



Zululand
Conservation Trust

Year In Review

March 2025 - February 2026



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VISION OF THE ZCT

“Partnering with protected areas and communities to fulfil our commitment to conserving endangered species and their environment”

The Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT) has been growing and expanding its reach in the Zululand region for over a decade. Since its establishment in 2011, the Trust has worked tirelessly to enhance the conservation and protection of endangered species and their habitats, while ensuring that communities living alongside protected areas benefit tangibly from conservation efforts. From inception, ZCT has recognised the fundamental need to involve, empower, educate, and support local communities in order to achieve lasting conservation outcomes.

Founded by a group of committed conservationists—David Attenborough, Don Airtton, and Rick Wilson—the Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation was formally established on 8th of February 2011. In 2016, Murray Collins and Todani Moyo joined the Trust as Rick Wilson stepped down. The organisation rebranded in 2017 as the Zululand Conservation Trust, reflecting a broader conservation mandate. Murray stepped down in 2022 and was succeeded by Adam Riley, who now serves as a Trustee. Over the past 13 years, ZCT has steadily expanded its regional reach—supporting reserves with rhino populations across Zululand, broadening its community programs, enhancing endangered species protection and prioritizing more land for conservation.

Each year, ZCT reflects on its accomplishments and sets a course forward. In 2024, we continued to fund and implement impactful conservation and community projects through strategic fundraising, strong partnerships, and generous donor support.

All funding received is directed into ZCT’s key program areas:

- **Community Upliftment:** Projects focused on empowering previously disadvantaged communities and delivering essential resources such as food, water, education, and clothing security;
- **Wildlife Conservation:** Species protection efforts targeting endangered black and white rhino, cheetah, wild dog, leopard, and Temminck’s pangolin;
- **Field ranger support, anti-poaching operations, surveillance systems, and our dedicated K9 Unit;**
- **The Zululand Rhino Orphanage:** A dedicated rehabilitation facility for orphaned rhino calves in KwaZulu-Natal;
- **Protected Area Expansion:** Strategic support for the growth and integration of conservation land across the Zululand landscape;
- **Custodianship:** Operational and infrastructure support for private and community reserves, ensuring high-quality, on-the-ground conservation management.

Five percent (5%) of all donations are allocated to administrative costs, enabling the Trust to operate effectively and deliver high-impact results on the ground. All contributions are tax-deductible, BBBEE-compliant, and are allocated in line with each donor’s instructions.

We are proud to present this Year in Review as a reflection of the progress made in 2024 and as a reaffirmation of ZCT’s ongoing commitment to conservation and community development throughout the greater Zululand region.

PRIORITY TARGETS

The Custodianship and expansion of protected areas:

- The custodianship model has been successfully implemented within the MPGR.
- We plan to replicate this model in other protected/conservation areas We plan to expand our range to include areas not yet under protection status.
- Create corridors to link protected areas within the greater Zululand.
- Expand this range to move into trans-frontier protected areas.

Facilitate partnerships to uplift communities:

- Targeted partnerships focusing on early childhood development, education and addressing the nutritional needs of the community.
- Employment of neighboring community members.
- Identifying students from the communities for game ranger training at the SAWC.
- Skills development in artisan training.
- Become a community liaison and development specialist.

Conservation of endangered species (black and white rhino, Temminck's pangolin, leopard, wild dog, ground hornbill, cheetah, vultures, elephant)

- Protection of rhino through counter-poaching and poaching risk mitigation.
- The Zululand Rhino Orphanage.
- Creating spaces for traditional migration routes and opportunity for viable breeding populations of endangered species to establish new populations.
- Umbrella approach to species conservation – all species benefit of the by-product of targeted species protection.
- Novel approach to the management of wild dog and pangolin species in a single space which has potential to be replicated.



CEO'S REPORT

The past year has been one of exceptional growth, collaboration and progress for the Zululand Conservation Trust. As conservation continues to face increasing challenges, we have remained committed to protecting endangered species while ensuring that neighbouring communities benefit meaningfully from the landscapes they help safeguard. Looking back on the past twelve months, I am incredibly proud of what our team, Trustees, donors, partners and volunteers have achieved together.

One of the defining moments of the year was welcoming Hollywoodbets as the headline sponsor of the Rhino Ride and Rhino Run, pledging R4 million towards conservation, community development and the continued growth of these flagship fundraising events. This landmark partnership strengthens the sustainability of these events and represents a shared commitment to protecting South Africa's wildlife while uplifting the communities that live alongside it.

Our international presence also continued to grow through two successful fundraising visits to the United States, strengthening long-standing relationships and establishing new partnerships that will support our work well into the future. These collaborations, together with the generosity of our supporters, have enabled us to expand our impact across every aspect of the organisation. This year also marked the construction of our new Regional Operations Centre, an investment in the future of conservation across Zululand. More than simply a building, this facility will serve as a regional hub for anti-poaching operations, wildlife monitoring, ranger and K9 training, emergency response and conservation collaboration.

Across our conservation programmes, the Zululand Rhino Orphanage continued to provide world-class care for orphaned rhinos rehabilitating these calves and rewilding them all for eventual release. Our teams also continued to strengthen endangered species protection through proactive management, veterinary interventions, monitoring and anti-poaching operations, contributing to another successful year on the ground. Equally rewarding has been the continued growth of our community programmes. From expanding community gardens and successful permaculture training to supporting early learning centres, creating employment opportunities and investing in education, we remain committed to ensuring that conservation delivers tangible benefits to the people who call this landscape home.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, Trustees, donors, partners, volunteers and surrounding communities. Thank you for believing in our vision and standing beside us as we continue to build a future where both people and wildlife can thrive. As we look ahead, we do so with confidence. Together, we are not only protecting species, but we are also building resilient communities, stronger partnerships and a lasting conservation legacy for generations to come.

David Attenborough
CEO Zululand Conservation Trust



MEET OUR TEAM

Board CEO and Trustees



Don Airtton
Chairman



David Attenborough
CEO



King Nkosi Zulu
Patron



Adam Riley
Trustee



Todani Moyo
Trustee

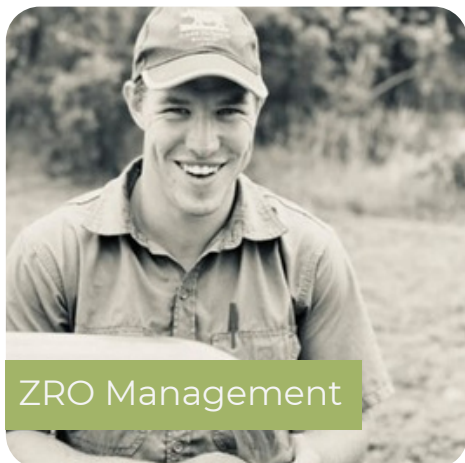
Chief Operations Officer



Karen Odendaal

Karen has been part of the team since the inception of the ZCT and continues to play the essential role of managing the operations of the Trust, as well as the operations of the protected area's management body, Manyoni. In addition, she is spearheading the expansion of the protected area, a key priority of the ZCT in the long-term.

MEET OUR TEAM



ZRO Management

Blake Beukes
*Orphanage & Wildlife
Manager*



ZCT Management

Louis Fourie
*ZCT Volunteer & Tourism
Coordinator*



ZCT Management

Olwen Jakumeit
*Admin & Marketing
Manager*



ZCT Management

Isabel Rill
Financial Manager



ZCT Management

Annie Peatling
Funding, Reporting & Events



ZCT Management

Julia Elliott
Funding, Reporting & Events



ZCT Custodianship

Chrisjan Visser
*Anti-poaching & K9 unit
Manager*



ZCT Custodianship

Lammert Kruger
Reserve Manager



ZCT Custodianship

Chase Kruzuc
Assistant Reserve Manager

MEET OUR TEAM



Sithembiso Makhanyela
Community Liaison Officer



Siyabonga Ngcobo
Food Security Coordinator



Phila Myeni
Community Liaison

ZCT 2025 IMPACTS



PROTECTED AREA COMMUNITIES

- 4 early learning centers with 160 children supported which results in 69 440 meals provided per year at a value of R150 000,
- 4 teachers, 4 cooks and 4 gardeners permanently employed and R50 000 worth of infrastructure upgrades completed.
- 4 members of the community were employed to work at the ZRO and in the ZCT gardens.
- Supported community projects such as school game drives, matric study camps, soccer tournaments, back to school drives, winter warmer programs and more!
- Community garden projects resulting in 50 women trained in permaculture to date who's products are supporting approximately 300 dependents.
- Over 600 seedlings supplied to the early learning centers to be planted in their gardens.

PROTECTED AREA EXPANSION & CUSTODIANSHIP

- 23 500 ha under custodianship.
- On average 20 casual labor opportunities created and one more permanent staff member employed for the maintenance of the custodian site.
- Solar powered borehole installed on Diedrick's property, providing strong water availability
- 3530ha of encroaching bush cleared.
- 74 km of fence line and 41km of roads maintained.
- Firwood supply initiative was launched within the reserve generating an income of R66 000 for conservation efforts.



ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION & ANTI POACHING

- 65 white & 16 black rhinos dehorned/trimmed.
- 1 Cheetah relocated, 1 de-collared, 2 escaped and retrieved.
- 1 pangolin was discovered that had moved freely from another reserve.
- Leopard sightings increased by 37% within the reserve.
- 8 arrests made and a decrease in rhino poaching on the reserve was achieved.
- All anti poaching employees & K9 handlers received refresher firearm, K9 handling, First Aid and Helicopter use training.
- One snare removed from a hyena that was severely wounded.



ZULULAND RHINO ORPHANAGE

- 43 rhino orphans have been rescued to date.
- 8 new orphans received in 2025.
- 5 Rhino orphans successfully released back into the wild.
- 6 rhino orphans weaned off of milk and have moved into the next phase of their rewilding.
- 7 Rhino orphans have started their rewilding process, the final stage of their rehabilitation journey.
- The intermediate camp is now fully fenced with pole structures. The Rhino nightpen floors have also been resurfaced.
- A water filtration system installed for the staff working at the ZRO.



FUNDRAISING, EVENTS & MARKETING

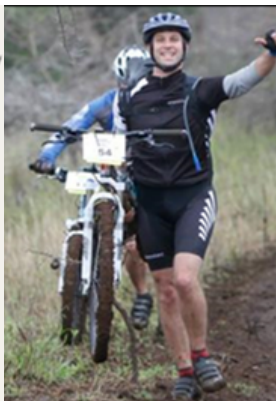
- 2.6 million Rand raised at Rhino Ride and Run 2025.
- 159 mountain bikers hosted at the annual Rhino Ride
- 270 trail runners hosted at the annual Rhino Run
- 27 grants applied for in 2025
- 2 new partnerships formed with the WildSky and Sophie Loof Foundations.
 - Just over 10.1 million worth of donations received (R9 968 947: Financial / R151 812: In-Kind)
- 2 fundraising trips were taken to the USA - Increasing exposure for ZCT.
- 14k Facebook followers & 7.6k Instagram followers



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZCT

FUNDS RAISED: R100

FUNDS USED: R0



2011

Establishment of Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation on the 8th of February 2011 by David Attenborough, Done Airton and Rick Wilson. The Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation is later renamed to the Zululand Conservation Trust.

- First Community Soccer Tournament
- First Creche Christmas Party

FUNDS RAISED: R108 150

FUNDS USED: R1 553



- Team Zululand Rhino Reserve raises R70 222 for the Zululand Rhino Reserve Foundation through Skydive for Rhinos.
- The Rhino Reality Expedition and Rhino Trek also took place
- The first Rhino Ride raised R157 300

FUNDS RAISED: R100

FUNDS USED: R48 425



2013

- Izintaba Zombombo Expedition visited three neighboring schools with Kingsley Holgate Foundation
- Completed Mbuzeli creche
- The Rhino Music Festival
- First Annual School Game Drives
- R195 739 Raised through Rhino Ride

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZCT

FUNDS RAISED: R823 802

FUNDS USED: R169 596



2014

- Completed Bejane creche
- First Rhino poaching incident on Manyoni Private Game Reserve (MPGR)
- R385 000 raised through Rhino Ride

FUNDS RAISED: R838 462

FUNDS USED: R453 212



2015

- Decision made to dehorn all rhinos on Manyoni (MPGR)
- Rick Wilson retires as Trustee, Todani Moyo joined as a new ZCT Trustee
- Increases in food drops at our local creches each month
- Introduction of Wild Dogs on MPGR
- R530 170 raised through Rhino Ride

FUNDS RAISED: R1 306 883

FUNDS USED: R1 100 142



2016

- Project Coordinator & Community Liason joins the team
- Donation of R1 533 279 towards conservation programs on MPGR
- Ithuba and Thanda, white rhinos originally orphaned through poaching are returned to MPGR
- Sekane creche upgrades
- Kloof Country Club Food and Wine Expo
- R626 152 Raised through Rhino Ride

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZCT

FUNDS RAISED: R1 936 716

FUNDS USED: R2 440 082



2018

- Completed Mzamoyethu creche, ZCT's 3rd creche
- XRO upgrades for rhino carers
- Launched the Inkukukaya chicken farming project
- ZCT donated R600 000 towards the protection of black rhino on MPGR
- More than R1 000 000 raised through Rhino Ride

FUNDS RAISED: R3 520 422

FUNDS USED: R2 609 352



2017

- The Zululand Rhino Orphanage established in April 2017
- Donations began to Mandlakazi High's matric camps
- Murry Collins added as a trustee
- Foundation name change to Zululand Conservation Trust
- R952 707 raised through Rhino Ride

FUNDS RAISED: R3 037 079

FUNDS USED: R1 538 868



2019

- ZCT donates R1.1 million towards the protection of black rhino on MPGR
- Leopard camera trap project launched on MPGR
- Start of the Mandlakazi food gardens project
- Skydive for Rhinos took place again
- MPGR chosen as a release site for rescued and rehabilitated pangolins
- R807 532 raised through Rhino Ride

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZCT

FUNDS RAISED: R4 904 840

FUNDS USED: R3 403 409



2021

- The ZCT took custodianship over MPGR
- ZCT turns 10 years old!
- 3 orphans successfully released into the wild
- Mandlakazi Food Garden Project expanded
- First all ladies soccer tournament held
- The initial building of ZCT's 4th creche
- R412 473 raised through Rhino Ride

FUNDS RAISED: R3 704 966

FUNDS USED: R3 089 612



2020

- Release of 2 rhino orphans back into the wild
- Wild Again for 19 challenge raises over R700 000 for ZCT
- 300 Charity Challenge 587 food parcels dropped in communities
- Springbok Legends donate 300 boxes of futurelife & 140 packs of clothing to our local communities
- School projects: New School shoes donated and participation in rhino horn trimming

FUNDS RAISED: R3 508 758

FUNDS USED: R2 496 355



2022

- Implementation of Earth Ranger
- Completion of Speakman preschool
- The Trust started increasing effort into fundraising via grants and partners
- Establishment of MPGR's first K9 unit
- Investec sponsors Rhino Ride
- R1.5 Million raised through Rhino Ride

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZCT

FUNDS RAISED: R2 670 000

FUNDS USED: R2 156 236



2024

- The external fence patrol unit, the Yankees was introduced
- 2 drones and a drone pilot were introduced to MPGR to improve security
- The ZRO experienced a huge influx of orphans (12 in total)
- Absa came on board to sponsor the Rhino run and R1.8 million was raised!
- The Investec Rhino Ride had another amazing year raising R1.7 million!

FUNDS RAISED: R8 077 911



2023

- Release of 3 rhino orphans back into the wild
- ZCT's 4th creche, Speakman, was built and opened to the children
- 3 pangolin pups were born onto MPGR
- Land expansion project made progress requiring 505 ha piece of land
- ZCT hosted its very first Rhino Run and raised
- Investec sponsored the Rhino Ride again and R1.2 million was raised for conservation!

FUNDS RAISED: R6 362 176



2025

- The ZCT commercial gardens experienced tremendous growth
- The ZRO received 8 new orphans and underwent boma upgrades
- Construction began on the ZCT Regional Ops room
- Absa sponsored their last year or Rhino Run, raising R1.4 million
- Hollywoodbets came on board as our sponsor for Rhino Ride and it raised R1.3 million
- ZCT's first USA Fundraising Road Show

FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Rhino Ride 2025

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Hollywoodbets Rhino Ride

The Hollywoodbets Rhino Ride 2025 took place from 29–31 August 2025 at Manyoni Private Game Reserve, with Bayete Homestead serving as the central venue. The 2025 event marked the first Rhino Ride with Hollywoodbets as the lead sponsor and continued the Rhino Ride's role as one of ZCT's most important annual fundraising events.

The event welcomed 157 riders, with a total of 159 tickets sold. Participants were able to take part in a full 40 km or half 19 km route on the first day, followed by a full 30 km route on the second day. The event retained its established weekend format, offering participants a race village, camping facilities, hot showers, toilets, e-bike and phone charging stations, dome tent accommodation and lodge options.

The Hollywoodbets Rhino Ride raised a total of **R1,291,635.29** for the Zululand Conservation Trust. Funds were raised through rider and non-rider ticket sales, Hollywoodbets' sponsorship contribution, cycling shirt sales, game drives, dome tent rentals, merchandise, bar income, auction and raffle income, and additional donations. The auction contributed R258,000.00 towards the total amount raised.

Funds raised through the Hollywoodbets Rhino Ride will support ZCT's conservation and community work, with a strong focus on employment, protected area management, skills development and environmental sustainability. Key allocations include the Fence Guardianship Programme, the protection and management of the Diedricks expansion property, a skilled building and maintenance training programme, and the reserve's recycling and sustainable waste management programme.

Although the total number of riders was lower than the previous year, this was largely due to the change in lead sponsor and delayed ticket marketing. The event nevertheless provided a strong platform for growth under the Hollywoodbets partnership and maintained its position as a flagship conservation event.

