



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Da	Month	Year
	01	01	2023		31	12	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1166614

Charity's principal address

9 The Clock Tower

Redlers Waterside, Dudbridge Rd.

Stroud, Gloucestershire

Postcode

GL5 3LH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gary Gilmour	Chairman	Jan 1 st - July 30 th , 2023	
2	Andrew Weir	Chairman from July 31 st , 2023	Full year	
3	Valerie Swanson	Secretary	Full year	
4	Rodney Graeme Dacomb	Treasurer	Full year	
5	James O Murray		Full year	
6	Helen Buckworth		Full year	
7	Barry Hemans		Full Year	
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9				
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11				
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14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Veterinary	Michael Thorne	
Zoology	Andrew Loveridge	

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CIO Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by a majority of Trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;• the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;• relationship with any related parties;• trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.	<p>VFWT held quarterly board meetings and reviewed relevant procedures and policies and networking for Trustees not able to attend meetings in person.</p> <p>VFWT maintained the company risk register and reviewed any new risks and updated outstanding risks at each board meeting. VFWT also continued to hold virtual meetings with downstream implementing project partners to review their risks and procedures.</p> <p>VFWT engaged with VFWT Zimbabwe for discussion on a 3 year strategy and better integration with the UK Board.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation and protection of the natural environment in Southern Africa by providing grants and undertaking research in connection with animal welfare and the environment.

To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment of Southern Africa

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Grant funding was secured late in 2023 from EKCT for ongoing vulture conservation efforts and research. The grant cycle carries over into 2024, but year end 2023 outcomes include:

- Assessment of 115 vulture nest sites on activity
- Monitoring of the effects of 2 vulture poisoning events in neighbouring Botswana (1 hyena & 8 vulture mortalities in North East Botswana in April 2023 and 30 vultures, 2 dogs, and 1 hyena poisoned in South East Botswana in Nov 2023)
- Monitoring of tree habitat protection effectiveness. More than 90% of the trees that have had wire mesh covering put around the base to protect from elephant impact are still intact and the trees are viable with vulture nest sites.
- Rescue and rehabilitation of sick and injured vultures is ongoing
- Monitoring and analysis of vulture spatial movement using Earthranger for carcass identification, poisoning and anti-poaching monitoring.

Public benefit is derived from the conservation of endangered species of vultures, primarily white backed vultures. The steps being taken are not only protecting endangered species but also enabling a quicker response time when carcasses are identified by vulture movement, for anti-poaching efforts.

Continued support from the Oak Foundation is enabling the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, Wildlife Disease and Forensics Laboratory to expand its technical and diagnostic capacity. This funding has been used to:

- Purchase equipment to expand molecular genetics work for Transboundary Animal Disease, and wildlife forensics, as well as develop capacity for bacteriology studies.
- Develop simplified methods for diagnostic sample transfer within the KAZA TFCA region
- In collaboration with Wildlife Crime Prevention in Zambia, provided training to the Zambian Department of Wildlife and National Parks on Wildlife Diseases and Poisonings for 40 first responding rangers
- Facilitate the analysis by the KAZA TFCA epidemiologist of the disease transmission risk of two major fences between Namibia and Botswana
- In collaboration with UK NGO TRACE, VFWT attended the African Wildlife Forensics Network meeting and is working on improving capacity of the laboratory forensic scientist in developing the lion genetics panel to soon incorporate biological, geographic and demographic data

Public Benefit is derived from VFWT being an active member of the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Animal Health Sub-working Group. This organisation works with the partners in the five member states to improve wildlife and animal health. VFWT is also a member of the KAZA Elephant Conservation Sub Working Group and Carnivore Conservation Sub Working Groups

A donation was received late in 2023 for the specific purchase of lion collars. One collar was purchased but not yet deployed. The remaining collars will be purchased in 2024.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During 2023 we achieved some important goals including:

- VFWT immobilized 90 rhino in 2023 for de-horning and ear-notching exercises, 36 black rhino and 54 white rhino were immobilized across three geographic areas of Zimbabwe. Annual efforts to protect the rhino have helped in achieving more than a 5% annual growth rate in the population which now exceed more than 1100 animals.
- The vulture research project was able to ground truth 115 nests in 2023. Many of these were done towards the end of breeding season. There was an 84.3% rate of active nests out of those surveyed. 68 of these were new nest sites. Poisoning continues to be a major challenge throughout Africa and especially in Southern and East Africa. We conducted the annual survey of the African White Backed Vulture colony in Lesoma Valley and found a 29% decrease in nests in 2023.
- Groundbreaking research for the entire regional elephant population was released in 2023 with the results from the KAZA TFCA Elephant Population Survey showing that between the five member states there is a total population of approximately 227,900 elephants in KAZA. The bulk of that population lies in Botswana 58% and North West Zimbabwe 29%. Over half of Africa's savanna elephant population is in the KAZA TFCA. VFWT continue to work with Connected Conservation in deploying satellite collars to look at spatial movement to be able to enhance corridors and connectivity regionally for the population.
- A big achievement for VFWT's senior wildlife veterinarian and AHSWG epidemiologist was the publication of a paper on elephant mortalities from 2020 in the highly regarded journal - 'Nature Communications'. A spate of elephant mortalities in northwestern Zimbabwe in 2020 attracted international attention after the hundreds of elephants which died in Botswana earlier that year. VFWT conducted the on-the-ground investigation and has been working with colleagues in South Africa and the UK for several years to conduct many laboratory tests to confirm a diagnosis. The results were reflected in international worldwide news forums in Oct 2023
- The Morphological Identification of Specially Protected Species in Zimbabwe was printed and is available for Ecologists and officials involved in Countering Wildlife Crime
- Two Training courses were held in Zambia training ~40 first responding rangers on Wildlife Diseases & Poisonings.
- Through generous funding from the Oak Foundation, the laboratory expended its repertoire of tests with new capacity and equipment in bacteriology and molecular biology. 8587 Laboratory procedures were conducted in 2023, more than double what was achieved in 2022.
- The conservation education programme blossomed in 2023 and regained its footing which had been hampered by the COVID-19 restrictions in 2021 and 2022. 1029 children and 91 educators joined in the weekly educational project.
- Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) continues to be a persistent problem impacting negatively on both the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers and the conservation efforts in the landscape of Hwange West. 2023 saw 139 reported HWC incidents across the VFWT operational area, resulting in 199 livestock losses. Goats were the most predated upon livestock followed by cattle and then donkeys, which is reflective of the overall population ratios of these domestic species in the area. Opportunistic predation is high for livestock that is not in a kraal at night (this made up 42.4% of the total) and unaccompanied grazing livestock contributed to 25% of the total 2023 predation incidents. Human presence typically reduces predation incidents, the observed rate of 18% predation signifies that the herders are not always with the

livestock.

- 2000 doses of rabies vaccine and 1500 doses of distemper vaccine were given to dogs in the rural communities. This is a key factor in preventing disease spillover between animals and humans and ensuring a One Health model.
- 43 animals were immobilized for removal of wire snares and foreign objects
- The High Care Rehabilitation Centre was busy with a variety of orphaned and injured animals, most of which were eventually released into the wild
- The KAZA Animal Health Sub-Working Group Epidemiologist presented preliminary outcomes of the Fencing Disease Risk Assessment at its annual meeting.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity policy on reserves at this time is to hold a minimum of £50000 as reserves

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The charity's principal sources of funds have continued to be mainly grant driven, with the bulk of funding for grants coming from the Oak Foundation.

Funding has gone principally to projects supporting the objectives of the charity. The bulk of the funding has gone to the budget lines allocated in the respective grants for projects in Zimbabwe, and restricted donation requirements for lion collars, for laboratory support and an epidemiologist under the Oak grant.

