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# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# EDITO

The word that best encapsulates SaharaConservation's achievements in 2021 is "teamwork". For it was the collective effort – not just of SaharaConservation's team members, but also that of our government authorities and institutional partners that we collaborate closely with – that enabled us to realize some significant conservation achievements throughout the year.

As travel restrictions eased in the wake of the global vaccination campaign, I was able to return to Niger and Chad to see the results of this teamwork firsthand.

In Niger, the SaharaConservation team had maintained the project activities almost without skipping a beat, collecting camera trap data on the presence of Critically Endangered dama gazelles in the Takolokouzet massif located in the Aïr and Ténéré National Natural Reserve; undertaking the captive breeding and artificial incubation of the capricious North African ostrich in Kellé; monitoring the movements and health of West African giraffe; recording the presence and breeding of three threatened species of vultures; and supporting our partner Education et Santé Sans Frontières with a health mission around the stunning Gadabeji Biosphere Reserve.

This year marked a turning point in ostrich conservation: for the first time, we transferred juvenile ostriches to the Gadabeji Biosphere Reserve in Niger, and released young ostriches in the Ouadi Rimé–Ouadi Achim Game Reserve (OROAGR).

In Chad and after discussions with the Environment Agency– Abu Dhabi and Direction of Wildlife and Protected Areas, it was decided that the transfers of addax and oryx from the Deleika Wildlife Conservation Centre to Chad would be paused, yet the numbers of both species in OROAGR continued to thrive, closely monitored by the in-country ecological monitoring team. The travel restrictions left us with little choice but to release the addax and oryx from the quarantine enclosures without placing satellite GPS collars or administering the final boosters of vaccines, making the role of this field team even more vital.

The European Union funded Projet Ouadi Rimé–Ouadi Achim achieved a significant milestone with the recruitment and training of 40 new guards to improve community relations and law enforcement. The Minister for the Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, His Excellency Mr. Mahamat Lazina travelled to Arada to witness the passing out parade of these guards.

I was able to join Minister Lazina in N'Djaména in August to sign the convention under the World Bank and Global Environment Facility funded ALBIÄ project. ALBIÄ, meaning environment in Arabic, aims to improve the management of natural resources and the livelihood of populations in selected climate vulnerable areas in and around the OROAGR in Chad. SaharaConservation is responsible for activities to improve the management of

this reserve, to benefit the natural resources, wildlife and pastoralists that rely on this vital area.

But it's the story of "S'aa" the Egyptian vulture rescued from a poacher by the local wildlife authorities in Niger that exemplifies the situation in the region. SaharaConservation took this individual into care seeking advice from BirdLife Bulgaria in the hope that it could be rehabilitated. This example highlights the continued pressure on wildlife and natural resources and a need for education and awareness of the inherent value of wildlife and wildlands, especially in the Sahara and Sahel regions.

We can only achieve this by continuing to work as a team.

# ACTIVITY REPORT

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Sahara Conservation Fund

Sahara Conservation Fund (SCF) and its subsidiary Sahara Conservation Fund – Europe (SCF – Europe) are nature conservation not-for-profit non-governmental organizations. Sahara Conservation Fund was created in the United States in 2004. Sahara Conservation Fund – Europe was formed in 2016 under the French law on non-profit organizations (1901). Our offices in Niger and Chad are also registered in these countries with authorization to conduct their conservation activities.

Our vision is a Sahara where ecological processes function naturally, with plants and animals existing in healthy numbers in their historical range, benefiting all its inhabitants, and where support for its conservation comes from stakeholders across all sectors of society.

Our mission is to conserve the wildlife, habitats and other natural resources of the Sahara and its bordering Sahelian grasslands to the benefit of all people and wildlife.

## 1.2. A difficult global and regional context

2021 was disrupted by the consequences of the Covid-19 global pandemic, leading to lockdowns, curfews, restrictions on local and international travel, and thus having an impact on all our activities.

The Sahel and Sahara region was also destabilized at the beginning of the year. The election of the new president Mohamed Bazoum on 21 February, followed by an attempted putsch, led to several weeks of unrest in Niamey and other cities in the country. During this period, the members of the team remained safely at home and our offices were closed.

Chad experienced a period of civil unrest following the death of President Idriss Déby on 20 April. The whole team remained vigilant in the face of emerging threats, both on the project sites and in N'Djamena. Most of the activities were suspended until mid-May.

## 2. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

The high point of the year was the signature of the agreement for the ALBIÄ project in Chad.

On 31 August, John Watkin and the Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Mr Mahamat Lazina, signed an agreement worth five million dollars, funded by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, for the delegated project management of activities within the framework of the ALBIÄ project.

ALBIÄ – which means environment in Arabic – is a local development and adaptation project worth 54.45 million dollars. Over a four-and-a-half-year period, the activities carried out by SCF within the framework of this project will improve the infrastructure, management and conservation of Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Game Reserve (OROAGR). This project will concentrate on implementing the Reserve's management plan, alongside the activities of SOS-Sahel, which will work on the rural development of the five provinces spanned by the reserve.

This year saw the move from a program focused on captive breeding and artificial incubation of North African ostriches in Kellé to an active reintroduction project with the transfer of nine ostrich chicks to Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve in Niger (GBR) in late November, with the participation of the Government of Niger's Department of Wildlife, Hunting, Parks and Reserves, SCF's team and representatives from GBR's Protected Area Management Unit. Aged of 10, 7, 5 and 3 weeks old, the ostrich chicks transferred were divided into two enclosures according to age. They will be able to be released into the reserve 16 months later, when the ostrich chicks have reached adult size.

