

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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# CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

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**In 2021 Chengeta Wildlife was confronted in a dramatic way with the significant risks involved in protecting wildlife in important biodiversity locations with complex security situations as our co-founder Rory Young lost his life in Burkina Faso.**

Following Rory's death in April 2021, we gave careful consideration to Chengeta's future and consulted within the organization and with our partners. Greatly inspired by Rory's words and deeds, we felt fully confident to continue Chengeta Wildlife and, even if it is hard to imagine Chengeta Wildlife without Rory, we are continuing forward, unchanged, energized and singularly focused.

There is no doubt that 2021 has been very difficult year for our organization. Yet Rory built an incredible team that has shown the same fortitude and perseverance exhibited by Rory himself throughout his distinguished career. A team that is undaunted by challenges, a team that remains resolute and professional, and a team that continues to deliver the results needed to protect our precious planet.

As a result, we have grown in 2021 with new project work in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo to add to our continued work in Mali with the Malian Elephant Project and in the Central African Republic in the Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas. In addition, there is a perspective on new activities, with emerging projects on the cards.

Chengeta Wildlife's organization was consolidated and adapted where necessary in 2021 and we continue to be a learning organization, that is fully prepared to face the challenges in the conservation field in 2022 and beyond.

We will continue to work in the spirit of Rory Young, furthering conservation in all its dimensions and confident that we will contribute to a better world.

**Roeland Van Der Geer**

CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD,  
CHENGETA WILDLIFE

# REMEMBERING RORY

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## **Rory Young, Co-Founder & CEO, Chengeta Wildlife**

**An exceptional figure who lived a fascinating  
and meaningful life**



One year on and the sense of immense loss is still just as profound.

Rory Young, co-founder of Chengeta Wildlife died when terrorists attacked the wildlife protection patrol he was supporting in West Arly, Burkina Faso, on 26 April 2021. The two Spanish journalists, David Beriáin and Roberto Fraile, who died alongside Rory were in the process of capturing his life-long efforts to protect precious wildlife in the most challenging, yet critically important, locations.

Rory was a giant of conservation. A man who risked all to do what he could to protect wildlife, to empower communities and to train rangers. But he was also a man who inspired, who gathered like-minded individuals to the same cause and built a team and a fantastic support network to help achieve his lifelong vision.

His passing was met with a flood of outpouring love and support from across the globe – an indication of just how many lives he had touched. Anyone who knew him, or knew of him, held him in the highest of regards. He will always be a reminder to support those doing the work, to never forget and to do things ‘while we can, before it’s too late’.

Chengeta Wildlife, the charity Rory Young co-founded, is continuing to drive forward and doing exactly what he would have wanted – training rangers, empowering communities and protecting wildlife.

## **Greg Murphy**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
CHENGETA WILDLIFE



# PROJECTS

**Chengeta Wildlife is a wildlife protection charity delivering lasting anti-poaching solutions in the most challenging environments.**

Our operating principle focuses on five key aspects to support the protection of wildlife.

				
HARMONIZE	EMPOWER	ANALYZE	TRAIN	MENTOR
<p><b>WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COMMUNITIES, PARTNERS, AND PROGRAMS.</b></p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in national strategic wildlife protection planning</li> <li>• Integrate &amp; align stakeholders</li> <li>• Provide analysis</li> <li>• Assist in bespoke National Park planning</li> <li>• Liaison &amp; coordination with judicial process</li> <li>• Provision of progress reports</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT EFFORTS COUNTERING ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE.</b></p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Rights Training at the Community Level</li> <li>• Rapid Ethnographic Assessments</li> <li>• Communications development</li> <li>• Environmental Education</li> <li>• Support economic &amp; entrepreneurial development</li> </ul>	<p><b>&amp; INVESTIGATE EXISTING DATA TO UNDERSTAND THE HOLISTIC SITUATION.</b></p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection &amp; processing of data</li> <li>• Network, hotspot &amp; geospatial analyses</li> <li>• Fusion of human &amp; geospatial sources</li> <li>• Development of a Common Operating Picture</li> <li>• Evaluation of existing practices</li> </ul>	<p><b>AND DEVELOP LOCAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION CAPACITY.</b></p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Rights Training</li> <li>• Site-specific Doctrine development</li> <li>• Leadership development</li> <li>• Counter-Improvise Explosive Device Training</li> <li>• Fieldcraft/ tracking</li> <li>• Weapon Handling</li> <li>• Evidence Handling</li> </ul>	<p><b>AND SUPPORT ANTI-POACHING OPERATIONS.</b></p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrol Operations</li> <li>• Detection, Surveillance, Site Exploitation</li> <li>• Canine Units &amp; other Specialized Capabilities</li> <li>• Prosecution follow up</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> <li>• Development of tactics, techniques and procedures</li> </ul>

In 2021, Chengeta was operational in the following projects: Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas in the Central African Republic, Salonga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali Elephant Project in Mali and FOMEK: Arly National Park in Burkina Faso.

The next pages detail the work achieved by Chengeta on each project.

In the **Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas DSPA**, Chengeta Wildlife operates through an MOU with WWF-CAR to jointly deliver community engagement and specialist wildlife protection training to the anti-poaching units. Chengeta has provided specialist support to the management unit of DSPA since 2018. DSPA is co-managed by the Ministry of Forests, Waters, Hunting and Fishing of the Central African Republic and WWF-CAR.

