



OKAPI CONSERVATION PROJECT

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission

TO CONSERVE THE OKAPI IN THE WILD, WHILE PRESERVING THE BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF THE ITURI FOREST

Project Staff

Founder & President - John Lukas
 On-site Director - Rosmarie Ruf
 Accountant - Mutahinga Mumbere Eleme
 Asst. Accountant - Kambale Katsuva Julien
 Program Officer - Lucas Meers
 Education Coordinator - M'monga Kiete

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Department Head - Muvi Yalala
 Program Asst. - Mpinda Tchinkunku
 Technician - Enckoto Bameseto
 Technician - Makubuli Mwanika
 Technician - Masiyiri Mulawa
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 Technician - Mulivavyo

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 Faustin Bunzi
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 Mumbere Kayenga
 Abdoul Arim KimaKima
 Kasereka Kyove
 Carin Makonga
 Toliba Maseko
 Kambale Mastaki
 Kalinda Mubengwa
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

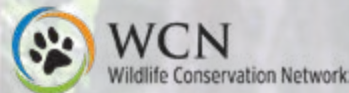
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 Scott Citino
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 Charles Knowles
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DISPENSARY NURSES

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 Mbambu Mituho
 Mulowayi Katalayi
 Sebuo Bwithubungize

INFRASTRUCTURE/MAINTENANCE

Mbete Nguma Vusike Kiruzi
 Kababo Mutubule Kasereka Katsuva
 Panga Madro Katsuva Kaposo
 Sagbolo Yuma Yangunapayi Makasi
 Paluku Kakule Abdala Moricho
 Mbusa Mughanda Alezo Drudo
 Muhindo Maliro



We'd like to thank WCN for providing longstanding support, guidance and fundraising opportunities.



Okapi are peaceful, quiet and gentle and so mysterious they were not discovered by Western science until 1901. They are known by every Congolese adult and child as a symbol for their vast rainforests teeming with life. In DRC, likenesses of okapi are used to market a vast array of products. For example, "Radio Okapi" is the most recognized news source in the country.

A Letter From John

Twenty-seventeen was a landmark year for the Okapi Conservation Project. For over 30 years starting with the initial investment of Howard Gilman and sustained with support from caring individuals, zoos and foundations, OCP staff and ICCN rangers have been working tirelessly to secure a future for okapi in the rainforests of the Congo.

As I look back on that first trip to Zaire in June of 1987 when I was accompanied by a global team of experts, Karl and Rosie Ruf from Switzerland, Jean N'lamba from Zaire, Steve Shurter and Karen Meeks from Miami and several ICCN officials, we all boarded a rickety cargo plane in Kinshasa to fly to Goma across a country as large as Europe with no road access from one side of the country to the other.

In Goma, on the shore of Lake Kivu surrounded by volcanoes, we loaded up four trucks with supplies and started our 600 km journey along the 'road of beauty' following a spine of hills flanking the western side of the Rwenzori mountains separating Zaire from Rwanda and Uganda. We stayed in comfortable 'auberges' along the way, and everyone we met was friendly and smiling. Today, this is one of the most dangerous roads in the world with truckers going around through neighboring countries rather than risk their lives driving through Kivu Province. Five days later, we arrived in Epulu and started right in rehabilitating the Epulu Station, originally built by the Belgians in the 1940s and abandoned in 1961 when Zaire became an independent country.

When we started this project, there was no area set aside to conserve okapi – the national animal of Zaire and protected by law since 1933. Working together with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund, a proposal was drafted to form a protected area for okapi which was accepted by the government of Zaire, and in 1992 the Okapi Wildlife Reserve was created. No people were moved out to set up the Reserve, making managing human activities an important part of protecting okapi habitat. The Reserve not only protects the home of okapi, chimpanzees and forest elephants, but also that of the M'buti Pygmies. Okapi and M'buti both require an intact forest ecosystem to survive and thrive – protecting okapi also helps preserve a unique human culture that has, for 40,000 years, been depending on forest resources to maintain their hunter-gatherer, nomadic lifestyle.

