



SAVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Annual report 2025

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Dear employees, project partners, Sponsors and donors of **SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund**,

the year 2025 reaffirmed a core truth of conservation: lasting impact is only possible when people and wildlife are protected together. At SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund, this belief continues to guide all our work.

Across **Botswana**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, and **Europe**, we implemented our **Education for Conservation (E4C)** approach, combining species protection with education, community empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods. From mitigating human–wildlife conflict involving lions, elephants, and hippos, to protecting mountain gorillas around Virunga National Park, our teams worked closely with communities to deliver solutions that endure.

In **Europe**, our long-term **Wolf Protection Project in Poland** once again demonstrated that science-based conservation and education can enable peaceful coexistence between humans and large predators in densely populated landscapes. We are especially proud of the growth of our children's projects, which continue to nurture the next generation of conservation stewards, while our community and women empowerment initiatives strengthen resilience and reduce pressure on natural ecosystems.

This report reflects the dedication of our local teams, partners, and supporters, whose commitment makes this work possible. As we move forward under our Strategic Plan 2026–2028, we remain firmly committed to conservation that benefits both people and nature.

Together, we are safeguarding biodiversity for generations to come.

Lars Gorschlüter
Founder & Chairman



SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Working together

Species protection Living together. Through our work, we not only want to protect endangered species, but also raise awareness of species conservation. Because only if we understand how important each individual species is for our ecosystem can we find long-term solutions.

our Vision	our Projects	our approach
<p>We habitat of threatened species want to protect the uniqueness of nature and people for a sustainable management of natural resources, raise awareness in order to ensure a peaceful coexistence of humans and wildlife</p> <p>-</p>	<p>With a focus on Environmental education for the Species conservation committed SAVE for people and Animal on site with projects, help for self-help, networking, education and Research.</p>	<p>We train local employees and as part of our "Education for Conservation" in children's, wildlife and development projects with them to ensure that nature and species conservation become a natural part of children's lives. We enable income-generating measures where they are needed.</p>

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund



SAVE is a non-profit foundation that is based in Botswana, among other places, and specializes in nature conservation at the Okavango Delta.

The foundation was founded in 2010 by Lars Gorschlüter with the aim of enabling people and wild animals in the affected areas to coexist peacefully and to ensure the preservation of biodiversity in the long term.

The SAVE team consists of experienced and exclusively local employees with a wide range of qualifications, all of whom are passionately dedicated to the topic of species conservation. Together, you achieve great things every day and inspire colleagues and partner organisations alike.

"Our vision is a world in which all living beings on earth live in peaceful co-existence and lead a healthy, dignified life in harmony with nature."

Background of our work

The extinction of species worldwide is progressing in rapid steps – part of a catastrophic environmental balance of humanity living today.

The drastic decline and extinction of species and wild areas that are part of a diverse and complex ecosystem have serious consequences for all living beings. Our ecosystems and thus our livelihoods are perishing as a result.

SAVE wants to stop this alarming development.

Wild animals are particularly important for their habitats and in their function. If we protect these species, many other animals and plants living there, even entire ecosystems, will also be effectively preserved or restored. The Corona pandemic draws our attention to how human influence on species-rich areas and habitats of wild animals is linked to the spread of infectious diseases. Human intervention in natural habitats, the decline in biodiversity and the disruption of ecosystems make it much more likely that viruses can spread and -as we are now experiencing -become pandemics in a highly interconnected world.

For thousands of years, the indigenous peoples have lived in harmony with nature. Today, in the course of globalization and the constantly growing needs of the industrialized nations, international companies and investors often act extremely irresponsibly in many poor countries. Nature and humans are exploited equally. Low levels of education and social imbalances leave ordinary people in these countries with no choice but to work with international investors and cause lasting damage to their own habitats. That's where we start. With education and community development, species conservation is given a chance, because it only becomes a priority when people benefit from the richness of biodiversity.



44

Educational projects in Botswana & DRC



120

km of elephants/wildlife corridor revived



50.000

Reaching people with development projects



368

Hippos rescue



500

Wildebeest and eland antelopes relocated to national parks



14

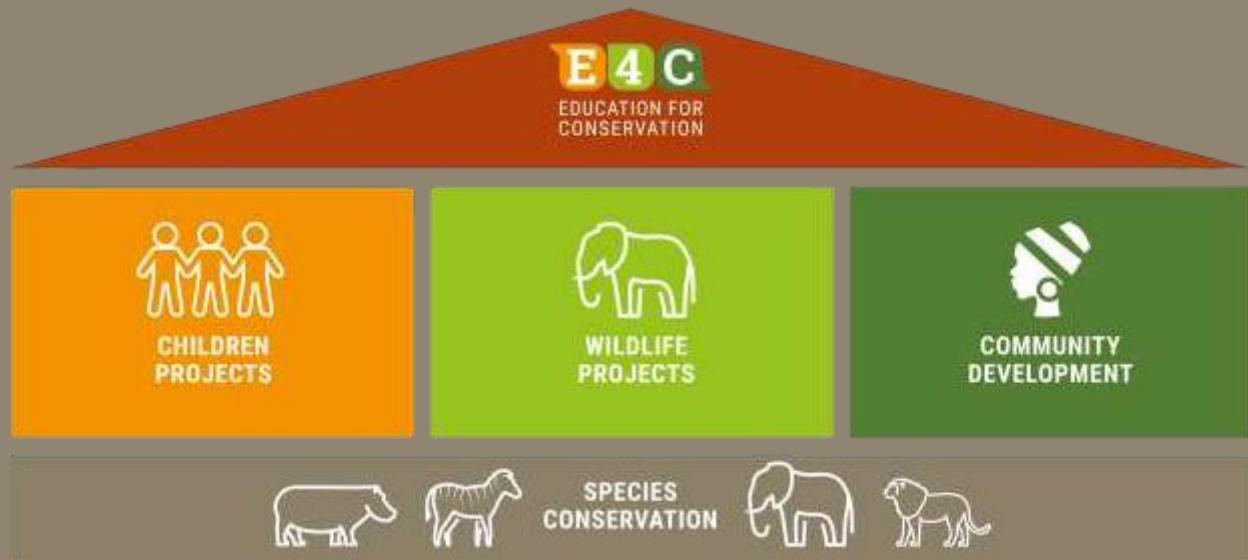
Research Projects

Our holistic approach

Education 4 Conservation

Grasroot-Development:

We mobilize the communities in and around wildlife contact areas and enable income-generating measures where they are needed. With our educational projects, we build bridges to future generations – so that nature and species conservation become a natural part of life again.



To build new capacities that enable people to take action themselves, we have developed the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) programme.



CBNRM
COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

SAVE - Education for Conservation

PROJECT AREAS

Children's Projects

In our environmental education projects, we teach children in Botswana in and around wildlife areas the joy of the wilderness at an early age, especially the largely endangered wild animals. So that they learn to know and love at a young age what they will later preserve.

Wildlife conservation projects

Humans and wild animals are in sometimes life-threatening competition for water and food. Through our work, we not only want to protect endangered species, but also raising awareness of species conservation. Because only if we understand how important each individual species is for our ecosystem can we find long-term solutions.

Development cooperation

Coexistence with wild animals can only succeed if the basic needs of humans are secured. Village communities are therefore given the opportunity to drive their development forward in accordance with the ecological characteristics of their land. We support them in this with help for self-help, e.g. in the self-administration of the community camp sites, in the Women Empowerment Project or in the Climate Smart Agriculture projects.

Environmental projects

For example, SAVE was able to contribute to the fact that 70,000 hectares of rainforest in Cameroon were not cut down for the construction of new palm oil plantations. With the ZeroPalm Oil campaign we want to sensitize consumers, companies and politicians to this issue and call for the protection of the remaining rainforests.

Emergency response

Despite all the focus on sustainability – sometimes it just has to be done quickly. For example, as <200 hippos in a dried-up waterhole in Botswana.

A solar-powered water pump and Hay from South Africa helps them survive until the Okavango brings water back into the lagoons

Commitment

Since 2010, the SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund has been committed to 14 of the world's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With education and species conservation as its central approach, SAVE focuses on an integrated implementation of selected SDGs:



The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of a lion's face. The lion has a large, full, light-brown mane. Its eyes are partially closed, and its mouth is slightly open, showing its tongue and teeth. The background is filled with tall, dry, golden-brown grass, creating a natural and somewhat dramatic setting. The lighting is warm, suggesting either sunrise or sunset.

BOTSWANA ANNUAL REPORT 2025



BOTSWANA

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Botswana takes a holistic approach to improving the livelihoods of communities through Education for Conservation (E4C), the organization's benchmark.

SAVE works directly with communities adjacent to and/or located within the wildlife contact areas of Ngamiland, Shakawe, Boteti and Chobe, and works to reach out to other areas in the country where there is wildlife contact and conflict.

The main goal of the programs is to strengthen and develop communities where resources and government support are limited in order to build resilient and sound decision-makers in resource management.

Through these programs, communities are empowered to improve their livelihoods through capacity building, training workshops, mentoring, community-led conservation solutions, and mitigation strategies to address conservation issues such as natural resource management and human-wildlife conflicts, thus promoting coexistence between humans and wildlife, especially problem animals.

SAVE follows participatory engagement by enabling communities to take ownership of all initiatives led by the SAVE community. The participation of communities in the projects conveys a sense of pride, togetherness and togetherness.

All SAVE programs are implemented in collaboration with local stakeholders (communities) who are the complete custodians of the community-based projects.

Government stakeholders are tapped to provide technical expertise and advice to the projects, while private organizations and companies offer holistic partnerships to ensure the sustainability of the project through various aids in the form of monetary or material support.

Main facts

51

running projects



110

entire team



40

Children's Projects



PROJECTS

IMPLEMENTED IN WILDLIFE CONTACT AREAS

WILDLIFE PROJECTS



LION CONSERVATION



ELEPHANT CONSERVATION



HIPPO CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

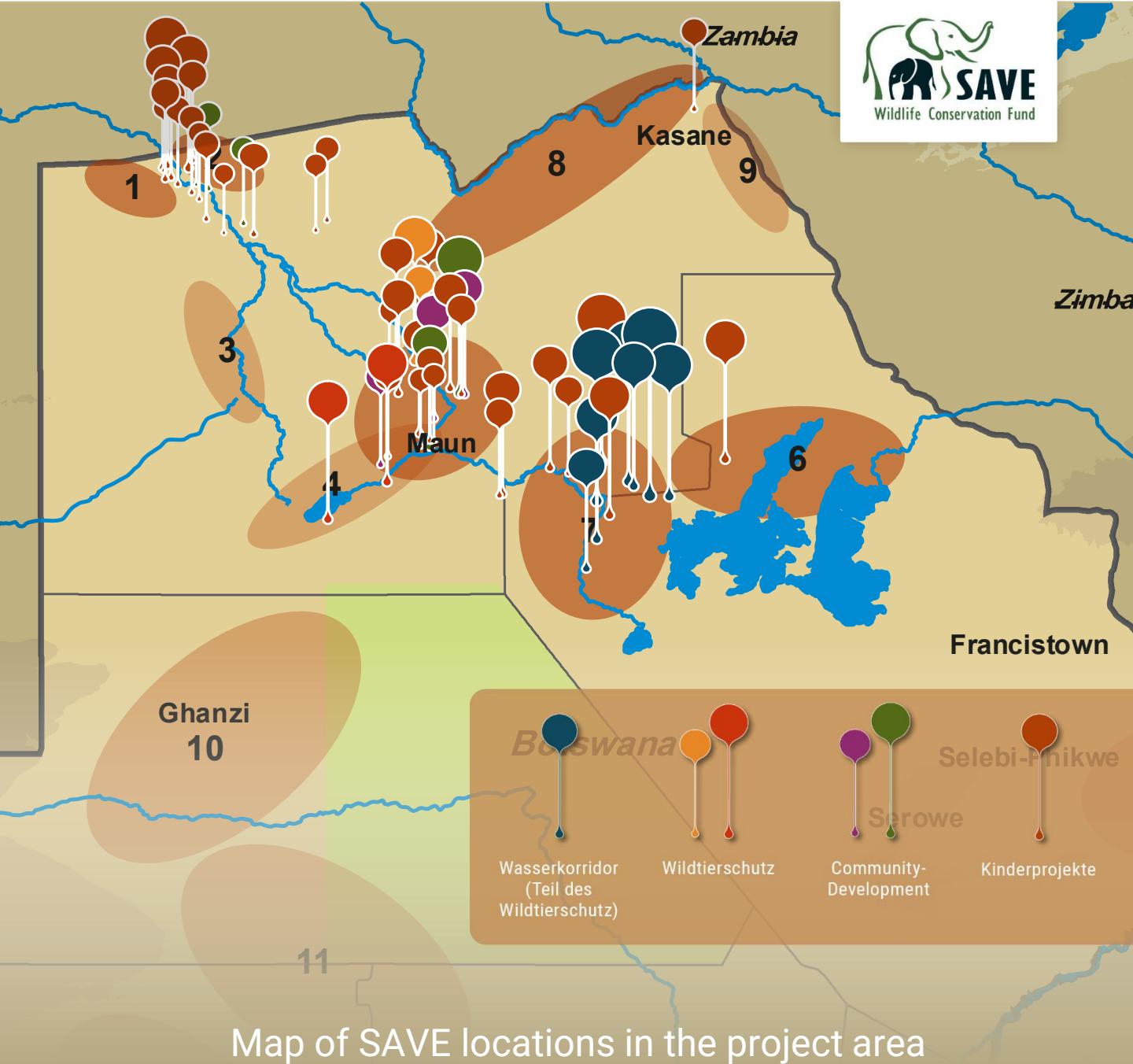
EDUCATION PROJECTS



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Map of SAVE locations in the project area

BOTSWANA

Active Projects

40 Educational projects	2 Elephants/ Wildlife Corridor Projects	3 Community Development Projects	200 Providing hippos with water and feed	1 Lion Conservation Project	78 Women Empowerment
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local Team >110



EDUCATION 4 CONSERVATION (E4C)

Our E4C includes community-based projects that are strongly committed to strengthening rural local communities in wildlife management areas.

