2025 Annual Report



AWCF
African Wildlife Conservation Fund

2025

For Zimbabwe's Wildlife & People

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Dr. Rosemary Groom

CEO

This year marks more than two decades of continuous conservation in Zimbabwe's southeast lowveld. That longevity is something I reflect on often. In a sector shaped by shifting priorities, economic uncertainty, and increasingly short-term funding cycles, simply staying present — year after year — is no small achievement.

There are many successes highlighted in this report. They are the result of patient, disciplined work by an extraordinary team and the strength of programs that have been tested over time. But conservation is not a straight line. Behind every milestone are daily operational challenges — logistical constraints, financial pressures, and the constant responsibility of safeguarding both wildlife and community trust. Conservation work carries both visible successes and quiet disappointments. There are losses we feel deeply — animals we cannot save, funding that does not materialize, partnerships that take longer to build than hoped. Acknowledging those realities does not diminish progress; it strengthens it. It reminds us that endurance is as important as achievement.

The funding landscape continues to evolve, and securing multi-year support for long-term programs remains one of our greatest priorities. Our work is built for endurance, not short bursts of activity. Sustaining it requires partners who share that perspective.

To the steadfast supporters who have stood with AWCF through both stable and uncertain times — thank you. Your commitment has allowed us to grow thoughtfully, expand strategically, and remain rooted in the landscapes where we began.

We move forward with resilience, gratitude, and a clear sense of purpose.



Jess Watermeyer

Director of Operations

As Rosemary speaks to vision and longevity, I would like to reflect on the daily realities of making conservation work on the ground, and in particular, what made 2025 such a successful year for the African Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Field conservation is rarely dramatic. It is steady, repetitive, and demanding. It means early starts, long distances, difficult terrain, equipment failures, and constant adaptation to changing conditions. It also means maintaining morale, building staff capacity, and ensuring that every team member understands both the responsibility and the impact of their role.

Over the past year, our operational footprint has grown. Expanding our organisational reach while maintaining quality across existing programs requires careful planning and strong systems. Recruiting, training, and retaining skilled Zimbabwean conservation professionals remains central to our success.

The strength of AWCF lies in consistency and the passion of our team, who shows up every day. They monitor, respond, record, repair, teach, and build relationships. Those small, repeated actions are what sustain the larger conservation outcomes described in this report.

I am deeply proud of the professionalism and resilience of our staff. Their commitment is what makes long-term conservation possible.

2025

Year in Numbers

Impact Across Conservation, Education, and Community



Conservation Metrics

2025 Year in Numbers

49

African wild dog puppies born to 8 packs in SVC

28,751

Kilometers traversed by 5 scouts

2

African wild dogs rescued from snare wire traps

2

2 Carnivore spoor surveys completed in 2 landscapes

2

Camera trap surveys completed in 2 landscapes

19

Full-time Zimbabwean staff employed

Education

2025 Year in Numbers

11,820



Grade 6 students engaged through AWCF's Environment Education Program

65



Primary schools participated in Interschool environmental competitions

960



children took part in 40 day trips into protected wildlife areas

216



Librarians trained in library management as part of AWCF's infrastructural support to schools

10



Secondary scholars took part in a 4-day leadership and conservation course

34



Conservation Clubs ran weekly extra-curricular activities

2025 Year in Numbers

Community Impact

6,933

Domestic dogs vaccinated against rabies and canine distemper virus

20,613

Community members attended practical skill trainings for human-wildlife conflict mitigation

7

Human-Wildlife Conflict Verifiers remained active in their communities

21

Herder Mentors trained 467 community members in livestock protection

241

Traditional kraals reinforced to protect livestock from carnivores

100

Kilometers of boundary fencing protected by all-female fence guardians

30

Women graduated from vocational training program

Our Approach

Our Mission

"Our mission is to maintain healthy and viable populations of African Wild Dogs and other large carnivores in Zimbabwe, as well as the habitats and prey species on which they depend, with a focus on improving community school education standards and livelihoods around key protected areas."

We achieve this through a combination of **conservation**, **education**, and **community development** with a focus on improving school education standards, environmental consciousness and community livelihoods around key protected areas.



Conservation

We strive to be the leading expert in large carnivore conservation in the southeast lowveld of Zimbabwe, creating tangible positive impact on large carnivore numbers and habitat security.



Education

We are committed to improving education standards and environmental and conservation knowledge in focal schools and communities.



Community

We are dedicated to effective community engagement that strengthens education and livelihoods, and supports human–wildlife coexistence.



