



WILDERNESS
TRUST

REPORT

2018 - 2023





PROJECT MAP

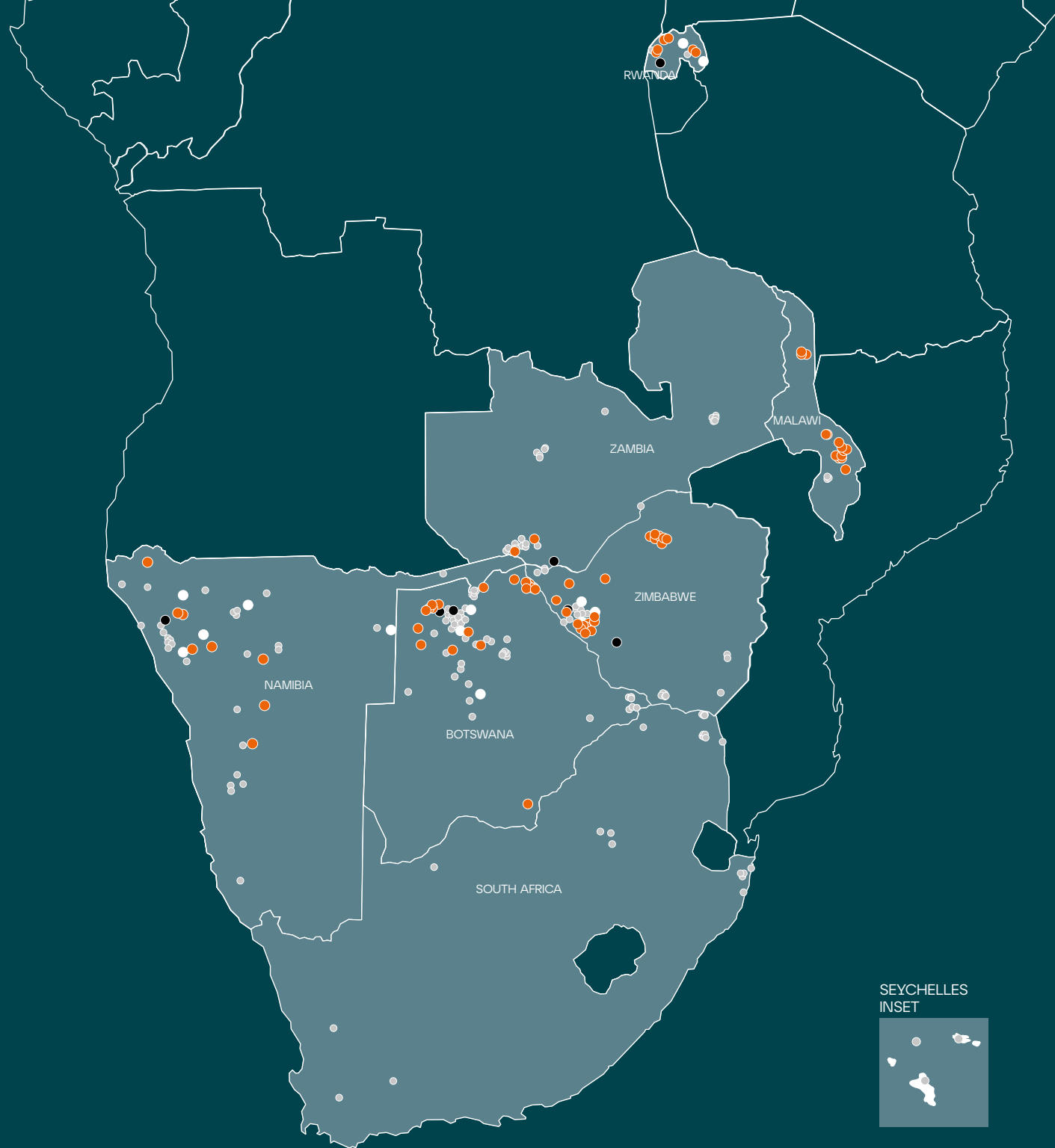
The locations of the projects financed by The Wilderness Trust during the review period.

