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# 44 The events of 2024 affirmed our conviction that conservation and community well-being are inseparable. ??

#### FROM OUR CEO

2024 was a year of extraordinary contrasts — one that underscored both the fragility and resilience of life across the Sahara and Sahel. As climate extremes intensify, our work is taking on new urgency. Yet even amid hardship, the year offered profound confirmation of what dedicated partnerships and sustained commitment can achieve!

Unprecedented environmental stress, including prolonged heat, delayed rains and then flooding, tested both wildlife and human communities across the region. Following a year in which we celebrated the improved conservation status of the scimitar-horned oryx, recognized by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, significant numbers of these animals perished in the heat of the late dry season in Chad's Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve (OROAFR). Critically endangered addax and dama gazelles also suffered severe losses, while in Niger, extreme floods led to the tragic loss of giraffes. These setbacks reminded us that conservation must be adaptive, long-term, and grounded in the realities of a changing climate. Encouragingly, as conditions improved, signs of recovery began to emerge—testament to the resilience of these species and the ecosystems they inhabit. In this context, we were particularly heartened by the renewal of commitment from the government of Chad and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), with the launch of Phase 3 of the scimitar-horned oryx reintroduction project, reinforcing international resolve to restore Saharan megafauna.

And there are other good reasons to maintain a broad perspective - however challenging the conditions were for wildlife, the people and livestock that share these landscapes equally suffer from environmental shocks. Hence, the events of 2024 affirmed our conviction that conservation and community well-being are inseparable. Despite the challenging conditions, our contributions to social and economic good were evident through local employment, wildfire control, infrastructure and capacity building for participative protected area management, extensive public consultation and engagement in environmental issues, resources for schools, and provision of medical care to people in remote places.

We also made important progress for species conservation. This included the first-ever release of captive-bred dama gazelles into the wild in OROAFR, while in Niger, a 10-year roadmap for dama gazelle conservation in the Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve was developed through an inclusive, community-driven process - both critical steps for one of the world's rarest mammals. Moreover, ten vultures fitted with satellite transmitters in Chad yielded fascinating insights into the movements of these keystone species - the first time such studies have been conducted in the region. This work builds on the ongoing monitoring of vulture nests in Chad and Niger, and engagement with local stakeholders. All of this contributing to our understanding of the status and threats to vultures, while promoting the irreplaceable ecological and economic roles of these magnificent birds.

Details of these and other achievements are shared throughout this report, all made possible through collaboration with government agencies, and our funding and technical delivery partners. While pressures on environment and people are rising, we have set ourselves on an exciting pathway to even greater impact through better, sustainable management of critical conservation landscapes. This will mean Sahara Conservation evolving to meet new challenges and partnerships will remain critical for success. Let us continue, together, to show that conservation in this extraordinary and overlooked part of the world is both essential and possible!

lim Woodfine

Tim Woodfine, CEO, Sahara Conservation

# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

# 1<sup>ST</sup> EVER

- release into the wild of six dama gazelles from the in situ captive breeding program in OROAFR, Chad
- development of a dama gazelle conservation roadmap for Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve, Niger

50

stakeholders brought together to agree priorities for North African ostrich conservation with Niger's wildlife authorities



more scimitar-horned oryx arrived in OROAFR, bringing the number of oryx shipped from the UAE to Chad over the last eight years to 335

215 OS

82,000

km traveled by 10 vultures fitted

with satellite transmitters in

Chad

km of firebreaks created and maintained to combat bushfires in Chad

883

people in remote and rural areas of Niger and Chad benefited from health and dental care missions



48,550

km were covered during surveillance patrolling activities in Niger and Chad 20,100



36,100

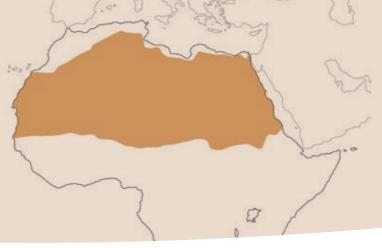
educational materials

individuals from local communities in Niger and Chad took part in environmental awareness-raising and consultation sessions

106

animals released into the wild (65 scimitar-horned oryx, 25 addax, 6 dama gazelles, and 10 North African ostriches) in Chad

# The Sahara and Sahel



The Sahara is a vast region of dry, harsh, yet diverse and beautiful environments, ranging from sand seas, stony plateaus, mountain ranges and oases, through to arid Sahelian grasslands and riparian woodlands. It is home to some of the most highly adapted and rarest species on the planet, as well as to people among those most dependent on natural resources for their daily livelihoods. The Sahara and Sahel remain overlooked, under-studied, and under-resourced, but there is untapped potential for biodiversity, climate and social gain for local and global good.

Spanning almost 10 million square kilometres, the Sahara is similar in size to the continental USA, occupying about a third of the African continent and is the largest hot desert on Earth. The desert is not however deserted! It is a place of ecological complexity providing pathways and destinations for migratory birds, and homes to highly adapted endemic species, and diverse human cultures.









**Scimitar-horned oryx:** Became extinct in the wild in the 1980s and despite being successfully reintroduced, further work is still needed to secure the long-term survival of what is still a threatened species.



