

IMPACT UPDATE

Jan-Apr 2026

Conservation in action | Your support, real Impact,
lasting change



CARE for WILD

• RHINO •



Save Rhinos, Save People, Save Tomorrow

RHINO UPDATES

Rescue | Rehabilitation | Rewilding & Release

4

rhinos rescued
Jan-Apr 2026

135

total
rhinos rescued

2

rhinos admitted
with Injuries
Jan-Apr 2026

32

total rhinos
admitted with
Injuries



All figures representative of period Jan-Apr 2026 unless stated otherwise

11

total critically
endangered black rhinos
rescued

10

rhinos
released
Jan-Apr 2026

33

rhino calves born to
rewilded & released
orphans

9

total number of
orphans drinking
milk

124

total white rhinos
rescued

64

total rhinos
released

2

critically endangered
black rhino births

4392

litres of milk
replacement
formula used



Wilson's Story

A Fragile Beginning and a Fierce Fight

Saving a species is never the work of one person. It is the strength of many hands, many skills, and many hearts coming together with a shared purpose.

In January 2026, that collective effort gave a small rhino calf a second chance. A calf around two days old was spotted with life threatening injuries.

A coordinated rescue was immediately mobilised. Veterinarian Dr Ben Muller, together with helicopter pilot Jana Meyer of Hope for Wildlife Helicopter Services and the APNR park warden, safely airlifted the calf to Care for Wild.

On arrival, Petronel and the team were waiting at the helipad. He was immediately transferred into the rhino ambulance and taken to our purpose built Intensive Care Unit and new clinic, where veterinarian Dr Chris Smith, joined the team to begin emergency stabilisation.

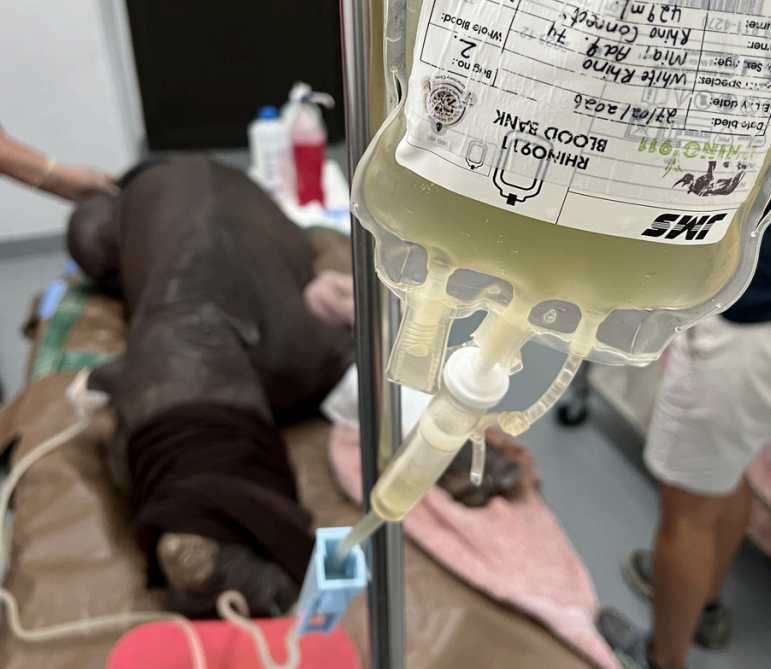
He was placed on intravenous fluids to treat dehydration and help his small body cope with shock. Full triage followed, each wound carefully assessed. A detailed examination revealed significant trauma to his ear and legs.



Blood tests and X-rays provided critical insight, allowing the veterinary team to develop a precise and carefully managed treatment plan.

After wound care, dressing, and bandaging, he was settled into ICU where he could rest whilst the team watched over him.





Wilson required 24-hour intensive support. Every day and every night, someone was always there. Preparing milk and feeding him, administering medication for infection and pain, cleaning wounds, changing bandages, and monitoring every small change. Comfort, reassurance and a lot of love.

But the greatest challenge by far was his compromised immune system. Having likely not received colostrum from his mother, Wilson had no natural defence against infection. To support him, a plasma transfusion was administered containing vital antibodies in order to help strengthen his immune system. Intravenous nutrition also formed a key part of his care.



Cases like Wilson's are extremely complex but, these are the cases we receive. The most fragile, the most difficult, and often the most uncertain. After a brave fight, little Wilson passed away with his care team by his side. In times like this it's important to remember that we never lose, we always learn, and we will always know that we did absolutely everything possible to give him the very best chance.