- Projects under our Educate pillar
- Projects under our Empower pillar
- Projects under our Protect pillar

HISTORICAL PROJECTS BY REGION

This includes all Trust and CIITW past projects.

- Past Projects





HISTORICAL TRUST
AND CITW PROJECTS

Completed Project	Project Details and Species Impacted	Country-Location
BOTSWANA		
Botswana Rhino Reintroduction Project	Reintroduction of both black and white rhinoceros back into the wilds of the Okavango Delta.	Botswana – Okavango Delta
Botswana Wildlife Research – Increasing Capacity	Over the years, the Wilderness Trust and Wilderness Botswana has been offering researcher support such as accommodation, vehicles, food, communications and access to fuel, mechanical and logistical services. This included a sable study and research vehicles at Vumbura, spoor surveys of large carnivores at Mombo and the Seronga Lion Conflict Study.	Botswana – Okavango Delta and Linyanti
KAZA Wild Dog Conservation Study	Studied the viability and connectivity of African wild dog sub-populations in the Botswana section of the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area.	Botswana - Moremi, Savuti-Linyanti
Botswana Springbok Conservation Programme	Investigated factors that contributed to the decline in springbok numbers in the Kalahari.	Botswana - Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park-Mabuasehube, Kgalagadi Wildlife Management Areas
Biodiversity and Conservation of Amphibians in the Delta	Detailed population and habitat survey, providing baseline data for amphibian species present in Northern Botswana.	Botswana - Okavango Delta and Linyanti
Botswana Ant Diversity Study	This study used ants to investigate how herbivore pressure and elephant-induced changes to vegetation, as a function of distance from water, influenced functional diversity and species richness patterns of ant communities.	Botswana - Linyanti
Botswana Bateleur Eagle Project	Assessed the spatial and temporal distribution of bateleur and determined if there are any negative anthropogenic and natural factors impacting on populations inside and outside conservation areas in Botswana.	Botswana - Okavango Delta and Linyanti
Botswana Carnivore Monitoring Methodology Development	Estimated the density of 13 carnivore species using camera trap surveys, in combination with advanced statistical models.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Botswana Cattle Predation Study	Examined movements of lion living along the periphery of cattle-dominated areas. Quantifying the severity of conflict in the study area (number of livestock and lions killed within a 12-month period).	Botswana - Okavango Delta (Habu village area)
Botswana Human-Lion Conflict Study	Understanding of the ecological and socio-economic factors associated with human-lion conflicts and identified patterns related to success and failure of mitigation strategies.	Botswana – Boteti area
Botswana Lion Genetics Project	Developed a comprehensive understanding of the past and present genetic structure of the Okavango Delta lion population.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Botswana Leopard Scent and Spatial Study	Development of scent- and acoustic-based leopard deterrents that could be used to reduce human-leopard conflict.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Botswana Roan Antelope Ecology Project	Determined the home range use of various roan antelope herds.	Botswana - Linyanti

