



APRIL 2024



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.





## **EDUCATION**



2,564 pupils visited from 49 schools in April,

attending 81 sessions.



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



## **VOLUNTEERS**



3 active animal ambassadors



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



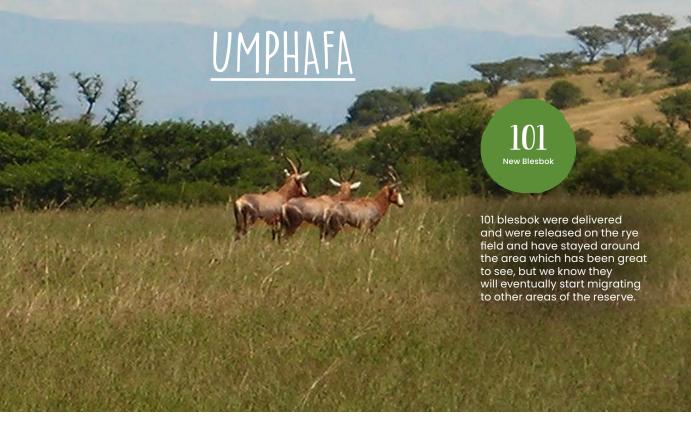
165 Prop Parade sessions (Sharing skins, skulls, etc.)

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

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









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.



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.



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.



## UMPHAFA



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.



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.



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.



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.



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

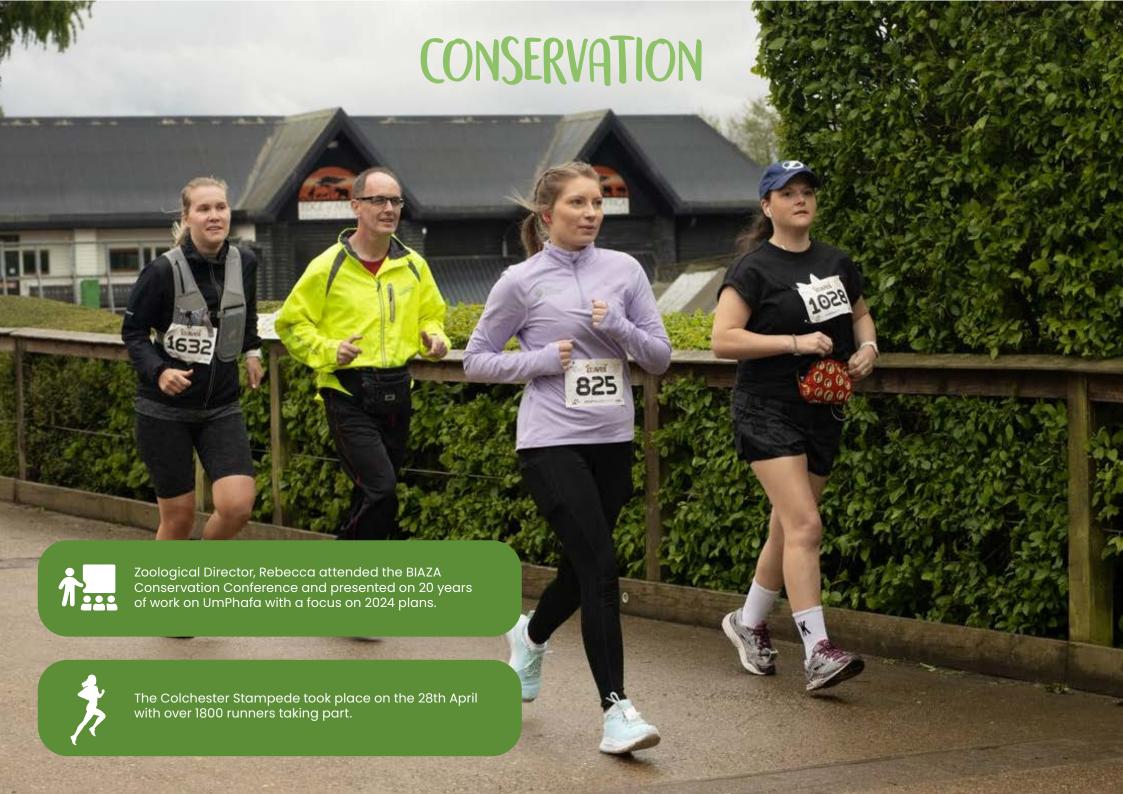


Another 3 electric lines were switched off from the grid, so we are now only left with two to sort out. This will be done later in the year as the team continue to assess the usage.



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





## 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.

