



ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025

OUR MISSION

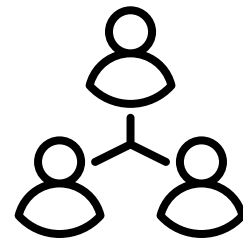
To reverse the decline of the Southern Ground-Hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) population in its historical range in South Africa, and initiate and support conservation efforts in the rest of its range.

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project was founded in 1999 and registered as a South African NPO and PBO in 2001 and has since grown from a site-specific reintroduction project to leading ground-hornbill conservation in southern Africa.

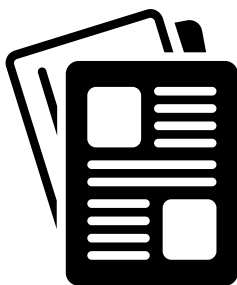
HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR



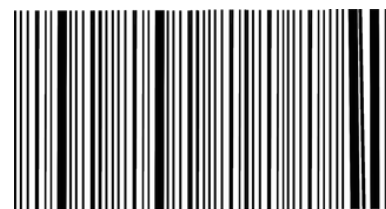
9 additional birds reintroduced



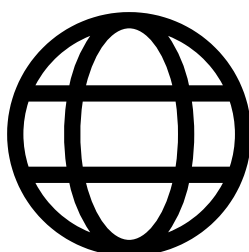
**reintroduction team grows with
a full-time manager and two
dedicated reintroduction
monitors**



3 scientific papers published



3D nest scanner developed



new website launched



**Our US based fund-raising arm
launched to grow our funding
opportunities**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The past year has been a period of significant progress for the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project, as we continued our vital work to conserve and protect this iconic species. We have seen significant growth across all our projects in the 2024 - 2025 period.

We have worked hard on increasing our research outputs, to better inform our in-field conservation strategies, grown our threat mitigation reach through targeted lead-awareness workshops and wider stakeholder engagement, and expanded our reintroduction programme. Thanks to our larger, dedicated team we have also grown our education and awareness programme. These efforts would not be possible without the dedication of our incredible team, partners, and supporters.

Our research program remains at the heart of our efforts to understand and effectively restore ground-hornbill populations. A significant achievement was the successful testing of a new feeder system at Jacaranda Camp, designed to reduce reliance on human intervention and ensure a consistent food supply for reintroduced birds, based on the design used by the 'alalā (Hawaiian crow) recovery team. This innovative approach allows us to minimise disturbance and promote more natural foraging behaviours.

In collaboration with the Tshwane University of Technology we refined our 3D nest scanning device, which helps us make detailed 3D scans within natural ground-hornbill nests, to inform the best possible artificial nest design. To date we have conducted 20 nest scans within the Kruger National Park, building a basis for all future artificial nest designs.

Additionally, our artificial nest temperature testing has confirmed that our artificial nests maintain cooler internal temperatures than the surrounding environment, providing a more suitable microclimate for successful breeding, buffering against temperature spikes and resultant possible embryo mortality.

Central to our conservation efforts is the continuous monitoring of our reintroduced birds, allowing us to track their movements, assess their health, and intervene when necessary. In the past year we have explored multiple tracking devices, including pelvic harnesses and GPS leg rings, with the leg rings showing the most promising results for ongoing, near real-time monitoring for our released birds.

International trade has emerged as a concern to Northern and Southern Ground-hornbill populations, and as such we have been monitoring instances of trade, and are supporting range states in drafting a CITES proposal to list Northern and Southern Ground-hornbills on CITES Appendix III to increase the national monitoring of ground-hornbill trade in all range states. This will provide the vital data to help inform whether these species will need further trade protection through future CITES up-listing.

Addressing the threats faced by ground-hornbills remains a critical aspect of our work. It is reassuring to report that no incidents of poisoned birds were recorded during this period, a testament to the ongoing awareness campaigns and community engagement initiatives. We are committed to raising awareness about the dangers of lead poisoning, conducting presentations and developing a documentary film to bring awareness to the dangers of lead to human, wildlife and environmental health.

Our restoration efforts are focused on actively managing and supporting our reintroduction sites. The dedication of our field team is invaluable, and we were delighted to welcome Tracy Basch as Reintroductions Monitor and Tebogo Baloyi as Rear-to-Release Technician. Ongoing monitoring and health management are provided for various groups, including those at Jacaranda, Mokaikai, Qwabi East and West, Dabchick, and Loskop. These efforts are crucial for establishing self-sustaining populations in areas where ground hornbills have previously disappeared.

Increasing awareness and fostering a sense of stewardship among local communities and the wider public are essential for the long-term success of our conservation efforts. We continued to conduct numerous hornbill drives, reaching over 750 participants and giving them the chance to witness these magnificent birds in their natural habitat. We also formed a partnership with the JUMP Foundation at Qwabi Game Reserve to conduct a conservation education programme with kids from the surrounding areas. We have improved our online presence to connect and communicate with supporters all around the world. The new digital presence continues to grow, with increasing numbers of followers on Instagram and Facebook.

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project income has been steadily increasing providing us with much-needed stability and the ability to raise our base salaries to a new minimum living wage. Additional in-kind contributions include a new Ford Ranger Tremor and office furniture. The team attended the IUCN SSC SOS grant closing workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, where they were able to compare conservation efforts and learn new management skills, whilst also contributing to the overall improvement of granting mechanisms in Africa.

Looking ahead, the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project will remain committed to evidence-based conservation, collaborative partnerships, and community engagement. I am personally very proud to be the chairman of a team of dedicated workers and volunteers, and I believe that with their continued support, we will ensure that ground-hornbills thrive for generations to come.



Malcolm Cumming
Chairman
August 2025



MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

As the founder of the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project, I'm immensely proud of the team's unwavering dedication and innovative spirit. Witnessing the successful implementation of new research methods, the expansion of our education initiatives, and the positive impact on ground-hornbill populations across our reintroduction sites fills me with hope.

The challenges are ongoing, but with the continued passion and expertise of our team, and the unwavering support of our partners and the community, I am confident that we are making a real difference in securing a future for these magnificent birds.

I am immensely excited for the iconic nest tree nursery project, which will ensure that this project's impacts will be seen for a very long time to come.



Ann Turner
Founder 1999 - 2010

OUR PUBLICATIONS

1



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Seasonality, Social Structure and Age Predict Conspecific Aggression in Captive Breeding Southern Ground-Hornbills (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*)

Katja N. Koeppel  Nevanya Lubbe, Ashleigh Donaldson, Lucy Valeska Kemp

First published: 06 February 2025 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21882>

2



Biological Conservation

Volume 308, August 2025, 111105



Intense international exploitation of African hornbills necessitates urgent conservation measures, including CITES listing

Jen Tinsman ^{a b}  , Ariel Woodward ^a, Shan Su ^c, Daniella H. Skinner ^d, Lucy V. Kemp ^{d e f}, Anya D. Abeh ^g, Komlan M. Afiademanyo ^h, Nico Arcilla ^c, Koen Brouwer ⁱ, Abiola S. Chaffra ^j, Francis Forzi ^k, Francis Guetse ^l, Lars Haubye Holbech ^m, Delphine Ikome ⁿ, Agbatan Marc Koutchoro ^o, Saint Guillaume K. Odoukpe ^p, Ronald Orenstein ^q, Docas Nshom ^l, Nicholas J. Russo ^r, Thomas B. Smith ^r...Jessica A. Oswald Terrill ^a

3

Southern Ground Hornbill

Bucorvus leadbeateri



Number Of Mature
Individuals (Regional)
<2 500



Regional
Population Trend
Decreasing



2025
Regional Category
Endangered

Kemp L, Rose SJ 2025. Southern Ground Hornbill. In: Lee ATK, Rose S, Banda S, Bezeng SB, Maphalala MI, Maphisa DH, Smit-Robinson H (eds), *The 2025 Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini*. Johannesburg, South Africa: BirdLife South Africa. Available at: <https://www.birdlife.org/za/red-list/southern-ground-hornbill/>

WE MAY BE A SMALL PROJECT BUT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO
AMBITIOUS GOALS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO BOTH REGIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS



Kunming-Montreal

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS:

Target 3: Ensure the effective management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures to maintain biodiversity.