Addax: Less than 100 of these true desert-dwelling antelopes were thought to exist in the wild when the species was last assessed in 2016 for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Dama gazelle: Like the addax, the dama gazelle is one of the world's rarest mammals with possibly fewer than 100 animals left in the wild, according to recent data.



**Dorcas gazelle:** The largest remaining population of dorcas gazelles, some 40,000 animals, is to be found in Chad's OROAFR. However, the species is threatened by rampant poaching and

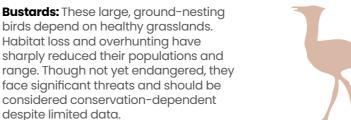


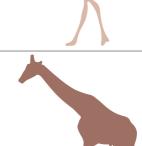
Barbary sheep: Despite their resilience and rock-loving habits, Barbary sheep are extremely vulnerable, and many small, isolated populations have either been wiped out by hunting or are in a critical state.

Vultures: Vultures play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, benefiting wildlife, livestock, and people. Yet, they are rapidly disappearing, particularly in West Africa. Despite their importance, little is known about vulture populations in West and Central Africa.



North African ostrich: The North African ostrich is the largest bird on Earth but has totally disappeared from its Saharan range. Conservation efforts are currently underway to reintroduce the species.





West African giraffe: Now found exclusively in Niger, the West African giraffe was close to extinction but is recovering thanks to conservation actions.

Saharan cheetah: Despite once

occupying much of the region, the

Saharan cheetah is today only known from a few sightings in Algeria and Niger





Diverse and culturally rich communities prevail across the Sahel and Sahara, where traditional nomadic and transhumance pastoralism have existed since pre-historical times. Pastoral and agropastoral communities of the region are highly dependent on natural resources to meet their needs. Up to 80% of the population in countries like Chad and Niger relies on livestock rearing and many of these communities have limited access to healthcare, education and other essential services.

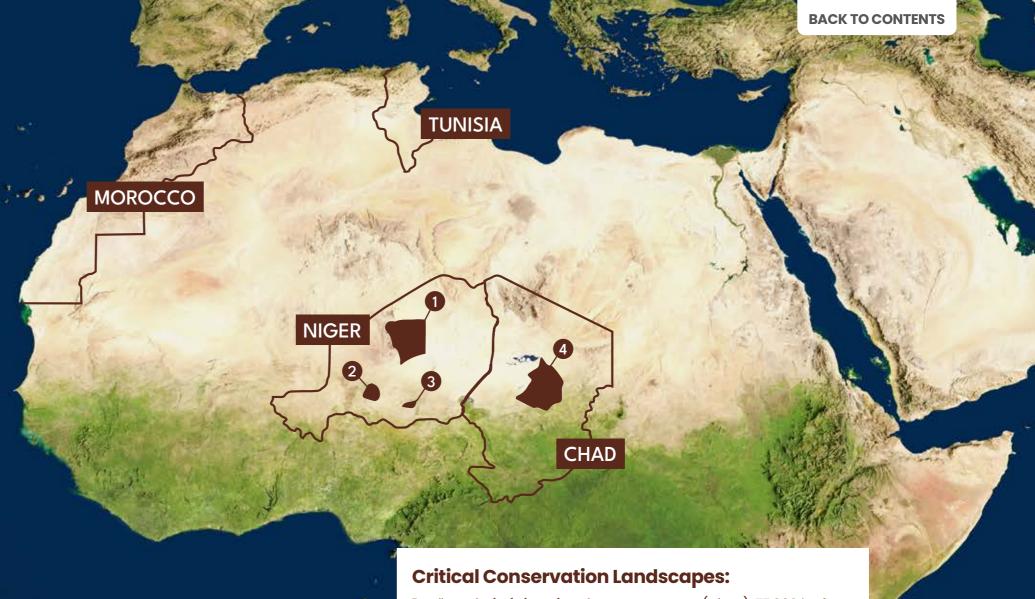


# Where Work

**SAHARA CONSERVATION OPERATES IN THE REGION UNDER AGREEMENTS** with governments and statutory agencies responsible for wildlife, protected areas and natural resources. Our efforts focus particularly on key conservation landscapes in Chad and Niger. We are registered as a non-profit organization in the US, France, Niger, and Chad and have several cooperative agreements with other countries in the region (Morocco, Tunisia).

## Our Registered Not for Profit Organisations and Offices

- Sahara Conservation US: Board of Directors (8 members)
- Sahara Conservation Europe: Board of Directors (7) and 7 staff
- Sahara Conservation Niger: 21 staff
- Sahara Conservation Chad: 63 staff



- 1. Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve (Niger): 77,360 km²
- 2. Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve (Niger): 14,136 km<sup>2</sup>
- **3. Kellé and the Koutous Massif** (Niger): 1,200km<sup>2</sup>
- 4. Ouadi Rimé Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve (Chad): 78,000 km<sup>2</sup>



# Our Approach

#### **OUR ACTIVITIES**

## **Species Recovery**

Together with our partners, we have shown that reintroductions and other conservation translocations can improve the status of threatened species and attract resources to address wider environmental and socio-economic challenges.

We are simultaneously increasing knowledge and understanding of existing populations of threatened species and their ecological, economic and cultural significance. This helps to engage local and international stakeholders and sustain wildlife populations that might otherwise disappear.

