

*2018 Annual Report*

**WILDHOOD**  
FOUNDATION





The northern white rhino pictured above, a male called Sudan, died on the 19th March 2018. His death leaves only two individuals of this subspecies on earth. Both are female. In practice, this subspecies is now considered extinct.

»I simply refuse to live  
in a world where elephants  
and rhinos no longer exist  
in the wild.«

Filippa Tarras-Wahlberg  
*Founder of Wildhood Foundation*

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*Photo credit:* Brent Stirton, Geran de Klerk, Tom Svensson.



# Executive summary

*Wildhood Foundation was founded in 2016 as a reaction to the escalating poaching crisis targeting wild animals in Africa. Our overarching goal is to fight the illegal killing of elephants, rhinos and other threatened species, and to halt wildlife trafficking. For us a world without these animals is simply no option.*

By Christina Geijer, Ph.D. Wildlife Conservation

SINCE THE MOST recent upsurge in poaching began about ten years ago, elephants and rhinos has suffered huge losses. It is estimated that 20–30% of Africa's elephants have been killed for their ivory tusks. That equates to about 110.000 elephants, and perhaps considerably more, given the challenges of monitoring populations. As for Africa's black and white rhinos, the situation is even more dire. The populations are small and vulnerable, and the majority are found in four range states: South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Poaching in South Africa, which holds the world's largest white rhino population, increased with 8000% between 2007 and 2017. Around 30–40% of Africa's rhinos have been lost in this most recent poaching crisis.

TO OVERTURN THESE negative figures the war against poaching has to be fought on many fronts: criminal syndicates and corruption must be rooted out, law enforcement and security must continue to be strengthened in all African

range states, demand of ivory from Southeast Asia must be eradicated, and collaborations and economic incentivisation with the communities living side by side with wildlife must be recognised as the only viable strategy to conserve elephants and rhinos in the long-term. Wildhood Foundation is working closely with organisations in some of the most affected areas to help strengthen security operations and promote local involvement through women empowerment.

Wildhood foundation partners with three African-based organisations that have been vetted and approved by Wildhood as serious partners, and for whom funds are urgently needed to counteract high poaching pressure. Our aim is to build long-term relationships with dedicated organisations, allowing the partnerships to grow over time and for Wildhood's sponsors to get a deeper understanding of the impact their donations are having. 100% of the funds Wildhood raises goes directly to the cause – no middle hands and no administrative costs.



WILDHOOD'S FIRST TWO years have been successful in both fundraising and awareness building. We have raised 1.7 million SEK since inception and over 1 million SEK in 2018 alone. Our goal for 2019 is to double this amount. The money raised this year has supported a full year salary for a female ranger in Zimbabwe in a ground-breaking new conservation strategy that trains and employs marginalised women as defenders of wildlife. Donations have ensured that Bat Hawk aeroplanes could be in the air for over 200 hours, surveying and deterring poachers in the Greater Kruger National Park, South Africa. And finally, funds raised have allowed the training of six working dogs to operate as protection and sniffer dogs, one of the most efficient ways of detecting and deterring poachers on the ground.

WE STILL HAVE a long way to go and we have set our goals high for 2019: to finance an enti-

re patrol of eight female park rangers, to raise enough money to allow for 40 hours of aerial surveillance per month, and to fund an independent canine unit consisting of dogs, handlers and vehicle. Wildhood's mission feeds into a broader agenda of protecting our planet from the unprecedented assault it is currently facing. In today's world with today's knowledge, it is safe to say that we are at a critical crossroads in terms of what planet we are leaving behind to the next generations. Biodiversity and environmental issues have become deeply entrenched in values: as a unified whole humanity needs to redefine its relationship to nature and take action.

Wildhood Foundation is based on a dream that everything is possible. That we can protect and save the planet's iconic wildlife for future generations. Help us make that a reality! ■





# *A decade into the poaching crisis*

**T**he illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is a major threat to some of the world's most endangered and charismatic species. Yet poaching and IWT is more than "just" an environmental issue: it's a serious transnational organised crime, facilitated by corruption and financial law violations, and annually worth up to \$23 billion. The primary demand for wildlife products, in particularly elephant ivory and rhino horns, comes from South East Asia, where such items hold cultural, status and believed medicinal value. China's increased presence in African countries from mid 2000s onwards in combination with a growing middle class triggered the most recent poaching crisis that has seen hundreds of thousands of elephants, and thousands of rhinos, killed in the last decade.

**DESPITE THE STRONG** link between biodiversity, socio-economic development and regional peace, the economic value of African ecosystems and the economic benefits of combating IWT are often under-estimated. As a driver of biodiversity loss poaching and IWT actively hinders the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations 2030 Agenda, and diverts African national budgets away from environmental and development programmes. Indeed, the exploitation of wildlife by criminal syndicates is an exploitation of local community rights over those resources and the socio-economic benefits derived from sustainable wildlife economies.