Target 4: Safeguard threatened species and their habitats to prevent extinctions, including endangered species like the Southern Ground-hornbill.

Target 5: Restore and conserve degraded ecosystems and habitats critical for biodiversity.

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NBSAP)

The NBSAP is a requirement of contracting parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). NBSAPs set out a strategy and plan for contracting parties to fulfil the objectives of the Convention. **Our work contributes with its focus on the recovery of threatened species, habitat protection, and community-based conservation initiatives. We have taken an active role in the participation process in determining the next NBSAP targets (2025 - 2035).**

AFRICAN BIODIVERSITY GOALS

- Strengthen efforts to recover and conserve endangered endemic species.
- Enhance habitat connectivity and ecosystem resilience across landscapes.

These **African Biodiversity Goals** are aligned with the broader ASEF (African Environment and Biodiversity) Strategic Framework and are also influenced by the global agreements such as:

- The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, especially the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- The **African Union (AU) Agenda 2063**, which emphasizes sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.
- The **NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) Environmental Goals**, aimed at environmental sustainability and biodiversity resilience across the continent.

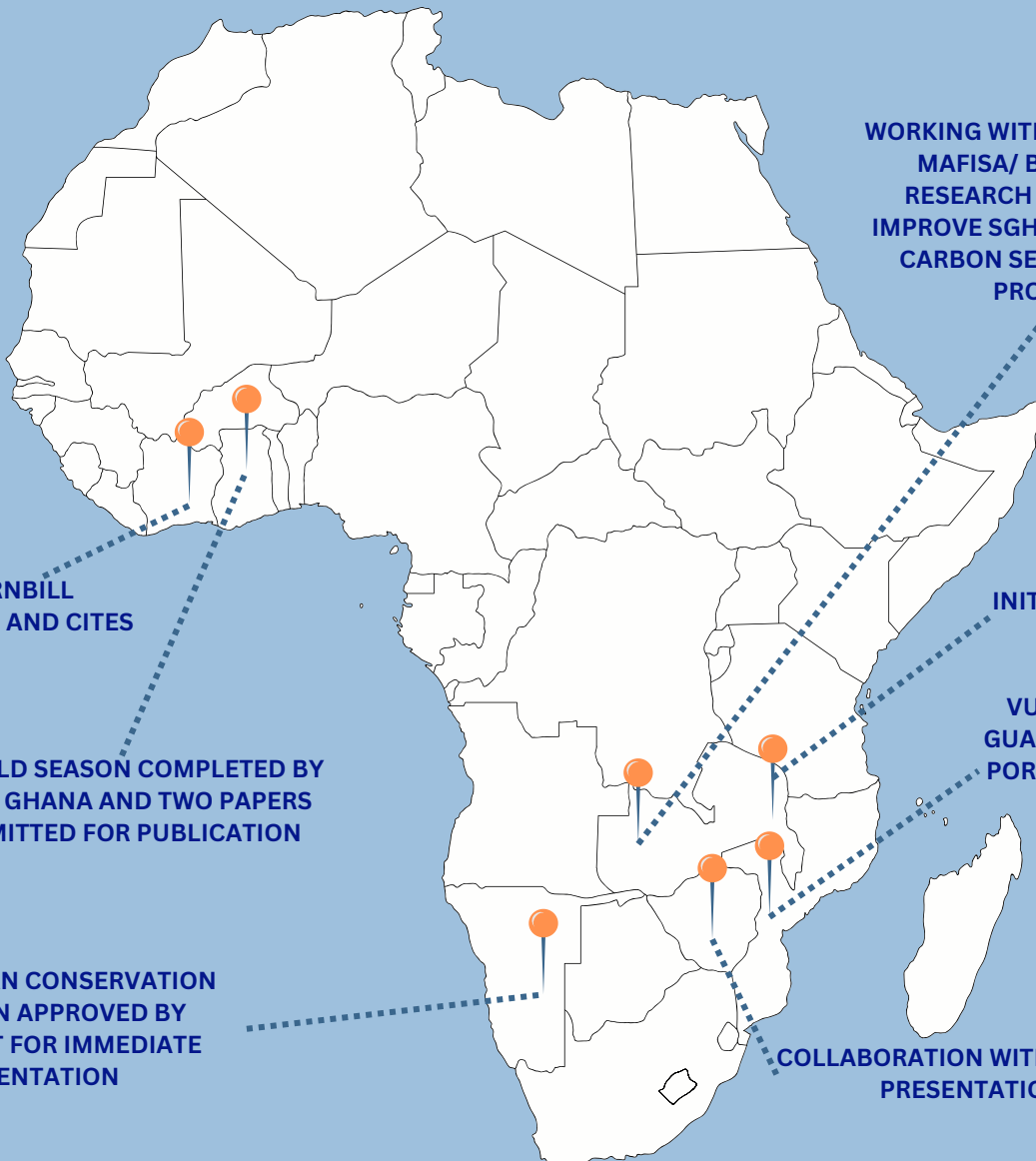
These goals are designed to support regional efforts in conserving Africa's unique and endangered species, enhancing habitat connectivity, and promoting sustainable use of biodiversity resources. They are integrated into continental strategies to ensure alignment with global commitments to biodiversity conservation.

OUR GLOBAL JOURNEY THIS YEAR

AZA MID YEAR MEETING TO PRESENT
OUR WORK TO OUR STRONG COHORT
OF SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE AZA
COMMUNITY, PALM SPRINGS



WORKING WITH WEFORST AND
MAFISA/ BIODIVERSITY
RESEARCH PROGRAM TO
IMPROVE SGH MONITORING IN
CARBON SEQUESTRATION
PROJECTS



