



## Annual Report and Accounts

Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

# Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2023

## Report and Accounts

### Charity information

**Principal office address:**

Guthrie Road  
Clifton  
Bristol  
BS8 3HA

**Trustees:**

Mr I Bickerstaff  
Ms V Luke  
Ms C McLaney

Chair

Treasurer

**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**

# Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2023

## 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:

Relieve the suffering of non-human primates in Cameroon who need 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.

To advance the education of the public into the conservation, care and treatment of such animals.

### 3. Officers and trustees

The Trustees are:

Mr Ian Bickerstaff

Ms Victoria Luke

Ms Caroline McLaney

Dr Sharon Redrobe

Treasurer

Resigned 4.11.2023

Dr Jane Goodall is the president of the charity.

Eran Moas has accepted the honorary role of President from October 2023 and we welcome his ongoing support as a key member of the Cameroonian community and with government liaison.

Dr Sharon Redrobe resigned from the board on 4 November 2023. Sharon has worked tirelessly for the charity over many years and she has been a key member of the vet team, including many operations on our primates in Cameroon. Her veterinary support over the years has been invaluable and her expertise will be missed both by the board and our team in Cameroon.

The board and the team in Cameroon wish Sharon well for the future.

# Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2023

## 4. Review of Activities in Cameroon

### Overview

Despite financial challenges due to the global economic situation and our subsequent limited resources, we had a productive year thanks to the efforts of our staff members and management team. We have successfully continued caring for all our primates, carried out routine and emergency veterinary procedures, completed routine repairs and maintenance, completed some pre-planned construction tasks and continued our education programme.

### Primate Numbers

As of 31 December 2023, we provide sanctuary for 25 western lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), 116 chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes ellioti* and *troglodytes*), and 144 monkeys - 44 guenons, 45 mandrills (*Mandrillus sphinx*), 27 olive baboons (*Papio Anubis*), 6 red-capped mangabeys (*Cercocebus torquatus*) and 22 agile mangabeys (*Cercocebus agilis*).

### Rescued primates

In January, a male chimpanzee of approximately 13 years of age was transferred from Mvog-Betsi Zoo to AAA. This individual was rescued by MINFOF officials following reports of a chimpanzee frequently visiting the village of Mandoumba in the Central Region of Cameroon. The chimpanzee was likely an ex-pet who either escaped or was released as he was very habituated to humans.

In May, a juvenile male mandrill of approximately two years of age was confiscated by MINFOF officials near the eastern boundary of the Dja Faunal Reserve. Staff from the Tikki Hywood Foundation, also situated in Mefou, were working in the area at the time and transported the mandrill to AAA. The young male had been kept in a small cage in a village for an unknown period of time and was ill on arrival. Despite our vet team's best efforts, he succumbed to the illness a few days after rescue.

A juvenile female spot-nosed guenon arrived at the sanctuary late in June. During an educational lesson at the sanctuary, a student informed AAA's Head of Education of the whereabouts of a monkey that was being kept as a pet. MINFOF officials were subsequently informed, and the monkey was swiftly confiscated and brought to AAA. She spent some time in the quarantine area of the sanctuary before being successfully integrated into a troop. This is a remarkable story, showing the impact and success of the education programmes. We would like to thank MINFOF for their collaboration and quick response.

# Ape Action Africa

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## Construction

The construction of a new forested gorilla enclosure was completed in April. The enclosure currently houses eight western lowland gorillas.

As an extra security measure, wired mesh was installed around another one of the chimpanzee enclosures in May and an additional layer of wired mesh was fitted to two of the three high security guenon enclosures. These measures greatly decrease the likelihood of escapes.



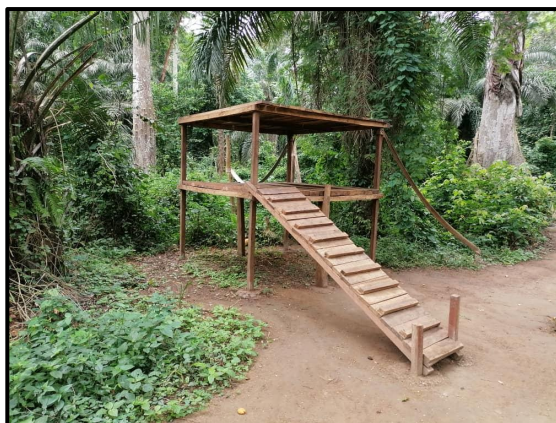
**Chimpanzee enclosure with newly fitted wired mesh**

Following the construction of new baboon satellite cages in 2022, we have now built a tunnel connecting the old and new satellite cages. This allows us to distribute the baboon troops across more satellite cages when needed, decreasing the likelihood of conflict.

