

ISSUE 25 - SPRING 2019

# Sandscript

*An eye on the conservation of the wildlife of the Sahara and the Sahel*



The biannual publication of the Sahara Conservation Fund,  
only organization dedicated uniquely to the biodiversity of  
the Sahara and Sahel



# SAND SCRIPT

ISSUE 25 - SPRING 2019

With spring 2019 already underway, the Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) continues to make steady progress in its projects and towards its annual goals.

While a recent field mission brought 25 new Scimitar-horned oryx to the reintroduction program site in Chad, the Sahara Conservation Fund's Niger staff helped install new facilities in Kellé on the site of the SFC's captive breeding center for ostriches of North Africa. This new laboratory, which contains a hatcher, incubator, and other equipment to address the fertility issues facing the animals, adds a new element to the field-based conservation program. The team hopes that ostrich production will significantly increase in the coming months, so that they can begin reintroducing the first individuals into the wild as soon as possible!

For the first time, SCF facilitated a health exploratory mission in the Gadabeji Wildlife Reserve in Niger. The mission, conducted by Esafro and supported by the association L'Afrique à Coeur,

gathered very useful information regarding the needs of the local population. Also in Niger, SCF moved forward with its work on the Egyptian vulture, and in this edition, shares the latest news from this project.

We are also excited to let you know about our recent commitment to a new project primarily funded by the European Union. Taking place in Chad, the project is currently in the start-up phase.

We are happy to release this dynamic and exciting spring issue. Happy reading!

# Sandscript

NUMÉRO 25 - PRINTEMPS 2019



Dans ce 25ème numéro de Sandscript, découvrez le nouveau projet d'envergure du Sahara Conservation Fund en page xx ! On vous fait aussi le récit du dernier acheminement d'un groupe d'oryx algazelle mené au Tchad. Enfin, au Niger, on progresse lentement mais sûrement vers la réintroduction de l'Atruche d'Afrique du Nord, comme vers une meilleure connaissance du vautour d'Egypte, tandis que nous continuons en parallèle à soutenir les populations locales en facilitant leur accès aux soins.



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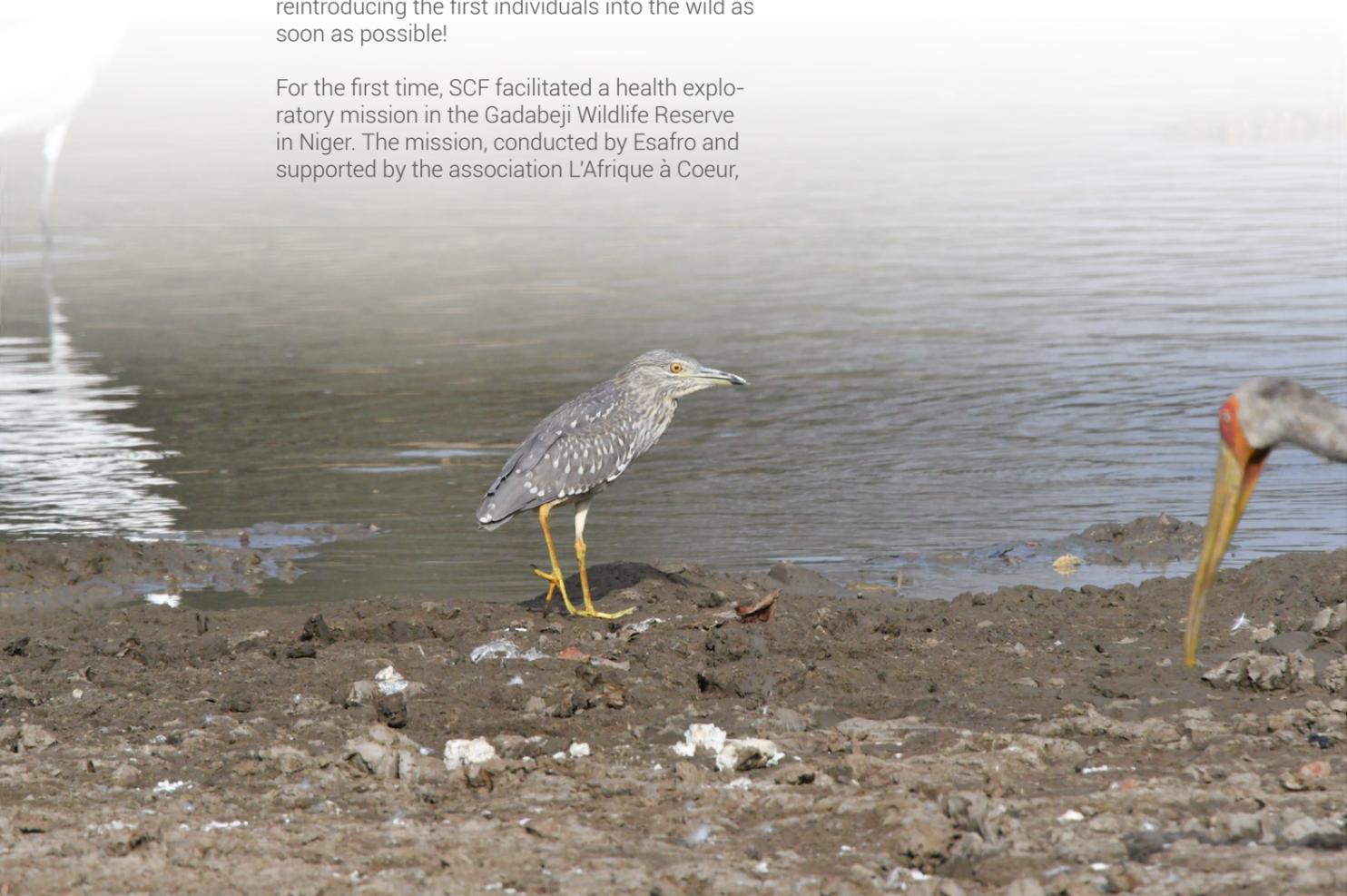
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By  
**John Newby**  
CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST  
CEO OF SAHARA  
CONSERVATION FUND

