

Annual Report



2025

ANTELOPE
CONSERVATION



INTRODUCTION

A photograph of two antelopes, likely giant elands, in a lush green savanna. One antelope is standing and looking towards the camera, while the other is grazing on the grass. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees.

ANTELOPE CONSERVATION, founded in 2010, is the only NGO in the world dedicated to the conservation of antelope. We provide expertise for the conservation of the world's largest antelope, the giant eland, along with other antelope species. We contribute to the conservation of the entire savanna ecosystem through solid scientific knowledge and capacity building. We are based at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU), and we work across the West and Central African savannas.

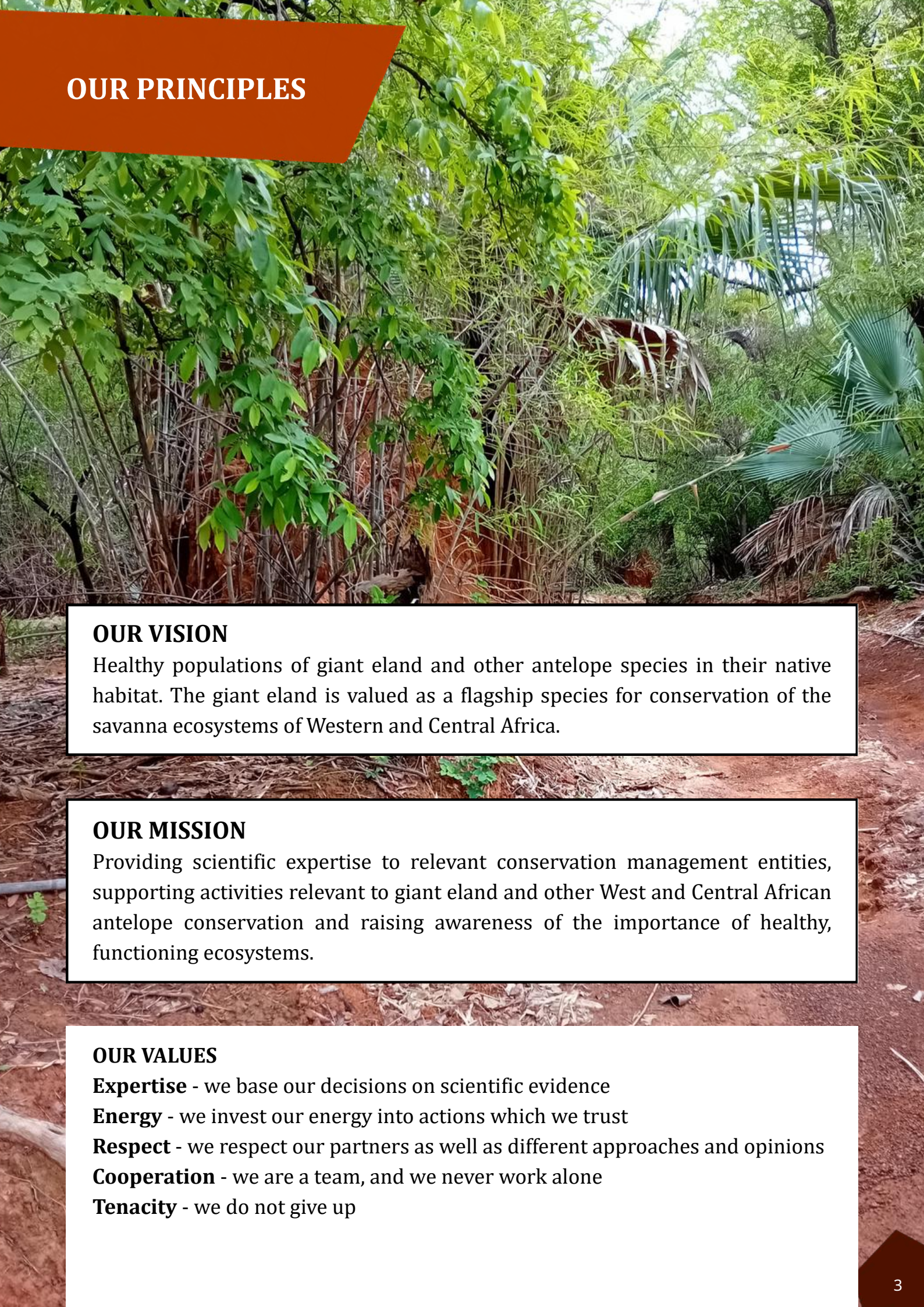
Dear friends of the giant eland and the African savanna,