We seek to create conditions in which the conservation status of threatened Red-Listed species is improved and where populations increase by orders of magnitude compared to baseline numbers.



#### **Critical Conservation Landscapes**

Progress is being made by focusing on places of special conservation and cultural value, where local communities are highly dependent on the use of natural resources.

This includes building capacity for effective protected area management and governance.

These landscapes are characteristically large, harbor key populations of highly threatened species, and are important havens and corridors for migratory species.

They are among the best remaining examples of Saharan or Sahelian ecosystems and help secure populations of threatened species.

Our critical conservation landscapes offer potential for biodiversity, climate and social gains through sound management and environmental restoration.



# **Capacity Sharing**

We play a pivotal role as a loud and strong voice for the Sahara, putting the region on the conservation map by connecting local agendas to global interests. In doing so, we act as a pipeline for resources to one of the most under-resourced parts of the world.

We employ, develop and benefit from local skills and knowledge, foster positive and participative relationships with communities and local authorities to deliver impactful results. Our international network facilitates access to world-class technical support, and together we have created a legacy of scientific knowledge and practical skills that can be applied more broadly in the region and beyond. We convene the Sahel & Sahara Interest Group as an annual forum of scientists and conservation practitioners to promote information sharing and collaboration.

#### **CONTRIBUTE TO**

Multifunctional land management and nature-based solutions

#### **RESULTING IN**

Healthy (biodiverse, productive, resilient) ecosystems

#### **DELIVERING**

Biodiversity, climate and socio-economic gains in the Sahara and Sahel

# SUSTAINING FREE-RANGING POPULATIONS OF SCIMITAR-HORNED ORYX AND ADDAX



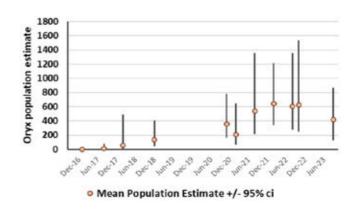
OUR LONG-STANDING AND SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY-ABU DHABI (UAE) ENTERED A NEW PHASE IN 2024, reaffirming our joint commitment to restoring the scimitar-horned oryx and ensuring long-term support for the species' restoration.

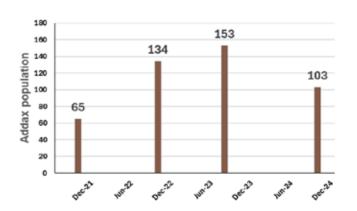
In November 2024, another fifty scimitar-horned oryx were translocated from Abu Dhabi to the OROAFR in Chad for release into the wild. This brought the total number of oryx reintroduced since 2016 to 361. A further 580 oryx have been born in the wild. These animals are now part of a growing, free-ranging population that is closely monitored through field surveys and GPS tracking.

At the end of 2023, the wild population of scimitar-horned oryx in Chad was estimated at over 600 individuals, a major milestone that contributed to the species' downlisting on the IUCN Red List from "Extinct in the Wild" to "Endangered". Unfortunately, unusually hot weather during the late dry season from March to June 2024 caused widespread losses of wildlife and livestock. Over 100 scimitarhorned oryx (mainly young and newly released individuals) were estimated to have died in a survey carried out in July 2024. The small population of scimitar-horned oryx in OROAFR is already showing signs of resilience once the rains arrived and is expected to recover as environmental conditions improve.



The more recently reintroduced addax were also affected by unusually high mortality during the late dry season. The last field survey of the year, carried out in October 2024, resulted in an estimate of about 100 individuals. As for scimitar-horned oryx, recovery is expected as environmental conditions improve.

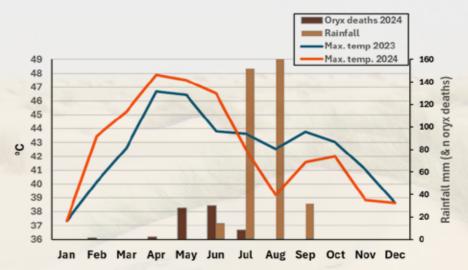




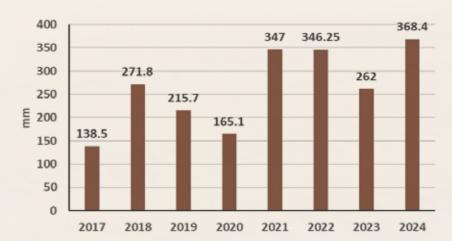
# Extreme Environmental Conditions in Central Chad in 2024

From March to June 2024, the region was struck by an unusually prolonged period of extreme heat, heightening the already challenging dry season conditions. The scattered rains of 2023, coupled with overgrazing by livestock and the spread of wildfires, further exacerbated the situation, leading to significant mortality of both wildlife and livestock.

