



APRIL  
2024

# ZOO



Two penguin chicks hatched on 2nd April to parents Chile and Pepper. Both chicks are doing well; one being cared for by the parents and the other hand-reared.

Female spider monkey, Cheekaboo, gave birth to a single offspring on 16th April. Cheekaboo is an experienced mum with this latest offspring being her 7th baby!



A team leader internal meeting was delivered by the Zoo Curator focusing on EAZA and Studbook Management.



The Team Leader of Africa and Farm section attended the BIAZA Mammal Working Group conference in West Midlands Safari Park.



Our group of crowned lemurs moved from Lost Madagascar to the ring tail lemur habitat at Lemur Island on the 16th April.



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Male black & white ruffed lemur, Tanjona, transferred to Gdansk Zoo in Poland on 2nd April.

Juvenile male Victoria crowned pigeon transferred to Banham Zoo on 9th April, and juvenile female Victoria crowned pigeon transferred to Exmoor Zoo on 19th April.

Female black & white ruffed lemur, Adelie, and our group of pied tamarins transferred to Banham Zoo on 9th April. We no longer hold these species in our collection. Our newly-arrived pair of white-lipped tamarins are now on show in the vacated pied tamarin habitat at Worlds Apart.

Male golden lion tamarin, Dillon moved off show on the 10th April in preparation for transfer to a zoo in Australia in May. In the future, we hope to return to a breeding situation for this species. In the meantime, the remaining female Lily was joined by 4 female Eastern pygmy marmosets from Chester Zoo on 16th April. They are all sisters, aged between 2.5 and 3.5 years old.

A shoal of red-bellied piranhas were put into the vacated angelfish aquaria in Heart of Amazon on the 27th April.

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# EDUCATION



2,564 pupils visited from 49 schools in April,  
attending 81 sessions.



8 additional uniform group sessions, brought in another 130 children.



# VOLUNTEERS



23 active animal ambassadors



2,900 ambassador interactions in April  
(these are individual interactions and not a total of people)



165 **Prop Parade sessions**  
(Sharing skins, skulls, etc.)



88 **Enclosure Experts sessions**  
(at enclosures talking about the animals and how we care for them)

207 **Activities** (vet checks on plush toys, classification game etc.)



Across April,  
volunteers have  
given us around

310  
hours in time.

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# UMPHAFA

101

New Blesbok

101 blesbok were delivered and were released on the rye field and have stayed around the area which has been great to see, but we know they will eventually start migrating to other areas of the reserve.



Bonding  
Commenced

The bonding process with the wild dogs commenced with many positive behaviours demonstrated.

Once the dogs have bonded and leave us, work will be conducted on the boma ready for the arrival of the much-awaited cheetah.



1 Cheetah  
Permit  
Approved

Early in the month, the cheetah permit was approved. The process started in February 2022 and, having been asked to provide a lot of information including a 5-year management plan, which we completed in October 2023, the review board finally approved our permit.



1 Volunteer  
Researcher

A volunteer researcher visited early in the month to collect samples of the Natal bottlebrush tree on behalf of a professor at the University of Pretoria. There are 3 distinct species occurring locally and through genetic sampling they are hoping to establish if there are more species or a crossover.



1 Month of  
Heavy Rain

A lot of rain over the month caused issues for roads and fence lines with some of the lines flooding. There was not much the team could do until the river water subsided.

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# UMPHAFA



2 New Buffalo

The buffalo had two additional calves this month taking the herd up to 21.



Vegetation Survey Across the Reserve

The interns and reserve management staff spent a number of days this month with the Department of Agriculture doing a very detailed vegetation survey across the reserve. Each area was chosen based on the vegetation known in that area. Using tape measures, an area of 50m x 50m was measured out, a soil survey conducted, 100 samples taken of the grass species, followed by a survey of the trees in the area and finally using a disc pasture meter the vegetation load was measured with another 100 samples. We shall receive a report later in the year which will also help us decide on carrying capacity for the reserve.



Security Grading Exams Completed

The security grading exams were finished this week, all Field Rangers and management passed and each now have a certificate. The next stage is to obtain a PSIRA (the security registration for all the Field Rangers to be security guards). Once this is done, we will then apply for the police licence so we can arm the Field Rangers, with poaching at a particular high level we are hoping this will deter any would be poachers.



Maintenance Work Continued

The maintenance team carried out a range of activities this week from fixing roads and fences, spraying fence lines where the weeds are popping up, cutting fire breaks, to fixing the off-loading ramp for the blesbok, as well as putting the solar geyser on the Rangers' Outpost so they can now have hot water showers.



Water Site Evaluation

A water site evaluation was conducted along the river where we can drill down and start pumping water from the river to our wetlands area and fire storage. We shall be getting the report soon and can then get the drilling team in.

31

Kudu Bulls Captured

A game capture company visited the reserve towards the end of the month to set up ready for the capture of kudu bulls from the reserve. In total, 31 bulls were caught.



10 Ostriches Introduced

10 ostriches were introduced to bulk up numbers; 2 males and 8 females.



3 More Electric Lines Turned Off

Another 3 electric lines were switched off from the grid, so we are now only left with two to sort out. This will be done later in the year as the team continue to assess the usage.



1 Project Rhino Meeting

The reserve management team attended a Project Rhino meeting which was very informative about how the police handle rhino poaching in the area.

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# CONSERVATION



Zoological Director, Rebecca attended the BIAZA Conservation Conference and presented on 20 years of work on UmPhafa with a focus on 2024 plans.



The Colchester Stampede took place on the 28th April with over 1800 runners taking part.



# CONSERVATION

This month donations were made to three projects; the AEECL (£1,747.34), Lwiro (£4,973.34), and VulPro (£4,994.22).

The AEECL aims to advance the understanding and conservation of Madagascar's lemur populations through scientific research, captive propagation and protection of their natural habitat. Investment in local communities through education, resource management and communication helps ensure the communities of today can forge a safe haven for wildlife tomorrow. Our donation covers our annual membership fee for this lemur consortium.



The Lwiro Primates Rehabilitation Centre (LPRC) plays a vital role in caring for confiscated wildlife and in working to stop the illegal animal trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It is the only chimpanzee and monkey sanctuary currently accepting all kinds of confiscated wildlife in DRC, thus acts as a crucial resource for all conservation organisations working in the country. Our donation goes towards the purchase of food to feed the apes and monkeys at LPRC. All the products are purchased locally in markets, supporting local economy as a benefit from wildlife conservation.



African vultures are some of the most threatened species on the planet, with some populations having declined by over 80% in the last three decades. It is critical for conservationists to keep a close eye on population numbers to determine any population changes. One important way that VulPro achieves this is through breeding monitoring to help understand which sites to protect throughout South Africa. VulPro monitors three sites through two surveys; one at the beginning of the season, and one at the end. Our donation goes towards vulture monitoring expenses covering researcher costs to monitor breeding sites of the critically endangered tree nesting African white-backed vulture.