We are pleased to present our new annual report, which provides an overview of our activities in 2025. This year was particularly significant as we celebrated 15 years since the founding of Antelope Conservation and 25 years since the initiation of the first antelope conservation projects at CZU. We maintained our active pace this year as well. We are now in communication with representatives from all countries where the giant eland continues to survive. In addition to our traditional activities in the reserves and natural habitats of Senegal, we are excited to announce the commencement of cooperation in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Chad. It remains true that we are the sole organization dedicated to the conservation of the giant eland and other key species of savanna herbivores in West and Central Africa. This achievement would not be possible without your support.

Thank you for your continued support and for remaining with us!

On behalf of the Antelope Conservation team,


Associate Professor Karolína Brandlová, Ph.D.



OUR PRINCIPLES

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 savanna 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

OUR TEAM



Karolína Brandlová
Chairwoman

Tamara Fedorova
Office manager

Pavla Hejcmanová
*Project & research
specialist*

Markéta Grůňová
Education, community outreach

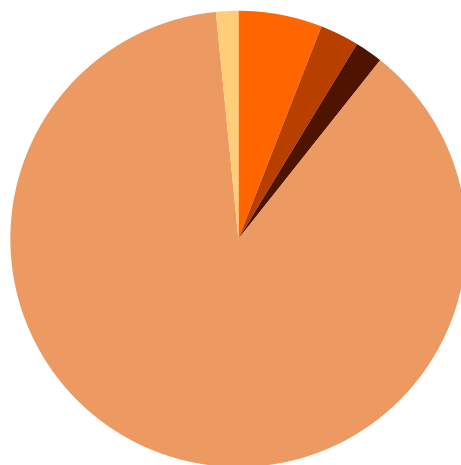
Kristýna Stehlíková
Data analyst, social media

MEMBERS

In 2025, the association comprised 253 members. The list of regular members from legal entities remained unchanged and included Safari Park Dvůr Králové and the zoos of Plzeň, Ostrava, Olomouc, Košice, Hodonín, and Jihlava. For our most engaged members, donors, and volunteers, we arranged a teambuilding and brainstorming excursion to the Ústí nad Labem Zoo.



- Regular Members - persons (15)
- Regular Members - legal entities (7)
- Executive Board (5)
- Sympathizers (222)
- Honorary Members (4)



FINANCIAL REPORT

Donations comprised the majority of our income in 2025. See more information on the next page. Other sources of income included the sale of merchandise at events (including face painting), our e-shop, and custom-made merchandise for our partners. Incomes from membership fees remains notably high, boosted by contributions from Safari Park Dvůr Králové and Plzeň Zoo. Consequently, membership fees continue to constitute a substantial portion of our income.

Revenues for 2025	CZK
Donations	484,000
Membership fees	108,000
Mechandising and services	195,000
Total	787,000

Expences for 2025	CZK
Projects realization (fieldwork, travel costs, equipment)	390,000
Production of promotional items	98,000
Conferences and scientific meetings	134,000
Salaries	410,000
Other bussines trips (presentations, meetings)	105,000
Administration and other costs	55,000
Total	1,192,000

Expenses primarily pertained to the execution of projects in Senegal and other countries (details provided on the subsequent pages), including the acquisition of test tail trackers. The association's wage expenses rose in 2025 due to the employment of four permanent part-time staff members. Additional expenses encompassed travel, conference fees, the production of new promotional materials, administrative costs, and other minor expenditures (refer to the table on the left).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO ALL OUR DONORS!



Donations constitute a substantial portion of the association's revenue. In 2025, we received a donation of CZK 150,000 from **Safari Park Dvůr Králové**, which was utilized not only for the protection of giant eland but also for collaboration with zoos and the development of an EAZA strategy for identifying and assessing in situ projects.