## Wildlife Reserve of Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim

# Preserving biodiversity in Chad

SINCE 2001, THE SAHARA CONSERVATION FUND (SCF) HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE CHADIAN AUTHORITIES TO CONSERVE THE BIODIVERSITY OF THE OUADI RIMÉ - OUADI ACHIM WILDLIFE RESERVE (OROAWR). VARIOUS MISSIONS AND STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE AND ITS BIODIVERSITY. IN 2015, SCF AND ITS PARTNERS LAUNCHED THE AMBITIOUS AND WELL-KNOWN PROGRAM TO REINTRODUCE THE SCIMITAR-HORNED ORYX. IT IS NOW A FACT THAT THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS AND EXTENSION OF THIS PROJECT TO OTHER SPECIES ON THE IUCN RED LIST (ADDAX, DAMA GAZELLE, OSTRICH) WILL BE BASED ON THE EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE OROAWR.

In 2016, SCF signed a memorandum of understanding with the MEEP (Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Eau et des Pêches or Ministry of Environment, Water and Fisheries) of Chad. In line with its work in Chad, under this agreement, and in close collaboration with the OROAWR DCFAP / MEEP Fauna Coordinator, SCF prepared the "Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Project", also commonly referred to by its French acronym "POROA". In the summer of 2018, the European Union showed its confidence in the Sahara Conservation Fund by committing to financially support the POROA.

The fauna of the Sahelo-Saharan zone is among the most threatened of the planet—a fact that the Sahara Conservation Fund has pointed out since its foundation. But the organization has also concluded that the OROAWR is one of the best assets to stabilize the situation and even contribute to the restoration of a viable community of Sahelo-Saharan species and their habitats.

However, the area faces many challenges. The OROAWR is a key location for economic activities such as pastoralism and livestock-related pursuits. But due to a lack of planning regarding the usage of the reserve's natural resources, its pastures were quickly made accessible to farmers thanks to the hydraulic development policies, which resulted in the multiplication of water drilling sites and cemented wells. This has led to a reduction of the vegetation regeneration periods, particularly pastures, which in turn has led to overgrazing, loss of the livestock's preferred plant species, compaction and trampling of the soil, and in many areas,

**BIODIVERSITY.** Although we can now see free-ranging scimitar-horned oryx in the Ouadi-Rimé Ouadi Achim wildlife reserve, the reserve's rich wildlife has existed for many years—for example, there are a variety of species of birds.

desertification. The limited involvement of the local population and the administration, as well as inadequate or outdated regulations, weak authority and a vague mandate from the reserve managers, and general bad governance, have also endangered the reserve. Finally, the absence of a management plan for the reserve leads to a misunderstanding of the reserve's boundaries and value.