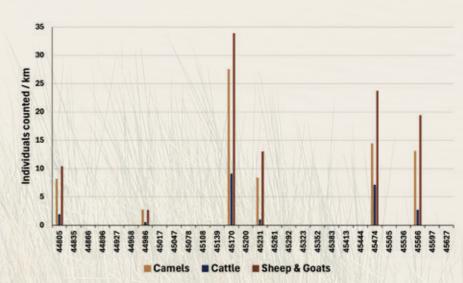
In response, Sahara Conservation mobilized emergency measures, providing water and supplementary feed to wild scimitar-horned oryx, addax, and dama gazelles wherever feasible. A specialist team was deployed to assess the situation through aerial surveys and ground reconnaissance, and to advise on any further action that might be needed. Data was also collected to support our long-term understanding of the impacts of environmental extremes on antelope population dynamics and wildlife and livestock health. Preliminary data suggest a decline in the numbers of antelopes, however, encouragingly, the animals' body condition showed improvement later in the season, demonstrating the resilience of these species and the value of ongoing ecological monitoring and adaptive management.



Maximum temperatures 2023 & 2024 and timing of discovered oryx mortalities.



Total annual rainfall at Oryx Base Camp (OROAFR), 2017-2024.



Livestock encounter rates over six transect surveys, OROAFR Sep. 2022- Oct. 2024.



# MILESTONE FOR DAMA GAZELLE CONSERVATION

IN 2024, THE DAMA GAZELLE PROGRAM IN CHAD REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE WITH THE FIRST-EVER RELEASE OF SIX CAPTIVE-BRED INDIVIDUALS INTO THE WILD IN THE OROAFR. Three dama gazelles were fitted with satellite tracking devices. Post-release monitoring showed that the animals quickly integrated with existing wild groups, providing valuable behavioral and ecological insights to inform future reintroduction efforts. Sadly, the three tagged animals perished during the harsh dry season, highlighting the need for long-term tracking to better understand survival and movement patterns.

Our captive breeding program, initiated in 2020, grew by nine individuals in 2024, bringing the total population to 32, a critical step toward rebuilding this fragile population. Its importance was underlined by the losses of all species of antelopes in the reserve during the prolonged period of extreme heat earlier in the year.



#### A roadmap for the conservation of dama gazelles in the Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve

2024 also marked the successful conclusion of the project "Reversing the decline of endangered fauna in Niger's Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve", launched in 2022, supported by IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union, and Saint Louis Zoo.

The development of a 10-year Roadmap for Dama Gazelle Conservation in the Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve (2023–2032) is a significant outcome of the project. The strategy was developed through a participatory process involving wildlife authorities and

local stakeholders, including members of the community.

# In three years, the project delivered further concrete field results:

- Over 8,500 km of patrols conducted by protected areas rangers have led to a notable reduction in illegal activities.
- 40 camera traps captured 367,000 images, including 506 sightings of dama gazelles, significantly enhancing our knowledge of this elusive species.

## Global Collaboration for Dama Gazelle Recovery

In support of global efforts, Sahara Conservation joined the third international dama gazelle action plan workshop in Texas (USA), for a five-year review of the dama gazelle strategy 2019 - 2028. The workshop assessed ongoing conservation efforts both in the wild range countries and in managed populations, including over 1,500 dama gazelles on private ranches in Texas.



# OSTRICH CONSERVATION: A MODEL OF PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY IMPACT



#### Beyond the birds: national strategy and local engagement

Contributing to national synergy: Sahara Conservation assisted the wildlife authorities of Niger in updating the national action plan for the conservation and reintroduction of the North African ostrich with the organization of a key workshop in Kellé, bringing together all the main stakeholders.





Contributing to the livelihoods of local communities: Maintenance tasks at the ostrich breeding sites - such as the creation of firebreaks and the repair of fences - create job opportunities for local people, providing income. In addition, ostrich feed is purchased from local farmers, further strengthening community involvement and promoting local economic benefits linked to conservation.

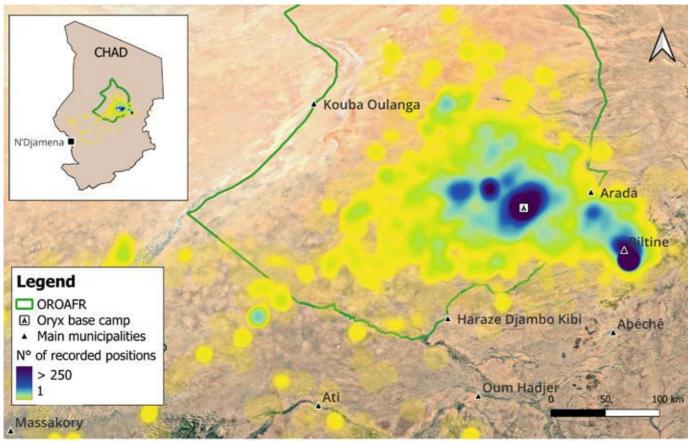
In the OROAFR, the ten
North African ostrich
chicks born in 2023 were
successfully released
into the wild in 2024.
Later in the year, ten new
chicks hatched from a
breeding group of four
individuals.





# LEADING VULTURE CONSERVATION

OUR VULTURE CONSERVATION PROGRAM MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN 2024, with six Rüppell's vultures and four lappet-faced vultures fitted with satellite tracking devices in the OROAFR, in Chad. This is the first study of this kind in the region and, in a short time, produced a wealth of information about the movements and nesting habits of these rare birds. The study is also highlighting threats to vultures, including the first documented case of poaching in the area.



