



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

© Elephant Orphanage Project

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Charity No. 1105621



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

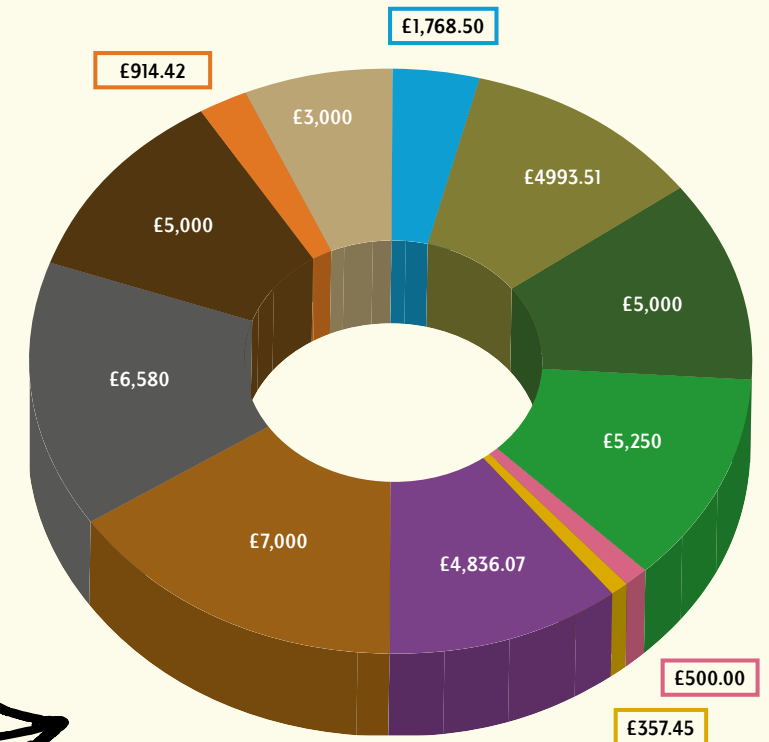
£439,583.60  
donated to



Plus £45,199.95  
to other in-situ projects

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- AEECL - £1,768.50
- Centre de Réhabilitation des Primates de Lwiro - £4,993.51
- Elephant Orphanage Project - £5,000
- Free the Bears - £5,250
- Flamingo Project - Keeper Visit - £500
- Hornbill Research Foundation - £357.45
- N/a'an ku sê Carnivore Research - £4,836.07
- Orangutan Foundation - £7,000
- Save the Rhinos International - £6,580
- VulPro Vulture Project - £5,000
- Komodo Survival Program - £914.42
- 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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £439,583.60 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 2019, the reserve management team have completed **rock packing** of the perimeter fence in preparation for predator release.

In March, we **released 26 eland** onto the reserve. Eland are important bulk grazers and help to keep the grass levels low. This in turn helps to **prevent any wild fires spreading** out of control, and allows other plant species to grow, **creating more diversity**.

In March we also **released 23 red hartebeest**. This species is considered a highly-selective, short grass grazer, so it is important we **keep grass levels low and have palatable grass species** for this antelope to feed on. The **eland help to create the short grassland** that the hartebeest require.

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 **UMPHAFA**  
Private Nature Reserve





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## KEY EVENTS ON THE RESERVE

In August, we completed an **aerial game count** to get a better idea of wildlife numbers.

Our species have continued to breed, such as our giraffe population, which has **increased from 31** at the end of 2018 to **41** at the end of 2019.

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 **64 interns** staying for a total of **57 months**.

In 2020, 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, welcoming a fourth university to the reserve.

### 2019 GAME COUNT OF VISIBLE SPECIES

114	Blesbok	7	Mountain reedbuck
2	Bushbuck	17	Nyala
10	Common reedbuck	15	Ostrich
25	Duiker	75	Red hartebeest
49	Eland	357	Warthog
41	Giraffe	109	Waterbuck
228	Impala	301	Wildebeest (Blue)
205	Kudu	290	Zebra

Counts of certain species, such as kudu, bushbuck and reedbuck were lower this year due to the time of year of the aerial count so we will look to repeat the count at a different time of year in 2020 to get a more accurate count.



# AEECL (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. However, work on the new research camp building, which started in 2018, has been put on hold due to the inability to pass the roads with the heavy construction materials. The workers have still been **busy making bricks** though between April and June 2019, having made 3,000 out of soil.

An emergency truck appeal was launched in 2019, which has now been purchased. This vehicle ensures reliable transport for the team between Sahamalaza National Park and local villages and towns.

The construction of a **new school building** in Antafiabe, which began in 2018, was completed in 2019, providing a vital resource to encourage children to stay in school for longer.

Unfortunately, forest fires are common throughout Madagascar. **Firebreaks** are vital to protect the forests and the wildlife within. In 2019, **685 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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD contributed to this lemur consortium by donating our £1,768.50 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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £4,993.51 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 2019 donation was used to provide **fresh fruit and vegetables** for CRPL's **199 primates and 83 parrots** for 9 weeks in the period April to June 2019.

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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# ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE PROJECT

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

In 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £5,000 to help provide food and medical treatment for the orphans.

2019 saw the birth of **Mutaanzi David**; **Zambia's first wild born calf from an orphaned elephant!**



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 **15** elephants.

**11** of these are dependant juveniles.

**1** is a previously-released female and her calf.

**2** are independent, remotely-monitored sub-adults. There are also **2** fully-released, unmonitored elephants.

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# KEEPER SUPPORT TO ASSIST FLAMINGOS

In 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £500 to assist one of Colchester Zoo's Head Animal Keepers on a trip to South Africa to care for young lesser flamingos.