Research

Our work is guided by long-term, field-based research, helping us understand large carnivore populations and threats, and inform effective conservation action.



Our Focus Species

Why African Wild Dogs?

African wild dogs are an endangered species. With fewer than 1,700 mature individuals remaining, their numbers are declining, and they now persist in just 8% of their historical range.

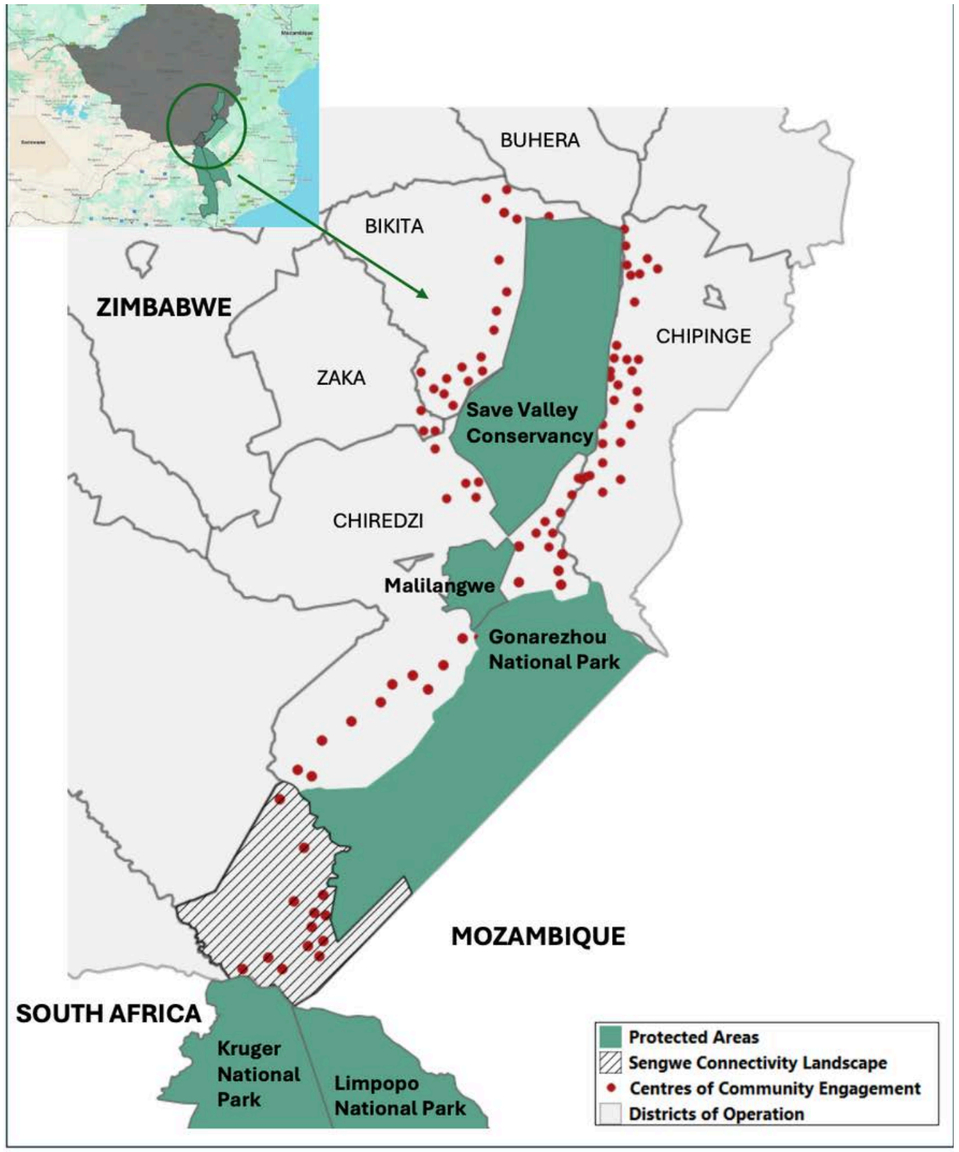
African wild dogs are a wide-ranging species that require large areas of connected habitat. By protecting these landscapes, we create safe space for many other wildlife species.

Wild dogs are also indicators of ecosystem health. Where they thrive, landscapes are functioning, prey populations are stable, and coexistence with people is possible.

Where We Work

1. **Savé Valley Conservancy**
2. **Gonarezhou National Park**
3. **Sengwe-Tshipise Corridor & greater integrated landscape**

Our work spans the southeast lowveld of Zimbabwe, contributing to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.