### **In 2021, in DSPA Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:**

- ✓ Protected wildlife within 3,785km<sup>2</sup> of Congo Basin rainforest
- ✓ Empowered 16 different communities across a population of over 28,000
- ✓ Trained and mentored 91 rangers.

### **Location and Biodiversity**

Located in the southwestern corner of the Central African Republic (CAR), DSPA is part of the Sangha Trinational Complex - a UNESCO World Heritage site - an incredibly biodiverse area home to species such as forest elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, and pangolins.

### **Ranger Training**

Five sessions of training with a 77 trainees including classroom sessions and practical exercises to reinforce intellectual and technical capacity.

### **Communities for Conservation**

Chengeta Wildlife's engagement with local communities, especially in DSPA, is a cornerstone of the success of our conservation efforts. We have established a community representative program across 3 villages and conducted nearly one year of a self-reporting hunting off-take survey in collaboration with legal gun hunters association.



# DRC

## PROJECT: SALONGA NATIONAL PARK

Chengeta Wildlife is partnered with the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to **train eco-guards in Salonga National Park (SNP)**, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Salonga is the largest protected rainforest in the whole of Africa (as big as countries Belgium and Luxembourg combined).

**In 2021, in SNP Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:**

- ✓ Protected wildlife within 33,500km<sup>2</sup> of pristine Congolese tropical rainforest
- ✓ Trained and mentored 266 rangers and eco-guards

### Location and Biodiversity

Salonga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the Congo Basin is home to the largest forested park in Africa and is one of the last intact tropical rainforests. Salonga is home to many species including okapi, bonobos, and the critically endangered forest elephant.

### Ranger Training

In Salonga, Chengeta trained the 266 rangers who are employed by the ICCN to monitor and patrol this vast forested area. They mostly came from local villages, due to the remoteness of the region. Mutual respect creates a harmonious working environment between our trainers, the rangers and the local communities and is essential to the effective protection of wildlife and of conservation landscapes there.





# MALI

## PROJECT: MALI ELEPHANT PROJECT

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Chengeta Wildlife has worked with WILD Foundation and the **Mali Elephant Project** to provide training, mentoring and other assistance to rangers in the Gourma area since 2016. Mali is a fascinating, yet challenging desert country in Africa. Perhaps best known for its rich cultural diversity, Mali is also home to the most northerly elephant herd in living in one of the harshest environments in the world, the arid Sahel.

**In 2021, in the Mali Elephant Project Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:**

- ✓ Protecting wildlife within 42,263km of the newly designated Gourma biosphere reserve
- ✓ Trained and mentored 35 rangers

### Ranger Training

Chengeta worked to maintain the specialist anti-poaching skillset within the existing Anti-Poaching Unit and provided train-the-trainer package training to the Mali Elephant Project.

### Desert Elephants of Mali

Each year the 250-300 Malian Desert Elephants undertake a vast migration, circumscribing an area of over 32,000km<sup>2</sup> between the Niger river on the north to the Burkina Faso/Mali border in the south. Their migration pattern is a result of the elephants' need to access seasonal resources for their survival. The elephants spend 95% of their time in specific "concentration areas" of key resources (water, food & refuge) and the rest of the time moving rapidly between them.



# BURKINA FASO

## PROJECT: FOMEK, ARLY NATIONAL PARK

Chengeta Wildlife, alongside our partners Anges Gardien de Nature (AGN) and Wild Foundation, supported a project for the sustainable and participatory management of forest areas in the **MEKrou basin in Burkina Faso (FOMEK)**. Chengeta's role in this project was to develop, train and mentor a mixed anti-poaching unit to restore the protection of wildlife residing in West Arly.

**In 2021, in FOMEK Arly National Park Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:**

- ✔ Trained 69 rangers from the Burkinabe Armed Forces, Directorate of Eaux et Forets and Gendarmerie

### Location and Biodiversity

Arly National Park in south-east Burkina Faso, part of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex on the West African tri-border region shared between Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin. It is considered home to one of the largest population of elephants in West Africa, buffalo, lions and other threatened wildlife species.

### Ranger Training

Chengeta trained 69 rangers on specialist programs including anti-poaching operations tactics and safety, Human Rights and Rule of Law training, tactical tracking (human and wildlife), Counter Improvised Explosive Device (IED) training, bushcraft, navigation, patrol tactics, techniques and procedures.

### Tragic Incident and Project Suspension

The mission in Arly National Park tragically ended with the loss of life of Chengeta's co-founder and CEO Rory Young who was supporting a wildlife protection patrol on 26th April 2021 when they were attacked by terrorists which resulted in his death and that of two Spanish journalists, David Beriáin and Roberto Fraile, who were capturing his efforts to protect precious wildlife. Following the tragic incident the Burkinabe government suspended the project indefinitely.





# THANK YOU

## Thank You to All Our Partners & Supporters

As a result of our collaboration with WWF, Chengeta Wildlife has a permanent presence in the Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas Complex, Central African Republic. In Mali, we partner with Mali Elephant Project and we are supported by the Elephant Crisis Fund in Mali and the Central African Republic. We thank them for their support.

We work closely with regional partners including Aires Protégées Dzanga Sangha, Parc National de la Salonga and Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature. We also work with Langland Conservation, Kinetic Six, Scent Imprint Conservation Dogs who trained our detection dogs Mitch & Bobby and The DM Lab for digital support.

We thank all of our partners, donors, supporters and followers for their unwavering and continued support throughout 2021.





[chengetawildlife.org](http://chengetawildlife.org)