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Botswana Sable Research Project	Investigation into the home range and habitat use of sable antelope.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Botswana Vulture Conservation Project	Assessed viability of vulture populations in Botswana, specifically looking at white-headed, hooded, lappet-faced, white-backed, and Cape vultures.	Botswana – various locations
Botswana Wild Dog Movement Study	Used advances in GPS collar technology (at the time) to study African wild dog movement at unprecedented scales, along with DNA sampling to help determine the genetic structure of the population across the Delta.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Botswana Zebra Migration Project	Provided a greater understanding of the annual plains zebra migration that takes place between the Okavango Delta and the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park.	Botswana - Okavango Delta and Makgadikgadi Pans National Park
Central Kalahari Wild Dog Research	Determined an accurate estimate of the African wild dog population in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve – numbers, densities and pack structures, and the factors that influence their population dynamics and spatial ecology.	Botswana - Central Kalahari and Khutse Game Reserves.
Central Kalahari Wildebeest Study	Assessed whether the Central Kalahari Game Reserve could maintain viable numbers of blue wildebeest independent of surrounding areas.	Botswana - Central Kalahari Game Reserve
Cheetah Niche Segregation Project	Looked at the Influence of lion and spotted hyaena on the habitat-use and activity patterns of cheetah.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Ecology of Buffalo in the Okavango	Aimed to increase understanding of the ecology of African buffalo in the Okavango Delta so that a conservation and management plan for the species could be developed.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta	Assessed impact and extent of human-elephant conflict.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Human-Predator Conflict on Game Farms	Determined the drivers of human-predator conflict (with focus on cheetah and African wild dog) on game ranches and sought potential solutions.	Botswana
Linyanti Elephant and Biodiversity Project	Assessed the changes in the vegetation of the Linyanti riverfront, located the drivers of this change (elephants and/or climate change) and attempted to establish what these changes meant for heterogeneity and ultimately biodiversity of the area.	Botswana - Linyanti
Linyanti Elephant Impact Study	Study used aerial photographs to determine the overall loss of canopy trees from the woodland fringing the Linyanti.	Botswana - Linyanti
Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan Elephant Study	Looked at behavioural ecology, movements, effective human-elephant conflict policies, as well as education programme.	Botswana - Makgadikgadi and Nxai Pan National Parks
Makgadikgadi Brown Hyaena Research Project	Important information collected on the biology of brown hyaenas in the area, and conflict between hyaenas and farmers.	Botswana - Makgadikgadi Pans National Park
Makgadikgadi Human-Elephant Study	Studied elephant demographics, identifying crop-raiding patterns, and evaluation of economic costs of crop-raiding events.	Botswana - Makgadikgadi Pans National Park

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Makgadikgadi Male Elephant Study	Explored the intricacies of male African elephant society in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park in order to provide a model example of a healthy “bull society.”	Botswana - Makgadikgadi Pans National Park
Makgadikgadi Zebra Migration Project	Examined and quantified the ecological impact of the 2004 fencing of the Makgadikgadi ecosystem, with a specific focus on the migratory zebra and wildebeest populations.	Botswana - Makgadikgadi Pans National Park
Monitoring of Bird Populations at Lake Ngami	Obtained data on various waterbird species that lived at the Lake during a dry period, to help develop a long-term conservation plan.	Botswana - Lake Ngami
Northern Botswana Giraffe Population Study	Collected tissue samples (genetic material) from various giraffe populations in northern and central Botswana.	Botswana - Chobe, Linyanti, Moremi, Nxai Pans and Central Kalahari Game Reserve
Okavango Biodiversity Project	Developed a baseline monitoring programme for wetland ecosystem condition and water quality monitoring by using aquatic invertebrate biodiversity as indicators.	Botswana - Okavango and Linyanti systems
Okavango-Kalahari Wild Dog Research Project	Determined an accurate estimate of the African wild dog population in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve	Botswana - Central Kalahari Game Reserve
Okavango Large Herbivore Ecology Project	Gained information on seasonal population densities, demographics and distribution of key large-bodied herbivores, namely Cape buffalo, African elephant, blue wildebeest, giraffe, greater kudu, impala, Burchell’s zebra, red lechwe and tsessebe.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Okavango Nest Box Project	Looked at the ecology of Meyer’s Parrots as a cavity nesting bird species, as well as researching cavity nesting bird species in general.	Botswana - Okavango Delta (Vumbura)
Okavango Spotted Hyaena Study	Investigated the role of spotted hyaena in the Okavango Delta ecosystem.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Okavango Tsessebe Project	Study aimed to identify the key factors leading to tsessebe decline in the Okavango Delta, by furthering understanding of tsessebe ecology.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Rhino Ecology Project	Identified key factors influencing the movement of reintroduced black and white rhino out of the habitat into which they were introduced.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
TFCA Elephant Populations in the Okavango	Looked at abundance, distribution, population structure, habitat needs, and movements of elephants in northern Botswana.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Wildlife Migration Corridor Study	Increased the understanding of the Okavango-Makgadikgadi zebra migration; the second longest zebra migration in Africa.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Chitabe Fire Research Project	Studied the impacts of fire on small mammal populations in the Delta.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
MAWS Sterivac Programme	The Sterivac Programme has made significant progress towards its goal of reducing the unwanted, free-roaming domestic dog population of Maun and its surrounding communities.	Botswana – Maun