Key projects include:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



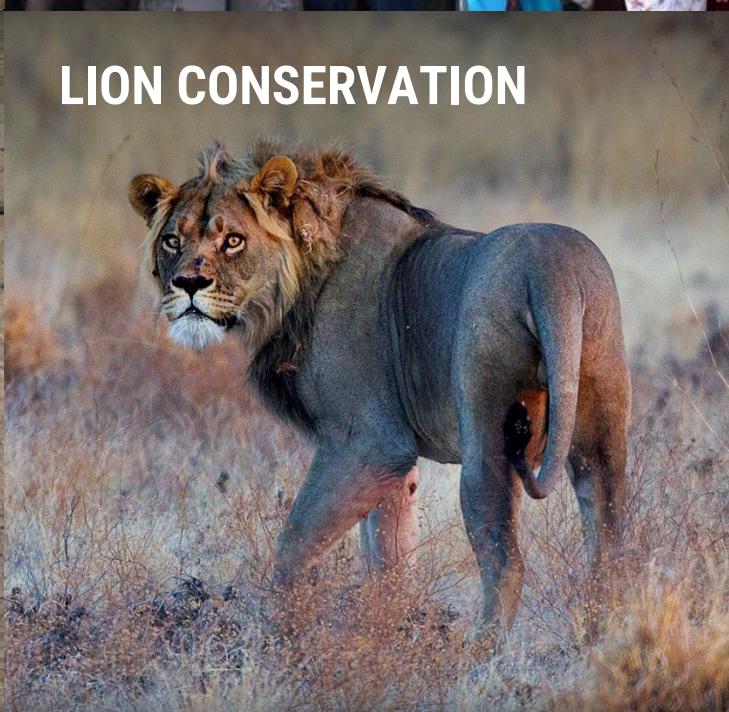
EDUCATION



HIPPO PROTECTION



LION CONSERVATION



Overview of SAVE projects

area	project	program	total
Ngamiland	Wildlife	Lion	2
		Hippo	
	community development	Okavango Farming	2
		woman empowerment	
	education	playgroups	17
Shawake	education	playgroups	18
Boteti	Wildlife	Elephant Corridor	8
	education	playgroups	3
Tutmune	education	playgroups	1
Kasane	education	playgroups	1
total projects			52



Elephants at the Chobe
River

15 years of SAVE Botswana



>110

local staff



14

Wildlife
Research
Projects



> 23,5 Million

Learning hours for children



5

Community Farming
Projects



> 20.300

Children reached with the
education4conservation
program



120

Km of
Elephant
Wiltier Corridor
revived



363

rescued Hippos



40

playgroup projects



>52.000

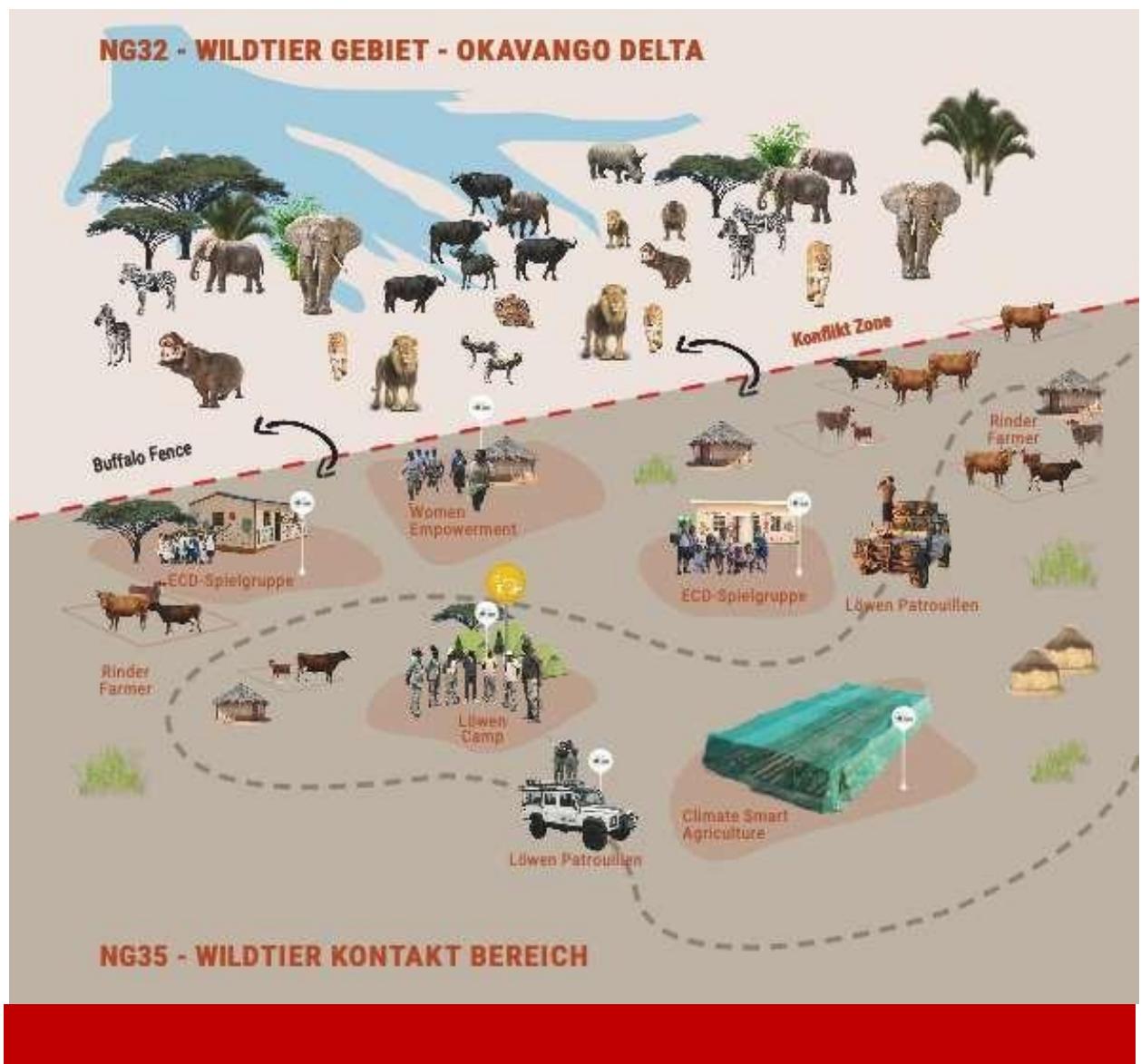
Reaching people with
development projects



500

Wildebeest – Eland
antelopes relocated to
the CKGR National
Park

OUR CONCEPT: HOLISTIC APPROACH



Connections between the Projects (Legend)

Conflict zone

The lions kill the farmers' cattles in the contact zones of the wild animals. To protect their livestock, the farmers kill the lions. As a result, the lion population decreases.



Educational offers for children and young people

The possibility of a peaceful coexistence between humans and the animal world must be conveyed to the new generation as well as the value of nature.



Mothers can leave their children in SAVE playgroups during the day so they can go about their work -Early Childhood Development (ECD)



Development Work & CBNRM

Farmers need an alternative source of income to livestock farming.



Residents grow vegetables on farms that they can use themselves or sell -Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA).

We supported women in starting their own businesses, such as vegetable growing or basket weaving, and thus creating an alternative source of income.

To build new capacities that enable people to take action themselves, we have developed the Community based Natural Recourse Management program.



Wildlife and species conservation projects

At the same time, effective measures such as mobile and predator-proof fences are to be implemented to protect herds and lions.



These should be high and strong enough to prevent cattle from escaping or lions jumping in. In order to be able to provide help quickly in emergency situations, a temporary SAVE base has been set up in the village for the Lion Rangers, who support the local farmers and provide emergency aid in an emergency. Rangers advise the affected farmers and monitor the movement patterns of the big cats by tracking them.

DEVELOPMENT OF SAVE STRATEGIC PLAN: 2026-2028

SAVE is proud to present the Strategic Plan for the organization.

This three-year roadmap provides a clear, focused direction for our organization, aligning our efforts toward common goals and enabling more effective decision-making and resource allocation.

This plan is the culmination of an incredible 14-year journey marked by significant progress and resilience. It is designed to navigate risks effectively, adapt to change, and ensure long-term sustainability by anticipating future trends and securing a competitive advantage in the conservation landscape.

This plan recognizes that sustainable conservation cannot be achieved in isolation; it requires the active participation of communities, the strengthening of livelihoods, and direct interventions to protect both people and wildlife.

Our strategy is built upon the Education 4 Conservation (E4C), a holistic model designed to address the pressing challenge of human-wildlife conflict in Botswana. Over the next 3 years, 2026 – 2028, SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund Botswana will focus on the following strategic pillars.



Various stakeholders were invited to consolidate suggestions and recommendations from the stakeholders. It began by engaging with all key stakeholders to ensure that the strategy reflects a broad range of perspectives and needs. This collaborative approach was essential for creating a shared vision and fostering buy-in across the organization and our stakeholders.



OKAVANGO Agriculture

QUQAO (NG 32/35)



AGRICULTURAL BACKGROUND

The Okavango Agriculture Project is a community development initiative of SAVE to improve food security and provide an alternative livelihood for NG 32/35 communities, which are predominantly influenced by tourism.

The main objective of the initiative was to support rural communities to increase agricultural productivity and strengthen resilience to the risks of climate change in smallholder and pastoral communities by expanding climate-smart agricultural practices.

The project experienced exponential growth by providing different types of vegetables and feeding local communities.

Currently, the focus of the Okavango Agriculture Project is to provide capacity to local farmers by providing technical agricultural skills in horticultural production and supporting them with the necessary resources to maintain their backyard gardens on their homesteads.





Project description

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Botswana launched a pilot project for community agriculture in 2021 in the NG 32/35 area, which is affected by human-wildlife conflict. NG 32/35 is a government-assigned community concession for the Okavango Kopano Mokoro Community Trust (OKMCT), which includes various villages.

Farming was difficult here due to the proximity to wildlife, as the local population relies on agriculture for their self-sufficiency. SAVE worked with OKMCT to set up a large-scale horticulture project in Quqao to help communities increase agricultural productivity and promote climate-friendly practices.

The project resulted in a harvest of tons of vegetables such as spinach, carrots and onions, which were donated to groups in need. In addition, jobs were created for five young people. The project has shown that the region is suitable for sustainable agriculture and offers an alternative source of income.

Main facts

4000

heads of cabbages
planted



Organic farming

in form of kraal manure
applied



700

cabbages harvested to
this date



more facts

66

cabbages distributed
across playgroups



6

farmers employed



9+

Community member
benefiting from the
Project



OKAVANGO FARMING

Mentoring program in which community members are taught transferable skills in basic horticultural production.

The Okavango farm has also supported the local farmers with important resources such as storage tanks, water drip pipes, water pipes and a variety of seeds.

The farmer is currently active and produces vegetables for sale and family consumption.



