

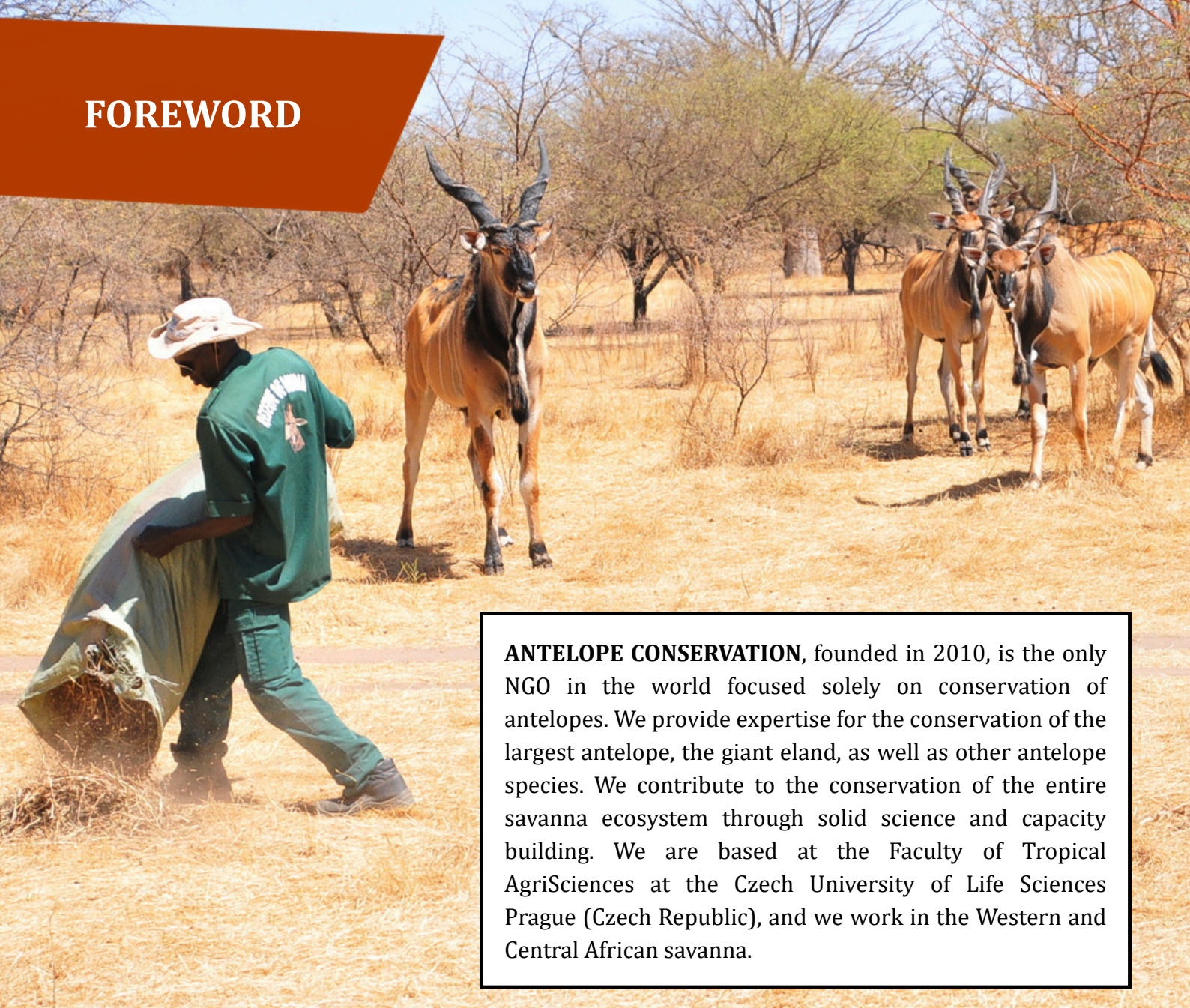
Annual Report



2024



FOREWORD



ANTELOPE CONSERVATION, founded in 2010, is the only NGO in the world focused solely on conservation of antelopes. We provide expertise for the conservation of the largest antelope, the giant eland, as well as other antelope species. We contribute to the conservation of the entire savanna ecosystem through solid science and capacity building. We are based at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Czech Republic), and we work in the Western and Central African savanna.