ZCT is sincerely grateful to Hollywoodbets for stepping into the role of lead sponsor and for supporting a fundraising event that directly contributes to conservation, community employment and protected area sustainability.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Hollywoodbets Rhino Ride

ZCT extends sincere appreciation to Murray Collins and family, as well as the Bayete Homestead team, for once again hosting the event and making the space available for the Rhino Ride weekend.

Further thanks are extended to the Manyoni management team, property managers, guides, support staff and volunteers who contributed to the smooth running of the event and assisted with route support, logistics, guest management and operational requirements.

ZCT gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors and contributors for their support of the Hollywoodbets Rhino Ride 2025:

- Hollywoodbets, for its generous lead sponsorship and for supporting the continued growth of the Rhino Ride.
- Three Lads and a Toucan, NuMutu, Happy Culture, 32Gi, Buttanutt, Simply Bee, Bosveld Meats, Hollywoodbets, Lm2 Designs, and Jason Griffin and the Encore Spar team for their goodie bag contributions.
- Rhino Tears and Andiamo, for wine and beverages sold through the bar in support of ZCT.
- Waxy's, for providing beer for the finish line and route beer table.
- Jason Griffin and the Encore Spar team, for supporting the water tables with snacks, energy products and water.
- NuMutu, for finish line drinks.
- Sensiri, for hosting a water table with homemade snacks.
- SirFruit, for juices and health shots at the breakfast buffet.
- SMG Toyota, for vehicle support.
- Luca Barausse, Luleka Lodge, Leopard Mountain Lodge, Murray Collins, Chris Watkins, Royal Jozini Lodge and Hollywoodbets, for their generous auction and raffle prizes.
- Luca Photography, Sondela Band, Keri Miller, DJ Michael Zuma, Mobile Events, ALS Paramedics, Lav Leather and all service providers who contributed to the professional delivery of the event.

The Hollywoodbets Rhino Ride 2025 was a successful transition year for the event and created a strong base for future growth, continued sponsor partnership and increased conservation impact.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

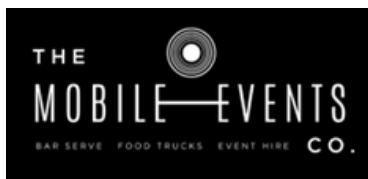
Rhino Ride - Sponsors and Partners

MANYONI
— PRIVATE GAME RESERVE —



LULEKA

TALBOT  The Art of Water



Bayete Zulu
LODGES



THREE LADS AND A TOUCAN
100% ARABICA COFFEE BEANS



ButtaNutt



live2move



LEOPARD MOUNTAIN
EST 1997



SENSIRI

tex



FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Rhino Run 2025

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Rhino Run - Brought to you by Absa

The Absa Rhino Run 2025 took place from 25–27 July 2025 at Manyoni Private Game Reserve, with Bayete Zulu Homestead once again serving as the central event venue. The event continued to build on the strong foundation established in previous years and has become one of ZCT's flagship conservation fundraising events.

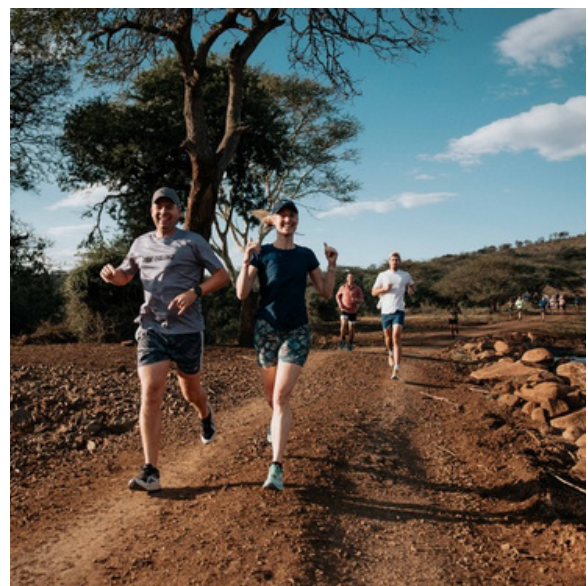
The 2025 Rhino Run welcomed 270 runners, with a total of 299 tickets sold. Participants were able to take part in a full 21 km or half 10 km trail on the first day, followed by a full 15 km or half 7 km trail on the second day. The event offered an immersive weekend experience in Big Five country, with a specially established race village, camping facilities, hot showers, toilets, phone charging stations, dome tent accommodation and lodge options available for participants.

The event raised a total of R1,466,104.45 for the Zululand Conservation Trust. Funds were raised through ticket sales, Absa's sponsorship contribution, game drives, dome tent rentals, merchandise, bar income, auction and raffle income, and additional donations. The live and silent auction alone contributed R167,550.00 towards the total raised.

The funds raised through the Absa Rhino Run will support ZCT's ongoing conservation and community upliftment work, including endangered species protection, protected area support, and the care of orphaned rhinos through the Zululand Rhino Orphanage.

ZCT is especially grateful to Absa for its continued support as the lead sponsor of the Rhino Run. Absa's contribution has played an important role in strengthening the event, improving the participant experience, and supporting meaningful conservation and community outcomes. The 2025 event also included a blanket drive, through which 50 Absa blankets and 91 wool blankets were distributed to Mbuzeli, Speakman, uBhejane and Mzamoyethu Crèches. These donations were supplemented by generous contributions from runners, Blankets for Baby Rhinos, Forest View Primary School and Teresa Sobel.

The Rhino Run has continued to grow steadily, increasing from just over 100 participants in 2023 to 265 participants in 2024 and 270 participants in 2025. With a maximum capacity of 300 entries, the event is now close to being a complete sell-out and remains a key platform for conservation awareness, fundraising and public engagement.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Rhino Run - Brought to you by Absa

ZCT extends sincere appreciation to Murray Collins and family, as well as the Bayete Zulu team, for once again hosting the event and allowing the Rhino Run to make use of their space and facilities. Their continued hospitality remains central to the success of both the Rhino Run and Rhino Ride weekends.

Further thanks are extended to the Manyoni management team, property managers, guides, staff and volunteers who assisted with event logistics, route support, guest management, activities and general operations throughout the weekend.

ZCT gratefully acknowledges the following sponsors and contributors for their support of the Absa Rhino Run 2025:

- Absa, for its generous lead sponsorship and continued commitment to the Rhino Run.
- Three Lads and a Toucan, NuMuti, Revive, Wazoogles, Aquelle, USN, Buttanutt, Simply Bee, Bosveld Meats, Lm2 Designs, Jason Griffin and the Encore Spar team for their contributions to the goodie bags.
- Rhino Tears and Andiamo, for wine and beverages sold through the bar in support of ZCT.
- Waxy's, for providing beer for the finish line.
- Jason Griffin and the Encore Spar team, for supporting the water tables with snacks, energy products and water.
- NuMuti, for drinks at the yoga stretch session and finish line.
- Sensiri, for hosting a well-stocked water table with homemade snacks.
- SirFruit, for juices and health shots at the breakfast buffet.
- SMG Toyota, for vehicle support.
- Zawadi Décor, Luca Barausse, Luleka Lodge, The Run Collective, Mavela Lodge, Chris Watkins, Mkhuze Trails, Oriol Outdoor and Absa, for their generous auction and raffle prizes.
- Luca Photography, Sondela Band, Keri Miller, DJ Michael Zuma, Mobile Events, ALS Paramedics, Lav Leather and all service providers who assisted with the professional delivery of the event.
- The success of the Absa Rhino Run 2025 reflects the combined support of its lead sponsor, participants, partners, service providers and the broader conservation community.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Rhino Run - Sponsors and Partners



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

USA Fundraising Road Show with Partners

Events held in California included:

- Fundraisers with Global Conservation Force, Wilson's Creek Winery and Rivian Theatre (Temecula & Laguna Beach)
- San Diego Zoo informative to generate volunteer interest.
- Pretzels & Pints event confirmed one volunteer; engaged local zoo community.
- Raised over \$32,000 through auctions and **presentations at these events combined**

Online engagements:

- Instagram/YouTube Live chat with Mike Veale & Anthony Porter
- Online presentation to 25 Wyoming State Wardens promoting wildlife protection and the ZCT volunteer program
- Susan Swigor raised \$18 000 for the ZRO

New York activities:

- A formal event with Wild Tomorrow Fund raised \$5,000

Other events in the USA:

- Memphis Zoo presentation to the docents
- Donald and Debra Alexander hosted an event at his home in Savanna. A number of volunteer and safari packages were auctioned.
- Dave Johnson founder of the KACF hosted a fundraiser in Denver that raised over \$10 000

International Rhino Keepers Association (IRKA) Workshop:

- ZCT Chief Operating Officer Karen Odendaal and Chief Executive Officer David Attenborough attended the IRKA Workshop in Omaha, where Karen delivered a keynote address to an audience of more than 300 delegates.

Florida Engagements:

- With the support of Yvette Ayala from Reclaimed Earth, a valued ZCT partner, Karen Odendaal delivered a conservation presentation at Zoo Miami, which resulted in a generous USD 5,000 donation towards the Trust's conservation programmes.
- Karen also enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of Disney's Animal Kingdom and presented the ZCT's conservation work to the Disney Animal Kingdom animal care team.



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

USA Fundraising Road Show with Partners

University of Massachusetts:

At the University of Massachusetts Isenberg School of Management, ZCT CEO Karen Odendaal presented to students ahead of their conservation field experience in South Africa.

During the visit, Karen was also honoured with the prestigious Leader of Impact Award at a ceremony held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation.ngdom animal care team.



Texas - The Rhinory

Christine Bobko, Director of Rhino Programs at The Rhinory, hosted an evening of fine wine and rhino conservation talks in support of ZCT's rhino conservation work.

The event included the auction of safari packages and volunteer experiences, raising over USD 5,000 for ZCT.

During her USA visit, ZCT COO Karen Odendaal also visited several rhino and conservation facilities:

- Fossil Rim
- White Oak Conservation
- Buffalo Ranch
- Longneck Manor
- African Rhino Protection Initiative

FUNDING & DONORS

Grant Applications & Funding Requests

Between March 2025 and February 2026, the Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT) pursued a focused and proactive approach to securing financial support for its conservation and community initiatives. During this period, 47 funding proposals, appeals, and concept notes were submitted, reflecting ZCT's continued commitment to diversifying income streams and strengthening long-term sustainability. A key focus was placed on the Zululand Rhino Orphanage (ZRO), where increasing demands required urgent support for expansion. Significant attention was also directed towards anti-poaching, monitoring, and broader security initiatives to strengthen the protection of wildlife.

Highlights from Funding Request



- Endangered Species Conservation – Wedgewood: Wedgewood donated towards endangered species conservation in March 2025.
- Drone Surveillance Programme – Donald Alexandre: In April 2025, Donald Alexandre donated two drones towards the drone surveillance programme and related operations.
- Growing Food for Life Project – Foundation for Human Rights: The Foundation for Human Rights funded the final grant year of the Growing Food for Life Project in 2025, with the project continuing in 2026 through private donor funding.
- Google Ads Grant – Google: Approved in September 2025, this grant provides ZCT with R10,000 in monthly Google Ads spend to help direct traffic to the ZCT website.
- Emergency Rhino Dehorning Operation – Cycle of Life: Funding was approved in December 2025 to cover veterinary and helicopter costs for the emergency dehorning operation across Manyoni.
- Emergency Dehorning Support – Wedgewood: Wedgewood supported the December 2025 emergency dehorning operation by contributing towards avgas and helicopter costs.
- ZRO Boma Upgrades – Helping Rhinos: Helping Rhinos contributed towards boma upgrades at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage to support the facility's growing capacity needs.
- ZRO Milk Transport Support – City Logistics: City Logistics joined as a partner in early 2026 and now delivers ZRO milk pallets free of charge, while also assisting with ad hoc reserve and event deliveries.
- Manyoni Drone Pilot Sponsorship – The Innovation Group: The Innovation Group joined ZCT as a partner in 2026, with funding approved to cover the Manyoni drone pilot's salary for 12 months.
- Rhino Monitoring Quad Bikes – Helping Rhinos: Approved in February 2026, this proposal resulted in the donation of three Linhai quad bikes for the rhino monitoring team.
- Community Development Projects – Victor Daitz Foundation: The Victor Daitz Foundation continued to support ZCT's community projects, notably the matric camps and Back-to-School Campaign.
- Community Borehole Project – Fly & Fleet: A proposal for the borehole project remains under consideration, with communication ongoing and a positive outcome still anticipated.
- International Donor Travel Support – Emirates Foundation: This proposal sought support for international donor travel costs but was declined, as the Foundation's 2025 focus was on health aid projects.

FUNDING & DONORS

Grant Applications & Funding Requests

Additional grant applications were submitted to a wide range of organisations, including:

Federal Air, Fly Fleet, Eco-Solve, IUCN, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Dallas Safari Club Foundation, Global Fund for Community Foundations, Reece Foundation, Whitley Award, Sequoia Park Zoo, Reclaimed Earth, Wild Tomorrow, Idea Wild, Virgin Active, Boxer and EK Foundation.

While no unsolicited or “cold” applications were successful during this period, some remain under review. This reinforces the importance of nurturing long-standing donor relationships, as the most successful contributions originated from existing partners.



Fundraising Platforms and Online Engagement

GlobalGiving remained a core platform for presenting ZCT's conservation and community projects to a global audience. During this period, all project listings were restructured into four comprehensive focus areas, each accompanied by updated content and project reports.



Funds for NGOs became an instrumental tool for grant identification. Subscribing to this platform has enabled us to receive weekly funding opportunity alerts tailored to our thematic priorities. We hope this will result in a more consistent stream of applications submitted each month.



ZCT's updated project profiles on Benevity provides future potential to access corporate giving and employee matching platforms, offering an additional channel for international support.



BackaBuddy is a South African crowdfunding platform that enables ZCT to run direct fundraising campaigns and allows supporters to create linked fundraisers in support of the Trust. ZCT currently has two campaigns on the platform: the open-ended ZCT Community Projects campaign, which supports priority needs such as boreholes, early learning resources, vegetable gardens, matric camps and crèche support packs; and Nothing Says 'I Love You' Like Saving a Rhino, a Valentine's campaign supporting ZRO feed, veterinary care, security and rehabilitation. To date, BackaBuddy donations total R47,431.



ZCT's MySchool profile was updated during the year, resulting in a steady stream of monthly donations ranging between R700 and R900 from 66 active supporters. These funds go directly toward the crèches and community upliftment projects.

FUNDING & DONORS

SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL CAMPAIGNS

In addition to ZCT's formal fundraising events and grant applications, several individual and supporter-led campaigns made a meaningful contribution during the year. These initiatives demonstrated the value of personal networks, community action and independent fundraising in supporting ZCT's conservation work. From school-led fundraising to endurance events and lodge-driven campaigns, each effort helped raise awareness and direct funding towards priority conservation needs.

- Ahead of the Absa Rhino Run, Ella Haynes and five of her classmates from The Wykeham Collegiate organized an independent school-based fundraiser in support of conservation. The group raised an impressive R35 000, which was allocated directly towards endangered species conservation within the Zululand Conservation Trust portfolio.
- One of our supporters, Bryan Boshoff, completed the 91 km Comrades Marathon in a personal fundraising effort for the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. Bryan's run was driven by a deep commitment to protecting our rhino orphans, and his campaign successfully raised R210 000 that directly support their specialized care and rehabilitation.
- A huge thank you to the Leopard Mountain team — Mel, Jian and Sean — for raising R49 200 for the Zululand Rhino Orphanage through their Back a Buddy campaign. Their commitment to conservation was inspiring, with Sean running 10 metres for every R100 donated and sharing daily progress updates. Thank you for your passion and dedication to protecting rhino orphans.



FUNDING & DONORS

Partner Contributions and Ongoing Relationships

The year saw continued and valuable support from a wide network of partners, sponsors and individual donors, each contributing to ZCT's conservation, community and operational work in different ways.



- Textainer remained one of ZCT's largest partners, providing approximately R1.8 million per annum in financial support, as well as continued support towards infrastructure and practical project needs. Toyota South Africa and SMG Toyota Hillcrest continued to provide essential vehicle support for conservation operations and the Zululand Rhino Orphanage, while Container Conversions continued to assist with practical infrastructure requirements.
- Helping Rhinos and Cycle of Life remained important long-term partners, supporting rhino dehorning, orphan care, security and infrastructure needs at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. City Logistics also joined as a practical partner by assisting with the transport of rhino milk from the supplier to the ZRO.
- Wild Tomorrow, Wildhood Foundation and Global Conservation Force continued to support endangered species conservation, anti-poaching and field-based conservation activities. Wedgewood also remained a valued yearly contributor towards ZCT's conservation projects.
- UMASS continued to support ZCT through the operations room, technology support and USA-based engagement, while the Innovation Group became a new partner through its support for a year of drone operations pilot salaries. The WildSky Foundation also supported the drone surveillance programme through operational, pilot and compliance-related assistance.
- The Victor Daitz Foundation remained a significant partner in ZCT's community projects, while Imbewu Yoshintso, African Conservation Trust and the Foundation for Human Rights continued to contribute to community farming, food security, job creation and skills development initiatives. Khaki Bush and the Domino Foundation continued to support the Matric Camp programme, with Khaki Bush also assisting through media exposure and the publication of ZCT-related content.
- Jason Gifford and The Spar Group, Rhino Tears Wines, Three Lads and a Toucan, Salty C, LAV Leather, Industrial Scrap Metals, BioChem/Nu-Eco, Agri-Care, Isoko Petroleum, Oricol Environmental and MySchool supporters continued to provide valuable regular support through product-linked contributions, annual support, in-kind donations and event-related contributions.
- New Frontiers Tours and ATTA continued to assist with conservation tourism exposure, helping connect ZCT's work with broader travel, tourism and responsible giving networks. Expedition Project continued to support ZCT through conservation volunteer placements.
- The Sophie Loof Foundation joined ZCT's partner network and pledged R400,000 towards veterinary fees for 2026, supporting ZCT's ability to respond to wildlife emergencies and endangered species care requirements.
- ZCT also extends sincere appreciation to individual donors, including Donald Alexander for his significant support towards drone surveillance and anti-poaching capacity, and Christa Bird for her continued support of community and crèche-related needs.