Useful farmer in Morutsha village

We continue to produce vegetables from the community farm, which are then donated to the local communities. Communities from Quqao, Morutsha, Ditshiping, Katamaga and Daunara have all benefited from the free supply of fresh vegetables to supplement their diets, promote sustainable agriculture and help improve socio-economic livelihoods.



Hand over of vegetables to villages

Capacity building and empowerment of women's groups in NG 32 is an important achievement of Okavango Farming. Farmers from the SAVE group and women participated in a training course conducted by the Department of Crops. Transfer of vegetables to villages Farmers have been taught how to control or eradicate anthills to pave the way for production and minimize pests.



Farmers training at SAVE camp

OKAVANGO FARMING

SAVE supported the playgroup in Quqao, which received vegetables from the Okavango cultivation project.

The project is committed to providing playgroups with fresh vegetables that contribute to the healthy growth of the little ones.

The project also supervises playgroups to create small gardens where children can learn how to grow vegetables and provides vegetables for the playgroup kitchen.



Materials purchased by the project to support local farmers.

Pictured is a SAVE vehicle with agricultural materials to be installed at local farmers.

The project initiative is supported by the generous support of Steffens, a SAVE partner in Germany.

One of the local farmers, the one from the Okavango Farm.

The project continues to ensure that farmers can harvest their produce without destroying pests in the region.

The farmers they serve are able to acquire not only the skills of growing vegetables, but also the resources and tools needed to promote conservation agriculture and produce food.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Through the support of Okavango Farming, women empowerment received technical support such as broadcasting of kraal manure, treatment of pesticides.

The project was able to plant variety of vegetable this year such as hybrid watermelons, onions, green pepper, spinach and tomatoes



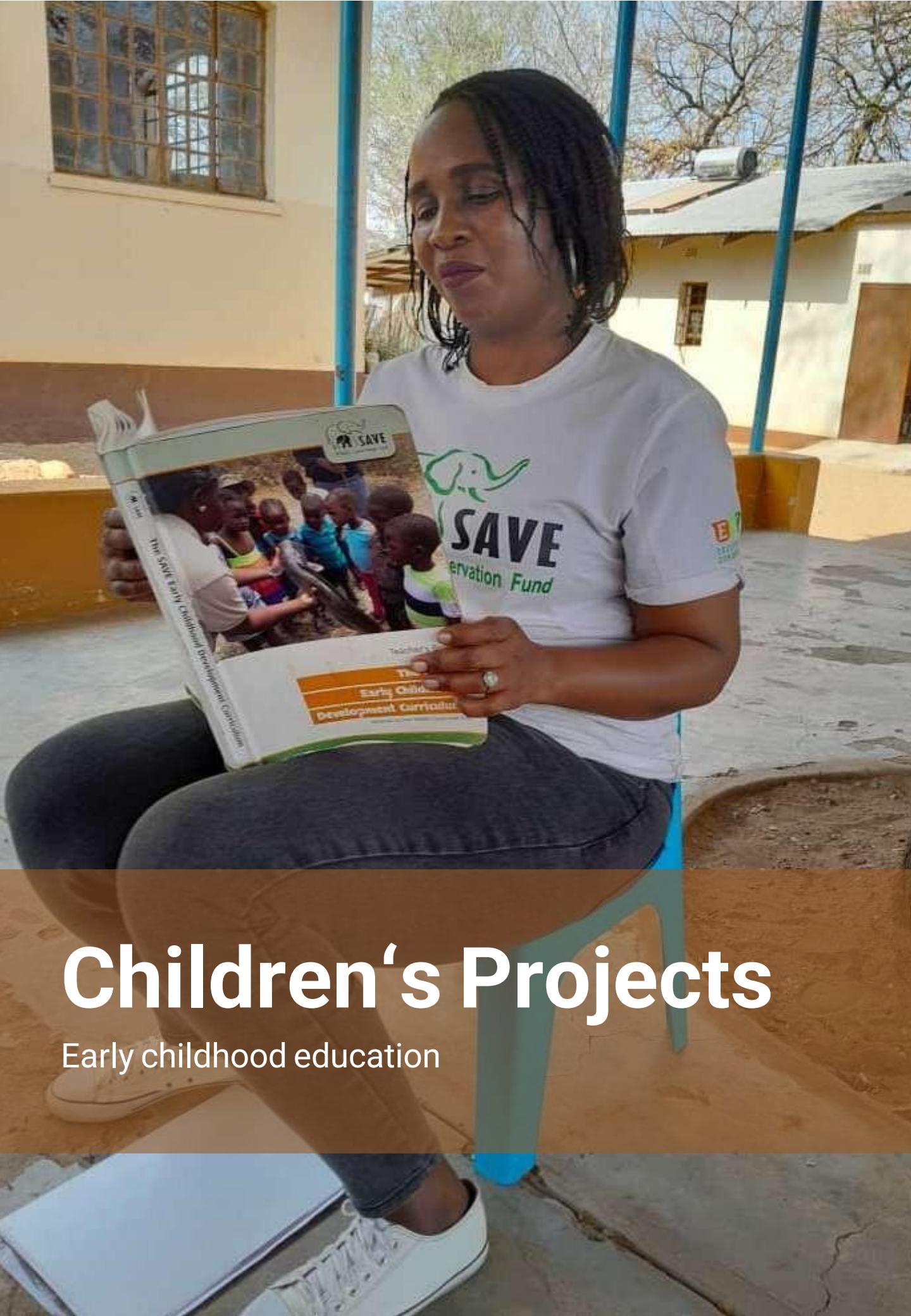
The women also benefited from capacity training. Through the partnership with NCONGO, the group were trained on green pepper production from the seedling production to planting of the peppers and caring of the peppers.

The project also supported the group with netshade production to support sustainable farming.



SUMMARY OF INDICATORS

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
Employment	6 employed farmers
Capacity development	6 Farmers took part in first aid training 6 farmers took part in a termite and anthill check
Mentoring in agriculture	12 local farmers were cared for in Quqao and Morutsha
Mentoring in playgroups	1 Playgroup supports the care and production of vegetables
Donations for playgroups	Quqao, Morutsha and Daunara received vegetables from the project. 140 children reached by Jan-Dez
Seedling transplanting	21,200 seedlings were transplanted and donated to local communities
Vegetable donations to municipalities	2.150 Packages were donated to the communities of Quqao/Morutsha, Ditshiping, Daunara
Providing resources to local farmers	3 Farmers were equipped with essential equipment and materials to start vegetable production



Children's Projects

Early childhood education



Background

Botswana's integrated early childhood development programs are offered in formal preschools and are often aimed only at paying parents. In rural settlements, especially those located in wildlife management areas, children spend most of their time in their villages, playing with friends, where wild animals roam freely.

In 2010, Lars Gorschlüter visited Kasane, where he found children playing and wild animals running around freely in the same environment. He learned that there was a project called Bana Ba Ditlou (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) that gave him the idea of turning the previous child nutrition center into a project that would provide more than just basic care for the children and include psychosocial care and education to prepare them for school readiness and help children with nature conservation.

Below is summary information about playgroups that SAVE has worked with communities to support children's education:

Main facts

1.390

Children at
playgroups



118

Teachers
110 On-site team



40

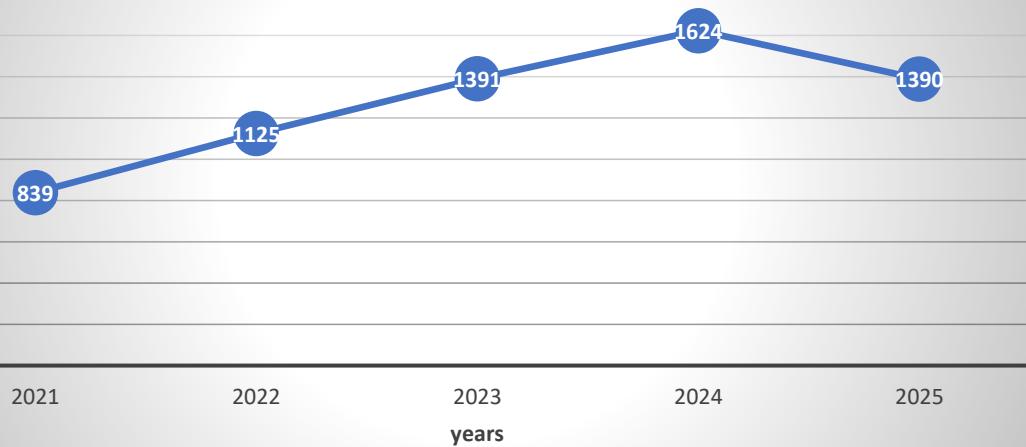
Playgroups



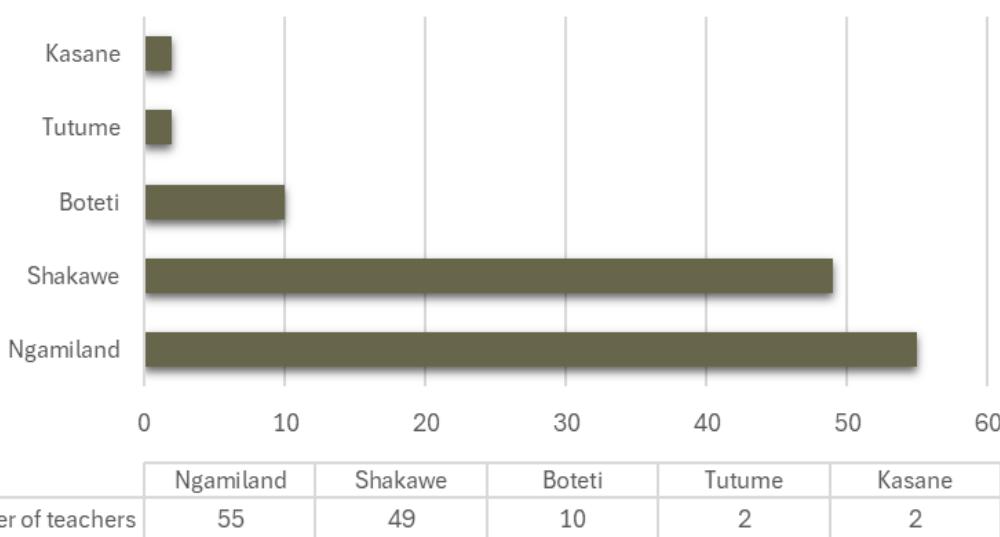
SUMMARY OF INDICATORS

Key figures for the project

Number of children registered

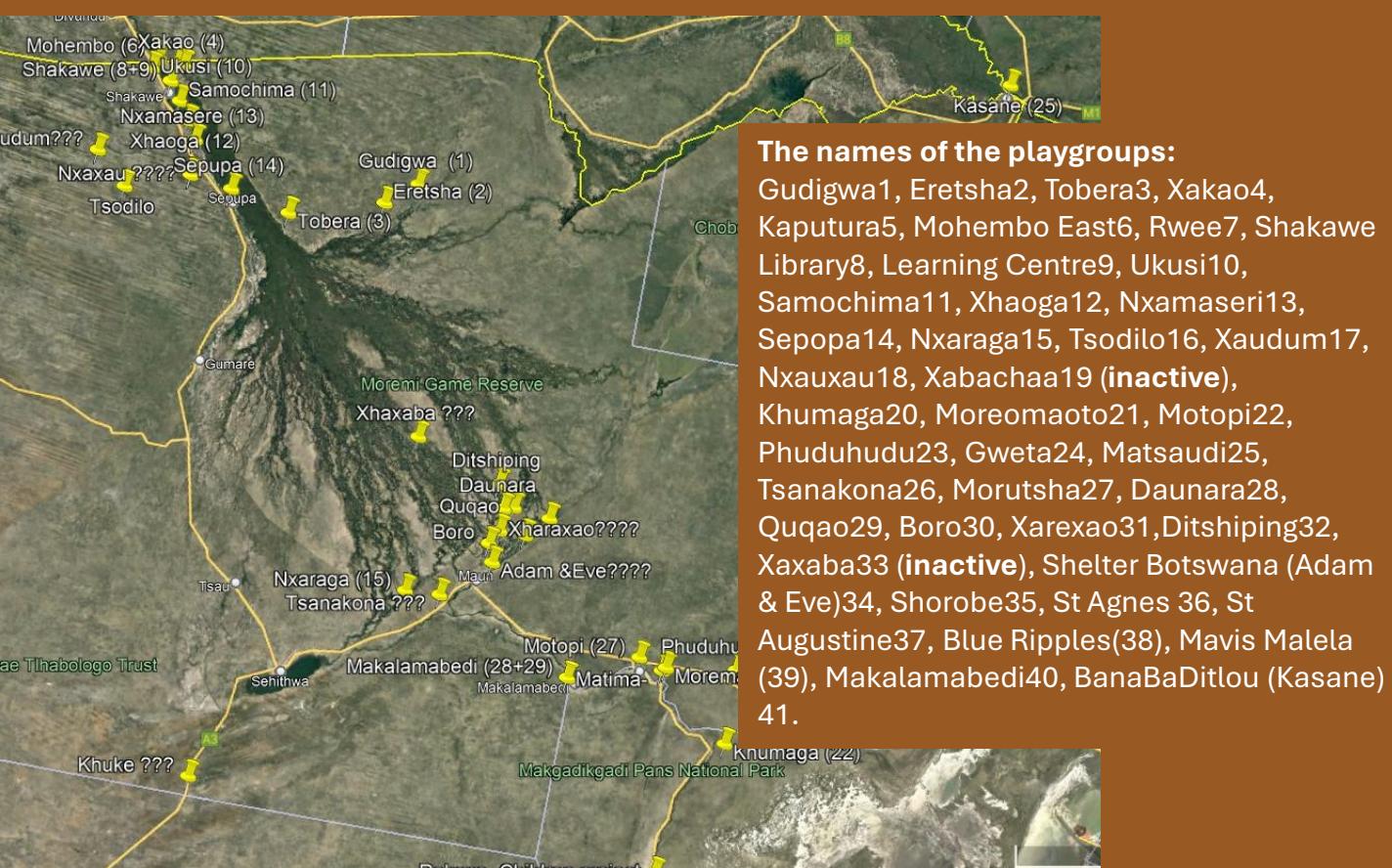


Anzahl der Lehrer per Netzwerk



• Why children's projects?

