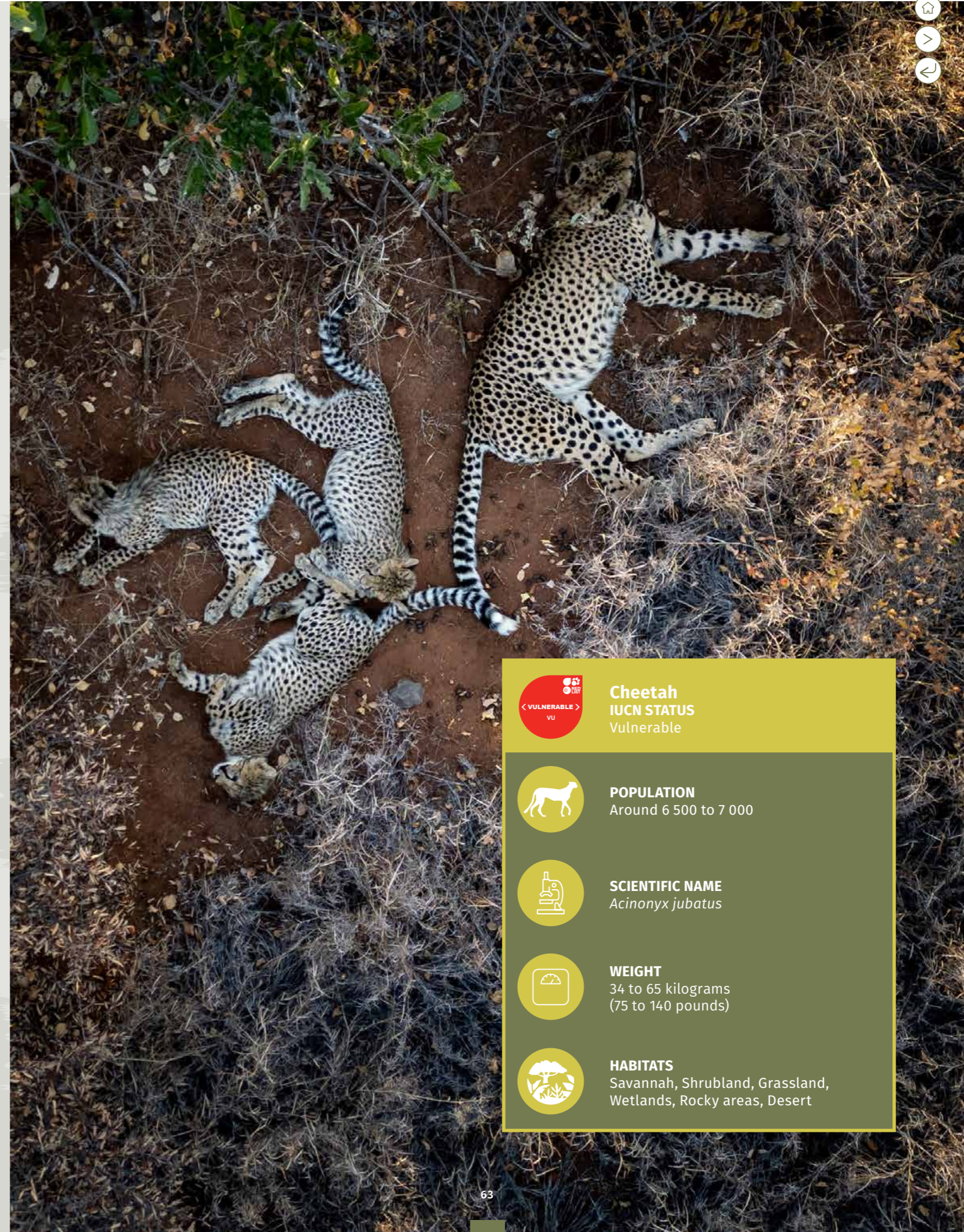


.....  
**Most cheetah reside outside of protected areas.**  
 .....



