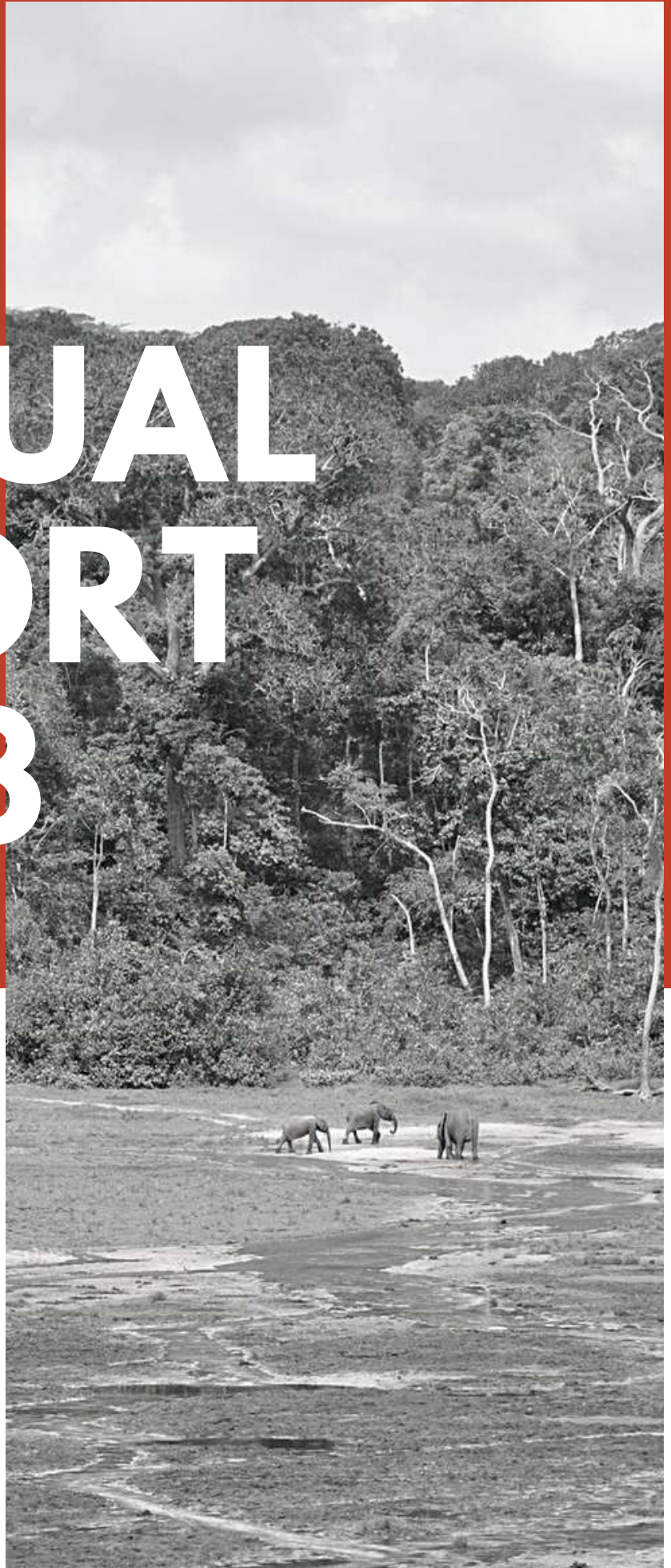


ANNUAL REPORT 2023



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

In the wake of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15), we find ourselves at a crucial juncture in the battle to preserve our planet's precious biodiversity. The proposed Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is a stark recognition of the alarming acceleration of global biodiversity and ecosystem loss, culminating in the highest extinction rate in human history. Amidst this backdrop, Target 3 of the GBF stands as a beacon of hope—an ambitious, long-overdue commitment to conserve 30% of the Earth's land and sea through protected areas (PAs) and other area-based conservation measures (OECMs) by 2030.

Now, you might wonder, where does Chengeta Wildlife fit into this grand endeavour? The answer is unequivocal—100%. Allow me to illustrate this through the lens of our burgeoning Yawanawá Project, a venture that embodies the core principles that guide our approach to conservation.