Therefore, one of the main priorities of the project is to coordinate wildlife conservation and pastoral development activities. The aim of this coordination is to avoid losing the remarkable characteristics of the OROAW, which make it a sanctuary for wildlife as well as a pastoral area with a high economic value vital to a large number of pastoralists. The POROA has an expected duration of 4 years and will play a critical role in the reserve. It will also serve as a platform for the reintroduction and restoration of species that have locally or globally disappeared (scimitar-horned oryx, addax, ostrich).

In June 2019, the Sahara Conservation Fund will hold a workshop in the reserve to officially launch the POROA. This event will bring together all the relevant stakeholders on a particularly appropriate date: the 50th anniversary of the creation of the reserve.



**MEETING THE RESERVE'S USERS.** While the POROA aims to eventually develop a management plan, the project will begin with a significant amount of field work to study and understand the human dynamics in the reserve. The POROA will conduct a diagnostic study, and will meet with nomads and ask them about their practices and knowledge of the reserve.

**TOWARDS A CUSTOMIZED GOVERNANCE.** The POROA should contribute to the identification and consolidation of approaches (establishment of consultation structures, co-management units, etc.). These approaches will lead to a delegation of the reserve's management in the form of an integrated and decentralized local governance. This will hopefully serve as a management model for protected areas in the Sahelo-Saharan region.

**SUPPORTING LOCAL POPULATIONS.** The semi-nomadic and nomadic people of the OROAWR and their traditional authorities are one of the project's main stakeholders. They live an existence that is fully oriented around access to the natural resources, particularly water, and they have demonstrated a great deal of enthusiasm towards improving the management of the reserve's natural resources.

Photos double page © John Newby





Réintroduction de l'oryx algazelle

Lucky 7s

A GROUP OF 25 ORYX ALGAZELLE WAS TRANSPORTED FROM ABU DHABI TO CHAD BETWEEN THE END OF FEBRUARY AND THE BEGINNING OF MARCH. ABU DHABI IS VERY INVOLVED IN THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIES THROUGH ITS AGENCY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. IT FORMED THE FAMOUS "WORLD HERD", WITH INDIVIDUALS COMING FROM WORLDWIDE COLLECTIONS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS HERD IS TO ENSURE A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF GENETIC DIVERSITY AND TO IMPROVE THE VIABILITY OF THE REINTRODUCED ANIMALS IN THE WILD. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT, THIS IS THE SEVENTH OPERATION OF ITS KIND.

"They're coming, they're coming" shouts Habib as he spots the unmistakable profile of the Ilyushin cargo plane as it comes into view over the Killingen mountains to the east of Chad's Abéché airport. It's almost 4 PM, and in an increasingly familiar scene, our team jumps into action to welcome the arrival of this new batch of oryx – the seventh – from Abu Dhabi. As the jet noisily manoeuvres to a halt on the runway apron, we are joined by a contingent of camouflage-clad French soldiers and a delegation of local dignitaries, led by the Governor of the region. A flimsy metal ladder descends from the fore of the massive plane and out clamber Mohammed, Ric and Elena, the Environment Agency team that has accompanied the oryx on their six-hour journey from the Al Ain airport in Abu Dhabi. Like a well-rehearsed ballet, people, fork-lifts and trucks are manoeuvred expertly into place to unload the oryx from the plane's cavernous hold. First off are the mobile fencing units that will be used to establish temporary holding pens for the oryx. Thanks to the Chadian army, we have two heavy-duty trucks on hand to carry the freight. Next off the plane comes bales of hay and alfalfa. These will be used to help transition the oryx from their usual diet of pellets and hay to a local one made up almost exclusively of native grasses.

Prepping the animals for their new life in the wild is a significant part of the reintroduction process, and along with ensuring they are vaccinated against known diseases, is taken very seriously.

In the late summer of 2018, over 40 oryx were lost in a two-month, flash 'epidemic' of as yet unknown causes. Samples collected are currently being analysed in France and in Chad. Until proven otherwise, the cause of this totally unexpected die-off, was almost certainly a fatal cocktail of biting flies, pathogens, dietary changes, and the unseasonably hot and humid weather. As a result of this, the new batch of oryx have been vaccinated against a broader array of local diseases and will get booster doses just before they are released into the wild. To avoid the peak, hot and humid period of the year, the time when biting flies are at their most abundant and bothersome, the oryx will be released

slightly later than they have been so far. We always knew this unique and ambitious program would be experimental in nature and are learning a great deal from the experience. These lessons will help us improve our performance with the oryx and also the other species planned to follow them.