A Special Thank You

Rettet Das Nashorn
Perdita Luebbe-Scheuermann
Rhino 911
Rhino Connect
Animal Survival International



Nguni, Wagyu & Abby

Collaborative Efforts Ensure Rapid Rescue

In the early hours of 28 February 2026, a call came through from the Kruger National Park. Rangers from the Jock Environmental Monitoring Unit had located two young male rhino calves, alone in the bush.

At approximately 6–8 months and 12–14 months old, they were far too young to be without their mothers. One calf had visible injuries. A potential poaching, or young calves pushed out by a testosterone-fuelled bull? In the absence of their mothers, the two calves had found each other, but would not have survived long alone.

What followed was a carefully coordinated and complex rescue operation, bringing together the SANParks, JEMU and Care for Wild teams.

The terrain proved very challenging, with one of the calves moving to an area inaccessible by vehicle. The decision was made to airlift Nguni, the younger of the two.

Suspended safely beneath the helicopter, he was flown to Care for Wild. The older calf, Wagyu, was recovered by the ground team, placed on a drip, and transported by trailer.

Nguni arrived at Care for Wild at 16:21, lowered carefully from the helicopter onto the waiting recovery vehicle. Once the helicopter had landed, an immediate veterinary assessment was conducted before he was moved to our juvenile high care unit. Wagyu arrived shortly after.

Within an hour, the two calves were reunited and they recognised each other immediately. The sense of relief was unmistakable, together again. This companionship would prove critical.





Nguni adapted quickly. He began taking a bottle and showed early signs of settling, responding positively to the care team and the new environment. Wagyú's journey proved more difficult. It became clear that he had carried the greater burden in the wild. His injuries were severe, but it was the hidden trauma and stress that seemed to weigh heaviest on him. He struggled to eat, to stand comfortably, and to regain strength. The team poured everything they had into supporting him.

Then on the 8th April, Care for Wild received another rescued orphan, a young female later named Abby. Abby and Nguni connected immediately. The two calves called softly to one another from the moment they met.

Companionship plays a vital role in the rehabilitation of orphaned rhino calves, helping them feel calm, reassured, and secure during an incredibly vulnerable time.

These bonds not only provide emotional comfort but also encourage natural behaviours and social development, both of which are essential for successful rewilding and eventual release back into protected wild areas.





Celebrating 5 New Rhino Lives

From Orphans to Mothers

Since January 2026, five rhino calves have been born within our protected populations, each one a powerful reminder of what our work is all about. What a blessing and a responsibility.

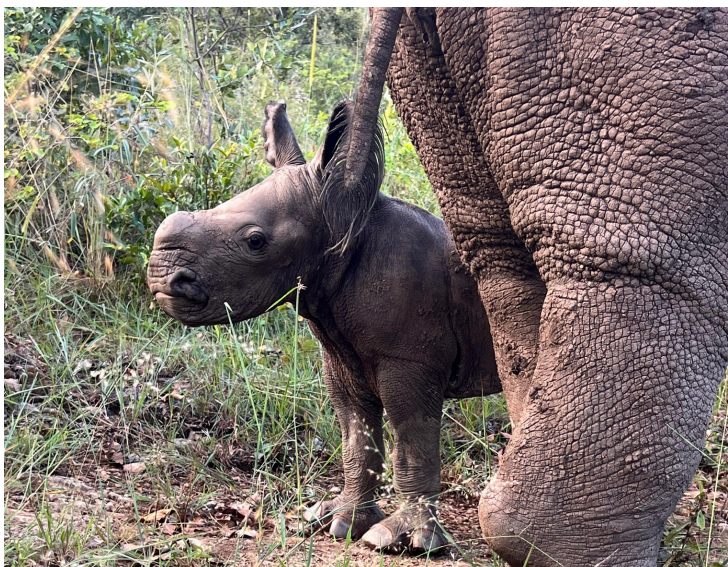
Among them is a beautiful critically endangered black rhino calf, a birth that carries particular weight in the context of global conservation efforts. Every new life matters, but for a species on the brink, each calf represents something far greater than a single success.

These births are not only a reflection of the success of our rehabilitation, rewilding, and release programme, they are part of a much bigger picture.

For rhinos to survive, it is not enough to simply save individuals. We must establish and protect viable, breeding populations in secure environments where they can live, reproduce, and contribute to the long-term stability of the species. Each calf born into these conditions strengthens that population, adding to the genetic diversity and resilience needed for rhinos to endure into the future.