Spatial distribution of ten vultures tagged in the Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve - 2024 (includes three vultures tagged in March, and seven tagged in November 2024)

For the first time, close nest monitoring was implemented in the OROAFR, beginning in December 2023 and continuing through to the end of the breeding season in May 2024. In total, we monitored 55 active vulture nests across three discrete study locations in Niger (the Koutous Massif, Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve) and Chad (OROAFR).

While the number of active nests in OROAFR was considerably higher than in Niger, breeding success was lower and a total of 18 successful nests/chicks produced were registered across both countries. Under the harsh environmental conditions of 2024, breeding success appeared to be higher on cliffs. As a key factor in the conservation of vulture populations, one of our priorities will be to investigate the low breeding success observed in trees.



# **Outcomes in Niger included:**

34

Water and Forestry officers benefited from capacitybuilding sessions focused on vulture species identification, understanding threats to these species, and illegal wildlife trade and law enforcement. 1,483

Members of local communities were sensitized about the importance of vultures and their conservation, including 617 hunters and traditional practitioners.

0

Vulture parts were found for sale for the second successive year during our annual market surveys.



# SAFEGUARDING WEST AFRICAN GIRAFFES IN NIGER

Throughout 2024, SAHARA CONSERVATION CONTINUED SAFEGUARDING THE SMALL BUT IMPORTANT REINTRODUCED POPULATION OF WEST AFRICAN GIRAFFES IN THE GADABEDJI BIOSPHERE RESERVE (GBR), working alongside Niger's wildlife authorities and the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.

We regularly tracked 13 giraffes in the reserve, including three males that remarkably travelled hundreds of kilometres from the Kouré giraffe zone, demonstrating the importance of connected landscapes for this critically endangered subspecies. Like elsewhere in the region, heavy rains and flooding impacted the reserve and resulted in the loss of four giraffes from the GBR population, but two new births provided hope, and a sign of the resilience of these animals.

Community wildlife agents liaised with local people to report giraffe sightings, share knowledge, and encourage community interest and stakeholding in wildlife conservation. Awareness campaigns around GBR and in local schools highlighted the giraffes' ecological and cultural importance. The combination of the presence of our community wildlife agents working alongside staff from the protected area management unit, and raising the local profile of these giraffes appears to provide effective protection and promote coexistence in this humandominated landscape.

SAHARA CONSERVATION BEGAN A COLLABORATION WITH THE COORDINATION UNIT OF THE AFRICAN-EURASIAN MIGRATORY LANDBIRDS ACTION PLAN (AEMLAP) by hosting a first joint field mission of the Swiss Ornithological Institute, the Zoological Society of London and Sahara Conservation in the OROAFR. The mission confirmed the reserve's crucial role as a stronghold for three threatened bustard species (Arabian bustard, Denham's bustard and Nubian bustard) and laid the groundwork for an ambitious research and conservation program, including GPS tracking. The visit also highlighted the reserve's importance for Afro-Palearctic migratory birds.



In Niger, our team continued to document bird species observed during all field missions, as well as through dedicated bird surveys in the Tahoua region (in the southwest). In 2024, over 100 species were recorded in this area, providing a valuable dataset. These observations contribute to a broader understanding of the richness and ecological importance of Sahelo-Saharan avifauna.



Our team's capacity to carry out such surveys supports regional knowledge in Chad and Niger - our bird data are shared via the West African Bird DataBase platform - which is essential for designing and implementing targeted conservation actions on the ground.



# CONNECTING CONSERVATION WITH COMMUNITY WELLBEING

In 2024, Sahara Conservation and the NGO Education et Santé Sans Frontière (Esafro), in collaboration with local medical staff, carried out a first healthcare mission to the OROAFR. THE GOALS WERE TO ASSESS AND RESPOND TO THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES LIVING IN AND AROUND THE RESERVE, particularly transhumant populations, as they are often isolated from healthcare infrastructure.

During this mobile mission, more than 260 people in remote areas received medical care from Chadian doctors.

In Niger, where Sahara Conservation and Esafro have been collaborating since 2009, over 620 individuals benefited from healthcare and dental services in GBR and the Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve.

By addressing community health needs, we help build and maintain positive relationships between communities and conservation actors. These efforts open opportunities for dialogue, foster mutual understanding, and encourage greater community engagement in conservation.



# OUADI RIMÉ - OUADI ACHIM FAUNAL RESERVE -CRITICAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT

WE CONTINUED TO ADVANCE INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE OROAFR UNDER THE MULTI-YEAR 'ALBIA' LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION PROJECT; an initiative led by the Chadian Ministry of Environment and funded by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility to improve sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods in this climate-vulnerable landscape.



## Fire management and prevention

A dedicated 10-person fire team cut 315 km of firebreaks and responded to 25 major wildfires across 525 km², protecting people, pasture, wildlife and livestock. This year, our efforts were intergrated with those of <u>PREPAS</u> (a project supporting climate resilience and sustainable land management in Chad), helping to coordinate and enhance impact. Meanwhile, 135 fire-prevention awareness-raising sessions delivered in partnership with the local Association de sensibilisation anti-braconnage et de lutte contre les feux de brousse, engaged over 6,000 people from pastoralist and transhumant communities.

# **Enhancing infrastructure** and operational capacity

Construction of offices, staff housing, and workshops progressed despite weather and logistical challenges. New vehicles and equipment (including water and dump trucks) strengthened field operations, improving the reserve's capacity for wildlife protection and landscape management.