With loading underway, the Governor welcomes the Abu Dhabi team, thanking the Environment Agency for its generosity and continued support for Chad's efforts to conserve and restore its desert wildlife. With national TV on hand, both the Governor and I are interviewed in depth about the project. There is no doubt, communications has played a major role in garnering support at all levels for this unique initiative. Thanks to excellent TV and radio coverage, few people have not heard of the initiative or the fact the oryx returning to Chad are the descendants of individuals caught in- country back in the 1960s.

As the now-loaded military trucks move away, their place is taken by three lighter, flat-bedded lorries provided by our good friends at Geysler, a local building firm. Carefully guided by Marc, the oryx project's leader, the first truck backs up under the plane's lofty tail, flush with the floor of the cargo hold. With a nod from the commandant, the plane is rapidly boarded by a dozen or more French soldiers ready to carefully man-handle the crates containing the oryx onto the awaiting truck. The oryx are individually crated, each precious load weighing around 250 kilos in total.

Under the watchful eyes of project staff, Firmin, Lootfallah and Kallé-Dackoo, the crates are stowed and firmly tied down, eight or nine to a truck. Ric and Elena, the agency's vet, clamber on top of the load to inspect each oryx to ensure all is well before the next stage of the operation, a gruelling 10-hour journey to the spacious pre-release pens in the Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Wildlife Reserve. The oryx basecamp is only a little over 200 kilometres away but the journey across bumpy roads and open desert will be carried out at speeds of not more than 30 kilometres an hour, with regular stops to check on the animals and the cargo straps securing this valuable load.

Night is approaching fast as the last truck pulls away from the plane. The whole operation has taken just over two-hours. The plane's Russian pilot and crew are keen to be off back home and soon have the Ilyushin's tailgate lifted and its four noisy engines fired back into life. Once outside the airport, we form our convoys: a slow one that will accompany the oryx and a slightly faster one that will reach basecamp around midnight. We'll be on site to welcome the oryx just before sunrise if all goes well. The twenty-five new oryx will bring the total oryx in Chad to one hundred and eighty-five. We are still some way to reaching our target of 500. But with each new arrival and each month spent on the ground watching and learning about how the released oryx are adapting to their new surroundings, we are learning how to improve our techniques, learning about the threats and challenges faced by the oryx, and learning about the conditions required for the long-term success of this amazing program. We certainly do not yet have all the answers, but we can honestly say we are getting closer than ever before to finding viable solutions to the extinction crisis faced by the large mammals of the Sahara and the Sahel and to the restoration of its once-abundant array of iconic antelopes and gazelles.



**TIRED BUT HAPPY.** The moment when the animals are delivered into the pre-release enclosure—where they will stay for a few months to acclimatize to their new environment—is always a relief for the team as well as for the animals. This operation is delicate, but the result is magical: the return to nature of officially extinct-in-the-wild animals.

BY  
**John Newby**  
CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST  
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Photos double page © John Newby

## North Africa Ostrich

# A laboratory in the desert

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, SCF HAS BEEN WORKING TO SAVE THE HIGHLY ENDANGERED NORTH AFRICAN OSTRICH. THE ORGANIZATION CREATED A CAPTIVITY BREEDING CENTER TO ENCOURAGE THE MULTIPLICATION OF INDIVIDUALS. IN THE FUTURE, SCF AIMS TO RELEASE SOME OF THESE INDIVIDUALS INTO THE WILD. HOWEVER, THE FIELD TEAM HAS ENCOUNTERED LOW EGG FERTILITY. TECHNOLOGY CAN AID IN ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO SAVE THE SPECIES. STEPHEN GOLD, A VOLUNTEER FOR WCN, EXPLAINS HOW HE HELPED SCF BUILD A FULLY EQUIPPED LABORATORY IN THE DESERT.



Photo © John Newby

The North African Desert Recovery Project for our team started with an email from John Newby in December of 2011. John wrote:

"The site needs to be autonomous and reliable both in terms of power for drawing and pumping water and for powering the Incubator, Hatcher and fridge, where we hold veterinary supplies. Light and power would also enormously facilitate our ability to work on-site and to communicate."

Little did I know what we were in for. Despite the project starting and stalling because of the political climate, it finally started in earnest in the spring of 2016.