This is conservation at its most meaningful, where rescue leads to recovery, recovery leads to release, and release leads to new life. Among these recent births is a story that is particularly special.

Timbi has welcomed her third calf! Rescued in 2012 at just five months old, Timbi arrived as a tiny, frightened orphan. Over the years, we have watched her grow, slowly gaining strength, confidence, and independence. Now, she stands as a strong, experienced mother.





New Rhino & Wildlife Clinic

A Dream Twelve Years in the Making

Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary began at our current location with just two small buildings. No bomas, no intensive care unit, no offices, no feed stores, no volunteer village. Just the beginning of something that would grow through determination, belief, and a relentless commitment to saving rhinos.

Over the past 12 years we have evolved into a globally recognised, specialised rhino care facility and in mid-2025, one of our greatest dreams began to take shape.

A purpose-built, fully equipped Rhino and Wildlife Clinic. A space designed not only for critically ill and injured rhinos, but also to support wildlife in need across the province.

Construction was nearing completion when the first patient arrived, with little Wilson becoming the very first calf to receive care here.

Today, the clinic stands as a beautiful and highly functional space, designed with the realities of wildlife care in mind.

This facility represents a significant step forward, not just for Care for Wild, but for wildlife care across Mpumalanga.



Facilities Include:

- Fully equipped theatre and procedure room
- Dedicated wash bay for cleaning and wound management
- Preparation area for procedures
- Crane and pulley system designed to safely lift and support heavy animals
- Purpose-built space to house specialised veterinary equipment
- X-ray and ultrasound capability for faster and more accurate diagnostics
- Microscope
- Haematology and biochemistry blood analysers for on-site testing
- Anaesthetic machine to support safe surgical and medical procedures
- Laser therapy units and equine massage equipment to aid rehabilitation
- Viewing window allowing for observation of veterinary procedures
- Connected lecture area with a presentation screen for educational lectures and training



With Immense Gratitude
& Thanks

Keri Gillespie
Janet Horenstein
RGM Cranes
Blankets for Baby Rhinos
IDEXX
Rhino Conservation Partners
Dr James Mullen Legacy Fund



Expansion of the Juvenile Rhino High Care Unit

Advancing Care for Older Orphans

Another exciting development sees the expansion of the Juvenile Rhino High Care Unit.

The extension of this purpose-built facility has been specifically designed to accommodate orphaned rhino calves approximately 8 months and older. Calves of this age present a unique set of challenges. They are stronger, often more stressed, and far less accepting of humans.

This facility provides a safe and controlled environment for older, more independent, yet still highly vulnerable calves during the critical early stages of admission, triage, and stabilisation.

The unit has been constructed with strength and flexibility in mind. The boma foundations and reinforced poles are robust enough to safely hold even an injured adult cow and calf if needed.

It includes two night pens, one fitted with underfloor heating, as well as a dedicated treatment and observation area.

Practical design has been key. Stable doors at both the front and back allow vehicles to reverse directly up to the night pens, or even enter the boma from the rear gates.

The entire facility is also fitted with camera systems, allowing for unobtrusive 24-hour monitoring.

With an increasing number of older calves being admitted, facilities like this are essential and allow us to advance the standard of care we are able to provide.



With Immense Gratitude
& Thanks

Baby Rhino Rescue



CT Scan for Hercules

New Insight in Hercules' Recovery

Hercules travelled to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital at the University of Pretoria for a CT scan as we continue to determine the best long-term treatment and rehabilitation plan for this brave little rhino.

Hercules was admitted to Care for Wild in October 2024. He had survived a horrific hyena attack but arrived with devastating injuries. Severe trauma to his ear and multiple fractures to his front and hind legs.

Through the unrelenting dedication of the team around him, Hercules has continued to fight forward step by step.

He has made incredible progress but still experiences difficulties in the metacarpal region of the joint that was crushed in the attack. Understanding the extent of the remaining damage will assist in guiding the next stage of his care.



3 Rhinos Released

Restablishing Rhino Populations

Three more rhinos were successfully released into the growing protected population at Mountainlands, part of the Barberton Nature Reserve Complex that Care for Wild co-manages in partnership with the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency.

Mountainlands Nature Reserve spans approximately 18,000 hectares within the globally significant Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains and forms part of the UNESCO-listed Barberton Makhonjwa World Heritage Site.

Rhino conservation cannot rely solely on rescue and rehabilitation. The long-term survival of the species depends on protecting secure, genetically viable populations within large, well-managed ecosystems where rhinos can breed, disperse, and once again fulfil their ecological role in the landscape.







