



2025 Annual report





Welcome

2025 was a year of shocks: in world politics, security and trade and with cuts to bilateral aid programmes by many OECD countries. It was also a year in which new climate science confirmed accelerating warming trends, and global forest loss remained stubbornly high at around 6-7 million hectares driven by a combination of farmland expansion and fires. The 2025 Global Wetland Outlook confirmed that on top of 22% of wetlands lost since 1970, we risk losing another 20% by 2050 if trends continue.

Fortunately, the global community did not stand still and there were many global efforts to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, including the Ramsar COP15 in Zimbabwe, the Climate COP30 in Brazil and the IUCN World Conservation Congress at which the Abu Dhabi Call to Action was adopted for urgent action on reaffirming nature’s role, strengthening multilateralism, ensuring justice and inclusion, advancing knowledge and scaling up resources.

From a DOB Ecology perspective, we were delighted to see our partners contributing strongly to these events and delivering conservation results on the ground that make a difference in their countries for nature and the people who depend on its resources.

We were pleased to award new grants to programmes run by IBIF (Bolivia), Tropenbos DR Congo, Guinée Ecologie (Guinea), PAMS (Tanzania) and the Wageningen University in collaboration with the Anton de Kom university for a research programme in Suriname. We also provided follow-on grants to 3 existing partners.

This year also saw the tragic loss of two park rangers who were killed by suspected poachers in the Gashaka Gumti National Park in Nigeria. Our thoughts go out to their families, colleagues and friends. This underscores the dangers faced daily by park rangers worldwide, of whom at least 174 died in the service of nature in the 12 months to mid-2025.

The DOB Ecology Board provided oversight and guidance to our work throughout the year. We were delighted to welcome Jeroen Tobé who joined as a member.

We would like to thank our partners for the inspiration they give us each day as they strive to make a lasting difference for nature and people.

With warm greetings,
From the team at DOB Ecology

Achievements to date

Cumulative results up to 2025



Forests

Area restored (ha)

28,573

Area protected (ha)

11,264,952



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)

183,170

Area protected (ha)

3,682,608



Other ecosystems

Area restored (ha)

242,147

Area protected (ha)

545,709



Beneficiaries

Number of people

270,382



Knowledge

Number of knowledge products

628

At a glance

DOB Ecology was set-up in 2016 by a Dutch entrepreneurial family as a non-profit foundation to support nature restoration and conservation.

The foundation provides grants to NGOs that work with communities to protect, manage and restore wetlands and forests in Sub-Saharan Africa and South America. We also fund research that generates knowledge to address issues faced by conservation practitioners.

At the end of 2025, DOB Ecology's portfolio comprised of 21 active programmes, with 10 in South America, 9 in Africa, 1 global and 1 local research programme. A summary of the results achieved by each programme is presented in the following sections.

To support cross learning among partners, we hosted an in-person gathering in Ecuador in June for partners based in South America. This allowed staff to share key lessons from their work with each other.

We look forward to supporting our partners in the coming year as they strive to contribution to goals in their landscapes together with other stakeholders.

Strategy

DOB Ecology has a strategy for the period 2024-28. In short, our priorities for funding are:

- Conservation and restoration of forest and wetland landscapes in South America and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Programmes that achieve tangible results on the ground, carried out in a way that benefits and builds the support of local people for conservation.
- Research that addresses challenges faced in conservation management and builds capacity in the countries where the research takes place.

We award grants to (non-profit) NGOs and CSOs that have nature conservation as their primary mission. Of these, we prioritize organizations that have strong local legitimacy in the landscapes and countries where they work.

Other characteristics that we look for in programmes include interventions that protect, manage, restore areas of high biodiversity importance, contribute to connectivity or transition (buffer) zones in a landscape, and that build the capacities of organizations with a conservation mission or mandate.

We recognize that nature conservation and restoration take time and we aim to be a long-term funding partner. That said, we also expect programmes to be designed to become (largely) self-sustaining once a grant period has been completed.

It is a pre-condition that our partners respect and actively safeguard the rights, needs, traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous people and local communities.

Vision

A healthy planet where biodiversity, ecosystems and people thrive.

Mission

To support partners and projects that protect and restore threatened ecosystems and biodiversity in a way that (re)builds the conditions for resilient livelihoods of local communities.

Goal

To increase nature protection and restoration substantially in more than 10 landscapes that are internationally recognized for their forest or wetland biodiversity.





Organizational development and partner engagement

At DOB Ecology we consider it important that our partners have time and resources to develop the skills of their staff, as well as their organization as a whole. Therefore, we provide support for organizational development as an integral part of our grants.

Further, DOB Ecology encourages its partners to share their results, knowledge, and lessons learned with each other, and the wider conservation community. In 2025 we organized several events to support this e.g. we invited three of our partners to visit another partner's programme, both for inspiration and as a learning experience.

One highlight was a workshop we organized for our South American partners that took place in Ecuador. Over 5 days partner staff had the opportunity to share knowledge about their day-to-day work, learn from their peers, and build personal ties. It was an inspiring event that led to a range of follow-up activities among partners, including: group facilitation skills, community-led tourism, wetland restoration, and monitoring & evaluation.

We ended 2025 with our annual end-of-year online partner gathering during which our five newest partners shared their highs and lows from the first year of their programmes.

Programmes Africa

Both ENDS

Communities regreen the Sahel

Work towards large-scale land restoration in three countries (80,000 hectares in Niger and 60,000 hectares each in Senegal and Burkina Faso) through Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) by and for communities.



PRCM

Communities saving mangroves on Tristao and Kapatchez

Safeguard and expand the mangroves area so that they have a broad vegetation cover and enable the local communities to reduce the use of mangrove wood by encouraging alternative economic activities.



Guinée Ecologie

Conservation in the Niokolo-Badiar-Koulountou transboundary landscape in West Africa

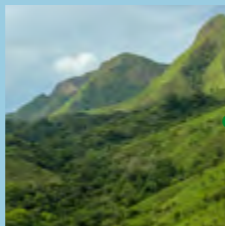
Support the scoping, monitoring and planning to develop a long-term nature conservation plan for the southeastern Senegal and northern Guinea areas of this landscape.



ANI

Conservation of the Gashaka Gumti National Park and its wider landscape

Improve conservation, management and use of biodiversity and ecosystems' goods and services for the benefit of nature and local communities in the park as well as cross-border for the trans-frontier landscape.



Tropenbos DR Congo

Biodiversity Bridges

Establishing a network of interconnected, well-managed local community forest concessions that serve as buffers to protect remaining intact forest areas and preserve biodiversity in the surrounding hinterlands in the Bafwasende landscape.



Noloramata

Supporting landscape-wide restoration of healthy grazing lands for people and nature

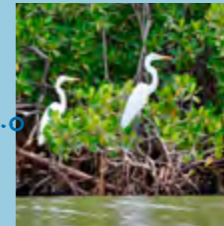
Empower local communities to take sustainable rangeland management and land use planning in their own hands.



Wetlands International

Safeguarding mangroves along the West and East African coasts

Help protect and restore valuable mangroves, empower local communities to manage their natural mangrove resources more sustainably, and improve their livelihoods through new, sustainable sources of income.



WWF Zambia

A resilient Zambezi river basin for people and nature

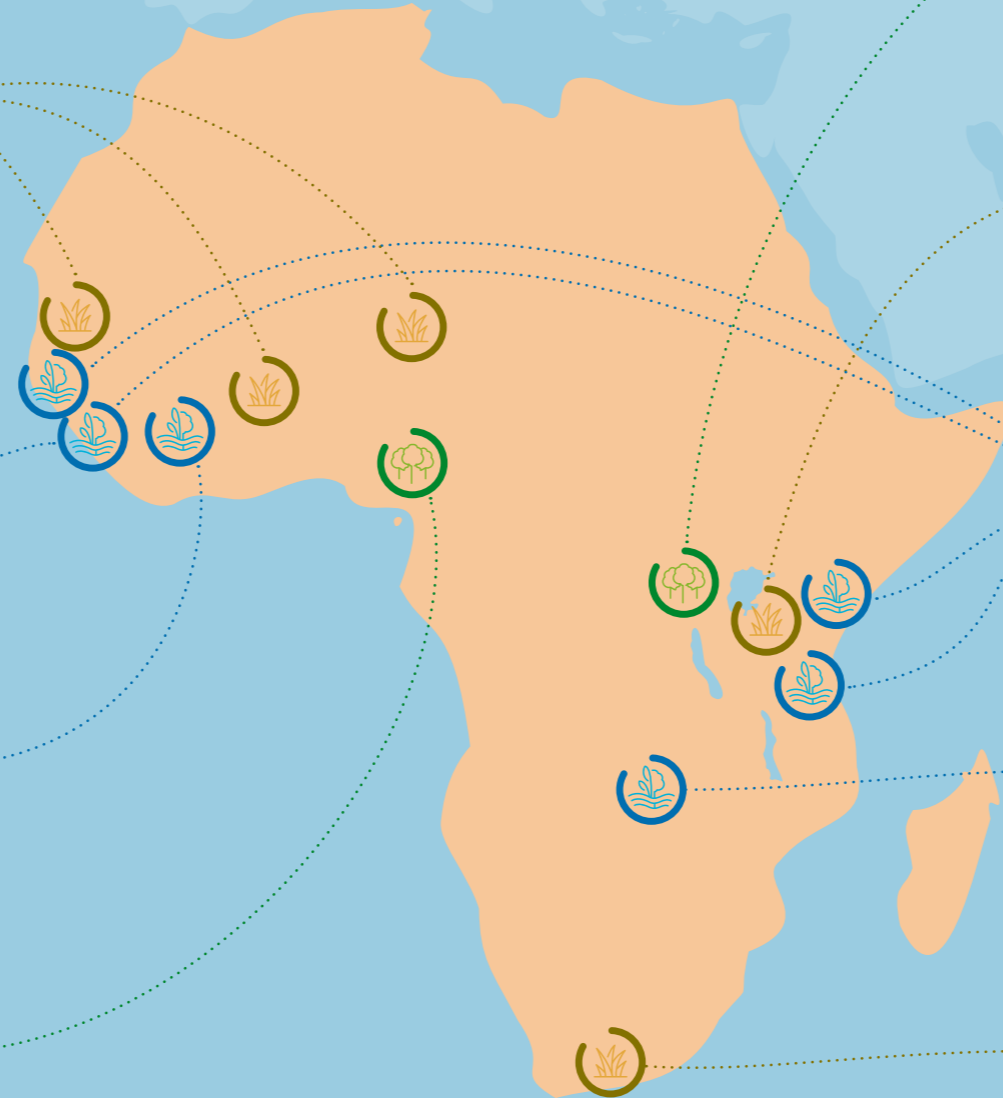
Support strengthening of the protected area network to secure ecological integrity of the Zambezi headwaters which are key to the provision of downstream ecosystem goods and services.



Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve

Restoring the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve

Increase the resilience and sustainability of the Gouritz biosphere reserve, by supporting the creation of a 100,000 ha ecological corridor and restoration of 10,000 ha by planting the indigenous spekboom and removing invasive species.



Restoring the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve

Partner
Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve

Location
Southern part of South Africa where three global biodiversity hotspots converge: the Cape Floristic Region, Succulent Karoo and Maputoland-Pondoland-Albany hotspots.

Duration
Since 2017



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)
2,025



Other ecosystems

Area restored (ha)
89,843

Area protected (ha)
1,500

Cumulative results up to 2025



Beneficiaries

Number of people
8,477



The Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve (GCBR) is a UNESCO-recognized living landscape with rich biodiversity that is of global significance. Centuries of large-scale land transformation have left many natural ecosystems fragmented and increasingly vulnerable to invasive species, erosion, biodiversity loss and climate-related pressures such as intensified fire and flood risk. The region also suffers from poverty and social exclusion. The GCBR organization is dedicated to conserving and restoring the region's native biodiversity while increasing the well-being of people living in the region.

What happened in 2025?

Significant progress was made in improving ecological resilience. More than 10,000 hectares of land and 500 hectares of wetlands were restored through cooperation with landowners, using specialized contractor teams and facilitated by GCBR's landscape coordinators.

Another approach to manage invasive alien plants is through biological control. GCBR conducted multiple releases across 19 sites for 6 species, in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and the Agricultural Research Council. A significant outcome was successful insect collection for biocontrol at Bokdrift - a site where releases have been conducted on a Sesbania infestation since 2021 - which means this site now serves as a biocontrol nursery.

A notable milestone in conservation was the declaration of Jongensgat as a Private Nature Reserve. With GCBR's support, including updated botanical assessments, a revised application was presented to the CapeNature Review Committee and approved. GCBR landscape coordinators engaged several other landowners interested in protecting their land in perpetuity.

In collaboration with Grootvadersbosch Conservancy, State of Our Rivers reports were produced and published for five towns, namely Riversdale, Suurbraak, Heidelberg, Swellendam, and Barrydale. These reports have sparked conversations with key stakeholders and the public.



Clearing of invasive alien plants from catchments, rivers and wetlands

Collaboration continued to support previous investment in nature-based enterprises. Following severe storm damage, infrastructure repairs at Mont Blanc Nursery were completed, enabling the nursery to deliver its full quota of healthy indigenous plants for use in GCBR's Fynbos Biome Rehabilitation Project. Further, maintenance and guided hiking activities also continued at Calitzdorp hiking trails, supporting local eco-tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities. And Yamu Botanicals released a range of natural incense that honors indigenous plant species and the cultural heritage of the region.

Youth members of the Man and the Biosphere Youth Committee and Forum participated in workshops and volunteered in a range of projects and outreach initiatives, including biodiversity assessments, soil sampling, river monitoring, beach and river clean-ups, tree planting, and community food gardens.

Dr Steve du Toit concluded his long-standing tenure as GCBR CEO in late 2025 and was recognized by the Board for his important contribution to the Gouritz region.

Safeguarding mangroves along the West and East African coasts

Partner
Wetlands International

Location
The Grand Saloum and Casamance in Senegal, Cacheu NP and Cantanhez NP in Guinea-Bissau, Lamu and Tana Delta in Kenya, the Rufiji Delta in Tanzania

Duration
Since 2017



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)
3,877

Area protected (ha)
315,257



Forests

Area protected (ha)
94,122

Cumulative results up to 2025



Beneficiaries

Number of people
94,704



Improved cookstoves in Pate Primary School



Beekeeping training in coastal Kenya

The mangroves on the East and West African coasts, which constitute 19% of global mangrove coverage, provide millions of people with food, clean water and raw materials and act as buffers against storms, tsunamis and sea-level rise. Mangrove Capital Africa (MCA) protects and restores these mangroves along key sites for the benefit of nature and people.

What happened in 2025?

Senegal

In June, WI trained 30 participants from MPAs, universities, and other NGOs on the use of Global Mangrove Watch (GMW) through incubator projects, ahead of the restoration efforts planned for August and September. The training involved collaboratively selecting areas for restoration using GMW alerts, followed by ground truthing to validate these sites. The validation process confirmed the locations affected by mangrove degradation due to human activities. Actual restoration activities took place in different sites. In the Grand Saloum 80 hectares and in Casamance 103 hectares of degraded mangroves were restored through incubator projects based on prior training provided through the MCA on Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR).

The Saloum and Casamance Mangrove Platforms organized events for the celebration of World Mangrove Day on 25-26 July 2025, providing opportunities for discussion, communication, and advocacy for the protection of these key ecosystems. And four Mangrove Environment Clubs in the Grand Saloum participated in Wetlands Kid Days.

Guinea-Bissau

Members of the local PLANTA platform carried out restoration activities on 113 hectares. WI's support focused on partner mobilization and technical guidance on Assisted Natural Regeneration and site monitoring. In July, the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem was celebrated in Tabanca de Cacanda in Catanhez National Park, bringing together over 500 participants from local communities, authorities, and partner organizations.

In December, the 2025–2034 Management and Development Plan for Cantanhez National Park was finalized and approved by IBAP and validated by local partners and communities.

Tanzania

In August and December 2025, joint surveillance patrols with the Tanzania Forest Services Agency, Kibiti District,

and the Village Natural Resources Committee were conducted in the Rufiji Delta. During these patrols, several illegal activities were identified and actions were taken by the authorities to identify the responsible parties and request corrective actions. Most restored areas remain intact, indicating improved community awareness and cooperation.

Between August and September 2025, 100 modern, improved cooking stoves were installed in the Northern Delta areas. These upgraded stoves increase energy efficiency, reduce firewood demand, and ease pressure on mangrove forests, contributing to both environmental protection and improved livelihoods in the Rufiji Delta. A study on the impacts found that they reduced household firewood consumption by 60–80%.

In June, the Rufiji Delta Landscape Strategy (2025–2050) was officially launched in Dar es Salaam. This 25-year roadmap, led by Wetlands International with the Kibiti District Council, Rufiji Basin Water Board, and other partners, outlines measures to restore and sustainably manage one of East Africa’s most important wetland ecosystems.

Kenya

In June, progress in mangrove rehabilitation and integration of nature-based livelihoods over 11 sites was assessed together with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute, Kenya Forest Service and community groups. Restoration efforts carried out in 2024 resulted in a high average survival rate of 82%, demonstrating ecological recovery through CBEMR, strong community engagement, and a solid basis for scaling up.

In August, over 50 stakeholders and community groups benefited from CBEMR training in Kipini, Tana River County, and as a result shifted their approach from dense, monoculture planting techniques to science-based restoration guided by ecological site assessments.

Beekeeping training on modern beekeeping practices, hive management, and enterprise development was conducted in both the Lamu and Tana landscapes with 28 participants and essential beekeeping equipment to

Fishermen in the river near the Moyambo village, Sierra Leone

enhance the productivity and viability of community-led apiculture enterprises was provided.

Sierra Leone

In 2025 work started in Yawri bay. In April, participatory baseline assessments were conducted at the 4 restoration sites to understand the biophysical conditions and in May 2025, training on CBEMR, was provided to key stakeholders engaged in mangrove restoration and management in Yawri Bay. Hands-on restoration demonstrations at all four sites empowered stakeholders with practical knowledge to lead future restoration efforts using CBEMR. Over 200 community members participated in hydrological improvements over 36 hectares of abandoned rice fields – breaking of dykes and creating or improving natural channels.



Communities regreen the Sahel

Partner

Both ENDS

Location

Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso.
The semi-arid Sahel drylands, a combination of grassland and savanna, with areas of wood- and shrubland

Duration

Since 2017



Other ecosystems

Area restored (ha)
151,435



Beneficiaries

Number of people
127,600

Cumulative results up to 2025



Land degradation and desertification in the Sahel threaten the livelihoods and food security of millions of people. Countries such as Niger, Burkina Faso, and Senegal are particularly vulnerable due to recurring droughts, environmental degradation, food insecurity, and political instability.