At that time, I had initiated, and was responsible for perhaps 30 off grid solar electric systems in eight or nine countries. I had no experience with this kind of project, so I went to someone who had, Michael Mace, the Curator of Birds at the San Diego Zoo. He gave me a crash course on Incubators and Hatcheries and how he had modified shipping containers to contain them. As we started to design our project I asked for advice and help from anyone who had been to the site in Kellé. Scott Tidmus, from Disney, who had been to Kellé, advised us

to assemble the complete systems here in California.

Once construction began, it would be an understatement to say that we had a myriad of problems and challenges. For starters, how could we troubleshoot and maintain a highly technical and sophisticated interconnected system 7,000 miles away? We provided a VSAT communication system, with internal communication so we could not only monitor systems, but also make changes and anticipate problems from anywhere. One of our team members is going back in July to finalize this. The water pumping system was also an extremely complex challenge as we did not have all the information required to plan for such a system in California, so we had to empirically design and construct it on site.



Our first mission to Kellé was to construct and install the camp. The containers were held in Benin customs where they would remain for another four months. It was not a wasted trip for us, however, as our site visit revealed many other challenges, which we would have to overcome before the containers arrived. We learned of the need to reconstruct the foundation for the containers which took weeks to troubleshoot.

Finally, with the containers in place, our team returned this February and virtually completed the field station. It is impossible to list all the issues and challenges that we encountered but speaking on behalf of the team, it is one of the most important achievements that we have accomplished in our lives. I am deeply proud of everyone who helped. With gratitude we can confidently say there is much more to come for this project and the endangered North African Ostrich of Kellé, Niger.

### UNUSUAL INFRASTRUCTURES.

For several days, the Sahara Conservation Fund staff, Stephen Gold, and his team worked together to build this stand-alone laboratory in the middle of nowhere. Photos show the project's equipment. This equipment primarily uses solar energy and should significantly help the project's performance. Photos on the left and below © Cloé Pourchier. Photo on right © Stephen Gold

BY STEPHEN GOLD

THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NETWORK (WCN)

**SCF THANKS THE WILD SOLAR TEAM OF EXPERTS, S. GOLD, P. AMICK, AND H. CUNDILL, AS WELL AS THE SCF STAFF IN NIGER, MAIMOUNA, CLOÉ, SOULEY, RAZACK, CERNK, AND THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF WATERS & FORESTS.**





**DRONE'S PHOTOS.** Above, and on the left page: a pair of Egyptian vultures photographed by a drone. The drone does not seem to bother the birds at all. Photos © Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou



**AT THE MARKET.** In the context of the EV NEW LIFE project, SCF visited local Nigerian markets to see if Egyptian vulture parts were being sold, as these birds are part of regional black magic beliefs (especially in bordering Nigeria). SCF found several vulture legs and wings from different vulture species, including the Egyptian vulture. Photo © Cloé Pourchier

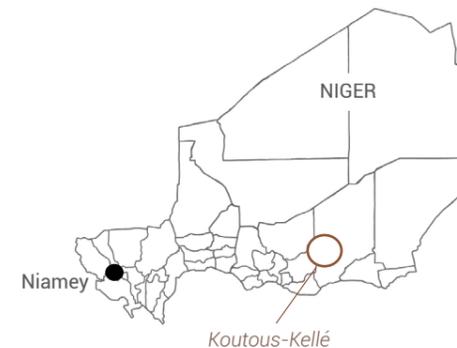
## Egyptian vulture

# The vulture who lives in the hills

ADULT EGYPTIAN VULTURES ARE EASILY IDENTIFIED THROUGH THEIR BLACK-AND-WHITE PLUMAGE AND THEIR BARE YELLOW FACE. AS AN INDO-AFRICAN SPECIES, THEY ARE WIDELY DISPERSED ACROSS AFRICA, CENTRAL ASIA, SOUTH EUROPE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THEIR EXACT DISTRIBUTION VARIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS THEY ARE TYPICAL LONG-DISTANCE MIGRANTS. HOWEVER, DESPITE THIS TERRITORIAL DIVERSITY, EGYPTIAN VULTURES FACE THE SAME FATE ACROSS THE WORLD: THEIR POPULATION IS STEADILY DECLINING. ACCORDING TO THE IUCN RED LIST, THEY ARE CONSIDERED ENDANGERED. THESE LONG MIGRATIONS LESSEN THEIR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL AS THEY EXPOSE THE VULTURES TO NUMEROUS THREATS. SCF SHARES ITS LATEST OBSERVATIONS AND FIELD ACTIVITIES REGARDING THIS BIRD.