Zimbabwe's South East Lowveld Landscape; African Wildlife Conservation Fund's area of operation.

Savé Valley Conservancy

Since 2005

Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) is one of Africa's largest wildlife conservancies and is the home of AWCF headquarters. Located in Zimbabwe's southeast lowveld, it supports significant wildlife including the Big Five and endangered carnivore species. Our work focuses on protecting a stronghold of African wild dogs, advancing long-term carnivore monitoring, and working closely with neighbouring communities to strengthen coexistence across the landscape.

Gonarezhou National Park

Since 2009

South of SVC lies Gonarezhou National Park (GNP). Here, we work closely with the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust to monitor and protect large carnivores, with specific focus on wild dogs and cheetah, and to engage local communities and primary schools in conservation initiatives. It links with South Africa's Kruger and Mozambique's Limpopo National Parks and allows our work to contribute at a trans-boundary scale and strengthen regional ecological connectivity.

Greater Sengwe Area

Since 2012 with greater focus from 2021

The Sengwe–Tshipise corridor is a critical strip of land linking Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique, and plays an essential role in maintaining ecological connectivity across this transboundary landscape. AWCF has been present here since 2012, with an increased focus from 2021. In 2025, we conducted the first-ever camera trap survey in the corridor to assess its ecological viability for large carnivores, while also expanding our community and school initiatives to strengthen human–wildlife coexistence and support landscape connectivity.



Our Work
Conservation

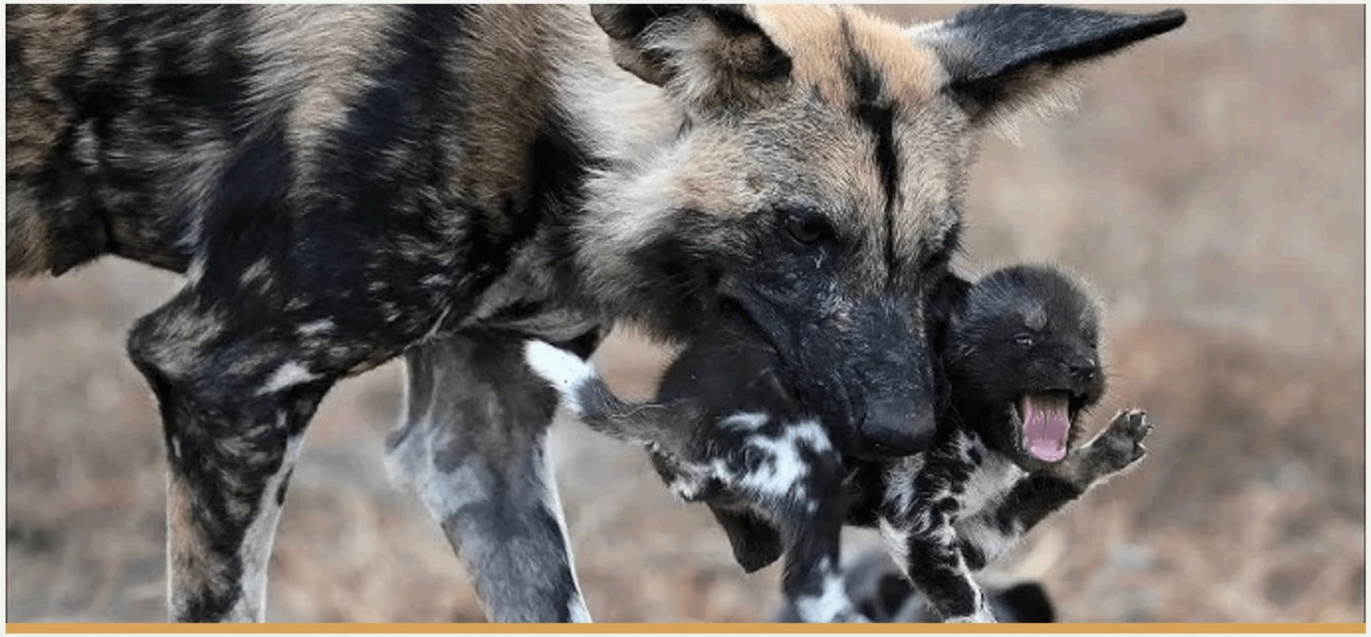
For twenty years AWCF have been committed to protecting African wild dogs and other large carnivores in the southeast lowveld of Zimbabwe. Our long-term monitoring and field presence provide critical data that inform national and regional carnivore conservation strategies.