The month of November saw a significant upturn in field activities after the slowdown imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) resumed the transfer of animals to Chad. 25 oryx and 25 addax arrived in Abéché, Chad from the Deleika Wildlife Conservation Centre in Abu Dhabi. They were placed in acclimatization enclosures and released in December 2021.

As part of the Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Project (POROA), the capacities of the reserve's management team and infrastructure were strengthened. A guard recruitment process was launched and the best 40 were chosen, after 8.5 weeks' training provided by Mellivora Systems, with the support of the Forest and Wildlife Guard.

## **3. CHAMPIONING SAHARAN BIODIVERSITY**

### **3.1. The Zoom meeting of the Sahelo-Saharan Interest Group**

Following the cancellation of 2020's meeting, SCF's Science and Conservation Committee decided to organize 2021's meeting online on Zoom from 18 to 20 May.

This was a challenge both in terms of technical aspects and mobilization. The opening speeches were given by high-level experts for each of the three themes and participants were able to attend 35 presentations given by conservation professionals from this part of Africa.

Over 180 people signed up and a peak level of participation of 120 people was noted on the first day. The participants came from over 25 different countries.

### **3.2. 1% for the Planet**

The 1% for the Planet program was created in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, Patagonia's founder, and Craig Mathews, the owner of Blue Ribbon Flies, and is now an international collective of companies, organizations and individuals that understands the need to protect the natural environment. This program encourages entrepreneurs to make donations to not-for-profit environmental bodies.

SCF approached Mr. Rocco Rava, the founder of Spazi D'Avventura, to take part in this program. It is the parent company of Société de Voyages Sahariens in Chad and Niger, which has provided logistical and accommodation support for several missions on the ground.

The registration process is currently being finalized: SCF was approved to join the collective, thus belonging to a network of 3,500 organizations fighting to protect the environment worldwide. Member companies from all over the world can now support us with all or part of 1% of their turnover.

### **3.3. Communications**

A series of guides (branding utilization, digital resources management, photo credits, printing recommendations, content production, lexicon guide), along with project communication files (regarding the ostrich program and the POROA) were developed and updated for the in-countries teams. These internal communication resources will serve as a reference for the teams when writing articles or other content, thus improving the coherence of language elements within SCF.

In spring 2021, Sahara Conservation Fund published the 29th issue of Sandscript. The team members actively contribute to SCF's visibility by regularly publishing articles in different media. Accordingly, two articles were published in Gnusletter (vol 38 / issues 1&2), and another in Current conservation (vol 15 issue 3).



2021 saw the creation of SCF's Instagram account, with a total of 80 subscribers at the end of the year. The challenge for 2022 will be to enrich the account, its content and its community.

Facebook remains the social media of choice, with many posts throughout the year and 71,070 followers in December.

The Twitter account has 370 followers.

### **3.4. Events**

Throughout the year, Sahara Conservation Fund's teams participated in many events, ensuring the visibility of numerous ongoing or imminent conservation projects and making the Sahara's voice heard.

#### **IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS**

SCF was able to take part in the World Conservation Congress organized from 3 to 11 September by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Marseille, France. As part of the event on Motion 102 "Strengthening mutual benefits of mobile pastoralism and wildlife in shared landscapes", organized by IUCN's French committee, SCF gave a presentation on the shared challenges of mobile pastoralism and wild ungulates in Sahelian landscapes. In addition to the impressive stands, presentations and sessions, this event offered SCF many opportunities for networking and informal meetings.

#### **CONFERENCE AND FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE AT PLANÈTE SAUVAGE**

On 23 October 2021, SCF held a conference at the heart of Planète Sauvage, an animal park near Nantes in Western France. This conference, open to all the park's visitors, focused on desert animals, the threats they are facing and the conservation activities carried out by SCF. On this occasion, John Watkin, SCF's CEO, and Violeta Barrios, Program manager, shared their experience of the desert and presented the actions they are undertaking to conserve the animals living there.