First and foremost, our mission revolves around safeguarding wildlife, and the Yawanawá Project is testament to our readiness to venture beyond our African roots. For the first time, we find ourselves in the far southwestern reaches of the Amazon, Brazil. This geographical leap underscores our unwavering commitment to making a difference wherever we can.

Secondly, collaboration and partnerships lie at the heart of effective conservation, particularly in challenging locales. We are proud to collaborate once again with WILD, our trusted partner from the Mali Elephant Project, as we embark on this new journey.

Lastly, we recognise the pivotal role that local communities play in sustainable solutions. The Yawanawá, an indigenous community, are the custodians of their part of the Amazon. Our role is not to dictate but to support them in their vital stewardship of this precious ecosystem.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

As we return to our home continent, Africa, our commitment remains resolute. Our ongoing African programmes focus on building holistic and community-centric law enforcement capacity. We understand that true change requires time, expertise transfer, the nurturing of confidence, and the development of local leadership capacity. Each site may be at a different stage of development, but they all report significant progress. In the grand scheme of things, 2023 has been a year filled with achievements, new milestones, and changes. However, one thing has remained constant—we continue to learn, adapt, and stay steadfast in our mission.

Lastly, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our remarkable team. To those who confront challenges head-on, transform lives along the way, and lead the charge towards achieving the 30x30 goal, you have my deepest appreciation. Together, we can make a difference and ensure a brighter future for our planet's biodiversity.

Alastair Macdonald

CHAIRMAN,
CHENGETA WILDLIFE

LOOKING AHEAD

The opportunity to present our work and to be a panelist on ranger capacity building at the 2023 Earthranger conference was both a privilege and a fantastic learning opportunity. An invaluable moment to validate lessons learned from projects, consider alternate approaches and to be inspired by the work of others. It instilled confidence that Chengeta is not just on the right track but, in some cases, pioneering new ways forward.

Rangers first. Supporting rangers remains our number one priority. Our reputation is built on the trust and relationships we forge with the rangers. In 2024 we hope to advance progress already achieved in our projects, continue to support our partners and remain side by side with the wonderful rangers we have the honour to work with.

A holistic systems and functional approach. Rangers are part of a large park organisations; best results are seen when everyone is operating on a holistic systems approach. Where everyone knows their role, where they plug in, who they need to speak with. We hope to be helping a number of projects over 2024 implementing their own holistic park systems to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

Leadership development. “Show me a good team and I will show you a good leader”. A pretty easy statement to make but alot harder to deliver without the time and investment required to develop appropriately. Leaders need to be masters of their trade, understand park systems, and espouse the qualities of good leadership. Our programmes are now heavily focussed on developing and identifying leadership potential.

Greater integration of analysis. We must work smarter and we must focus our resources better. The benefits of investing in data capture, analysis, and using it to inform decision making is utterly clear. We have also noted rangers feel much more empowered when they see the fruits of their work. Perhaps most importantly we have seen how landscape understanding is significantly improving. Expect much more of this in 2024 as well.

LOOKING AHEAD

Lastly, I would like to recognise our supporters, donors and partners. None of our work, past and future, is possible without the incredible support, and trust, we receive. 2023 has been a particularly busy year and 2024 looks if not more challenging. Know that, with your support, the team is ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Thank you.

Greg Murphy

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
CHENGETA WILDLIFE

COMMUNITIES

DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

2023 saw the transition of our community programme in Dzanga Sangha and departure of Dr Carolyn Robinson to our new partners at the The Forest Collective (TFC, www.theforestcollective.org). The transition allows Dr Carolyn to capitalise on the success of her lifework of working intimately with the Dzanga communities. Although a structural change to Chengeta; our close working relationships with the community will continue going forward. Dr Carolyn continues her support to Chengeta on our Board of Directors providing expert community and Human Rights counsel and to assure we never drift from our community centric approach. We would like to invite all of our supporters to extend the same support to Dr Carolyn and The Forest Collective team.

From March to May 2023 the DSPA communities' team established Programme Communautaire Sapeli continued the ground-breaking work launched in 2019. The teams of Sapeli continue to work hand in hand with Chengeta Wildlife and DSPA park management. One of the milestone achievements to mark this transition was the formal elevation of the Management Plan for the Community Hunting Zone to the national level. This process, led by the local communities was guided by the Chengeta Communities programme, focused on more inclusive and sustainable resource use practices.