Dear friends of giant elands and the African savanna,

We are proud to share with you our new annual report, containing the overview of our actions in 2024. Besides the regular long-term monitoring of the giant eland population in the Senegalese reserves and continuing monitoring of the giant elands and other antelopes in Niokolo Koba National Park, we have explored new environments in the Eastern Senegal and established new collaborations! In other words, lions and wild dogs are now our best friends. Surprised? Learn more on the following pages.

Thank you for your support and stay with us!

On behalf of the Antelope Conservation team,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karolína Brandlová'.

Karolína Brandlová

OUR PHILOSOPHY

OUR VISION

Healthy populations of giant eland and other antelope species in their native habitat. The giant eland is valued as a flagship species for conservation of the savannah ecosystems of Western and Central Africa.

OUR MISSION

Providing scientific expertise to relevant conservation management entities, supporting activities relevant to giant eland and other West and Central African antelope conservation and raising awareness of the importance of healthy, functioning ecosystems.

OUR VALUES

Expertise - we base our decisions on scientific evidence

Energy - we invest our energy into actions which we trust

Respect - we respect our partners as well as different approaches and opinions

Cooperation - we are a team, and we never work alone

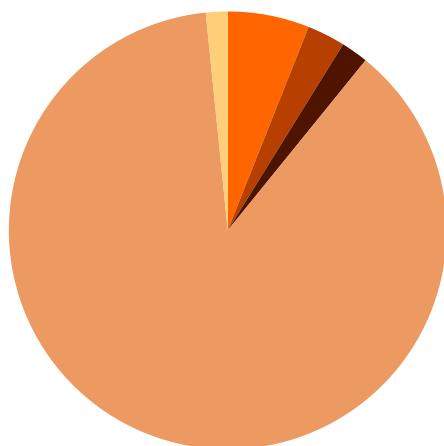
Tenacity - we do not give up

MEMBERS



In 2024, the association had 252 members. The list of regular members from legal entities remained unchanged and comprised Safari Park Dvůr Králové, Pilsen, Ostrava, Olomouc, Košice, Hodonín, and Jihlava zoos. We organised a team-building and brainstorming trip to Plisen Zoo for our core members, donors, and volunteers.

- Regular Members - persons (15)
- Regular Members - legal entities (7)
- Executive Board (5)
- Sympathizers (218)
- Honorary Members (4)