PROTECTION UPDATES

Honour, Discipline, Integrity

4284

total days without
Incursions
&
round the clock
protection

49

snare
removals

11

suspicious
activities logged



All figures representative of period Jan-Apr 2026 unless stated otherwise

80

operational
rangers

50

operational trap
cameras

60

operational
radios

996

rhino monitor
patrols

6

female
rangers

2

long range
bispectrum cameras

15

mobile devices for
data collection

2798.5
hours

of rhino monitor
patrols

14,268
km

of rhino monitor
patrols



K9 Unit

K9s on the Frontline

106

K9 unit
patrols

592.2

hours of K9
patrols

1451.1

km of K9
patrols

Sheriff, Cooper, and Loony continue to play an important role in supporting security operations across the reserve. Each dog has been trained for specialised tasks, with strengths ranging from apprehension to tracking and detection, forming an essential part of the wider protection team safeguarding the rhinos and reserve.

Behind every successful operational dog is constant training. Regular scenario work, obedience drills, tracking exercises, and exposure training are critical to maintaining these highly specialised skills and ensuring the dogs remain focused, disciplined, and effective in the field.



Mounted Unit

From Orphan to Herd

178

mounted unit
patrols

1165.3

hours of mounted
unit patrols

2674.4

km of mounted
unit patrols

A new and special addition to the herd is Peggy Sue, an orphaned foal who was previously being raised at the rehabilitation facility. She has now joined the Mounted Unit horses to begin the important process of socialisation and integration into a herd environment. This transition is a critical step in her development, allowing her to learn natural herd behaviour, build confidence, and grow within a stable social structure.

The Mounted Unit continues its vital work across the reserve with a team of 22 horses supporting daily patrols and rapid response operations in the field. Their presence on the ground remains a key advantage in covering difficult terrain and maintaining a constant protective presence within the landscape.



Protecting Perimeters

Extreme Weather Causes Widespread Damage

Conservation work rarely pauses for bad weather. Over the first four months of the year, relentless, heavy seasonal downpours turned the reserve's roads into rivers of mud and caused widespread damage to critical infrastructure. In April alone, certain sectors recorded a staggering 195mm of rainfall. Yet, our rangers and maintenance teams refused to let the elements compromise the safety of our wildlife.

Working through intense heat and thick mud, they manually slashed and cleared nearly 45 kilometers of boundary fence lines between February and April. They also demonstrated incredible ingenuity rebuilding a washed-away wooden access bridge and upcycling old mine terraces into a functional new training camp. Thanks to their immense grit, the reserve achieved zero perimeter fence breaches in April, a powerful testament to their dedication and resourcefulness .



Silent Killers

Relentless Sweeps for Snares

A wire snare is a poacher's most insidious tool: it is silent, cheap, indiscriminate, and devastatingly effective. Removing these hidden traps before an animal steps into one is one of our most vital daily tasks.

During the four months, our APU teams walked hundreds of kilometers in relentless pursuit of these traps, successfully locating and dismantling dozens of them. By April, we saw a massive 58% decrease in snare activity compared to March, with only five snares located.

Crucially, all five were classified as "very old" dormant traps that our teams successfully cleared before they could cause bycatch. Every single wire removed from the field represents a life saved, and these declining numbers prove that our boots-on-the-ground area domination is working.



Investing in the Next Generation of Ranger Leaders

Junior Leadership Courses

Protecting a wild landscape requires more than just advanced technology; it requires immense human dedication, physical endurance, and sharp tactical minds.

To ensure our security forces stay a step ahead of increasingly sophisticated poaching syndicates, we must constantly invest in our teams.

