



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**ACTION  
FOR THE  
WILD**

Charity No. 1105621



# FUNDING TO COLCHESTER ZOO'S ACTION FOR THE WILD PROJECTS

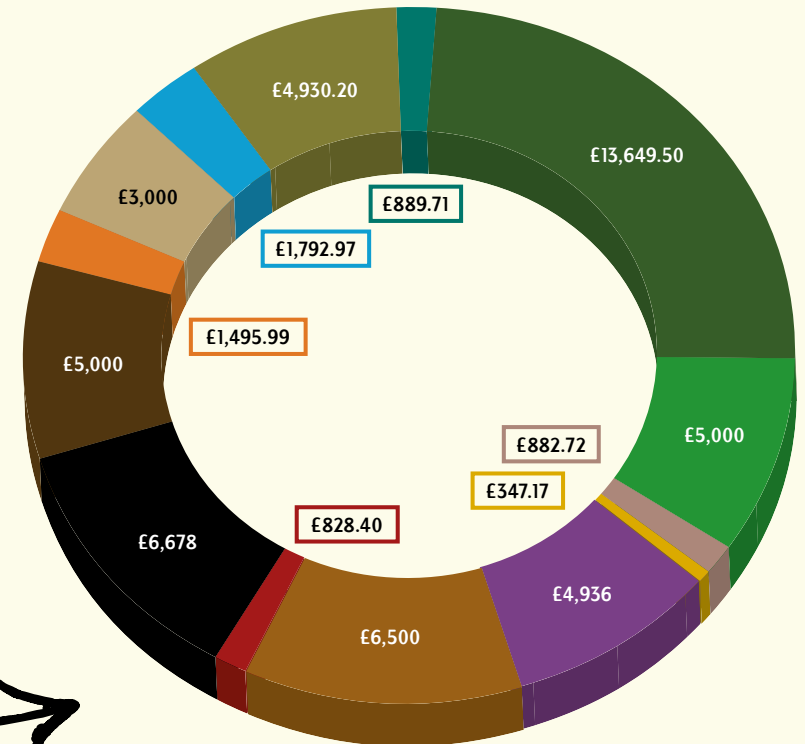
£262,021.42  
donated to



Plus over £55,900.00  
to other in-situ projects

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AEEL - £1,792.97
Centre de Réhabilitation des Primates de Lwiro - £4,930.20
EAZA Elephant TAG Research Fund - £889.71
Elephant Orphanage Project - £13,649.50
Free the Bears - £5,000
Gelada Baboon Project - £882.72
Hornbill Research Foundation - £347.17
N/a'an ku sê Carnivore Research - £4,936
Orangutan Foundation - £6,500
Red Panda Network Forest Sponsorship Scheme - £828.40
Save the Rhinos International - £6,678
VulPro Vulture Project - £5,000
Komodo Survival Program - £1,495.99
Wildlife Vets International - £3,000



# UMPHAFA PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE



Colchester Zoo and Action for the Wild purchased land to form the UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve in 2005. We have since been working to rehabilitate the land and recreate the historical animal populations on the reserve.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated over £262,000 to ensure the continued running of the reserve, from employing field rangers and reserve management staff, to releasing additional wildlife species and ensuring their continued protection.

## KEY EVENTS ON THE RESERVE

Throughout 2018, the reserve management team have continued with **rock packing** of the perimeter fence in preparation for predator release. This will be completed in early 2019.

In May, we **released 8 eland** onto the reserve. Eland are important bulk grazers on the reserve and help to keep the grass levels low. This in turn helps to **prevent the wild fires spreading** out of control, and allows other plant species to grow, **creating more diversity**.

In August, we **released 41 impala** - important to add vital new genetics to the existing population.

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 **UMPHAFA**  
Private Nature Reserve





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## KEY EVENTS ON THE RESERVE

Our other species have continued to breed, such as our ostrich population, which has **increased from 5** at the end of 2017 to **12** at the end of 2018.

Throughout the year, we have continued to put out **salt licks and molasses** for our animals, to improve their condition and increase our breeding rates.

