



2020 Annual Report

WILDHOOD
FOUNDATION



The northern white rhino pictured above, a male called Sudan, died on March 19 2018. His death leaves only two individuals of this subspecies on earth, both are female. In order to save the species from extinction scientists have now, after years of research, succeeded in creating five northern white rhino embryos. Since the two remaining females are too old and weak to carry a baby the embryos will be carried by a southern white rhino surrogate.

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

Filippa Tarras-Wahlberg
Founder and CEO, Wildhood Foundation

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Photo credit: Björn Persson, Eric Smith, Frank af Petersens, Geran de Klerk, Kim Butts, Niclas Berglund and Tom Svensson

Executive summary

Wildhood Foundation was founded in 2016 as a reaction to the escalating poaching and illegal trade targeting wild animals in Africa. Since the most recent upsurge in poaching began more than ten years ago, elephants and rhinos have suffered huge losses. Our goal is to stop the illegal killing of wild animals and to halt the trafficking of wildlife products. For us, a world without these animals is simply no option.

By Filippa Tarras-Wahlberg
Founder of Wildhood Foundation

OUR FIRST YEARS have been successful in both fundraising and awareness building but 2020 was a tough year, both for us and for our partners in the field who depend on continued donations to keep operating. Our fundraising has been strongly affected by the pandemic with multiple activities cancelled and we have been forced to rethink and change our strategy; from events, meetings and travels in order to start building a more solid (and pandemic-safe) ground of recurring donations through digital marketing and fundraising. A whole new field for us which we will continue to develop in 2021.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC has further highlighted the important relationship between people and nature. The health of our ecosystems, on which we and all other species depend, is deteriorating more rapidly than ever. Nature is declining at rates unprecedented in human history and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating with grave impacts on people around the world. Wildhood Foundation's goal is to protect wildlife as part of a greater ambition to conserve earth's biodiversity. The loss of wildlife is not just about nature: our well-being, food security and livelihoods ultimately rely on a healthy planet with resilient ecosystems.

WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY with organisations in some of the most affected areas to help strengthen security operations and promote local involvement through women empowerment. Despite the pandemic we have during the year raised and donated over 2 million SEK to support salaries, equipment and patrol vehicles for 80 newly recruited female rangers in the groundbreaking conservation strategy Akashinga that trains and employs marginalised women as defenders of wildlife. Our funds are used to expand the project to protect a larger landscape of wilderness and more elephants in the Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe. Our fundraising has also allowed the continued deployment of six working dogs which have been trained for protection, detection and tracking - one of the most efficient ways of detecting and deterring poachers on the ground to prevent wildlife crime.

WE LEAVE A CHALLENGING YEAR behind us. A year that forced us to take a step back and change direction. We can't thank you enough our fantastic donors, partners, board of directors and volunteers for all your help throughout the year. Your support is making a difference in our fight for a living planet. ■



Key Pillars of Wildhood Foundation

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 main goal – to stop poaching and wildlife trafficking in order to preserve threatened species of wildlife and their habitats for future generations.

FOCUS AREA. Through raising awareness and funds Wildhood support dedicated anti-poaching efforts to protect wildlife and nature in some of southern Africa's most affected areas.

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

MINIMAL ADMINISTRATION. Wildhood is being operated by one full time employee, during 2020 supported by a group of private Key Donors. All other manpower is pro bono and corporate partners help cover Wildhood's administration costs to make sure as much as possible of every donation go straight to the cause.

TARGETED FUNDRAISING. Wildhood Foundation raises funds to meet specific needs in the field such as salaries for park rangers, uniforms, field equipment or sponsorship of a working dog. Donors are welcome to choose which operation they would like to support.

FOLLOW UP AND IMPACT. Wildhood aims to keep a close relationship with donors and partners to follow up on how a donation is being utilised including the impact it has on the ground. ■

UN Goals for Sustainability and Biodiversity

IN 2015 THE UNITED NATIONS 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 of which Wildhood Foundation fulfils 9.

OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE for wildlife and nature is **Goal 15**: Life on Land which aims to protect biodiversity and natural habitats as well as eliminate poaching and trafficking of protected species. A sustainable use of our ecosystems and preserving biodiversity is not a cause, it is the key to our own survival.

With our work to protect sustainable ecosystems and biodiversity Wildhood

actively contributes to the objectives of **Goal 15**, but through supporting projects that employs women from poor rural communities as park rangers, several development goals are also met. Direct effects are reduced poverty and hunger: **Goal 1** and **2**, decent working conditions and economic growth: **Goal 8** and increased equality: **Goal 5** and **10**. Indirect effects of female park rangers are that women, compared to men, tend to spend more of their income on their children's health and education, which contributes to **Goal 3, 4** and **6**. Through future project plans Wildhood intends to include even more Goals, specifically the fight against climate change: **Goal 13** and sustainable seas: **Goal 14**. ■

»A sustainable use of our ecosystems and preserving biodiversity is not a cause, it is the key to our own survival.«

Covid-19's effects on conservation

As an effect of the Covid-19 crisis, we've seen devastating consequences for wild animals and their habitats. In the wake of a complete disappearance of tourism as a source of income in many African countries, funding for protection of wilderness areas and wildlife has been greatly reduced.

WITH THE COLLAPSE of some non-profits and lack of international funding sources, rangers across the continent have been left without resources to operate. When valuable ecosystems are being abandoned, they open up for poaching syndicates resulting in increased poaching. In the beginning of 2020 we identified this as a serious threat that needed to be fought in order to not risk losing unique wilderness areas and biodiversity.

IN ORDER TO ENSURE that our work could be maintained, as well as expand the work into areas where the downturn in tourism is having some of the most serious effects on conservation efforts, we launched a fundraising for a special investigations project together with our local partner International Anti-Poaching Foundation in Zimbabwe. The overall purpose was to strategically fill the gaps left in the

wake of tourism downturn by disrupting and eradicating all forms of poaching prior to the act and in the early stages of illegal wildlife trade along the biologically rich Zambezi Valley in Zimbabwe and in the capital Harare.

THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED IN JUNE 2020 and turned out so successful we decided to keep supporting the operation during 2021. Here are the results made from June 1st until December 31st 2020:

153 arrests made in 92 separate operations for a total of 114 wildlife offences, including:

- 16 weapons recovered.
- 9 snares removed.
- 2 pairs of rhino horns recovered.
- 46 elephant tusks recovered.
- 17 pangolins recovered from which 12 were saved alive.
- 15 skins recovered from Leopard, Lion, Zebra, Giraffe, Crocodile and Python.
- 19 bushmeat recovered with parts of Elephant, Buffalo, Bushbuck, Warthog, Zebra and Kudu.
- 6 logging cases of charcoal & firewood; unrecorded number of trees involved.
- 500 kg of fish recovered.



Vilda djur drabbas hårt av Coronakrisen

Till följd av Covid-19 ser vi förödande konsekvenser för vilda djur i Afrika. När turism helt försvunnit som inkomstkälla har också avgörande finansiering till skydd av vilda djur och vildmarksområden försvunnit. Parkvakter sägs upp och värdefulla miljöer blir tillgängliga för en ökad tjuvjakt, ett akut hot som behöver bekämpas nu.

De kommande månaderna är kritiska. För att skydda djuren startar vi en insamling till insatser som ska stoppa tjuvjakt och illegal handel i särskilt utsatta områden. Djuren behöver din hjälp! Sänd ditt bidrag till 123 023 0078 eller ansvänd Plusgiro 827373-2 och märk din gåva "kris". Läs mer på [Wildhood.se](https://wildhood.se)

WILDHOOD
FOUNDATION

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Our fundraising campaign has been exposed in several newspapers and magazines throughout the year thanks to free media space donated to Wildhood Foundation.