Together, these partners and supporters continue to strengthen ZCT's ability to deliver practical, measurable conservation and community outcomes across the Zululand landscape.



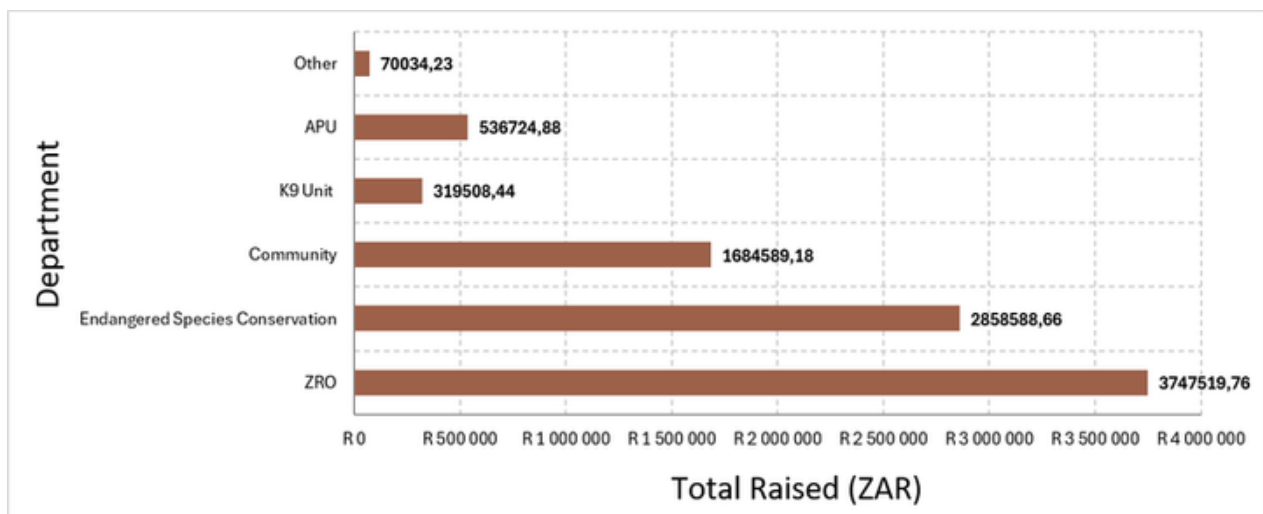
FUNDING & DONORS

DONATION RECON March 2025 - Feb 2026

The following section provides a summary of the monetary and in-kind donations received by the Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT) between March 2025 and February 2026. Donations have been allocated according to the relevant department or area of support.

A: Summary of all Monetary Donations

Department	Total Monetary Donations
ZRO	R3 747 519.76
Endangered Species Conservation	R2 858 588.66
Community	R1 684 589.18
K9 Unit	R319 508.44
APU	R536 724.88
Other	R 70 034.23
TOTAL	R9 216 965.15

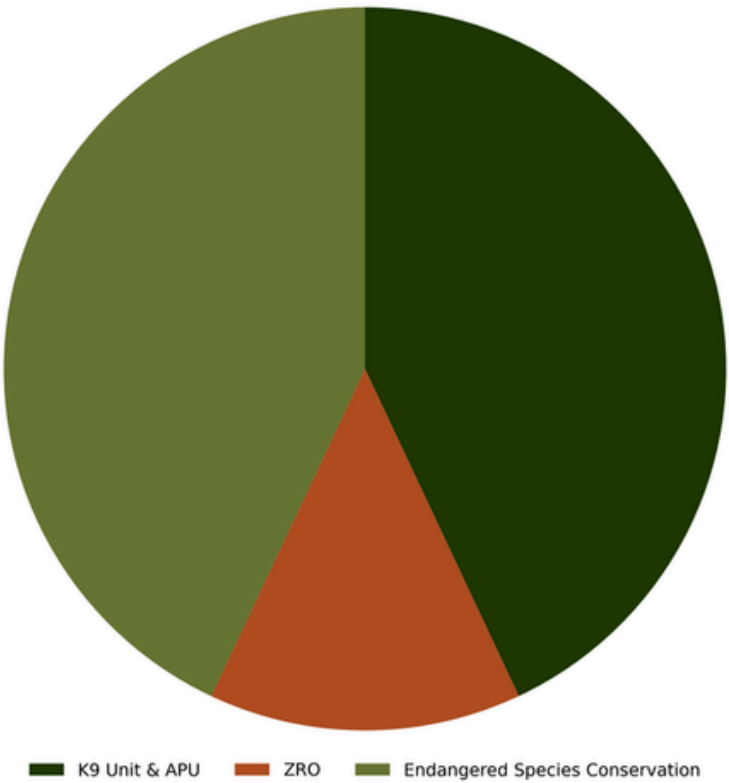


FUNDING & DONORS

DONATION RECON March 2025 - Feb 2026

B: Summary of all In-Kind Donations

Donor	Item / Description	Department
Ross Rutherford	Equipment	K9 Unit & APU
WWF Jeff Cooke	Cooking pots, solar showers, flashlight and powerbanks	ZRO
Toyota SA	Vehicles	Endangered Species Conservation
Worth Wild Africa	Camera traps and solar panels	Endangered Species Conservation



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Zululand Conservation Trust's community engagement initiatives continued to make a meaningful impact across education, early childhood development, food security and community upliftment in 2025. Through an active and consistent presence in the Mandlakazi region, ZCT continued to respond to practical community needs while strengthening long-term relationships between the reserve and surrounding communities.

Sithembiso, ZCT's Community Liaison, plays a central role in this work by maintaining communication, building trust and helping to address community concerns as they arise. His role supports open engagement between ZCT, the reserve and neighbouring communities, ensuring that community needs are understood and that ZCT's support remains practical, responsive and relationship-driven.

The focus remained on supporting initiatives that improve daily living conditions, create opportunities for skills development, strengthen food resilience and contribute to safer, healthier learning environments. This work reflects ZCT's broader commitment to ensuring that conservation impact extends beyond protected area boundaries and supports the well-being of the communities who live alongside these landscapes.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Crèche Support

The UMbuzeli Crèche kitchen upgrade was successfully completed, improving the functionality and basic infrastructure of the facility. The work included the installation of a new roof, a water tank, and a water connection to the kitchen sink. This upgrade will help support the daily preparation of meals for the children and improve the overall working conditions at the crèche. We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated ZCT team for their hard work and commitment in making this project possible.



Facility upgrades were completed at uBhejane, Speakman and Mzamoyethu Crèches to improve hygiene, safety and the overall learning environment. At uBhejane Crèche, the bathrooms were upgraded to improve sanitation standards for learners and staff. Speakman Crèche received a full interior and roof repaint, creating a brighter and better-maintained space for the children. At Mzamoyethu Crèche, the roof was repainted to preserve its condition, improve the appearance of the building and provide added protection against rain and weather damage.

Textainer remained one of our key partners throughout the year, continuing to support the monthly food drops as well as teacher salary contributions across all four crèches. This ongoing support has been essential in helping to sustain the day-to-day operations of the crèche programme. We are also grateful for our partnership with Buzi Stores in Mkuze, who assist with the monthly food orders and provide discounts where possible, helping us stretch available funding further and continue providing reliable support to the children.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Crèche Seasonal and Special Events

ZCT hosted several crèche-focused events to enhance learning, social interaction, and seasonal celebrations.



Ahead of winter, hand-knitted blankets were distributed thanks to Janet Airton, Julia Nicholson and Elisa from Blankets for Baby Rhinos UK, along with Rhino Ride and Rhino Run participants who donated through the Winter Warmer initiative. Absa, our 2025 Rhino Run sponsor, also donated mattresses and blankets to children at uBhejane, Mzamoyethu and Speakman Crèches. Monthly food drops continued to support these crèches, helping ensure the children receive regular meals.

Towards the end of the year, Christmas parties and graduation ceremonies were held at all four crèches to celebrate the children moving on to primary school. The events included food, cake and stationery packs to help prepare the children for this next step in their education. These celebrations were made possible through the generous support of Rhino River Lodge, Christa Bird, Teresa, Bruce Mattison, VIRO Bag and the Victor Daitz Foundation. We remain committed to supporting education and community development, helping to empower young minds and build a brighter future.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Education & Upliftment

School Uniform and Shoe Drop

With support from the Blue Sky Society Trust, a successful school uniform and shoe donation drive was carried out for children in the Mandlakazi community. The initiative culminated in a distribution event at Vezukukhanya Primary School on 26 February 2026, led by Carla Geyser from Blue Sky Society and the ZCT team. The donations brought pride and dignity to children whose families often struggle to afford such items.



Sports Development

ZCT continued to support sport as a valuable platform for community development, youth engagement and social cohesion. The Manyoni Soccer Tournament, now in its 21st year, and the Go Back to School Tournament, featuring eight teams, helped bring communities together in a positive way. These events were run with local organisers Mr G. Goodman Mafuleka and Mr M. Mathenjwa, whose dedication remains key to their success. We also thank Orical Environmental and the Noel Otto Foundation for their generous support.



Matric Camp 2025

The Matric Camp project, run at Mandlakazi and Senzokuhle High Schools, produced amazing results in 2025. Mandlakazi High achieved a pass rate of 96%, while Senzokuhle High reached a 100% pass rate. The Matric Camp project is designed to provide targeted support to matric students, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their final year of high school. Our sincere thanks go to The Domino Foundation, Khakibush, and the ZCT Nursery for their generous contributions that made this initiative possible.



Primary School Support

In partnership with Manyoni and Obani Primary Schools, ZCT supported Grade 7 learners with essential educational resources, including school bags and stationery. This initiative aimed to encourage academic commitment while helping to ease the financial pressure on learners and their families. We extend our sincere thanks to Christa Bird, Global Conservation Force and the Victor Daitz Foundation for their generous support in making this possible

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Food Security Project

In 2025, ZCT continued to strengthen its commitment to community food security and sustainable livelihoods through the Growing Food for Life initiative and its partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights. Through this collaboration, permaculture training was provided to 100 beneficiaries, equipping participants with practical skills to establish and maintain their own homestead gardens. The five-day training programme focused on sustainable food production, helping families improve access to healthy food while also creating opportunities to generate income through the sale of surplus produce.

A platform has also been established for beneficiaries to sell their produce within the reserve, creating a valuable link between community food gardens and local market opportunities. This not only supports household food security, but also helps strengthen small-scale income generation for participating community members.

ZCT's broader community development work was further supported through its continued partnership with the African Conservation Trust (ACT). This programme provided employment opportunities for community members involved in removing invasive alien plants, maintaining community infrastructure and supporting land rehabilitation work. Training was also provided around caring for community preschools and establishing food gardens, further linking conservation, skills development, education and food resilience within surrounding communities.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Creche Gardens

Support for the community crèche gardens continued through the provision of seedlings to help strengthen food production at the schools. This included three trays of onion seedlings, approximately 400 seedlings, one tray of cabbage seedlings, approximately 200 seedlings, and 30 tomato seedlings. Following the employment of several community members through the African Conservation Trust's alien invasive plant removal contract, a new maintenance arrangement has been put in place for the crèche gardens. To ensure the gardens remain productive and well maintained, support has been requested from crèche teaching staff and cooks to help monitor the individuals allocated to garden maintenance at each crèche.

Comprehensive maintenance was completed across all crèche gardens to improve durability and support ongoing food production. Support poles were installed, with contracts in place to ensure the structures remain secure and well maintained. This work addresses challenges caused by heavy rains, which had previously weakened the tunnel structures and affected garden productivity. These improvements will help create a more stable and efficient environment for continued gardening activities.



School Support

In February, when Blue Sky Society visited the local primary schools to donate school uniforms, the ZCT Gardens Department also joined the initiative by providing fruit trees for planting with the children. These trees were planted at the schools with the hope that they will provide shade, bear fruit for learners, and help create a greener and more welcoming school environment.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Growing Food for Life: Foundation for Human Rights

The Growing Food for Life project, supported by the Foundation for Human Rights, continued to strengthen food security, practical farming skills and household resilience during 2025. The project was built around the vision of creating healthier and more resilient communities by improving access to nutritious food, supporting sustainable livelihoods and creating opportunities for small-scale income generation.

Through FHR support, ZCT continued to work with community beneficiaries to establish and maintain food gardens using agroecology principles. The project provided practical training, workshops, mentorship and essential resources such as seedlings, seeds, watering cans, hand tools, gloves, trees and ecological service plants. Beneficiaries were supported to grow vegetables including spinach, tomatoes, beetroot, cabbage and brinjals, with most produce used for household consumption and some sold within the community.

From the start of the project to October 2025, the initiative established food gardens for 50 beneficiaries and delivered approximately 11 training and workshop sessions, including three extended five-day training courses and eight shorter topic-specific workshops. The project directly benefited 50 female beneficiaries, while an estimated 80 females and 60 males benefited indirectly as family and household members. A further four community members independently adopted the agroecology practices and established their own gardens, showing the wider influence of the project. The project has had a meaningful impact by improving access to fresh, nutritious vegetables and helping households reduce food costs. It has also strengthened practical skills in planting, garden maintenance and sustainable farming. While some beneficiaries have started selling surplus produce, the greatest success has been in improving household food security, with many participants finding strong value in growing food for their own families.

The project also helped build internal capacity within ZCT's Gardens Department. Staff and volunteers gained experience in financial management, stakeholder engagement, communication, planning and project implementation. These skills have strengthened ZCT's ability to manage future food security and community development initiatives more effectively.

Overall, the FHR-supported Growing Food for Life project has created practical and lasting benefits for participating households. It has improved access to food, strengthened community farming knowledge and supported a growing culture of sustainable food production. The project has also provided a strong foundation for future growth, including continued mentorship, improved market opportunities and further expansion of agroecology practices within neighbouring communities.



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

ZCT Commercial Garden and Nursery



The ZCT Commercial Garden continued to grow in both production and customer demand, with partnerships now established with nearly 10 lodges within the reserve. Weekly orders through the WhatsApp group have continued to increase, and customer feedback has been positive, with many noting the quality and freshness of the vegetables produced. The garden has also expanded its product range to include a variety of fresh produce, including spinach, beetroot, spring onions, mixed lettuce, baby marrow, carrots, onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, chillies, peppers, beans, leeks and herbs.

To improve access and convenience, a door-to-door delivery service has been introduced, depending on order volumes. Deliveries are currently available on Thursdays every second week, and the garden has also introduced produce “surprise boxes” as an affordable way for customers to purchase mixed seasonal vegetables.



The project has also created valuable employment and training opportunities. One community member has secured permanent employment at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage, while another has been employed as a grass cutter for ZCT. Two agriculture graduates, including a postgraduate, have been employed, with one leading the ZCT Gardens team. In addition, ZCT is providing a 12-month internship opportunity for an agricultural graduate, supporting practical skills development within the sector.

The ZCT Nursery has also continued to develop, maintaining a stable supply of rhino compost and fulfilling 20 lodge orders. Significant tree sales were also made to Mhlambi Lodge for landscaping purposes. The nursery is now exploring opportunities for seed harvesting and indigenous tree propagation to meet future lodge demand. Current nursery stock includes indigenous and hardy species such as marula, coral plant, acacia, Natal mahogany, waterberry and spekboom.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

In 2025, ZCT's conservation efforts continued to focus on strengthening endangered species protection, expanding conservation landscapes and supporting collaborative reserve management across the Greater Zululand region. Key milestones included the construction of the Regional Operations Room, which will play an important role in improving security coordination, monitoring and response capacity. Progress was also made through the Protected Area Expansion Project, with ongoing discussions in the region showing positive outcomes and continued potential for future land stewardship and habitat expansion.

Endangered species work remained a central focus, including the continued monitoring of released pangolins, leopard monitoring and data capture, rhino protection and orphan rehabilitation, and the active management of species such as cheetah, rhino, lion and elephant. These efforts were supported by strategic partnerships, donor engagement and close coordination with reserve management teams, reinforcing ZCT's commitment to ecosystem restoration, species protection and long-term conservation impact across the Zululand landscape.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Range Expansion

The Diedricks property continues to form an important part of the broader land expansion and conservation management effort. Work has focused on improving access, maintaining boundary integrity, restoring ecological condition and strengthening the property's long-term value as functional conservation land.

Fence line spraying and maintenance were carried out regularly in response to strong vegetation growth following good rainfall. Regular inspections and minor repairs helped keep the boundary secure and operational, while two new access gates improved access for management and maintenance teams. Road maintenance was also undertaken, with boundary roads and key access routes slashed and cleared to maintain access to dams, fence lines and other management areas. This supports reserve operations, security patrols, fire access and alien plant control.

Alien invasive plant clearing remained a major focus. Target species included *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Senna pendula*, *Sesbania punicea*, *Lantana camara*, *Chromolaena odorata* and *Solanum seafortianum*. Control work was undertaken around dams, drainage lines, road reserves and disturbed areas using foliar spraying, manual removal, de-rooting and cut-stump treatment. A total of 788 man-days were invested in alien plant control.

Bush clearing was also undertaken along road verges to improve access and visibility, with 171 man-days spent on this work. A borehole yield test was completed with positive results, and the borehole was equipped with a solar pump. After the original pump was stolen, it was replaced and additional security measures were put in place.

A controlled block burn was conducted on 15 September to remove old grass, stimulate fresh grazing and support improved veld condition. Overall, the work completed on the Diedricks property has improved access, boundary security, ecological management and operational readiness, supporting its continued integration into the broader conservation landscape.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Regional Operations Room

Construction of the new Operations Centre commenced in late September 2025 on the site of the former buffalo bomas. The project involves the development of a modern 400 m² facility designed to strengthen operational efficiency, training capacity and regional conservation support. The facility includes a dedicated training centre, an operations room with an integrated server room, shared accommodation for up to 13 personnel, and a dedicated K9 training component. The Operations Centre building was generously funded by University of Massachusetts Amherst, the training centre was sponsored by Toyota South Africa, and additional contributions from Rennie van Wyk and Sue van Wyk supported the K9 training facilities.