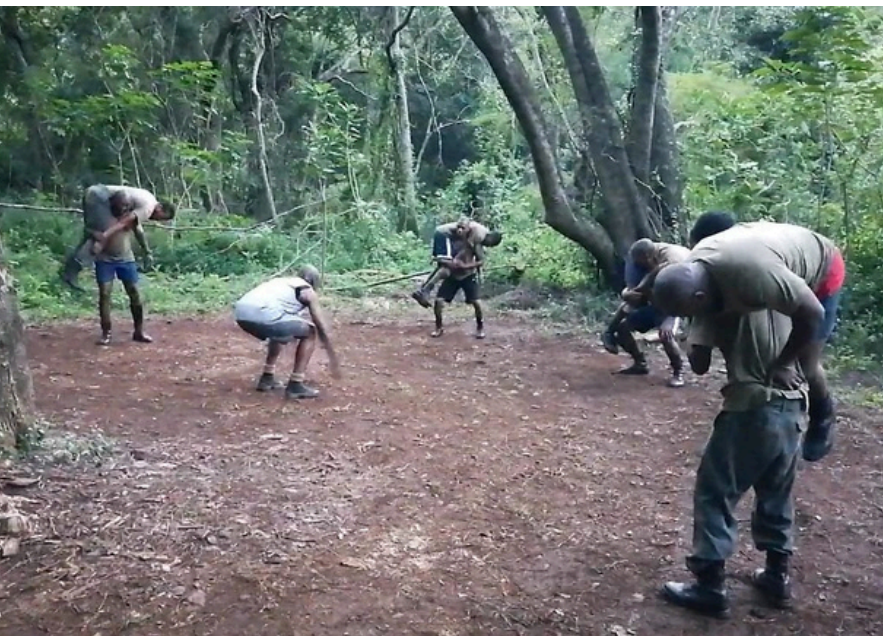
This March, we proudly celebrated the graduation of a highly dedicated group of rangers from our rigorous Junior Leader Course. 25 rangers took part, 3 female rangers and 22 males.

Over the course of an entire month, three different groups of individuals were pushed to their physical and mental limits, learning advanced leadership skills and complex field tactics.

By empowering these young leaders with world-class training, we are building a highly capable, adaptable, and deeply committed frontline team that will safeguard this reserve and our heritage for decades to come.

With Immense Gratitude
& Thanks

Investec





COMMUNITY UPDATES

True Conservation Begins with Local Communities

7

number of communities
supported by CFW

29

educational classroom
visits delivered

4

rural primary
schools supported

600

children in the
educational
program



All figures representative of period Jan-Apr 2026 unless stated otherwise

250

kg of fresh produce
delivered to schools

31

soccer teams

304

cattle
vaccinated

20

dogs
vaccinated

140

farmer
engagements

10

interns joined
Lomshiyo

50

interns
joined

65

children attended
school holiday
program





Herd Health Project

Livestock Support

Between January and April 2026, the herd health project strengthened rural livelihoods by supporting farmer mobilisation, livestock market access, and community engagement across multiple focal areas. Farmers from Sheba, Mandela, Mjindini, Caledonian, Palene and surrounding communities participated in cattle sale discussions, compliance processes, and agricultural coordination meetings. By the end of the reporting period more than 140 farmer engagements were facilitated through meetings, consultations, and household visits, helping improve participation in local livestock economies.



Improving Livestock Health and Welfare

The project delivered significant livestock health support through coordinated vaccination and treatment campaigns. During the reporting period, 304 cattle were vaccinated against Anthrax and Blackquarter, while 27 cattle received wound and parasite treatment interventions. Veterinary outreach also included the vaccination of 9 goats and 20 dogs against rabies, alongside deworming support for 20 dogs and 2 puppies. These interventions improved animal welfare, reduced disease risks, and strengthened farmer participation in preventative livestock healthcare.



Advancing Disease Prevention

The project strengthened community disease prevention efforts through farmer awareness and biosecurity education linked to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) preparedness. More than 50 farmers attended FMD awareness meetings facilitated in partnership with veterinary officials and the Department of Agriculture. Farmers received guidance on quarantine procedures, sanitation practices, livestock movement control, and farm biosecurity measures, helping improve preparedness against future livestock disease outbreaks.



Stronger Livestock Governance Systems

The programme played an important role in improving livestock governance, compliance, and ownership verification systems within participating communities. During the reporting period, 11 grazing permit applications were submitted for farmers requiring access to grazing areas, while 25 brandmark applications were coordinated through the Department of Agriculture. The project also facilitated Animal Identification Mark meetings and administrative support processes, strengthening livestock traceability, theft prevention, and farmer compliance with formal agricultural systems.



Operational Capacity for Veterinary Outreach

Operational improvements during the reporting period strengthened the project's capacity to deliver veterinary outreach services in remote rural areas. A major achievement was the successful coordination and deployment of a mobile kraal, which improved livestock handling, vaccination logistics, and field operations during animal health campaigns. The project also strengthened equipment preparation, transport coordination, and field planning processes, contributing to more efficient and effective livestock service delivery.



Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration

The project demonstrated strong collaboration between Care for Wild, Meat Naturally Africa, veterinary officials, the Department of Agriculture, local mines, and community leadership structures. Through coordinated meetings, field engagements, vaccination campaigns, and compliance support activities, stakeholders worked together to address livestock health, disease prevention, grazing access, and farmer support needs across multiple communities. This collaborative approach strengthened programme delivery while contributing to more integrated and sustainable rural development outcomes.