Project partner organisations

WILDHOOD FOUNDATION partners with two 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 donors 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 wildlife crime during 2020.

Akashinga

Wildlife conservation through women empowerment

AKASHINGA – the first armed all Female anti-poaching unit – is a success story. Launched in August 2017 as part of the International Anti-Poaching Foundation 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 16 years prior to Akashinga's arrival. Now it represents the first wilderness area in the world to be completely managed and protected by women and as a result of effective protection wildlife have started to return.

DESPITE THE DELAYS AND CHALLENGES that the global pandemic has thrown at us during 2020 Wildhood have

supported the continued training of 80 new recruits, seen in the new National Geographic documentary. The trainees are currently in the midst of their training program and due for deployment in March 2021. Their successful graduation and deployment will represent 1/3 of the targeted 240 rangers needed to patrol and protect almost 1.6 million acres of wilderness. In addition to this, 15 fulltime instructors have been trained to facilitate the growth of Akashinga.

TO GIVE WOMEN THE OPPORTUNITY to become self-sufficient through the employment as park rangers has turned out to bring lots of positive effects not only for wildlife and nature but for people and whole communities. Corruption is non-existing, domestic violence and rape have decreased and the economic benefits to the community is higher as more dollars are invested back into the household and on child health and education, at the hands of women.

THE BREAKTHROUGH INNOVATION of Akashinga comes from its singular mission and vision; to advance

conservation and wildlife protection throughout Africa by transforming trophy hunting areas to wildlife refuges, employing the unique advantages of women as protectors of wildlife while integrating indigenous communities in the fruits of worldwide interest in preserving African wildlife.

Wildhood Foundation & International Anti-Poaching Foundation

WILDHOOD FOUNDATION partnered with IAPF to support the Akashinga program in May 2018. So far, Wildhood has secured enough funds to support the salaries and equipment to enable the operation to grow from an initial 30 female rangers to 110 by the end of 2020.

WILDHOOD has raised and donated over 4 million SEK to this program so far. Our long-term goal is to have an army of 1000 women protecting a network of 20 African wilderness areas, covering 4 million acres, reclaimed from trophy hunting by the end of 2026. We are grateful for your support of that vision and mission! ■

»Our long-term goal is to have an army of 1000 women protecting a network of 20 African wilderness areas, covering 4 million acres of land.«



Akashinga achievements to date:

Women employed	110
Acres protected	1,141,626
No. of arrests	235
Households benefiting from project	172
People benefiting from project	1032
School aged children benefiting from project ...	516

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. Kilo9 Kennels is a committed group of dog handlers who train working dogs to assist in the battle against poaching. We stand behind their animal friendly and cruelty free approach to training methods, always putting the dog’s potential and interest first.

THE MAIN PURPOSE of our dog project is to prevent wildlife crime – to stop the poaching before it even happens by sniffing out illegal weapons and identity suspected poachers before they enter the wildlife areas.

IN 2020 WILDHOOD RAISED FUNDS to support the continued training and operational costs of six working dogs. All dogs have now, after 3 years of training, reached the point where they are deployed and out in the field working with rangers in selected hotspots around southern Africa. Wildhood funds these dogs’ training equipment, food, tugs and toys, flea- and tick treatment, veterinary bills and first aid-kits. Wildhood also supports the salaries of the two main head trainers to allow them to focus on the continued development of our dogs. Since dogs are a living material they require constant follow ups and customized re-training.

EACH DOG IS VALUABLE. Each dog takes years to train and they are a critical investment in the fight against wildlife crime. We are proud that all our dogs have, after years of training, moved to permanent on-duty locations. This is where the time and money put into training is now being turned into action on the ground.

This is what Wildhood’s dogs do when they are on duty:

Rhino monitoring. Dog with team spend time close to the rhinos to make sure they are safe, monitor their movements and report potential injuries.

