

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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# CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

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Although conservation is very much at a critical point, it could easily be lost within the current global context of evident climate change, conflict, contest for resources, energy crisis and economic decline. But we must remain focussed on our mission of protecting wildlife. In a recent article, Marco Lambertini, Director General, World Wildlife Fund International, observed “*wildlife numbers are down 69% - It’s a red alert for the planet. But we have the tools to reverse much of this loss - if we have the will*”.

Chengeta has ‘will’ in spades as new opportunities arise and activities are successfully completed. Notably, this year saw the transition of one of our most longstanding projects – the Malian Elephant Project. On 26 May 2022, the Malian Defence and Environment Ministers jointly committed to assuming responsibility for and maintaining the anti-poaching unit. Our final contribution to this remarkable project was the delivery of a “train the trainer” package marking the culmination of five years of challenging and at times dangerous but very important work. The threat to the elephants was contained, their population now stabilised, and Mali is adopting its own local approaches and solutions. A moment to be proud of for Mali, for our funding partners and certainly for Chengeta.

The year 2022 has seen significant change in Chengeta Wildlife as our organisation has evolved, necessarily reorganizing and restructuring under the new executive leadership team. Refreshing our strategy, expanding our influence within existing projects, forging new partnerships, pioneering new community initiatives, developing new projects, and aligning our endeavours with best practices in conservation.

I am delighted to report that the concerted efforts of the team continues to deliver solid results – the joyous scenes in Dzanga Sangha at the graduation ceremony of new Rangers in May stands a direct testament to our holistic and community centric approach. The next generation to safeguard wildlife, being celebrated by the communities they come from and represent. A moment to smile in recognition of significant and sustainable progress.

In closing, my final words must go towards the team. I am grateful for their unflinching determination, for their commitment to our work, that is often carried out in challenging conditions and, of course, for the widely recognised results that they continue to achieve.

**Roeland van der Geer**

CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD,  
CHENGETA WILDLIFE

# CEO'S COMMENT

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I am often asked how has Chengeta changed and how is Chengeta now approaching our mission of protecting wildlife? Yes, the leadership team has evolved but we remain an organization dedicated to supporting the protection of wildlife and pursuing a vision of thriving ecosystems, shared with communities and safeguarded by local wildlife protection solutions. In this sense not much has changed, but we are also an organization that must adapt within the situation we find ourselves.

Our approach has been to consolidate on where we have been strong and to expand into areas that benefit our core mission. Our reputation, built upon exceptional training, and mentoring support, is now being complemented by the provision of support at the operational park management level. And, at a strategic level, we have been working with national partners to build enduring instructional capacity so that they can take responsibility and build their own capacity. Developing local solutions recognises success as 'we are no longer required', Mali being our first example of this.

Equally, our community work, predominantly focussed on communication, leadership engagement and supporting local initiatives is now being complemented with pioneering initiatives on community hunting zones, contributing to changes in traditional indiscriminate hunting techniques and Human Rights policy work that seeks to bring law enforcement and communities closer on a shared understanding. Indeed, Dr Carolyn Robinson and Aaron Porter's human rights work was reviewed by the United Nations OCHR as being the first of its kind. A significant feat collaborating between communities and law enforcement actors.

We have also welcomed new partnerships and closer relationships with organizations that complement our approach and cohere with our vision. Our symbiotic alliance with Langland Conservation has amplified our analytical capacity and continues to open new doors. This has included a demand to provide consultancy support. We continue to forge closer ties with the World Wide Fund for Nature and are exploring new projects with Wildlife Conservation Society and the Jane Goodall Institute, amongst other emerging projects.

I believe our consolidation is now over and look forward positively to 2023 and beyond.

**Greg Murphy**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
CHENGETA WILDLIFE



# COMMUNITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS

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The safeguarding of human rights and engaged community conservation remain the foundations on which our training and analytical platforms are effectively delivered and implemented. As associations working in wildlife protection and community spaces across the globe work to professionalize rangers' codes of conduct, in 2022 we revised our own human rights policies to ensure we meet, and seek to exceed, the expectations of international standards.

