



# 2022 Annual report



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Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou

# EDITORIAL

Dear partners, colleagues, and friends of Sahara Conservation,

It gives me great satisfaction to present Sahara Conservation's annual report for 2022. The world is gradually emerging from the pandemic that disrupted our lives and activities. This development is allowing us to return to the field, to our passionate teams and, above all, to the magnificent animals of the Sahara and Sahel regions that we protect with such commitment.

2022 was marked by an event of the utmost importance for biodiversity conservation: the conclusion of COP15 with the Kunming-Montreal agreement. This agreement set 23 key targets aiming to check the decline of biodiversity by 2030. Three of these targets are essential and form an integral part of our mission. Our commitment to reducing to zero the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, protecting at least 30% of land by 2030, and halting the human-induced extinction of threatened species, as well as encouraging their recovery, is stronger than ever.

In Chad, 2022 marked a major turning point for Sahara Conservation. We successfully completed the POROA project, which led to the presentation of an unprecedented management plan for the reserve. This major advance will serve as a cornerstone for our future efforts. Moreover, I'm extremely keen to share with you the fantastic increase in the number of scimitar-horned oryx in Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve. Every day, we are moving a little closer to our ambitious goal of reaching 500 healthy adult individuals. This success is the fruit of relentless work, exemplary cooperation, and your unfailing support.



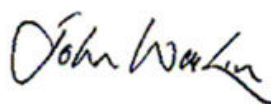
Jaime Dias - Wings for Conservation

In Niger, we have also successfully completed the Egyptian Vulture New Life project. For five years, it has intensified efforts to conserve Egyptian vultures in Niger, providing the necessary proof of the main threats hanging over these species and setting up innovative actions. The results obtained are extremely satisfactory and demonstrate the positive impact of the actions undertaken in collaboration with the different stakeholders. This joint fight against vulture hunting and trafficking has borne fruit and significantly contributed to conserving this iconic species.

This year, Sahara Conservation also entered a new era. In March, we revealed our new name, logo, and strategic plan for 2025. These changes symbolize our desire to evolve and adapt to the current conservation challenges. They also demonstrate our continued commitment to remaining at the cutting edge of innovation and efficacy.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to all those who have contributed to our success and positive impact. Together, we form a passionate community committed to conserving our planet's natural heritage. Despite the challenges that we face, I am convinced that our determination and collaboration will enable us to meet the challenges to come and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Watkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Watkin".

**JOHN WATKIN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Abdoul Razakou Abdou Mahamadou

# ACTIVITY REPORT

# 1 – INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Sahara Conservation

Sahara Conservation Fund was established in 2004 and is a registered (501c3) not-for-profit organization in the United States. Sahara Conservation Fund – Europe was established separately in 2016 under the French law on non-profit organizations (1901). Offices in Niger and Chad are registered in these countries with authorization to conduct conservation activities.

### VISION

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

### MISSION

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 The organization

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Roseline C. Beudels-Jamar** – *Chair*  
**Justin Chuven**  
**Terrie Correll**  
**Julie Crenn** – *Treasurer*  
**Koen de Smet** – *Secretary*  
**Bill Houston** – *Vice-chair*  
**Francois Lamarque**  
**Fred Nelson**  
**Karen Sausman**  
**Tim Woodfine**

### THE TEAM IN FRANCE

**John Watkin** – *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Violeta Barrios** – *Program Manager*  
**Katia Guyon-Lacroze** – *Chief Accountant*  
**Julie Martin** – *Communications Manager*  
**Benoît Menvielle** – *Chief Financial Officer*  
**John Newby** – *Senior Advisor*  
**Cloé Pourchier** – *Program Officer*





## THE TEAM IN TCHAD

Abdelkarim Youssouf Mahamat  
 Abdelkerim Mahamat Youssouf  
 Abdourassoul Ahmat Mahamat  
 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  
 Hissein Adoum  
 Hisseine Abdarahim  
 Hiti Ngaryanouba

Honoré Todjibaye Midjigue  
 Jérôme Hugonot  
 Kalle Dakou  
 Khalid Rahama  
 Kher Issackha Kher  
 Kongar Victor  
 Loutfallah Al  
 Mahamat Hamit Kouchi  
 Mahamat Hissein Zakaria  
 Marc Dethier  
 Mikaila Moussa  
 Michel Nya Dergué  
 Nathalie Kabria Aguidi  
 Nathan Djégolbé Watadé  
 Ouchar Mahamat Ahmat  
 Oumar Mahamat Annadif  
 Ousman Daoud Mahamat  
 Souleymane Abakar  
 Taboye Abdelkerim Ben  
 Takadji Nanga Yanga  
 Yacoub Hassaballah Hagry  
 Zara Abdoulaye

## THE TEAM IN NIGER

Abba Mamane  
 Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou  
 Abdoul Razakou Abdou Mahamadou  
 Adamou Babayaya  
 Ahmed Oumarou  
 Alhousseini Idi  
 Amadou Amadou  
 Amounane Aghali

Habou Idi  
 Hamed Akalto  
 Harouna Moussa  
 Maimounatou Ibrahim Mamadou  
 Moussa Elezey  
 Oumarou Ousseini  
 Souley Kouato Larwanou  
 Torodo Koiné

## 1.3 The highlights of 2022

### POROA

The POROA project came to a close in December after four years. Its completion resulted in the drafting and approval of the 2023-2032 Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve Management Plan.

Since its creation in 1969, the reserve never had this kind of management support tool. The plan is based on zoning work for the reserve, allowing the creation of strict conservation areas in which grazing, farming and livestock watering activities will be heavily regulated. The plan lays the future legal foundations to reduce anthropogenic pressure within these strict conservation areas and attempt to protect their ecosystems.

### DAMA GAZELLES

On March 14, the first translocation of five dama gazelles from Abu Dhabi to Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve in Chad took place.

### OPERATION SAHEL II

A second translocation of giraffes was successfully carried out in November, in partnership with the Niger government, the Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Project, Giraffe Conservation Foundation, and Wild Africa Conservation. Four giraffes were transferred from the “Giraffe area” to the Gadabeji Biosphere Reserve. The four giraffes, young females, along with two others from the “Giraffe area” were fitted with transmitters to monitor their movements. They were successfully released into the reserve, where they quickly joined the population of resident giraffes.