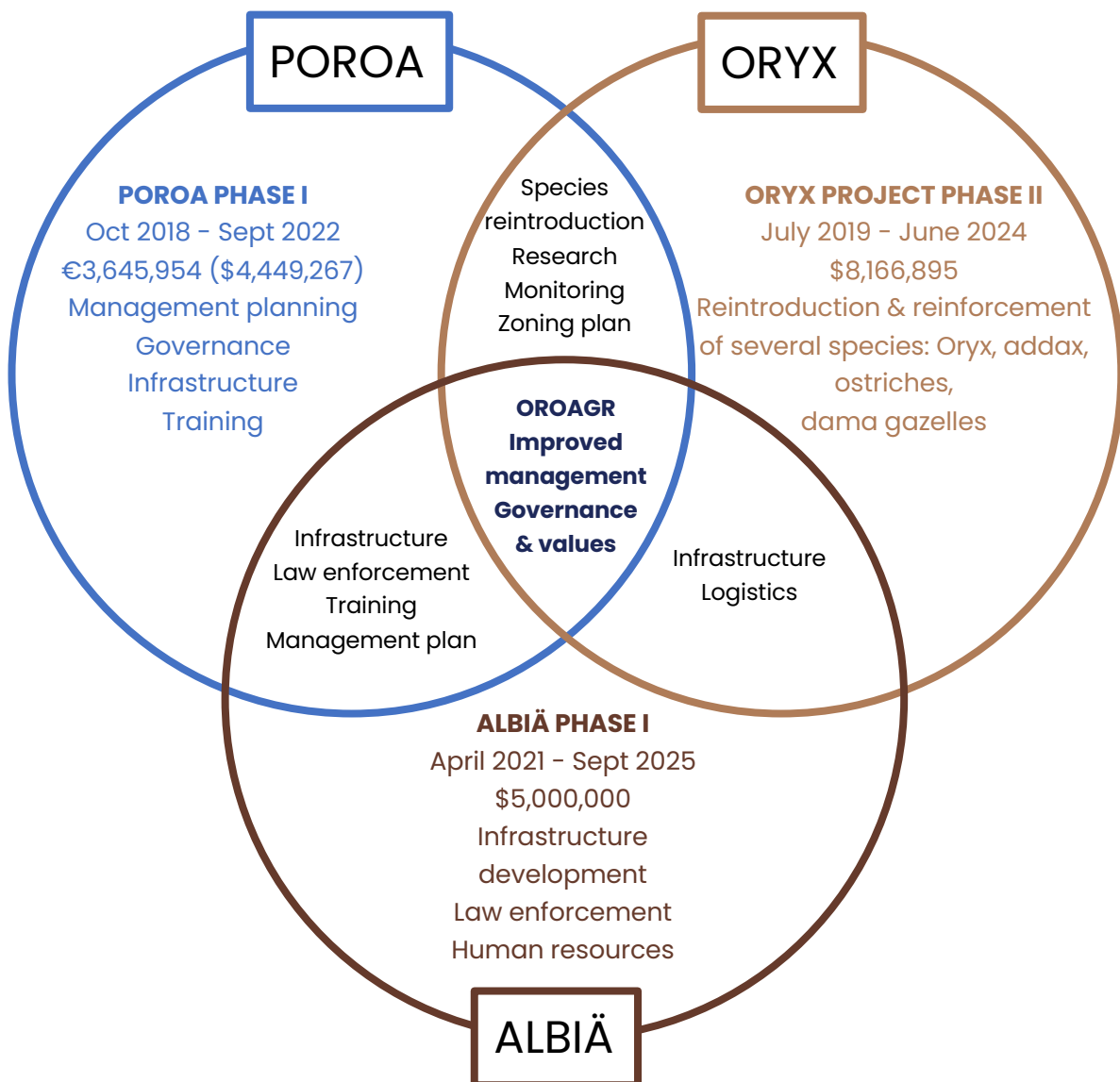
Throughout the day, a stand run by Planète Sauvage nature volunteers, with a host of educational events on the theme of SCF's actions, welcomed visitors, many of whom made a contribution to support SCF's work to conserve wildlife in the Sahara.

#### **2021 ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (ZAA) ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

In December, John Watkin took part in ZAA's 2021 annual conference, held in Fort Worth, Texas. His presentation "Sahara Conservation Fund and the 3 Rs: Reintroduction, Reinforcement, and Rewilding" focused on the differences between the three approaches with regard to the scimitar-horned oryx, addax and dama gazelle. SCF was chosen as the recipient of a conservation grant from generous donations by ZAA members.

## 4. LANDSCAPES CONSERVATION

Our three projects in Chad are structured as follows:



## 4.1. ALBIÄ- Chad

The high point of the year was the signature of the agreement for the ALBIÄ project in Chad.

On 31 August, John Watkin and the Minister of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Mr. Mahamat Lazina, signed an agreement worth five million dollars, funded by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, for the delegated project management of activities within the framework of the ALBIÄ project.

ALBIÄ – which means environment in Arabic – is a local development and adaptation project worth 54.45 million dollars. Over a four-and-a-half-year period, the activities carried out by SCF within the framework of this project will improve the infrastructure, management and conservation of OROAGR. This project will concentrate on implementing the reserve's management plan, alongside the activities of SOS-Sahel, which will work on the rural development of the five provinces spanned by the reserve.

Jérôme Hugonot was recruited as Project Manager in November 2021.

## 4.2. POROA - Chad

Throughout this third year of the project, the POROA team's activities were guided by the results and recommendations of the diagnostic study performed in year 1 by CA17 International.

## TRAINING

Several training sessions were held this year with a view to making project management even more professional and reinforcing the teams' capacities.

- **Ranger training:** With the aim of reinforcing the capacities of the reserve's management team and infrastructure, the guard recruitment process was launched. Out of 146 candidates, the best 40 were chosen, after 8.5 weeks' training provided by Mellivora Systems (MeISys), with the support of the Forest and Wildlife Guard (GFF).
- **Strategic training:** The Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DFAP) personnel in OROAGR (Coordinator, Head of Southern Sector, Deputy Head of Northern Sector) travelled to Zakouma National Park for one month's exchange of experience on the effective law enforcement.
- **Educational training:** In March 2021, a training session was held for the seven officials in the Awareness-Raising & Education Cell, members of the reserve's Provincial Advisory Boards, DFAP executives, and civil society representatives in Arada. The training, provided by the NGO Derbianus Conservation, focused on the method for formulating POROA's Environmental Education strategy and behavioral change.