Plzeň Zoo has once again contributed to our efforts through proceeds from a public collection, totaling CZK 195,967.13 for 2024. These funds were allocated in 2025 for the monitoring of giant eland in Niokolo Koba National Park, conducted in collaboration with DPN (Direction des Parcs nationaux) and Panthera Senegal. Additionally, the funds supported the monitoring of giant eland in reserves throughout Senegal and provided supplementary food for them.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to **Ostrava Zoo** and the Ostrava City Hall for their generous donation of CZK 60,000 from the entrance fees as part of the Three Crowns project. This contribution has facilitated field research in the Bandia and Fathala reserves, as well as the Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal.

In 2025, we raised CZK 73,199.47 through our **public collection**. The funds from this collection facilitated the execution of a workshop focused on community engagement in Senegal and also contributed partially to the acquisition of trail tail trackers (GPS tracking devices) for antelopes. Thanks to the **darujme.cz** initiative, we received donations totaling CZK 36,900 to support the activities of the association. Other significant contributions were received from private donors.

Thank you!

CONSERVATION OF THE GIANT ELAND

In Senegal, we analyzed images of giant eland from 2022 and 2023 captured by camera traps deployed by DPN and Panthera Senegal in Niokolo Koba National Park. Utilizing data from 2021 and 2023, we estimated the size of the last remaining wild population through the Spatially Explicit Capture-Recapture method, based on individual antelope identification, at 316 individuals in 2021 (166 adults and 150 juveniles) and 537 individuals in 2023 (251 adults and 286 juveniles). While population estimates indicate an upward trend, the numbers remain low, necessitating ongoing conservation and monitoring efforts. We have finalized a comprehensive study on the demography and genetics of both wild and captive populations, which we anticipate will be published as a scientific article soon. We continue to model population viability using Population Viability Analysis (PVA), enabling us to project the future development of antelope numbers over the coming decades.

In the Central African Republic, we are collaborating with the Chinko Reserve, overseen by African Parks. In 2025, we participated in the giant eland expert advisory group and continued our investigation into habitat preferences utilizing satellite collar data. Below, you can read about the research route that was successfully completed in 2025.



The giant eland (*Tragelaphus derbianus*) is the largest antelope species. Its western subspecies, *T. d. derbianus*, ranks among the most endangered animals globally. The last remaining wild population exists solely in the Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal.

The eastern subspecies *T. d. gigas* is found in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and Chad. This subspecies is designated as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and is regionally extinct in portions of its original habitat.

GIANT ELAND STUDBOOK

In February 2025, a routine identification of giant eland calves was conducted in the Bandia and Fathala reserves. Two members of our team dedicated two weeks to each reserve, meticulously documenting all observed individuals and identifying newborn calves along with their mothers. Ostrava Zoo contributed to the mission by dispatching one of its employees to assist with this endeavor.

A total of 17 calves were born in the reserves during the 2024/2025 season: seven in Bandia and ten in Fathala. Identification cards, featuring photographs and details about each individual, were created for all newly observed animals and updated for those already known.

The critically endangered western subspecies of giant eland is found exclusively in Senegal. Alongside the wild population in Niokolo Koba National Park, there exist populations in two enclosed reserves, Bandia and Fathala.

Our team has been monitoring giant eland in reserves since the population was established in 2000. The current population descends from just six founding individuals: five females and one male. By 2025, it had grown to a total of 191 individuals.



Since 2008, we have published a studbook for the Western giant eland in both reserves, containing detailed information on each individual and analyses of the population status. According to data from 2025, the population comprised 191 individuals, with 129 in Bandia and 62 in Fathala.

OTHER ANTELOPE SPECIES

The West African hartebeest (*Alcelaphus bucelaphus major*), characterized by its distinctive appearance, elongated head, and curved horns, is an antelope that faces significant challenges for survival in West Africa. As a grazer, it relies on grassland habitats within a mosaic of wooded savanna. In partnership with African Parks, the Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute (USA), and master's students at the FTZ CZU, we are examining the habitat selection and locomotion of the West African hartebeest to identify potential factors contributing to their vulnerability.