## 2 – CHAMPIONING SAHARAN BIODIVERSITY

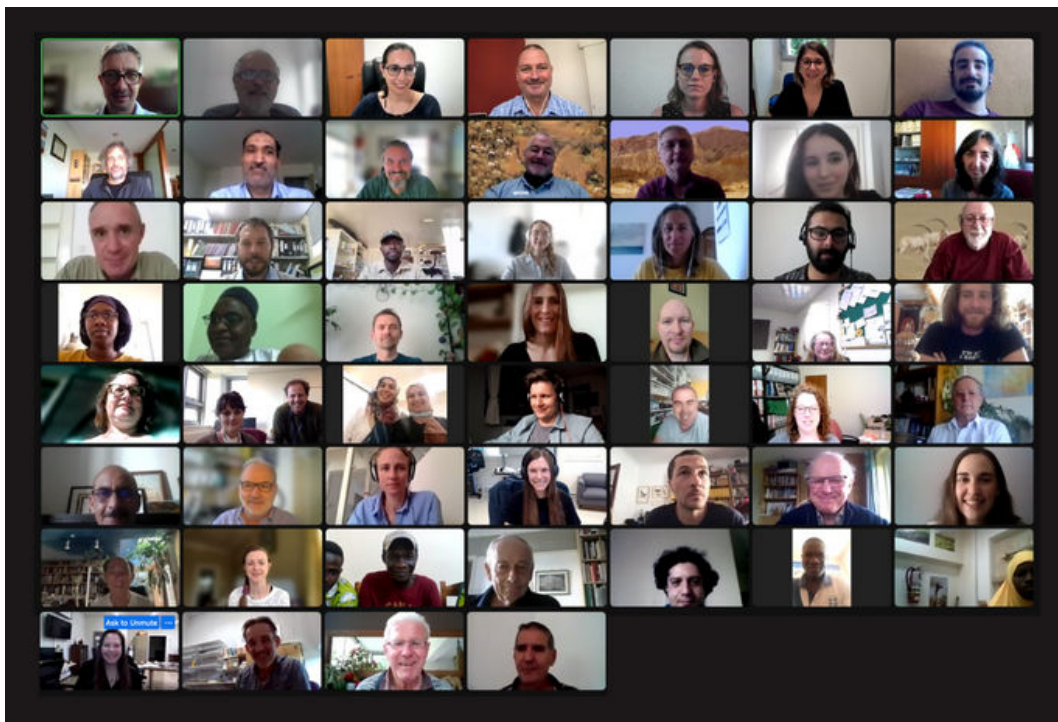
### 2.1 The Zoom meeting of the Sahel & Sahara Interest Group

Since 2001, the meeting of the Sahel & Sahara Interest Group (SSIG) has been an annual forum for all those working to conserve wildlife in the arid areas of North Africa and the Middle East. Led by Sahara Conservation's Science & Conservation Committee, the meeting is an opportunity to come together to share ideas and projects and continue a strong tradition of collaboration on behalf of the wildlife and populations of the Sahel and Sahara.

This year, the meeting was once again held online and participants were able to attend 29 presentations, based on the three following themes:

- Management models for protected areas, interactions between Humans and wildlife, and opportunities in the Sahelo-Saharan biome
- Scientific studies on the conservation of wildlife and its habitats
- Adaptation to changes in lifestyle, technologies and behavior

Over 210 people from 37 different countries signed up for the meeting.



Entamée fin 2021, la refonte de l'image de Sahara Conservation s'est traduite le 3 mars 2022 par le lancement de notre nouveau nom :

Sahara Conservation Fund a laissé la place à **Sahara Conservation**.



## 2.2 Communications

Begun in late 2021, Sahara Conservation's rebranding resulted in the launch of our new name on March 3, 2022: Sahara Conservation Fund made way for **Sahara Conservation**.

This new name comes with a new logo, a more balanced graphic design, a more modern, forward-looking font, and a new graphics charter.

A website redesign project was also begun and will come into being in 2023.



This new visual identity accompanies our 2022-2025 strategic plan presented in May 2022 during the annual SSIG meeting.

In October, we celebrated the publication of the 30th issue of Sandscript, our biannual publication. On this occasion, Sandscript changed in terms of both format, to adapt to our new charter, and content, to now take a thematic approach to conservation. The issue was dedicated to the veterinary aspects of conservation and the inestimable contributions veterinarians make to Sahara Conservation's projects in Chad.

## 2.3 Events

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

### APAC

On Monday, July 18, the first Africa Protected Areas Congress opened in Kigali in Rwanda. More than 2,000 participants from 52 African countries and elsewhere got together to debate the actions to be carried out to promote protected and conserved areas in Africa.

With a view to giving a voice to Sahelo-Saharan biodiversity, which is often neglected on the conservation agenda, Sahara Conservation was able to present its work in Chad at the Central Africa Forests Commission pavilion, where Abdramane Chaïbo, Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas in Chad, introduced the presentation given by Arrachid Ahmat Ibrahim, Sahara Conservation Director of the support project for the development of Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve (POROA).

### WEST AFRICAN VULTURE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

In a global effort to stop vultures' rapid decline, BirdLife International and NCF Nigeria organized a West African vulture conservation workshop in Abuja, Nigeria, in October.

As a local vulture conservation player, Sahara Conservation took part in this workshop. Our aim is to draw up a multi-species vulture conservation strategy, focused on responding to the threat posed by the slaughter of six vulture species in the West Africa sub-region due to traditional beliefs.

## **ONE HEALTH WEBINAR**

At the end of October, for the first time, Sahara Conservation organized a webinar bringing together more than 60 participants on the role of the “One Health” approach in conservation in the Sahel and Sahara regions. To introduce the conference, we had the good fortune of welcoming Dr. Richard Ngandolo Bongo Nare, epidemiologist, specialist in microbiology and animal health, and Head of the Animal Health Department at the Livestock Research Institute for Development (IREDA) in Chad.