OUR TEAM



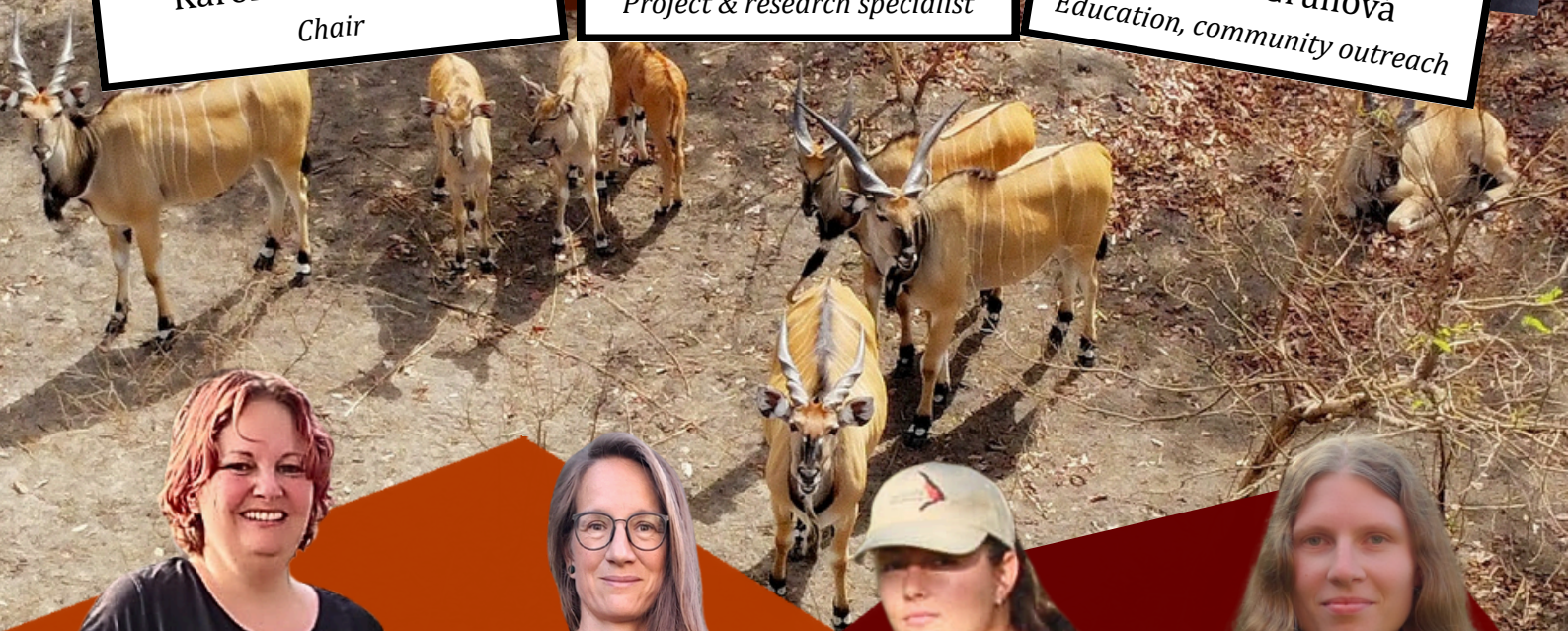
Karolína Brandlová
Chair



Pavla Hejcmanová
Project & research specialist



Markéta Grůňová
Education, community outreach



Tamara Fedorova
Office manager



Magdalena Miřejovská
Membership officer



Kristýna Stehlíková
Data analyst, social media



Ema Cetkovská
Coordinator of volunteers

FINANCIAL REPORT

Donations comprised the majority of our income in 2024. See more information on the next page. Other income came from the merchandising (including face painting), our e-shop, and custom-made merchandise for our partners. The amount of membership fees received from regular members was increased mostly due to the higher contributions of the Safaripark Dvůr Králové, and also Pilsen and Hodonín zoos. The membership fees highly contribute to our revenues.

Revenues 2024	CZK
Donations	543,000
Membership fees	125,000
Merchandising and services	187,000
Total	855,000

Expenses 2024	CZK
Donations (provided to Senegalese partners)	105,000
Realisation of projects (fieldwork, travel costs, equipment)	251,000
Merchandising (production)	161,000
Attendance on conferences and scientific meetings	97,000
Salaries	237,000
Administrative costs, other services	88,000
Total	939,000

The expenses were mainly related to the projects in Senegal and other countries (see details on the following pages). Salaries increased in 2024 as we now support two of our student members who work on the research of giant eland in the Niokolo Koba national park and giraffe (co-funded by the Giraffe Conservation Foundation). Other expenses consisted of the production of new merchandise, administrative costs, labour costs and other expenses.



**THANKS TO ALL
OF OUR DONORS!**

Donations contribute, to a large extent, to the income of the association.

In 2024, we received a donation of CZK 150,000 from the **Safari Park Dvůr Králové**, which was dedicated to giant eland conservation and protecting the biodiversity of West and Central Africa, in cooperation with EAZA zoos.