We had **92 interns** staying for a total of **80 months**.

In 2019, we will continue with our work to **promote and protect the wildlife populations** on UmPhafa and also look forward to some **exciting developments** with our internship scheme.

Also in 2019, we plan to **increase our populations** of eland, blesbok and red hartebeest, and concentrate on increasing the availability of water for wildlife on the reserve.

### 2018 GAME COUNT FIGURES OF VISIBLE SPECIES

180	Blesbok	30	Nyala
8	Bushbuck	12	Ostrich
20	Common reedbuck	113	Red hartebeest
45	Duiker	200	Warthog
45	Eland	105	Waterbuck
31	Giraffe	9	White rhino
220	Impala	240	Wildebeest (Blue)
520	Kudu	297	Zebra
10	Mountain reedbuck		



# A.E.E.C.L. (Association Européenne pour l'Étude et la Conservation des Lémuriens)

The Sahamalaza region in Madagascar has been the AEECL's focus of scientific and conservation interest since 1988. The AEECL aims to **protect the habitat and ecosystems** within the Sahamalaza peninsula, **monitor and increase lemur populations** and be a strong **conservation ambassador** for the area.

The AEECL has a long-established research station in Ankarafa and, in 2018, the construction of a **new building** at the Research Camp began. The foundations are now complete and a water supply system is in place.

To build greater bonds with the local villages, the AEECL look to **support people** in their everyday lives. In 2018, the AEECL organised three school meals within three villages around Sahamalaza Park. In total, 200 children were fed during these school meals.

The construction of a **new school building** in Antafiabe began in August 2018. By the end of the year, about 65% of the work is finished.

Unfortunately, forest fires are common throughout Madagascar. **Firebreaks** are vital to protect the forests and the wildlife within. In 2018, 860 people participated and managed to establish 7 km of forest firebreak.

By investing in local communities through **education**, **resource management** and **communication**, this helps ensure the communities of today can forge a safe haven for wildlife tomorrow.

AEECL aims to advance the understanding and conservation of Madagascar's lemurs through scientific research, captive propagation and protection of their natural habitat.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD contributed to this lemur consortium by donating our £1,792.97 membership fee.



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# CENTRE DE RÉHABILITATION DES PRIMATES DE LWIRO

The CENTRE DE RÉHABILITATION DES PRIMATES DE LWIRO (CRPL) works to care for and rehabilitate orphaned primates.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £4930.20 to provide all animals in the care of the CRPL with a high standard of nutrition.

The CRPL offers a permanent solution for the increasing number of orphaned great apes confiscated around Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Action for the Wild's 2018 donation was used to provide **fresh fruit and vegetables** for CRPL's **250 primates** for 10 weeks in the period April 2018 to June 2018.

This funding **helps local communities**, as the sanctuary buys all the food from local markets, helping them to see the benefits of having the sanctuary in their village and increasing their acceptance of conservation.

By assisting with the running costs, CRPL can continue to **receive confiscated animals and contribute to Congolese law** in protecting these primates from poaching and the pet trade.

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# E.A.Z.A

## (Elephant TAG Research Fund)

ELEPHANT HERPES VIRUS is a devastating infectious disease posing a significant threat to the long term conservation of Asian elephants.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £889.71 to help conduct three PhD research projects to better understand and combat this virus through EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria).

Approximately **100 animals**, predominantly between the age of **3 months & 15 years of age**, have died from the virus since its discovery in captive Asian elephants, although it is found in both wild and captive animals.

Back in 2015, research was initiated to understand why some elephants can **resist the virus** while others are more susceptible.

Research also included:

- Transmission in elephant herds and investigating the possibility of a vaccine.
- Working towards a better epidemiological understanding of the virus and to validate a molecular test for the purpose of regular monitoring.



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# ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE PROJECT

THE ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE PROJECT (EOP) is working to rescue, rehabilitate and release orphaned elephants as a direct result of poaching.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £13,649.50 to help provide food and medical treatment for the orphans.

The ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE PROJECT has two camps:

## **Lilayi Elephant Nursery**

where keepers provide constant care and feeding for **4 young orphans**

**Kafue Release Facility** for those that need less time with humans, preparing them for release back into the wild.

**At Kafue**, there are **12** juvenile/sub-adult elephants.

**2**

of these are working towards independence, spending less than 10% of their time within the orphan herd.

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# FREE THE BEARS

FREE THE BEARS is working to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world by offering a safe sanctuary for bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £5,000 to help construct play areas and purchase enrichment toys for a bear sanctuary in Laos.

Since 2003, **66 bears have been confiscated in Laos from poachers** and wildlife traders, or have been donated by people who had previously kept them as trophy pets.

In 2018 alone, **13 bears were rescued** from the illegal wildlife trade. All of these bear rescues have been moon bears, except for a female sunbear cub, rescued in December 2018.

In 2018, the Free the Bears team proudly **opened Bear Enclosure 2 at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary** in Laos, and are currently putting the finishing touches to Bear Enclosure 3, the quarantine house and cub nursery, and have commenced the wildlife hospital.

The development of the newest bear habitat will enable **20 bears to move to new accommodation**. With the highest number of bears rescues in 2018, the development of new facilities is vital in helping to end the practice of bear bile farming in Laos.





# GELADA BABOON PROJECT

The Gelada Research Project aims to contribute to the improvement of the conservation of wild gelada baboons in Ethiopia.

In 2018, Action for the Wild donated £882.72 to support this research.

The current status of wild gelada baboon populations isn't known, hence the conservation status of this species needs to be **properly assessed**. Nothing is known with respect to population structure, welfare condition and behaviour of geladas that live outside of protected areas and that are affected by severe human pressure.

This project aims to:

- increase understanding of how human presence and activities impact on ecology and behaviour of gelada baboons in two unprotected sites
- increase awareness of environmental issues, capacity building and ownership of the local community managing the areas
- increase the scientific and technical knowledge of the species to be used for management purposes.

The main research areas of this project will be to assess the historical background of how the gelada population has changed over the years, to assess the **home range** and **spatial behaviour** of the geladas in the different areas and to look at the **impact of human pressure** on the population distribution.

In addition, **social behaviour analysis** will be conducted, looking at aggression and conflict behaviour, competition over food, and play activities between juveniles, as these “play units” represent the social bridge connecting subjects belonging to different one-male units.

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**GELADAS**

TO UNDERSTAND HUMANS,  
HERPS TO UNDERSTAND  
THEIR ENVIRONMENT



# HORNBILL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The HORNBILL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, set up in 1978, conducts biological research on wild hornbills.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £347.17 to sponsor 3 family groups of hornbills.

Action for the Wild's donation helped **sponsor** family groups of **rhinoceros, helmeted** and **white-crowned hornbills**.

In southern and western Thailand, villagers used to make extra money by selling hornbill chicks at markets. Nowadays, **40 villagers** are funded to collect hornbill biological data from the very nests they poached. This contributes to **raising awareness** and **involves the local communities** in active conservation work.

Data collected allows researchers to monitor the hornbill populations. Combining information from this data provides an overall picture of the behaviour and ecology of the hornbills, and will hopefully assist in determining indicators of reproductive success and high survival rates.



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# N/A'AN KU SÊ

## Large Carnivore Conservation Research Project

N/a'an ku sê LARGE CARNIVORE CONSERVATION RESEARCH PROJECT responds to widespread human-carnivore conflict across Namibian farmland.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £4,936 to purchase a GPS collar, 10 camera traps and a laptop to download GPS coordinates and analyse camera trap data for their wild dog programme.

The project works with local farmers and land owners to conserve viable large carnivore populations, and also engage farmers with practical, cost-effective and non-lethal tools to manage carnivores.

A spotted hyena study initiated in July 2016 has identified **17 individual spotted hyenas** and their movements.

In June 2017, Action for the Wild's funds helped cover the costs of a **GPS collar** used to collar a male spotted hyena from the north clan. In 2018, the team focused efforts on attempting to **dart and capture a second hyena**. Attempts to date have been unsuccessful but the team are currently trialling a trap, which will confine the hyenas within a small holding pen for closer darting. A triggered VHF signal will warn the team precisely when the hyenas enter the boma and minimise the time between capture and immobilisation.