## **PAN-AFRICAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**

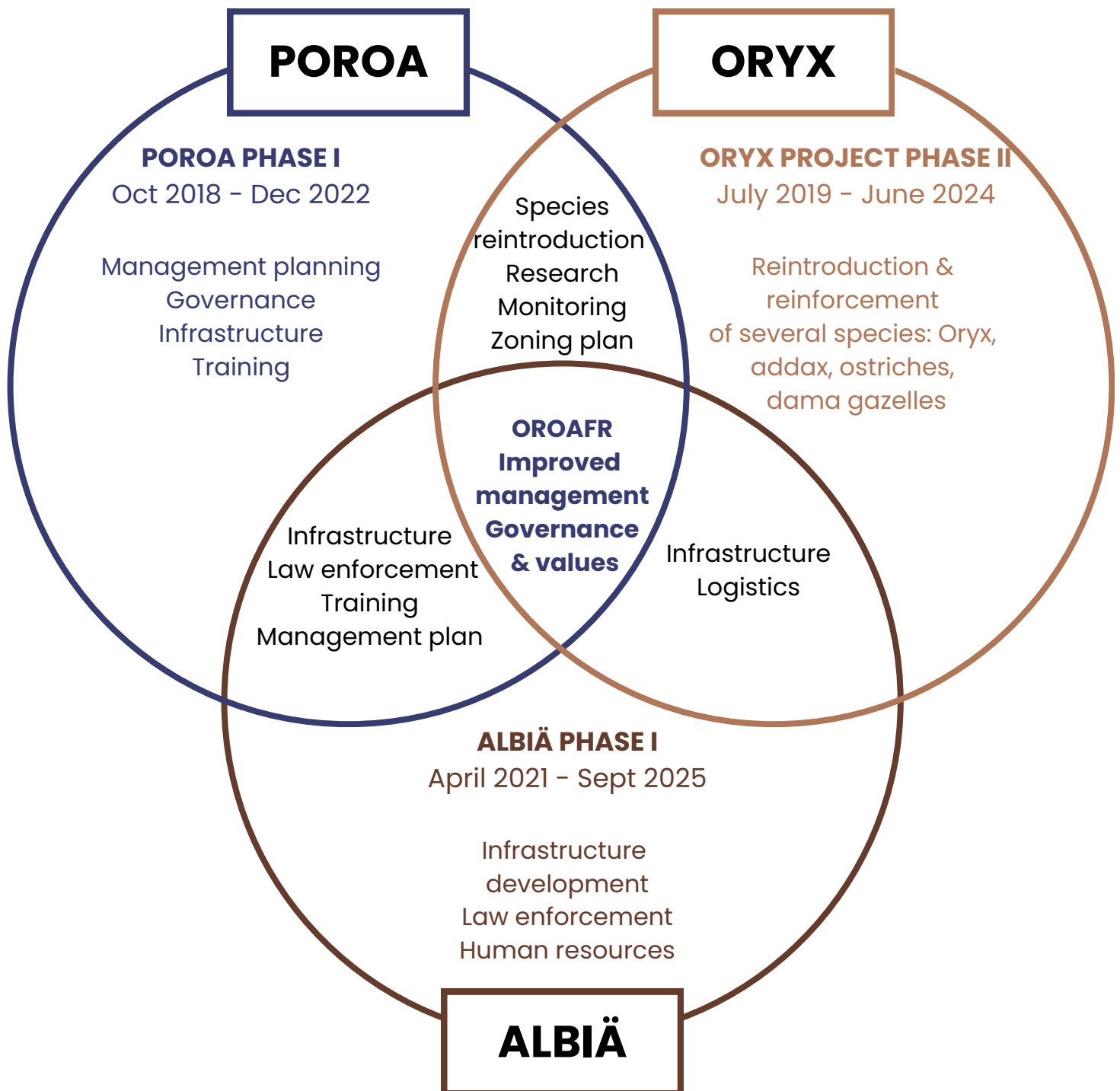
At the end of November, the Pan-African Ornithological Congress, organized by BirdLife Zimbabwe, was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Over 275 delegates from 55 nations around the world, professional and amateur ornithologists, met to discuss and promote the conservation of African birds as an integral part of African heritage.

Violeta Barrios, Program Manager, presented the projects implemented by Sahara Conservation to stop the decline in African vultures in Niger and Chad.

### 3 – LANDSCAPES CONSERVATION

Our three projects in Chad are structured as follows:





## 3.1 ALBIÄ – Chad

In 2021, Sahara Conservation signed the agreement for the delegated project management of activities within the framework of the ALBIÄ project, funded by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility.

Over a four-and-a-half-year period, the activities carried out by Sahara Conservation within the framework of this project will improve the infrastructure, management, and conservation of Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve (OROAFR).

2022 was devoted to setting up and consolidating the structure, and administrative and organizational milestones for the project to run smoothly.

In this respect, we submitted an environmental and social impact assessment in January, then carried out a zoning mission of the OROAFR.

## 3.2 POROA – Chad

### MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### **2022 was the fourth and final year of the POROA project.**

Since October 2018, in partnership with the Chad government's wildlife department, the project improved the management and infrastructure of the vast Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve spanning 77,950 km<sup>2</sup> in Chad. One of the main outcomes is the participatory development of a management plan for the reserve, involving the four main provinces that make up the reserve and provide access rights to local communities and farmers who depend on natural resources.

Over these four years, many achievements have been made, including:

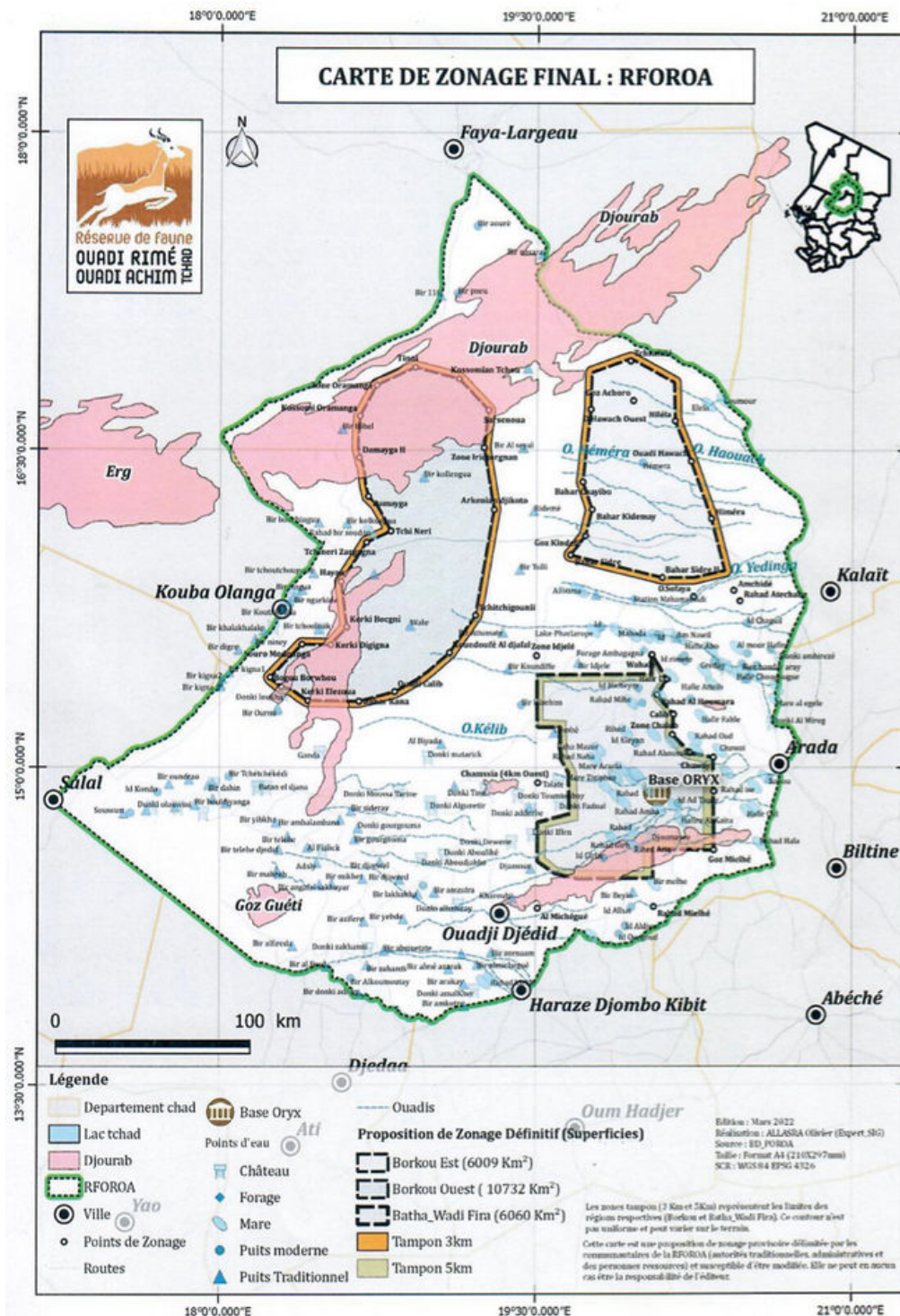
- infrastructure development, including the construction of two offices for guards and two patrol posts inside the reserve,
- capacity building in terms of fighting against poaching for area managers in the reserve and their deputies,
- managerial training in Cameroon of an area manager and two guards
- training of 40 ecoguards to carry out law enforcement missions,
- training of 50 ecoguards on law enforcement, human rights, legal procedures, fighting bush fires, and environmental education,
- training of 10 ecoguards in rescue and first-aid services,
- launch of a One Health project in OROAFR.

#### **The completion of these four years resulted in the drafting and approval of the 2023–2032 Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve Management Plan.**

On September 1, a national OROAFR Management Plan approval workshop, organized jointly by the Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development and Sahara Conservation, was held in N'Djamena. The plan was approved by the representatives of the sector-based Ministries, in the presence of the technical and financial partners, NGOS working in the area, along with the administrative and traditional authorities of the areas concerned (70 participants).

Since its creation in 1969, the reserve never had this kind of management support tool. The plan is based on zoning work for the reserve, drawn up ahead of the drafting of the plan. This zoning allowed the creation of strict conservation areas in which grazing, farming and livestock watering activities will be heavily regulated. In the future, this will give a legal basis to reduce anthropogenic pressure within these strict conservation areas and attempt to protect their ecosystems.

POROA's closing workshop was held on December 13, 2022 in N'Djamena.



## TRAINING

During this final year of the project, over fifty or so rangers in the reserve enjoyed themed, theoretical, and practical training on the fight against poaching, legal procedures, law enforcement connected with respecting human rights, fighting bush fires, etc.

## FIGHTING BUSH FIRES IN OROAFR

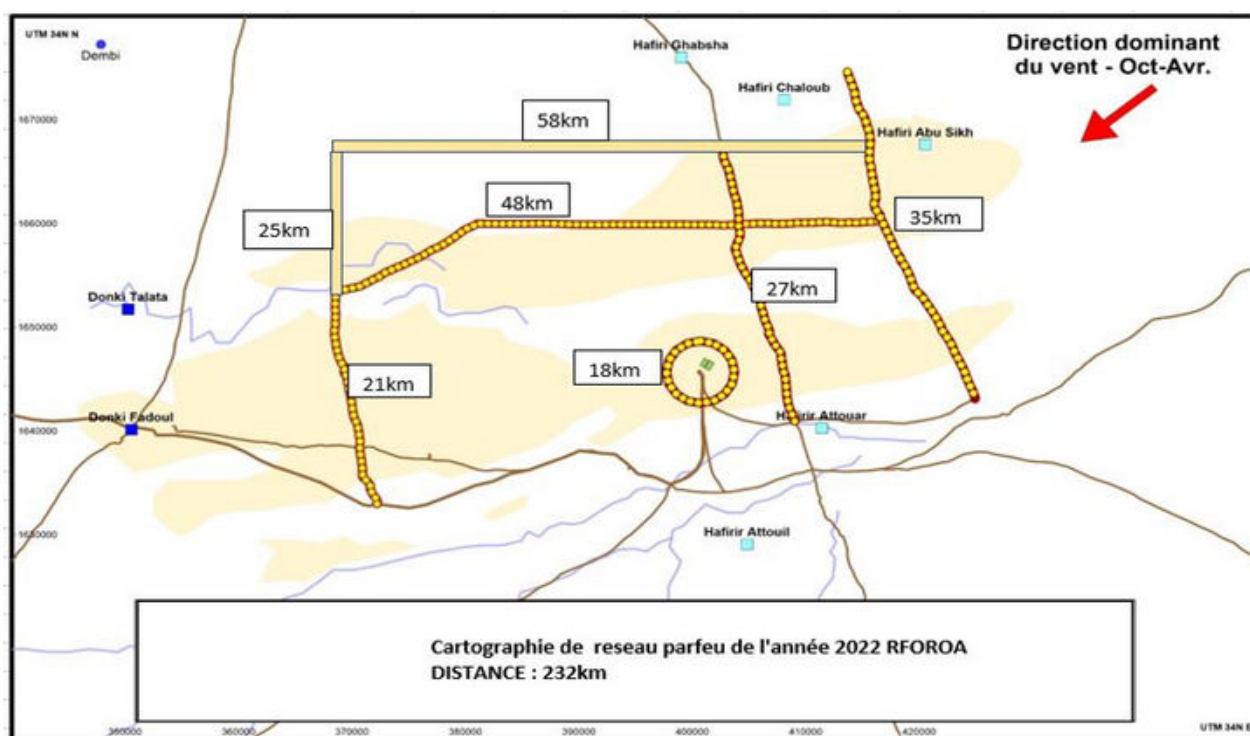
From October to December 2022, a team was formed to take charge of the fight against bush fires and create around 232 km of firebreaks.