## **FIGHTING BUSH FIRES IN OROAGR**

Over 30 bush fires were sparked in OROAGR in 2021, the origin of which may be attributed to smugglers, traffickers, fraudsters along with the negligence of farmers in extinguishing fires. Faced with this problem, a strategy has been developed to contain it.

Accordingly, around 150 km of additional firebreaks were created in the course of year 3. In total, 550 km of firebreaks currently protect a "central area", corresponding to the reintroduction area in the oryx and addax reserve.

Fire-fighting techniques are improving from year to year regarding the use of backfire, incorporating active prevention, which mobilizes high-intensity labor, allowing the local communities, in addition to the tractor drivers hired during the firebreak opening campaign, to earn a little income and be held more accountable concerning this issue. Moreover, several awareness-raising missions on best practices in terms of fighting bush fires and conserving natural resources were carried out by the "Awareness-Raising & Education" Cell.

## **AERIAL SAMPLE COUNT**

An aerial study of 10,400 km<sup>2</sup> of the reserve was carried out by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Chad's Mission Air Fellowship (MAF) in November 2021. The aim of the aerial sample count was to provide updated information on the number and distribution of wild ungulates and livestock and record other environmental elements such as human activity and the impact of fires at the heart of the reserve. The counts were dominated by livestock. 200 reintroduced scimitar-horned oryx were observed.

## **AWARENESS RAISING**

All the awareness-raising activities carried out throughout the year reached around 8,679 people (mainly nomads, transhumant herders and agropastoralists) on themes such as analyzing the obstacles to behavioral change, bush fires, poaching, protecting flora and fauna and cutting firewood.

SCF's Awareness-Raising & Education Cell (CSE) in Chad actively participated in the first Nomad Festival in the Wadi Fira Province, in the presence of the Governor, numerous administrative and military officials and traditional Chiefs. Around 1,800 nomads, transhumant herders and agropastoralists attended it. The messages focused on peaceful cohabitation, the importance of properly managing natural resources in the reserve to protect the environment and the populations' means of subsistence through fighting bush fires, poaching and excessive firewood cutting.

### **4.3. Oryx Project - Chad**

In November, a collaboration with Wings for Conservation (WFC) was signed for 20 flight hours per month with the Cessna 172 piloted by Jaime Dias. WFC was also involved in spotting oryx and addax, during the fitting of the collars on wild animals.

A first air mission took place in November 2021, making it possible to observe the largest group ever recorded in the reserve, composed of 87 individuals, 35 km from the Oryx base camp.

A second air mission took place in December, during which 38 dama gazelles, including a group of 30 individuals, were counted. During the same flight, 56 addax were also observed. A flight was dedicated to looking for groups of oryx with active collars: 112 oryx were recorded. Over 2,900 dorcas gazelles were observed.

#### **4.4. Humanitarian health monitoring program for remote populations in the Sahel and Sahara area**

##### **CHAD**

The first local health mission in Chad was organized. Over 2,200 mosquito nets were handed out to farmers, nomads, transhumant herders, agropastoralists and sedentary populations in the OROAGR.

##### **NIGER**

During its missions on the ground, SCF was able to confirm that there was a real need in terms of health in remote areas. So in 2009, SCF joined forces with an NGO specialized in humanitarian aid to provide basic medical care and vaccination to these populations.

In 2021, three missions providing medical assistance to the populations were carried out with the collaboration of the NGOs Éducation et santé sans frontières (Esafro) and L'Afrique à Coeur.

A first health mission was organized in the GBR at the end of July in collaboration with a medical team from Zinder. Six villages and camps were visited and 119 patients, including 34 children, were able to be treated. Vaccines were also administered and clothing given to children. During these interventions, the populations were reminded of basic hygiene steps and the importance of medical monitoring.

At the same time, awareness was also raised concerning the conservation of fauna and its habitat.

Two missions were also carried out in Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve (RNNAT) in November. One dental care mission was organized in the areas of Timia and Tin-Tellous. This type of intervention is particularly appreciated by the local populations and a total of 195 patients were able to be treated. Oral hygiene awareness-raising activities were also carried out.

Addax & Oryx Foundation granted 33,900 euros over three years for humanitarian work in Niger.

## 5. SPECIES CONSERVATION

### 5.1. Scimitar-horned oryx

#### CHAD

On 8 November 2021, 25 oryx were transported from Abu Dhabi to OROAGR. A faecal sample from each crate in which oryx were transported was collected. They will provide reference information on the intestinal microbiome, which could be compared to future samples from the same individuals to assess changes in the intestinal microbiota after their release. These oryx were released into the reserve on 5 December 2021. At the end of 2021, the reserve's scimitar-horned oryx population was estimated to be almost 500 individuals.

In 2019, the project set up a revised remote monitoring methodology focused on the long-term monitoring of a representative sample of around 50 oryx in the reintroduced population. The data produced by the long-term monitoring of these 50 oryx will be used to estimate the demographic and population parameters and to assess and refine the management protocols. In November 2021, a joint team from EAD, SCF, ZSL, the University of Edinburgh, the Livestock Development Research Institute in Chad and the SCBI (Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute) captured, sampled and tagged 18 oryx on the ground, which were added to the first three individuals captured in 2020. Other individuals would be captured, bringing the total to 50.