SUPPORTING HORNBILL
TRADE RESEARCH AND CITES
PROPOSAL

3RD FIELD SEASON COMPLETED BY
TEAM GHANA AND TWO PAPERS
SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

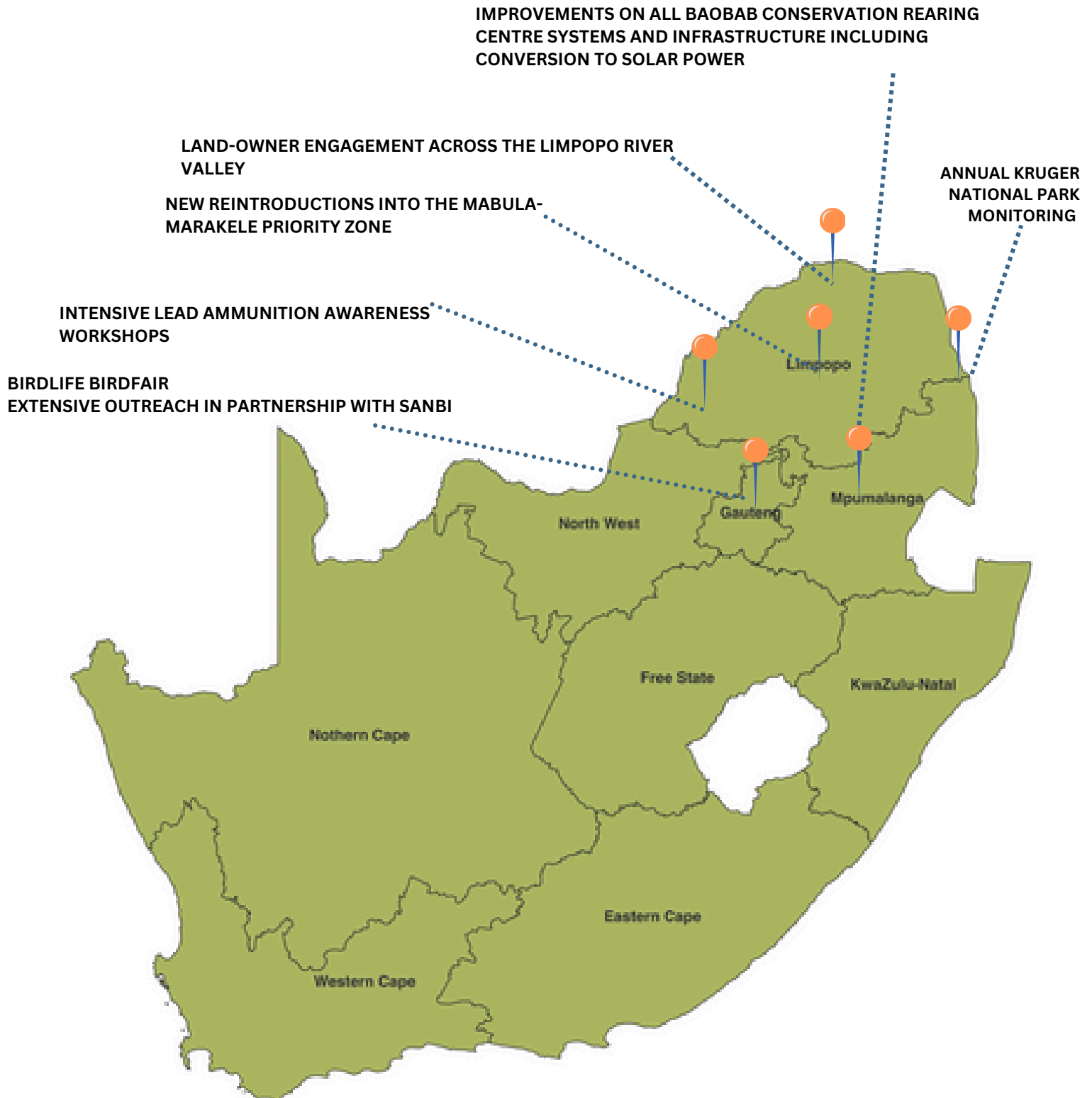
FINAL NAMIBIAN CONSERVATION
ACTION PLAN APPROVED BY
GOVERNMENT FOR IMMEDIATE
IMPLMENTATION

INITIATING WORK IN
MALAWI

VUSA THE HORNBILL
GUARDIAN PREPARED IN
PORTUGUESE FOR TEAM
GORONGOSA

COLLABORATION WITH BIRDLIFE ZIMBABWE
PRESENTATION IN HARARE

OUR LOCAL JOURNEY THIS YEAR



GOVERNANCE

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project has a multi-disciplinary Board of Directors. The Board meets regularly and provides support for key elements of governance, annual budget approval and financial management.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Malcolm Cumming (Chair)
Dr Rob Little (Vice-Chair)
Mrs Elsa Taylor (Treasurer)
Prof Antoinette Kotze
Dr Hanneline Smit-Robinson
Mr Jaishankar Ramchandran
Mr Wouter Pienaar
Mr Leslie Mudimeli
Mr Ivan Killian
Dr Melissa Whitecross

LEGAL STATUS

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project is a **Non-Profit Organisation** with registration number 016-183 and is sanctioned by the South African Revenue Service as **Public Benefit Organisation**, registration number PBO 13/00/00/723.

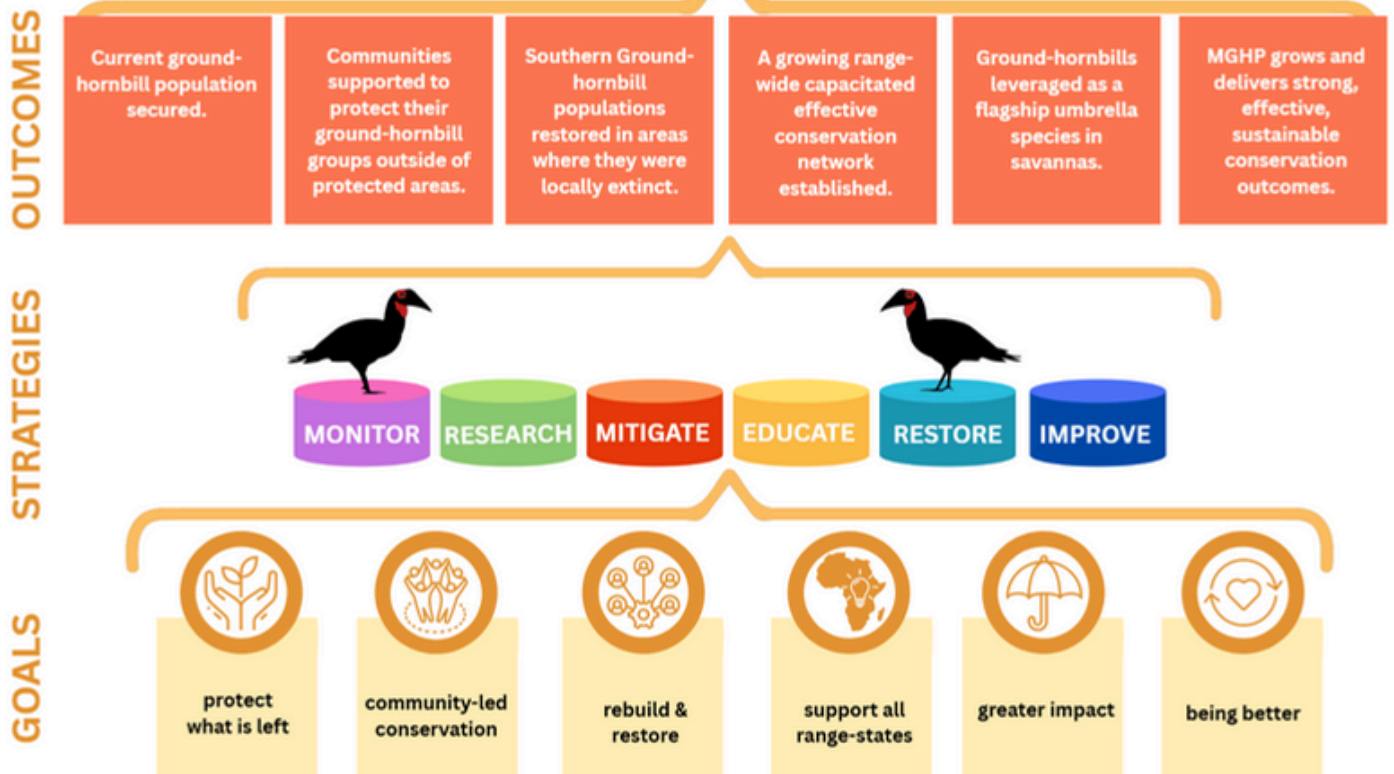




OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

SUCCESS

An improved global conservation status for Southern Ground-hornbills



OUR STRATEGY

All of these activities are achieved in collaboration with local communities, collaborators and stakeholders with the intention of being a world-class conservation programme.