In 2025, we strengthened our work in the Sengwe-Tshipise Corridor marked by the first-ever camera trap survey conducted in the landscape. Through consistent monitoring, rapid response to threats and collaborative conservation partnerships, we continue to strengthen the long-term security of Zimbabwe's carnivore populations.

African Wild Dog Activity

Through 2025 we continued to closely monitor African wild dogs across the southeast lowveld of Zimbabwe and are happy to report that population levels remain stable at good densities, reflecting sustained protection and monitoring efforts.

In Savé Valley Conservancy, AWCF's longest research site, we protect nine packs, collating data on their movements, dispersal patterns and emerging challenges.



Key observations:

- There are currently an estimated 68 adult wild dogs in Savé Valley Conservancy.
- We discovered a newly formed pack of four wild dogs in the south of the Conservancy, consisting of at least 3 dogs who dispersed from their natal packs.
- Eight resident packs of wild dogs denned, producing 63 puppies.
- Tovi Pack in the north of the Conservancy sadly lost six of their nine puppies in a road traffic incident in which a vehicle failed to stop as the pack were crossing a highway adjacent to the Conservancy. This represents the greatest single loss of African wild dogs to road mortality in our project's history.
- We also recorded one of the longest-living wild dogs in our monitoring history – Brie, alpha female of the Chapungu Pack, who reached approximately 10 years of age.



Carnivore Research

In addition to African wild dog monitoring, AWCF continues to strengthen understanding of the wider carnivore guild across the southeast lowveld through targeted research and surveys.