An internal policy, manual for instructors and rangers, as well as assessment tool were developed and presented for review to representation for the Office of the High Commission of Human Rights, United Nations. These works are critically important to maintaining the trust and support of the community members whose cultural vitality is linked so closely to the landscapes we seek to protect. In 2023, we will continue to expand these works in to field and user-friendly tools that support our partners in the field.

Working toward healthy futures for wildlife and people has always been a focus of Chengeta's community programmes. This year we worked with our partners in the Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas to develop a management plan for the 491km<sup>2</sup> Community Hunting Zone (ZCC) using participatory mapping and collaborative workshops. The ZCC was set aside in 2004 as a unique space within APDS for traditional and legal local resource use practices; however, it lacked a long-term management plan.

Our teams completed 20+ workshops with more than 28% of the adult population of the protected area to understand their needs and concerns regarding managing limited resources in the face of limited livelihood alternatives, increased human wildlife conflict and illegal activity within the zone. Involvement in the design and implementation of the APDS management plan marks a turning point in for Chengeta Wildlife in helping elevating voices in conservation landscapes that support long-term sustainable solutions.



# MALI

## PROJECT: MALI ELEPHANT PROJECT

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Mali is a fascinating, yet challenging desert country in Africa. 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 and refuge) and the rest of the time moving rapidly between them. 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.

**In 2022, in the Mali Elephant Project Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:**

- ✓ Protecting wildlife within 42,263km of the newly designated Gourma biosphere reserve
- ✓ Transitioned the responsibility of maintaining anti-poaching capacity to the Department of Waters & Forestry within Mali's Ministry of the Environment
- ✓ Trained and mentored 35 rangers.

### **Building Law Enforcement Capacity - Ranger Training**

2022 marks the end of an era and saw the transition of responsibility for the training of rangers handed over to the department of Waters & Forest, within Mali's Ministry of the Environment. Since 2016 Chengeta has worked closely with our longest and closest standing partner Wild Foundation to help contain elephant poaching and to help build sufficient capacity within country to autonomously protect the species going forward into the future. It had been a project on which Rory built Chengeta's reputation of going to those places that others would not. Achieving results where others had failed.

In all our projects we see success as being able to walk away – following more than 5 years of work our final intervention was to 'train the trainers', and provide them with the doctrine, analysis and instructional support to continue going forward under their own steam. The moment was marked publicly in an occasion chaired by the Minister of Defence, the Minister of the Environment, Director of Waters & Forestry, EU Ambassador and the Director of the Malian Elephant Project – Dr Susan Canney. It felt right that part of this final intervention was delivered by Nigel Kuhn, who worked and took risks alongside Rory in the Gourma for so long.





# CAR

## PROJECT: DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

Located in the southwestern corner of the Central African Republic (CAR), APDS 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, leopards and pangolins. Chengeta Wildlife operates through a 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 & Fishing of the Central African Republic and WWF-CAR.

### In 2022, 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 111 rangers
- ✓ Joint coordination with Noubalé-Ndoki National Park, Republic of Congo.

### Law Enforcement Capacity Building - Ranger Training

A phenomenal year. This year Chengeta provided closer support to Aires Protégées Dzanga Sangha (APDS) management team with the provision of a law enforcement Technical Advisor to support the Conservator as well as the provision of training, mentoring and community engagement. This has helped achieve greater synergies, enabled planning and preparation, and achieved greater momentum. Analytical training of eco-guards has helped inculcate a habit of collecting data as to focus interventions. We have delivered four sessions of training to 72 rangers. This included a basic ranger course for 40 trainees from which 25 new eco-guards were selected - the graduation ceremony, attended by ~10,000 locals and local dignitaries, was a moment for local history. Additionally, we conducted our first leadership course, conducted the first bi-lateral law enforcement summit with Noubalé-Ndoki National Park and concluded the year with continuation training of a further 32 trainees. A busy year with many firsts.

### Community Engagement

Chengeta Wildlife's engagement with local communities, especially in DSPA, is a cornerstone of the success of our conservation efforts. With our APDS collaborators we have been very busy in 2022! We completed the first full collaborative socioeconomic study since 2006 and a mapping of the Community Hunting Zone (ZCC) to understand local use patterns in partnership with communities and local gun hunters. This year we re-launched the market study to document all forest and agricultural products circulating in the central market, as well as satellite studies in three villages. We are also working together to create the participatory management plan for the ZCC.