For more details on the objectives for each of the goals below, please reach out for a copy of our 2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan.



GOAL 1

Support communities to protect their ground-hornbill groups outside of protected areas.



GOAL 2

To secure the safety and breeding success of extant ground-hornbill populations.



GOAL 3

To rebuild Southern Ground-hornbill populations in areas where they have become locally extinct.



GOAL 4

To better leverage ground-hornbills as a flagship and umbrella species for all savanna species.



GOAL 5

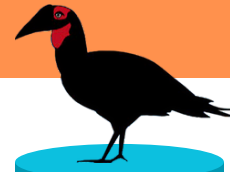
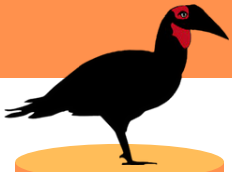
Grow and strengthen our organisation to become more effective and capable of delivering on our mission.



GOAL 6

Grow a range-wide capacitated conservation network.

OUR IMPLEMENTATION PILLARS



MONITOR

RESEARCH

MITIGATE

EDUCATE

RESTORE

IMPROVE

MONITOR

One of the primary responsibilities of the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project is to monitor the national population of Southern Ground-hornbills in South Africa. This species is incredibly difficult to census, as they naturally occur at low densities, with a single-family group using on average 100 km². We need this long-term data on the status of ground-hornbills, their distribution and threats to assess trends in populations and the efficacy of interventions.

RESEARCH

As Southern Ground-hornbills are such a unique and complex species we can never stop learning about them. We are always engaged in research and development and using the most cutting edge technology to ensure we are being as effective as possible. All of our conservation decisions must be based on sound scientific research.

MITIGATE

Once we know and understand each threat, we can work actively to mitigate it - through innovation, advocacy and community engagement. We also remain vigilant for emerging threats.

EDUCATE

The project runs an extensive environmental education programme, which is currently focused within areas where Southern Ground-hornbills persist and, in the areas, where reintroductions are being undertaken.

RESTORE

The most effective way to rebuild the remaining wild population is to reintroduce founder groups into areas where the species historically occurred but is now locally extinct. Habitat restoration improves their chance of survival and supply of artificial nests restores breeding ability to groups when their natural nests are lost or are not safe.

IMPROVE

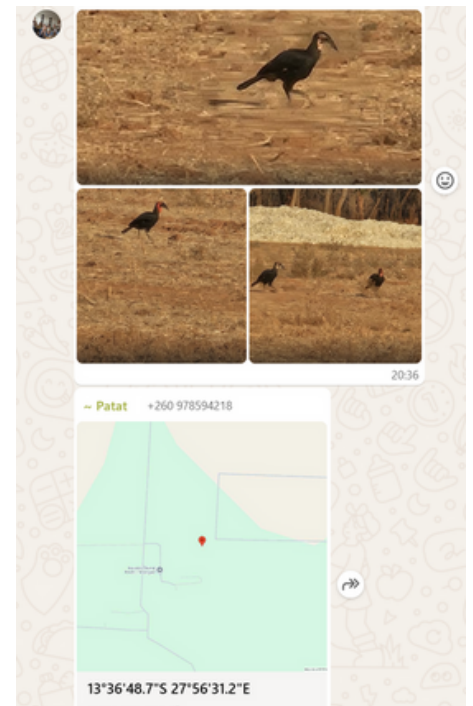
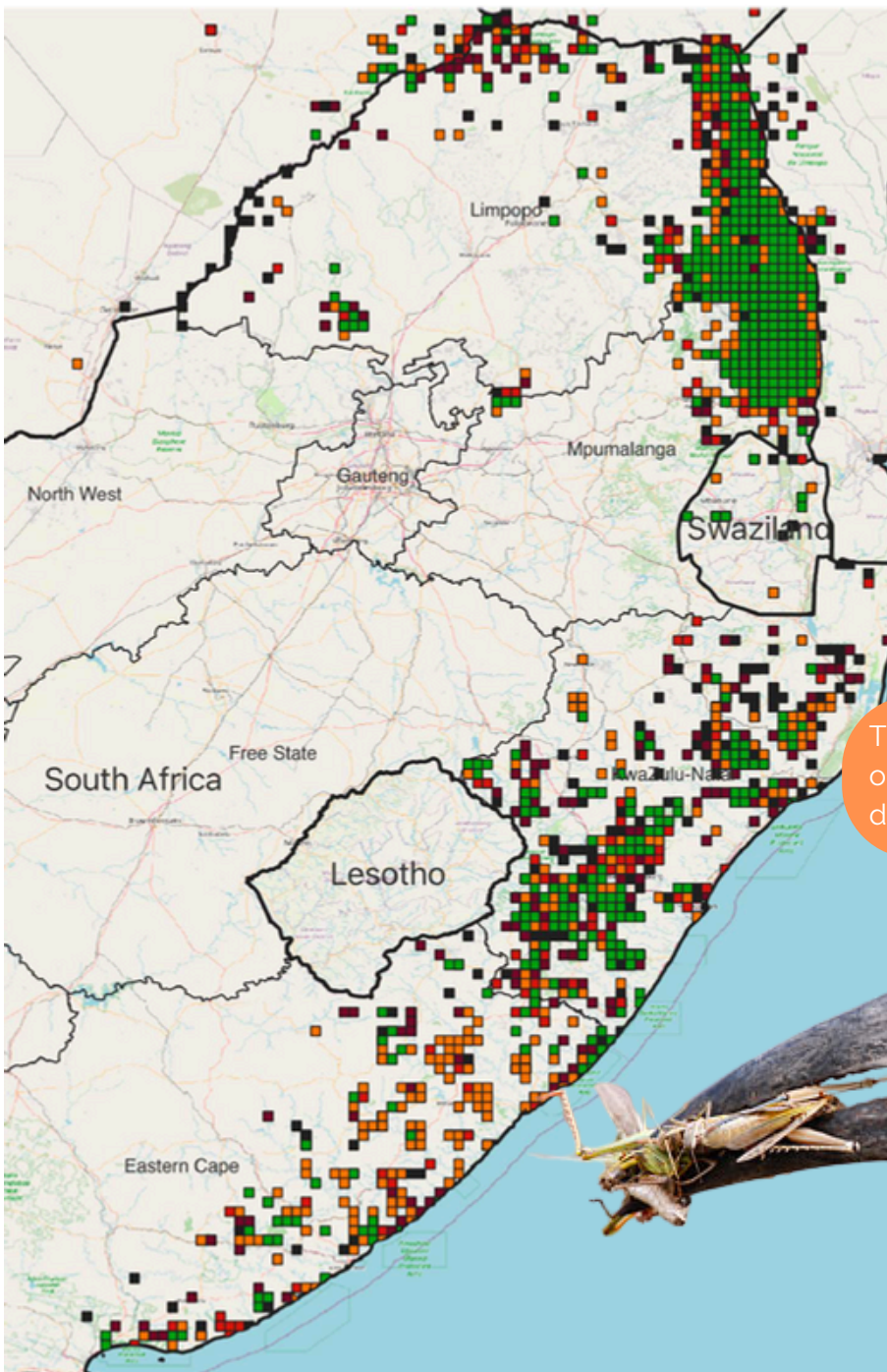
We aim to improve and retain the capacity, efficiency and stability of MGHP to ensure it will continue to make a long-term contribution to conservation in South Africa and beyond. We achieve this by building capacity locally, regionally, and nationally, through the provision of training, mentorship and, where possible, funding.