The Communities Regreening the Sahel programme supports rural communities in restoring degraded land through Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), a sustainable and low-cost agroforestry approach. FMNR enables farmers to regenerate trees and vegetation by protecting and managing naturally occurring tree stumps, roots, and seeds that remain alive in the soil. This helps restore soil fertility, improve agricultural productivity, strengthen climate resilience, and increase biodiversity.

In addition to technical support on FMNR practices, the programme helps communities organize themselves through local village committees, strengthen local governance around natural resource management, and improve market access for agricultural and tree-based products so farmers can generate greater and more sustainable income.

What happened in 2025?

Despite the continued security challenges in Burkina Faso and Niger, overall progress across the three countries was positive. About 12,500 hectares of land was regreened through FMNR with at least 13,300 farmers trained. Importantly, nearly 75% of farmers that have been trained since the programme started have continued to use the FMNR practices. Such progress testifies to the effectiveness of FMNR and the resilience and commitment of local communities.

In the past year there was also an intentional shift in focus in programme activities in order to build sustainability beyond the grant period, through (i) consolidating regreening activities, (ii) capitalizing on programme results, (iii) enhancing external visibility, and (iv) fundraising.

Niger

Nearly 7,000 hectares were regreened in Niger with just over 10,000 farmers trained in FMNR. Consolidation



Farmers trained on natural regeneration of trees

activities included peer-to-peer learning in which 60 peer-trainers were retrained and deployed across 6 of the 9 municipalities. The training included tree functions and values, agroforestry solutions, committee governance, and practical exercises in FMNR techniques such as demi-lunes and zai pits.

Senegal

Progress continued to be made in Senegal with 3,000 hectares of land regreened and 1,300 farmers trained which means the team has exceeded all its multi-year targets. As part of the work on consolidating the approach, 25 FMNR-focused broadcasts were produced and aired over community radio during the year, and 55 village committees were strengthened as the central pillars of local FMNR governance. One highlight was women's cooperatives that worked on marketing of FMNR-derived products - notably balanites oil and baobab derivatives. The revolving funds, managed directly by the cooperatives have proven to be a durable model of community self-financing that reduce pressure on forest resources, ease domestic workloads, and reinforce women's economic role in their communities.

Burkina Faso

Progress was made despite the context of political insecurity, especially in the North, Northeast and Center West regions; about 2,500 hectares were regreened and about 2,000 farmers trained. As part of the routine monitoring work, site visits were made to FMNR plots to directly observe and document tree regeneration dynamics since the project's inception. Fields under FMNR management were found to have more than 100 trees per hectare and a rich diversity of tree species – a striking testament to the power of the approach to transform the landscape.



Biodiversity Bridges in the Bafwasende landscape

Partner
Tropenbos DR Congo

Location
The Bafwasende landscape covers 4.7 million hectares with more than 450,000 inhabitants in eastern DR Congo

Duration
Since 2025



Forests

Area restored (ha)

Area protected (ha)



Beneficiaries

Number of people

Cumulative results up to 2025



Community members engaged in landscape restoration



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The Provincial Minister of Environment meeting the Bafwapada women's association

Bafwasende's forests provide a home to significant biodiversity. Studies carried out in the landscape provide evidence for the presence of key species such as afromosia, okapi, chimpanzee, Congolese peacock, buffalo, elephants, and various species of monkeys. With a forest cover of around 98%, this landscape constitutes a core forest area in the Congo Basin.

The return of peace and stability has turned Bafwasende into a forest frontier due to migration, economic expansion, and improved accessibility. People from North Kivu and Ituri are migrating westward, seeking affordable arable land and bringing with them entrepreneurial initiatives and trade networks. This influx has fueled a rise in the timber trade, artisanal mining and rapid development along the road that crosses the territory from Kisangani to the eastern border with Uganda. Indigenous communities that have lived in this landscape for many years often do not have legal rights over their land which makes them vulnerable to exploitation by others.

What happened in 2025?

The programme started officially in October with a series of inception activities. Although Tropenbos DRC has worked in Bafwasende for several years, the new programme has enabled the recruitment of additional staff and establishment of a field office to be built on land donated by the local government.

At the national level the announcement of the "Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor" was received as a positive

reinforcement of the aims of the Tropenbos DRC programme which falls entirely within this Kivu-Kinshasa corridor. At the same time, national ambitions to develop palm oil plantations represent a deforestation risk in the same area.

A positive outcome was recorded in December through work supported previously by Tropenbos DRC. The local communities of Bafwapaya-Bafwandjegule, Bafwakepwo-Bafwadukuni, Bavoy, and Balambi succeeded in an application for Community Forest Concessions in December. The forthcoming issuance of these titles will legally secure this land and contribute to the long-term conservation of their forests.





Conservation in the Niokolo-Badiar-Koulountou transboundary landscape

Partner

Guinee Ecologie in cooperation with NCD, Birdlife International and Vogelbescherming Nederland

Location

The Niokolo-Badiar-Koulountou region on the border of Senegal and Guinea is part of a larger transboundary landscape that stretches as far as Mali and Guinea Bissau

Duration

Since 2025



Wetlands

Area protected (ha)



Beneficiaries

Number of people

Cumulative results up to 2025



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Illegal cattle grazing in Badiar NP



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Entrance to Badiar NP

The larger landscape is one of the few remaining regions in West Africa with an opportunity for large-scale ecosystem conservation – forests, wetlands and wildlife. In the Niokolo-Koba national park (Senegal) and in the Badiar national park (Guinea) at least 70 species of mammals, 36 reptiles, 20 amphibians and over 1500 plant species have been recorded, as well 347 bird species, including 14 that are globally threatened. Partly overlapping with the Badiar national park, the Gambie-Koulountou Ramsar Site in Guinea is an extensive floodplain of the Koulountou River, the Gambia River's main tributary. The main threats in this landscape are poaching, fires, overgrazing by livestock, and mining.

What happened in 2025?

This 18-month project aims to lay the basis for improving the conservation status and connectivity of the Niokolo-Badiar-Koulountou landscape, including the preparation of a management plan for the Gambie-Koulountou-Ramsar wetland site in Guinea.

The programme started officially in September with a series of inception activities. Several new staff were employed and a field office established in Koundara, close to the Badiar national park and the Guinea-Senegal border. Meetings were held with programme partners and an agreement was signed with Zoological Society of London to support monitoring in the Badiar national park that will extend the approach being used successfully in Niokolo national park.



A resilient Zambezi river for people and nature

Partner

WWF Zambia

Location

From North-Western Zambia where the Zambezi River begins, to where it re-enters Zambia from Angola through its confluences with the Kabompo and Lungwubungu Rivers then the vast floodplains of the Barotse to the head of Ngonye Waterfalls southwards

Duration

2017 - 2025



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)

10

Area protected (ha)

412,500



Forests

Area restored (ha)

11

Area protected (ha)

458,900



Other ecosystems

Area protected (ha)

434,400

Cumulative results up to 2025



Beneficiaries

Number of people

4,082



Elephants captured on camera trap in West Lunga ecosystem



Mimosa clearing

The Zambezi River above the Victoria Falls is free-flowing and supports a vast wetland ecosystem. It holds huge amounts of water for many months which makes it possible for people to live there even during periods of drought. Large-scale mining and energy developments are now emerging which threaten ecosystem integrity, wildlife populations, and the livelihoods of millions of people who rely on the goods and services provided by the river and its wetlands.

What happened in 2025?

Over the past years, WWF Zambia has been supporting the National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) to protect the establishment of nature-based enterprises to improve local livelihoods and deliver tangible conservation impacts on the Barotse Plains Cultural Heritage Landscape (BPCL). This has culminated in the submission to UNESCO of the Barotse Floodplain nomination dossier in January 2025 to the World Heritage Committee. As part of this, NHCC was supported to develop a strategic tourism development and management plan for the BPCL and its wider environment.

WWF, together with its partners (DNPW, ZCP and WLCP) successfully conducted the early dry season biannual ground count of wildlife in the West Lunga ecosystem in early June. 6 people were trained in data collection using Survey-123. During the surveys, 8 species were recorded through direct sightings while 24 species were detected

indirectly through tracks, dung, calls and other signs. Between January and June 2025, a total of 38 camera trap stations were sampled, yielding 2,839 camera trap days and 138 field days. The imagery collected revealed encouraging signs of recovery within the West Lunga Ecosystem, with notable records of species such as serval, caracal, buffalo, elephant, sable antelope, and side-striped jackal.

Bird Watch Zambia, with support of WWF, conducted a waterbird monitoring on the Barotse Floodplains over 8 days in February. At the end of the survey, a total of 9,583 individual birds from 53 species were recorded.

A multi-parameter timeseries water quality logger was procured which will be used in the existing gauging station for the Water Resources Management Authority to collect nutrient data on phosphates, nitrates, and chlorides. This is a new dimension to freshwater monitoring in the landscape, adding to the monitoring of the quantity of water.

WWF gave support to the Kuomboka Ceremony: the annual relocation of people and cattle to higher grounds due to flooding, including the movement of the Litunga (the King of the Lozi people) in a highly celebrated traditional ceremony.

This programme ended successfully in 2025.



Saving mangroves on Tristao and Kapatchez

Partner

PRCM

Location

Located in Guinea, along the border with Guinea-Bissau, the Tristao Islands and Kapatchez Delta are characterized by sandbanks, mud, rocks, estuaries and mangrove forests

Duration

Since 2019



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)
2,114



Beneficiaries

Number of people
2,441

Cumulative results up to 2025



Breaking down dikes to promote natural regeneration

Reforested site planted in 2024

The mangrove forests on the Tristao Islands and in Kapatchez Delta in northern Guinea are a valuable ecosystem and a key habitat for wildlife and fishery resources. The mangroves are under pressure from a range of activities. This is because inhabitants live mainly from the exploitation of natural resources and mangrove wood is intensively used for cooking and income generating activities, such as fish smoking. Mangroves are also cleared to make space for rice fields. The interventions of PRCM aim to reverse this trend.

