



Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31st December 2021

Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2021

Report and Accounts

Charity information

Principal office address:

Guthrie Road
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 3HA

Trustees:

Professor S Corr
Ms V Luke
Dr G McCabe
Ms C McLaney
Dr S Redrobe

Treasurer
Chair

Bankers:

Triodos Bank
Deanery Road
Bristol

Barclays Bank
West Kirby
Wirral
Merseyside

SCB Cameroun SA
Siege Social
Avenue Monseigneur Vogt
BP 700
Yaoundé
Cameroon

Registered charity number:

1057061

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Trustees' report

1. Introduction

The Cameroon Wildlife Aid Fund was established under its constitution on 17th July 1996 as a registered charity and changed its name to Ape Action Africa in 2009. The registered charity number is 1057061.

2. Objects

The objects of the charity are to:

- a) Relieve the suffering of non-human primates in Cameroon who are in need of care and attention and in particular to provide and maintain a primate rescue centre, hospital and other facilities for the care and treatment of such sick or ill treated animals.
- b) To advance the education of the public into the conservation, care and treatment of such animals.

3. Officers and trustees

The Trustees are:

Professor Sandra Corr	
Ms Victoria Luke	
Dr Gráinne McCabe	
Ms Caroline McLaney	Treasurer
Dr Sharon Redrobe	Chair

Dr Jane Goodall is the president of the charity.

4. Review of Activities in Cameroon

Overview

Despite 2021 being another very challenging year for us, mainly due to the financial impact of the Covid19 pandemic, it has still been productive, thanks to the efforts of our staff members and management team. We have successfully continued to care for all our primates, carried out routine and emergency veterinary procedures and completed routine repairs and maintenance as well as some pre-planned construction tasks.

Impact of Covid19

We re-opened our visitor programme in October and visitor numbers have been slowly increasing since then. Visits are currently strictly by appointment only, and all visitors must wear a mask throughout their time in the park to ensure we keep our staff and primates safe. Our volunteer programme remains closed and is unlikely to re-open until 2023, after a complete overhaul, to ensure it addresses the current and future needs of the charity while providing the participants with a memorable experience. These programmes are a vital source

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of income, with all funds going towards the running costs of the sanctuary, so for both to have been closed since March 2020 has had a substantial financial impact.

Throughout this year, we saw a significant drop in individual international donations and grant opportunities and have had to rely mainly on donations from our supporters and the occasional grant to pay the running costs of the sanctuary. In addition, the global effects of coronavirus meant that several key donors were unable to provide financial support to the same degree as they have in recent years. That said, our international volunteer fundraising team did an excellent job of keeping our social media feeds active and supporter engagement levels high, as well as successfully applying for several emergency grants, generating just enough funds to cover the running costs of the sanctuary and keep all 286 primates safe in 2021.

All staff continue to strictly adhere to the protocols developed following guidelines from the Cameroonian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation at the start of the pandemic. These protocols enhance the biosecurity measurements we already had and include using a stronger disinfectant to clean the primates' food and installing extra handwashing facilities around the park for staff and visitors. All our staff also received the AstraZeneca vaccination against Covid19 in 2021.

Unfortunately, despite these extra measures, several positive cases of Covid19 were discovered on 28th December 2021 amongst the workforce, our director included. The park was immediately closed to visitors. The infected individuals were quarantined. The management team reinforced the strict protocols around mask-wearing, regular handwashing, and social distancing to the remaining staff. For the time being, we have also introduced a new protocol for anyone showing symptoms of Covid19, which involves testing them (if we can get tests, which are proving very difficult to find), quarantining them for seven days if their result is positive and then screening them again before they are allowed back to work. We hope these measures will help keep our uninfected staff members and all the primates in our care safe and ensure that we can effectively manage this situation and continue with our work.

Primate Numbers

As of 31st December, we provided sanctuary for 24 gorillas, 123 chimpanzees, and 139 monkeys.