Wildlife requires more space than what protected areas can provide. Consequently, a functional landscape must preserve its ecological connectivity with unprotected regions. We have commenced new research on the African bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) and the African warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) as model species to assess their environmental needs in Niokolo Koba and the southern Falémé (unprotected area), as well as their activities over time and space. These studies are conducted in active collaboration with DPN, Panthera Senegal, and ZSL as part of the Darwin Initiative project, involving several master's and doctoral students.

OTHER ANTELOPE SPECIES

Surface water has consistently served as a vital ecological resource for antelopes and other ungulate species. Water-dependent herbivores may become particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change and various anthropogenic activities, which can alter wetland dynamics. Our team is examining the distribution of the Buffon's kob (*Kobus kob*) and the defassa waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*), as well as their ecological relationships with rivers and waterholes in Niokolo Koba (Senegal, as part of the doctoral thesis of Kodé Falla, UCAD Dakar) and in Pendjari (Benin, as part of the doctoral thesis of Girma Lagiso, FTZ CZU Prague).



The dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*), recognized as one of the largest gazelles globally, is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and ranks among the most imperiled antelope species worldwide. A remnant population of dama gazelles was rediscovered in 2014 within the Aïr & Ténéré Reserve in Niger. This study presents insights into the population structure of dama gazelles, along with their phenotypic diversity and distribution, derived from data collected by Sahara Conservation and as part of the doctoral research of Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou (FTZ CZU Prague).

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION



In 2025, two significant scientific publications were released, featuring contributions from members of the Antelope Conservation team.

In partnership with Sahara Conservation, we have published for the first time in the journal *Global Ecology and Conservation* the findings of extensive research conducted in the Aïr-Ténéré mountain range, located in the heart of the Sahara in Niger. The iconic dama gazelle has discovered sanctuary in these remote mountain valleys, where camera traps have been employed to gather unique data on its distribution, population, and herd composition. Additional results, offering insights into its coexistence with local communities, domestic animals, and wildlife, are expected to be released next year.



Zabeirou, A. R. M., Rabeil, T., Barrios, V., Wachter, T., Newby, J., Mallon, D., Hejzmanová, P. & Brandlová, K. (2025). The status and social structure of the critically endangered dama gazelle (*Nanger dama*) in the Aïr & Ténéré National Nature Reserve, Niger. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 64, e03976.



In collaboration with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, we published a study in the journal *Animal Conservation* that underscores the significance of meticulous monitoring of large mammal populations within savanna ecosystems. Focusing on the endangered West African giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis peralta*), whose population has risen from a mere 49 individuals in 1996 to over six hundred due to rigorous conservation efforts and monitoring in partnership with local communities in Niger, our research highlights the essential role of regular giraffe censuses and the factors contributing to their successful recovery. With virtually no poaching and the absence of predators, giraffes are experiencing unprecedented survival rates, particularly from the earliest and most vulnerable stages of life. In a separate study, we are currently modeling the factors that will influence their survival over the next century, and we anticipate sharing the results soon!



Vukelić, M., White, E. W., Fennessy, J., Zabeirou, A. R. M., Gašparová, K., Valle, S., Brown, M.B., Rabeil, T. & Brandlová, K. (2026). Monitoring African Megafauna in an Anthropogenic Landscape: A 15-Year Case Study of the Vulnerable West African Giraffe. *Animal Conservation*, 29(3), 235-248.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

Given that capacity building and support for local scientists are central to our association's mission, we were pleased to participate in the Erasmus+ mobility program at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. In 2025, two partner universities within our target regions engaged in academic exchanges involving professors and students:

- University Iba Der Thiam, Thiès, Senegal
- University of Bangui, Central African Republic