MONITOR

Provide long-term monitoring of the status of Southern Ground-hornbills and their threats to assess trends in populations, success of interventions and determine thresholds of potential concern.

Citizen scientists provided the pivotal data needed for the regional red-list assessment. Ground-hornbills are still listed as Endangered for South Africa, Lesotho and eSwatini, but the population is in a much better position than we previously thought.

NEW POPULATIONS ESTIMATE: 2796 – 3864 INDIVIDUALS



The power of the simplicity of WhatsApp to provide the data to create these maps



Annual nest checks in the Baobab belt of the Limpopo Province.



Very late and then heavy rains led to a poor breeding season but this little fellow fledged successfully.



One of our long-term nests lost to fungal decay.

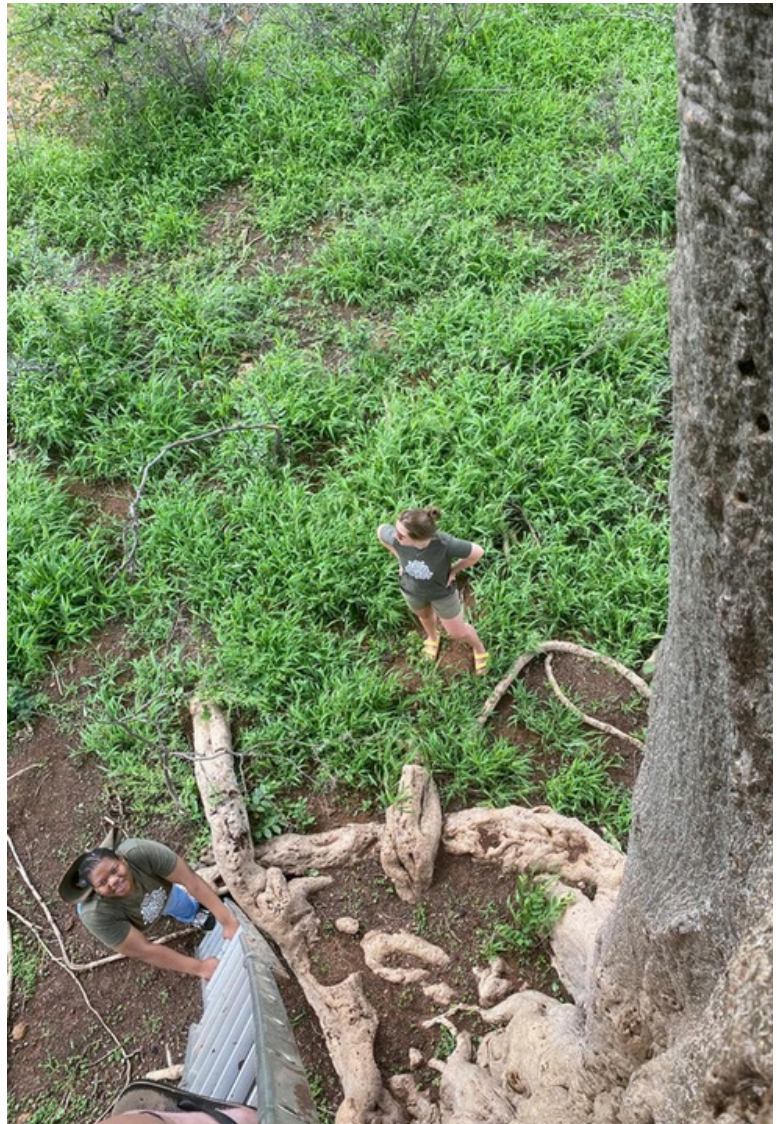


A giant has fallen:
the destruction of the Shimuweni nest, Kruger National Park





Flooding in Kruger National Park hampered our access to nests and led to a lot of soggy camping for the team. We persevered but the ground-hornbills did not - deciding conditions were not great only 10% of our nests even attempted breeding this past season. The heavy rains however should ensure that the coming season will start early and that groups have a much better chance of success.



We dedicate time every month to monitoring the online trade of hornbills too. This data is contributed to a central database (HiTDB) to ensure it can be used for advocacy at the highest level, both nationally and for CITES.

MITIGATE

We work to reduce direct human impacts and reduce conflict by developing and implementing sustainable and effective solutions in collaboration with local communities, NGOs, provincial and national conservation bodies.

LEAD POISONING AWARENESS



Above are some of the film shoots for a documentary we are producing with the national Lead Task Team to highlight not just the risks of lead but also how every South African can make themselves safer from lead poisoning - whether it is the game meat we eat or the cookware we use.



Working together with our partners in the Lead Task Team we have conducted multiple awareness campaigns about the risks of spent lead-ammunition to scavenging wildlife, and this included showcasing the ballistics of lead-free alternatives by BirdLife South Africa.



WINDOW-BREAKING

Window-breaking continues to be a major issue, with at times fatal side effects of this human-wildlife conflict. When alerted to cases of window-breaking, our team can support homeowners in implementing mitigation methods such as contravision, a plastic film stuck to windows to reduce the reflection of the glass.

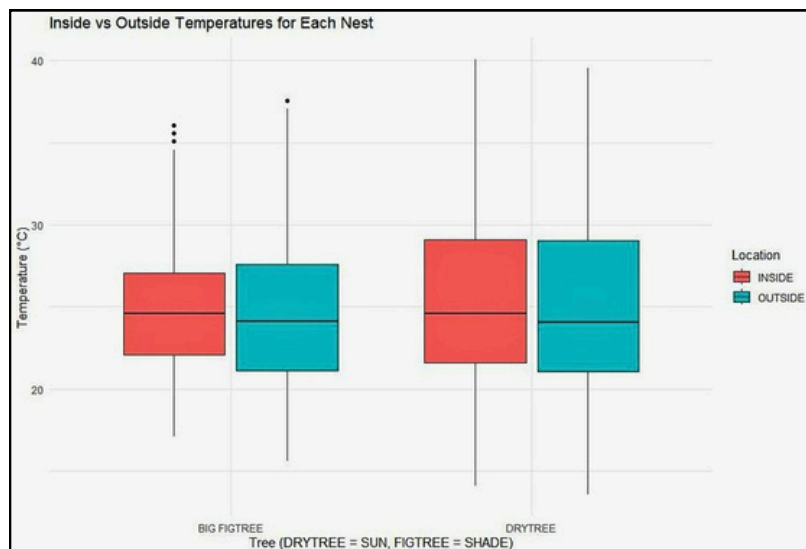


ELECTROCUTION

There has been an unfortunate recurrence of Southern Ground-hornbills landing on transformer boxes and getting electrocuted. To mitigate against this we have been working with ESKOM to find a way of insulating transformer boxes. In the meantime we are looking into aversion training options for release birds as well as rubber “eyelashes”, blunt rubber rods, attached to transformer boxes which act as physical deterrents for the birds.

ARTIFICIAL NEST BOXES

Many trees with suitable hollows are being removed from the landscape, and rising temperatures are a cause for concern, as sustained higher temperatures can lead to heat-related embryo deaths. Our artificial nests are designed to buffer against heat spikes. After testing our most recent designs with iButton temperature loggers, we can confirm that our artificial nests maintain cooler internal temperatures than the surrounding environment, providing a more suitable microclimate for successful breeding.