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Okavango Comparative Ecology Study	The purpose of this project was to initiate exploratory work on long term ecological change in and around the Moremi Game Reserve.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
Education for Carnivore Conservation	This project ran research, community outreach and education programmes with communities living with carnivores.	Botswana – Kalahari Region
Village Borehole Project	Boreholes sank in the villages of Mokgacha, Gunotsoga, Eretsha , Beethsa and Gudigwa.	Botswana - Okavango Delta
ZAMBIA		
Kafue Large Carnivore Conservation Project	Studied the main threats to both carnivores (cheetah, wild dog, lion) and herbivores in the Greater Kafue Ecosystem, as well as ensuring the ongoing sustainability of conservation efforts through de-snaring, education and capacity building.	Zambia – Kafue National Park
Kafue Lion Project	Established a strategic management plan for lions in the greater Kafue National Park system, including the surrounding Game Management Areas.	Zambia – Kafue National Park
Luangwa Thornicroft's Giraffe Project	Results of this study provided a baseline estimate of the population size of Thornicroft's giraffe.	Zambia - Luangwa Valley
Zambia Avian Frugivore Project	Impact of seasonal variation in fruit species richness on the diversity of obligate avian frugivores.	Zambia - Chembe Bird Sanctuary
Zambia Wild Dog Conservation Project	Intensive study of African wild dog and lion in the Luangwa Valley.	Zambia - Luangwa Valley
Kafue Elephant Study	The primary goal of this human-elephant conflict project was to assess the location and severity of the conflicts within communities adjacent to the Nkala Game Management Area and to understand farmers' perceptions of elephants.	Zambia – Kafue National Park
South Luangwa Conservation Society	Supported increasing effectiveness of anti-poaching patrols and scout efforts.	Zambia - Luangwa Valley
Zambia Poacher Transformation Project	Poacher 'transformation' training in carpentry, metal fabrication and basic conservation farming skills and other livelihood skills.	Zambia - Luangwa Valley
Kalengo Library	Built a library at the Kalengo Community School.	Zambia - Luangwa Valley
Simonga Village Infrastructure Development	Focus areas included sanitation, health, education, and construction of buildings.	Zambia - Livingstone
Sinde Village Community Project	Water provision and community empowerment.	Zambia - Livingstone
ZIMBABWE		
Hwange Elephant Movement Study	Gained a better understanding of elephant movements and habitat use in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, where elephant density is particularly high.	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park