What happened in 2025?

Kapatchez

This year 146 hectares have been reforested with Rhizophora with the help of 403 community volunteers. Landscape leveling work has been carried out on 185 hectares allowing for assisted natural regeneration. In total 4,128 meters of dikes have been rebuilt, through which 130 hectares of abandoned rice fields have been restored into cultivable rice fields which significantly increases rice production of communities as it protects the fields from marine intrusions.

100 Kenyan beehives have been installed and 46 traditional beekeepers have been trained in improved mangrove honey production. First results show an average occupancy rate of 36%. Analysis of the results will be the basis for further development of beekeeping activities.

75 domestic cooking stoves and 15 improved fish smoking stoves were built in Bigori and Yongonsale. The women

volunteers of the reforestation working groups are the beneficiaries of the equipment and received training in the use and maintenance of improved ovens and cookstoves.

The promotion of solar salt farming (an activity first initiated in the Tristao Islands) was started by the formation of a women's group and raising their awareness on the benefits of solar energy (versus the traditional use of drying salt with fire thereby putting pressure on mangrove woods) for salt production. 25 people, mostly women, were trained in the production of solar salt and the group was equipped with materials for the production of solar salt.

Tristao

Monitoring with drone photographs between 2023 and 2025 in 45 reforestation sites in Tristao showed that 39 sites are growing successfully while 6 sites are in decline. On average, the land cover rate successfully increased from 58% to 80%. A study of the physicochemical parameters of the soil is undertaken to better understand the survival factors.

Maintenance was carried out on 60 fish smoking ovens and the responsibility for maintenance has been handed over to newly established monitoring committees set up in each fishing boat landing site. The programme continued to support women groups through bi-monthly sessions on associations and entrepreneurship aimed at consolidating their internal organization and improving their capacity to manage income-generating activities.



Supporting landscape-wide restoration of healthy grazing lands

Partner
 NOLORAMATA, with support of:
 Centre for Research Cooperation
 (CRC) and University of Groningen

Location
 The Loliondo plains, one of the few
 remaining wet season breeding
 areas in the Greater Serengeti-Mara
 Ecosystem, that comprises vast
 areas of savannah, wetlands and
 woodlands

Duration
 Since 2025



Beneficiaries

Other ecosystems
 restored (ha)
300

Number of people
241

Cumulative results
 up to 2025



Restoration of grasslands in North Loliondo

The Loliondo plains in Tanzania are one of the few remaining wet season breeding areas for wildebeest and other mammals within the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem. The area is hydrologically very important for water provision to Serengeti National Park. However, due to overgrazing, the grasslands in this area have been degraded and are changing from open grassland to shrub thickets. In 2023, 5 Maasai villages in North Loliondo decided to establish a new community-based organization called NOLORAMATA to secure the currently open communally grazed areas in the Loliondo plains for their future joint use. By doing so, they also aim to reduce veterinary problems, secure water resources and generate additional benefits from wildlife and cultural tourism to the region.

What happened in 2025?

This year NOLORAMATA started its development trajectory to become a professional NGO with the support from the Centre for Research Cooperation and University of Groningen. Staff was hired and trained

on administration and project management, a formal board with representatives of all villages was appointed, social media and other communication materials are being developed and an office was set-up. Community members participate through General Assembly meetings.

At the start of the dry season 300 hectares of savannah in 2 villages were restored through controlled burning. Fire has been the traditional way for centuries to efficiently remove the shrub thickets and keep the savannah landscape open. These areas were selected by the 5 villages together. In total 300 people were involved in day labour for clearing activities needed prior to burning the land. This work is equally divided between men and women. In addition, 10 young women were selected to receive a scholarship to attend higher education. The restoration initiative is very popular, and several other villages wish to join NOLORAMATA next year. The success of the restoration methodology has also attracted interest from other organisations that would like to replicate it elsewhere.

Conservation of the Gashaka Gumti National Park and its wider landscape

Partner
ANI – Africa Nature Investors

Location
Gashaka Gumti National Park is in Taraba and Adamawa States in eastern Nigeria within a wider landscape including Tchabal Mbabo in Cameroon

Duration
Since 2025



Forests

Area protected (ha)
585,775



Beneficiaries

Number of people
1,750

Cumulative results up to 2025



Mountains in GGNP

© BRUNO DAMICIS - ANI



Schoolgirls during a visit to GGNP

© JACK DEVLIN - ANI

The forests of the Gashaka Gumti National Park (GGNP), with an altitudinal range of 500-2400m, have some of Africa’s highest levels of plant and animal endemism. The park is home to one of West Africa’s largest populations of the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee sub-species and two of Africa’s pangolin species. GGNP is also an important watershed for the river Benue which millions of people downstream depend on for water.

ANI has implemented a co-management agreement with the National Parks Service for the GGNP since 2017. Since this time ANI has strengthened management across 585,775 hectares of the park through the deployment of rangers and (re)building infrastructure in the park. This has led to a dramatic improvement in security for local people living close to the park and a substantial reduction in illegal activities.

What happened in 2025?

ANI increased the effectiveness of monitoring by rangers (1,728 patrol days) supported by a helicopter for surveillance and rapid ranger deployment. Patrol capacity was strengthened through logistics and equipment for 120 park rangers recruited from the local communities and trained by ANI. This enabled 674 arrests for illegal activities and the confiscation of chainsaws, snares, guns, motorbikes, mining equipment and bushmeat. The dangers faced by rangers on a regular basis were brought into stark focus by the tragic killing of two rangers by poachers from an illegal mining camp.

Substantial support for the communities living in and adjacent to the GGNP was provided by liaison officers and ANI’s partner Roshan Renewables. They worked to graduate the Women’s Saving and Loan Groups (SLG) previously set-up involving 2,000 women, into cooperatives focused on the processing and selling of rice, groundnuts, shea-butter and dawa dawa. The first SLGs for young men were also set-up with 510 participants.

Ecological research in the park was extended through a new partnership with the Catholic University of Cameroon in addition to existing cooperation with the Nigerian Montane Forest Project, the University of Ibadan, and the AP Leventis Ornithological Institute. 178 camera traps were deployed across the park after planning with specialists, including Panthera who trained the ANI team.

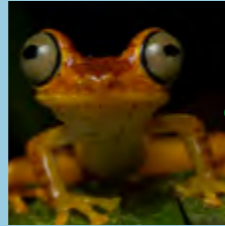
To follow-up on the historic 2024 agreement between Nigeria and Cameroon on transboundary conservation, a preparatory workshop was held in Cameroon and Nigeria facilitated by ANI and WCS to work on operationalizing the international agreement for the Gashaka Gumti / Tchabal Mbabo landscape. The ultimate aim is for a new Tchabal Mbabo National Park in Cameroon which would be managed as a single transboundary landscape with Gashaka Gumti National Park.

Programmes South America

Fundación Jocotoco

Improving Conservation Measures

Sustain long-term conservation success by Jocotoco through quantification of the impact on biodiversity of different categories of protected areas management, support to local communities and government, improved reserve management and institutional strengthening.



Wetlands International

Saving High Andean Wetlands for people and nature

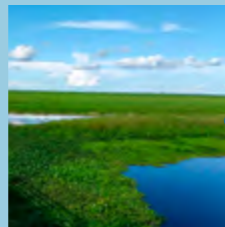
Demonstrate and field-test innovative approaches to improve livestock grazing practices, wetland management and restoration at high altitude, in collaboration with local authorities and communities.



Both ENDS

Wetlands without Borders

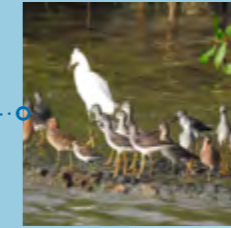
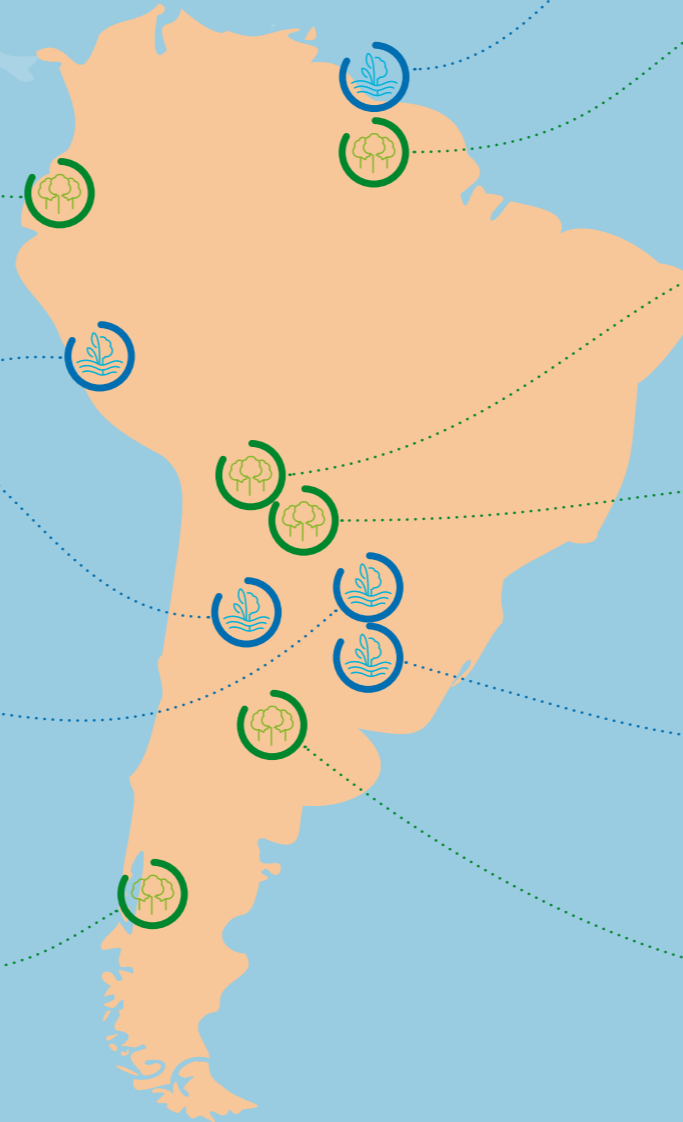
Support civil society to play a stronger role in governance and planning for the restoration, conservation, and sustainable development of the La Plata Basin.