We are very proud of the Dzanga communities confidence and decision to follow their own path. A testament to the people of Dzanga and Dr Carolyn's hard work. Her contributions to Chengeta Wildlife on conservation, communities and Human Rights work has been immense. We look forward to the next step of our partnership and close collaboration!





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 2023, in DSPA Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:

- ✔ Helped support the protection of wildlife within 3,785 km² of Congo Basin rainforest
- ✔ Coordinated and oversaw 450 patrols
- ✔ Delivered Level 2 training to 25 Level 1 rangers (class of 2022)
- ✔ Delivered Human Rights training
- ✔ Delivered Leadership training to 4 team-leaders and 8 deputy team-leaders
- ✔ Provided a K9 Unit, deploying 2 detection dogs Ringo & Bizzy
- ✔ Delivered 49 sets of Law Enforcement equipment and associated technical training.
- ✔ Developed water-based patrols on the Sangha River
- ✔ Supported Analytical training & facilitated a new data mapping system with ARCGIS
- ✔ Collaborated with the Elephant Listening Project (ELP) & Yang Centre to support conservation research





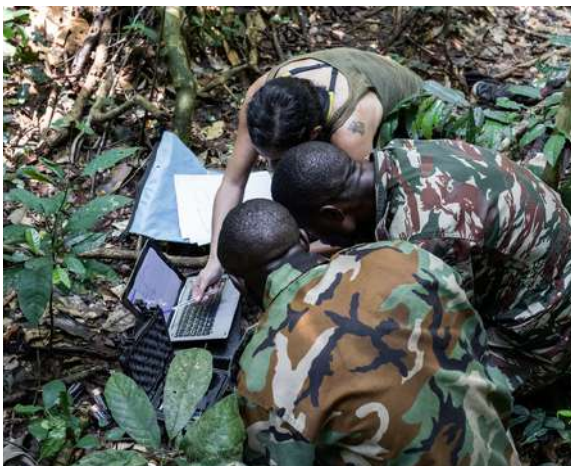
Law Enforcement Capacity Building – Technical Support

Building on the 2022 provision of a Chengeta Technical Advisor to support the Conservator, we were able to achieve greater synergies, and enhance the overall momentum of DSPA’s Law Enforcement. In addition to the usual mentoring and training role, our Technical Advisor has been responsible for the development of new LE projects, such as initiating the genesis of water-based patrols & supporting conservation research (with ELP & Yang Centre) by training rangers (a total of 4 teams) to place acoustic units around the park and collect the data while on patrol.

With 450 patrols (on foot, on water, by road as well as bi-nationally in the Tri Sangha Complex), representing a total of 42,499km patrolled, 115 weapons were confiscated, as well as 30,818 cables of snare wire, 14 ivory tusks, 5kg of pangolin scales (a drastic decline for which we are hopeful) and 3,263kg of bushmeat.

Critical progress has been made in terms of data collection, patrol efficiency and motivation for the job. A refresher course was delivered for the ranger class of 2022, upskilling a total of 25 rangers to reach their Level 2, as well as Leadership training for team-leaders and their deputies. Chengeta also provided 2 detection dogs to reform the DSPA K9 unit, thanks to the fantastic help of Wildlife Solutions. 4 dog handlers have been trained to look after Bizzy and Ringo. 49 sets of LE equipment were delivered with associated technical training (that included human rights & first aid), and the armoury was refurbished.

All in all, another phenomenal year at Dzanga Sangha.



PROJECT: BAMINGUI-BANGORAN & MANOVO-ST FLORIS NATIONAL PARKS



The North-East CAR Protected Areas Complex (Bamingui-Bangoran & Manovo-St Floris National Parks) and its Functional Landscape (CAP-PF NORD EST) covers an area of 114,722 km² or approximately 17% of the country's surface area and straddles five Préfectures. It borders Chad to the north and northwest, Sudan to the northeast and South-Sudan to the southeast. The CAP-PF NORD EST comprises diverse ecosystems including open forests, wooded savannas, shrubby savannas, grassy savannas and bare areas, and a rich faunal biodiversity including terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species such as amphibians, carnivores, herbivores, birds, fish and reptiles. Over the past thirty years, the wildlife potential of these protected areas has declined sharply due to the volatile security situation, large-scale poaching, unpredictable weather patterns, and the unregulated influx of transhumant pastoralists during the country's dry seasons.