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GLTCA Wild Dog Project	Looked at the conservation status and threats affecting the conservation of African wild dog in the context of the Zimbabwean section of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.	Zimbabwe - Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (Gonarezhou)
Hwange Cheetah Conservation Project	Comprehensive survey in the north-west Zimbabwe to gain a better understanding of cheetah distribution, the levels of human-cheetah conflict, KAZA corridor use and the potential for transboundary movement.	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park
Hwange Leopard Population Dynamics	Gathered information regarding whether the utilisation of leopard is sustainable. This was done by comparing populations where leopards are fully protected (such as in national parks) and areas where they are hunted.	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park and surrounds
Hwange Spotted Hyaena Project	Aimed to gather a better understanding of human-hyaena conflict within Hwange National Park and its bordering communities.	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park and surrounds
Hwange White Rhino Reintroduction	White rhino were translocated from Matobo National Park to the Wilderness Concession in Hwange National Park.	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park
Lowveld Wild Dog Project	Focussed on human-African wild dog conflict, anthropogenic mortality factors, education, and awareness programmes with local communities, and attended to livestock deprivation complaints.	Zimbabwe - Savé Valley Conservancy
Zimbabwe Cheetah Conservation Project	Overall aim of the project was to improve Zimbabwe’s national and regional cheetah conservation strategy.	Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe Pangolin Programme	The Trust partly funded the project’s efforts in the successful CITES uplisting of Temminck's ground pangolin.	Zimbabwe
Hwange Research Coordinator and Ecologist	Established various projects including monthly rhino monitoring exercises, monthly full moon 24-hour pan counts, road strip counts, spoor transects, assisting with Lion and Leopard Research Projects (run by independent researchers), assessment of game water supply, measurement of borehole depths throughout the season, darting and snare removal, assisting with anti-poaching, as well as vulture counts.	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park
Mana Pools Tree Project	This experimental project attempted to protect ana trees from further elephant damage by wrapping wire mesh around their trunks.	Zimbabwe – Mana Pools National Park
Savé Conservancy Bush-Meat Survey	Addressed the threat posed to wild dogs in the Save Conservancy by the bush-meat trade as well as monitoring of wild dogs and snare removal.	Zimbabwe - Savé Conservancy
Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit	Assisted with employment of a team of scouts to cover the area surrounding Victoria Falls Village so as to effectively control or at least minimise wood and mammal poaching.	Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls
Zimbabwe Schools Programme	Improvement of facilities and provision of education tools (Mpindo, Ziga, Kapane and Ngamo, St Mary’s schools)	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park
Kapane and Ngamo Clinic Projects	Water provision and staff housing.	Zimbabwe – Hwange National Park
Tshabolisa Community Development Project	Various community projects as well as employment of anti-poaching scouts.	Zimbabwe – Bulawayo District

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NAMIBIA		
Namibia Desert Elephant Conservation	Aimed to reduce human-elephant conflict and foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Namibia's desert-adapted elephants.	Namibia – Kunene Region (Kaokoveld)
Bat-eared Fox Project	Bat-eared fox were assessed as indicator species for land rehabilitation, often the first of the small carnivores to enter an area that has previously been disturbed.	Namibia – Kulala Wilderness Reserve
Brown Hyaena Research Programme	Brown hyaena collaring, tracking, and monitoring, adding to the knowledge of population densities, distribution and habits.	Namibia - Southern Namib-Sperrgebiet
Cape Griffon Project	Fitting the few remaining Namibian Cape vultures with satellite telemetry, adding to knowledge base of the species. Added to this was a vulture awareness campaign and poison use monitoring.	Namibia – various locations (centred around the Waterberg)
Caprivi Spotted Hyaena Project	Investigated spotted hyaena-related human-wildlife conflict and its mitigation in the conservancies that lie between the Mudumu and the Mamili National Parks.	Namibia - Zambezi Region (formerly Caprivi)
Communal Conservancy Black Rhino Relocation	Black rhino were fitted with transmitters and relocated.	Namibia – Kunene Region (Kaokoveld)
Giraffe Social Organisation Study	Documented the social relationships of approximately 135 female southern (Angolan) giraffe in Etosha National Park.	Namibia – Etosha National Park
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra Conservation	Identified key conservation areas for Hartmann's mountain zebra in Namibia.	Namibia – Kunene Region (Kaokoveld)
Kunene Black Rhino Air Monitoring Project	Provided vital aerial surveillance and spotting for black rhino relocation operation.	Namibia – Kunene Region (Kaokoveld)
Namibia Cape Fur Seal Survey	Using sophisticated infra-red technology at the time, the seals along the coast, both on land and in the water, were counted, providing an estimate of the population.	Namibia – Kunene Region (coastline)
Namibia Crane and Wetland Bird Conservation	Study aimed to determine reasons for the small and declining population of blue cranes through population size monitoring, and identifying factors critical in the ecology and life-history of these birds in Namibia.	Namibia – Etosha National Park
Namibia Desert Bird Study	Study contributed to conservation management and policy decisions in Namibia by understanding why some bird species persist in very hot, arid environments where other, similar, species do not survive at all.	Namibia
Namibia Desert-Dwelling Giraffe Study	Investigation of the social structure and population dynamics of the desert-dwelling Angolan giraffe populations of the ephemeral Hoanib and Hoarusib Rivers.	Namibia – Kunene Region (Kaokoveld)
Kunene Community Perceptions Project	Assessed local communities' attitudes and perceptions towards and experiences with reintroduced black rhino.	Namibia – Kunene Region (Kaokoveld)
Namibia Elephant Population Dynamics Project	Understanding how ecological factors regulate or limit elephant population numbers in Etosha and the western Kunene.	Namibia – Kunene Region