# Safeguarding critical habitats

A rapid assessment of the Ouadi Kharma, a key riparian ecosystem, identified severe threats from logging and agricultural encroachment. Engagement with 13 pastoralist groups and 200 households informed strategies for immediate protection and sustainable management to preserve biodiversity and support climate resilience.

#### **Wildlife protection**

Logistical support enabled 27 antipoaching patrols to cover 46,086 km over 270 surveillance days, reinforcing wildlife law enforcement.



# Community engagement and capacity building

Through targeted awareness campaigns, 28,617 people were engaged in reserve zoning, associated use rights, and natural resources valorization. Meanwhile, 190 individuals, including eco-guards and local authorities, were given training in bushfire management, legal frameworks and human rights protection. Further sessions were delivered in parasite diagnostics, with the Chadian Livestock Research Institute for Development, and on the use of new conservation technologies.

## Valuing ecosystem services

Commissioned by the World Bank, an assessment was launched to inform investment decisions in rural development and landscape restoration in OROAFR. Carried in collaboration with ETIFOR and Hamerkop, the study focuses on the economic value of land restoration, identifying priority ecosystem services and exploring potential markets.



# Collaboration and Participatory Conservation

SAHARA CONSERVATION ENABLES THE WORK OF 59 PROTECTED AREA RANGERS AND 15
COMMUNITY WILDLIFE MONITORING AGENTS ACROSS ACTIVITIES IN NIGER AND CHAD, ensuring they have the training, equipment and other resources needed to understand and protect their local

wildlife and the wider environment.



Ouadi Rimé -Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve CHAD

# COMMUNITY AGENTS AND FACILITATORS

Number: 9

Role: Community engagement and communications, delivering awareness-raising sessions about the importance and management of the reserve, facilitating feedback and information exchange.

#### PROTECTED AREA RANGERS

Number: 20

Role: Community engagement, wildlife monitoring, antipoaching patrols, supporting other agencies to address illegal activities in the reserve and bushfire control.

#### ECOGUARDS

Number: 40

Role: Adding capacity to support the role of Protected Area rangers. Ecoguards carry out the same activities as rangers, except for law enforcement.



Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve NIGER

#### **COMMUNITY AGENTS**

Number: 4

**Role:** Conduct monitoring missions with Sahara Conservation Niger team, maintain camera traps, liaise and exchange information with local communities and support surveillance activities of the rangers from the Protected Area Management Unit.

# RANGERS, PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT UNIT

Number: 10

**Role:** Gather information to address illegal activities such as mining, logging and poaching, monitor the presence of wildlife and livestock and engage with local communities, surveillance and anti-poaching patrols.



Gadabedji Biosphere Reserve NIGER

#### **COMMUNITY AGENTS**

Number: 2

**Role:** Monitor reintroduced population of West African giraffes, liaise with the community to share information about giraffes, other wildlife and the environment.

# RANGERS, PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT UNIT

Number: 29

**Role:** Assist our team during field missions, facilitate the work of community agents and collect additional data on vultures.

# SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REMAINS AT THE HEART OF SAHARA CONSERVATION'S MISSION, and in 2024, our initiatives targeting youth continued to expand in Niger and Chad.



# Sports and environmental awareness

In an innovative approach, Sahara Conservation launched in Niger the "Jeux Sports et Nature du Koutous", supported by Play for Nature, using sport as a powerful tool to mobilize community spirit and raise awareness among younger generations about the importance of protecting biodiversity. Over four major community events —two soccer tournaments with each team representing endangered species, and two "Race for Waste" cleanup operations — 192 young participants engaged directly, with more than 1,300 spectators joining to support the cause.

# Fostering environmental awareness

To deepen environmental understanding,
Sahara Conservation conducted awarenessraising sessions in rural schools in Niger. These
activities were designed to prompt curiosity
about the surrounding ecosystems and to foster
a favorable attitude toward environmental
protection from an early age.
In this framework, 107 students received
essential school supplies.
In OROAFR, in Chad, 20,000 schoolchildren and
60 teachers received educational materials
focused on the reserve's protection.



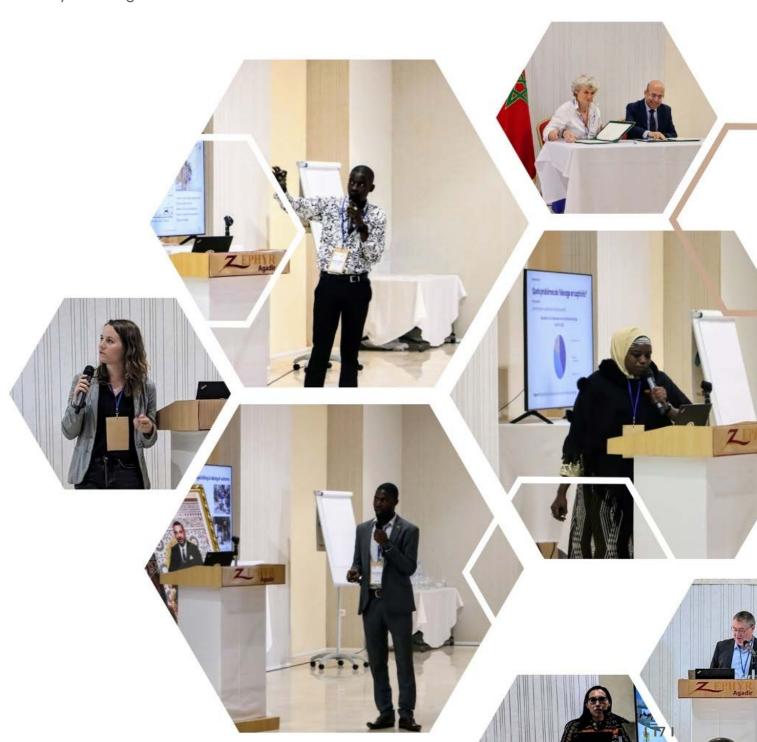
#### Preparing the conservation leaders of tomorrow

