

Annual Report 2023

Report finalised on 20 February 2024

This Annual Report discloses the operations, resolutions and funded projects of the Camelthorn Foundation, a charity registered in England & Wales, Charitable Incorporated Organisation registration number: 1189522. The Foundation is registered office is at 14 Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0GP, United Kingdom.

Our website is www.camelthornfoundation.org

Contact

If you have any questions at all about this Annual Report, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at **camelthorn.foundation@gmail.com**

Foundation trustees

Michael James Koch – 18 May 2020 (6 years) Michael Bruce John Murray – 18 May 2020 (4 years) John Pharoah – 18 May 2020 (5 years)

1. Structure, governance and management

The Foundation is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – Foundation and is governed by a constitution. Trustees are selected by the board of Trustees¹.

2. Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the Foundation set out in its governing document:

- 1. To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment for the benefit of the public by designing and implementing globally applicable solutions that are effective locally, and in particular in rural and impoverished areas in close proximity to wildlife. These solutions include but are not limited to:
 - protection of wildlife
 - prevention measures such as human-wildlife conflict management and anti-poaching;
 - rehabilitation of environmentally degraded areas;
 - management and expansion of areas protected to improve biological diversity;
 - provision of socio-economic development opportunities for improved livelihoods of communities living in significant wildlife habitats; and
- 2. To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, in particular but not exclusively, in low-income and lower-middle-income areas in which both people and wildlife live, through the development of educational infrastructure; the application of educational equipment and teaching aids; the training of teachers, and through adult education, to improve awareness and understanding of the protection, rehabilitation and sustainable utilisation of the environment.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects:

Only activities that respond to the Foundation's charitable objectives, clearly provide public benefit² and comply with the Foundation's Grant Making Policy³ will be considered by the Trustees. The Trustees understand the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising any powers or duties. The guidance is particularly considered and discussed when deciding on which projects or campaigns the Foundation might choose to support. The main activities undertaken by the Foundation for the public benefit are:

- Reduce costs of wildlife to communities: Projects on water and food security for both wildlife and people, to alleviate tensions over resources (including pumping water for wildlife)
- Prevent illegal use of wildlife Projects on anti-poaching and wildlife protection as well as human-conflict resolutions activities (including equipping scouts)
- Support community-based wildlife initiatives Projects on community-owned and managed land that benefit both wildlife and people (including wildlife sanctuaries)
- Promote education and socio-economic opportunities
 Projects to facilitate education, health and wellbeing (including textbooks and mobile dental and optometry clinics

3. Achievements and performance

¹See Camelthorn Foundation Constitution and Business Model documents for further information.

² See *Proof of Benefit* document.

³ See *Grant Making Policy* document.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The funds from the Foundation were spent directly with suppliers of services to facilitate its charitable objectives and also as grants with the Water4Wildlife Trust in Zimbabwe.

3.1 Uniforms for Community Wildlife Protection Unit scouts and community rhino scouts In 2023, the Camelthorn Foundation purchased scout uniforms from Grand Uniforms in South Africa.

Distribution of these uniforms was carried out by the Water4Wildlife Trust for a unit of scouts working on anti-poaching and rhino conservation activities along the southern boundary of Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park. These scouts are all employed and are from the local communities. The uniforms served a group of scouts who have just been recruited to the unit. They operate in an area of intense human-wildlife conflict and their operations are highly necessary and valuable to the area as a whole.

See the following documents:

• Statement of Agreement – Uniforms April 2023, between Camelthorn Foundation, Grand Uniforms and the Water4Wildlife Trust



3.2 Support for the Community Rhino Conservation Initiative



In 2023, the Camelthorn Foundation supporting the Community Rhino Conservation Initiative (CRCI) through a grant agreement and letter of funding for the Water4Wildlife Trust. Funding went specifically towards the fencing of sanctuary 2.