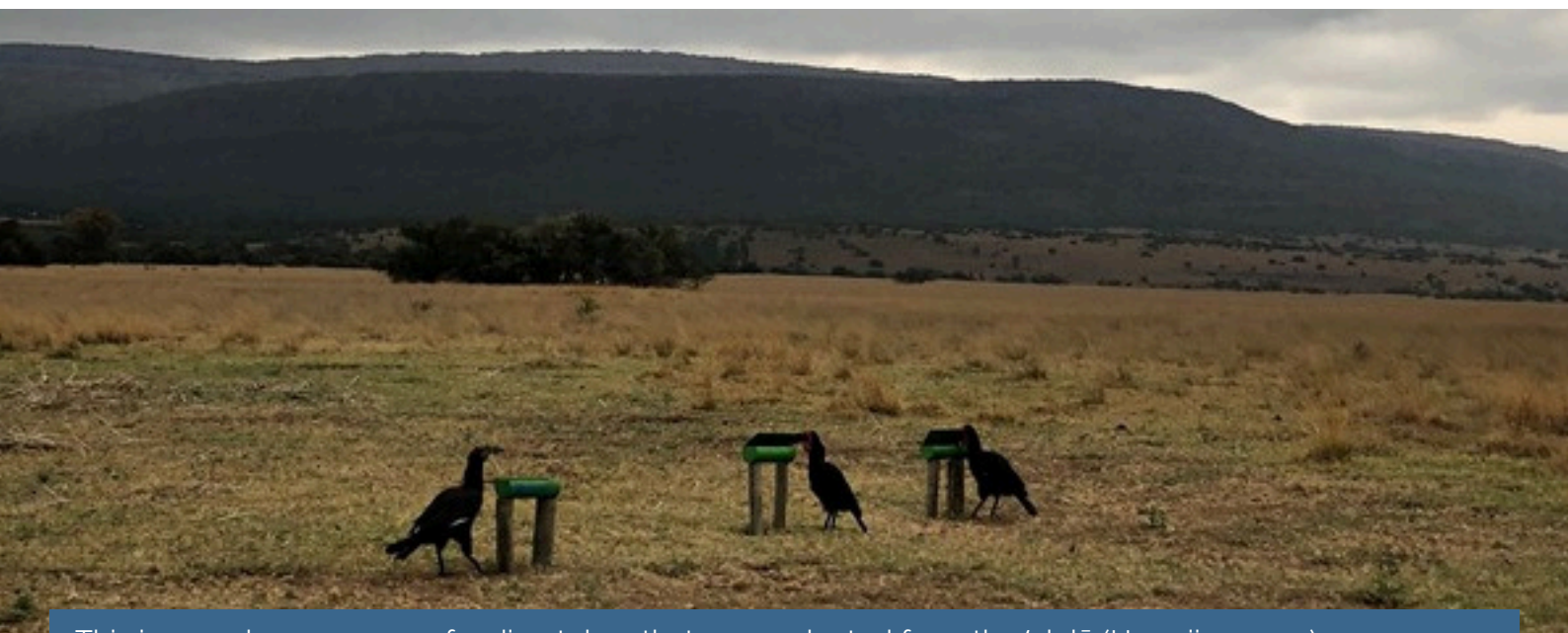
RESTORE

Reintroduction of sufficient numbers of viable founder groups to build sustainable new subpopulations while ensuring all populations maintain sufficient genetic diversity.

This has been a bumper year for reintroductions, with nine birds successfully released across five sites. We have also seen a natural dispersal of a young male to a neighbouring group and one of the reintroduced groups successfully rearing their own chick. The Newcastle Disease vaccine, specifically designed for reintroduced birds, was administered successfully without the need to handle any of the birds.



A key part to every reintroduction is making sure everyone across their intended 100 km² territory knows why the birds are there and what they need to do to keep them safe across so many private properties of multiple land-uses.



This image shows our new feeding tubes that were adapted from the 'ālalā (Hawaiian crow) recovery programme. This reduces the human interaction while we supplement their food for their first winter and they learnt very quickly to open their individual feeders.



Emmy Gibson from Zoo Atlanta joined the team and helped install one of the soft-release aviaries, before helping the team develop an awesome Kids Club education programme.



Tracking the birds after their release takes many forms - using the tail-mounted telemetry tags, but also using good old-fashioned tracking skills.





With a changeover in management of the Baobab Conservation Rearing Centre (BCRC) we have had time to rebuild, refurbish and re-assess our progress on making this a world-class rearing facility for redundant second-hatched chicks.

As we seek to grow the potential of the BCRC we have expanded our aviaries so that we now have two pre-release aviaries to ensure strong bonds are formed prior to release and that they are as physically strong as possible too.



We are installing cameras in all the artificial nest and socialising spaces to enable better observations by the team, with reduced human contact.

The time spent getting the BCRC ready for a fresh harvest has allowed the team to assist with some of the other projects on Loskop Dam Nature Reserve. Hope was even part of a team capturing leopards as part of a wider research programme.



RESEARCH

Lead, collaborate in, support and encourage research into aspects of the ecology of the species relevant to their conservation management and ensure this information is easily available.



The team has been testing several new tracking devices and attachments for these birds - pelvic harnesses and leg bands. The testing is done on the captive birds first to ensure that there is no risk to the birds, and only when our vet team is fully comfortable do we move onto the next phase of field-testing the devices.

3D NEST SCANS



With the fearless Kyle Brand (TUT Industrial Design Department) we continued the 3D scans of the natural nests in Kruger National Park to understand how the structure of these open nests maintain cool temperatures.

This data will be used to help refine the design of the artificial nests that we are using to support groups that need nests.



TRADE IN GROUND-HORBILLS



Trade in African hornbills, both heads and alive, has increased dramatically across international markets. In response to this there is a need for a coordinated response from multiple conservation partners.

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project has been working together with multiple partners to collect and analyse this trade data, ensure that trade data is being continuously collected, and build a network of partners to gather more information. This will allow for a coordinated conservation response to this threat, not just to our ground-hornbills but all hornbill species. *See the paper listed under our publications section.*

These trends are following the same trajectory as those for the pangolins. Enough data was collected to support the CITES listing of the hornbills in the *Cerotogymna* and *Bycanistes* genera, which was submitted as a strong CITES proposal by Nigeria, co-proposed by Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Our trade database that we started eight years ago has become very valuable in supporting these interventions.

We are extremely grateful to so many organisations and individuals who have guided us on this work and hope it will lead the way to much stronger protection for ground-hornbills and all other hornbills in Africa too.



AWARENESS

Ensure effective education reaches all intended reintroduction core areas, and where the remaining wild populations occur outside protected areas.



The team has done their best to get the plight of the species and the conservation needs out to as many audiences as possible. The team has given 30 presentations, including several at scientific conferences such as the SANParks Networking Meeting in Kruger National Park and a keynote address at the Zoological Society of South Africa.