The operations room will function as a regional conservation support hub, supporting surveillance monitoring, anti-poaching coordination, wildlife tracking, ranger deployment, incident management, communications control, drone operations, vehicle tracking, environmental monitoring and emergency response coordination. Once fully operational, the facility will greatly improve situational awareness, decision-making and collaboration between conservation partners across the region.

The project is now nearing completion, with only a few finishing items remaining before full commissioning. A major milestone was reached on 1 June 2026 with the official opening ceremony of the facility. Representatives and students from University of Massachusetts Amherst attended the event, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted by Bill Brown. The opening celebrated the successful partnership between international donors, corporate sponsors and conservation stakeholders, and marked an important step forward in strengthening regional conservation operations, training and support capacity.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Leopard Monitoring Project

The Leopard Monitoring Project continues to provide valuable insight into leopard presence, movement and territory use across Manyoni and the surrounding landscape. To date, 105 leopard sightings have been recorded, 94 of which were sightings by guides with guests. This represents an increase of 38 sightings compared to the same time last year, showing growing visibility and engagement around the project. Since the project began in 2022, 823 different vehicles have recorded leopard sightings on Manyoni, demonstrating the important role that guides, guests and lodge networks play in contributing to long-term monitoring.

The project is supported by Themba, a full-time leopard monitor dedicated to tracking leopard movements, updating individual ID kits and maintaining reliable field records. Themba remains deeply involved in the project and continues to make an immense contribution through tracking, camera work and night-shining. His field knowledge, consistency and commitment are central to improving our understanding of leopard activity and movement across the reserve.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Leopard Monitoring Project

Leopard sightings and monitoring records continue to provide valuable insight into how individual leopards are using the Manyoni landscape and neighbouring reserves. Sightings from guides, guests, camera traps and field monitoring are helping to build a clearer picture of territorial overlap, movement patterns and changes in leopard distribution over time. The information below provides a summary of key individuals recorded through the project and the areas they are currently using.

- **Umfuleni:** Umfuleni ranges from Leopard Mountain along the Msunduzi to Rhino River, although she appears to have lost part of this area to Msila.
- **Msila:** Msila now ranges from Rhino River to Fevertree Bayete and up towards Whydah Luleka, overlapping with and displacing some of Umfuleni's previous range.
- **Lindiwe and Malusi:** Lindiwe and Malusi, Msila's cubs, move between Fevertree Bayete and Whydah Luleka. They appear to spend much of their time avoiding larger individuals in the area.
- **Umfuleni Umkhiwane:** Umfuleni Umkhiwane appeared briefly on Zebra Hills after spending time on Thanda, but has since disappeared again.
- **Mvubu:** Mvubu continues to compete with Oscar over the Msunduzi area. When Oscar is active along the river on Luleka or Bayete, Mvubu is often pushed towards Rhino River or further north along the Whydah drainage line, sometimes as far as Nonile.
- **Oscar:** Oscar continues to hold a strong presence along the Msunduzi, with his impressive size appearing to give him an advantage over Mvubu in this contested area.
- **Umoya:** Umoya spends time on Manyoni Ridge, southern Luleka, Rhino Sands and east towards Sensiri Dam. He has not yet been seen by a vehicle.
- **Corner:** Corner was seen on 30 April 2026 after first being photographed on Marco Polo in 2023. He was later filmed on Duiker Game Lodge on 6 May 2026.
- **Osindile:** Osindile appears to have taken up more permanent residence on Thanda, where he continues to provide memorable sightings for guests and guides.
- **Hlekani Male:** The Hlekani male remains the main long-term monitored leopard in the northern section. He moves between Hlekani and Malachite, but data collection remains difficult as he has only been photographed on camera traps away from lures.
- **Nyala Dam Cub:** A young cub appeared at the Nyala Dam lure in May 2026. The cub has not yet been sexed or seen by a vehicle and is believed to possibly be orphaned. It has not been seen again recently, which may be due to pressure from another leopard in the area.

Overall, the project is building an increasingly detailed picture of leopard activity, territory shifts and individual movements across the landscape, while also strengthening guest participation and awareness through lodge sightings and field-based reporting.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

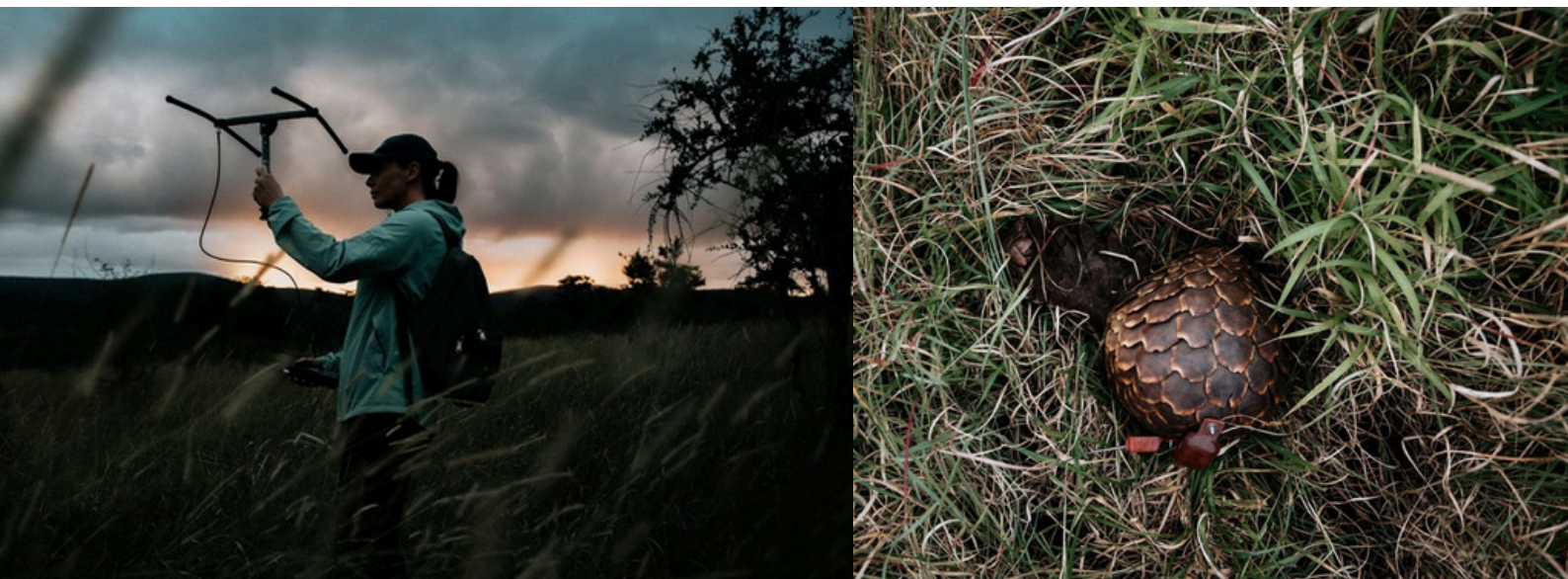
Temminck's Pangolin Project

The Pangolin Conservation Project continued to build momentum throughout 2025, with ongoing monitoring, research and field support strengthening our understanding of the reintroduced pangolin population within the broader Zululand landscape. The year provided encouraging signs of settlement, movement and possible dispersal between protected areas, highlighting the importance of continued monitoring and collaboration across reserves.

Research capacity was strengthened through the involvement of an international research student, who contributed to field monitoring and helped gather valuable behavioural and movement data. Continued collaboration with the African Pangolin Working Group further supported the project's scientific foundation and ensured that monitoring and management efforts remained aligned with broader pangolin conservation best practice.

The project also benefited from valuable support during the year, including the donation of five camera traps through Alistair Stalker and the African Pangolin Working Group. In addition, Agri-Care pledged R120,000 towards the pangolin project, which will support the purchase of LoRa tags and help cover operational monitoring costs.

While some technical challenges were experienced with tracking coverage, the project continued to improve its field capability through additional equipment, research support and the use of multiple tracking methods. The information gathered during 2025 has added valuable insight into pangolin behaviour, activity patterns and home range use, supporting more informed conservation management going forward.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Pangolin Updates

Improved Tracking Support

We were incredibly fortunate to receive generous support from Wildhood, including a mobile LoRa tower, cordless drill, VHF pangolin tags, and sponsorship for Ruby. The mobile LoRa tower has already been put to work and is making a meaningful difference in areas where signal has previously been unreliable for our LoRa tracking tags. This equipment will greatly strengthen our monitoring capacity and support the ongoing protection and management of pangolins and other priority conservation species.

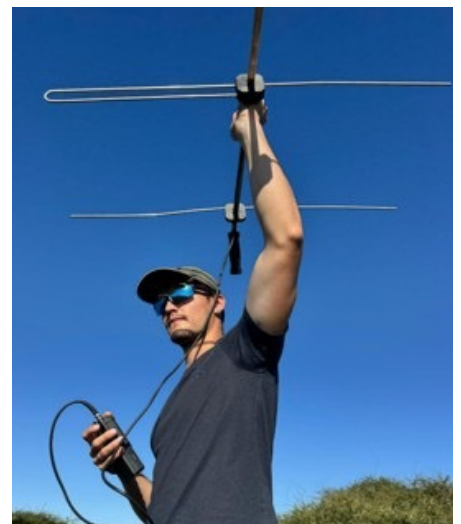
Pangolin Sighting at a Neighbouring Reserve

We received a call from Duiker Game Lodge after one of their staff members spotted a pangolin. Ruby was taken to the area to assist with locating the animal again. Based on the photographs provided and comparison with our ID kit, it appears that the pangolin was not one of our monitored individuals, but likely part of Phinda's pangolin release project. Although we were unable to relocate it, the sighting is very encouraging and suggests that pangolins are dispersing into neighbouring reserves.



Pangolin Research and Activity Insights

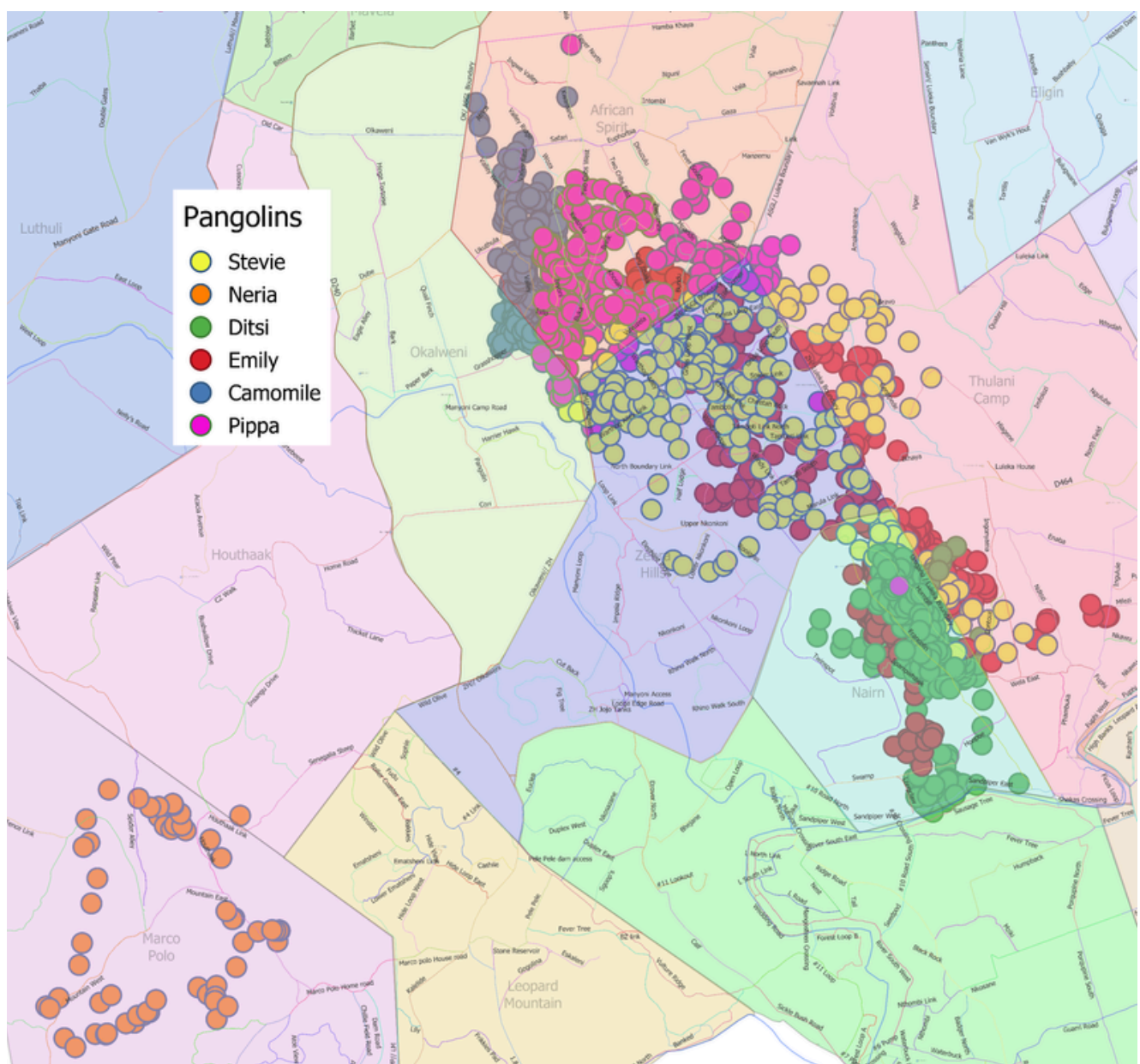
We were fortunate to host Kentin, a French student who spent two months with us conducting research on our pangolin population. During his time in the field, he also assisted with pangolin monitoring activities and contributed valuable observations to the project. His research found that pangolins are not strictly nocturnal, but rather appear to become active when temperatures are between approximately 24°C and 26°C. These findings provide useful insight into pangolin behaviour and will help strengthen our future monitoring and conservation efforts.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Movement and Home Range Monitoring

The map shows the GPS locations of six different pangolins recorded over the past few months. The data clearly shows that several individuals are living in close proximity to one another, with overlapping home ranges. Stevie, the male pangolin in this area, appears to have a particularly large territory which overlaps with the territories of three females. Some challenges were experienced with the LoRa repeater, which limited the number of points received from certain individuals. Going forward, efforts will be made to strengthen LoRa coverage and gather more data from the pangolins currently being monitored on Marco Polo.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Endangered Species Support

ZCT supports Manyoni Private Game Reserve with the conservation and management of key species, including rhino, cheetah and lions, by helping to raise funds, facilitate donor support and assist with priority conservation interventions.

Cheetah Conservation

Cheetah conservation work continued through active monitoring, veterinary intervention and strategic relocations. CF9 and her cub were moved to Mkhuze Game Reserve, while CM35 and CM36 were captured for relocation to Zambia. The team also responded to individual management needs, including darting and collaring CM18 after he was seen limping, and placing CF25 into a boma after she broke out of the reserve. CM31 was also darted and treated after being found with bite wounds, likely from another cheetah, and made a full and speedy recovery.



Elephant Management

Elephant population management continued through annual contraceptive treatment and monitoring. Several young females are suspected to have reached sexual maturity and may have required booster treatment, which could explain the higher number of births recorded in 2023 and 2024. Annual contraception was administered in early December, with booster treatments taking place in early 2026.



Snare Related Interventions

Snare-related interventions were also carried out during 2025. In September, a hyena on Leopard Mountain was darted after a suspected snare was reported; however, upon assessment it was found to be an old snare wound that had fully healed. In November, the team successfully removed a snare from another hyena on Leopard Mountain. These incidents highlight the ongoing threat that snares pose to wildlife and the importance of rapid response and continued monitoring across the reserve.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Endangered Species Support Cont.

Rhino Protection

Black rhino monitoring and management continued through routine horn trimming, notching and veterinary interventions. Two black rhinos were horn trimmed during the year, and one clean animal was notched to support future identification and monitoring. The team also responded to individual welfare concerns, including MPGRWF-201-13, who became stuck in mud and sadly passed away during the night after being pulled out, and MPGRWM-221-22, who was treated for an abscess on the rump. WRM51 was also darted for a standard dehorning and pod removal, during which a snare was discovered around his back left foot and removed. WRM50 was later darted to remove a snare from his back right leg. These interventions highlight the ongoing hands-on management required to monitor, protect and respond to the needs of the reserve's black rhino population.



Lion Monitoring

Lion population management continued through routine monitoring of pride dynamics, movements, health and removals. During the year, two sub-adult males and one sub-adult female from Thanda escaped and entered Manyoni. The decision was made to keep these individuals on the reserve due to their potential genetic value. Overall, lion management remains an active and ongoing process, balancing population control, genetic diversity and the long-term ecological health of the reserve.

PROTECTED AREA CUSTODIANSHIP

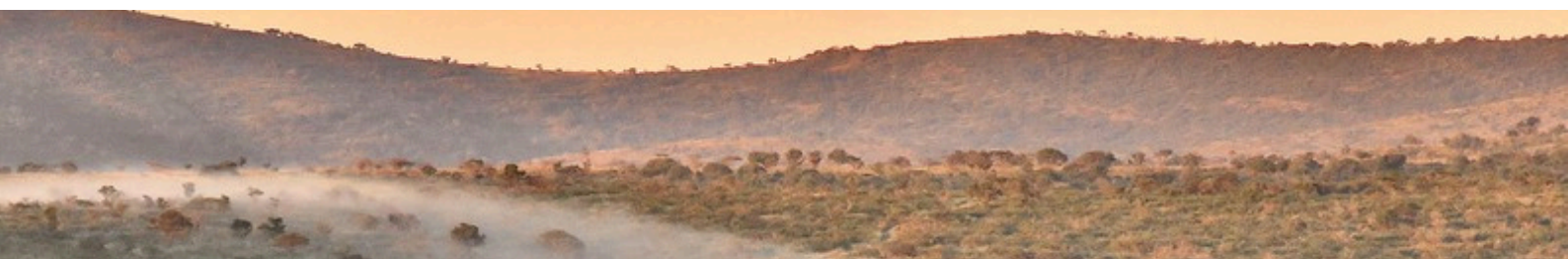
In 2025, the Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT) continued to strengthen its long-term custodianship role across the Greater Zululand landscape through investment in land management, conservation infrastructure, habitat restoration, security support and operational capacity. Custodianship remains central to ZCT's conservation model, ensuring that protected areas and important conservation landscapes are actively maintained, restored and managed for long-term ecological resilience.