CRCI, spearheaded by the Water4Wildlife Trust and Imvelo Safari Lodges, is a ground-breaking collaborative project that has brought white rhino to communal lands adjacent to Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, in an effort to (1) rebuild viable populations of white rhino in the area, (2) establish a buffer zone between the National Park and communities to alleviate human-wildlife conflicts and (3) provide socio-economic opportunities for the communities who are custodians of these rhino (through employment, education and school children visits, engagement and tourism revenue from rhino viewing fees).

CRCI is currently developing Phase II following the success of Phase I and its pilot project. Phase II and III are crucial for CRCI to fulfill its conservation ambitions. As a result of covid-19 impacts and the slow recovery of tourism, support for developing Phase II, and in particular sanctuary 2, is necessary.

PHASE I The pilot project

consists of a 180ha intensively protected sanctuary that accommodates 2 white rhino bulls, protected 24/7 by armed Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Unit (Cobras CWPU) scouts. The sanctuary is on communal land at Ngamo in Ward 3 and tourists are asked to pay rhino viewing fees. Part of these fees go straight to the communities, and are in fact maintaining the local Ngamo clinic operational, while the rest are used to maintain Phase I and expand the Initiative into Phases II and III.

PHASE II A series of intensively protected community-based sanctuaries

are being established along 40km of Park boundary on communal land in Ward 3, evolving naturally with community engagement and input. Each sanctuary will support numbers of white rhino and other wildlife. The sanctuary 2 area was identified and agreed as a result of Mlevu, Kapanyana and Gwenga villages wanting to be part of CRCI and amalgamating their land. Sanctuary 2, about 4 times the size of sanctuary 1, is now fenced, has 3 boreholes to provide water to wildlife and to the scouts' base, has a scouts' base with barracks, canteen, kitchen, ablutions and operations room, is undergoing intensive scrub clearing and has roads cleared...it is ready to welcome rhino!

PHASE III A large protected area

will consolidate the community sanctuaries into a conservancy, and may eventually even extend into the National Park. This area will serve as a large buffer zone between the Park and communal lands and to accommodate a viable population of free roaming white rhino, and other wildlife. This conservancy will benefit local communities via employment, direct revenue, socio-economic development projects, improved education and reduced human-wildlife conflicts.

The Initiative hopes to pioneer a conservation model that entirely benefits the local people whilst also achieving important conservation ambitions in terms of rhino re-introduction. The Initiative, having been delayed by the impacts of Covid-19 and the slow recovery of tourism, is still dependent on donor funds and support to maintain the CWPU, maintain equipment and training standards and ensure the wellbeing of the two rhino, and soon to be more, in the CWPU's care.

The Camelthorn Foundation funds will support the Community Rhino Conservation Initiative in whatever capacity is needed: with regards to anti-poaching dogs, infrastructure, food, kit and uniforms etc.

Impact and results from the year 2023 from this year with regards to CRCI included:

Continued Cobras Community Wildlife Protection scout training. Sixteen men from the local villages have been recruited to join the unit of 24- strong. They finished their basic training in December 2023 and are being deployed to work with older Cobras scouts at the two sanctuaries. Their training included first aid, rhino monitoring, weapon handling, shooting, communications, environmental education.

Continued rhino behaviour monitoring. Scouts on duty for rhino guarding are tasked with reporting rhino behaviour and location at 15 minute intervals 24 hours a day, providing over 35,000 data points that can contribute to national research on white rhino behaviour. The rhinos were able to feed on natural vegetation the entire duration of the year, even at the end of the dry season when food availability was limited. Supplementary feed did not have to be supplied and the rhino retained a healthy body condition.

Continued community education and engagement. Over 850 school children have visited sanctuary 1, learning from the scouts about the rhino and conservation, doing some practical exercises, as well as through community workshops and meetings.

Continued community support. Rhino visiting gate entry fees (over 1000 paying guests in 2023) provided needed funds to maintain Ngamo Clinic operational (payment of nurses' salaries until May, payment of security officer salary, food rations for all staff, supply of drugs and consumables, provision of equipment, supply of diesel to pump water and for nurse transport, and contributions to building up the Clinic's second wing. Other gate entry generated funds went towards drilling a borehole and general community support. This is a new model for empowering wildlife-funded community-based development.