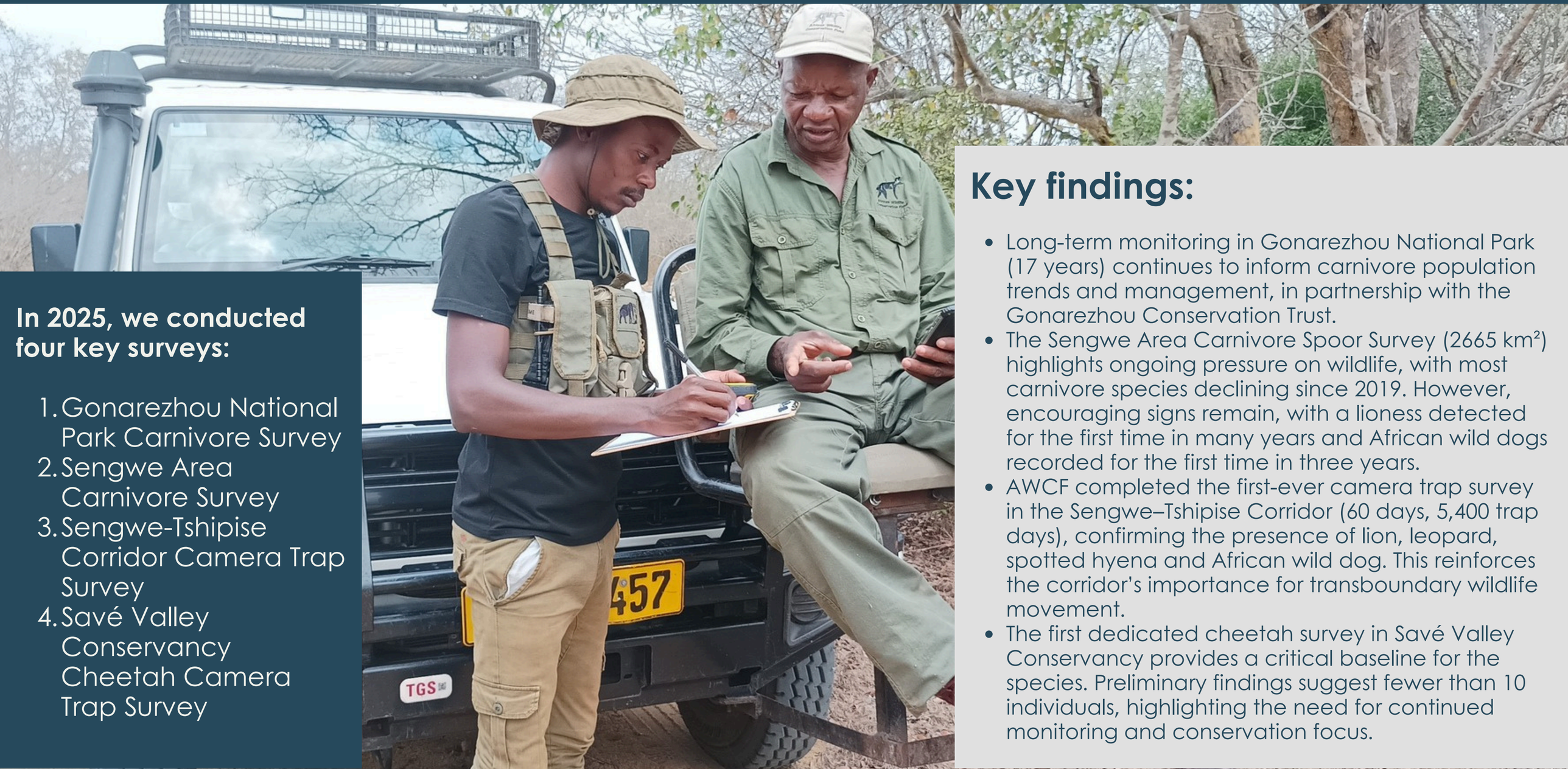


The Tovi Pack

In October, we received a report that a driver had failed to stop for Tovi Pack who were crossing a busy highway at the northern border of Savé Valley Conservancy. Sadly, six puppies were hit by the vehicle and died, leaving the pack with just three remaining puppies. Our team has been left devastated by this loss.

It was the greatest single road mortality event for the species in AWCF's history and a stark reminder of ongoing risk beyond protected areas.

Surveying a vast landscape for in-depth understanding of carnivore density and movement



In 2025, we conducted four key surveys:

1. Gonarezhou National Park Carnivore Survey
2. Sengwe Area Carnivore Survey
3. Sengwe-Tshipise Corridor Camera Trap Survey
4. Savé Valley Conservancy Cheetah Camera Trap Survey

Key findings:

- Long-term monitoring in Gonarezhou National Park (17 years) continues to inform carnivore population trends and management, in partnership with the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust.
- The Sengwe Area Carnivore Spoor Survey (2665 km²) highlights ongoing pressure on wildlife, with most carnivore species declining since 2019. However, encouraging signs remain, with a lioness detected for the first time in many years and African wild dogs recorded for the first time in three years.
- AWCF completed the first-ever camera trap survey in the Sengwe–Tshipise Corridor (60 days, 5,400 trap days), confirming the presence of lion, leopard, spotted hyena and African wild dog. This reinforces the corridor's importance for transboundary wildlife movement.
- The first dedicated cheetah survey in Savé Valley Conservancy provides a critical baseline for the species. Preliminary findings suggest fewer than 10 individuals, highlighting the need for continued monitoring and conservation focus.

Conservation in Action

Whilst snaring remains the greatest cause of adult African wild dog mortality in the lowveld, we continue to observe a decline in impact.

- Monitoring African wild dogs and other large carnivores across the landscape
- Responding to threats including snaring, disease, and conflict
- Supporting landscape protection through fencing and partnerships

While this provides a high-level indicator, AWCF also monitors individual-level impacts and pack stability.





Scientific Paper: Cooperative Breeding in African Wild Dogs

We're proud to share that the African Wildlife Conservation Fund contributed to new scientific research published in the Journal of Zoology.

This work explores cooperative breeding, a rare trait in <1% of mammals, and the frequency of multiple litters in the endangered African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), a species central to our conservation mission. The research draws on our long-term monitoring and field-based data collection, and provides valuable insight into the social and ecological complexity of cooperative breeding and its conservation relevance for African wild dogs.

Female Fence Guardians

continue to protect key landscapes across the southeast loweld

In a collaborative project with local partners, led by AWCF, 40 women from nearby villages are diligently restoring the boundary fence of SVC - keeping wildlife safely contained and protected inside the conservancy.

This multi-stakeholder partnership has proven to be a huge success, with 100Km of fencing being maintained and / or restored in 2025, improved security networks in place to deter and report poachers operating in the area and a notable reduction in human-wildlife conflict.

The Fence Guardians have become a beacon of inspiration in their communities, investing their salaries into house renovations and income generating activities to improve their economic outlook.



Education



Inter-school Environmental Competitions and Youth Ball Games

65 primary schools participated in inter-school environmental competitions, where almost **3,000 community members** heard conservation messages delivered by **650 children** through artwork, poetry, model making and drama.

Youth Ball Game competitions also brought together **20 soccer teams** and **19 netball teams**, combining sport with discussions on coexistence, poaching prevention and conservation career pathways.