- **Access to early childhood education:** Children are taught according to the SAVE curriculum, which educates them on conservation and prepares them for primary school to give them a good start in education.
- **Socio-economic development:** While children go to school, parents have time to engage in other socio-economic activities that improve their lives
- **Mitigating conflicts between children and wildlife:** Children are protected from interacting with roaming nearby wildlife that can threaten life, injure or even lead to loss of life.
- **Mitigating juvenile delinquency:** Teens who are out of school are vulnerable to teenage pregnancy, alcohol and drug abuse, poaching, and involvement in gangsterism, which can lead to injury or even loss of life.
- **Alternative practical curriculum activities:** By setting up these facilities, we protect the youth through sports activities, debates, music and quizzes, while also giving them a place to turn to during their free time.



Main facts



2,445 workbooks distributed



19 Teachers trained in house



865 children graduated



117 provision of school uniform to children in NG 32/35



171 Provision of healthy snacks to Children in NG 32/35



5 playgroups maintained/renovated



384 people celebrated environment day with playgroups



2 career affair were attended and 137 children were reached



1,040 parents were reached through PTA meetings

Status 2025

> 40 Children's playgroups / kindergartens with more than 1,390 children

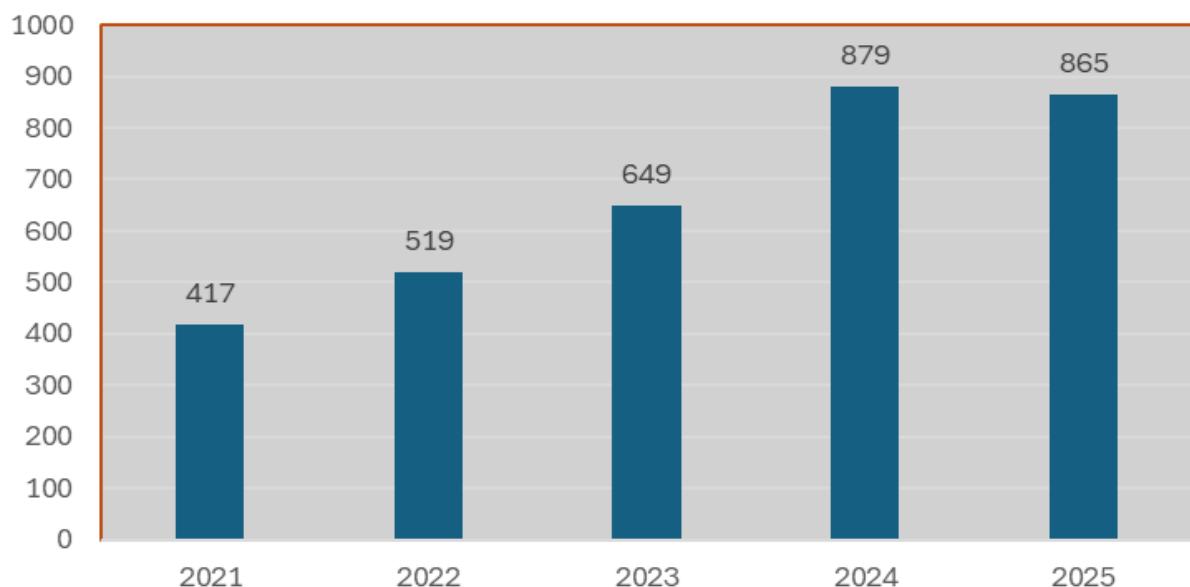


Children at Xakao Playgroup during graduation



Graduation 2025 Playgroup

Number of graduates, ready for school



Activities for Early Childhood

These are the main activities that take place in the playgroups supported by Futura using the SAVE curriculum: this is the guiding document for the teacher and the workbooks for the children in which they present their work.

Free play



Figure 1

Here, every child who has signed up for the program has play with different toys at different play stations. It promotes the child's creativity, imagination and interaction with others. Children also do outdoor activities such as running, jumping, playing with balls, as this promotes physical development.

Puzzle C Games promotes the problem-solving skills of children at the grassroots level.

Story time



Figure 2 Children in Babadi listen to a story

During the story time, the children learn new words, build self-confidence, some can even tell the story as the teacher has taught them. The children also learn logical thinking, participation in the group, listening skills and imagination. Here, children courageously show their skills.

Circle time



Figure 3 Children at Gudigwa s doing an activity in their books

During circle time, children learn facts about nature, participate in group discussions, answer skills, share skills and social skills.

Objectives of the SAVE ECD project:

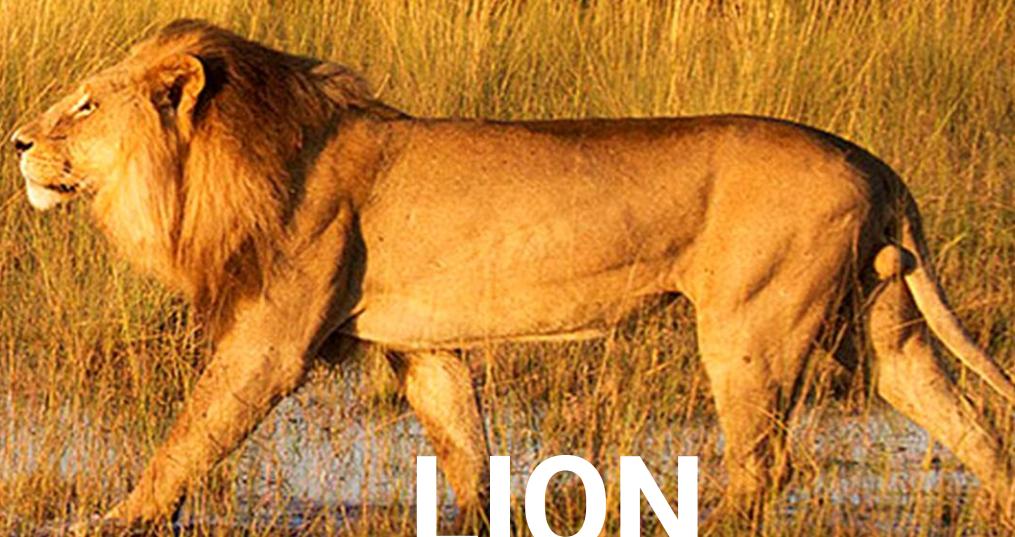
- The main objective of SAVE ECD is:
- Helping children develop the necessary school-ready skills to prepare them for success in the Botswana education system.
- To integrate recognized playgroup themes with an environmental and conservation perspective to create awareness among children of their natural environment.
- Creating jobs through community development.
- To help communities understand why conservation is important to their lives.
- Preparing children from remote villages for primary school, reaching school readiness and avoiding disadvantage for children from more urban areas
- We reach > 85% of the children in the contact areas with wild animals.
- Creating awareness of the benefits of conservation in WCAs and its benefits
- Providing new jobs and education for locals (teachers, wildlife managers...)
- Providing people with basic services (food, clothing, prevention, etc.)
- Creating a link between children's aid and nature conservation
- The long-term goal is the nationwide expansion of the SAVE Education4Conservation project as part of a roll-out program



SUMMARY OF INDICATORS

Key figures for the project

ACTIVITY	Results
Children registered in 2025	1390
Children graduated in 2025	865
Number of workbooks distributed across all networks	2445
Number of teachers trained inhouse	19
Numbers of teachers attended first aid workshop	6
Numbers of parents reached through PTA meetings	1040
Children visited crocodile farms	281
Career fairs attended	2
Lectures on environmental education	36 Children reached
Maintenance and renovation of playgroups by VDC and other stakeholders(Desert and Deltas, natural Selection, Connect , Okavango hidden gems	5
Number of people who attended graduation ceremony	2700
Creation of new jobs	4 new employees (2025)
Number of people who attended world Environment day	384



LION PROJECT

Quqao, Northwest Botswana

LIONS IN BOTSWANA

Overall, experts estimate that the lion population is around 20,000 across Africa.

~ 3.000

Botswana population

~ 1.200

Okavango Delta

~ 40-60

SAVE Project area



LION CONSERVATION PROJECT

Okavango Delta

In order to avoid conflict and preserve the world's fascinating and enormously species-rich ecosystem, Botswana's government provides compensation payments for damage caused by lions and other wildlife. Unfortunately, the remoteness of the villages means that the affected communities make little use of it. Instead, they kill the lions to protect their livestock. This approach threatens not only the lions, but the entire ecosystem.

The project area is located southeast in the Okavango Delta. The NG32/35 concessions are separated by the Buffalo fence and are home to 9 communities (NG32: Ditshiping, Xaxaba, NG35: Quqao, Shorobe, Xharaxhao, Boro, Dau-nara, Morutsha, Matsaudi) with a population of about 4210. The inhabitants have always worked at camping sites, lodges or hotels and offer canoe and boat tours as well as game drives, but the main source of income is livestock.

"Through better protection of livestock, species conservation education and the creation of alternative sources of income, we want to enable the peaceful coexistence of humans and lions."

- Kabelo Dintwa, Head Lion Ranger



LION CONSERVATION PROJECT

Background of the Lion Project:

The human-lion conflict in the NG32/35 concession, especially in Ditshiping, Quqao, Morutsha and Daunara, was a major challenge.

The farmers who raise cattle suffered from lion attacks on their livestock and in turn killed lions in response.

To solve this problem, SAVE Wildlife for "Next Generation Lion" set up a camp in Quqao in 2021 to raise awareness among the local community about lion conservation. By understanding the local context and the behavior of the lions, sustainable solutions for conflict mitigation were developed.

The "Next Generation Lion Project" relied on strategies to reduce the number of lion killings and promote coexistence between humans and animals. The increasing population in the affected areas influenced wildlife management and reduced the habitat for animals.



Lion Ranger training on site

PROJECT AIMS

The Lion Project aims to promote community development through multiple goals. These include promoting economic growth, promoting social cohesion, implementing sustainable environmental practices, providing educational opportunities, and harnessing technological advancements.