The oryx ear-tagging program launched in 2019 continued and over 100 calves born in Chad have already been tagged by the monitoring team on the field. The calves tagged are considered as high-priority targets for field monitoring, giving a set of invaluable data for more precisely estimating the calves' survival rates, their ecology and adaptation over the years.

Moreover, non-invasive DNA samples using fresh oryx faecal material were collected in an isolated area to the north-west of OROAGR. These samples will be analyzed by the staff from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) in order to (1) attempt to identify the oryx that live in this part of the reserve and (2) evaluate the potential usefulness of non-invasive approaches for future monitoring of the reintroduced oryx population.

**Table: Number of scimitar-horned oryx and addax released in OROAGR.**

	Year of release							TOTAL
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (forecasts)	
Scimitar-horned oryx released	23	60	78	49	25	25	20*	280
Addax released	-	-	-	-	40	25	25*	90

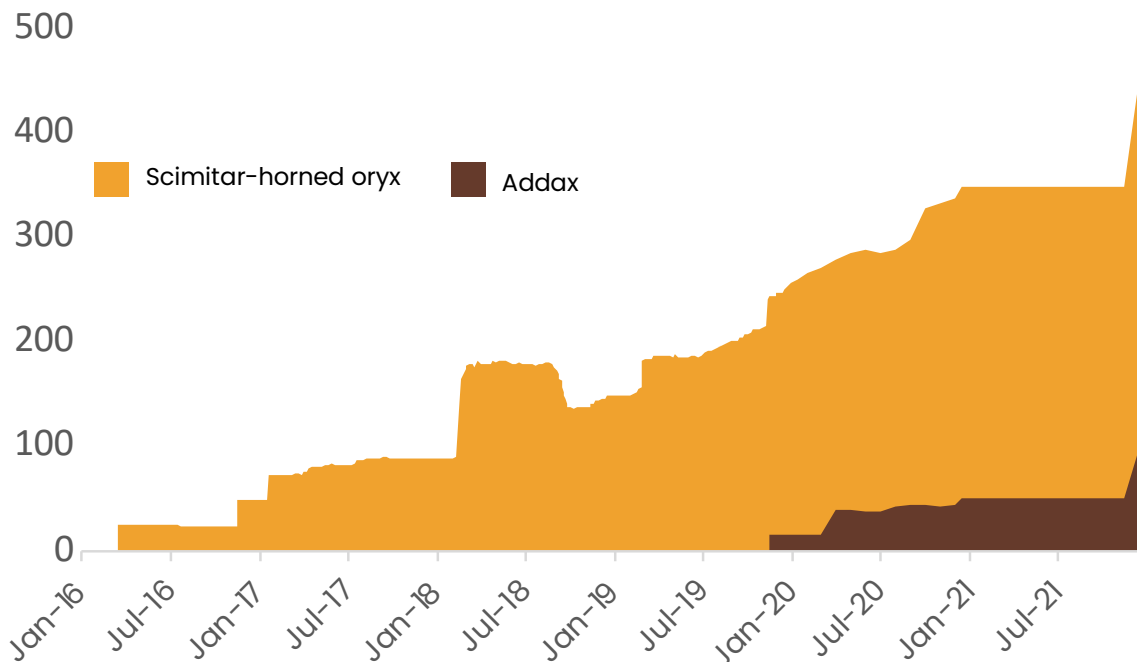
\* In pre-release until September 2022.

## 5.2. Addax

### CHAD

On 15 November 2021, 25 addax were transported from Abu Dhabi to OROAGR. As for the oryx, samples were collected in each crate for subsequent analysis. These addax were released into the reserve on 9 December 2021. At the end of 2021, the reserve's addax population was estimated to be around 65 individuals.

#### Number of scimitar-horned oryx and addax reintroduced into OROAGR, Chad 2016–2021



### NIGER

On 10 December 2021, the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) signed a Project Cooperation Agreement with SCF for the “localization, capture, fitting of GPS collars and monitoring of addax” in the regions of Termit and Tin Toumma in Eastern Niger. The activities entrusted to SCF are derived from a global CMS project to fight against illegal slaughter and the disturbance of Sahelo-Saharan megafauna.

Guided by CMS, the initiative counts on the technical support of the Antelope Specialist Group from the IUCN’s Species Survival Commission and the NGO Noé. SCF’s activities in Niger will take place during the first quarter of 2022.

## 5.3. Dama gazelles

### CHAD

To reinforce the dama gazelle population in OROAGR, a captive breeding program was put in place on the Oryx base camp and the enclosures were adapted to this end. At the end

of 2021, the group consisted of 11 dama gazelles (4 males and 7 females), 5 of which were born in the enclosure. These activities are part of Phase II of the Oryx Project and count on the technical support of the IUCN's Antelope Specialist Group, EAD, ZSL, RZSL and Fossil Rim.

## **NIGER**

In the interests of dama gazelle conservation, since 2017 SCF has been involved in improving the knowledge of the distribution of this population in Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve (RNNAT).

During 2021, SCF's team finalized the processing of data from camera traps and substantial information on the species present and occupation of the territory in Mount Takolokouzet was able to be extracted. During the three years' trapping efforts, 17 different wild species were photographed on the massif. Analyses have also shown that the distribution of the species varies. The dorcas gazelle is the species most likely to be encountered and the most evenly distributed, while the dama gazelle is particularly concentrated in the western part of the massif.