Rescued Primates

During these 12 months, we rescued one female chimpanzee, approximately four years old and one juvenile female mandrill. Both completed their quarantine and have been successfully integrated into different family groups.

Deaths

During 2021, we have sadly had a total of five deaths: two newborn monkeys died within 48 hours of birth, two other monkeys, and a male juvenile chimpanzee.

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Integrations and Transfers

At the beginning of this year, we finalised the integration of two of our chimpanzees who graduated from our pre-nursery to nursery group. Two five-year-olds, one male and one female, were both welcomed into their new family without any issues.

The integration of a three-year-old western lowland gorilla into our juvenile gorilla group has gone well during the second part of this year. He has adapted well to his new home, enjoys spending his days in his forested enclosure and his nights in the company of his new family. He has a good relationship with the dominant male and the female juvenile of the group and a special bond with the youngest male in the group, who is proving to be an excellent big brother.

Earlier in the year, we restructured some of our guenon groups to create a new family and incorporate some of the 'escapees' who had been confined to a satellite cage for their own safety. This family have now taken up residence in the new high-security enclosure, which was finished in early December and the remaining four 'escapee' monkeys moved in early 2022, so now all 139 of our monkeys are living in a forested enclosure, which is a considerable achievement.

In the meantime, the rest of the adult guenons welcomed the seven youngest of our guenons into their family unit without issue.

The integration process with our bachelor gorilla group was started in June. This group is the first of its kind in an African sanctuary, and so far, the individuals involved have responded well to their new family unit. Three out of the four silverback gorillas are now spending time in the forested enclosure, with one left to integrate.

At the beginning of the year, we worked together with Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre to transfer one of our baby female chimpanzees to their sanctuary to join a lone male infant chimpanzee they had there and start a new family group.

We also had a wild female chimpanzee arrive at the sanctuary from an unknown location this year, who we ended up transferring to Sanaga-Yong. Unfortunately, she created an issue with several of our groups, as she sought out companionship, so with the permission of the Minister, she was captured, given a full health check and transferred to live out her life in a new family group.

Construction

Additional security measures have been installed at six of our eighteen enclosures. This grillage helps prevent the primates from coming out through the electric fences, thus increasing security. One of our in-country supporters provided funding for this project, which will continue until all enclosures that require it have been updated.

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In 2021, work began on a new gorilla enclosure to accommodate the increasing number of juveniles in our care as they get older and bigger. All of this work was completed in 2022.

We have also started reinforcing our existing nursery enclosures by changing the wooden posts for metal ones. They are old enclosures; however, they are still invaluable for housing one group of nursery chimps and one group of nursery gorillas. By making these upgrades now, we will be able to keep using the enclosures for many years to come.

Another upgrade project we started in the second half of 2021 was to change the water system for all the enclosures, as many had old systems which were constantly getting blocked. This new system enables each primate to drink directly from a water bidon and ensures everyone gets water without issue. We upgraded the system in two groups by the year end and the building and installation in the remaining groups was completed in 2022. This project has again been funded by one of our in-country supporters.

One of the few positives that came from closing the park for eighteen months was that the primates became very used to not seeing visitors and thrived in the quiet environment of their enclosures. Therefore, we decided to build viewing houses at the enclosures where visitors frequent to ensure that the impact of restarting this programme on the primates is kept to an absolute minimum. Work started in 2021 at two of our gorilla's groups. One was completed, and the other finished in early 2022. These viewing houses will also double as security posts around the park so that in the unlikely event of an escape, visitors will have a safe place to wait until the situation is resolved.

The construction team has also been as busy as usual with general repairs and the maintenance of enclosures, satellite cages and buildings across the park.

Education

Thanks to funding kindly provided by Prague Zoo and the City of Prague, we were able to restart our conservation education programme in three of the schools surrounding Mefou Park in September of this year. The programme mainly focussed on the Mama P book produced by Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, in association with Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA).