The **Pilsen Zoo** again supported us by almost CZK 144,000 from their 2023 public collection. The funds were used for the monitoring of giant elands in the Niokolo Koba National Park, which is realised in cooperation with DPN (Direction des Parcs nationaux) and Panthera Senegal, and for the start of cooperation with the Boundou and Falémé reserves, Senegal.

Many thanks also go to the **Ostrava Zoo** and the **Municipality of Ostrava**, which donated CZK 50,000 as part of the Three Crowns of Entry project. This amount supported fieldwork in the Bandia and Fathala reserves in Senegal and genetic monitoring of antelopes.

Hodonin Zoo supported our antelope project through its partner with CZK 25,000.

We raised CZK 24,000 from **our public collection**. Furthermore, thanks to the **darujme.cz** project, we collected more than CZK 56,000.

Other equally important donations came from the ACC company and private donors.

Thank you!!

GIANT ELAND CONSERVATION

We processed camera trap images of giant eland from 2022 and 2023 collected in Niokolo Koba National Park by the Directorate of National Parks Senegal and Panthera Senegal. Using dataset from 2021 + 2023 and Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture method based on individually identified elands, we estimated the size of the last wild population to be 316 individuals, of which 166 adults and 150 young in 2021 and 537 individuals in 2023, of which 251 adults and 286 young. Despite the population size estimates seem to show growing trend and success, the numbers are still low and the continuous support and monitoring is needed. A complex study on the population demographics and genetics of both, wild and semi-captive populations is currently being processed.

In the Central African Republic, we collaborate with the Chinko Nature Reserve managed by African Parks. In 2024 we were part of a group of expert consultants for the giant elands, and we continued to estimate the eland habitat preferences from collaring data.



The giant eland (*Tragelaphus derbianus*) is the largest species of antelope. Its Western subspecies, the Western giant eland (*T. d. derbianus*), is one of the most critically endangered animals in the world. Its last remaining wild population lives only in the Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal.

The Eastern subspecies *T. d. gigas* occurs in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, possibly also in Chad. This subspecies is listed by the IUCN Red List as vulnerable, and it is regionally extinct in a part of its former range.



GIANT ELAND STUDBOOK



The regular identification of eland calves in the Bandia and Fathala reserves took place in February 2024. Two members of our team spent two weeks in each of the reserves, documenting all individuals they were able to find and identifying the newborn calves and their mothers. Ostrava Zoo supported the mission by sending one of its employees to help with this task.

In the 2023/2024 season, 27 calves altogether were born in the reserves, 20 in Bandia and seven in Fathala. The identification cards, which contain photos and information about the individuals, were created for all newly observed animals and updated for the previously seen individuals.



The critically endangered western giant eland (*Tragelaphus derbianus derbianus*) lives only in Senegal. Besides its wild population in the Niokolo Koba National Park, there is a semi-captive population in two fenced wildlife reserves, Bandia and Fathala.

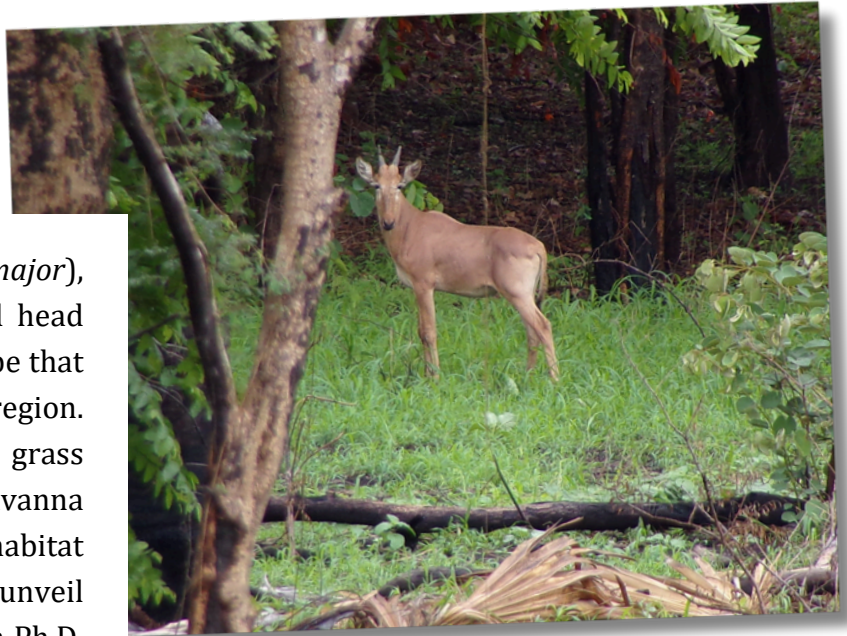
Our team has been monitoring the giant eland in the reserves since the population was established in 2000. The current stock is the offspring of only 6 founding animals, 5 females and a single male.



