



AFRICAN WILDLIFE INITIATIVE



WHAT IS IUCN SAVE OUR SPECIES?



IUCN Save Our Species supports **science-based conservation action** on the ground that saves animals, plants and fungi from extinction. We focus our efforts where they will have the biggest impact by funding frontline conservation organisations across the world who have unique knowledge of their region and their local biodiversity.

The alarm has been raised repeatedly about the decline in biodiversity across the planet. As one species falls, it takes with it the whole chain of species that depend on it. Be it tigers or bees, these act as dominos falling one after the other, ultimately leading back to us and putting all of mankind at risk. **This is why we must do all we can to Keep Nature Standing.**

SPECIES, HABITAT, PEOPLE

We never look at species in isolation. All IUCN Save Our Species projects not only aim to protect threatened species, but also to **preserve their habitats**, and **improve the livelihoods** of the people who depend on them.

In order to protect threatened species with sustainable, long-term results, all our projects are structured around a **three-legged approach** to conservation that focuses on Species, Habitat and People.

By implementing conservation strategies that are closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, we are also able to tackle urgent issues such as climate change, poverty and food and water security. Our objectives and commitment to each of the pillars are:

SPECIES

We are working to ensure the decline in target threatened species from illegal killing, human wildlife conflict and disease is reduced by 2030 and halted by 2050.

HABITAT

We are working to ensure the loss, fragmentation and degradation of the habitats of target threatened species is reduced by 2030 and halted by 2050.

PEOPLE

We are working to ensure the human pressures on target threatened species are reduced by improving the living conditions of local people and providing them with alternative economic activities by 2030.



© Giraffe Conservation Foundation



© International Fund for Animal Welfare



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THE AFRICAN WILDLIFE INITIATIVE

The African Wildlife initiative, co-funded by the European Union, is **one of IUCN Save Our Species'** seven conservation initiatives.

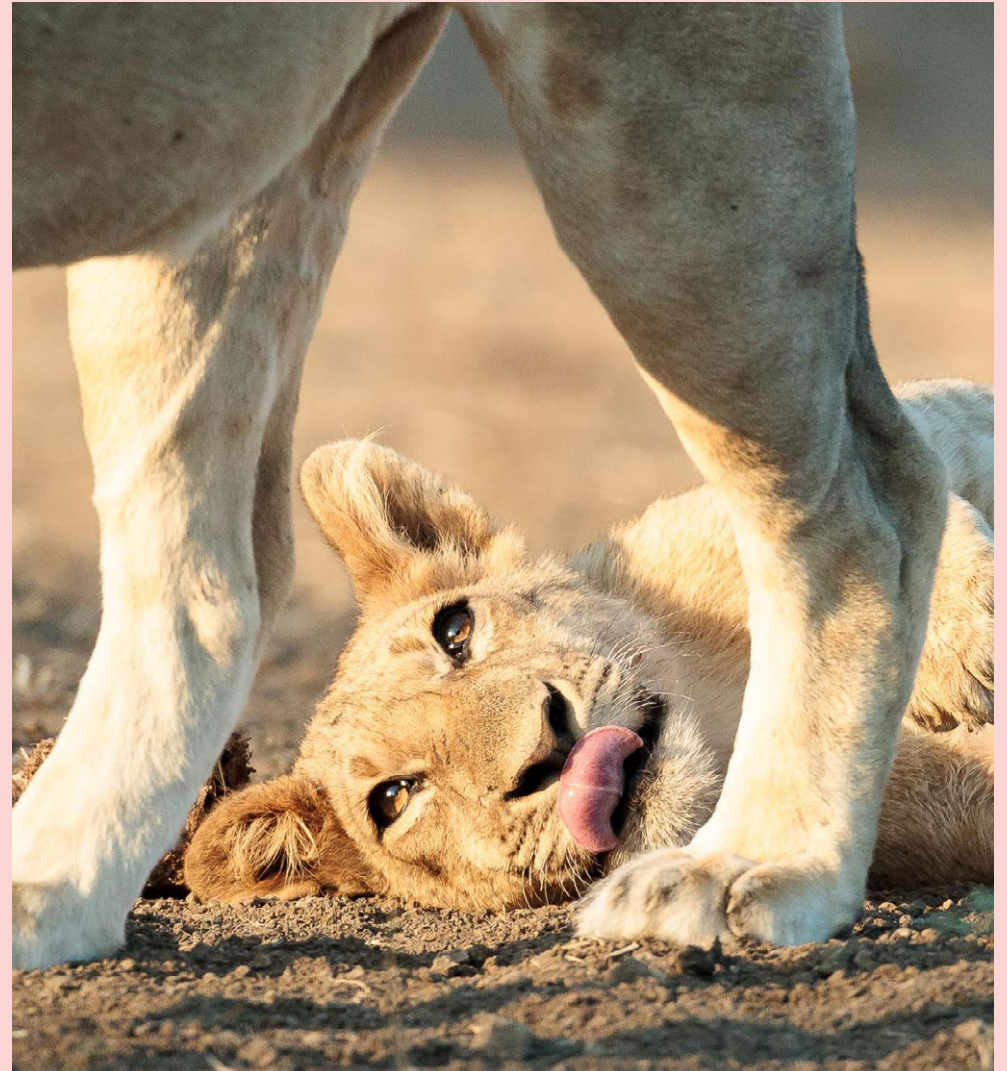
It mainly aims to **halt the decline** of threatened large African carnivores, such as lions, leopards and cheetahs, increasingly affected by poaching, habitat fragmentation and human encroachment on wild habitats. The initiative also contributes to ensuring the **long-term survival of smaller carnivores and their prey species.**