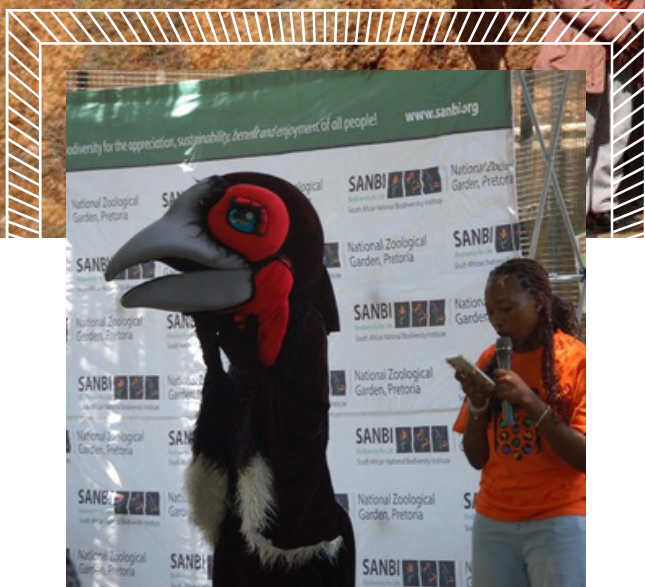
Our education team has grown, along with our networks. Our collaboration with SANBI has greatly increased our reach and institutionalised ground-hornbills into every one of their education outreach programmes.



The team joined the Johannesburg Zoo Reverse the Red day in support of the global movement to improve the conservation status of all threatened species.



2339 guests
joined our
hornbill
safaris



3234



9366

1300 guests
joined our
hornbill tea
chats





IMPROVE

Improve and retain the capacity, efficiency and stability of the MGHP to ensure that it continues to make a long-term contribution to conservation in South Africa and beyond. Build national and regional capacity through provision of training, mentorship and, where possible, funding.

Capacity building

We have had the privilege of supporting University of Mpumalanga student Mxolisi Sibusa with on-the-job experience for a year, growing his understanding of field conservation and hopefully providing him with the mentorship that will allow him to thrive in his career.

Building a stronger support base and stronger partnerships



The African Hornbill Conservation Alliance was established as the US-based fundraising arm of the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project to support ground-hornbill conservation. It is a registered US-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation (EIN: 99-2801180) and any donations made within the USA are tax-deductible.



In the capable hands of one of our favourite colleagues Ann Knutson from Dallas Zoo, the African Hornbill SAFE program, launched in April 2025 by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), aims to conserve African hornbills by fostering a network of AZA-accredited zoos and conservation organisations for collaborative action on species facing threats like habitat loss and poaching. It unites AZA-accredited institutions, established field organisations, and the IUCN SSC Hornbill Specialist Group (Africa) to create a holistic conservation approach.

MEET OUR PHD STUDENTS



Selasi Dzitze (Ghana)

Selasi is doing his PhD in Ghana (Mole National Park) at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), under the supervision of Prof William Oduro. He is investigating the biology of the Abyssinian Ground-hornbill.



Natalie Molea (USA)

Natalie is doing her PhD, through the Montana Conservation Genomics Laboratory (MCGL) at the University of Montana (UM), in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute. Her lead supervisor is Prof Gordon Luikhart. She is working to resolve African hornbill taxonomy and looking for genetic markers that can be used to tackle the trade in hornbills, both for aviculture and as body parts.



Benford Kayuni (Malawi)

Benford Kayuni is a teacher by profession and researcher. He is currently completing a Master of Science in Biodiversity Informatics at the Malawi University of Science and Technology. His PhD will investigate both ecological and social components of the conservation biology of the Southern Ground-hornbill in Malawi.



Thato Pluto Mashigo (South Africa)

Thato, or Pluto as she likes to be called, will be headed back into the academic sphere by registering for a PhD degree under Prof Andrew McKechnie's supervision with the University of Pretoria, with co-supervision from Dr Mduduzi Ndlovu with the University of Mpumalanga. The project is titled "The Conservation Physiology of the Southern Ground-hornbill".

MEET OUR MASTERS STUDENTS



Shine Deladem (Ghana)

Shine is doing his MSc in Ghana (Mole National Park) at KNUST, and under the co-supervision of Prof William Oduro. He is investigating the genetics and distribution of the Northern or Abyssinian Ground-hornbill across its range. He is also an esteemed poet.



Daniella Skinner (South Africa)

Daniella is doing her Masters in Environmental Management, specialising in Conservation Leadership through the North West University, under the supervision of Prof Reece Alberts. She is exploring the role that social media and online marketplaces play in perpetuating African hornbill trade.

MEET OUR MOST RECENT NATURE CONSERVATION GRADUATE



Mxolisi Sibisi (South Africa)

University of Mpumalanga

Diploma in Nature Conservation

ABYSSINIAN GROUND-HORNBILL PROJECT



Threats identified to the Ghananian ground-hornbill population:

- The hornbills of Mole National Park and its landscape are not actively breeding for the 3rd consecutive breeding season. Sightings of AGH indicate that 98% of the population are adult males and females.
- Reported hunting and utilisation of species for monetary and medicinal purposes poses an additional threat to the already depleted population of these special birds.



Eight artificial nests were installed to see if lack of nests is the reason for the lack of breeding.



The park team has been incredibly supportive of this project and are keen to help us find solutions.



Alf Rewin
CONSERVATION

ALF REWIN SCHOLARSHIP

Although the world sadly lost Alf Rewin in 2018, we have, together with his folks, Dee and Barrie, created a legacy scholarship fund. This fund enable us to support young African researchers in their academic dreams, and add to the knowledge base for this incredible bird that Alf loved so much.

The interest generated from this fund will be able to sustain a student every year, into perpetuity. This is a fitting legacy for Alf who found peace in the African bush and was determined to continue his studies to ensure he could continue to make a difference. He was a staunch vegan and lived true to his principles, whilst still being the most fun. If you would like to help us grow this fund, to grow conservation capacity in South Africa, please contact us.

THE ALF REWIN CONSERVATION FUND has been entered onto the United Kingdom Register of Charities with the **Registered Charity Number 1200084**. ARC is also registered with **Gift Aid**. Donating through Gift Aid means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate through ARC in the UK at no additional cost.

ALF REWIN CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP 2025



"I am incredibly grateful for the many opportunities that the Alf Rewin Conservation scholarship has afforded me, and a very big thank you to the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project for being a vessel to which an aspiring conservationist like myself can grow and develop within this conservation space." -Pluto