# DRC

## PROJECT: SALONGA NATIONAL PARK

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Salonga National Park – a UNESCO World Heritage site – is located 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 forest elephants, bonobos, golden bellied mangabey, and giant pangolins. 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).

### **In 2022, in SNP Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:**

- ✓ Protected wildlife within 33,500km<sup>2</sup> of pristine Congolese tropical rainforest
- ✓ Developed SNPs law enforcement strategy
- ✓ Trained and mentored 65 rangers and eco-guards.

### **Law Enforcement Capacity Building – Ranger Training**

2022 has focussed on conducting a full baseline analysis of Salonga to inform a completely renewed law enforcement strategy. This recognises the remoteness, vast size and environmental challenges delivering conservation solutions in Salonga National Park. In addition, we have continued efforts upskilling existing law enforcement capacity, providing continuation training for 72 of 266 rangers, and mentoring patrols throughout its pristine landscape.

We have also overseen the procurement and introduction of an entirely new communications system, GPS tracking and upgrading the parks analytical collection system.

We were also immensely proud to see Eric Kikolo Makwaya was awarded 3rd prize in the African Conservation Awards Field Ranger of the year. An outstanding result for Salonga and DRC and a result we hope to build upon going into 2023.



# CONSULTANCY SUPPORT

Strategic assessment and advice to prospective partners and new projects is an area that we have expanded into this year. These assessments are based upon our methodology that reviews projects set against our holistic and functional approach. Is there a system in place that coordinates functions of analytics, command & control that orient law enforcement strategies? Does this system enable the necessary preparation ensuring people are correctly equipped, administered and trained? Does the system effectively support and coordinate wildlife protection activity with engagement with local communities. And finally does the system enable an adaptive learning?

## **Integrated Wildlife Protection Project (IWPP), Namibia**

Chengeta was invited to provide consultancy support to a phenomenal project in Namibia that is supporting the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism. The project was to provide technical assessment and advice on command, control and building analytical capacity. It was a complete honor to be invited to offer consultancy support, the systems, resources and commitment at a national level like Namibia is rarely seen. We also had the wonderful experience of visiting Waterberg and Bwabwata National Parks. Hippos, giraffes, antelope, rhinos and elephants all in abundance. And, whilst in Bwabwata we'd never seen so many vultures in one place!



## **Tchimpounga Nature Reserve and Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Republic of Congo**

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) invited Chengeta Wildlife to their flagstaff chimpanzee sanctuary in the Republic of Congo where in partnership with the Ministry of Forestry and the economy they are responsible for the conservation of the Tchimpounga forests to protect the Chimpanzees. The aim was to provide a technical assessment of their current Law Enforcement organization, to provide advice on current training requirements and to identify improvements to increase operational outputs. This will hopefully lead to a longer-term collaboration between JGI and Chengeta. It was a very rewarding visit and an absolute honor to visit the sanctuary but more impressively to be a part of the monitoring and feeding team for chimpanzees that have been released on to the JGI islands which provide a haven to the chimps who are deemed “unfit” for the wild.





# THANK YOU

## Thank You to All Our Partners & Supporters

We would like to thank all of the wonderful rangers and communities that we work with – you are safeguarding our planet's very precious resources and we are proud to support you.

Chengeta Wildlife has longstanding partnerships with WWF in both Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas and in Salonga National Park. In Mali a resolute partnership with WILD Foundation on the Malian Elephant Project. We work closely with regional partners including Aires Protégées Dzanga Sangha, Mali's Eaux et Forêts, 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 and The DM Lab for digital support.

We have received significant support in Dzanga Sangha from Elephant Crisis Fund, Pangolin Crisis Fund and Sacharuna Foundation. We are grateful for the continued support from Helvellyn Foundation, Action Against Poachers and Crescendo International School, Malaysia.

We thank all of our partners, donors, supporters and followers for their unwavering and continued support throughout 2022.





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