In 2023, in Bamingui-Bangoran Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:

- ✓ Developed a Law Enforcement strategy to help protect wildlife within 114,722 km² of diverse savanna and forest habitat
- ✓ Led an upskilling and refresher course for 24 existing rangers (phase 1)
- ✓ Trained and recruited 55 new rangers (phase 2)
- ✓ Delivered Human Rights training
- ✓ Delivered 110 sets of Law Enforcement equipment and associated technical training.
- ✓ Reorganised the Operations Room, updated data collection systems
- ✓ Established permanent SOPs for the Ops room
- ✓ Delivered refresher and training courses for 5 Ops room operators
- ✓ Established SOPs for the armoury





Law Enforcement Capacity Building – Technical Support

Bamingui Bangoran National Park is a new project for 2023. Our objective for 2023 was to build capacity and deliver training support, while ensuring rangers are adequately trained with mission-critical equipment, and an effective command and control operations room. Initially, the Bamingui - Manovo landscape counted a total of 24 operational and capable rangers, working in teams of 4 before we began training. The first phase of our LE work focused on delivering upskill & refresher courses to existing rangers. Then, following a rigorous selection and 75 day training process ending in August, we welcomed 55 new recruits to the ranger team. Today, we have 8 teams of 8 rangers ready to be deployed across both Bamingui-Bangoran and Manovo-St Floris.

In October, 110 sets of Law Enforcement equipment were delivered to the rangers. New LE equipment was critically needed, and after arrival of the equipment, we were able to elaborate new patrol SOPs to maximise impact and ranger presence in the field. 84 rangers received associated technical training. As always, we accorded a particular focus to ethics and Human Rights, alongside first aid procedures.

We are particularly excited for the opportunities and synergies in Bamingui, and after a great foundational year, are looking forward to building upon this in 2024.



DRC

PROJECT: SALONGA NATIONAL PARK



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 2023, in Salonga National Park, Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:

- ✔ Helped support the protection of wildlife within 33,500 km² of pristine Congolese rainforest
- ✔ Led the construction of a new Coordination Centre for Surveillance Operations (CCOPS)
- ✔ Delivered refresher & upskilling training for 35 rangers
- ✔ Delivered Human Rights training
 - Continued to mentor and increase number of patrols, totalling 160
- ✔ Organised a maintenance biweekly sport session to support physical and mental health
- ✔ and enhance group cohesion
 - Supplied 30 pair of glasses to help rangers who were in need of good optics



DRC

PROJECT: SALONGA NATIONAL PARK



Law Enforcement Capacity Building – Technical Support

In 2023, thanks to the provision of a Chengeta Technical Advisor in Salonga, we continued to oversee the procurement and development of the new communication systems, GPS tracking and upgrading of the park’s analytical collection system that we had initiated in 2022. The planning, construction and finalisation of the CCOPS room, combined with the introduction of Garmin InReach will further help enhance communication and coordination of law enforcement across the pristine yet challenging landscape that is Salonga. To further support the enhancement of communication and coordination at Salonga, an upskilling training course was led for 35 rangers with a focus on SMART use and navigation with GPS InReach.

811 people were on patrol in 2023, totalling 1,730 days of patrol. 7683 cables of snare wire were collected, 2,242kg of bushmeat confiscated, alongside 260 weapons. On average, a patrol lasts 15 days, and we focused on finding ways to make them as effective as possible, exploring ways to preserve energy while on patrol with backpacks weighing up to 47kg.

In addition, there was a real focus on group cohesion and working together, thanks to the introduction of biweekly morning sport sessions initiated by our Technical Advisor, to encourage rangers to look after their physical health.

2023 was an exciting year for Salonga, and we look forward to 2024!



ROC

PROJECT: NOUABALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK



Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP) covers more than 4,000 km² of contiguous lowland rainforest in northern Republic of Congo. The park is part of the larger Sangha Tri-National Forest Landscape (of which Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas forms a part) that in July 2012 was nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Like DSPA, NNNP is a stronghold for great ape populations (critically endangered Western lowland gorillas and Chimpanzees) as well as critically endangered Forest elephants, Bongo antelopes, pangolins, and other forest wildlife in the likes of leopards, Forest buffalo, duikers, Red river hogs, hundreds of bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species. In collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Chengeta Wildlife delivered a leadership course to help enhance conservation efforts and support LE.

