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Dear Friends and Valued Supporters,

In a world increasingly challenged by the consequences of environmental degradation and wildlife exploitation, the efforts of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) like Wild at Life e.V. are more crucial than ever. From combating illegal wildlife trade and ending canned hunting farms to natural disaster rescue missions, our activities are diverse yet united by a single purpose: to protect our natural world and its inhabitants.

Wild at Life e.V.'s journey this year has been marked by resilience, compassion, and collective action, as we've navigated through natural disasters and continued our mission to safeguard wildlife and support communities in need. This report details the wildlife and conservation successes—the real impact—**YOU** helped make possible.

As we approach the end of a challenging yet fulfilling year at Wild at Life e.V., let's take a moment to reflect on our impactful journey, starting with the rescue mission in a Nigerian zoo that has been at the heart of our efforts throughout 2023.

## Nigeria

*“From Neglect to Care: Restoring the Lives of Abandoned Zoo Animals in Nigeria”* began in early March when we launched an emergency fundraiser to address the dire situation of animals abandoned in a state-owned Nigerian zoo. The zoo, struggling due to insufficient government support and low entrance fee income, found it challenging to provide adequate care for its animals amidst political instability and rising inflation. The zoo was home to a variety of animals: lions, a hyena, ostriches, a peacock, a crane, pythons, crocodiles, an alligator, and a turtle. However, the lions, in particular, were in a terrible state – emaciated and barely able to stand.

regular feeding to all the animals. Five months into our intervention, the transformation was remarkable. Both lions, whom we named **Ton** and **Mirella**, recovered significantly. Mirella, who initially struggled to stand, regained her strength within weeks. Today, they enjoy the freedom of roaming outdoors, basking in the African sun. Not just the lions, but the other animals, including **Hanena** the hyena, ostriches, and reptiles, showed significant improvements in health and well-being.



*Before: March 2023*



*Presently*

Our **dedicated ground team** in Nigeria, along with an on-site veterinarian, has been instrumental in this turnaround. Regular health checks and diligent care have ensured the animals are not just surviving, but thriving.



Our experience with the successful shutdown of Gamji Gate Zoo in Kaduna, Nigeria, and the relocation of its animals to a sanctuary highlighted the importance of strong local governmental relationships. However, in this case, the situation is complex; legal and political constraints prevent us from relocating the animals out of Nigeria or



*Hanena the Hyena*



*Black Crowned Crane*

## 📍 South Africa



In April, we embarked on a heartfelt mission to rescue **Süleyman**, a young giraffe found next to his deceased mother. After initial challenges, Süleyman adapted well at Bela Bela sanctuary, befriending other residents, including a resident cat, Purry. His transition to a larger enclosure with other herbivores has been a success, preparing him to join the sanctuary's giraffe herd in the future.





*Süleyman sticking his tongue out to Purry the cat*

Additionally, we rescued and provided sanctuary to **Lily** and **Luna**, two full-grown female tigers previously subjected to the cruelties of a canned hunting farm. Canned hunting farms are controversial establishments where animals, often big cats like lions and tigers, are bred and raised in captivity primarily for hunting. These animals are confined in enclosed spaces, significantly reducing their chances of escape, and making the hunt less challenging and more assured for the hunter. This practice is widely criticised for its cruelty as it denies these majestic creatures their natural behaviours and environments. Additionally, it commodifies wildlife, often leading to poor living conditions and welfare for the animals involved. Lily and Luna, once nameless and used for profit, are now thriving in a safe and nurturing environment at Bela Bela sanctuary, free from harm and exploitation.



*The cubs now*

Another significant event unfolded at Bela Bela sanctuary when **Eva** - one of the four lions Wild at Life e.V. successfully rescued from a notorious canned hunting farm in 2021 - unexpectedly gave birth to three cubs. Despite the vasectomy of her companion, **Christiaan**, Eva's adorable cubs – **Dingaan**, **Daisha**, and **Deeka** – brought new challenges and joy.

## Türkiye

This year's wildfire season brought an unprecedented wave of destruction across several regions, one of them being Türkiye. The escalating impact of human-induced climate change was palpable, casting a shadow of unease over these areas. In the southern Turkish province of Antalya, a devastating fire erupted, prompting a massive firefighting operation involving planes, helicopters, and hundreds of vehicles. Our dedicated team, alongside passionate volunteers, stood united in these trying times. Our efforts were not just limited to wildlife rescues; we extended our support to the affected communities, aiding them in every way possible.



In addition to wildfires, Türkiye

experienced a catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake - one of the deadliest of the 21st century- early this year, impacting both Türkiye and Syria. Amidst this chaos, our team, led by founder Aslihan Gedik, was among the first responders in the province of Hatay. We focused on rescuing and rehabilitating injured pets and strays, many of whom were trapped and distressed. Our efforts ensured that these innocent animals received the care they needed, and we worked tirelessly to rehome as many as possible. Stories like **Luna's**, a sweet cat rescued from the earthquake's aftermath and later adopted by a loving family in Ankara, exemplify the impact of our work.



Our commitment, however, extends beyond disaster response. On calmer days, our team and volunteers in Türkiye are actively involved in feeding hungry strays, implementing spaying and neutering programs to control the stray population, and promoting rehoming initiatives. In 2023, we have warmed the hearts of roughly 300 strays through our feeding, caring and spaying initiatives.



## Zambia

With continuous support from you, we were able to continue our care for the nine elephants in the **Livingstone Herd**, including **Sox** the hippo.