Continued employment. Over 60 local people were employed as Cobras scouts but also as habitat management and maintenance casual workers, builders, road clearers, etc.

Continued alleviation of human wildlife conflict. The sanctuaries established, with high-tech electrified fencing, serve as a buffer zone between the National Park and the communal lands.

Community appetite. Community interest in allocating some of their land to conservation, and particularly rhino, has grown with more villages to the west of Sanctuary 2 wanting the be part of the Initiative

Canine unit. Two Cobras scouts attended k9 training in South Africa from February-April and two trained Belgian Malinois dogs were imported in August 2023 to help the unit especially in terms of tracking. Kennels were built behind the scouts' camp and they have had a veterinary visit. Sourcing the appropriate dog food is costly and challenging but has been possible to date.

Habitat management. Scrub clearing and habitat management, by hand using local labourers, has had huge impacts in sanctuary 1.

Sanctuary 2 infrastructural developments. Significant developments have been carried out at sanctuary 2, ready to welcome rhino in 2024:

- 10km of electric human wildlife fencing has been erected. Funds from the Camelthorn Foundation contributed to this cost.
- 5km of National Park fencing has been rehabilitated and electrified
- A scouts' camp and base has been set up with canteen, barracks, ablutions and operations room
- Roads and scrub clearance are underway
- Two boreholes with solar pumps have been drilled one for wildlife, including rhinos and one at the scouts' camp.

More information at: www.hwangecommunityrhino.com

- Grant-Making Agreement Community Rhino Conservation Initiative June 2023
- Letter of Funding Community Rhino Conservation Initiative September 2023
- Grant Completion report -Community Rhino Conservation Initiative





Photos specifically of fencing (what Camelthorn Foundation funding contributed to):



3.3 Improving water accessibility at Steve's Pan

The Camelthorn Foundation supported work at Steve's Pan at Jozibanini, in a remote south western part of Hwange National Park to improve water access for elephants and other animals through a grant with the Water4Wildlife Trust.

Steve's Pan is a waterhole that provides water to thousands of elephants every day and the pressure is so great that improving access to clean water was needed urgently. It is pumped using a solar hybrid unit (solar panels and a generator that can keep pumping throughout the night when needed, and throughout the dry season especially). A borehole put in the past at Jozibannini provided 1500 litres of water an hour to the waterhole in the area and pumping it more intensively would dry it out. A new borehole was therefore sited in 2021 and drilled by the Water4Wildlife Trust to 120 metres thanks to generous donor funding. A new solar plant was erected and this new borehole provided 6,000 litres of water but was plumbed into the existing pipeline from the older borehole, meaning that only about 2700 litres of water an hour reached the troughs, where the elephants would congregate to drink...not enough water for such great volumes of elephants. It was agreed that work needed to be carried out to ensure better water availability and access for the animals.

Funding was spent on materials and labour needed to improve pipe work and the area around the troughs, where elephants crowd round to drink. The work done totalled US \$ 13,000, including the £3,047.83 (US \$3,917.20) donated via the Camelthorn Foundation which specifically covered:

- Class 6 polypipe US \$ 795
 Fittings from borehole to container US \$ 262
- Labour 4 days 6 people US \$1,240
- Sundries
 Mileage
 Rations
 Fitting for trough and container
 US \$ 350
 US \$ 200
 US \$ 350
- Pump and motor US \$ 485

Work carried out included increasing the pipeline size and running it straight to the troughs to allow more water to reach the troughs; the pump and motor were also upgraded. This allows the troughs to now receive 6,900 litres an hour for thirsty elephants (a 120% increase!). Additional work, funded by the Water4Wildlife Trust included upgrading the wet end slab ("drinking platform") to 9 metres x 7 metres. 108 bags of cement were used making the area around three troughs incredibly strong to withstand elephant pressure for years to come. A 100ml drain pipe was also fitted to allow the water to fill the pan once the three troughs are full. The troughs are all interlinked so fill and drop at the same time to reduce stress levels in the dry season. The waterhole has daily visits from a number of animals, including large herds of elephants and buffalo as well as elephants, kudu, impala, zebra and sable.