Since 2008, we have been publishing a studbook of Western giant eland in both reserves with detailed information about every individual and analyses of the status of the population. Based on data from 2024, the population contained 175 individuals, out of these 122 in Bandia and 53 in Fathala.

OTHER ANTELOPE SPECIES

Hartebeest (*Alcelaphus bucelaphus major*), with its unusual look due to elongated head and bracket-shaped horns is an antelope that struggles to survive in West African region. As a large grazer, it depends on grass habitats in the grassland-woodland savanna mosaic. We explore hartebeest habitat selection and movement behaviour to unveil possible causes of their vulnerability in Ph.D. thesis of Zuzana Kučerová, collaborating with African Parks, Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute (USA), and MSc students, FTZ CZU Prague.

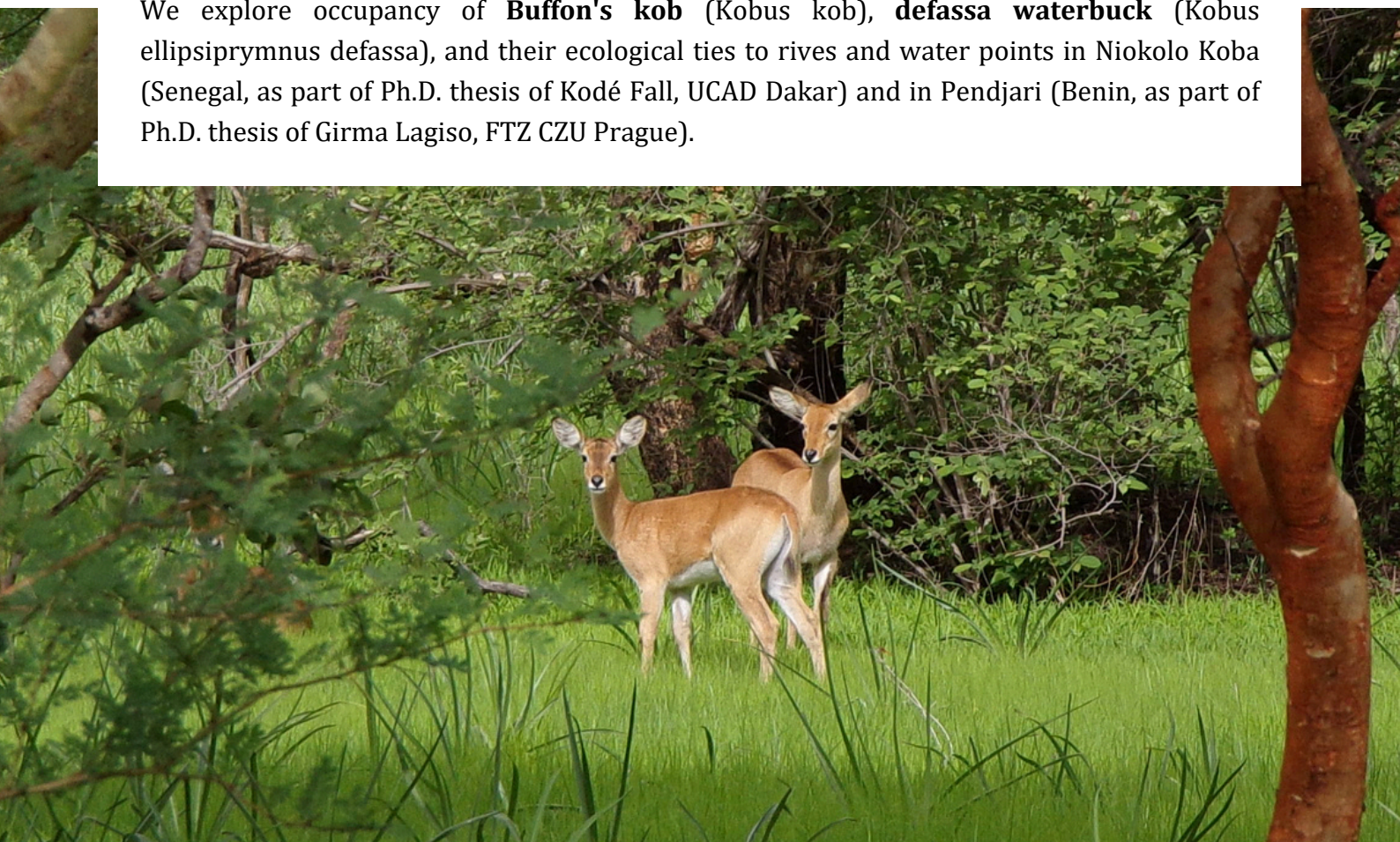


Wildlife requires more space than protected areas may offer. Functional landscape therefore needs to keep its ecological connectivity towards unprotected areas. We launched new studies on **bushbuck** (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) and **common warthog** (*Phacochoerus africanus*) as model species to compare their reliance on environment in Niokolo Koba and South Falémé (unprotected area) and their spatiotemporal behaviours. These investigations are based on active collaborations with DPN, Panthera Senegal, and ZSL within Darwin Initiative project (several MSc and Phd students are involved).

OTHER ANTELOPE SPECIES

Scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*) is model antelope that shows that reintroduction projects are critical for species conservation, that they can be successful, and that it is possible to achieve support of local communities. We contribute to its conservation through scientific expertise on