The Okapi Wildlife Reserve is 13,700 square kilometers (about the size of New Jersey) of lowland tropical rainforests laced with streams and raging rivers and home to approximately 4,000 okapi. When the six-year-long Civil War broke out in 1997, the country, which was Zaire, became the Democratic Republic of Congo and began its slow slide from peace and hope to war and despair. Protecting okapi and forests became much harder. Immigrants fleeing the war-torn east

looking for land on which to grow food, corruption fueled poaching of elephants and illegal mining overwhelmed the government's ability to defend protected areas. That's when we turned to you, our supporters, and you responded by helping us increase our support to the brave rangers to expand patrol efforts, to control access to the Reserve, deter bushmeat hunting and close illegal mines.

Our second and equal goal is to help communities in and around the Reserve cope with an uncertain future, help them grow more food, support the education of their children, supply their health clinics with medicines and provide clean drinking water sources. It has not been easy, as DRC is a dangerous place, but it is such an important home to so many people and animals that depend on the forests for their survival. The rainforests where okapi live are the most bountiful in Africa, and what we are trying to do is find a balance between the needs of people and the needs of animals. This will take time, money and much effort, and we depend on your support to try and make this happen.

I admit we are just holding the line until this resource rich country believes and invests in its people and values its diversity. Holding that line is a challenge that we have accepted. Knowing the people of Congo as I do, I believe they will come to honor and protect the forests where okapi live for the benefit of their children's children. And knowing our supporters as I do, I know you will help us meet this challenge to hold that line for as long as it takes to secure a future for okapi in the wild. If we can convince the people of DRC to value okapi, there is a good chance of conserving the natural beauty and biodiversity of this vast and bountiful country.

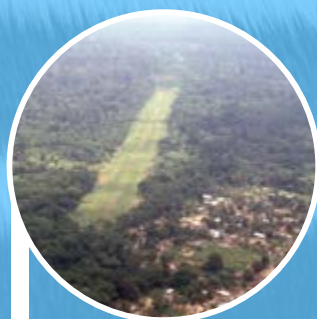
As I reflect on the many days I have spent over the last 30 years in the rainforests of the Congo basin, I remember so many people who stood by my side on this journey to help protect and conserve okapi and to share its mystery with the world. All gave so much of themselves to help, but some gave their lives. In recognition of this year that marks our 30th anniversary, I praise their contributions to conservation and honor the sacrifice made by their families.

Those who gave their lives serving conservation:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Betedi Mukpokpo</i> | <i>Alesta Leamaru</i> |
| <i>Atikpo Mutombi</i> | <i>Mathe Sivahira</i> |
| <i>Bakobana Amboko</i> | <i>Ntahorgiye Habiarimana</i> |
| <i>Kongolo Sadam</i> | <i>Antopo Selemani</i> |
| <i>Kumbayango</i> | <i>Gukiya Ngekusa</i> |
| <i>Kambale Bemu</i> | <i>Sudi Koko</i> |
| <i>Amuta Angwande</i> | <i>Kisembo Nsinga</i> |
| <i>Aderebo Stany</i> | <i>Bitegetsimana Ntahobare</i> |
| <i>Fiston Madawa</i> | <i>Karl Ruf</i> |
| <i>Mugautinikoni Badusi</i> | <i>Jean Nlamba</i> |
| <i>Kamango N'tambwe</i> | <i>Kambale Saambili</i> |
| <i>Koko Ndugutshe</i> | |

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS of okapi conservation

During the month of June, Okapi Conservation Project celebrated three decades of protecting the endangered okapi and its habitat in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Staff dug through old slides and files to document the many achievements, milestones and setbacks on our journey.



1994

Dealing with treacherous and unpredictable roads, especially during the rainy season, we recognized the need to build an airstrip for easy access travel to and from Epulu. To this day, the airstrip is maintained and cleared by hand.



1997

The Congo Civil War began after an invasion by Rwandan rebels. President Mobutu Sésé Seko was replaced by Laurent-Désiré Kabila, and resulted in the country's name change from Zaire to Democratic Republic of Congo. Some OCP staff evacuated, but others stayed to ensure the care of the okapi at the station. One year later, all staff returned and our station was once again running at full capacity.



2012

On June 24, our station and the ICCN headquarters were attacked by a group of armed Maimai rebels. They looted and burned buildings, killed all 14 okapi at the station and 7 lives were lost.