Bush fires represent a recurrent threat that has been difficult to treat to date by the competent local authorities and administrations. These fires are responsible for the loss of considerable grazing areas, both for wildlife and livestock. They destroy perennial plants, microfauna, and the nests of birds that nest on the ground – such as bustards – thus impoverishing OROAFR's plant biodiversity. They require a separate team to be set up, dedicated to fighting bush fires, due to the extra workload, which can be extreme and cannot be the responsibility of the permanent staff.

The fires are almost all started due to carelessness (cigarette butts, fire pits not extinguished properly, etc.) by "fraudsters", who are gold diggers or traders trafficking between the north (Libya, Sudan, etc.) and Chad towns further south. In order to avoid road checks on the national roads, they travel through the bush, including the wildlife reserve, from north to south and south to north.

At present, 2,668 km<sup>2</sup> is protected by the firebreaks. Considering that 95% of the oryx occupy a 6,533-km area, this represents 40% of the surface area (20% in 2021).

### 2022 Firebreak network mapping





## OROAFR ONE HEALTH PROJECT

Currently, awareness-raising efforts are ineffective and the lack of enforcement of the law means that farmers continue to cross the reserve, passing close to the enclosures. They even knowingly let their livestock enter the 3 km-radius circular area at night where the pastureland protected from bush fires is of good quality.

After the mass mortality event that impacted the scimitar-horned oryx in 2018, the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (SNZCBI) initiated a collaboration with Sahara Conservation, the University of Edinburgh, IRED, the Animal Health Division, the Department of Veterinary Services, and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) to better understand the diseases that circulate among wildlife and livestock in the OROAFR.

From September 23 to October 1, 2022, a team carried out a mission in the reserve to collect biological samples from camels, cows, sheep, and goats, and administer veterinary products to sick animals. It was organized in four stages:

- Information and awareness-raising phase
- Training phase for 7 interviewers for data collection
- Interviewer deployment phase: 212 households were questioned
- Sample collection and sick animal treatment phase: 400 samples collected.



Stephanie Brien – Royal (Dick) School of veterinary studies, Université d'Edimbourg

### 3.3 Humanitarian health monitoring program for remote populations in the Sahel and Sahara area

Working with local populations to promote their access to healthcare and guarantee a fair and sustainable environment for all is at the heart of Sahara Conservation's mission.

#### CHAD

In 2022, the Environmental Education caravan made it possible to spread OROAFR promotional and biodiversity protection messages, in collaboration with Albiher health district. 3,000 people were made aware about the use of long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets (LLINs) and 180 women were informed about prenatal visits.

Malaria vaccines were able to be administered to children aged between 3 months and 5 years, living in the reserve and its outskirts.

Through these humanitarian actions, our aim is also to raise greater awareness about the need to conserve natural resources among the communities.



Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou



## NIGER

In Niger, we have been working for some fifteen years with local doctors, in partnership with Esafro, to allow remote populations to enjoy basic medical care and develop initiatives to raise awareness and include the communities in our wildlife protection activities.

Initially conducted in the Termit and Tin Touma National Nature Reserve, the humanitarian missions are now carried out in Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve (GBR) and Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve, two protected areas in Niger.



In the GBR, in total, almost 300 Peuhl and Tuareg patients, including 50 children, were able to consult a healthcare professional during the two missions carried out this year. Clothing was also given to children in the local communities.

We organized a dental care mission in the Timia and Tin Telloust health centers, making it possible to visit 145 patients. Few doctors specialize in mouth care, which makes it very hard to access despite high demand.

A traveling healthcare mission also took place, with the aim of providing care to populations living in remote camps with limited access to health centers. During this mission, 100 people were seen and treated, most of whom were women/girls.





# 4 – SPECIES CONSERVATION

## 4.1 Scimitar-horned oryx

### CHAD

On March 14, 2022, in other words exactly six years after oryx first arrived in the reserve, an eleventh group of 20 oryx from Abu Dhabi arrived in Abéché and were transferred during the night to the pre-release enclosure. These animals were fitted with a GPS collar later in the year, in August, and then released into the reserve.

The second arrival initially scheduled for November 2022 had to be cancelled due to a security incident that occurred earlier in the year.