**WHAT HAS THEN** been achieved a decade into the poaching crisis? As a result of dedicated national and international efforts, poaching is now declining in some key countries, such as Kenya, where governmental support to combat illegal killings of wildlife has been strong. On a regional level, nineteen African range states have come together under Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) with the goal to close down all ivory trade and put governmental ivory stockpiles beyond economic use, thus preventing leakage

into the black market. On an international level, China's ban of its legal ivory markets which came into effect on 1 January 2018 was a major breakthrough. The year before, the U.S. adopted a near-total ivory ban, and in 2018 the UK decided to ban its domestic ivory market. What is more, 2018 saw two unprecedented moves to combat illegal wildlife trade. First, leading tech giants, including Google, Instagram and Facebook, joined forces to reduce online wildlife trafficking by 80% in two years. Second, global financial organisations signed the Mansion Declaration to prevent financial flows derived from wildlife trade and associated corruption.

**NOT ALL TRENDS** are positive. China decided to partially reverse its ban on rhino horn and tiger bone trade, less than a year after they closed ivory markets. The decision was later postponed due to international outcry, yet China's future intentions to use these animal parts for assumed medical reasons are still unclear. Furthermore, as mainland China's ban on ivory trade takes effect markets are mushrooming in neighbouring countries such as Hong Kong, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. In many African range states, including South Africa and most central African countries, poaching continues to be high. These states need to take stronger action against poaching, ban all ivory trade and join international efforts such as the Elephant Protection Initiative. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) – the main platform for the global community to tackle poaching and IWT – has yet to give the maximum level of international protection (Appendix I listing), to all African elephants due to opposition by the EU, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Indeed, despite a 2017 EU ban that prevents Member States exporting raw ivory, the EU's single market remains one of the most important markets and major transit point for the trafficking of endangered species. ■



# UN goals for sustainability and biodiversity

# Key pillars of Wildhood foundation

**PROTECTING WILDLIFE FROM** poaching and trafficking is part of a greater ambition to conserve Earth's biodiversity. According to the 2018 WWF Living Planet Report, species population sizes have declined with 60% in the last 40 years. This dramatic loss is not "just" about nature: our well-being, food security and livelihoods ultimately rely on a healthy planet with resilient natural systems. Indeed, the extent to which human development and environmental agendas inherently overlap is no longer a debate, it's a fact.

**IN 2015, THE UNITED NATION** set out its Global Goals, or Agenda 2030, to stimulate action in areas of critical importance for humanity and nature. It defines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to transform our planet over the next fifteen years. Of critical importance for wildlife is Goal 15: Life on Land, which aims to "*protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.*"

## Target 15 – Life on land

The SDGs explicitly address the issue of poaching and wildlife trafficking in Target 15.7 and 15.c of Goal 15. Wildhood Foundation actively works to meet these targets.

### Target 15.7

Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

### Target 15.c

Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

**THE SECOND KEY** policy process is the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which in 2018 set its new post-2020 targets at the UN Biodiversity Conference (held in Nov, waiting for report/results). In 2020 when the parties to the CBD meet again the aim is to negotiate a new Global Deal for Nature, with the same strength and momentum as the Paris climate agreement. ■

Wildhood foundation is the only organisation in Sweden specialised in anti-poaching and anti-trafficking of wild animals.

**GOAL.** Wildhood Foundation is a small organisation with one goal – to stop poaching and wildlife trafficking. This is being done by building awareness and raising funds to support dedicated anti-poaching efforts in Africa.

**FOCUS AREA.** Wildhood Foundation funds projects in some of the most vulnerable areas in Southern Africa in order to combat poaching and wildlife trafficking.

**100%.** of all funds raised is forwarded to the selected African organisations who protect wild animals from poachers. Corporate partners cover Wildhood administration costs, making sure every SEK donated goes straight to the cause.

**DIRECT ACTION AND SHORT LEAD TIME.** A donation to Wildhood is often connected to an urgent need and Wildhood can transfer funds to reach our African partners within days.

**MINIMAL ADMINISTRATION.** Wildhood is being operated by one full time employee, currently funded by the Swedish Postcode Foundation. All other manpower is pro bono.

**TARGETED FUNDRAISING.** Wildhood Foundation raises funds to meet specific needs in the field, such as operational flight hours for aerial surveillance, sponsorship of a working dog or salary for a park ranger. Donors are welcome to choose which operation they would like to support.

**FOLLOW UP.** Wildhood aims to keep a close relationship with donors and communicate how a donation is being utilised including the impact it has on the ground. ■



# Project partner organisations



## Impact defined

**WILDHOOD FOUNDATION** partners with three African-based organisations that have been vetted and approved by Wildhood as serious partners. Our aim is to build long-term relationships with these partners and for Wildhood’s sponsors to get a deeper understanding of the impact their donations are having. In this section, we have analysed what your donations have allowed these organisations to do in the fight against poaching during 2018. 100% of the funds Wildhood raises go directly to their operations – no middle hands and no administrative costs.