With funds raised by our previous Deputy Director, Larry Taylor, we were able to construct two new climbing platforms at two of the juvenile chimpanzee enclosures in June 2023, one of which is shown in the photo below.

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The replacement of the foundation at one of the older chimpanzee enclosures was finished in July 2023.

It was noted during the year that some of the foundations of other enclosures had also started deteriorating. The replacement / reinforcement of these foundations began towards the end of 2023 and was completed in the first half of 2024.



**Photos showing the foundation at the baboon enclosure where an additional layer of bricks is being added to support the old foundations.**

Construction of our new high security chimpanzee enclosure began in 2021 but had to be put on hold due to illegal deforestation in the area. In 2023 we were able to restart the project. Two of the five satellite cages were completed, and the roof was installed.



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**Photos showing the progress of the satellite cages of the high security chimpanzee enclosure.**

In August the addition of a new room to the agile mangabey satellite cages was completed. This allows us to divide the individuals across more rooms when needed, decreasing the likelihood of conflict.

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**The new room of our Agile satellite cages**

The bridge that crosses the river within the sanctuary was repaired in September. Our construction team made quick work of replacing the wooden beams and planks to ensure vehicles, motorbikes and people can cross the bridge safely. Fortunately, the metal beams that support the wood were still in good condition and did not need to be replaced.



During the year, the construction team have also completed many routine repairs of satellite cage systems, fences and buildings across the sanctuary.



# Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2023

## Integrations and Transfers

In February we completed the integration of a juvenile male and a juvenile female mandrill into one of our mandrill groups.

In March we started the integration of seven western lowland gorillas (three subadults and four juveniles) at our newest forested gorilla enclosure. The introductions took place in the satellite cages until construction of the enclosure was completed, after which the process continued inside the enclosure. Following the successful completion of this integration, we decided to also introduce a young juvenile, female gorilla from the baby group so that one of the older females could act as a surrogate mother. This integration started in July and has since been completed. All eight of these gorillas now share the new forested enclosure.

A male crowned guenon was integrated with a group of guenons in one of the high security enclosures in April.

After installing additional wired mesh around one of the chimpanzee enclosures in May, we were able to start with the reintroduction of a male chimpanzee who had previously escaped through the electrified fences. Although put on hold for a time due to an injury sustained by the male, the reintroduction progressed well and was completed in early 2024.

In early 2023, an adult chimpanzee with special requirements was being bullied by some of the other chimpanzees in his group. It was decided to transfer him to a different enclosure, along with a juvenile male chimpanzee from his group. They were successfully introduced to three other young chimpanzees in April. Another young male chimpanzee who arrived at the sanctuary in 2022 was also successfully integrated into this group in August.

Due to the frequent conflicts in one of the guenon groups, a male mona monkey had to be removed from his enclosure as he was constantly involved in conflicts and sustained numerous injuries. He is currently being housed in one of the satellite cages and will eventually be integrated into another guenon troop where the social dynamics are more favourable.

In August a male spot-nosed guenon sustained some injuries after being involved in a fight. After receiving treatment at the veterinary clinic, he was taken back to his group but refused to leave the satellite cage. Due to this, it was decided that he should be transferred to another guenon enclosure where he was introduced to another male spot-nosed guenon. The two

# Ape Action Africa

## Year ended 31 December 2023

were integrated successfully and have subsequently been integrated with the rest of the guenon group in their enclosure.

Also in August, we decided to separate a male spot-nosed guenon from his group after it was observed that the male was being prohibited from accessing food by one of the other guenons for multiple days. This male has since been introduced to another male spot-nosed guenon.

### Education and Visitors

Our conservation education programme continued in 2023 and incorporated a new series of lessons focusing on forests, wild meat and conservation. Our education team reached 432 children from seven schools around the sanctuary, including a new school which joined the programme.