By achieving these goals, the Lion Project aims to improve overall well-being, empower residents, and have a lasting positive impact on the community. The project aims to protect lions and livestock for the next generation by improving the coexistence of humans and lions:

- (1) Raising awareness of nature conservation and the coexistence of humans and lions.**
- (2) Identifying lion movement patterns.**
- (3) Training and delivery of capacity training/building.**



Main facts

1897

Recorded livestock
Capture: House-to-Door
Campaign



54

Active Kraals
assessed/covered



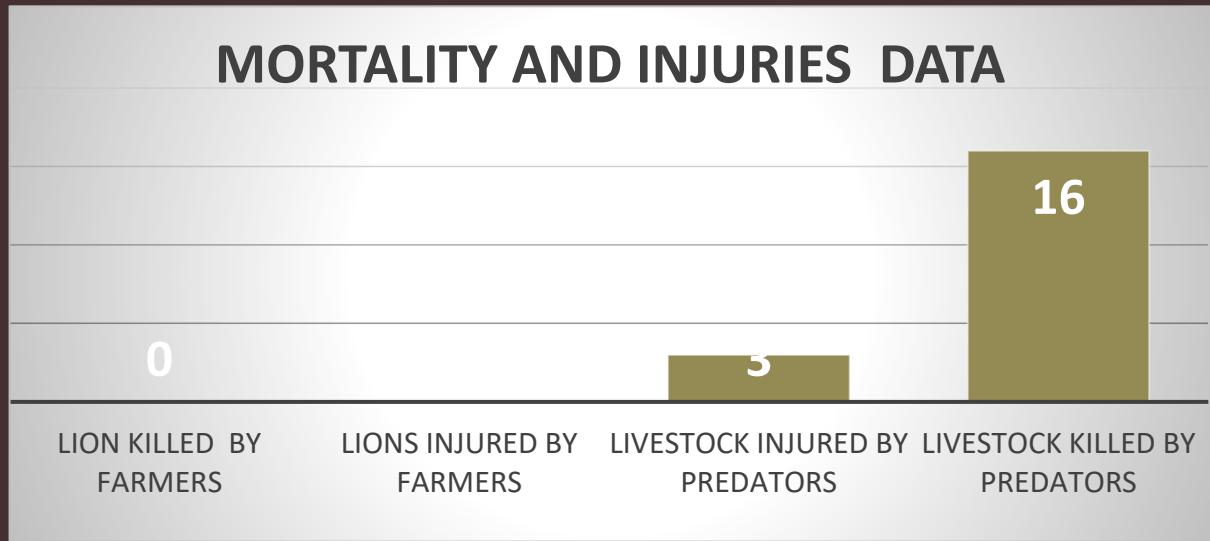
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Lions killed by farmers
in 2025



Main facts

MORTALITY AND INJURIES DATA



- ✓ This year, a total of 3 livestock were injured by wild dogs.
- ✓ 2 cattle were wounded while 1 goat was injured.
- ✓ A total of 16 livestock were killed by predators in 2025 consisting of cows, goats, sheeps, donkeys and horses..

Main facts

15

**incident reported by
 Lion Rangers**



18

**DWNP reports
 4 villages**

4

**Predator-proof kraals no
 livestock killed at the Kraals**

PROBLEM ANIMAL CONTROL ASSESSMENT AND COMPENSATION FORM

PART I

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. District: N/W Station: MAUN Date of initial report: 05/08/25

II. Problem Animal Control Register No: 585/25 Occurrence Book No: 31/10/25

III. Name of Reporter: BOLATOTSWE OTAE Age: 58 Gender: F

IV. Address of Reporter/ Postal: 183 Maun Physical: Qu Gao Phone: 31977014

V. Omang/passport No: 596 Signature: Qu Gao Date: 05/08/25

VI. Damage Incurred: ISHWAANA GOAT KILLED Location: Qu Gao

VII. Animal(s)suspected for damage: WILD DOG Date of Damage 04/08/25

VIII. Name of owner BOLATOTSWE OTAE Age 58 Gender F

IX. Address of Owner/Postal: 183 Maun Physical Qu Gao Phone 31977014



Main facts

2

**Farmers with solar
lights monitored.
No livestock killed**



712

**Distance
covered during patrols**



767

**km covered patrolling of
the buffalo fence**



more facts

8

rangers employs
4 men, 4 women



Cluster members
mobilized and formed
5 cluster farmers
developed



Rangers supported with
brand new uniform to
support their day-to-day
activities



LION PROJECT IMPACT

This year the Lion project recorded zero mortality of lions in the area which shows a tremendous improvement of mindset change through our conservation education approach.

Farmers are slowly understanding the importance of wildlife in their area, follow constitutional procedures of reporting instead of taking action upon themselves.



A series of meetings were conducted to strengthen stakeholder engagements. A total of 16 meetings were achieved.

290 people were reached through this various meetings. Dissemination of conservation education was also shared to communities' members.

Government stakeholders had the opportunity to visit SAVE project sites to appreciate the project progress.



Community farmers were mobilized and clustered into 5 groups which covered areas of Katamaga, Morutsha, and Quqao.

A total of 75 farmers were reached and grouped into the 5 clusters. A committee was developed for the cluster with 5 representatives from each group.



LION PROJECT

SAVE conducted a series of meetings to engage with stakeholders. 6 stakeholder meeting and two kgotla meeting were conducted. The stakeholder meeting was to give the report to our stakeholder on the project achievement and share the quarterly activities for year 2025 and the kgotla meeting was held to give the report on the Lion project to the community of Quqao on what the Lion project has done as from 2021 to 2025. The other meeting was held to clarify to the community about the zoning of cluster in settlement of Quqao, Katamaga and Morutsha

Three workshops attended in Maun and Quqao workshop were strategic plan and Hr and Admin workshop, the strategic plan workshop was to do the 2-year strategic plan for save wildlife and the Hr and Admin workshop was addressing the issues of contract and company policy



Through door-to-door assessments, it was found that in Quqao, Morutsha and Katamaga during the door-to-door campaign, 54 active kraals were assessed in three areas.

The team also recorded a total of 1897 livestock from June.



CLUSTER TRAINING

Department of Crop Production collaborated with SAVE to conduct a training of local farmers at Matsaudi.

Five cluster members from Quqao were in attendance to learn about modern farm implements which the department is intending to empower farmers on latest machineries farmers can use to improve their production.

A handheld tractor machinery was used as a demonstration implement to advise farmers to move from draught power to machinery use which are environmentally friendly.





Daniel Mshure

Human-predator conflict

The Lion Project continues to work with key stakeholders for project monitoring, patrol, and community engagement.

To this date, 4 beneficiaries who were supported with predator proof kraals have not experienced any predator killings directly from their kraals. The 2 farmers supported with solar lights also have not recorded any lions visiting their kraals to kill livestock which shows the efficiency of our mitigation approaches in addressing Human Wildlife Conflict.

With continuous education and monitoring patrols across the villages, retaliatory killings can be minimized as people are now sensitized on conservation issues .

The lion team were able to cover an area of 711.98 km during lion patrols across designated transects.

The team also covered a total of 769.75 km patrolling the buffalo fence .

The patrols intend to identify movement patterns of lions coming from the buffalo fence into communal lands as a measure to control their visitation in grazing lands



LION PROJECT SUMMARY

ACTIVITY	PERFORMANCE
House-to-door campaign	54 Active kraals assessed from March to October
Capacity building training	5 community farmers from Quqao attended a farm implements demonstration at Matsaudi.
Livestock data	1,897 livestock were recorded during the data collection from March to October
PAC Reports	33 incidents with problem animal control reports were achieved in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife. 15 were reported to SAVE Lion team, 18 were cases from DWNP which were given to Lion team to assist
Risk mitigation approaches	2 farmers were supported with solar lights on their farms and a routine checks were periodically done. 4 farmers were supported with predator-proof kraals and were routinely checked. No predator intrusion was recorded
Cluster formation	Farmers were mobilized and clustered according to their geographic setting. A total of 75 farmers were grouped into 5 clusters.
Meeting with stakeholders	11+ Meetings and workshops with local stakeholders were achieved this year.



Hippo- Rescue

Nxaraga (NG 35)

Background

The hippopotamus project is a SAVE Wildlife-supported project in the village of Nxaraga, carried out in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife C National Parks, the community of Nxaraga and international donors.

The initiative arose as a result of the drying up of the Xaudum River, which feeds both Nxaraga and Hippo lagoons in the region.

The hippos were trapped in the mud, which has led to a high mortality rate of hippos, as no water flowed into the hippos' lagoons due to drastic climate change and drought.

This project started in 2019. Since then, the river has not flowed regularly. SAVE and local stakeholders have joined forces through DWNP to protect and conserve the surviving species. A borehole has been set up nearby to supply the lagoon with water.

Feeding was also agreed and both stakeholders agreed to take turns caring for the hippos. They had to be fed with alfalfa every day, as there were no viewing pastures because it was not raining. The project is ongoing.

The hippos feeding at Nxaraga lagune, year 2024



Nxaraga Hippolagune



Objectives of the Hippo Project:

The main goal is to provide the stranded hippopotamus with water and food

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Botswana has partnered with stakeholders to solve the problem of hunger and thirst for the stranded hippos. The borehole was equipped in such a way that the dried-up lagoon could be supplied with water and fed: alfalfa in particular was bought in large quantities to feed the hippos, as the pastures had died due to the lack of rain.

Since its inception, the Hippo Project has employed eight (8) people from the community on a rotating basis. These hippo guides remain in a camp next to the hippo lagoon to monitor it closely. They are responsible for managing the water level in the lagoon, counting hippos to record mortality and hippos that have migrated, and most importantly, feeding the hippos daily when there is no natural grazing land.

The caregivers receive a monthly salary and a food ration for one month.



Hippos at the waterhole

Main facts

70+

**Remaining Hippos
out of 200**



2

**employees, 24 hours
on site**



0

**Hippo Mortality
recorded**



Hippo rescue Project:

Late 2024 November-December 2024 come in style as Ngamiland and Botswana experienced the good rains, and land was covered with green blankets and vegetation came out quickly & covered the earth. 2025 came with surprises as the rain continue to pour in the area and this forced most of hippos to relocate to other parts of the area. Some hippos relocated to Thamalakane river. The number of hippos which are left are about 70 + from 100+. We didn't have any mortality since the climate was stable.

The current state of the lagoon is in a stable state, as it has reduced the pressure on the old lagoon by creating space and a habitable environment for the hippos. This year we had an incident where one of the farmers (who was from the community) was killed by hippos and the stray hippo was killed since it posed danger to the community.

Despite the developments, this year there was no feeding which was done. Since the rainwater was low pumping water to the hippo lagoons continued. One of key stakeholder helped with removal of the mud from the lagoon

The pond is currently home to hippos that have been relocated from the ancient lagoon.

"When drought pours out the rivers and tears the earth apart, the fate of hippos hangs in the balance. Saving them means protecting the heartbeat of the wilderness and ensuring that life flows where there is no more water."



Wabotlhe Letubo,
SAVE Country Project Director

RECOMMENDATIONS

The project should be halted since most of the hippos relocated to other parts of the area in seek of better pastures and enough water.

The project should also be handed to the community to take full ownership of it. They can develop it into a recreational facilities to generate income for the developments of the community





ANNUAL REPORT 2025 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Letter from DRC Country Director



2025 has been a remarkable year for strengthening the protection of Virunga National Park.

We expanded our core Education for Conservation strategy and, together with SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund Germany, made three new playgroups operational in villages surrounding the park, reinforcing support for four active playgroups.

Despite severe challenges caused by the war between the M23 movement and the government army, we successfully implemented socio-economic and environmental education projects that place local communities at the heart of conservation.

Conservation efforts succeed only when local communities are placed at their center. Without this, wildlife protection risks becoming a source of tension, as communities may perceive conservation as competing with their socio-economic aspirations. To address this, SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund works closely with community leaders, governments, and local organizations to link nature protection with development and well-being. Our approach goes beyond conservation, creating tangible benefits for people while fostering peaceful coexistence with nature. This report shares how we connect conservation with community aspirations. From my work in the DRC, I have seen that when sustainable development is prioritized, communities become the strongest guardians of ecosystems. I am proud of SAVE-DRC's achievements this year and thank all our partners for their support.