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. This 2015 introduction re-established the presence of cheetah on Selati.

During the course of the current year, two Selati female cheetahs that were born the Reserve, (C2.F6 and C6.F9) were relocated to Tshukudu Game Reserve and Makutsi Game Reserve for artificial dispersal, as they did not comfortably settle on Selati. In exchange, Selati received two new females from Mabula Game Reserve (CF11) and Tswalu Game Reserve (CF12). Both young females adapted extremely well to Selati and CF12 delivered a litter of three cubs in October 2023, just four months after her introduction to Selati in June. Despite the high mortality rate among cheetah cubs born to first-time mothers, the Research Team is delighted to observe all three cubs continuing to thrive. In February 2024, a new male cheetah (CM16) from Amakhosi Game Reserve was introduced to the Selati cheetah population to boost the number of males and ensure the genetic diversity of the population. The new male has explored a large portion of the Reserve and is doing well.



**Cheetah**  
**IUCN STATUS**  
 Vulnerable

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**POPULATION**  
 Around 6 500 to 7 000

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**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Acinonyx jubatus*

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**WEIGHT**  
 34 to 65 kilograms  
 (75 to 140 pounds)

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**HABITATS**  
 Savannah, Shrubland, Grassland,  
 Wetlands, Rocky areas, Desert





Our Cheetah Reintroduction Programme continued



# 1

## CHEETAH COLLARED

Male's collar replaced with a new LoRa/VHF unit, sponsored by Loop Abroad student group

# 2

## CHEETAH RELOCATIONS

Two Selati females were relocated to Tshukudu Game Lodge and Makutsi Game Reserve (March 2023) and swapped for two young females from Mabula Game Reserve (April 2023) and Tswalu Game Reserve (June 2023) to maintain genetic diversity

# 3

## CUBS BORN

One litter born October 2023 to the newly introduced female from Tswalu Game Reserve. This is the two-year-old female's first litter, and she has been an exceptional first-time mother, with all three surviving thus far

# 4

## YEARS

Age of male cheetah introduced from Amakhosi Game Reserve (February 2024) through EWT



.....  
**Over half the world's cheetah reside in Southern Africa.**  
.....





**Our Cheetah Reintroduction Programme** continued

**Partnerships for Success**

A very special thank you to the sponsors of the Cheetah Reintroduction Programme, whose generous support has been highly instrumental to our success.

**SELATI FOUR PAWS**

A conservation collaboration between the SWF and Four Paws Wines (**Four Paws**), a Franschhoek-based winery with a sustainability and community upliftment-oriented business model.



*The two wines, Huja and Lillie, are named after two of the farms that make up the Selati Game Reserve. As with much of Southern Africa, these farmlands would have historically been populated by cheetah.*

Cheetah are now classified as “vulnerable” on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Reserve has been working with the EWT on cheetah reintroduction since 2015. In 2023, Four Paws funded the fitting of a LoRa (long-range) collar to one of Selati’s female cheetahs, providing invaluable data on her movements, habits and prey species for the Selati Research Team. This was accompanied by the release of two blends of wine with specially branded labels, allowing purchasers to link to the SWF website and learn about the conservation efforts on the Reserve and to make donations.




Loop Abroad Student Group



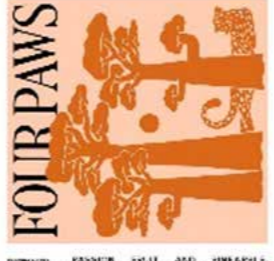



**HUJA 2014** CHERRY, DARK CHOCOLATE AND CEDARWOOD, SMOOTH, BALANCED TANNINS.



750 ML 15% VOL. [A900] CONTAINS SULPHITES WINE OF SOUTH AFRICA W.O. WESTERN CAPE ALCOHOLIC ADDITIVE

**LILLIE 2021** CHERRY, SLACK (10%), BAKERS HONEY (10%) AND WOODSMOKE (10%)



750 ML 13% VOL. [A900] CONTAINS SULPHITES WINE OF SOUTH AFRICA W.O. FRANSCHHOEK ALCOHOLIC ADDITIVE

# FOUR PAWS

**The initiative was formally launched at a combined event hosted at The White River Gallery on 18 July 2023.**

Labelled “Fast Paws” and attended by conservationists and nature lovers, the event featured the simultaneous launch of Gus and Margie Mills’ recently published book *Fast Cats* on Red Sands: The Lives of Kalahari Cheetahs and their researchers.