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

Fence & presence patrol. Dog goes with reaction teams to check for incursions into the reserves and to show presence.

Operations. Dog joins active operations that lead to an arrest or some form of successful intelligence gathering or search carcass crime scene.

Wildhood Foundation & Kilo9 Kennels

Wildhood Foundation partnered with Kilo9 Kennels in January 2017 to support the training of 6 working dogs for conservation. The goal of the project is to bring the dogs to a position where they can be deployed and protect wild animals on a daily basis.

The main purpose is for our dogs to prevent wildlife crime – to stop the poaching before it even happens. Dogs 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, act as a serious deterrent to poachers. And we are now seeing the results of their work. ■



Total hours during 2020 invested in:	Daily	Monthly	Year total
Rhino monitoring	20	420	5040
Foot patrols/fence patrols/presence patrols	22	522	6264
Training on camp/on duty	10,5	256,5	3078
Operations/road blocks	9	186	2232

Note:
The dogs work on a 3 week on, 1 week off basis. Even though they usually work overtime or continue working with a different handler during this time, but this isn't consistent. The monthly numbers are determined by the work they do in 3 weeks, not 4.

» We are proud that all our dogs have moved to permanent on-duty locations. This is where the time and money put into training is now turned into action on the ground.«

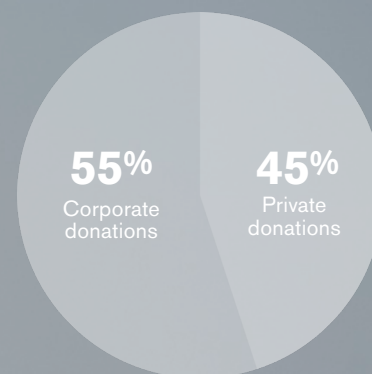
Financial summary

OUR FIRST YEARS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL in both fundraising and awareness building. With your help Wildhood Foundation has raised over 9 million SEK for protection of wildlife and nature since its launch in late 2016 and from this 2.2 million SEK was raised in 2020 alone.

During the year, our awareness campaigns have reached thousands of people through free space in print media and drawn lots of attention as well as donations for our cause.

However, Wildhood Foundation's work in Sweden has been greatly affected by the pandemic with multiple activities cancelled during the year. As a result of this we've had to change our strategy from events, meetings and travels to start building a more solid ground of recurring donations through digital marketing and fundraising. We estimate that at least 2 million SEK in fundraising have been lost during the year which will have a negative effect on our work and results the coming years. ■

THE RETURNS ON your investment: Hands-on impact and real change on the ground to stop the killing of elephants, rhinos and other threatened species. To us, every life matters!