A major milestone during the year was ZCT's purchase of its headquarters property, securing a permanent base from which the Trust can coordinate its conservation, community and operational work. This property will also serve as the home of the new Regional Operations Centre, which will support improved security coordination, 24-hour monitoring, ranger and K9 response, drone operations, training, and regional law enforcement collaboration. Establishing a permanent headquarters and operations hub is an important step in building the infrastructure needed to support conservation at a landscape level.

ZCT also continued to focus on protected area expansion and land stewardship, with ongoing discussions in the region showing positive potential for future conservation expansion. A key long-term goal is range expansion, creating more space for wildlife, improving ecological connectivity and strengthening the Greater Zululand conservation landscape. This work supports ZCT's broader vision of reconnecting and securing important habitats while ensuring that land under custodianship is actively managed and protected.

Habitat and infrastructure work remained a core part of ZCT's custodianship role. This included ongoing maintenance of roads, fencelines, access routes, firebreaks, water systems and other key reserve infrastructure, as well as continued bush clearing and habitat restoration. These efforts are essential for biodiversity management, wildlife movement, fire readiness, anti-poaching access and the safe operation of protected areas.

Looking ahead, ranger expansion remains one of ZCT's key priorities. As the conservation footprint grows and regional security needs increase, additional ranger capacity will be essential to strengthen patrol coverage, improve response times, support anti-poaching operations and ensure that newly secured or restored conservation areas can be properly protected. Through land stewardship, operational infrastructure and investment in people on the ground, ZCT continues to build a stronger foundation for long-term conservation impact across Zululand.



PROTECTED AREA CUSTODIANSHIP

Recycling & Composting Initiatives

During 2025, progress continued with recycling and sustainability initiatives focused on reducing waste and finding practical reuse opportunities across the reserve. The rhino dung compost project at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage progressed well, with rainfall and warm weather helping to break down manure and bedding material into high-quality compost. Once matured, this compost will be used for landscaping, gardening and rehabilitation projects. Glass crushing also continued, although the process remained slow and labour intensive. A major success was the use of crushed glass in the soakaway system and countertops of the new Operations Building, providing a practical and attractive reuse option for recycled glass. Test concrete blocks were also cast using crushed glass and have been sent for structural testing to assess future use.

General recycling operations continued during the year, with drop-offs accepted on Tuesdays and Fridays. Glass recycling remained limited to the first week of each month, with one load accepted per property.

Overall, these initiatives helped reduce waste, reuse materials and support more sustainable operations across the reserve.



Bush Clearing & Firewood Project

Launched in June 2024, the Bush Clearing and Firewood Project served both ecological and socio-economic objectives. Initially employing 24 labourers from the Mandlakazi community, with a focus on female employment, the project set out to manage bush encroachment while generating economic opportunity. Workers were split into rotating teams using hand saws for manual clearing along roadways, firebreaks, and strategic buffer zones. In September, the team was streamlined to 12 members, with one group continuing bush clearing and the other commencing firewood collection. A significant obstacle during the bush clearing phase was the time-consuming nature of using manual tools. Recognising this constraint, ZCT is currently exploring the procurement of power tools to increase operational efficiency. In parallel, herbicide applications (Kaput) were used to treat cut stumps and prevent regrowth, improving long-term vegetation control. The firewood component of the project was developed as a self-sustaining initiative, with firewood collected and sold to lodges within the park. Priced at R3,000 per tractor load ($\pm 580\text{kg}$), the firewood is gathered from accessible locations to keep transport costs and pricing competitive. Orders are managed via WhatsApp, with invoicing and collection coordinated through the Trust. This program not only provides a steady income stream but also repurposes cleared biomass in a manner that supports reserve operations.



ZULULAND RHINO ORPHANAGE

The Zululand Rhino Orphanage (ZRO), operated under the custodianship of the Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT), continued to play a vital role as KwaZulu-Natal's only dedicated rhino orphan care facility in 2025. The need for this specialised facility remained clear, with several vulnerable calves requiring intervention, rescue and long-term rehabilitation during the year. Each new arrival brought its own challenges, from very young calves requiring intensive care to older orphans needing careful integration into crashes and rewilding camps. Despite the ongoing demands of caring for a growing number of rhinos, 2025 was also a year of important progress, with several orphans being weaned, moved into the next stages of rewilding, and successfully released back into protected areas.



ZULULAND RHINO ORPHANAGE

Orphan Arrivals and Care

The Zululand Rhino Orphanage continued to play a critical role in the rescue and care of orphaned rhino calves, receiving several new arrivals over the year. Each calf arrived under different circumstances, ranging from maternal separation and natural loss of their mothers to emergency intervention where survival in the wild was unlikely.

- The new female calf, only 3–5 days old, arrived from the Phinda Holding Bomas after she was seen not drinking from her mother. Despite intervention and veterinary care for fluid on her lungs, she sadly deteriorated and passed away shortly after admission.
- Lila, a 2-month-old female, arrived from the Phinda Holding Bomas after her mother passed away from natural causes. Although feisty on arrival, she settled well into her new group and became comfortable with her new crash.
- Penny, a 12-month-old female, arrived from Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park after being seen without her mother and moving with young bulls. Although she did not take to the bottle, she adjusted by drinking water and eating supplementary feed.
- Njabula, a 13-month-old female, arrived from Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park after being found alone in an area with high lion density. Due to her age, she was introduced directly into a rhino group, where she has slowly grown more comfortable.
- Mango, a 14-month-old male black rhino, arrived from Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park after his injured mother had to be euthanised. He was placed directly into the rewilding camp with the orphanage's female black rhino, with the long-term plan for both to move onto Diederick's property when he is old enough.
- Zach, a 4-month-old male, arrived from Manyoni Private Game Reserve after being found walking alone without his mother. Although his mother was later found alive, it was too late to reunite them, and Zach settled quickly after taking the bottle within hours.
- Reinhold, a 2-day-old male, arrived from a private game reserve after being neglected by his mother, likely due to being born prematurely. He was found to be blind on arrival but began regaining his sight within days and has continued to grow stronger, with Romeo the goat providing companionship until he is old enough to join other rhinos.
- The new 16-month-old female arrived from Ithala Game Reserve after her elderly mother was found dead. As an older calf, she was introduced directly into the rewilding camp with two older females, where she fitted in quickly and became settled.

Mango



Zach



Reinhold



Penny



ZULULAND RHINO ORPHANAGE

ZRO- Orphan Updates

Rhino Orphan Releases & Rewilding

Several rhinos made important progress in their rehabilitation and rewilding journeys. Mulayo and Grumilo, Lula, Samson and Griffin, as well as Bheji and Mango, have all started their rewilding process and are progressing well through this next stage.

Three rhinos, Tinni, Vikela and Mnene, were successfully released onto Mpilo, marking a major milestone in their journey back to the wild.

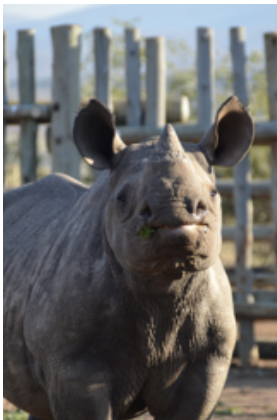
Further progress was also made with Ngelo and Penny, who have started their rewilding process. A new calf was immediately placed into the rewilding camp with them, allowing it to integrate directly with older calves. Umoya, Bhoza and Lazula have also started their rewilding journey; however, due to Lazula's blindness, this crash will only move once construction of their specialised boma has been completed.

ZULULAND RHINO ORPHANAGE

ZRO- Orphan Updates

Weaning and Weight Monitoring

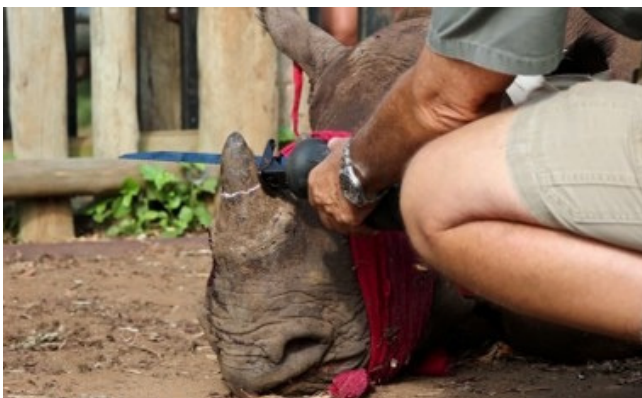
Six rhinos have successfully been weaned: Bheji, Griffin, Umoya, Bhoza, Lazula and Ngelo. Bheji has since moved into the black rhino rewilding camp with Mango, while Griffin has joined Lula and Samson in the rewilding camp. Umoya, Bhoza and Lazula have also been weaned, but remain in the bomas for the time being while Lazula awaits the completed conversion of the rewilding boma to reinforced poles rather than bonnox fencing.



Dehorning and Veterinary Care

Dehorning and veterinary procedures formed an important part of the ZRO's ongoing management and rewilding preparation. Several calves underwent either first-time or follow-up dehornings as part of the broader security measures required before progressing further in their rehabilitation journey. Bheji, Umoya, Bhoza, Lazula and Ngelo were dehorned for the first time, while Umoya and Bhoza also received follow-up dehornings. Grumilo, Lula, Samson and Griffin also underwent follow-up dehornings as they continue moving through the rewilding process.

Lazula also received specialist veterinary attention during the year to assess the severity of his blindness. An eye specialist examined him to determine whether surgical intervention, including cataract removal, would be possible. After careful consideration, it was decided that the procedure would carry too much risk and was not the best option for Lazula. Although he remains visually impaired, this does not prevent his future release. His rewilding process will be managed more carefully, and he will only move once the specialised boma has been completed to ensure he can adjust safely and confidently with his crash.



ZULULAND RHINO ORPHANAGE

General Developments & Facility Upgrades

Throughout 2025, the Zululand Rhino Orphanage continued to strengthen its infrastructure and operational capacity to ensure that the facility remains safe, adaptable and well equipped to care for rhino orphans at different stages of rehabilitation. These upgrades form part of ZRO's ongoing commitment to maintaining a secure and species-appropriate environment, from the early stages of care through to preparation for rewilding.

A major focus during the year was the continued upgrade of the orphanage's fencing infrastructure. The intermediate camp fence has now been fully upgraded into a reinforced pole structure, providing improved strength, security and durability for the rhinos housed in this important transition area. Work has also commenced on the rewilding camp fence, which is being upgraded into a fully reinforced pole structure with funding support from The Cycle of Life. Once this work is completed, all boundary and internal fences at the orphanage will consist of reinforced pole structures, allowing the facility to safely accommodate orphans under a wider range of circumstances and management requirements.

Further improvements were also made to the daily care areas, including the resurfacing of the rhino night-pen floors. This upgrade has improved the safety, hygiene and comfort of the night pens, which remain an essential part of the orphanage's daily management routine. These practical infrastructure improvements are particularly important as calves grow, move between groups and progress through the various phases of rehabilitation.

Operational capacity was also strengthened through vehicle support. The ZRO received a new vehicle for operational use from SMG Toyota, while the existing ZRO double cab Hilux was upgraded by Toyota South Africa. Reliable vehicles are essential to the daily functioning of the orphanage, supporting everything from feed collection and staff movement to monitoring, veterinary response and general field operations. Together, these upgrades have helped improve both the safety and efficiency of the orphanage's work.

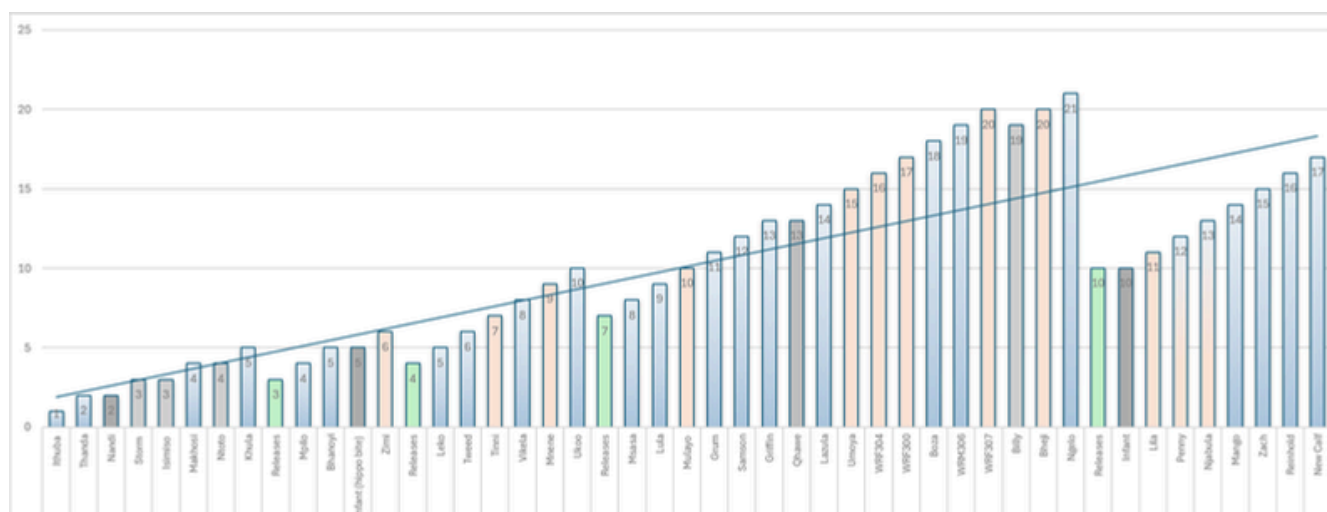


ZULULAND RHINO ORPHANAGE

Rhino Orphanage Admissions and Releases Over Time

The Zululand Rhino Orphanage timeline provides a visual overview of the orphanage's journey since it began, showing how the number of calves in care has changed throughout its years of operation. The x-axis represents each orphan that has entered the facility, while the y-axis shows the number of orphans that were in care at that point in time. Black markers represent orphans that were admitted but sadly did not survive, while green markers indicate rhinos that were successfully released in that year.

The timeline also shows how the demands on the orphanage have shifted over time. After a noticeable spike in orphan admissions over the past few years, the number of calves in care began to drop slightly as several rhinos progressed through rehabilitation and were released. However, recent admissions show that the orphanage is beginning to experience an increase again, highlighting the continued need for specialised care, space, staff and long-term support. To date, 43 calves have come into the facility, 25 have been released back into protected areas, and 17 calves are currently in care at the orphanage.



To date, 43 calves have come into the facility, 25 have been released back into protected areas, and 17 calves are currently in care at the orphanage.

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT



CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Anti - Poaching Operations

Law enforcement and anti-poaching efforts continued to strengthen throughout 2025, with a strong focus on early detection, rapid response and improved coordination between field teams, K9 units, drone operations and access control. The introduction of a full-time on-site drone pilot, supported by a dedicated Toyota South Africa vehicle fitted with an onboard drone charging station by AdventureX Now, has significantly improved the reserve's surveillance and response capacity.

The combination of full-time drone surveillance, K9 integration, improved access control, rotating field deployments, ranger training and stronger response coordination has contributed to a noticeable reduction in incursions, snares and fence theft. Hunting with dogs remains a challenge due to the large and geographically difficult areas that need to be covered; however, Yankee shift changes and more regular drone flights have been implemented to help address this. While challenges remain, particularly along the western boundary, the reserve's security systems are becoming more proactive, coordinated and effective.

This progress has been made possible through the continued support of key partners and donors. We are especially grateful to WWF for another generous donation towards the Anti-Poaching Unit, as well as to the Wildhood Foundation and Global Conservation Force for supporting essential field equipment, including binoculars, tents, ranger boots, tools, backpacks, torches and outdoor cooking equipment. We are also grateful to Kilo9, Huntlea and Hill's for their continued support of the K9 unit through the donation of K9 food. These contributions directly support the rangers, K9 handlers and dogs working on the frontline of conservation.

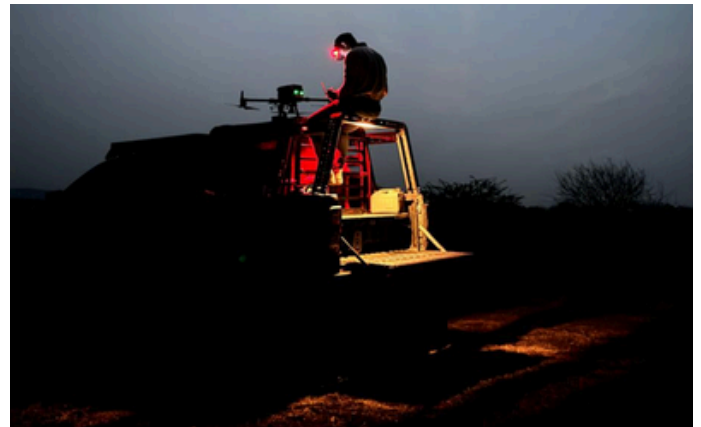


CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Drone Surveillance and K9 Integration

Drone surveillance has become an increasingly important part of the reserve's security strategy. The integration of thermal drone technology with the K9 unit has allowed teams to work more effectively during night operations, follow-up responses and potential incursions. Night tracking has now become a standard part of operations, with K9 handlers and field teams working closely alongside the drone team.