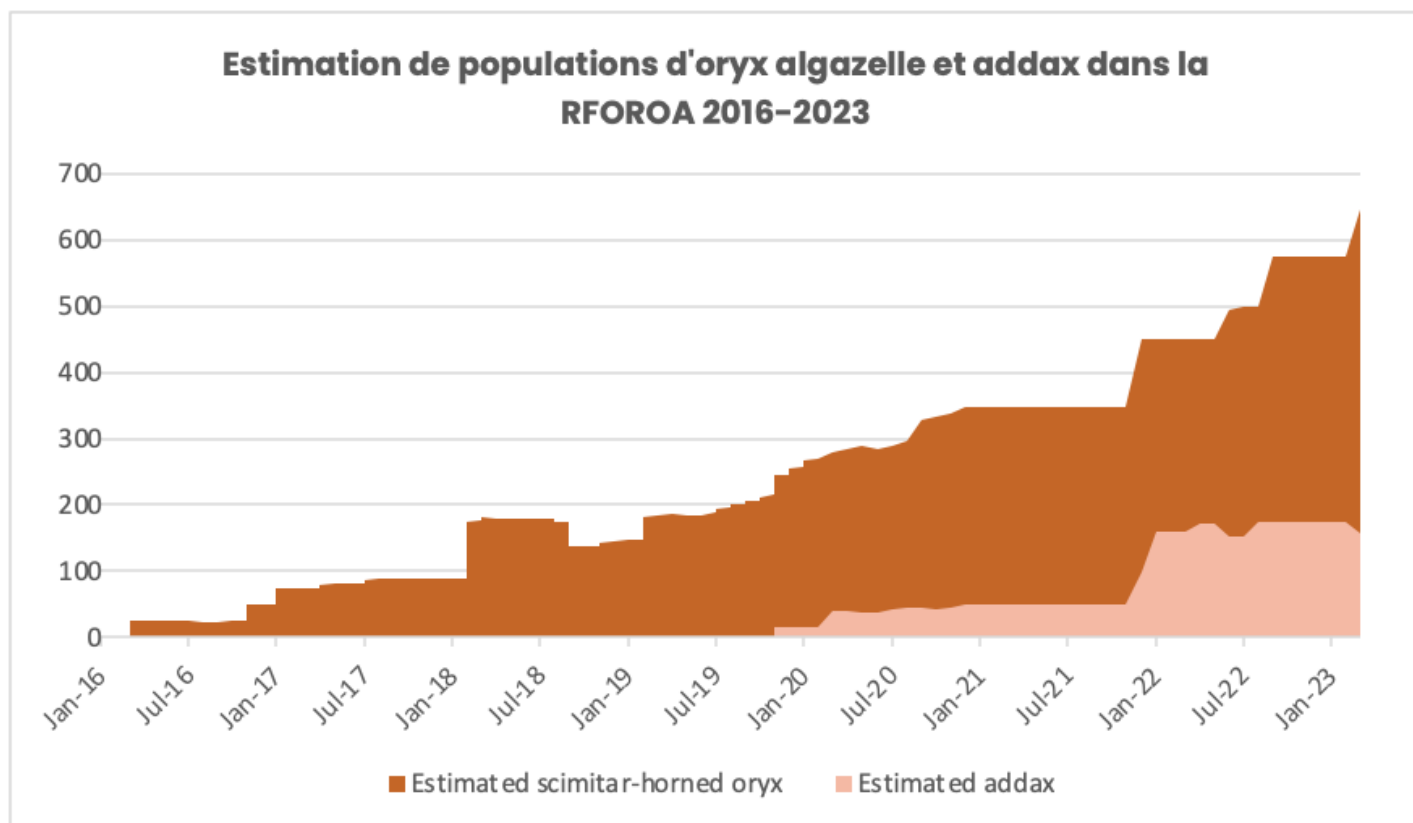


© Jaime Dias/Wings for Conservation

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

	Year of release							Total
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Scimitar-horned oryx released	23	60	78	49	25	25	20	<b>280</b>
Addax released	-	-	-	-	40	25	25	<b>90</b>

**At the end of 2022, we estimate the scimitar-horned oryx population in Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve to be 537.**





## 4.2 Addax

### CHAD

This unique animal is at the heart of Sahara Conservation's history and mission. On March 7, a fourth group of 25 addax arrived at Abéché. These animals were fitted with GPS collars in July and released in August 2022.

**At the end of 2022, we estimate the addax population in Ouadi Rimé – Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve to be 144.**



### NIGER

Within the framework of the "Fight against illegal slaughter and the disturbance of Sahelo-Saharan megafauna" project, implemented by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), in collaboration with the Niger government and with funding from the German government, Sahara Conservation was called on to fit satellite tracking collars on wild addax in Termit and Tin Toumma National Nature Reserve in February.



A preparatory mission was carried out in January to organize the logistical aspects required for the smooth running of the collar-fitting phase, particularly identification on the ground of a landing strip for the plane and an access road for the truck.

Between February 14 and 27, an international team led by John Newby (Sahara Conservation) and made up of a veterinarian specializing in restraining wild animals and fitting collars (Charlotte Moueix), a cameraman (Sean Viljoen), an airplane pilot (Jaime Dias from Wings for Conservation), a helicopter pilot (Timothy Flowers) and its mechanic (Kevin Powell) came to Niger. The team was based between Zinder and the Termit massif. Following a number of weather, administrative, and logistical constraints, the main aim unfortunately could not be achieved and no addax were spotted during the mission.

## 4.3 Dama gazelles

### CHAD

To reinforce the dama gazelle population in the OROAFR, a captive breeding program was put in place at the Oryx base and the enclosures were adapted to this end. On March 14, 2022, 12 dama gazelles were present in the enclosures in the reserve.

#### **First translocation of dama gazelles to OROAFR**

On March 14, an Ilyushin 76 landed in Abéché with 20 oryx and — for the first time since the beginning of the translocations from Abu Dhabi — 5 dama gazelles (female) on board. Initially placed for two days in a small temporary enclosure to closely observe their movements, the gazelles were then released to join the male in the enclosure.



Jon Llona Minguez - Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

2022 saw a certain number of births and mortalities, taking the total number of dama gazelles in captivity in the enclosures to 21 animals.

Due to the cancellation of the translocation operation planned for November 2022, a nutrition problem arose. The diet for the dama gazelles in the enclosure is primarily based on alfalfa pellets, which are dispatched directly from Abu Dhabi, and similar products are not manufactured in Chad. However, thanks to an extraordinary surge of generosity and solidarity from our partners Planète Sauvage and Boissière Mervent Conservation, who mobilized French and European zoo communities, assisted by the French Association of Zoos, a supply of several pallets of pellets was secured, allowing us to feed the gazelles until our supply chain is reestablished.

## NIGER

A new “Reversing the decline of threatened wildlife in the Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve of Niger” project funded by Save Our Species African Wildlife (SOS AWI), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the European Union began on January 1, 2022. 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, particularly to help solve urgent social problems within the framework of looking for fair and lasting results in terms of conservation.