Nurturing Young Minds

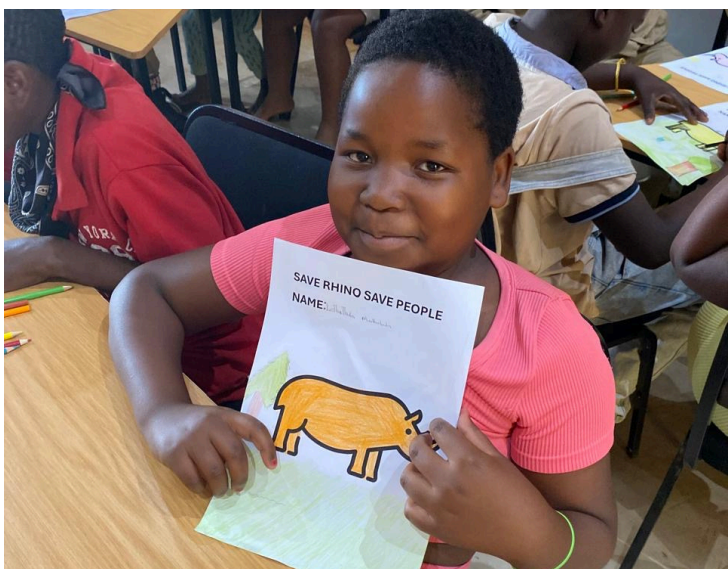
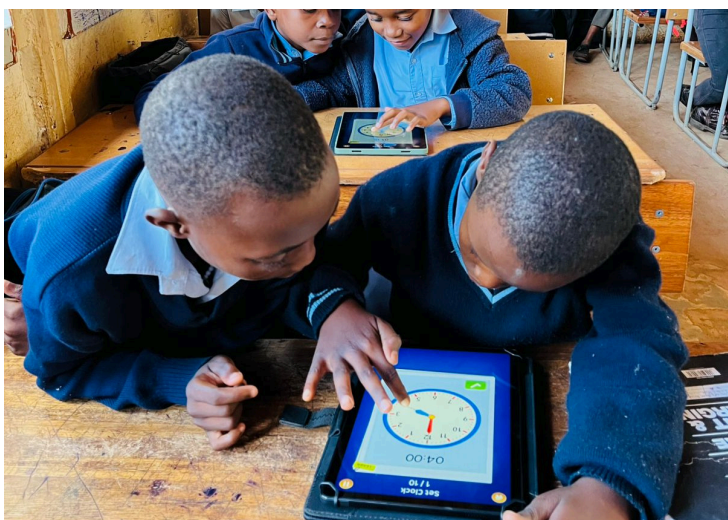
Transforming Classroom Education

The first four months of 2026 have been a deeply moving journey of growth for the Open Learning Academy, marking a transition from quiet preparation to a vibrant, high-impact presence in our local schools.

We began the year in by planting seeds of trust, quite literally, through our donation initiatives at Sheba Primary School. By sharing fresh produce like green peppers and butternuts with local families, we reinforced a simple but powerful message: we are here to support the whole community, not just the classroom.

This spirit of service set the stage for March, a month dedicated to professional excellence as our team underwent further intensive training at the Good Work Foundation in Hazyview.

This was an investment in our staff that fundamentally changed how we show up for our students; we evolved from managing simple classroom behaviour to actively "igniting" the neural pathways required for lifelong learning. Our educators mastered the art of the "Power Check-In," ensuring that before a single math problem is solved, every child feels seen, safe, and emotionally ready to engage.





The true magic happened in April when this preparation met the reality of the classroom.

We established a steady, weekly rhythm across Sheba, Fairview, Sinqobile, and Louieville Combined Primary Schools, seeing our reach explode from five staff members in training to over 600 students receiving direct educational support every single week.

It is a joy to witness our educators lead 210 eager learners at Fairview or 165 students at Louieville, using "brain break" songs and interactive tablets to turn a standard lesson into a high-energy adventure in discovery.

Even in classes of up to 116 children, the techniques we learned in March allow us to maintain a focused, joyful environment where curiosity thrives.