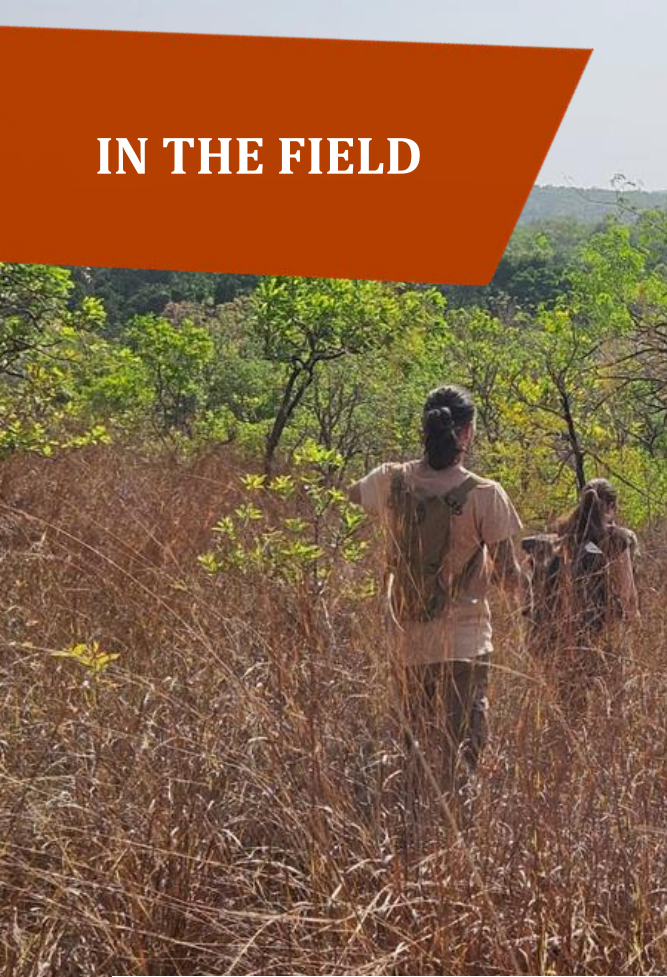
In both instances, our collaboration with the aforementioned universities is long-term and seeks to enhance academic partnerships in the realm of antelope research and conservation.



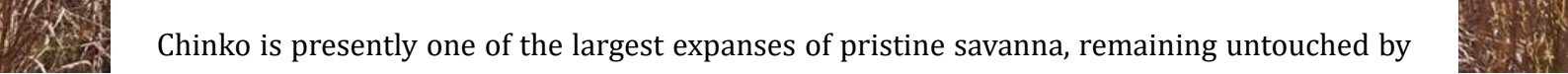
Erasmus+ funding

Erasmus+ is an international program funded by the EU to facilitate student mobility globally. Our home institution, the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ), is actively engaged and successful in fostering collaborations with African universities. In partnership with Antelope Conservation, we proudly support local teams and enhance capacity for research and conservation of antelopes and other wildlife.

IN THE FIELD



In February 2025, a meticulously planned mission to enhance collaboration with the Chinko Reserve in the Central African Republic was successfully executed. The Chinko Protected Area is situated in the southeastern region of the country, where African Parks, in partnership with the local government, oversees an impressive 30,000 km² of indigenous tree savanna, interspersed with a mosaic of rainforest in the southern section of the territory. The Chinko area has experienced a complex evolution throughout its history, marked by tragic massacres of elephants, both species of rhinoceros, giraffe, and other iconic large animal species, followed by a gradual recovery attributed to the relentless and dedicated efforts of local teams.



Chinko is presently one of the largest expanses of pristine savanna, remaining untouched by human activity in both Africa and the world. This distinctive region also serves as a habitat for the eastern giant eland, which Antelope Conservation and African Parks have collaborated to study and safeguard.

The February expedition enabled two team members, Dr. Karolína Brandlová and Professor Pavla Hejcmanová, to witness the giant eland and their expansive native habitat firsthand. In partnership with the African Parks team, they embarked on a journey tracing the path of the giant eland, initially on foot, followed by traversing rugged terrain in off-road Landcruisers, and ultimately taking to the skies in a small ultralight aircraft. With their newly acquired field experience, data analysis on the ecology of the giant eland is progressing with fresh insights, paving the way for further collaborative conservation and research initiatives.