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Namibian Black Rhino Habitat Study	A multi-scale habitat assessment for black rhinos based on vegetation and environmental relationship analyses was completed.	Namibia – Kunene Region
Namibian Cape Vulture Release Project	Main aim was to release all viable captive, parent-raised Cape Vulture chicks into Namibia to help stabilise the remaining wild population of this species.	Namibia
Namibian Elephant and Giraffe Project	Overall aim was to provide scientifically gathered data on elephants and other large mammals to local, regional and national decision-makers.	Namibia - Omusati Region & Etosha National Park
Nyae Nyae Human-Elephant Conflict Research	Provided Nyae Nyae Conservancy management with recommendations for reducing human-elephant conflicts	Namibia - Nyae Nyae Conservancy
Pro-Namib Fairy Rings Study	The aim of the project was to once and for all establish the role of seed-harvesting ants in the making of fairy rings.	Namibia – Namib Desert
Shadow Hunter Project	The project aimed to build a sound database of behavioural, ecological, environmental, and taxonomic knowledge on black mongoose in order to accurately assess its conservation status and to make appropriate management recommendations for this species and the unique habitat in which it lives.	Namibia – Damaraland
Skeleton Coast Lichen Project	Conducted a ground survey of all lichen communities in a specified study area, to assess the long-term impacts of human activity on lichens and the Namib Desert ecosystem.	Namibia – Skeleton Coast
Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy	The Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy is a long-term conservation strategy for the development and implementation of informed land management plans for the proposed People’s Park and its surrounding communal conservancies.	Namibia – Kunene Region
Namibian Black Rhino Monitor Training Project	Supported Save the Rhino Trust in the development of a competent and dedicated force of rhino monitors.	Namibia – Kunene Region
MALAWI		
Liwonde Black Rhino Project	Reintroduction of small black rhino population to eventually provide a source of animals to establish other nuclei in the country.	Malawi - Liwonde National Park
Liwonde Butterfly Survey	Compiled species list and collection of butterflies found around Mvuu Lodge in Liwonde.	Malawi - Liwonde National Park
Liwonde Black Rhino Monitoring & Protection Project	Monitoring of black rhino in Liwonde National Park to maintain high levels of security and reduce poaching risks.	Malawi - Liwonde National Park
Liwonde National Park Aerial Census	Aerial counts of population sizes of different wildlife species in protected areas can serve as useful tool to assist management decisions.	Malawi - Liwonde National Park
Malawi Mobile Response Unit	The aim was to establish a mobile, self-sustaining emergency wildlife response veterinary unit.	Malawi - Liwonde National Park