- Grant-Making Agreement Solar Hybrid Wildlife Water Pumps April 2023
- 2023 Grant Completion report -Water for Wildlife Jozibanini Waterhole



3.4 Helping pump water for wildlife

The Camelthorn Foundation supported the Water4Wildlife's wildlife pumping efforts in southern Hwange National Park through a grant agreement and a letter of funding

The Water4Wildlife Trust manages 5 solar hybrid water pumps which pump throughout the dry season in the southern region of Hwange National Park: Mfagazaan pan, Mandiseka Pan, Mbazu Pan, Setcheche Pan and Mpisi Pan. Each waterhole supports about 10,000 elephants and a number of other important species. Hwange National Park has very little natural surface water and access to water and food becomes difficult for wildlife with the progression of the dry season. Proactively pumping water for wildlife is one of the only short-term options for avoiding mass wildlife deaths.

The project mainly needs support throughout the dry season, when water availability is a problem. The solar unit pumps throughout the year when the sun is shining, including in the rainy season. Extra pumping is required during dark hours of the dry season (May -November) to be able to sustain the large numbers of thirsty wildlife. Pump attendants are therefore required to be stationed at each pump to switch the engines on when the sun goes down, monitor the engine's activity, maintain troughs, and record animal numbers etc.

The Trust has been carrying out water pumping using these solar hybrid pumps for many years and it has proven to maintain wildlife numbers during the dry season. The organisation, alongside a number of other stakeholders, continues to explore other, and longer-term, ways of supporting its wildlife in this area to ensure a balanced ecosystem. NGO organisations and tour operators have had to support National Parks in maintaining its wildlife. Hwange, especially the southern area, is vulnerable to intense droughts which has historically seen many animals die. Pumping water for wildlife has therefore become an essential activity, until a longer-term solution has been found, to sustain the wildlife population.

The Camelthorn Foundation supported the Water4Wildlife Trust throughout the long dry season of 2023. Over 7,800 litres of diesel were consumed by 6 solar hybrid pumps in southern Hwange to provide both solar and diesel-pumped water for wildlife, including thousands of elephants. The engines were installed on the five pumps on 8 July 2023 and stopped being used on the solar hybrid units on 9 November 2023.Over expenditure on this project for 2023 incurred by the Water4Wildlife Trust was \$45,000

- Grant-Making Agreement Solar Hybrid Wildlife Water Pumps April 2023
- 2023 Solar Hybrid pumps July 2023 letter of funding
- 2023 Solar Hybrid pumps September 2023 letter of funding



3.5 School lunch programme

The Camelthorn Foundation contributed to a school lunch programme championed by the Water4Wildlife Trust in schools around Hwange National Park.

In 2023, the Camelthorn Foundation helped the Water4Wildlife Trust provide over 450,000 school meals to 11 different schools - over 2,500 children. Sometimes this was in the form of a nutritional drink called mahewu, or as the staple maizemeal and beans or soya chunks. Monthly teacher rations to 26 teachers as well as food packs for over 30 children boarding at schools were also distributed. In an area with lots of sand, wild animals, intense heat, no public transport...giving children a boost of energy to help them learn, after walking for several kilometers, is very important.

These schools were:

- Ngamo Primary
- Ngamo Secondary
- Mpindo Primary
- Mlevu Primary
- Kapane Primary
- Kapane Secondary
- Ziga Primary
- Mtshayeli Primary
- Sihazela Primary
- St Mary's Primary
- St Joseph's Primary

- 2023 Grant-Making Agreement school lunch programme
- 2023 Grant completion report School Lunch Programme



3.6 Supporting the Smile and See Programme

The Camelthorn Foundation supported the 2023 Smile and See Programme taking place in Tsholotsho and spearheaded by the Water4Wildlife Trust.