At the same time, two environmental monitoring missions in RNNAT were conducted in 2021, in close collaboration with the Department of Wildlife, Hunting, Parks and Reserves and the Regional Environment Directorate (DRE) in Agadez. During the first mission in April, no dama gazelles were directly observed, but several indirect observations (footprints, faeces) were recorded. During the mission in November, 7 dama gazelles (2 males, 4 females and 1 calf), divided into three different groups, were observed, along with 17 dorcas gazelles and 6 barbary sheep. This is the largest number of individuals observed since 2018 and, taking the composition of the groups into account, this result is promising, proving that the numbers and distribution within this population are favorable to reproduction of the species.

Finally, with a view to improving the knowledge of one of the last dama gazelle populations in Niger, a study protocol on the human dimension was put in place to understand the knowledge of the local communities in RNNAT. A student born in the area was hired to produce the questionnaires. During this mission in November 2021, a pilot phase was initiated and questionnaires were administered at random, primarily to nomads living in or around the reserve.

To this end, a new project "Reversing the decline of threatened wildlife in the Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve of Niger" funded by IUCN Save Our Species African Wildlife (SOS AWI) and the European Union was signed to begin on 1 January 2022 for a 24-month period. It aims to improve the conservation of one of the last wild refuges for Saharan wildlife, Mount Takolokouzet, through a multidimensional and innovative approach, including surveillance, ecological monitoring, design of an appropriate conservation strategy and working with the local communities.

### **5.4. Nort African ostriches**

## **CHAD**

The Government of the Republic of Chad, with the support of its technical and financial partners through the Protected Areas and Fragile Ecosystems of Chad program (APEF) and



POROA, organized a workshop to approve Chad's National Ostrich Strategy on 23 June 2021 in N'Djamena. This strategy will now serve as a policy document and petition to promote the conservation of this endangered species.

Within this framework, with the support of the Oryx project and the technical assistance of the South African veterinarian Dr Willem Burger, a specialist in North African ostriches, nine ostriches aged 1.5 years (and from the first transfer from Zakouma in 2020), were fitted with satellite transmitters and released into the reserve at the beginning of September 2021. Three adults (1 male and 2 females) were kept in an enclosure for reproduction. Before their release, an information and awareness-raising meeting for the 27 Canton chiefs and administrative authorities was organized at the Oryx base camp.

A second transfer of 15 ostrich chicks from Zakouma National Park to the Oryx base camp took place in March 2021 in collaboration with African Parks Network.

Accordingly, thirty-four ostrich chicks have been transferred from Zakouma to OROAGR since 2020. At the end of 2021, 13 ostrich chicks are still in the enclosure. They will be released in September 2022 once they are 18 months old.

## **NIGER**

SCF is responsible for managing the sites of Kellé and Mainé-Soroa, with the aim of producing enough ostrich chicks on these captive breeding sites to allow the species to be reintroduced. At the end of 2021, there are 45 ostriches on our two breeding sites (30 in Kellé and 15 in Mainé-Soroa). All the individuals have been orally vaccinated against Newcastle's disease.

This year has seen the move from a captive breeding and artificial incubation center in Kellé to an active reintroduction project with nine ostrich chicks transported to Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve at the end of November, with the participation of DFC, SCF's team and representatives from GBR's Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU). Aged 10, 7, 5 and 3 weeks old, the ostrich chicks transferred were divided into two enclosures according to age. They will be able to be reintroduced into the reserve in 16 months' time, when the ostrich chicks have almost reached adult size.

Awareness raising among the main stakeholders was conducted in the two areas ahead of the transfer to inform them of the operation and its aims and primarily to familiarize them with the conservation of this species.

The fertility of the eggs and the mortality of the ostrich chicks remain one of the main difficulties for breeding North African ostriches in the sites managed by SCF. It is indispensable to obtain sufficiently large groups of ostrich chicks to carry out other transfers to GBR and strengthen the existing population.

With regard to the infrastructure, a larger new enclosure was built for the ostrich chicks in Kellé.

The gardening activities resumed at the beginning of the year on the Kellé site and the first lettuces for the ostrich chicks were available in early February. As well as lettuce production for the ostrich chicks, this garden is helping to develop Kellé's rural community, providing an income-generating activity for the women who grow it and benefit from their production.

In parallel to the management of the Kellé and Mainé-Soroa sites, occasional assistance with feeding the North African ostriches on the Iférouane breeding site, supervised by RNNAT's Coordinator, was given this year.

## **5.5. Vultures**

### **NIGER**

Since 2008, SCF has initiated a program for monitoring vulture nests in Niger to improve knowledge of the distribution and ecology of these birds and study their reproduction, while raising awareness among the main players about vulture conservation and the threats weighing on these species.

In 2021, three different species of vultures (Rüppell's vulture, Egyptian vulture and white-headed vulture) were monitored by SCF's teams on the Koutous massif and in GBR during the reproduction period.

In parallel, awareness-raising work on vultures, and the illicit hunting and trade of which they are victims, continued in the regions of Zinder and Maradi among the main stakeholders. Activities to build the capacities of the competent authorities against the traffic and use of vulture parts by application of the law were also organized at DRE level in Zinder and Maradi. In particular, officials were trained in identifying the different vulture species, the conservation and protection status of vultures in Niger, the laws and their application.