how the reintroduced animals select their habitat in the Ouadi Rimé - Ouadi Achim Faunal Reserve in Chad provided to Caleb Ngaba and Julien Court (Neuchatel University, Switzerland) collaborating with Sahara Conservation and Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute (USA).

Surface water has always been a critical ecological resource for antelopes and other ungulate species. Water-dependent herbivores may become particularly vulnerable due to climate change or various anthropogenic activities and subsequent alterations of wetland dynamics. We explore occupancy of **Buffon's kob** (*Kobus kob*), **defassa waterbuck** (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*), and their ecological ties to rives and water points in Niokolo Koba (Senegal, as part of Ph.D. thesis of Kodé Fall, UCAD Dakar) and in Pendjari (Benin, as part of Ph.D. thesis of Girma Lagiso, FTZ CZU Prague).



Dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*), one of the largest of all gazelles, is one of the world's most endangered antelopes listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. One of the last populations of dama gazelle has been rediscovered in Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve in Niger in 2014. We provide insights into the dama gazelles population structure, phenotypic diversity, and distribution based on data collected by Sahara Conservation and as part of Ph.D. thesis of Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou (FTZ CZU Prague).

CONSERVATION SCIENCE & COLLABORATIONS



In 2024, we have proudly inaugurated the new research base in Niokolo Koba National Park, constructed with the support of the Czech Embassy in Senegal, realized Panthera Senegal under the auspices of DPN. Eland research (as the research of other large mammals in the Eastern part of NKNP) therefore becomes much more effective!