A grant to the Water4Wildlife Trust was made to support a project the Trust has maintained for a number of years: providing mobile dental and eye care to the communities around Hwange National Park. In these isolated areas, people do not have access to dental services and eye care is often overlooked; women cooking over open flames and in the smoke, community members working outdoors with eyes unprotected from the blazing sun. Providing much needed dental and eye care to the rural villagers living along the boundary is essential to their wellbeing, in turn this is fundamental if they are expected to take care not only of themselves, but also of the wildlife they live with. Health is a fundamental part of wellbeing and wellbeing is essential to community-based conservation. Supporting local healthcare programmes plays a big part in facilitating conservation initiatives.

The Water4Wildlife Trust, alongside Imvelo Safari Lodges (providing logistical support, as well as food and accommodation) and Smile is a Foundation (gathering a group of volunteer expert dentist and optometrists from Spain), run an annual Smile and See programme to support the rural and isolated communities living around Hwange National Park. Since 2011, these mobile dental and eye clinics have treated over 42,200 patients.

Other impact numbers include:

- 1,877 dental care patients
- Over 2,900 dental procedures carried out
- 334 children given fluoride
- 61 fluorosis cases identified
- 3,077 eye care patients
- Over 300 cataract cases identified
- Over 1,750 prescription glasses distributed

Resources included:

- Sixteen dedicated vehicles (1 Daf, 1 Tractor with trailer, 3 buses, 1 coaster bus and 10 other vehicles, including 8 safari vehicles)
- Twenty-eight Smile is a Foundation volunteers, and 5 other volunteers
- Fifteen Imvelo support staff and drivers
- Twenty-five Ministry of Health staff: 4 dental doctors, 3 optometry doctors, 5 dental nurses, 4 optometry nurses, 5 Environmental Health Technicians, 4 nurse aides
- Sixty-three: 3 Rural District Council scout, 50 clinic cooks for patients, 10 Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Scouts.

In all the dental sites, oral health was taught to all dental patients as individuals at the dispensary desk as well as during fluorination.

- 2023 Grant-Making Agreement Smile and See
- 2023 Grant completion report smile and See





3.7 Providing accommodation to Ngamo Secondary School students

The Camelthorn Foundation partnered with the Koch Foundation and the Water4Wildlife Trust to provide accommodation to students at Ngamo Secondary School. .

The Camelthorn Foundation, via a donation from the Koch Foundation (Canada), funded the prefabricated buildings directly by purchasing these from Carguard Pvt in Harare, Zimbabwe. for the building of concrete slabs was sent to the Water4Wildlife Trust to manage suppliers on the ground.

Other Water4Wildlife Trust donors supplemented the funding to help provide 16 bunk beds and 32 mattresses, as well as to supply food for the boarding students and to pay a matron, called Florence Ncube from Zikwakwene line.The structures, including their transport close to the site, cost a total of £19,708.30 paid directly to Carguard Pvt by the Camelthorn Foundation.

In terms of building the concrete slabs and screeding the floors, materials had to be brought to site (via both train and road) to build concrete slabs. These materials included cement, riversand and quarry stone, as well as brick force and blocks. Two local builders were hired for this. The pre-fabricated Carguard units arrived via truck and because of the thick Kalahari sands, they had to be offloaded and reloaded onto a tractor to get to the school. Two members of the Carguard team stayed for a few days and worked with our local builders to erect the builders. After they left and the structures were up, the local team screeded the floors. Finally, bunk beds and mattresses were delivered and put inside the accommodation blocks. All in time for term 2!

- 2023 Grant-Making Agreement Ngamo Secondary Boarding Accommodation Feb 2023
- 2023 Statement of Agreement between Camelthorn Foundation, Carguard Pvt and Water4Wildlife Trust
- 2023 Grant completion report Ngamo Secondary Boarding Accommodation



4. Financial review

The Foundation's principal sources of funds is private donations from word of mouth and social media campaigning. In 2023, it also received a large donation from the Koch Foundation, Canada, for a specific project at Ngamo Secondary School. Its ambitions for 2024 are to continue receiving private donations that will support activities or projects that empower people to better conserve their wildlife and perhaps supplement these with appropriate grants. Expenditure in 2023 specifically supported the Foundation's key objectives by targeting childhood education, promoting healthcare, providing water for animals, equipping anti-poaching scouts and conserving rhino.