Our Head of Education was also able to start conducting guided tours of the sanctuary when we re-opened our visitor programme in October.

In 2022/3, we plan to re-introduce more of the educational activities and programmes that were in place before March 2020, including the Wandering Bus initiative in collaboration with Prague Zoo and the reforestation in the park project, with the support of our partner Globio.

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Threats

Deforestation, hunting, and habitat destruction are still the biggest threats to primate populations in Cameroon. The hunting and deforestation pressures around the park are increasing. Still, our efforts to fight and reduce their impact in our park and the tampon area collaborate with MINFOF (Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune / Ministry of Forest and Wildlife) and the villages around the park.

Veterinary department

Our veterinary team has continued to provide excellent healthcare for all our primates. This year, alongside routine procedures such as health checks and vaccinations, the department has also focussed on implementing preventive measures across the sanctuary to reduce illness. This has included treating the water and water containers we use for the primates with a controlled amount of bleach to keep the containers clean and reduce the number of primates with parasite diseases, such as amebiasis. Indications through stool sampling are that this process is working, and in comparison to last year, the number of parasites has reduced. In June and December, all staff and primates completed a deworming programme.

Volunteering and Internships

Volunteers are excellent support for our team; they assist the staff with daily tasks and carry out tasks they would usually not have time to do without the volunteers' support.

Unfortunately, we had to suspend our international volunteer and internship programme due to the pandemic. However, we were able to restart our national volunteer programme in the second half of this year, with one Cameroonian veterinarian technician assisting us for several months and one Cameroonian primate caregiver who is still with us.

Plans for 2022

Although our situation remains hugely challenging, we will continue to prioritise the care of our primates and staff and complete the integrations and construction projects we have already begun. We hope to re-open our international volunteer programme in 2023, after a complete overhaul, to ensure it addresses the current and future needs of the charity while providing the participants with a memorable experience.

Our current funding crisis due to the impact of COVID-19 means that fundraising efforts will continue to focus on raising enough money to cover the running costs of the sanctuary, re-engaging key donors and individuals and maximising grant opportunities that are now starting to accept applications again.

Acknowledgements

As our 25th year draws to a close, we would like to express our gratitude to MINFOF (Ministry of Forest and Wildlife) for their continued support over the years. We would also like to thank

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all our private donors, volunteers and long-term supporters, who allow us to continue giving the best care to our primates.

The board of trustees is very aware of the difficult time that 2021 has been for the charity, difficulties that have continued since 2020 due to pandemic-related lockdowns and restrictions that kept our animals and staff safe but led to reduced income compounded by 'donor fatigue' further impacting income. We have been monitoring our cash position closely and liaising with our fundraising team.

This period has, and continues to be, a stressful time for everyone and the trustees are extremely grateful to everyone in Cameroon who worked throughout the pandemic. We are also very grateful to our fundraisers who work so hard in their spare time to raise money for the charity. This is a difficult task at the best of times but fundraising during a worldwide pandemic has been particularly challenging.

Despite all the difficulties that have arisen in the last 2 years, we will continue to ensure that we give all our rescued animals a positive future and the highest standard of care that they deserve.

Dr Sharon Redrobe OBE

Chair

1 November 2022

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ape Action Africa

I report on the accounts of the Ape Action Africa for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records;
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Laurence Morgan
Chartered Accountant
ICAEW membership number: 9277845

1 November 2022

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Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	£	£	2021 £	2020 £
		Unrestricted	Restricted		
Incoming resources					
Donations	2	348,916	5,836	354,753	165,760
Fees received	2	9,601	0	9,601	6,861
Fundraising	2	9,933	0	9,933	6,718
Interest received		8	0	8	79
Total incoming resources		368,458	5,836	374,295	179,418
Resources expended					
Animal care	3	73,814	0	73,814	63,118
Staff costs	3	150,159	0	150,159	137,615
Infrastructure costs	3	69,764	0	69,764	42,812
Education programme		1,168	0	1,168	1,259
Community support	3	1,138	5,836	6,974	1,939
Administrative expenses	3	10,804	0	10,804	9,486
Fundraising costs	3	1,080	0	1,080	1,801
Website hosting		2,555	0	2,555	2,272
Finance charges	3	10,117	0	10,117	8,572
Total resources expended		320,598	5,836	326,434	268,874
Net movement in funds		47,861	0	47,861	-89,456
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		49,828	0	49,828	139,284
Total funds carried forward		97,689	0	97,689	,49,828