Environmental Education Lessons

AWCF's education program connects children, teachers, and communities with the landscapes and wildlife around them.

At the heart of our Environmental Education program is our classroom lessons, delivered to **11,820 Grade 6 students** in 2025.

Working with **108 rural primary schools** near Savé Valley Conservancy and Gonarezhou National Park, AWCF visited each school three times (once per term) to share conservation awareness lessons and learning resources.



Library Provision

Libraries provide safe learning spaces for children and communities to study, read and gather.

*I*n 2025, AWCF hosted **216 librarians** and **108 headmasters** at a workshop to strengthen library management and best practice. We also funded critical **repairs to 15 libraries**, including shelving, termite treatment, windows, doors and flooring.

Day Trips into Wildlife Areas

Throughout 2025, **963 children** and **240 teachers** from **80 schools** bordering Savé Valley Conservancy and Gonarezhou National Park joined **40 day trips** into protected wildlife areas.

Students gained direct experience of wildlife, ecological points of interest, and conservation careers.

"As a community we are so grateful to the support you are giving to school children and teachers to come for these trips, these are rare lifetime opportunities."

- Mrs Chauke a School Development Committee member, Muhlekwani Primary



Predator Scholar Program

In December, **10 secondary scholars** joined a four-day Leadership and Conservation Field Trip focused on conservation skills, career mentorship and future pathways into the sector.

Our scholars are incredible ambassadors for AWCF and consistently show up to our events to share conservation messages with their community.

Community

Domestic dogs vaccination campaigns

Canine disease remains a serious threat to African wild dogs and other carnivores. Rabies and canine distemper can spread quickly through wild populations, often before symptoms are visible.

In 2025, AWCF **vaccinated 6,933 domestic dogs** against rabies and canine distemper virus, reducing disease risk for wildlife, domestic animals and people.

Human-Wildlife Conflict Verifier Program

AWCF's **seven Human-Wildlife Conflict verifiers** respond to conflict incidents, deliver training, record data and support households to reduce livestock losses.

In 2025, **340 reports** of wildlife conflict were made by households, and every report was responded to with mitigation training. Verifiers also delivered **394 community training** sessions, reaching more than **20,000 community members.**

Herder-mentor Training Program

AWCF worked with **21 Herder Mentors** across 7 wards to share livestock protection skills and strengthen community resilience to human-wildlife conflict.

Working alongside HWC verifiers, Herder Mentors **supported 226 community members** to strengthen existing kraals and helped construct **241 new kraals**, extending AWCF's practical support across the landscape.



Women's Vocational Sewing Program

In 2025, **15 women** returned for refresher training and graduation, strengthening livelihoods and reducing dependence on subsistence income.



"Our journey has been transformative, inspirational, and eye-opening, especially considering that we come from poor backgrounds and most of us do not have formal education. It was very hard at first, as some of us could not read or write and we almost lost hope. Our trainer, Mrs. Munetsi treated us like her children, she was patient with us, attended to our individual needs, and helped us overcome our fears and shortcomings. The 15 of us became a family, building a sisterhood.

Throughout the journey, we used our strengths to assist each other until all of us could stand on our own. In addition to sewing skills, we learned about wildlife conservation, environmental protection, and the sustainable use of our natural resources, as well as the importance of wildlife to community development. We are grateful to the AWCF and its partners for their continuous support in uplifting women, to our families and community, we want to thank you for your encouragement. We will continue to serve our community as dedicated mothers and tailors, inspiring young girls and other women, and advocating for conservation and sustainability." - Sewing Master, Anacoleta Chikomo.

Our work doesn't stop at carnivore conservation

AWCF's field presence also helps protect a wide range of species across the landscape.

Two AWCF verifiers displayed exceptional courage by safely capturing a crocodile from a community pond and two pythons who had entered community fowl runs. All reptiles were returned to their natural habitat.