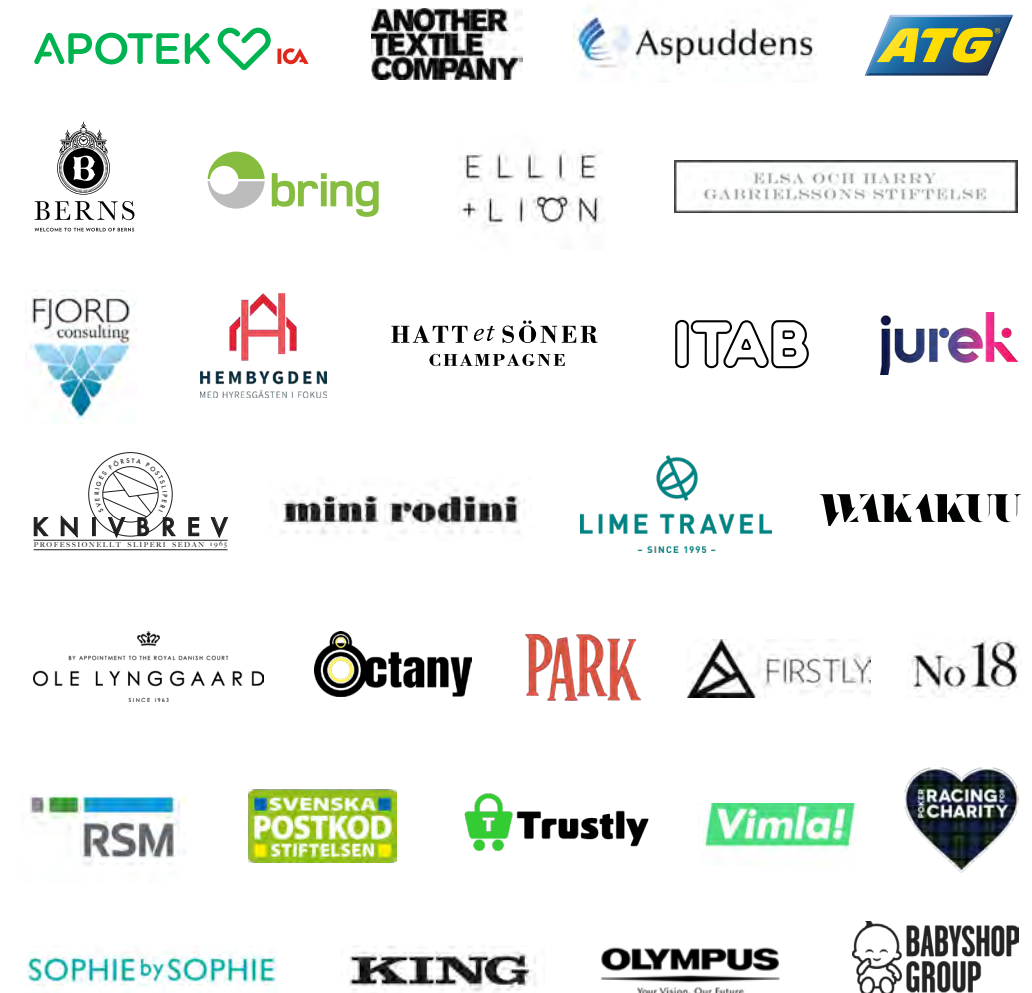
PRIVATE DONATIONS INCREASED from 20% in 2019 to 45% in 2020, largely as a result of our new fundraising strategy focusing more on private sources. Due to the pandemic forcing us to cancel several events and activities during the year, corporate donations decreased from 80% in 2019 to 55% in 2020.



Friends of Wildhood Foundation

OUR IMPACT ON THE GROUND would not be possible without the funding, skills and support we receive from our Partners and Friends. We especially want to thank our Key Donors for providing the financial support to keep Wildhood operational during 2020:

Jan-Olof Backman, Mikael Horal, Peter Horal, Mats Jönsson, Mats Wäppling and The Arnäck Family. We would also like to thank *Konrad Bergström* and *Gun von Krusenstierna* for their considerable support during the year.



Special thanks to *KING* for designing this report and to *Aspudens* for helping with the print!



FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JAMES CAMERON

AKASHINGA

T H E B R A V E O N E S

UNBREAKABLE WOMEN. UNSTOPPABLE FORCE.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTARY FILMS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH AVATAR ALLIANCE FOUNDATION
FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JAMES CAMERON "AKASHINGA: THE BRAVE ONES" MUSIC BY CHRIS BEATY EDITOR BRAD TURNER
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY NEIL FAIRLIE CIAN HAMILTON AND MICHAELA HAMILTON PRODUCED BY JAMES CAMERON KEVIN TAO MOHS AND BETSY FORHAN
DIRECTED BY MARIA WILHELM
DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1
WWW.AKASHINGA.FILM

In september 2020 we invited a selected number of donors to an exclusive screening of National Geographic's short film "Akashinga - The Brave Ones" in which the selection of another 80 female rangers, supported by Wildhood Foundation, is documented. Go to akashinga.film to watch the film!

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Learn more and support on wildhood.org | Follow @wildhoodfoundation