**Dr Gus Mills is a renowned African carnivore researcher with over 40 years’ experience studying brown hyena, spotted hyena, African wild dogs and most recently – cheetah.**






# Selati's Lion Pride

Lions in sub-Saharan Africa face various challenges, including habitat loss and fragmentation due to human activities, leading to increased human-wildlife conflict over livestock depredation and safety concerns (real or perceived). Poaching for traditional medicine and trophies, coupled with declines in prey populations, further threaten their survival. Climate change impacts, disease susceptibility and genetic isolation exacerbate these pressures. Various organisations act to protect lion populations and their conservation efforts typically focus on habitat protection, community engagement to mitigate conflict, anti-poaching measures and sustainable land-use practices to ensure the sustainable survival of lions and the health of the ecosystems they inhabit.

The Reserve's pride of lions exists within a 27 000ha area, which supports a variety of prey species that sustain it. Within the Reserve, the lions are the top predators, fulfilling a crucial role in the ecosystem's balance as they regulate prey populations, which in turn affects vegetation dynamics and the overall health of the Reserve. Their presence influences not only the abundance, but also the behaviour of herbivores and smaller predators within their territory.

The Reserve's management focuses on maintaining a balanced ecosystem where all species, including lions, have sufficient resources to thrive without causing imbalance or depletion of key species. Monitoring the lions, as well

as other wildlife and habitat conditions, is essential for understanding how the ecosystem functions and for making informed conservation and management decisions. This includes activities such as collaring key individuals to track their movements. By utilising radio telemetry and LoRa technology, we are able to track the lions and regularly monitor the pride. This monitoring allows us to collect data on a wide range of aspects, such as pride dynamics, parentage and genetics, diet and prey preference, habitat usage, behaviour, and growth and development. By combining this knowledge with data on other predators, the overall game population and the condition of the veld, we gain valuable insights into the Reserve's carrying capacity on all levels of the food chain.



**Lion**  
**IUCN STATUS**  
Vulnerable



**POPULATION**  
Around 20 000 to 25 000



**SCIENTIFIC NAME**  
*Panthera leo*



**WEIGHT**  
110 to 272 kilograms  
(242 to 599 pounds)



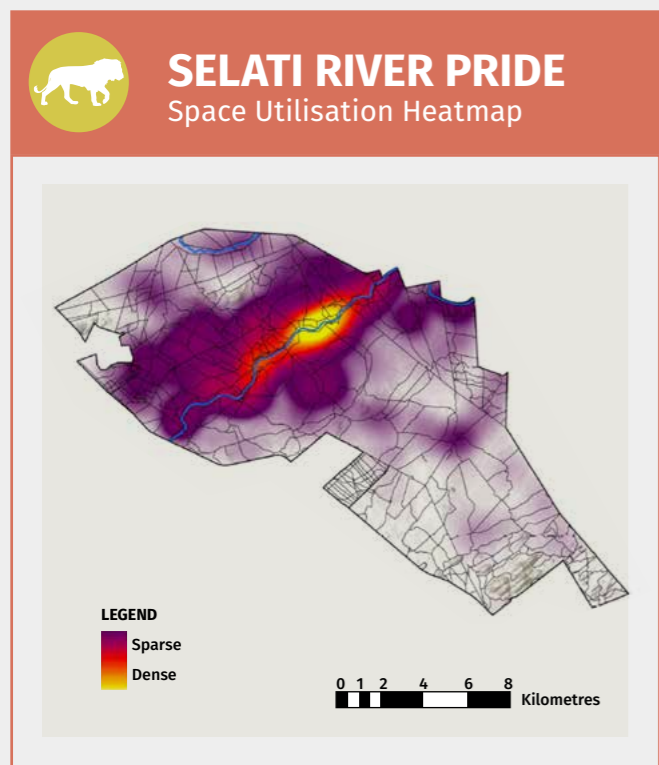
**HABITATS**  
Savannah, Shrubland,  
Semi-arid desert