WASINGYA Rémy

Country Director of SAVE-DRC

DRC PROJECTS

AROUND VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK

WILDLIFE PROJECTS



MOUNTAIN GORILLA
CONSERVATION

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION PROJECTS



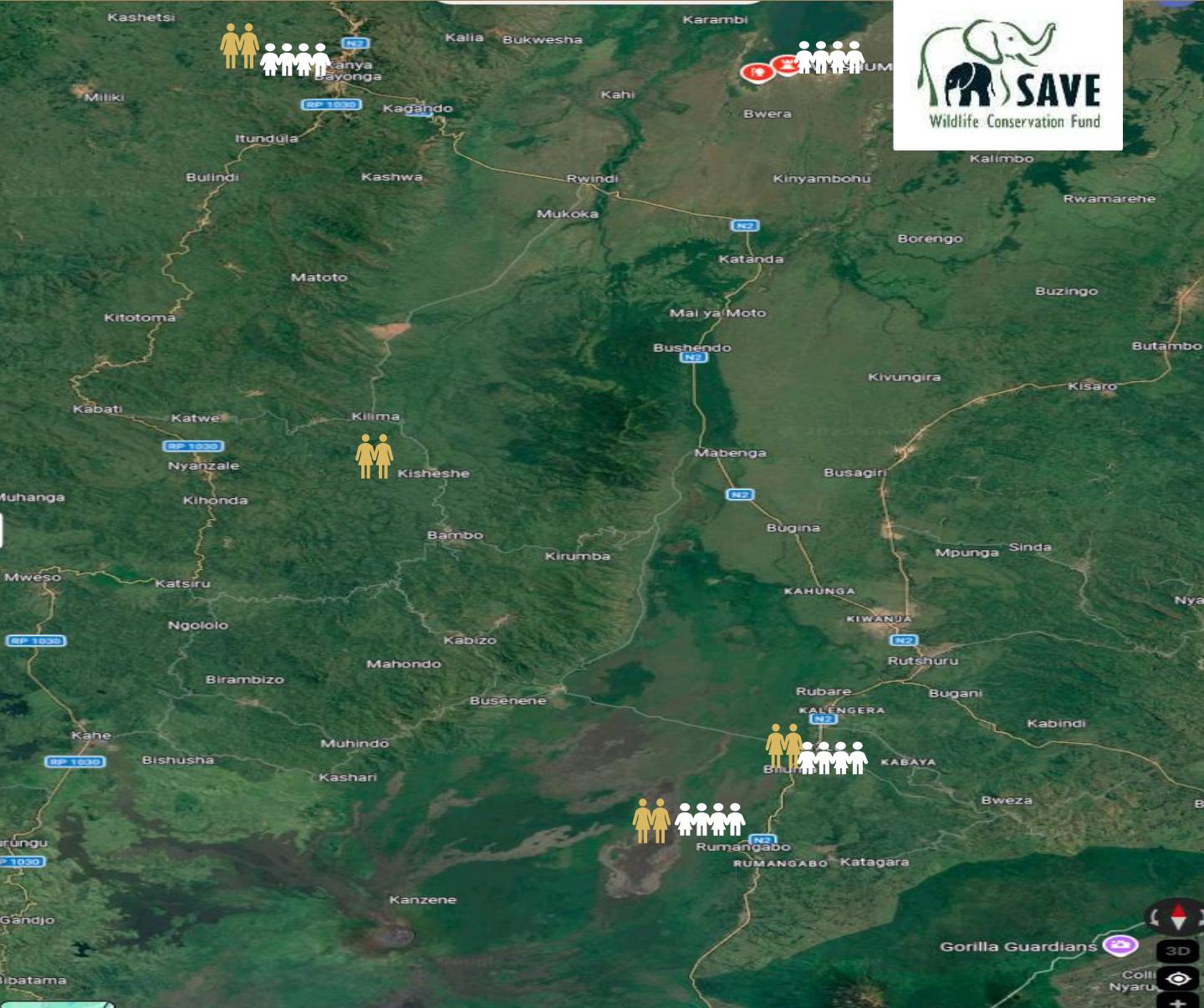
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



Map of SAVE locations in the project area

DR Congo

Active Projects

4

Educational projects

12

Community Development projects

2

Mountain gorilla Conservation projects

1

Hippotamus, conservation project

2

Women Empowerment project

DRC TEAM



Overview of SAVE DRC projects

Village	Project	Program	total	Children	ha land	CBO	people	
Kanyabayonga	Community development	Farming	2	0	4	16	325	
		Playgroup	1	58	0	0	0	
Kabaya	Community development	Farming	1		4	16	335	
		Playgroup	1	57				
Vitshumbi	Community development	Farming	1	0	0	0	0	
		Playgroup	1	56	0	0	0	
Rumangabo	Community development	Farming	1		1	2	42	
		Playgroup	1	65				
Kishishe	Community development	Farming	3	0	8	28	600	
		Playgroup	0	0	0	0	0	
			total	12	236	17	62	
							1302	



Children at the playgroups

Background

During 2023, SAVE officially opened an office in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, following an agreement with government agencies in 2021.

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund pursues the following objectives:

In the Congo, too, we pursue the promotion of sustainable development and education in nature reserves. The main objective is to promote the protection of species, environmental protection, nature and species, as well as the education and well-being of young people. In the same perspective, we enhance the unique biological diversity, especially regarding endangered animal species, through educational projects among the population and thus support the future for humans and wildlife.

Problem

The east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the province of North Kivu, has experienced many dramas of wars that have led to population movements, which has had a negative impact on the Virunga National Park: many people live near Virunga.

In addition, wildlife is the most vulnerable, as it has been difficult for the ICCN (Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation) to ensure complete control over the Virunga National Park, even in the southern sector, where the mountain gorillas graze in these areas and which has a negative impact on the families of the mountain gorillas that live in this sector.

Currently, there are many refugee around Virunga, which lead people to engage in illegal activities that lead to the destruction of habitats.

More than ever, the Virunga National Park needs to be protected and supported.

We have recognized that it is important to involve the host communities, displaced persons and war returnees who live in the surroundings of Virunga in the conservation of the ecosystem and to carry out environmental education and community development projects on the ground that can help these people to be self-reliant.

In this 2025 Annual Report, we have once again focused on the projects that our organization has implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2025.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN: 2026-2028

▪ Expansion of environmental playgroups

We plan to expand environmental playgroups to villages around Virunga National Park and other protected areas across the country, reaching more children and fostering an early understanding of the importance of conservation.

▪ Socio-Economic recovery of communities

We will continue supporting vulnerable households through climate-smart agriculture, local product processing, and community entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on women living near protected areas.

▪ Community-Based conservation of the Congo Basin

We will strengthen the protection of iconic species and key ecosystems by actively involving local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources. Special attention will be given to preserving the Congo Basin, which is vital for the climate, biodiversity, and the livelihoods of local communities.

▪ Community mobilization and awareness

We will conduct monthly awareness campaigns on various themes related to environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable practices, promoting responsible behavior at the community level.

▪ Partnerships and sustainability

Development of partnerships, diversification of funding sources, and rigorous monitoring to ensure the sustainability of actions.



Background

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, integrated early childhood development programs are often accessible to only families who afford to pay school fees. In rural areas particularly those located within or near wildlife management areas, young children spend most of their time playing with peers, often in close proximity to freely roaming wild animals.

Since January 2021, SAVE- Germany has supported the informal environmental education program in different primary schools in several villages surrounding Virunga National park. Through this work, he observed that environmental education has a positive impact on children's attitudes and behaviors toward ecosystem conservation in DRC.

Building on this experience, in 2022 he initiated the first community- based playgroup in Kishishe village. The playgroup was designed to introduce environmental education at an early childhood stage, using play and local context as learning tools. Since its establishment, the project has provided more than basic education. It has also offered psychosocial support to children affected by ongoing conflict, helping them cope with trauma and instability. The playgroup serves as a safe and nurturing space where children are prepared for formal schooling, encouraged to develop a love for learning despite challenging circumstances, and guided to understand and value nature conservation from an early age.

Below is summary information about playgroups that we have worked with communities to support children's education:

Early Childhood Education (Playgroups)

Background:

Children living around Virunga National Park have limited access to early education, especially in conflict-affected areas. Playgroups provide safe learning spaces that combine basic education with environmental awareness.

Main Facts:

- **4** active playgroups (Kanyabayonga, Vitshumbi, Kabaya, Rumangabo)
- **236** children enrolled
- **8** trained teachers
- **Continuous** operation despite insecurity
- **Play-based** learning focused on early literacy, numeracy, and conservation



Main facts

4

active Playgroups



8

playgroup Teachers



236

Children registered



CAPACITY BUILDING OF PLAYGROUP TEACHERS

BACKGROUND

Many teachers lack access to professional training in child-centered and environmental education. Capacity building ensures quality early learning and long-term conservation impact

Main Facts:

- All playgroup teachers trained
- Focus on participatory and play-based pedagogy
- Environmental education integrated into daily lessons
- Practical training in tree planting and seed germination



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

Conflict-driven displacement forces communities to rely on Virunga's resources for survival. This project addresses poverty as a root cause of environmental degradation.

Main Facts:

- **1,302** people supported
- **17** hectares cultivated
- **8** farming projects implemented
- **Improved** food security and income diversification



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

BACKGROUND

Environmental education is limited in formal curricula despite strong dependence on natural resources. SAVE-DRC links theory with practical environmental action.

Main Facts:

- **897** pupils sensitized
- **34** teachers sensitized
- **Activities** during World Soil, Tree and Climate Days
- **155** trees planted
- **School** gardens and experimental fields established



Key Achievements in Kanyabayonga

Background

Large numbers of displaced families require stable income opportunities to reduce reliance on natural resources.

Main Facts:

2 hectares of tomatoes cultivated

89 direct beneficiaries

89 women trained in sustainable agriculture

70 women started income-generating activities



Key achievements in the Kabaya and Rumangabo villages

Background:

Villages near mountain gorilla habitats face intense human–wildlife interaction. Integrated livelihood support reduces pressure on ecosystems.

Main Facts:

- **5** hectares of community farmland
- **Linked** with early childhood education
- **Supports** mountain gorilla conservation



Women's Economic Empowerment & Entrepreneurship

Background:

Women are central to household resilience but face barriers to income generation. Empowerment strengthens both livelihoods and conservation.

Main Facts:

- **62** Community-Based Organizations supported
- **1,110** women engaged in income-generating activities
- **Training** in marketing and leadership



CLIMATE-RESILIENT AGRO FARM

Background:

Value addition through agro-processing increases income and climate resilience while reducing dependence on park resources.

Main Facts:

- **8** people trained in chili processing
- **2** agro-processing machines provided
- **330** bottles of chili oil produced



Outlook for 2026

In 2026, **SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund – Democratic Republic of Congo** will implement its activities in line with the **SAVE Strategic Plan 2026–2028**, guided by the principle that effective conservation depends on education, community empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods.

Through the **Education for Conservation (E4C)** approach, SAVE-DRC will continue to strengthen early childhood playgroups and environmental education in primary schools around **Virunga National Park**, improving teaching quality through ongoing capacity building and fostering environmental awareness from an early age.

In parallel, SAVE-DRC will scale up **climate-resilient livelihood initiatives**, with a strong focus on women, youth, displaced persons, and returnees. Sustainable agriculture, agro-processing, and income-generating activities will be expanded to improve food security and household incomes while reducing pressure on the park's natural resources.

Across all interventions, SAVE-DRC will continue to promote **peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife**, addressing the root causes of environmental degradation through integrated conservation and development actions. Strengthened partnerships with communities, authorities, and conservation stakeholders will remain essential to ensure impact and long-term sustainability in a fragile context



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

SAVE - Wildlife Conservation Fund



Background

Wolves were heavily persecuted across Europe throughout most of the 20th century. During this period, Poland remained one of the last refuges where small, isolated wolf populations managed to survive.

After gaining strict legal protection under Polish law in 1997, wolves began gradually returning to their former habitats in Poland and dispersing to neighboring countries, pioneering the recolonization of other parts of Europe. However, their return also revived tensions with humans, particularly livestock farmers, who had lived for decades in areas free of large predators.

In 2011, Lars Gorschlüter established collaboration with Roman Gula, a wolf biologist from the Polish Academy of Sciences. This meeting-initiated monitoring of the recovering wolf population in central Poland's Świętokrzyskie region - where wolves had been eradicated in the 1950s but began returning in the early 2000s - as well as a broad educational program aimed at reducing tensions between people and predators.

For the past 14 years, SAVE team has documented the recolonization process, carried out conservation measures, and conducted extensive education programs aimed at local communities. Long-term monitoring has also enabled research into how wolves adapt to densely populated, heavily modified landscapes.

Today, the wolf population in the Świętokrzyskie region is a unique example of successful coexistence between humans and large predators, largely thanks to the consistent, long-term efforts of SAVE.

Wolves in Poland

Poland's wolf population is slowly recovering, but still faces numerous human threats

~ 3.000

Estimated abundance
of wolves in Poland

~ 150

Wolves illegally
killed each year

~ 50-60

Wolves monitored
by SAVE team



2025

6

Persons involved



95

**Days in the
field**



3000

km² Monitored forests



SAVE OUR TEAM

Meet our team

The SAVE team consists of scientists, qualified employees of the Polish Academy of Sciences, but also other naturalists and enthusiasts fascinated by wildlife and - in particular - wolves.



Prof. Roman Gula

Head of wolf project



Joanna Toczydłowska

Wolf project coordinator



Artur Milanowski

Project member



Ewa Nizioł

Project member



Andrzej Nizioł

Project member



SAVE SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

Report preparation: Joanna Toczydłowska

Materials: Roman Gula | Artur Milanowski | Petr Mückstein | Ewa and Andrzej Nizioł | Joanna Toczydłowska

New wolf, new opportunities!