Rewilding Chile

Protecting forests in Cerro Castillo National Park

Strengthen and expand the protected areas in the Cerro Castillo landscape, recover the huemul deer population thereby catalyzing the restoration of Patagonian forest ecosystems and strengthen the connection between local community members and their national park.



Manomet

A regional conservation plan for the Guianas Green Coast

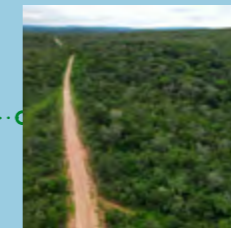
Prepare a conservation plan for the Guianas coastline to coordinate action among the three countries to safeguard the natural resources of the Guiana Bight.



Amazon Conservation Team

Guardians of the Amazon forest

Work towards a biocultural corridor of 30 million hectares across the eastern Guiana Shield, managed by indigenous people in collaboration with the respective governments.



IBIF

Biodiversity Bridges

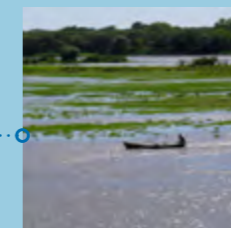
Strengthen the municipalities and indigenous communities of Lomerio to protect their forest under community forest management and to implement biodiversity conservation measures to safeguard ecological integrity in this part of the Chiquitania region.



Nativa Bolivia and IUCN NL

Conservation of the Ñembi Guasu indigenous reserve

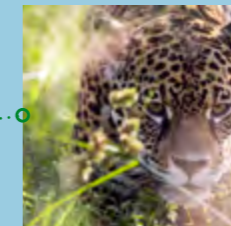
Support better management of the Ñembi Guasu reserve based on local indigenous values and help provide connectivity in the Chaco-Pantanal conservation landscape.



Wetlands International

Saving the Corredor Azul

Conserve 1 million hectares of wetlands, promote the sustainable use of 300,000 hectares and protect three iconic wetlands: the Pantanal, Iberá Marshes and Paraná Delta in the Paraná-Paraguay river basin.



Rewilding Argentina

Rewilding the Gran Chaco

Guarantee the long-term conservation of El Impenetrable National Park through the reintroduction of locally extinct species, the restoration of degraded habitat and the creation of a local nature-based economy for local communities.

Saving the High Andean Wetlands for people and nature

Partner
Wetlands International
Latin America

Location
Argentina, Peru
High Andean wetlands
above 3200m

Duration
Since 2017



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)
26,031

Area protected (ha)
820,741



Beneficiaries

Number of people
2,033

Cumulative results
up to 2025



Local shepherds in Peru



Installation of a solar-pump to secure water supply in Argentina



Alpaca and waterbirds on a peatbog

Wetlands are an oasis for biodiversity and people in the dry High Andean Plateau of northwestern Argentina and wet High Andean Plateau of central Peru. Their economic value is also significant: they supply pasture for llamas and alpacas and provide fuel and food resources to local communities. In addition, they provide an essential source of drinking water and store substantial amounts of CO₂. However, a century of human activities has degraded these wetlands and the ever-increasing global demand for lithium (for batteries) threatens the region further. In 2025, the programme focused on five important wetland locations: Pozuelos Lagoon, Salinas Grandes, the Vilama Lagoons (Argentina), Junín Lake and Carampoma-Marcapomacocha (Peru).

What happened in 2025?

In 2025 a total of 887 families were involved in the programme and are implementing improved livestock grazing management practices across 25,507 hectares. The programme is also restoring 524 hectares of wetlands with simple technological solutions, such as placing small dikes in streams to stop erosion and retain water; this increases the productivity of natural pastures and preserves essential ecosystem services.

10 indigenous communities in Salinas Grandes have achieved international recognition of their territory as a “Territory of Life” on the global ICCA platform. ICCAs —Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas— are areas where these communities have a deep connection with their environment. Through their environmental management, they contribute meaningfully to the conservation of nature.

Gender-focused workshops were held to strengthen the capacity of women to install solar water pumps, to improve access to water, and support women participation within their communities, recognising their role in the sustainable management of wetlands.

The programme launched a GeoPortal to facilitate access to key information on the Puna wetlands system. The portal contains more than 50 different layers of georeferenced information. In parallel, a report was published with information on 20 key wetlands sites across the Puna region.

Wetlands without Borders

Partner

Both ENDS

Location

Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

Wetlands system of the Paraguay and Paraná rivers – La Plata Basin – one of the largest free-flowing rivers in the world

Duration

2017 - 2025



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)

1,263

Area protected (ha)

2,120



Beneficiaries

Number of people

> 4,000

Cumulative results up to 2025



Festivities of the Dia do Rio



Campaign for free rivers on Environment Day

Large infrastructure projects, such as hydropower dams, highways and harbour development, together with deforestation for agriculture, threaten the unique ecosystem and livelihoods of small-scale farmers and fishermen who depend on the forests and rivers of the La Plata Basin. Too often, local communities are neither informed nor consulted in the planning of such projects in their region. The programme aims to inform communities about their rights and, through campaigns and advocacy efforts, to ensure that their views are heard and their rights respected by decision-makers. The programme also promotes sustainable alternatives for local livelihoods such as the uptake and expansion of agroecology. The programme was implemented by a network of 18 partners across four countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay).

What happened in 2025?

On Brazil's Cabaçal River, a six-plant hydroelectric complex posed an existential threat to local communities. Lobby efforts led to a decisive legal victory: the hydroelectric project was suspended, and authorities were reminded of the need to consult communities under ILO Convention 169. In total the partners have managed to halt the licensing of 16 small hydropower dams in the Pantanal wetlands. However, partners

remain vigilant since small hydroelectric dams continue to fragment rivers, regulatory systems rarely consider cumulative impacts, and economic pressures from agribusiness and mining remain strong.

In Argentina, the programme contributed to the update of Argentina's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The lobby work and legal pressure led to the suspension of large-scale events in the Victoria Multiple Use Reserve in Argentina.

Across Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina, 'Biocultural Corridors' have become symbols of alternative development pathways that contrast sharply with extractive models which people are confronted with. However full territorial (legal) recognition has been a challenge due to a complex and fluctuating political environment.

Finally, the programme supported farmers to transform farmland to agroecological agriculture and set-up new school or community gardens. The agroecological "Seal of identity" continued to grow and has certified 248 farmers by the end of 2025.

The programme ended successfully in 2025. The partner network will continue its cooperation in a different form.

Saving the Corredor Azul

Partner
Wetlands International
Latin America

Location
Argentina, Brazil
Paraná-Paraguay wetland system

Duration
Since 2017



Wetlands

Area restored (ha)
137,850

Area protected (ha)
1,501,179



Beneficiaries

Number of people
5,542

Cumulative results
up to 2025



Biodiversity corridors restoration in Argentina



Salobra river in the Pantanal, Brazil

The 3,400 km long Paraná-Paraguay river system is one of the world's last remaining large, free-flowing rivers. This system presents amazing natural beauty and biodiversity and a unique myriad of land and water habitats. The Corredor Azul Program aims to safeguard the health and connectivity of the river system and its iconic wetlands – the Pantanal in Brazil, the Iberá Marshes and the Paraná Delta in Argentina.

What happened in 2025?

In Brazil, Wetlands International (WI)'s framework for restoration of the Pantanal Biome has been included by the PLANAVEG (National Plan for Restoration of Native Species) that will be implemented by the Pantanal Restoration Pact, a multi-stakeholder, collaborative initiative. The National Wetland Committee (CNZU) of Brazil was officially reinstated with a more inclusive and representative composition. WI Brazil has a seat on the committee. In addition, WI Brazil secured a seat in two key national councils: the National Council for the Environment and Mato Grosso do Sul's State Council for Water Resources. The programme is supporting the update of the management plan and creation of an integrated fire management plan for the Rio Negro State Park. Besides, the territorial management plan for the

Kadiwéu Indigenous Territory – the largest Indigenous Territory outside the Amazon – has been recognized by Brazil's Ministry of Indigenous Peoples as a model, securing funding for its implementation.

In Argentina, good progress was made in promoting sustainable forestry and cattle ranching in the Paraná Delta. Several forestry producers and cattle ranchers joined WI Argentina in a rewetting pilot in the San Fernando Biosphere Reserve aiming to restore the Los Sauces stream on 6 different properties. WI Argentina is also exploring the possibility with a certifying company to create a wetlands cattle ranching certification scheme for Argentina. This would make it more attractive for cattle ranchers to join the initiative. WI Argentina also advised the IFC and the World Bank on updating their safeguards for financing (infrastructure) projects in wetland systems.