Selati's Lion Pride continued

It was an exciting year for the Selati River pride, as the dominant male (LMA.MC) was swapped out for a coalition of two other males in March 2023 for the maintenance of genetic diversity. The two new males (LM1 and LM2) came from the Lalibela Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape. The new males settled into Selati very quickly and, in August, the first litter of cubs with new genes was born to one of our lionesses, shortly followed a second litter in October to her sister (LMA.FD and LMA.FE). All five cubs have survived, and the sexes have been confirmed as three females and two males. One un-collared lioness (LMA.FE) was fitted with a LoRa + VHF collar in July 2023 to assist with monitoring, as she often breaks off from the rest of the pride.

The collar data has proven incredibly useful in detecting lion kill sites through the use of a heat map depicting lion movement. The Research Team can easily detect areas where the lions have spent long amounts of time and can then go to the site after the lions have left and uncover the species preyed upon (see map below). This data is highly valuable to Reserve management because, as discussed above, characterising the diet of the lion pride can aid in decision-making about how the lions are managed based on their impact on various prey species.



# 11

## LIONS IN THE SELATI PRIDE POPULATION CURRENTLY

- 2 adult males
- 2 adult females
- 2 sub-adult females
- 5 cubs

# 5

## CUBS BORN

Each adult female lion had a litter

# 2

## RELOCATIONS

One Selati adult male was swapped for two adult male lions from the Lalibela Game Reserve to maintain genetic diversity (March 2023)

Two sub-adult male lions from Selati moved to AM Lodge for artificial dispersal (October 2023)

# 2

## LIONS COLLARED

(LM2 and LMA.FE)

To our esteemed sponsors, Larry Siegel, Brooke Carter, Loop Abroad Student Group and AM Lodge, we thank you for your support on Selati's lion initiative.





# TECHNOLOGY AND MONITORING



## WPS Cameras

### Wildlife protection cameras (WPS): Enhancing anti-poaching efforts

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguard endangered wildlife, the SWF have made significant advancements in sponsoring the deployment of WPS cameras throughout the Reserve. These high-tech, strategically placed cameras are a critical component of our anti-poaching efforts, providing real-time surveillance and monitoring of vulnerable species, particularly our precious rhino and cycad populations.

These cameras are equipped with advanced motion sensors and night vision capabilities, allowing for round-the-clock monitoring. The strategic deployment of WPS enables our teams to cover vast areas with minimal human intervention, significantly reducing the risk of poaching incidents. They also have the ability to detect human presence, as opposed to animal or other movements. They have been deployed strategically and notifications are sent to selected security personnel when human presence is detected.

The deployment of WPS has proven to be a game-changer in our anti-poaching strategy. With the ongoing support of the SWF, we are confident that these technologies will continue to play a pivotal role in safeguarding our wildlife for the future.



WPS camera picking up human presence

## Ops Room

### Solar power installation

We are pleased to report that, in January, the SWF successfully installed an 8KVA SunSync back-up power system in our operations room. This upgrade reinforces security operations across the Reserve while guaranteeing uninterrupted power to both our operations room and research offices. Combined with solar panels, this system enables us to maintain constant vigilance and responsiveness in safeguarding our environment. This installation demonstrates not only our commitment to reliability and sustainability but also our dedication to excellence in security and research efforts.