Due to ongoing droughts and failing infrastructure, the water levels on Kamfers Dam, Kimberley, South Africa, had reduced dramatically. Sadly, **adult birds had moved towards the middle of the dam where water levels remained, deserting their chicks** without food. Thousands of chicks were rescued from Lake Kimberley and **volunteers assisted in rearing the birds.**

In April, one of Colchester Zoo's Head Keepers travelled to South Africa and **helped with the rearing of 114 chicks.** At this stage, the birds were fed three times a day and weighed daily, which itself took up to an hour. On top of that, sick birds were medicated, enclosures cleaned and food prepared.

Towards the end of the trip, **29 birds were taken to Johannesburg Airport** to be flown out to Kimberley, where they went into pens enabling them to acclimatise to their wild environment in a **soft release programme.** In early May, the **first 50 birds were released back onto the dam** and conservation organisations worked to release many more after this point to join back up with the flock.



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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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £5,250 to help construct a new Quarantine Centre and provide food, enrichment and health checks for rescued bears.

Since 2003, more than **80 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 2019 alone, **18 bears** were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. All of these bear rescues have been moon bears, except for a female sun bear cub, rescued in June 2019.

Also in 2019, the Free the Bears team proudly **opened another bear house and enclosure**, which enabled a group of female bears to move in from the crowded Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre.

The new Wildlife Hospital is up and running and **construction is still underway on the Quarantine House and Cub Nursery**. With **31 bears** now on site, compared to 13 at the end of 2018, work is continuing at full speed to **develop facilities** for these bears, along with any new arrivals.

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# HORNBILL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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

In 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £357.45 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, **41 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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £4,836.07 to purchase a GPS collar, 15 camera traps, 150 rechargeable batteries and 2 battery chargers to support their research activities.

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.

Throughout 2019, the project has continued its work with suspected problem carnivores; **attending conflict situations** and increasing engagement with key stakeholders to **influence policies to reduce human-wildlife conflict** and obtain a clear understanding of the ecology of carnivores in Namibia.

The Kanaan Research Programme focusses on spotted hyenas, to **gather information on natural behaviour** to **develop conflict mitigation methods**. Camera trap data has confirmed **9 hyenas in the study area**, with the north clan covering a territory of 1,500km<sup>2</sup>, where they prey on locusts and geckos up to gemsbok and greater kudu. In October 2019, **a new semi-permanent hyena exclusion fencing system was completed** and several variations of the system will be tested. Efforts also continued throughout 2019 to **collar a hyena** from the south clan and to continue assessing hyena diet as the team continues to search for more kill and scavenge sites to determine if the hyenas do predate livestock.

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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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £7,000 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 **9 orangutans** in the soft release programme.

Births of wild and reintroduced orangutans are a positive sign of a **healthy and increasing orangutan population**. Lamandau Wildlife Reserve now supports a population of around **600 orangutans**, with **80 recorded births** since 2003, and the number continues to grow, with **2 orangutan births** in 2019.



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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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £6,580.



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

Action for the Wild's 2019 donation has ensured 14 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.



# VULPRO

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

ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £5,000 in 2019.

**2,241 pairs of Cape vultures** were observed.

**2,402 active nests** were surveyed in 2019.

**18 African white-backed vultures** were ringed with leg bands and **2 individuals** were fitted with GPS tracking devices.

**20 Cape vulture nestings** fitted with GPS tracking devices.

VulPro continued to monitor **52 individuals** fitted with GPS transmitters.

During 2019, VulPro monitored seven cliff-nesting Cape vulture colonies and five sites of African white-backed and hooded vulture tree-nesting colonies.

Sadly, numbers of breeding pairs found in the tree-nesting surveys have decreased at one of the sites in 2019 due to leopard, baboon and python predation, and are declining at another site due to poaching.

Three Cape vulture colonies have seen an increase in numbers of breeding pairs in 2019, but four have decreased due to eagle predation, drought and human disturbance.

Annual monitoring is critical as all African vulture species continue to rapidly decline across their ranges.



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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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £914.42 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.

Throughout 2019, the Komodo Survival Program has conducted several community awareness and capacity building meetings on Flores; to improve community perception of Komodos and discuss the development of eco-tourism.

Local people have begun to actively participate in Komodo dragon conservation activities by reducing traditional deer hunting and avoid disturbance to the dragon population.

Construction of the Pota Komodo Information Centre was completed in early 2019 and the building can now be used as a community awareness and education centre, as well as a base for Komodo monitoring activities.



KOMODO  
SURVIVAL  
PROGRAM



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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 2019, ACTION FOR THE WILD donated £3,000 towards the continued development of 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.

**In July 2019, the website became live.** Wildlife Vets International intends to populate the website progressively, continuing to upload content.

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 **19th APRIL 2019**  
and the last on **24th APRIL 2019**

In total **62 LARVA** were placed across **21 plants**  
and the first moth to emerge was on  
**11th SEPTEMBER 2019** and the last on  
**12th OCTOBER 2019**

In total, **12 MOTHS** emerged;  
**7 MALES** and **5 FEMALES**

We had **6 PAIRS** in total,  
which produced  
**11 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 2019, egg batches from our 2018 breeding programme were put out at the National Trust's Copt Hall, a site in Tollesbury and Cudmore Grove on Mersea Island.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Batches of eggs	5	10	5	10	6
Number of caterpillars emerged	48	60	33	60	62
Number of caterpillars put on each net	1 to 2	1 to 3	2	up to 4	1 - 4
Number of moths emerged	11 (6.5)	15 (9.6)	5 (3.2)	14 (6.8)	12 (7.5)
Number of pairs formed	8	5	2	6	6
Number of pairs laid	7	5	1	5	6
Number of egg batches laid	14	27	3	23	11

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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)

  
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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)

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