The research team continued their **monitoring of the African wild dog packs** that inhabit the Kavango Cattle Ranch (KCR) and the Mangetti Park (MNP) through the use of motion sensitive **trail cameras**, with the aim of monitoring pack movement and numbers of individuals. The team continue to have the **aim of collaring an individual** from one of these packs.

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# ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION

The ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION is working to save orangutans by protecting their tropical forest habitat, working with local communities, and promoting research and education.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £6,500 for a veterinarian's salary and associated translocation costs necessary to perform a number of orangutan rescues.

The Lamandau Wildlife Reserve operates an orangutan soft release programme and receives orangutans translocated from threatened areas, such as community land and fragmented sections of forest.

The Orangutan Foundation is supporting over **300 reintroduced** orangutans with regular **health check-ups, monitoring and protection**.

They employ 30 full time staff to work within 5 release camps and currently have **10 orangutans** in the soft release programme.

The reintroduced population are successfully reproducing, with **2 successful wild births** observed in 2018.

From October 2017 to October 2018, the Orangutan Foundation **rescued 7 orangutans; 6 wild adults and one 2 year old**, previously kept as a pet.



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A close-up photograph of a red panda walking along a dark, textured log. The panda has thick, reddish-brown fur, a white face with dark eye patches, and its pink tongue is slightly out. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat.

# RED PANDA NETWORK

## Forest Guardian Sponsorship Scheme

The RED PANDA NETWORK is committed to the conservation of wild red pandas and their habitat through the education and empowerment of local communities.

ACTION FOR THE WILD teams up annually with other European Zoos to support a forest guardian scheme and donated £828.40 in 2018.

A forest guardian monitors and protects red panda habitats, as well as educates communities on the importance of the species.

European zoos have helped **fund 12 of the Red Panda Network supported forest guardians** in 2018.

This support benefits not only the red pandas, but provides employment and development within the local community, giving them a sense of pride in protecting this endangered species, with income generated from sustainable means.



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# SAVE THE RHINOS INTERNATIONAL

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi National Park is an important stronghold for black and white rhinoceroses; however, it is facing increasing threats of rhino poaching.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £6,678.00



Unfortunately, as in the rest of South Africa, rhino **poaching continues** at incredibly high levels.

Action for the Wild's 2018 donation has ensured 15 rangers at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park will receive **extended camping kits**.

This equipment allows rangers to camp for extended times at short notice in areas frequented by poaching syndicates; to assist early detection of poachers and increase the chance of saving the life of rhino in the field.

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# VULPRO

VULPRO is working to halt the decline of vultures throughout Africa.

ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £5,000 in 2018.



**2177 pairs of Cape vultures** were observed in 2018.

**22 African white-backed vultures and 3 hooded vultures** were tagged for monitoring.

VulPro continued to monitor **43 individuals** fitted with GPS transmitters.

During 2018, VulPro monitored six Cape vulture colonies and six sites of African white-backed and hooded vulture tree-nesting colonies.

Sadly, hooded vulture numbers have declined at all sites except one. African white-backed vulture numbers have also declined at two sites but increased at two other sites. A new site has been identified to support VulPro's second largest breeding site of African white-backed vultures.



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# KOMODO SURVIVAL PROGRAM

The Komodo Survival Program aims to protect and monitor Komodo dragons and their habitat with the involvement of the local community.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £1,495.99 to support this project.

This project, implemented in the Wae Wuul Nature Reserve, was developed to protect the remnant Komodo dragon population and avoid expansion of habitat encroachment.

The project has four main components:

- Community awareness
- Patrolling and law enforcement
- Involving the local community in protection and conservation
- Capacity building

At the end of 2018, the Komodo Survival Program finished sampling the last sites of a three year Komodo dragon survey across Flores. A total of 330 camera trap locations were surveyed during this distribution study, covering approximately 1,400km of coastal lowland deciduous monsoon forest. The total survey effort provided 1,980 detection opportunities, with images of Komodo dragons captured at 81 of the 330 locations.