The K9 handlers and teams have continued to integrate well with the new thermal drone capabilities, improving the ability to respond to activity detected in high-risk areas.



Incursions, Fence Theft and Snaring

The western boundary remains the most problematic area, particularly in relation to fence theft and bushmeat poaching. One opportunistic dog poacher also attempted to enter along the eastern boundary but lost his dogs during the incident.

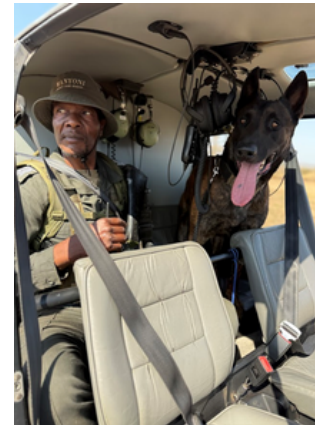
Two old snares were found during the year. Additional snare-related incidents were responded to as part of broader wildlife protection efforts, reinforcing the continued need for patrols, monitoring and rapid response capacity.

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Training and Capacity Building

Training remained an important focus during the year. Australian military dog trainer Capt. Jeremy Winker visited for two weeks and worked with the K9 team. The feedback received was very positive, with the standard of the dogs and handlers being highly regarded.

South African Wildlife College instructor Collin Patrick also hosted anti-poaching ranger training to sharpen the skills of the ranger teams. Additional specialised training included Tactical First Aid through ER24, snake handling, and helicopter integration training donated by Wild Wonderful World. These training opportunities have helped improve operational readiness, confidence and coordination across the law enforcement teams.



Field Deployment and Access Control

Camping teams were deployed on rotation throughout the year to strengthen field presence and improve coverage in key areas. Gate searches were also introduced and will be conducted more regularly going forward. Full-time access control was strengthened, supported by accommodation upgrades and the use of vehicle searches as part of the broader security response.

These measures are helping to create a stronger deterrent presence while improving the reserve's ability to detect, respond to and prevent illegal activity.

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

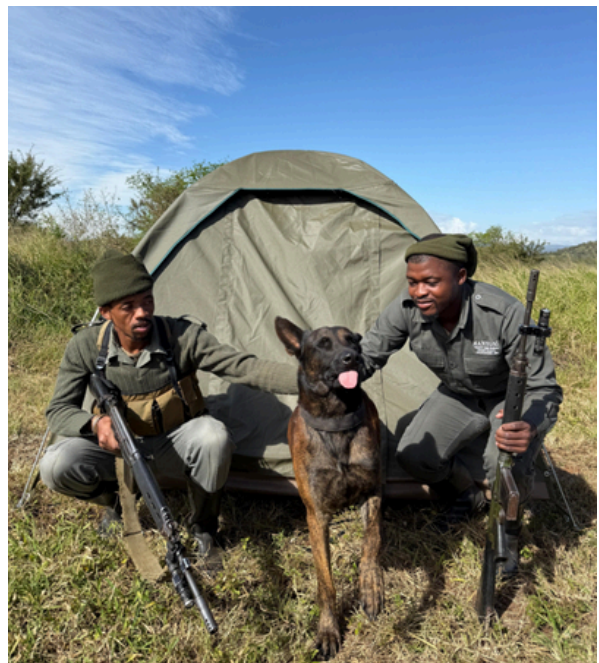
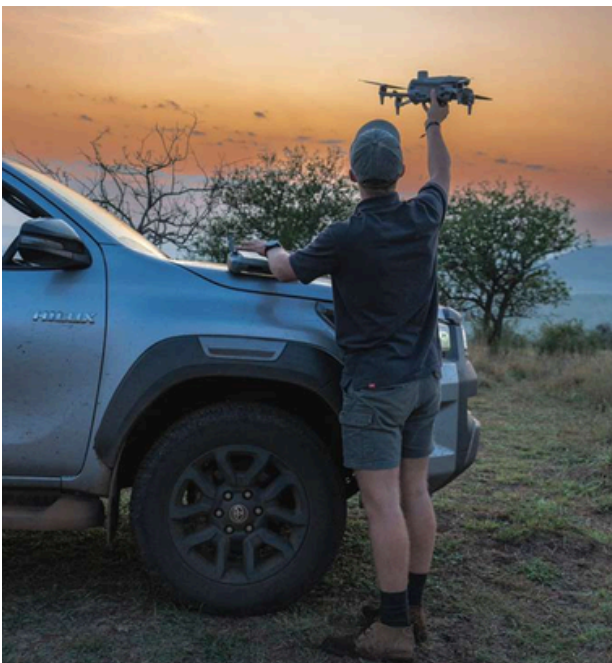
Key 2025 Law Enforcement Statistics

The following statistics provide a snapshot of law enforcement activity and security response across the reserve during 2025. These figures reflect the combined efforts of the anti-poaching teams, K9 unit, drone operations, camera trap monitoring and access control measures implemented throughout the year.

- 8 arrests made.
- 1 suspected incursion deterred before entry.
- 7 camera trap hits recorded.
- 36 Yankee reports received.
- 7 K9 tracks followed.
- 1 rhino poaching incident recorded.
- 2 old snares found.
- Access control and vehicle searches strengthened.

A full-time drone pilot was operational on site during the year, supported by a dedicated drone vehicle fitted with an onboard charging station. This has strengthened aerial surveillance capacity and improved the team's ability to respond quickly to potential incursions and other security incidents.

Camping teams were also deployed on rotation throughout the year, increasing field presence in key areas and supporting more proactive monitoring and response across the reserve.



ZCT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The volunteer programme continues to grow into a valuable and meaningful part of ZCT's work. Interest in the programme has increased steadily, with more volunteers choosing to spend time on the reserve and contribute directly to conservation and community projects. Their support has added real capacity across a wide range of activities, from game counts and vegetation assessments to event support, community work and general field assistance.

Beyond the practical support provided, the programme is also becoming an important platform for awareness, engagement and long-term connection with ZCT's conservation mission. With strong forward bookings and growing interest from both individual volunteers and corporate groups, the programme is gaining momentum and has the potential to become an increasingly important contributor to both impact and income generation.



ZCT ACTIVITIES

Conservation activities continued to be a valuable platform for awareness, education and support, with a total of 2,119 guests taking part. These experiences included rhino horn trimmings (conducted only when required for individual rhino management), behind-the-scenes visits to the Zululand Rhino Orphanage, cultural tours in neighbouring communities, guided pangolin tracking with our dedicated pangolin monitor, and K9 demonstrations showcasing the exceptional skills and value of our highly trained anti-poaching dogs.

These activities were supported by a strong network of organisations and partners, including African Wildlife Vets, Blue Sky, Bwild, Global Conservation Force, KACF, Toyota South Africa, The Innovation Group, and Wildlife ACT. Day visitor support was also received through Cycle of Life, Hluhluwe Bush Camp, Honeyguide, UMASS and Wild Tomorrow.

Marketing efforts in America have further strengthened international support, helping to build relationships with organisations such as Global Conservation Force, KACF and UMASS, while increasing exposure and contributing valuable donations to ZCT's work.



FINANCIALS

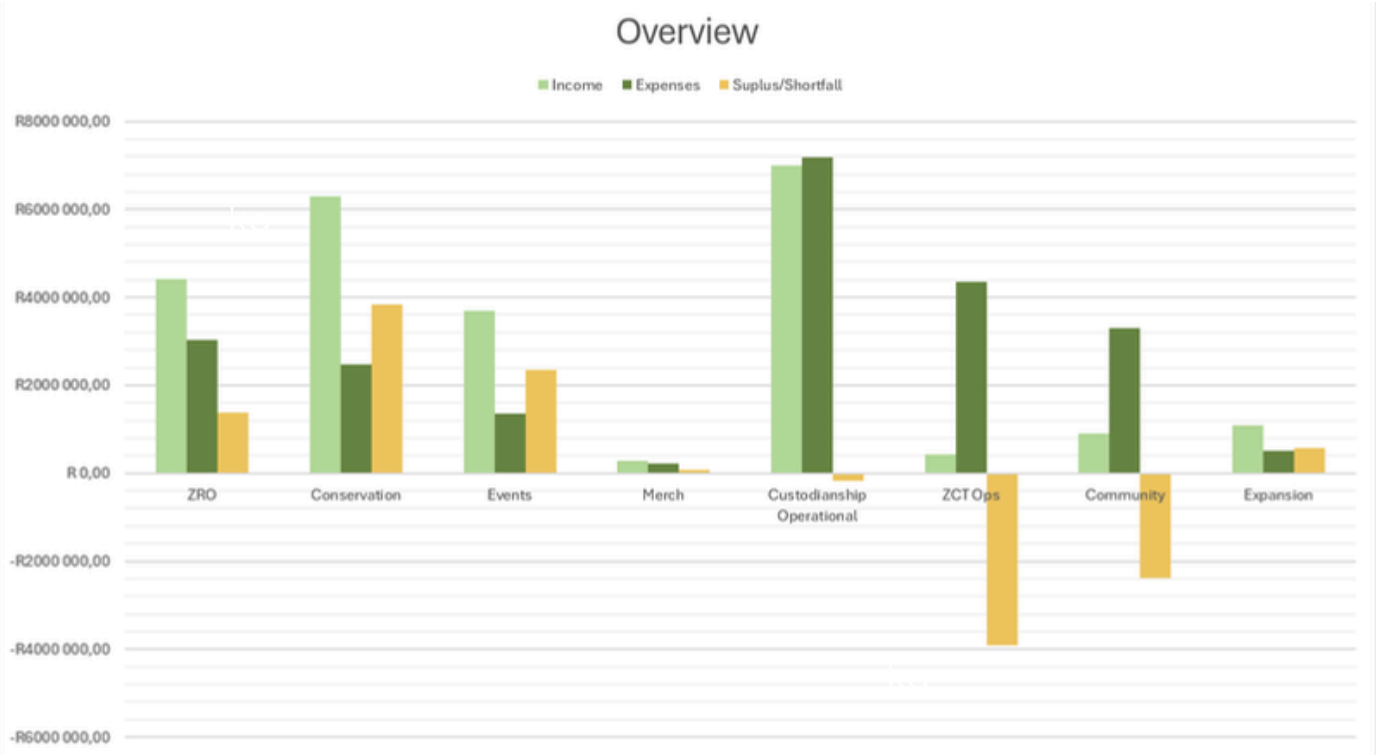
MARCH 2025 - FEB 2026



FINANCIALS

Overview

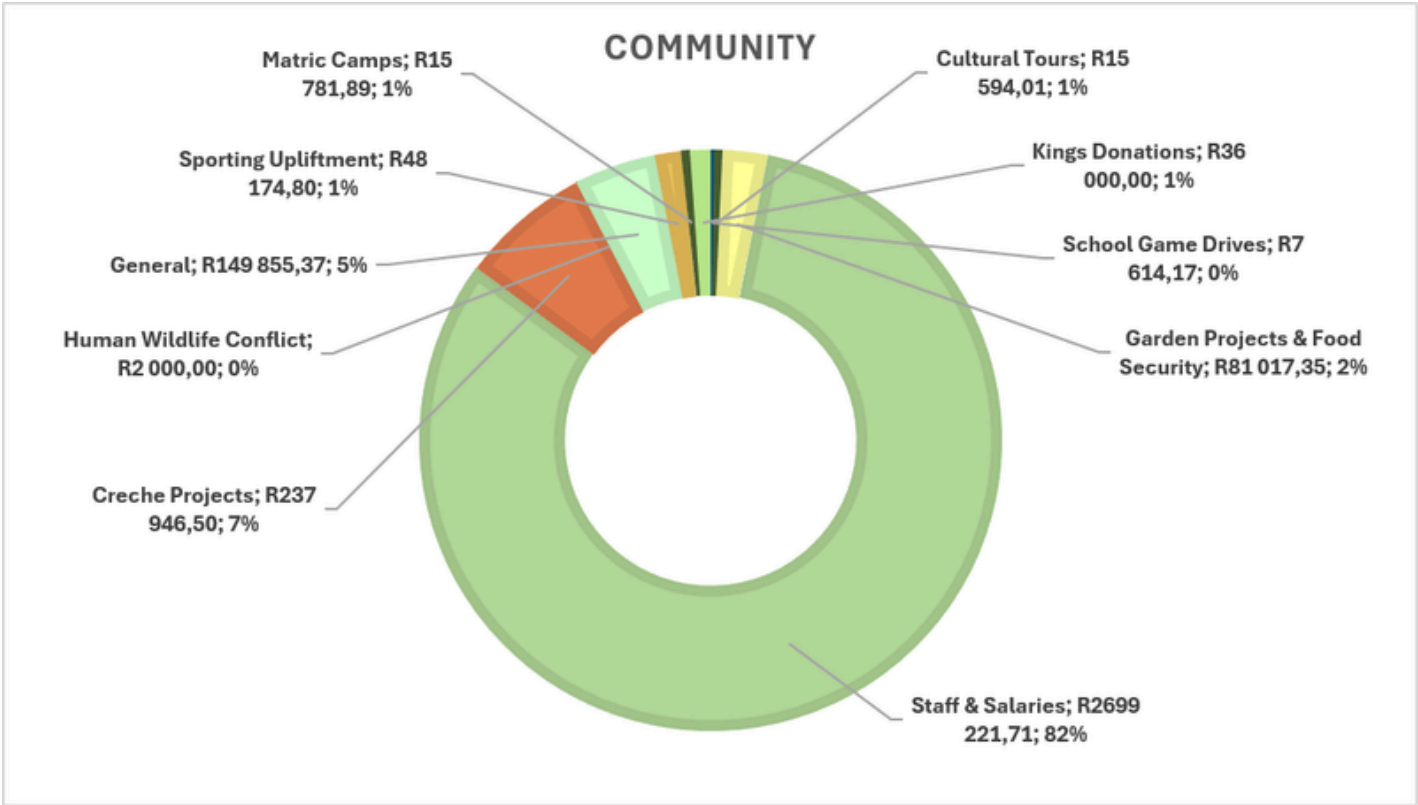
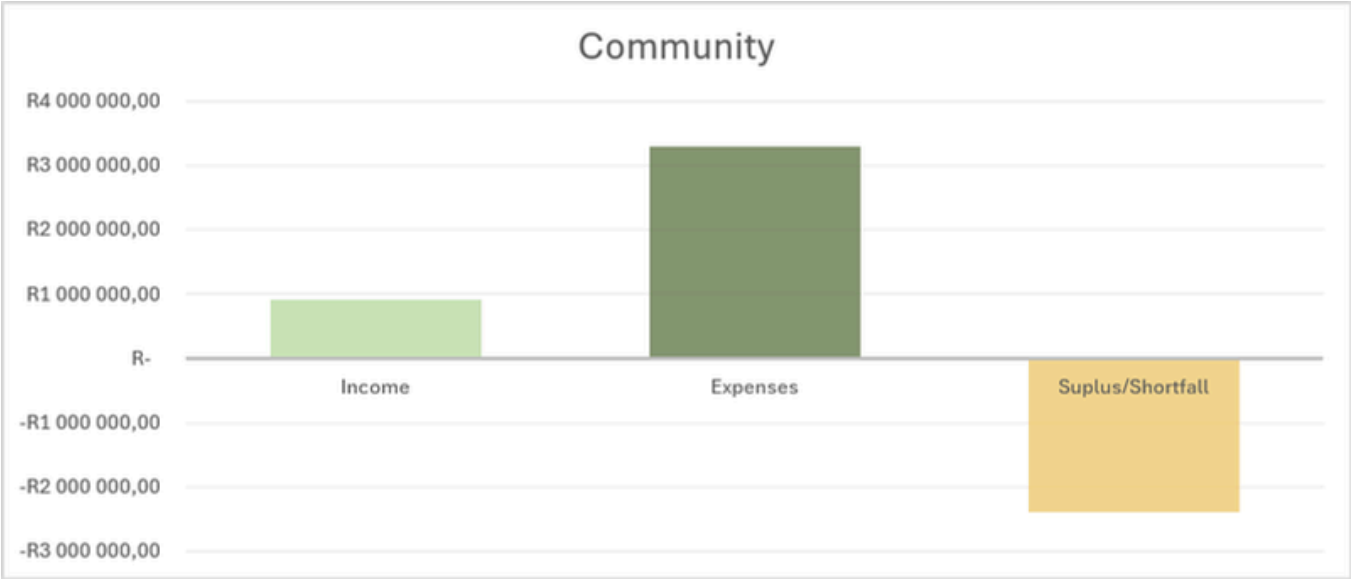
The financial overview reflects ZCT’s continued commitment to directing funding into high-impact conservation, custodianship, community and operational programmes. Across the reporting period, total recorded income amounted to R24,739,521.76, against total expenses of R23,526,036.09, resulting in an overall surplus of R1,213,485.67. Strong income was recorded across custodianship operations, conservation, the Zululand Rhino Orphanage and events, while ZCT Operations and Community Projects continued to require significant additional support to meet delivery needs. These figures highlight both the strength of ZCT’s fundraising base and the ongoing funding required to sustain programmes on the ground.