4.1 2023 Accounts

The "Balances with Reallocations" column takes into account funds allocated to "Area of greatest need" that are reallocated to make up debits in other projects for the year.

January 2024

	Carried over from 2022	Money in	Money out	Balance	Balances with reallocations	Notes for reallocations		
Area of greatest need	297.88	3'097.48	0.00	3'395.36	378.94	Funds allocated to "Area of greatest need" can be reallocated to make up debits in other projects for the year		
Water for Wildlife	792.51	3'018.90	6'827.83	-3'016.42	0.00			
Rhino and anti-poaching	665.67	1'955.43	7'552.41	-4'931.31	0.00			
Textbooks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Smile and See	0.00	0.00	2'010.00	-2'010.00	0.00			
Gordon's House	4'112.52	6'449.24	0.00	10'561.76	2'620.45	Allocations to "Gordons house" are in fact to be allocated at the discretion of the Trustees to whatever project they decide. When the goal of £15,000 is achieved, the girls' Ngamo Secondary boarding accommodation blocks will be designated as "Gordon's House".		
Koch Foundation	11'990.00	11'990.00	23'748.39	231.61	231.61	Education		
School lunch programme	0.00	0.00	1'000.00	-1'000.00	0.00			
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Unrestricted / designated	6'301.00	10'546.72	14'062.41	2'785.31	2'785.31	**Accounts submitted to the Charity Commission end of 2022 - need to be amended to better reflect unrestricted/restricted split especially as per above comment on Gordon's House and funds donated by them.		
Restricted with grant agreement	11'557.58	15'008.90	27'076.22	-509.74	0.00			
Restricted without grant agreement		955.43	0.00	955.43	445.69	up to 8% can be allocated to unrestricted		
Reserves	150.00			150.00	150.00			
TOTAL	17'858.58	26'511.05	41'138.63	3'231.00	3'231.00			

4.2 Foundation's position on reserves:

	End of 2023	End of 2022	% increase / (Decrease)
Unrestricted Funds (Reserves)	150	376	
Restricted / Designated Funds:	3018	17482	
- Building Fund			
- Education Fund			
- Others			
Endowment Funds			
Total Funds	3231	17858	
Ratio of Reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure*	0.36%	250.67%	99.86% decrease **

*Charitable Activities and Other Operating and Administration Expenses.

**Decrease probably due to the large number of grants awarded and money spent

Low reserve levels may be due to a recently set-up charity as well as because of the fact that the Foundation is a self-help charity with no staff and few operating expenses (to date) and therefore the Foundation wants to use up as much income, aligned with its objectives, as it can. On its website, the Foundation declares that a minimum of 92% of funds donated will go to directly fulfilling charitable objectives. A maximum of 8% of funds donated will go towards administration, governance transfer and processing fees. This *does not* apply to any specific grant agreements. According to the reserves policy, the Foundation's position on reserves at the end of 2023 is such that:

Maintain a minimum of £150 of reserves per year,

or 8% of: unrestricted funds (\$2,785.31) and funds donated for a specific cause but outside of a specific grant agreement (\$445.69), which would be \$258.48 These reserves need to keep the Foundation "alive" and be used for the Foundation's operations, which at this point is just renewing the website and perhaps any transport/subsistence that might be needed for trustees to carry out administrative or fundraising duties. The Trustees therefore allocate £150 to reserves at end of 2023.

The reserves that the Board has set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of the Foundation in terms of improving fundraising. The Board intends to maintain reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to £150 per year, given that the website subscription alone is about £90 annually. Other small expenses, such as sending through administrative paperwork perhaps Trustee travel for fundraising, need to be considered. Expenditure will be considered by the Board as and when necessary. The Board reviews the amount of reserves at least quarterly, that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil continuing obligations.

5. Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Full name JOHN PHAROAH Position TRUSTEE Date 20 FEBRUARY 2024