In 2018, the Komodo Survival Program made an agreement to build an integrated community awareness and education facility in Pota, North Flores, and aims to complete this by March 2019. They will also construct a pilot project on sustainable integrated livestock practice, which will include a livestock pen and biogas and composting installations. They will use part of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria funds, to which Action for the Wild donates, to establish this facility.



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# WILDLIFE VETS INTERNATIONAL

Through its Tiger Health Programme, WILDLIFE VETS INTERNATIONAL provides clinical services, on-site training, disease investigation and research activities for a variety of wild tiger projects in different countries.

In 2018, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £3,000 to start producing a web-based information service, the 'Wild Tiger Health Centre', which will disseminate up-to-date information on tiger health issues, provide basic online training and establish connectivity between vets.

Wildlife vets in range countries who are tasked with dealing with wild tiger issues do not have access to relevant information necessary for their job.

The **new website** will include modules on basic tiger biology, disease in wild tigers, field anaesthesia, clinical aspects, sampling and testing for health screening, pathology, parasitology, toxicology, mitigating tiger-human conflicts, translocation, principles of reintroduction, rehabilitation of injured and orphaned tigers, literature relevant to veterinary aspects of wild tigers, and a contact list of experienced vets and biologists that are willing to help others.

Throughout 2018, an offline version has been continued, with modules completed on basic tiger biology, disease in wild tigers and a contact list of tiger biologists and vets. Wildlife Vets International intends to populate the website progressively, but it is hoped the website will go live in early 2019.

This 'one-stop' hub will go a long way to **supporting the field vets** and increasing their capabilities, confidence and usefulness to tiger conservation.

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# FISHER'S ESTUARINE MOTH BREEDING PROGRAMME

Our first larva was hatched on **25th APRIL 2018**  
and the last on **29th APRIL 2018**

In total **60 LARVA** were placed across **20 plants**  
and the first moth to emerge was on  
**8th SEPTEMBER 2018** and the last on  
**13th OCTOBER 2018**

In total, **14 MOTHS** emerged;  
**6 MALES** and **8 FEMALES**

We had **6 PAIRS** in total  
and **5 PAIRS** produced  
**23 BATCHES** of eggs

The Fisher's Estuarine Moth is a rare and highly-threatened species primarily found on Skipper's Island off the north Essex Coast.

ACTION FOR THE WILD donates technical assistance to support this programme via an offshow area to promote the captive breeding of this species.



In Spring 2018, egg batches from our 2017 breeding programme were put out at the National Trust's Copt Hall and Cudmore Grove.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Batches of eggs	5	10	5	10
Number of caterpillars emerged	48	60	33	60
Number of caterpillars put on each net	1 to 2	1 to 3	2	up to 4
Number of moths emerged	11 (6.5)	15 (9.6)	5 (3.2)	14 (6.8)
Number of pairs formed	8	5	2	6
Number of pairs laid	7	5	1	5
Number of egg batches laid	14	27	3	23

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A close-up photograph of a chimpanzee's face, showing its eyes, nose, and mouth. The chimpanzee has dark fur and is looking slightly to the left. The text "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!" is overlaid in yellow, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the top left corner.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## MORE INFORMATION

If you would like further details  
on the charities supported through  
Action for the Wild, please visit:

[www.actionforthewild.org](http://www.actionforthewild.org)

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If you would like to know more  
about becoming an intern on our  
UmPhafa Nature Reserve in South  
Africa, please visit:

[www.umphafa.org](http://www.umphafa.org)

A stylized green logo consisting of three leaf-like shapes arranged in a V-shape.  
**UMPHAFA**  
*Private Nature Reserve*

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To find out more about  
adopting an animal or  
our animal experiences,  
please visit:

[www.colchesterzoo.org](http://www.colchesterzoo.org)

**COLCHESTER  
ZOO**  
*Action for the Wild*

A stylized green logo of a standing animal, possibly a giraffe or a similar long-necked animal, positioned to the right of the text "COLCHESTER ZOO".