Finally, we wish to allow these remote populations to enjoy basic medical care.

Several missions to fight poaching, involving members of the Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU), were conducted. Several people were arrested during these missions.

In addition, during ecological monitoring missions on Mount Takolokouzet, we were able to make several direct and indirect observations of dama gazelles, barbary sheep, and dorcas gazelles. Few traces of anthropic activities were observed.

We were able to install eleven camera traps on the massif, the main aim of which will be to reinforce ecological monitoring of key species, particularly dama gazelles.



Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou



## 4.4 North African ostriches

### CHAD

Since June 2021, the National North African Ostrich Strategy in Chad has been approved and now serves as a policy document and petition to promote the conservation of this endangered species. **In early 2022, 15 ostriches were present in the reserve's enclosures.**

An operation to fit GPS and VHF tags was carried out in July 2022 to equip six birds. Dr. Willem Burger was in charge of the operation and is also responsible for the veterinary aspect of the ostrich reintroduction program in Ennedi Natural and Cultural Reserve.

On July 9, the gates of the enclosures were opened and the animals released passively without any human intervention. The animals left the enclosure by themselves.

A male and three females were kept in the enclosure. In December 2022, we were able to observe a nest. We hope that several birds will hatch at the beginning of next year!



### NIGER

This year, Sahara Conservation took part in the meeting in Zinder and Kellé to update the North African ostrich conservation strategy in Niger.

During this meeting, the technical and financial partners and the local communities (represented by the administrative and traditional authorities) drew up a road map to strengthen their collaboration with the aim of reintroducing the species to protected areas.

Sahara Conservation is responsible for managing the Kellé and Mainé-Soroa sites, with the aim of producing enough ostrich chicks on these captive breeding sites to continue the reintroduction of the species. In late 2022, 38 ostriches were present on our two breeding sites (24 in Kellé and 14 in Mainé-Soroa).

A second transfer of two ostrich chicks was carried out in May. A dedicated enclosure was built for them to keep them apart from the five ostrich chicks already in situ, which showed signs of aggressiveness. Unfortunately, one of the two ostrich chicks died a few weeks after its transfer. The observations made suggest that post-translocation deaths are due to the change in food between the two sites.

The six ostrich chicks now live in the same enclosure.

One of the main concerns is their tolerance to human presence. It is essential to avoid contact as much as possible, in order to encourage the success of any future reintroduction.

A new project “Restoration of the North African ostrich (*Struthio camelus camelus* L., 1858) in Niger”, funded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, West and Central Africa Program (IUCN-PACO) began this year. It falls within the framework of the breeding program already initiated by the Directorate-General of Water and Forests and its partners on the Kellé and Iférouane sites. It looks to provide crucial support to eliminate the main threats highlighted by the national North African ostrich conservation strategy, with a view to re-establishing a viable population in the wild in Niger.

Within this framework, funds to support the diet of the ostriches in Iférouane were given to the custodian of Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve (RNNAT).



Maimounatou Ibrahim Mamadou

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 Sahara Conservation. It is indispensable to obtain sufficiently large groups of ostrich chicks to carry out other transfers to GBR and strengthen the existing population.

The gardening and lettuce production activities by five women from the village of Kellé resumed on the site for the third consecutive year. Part of their production is purchased and used by the site as needed, and the rest will be sold. Their activity will be extended to include alfalfa. 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.



Visits to raise pupils' awareness of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation were also made to five elementary schools in the Koutous massif. They were given posters on these species and an evaluation of their needs is underway with a view to future support. Over 500 children were reached by these activities.

## 4.5 Vautours

### NIGER

Since 2008, Sahara Conservation 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.

For the second consecutive year, support for the PAMU was set up to closely monitor vulture nests in GBR. The reproduction success was able to be confirmed at the beginning of year by the identification of several nests and observation of young vultures.

### EGYPTIAN VULTURE NEW LIFE PROJECT

As part of the EV New Life project, several awareness-raising missions for hunters and traditional practitioners on the importance of vultures, their role, and the need to conserve them were conducted in the Zinder, Maradi and Gadabedji region, accompanied by representatives of hunters and traditional practitioners from the areas in question. The involvement of the traditional authorities makes it possible to reinforce the impact and application of the awareness-raising messages already communicated. Market visits were carried out at the same time and no vulture parts were found for sale, an encouraging observation in the continuation of our activities.

The participants were also informed about indirect poisoning of vultures and its consequences, particularly regarding the use of strychnine.

In parallel, an awareness-raising campaign was conducted in schools in Gadabedji with the main aim of discussing the role and usefulness of vultures in maintaining the environmental balance, as well as the roles played by the different stakeholders.



A mission to build the capacities of the competent authorities concerning the traffic and illegal use of vultures in Niger was conducted in collaboration with Zinder's Regional Environment Division. 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.

As part of the support to schools provided by the Egyptian Vulture New LIFE project and the North African Ostrich restoration program, several elementary schools in Koutous located near known Egyptian vulture nests were chosen to enjoy support in terms of educational and school materials according to the needs expressed. All the schools supported are regularly monitored.

A mission to visit key markets, identified in 2019, was carried out in summer 2022. The aim was to make an inventory of any vulture parts for sale and compare these results with those obtained at the start of the project. A dozen markets were visited and one vulture part was found for sale, compared to thirty or so in 2019. These results are very satisfactory and allow conclusions to be drawn on the positive impacts of the activities carried out in collaboration with the different stakeholders in the regional administrations, associations of traditional practitioners and hunters, local leaders, and local populations as part of the fight against vulture hunting and trafficking.

A study on the alternatives to using vulture parts in traditional practices was carried out. It emerged that dried plants, which are easy to obtain in nature or on markets, could be used, but healing is generally slower and demand lower. While this seems interesting for the longevity of vulture conservation efforts, it nonetheless seems indispensable to consider the sustainability of use of these plants, through the creation of nurseries or responsible use.

The EV New LIFE project came to an end in December 2022. Over its five years' implementation, it has made it possible to intensify the work on vultures in Niger, providing the necessary proof of the main threats weighing on these species, and enabling the implementation of unprecedented conservation actions. The primary aim of these activities was to fight poaching and the sale of vulture parts for use in traditional practices as well as prevent indirect poisoning, often linked to carnivore management.