In 2023, in Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, Chengeta Wildlife achieved the following:

- ✓ Developed SOPs for leadership in Law Enforcement
- ✓ Trained 20 team-leaders to be autonomous within a decentralised framework of command
- ✓ Delivered Human Rights training
- ✓ Mentored 3 senior executives on Leadership
- Harmonised the communication and distribution of roles between two levels of leadership: tactical (the field) and operational (management)
- ✓ Mentored and evaluated the progress over the course of the training: by the end, successful team-leaders were physically competent, innovative and able to adequately lead his or her team toward a common goal.



ROC

PROJECT: NOUABALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK



Law Enforcement Capacity Building – Technical Support

Back in June, we completed a month-long leadership training with rangers and management staff from Nouabalé-Ndoki, in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). It was the first course of its kind, and an important step in building capacity at operational level.

Based on the 3 spheres of CW training which form the backbone of Leadership, the training revolved around the 9 key skills that are key for rangers; *Moral* (1. Application of the law, 2 Ethics / Human Rights, 3. Community engagement); *Environmental* (4. Wildlife, 5. Fieldcraft, 6. Patrols & Skills); *Technical* (7. Weapon safety, 8. First Aid, 9. Communication).

20 rangers (heads of anti-poaching units) and 3 senior executives followed the course, respectively focusing on enhancing tactical and organisational skills within leadership, paying close attention to ethics. The leadership training was also aimed at supporting rangers in recognising their responsibilities within a decentralised command framework.

This leadership course was a fantastic pilot and success, building from the leadership course delivered in Dzanga Sangha in 2022, and we are very much looking forward to developing this further into 2024.



BRAZIL

PROJECT: YAWANAWÁ



The Yawanawá, or ‘people of the wild boar’, have lived at the headwaters of the Rio Gregório for many generations, in the southwestern region of the Brazilian Amazon. Today, their population spans around 1,250 people, living across 1,870 km² of pristine Amazonian rainforest, where 95% of the biodiversity is intact (tens of thousands of plants, millions of insects, hundreds of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals such as pink dolphins, tapirs, jaguars and endemic species of monkeys). After decades of fighting for the recognition of their ancestral rights to the land, President Lula recognised their longstanding claim through a Presidential demarcation investing National trust and responsibility upon the Yawanawá for stewardship of their homeland. Our long-standing partner WILD Foundation has so far been providing fantastic community support.

In September 2023, we travelled to the depths of the Brazilian Amazon to meet the Yawanawá tribe and their inspirational leader Chief Tashka. The outcome of the site visit included a 3 year proposal.

In 2023, in the Brazilian Amazon region under Yawanawá stewardship, Chengeta Wildlife:

- ✓ Conducted a Baseline Analysis
- ✓ Established a plan to respond to the conservation & stewardship goals the Yawanawá wish to achieve



ETHIOPIA

PROJECT: SIMIEN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK



Simien Mountains National Park consists of 2,400 km² in the far North of Ethiopia including some peaks above 4000m. Home to unique species including the Gelada baboon and Walia ibex, it is challenged by growing populations on its borders, significantly challenging terrain, and armed conflict in the region. Yet it is a place of spectacular beauty: one only needs to stand on the 1,000m escarpment to understand why it has been awarded UNESCO status. The Simien Mountains are a critically important site for two endemic species and it was wonderful to meet the local characters who are proud of their national jewel. Our gratitude goes to the African Wildlife Fund (AWF) for the opportunity.

In 2023, in the Simien Mountains National Park, Chengeta Wildlife:

- ✔ Provided strategic advisory support on operational design and upskilling of law enforcement efforts

Law Enforcement Capacity Building – Advisory Support

The advice was to help inform future Park planning and an opportunity to deepen our relationship with and understanding of the challenges facing the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority.