In both countries, the programme continued to train managers on sustainable use of wetlands and give support to 18 community-based organizations to improve their livelihoods (fishery, ecotourism, commercialisation of artisanal products) and to adapt to climate change.



Improving conservation measures

Partner
Fundación Jocotoco

Location
Ecuador
Multiple ecosystems: rainforests in the Chocó and the Amazon, Andean subtropical, cloud, and elfin forests and páramo grasslands and wetlands

Duration
Since 2024



Forests

Area restored (ha)	Area protected (ha)
49	677,331



Other ecosystems

Area restored (ha)	Area protected (ha)
221	5,909



Beneficiaries

Number of people	Cumulative results up to 2025
221	



© JAVIER AZNAR
Blue-throated Hillstar, Cerro de Arcos Reserve



© JUAN REECE
Jocotoco rangers



© AFUERA PRODUCCIONES FOR FUNDACION JOCOTOCO
Ridgely Reserve

Relative to its size, Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse countries on Earth; however, its exuberant vegetation is declining rapidly. Fundación Jocotoco protects nature in Ecuador by managing 49,000 hectares of private and community reserves. They also support neighboring communities, municipalities, and the State in managing their land. In this way, Jocotoco ensures that biodiversity persists in the long term.

Each category of protected area differs in effectiveness, the use of natural resources, and maintenance costs. To be more successful, Jocotoco wants to strengthen its ability to monitor and evaluate the impact of different conservation interventions. Such quantification will enable Jocotoco to improve its conservation work and that of its partners. The program focuses on work in and around 8 of their reserves (Canandé, Yanacocha, Chakana, Narupa, Copalinga, Tapichalaca, Buenaventura, Cerro de Arcos) in four regional programs across Ecuador.

What happened in 2025?

In 2025, Jocotoco improved its reserve patrolling, resolving 80% of identified threats. A cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Environment provides direct management support in 6 state-protected areas bordering the Jocotoco reserves, including joint patrols, monitoring, and capacity-building. In a similar way, 35 cooperation agreements with local and indigenous communities were signed to support the sustainable management of their forests.

The analysis of vegetation cover concluded that in 3 of the landscapes where Jocotoco operates, natural regeneration is fast and efficient. In fact, a recent study in the Chocó rainforest showed that cleared forests recover 90% of species diversity and abundance in just 30 years. In some cases, Jocotoco propagates endemic plant species, such as *Magnolia buenaventurensis*, to increase their populations, and removes introduced species, such as pine trees. In total, 221 hectares of páramo and 49 hectares of forest were restored in 2025. The restoration of páramo increases the habitat for the threatened Blue-throated Hillstar.

The nest box program was successful for the El Oro Parakeet, the Golden-plumed Parakeet, and the White-breasted Parakeet. For the El Oro Parakeet, a national action plan is being prepared with stakeholders, including academia and local authorities. After years of consistent conservation work, the *Magnolia dixonii* was officially downlisted from Critically Endangered to Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The development of conservation technology continued. AI models detect 798 species with 70% accuracy, while the human-related threat detection model reaches 90% accuracy. Real-time monitoring is being tested in several reserves where threat alerts are received on mobile phones.

Biodiversity Bridges in the Chiquitanía landscape

Partner
IBIF

Location
The indigenous territories Lomerío and Monte Verde, tropical dry forest within the Chiquitanía landscape.

Duration
Since 2025



Forests

Area restored (ha)
1,368

Area protected (ha)
150,000



Beneficiaries

Number of people
531

Cumulative results up to 2025



Fieldwork to demarcate communal boundaries



Monitoring of the implementation of forest management plans

The Chiquitanía landscape is one of the largest tropical dry forest in South America linking the Bolivian Amazon, the Pantanal and Chaco ecosystems. This vastly forested region is under growing threat from agricultural expansion and cattle ranching. IBIF will be strengthening the indigenous communities of Lomerío and Monte Verde to prioritize protection of high biodiverse conservation areas and integrate biodiversity conservation measures in their plans.

What happened in 2025?

The Central Indígena Originaria de Lomerío (CICOL) was strengthened with 1 forestry engineer and 2 territorial monitors were hired to implement practices aimed at biodiversity conservation. 137 people from community forestry organisations, territorial monitors and communities and the CICOL board participated in a training about best practices in community forest management and environmental monitoring and 10 young territorial monitors were trained in monitoring the chain of custody of forest use. These monitors are strengthening their role in territorial governance.

Three communities in the indigenous territory of Lomerío started with the participatory development of Land Use Plans. Progress was made in developing the landscape baseline, generating updated cartographic information on the biophysical and ecological characteristics of the territory covering the indigenous territories of Lomerío and Monte Verde, as well as the jurisdictions

of the municipalities of Concepción and San Miguel de Velasco. Technical assistance was provided to the Municipal Government of Concepción for the regulation of the Municipal Law for the Protection of the Jaguar as natural heritage of the municipality. The approved regulations establish guidelines for the development of a Municipal Management Plan for Jaguar Conservation and a Municipal Environmental Education Plan, as well as a system of penalties and sanctions for threats such as hunting, capture or alteration of critical habitats.

Four indigenous communities in Lomerío began implementing water resource conservation measures to protect their productive livelihoods (agriculture and livestock farming). Based on micro-basin studies, strategic water recharge areas were identified and, using this information, the communities developed and began to implement communal water resource management plans that include the delimitation of protection areas, restoration actions and the enclosure of water sources. 97 members of the communities involved participated in the activities, strengthening local capacities for sustainable water resource management.

As part as the preparatory phase for identifying High Conservation Value Areas on livestock farms in the Lomerío landscape a baseline study was conducted to identify, characterise and categorise the relevant productive actors, defining an initial group of properties with the potential to participate in the process.

Guardians of the Amazon forest

Partner
Amazon Conservation Team

Location
Suriname, Guyana, Brazil,
French-Guiana
The eastern Guiana Shield, a region of more than 30 million hectares of pristine rainforest and home to 25 indigenous and maroon tribes

Duration
Since 2019



Forests

Area protected (ha)
>5,000,000



Other ecosystems

Area protected (ha)
103,900



Beneficiaries

Number of people
1,407

Cumulative results up to 2025



The Guiana Shield is one of the few remaining unspoiled wild places on earth with vast expanses of forest and is home to 26 tribes of indigenous and maroon peoples. The forest and the traditional way of life in this region is increasingly threatened by (illegal) mining and logging activities. The Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) partners with these communities to protect tropical forests, building on their traditional culture and practices, and strengthen local leadership, livelihoods and community well-being.

What happened in 2025?

2 new ranger posts for monitoring by Community-Based Rangers, were opened in Suriname at:

- Vier Gebroeders at the border with Brazil, in the Sipaliwini Nature Reserve, which is part of the unique transboundary Paru savanna within the rainforest; and
- Lucie River which is a significant waterway in the Sipaliwini District that flows through dense rainforest and eventually joins the Courantyne River (Corantijn), which forms the border with Guyana.

The ranger posts are considered an important step in efforts to protect southern Suriname from illegal activities, especially illegal small-scale mining, poaching by hunters, logging, and wildlife trade. There are now nine ranger stations in operation in Suriname.

Six Life Plans (Community Development Plans) were presented to the Suriname President. Traditional leaders from the Curuni watershed, including Kwamalasamutu, Sipaliwini, Alalapadu, Amatopo and Curuni handed over their life plans to President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons during a special event organized in The National Assembly. During this event, the traditional Matawai leadership also presented their development plan - the Matawai Fiti Plan. The decentralization policy, promoted by the President offers favorable prospects for integration of these plans into national and local policy.

Despite repeated promises by the previous President, adoption of the Framework Law for Collective Rights (CRL) before the change of government in July 2025 was not possible. It is hoped that the new government will prioritize approval of the CRL and related legislation.



Rangers measuring trees during a rangers training provided by government

A regional workshop for indigenous and modern healthcare brought Surinamese policymakers, scientists, and traditional healers together which resulted in the signing of a cooperation agreement which lays the foundation for further cooperation and adoption of draft-legislation.

In Guyana, tourism development in the deep south of the country progressed towards a more independent operation of the guesthouse in Kanashen through on-the-job training in tour guiding, housekeeping, catering, and hospitality in which 38 community members participated.

In Brazil, the first Wai Wai Brazil-Guyana exchange was held in Anauá Village, in the Wai Wai Indigenous Territory in Roraima. This visit brought together indigenous leaders, rangers, women, youth, and elders from the Wai Wai territories in both countries to promote alignment on territorial management and to share experiences and strategies for protection and monitoring in the face of threats from illegal mining and logging.

Rewilding the Gran Chaco

Partner
Rewilding Argentina

Location
The Gran Chaco is a vast lowland area with dense dry forests in Chaco Province in Northern Argentina

Duration
Since 2019



Forests

Area restored (ha)
330

Area protected (ha)
128,000



Beneficiaries

Number of people
354

Cumulative results up to 2025



The Gran Chaco is the largest dry forest in South America and the continent's most extensive forest region after the Amazon rainforest. It is threatened by high deforestation rates and degradation due to years of conversion and overgrazing. Rewilding Argentina is restoring the El Impenetrable National Park towards a fully functioning ecosystem with native species that support economic development and provide a sense of pride to local communities.

What happened in 2025?