## Akashinga

*Redefining wildlife conservation through women empowerment.*

Akashinga – the first all-female anti-poaching unit – is a success story. Launched in August 2017 as part of the International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF) the project has already changed the face of community conservation in Zimbabwe by putting local women at the forefront of conservation management.

The lower Zambezi valley in northern Zimbabwe is a former trophy hunting area and home to the second largest elephant population in Africa. It has witnessed a shocking 40% decline in its elephant population over the last 16 years. Now it represents the first wilderness area in the world to be completely managed and protected by women – and succeeding in ways

that male-led ranging units would never have dreamt of. In their first year of operation the Akashinga women made 66 arrests. To date Akashinga women made 90 arrests. Corruption is non-existing and the economic benefits to their community is higher as more dollars are spent on child health and education at the hands of women. Akashinga means the Brave Ones. The project employs and trains disadvantaged women who have been subjected to abuse or neglect, giving them the opportunity to secure their own future whilst safeguarding biodiversity. 62% of the Akashinga operational costs go straight back to the community, thus investing in a future where local people take ownership of conserving the landscape they depend on.

Wildhood Foundation partnered with IAPF and Akashinga in May 2018. So far, Wildhood has secured enough funds to support the annual salary of

one woman ranger, a total of 48,000 SEK. The Akashinga project is a model for communitydriven conservation and its success story has only begun. Its long term goal is to recruit 1000 women to protect a network of 20 African wilderness areas reclaimed from trophy hunting by 2025. ■



**Akashinga achievements to date:**

Women employed .....	47
Acres protected .....	75,000
Wild snares removed .....	360
Animals poached .....	0
No. of poacher arrests .....	90
Corruption events .....	0





## Flying 4 Rhino

*Aerial surveillance forms a key part in the battle against poaching.*

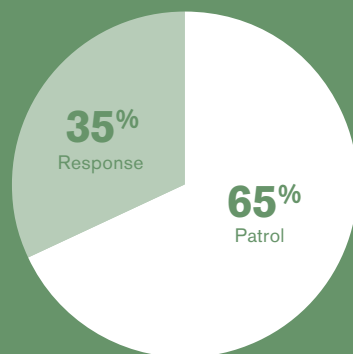
The vast expanse of the Greater Kruger National Park is a hotspot for poaching and requires more than on-the-ground manpower. On average a rhino is killed every seven hours – if this continues the species will be lost within our life time. Flying 4 Rhino & Conservation, a South African non-profit organisation, was founded in 2013 by a group of

dedicated pilots in order to provide more efficient surveillance with the ability to cover larger areas. Their work plays a critical role in locating animals, in the tracking and apprehension of poachers, and in enabling coordinated arrests with anti-poaching teams on the ground. Wildhood is a key fundraising partner to Flying 4 Rhino. For 2018 Wildhood donated over 270 000 SEK, allowing for 231 flight hours. The planes are used for two purposes:

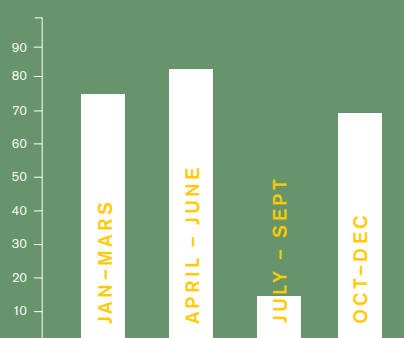
**Patrol Flights.** Regular surveying and monitoring of known “hotspot” areas that the poachers use to enter the reserves, as well as locating animals and reporting to ground staff.

**Response Flights.** Deployment of aircraft in reaction to suspected poaching events, such as fresh tracks of poachers or gun shots, as communicated by ground teams.

When Flying 4 Rhino have the funding to fly, incursions into the park are reduced by 92%. The deterring effect of aerial surveillance essentially pushes the poachers out of the reserve during daylight hours, forcing poachers to operate at night when it's much more difficult to find rhino. ■



Percentage of response vs. patrol flights by Wildhood-sponsored planes in 2018.



231 flight hours enabled through Wildhood donations in 2018, presented quarterly.



Flying 4 Rhino uses Bat Hawk Ultra Light Sport Aircrafts, which allow for efficient surveillance thanks to their specific characteristics.:

- Exceptionally low running costs
- 270° cockpit visibility
- Slow cruising speeds
- Ability to handle rough conditions
- Quiet engine

## Kilo9 Kennels

*Dogs are one of the most efficient tools in anti-poaching.*

Through patrol and protection, as well as detection and tracking, the use of working dogs is the new successful tool in anti-poaching operations. The Kilo9 Kennels is a committed group of South African dog handlers who train canines to assist in the fight against poaching. In addition to their exceptional ability to detect human and animal tracks, pick up suspicious sounds and movements, localise snares and sniff out weapons, ammunition and parts of wild animals such as ivory and rhino horn, dogs act as a serious deterrent to poachers operating in the area.