## Future Initiatives

### Scavenger Scout Project

The SWF, through Selati Research, is committed to advancing our understanding of the Spotted Hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*) and its ecological impact. The idea is to equip multiple hyaenas across the Reserve with GPS collars, utilising the LoRa network, enabling detailed tracking of their movement patterns. This technology allows us to gain a greater understanding of the hyaena's role in the ecosystem and gain a valuable insight into their behaviours, including scavenging, hunting, social interactions and denning. The Scavenger Scout initiative is being launched to enhance carcass detection, to support our anti-poaching efforts, predator behaviour research, biodiversity monitoring, and the development of effective management strategies.

### New technology

The SWF is always looking for innovative ways to solve problems, with rhino poaching being one of our main focuses. With the advancement of artificial intelligence technology, the wildlife industry is seeing more and more use cases, including the Rouxcell collars. These collars are fitted to a rhino's ankle and by using a customised LoRa network, send alerts of abnormal behaviour (like poaching) to the rangers on the ground. This speeds up the reaction time considerably and will give us a better chance of catching poachers in the act. If we combine this technology with autonomous drone tech, the chance of making critical arrests could increase dramatically. The SWF and the reserve will be following up on this technology during the course of 2024.





# GET INVOLVED







## 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!


## 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.





**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


## Contact Information

 [admin@selatiwf.org](mailto:admin@selatiwf.org)

 +27 (0) 15 318 4432

 +27 (0) 66 301 7759

 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

 <https://selatiwf.org/>

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.

# FINANCIAL REPORT



# General Information

<b>Country of incorporation and domicile</b>	South Africa
<b>Nature of business and principal activities</b>	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.
<b>Directors</b>	GR Batchelor AK Du Toit VA Joubert RWL Snaddon PH Wessels
<b>Business address</b>	Selati Game Reserve Farm Arundel 788LT Gravelotte 0895
<b>Banker</b>	Investec Bank Limited
<b>Reviewer</b>	BDO South Africa Incorporated Registered Auditors
<b>Company registration number</b>	2018/090330/08
<b>Tax reference number</b>	9058722258
<b>Level of assurance</b>	These financial statements have been independently reviewed in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Companies Act of South Africa.
<b>Preparer</b>	The annual financial statements were independently compiled by: BDO Business Services Proprietary Limited
<b>Issued</b>	30 September 2024

# Index

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

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# 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 loss.

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 86.

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 4 September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



RWL Snaddon



AK Du Toit

# Directors' Report

The directors have pleasure in submitting their report on the annual financial statements of The Selati Wilderness Foundation NPC for the year ended 29 February 2024.

## 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

GR Batchelor  
AK Du Toit  
VA Joubert  
RWL Snaddon  
PH Wessels

There have been no changes to the directorate for the period under review.

## 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.

## 4. Going concern

The directors believe 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.

## 5. Review

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

### 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 recorded.

#### 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 thereon.

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 this regard.

BDO South Africa Incorporated  
Registered Auditors

Martin McGarrigle  
Director  
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 Financial Position

as at 29 February 2024

	Note(s)	2024 R	2023 R
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	2	500,171	480,027
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Inventories	3	10,800	10,800
Trade and other receivables	4	210,988	54,253
Cash and cash equivalents	5	736,999	1,261,739
		<b>958,787</b>	<b>1,326,792</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>1,458,958</b>	<b>1,806,819</b>
<b>Equity and Liabilities</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained income		1,415,283	961,945
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	6	43,675	844,874
<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>		<b>1,458,958</b>	<b>1,806,819</b>

# Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 29 February 2024

	Note(s)	2024 R	2023 R
Non-profit receipts	7	2,874,121	1,272,120
Administrative expenses		(108,477)	(31,938)
Other expenses		(2,386,786)	(1,639,234)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) from non-profit activities</b>		<b>378,858</b>	<b>(399,052)</b>
Investment income	8	74,837	16,869
Finance costs		(357)	(623)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before taxation</b>		<b>453,338</b>	<b>(382,806)</b>
Taxation	9	-	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>453,338</b>	<b>(382,806)</b>

# Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 29 February 2024

	Retained income R	Total equity R
<b>Balance at 1 March 2022</b>	<b>1,344,751</b>	<b>1,344,751</b>
Deficit for the year	(382,806)	(382,806)
<b>Balance at 1 March 2023</b>	<b>961,945</b>	<b>961,945</b>
Surplus for the year	453,338	453,338
<b>Balance at 29 February 2024</b>	<b>1,415,283</b>	<b>1,415,283</b>

# Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 29 February 2024

	Note(s)	2024 R	2023 R
<b>Cash flows (used in)/generated from non-profit operating activities</b>			
Cash (used in)/generated from non-profit operating activities	10	(360,023)	558,211
Interest income		74,837	16,869
Finance costs		(357)	(623)
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated from non-profit operating activities</b>		<b>(285,543)</b>	<b>574,457</b>
<b>Cash flows used in investing activities</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	2	(239 197)	(318,028)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(239 197)</b>	<b>(318,028)</b>
<b>Total cash movement for the year</b>			
Cash at the beginning of the year		1,261,739	1,005,310
<b>Total cash at end of the year</b>	5	<b>736,999</b>	<b>1,261,739</b>

# Accounting Policies

for the year ended 29 February 2024

## 1. 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.

#### Taxation

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	3 years
Operational sites	Straight line	3 to 5 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 Organisation 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.

Donations in-kind are recorded when the entry receives the goods or services and are valued based on the amount reflected in the S18A certificate or letter of award received from the donor.

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.



# Notes to the Annual Financial Statements

for the year ended 29 February 2024

## 2. Property, plant and equipment

	2024			2023		
	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value	Cost	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value
Computer equipment	163,513	(88,289)	75,224	142,120	(38,543)	103,577
Computer software	5,885	(5,885)	–	5,885	(5,721)	164
Environmental equipment	329,064	(181,532)	147,532	273,754	(74,583)	199,171
Operational sites	404,027	(126,612)	277,415	220,139	(43,024)	177,115
<b>Total</b>	<b>902,489</b>	<b>(402,318)</b>	<b>500,171</b>	<b>641,898</b>	<b>(161,871)</b>	<b>480,027</b>

### Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment – 2024

	Opening balance	Additions	Depreciation	Closing balance
Computer equipment	103,577	21,393	(49,746)	75,224
Computer software	164	–	(164)	–
Environmental equipment	199,171	55,310	(106,949)	147,532
Operational sites	177,115	183,887	(83,587)	277,415
	<b>480,027</b>	<b>260,590</b>	<b>(240,446)</b>	<b>500,171</b>

### Reconciliation of property, plant and equipment – 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
	<b>316,962</b>	<b>318,028</b>	<b>(154,963)</b>	<b>480,027</b>

	2024 R	2023 R
<b>3. Inventories</b>		
Buffs and other merchandise	800	800
Artwork	10,000	10,000
	<b>10,800</b>	<b>10,800</b>
<b>4. Trade and other receivables</b>		
Trade receivables	68,460	10,990
Prepaid expenses	41,400	–
Value added tax	100,696	42,831
Other receivables	432	432
	<b>210,988</b>	<b>54,253</b>
<b>5. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash on hand	1,254	441
Bank balances	735,745	1,261,298
	<b>736,999</b>	<b>1,261,739</b>
<b>6. Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade payables	43,675	–
Income received in advance	–	830,995
Accrued expense	–	13,879
	<b>43,675</b>	<b>844,874</b>
<b>7. Non-profit receipts</b>		
Sale of goods	24,476	2,400
Donations received	1,008,376	383,483
Grants received	830,995	685,085
Conservation levies	581,241	201,152
Donations in-kind	429,033	–
<b>8. Investment income</b>		
Interest income		
Bank	74,837	16,869



## Notes to the Annual Financial Statements continued

### 9. Taxation

The non-profit company has been approved by the TEU of the South African Revenue Services as a Public Benefit Organisation on 15 February 2019 and effective from 16 August 2018, and hence is exempt from paying tax on receipts and accruals generated from the activities of the NPO. No provision has been made for taxation due to the exemption.