Species reintroduction is advancing strongly. A great achievement this year was the formal approval by the National Parks Administration (NPA) of the guanaco reintroduction project which enabled the first release of guanacos inside El Impenetrable National park (EINP). The jaguar reintroduction program reached a historic turning point with the first confirmed wild-born jaguar cub in Argentina's Dry Chaco in over three decades signaling the emergence of an incipient breeding population. However, the suspected poaching of at least one released female confirmed the persistent threats along the park's borders and resulted in strengthened coordination with national and provincial authorities. A new male was detected on multiple occasions through camera traps and field evidence but has not yet been captured or individually identified. The giant river otter project consolidated two pre-release family groups totaling 13 individuals and achieved the first successful reproduction event in El Impenetrable in more than a century. The red-footed tortoise program confirmed reproduction in the wild with the detection of nesting behavior and eggs laid by released females, 32 individuals were released and long-distance movements across and beyond park boundaries were documented as key indicators of long-term population viability.

Park management and threat control was intensified along all borders of the EINP. Sustained river patrols, joint operations with security forces, acoustic monitoring, and the regular presence of tourism activities along the Bermejo River contributed to deterrence of illegal hunting and fishing. Groundwork advanced for an integrated early-warning system for deforestation, while the Algarroba-based economy continued to scale,



Carob harvest in La Armonia, El Impenetrable NP

doubling the 2024 production and participation, and generating direct income for rural families.

Tourism at El Impenetrable rebounded sharply, with a total of 3,900 visitors in 2025, nearly doubling 2024 visitation levels. This was supported by diversified tourism offerings, a centralized reservation system, and targeted digital promotion. Trail-based tourism, including the full operation of La Huella Impenetrable, river excursions, lodging expansion, and cultural experiences generated more than 2,100 contracted services and substantial local economic impact. A total of 81 entrepreneurs are consolidating their businesses, and 13 ventures are offering cultural, gastronomic, and nature-tourism experiences to visitors which generates additional income as well as local employment, youth retention, and long-term stewardship of the landscape.

Institutional coordination with provincial authorities advanced to address land tenure challenges in the park's buffer zone. A collaboration agreement between Rewilding Argentina and Chaco's Land Institute was signed to conduct a comprehensive land tenure survey, building on a 2023 socioeconomic assessment of 532 households, and advancing progress toward land adjudication.



Empowering Indigenous Governance in Ñembi Guasu and Yande Yari

Partner
Nativa Bolivia i.c.w. IUCN NL

Location
Bolivia
Indigenous Reserve Ñembi Guasu,
Chaco Dry forest

Duration
Since 2022



Wetlands

Area protected (ha)
562,491



Forests

Area restored (ha) **11**
Area protected (ha) **1,507,850**

Cumulative results up to 2025



Beneficiaries

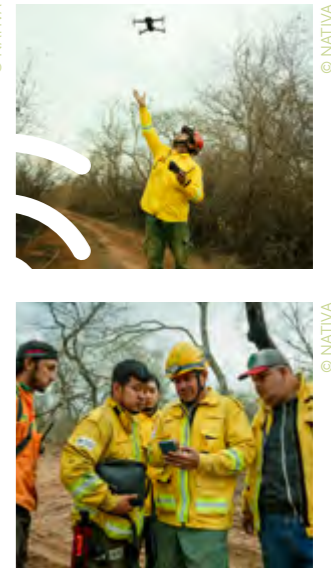
Number of people
2,078



Guarani culture



San Miguel river basin in Ñembi Guasu



Park rangers and firefighters monitoring heat sources and fire spread

The Indigenous Reserve of Ñembi Guasu covers 1.2 million hectares of largely intact Chaco dry forest. The area is home to the Guarani population as well as the isolated Ayoreo indigenous community. The reserve is home to several species such as the chacoan peccary, jaguar, giant armadillo, chacoan titi monkey and giant anteater. It is the first protected area that was created by an autonomous indigenous government in Bolivia. The creation of the reserve is based on the world view of the Guarani people called “Yaiko Kavi Pave” (to live well together), and also in the need to protect their territory. The Guarani have a culture which considers nature vital for their survival, as it is their home and provides for their food and their refuge. Ñembi Guasu means “great refuge” in Guarani.

What happened in 2025?

Since 2025 the Ñembi Guasu park rangers can use a secondary base “Tucabaca”, that is located just outside the reserve in the adjacent Kaa Iya National Park. This secondary base also improves cooperation between the protected areas. Significant investments in ranger training and capacity building have improved legal, technical, leadership, and firefighting competencies of the ranger team, benefiting both Ñembi Guasu and neighbouring protected areas. Due to their great success

in controlling forest fires, the team is now supporting the San Matias National Park in the Bolivian Pantanal (which saw 45% of its territory burn down in 2024) to replicate their approach.

After a lengthy process that lasted 4 years, the court case around illegal settlements within Ñembi Guasu ended with a big win for the Charagua Government. The court ruled that other authorities are prohibited from authorizing new settlements and clearing and slash-and-burn activities within the reserve, thereby recognizing the rights of the indigenous government to declare and decide on the management of this protected area.

In 2025 the Charagua government declared another indigenous reserve called Yande Yari (562,491 hectares). Yande Yari is home to part of the Bañados de Isoso Ramsar wetlands and the Parapeti river and directly borders Kaa Iya national park on the west thereby forming one large block of protected areas. While rich in biodiversity, the wetlands also safeguard an important cultural heritage site of the Guarani people. Management for this area started in 2025 with the appointment of 4 rangers for the Isoso wetlands stretch of the reserve, that received training from Nativa and the rangers working in Ñembi Guasu.



A regional conservation plan for the Guianas Green Coast

Partner
Manomet Conservation Sciences

Location
Guianas (Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana)
Extensive intact mudflats and mangroves along the Guianas Green Coast, one of the most important areas for migratory shorebirds in the Americas

Duration
Since 2024



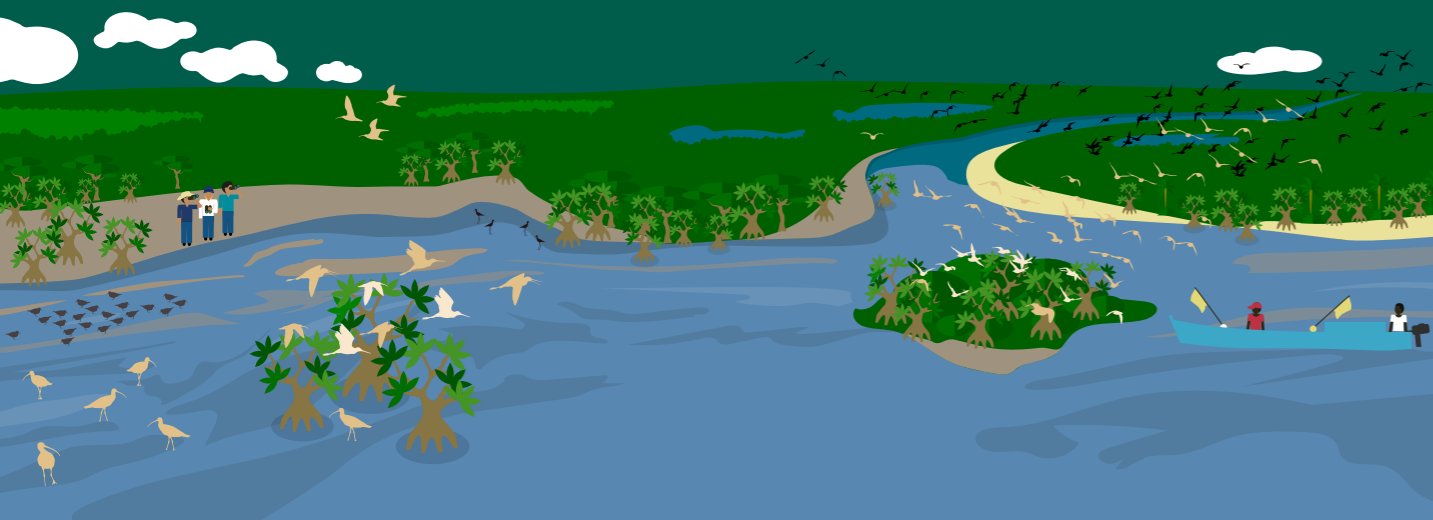
Wetlands

Area restored (ha)	Area protected (ha)
10,000	68,320



Beneficiaries

Number of people	Cumulative results up to 2025
257	



Capacity building of law enforcers in Guyana about coastal monitoring



Natural regeneration of mangroves along the Guianas coast

The Guianas coastline provides essential habitat for millions of migratory shorebirds to rest and refuel on their long journeys north and south in the Americas. They share these habitats with local people who live along the coastal plain and depend on natural resources for their daily livelihoods (e.g. fishing, small-scale agriculture, ecotourism). The integrity of the coast and its resources are under increasing pressure due to unsustainable use of natural resources and, more recently, infrastructure plans to support the offshore oil industry. The future of the Guianas coast is dependent on coordinated action among the three countries to protect and safeguard it as a shared coastal ecosystem of international importance.

What happened in 2025?

A regional conservation plan - the Guianas Green Coast Conservation Plan (GGCCP) - was completed through a collaborative and participatory process that brought together more than 75 authorities, NGO partners, and multi-disciplinary experts from Suriname, Guyana, and French Guiana. The GGCCP has been developed for a five-year period to 2030 and focuses on 4 main conservation targets: 1) mangroves, 2) mudflats, 3) sandy beaches, and 4) Nearctic shorebirds. The plan serves as a trilateral strategy to safeguard coastal habitats, sustain biodiversity, and secure local livelihoods.

An additional result was the development of the Guianas Green Coast Geoportal to store, analyze and present data for management on:

- key habitat areas for priority species (shorebirds, waterbirds and sea turtles);
- ecosystem integrity and historical change;
- key areas for carbon storage, coastal protection, and other ecosystem services;
- biodiversity–human use conflict zones;
- conservation and restoration opportunities (linked to the Mangrove Watch website); and
- governance (e.g. protection status, jurisdictional boundaries) and ongoing projects.