FINANCIALS

Community Projects

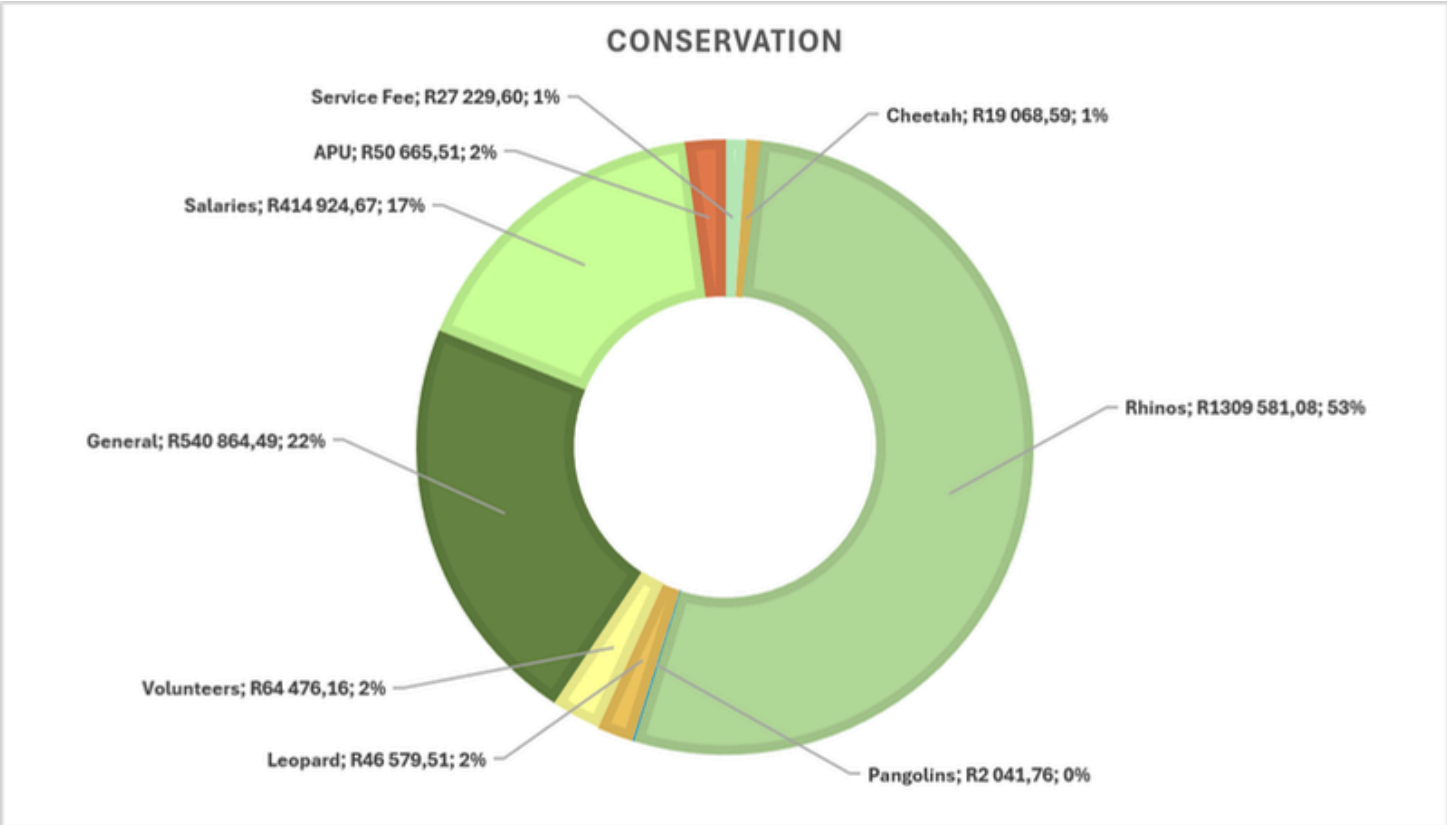
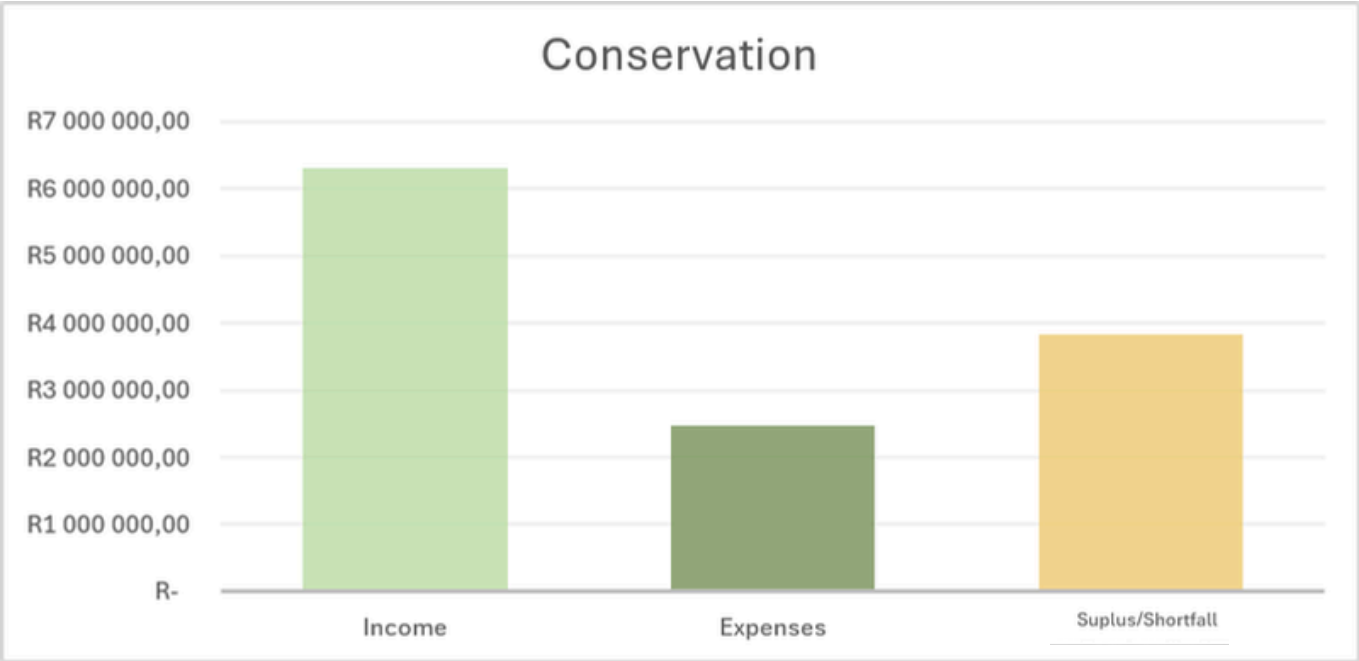
The Community Projects portfolio recorded income of R908,755.86 against expenses of R3,293,205.80, resulting in a shortfall of R2,384,449.94. The largest investment was directed towards staff and salaries, reflecting the people-driven nature of ZCT's community work. Additional expenditure supported crèche projects, garden and food security initiatives, sporting upliftment, matric camps, school game drives, cultural tours, general community needs and human-wildlife conflict support. These figures demonstrate the continued demand for community development funding and the importance of donor support in sustaining long-term upliftment initiatives.



FINANCIALS

Conservation

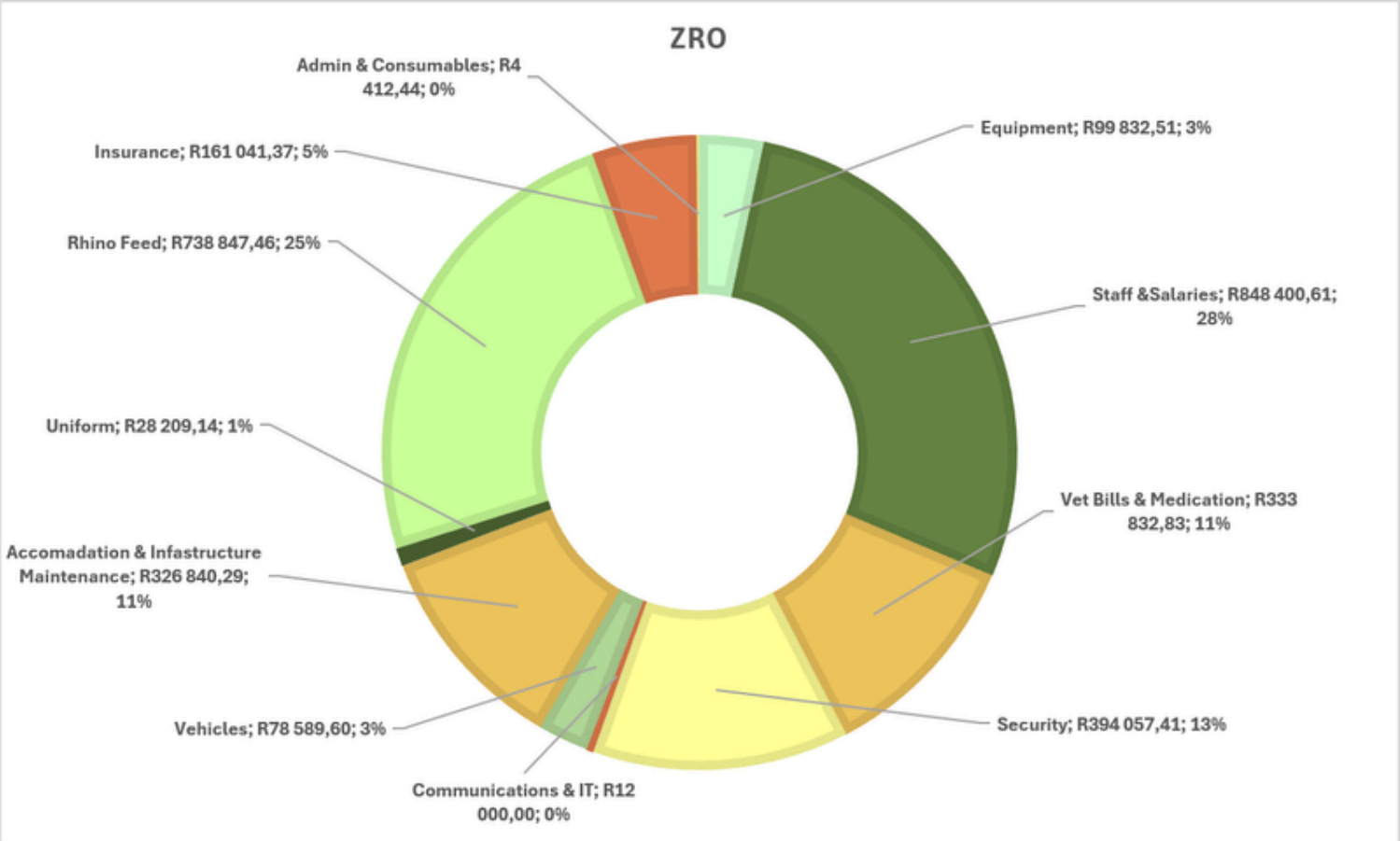
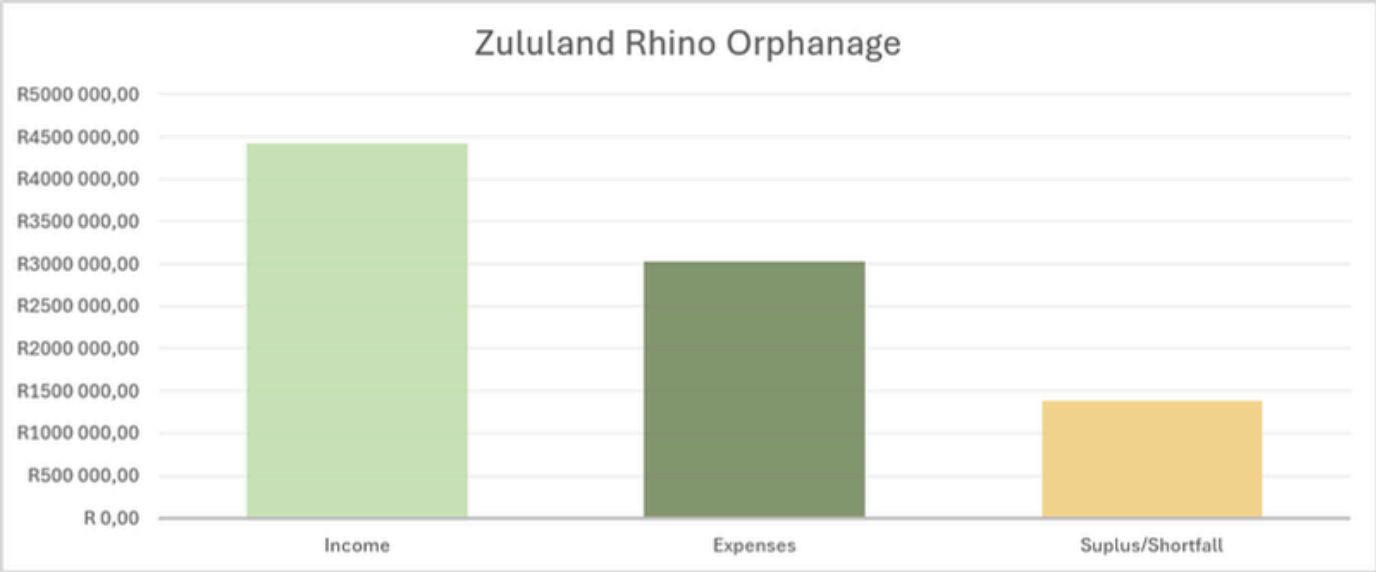
The Conservation portfolio recorded income of R6,303,576.87 against expenses of R2,475,431.37, resulting in a surplus of R3,828,145.50. This surplus helps cover daily operational costs outlined in the “ZCT Operations” section below, as well as any emergency operations we may have to undergo without prior warning. The largest area of expenditure was rhino conservation, followed by general conservation operations, salaries, volunteer support, anti-poaching support and targeted species projects, including leopard, cheetah and pangolin initiatives. This strong financial position reflects successful fundraising for priority conservation needs and ZCT’s ongoing focus on endangered species protection, wildlife monitoring and field-based conservation support.



FINANCIALS

Zululand Rhino Orphanage

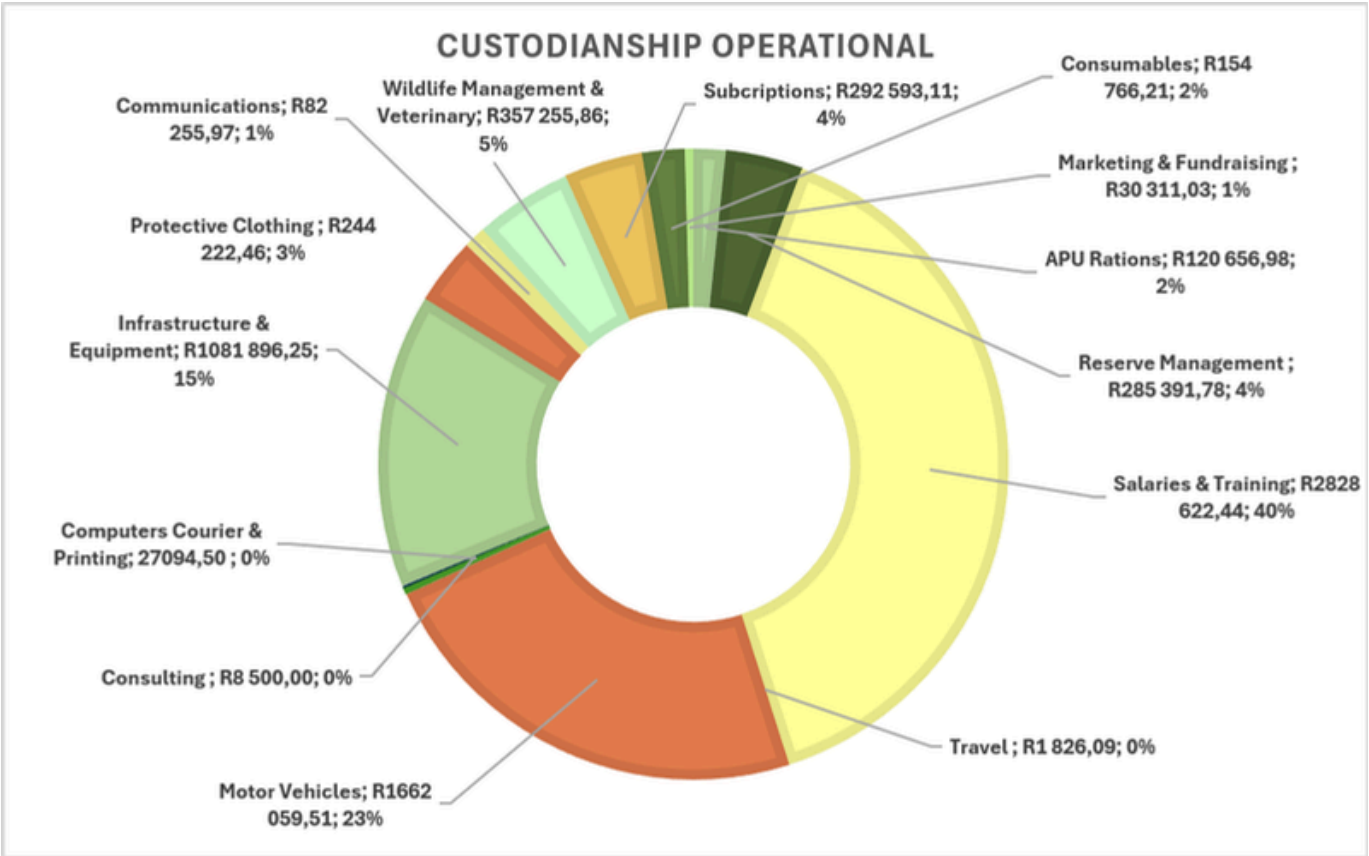
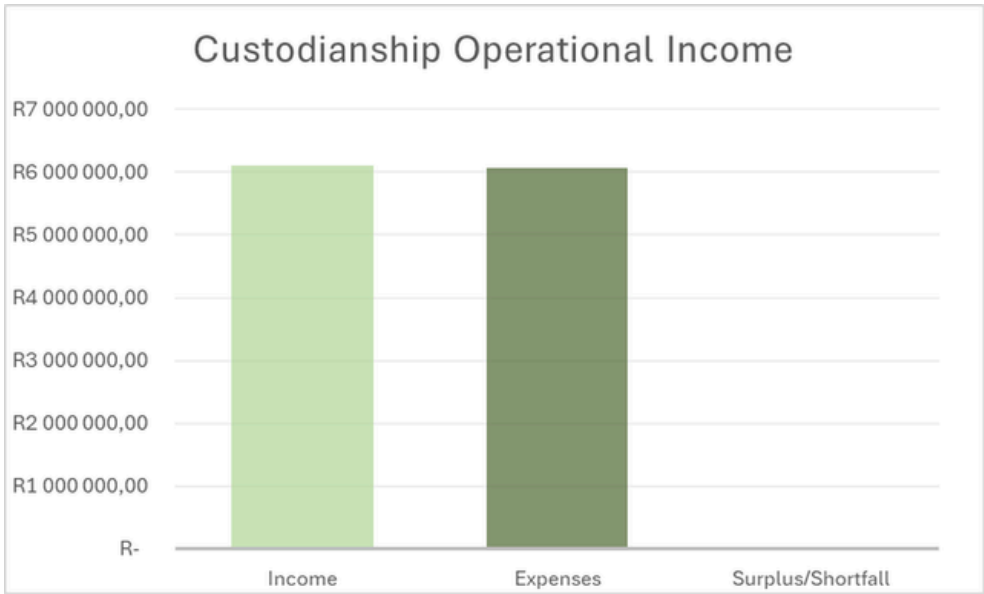
The Zululand Rhino Orphanage recorded income of R4,414,951.10 against expenses of R3,026,063.66, resulting in a surplus of R1,388,887.44. This surplus is largely due to funding coming in within the 2025 financial year however, it is only being used in the 2026 financial year. The funding will be used to upgrade the Security systems at the Zululand Rhino Orphanage. Major cost drivers included staff salaries, rhino feed, security, veterinary and medical care, insurance, electricity and water, infrastructure maintenance and vehicle-related expenses. While the surplus reflects strong donor support during the period, the ZRO remains one of ZCT's most resource-intensive programmes, requiring ongoing funding to provide specialised care, security and rehabilitation for orphaned rhinos.