The first visit of 2023 by the Wandering Bus Programme in collaboration with Prague Zoo took place on 25 May. 140 children came to the sanctuary over the course of seven separate visits. The success of the program was emphasised when it led to the rescue of a spot-nosed guenon, as described earlier. Confiscations can often be difficult as individuals frequently do not want to hand over pet primates. In this instance it was reported that MINFOF faced no opposition as the child who attended our education class had spoken to the residents of the village about why monkeys should not be kept as pets.

Our tour guides continue to welcome and educate both national and international visitors to the park. We received 2783 local and 2366 international visitors. Although visitor numbers will not reach pre-COVID numbers due to group size limitations we have put in place, we have noticed an increase in the number of visitors over the course of the year.

### Fundraising

On 19 May 2023, the British High Commission in Yaoundé hosted a fundraising dinner on behalf of Ape Action Africa. The evening was very successful and over £4,000 was raised for the sanctuary. This was our first in-country event of this sort, and we hope to have more events like this in the future to grow support and raise more awareness within Cameroon.

### Volunteers and Internships

Our international volunteer programme reopened in March. A number of previous volunteers returned to Ape Action Africa in 2023, and we also welcomed four new international volunteers to the sanctuary.

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In 2023 we hosted several interns in our veterinary department: two veterinarians (one local and one international), a local veterinary student, and a veterinary nurse from Mvog-Betsi Zoo in Yaoundé. All benefitted from further training by our Head Veterinarian Dr Julieta Mota and her team. We also hosted a local student that completed an internship with our education team.

We were fortunate to have Dr Karina Flores assist in our veterinary department for two months and want to thank her for assisting and sharing her experience and expertise with our team.

## New staff members

We welcomed a new Cameroonian veterinarian, Dr Ebeke Edoh, to our vet team and wish him great success for his career at Ape Action Africa.

## Threats

Cameroon's most significant threats to primate populations are deforestation, hunting and habitat destruction. The hunting and deforestation pressures around the park continue to increase. During the year, we noted multiple areas just inside the boundaries of the park where trees have been cleared and farms started. An additional concern is that alongside the deforestation, we frequently note that snares are set up on the boundaries of the farms. Still, our efforts to fight and reduce their impact in the park area continue in collaboration with MINFOF (*Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune / Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife*) and the villages around the park.

For the first time since Ape Action Africa has operated out of Mefou Primate Park, the road leading to the park flooded when the water level of the river rose and flooded some of the surrounding areas. Vehicles were unable to pass for multiple consecutive days. This is perhaps an example of the effects climate change is having on rain intensity in the area and might become more frequent in the coming years.

## Veterinary department

Our veterinary team has continued to provide excellent healthcare for all our primates. As well as attending to several emergencies, the department carried out routine procedures such as health checks, vaccinations, deworming and changing implants.

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	Deworming	Vaccinations	Health Checks	Implant
Gorillas	0	0	8	8
Chimpanzees	0	12	30	23
Monkeys	5	4	43	0

Table showing the number and type of procedures performed across the various primate groups.

The most common infectious diseases among the primates this year were viral respiratory infections and amebiasis. Although both were relatively common, no severe cases were observed. The frequency of amebiasis and bacterial skin infections increased this year, especially bacterial skin infections among the chimpanzees. The bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* in particular was found to be prevalent among the chimpanzees. It was responsible for skin infections but was also found to have entered inside the tissue of some chimps causing abscesses, a corneal ulcer and some respiratory infections. Amebiasis was observed across all the primate groups but was most frequent in the chimpanzees, followed by the monkeys.

Although tumba fly infections are not uncommon at the sanctuary, an unusually high rate of infection was observed within some of the monkey enclosures. The exact reason for this is not clear, but we expect that it might have been a seasonal occurrence as the number of tumba fly infections greatly decreased in the second half of 2023.

A relatively high occurrence of wounds was reported in the monkeys and the chimpanzees, while a much lower frequency occurred among the gorillas. The majority of these injuries were due to conflicts within groups. Due to their severity, some required surgical intervention with some patients requiring longer than usual wound management. In some cases, wounds were accompanied by orthopedic trauma, but cases of a purely orthopedic nature were also seen. Suture wounds were the most frequent in the monkeys and were very low among the chimpanzees and the gorillas.