The web-based platform is designed to integrate spatial information on coastal ecosystems and human use across the 3 countries to support visualization, analysis, and decision-making.

Action was also undertaken to improve the health of the Bigi Pan Multiple Use Management Area in Suriname. This work was led by the Green Heritage Fund and Fauna Conservation Suriname, in close collaboration with the Nickerie Fishermen’s Association, the National Forest Service and Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management as responsible authorities. Of note, increased ranger patrols helped to reduce illegal activities, such as hunting, fishing, and cutting mangroves, in the Bigi Pan and Coronie areas. New information signs were also placed to inform visitors about the rules and permitted activities in the Bigi Pan area.



Protecting forests in Cerro Castillo National Park

Partner
Rewilding Chile

Location
Cerro Castillo National Park in Chile, subantarctic forest with glaciers and high-altitude grasslands

Duration
Since 2025



Forests

Area restored (ha) **5**

Area protected (ha) **146,181**



Beneficiaries

Number of people **716**

Cumulative results up to 2025



Local artisans



© JAMES ALFARO

The Cerro Castillo Conservation Landscape is situated at the most important headwaters in the heart of Chilean Patagonia. It is home to the endangered Huemul deer with only 1% of its original population (less than 1,500 individuals) remaining in the wild and found only in Chile and Argentina. Rewilding Chile will be strengthening and expanding the core protected area that is under pressure of habitat fragmentation, degradation and invasive alien species.

What happened in 2025?

The Huemul Rescue and Rehabilitation Center was officially inaugurated in Las Horquetas, being the first in Chile. The camera trap monitoring network in the Las Horquetas area was expanded and reorganized to support multiple conservation objectives. A total of 19 camera traps are currently in operation across the landscape serving different monitoring purposes and covering 2,030 hectares in total. Rewilding Chile ("RC") has been able to support CONAF by hiring two extra park rangers in 2025 who will support across a wide range of tasks including road and field patrols, camera trap installation, and huemul monitoring as well as ongoing coordination with CONAF.



Huemul in Cerro Castillo NP



Inauguration of the huemul rescue center

© FRANCISCO ESPILDORA

#SlowDownForWildlife campaign was co-created with Chilean National Police and National Parks Agency and held on International Huemul Day.

The first 10-days volunteer program, organized by RC, was carried out. In total, 6,096 pine seedlings were mechanically removed across 5,34 hectares, helping to reduce reinvasion pressure. To support upcoming restoration work, 4,000 native plants were acquired, and a plant storage and acclimatization facility was built to improve survival and establishment rates. On-site assessments jointly with academic partners from the University of Chile resulted in a technical prospecting report for a pilot plan for native forest and soil restoration within the Las Horquetas sector on land degraded by past fires.

Good progress was made on the construction of the volunteers' house and the ranger station of the National Parks Agency helping to improve public access in the Las Horquetas Valley. In the same valley, RC successfully acquired two strategic properties that will help them to advance their conservation plan. Cerro Castillo National Park achieved significant international recognition by becoming the first site in Chile to be included in the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas.

In 2025, RC expanded the community outreach programme from Cerro Castillo Village to the village of Puerto Ibáñez. The school programme "Guardians of the Cerro Castillo National Park" reached 50 students and was formally integrated into the public education system of the Aysén Region. To support the Park Guardians program, two nature-based education training sessions for teachers and technical staff were held with a high participation rate of 64 teachers. A community-led

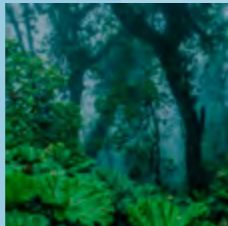
To promote the "Route of the Parks of Patagonia" an online course to strengthen capacities in conservation-based tourism was held reaching 300 participants. Three seminars on the Route of Parks of Patagonia as a conservation tourism destination were held in Puerto Varas, Coyhaique, and Punta Arenas, reaching more than 300 participants from the public sector, private tourism companies, academia, guides, operators, and students.

Research programmes

Crowther Lab

Scientific research for better restoration

Enable restoration practitioners worldwide to restore ecosystems more effectively using cutting edge scientific research, key ecological information and insight in carbon storage potential.



University of Groningen

A sustainable future for the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem

Develop practical solutions for conservation and ecological restoration in the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem in Kenya and Tanzania, by combining local knowledge with first-class academic research.



Scientific research for better restoration

Partner
Crowther Lab

Location
Global

Duration
2018 - 2025



Knowledge

Number of knowledge products

197

Cumulative results up to 2025



The Crowther Lab was set-up at ETH Zurich in 2017 as a group of interdisciplinary scientists studying global ecosystems to understand the relationships between biodiversity and climate change. Led by Professor Tom Crowther, the Lab's scientists focus on ecology, microbial ecology, global vegetation, restoration ecology, and data science. In late 2025 Tom Crowther secured a Professorship at KAUST (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology) and the Crowther Lab left ETH Zurich.

What happened in 2025?

This was a year with significant changes for staff of the Crowther Lab. Despite this, the research group continued to produce high quality research and to make the results available publicly.

Regarding soils, Laura van Galen and Johan van den Hoogen published a large curated, analysis-ready dataset paper describing the largest collection to date of soil microbial community composition data and enzymatic activity. This publication represents a major foundational output and provides an important resource for future synthesis and analyses.

In July 2025, a major project on global mycorrhizal species richness patterns was published in Nature. This project was undertaken in collaboration with the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks and Global Fungi at the Czech Academy of Sciences. The paper showed that fewer than 10 per cent of mycorrhizal fungal hotspots fall within protected areas, making a significant contribution to understanding the mismatch between soil microbial diversity and current conservation efforts.

Research was also undertaken in Darién, Panamá by Daisy Dent's group on participatory conservation of the Great Green Macaw and development of ecotourism. This work empowers the local communities to conserve their natural heritage and works directly with students and field technicians recruited from the Emberá community in Panama.

Restor, an open-data non-profit web platform that was spun-off from the Lab in 2021, continues to support



Restor platform supports global efforts in nature restoration

global efforts in nature conservation and restoration by connecting individuals and organizations engaged in restoration projects with the latest scientific data, knowledge and finance.

In the past year, Restor made a suite of new knowledge products available to its global community, including data layers on drought, erosion risk and fire occurrence. It also released the SEED Biocomplexity Index – created by Crowther Lab scientists – which is being used to estimate the state of biodiversity across 196 countries that are part of a partnership with the UN's FAO to report against Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Restor connects over 300,000 restoration sites, 35,000 users, and 6,000 organizations.

In 2025 Tom Crowther also founded BRANCH (Biodiversity Research and Action for Nature, Climate and Humanity), a new research Institute based in Switzerland which aims to support an international network of scientific labs across 8 leading universities to explore the linkages between biodiversity and human wellbeing worldwide.

The DOB Ecology Programme with the Crowther Lab ended in 2025.

A sustainable future for the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem

Partner
University of Groningen

Location
Kenya and Tanzania
Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem that comprises vast areas of savannah, wetlands and woodlands

Duration
Since 2022



Other ecosystems

Area restored (ha)
18



Beneficiaries

Number of people
280



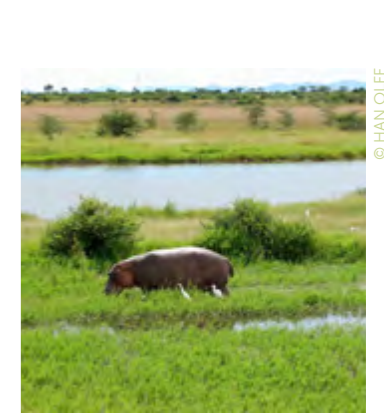
Knowledge

Number of knowledge products
17

Cumulative results up to 2025



Kariko beach in Speke Gulf



Hippos returning to the Speke Gulf after people have left



Mapping invasive species

The Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem is one of the largest and most important ecosystems for terrestrial mammal migrations and is one of the last relatively intact ecosystems in Africa. The different economic, political and land tenure systems in Kenya and Tanzania mean that transboundary management of the landscape scale is hard to accomplish. Research carried-out by locally-based PhD students in both countries is being used to provide an integrated view on the future of this ecosystem. The CoCost (Corridors, Coexistence, Synergies, Transitions and Training) research program offers knowledge and insights that can underpin a sustainable future for wildlife and people in the Greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem.

What happened in 2025?

In 2025 the Tanzanian government incorporated the Speke Gulf area in Serengeti National Park. With this incorporation the park is now connected to Lake Victoria. COCOST obtained exclusive permission to conduct research in the Speke Gulf area to follow the restoration

of its ecological functions. Field work for this PhD study has started with bird counts, mammal counts, vegetation assessments and fish and water quality measurements. The Tanzania National Parks Authority agreed to setting up a restoration experiment that addresses the issue of invasive species as well as an experiment with human-induced kopjes to deal with the many concrete remains of houses in the area.

In Narok, Kenya, 6 Rangeland Management Collectives were set up with several private landowners to start a large-scale rangeland management demonstration experiment. In 2025 a start was made with the fieldwork needed for this experiment that is based on rangeland management plans regarding shrub clearing, rotational grazing, and burning. Also, a comparison of fencing between Kenya (Narok) and Tanzania (Loliondo) was made. Whereas in Kenya large scale fencing is breaking down traditional use patterns in Loliondo fencing follows traditional land use by mainly fencing cropland.



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