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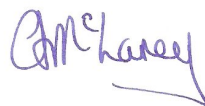
Balance Sheet

	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets		
Other debtors and prepayments	13,807	14,207
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>84,962</u>	<u>35,621</u>
	98,769	49,828
Current liabilities		
Accruals	<u>1,080</u>	<u>0</u>
Net assets	<u><u>97,689</u></u>	<u><u>49,828</u></u>
Charitable funds		
General fund	97,689	49,828
Restricted fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>97,689</u></u>	<u><u>49,828</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 1 November 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr S Redrobe
Chair



C McLaney
Treasurer

Ape Action Africa

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Notes to the Accounts

1) Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with:

- Charities SORP (FRS 102): the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- The Charities Act 2011; and
- The historical cost basis of accounting.

b) Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

c) Recognition of incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

d) Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

e) Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in Cameroon francs have been translated to sterling at rate of 760fcfa/£1, being the average rate for the year. Balance sheet items have been translated at the year-end rate of 781fcfa/£1.

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Notes to the Accounts

2 Analysis of incoming resources		2021	2020
		£	£
Donations	Adopt an Ape scheme	7,900	5,169
	Volunteer programme	0	1,071
	Legacies	0	20,271
	Ape Action Africa Inc. – transfer of donations	200,395	28,151
	Other donations	146,458	111,098
		<u>354,753</u>	<u>165,760</u>
Fees			
	Mefou Primate Park - Visitor fees	<u>9,601</u>	<u>6,861</u>
Fundraising			
	Merchandise	6,315	6,718
	Online auction	3,619	0
		<u>9,933</u>	<u>6,718</u>
3 Analysis of resources expended			
Animal care	Animal food	63,265	51,806
	Vet supplies	10,549	11,312
		<u>73,814</u>	<u>63,118</u>
Staff costs			
	Cameroon salaries	105,075	96,684
	CNPS and tax	17,463	13,986
	Staff medical fees	2,874	3,980
	Uniforms	1,246	1,221
	Staff training	789	0
	Staff awards	608	135
	Workers' food	22,104	21,609
		<u>150,159</u>	<u>137,615</u>
Infrastructure			
	Construction and repairs	48,125	24,110
	Forest supplies	3,667	2,523
	Vehicle maintenance	17,972	16,179
		<u>69,764</u>	<u>42,812</u>

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3 Analysis of resources, continued

		2021	2020
		£	£
Community support	Community support costs	1,138	1,939
	Children of conservation project	5,836	0
		<u>6,974</u>	<u>1,939</u>
Administrative expenses	Cameroon office and education supplies	10,243	9,486
	Sundry expenses	561	0
		<u>10,804</u>	<u>9,486</u>
Fundraising expenses	Events	0	1,205
	Merchandise purchased	1,080	596
		<u>1,080</u>	<u>1,801</u>
Finance charges	Bank and fundraising platform fees	1,888	1,900
	Exchange differences arising on translation	8,229	6,672
		<u>10,117</u>	<u>8,572</u>

6 Related party transactions

None of the trustees received either remuneration or expenses during the year (2020 – nil).

Ape Action Africa Inc. transferred \$315,000 (£200,395) to Ape Action Africa (2020 – \$40,000; £28,151). The transfers from Ape Action Africa Inc. go directly to Cameroon to fund our running costs. The trustees of Ape Action Africa are the directors of Ape Action Africa Inc.