In 2025, we successfully equipped a new wolf, Olek, with a GPS collar. This allowed us to launch new research initiatives, including challenging field-based GPS tracking, enabling us to gain even more detailed insights into the daily lives of wolves living near human settlements. This year, we also started a large-scale project on wild ungulates, the main prey of wolves in the region, using a network of camera traps to study how human activities and management strategies influence their populations, structure, and dynamics.

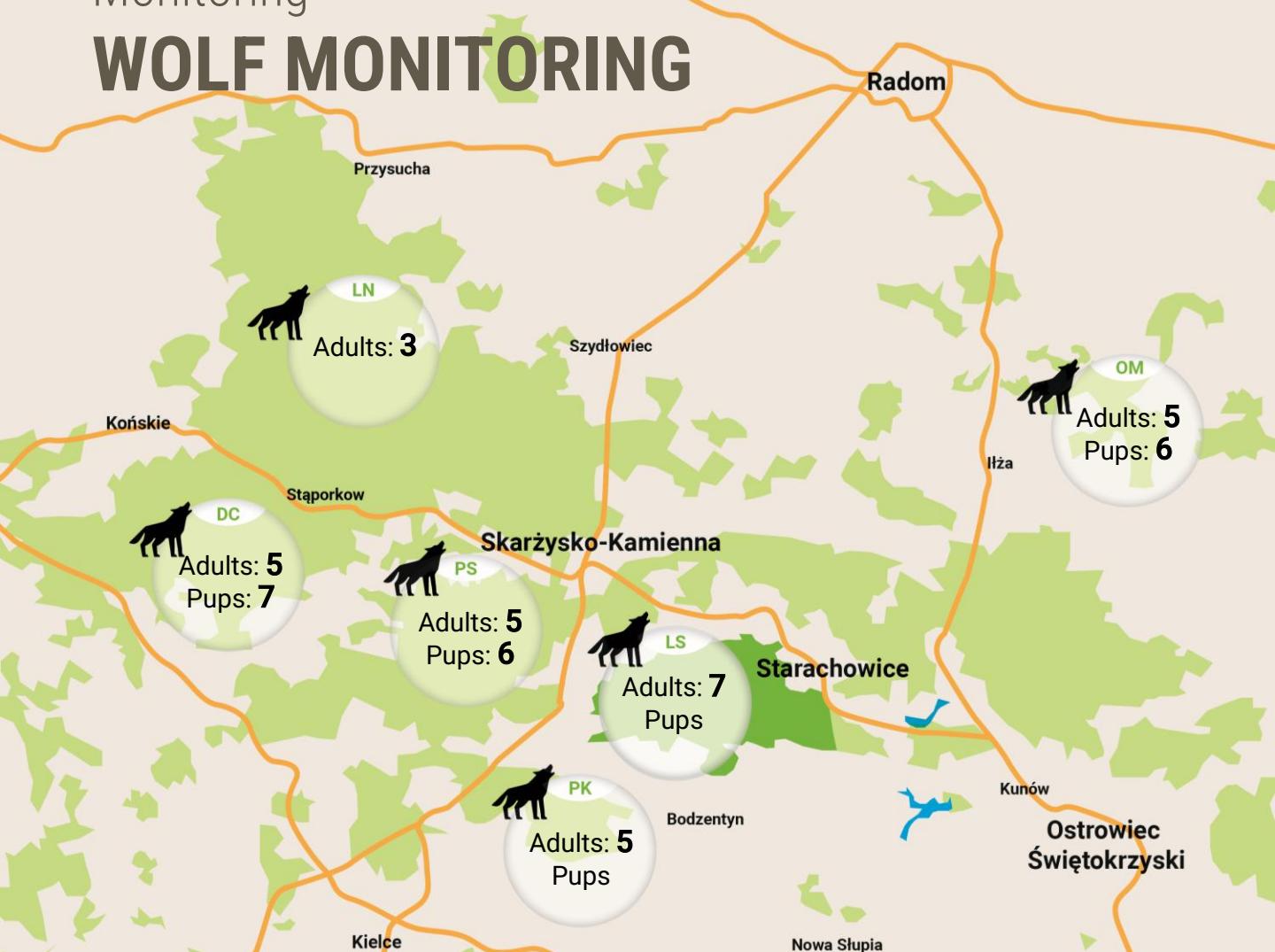
We continued our wolf monitoring program, launched in 2011, and maintained collaborations with the University of South Florida on applying Artificial Intelligence to wildlife studies, as well as with the Nature Conservation Agency in the Czech Republic.

As in previous years, we conducted educational programs about wolves and ecology for children and adults, organized workshops on human–wolf coexistence, and expanded our volunteer program.

We invite you to read about the details of our work in 2025!

Monitoring

WOLF MONITORING



* Map shows minimum wolf numbers in forest complexes

Monitored area

In 2025, the SAVE team focused on monitoring six wolf families inhabiting forests of the Świętokrzyskie region. The monitored area covered approximately 3,000 km² and was located within the Świętokrzyskie and southern Mazowieckie provinces.

The monitoring included six forest complexes:

- Świętokrzyska Forest (PS)
- Siekierzyńskie Forests (LS)
- Czarna Konecka Valley (DC)
- Niekłańskie Forests (LN)
- Małomierzyce District (OM)
- Klonowskie Range (PK)

Monitoring

WOLF MONITORING

Six researchers, 95 days in the field

Six researchers participated in the monitoring, spending a total of 95 days in the field. As in previous years, the team patrolled forest roads in search of tracks, scats, and other signs of wolf presence. We also collected information from foresters, hunters, naturalists, and other local residents.

Camera traps were deployed in areas frequently used by wolves. Wolves were recorded on several occasions, with the largest registered group consisting of 11 individuals.

From early July to late October, we also conducted nighttime howl stimulation surveys to confirm reproduction and to estimate the number of pups.

The presence of wolves was confirmed in all monitored forest complexes. Breeding was confirmed in four of the six monitored wolf families, including the Świętokrzyska and Siekierzyński Forests, Czarna Konecka Valley and Małomierzyce District. A total of at least 19 pups were directly observed in the monitored area; additional pups may have been present but were not recorded during the surveys.





Monitoring

WOLF PROTECTION & TELEMETRY

We saved life and collared a new wolf – Olek!

In 2025 we managed to collar a new wolf in the Świętokrzyska Forest, named Olek. His story was very different from that of the other wolves we had collared before. Olek was not trapped during research activities but found by chance almost unconscious in a ditch along a forest road.

We transported him to a veterinarian, where the initial examination and blood tests indicated that he had most likely been poisoned. Following basic emergency treatment, we decided to transfer him to a professional wildlife rehabilitation center for further care. Olek's recovery was long and full of ups and downs. However, after two weeks of intensive treatment and dedicated veterinary care, he gradually regained his strength and fully recovered.

Once he was healthy enough, we transported him back to his home forest and released him equipped with a GPS collar. The data from the collar soon brought wonderful news: Olek quickly reunited with his family group, and in May he became the father of seven pups!

Now he and his family are still being monitored by us using telemetry and camera traps deployed across their territory.



Olek's Second Chance – The Rescue Story

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Forest Education and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Koło and to all the people involved in saving Olek's life, especially: Alina Sobczyk, Paweł Kowalski and amazing vets Robert Narożnicki, Dominika Domańska and Katarzyna Górczak.

Thanks to their professionalism, commitment and quick response, this exceptional wolf was given a second chance and is now once again playing his important role in the forest ecosystem. Thank you!

Below, you can see some moments from Olek's journey back to health:



Science RESEARCH

Human factors affecting wild ungulates

In 2025, we launched a large-scale project studying how human activities affect populations of roe deer, red deer, and wild boar, including impacts on population size, structure, and behavior under forestry and hunting management.

Maintaining the camera network requires frequent visits, often in challenging terrain, but we are fortunate to have the support of amazing volunteers from Poland and abroad, including participants in the Benevity employee volunteering program. They help with camera maintenance and other fieldwork, making the project's success possible.

The project would never have even started without the invaluable support of companies and institutions that provided funding for the purchase of essential research equipment, including camera traps.

 We would like to sincerely thank the following Forest Districts: Daleszyce, Radoszyce, Skarżysko, Starachowice, Stąporków, Suchedniów, Włoszczowa, and Zwoleń. We are also very grateful to the companies Gotec Polska and Parkiet Styl, along with its brand The Forest – Natural Oils which donates a percentage of every sale of its products to support our work.





Science RESEARCH

Using AI in data analysis

In 2025, we continued our collaboration with the University of South Florida, applying artificial intelligence to wildlife data analysis. Our work focused on developing models that recognize animals in photos and videos from camera traps and estimate their distance from the cameras. These tools aim to improve research and management of wild animal populations.

GPS tracking of wolves

Over two intensive weeks in October and then again in December, we conducted detailed field research on the behavior of Olek the wolf using GPS data from his collar. From sunrise to sunset, we investigated every cluster of at least two GPS locations to determine what Olek and his family were doing—resting, hunting, or feeding.

We documented numerous signs of wolf presence, including resting sites, scent marks, scat, ground scratching, and prey remains. Every one to two days, we found remnants of wolf meals - mostly small fragments such as fur - from roe deer, red deer, and wild boar, and even one rabbit. Analysis of wolf scat also revealed plant material, including apples and other fruits, likely consumed as an alternative energy source during periods without successful hunts.

A detailed analysis of these data is planned for 2026.

SAVE Wildlife Conservation CONFERENCES

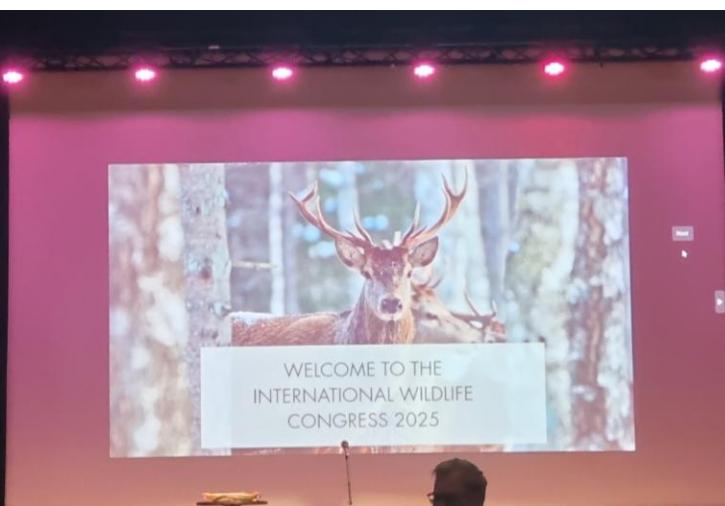
Participation in international conferences on wolves and wildlife

„Wolves Across Borders” – Lunteren, Netherlands

Members of our team participated in the largest international conference dedicated to wolves, "Wolves Across Borders", which took place this year in the Netherlands. Roman Gula delivered a presentation titled "Habitat Protection is Crucial for the Future Well-Being of Poland's Wolf Population", while Joanna Toczydłowska presented a poster on "Coexistence of Wolves and Humans: Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Wolves' Habitat Use in a Human-Dominated Landscape.".

„International Wildlife Congress” – Lillehammer, Norway

In September we had the pleasure of participating in the International Wildlife Congress, a major conference dedicated to wildlife - their welfare, challenges, conservation, and future. This year's edition was held under the theme "How Wild is Wildlife?". The event brought together over 500 participants from around the world! SAVE was represented by Joanna Toczydłowska, who gave a presentation titled "Close, but Not Too Close: Spatial Patterns of Wolves in Human-Modified Landscapes".





Education

PROJECT „NOT BAD WOLF”

Continuation of the comic educational series about the life of Wiciu the Wolf

In 2025, we continued the NotBad Wolf („NieZły Wilk”) comic series, first published in January 2024. The comic, depicting the world through the eyes of a young wolf named Wiciu, was illustrated by the talented artist Wiktor Tabak.

NotBadWolf is a collaborative project of three wildlife organizations: SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund, Jelenie w Terenie, and Praca Przyrodnika. Its main goal is to present wolves as they truly are. Through entertaining yet factual stories about the life of a wolf family, the series aims to counter the spread of misleading and harmful information about wolves, which has become increasingly common. Misconceptions often stem from a lack of knowledge, so by using a “learning through play” approach, we hope to improve public perception and foster appreciation for wolves as permanent residents of our forests.

In 2025, new episodes of NotBadWolf were released every 3–4 weeks. Each story explored different aspects of a young wolf’s life, showing how Wiciu gradually grows and learns what it means to be a wolf.

The final episode, published in June, depicted Wiciu becoming a father, completing the “circle of life” and bringing the series full circle from Wiciu as a puppy to him starting his own family.