In total, a varied public of over 5,800 people, including local, administrative, and traditional leaders, members of local communities, representatives of competent authorities, traditional practitioners, and hunters were directly involved. Over 2,400 communication materials were produced as part of the project to support the activities and increase their impact.

## **4.6 Girafes d'Afrique de l'Ouest**

### **NIGER**

As part of the collaboration with Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) and following the deterioration of the health and safety situation in the "giraffe area" near Niamey, 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 has continued ever since. 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".

In parallel, daily monitoring of the eight giraffes by the rangers and PAMU members in GBR continues.

On March 9, the first baby giraffe was born in the reserve, three years after the translocation. A second gestating female had difficulties giving birth. Despite the efforts of the emergency team dispatched on site, the female and her calf died.

In total, three giraffe calves in good health were born in 2022 in GBR.



## SAHEL II OPERATION

UA second translocation of giraffes was successfully carried out in November, in partnership with the Niger government, the Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Project, GCF, and WAC. Four giraffes were transferred from the “Giraffe area” to GBR. The four giraffes, young females, along with two others from the “Giraffe area” were fitted with transmitters to monitor their movements. They were successfully released into the reserve, where they quickly joined the population of resident giraffes.







Jaime Dias - Wings for Conservation

# **FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 12/31/2022**



## FINANCES

Sahara Conservation and its subsidiary, Sahara Conservation – Europe, are non-profit, legally constituted, non-governmental nature conservation organizations. Sahara Conservation 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). Sahara Conservation – Europe was established in 2016 under the French Law of Associations 1901.

### 1. 2022 donations for general operations

Sahara Conservation's donations mainly come from the United States and Europe. They provide generous and fundamental support for Sahara Conservation and the projects on the ground. Sahara Conservation thanks them all for standing alongside side it in 2022.

DONATIONS	SAHARA CONSERVATION US	SAHARA CONSERVATION – EUROPE
> \$100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acacia Conservation Fund</li> </ul>	
\$25,000 – \$99,999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George Loening</li> <li>St Louis Zoo</li> </ul>	
\$5,000 – \$24,999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fossil Rim Wildlife Center</li> <li>Dallas Zoo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boissière Mervent Conservation</li> <li>International Union for the Conservation of Nature</li> <li>Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover</li> </ul>
\$1,000 – \$4,999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D &amp; D Charitable Trust</li> <li>Adam Eyres</li> <li>Focus on Tanzanian Communities</li> <li>Gulf Breeze Zoo</li> <li>Lion Country Safari</li> <li>Maryland Zoo in Baltimore</li> <li>Seven Dreamers</li> <li>Zoological Association of America</li> <li>Zoological Society of San Diego</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aktief Slip</li> <li>Lochinver House School</li> <li>Caroline Magnere</li> <li>Chessington Zoo</li> <li>Paultons Park</li> <li>Spazi d'Avventura</li> <li>Montpellier Zoo</li> <li>Sigean Zoo</li> </ul>
< \$1,000	Amazon Smile, Jonathan Baldwern, Andrea Bonomo, Austin Bowser, Shona Brown, Buffalo Zoo, Bridget Byrne, Michel Comte, Hila Corem, Leila Diatta, Gods Plan Church, Gregory Greenwood, Holly Haefele, Bill Houston, Kyla Johnson, Jack Kisling, Serrina Lam, Scott Mason, Jean-Philippe Maucuit, Steve Monfort, John Newby, Devney Olson-Bowen, Deborah Rader, Rolling Hills Zoo, Brook Rose, Diana Smith, Edward Spevak, William Stallsmith, Madison Stuczynski, Phoebe Weseley, Jason Woolgar, Patrick Zehr	Association Bassin d'Arcachon, Biodune Riviera, We Naturalists

## 2. 2022 donations to projects

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

	<b>Sahara Conservation US (US\$)</b>	<b>Sahara Conservation - Europe (€)</b>
Addax & Oryx Foundation		8,475
Band Foundation	53,500	
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds		31,316.60
Convention on Migratory Species		393,984.55
Dallas Zoo	5,000	
Detroit Zoological Society	5,000	
Dickerson Park Zoo	1,500	
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi	1,633,379	
European Union		562,500
Fort Wayne Zoological society	10,000	
Giraffe Conservation Foundation	34,324	
IUCN Ostrich grant	36,125	
IUCN SOS grant	44,281	
Kolmarden Foundation	9,010	
Milwaukee County Zoo	500	
Chad Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development		304,245.89
Sahara Conservation US		462,574.80
Smithsonian Institution	67,724	
St Louis Zoo	70,000	
St Louis Zoo – Anonymous donor	35,000	
Stichting Wildlife		3,000
The Living Desert	5,000	
Miscellaneous income	12,741	
<b>Total project donations 2022</b>	<b>\$2,023,084</b>	<b>€1,766,096.84</b>

	<b>Sahara Conservation US (US\$)</b>	<b>Sahara Conservation - Europe (€)</b>
Total donations - projects	2,023,084	1,766,096.84
Total donations – general operations	477,448	44,046.62
Total additional income – general operations	325,004	5,229.81
<b>TOTAL INCOME 2022</b>	<b>\$2,825,536</b>	<b>€1,815,373.27</b>



### 3. Expenditure per country and project

Sahara Conservation and Sahara Conservation – 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 2022, Sahara Conservation's budget amounted to around 2.9 million dollars and Sahara Conservation – Europe's budget to almost 2.3 million euros.

		<b>Sahara Conservation US (US\$)</b>	<b>Sahara Conservation – Europe (€)</b>
Secretariat		85,015	531,543.28
Sahara Conservation Europe support for operations		443,221	
SSIG			8,399.22
<b>Program costs</b>			
Chad	Oryx project	1,801,526	1,580.62
	POROA	311,887	1,139,393.02
	ALBIA	952	250,309.61
	OROAFR – One Health	35,537	
	Oryx Ecohealth	1,260	
Niger	Dama gazelle monitoring	73,124	
	Vulture conservation	11,812	22,240.16
	West African giraffe monitoring and translocation	60,736	
	North African ostrich breeding	82,196	
	Addax	3,267	351,508.01
	Humanitarian missions		13,998.17
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2022</b>		<b>\$2,910,533</b>	<b>€2,318,972.09</b>