ZIMBABWE

PROJECT: SAVÉ VALLEY CONSERVANCY



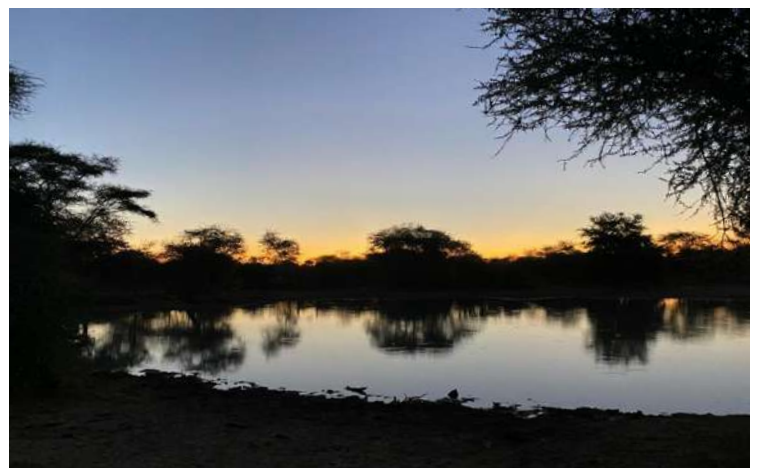
Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) consists of 3,035 km² within the lowveld region (SE) of Zimbabwe and lies on the northern edge of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Once a string of cattle ranches, SVC is now a flourishing conservancy, home to significant natural resources, including globally important populations of white/ black rhinoceros. SVC is a remarkable example of how conservation results can be achieved through grit, collaboration and sheer determination. Converting a landscape of cattle farms into a conservancy teeming with wildlife in just over two decades is a stark example of how African fauna and flora can bounce back. It has however experienced an increase in wildlife crime over the past decade.

In 2023, in the Savé Valley Conservancy, Chengeta Wildlife:

- ✔ Conducted a Baseline Analysis to inform law enforcement activity and conservancy planning
- ✔ Provided strategic advisory support to inform Savé Valley Conservancy on options for a holistic and centralised approach to Law Enforcement across the conservancy

Law Enforcement Capacity Building – Advisory Support

The strategic advice was to enable the conservancy an opportunity to pick and choose what options that would focus on (or prioritise) to enhance systems already in place. This included considerations of analysis, command & control, logistics, training, community engagement and wildlife protection operations. Hats off to the ATS team for their fantastic work - this was an incredible opportunity to learn off others also developing law enforcement capacity.



BROADER RANGER DEVELOPMENT



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSAL RANGER SUPPORT ALLIANCE (URSA)

We're delighted to announce that we have become official partners with the incredible Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA). URSA supports rangers, as represented by the International Ranger Federation and the myriad of regional and national ranger associations. The Alliance advocates for rangers, develops resources and tools for the ranger workforce, drives equality and equity in the ranger workforce, improves ranger working conditions and welfare, while at the same time building trusting relationships with communities and ensuring the responsible conduct of rangers.

This is in full alignment with what we stand and strive for at Chengeta Wildlife, and we couldn't be more proud to join forces with URSA.

GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA (GRAA) & EARTH RANGER USER CONFERENCE

We felt deeply honoured to have been invited to contribute to the Earth Ranger User Conference 2023 Cape Town on two occasions: during Andrew Campbell GRAA's panel discussion on "*Best Approaches to Ranger Training*" and providing our own presentation, alongside our longstanding partner Langland Conservation, on "*Establishing and Prioritising an effective Operations Room*".

As a panelist on "*Best Approaches to Ranger Training*" we were able to reinforce the ranger competencies and the important work of both the International Ranger Federation (IRF) and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance. It was also an opportunity to provide our own insights on the critical importance of leadership development – quite simply: you show me a good team and I will show you a good leader.

Our "*Establishing and prioritising an effective Operations Room*" presentation highlighted the importance of focusing on human processes within the brains trust of any landscape. Recognising that if operations rooms aim to improve understanding, coordination and communication then they will achieve better results in their primary role of providing help and support.

Working with such ground-breaking tools changes the way we approach conservation and anti-poaching, and being able to learn from one another truly embodies what conservation is all about: working together to protect this beautiful planet we call home.

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, and recently with WCS in Bamingui-Bangoran National Park and Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park. 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 (ICCN) and the Ministère des Eaux et Forêts in the Central African Republic. We also work with Langland Conservation, Kinetic Six, Wildlife Solutions 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 2023.





chengetawildlife.org