## 📍 Germany

In our long-standing collaboration with Rüsselheim e.V., we have significantly expanded our efforts in rescuing pigs and cows from slaughterhouses. Often overlooked and subjected to unthinkable conditions, these animals have been at the core of our rescue missions. We firmly believe in the sanctity of all life, and through our joint efforts, we have provided a safe haven for these intelligent and lovable creatures. Pigs, for instance, are not only intelligent but also incredibly affectionate and unlike what society portrays them to be, are clean creatures who will not defecate where they sleep and eat if given the choice.





Our commitment extends beyond rescue operations. Animal agriculture has severe environmental impacts and is a major contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. This understanding shapes our approach, driving us to not only rescue animals but also to advocate for sustainable practices that respect our planet and its inhabitants.

## 📍 South Africa



This year, for the first time in our organization's history, we embarked on a pioneering rhinoceros dehorning mission in partnership with **Saving the Survivors**. Our mission was driven by the urgent need to protect these majestic creatures from the brutal and rampant poaching fuelled by the illegal wildlife market, particularly in parts of Asia where rhino horns are falsely believed to possess medicinal properties.

Utilizing a helicopter to navigate the large terrain of the private reserve, we successfully tranquilized and collared several rhinos with state-of-the-art AI-powered

insights into their behaviour, migration patterns, and habitat use. This information is crucial for developing effective strategies to protect rhinos from poachers and to manage their populations responsibly.



In an innovative exploration of conservation techniques, we are considering the potential of blood and plasma transfusions between rhinos. This ground-breaking initiative could be pivotal in saving injured rhinos, offering a glimmer of hope in the face of brutal poaching incidents.

## Angola

**Tina, José, and Walter's** story began in 2019, discovered in distressing conditions in a backyard. Our response, constrained by limited resources and the global pandemic, was to provide immediate care and improve their living conditions until a more permanent solution could be found. The challenges we faced, including the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic, only strengthened our resolve to ensure their safety and well-being.





Our partnership with **Jane Goodall Institute** (JGI) under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been a cornerstone of our efforts. This collaboration has enabled us to extend our capabilities beyond rescue to provide a long-term, nurturing environment for these primates at the Tchimpounga Rehabilitation Center. The meticulous coordination for their relocation, involving obtaining essential documents and navigating through pandemic-related travel restrictions, highlighted the effectiveness of our joint commitment with JGI and the support of local authorities and governments.



The success of this mission is a testament to what can be achieved when dedicated organizations come together. The synergy between Wild at Life e.V. and JGI, bolstered by our shared vision and the hard work of individuals like our Advisory Board Member **Pim**, has been instrumental in giving these chimpanzees a new lease on life. Their stories, from rescue to rehabilitation, are powerful reminders of the impact we can have on the lives of endangered species.

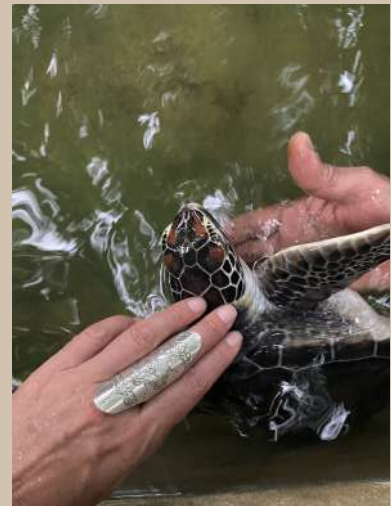


As the only NGO present in Angola, our role extends beyond individual rescue missions. Our presence has significantly reduced poaching activities in the Mayombe forest, thanks to the bravery and dedication of our patrolling rangers. This year's achievements reinforce our belief that with persistent efforts and collective action, the tide against poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Angola and beyond can be turned.



addressing the dire challenges these majestic creatures face. Sea turtles in this region are under constant threat – their eggs are often poached on beaches, they become entangled in fishing nets, suffer injuries from boat strikes, have detrimental interactions with tourists, and are victims of plastic ingestion.

The area is plagued with fraudulent and illegal tourist hatcheries, while the presence of numerous boats and fishing nets poses a grave danger to these marine animals. In our program, small turtles are being safeguarded, and older, often handicapped turtles are receiving care. Many of these older turtles suffer from conditions like blindness, fin injuries, or shell damage due to boat collisions. We've observed that local, ethical conservation centres are striving to make a difference but are hampered by limited funding, resulting in inadequate facilities for treatment and pre-release care.



After careful evaluation of various centres, we have selected one to provide our scientific and professional assistance. Our goal is to enhance their capacity for effective turtle rehabilitation and release.

In addition to our marine conservation efforts, Wild at Life e.V. is actively working to improve the lives of island strays. The struggle for these animals in Sri Lanka is immense, with little to no access to veterinary care or clean water. Many resort to drinking seawater, leading to severe health issues. To address this, we are engaging with local communities, setting up water bowls around towns, and providing food for these strays. We aim to alleviate their suffering and promote a healthier, safer environment for these animals.



This year, in a collaboration that spanned continents and cultures, we were honoured to be featured in the award-winning documentary, **"Stopping the Next Pandemic"** (*Épidémies l'empreinte de l'homme in French*), produced jointly by ARTE France, Georama TV, and NHK Japan. This documentary, focusing on the crucial interplay between human activity, wildlife conservation, and the prevention of pandemics, has garnered critical acclaim and has been a significant highlight in our journey this year.

Being a part of this remarkable documentary, produced by esteemed media organizations, fills us with pride and gratitude. It signifies a recognition of our conservation efforts on an international scale and motivates us to continue our work with even greater vigour.

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As we step into the new year, we remain committed to our cause and optimistic about the future. We believe that with your continued support, we can expand our reach and make an even greater impact.



meaningful gift to both wildlife and communities in need. Thank you for being a part of our journey and for helping us pave the way towards a brighter future.

Make a Donation

Happy holidays and see you in 2024.



**WILD AT LIFE**  
CONSERVATION AND RESCUE

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