“The vulture that lives in the hills”. This is how the inhabitants of Koutous describe the Egyptian vulture. Since 2015, SCF has regularly traveled through these hills to identify these birds. In the context of the project EV NEW LIFE, a mission was organized by our team in mid-March to initiate communication with the local population and raise awareness.

Six potential areas have been identified in the region as a result of this mission. Two vulture nests were discovered, but showed no sign of activity. One of the nests was discovered in 2015, but has remained unchanged for an extended period of time. However, we observed vultures in two other nests. We know one pair well—we have seen these two birds five times this year. Another pair seems to be arranging the nest for future incubation. This is a pleasant surprise and we hope for good news at the end of spring! In the last two areas visited, vulture pairs were observed in flight. Unfortunately, the exact location of the nest could not be identified. Therefore, only four areas are considered active.



This monitoring mission was also an opportunity to test new equipment including a drone, which provided us with new perspectives and unique photos.

The effectiveness of conservation efforts is highly dependent on the involvement and awareness of the local population. Therefore, in parallel to our monitoring activities, we wanted to meet with school directors to discuss establishing support- and awareness-raising activities concerning the conservation of wildlife, especially birds. This meeting was very productive and the five directors as well as the inspector present were all very interested and enthusiastic—demonstrating real passion towards their students' education. In addition to providing us with a list of their needs in accordance with the school levels of the children, they also suggested innovative educational ideas. These ideas included the establishment of a school government, with students occupying different functions such as an ambassador for the environment, working to raise awareness among classmates. The school directors also discussed the benefits of including the parents' association in awareness-raising activities. This meeting points to an interesting and fruitful collaboration in the coming years!

Overall, this mission was an important step in the project as it allowed us to update the status of the identified nests and to initiate awareness-raising activities through environmental education. We are particularly excited to return to the field to visit targeted schools or to see if the small vulture families have grown!

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.** The Sahara Conservation Fund team in Niger (right to left: Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou, Cloé Pourchier, and Maimounatou Ibrahim) organized meetings with school directors and inspectors in Kellé. The aim was to identify what was already in place, what was needed, and how to effectively work together to support the schools and raise awareness on vultures and the EV NEW LIFE project. The stakeholders' enthusiasm as well as their relevant and future-oriented ideas foreshadow a very interesting partnership. Photo © Cloé Pourchier

By **Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou**  
SCF PROJECT MANAGER  
**Cloé Pourchier**  
SCF PROJECT MANAGER



Photos double page © Anne Vilaseca

## Health Mission

# HEALTH EDUCATION

By **Anne Vilaseca**  
MÉDECIN ET  
MEMBRE DE L'EQUIPE  
D'ESAFRO

IN DECEMBER 2018, THE SAHARA CONSERVATION FUND MADE IMPORTANT CONTACTS WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION DURING THE TRANSLOCATION OPERATION OF GIRAFFES TO THE GADABEJI BIOSPHERE RESERVE. SCF IS STARTING TO CARRY OUT HEALTH ASSISTANCE INITIATIVES IN THE SAME AREA. THE AIM IS TO ASSIST THE POOREST DEMOGRAPHIC AS WELL AS TO SENSITIZE THE LOCAL POPULATION TO CONSERVATION PROJECTS.

**L'AFRIQUE À COEUR.** The French non-profit L'Afrique à Coeur has been a loyal partner of the Sahara Conservation Fund since its creation in 2013. Its vocation is to help mothers and children in rural areas on the African continent. L'Afrique à Coeur works alongside SCF in Niger and Chad in various ways: through distributing mosquito nets, financially supporting health missions and dental care services, purchasing goats for a women's cooperative in Niger, etc. All these missions are led and supervised by the local teams of SCF. These teams and the local populations assess the actions that need to be carried out in the field.

The SFC carried out a health mission from March 18 to 21 in the Gadabeji biosphere reserve. The reserve is very populated, mainly by Fulani and Tuareg. The Esafro team carried out the field mission with the help of the association L'Afrique à Coeur, both long-time partners of the Sahara Conservation Fund, notably through their micro-projects. The Sahara Conservation Fund team managed the logistics, and foresters provided security services. Thanks to an active collaboration between Esafro and the major of the Nursing Center of Gadabeji, many individuals were cared for.

The mission was mostly exploratory, but it will help identify the demands and needs of the local population. More than sixty individuals were treated, and in parallel, a health education program was created. Health education is essential in these remote areas of Niger. Most of the pathologies observed are related to life in a relatively hostile environment. However, if the local population takes a few simple steps, there will be a significant decrease in these pathologies. For example, if individuals routinely wash their hands and protect their eyes from the sun, they will experience conjunctivitis on a less frequent basis and of a lesser magnitude.