During the year, we welcomed five student interns, providing them with practical field experience. These opportunities aim to develop critical skills and inspire long-term engagement in conservation work, ensuring that local talent is equipped to carry forward the protection of the Sahara and Sahel's unique biodiversity.

# THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SAHEL & SAHARA INTEREST GROUP MEETING

THE 23<sup>RD</sup> SSIG MEETING TOOK PLACE IN AGADIR, MOROCCO, MARKING ANOTHER IMPORTANT GATHERING FOR SAHARA CONSERVATION AND REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS. Hosted by the

Moroccan Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts, the event brought together 79 participants from 21 countries and 4 continents. Over three days, 43 speakers presented on themes including ecosystem management, species restoration, and human-wildlife interactions, reflecting key priorities for conservation in the Sahara and Sahel. This annual forum, founded in 2000, continues to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among practitioners working to protect the unique biodiversity of the region.



# Partners & Donors

This year, we strengthened our collaborative efforts by signing new Memoranda of Understanding with key partners, including the Moroccan Agence Nationale des Eaux et Forêts, the General Directorate of Water and Forests of Niger, Saint Louis Zoo (USA), and African Parks in Chad. These agreements mark an important step forward in aligning our shared goals and advancing conservation initiatives across the Sahara and Sahel regions.

Additionally, our donors, including private individuals and foundations, have provided critical funding to support our work, enabling us to reach new milestones in 2024.

#### INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS (STATUTORY, FUNDING, TECHNICAL AND DELIVERY)

- Aequis Group

- Boissière Mervent Conservation

- Carla & David Crane Foundation
- Coopérative d'Exploitation des Ressources Naturelles du Koutous (CERNK)
- Detroit Zoological Society
- Dickerson Park Zoo
- Éducation et Santé sans Frontière (Esafro)
- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Environment Agency Abu

**INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS** 

Caterpillar Foundation matching

■ Cecelia Hucthinson-Parsons

Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover

■ Alex D'Albertanson

■ Charlen De Rocchi ■ David Lundell

Adam Eyres

■ Barbara Kieber

Amy Efta

- Kansas City Zoo
- Marvland Zoological Society
- Ministère de l'Environnement, de Durable, Republic of Chad
- Montpellier Zoo
- North Carolina Zoo

- Kolmården Foundation
- Ministère de l'Hydraulique, de l'Assainissement et de l'Environnement, Republic of

- Savannah Energy Renewables

- Swiss Ornithological Institute
- The Living Desert
- Van Tienhoven Foundation
- Wildlife World Zoo
- World Bank
- Worthwild Africa
- Wroclaw Poland Zoo
- Zoo de Jurques
- Zoofari Parks Zoological Society of London
- Zoological Society of San Diego
- Drew Monaghan & David Dibley
- François Lamarque
- Holly Haefele
- John Newby
- Karoline Sieberer
- Kyla Johnson
- Lauren Birks Melina Verykiou
- Michel Merle

- Noemi de Gooijer
  - Pamela Baldwerm
  - Patrick Zehr Rachel Murray-Watson

  - Stephen Gombas
  - Steve Monfort
  - Tony Start
  - William Stallsmith

# Financial Report

#### FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 12/31/2024

Sahara Conservation was established in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the US Internal Revenue Service (tax identification number: 26-0171939) in the State of Missouri (United States). Sahara Conservation - Europe was established in 2016 under the French Law of Associations 1901. These organizations facilitate the essential acquisition and distribution of resources to where they are needed in the field. Sahara Conservation operates across the region but with particular focus on critical conservation landscapes in Chad and Niger where we operate through our locally registered non-profit entities under agreements with those governments.

#### 2024 Contributions to our core operations

We thank the generosity of all our partners and donors who make it possible for Sahara Conservation to provide the range of essential services needed to support our teams and breadth of operations in the field. These contributions underpin all of our work and are critical for allowing the organization to grow and develop, and have the resilience agility to meet challenges as they arise.