© Tsavo Trust



© Wildlife Action Group

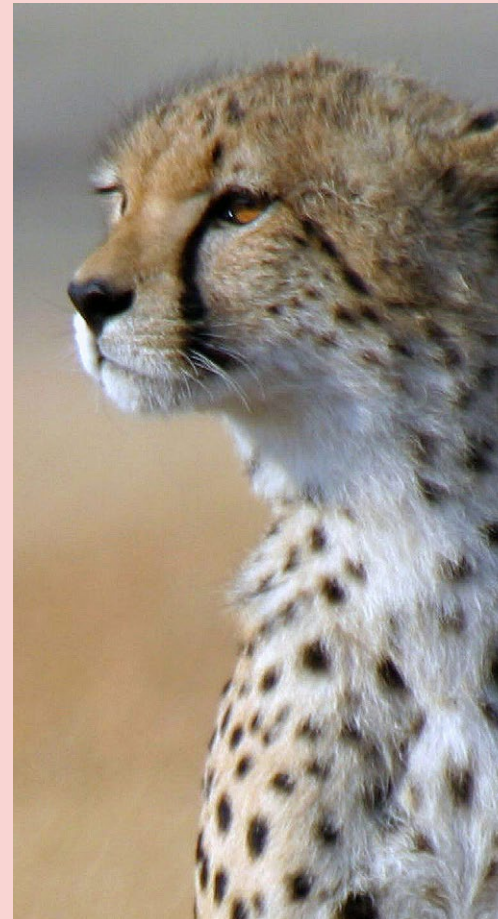


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WHAT MAKES LARGE CARNIVORES SO IMPORTANT?



© Paul Funston



© Sarah Durant

Large carnivores and predators **play key roles** in their ecosystems: they hunt and prevent populations of prey species, such as herbivores, from becoming too large. In turn, a well-balanced herbivore population then allows vegetation to regenerate.

Without large carnivores to control their numbers, herbivores would overgraze or eat too many young tree seedlings. **If these predators were to disappear, entire savannas or forests would disappear with them, triggering a cascade of consequences that could lead right to us.**

OUR IMPACT

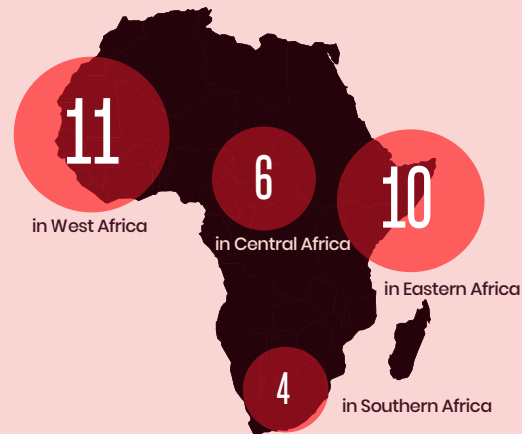
A TOTAL OF € 10'443'991 INVESTED

including € 3'659'837 for **Rapid Action Grants**, which contributed to projects responding to COVID-19-related conservation emergencies

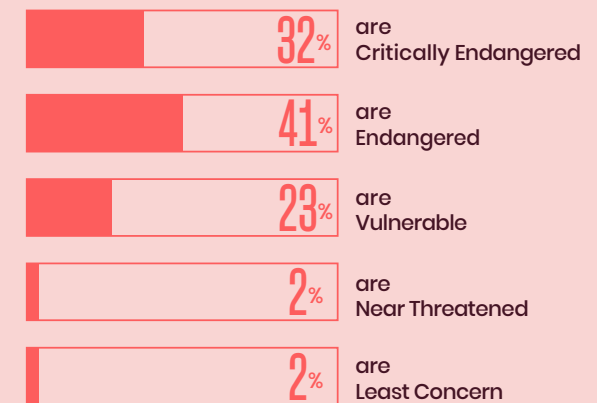
FOR 86 PROJECTS,



IN 31 COUNTRIES,



PROTECTING 64 SPECIES,



according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

RESPONDING TO A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT THREATS:



IUCN Save Our Species has funded 87 conservation projects in Africa. Here are some of the impacts the African Wildlife initiative has been able to achieve so far:

CONSERVING NORTHERN TANZANIA'S LARGE CARNIVORES VIA A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN APPROACH

Project Location:

Tanzania

Project Duration:

2019–2021

Target Species:

**Lion (*Panthera leo*),
Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*),
Leopard (*Panthera pardus*),
African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*)**

Threats:



**Human-wildlife
conflict**



Poaching



**Habitat loss &
degradation**

This project aims to improve conservation of Northern Tanzania's threatened large carnivores through human-wildlife conflict reduction, enhanced rangeland management, and sustainable community development.



© Felipe Rodriguez

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Livestock-carnivore conflict and retaliatory killing were reduced:

- **40% of reported retaliation** attempts were prevented;
- Conflict team responded to **529 conflict incidents** and recovered **3'036 livestock lost** at pasture.

Income was diversified and habitat protection was improved:

- **27 new women's groups** received financial support;
- A total of **1'778 women** are now involved in the programme, which represents an **48% increase in membership** from 2019.

Youth engagement in large carnivore and habitat conservation improved:

- **Livestock-carnivore conflict** in the project area was **reduced by 56%** in the target landscape.

This project is implemented by Tanzania People and Wildlife Fund and co-funded by the European Union.

SAVING AFRICA'S DOGS AND CATS

Project Location:

Zambia

Project Duration:

2020–2022

Target Species:

**African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*),
Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*),
Lion (*Panthera leo*),
Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)**

Threats:



Diseases



Habitat loss & degradation

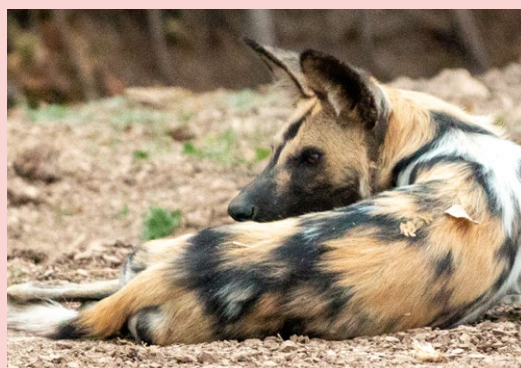


Human-wildlife conflict



Poaching

This project aims to secure Zambia's threatened large carnivore populations, their prey and habitats. It aims to do so by fighting wildlife crime, by encouraging field-based protection & coexistence, and by building capacity for community-based conservation.



© *Zambian Carnivore Programme*



© *Zambian Carnivore Programme*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Increase in snare recoveries and arrests:

- An overall increase of **89% in snare recoveries** has been achieved during the project;
- A total of **1'334 long patrols** were made during the project, which represents a total distance of 141'316 km;
- An overall doubling of arrests of wildlife crime suspects. The project has also seen an overall increase of 31% in firearms confiscations.

Big cat and wild dog habitat and population impacts addressed through intensive monitoring and coordination:

- An annual average of **984 large carnivores** were successfully monitored across approximately 34'500 km² of national park and Game Management Area, located in the three different ecosystems
- **26 carnivores** were successfully de-snared.

*This project is implemented by **Zambian Carnivores** and co-funded by the **European Union**.*

SAVING THE AFRICAN MANATEE'S HABITAT AND LAKE OSSA'S BIODIVERSITY

Project Location:

Cameroon

Project Duration:

2019–2020

Target Species:

African Manatee
(*Trichechus senegalensis*)

Threats:



Invasive alien species

This project aims to help Lake Ossa recover from an infestation of the invasive giant Salvinia plant, that is increasingly killing native plants that are food for the manatees and other species. This will not only directly benefit the 400 fishermen who rely on the lake for fishing, but also the many women who sell fish from the lake.



© AMMCO

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Habitat and species conservation:

- More than **10'000 weevil insects** were reared and used to fight against the proliferation of the giant Salvinia;
- **400 tonnes of giant Salvinia** were removed by **100 fishermen**, clearing 10,000 m² of water surface.

Impact on people:

- **25 men and 25 women** were trained in alternative livelihood activities, including mushroom and snail farming;
- **15 men and women** received trainings on the transformation of Salvinia biomass into charcoal.

This project is implemented by African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization and co-funded by the European Union.



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