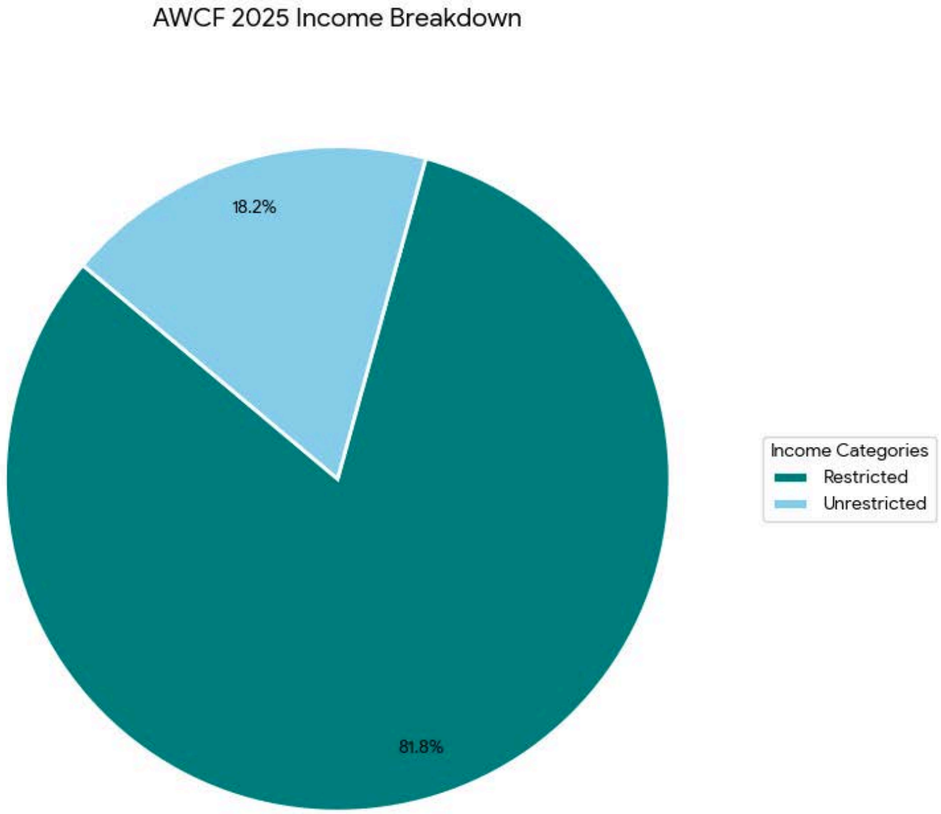
An AWCF verifier was first to respond to a report of a pangolin sighting in a village near to Gonarezhou National Park. He safeguarded the pangolin overnight, then coordinated with ZimParks for its safe relocation.

An AWCF verifier promptly reported rhinos straying out of Savé Valley Conservancy and assisted rangers in their safe return.