School	Total Learners Reached
Fairview Primary	210 (Grade 3 & 4)
Louieville Combined	165 (Grade 3 & 4)
Sheba Primary	122 (Grade 3 & 4)
Sinqobile Primary	103 (Grade 3 & 4)
Total Reach	600 Learners Weekly





Training Tomorrow's Conservationists

50 Interns Begin their Journey

Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary proudly welcomed 50 young men and women into its conservation and community development programme through the YES (Youth Employment Service) initiative in partnership with **Investec Bank**.

Before officially beginning their year-long placement at Care for Wild, the interns completed an intensive 15-day training course designed to equip them with practical skills and a deeper understanding of environmental stewardship and land management.

The training covered a wide range of essential conservation and operational skills, including:

- Alien invasive plant management
- Road repairs and infrastructure maintenance
- Fence maintenance and reserve upkeep
- Farming and agricultural support

These hands-on training modules ensure that each participant enters the programme with the confidence, discipline, and practical experience needed to contribute meaningfully to the daily operations of the sanctuary and its surrounding projects.

The partnership between Investec, the YES Programme, and Care for Wild demonstrates the powerful impact that can be achieved when conservation and youth development work hand in hand.

By creating employment opportunities within the environmental sector, the initiative not only supports young South Africans with valuable workplace experience, but also strengthens the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts on the ground.





Standing Together

A Pillar in a Time of Crisis

Being a good neighbor means showing up when it matters most, especially when nature is unpredictable. When heavy January rains caused river levels to rise dangerously high, Care for Wild immediately stepped up as a central communication hub, issuing early warnings to keep families in the surrounding communities safe.

Our veterinary team also rushed to treat a local farmer's prized cow suffering from metabolic distress. As the rains continued relentlessly into April, creating 22 high-water impassable river crossings and severe mud, our maintenance teams worked tirelessly to repair the roads and keep the routes accessible for the community. These moments of shared empathy and practical support solidify our role not just as a conservation entity, but as a vital community pillar.





Lomshiyo Community Farming Project

Rooted in Conservation

As the seasons shift, the farm is transitioning from summer crops into winter production, including cabbage, broccoli, spinach, and cauliflower. We are also harvesting our young macadamia orchards, which, despite their age, are already producing encouraging yields.

Two community members have now been trained as beekeepers, and several hives are already active on the farm. Bees play a critical role in pollinating the macadamia orchards, while flowering basil planted across the farm helps sustain the bee population.

Our first crop of seed maize will be harvested within the next four weeks, with plans underway to expand green maize production for sale to local hawkers and surrounding communities during the upcoming summer season.

A major focus this season has been the way we fertilise and nourish our crops. We have intensified our use of rhino dung compost across the farm and also as a natural planter medium. Crop health and soil quality have improved significantly, reinforcing the powerful full-circle relationship between conservation and agriculture.