In cooperation with Zoological Society of London (ZSL), managing the Project Lycaon focused primarily on wild dog conservation with funding from Darwin initiative, we realised the first field actions also outside the park boundaries. First, we checked the camera trap stations in the Falémé hunting zone with a very interesting overlap of human activities and wildlife presence. And we also launched a new collaboration with the Boundou Community reserve in Eastern Senegal. As such, we will be able to see which species of antelopes are still present outside of the national park boundaries and even more importantly, we will try to understand why! How do they manage the coexistence with humans and livestock?

Last but not least, our longterm partnership with Giraffe Conservation Foundation got an official framework. Together we are working to provide a solid scientific data for the conservation of West African giraffe!



ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

As capacity building and the support of local scientists belong to the core activities of our NGO, we were glad to assist the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, CZU Prague, with the Erasmus+ mobilities. In 2024, four partner universities participated in the academic exchanges of professors and students in our target regions:

- University Iba Der Thiam, Thiès, Senegal
- University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger
- University Dan Dicko Dankoulodo, Maradi, Niger
- University of Bangui, Central African Republic



Erasmus+ mobility grants

Erasmus+ is an international programme supporting students' mobilities around the world financed by the EU. Our home institution, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ), is active and successful in developing collaborations with universities in Africa. Together with the expertise of Antelope Conservation, we are proudly supporting local teams and building capacities for research and conservation of antelopes and other wildlife.

IN THE FIELD



In February, our Ph.D. student and social media specialist, Kristýna Stehlíková, who is researching the population dynamics of the Western giant eland, joined our partners in Senegal for the annual Ecological Monitoring Project. Together with the Directorate of National Parks Senegal, Panthera Senegal, and Project Lycaon from ZSL, she participated in the mission in Niokolo Koba National Park. Working alongside six teams of rangers and researchers, she helped deploying camera traps across the southeastern part of the park, together with monitoring for signs of wildlife and illegal activity in the park.

Besides the contribution to wildlife conservation in the Niokolo Koba NP, the fieldwork gave Kristýna a valuable hands-on experience in wildlife monitoring in savanna ecosystems and allowed her to build strong working relationships with local conservation teams. Such mutual exchange of experience is opening new opportunities for enhancing conservation science partnerships. We look forward to welcome more students from the range countries!



WHERE WE MET



Scientific conferences

Antelope Conservation is a world-unique NGO which bases its conservation action on solid conservation science. That's why you can meet us at many important wildlife conservation conferences where we proudly share our outputs and exchange experience and inspiration with other conservation scientists.

In 2024, we shared our results with the zoo community during the **EAZA Conservation Forum in Ostrava**, **EAZA Antelope and Giraffid TAG in Rome** and the **EAZA Annual Conference in Leipzig**.

We are also proud to be part of the **Saharo-Sahelian Group of Interest (SSIG) Conference**, where we had the opportunity to share our work progress with many people passionate about antelopes.



WHERE WE MET

Meetings with the public in the Czech Republic

As usual, the Czech events were strongly linked to the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU Prague), where prospective students and their parents could learn about our work, especially during the Open Days. We also participated in the CZU Garden party, Harvest fest in Láň, and Researchers Night events. However, the autumn exhibition of the 7x7 family photography called 'Beauty of the West African Savannah' belonged to the fanciest event.

In cooperation with the Czech zoos, we prepared the programme for the 'Antelope Days' where we introduced the importance of antelope conservation, sold our souvenirs and offered face painting for children during the event.

In December, we visited the students of Karlín Grammar School, and we sold antelope Christmas gifts on the premises of the CZU Canteen.



19.-20.1. Open Days CZU Prague
22.3. Open Days CZU Prague
20.4. Earth Day in Malešice park, Prague
4.5. Antelope Day in Plzeň Zoo
18.5. Antelope Day Ústí nad Labem Zoo
12.6. Annual membership meeting of the NGO
15.6. Garden Party CZU Prague
1.7. Antelope Day in Jihlava Zoo
17.8. Antelope Day in Ostrava Zoo

27.-28.7. African weekend in Safari Park Dvůr Králové
6.9. CZU harvest festival in Láň
7.9. Antelope Day in Olomouc Zoo
14.9. Team building trip to Hodonín Zoo
27.9. Researchers Night at CZU Prague
3.10. Exhibition of the 7x7 Family, CZU Prague
8.11. Open Days CZU Prague
12.12. Conference Gymnázium Karlín, Prague
16.-18.12. Christmas sales CZU Prague

DONATE

DONATE AND HELP US SAVE ANTELOPES!