CONTRIBUTIONS	SAHARA CONSERVATION - US	SAHARA CONSERVATION - EUROPE
>\$100,000	<ul><li>Alexander Family Foundation</li><li>Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi</li></ul>	
\$25,000 - \$99,999	<ul><li>Longoria-Hosmer Foundation</li><li>Saint Louis Zoo</li></ul>	
\$5,000 - \$24,999	<ul> <li>Carla &amp; David Crane Foundation</li> <li>Fossil Rim</li> <li>Safari Enterprises - Larry Johnson</li> <li>The Living Desert</li> <li>Fort Wayne Zoo</li> <li>Wildlife World Zoo</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Boissière Mervent Conservation</li> <li>Erlebnis-Zoo Hannover*</li> <li>Zoo Wroclaw Poland</li> </ul>
\$1,000 - \$4,999	<ul> <li>Drew Monaghan &amp; David Dibley</li> <li>Maryland Zoological Society</li> <li>Safari West</li> <li>Adam Eyres</li> <li>Steve Monfort</li> <li>North Carolina Zoo</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Bioparc – Zoo de Doué la Fontaine</li> <li>Paultons Park</li> <li>Planète Sauvage</li> <li>Zoo de Montpellier</li> </ul>
< \$1,000	<ul> <li>Pamela Baldwerm</li> <li>Lauren Birks</li> <li>Buffalo Zoo</li> <li>Caterpillar Foundation matching P. Zehr</li> <li>Noemi de Gooijer</li> <li>Alex D'Albertanson</li> <li>Charlen De Rocchi</li> <li>Caleb Eaton</li> <li>Amy Efta</li> <li>Stephen Gombas</li> <li>Holly Haefele</li> <li>Cecelia Hucthinson-Parsons</li> <li>Kyla Johnson</li> <li>Barbara Kieber</li> <li>Rachel Murray-Watson</li> <li>John Newby</li> <li>Karoline Sieberer</li> <li>Edward Spevak</li> <li>William Stallsmith</li> <li>Tony Start</li> <li>Melina Verykiou</li> <li>Patrick Zehr</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Biodune Riviera</li> <li>Zoo de Jurques</li> <li>François Lamarque</li> <li>David Lundell</li> <li>Michel Merle</li> </ul>

<sup>\*:</sup> Funds carried forward in 2025.

# 2024 Contributions to Projects

Grants, donations and other income to projects are gratefully received and applied to the specified causes.

	Sahara Conservation US (US\$)	Sahara Conservation Europe (€)
Addax & Oryx Foundation		8 475,00
Band Foundation	55 000,00	
Detroit Zoological Society	2 500,00	
Dickerson Park Zoo	500,00	
Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi	491 459,41	484 149,09
Giraffe Conservation Foundation	13 222,94	
IUCN PACO PAPBio	12 098,03	
IUCN Save our Species - African Wildlife Initiative	48 626,80	
Kansas city Zoo	2 000,00	
Kolmården Foundation	8 986,00	
ALBIA Project - Chad Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development (funded by the World Bank and Global Environment Facility)		1 005 841,79
Play for Nature		5 000,00
Savannah Energy - Renewables		64 742,49
Save Giraffes Now	10 179,12	
Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biolo- gy Institute	6 200,00	
South Florida AAZK	3 600,00	
SSIG Subscription fees		11 480,81
Saint Louis Zoo	60 000,00	
Stichting Wildlife		12 500,00
Swiss Ornithological Institute		* 14 503,00
Van Thienhoven Foundation		* 9 500,00
Worthwild Africa	3 000,00	
Zoofari Parks	2 000,00	
Zoological Society of San Diego	5 000,00	
Sahara Conservation Europe refund	1 280,70	
Sahara Conservation US		320 085,70
TOTAL PROJECT INCOME 2024	725 653,00	1 912 274,88

<sup>\*:</sup> Funds carried forward in 2025.

# 2024 Summary of Income

	Sahara Conservation US (US\$)	Sahara Conservation Europe (€)
Total income - projects	724 372,30	1 912 274,88
Total income – core operations	571 415,00	32 742,70
Total additional income - general operations	322 600,00	9 271,58
TOTAL INCOME 2024	1 618 387,30	1 954 289,16

# 2024 Summary of Expenditure

	Sahara Conservation US (US\$)	Sahara Conservation Europe (€)
Secretariat	107 233,00	304 073,53
Communications		108 850,00
Sahara Conservation Europe support for operations	330 092,00	
Sahel & Sahara Interest Group		31 940,31

Program costs			
Chad	Oryx Project	814 087,00	361 971,03
	ALBIÄ Project		965 238,35
	Eco Health	2 517,00	
	OROAFR - One Health	32 825,00	
	Addax Project	155 413,00	
	Vulture Project	30 242,00	
Niger	Dama gazelle Project	52 918,00	3 868,83
	Ornithological Projects	30 931,00	57 077,49
	West African giraffe Project	4 536,00	
	North African ostrich Project	88 416,00	
	Play for Nature		2 295,17
	Healthcare missions		11 545,64
	Other programs	2 561,00	
	Loans & misc income & expenses	(216 719,00)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2024		1 435 052,00	1846 860,35

Sahara Conservation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the Sahara and Sahel's unique ecosystems and landscapes.

Since 2004, we have been implementing sustainable initiatives to conserve the natural and cultural wealth of the Sahara, such as the protection and reintroduction of endangered species, habitat conservation and protected area management.

As a true unifying force, we work to build the capacities of local communities, supporting their participation in the sustainable management of the region's natural resources for future generations.

Working closely with local communities, governments, scientists and international partners, Sahara Conservation is also committed to raising public awareness of conservation issues in the Sahara and Sahel.