The production and distribution of communication resources tailored to different audiences represented an effective and lasting means of conveying the messages: vulture conservation guides, T-shirts and scarves, leaflets and posters.

An awareness-raising campaign was conducted concerning the indirect poisoning of vultures and its consequences, particularly regarding the use of strychnine. Announcements encompassing all these messages were broadcast on the community radios of several villages, reaching thousands of people.

Educational and awareness-raising activities towards younger generations were also carried out this year in the town of Kellé as part of the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE project. SCF relied on primary schools and Kellé high school, providing them with educational material and taking part in events such as prizegiving for the best primary school pupils in Kellé. Likewise, similar activities were carried out in schools in the Koutous massif.

Finally, with the assistance of the EV New LIFE project and Saint Louis Zoo, an Egyptian vulture taken from a poacher in the Koutous massif and temporarily placed in Gouré's

Departmental Directorate was recovered by SCF's team and secured on the Kellé site. The vulture was in poor health during its transfer and needed several months' rehabilitation. With technical advice from the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds (BSPB) and Green Balkans Wildlife Rehabilitation and Breeding Centre, an aviary was built. The vulture was named "Sa'a" meaning "Chance" in Hausa. It now enjoys tailored care and is doing well.

## **5.6. West African giraffes**

### **NIGER**

As part of the collaboration with Giraffe Conservation Foundation and following the deterioration of the health and safety situation in the "giraffe area" near Niamey, a new type of long-term monitoring was put in place at the end of 2020, in collaboration with the guides from the Association for the Promotion of Ecotourism in Niger and continued in 2021. The aims of this monitoring are to determine the state of the giraffe population, its annual distribution and the giraffe distribution patterns in the "giraffe area".

As in the case of a transect survey, the different areas were studied systematically. The giraffes observed were registered and photographed, along with any interesting behavior or any identified threat. In total, 1,260 giraffe observations were recorded this year. After data processing, 447 giraffes, 62% of which were female, were identified.

Jointly in collaboration with the Czech University of Life Sciences and GCF, monitoring the giraffes fitted with GPS transmitters in the central area (Kouré) continued and made it possible to highlight that giraffes in Niger had a very large home range; the largest in Africa.

Finally, the regular long-term monitoring initiated for the satellite population of the eight giraffes translocated to GBR at the end of 2018 continued in 2021. Two rangers continued to daily monitor the giraffes to collect as much information as possible regarding their state of health, social dynamic and spatial ecology (movements, use of habitat, etc.). They also continued to raise awareness among the surrounding populations about the importance of protecting giraffes.

Two females seem pregnant, which confirms their adaptation to the environment. According to the observations made, the oldest female is set to give birth in early 2022.

In parallel, a study aiming to assess the reserve's carrying capacity was conducted in collaboration with the Czech University of Life Sciences this year. Two missions were carried out in May and October to be able to compare the differences between the dry season and the rainy season. The data were collected according to a protocol that consisted in photographing samples of tree species targeted, to measure their characteristics and assess the surface area of the canopy and grazable biomass. The final results will be presented in 2022.

## 6. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

### 6.1. Rebranding

In 2021, the Board of Directors wished to make a change to the organization's brand image and change the name "Sahara Conservation Fund".

The logo was thus refreshed and the typography altered to give a more modern image that reflects our identity and is in line with the codes of the sector.

It was decided to change "Sahara Conservation Fund" to "SaharaConservation" to better reflect our actions and core business.

### 6.2. 2025 Strategic plan

The drafting of a strategic plan began with a participatory process involving the members of the in-countries teams in Chad and Niger, the Paris team and members of the Board of Directors. The first draft of the strategic plan was presented during an online workshop.

Following these discussions, the content was finalized in December 2021 and once again submitted for a final examination.

The new 2025 strategic plan will be launched during the 2022 meeting of the Sahel and Sahara Interest Group.

### 6.3. 2021 Board of Directors

Roseline C. Beudels-Jamar, *Chair*

Fred Nelson, *Chair*

Bill Houston, *Vice-chair*

Julie Crenn, *Treasurer*

Karen Sausman, *Treasurer*

Koen de Smet, *Secretary*

Tim Woodfine

Mark Stanley Price

Jean-Marie Weber

François Lamarque

Terrie Correll (\*)

Justin Chuyen (\*)