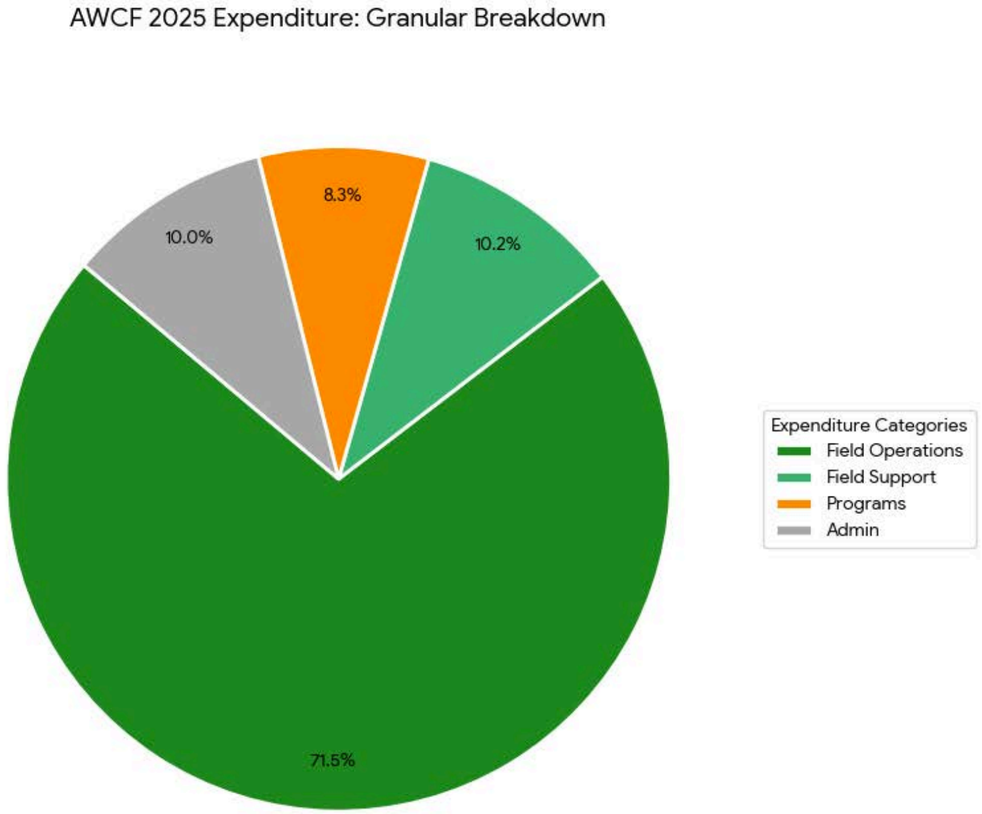


FINANCIALS

Total Income: $649,575



Total Expenditure: $592,757



Financials

In 2025, AWCF remained a highly field-focused organisation, with **over 70% of expenditure directed to field operations**, supporting frontline conservation, wildlife monitoring, and human–wildlife coexistence efforts across our landscapes. A further **18% supported program delivery and field support**, while **administrative costs were kept lean at just 10%**, reflecting a streamlined and efficient operational model.

On the income side, AWCF continued to rely primarily on **restricted funding (82%)**, ensuring that the majority of donor contributions are directly invested in conservation impact. At the same time, **18% of income was unrestricted**, providing critical flexibility to sustain operations, respond to emerging challenges, and strengthen long-term organisational resilience.

Any surplus generated in 2025 has been carried forward to 2026, reflecting the timing of grant income, and will be used to maintain continuity of field operations and program delivery in the year ahead.

Our Network

We are deeply grateful to our partners and supporters whose generosity and collaboration make our work possible.

Together, we are securing a future for African wild dogs and the communities that live alongside them.

Our Partners

Thank you for your continued support

PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY - ZIMBABWE - IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Savé Valley CONSERVANCY

GONAREZHOU A CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE

Leadership, Innovation and Development

Our Supporters

Thank you for your continued support

Arche Noah Foundation

Association of Zoos & Aquariums



Africa Range-Wide Cheetah Conservation Initiative

Funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation

With support from the Zoological Society of London

Foundation Great Plains

Conserving and Expanding Natural Habitats



Painted Wolf Foundation



Briandez Legacy Trust

Conservation and Education

DevKunj Trust

Jean Sainsbury Animal Welfare Trust

Woodchester Mansion Trust



The Sustainable Future Foundation



Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust

Painted Dog Conservation

Saving Painted Dogs through Action and Education



Zoo Miami

Bright Light Foundation

Francis X Melvin Family Trust

Leiter Family Foundation



Lion Recovery Fund

UEFA Foundation for children

We are also incredibly grateful to the many individuals who have donated to our organisation throughout the year through online website donations, match funding campaigns and through our Adopt-A-Pack sponsorship program.



Conserving the African Wild Dog and other large carnivores

www.africanwildlifeconservationfund.org

info@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org



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CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

African Wildlife Conservation Fund (UK)	No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01-Jan-25	To	31-Dec-25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to the nearest £	Restricted to the nearest £	Endowment to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	205,042	-	-	205,042	67,654
Interest received	53	-	-	53	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for*	205,095	-	-	205,095	67,654
A2 Asset and investment sales,					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	205,095	-	-	205,095	67,654
A3 Payments					
Wages and payroll	63,667	-	-	63,667	45,043
Pension	3,082	-	-	3,082	2,651
Office suppliers	-	-	-	-	117
Insurance	152	-	-	152	143
Professional services	1,390	-	-	1,390	1,180
Other expenses	13,630	-	-	13,630	7,649
Bank fees	234	-	-	234	145
Advertising	624	-	-	624	700
Donations to AWCF Zimbabwe	107,386	-	-	107,386	41,721
Sub total	190,165	-	-	190,165	99,349
A4 Asset and investment					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	190,165	-	-	190,165	99,349
Net of receipts/(payments)	14,930	-	-	14,930	- 31,695
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,830	-	-	14,830	46,525
Cash funds this year end	29,760	-	-	29,760	14,830

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	29,760	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which	Amount due	When due
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on	Signature	Print Name	Date of
	Marina Burger-Aimson	Marina Burger-Aimson	5 Oct 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name African Wildlife Conservation Fund (UK)		
On accounts for the year ended	31 December 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1186260
Set out on pages	3 + 4		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	MDCalvert	**Date:**	26 October 2026
Name:	Mark Daniel Calvert		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Fellow Chartered Accountant, ICAEW		
Address:	206 Eng Kong Garden, Singapore 599301		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	None