It is important to note the increased frequency of abscesses among the primates, particularly among the chimpanzees. Samples were sent to a laboratory for bacterial culture and sensitivity tests, the results of which allowed the veterinary team to decide on the best method of treatment and decrease the potential for antibiotic resistance to develop. As mentioned earlier, the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* was frequently found to be the dominant bacteria in the samples. A disinfectant programme has been put in place to



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specifically focus on decreasing the presence of this bacteria in the satellite cages and to minimise the risk of infection.

Thanks to a collaboration with Limbe Wildlife Centre, we were able to access their ultrasound machine and perform echocardiography in 18 chimpanzees and seven monkeys at the sanctuary. During these scans, the veterinary team examined the reproductive system and various organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys.

Additionally, thanks to a collaboration with Sanaga Yong Chimpanzee Rescue, we were able to use their portable x-ray machine which allowed our veterinary team to perform a radiographic study of a chimpanzee's skull. He had a middle ear infection (otitis media) in his right ear, which had also spread to some of the surrounding tissue, causing an infection on the right side of his head. The study revealed that the infection had caused some changes to the bones surrounding the affected ear. Despite the antibiotic treatment having to be extended, we were able to transfer the chimpanzee back to his satellite cage to complete treatment while he recovered in the proximity of his group. A final health check indicated that he was recovering well.

Access to equipment such as the ultrasound and x-ray machines, that we do not permanently have at the sanctuary, makes a significant difference. The veterinary team are able to more accurately identify certain ailments, as well as identify potential future ailments and start treatment earlier, improving the overall wellbeing of the primates in our care.

We sadly had twelve deaths at the sanctuary during the year. They were two chimpanzees and ten monkeys (one mona monkey, one agile mangabey, a spot-nosed guenon, two olive baboons and five mandrills). Two of these deaths were due to euthanasia as the primates' quality of life significantly deteriorated.

### Grant application success

We are delighted that the Arcus Foundation have awarded us a grant of \$100,000 (£80,000) to help us with our running costs. Two members of the board, Vicky Luke and Ian Bickerstaff, worked hard on the application along with our Director, Rachel Hogan. The team met Arcus in Cameroon and we are so pleased that all the hard work was successful. We look forward to working with Arcus in the future.

# Ape Action Africa

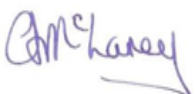
Year ended 31 December 2023

## Acknowledgements

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 all our private donors, volunteers and long-term supporters, who allow us to continue giving the best care possible to the primates who live with us at Mefou Primate Park.

The trustees are extremely grateful to everyone in Cameroon who continues to work so hard. 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 difficult economic conditions worldwide has been, and continues to be, particularly challenging.

Despite the numerous challenges of running a sanctuary as large as Ape Action Africa, we will continue to prioritise the care and rehabilitation of our primates so that they have a positive future with the highest standard of care that they deserve.



Signed on behalf of the board

Caroline McLaney

Trustee

30 October 2024

# Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2023

## 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 2023, which are set out on pages 15 to 20.

### 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

30 October 2024

# Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2023

## Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	£	£	2023 £	2022 £
		Unrestricted	Restricted		
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Donations	2	283,452	9,340	292,792	360,560
Grant		0	80,141	80,141	0
Fees received	2	36,552		36,552	27,968
Fundraising	2	12,770		12,770	43,353
Interest received		468		468	18
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>333,242</b>	<b>89,481</b>	<b>422,723</b>	<b>431,899</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Animal care	3	87,261		87,261	83,584
Staff costs	3	199,526		199,526	181,582
Infrastructure costs	3	88,532		88,532	96,947
Education programme		2,076		2,076	4,752
Community support	3	1,551	9,340	10,891	15,683
Administrative expenses	3	11,490		11,490	12,384
Fundraising costs	3	2,905		2,905	21,688
Website hosting		108		108	790
Finance charges	3	3,452		3,452	-1,145
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>396,901</b>	<b>9,340</b>	<b>406,241</b>	<b>416,265</b>
Net movement in funds		-63,659	80,141	16,482	15,634
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		113,323	0	113,323	97,689
Total funds carried forward		49,664	80,141	129,805	113,323