Antelopes are vital components of African ecosystems, where they play a pivotal role as:

- herbivores, significantly affecting plant species diversity;
- ecosystem engineers, they shape the habitat for other species (e.g. insects, birds and small mammals);
- a natural prey for carnivores, thus contributing to their survival;
- animals contributing to the dispersal of plant seeds;
- a source of meat for local people.

In total, there are over 90 species of antelopes, and most of them live in Africa. However, many antelope species are threatened by loss of habitat, overhunting and competition with livestock. How antelopes are able to adapt to changing environmental conditions is unknown for most species.

Antelope Conservation is dedicated to the research and conservation of antelopes in West and Central Africa. Better knowledge of antelopes, their ecology and environment helps us to protect them effectively.

Did you know there are 1,000 critically endangered giant pandas remaining in the wild, while only 200 individuals of the largest antelope, the Western giant eland?

Help us protect antelopes!

Fundraising campaign

to support conservation activities
and antelope monitoring in
West and Central African savanna

ANTELOPE
CONSERVATION



SCAN TO
DONATE!



THANK YOU

We are especially grateful to our core collaborators:

Jana Ptačinská Jirátová, Lenka Juříková, Jan Svitálek

The most active volunteers:

Petr Fedorov, Petr Hána, Radka Melcrová, Martina Šandová,
Michaela Kopřivová Stejskalová



Many thanks belong to our collaborators:

Thierry Aebischer, Markéta Antonínová, Linda Babiánková, Dan Bárta, Jiří Barvíř, Iva Bernáthová, Barbora Černá Bolfíková, Philippe Chardonnet, Christian Dering, Christophe Dering, Abdou Diouf, Alena Divišová, Anna Dupalová, Julian Fennessy, Markéta Gloneková, Lucie Grošatfová, Ibrahima Gueye, Mallé Gueye, Lucien Haddad, Philipp Henschel, Jaroslav Haimy Hyjánek, Matouš Hladovec, Meyer de Kock, Martin Krug, Zuzana Kučerová, David Mallon, Miloslav Machálek, Christoff Marais, Erik Marary, Chele Martinez Marti, Ibrahima Ndao, Arame Ndiaye, Silvie Neradilová, Jiří Novák, Rob Ogden, Lenka Pokorná, Angelo Poupard, Přemysl Rabas, Thomas Rabeil, Pierre-Cyril Renaud, Jacques Rezk, Georges Rezk, Hynek Roubík, Divyadharshini Shanthakrishnan, Jana Skokanová, Jan Stejskal, Michal Šťastný, Jiří Trávníček, Hana Trousilová, Jiří Váhala, Roman Vodička, Rosie Woodroffe, Babacar Youm, Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou, Miroslav Zámečník, František Zouhar...

...and many others, including employees of Senegalese reserves, DPN, Czech zoological gardens and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (together with the involved students of FTZ)

....and all donors, supporters, fans and buyers of our promotional items.

THANK YOU FOR
BEING WITH US!



Faculty of Tropical
AgriSciences

RÉSERVE
de
BANDIA



FATHALA
wildlife reserve réserve naturelle



ZOO
OSTRAVA



Zoo Hodonín





ANTELOPE
CONSERVATION

Annual Report 2024

ANTELOPE CONSERVATION, z. s.

Kamýcká 129, Praha - Suchdol, 165 00

Czech Republic

ID No.: 22858598, VAT No.: CZ22858598

info@antelopes.cz

www.antelopes.cz