IN THE FIELD



In mid-June, our PhD student and social media specialist, Kristýna, along with Master's student and volunteer, Matouš, traveled to Senegal to undertake a three-week internship with the ZSL Project Lycaon team in Niokolo Koba National Park. Throughout their stay, they engaged in wildlife monitoring, exchanged insights with local researchers, and simultaneously acquired new practical skills in field research and the conservation of endangered species.

Together with the team, they engaged in regular field surveys that focused, among other objectives, on locating African wild dogs. They successfully observed one of the packs hunting a bushbuck near the main road that traverses the park. This was a unique experience that proved to be immensely valuable for both of them.

They also dedicated part of their visit to observing antelopes, noting a significant population within the park. Although they did not encounter a giant eland on this occasion, their stay provided them with extensive knowledge regarding the local fauna, the operations of field monitoring, and the daily activities of conservation teams.

The internship proved advantageous not only from a professional perspective but also from a cultural standpoint, facilitating the enhancement of collaboration with local partners. For Matouš, it marked his inaugural field experience, representing a significant milestone in his ongoing commitment to conservation efforts.



WHERE WE MET

Academic symposiums

Antelope Conservation is a distinctive non-profit organization dedicated to conservation efforts grounded in rigorous scientific research. Consequently, we actively participate in numerous prominent wildlife conservation conferences, where we disseminate our findings and engage in the exchange of experiences and inspiration with fellow conservation scientists.

WESTERN GIANT ELAND

WILD ELAND IN NIOKOLO Koba
NATIONAL PARK, SENEGAL

FROM 170 IN 2000 TO 537 IN
2025!



In 2025, we once more participated in the Saharo-Saharan Group of Interest (SSIG) conference, where we had the opportunity to present our work to numerous individuals dedicated to the study and conservation of antelopes.

We also presented our findings to the zoo community at the EAZA Antelope and Giraffid mid-year TAG in Dvůr Králové, the Marwell Zoo antelope conference in the United Kingdom, and the EAZA annual conference in Łódź, Poland.

WHERE WE MET

Engagement with the public in the Czech Republic

In Czechia, our events, as in previous years, were associated with the promotion of the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZU), particularly during the Open Days, when prospective students and their parents had the opportunity to learn about our work. We also took part in the CZU Garden Festival, the Harvest Festival in Láň, and organized an exhibition and Antelope Day at the FTZ, where we commemorated 25 years of antelope conservation and 15 years of the NGO Antelope Conservation.

In collaboration with Czech zoos, we organized the annual "Antelope Days" events, which included several lectures highlighting the significance of antelope conservation, as well as promotional items and face painting activities for children.

Throughout the year, we organized lectures beyond CZU and the zoo, and at year's end, we traditionally attended the volunteer conference at Karlín Grammar School. The students from this institution also created illustrations for our annual calendar for 2026.



- 18.1. Open Day at CZU, Prague
- 30.1. Lecture at Ostrava Zoo
- 7.4. Antelope Day at the FTZ CZU, Prague
- 15.-16.4. Easter markets at CZU, Prague
- 26.4. Earth Day at Malešice Park, Prague
- 20.5. Annual membership meeting
- 24.5. Presentation at Gorilla Coffee
- 1.6. Antelope Day at the Plzeň Zoo
- 7.6. Science Exhibition in Letňany, Prague
- 14.6. Garden Festival at CZU, Prague
- 28.6. Antelope Day at Jihlava Zoo.
- 21.7. Lecture at Safari Park Dvůr Králové

- 25.-27. African Weekend at Safari Park Dvůr Králové
- 9.8. Antelope Day at Ostrava Zoo
- 20.8. Lecture at Hodonín Zoo
- 5.9. CZU Harvest Festival in Láň
- 6.9. Antelope Day at the Olomouc Zoo
- 11.9. Team-building excursion to the Ústí Zoo
- 26.9. Researchers' Night 2025, CZU, Prague
- 11.10. Lecture in Hostenice, Brno
- 5.11. Presentation at Ostrava Zoo
- 21.11. Open Day at the CZU, Prague
- 2.-4.11. Christmas markets at CZU, Prague
- 8.12. Conference at Karlín High School, 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



SCAN TO
DONATE!