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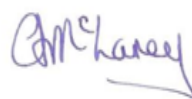
## Balance Sheet

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Other debtors and prepayments		6,507	39,741
Cash at bank and in hand		143,298	73,582
		<u>149,805</u>	<u>113,323</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	4	8,000	0
		<u>141,805</u>	<u>113,323</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	5	12,000	0
		<u>129,805</u>	<u>113,323</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			
<b>Charitable funds</b>			
General fund		49,664	113,323
Restricted fund		80,141	0
		<u>129,805</u>	<u>113,323</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 30 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



I Bickerstaff  
Chair



C McLaney  
Treasurer

# Ape Action Africa

Year ended 31 December 2023

## 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 2022; 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 a rate of 671.76fcfa/£1, being the average rate for the year. Balance sheet items have been translated at the year-end rate of 659.76fcfa/£1.

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## Notes to the Accounts

<b>2 Analysis of incoming resources</b>		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Donations</b>	Adopt an Ape scheme	4,340	3,630
	Volunteer programme	2,822	0
	Ape Action Africa Inc – transfer of donations	62,176	75,000
	Other donations	223,454	281,930
		<u>292,792</u>	<u>360,560</u>
<b>Fees</b>			
	Mefou Primate Park - Visitor fees	<u>36,552</u>	<u>27,968</u>
<b>Fundraising</b>			
	Merchandise costs and postage	11,912	14,951
	Gala dinner, London	0	27,118
	Online auction	858	1,285
		<u>12,770</u>	<u>43,353</u>
<b>3 Analysis of resources expended</b>			
<b>Animal care</b>	Animal food	66,084	70,796
	Vet supplies	21,177	12,788
		<u>87,261</u>	<u>83,584</u>
<b>Staff costs</b>	Cameroon salaries	139,780	128,341
	CNPS and tax	27,943	24,484
	Staff medical fees	756	2,916
	Uniforms	1,022	660
	Staff training	372	0
	Staff awards	33	147
	Workers' food	29,620	25,034
		<u>199,526</u>	<u>181,582</u>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Construction and repairs	55,007	69,959
	Forest supplies	3,288	3,168
	Vehicle maintenance	30,237	23,820
		<u>88,532</u>	<u>96,947</u>

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## Notes to the Accounts

### 3 Analysis of resources, continued

		2023	2022
		£	£
<b>Community support</b>	Community support costs	1,551	4,910
	Children of conservation project	9,340	10,773
		<u>10,891</u>	<u>15,683</u>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>	Cameroon office and education supplies	10,962	11,565
	Sundry expenses	528	820
		<u>11,490</u>	<u>12,384</u>
<b>Fundraising expenses</b>	Events	648	15,045
	Merchandise purchased	2,257	6,643
		<u>2,905</u>	<u>21,688</u>
<b>Finance charges</b>	Bank and fundraising platform fees	945	1,205
	Exchange differences arising on translation	2,507	-2,350
		<u>3,452</u>	<u>-1,145</u>
<b>4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
	Other creditors	5,000	0
	Loan	3,000	0
		<u>8,000</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>5 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>			
	Loan	12,000	0

The loan is interest free, unsecured and repayable over 5 years.  
The first repayment was made in August 2024.



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## Notes to the Accounts

### 6 Restricted funds

<b>Fund title</b>	<b>Balance B/F</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expended</b>	<b>cf</b>
Children of conservation	0	9,340	(9,340)	0
Arcus Foundation grant	0	80,141	0	80,141
	0	89,481	(9,340)	80,141

The children of conservation fund pays for the school fees of the children of staff of Ape Action Africa who otherwise could not afford to send their children to school. The children must achieve target grades to qualify for funding.

The Arcus Foundation grant is restricted to funding our running costs and it was fully expended by September 2024.

### 7 Related party transactions

None of the trustees received either remuneration or expenses during the year (2022 – £703.90).

Ape Action Africa Inc. transferred \$80,000 (£62,176) to Ape Action Africa (2022 – \$100,000; £75,000). The transfers from Ape Action Africa Inc. go directly to Cameroon to fund the charity's running costs. The trustees of Ape Action Africa are the directors of Ape Action Africa Inc.