In 2018 Wildhood raised funds to support the training and operational costs of six working dogs managed by Kilo9 Kennels. These dogs operate under Protrack Anti-Poaching Units' non-profit division. Funds cover training equipment, food, flea- and tick treatment, toys and tugs, kennel

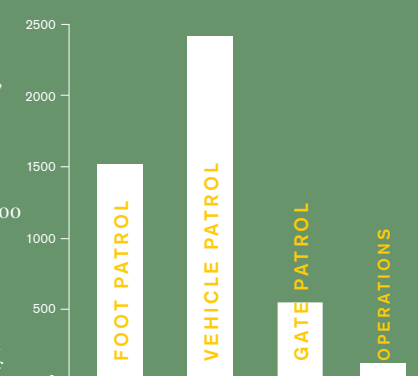
cleaning and housekeeping. During the year, Wildhood have also funded a construction of ten brand new kennels, to allow more and better space for the dogs. Each dog is valuable. Each dog takes years to train – and they are a critical investment in the war against poaching. The cost of one dog is 24.000 SEK per year. Wildhood sponsored six dogs in 2018. This is what they do when they are on duty:

**Foot Patrol.** Dog with team is dropped in the bush to look for snares, signs of poachers or poached animals.

**Vehicle Patrol.** Dog goes with reaction teams to check for incursions into the park, poaching incidents and to show presence.

**Gate Patrol.** Dog goes with team to park access gates, searching vehicles entering and exiting and showing presence.

**Operations.** Dog joins active operations that lead to an arrest or some form of successful intelligence gathering. ■



On duty hours for the six working dogs sponsored by Wildhood Foundation in 2018.



Total time during 2018 invested in:

Training activities ..... 4320 hours  
On duty activities ..... 4729.5 hours

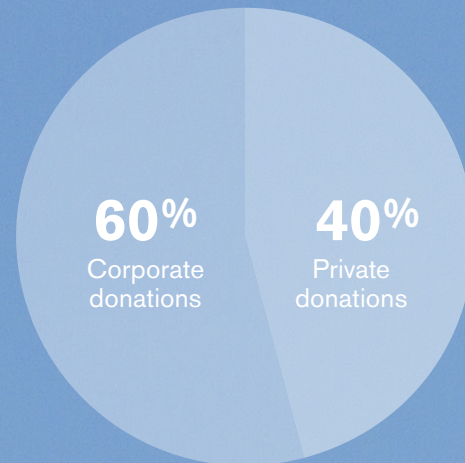




# Financial summary

WE ARE PLEASED to report that Wildhood Foundation, with your help, has raised over 1.7 million SEK since its launch in September 2016 and more than 1 million SEK in 2018 alone. Our awareness campaigns, all pro bono, were worth over 4 million SEK and reached an estimate of 48 million contacts in 2018.

The Returns on Your Investment: Hands-on impact and real change on the ground to Stop the senseless killing of elephants, rhinos and other threatened species. To us, every life matters! Private donations increased from 25% in 2017 to 40% in 2018, largely as a result of awareness campaigns and social media presence. With poaching still at crisis level in most African countries, our mission is to raise another two million SEK by the end of 2019. ■



Sources of funding in 2018



# Corporate Partners

OUR IMPACT ON the ground to combat poaching would not be possible without the funding, skills and support we receive from our Corporate Partners. We especially want

to thank The Swedish Postcode Foundation as the main sponsor, for providing the financial support to keep Wildhood operational.



*"The window of opportunity to prevent the extinction of many iconic species is closing. If we are to preserve elephants and rhinos for future generations, we need to act now before it is too late. The Swedish Postcode Foundation is committed to supporting actions to conserve wildlife and we believe Wildhood Foundation has found a niche and can help fill a fundraising gap for locally led initiatives to combat wildlife crime while also raising public awareness of this critical problem."*



We would also like to thank the following private donors for their considerable contributions: Konrad Bergström, Sven Hagströmer, the Wiseby/Jonsson family, Gun von Krusenstjerna and the Bergmark/Elfgren/Hertz family.





I would like to extend a big thank  
you to everybody who has contributed to  
Wildhood Foundation during 2018. The fantastic  
achievements we have accomplished during  
the year wouldn't have been possible without  
your commitment and support.

Filippa Tarras-Wahlberg  
*Founder of Wildhood Foundation*

**WILDHOOD**  
FOUNDATION

*Learn more at [wildhood.org](http://wildhood.org)*