	2024 R	2023 R
<b>10. Cash (used in)/generated from non-profit operating activities</b>		
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	453,338	(382,806)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	240,446	154,963
Interest received	(74,837)	(16,869)
Finance costs	357	623
Non-cash donations in-kind	(21 393)	-
<b>Changes in working capital:</b>		
Trade and other receivables	(156,735)	17,480
Trade and other payables	(801,199)	784,820
	<b>(360,023)</b>	<b>558,211</b>

### 11. Related parties

	2024 R	2023 R
<b>Relationships</b>		
Entities with common directors		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited		
<b>Related party balances and transactions</b>		
<b>Related party balances</b>		
<b>Amounts included in trade payables regarding related parties</b>		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	(12,240)	-
<b>Related party transactions</b>		
<b>Donations paid to related parties</b>		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	475,200	5,928
<b>Donations received from related parties</b>		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	(1,063)	(3,000)
These donations were incurred for anti-poaching support for the reserve		
<b>Fuel costs paid to related parties</b>		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	4,436	93,740
<b>Other expenses paid to related parties</b>		
The Big Five Game Company Proprietary Limited	118,307	353,157

### 12. Going concern

The directors believe 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 29 February 2024

	Note(s)	2024 R	2023 R
<b>Non-profit receipts</b>			
Sale of goods		24,476	2,400
Donations in-kind		429,033	-
Donations received		1,008,376	383,483
Grants received		830,995	685,085
Conservation levies		581,241	201,152
	7	<b>2,874,121</b>	<b>1,272,120</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>			
Bank charges		(7,977)	(7,213)
Computer expenses		(35,277)	(5,031)
Reviewer's remuneration		(65,223)	(19,694)
		<b>(108,477)</b>	<b>(31,938)</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>			
Advertising		(5,056)	(730)
Annual report		(343,967)	-
Anti-poaching initiatives		(496,104)	(173,749)
Bufs and other merchandise		(33,725)	-
Cinematography		(2,000)	-
Consulting fees		(700)	-
Depreciation		(240,446)	(154,963)
Donations		(500,200)	(189,370)
Entertainment		-	(2,606)
Environmental awareness activities		(47,582)	(21,413)
IUCN project expenditure		(651,923)	(1,077,838)
Loss of cash		(12,041)	-
Other expenses		-	(75)
Secretarial fees		-	(7,756)
Telephone and fax		(14,142)	(1,625)
Travel – local		(14,350)	-
Veterinary services and supplies		(24,550)	(9,109)
		<b>(2,386,786)</b>	<b>(1,639,234)</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit) from non-profit activities</b>			
Investment income	8	74,837	16,869
Finance costs		(357)	(623)
		<b>74,480</b>	<b>16,246</b>
Taxation	9	-	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>			
		<b>453,338</b>	<b>(382,806)</b>