<https://lafriqueacoEUR.com/>



Photos.

1. Page de gauche : une patiente peulh fait part de ses problèmes de santé.
2. Ci-dessus à gauche : la file d'attente du bâtiment où les consultations sont menées.
3. Ci-dessus à droite : Salle de consultation aménagée à l'extérieur.
4. Ci-contre : case de santé et don de produits de soins.

Conjunctivitis is extremely widespread for the simple reason that patients rub their eyes with their hands, which have been in contact with various elements—sand, for example—and wear sunglasses infrequently. Esafro strives to not only focus on care, but above all to convey a new message to the populations examined: patients must be active agents of their own health, especially in the bush.

SCF has observed that there is a very strong need for these health missions within the population of Gadabeji, and the reaction to these missions is very positive. It is therefore clear that these missions must continue and that they must involve the local health personnel, who are very motivated and have health huts that are relatively functional.

The mission was able to make contact with the various local health structures to optimize existing relationships and work in synergy with them. These results are very encouraging!



**ESAFRO.** Established in 2006, Esafro is a non-profit organization under the French 1901 law. Its purpose is to promote access to education and health, thereby improving the living conditions of the most fragile populations in developing countries.

<http://esafro.org>



## Avec SCF pour le Sahara et le Sahel !

Le Sahara et le Sahel hébergent une biodiversité malheureusement en proie à une extinction «silencieuse». Car jusqu'à très récemment, ce déclin s'est trouvé ignoré, son étude et les mesures devant le combattre sous-financées par la communauté internationale de la conservation et les agences de développement à travers le monde. En 2004, un petit groupe de personnes et d'institutions engagées a lancé le Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) en réponse à un appel urgent à l'action, avec à l'esprit la question : «Si ce n'est pas nous, alors qui parlera de la faune saharienne ?»

SCF est à l'origine d'un mouvement de plus en plus important de conservation de la faune sahélo-saharienne, visant à protéger

et restaurer un panel unique et extraordinaire d'espèces clés, comprenant l'addax, l'oryx algazelle, les our, l'autruche d'Afrique du Nord ou encore les gazelles Dama.

En tant qu'ONG agréée aux États-Unis et en France, SCF compte sur les dons, les subventions et d'autres financements provenant de particuliers, d'entreprises et d'organisations, pour mener à bien sa mission et donner une voix au Sahara, permettant de préserver son incroyable richesse naturelle et culturelle.

Nous vous invitons à donner de la voix avec nous, en faveur de la restauration de la faune sahélo-saharienne, en apportant votre soutien à SCF.

TO DONATE TO SCF JUST SCAN THE QR CODE  
OR VISIT [WWW.SAHARA CONSERVATION.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.SAHARA CONSERVATION.ORG/DONATE)



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*If you would like to know more about our work and how to contribute to our projects, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to hear from you!*

SCF is grateful to Thomas Rabeil, Mark Stanley Price, John Newby, Cloé Pourchier, Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou, Clark Andres, Kateřina Gašparova, for their photos and contributions to this issue. Sandscript is edited by Yasmina Khaznawi, Communications Officer for SCF. You can reach her for any comments and feedback (contact informations above). We also like to thank the growing chorus of supporters that gives us the precious support that makes our projects and their achievements so tangible.



