In November we received fantastic news!

Hundreds of Wildlife Warriors worldwide have donated to our cause and R 100,000 has been given to us when we needed it the most at the time when Environmental Monitors program had been suspended countrywide.

**We are immensely grateful to you, Bindi, and your family, Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors and every single wildlife warrior for this donation. It has made a difference to us and helped us continue our work with no interruptions.**

In November during the snare sweep The BMs found a snare and successfully removed it.

In December, during one of the patrols, our Northern team found a breakage in the fence, which was the sign of intrusion into the reserve. The finding was immediately reported. Luckily, no poaching incident happened.

Some patrols were rewarded with great sightings of wildlife. AT the end of the year The Mambas encountered a family of White Rhinos, a mother and a baby.

There is nothing more satisfying than to see them doing well and happy in the wild!
The Black Mambas and Olifants West Nature Reserve continue raising funds to help the locals with food during the pandemic.

In the end 2020 the fence between The BMs base Ekuthuleni Conservancy and Nambu Kaya, partially owned by our research co-ordinator Paul Allin, was dropped. Now The Black Mambas have more area to patrol and protect. We also plan to establish a rehabilitation site for the most trafficked animal on Earth - African Pangolin.

$6000 raised
630 parcels delivered!

DONATE:

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WE EXPAND TO SAVE MORE. TO CARE MORE. TO PROTECT MORE.
In December we finally started "Mambas in the Park" program founded and sponsored by Global March for Elephants and Rhinos and Nourish Eco-Village. Within the program, the children have an opportunity to learn about their mothers' work, participate in educational workshops, travel into Kruger, observe wild animals in their natural habitat, share experiences through story and art, and learn about kindness towards one another and kindness towards all living beings, human and non-human.

We are thanking Julius K-9 for such a generous donation and Pet Bound SA for liaising and sending us this stunning gift!

Our K-9 Unit received brand new gear for the rangers and the K9 dog Ella! To say Ella is happy is to say nothing!
THE BUSH BABIES ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

BY LEWYN MAEFALA, PROJECT MANAGER

In November we opened our new Bush Babies Education Centre in Maseke community. We held an open day where community members were invited to get a better understanding of what services the centre will offer. The Black Mambas, as special guests, performed a special parade.

We are thanking Maseke Tribal Council, Phalaborwa SPCA, Maseke Primary School, Monkeynastix Phalaborwa, The Black Mambas, Transfrontier Africa and the community members.

In the following month of November, we invited specialists to teach the locals about animal welfare, show them how to deal with ticks and wounds of dogs and donkeys. We also started our vegetable garden!

Also, our learners had fun exercising! Thanks to Monkeynastix our children now know a little more about a healthy lifestyle and the the impact of excersising on a person's wellbeing,
In December our partner How Many Elephants launched a campaign to raise funds for solar wifi we would like to install in our new Education Centre to have access to the newest educational resources and let our children connect to their fellow learners globally. We have reached our initial target of $5000 and looking forward to conquering new frontiers in 2021!

Huge thank you to How Many Elephants and Transfrontier Africa for this campaign and for the new opportunities for our learners.

Same month our children took part in a major clean up of the area around the Centre! The children were told about the pollution and its negative impact on the environment, animals and humans.

Thank you, Phalaborwa SPCA, Monkeynastix, our EMs for making these amazing workshops happen, and our children who had a lot of fun learning!

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Huge thank you to How Many Elephants and Transfrontier Africa for this campaign and for the new opportunities for our learners.
Early December our learners visited Kruger National Park where they saw elephants, dissected elephant dung, had a trip to Masorini Archaeological Site, and learnt how grannies used to grind maize in the past.

A huge thank you to Kanzas City Zoo for sponsoring this trip and Letaba Rest Camp for the bookings and the tour.

Late December before Christmas time, our team took snares removed from the wild by The Black Mambas and, designed a Christmas tree! The kids re-used the paper and made beautiful decorations for the tree. The paper plates that were used during their Kruger trip were pained and turned into angels.
This crazy year has come to an end, a year that was completely filled with interns turned out very differently. Sadly, unlike most volunteers, interns are tied down by academic calendars and postponing projects often is not possible. We have managed to keep up all the running projects on the reserve for both ecological monitoring and the various ongoing research projects we have from overseas. So far 2021 does not look like much will change with plenty of interested students but universities not allowing for their students to commit.

In December John McLeary who completed his MSc at the University of Cape Town recently joined us to help finish up the microscopy. His Masters’ contained many hours in the lab looking through a microscope and took to the hair analysis like a fish to water. He ploughed through the remaining samples very rapidly and the analysis has just been completed. Of the 133 samples collected we analysed 2128 hairs, of which 2055 were positively identified. This is a nice robust dataset with which to look at the diet of not only lion and hyena but also wild dog and leopard.

Siboniso has been able to carry on with his project and noticed an increase in fresh carcasses along the railway, seemingly to coincide with the start of the rainy season. His first sampling of the wet season starts in York and MRNR and will go on till the first week of January. It will be very interesting to see if this initial trend persists in the other 2 regions during the rainy season.

Chris Banotai’s Marula project has been diligently managed by Chris Farren, so despite Chris Banotai being stuck in the US, the camera trapping continues. The nursery is up and running, growing some 300 marula seedlings to be placed in the field and observed in the coming months.

Nick van Doormaal, is now Dr. Nick van Doormaal having successfully defended his PhD. It has been great supporting Nick throughout his PhD and we are very proud of his accomplishments. Although the lockdown in the Netherlands meant that it was not possible to have the traditional ceremony it did allow us to attend as the defence was hosted online. If all goes well Nick will be joining us in January to support the research team.
At the end of 2020, we had to say goodbye to our Camp Manager Christopher Farren. Chris had worked hard in the field with volunteers and in the camp for 3 years and now is perusing Masters Degree and further growth in Conservation. Thank you for your contribution to our mission, Chris! Transfrontier Africa wishes you all the best in your journey.

November rewarded us with two amazing sightings: a couple of Southern Ground Hornbills whose status is currently vulnerable (IUCN) and the big tusker Ezulwini whom we have not seen for a long time!

The same month our team attended the Wildlife Rehabilitation course taught by Nicci Write from Johannesburg Veterinarian Hospital.

We are thanking Nicci Write and everybody who organized the course, the venue and our student packs.

On the 15th of November, we joined Australia Zoo and the Irwins Family in celebrating the Steve Irwin Day. All our staff members wore khaki uniforms to celebrate the legacy of the great Wildlife Warrior.
ANIMAL WELFARE
BY VALERIA VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, MEDIA LIAISON

In November our team spotted a hyena with a snare on its neck. Thanks to their fast reaction and the professionalism of Dr Peter Rogers from Pro-Vet clinic, the treatment was successful, the hyena has been seen recovering well.

In December we received a call about a baby elephant being trapped in a snare. The calf was darted in Balule and crossed over into Klaserie. Upon examination, we found out that the snare was cutting in on his hinder leg. Thanks to Dr Rogers, the snare was successfully removed. The calf was saved.

We are thanking Dr Peter Rogers for his veterinarian skills that save so many animals, our partners Rettet Das Nashorn for sponsoring both operations, and Transfrontier Africa team for always being alert and spotting wildlife in distress.

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.”

Anatole France
We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all our sponsors, donors and fundraising partners:


Without your support, it would be impossible for us to continue helping animals, people and the environment.

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