# 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 and Conservation Services

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

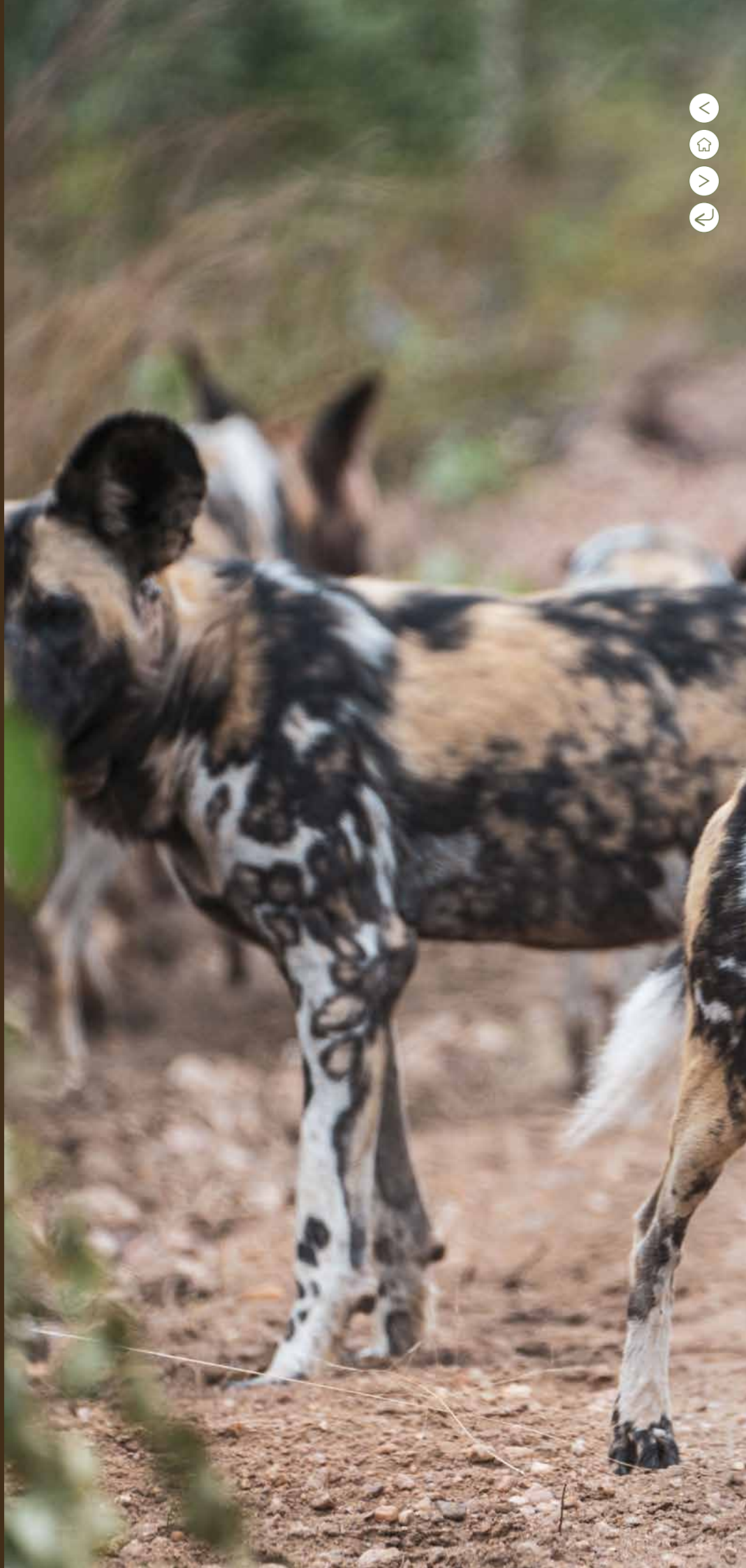
Four Paws Wine Company

BDO South Africa

SAGE South Africa

# Glossary

<b>APNR</b>	Associated Private Nature Reserves
<b>BOPP</b>	Birds of Prey Programme
<b>EWT</b>	Endangered Wildlife Trust
<b>HSI</b>	Humane Society International
<b>LoRa</b>	Low range
<b>LoRaWAN</b>	Long-range wide-area network
<b>LPWAN</b>	Low-power wide-area network
<b>MOI</b>	Memorandum of incorporation
<b>NPC</b>	Non-Profit Company
<b>SWF</b>	Selati Wilderness Foundation
<b>TEU</b>	Tax Exempt Unit
<b>VHF</b>	Very high frequency
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund
<b>IoT</b>	Internet of Things
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>SOS</b>	Save Our Species



*Selati*  
WILDERNESS FOUNDATION