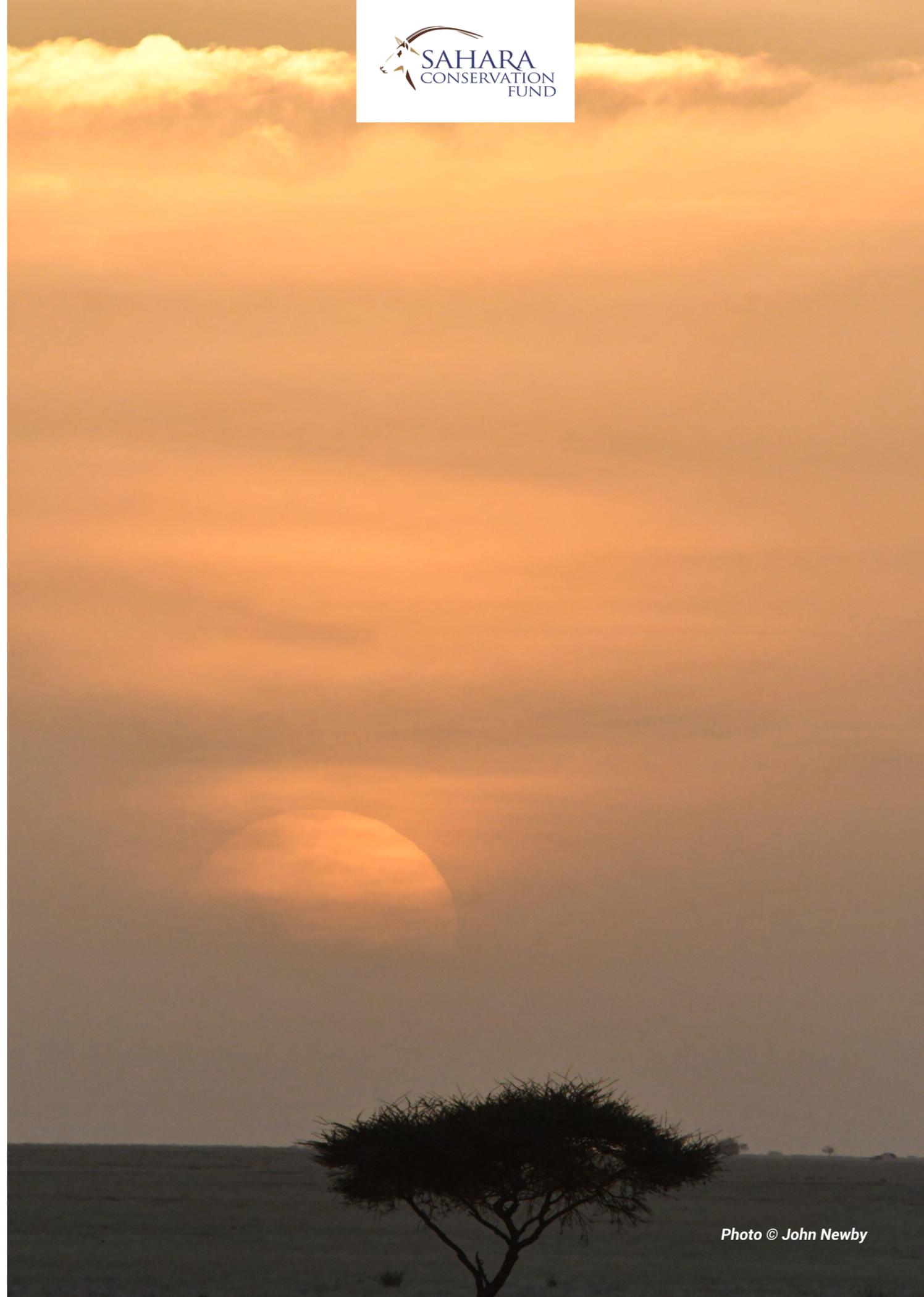
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Sahara Conservation Fund



# SAND SCRIPT

**The biannual publication of the Sahara Conservation Fund**

Launched in 2007, Sandscript has been bringing you news of the Sahara Conservation Fund and its projects for over a decade.

Since its inception, Sandscript articles have been written by the SCF team, their collaborators, and all those who, through their fieldwork, make the conservation of biodiversity a reality. Its primary purpose is to inform the public of our conservation activities in the Sahara and Sahel, to share relevant news items, but also to sensitize the reader to the beauty and richness of this region of the world. Over the years, Sandscript has gone beyond a simple informative role to provide original perspectives on poorly-known areas of Africa and their amazingly diverse, unique and threatened wildlife. It is thanks to its narrative style and its beautiful photos that the publication invites the reader, twice a year, to delve into this universe. Taking readers behind the scenes, Sandscript creates a new perspective on the fauna and flora of the Sahara and the Sahel and the efforts undertaken to ensure its survival.

We are sincerely grateful to all those who have helped make Sandscript one of the first and finest sources of information on the unique but neglected wildlife of the Sahara and the Sahel.

To accompany and complement Sandscript with brief news items, an e-newsletter is also available. Subscribe on line at [www.sahara-conservation.org](http://www.sahara-conservation.org).



*SCF's mission is to conserve the wildlife of the Sahara and bordering Sahelian grasslands. To implement our mission, we forge partnerships between people, governments, the world zoo and scientific communities, international conventions, non-governmental organizations and donor agencies. A powerful network with a common goal – the conservation of deserts and their unique natural and cultural heritage.*