The charity only has a bank account and makes no investments.

Section F**Other optional information****Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Andrew Weir

Rodney Graeme Dacomb

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Finance

Date

23 April 2024

VICTORIA FALLS WILDLIFE TRUST

CHARITY NUMBER: 1166614

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE 12 months to 31 December 2023

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Donations	27,703		59,882	
Donation for Lion Collars	24,600		0	
Gift Aid	6,150		0	
Interest	0	58,453	0	59,882
TOTAL RECEIPTS		<u>58,453</u>		<u>59,882</u>
PAYMENTS				
Bank Charges	273		192	
Newsletter/brochures	2,242		0	
Transfers to Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust in Zimbabwe for use in Rescue & Rehabilitation	7,800		46,385	
Lion collars	1,694		0	
Purchase/donation of vehicle	0		18,303	
Darting Supplies	0	12,009	0	64,880
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		<u>£46,444</u>		<u>-£4,998</u>
Transfers from Restricted Funds		<u>19,580</u>		<u>0</u>
Net Movement in Funds		<u><u>£66,024</u></u>		<u><u>-£4,998</u></u>

VICTORIA FALLS WILDLIFE TRUST

CHARITY NUMBER: 1166614

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE 12 Months to 31 December 2023

RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2023	2022
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Oak Foundation	0	22,500
Oak Foundation KAZA	139,879	124,583
University of Oxford - Human/Wildlife conflict mitigation	0	0
University of Oxford - Wildlife Conservation Research	0	0
Ernest Kleinwort Trust - Vulture conservation	10,000	5,000
Total Receipts	£149,879	£152,083
PAYMENTS		
Oak Foundation Grant transferred to VFWT Zimbabwe	23,123	29,091
Oak Foundation KAZA Grant transferred to VFWT Zimbabwe	110,748	34,691
Ernest Kleinwort Trust - Vulture Conservation	0	5,000
Wildlife Conservation Research Grant expenses	0	0
Total Payments	133,871	68,782
Net Receipts/Payments	16,008	83,301
Cash funds at beginning	113,015	29,714
Transfer to Unrestricted Funds - Oak expenses paid by VFV	-19,580	
Cash funds at period end	£109,443	£113,015

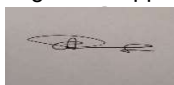
VICTORIA FALLS WILDLIFE TRUST

CHARITY NUMBER: 1166614

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors and prepayments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank deposit accounts	142,956	129,023	271,979	96,080	113,015	209,095
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors and accruals falling due within one year	432	0	432	0	0	0
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>£142,524</u>	<u>£129,023</u>	<u>£271,547</u>	<u>£96,080</u>	<u>£113,015</u>	<u>£209,095</u>
FUNDS						
At 1 January	96,080	113,015	209,095	101,078	29,714	130,792
Net movement in funds	66,024	-3,572	62,452	-4,998	83,301	78,303
At 31 December	<u>£162,104</u>	<u>£109,443</u>	<u>£271,547</u>	<u>£96,080</u>	<u>£113,015</u>	<u>£209,095</u>
Of which: RESERVED FUNDS	£50,000	£109,443	£159,443	£50,000	£113,015	£163,015
UNRESERVED FUNDS	£112,104	0	£112,104	£46,080	0	£46,080
ANALYSIS of RESTRICTED FUNDS						
IUCN Grant		0			0	
Oak Foundation Grant		0			23,123	
Oak Foundation KAZA Grant		99,443			89,892	
Ernest Kleinwort Trust		10,000			0	
Oxford WildCru Grant		0			0	
		<u>£109,443</u>			<u>£113,015</u>	

Signed in Approval



R. G. Dacomb - Finance Trustee

10 March 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1166614

Set out on pages

1-3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

13 March 2024

Name:

Gavin Power

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

77 Oxford Road South

London W4 3DD