OUR TEAM



CEO
DR LUCY KEMP



HORNBILLS & PEOPLE
MANAGER
NTHABISENG MONAMA



CONSERVATION & RESEARCH
MANAGER
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ALF REWIN CONSERVATION
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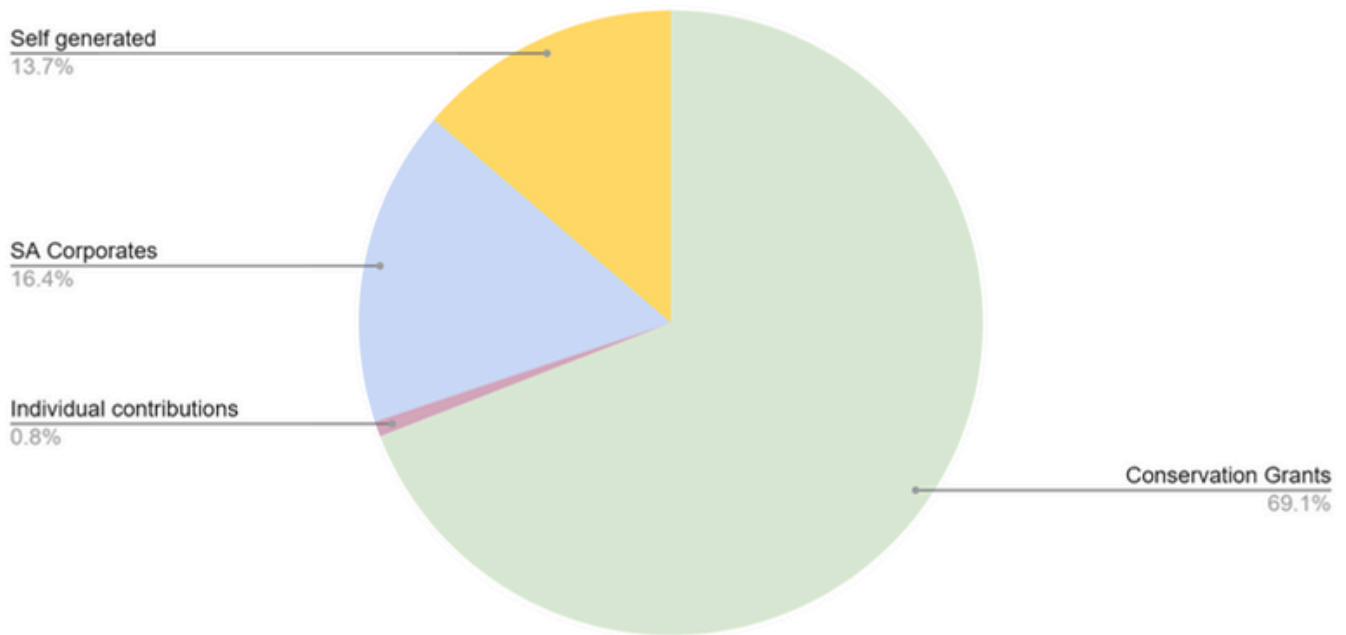
WORK INTEGRATED
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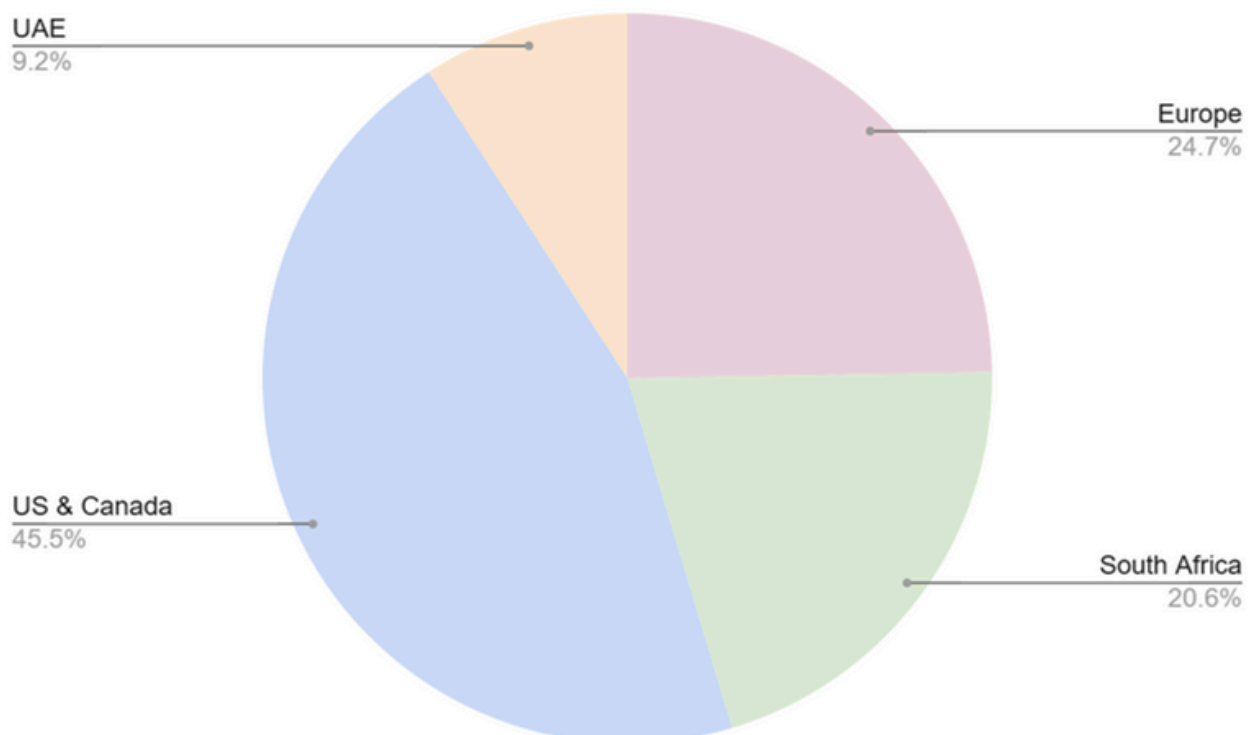
FINANCIAL REPORT

Please contact us if you would like to contribute funds for our operational reserve or donate to the ongoing conservation and community activities. **Dr Lucy Kemp** | project@ground-hornbill.org.za

OUR SOURCES OF FUNDING



OUR GLOBAL SUPPORT BASE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project is incredibly grateful to several individuals, organisations and companies who supported us either as financial support or as in-kind support during the financial year July 2024 – June 2025.

Platinum Sponsors: > R250 000



MABULA

Gold Sponsors: > R100 000



Silver Sponsors: > R15 000



Bronze Sponsors: < R15 000



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IN-KIND



HOW CAN YOU HELP

If you are a proud South African, then a financial donation to the Mabula Ground-Hornbill Project is tax deductible (reducing the amount of tax you pay) and is the most cost-effective way to support us. But, there are many other ways you can get involved and support our work. We welcome any offers of support in building materials, office furniture or anything on our wish list.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

ONCE OFF - Your donation can be attributed to a specific objective of our work (monitor, mitigate, restore, educate, research or improve), or can be a general donation which allows us to allocate it to where it is needed most, for less sexy items such as vehicle maintenance, salaries, tyres and so forth. You can donate online or by direct deposit.

REGULAR DONATION - A regular and ongoing donation, such as a monthly gift, is easy for you because you can 'set and forget', and instead of donating a large sum each year, you can donate in smaller increments throughout the year. Regular donations allow us to plan ahead, knowing that we have a steady and predictable source of income.



Donations from South Africa qualify for SARS section 18 (a) tax exemption. Should you still have unallocated funds left in your budget and would like to take advantage of this tax benefit, please consider making a financial donation before the end of your tax year.



Donations made in the UK are received by the Alf Rewin Conservation Fund which is a registered charity (1200084). Individuals can also register for Gift Aid.



Cheque Deposit

To: African Hornbill Conservation Alliance.
5316 Lena Road unit 111
Bradenton, FL 34211



FUNDS SUBMITTED TO THE AHCA WILL IMMEDIATELY BE MATCHED BY THE UNAKA FOUNDATION, THUS DOUBLING YOUR SUPPORT!

PAYPAL, DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD



HELP US TO FUNDRAISE

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project would love your help (as individuals, groups or companies) to fundraise on our behalf. Simply pick a fundraising idea and we'll provide you with all the assistance you need to make it a success.

CHARITABLE GIFTS IN WILLS

Many people do not have the means to leave a significant gift to conservation during their lifetimes. Leaving a gift for ground-hornbill conservation in your will is a powerful way of supporting our work and will ensure you leave an ongoing legacy for future generations.



CONNECT WITH US

DR LUCY KEMP

CEO MABULA GROUND HORNBILL PROJECT

CO-CHAIR (AFRICA): IUCN SSC HORNBILL SPECIALIST GROUP

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