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTELOPE CONSERVATION



In 2025, we commemorated 25 years of the team involvement in antelope conservation and 15 years from the foundation of the Antelope Conservation NGO.

The team members commenced the protection of antelopes in 2000 as part of a development project at the former Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (currently the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences), CZU Prague.

On August 18, 2010, the Derbianus Czech Society for African Wildlife, o. s., now known as Antelope Conservation, z.s., was established by staff and students of the Institute. The 25-year journey of antelope conservation was showcased in an exhibition held in April at the FTZ CZU.



IT'S ANTELOPE CONSERVATION BIRTHDAY!

READY FOR GIFTS HERE:





WE WILL MAKE SURE ANTELOPES WILL MAKE IT FOR OTHER 25 YEARS, WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

CONTACT: info@antelopes.cz



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTELOPE CONSERVATION



We commemorated the anniversary of antelope conservation and collaboration in biodiversity conservation not only in Prague but also in Dakar, where the initiative originated. At the Senegalese National Assembly, in partnership with the Group of Members of Parliament for the Protection of the Environment (REPES) and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Dakar, we organized lectures that encapsulated the history and future of our collaboration, a roundtable discussion, and the inauguration of an exhibition to celebrate the 25th anniversary of our partnership. Numerous esteemed guests and partners accepted the invitation, including representatives from the Directorate of National Parks of Senegal, the SPEFS organization managing antelope conservation reserves, representatives of the European Commission, and universities in Dakar and Thiès, as well as the Lycaon project, among others.





During the autumn visit to Senegal, multiple meetings were convened with the Directorate of National Parks of Senegal, during which we outlined subsequent collaborative measures for the conservation of giant eland and other ungulate species inhabiting the West African savanna. The meeting was chaired by the Director of National Parks of Senegal, Colonel Ibrahima Gueye, and included participation from the Antelope Conservation team as well as representatives from the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Dakar, namely Ambassador Pavel Procházka and Consul Hana Trousilová.



THANK YOU

We are especially grateful to our core collaborators:

Jana Ptačinská Jíratová, Lenka Juříková, Jan Svitálek

The most active volunteers:

Linda Babiánková, Petr Fedorov, Petr Hána, Matouš Hladovec, Radka Melcrová, Martina Šandová, Michaela Kopřivová Stejskalová

Many thanks to our collaborators:

Thierry Aebischer, Markéta Antonínová, Dan Bárta, 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, Zuzana Bonhomme Hankeová, Philipp Henschel, Jaroslav Haimy Hyjánek, Serge Kamgang, Meyer de Kock, Martin Krug, Zuzana Kučerová, Arthur Laboureur, David Mallon, Miloslav Machálek, Christoff Marais, Erik Marary, Chele Martinez Marti, Ibrahima Ndao, Arame Ndiaye, Silvie Neradilová, Maha Ngalié, Jiří Novák, Rob Ogden, Lenka Pokorná, Angelo Poupard, Pavel Procházka, Přemysl Rabas, Thomas Rabeil, Pierre-Cyril Renaud, Jacques Rezk, Georges Rezk, Hynek Roubík, Divyadharshini Shanthakrishnan, Jana Skokanová, Jan Stejskal, Michal Šťastný, Serge Patrick Tadjó, Jiří Trávníček, Hana Trousilová, Jiří Váhala, Arianna Vicari, Roman Vodička, Rosie Woodroffe, Babacar Youm, Abdoul Razack Moussa Zabeirou, Miroslav Zámečník, František Zouhar and all members of the 7x7 Family...
...and many others, including employees of Senegalese reserves, Czech zoos and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (together with the involved FTZ students)
....and to all donors, supporters, fans and everyone who supported us by purchasing our promotional items.

THANK YOU FOR
BEING WITH US!



Faculty of Tropical
AgriSciences





ANTELOPE
CONSERVATION

Annual Report 2025

ANTELOPE CONSERVATION, z. s.

Kamýcká 129, Praha - Suchdol, 165 00

Czech Republic

ID No: 22858598, VAT No: CZ22858598

info@antelopes.cz

www.antelopes.cz