(\*) New members since 2021

## 6.4. Team

FRANCE	CHAD
<p>John Watkin, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>            Benoît Menvielle, <i>Chief Financial Officer</i>            Violeta Barrios, <i>Program manager</i>            Katia Guyon-Lacroze, <i>Chief accountant</i>            John Newby, <i>Senior advisor</i>            Yasmina Khaznawi, <i>Communications officer</i>            Félix Duval, <i>intern</i>            Orlane Aquilina, <i>intern</i></p>	<p>Abdelkarim Youssouf Mahamat            Abdourassoul Ahmat Mahamat            Adam Yacouma            Ahamat Sabne            Ahamat Youssouf            Aklabach Ali Djiddi            Ali Hamit Habib            Arrachid Ahmat Ibrahim            Caleb Ngaba Waye Taroum            Dana Mahamat            Débi Ali            Désiré Douassem            Doldiguim Dieudinné Kephas            Evariste Djibkibeng Malbe            Firmin Dingamtebeye            François Madjitigal            Habib Ali            Hamdé Brahim            Henry Bailey            Hissein Adoum            Hisseine Abdarahim            Hiti Ngaryanouba            Honoré Todjibaye Midjigüe            Jérôme Hugonot            Kalle Dakou            Khalid Rahama            Kongar Victor            Loutfallah Al            Mahamat Hissein Zakaria            Mahamat Hamit Kouchi            Marc Dethier            Mikaila Moussa            Nathalie Kabria Aguidi            Ouchar Mahamat Ahmat            Ousman Daoud Mahamat            Souleymane Abakar            Taboye Abdelkerim Ben            Takadji Nanga Yanga            Yacoub Hassaballah Hagry            Zara Abdoulaye</p>
NIGER	
<p>Abba Mamane            Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou            Abdoul Razakou Abdou Mahamadou            Ahmed Oumarou            Alhousseini Idi            Amadou Amadou            Amounane Aghali            Cloé Pourchier            Hamed Akalto            Harouna Moussa            Maimounatou Ibrahim Mamadou            Moussa Elezey            Oumarou Ousseini            Souley Kouato Larwanou            Adamou Babayaya            Torodo Koiné            Habou Idi</p>	

A large, leafless tree stands in a dry, open landscape. A bird is flying in the sky above the tree. The text "FINANCIAL REPORT" is overlaid on the tree.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31/12/2021

# 1. FINANCES

SCF and its subsidiary SCF-Europe are non-profit, legally constituted, non-governmental nature-conservation organizations. SCF was established in 2007 as a non-profit organization in the State of Missouri (United States) and is classed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the US Internal Revenue Service (tax identification number: 26-0171939). SCF-Europe was established in 2016 under the French Law of Associations 1901.

## 1.1. 2021 main income from donations

SCF's donors are mainly from the United States and Europe. They provide a generous core support to SCF as well as funding for our projects in the field; each one of them is making a precious contribution to our mission. SCF thanks them all for standing with us during 2021.

### DONATIONS > US\$ 10,000

- Alexander Family Fund
- Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
- Zoo de St Louis

### DONATIONS US\$ 1,000 – 10,000

- Al Ain Zoo
- Alabama Safari Park
- Conservation Center for Species Survival
- Dallas Zoo
- Lion Country Safari
- Anne Metcalf
- Planète Sauvage Nature
- Safari West
- Zoo Hannover
- Zoo de Montpellier
- Zoological Association of America

### DONATIONS < US\$ 1,000

Alliance Member Services, Biodune Riviera, Bright Fund, Buffalo Zoo, Celina Brandt, Cheryl Chintella, Zachary Dvornicky-Raymond, Adam Eyres, Gregory Greenwood, John Grettenberger Kathi Gross, Tony Hixson, Kyla Johnson, Matthew Kirwin, Michael Lowery, Michael M. Rader, Steve Monfort, Nature Picture Library, Network for Good, Philip Perry, Brooke Rose, Amazon Smile, Edward Spevak, William Stallsmith, Claric Uba, Nicolas Webb, Patrick Zehr.

## 1.2. 2021 project partners

Our highly qualified technical and financial partners join forces with us to protect the threatened biodiversity of the Sahel and Sahara.

	<b>SCF US (US\$)</b>	<b>SCF-Europe (€)</b>
Addax & Oryx Foundation		8,475
Al Ain Zoo	11,605	
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds		20,000
Chessington zoo		5,832
Convention on Migratory Species		15,627
Detroit Zoological Society	5,000	
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi	1,633,379	
Ecohealth Alliance	4,578	
European Union		750,000
Fort Wayne Zoo	10,000	
Giraffe Conservation Foundation	27,996	
St Louis Zoo	19,500	
St Louis Zoo - Anonymous donor #2	33,500	
The African Bird Club	4,078	
The Rufford Foundation	7,939	
Zoo Atlanta	180	
Miscellaneous income	353,882	
<b>Total project income 2021</b>	<b>2,111,637</b>	<b>799,934</b>
	<b>SCF US (US\$)</b>	<b>SCF-Europe (€)</b>
Total project income 2021	2,111,637	799,934
Total donations 2021	271,427	10,492
<b>TOTAL INCOME 2021</b>	<b>2,383,064</b>	<b>810,426</b>



### 1.3. Expenditure per country and project

SCF and SCF-Europe are grateful to receive funds to support their conservation efforts from various sources, including individuals, conservation partners, private entities, and bilateral and multilateral donors.

For 2021, SCF's budget amounted to around 2.4 million dollars and SCF-Europe's budget to almost seven hundred and ninety thousand euros.

		SCF US (US\$)	SCF-Europe (€)
Secretariat		107,085	553,265
Support for operations		646,275	
SSIG			8,625
<i>Programs costs</i>			
Chad	Oryx reintroduction	1,554,369	586
	POROA	342,631	1,076,625
	ALBIA	120,000	17,548
	Addax	11,033	
Niger	Dama gazelle monitoring	22,768	
	Vulture conservation	14,930	18,414
	West African giraffe monitoring	39,290	
	North African ostrich breeding	58,301	5,251
	Addax	10,946	
	Humanitarian missions		9,171
Morocco	Addax	3,800	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2020</b>		<b>2,931,428</b>	<b>1,689,485</b>