NIEZŁY WILK

CZ.17 NOWE POKOLENIE



Education

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS

Education for schools, local communities and academics

In 2025, the SAVE team carried out a wide range of educational activities. We organized lectures and workshops for children and adults, reaching anyone curious about wolf ecology and the ways wolves and humans interact.

Lessons, lectures and meetings

1. Meeting about local wolves in Bliżyn Community Cultural Center, located in the very heart of our wolf project.
2. Lecture on wolves, their ecology, and interactions with humans in Kamienna Góra in the Sudetes, attended by about 50 people.
3. Educational session about wolves for the residents of Końskie and the surrounding area.
4. Informative meeting for local foresters and residents of Płaska in the Augustowska Forest about their interactions and problems with wolves.
5. Outdoor event "The Wolf as My Neighbor" for children and their parents at the "Oskoła" Forest Base of the „Ludzie z Natury” ("People from Nature") Foundation.
6. Online seminar at the Museum and Institute of Zoology, Polish Academy of Sciences: "Can a Wolf Eat You?"
7. Two-day workshop organized by Rewilding Oder Delta, during which we presented the talk "Wolves Around Us: What We Can Learn by Fitting a Wolf with a Tracker" and demonstrated the operation of a telemetry collar during a short walk around the area surrounding the center.





Trasa tropami świętokrzyskich wilków! **36km**



Education **WOLF TRAIL**

Wolf route during the XXVI Skarżysko Bicycle Rally

In June 2025, we again co-organized the "Wolf Tracks" route during the annual Skarżysko Bicycle Rally.

Like in 2023 and 2024, we took patronage of a route leading through the forest that is the territory of the wolf family we have been monitoring since 2011.

We hoped that taking the "wolf route" under our auspices would help us promote our educational and research activities and local wolves to local residents and rally participants, who came to the rally from all over Poland.

Those who chose our route received a unique map, which not only presented the route, but also introduced participants to the world of Świętokrzyskie wolves and described places associated with them. In the middle of the route marked with wolf paws, additional fun awaited the participants.

Anyone willing could win an additional coupon for a prize drawing during the event ending the rally by correctly answering one of the questions related to wolves.

Thank you to all participants and organizers of the rally for a fantastic time!

Education

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

Benevity program

This year, we further developed Benevity's employee volunteer program, hosting groups of volunteers almost every month.

As in 2025, our focus was on fieldwork, with primary tasks including the operation of camera traps as part of our research projects on wolves and ungulates. The work was challenging!

Each volunteer was assigned a specific trail through the forest, often in difficult terrain including wetlands or hills, and had to replace SD cards and batteries in all the cameras along the way. The work lasted a full day, from sunrise to sunset, but all volunteers completed their tasks professionally and even enjoyed some free time by a lake. In the evenings, we held talks, games, and, of course, wolf howling sessions!

During 2025, we welcomed many new and returning volunteers, who have truly become part of our extended family. Some contributed remotely, for example by preparing useful field equipment using a 3D printer (thank you, Klaudia!).



Special thanks also go to Google, one of Benevity's partners, which provided most of our amazing volunteers. Thank you!



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you!

We thank the **forest districts of Suchedniów, Zagórz, Stąporków, Przysucha, Barycz, Starachowice, Skarżysko-Kamienna, Marcule, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Daleszyce, Łagów, Jędrzejów, Kielce and Chmielnik** for issuing permits to enter forest roads and for their assistance in monitoring. We would like to thank the RDOŚ in Kielce for issuing permits for trapping and for supporting monitoring, the RDLP Radom and the forest districts for their continued support of our research.

We would like to thank our long term supporter, company **GOTEC Group**, their management and employees,



**Museum and Institute of Zoology,
Polish Academy of Sciences**

Our project is a mutual cooperation with MIZ. The head of our project, professor Roman Gula, is also the head of the Behavioral Ecology Unit of MIZ.

**Cooperation with the Agency for Nature
Conservation of the Czech Republic**

We continued to cooperate with the Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic in connection with the Gagat wolf, which had migrated to the Czech Republic. Our Czech colleagues constantly monitored Gagat.



In particular, we would like to thank Petr Mückstein for persistently tracking down Gagat and documenting his fate.



Finance 2025

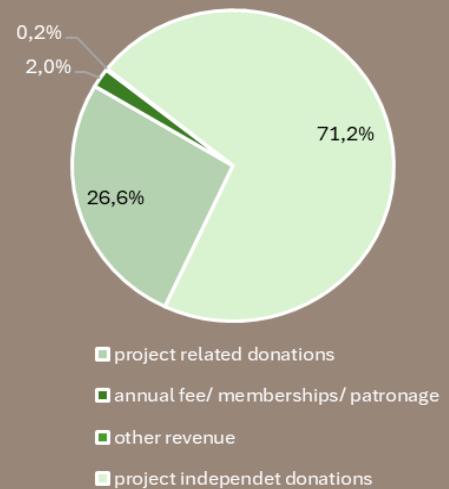
Income and expenditure

Foundation Development **FINANCES 2025**

Our financial review

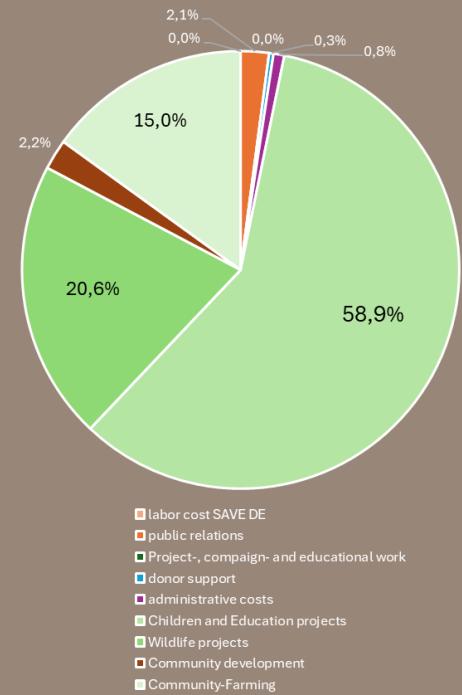
Revenue 2025

source of income	amount	%
project related donations	130.918,65 €	26,6%
annual fee/ memberships/ patronage	9.948,00 €	2,0%
other revenue	743,18 €	0,2%
project independent donations	350.506,80 €	71,2%
total revenue 2025	492.116,63 €	100,0%



Expenditure 2025

expenses	amount	%
Save Germany	labor cost SAVE DE	0,00
	public relations	11.063,03
	Project-, campaign- and educational work	0,00
	donor support	1.683,34
	administrative costs	4.268,41
Projects	Children and Education projects	311.767,78 €
	Wildlife projects	109.374,36 €
	Community development	11.833,42 €
	Community-Farming	79.687,16 €
	total expenditures 2025	529.677,50 €
		100,0%



	amount
credit balance at the beginning of 2025	132.976,57 €
revenue 2025	492.116,63 €
expenditure 2025	529.677,51 €
total 2025	95.415,69 €



Outlook for 2026

In 2026, SAVE will build on the foundations of previous years by strengthening and scaling its integrated conservation programs across all project countries.

Guided by the **Education 4 Conservation (E4C)** approach, our focus will increasingly shift from project establishment to long-term sustainability, local ownership, and measurable impact.

Education will remain at the heart of our work, with expanded teacher training, strengthened community learning groups, and deeper stakeholder involvement in conservation decision-making. Communities will play a more active role in shaping and managing local solutions.

Farming initiatives will move towards self-sustaining, climate-resilient systems, supporting food security while reducing pressure on natural ecosystems. Experienced farmers will increasingly act as mentors within their communities.

In species conservation, lion protection efforts will prioritize conflict prevention through improved monitoring, optimized patrols, and expanded use of predator-proof kraals. GPS tracking data will support early-warning and coexistence strategies.

Hippo monitoring will continue, with adaptive management responding to changing water conditions in the Okavango system.

Wolf conservation will focus on continued monitoring and education to promote understanding of their ecological importance.

Overall, 2026 will mark a shift towards durable, community-led conservation that strengthens both biodiversity protection and local livelihoods.

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund

THANKSGIVING

The successful implementation of our projects could only take place thanks to the valuable support of our partner organisations, the loyal project patrons, private donors, the generous company contributions and the funding contributions of ministries, governments and embassies.

We would like to highlight the support and cooperation of the following:

Project partners and organisations:

Botswana:

- Bana Ba Ditlou
- Botshelo Trust
- Quqao Trust & VDC
- Nxaraga Community Organisation
- Department of Wildlife National Parks (DWNP)
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Food and agriculture
- SAVE Wildlife Conservation Botswana
- OKMCT Okavango Kopano Community Trust
- Department of Social and Community Development
- Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture
- African Bush Camp Foundation
- Daunara Foundation
- Natural Selections\Unchartered

Lodges:

- Xaoo Safari Camp
- Okavango Hidden Gems
- Desert and Delta Safaris
- Delta Rain Camp
- Cresta Mowana
- Chobe Safari Lodge

Germany and the Netherlands:

- Stichting Painted Dog Conservation NL
- ProWildlife München
- Technische Universität München
- Löwenbräu München
- Share for Smile
- Die Zeitschrift „Freiheit für Tiere“
- Gertrud Frohn Stiftung

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Government Organizations
National Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN)
Virunga foundation (ICCN)

Non-governmental organizations:

Children voice
African Refugee Council
SAD International

Universities: Université Libre du Kivu (ULKI)

Poland:

Forestry districts

Suchedniów, Zagnańsk, Stąporków, Przysucha, Barycz, Starachowice, Skarżysko-Kamienna, Marcule, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Daleszyce, Łagów, Jędrzejów, Kielce und Chmielnik

University:

Museum und Institut für Zoologie der Polnischen Akademie der Wissenschaften

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Project partners and organisations:

- OAK foundation
- M4 - Consulting Mathias Mundt
- Schauinsland-Reisen GmbH
- Löwenbräu
- Adventure Aquarium (USA)
- Wolfram König und Franz Weiss Dental Technik GmbH
- Güven C Partners
- GZFA GmbH
- Futura Stiftung für Kind, Jugend und Kultur
- Schmitzstiftung
- Katholische Kirche St. Kilian
- Accantes Consult GmbH
- IPCO Technologies GmbH
- Frauke-Weber und Rainer-Braam Stiftung
- Knoll Artenschutz Stiftung
- GOTEC Group
- Parkiet Styl
- Marcin Mandziak (eMwet Veterinary Clinic)

Private donors (especially):

- C.Kleine-Dürschmidt
- Manfred Krieger
- Herr und Frau Bertling
- Linda und Steve
- Deborah Bergmann
- Dominik Weber
- Torsten Gehrman
- Marcello C Maura Campanelli
- Familie Winter
- Ulrike Mathieu-Strauss
- Jakob Viefers
- Joachim Seilheimer
- Mark Egloff
- Michael Sell Landschaftsplanung
- Thomas Freisinger
- Achim Fölster
- Uta Lucetta Seiler
- Dr. Wolfgang Hermann Ferdinand
- Matthias DehmHeiner Duffling
- Angelika Diehl
- Sabine Klenke
- Silke Reitemeyer
- Alexandra Faustin
- Rene Ertler
- Paulina Knobloch
- Thormut Gilbert
- Elke Schiejok



Team SAVE Bots wana

The basis of our success

The personal connection to the projects and the work in Botswana is enormously important to us.

We, the founding family, are regularly on site and in constant exchange with the project managers.

The vast majority (> 95%) of the donations flow directly into the projects, many costs are borne by us personally: i.e. every donation has an effect.

We know (or get to know) the people in the local village communities and work with them personally on an equal footing – especially with the women, who play an important role in strengthening the community and in the acceptance of the idea of nature conservation.

If urgent measures are required, we can act immediately and unbureaucratically – thanks to our lean structures. We are open to new projects, individual skills and financial support!

Join us! We look forward to seeing you!

We hope to be able to convince you of our work and the inestimable value of nature in the coming year!

Best wishes

Lars Gorschlüter and enteire SAVE Team



Lars & Maike, Kinder Gorschlüter

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Donation account:

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund Stiftung Stadtsparkasse
Wuppertal
Konto-Nr.: 509 588
BLZ: 330 500 00
IBAN: DE02 3305 0000 0000 5095 88 BIC:
WUPSDE33

"The personal connection to the projects is just as important to us as the cooperation with people and organizations not only in the project countries, but also in Germany. Because only together – with the good ideas and skills of many – will we be able to find innovative solutions. We are open to new projects, individual skills, joyful cooperation and financial support!"



Lars Gorschlüter,
Founder & Chairman



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Donation account

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