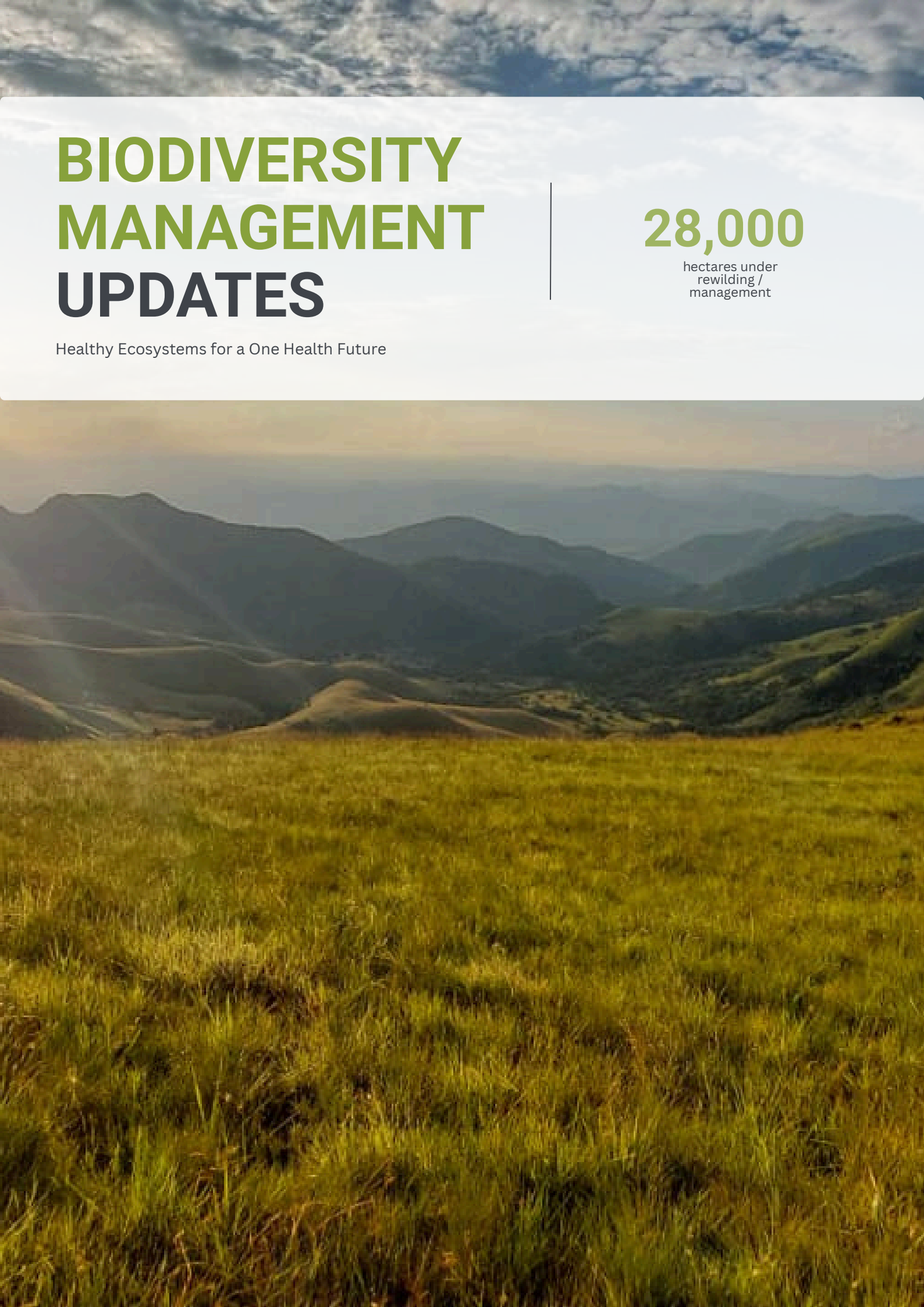
Crops are supplied to local supermarkets, community buyers and resellers, as well as feeding schemes that support schools, women's clinics, and orphanages.

We completed conservation and farming training for Investec YES interns, with an additional 10 interns recently joining the farm. The team will also bale approximately four hectares of grass, which will contribute toward supporting the feeding programme for the rhinos at Care for Wild.

The final two hectares of summer butternut crops are currently being harvested, bagged, and prepared for sale. New planting blocks of sweet potato and beetroot are also underway as we continue expanding both production and diversity across the farm.







BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Healthy Ecosystems for a One Health Future

28,000

hectares under
rewilding /
management

All figures representative of period Jan-Apr 2026 unless stated otherwise

1000

ha of controlled
prescribed burns

600

ha of alien invasive
plant removal

319

invasive syringa
trees removed

2.8

km of roads graded
to prevent soil
erosion





Training Tomorrow's Conservationists

50 Interns Begin their Journey

As we enter the burning season, the Care for Wild teams have already completed over 1 000 hectares of controlled prescribed burns as part of our proactive veld management and conservation strategy. Prescribed burning is a critical tool used to reduce dry grass that fuels devastating wildfires during winter months. Prescribed burns stimulate fresh grass growth, recycle nutrients back into the soil, support biodiversity, and help maintain the natural balance of ecosystems.

Care for Wild's teams have also completed over 600 hectares of alien invasive plant management across the reserve. Invasive plant species pose a significant threat to natural ecosystems by outcompeting indigenous vegetation, reducing biodiversity, and placing immense pressure on vital water resources. Many invasive species spread rapidly and alter the natural balance of the veld, impacting grazing quality and the habitats that wildlife rely on for survival. Effective invasive plant control is an essential part of responsible conservation management and plays a key role in protecting the integrity of the reserve.

Wildlife monitoring continues to provide positive indicators that our veld management efforts are delivering results. The buffalo herd has now grown to 21 individuals, while increased sightings of veld mice in previously burned areas suggest that natural grass succession and habitat recovery are progressing well. A breeding pair of Mountain Reedbuck has also recently been spotted on the reserve although they remain incredibly elusive and difficult to photograph! These shy antelope are sensitive to habitat disturbance, making their presence an encouraging sign of healthy veld conditions and a balanced ecosystem.





THANK YOU

How to Support

- Donate
- Adopt an orphan
- Volunteer
- Shop our online store
- Shop with our partners
- Subscribe to our newsletter
- Book at Rhino View Lodge
- Follow us on social media