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William Kamkwamba Community Library	Assisted with the construction of a library where all citizens of the area have access to materials of higher education.	Malawi – Balaka District
H.E.L.P. Malawi Support	Procured a vehicle for H.E.L.P. Malawi programmes and projects as well as funding for staff salaries.	Malawi - Liwonde National Park
MOZAMBIQUE		
Limpopo Transfrontier Predator Project	Determined the population status of cheetah, lion and wild dog and investigated human-carnivore interactions.	Mozambique - Limpopo National Park
SOUTH AFRICA		
Owls as Pest Control Study	Investigated the effectiveness of wild owls (notably spotted eagle-owl, western barn owl) in urban areas as a form of bio-control against rodents.	South Africa - Gauteng
Cederberg Caracal Project	Determined the influence of leopard as an apex predator on the spatial and behavioural ecology of caracal, a meso-predator and primary competitor.	South Africa - Cederberg Mountains
Chacma Baboon Self-Medication Study	The aim of this study was to determine whether chacma baboon self-medicate to avoid toxins.	South Africa – Western Cape
Fossil Plant Study	Study assessed how grassland, savannah, forest, and thicket dynamics at ecotones are related to climate, competition, herbivory, and nutrient biogeochemistry at millennial-decadal timescales.	South Africa - KwaZulu-Natal
Greater Limpopo Transboundary Buffalo Project	Looked at transboundary movements of African buffalo within Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area	South Africa - Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area
Ground Pangolin Ecology Project	Investigated the ecology of Temminck's ground pangolin in the arid western parts of South Africa.	South Africa - Kalahari
Makuleke Large Mammal Reintroduction Project	Established a breeding nucleus of white rhino and other species in the Makuleke region of the Kruger National Park.	South Africa - Kruger National Park (Makuleke)
Makuleke Pan Characteristics Project	Looked at the usage by wild animals of six perennial pans in the Makuleke Wetland System.	South Africa - Kruger National Park (Makuleke)
Makuleke Transboundary Elephant Movements	Contributed toward the appropriate design of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park, and developed insights into the seasonal distribution patterns of African elephant in and around the Makuleke Concession.	South Africa - Kruger National Park (Makuleke)
Maputaland Sea Turtle Project	Daily patrols and data collection for leatherback and loggerhead turtles.	South Africa – Maputaland (Rocktail Bay)
Suikerbosrand Chacma Baboon Study	Studied the biology and home ranges of the 12 chacma baboon troops known to occur on Suikerbosrand at the time.	South Africa – Gauteng (Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve)

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Whale Coast Cetacean Project	The project combined the use of passive acoustic monitoring, theodolite tracking, photographic identification, and opportunistic observation data on whales and dolphins.	South Africa - Western Cape
Education Bursary Recipients	Recipients of the Wilderness Trust's Bursary Fund to enable further studies.	South Africa - Kruger National Park (Makuleke)
Makuleke Small Business Support Project	Was established as a joint venture between the Makuleke Community Property Association and Wilderness Safaris to encourage, support and diversify tourism related enterprise.	South Africa - Kruger National Park (Makuleke)
Mkambati School Programme	The Zimisele school project was initiated to improve the schooling conditions of the children in the Mkambati community.	South Africa – Eastern Cape (Wild Coast)
SEYCHELLES		
North Island Rehabilitation Project	The results of the project included a 5.5-hectare area transformed into suitable Seychelles white-eye habitat, and 35 Seychelles white-eyes introduced and subsequently monitored.	Seychelles - North Island
RWANDA		
Rwanda Shoebill Aerial Survey	Dedicated aerial survey to assess for the first time the status, distribution and population size of shoebill in Rwanda.	Rwanda – Akagera National Park
Volcanoes National Park Food Security Study	Evaluated the relationship between the conservation of Volcanoes National Park and local food security.	Rwanda – Volcanoes National park
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO		
Congo Gorilla Tracker Training Project	Supported research of habituated gorilla groups to gain information for their long-term conservation.	Republic of the Congo - Odzala-Kokoua NP



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