FINANCIALS

Custodianship Operational Income

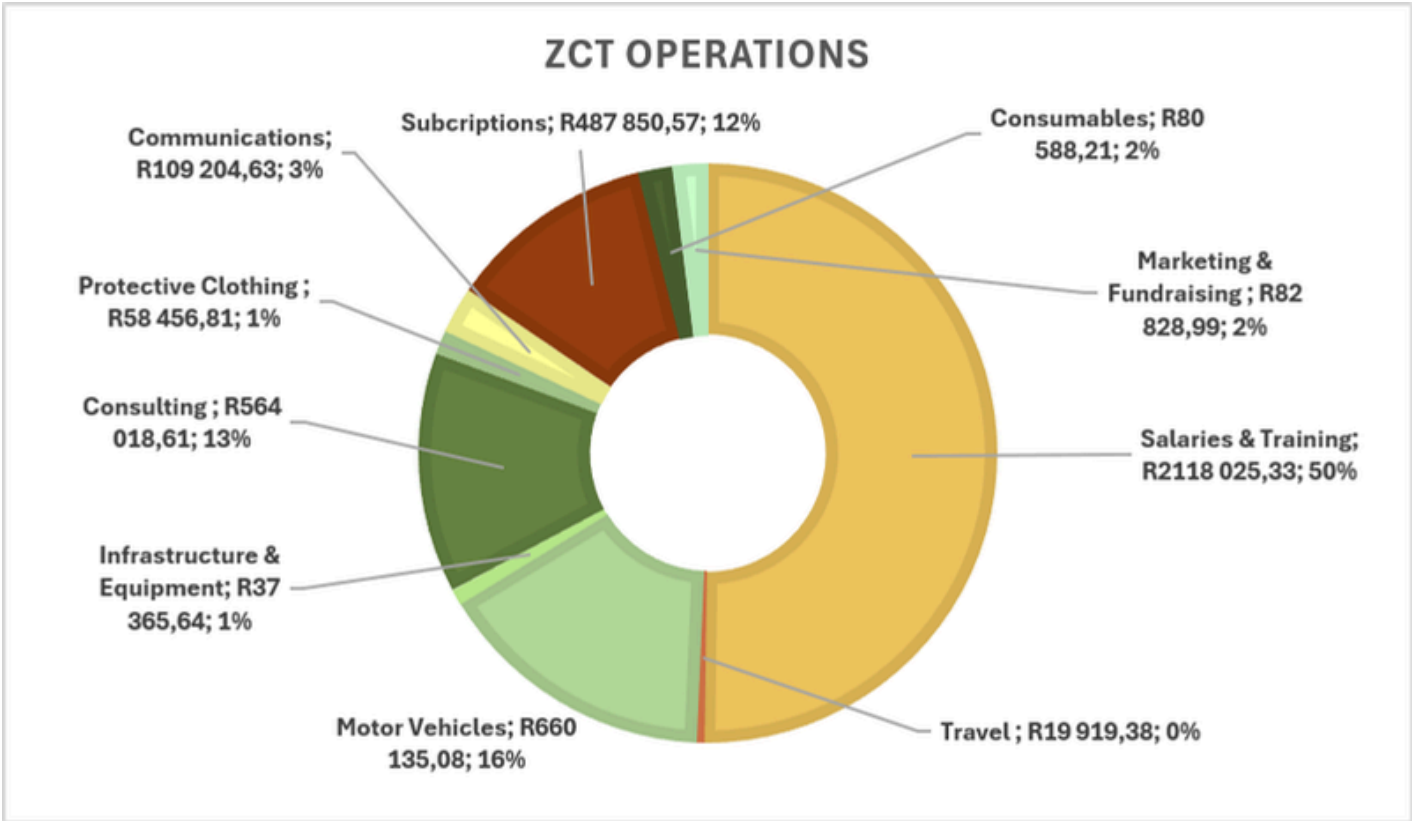
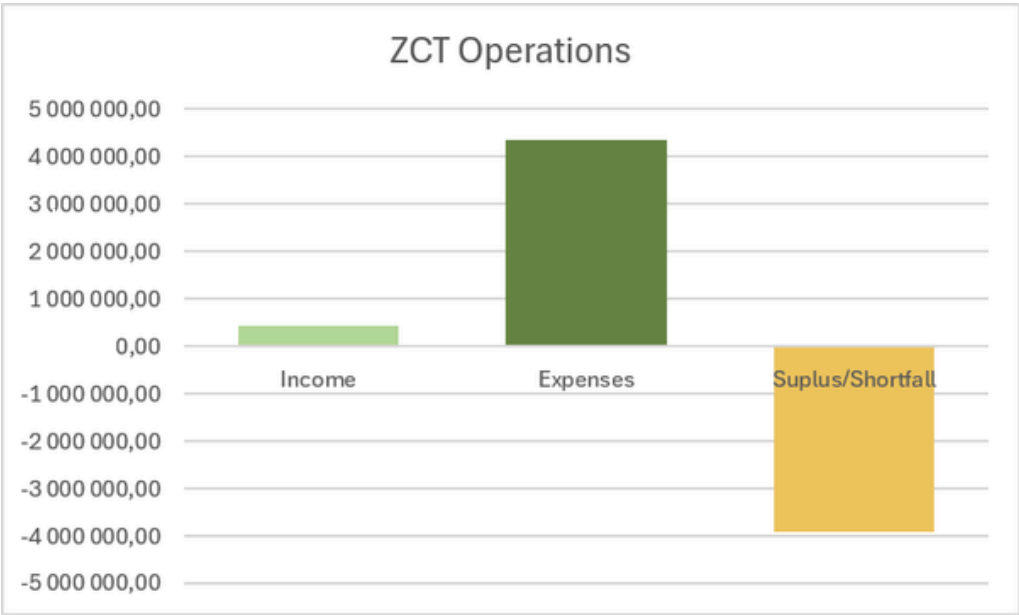
Custodianship operations recorded income of R7,005,140.17 against expenses of R7,177,452.19, resulting in a shortfall of R172,312.02. The largest expenditure areas included salaries and training, motor vehicle costs, infrastructure and equipment, wildlife management and veterinary services, protective clothing, communications, consumables and operational subscriptions. These costs reflect the scale of maintaining Manyoni Private Game Reserve’s operational readiness, including reserve infrastructure, security support, road and fence maintenance, wildlife management and daily field operations.



FINANCIALS

ZCT Operations

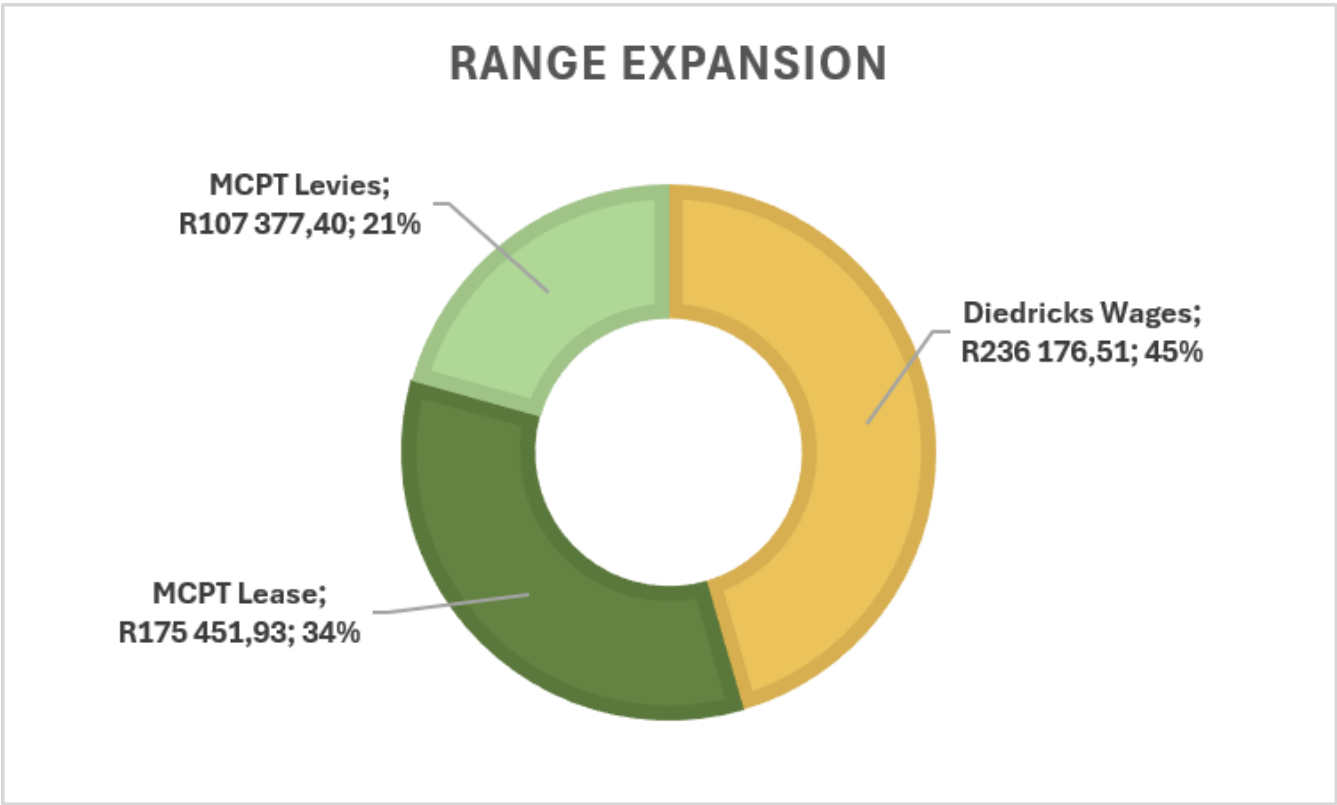
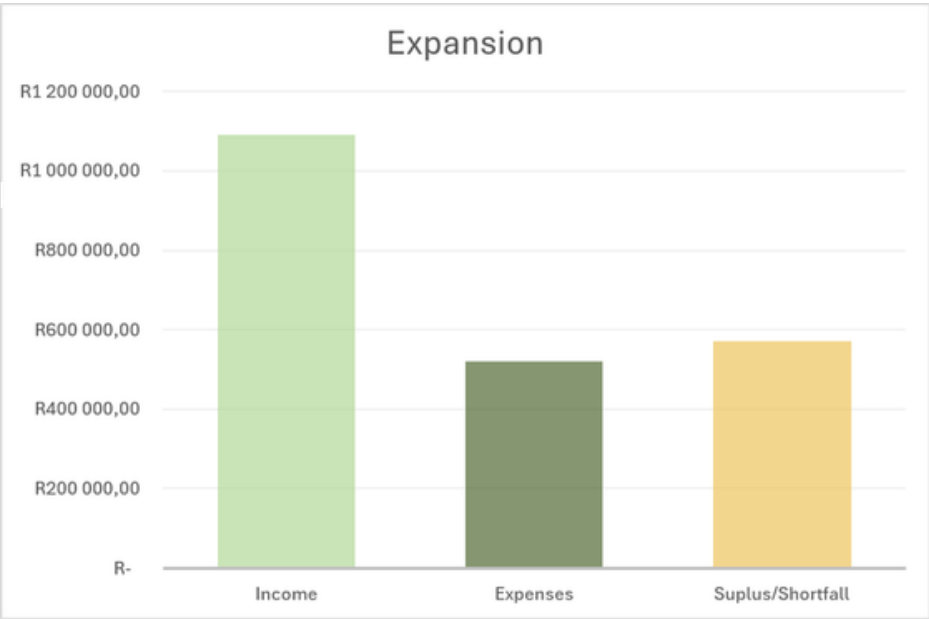
ZCT Operations recorded income of R436,252.21 against expenses of R4,352,381.04, resulting in a shortfall of R3,916,128.83. Key expenditure areas included salaries and training, motor vehicles, consulting fees, subscriptions, communications, marketing and fundraising, consumables, protective clothing, travel and infrastructure support. These operational costs provide the administrative and logistical foundation that allows ZCT's conservation, custodianship, community, fundraising and donor reporting functions to continue effectively. The shortfall highlights the importance of securing dedicated operational funding to support long-term organisational sustainability.



FINANCIALS

Expansion

The Expansion portfolio recorded income of R1,090,197.69 against expenses of R519,005.84, resulting in a surplus of R571,191.85. This surplus comes from land management work being slightly delayed however, it will commence in the new financial year. Expenditure was primarily directed towards Diedericks wages, the MCPT lease, and MCPT levies and land management costs. These expenses reflect ZCT’s continued investment in land expansion and protected area support, ensuring that conservation land is secured, maintained and managed in line with broader landscape-level conservation goals.



FINANCIALS

Merchandise

Merchandise generated income of R288,342.09 against expenses of R212,035.84, resulting in a surplus of R76,306.25. In addition to providing a direct contribution to ZCT's fundraising efforts, merchandise continues to play an important role in brand visibility, supporter engagement and awareness-building. The positive result for the period reflects the growing value of merchandise as both a revenue stream and a communication tool.



Events

Events generated income of R3,702,633.95 against expenses of R1,350,038.71, resulting in a surplus of R2,352,595.24. This strong performance reinforces the critical role of fundraising events in supporting ZCT's conservation and community programmes. Funds raised through events continue to provide meaningful support for priority projects, while also strengthening awareness, donor relationships and public engagement with ZCT's work.



2026 FUNDING NEEDS

R2 028 600
\$104 085

Solar energy systems for the Zululand Rhino Orphanage and carer accommodation



Range Expansion,
Lease fees for
additional
conservation land

R192 940
\$11 975



Ranger Protect, help
us keep our rangers
insured in the field

R28 000
&1 738

R224 000
\$14 000

Growing Food For Life
community food
security program &
ZCT nursery

CCTV Security Upgrade
at the Zululand Rhino
Orphanage and HQ

R815 815
\$50 868

R971 428
\$60 670

Fence Guardianship
program, Employ 9
woman and 2 men per
year

R1 650 000
\$103 050

VTOL Surveillance
Drone, Ops
Equipment,
Compliance & Pilot



Grow Early Learning
Centre program at 4
ZCT supported creches

R340 400
\$21 224

R1 975 000
\$123 350

Yearly feeds costs to
sustain Rhino orphans
in our care at ZRO



R226 590
\$13 785

Furniture and finishings
for the Regional
Operations Room

R510 400
\$31 877

Drone surveillance
team yearly operational
expenses for 2 drones
and 2 pilots

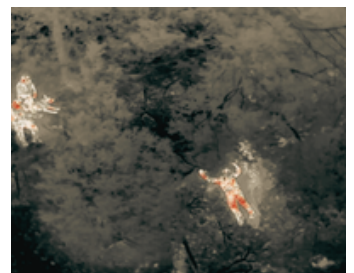


R169 000
\$10 555

Creche projects, winter
warmers, christmas,
uniforms, cutlery and
graduations

R1 275 805
\$79 185

SMART Perimeter Fence
upgrades for Pangolins
and Wild Dogs



ZCT Leopard Project
including monitors,
salaries, uniforms and
10 x camera traps

R228 000
\$14 240



Water security project
to implement 4
boreholes for increased
access to safe drinking
water

R1 634 467
\$91 856

DONATIONS

We deeply value the contributions of all our donors, whether financial or in-kind, to the Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT). In the 2025 period, the physical and monetary donations we received played a crucial role in our success. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all donors who supported us in making a meaningful difference this year.

Thank you to all the staff, trustees, donors and supporters for your contributions in the 2025 period we can't do it without you.

Thank you:

Karen Odendaal
Lammert Kruger
Chase Kurucz
Blake Beukes
Sithembiso Makhanyela
Siyabonga Ngcobo
Nokwanda Mabuyakhulu
Louis Fourie
Olwen Jakumeit
Isabel Rill
Sam Schimmel
Annie Peatling
Julia Elliott

The members of the Manyoni Private Game Reserve staff and anti-poaching unit for their tireless work in the ZCT protected area.

*"In the end we conserve only what we love.
We will love only what we understand. We
will understand only what we are taught."
-Baba Dioum*

CONTACT US

www.zululandconservationtrust.com
info@zululandconservationtrust.org
[@zululand_conservation_trust](https://www.instagram.com/zululand_conservation_trust)
[@zululand_rhino_orphanage](https://www.instagram.com/zululand_rhino_orphanage)

Report prepared by A. Peatling & J. Elliott