2017

OCP's newly formed 'Team Okapi,' a group of local villagers, Mbuti Pygmies and ICCN rangers, captured the first-ever footage of an okapi feeding in the wild near the Epulu station. Along with this footage, the team collected numerous other videos and images of okapi documenting their relative abundance in forests untouched by humans. The program continues to expand into new areas collecting exciting and groundbreaking footage and images to share with the world.



1987

June 1987 was the start of the project after we saw a need to protect the okapi. First landing in Kinshasa to begin negotiations with the (then) Zaire government, we set out to Epulu to begin redevelopment of the research station.

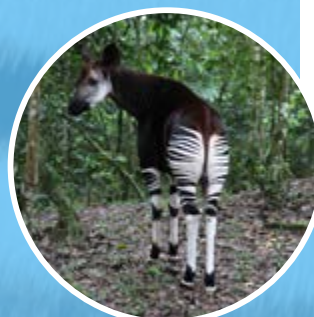
1992

After years of redeveloping the abandoned Belgian outpost as our home base, we worked diligently with the Zaire government, local communities and other NGOs to establish the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, providing a safe haven for okapi.



1996

The Okapi Wildlife Reserve was declared a World Heritage Site for its 'Outstanding Universal Value,' bringing international protection. Consequently, a year later, it was listed as a World Heritage Site in Danger after the Congo Civil War began.



2001

We launched our highly successful agroforestry program helping bring food security, providing a steady income for families and reducing encroachment into okapi habitat. The program now assists 500 farmers at any given time.



2015

ICCN selected and trained 50 new rangers, including 4 strong, intelligent and fearless women. These women were the first women hired as rangers to patrol the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.



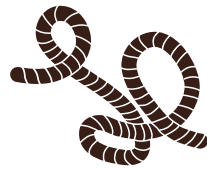
BY THE NUMBERS

Twenty-seventeen gave way to impressive achievements in okapi conservation



468

foot patrols were conducted by ICCN rangers, covering 15,130 kilometers.



3,168

snares removed from the Reserve and destroyed.



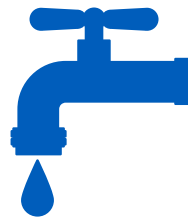
145

poachers arrested by ICCN rangers inside the Reserve.



39,656

tree seedlings were distributed to farmers as part of our agroforestry program.



8

water sources were rebuilt, providing clean, fast-flowing water for over 8,000 people.



17

camera traps strategically placed inside the reserve to document the presence of okapi and other wildlife.



930

miners peacefully removed from the reserve and their equipment confiscated.



15,000

local people learned about the importance of okapi during World Okapi Day.



30

We celebrated 30 years of protecting okapi and their habitat in Democratic Republic of Congo.

CLOSURE OF THE BAPELA MINE

How the incorporation of spiritual beliefs can protect wildlife

Northeast of Epulu is a mine site called Bapela which is accessed by walking north through the forest from the village of Badisende. ICCN has made several attempts to evacuate the miners from Bapela, but once the rangers leave, the mine has been quickly reoccupied since it is easily accessed from the main road.

The warden of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve decided to ask the local chiefs to direct shamans to put a curse on those doing the illegal mining. This was seen as the best chance to keep the mine from being reoccupied and preserve the biodiversity in this part of the forest. The belief in the power of ancestral spirits and consultation with soothsayers is a respected cultural practice used to guide most individual choices in DRC. The mission was initiated by nine chiefs of local villages and also included elders and indigenous Mbuti pygmies accompanied by a Community Conservation team (OCP, WCS, and ICCN) which were escorted by ICCN rangers from the village of Badisende to the Bapela mine.

The miners, fearing the effects of the curse, decided to vacate the area and after they left with their belongings, members of the local population proceeded to fill in all the holes made by the miners. The commitment of the population to reinforce the message of their chiefs left the mine in a state that would make it difficult to be reopened. In this case, the respect for customary beliefs reinforced by community action was an effective detriment to destructive actions that have a negative effect on the quality of okapi habitat and reduced the killing of wildlife for food to feed the miners.

The closure of Bapela by the local chiefs without violence was successful because it was done in the presence of all people who are involved in the protection of the forest and used traditional beliefs in the spirits of ancestors to protect the rainforest from exploitation. Letting communities close the Bapela mine is expected to provide the necessary time for plants and trees to recolonize this mining site providing a place where okapi can browse for years to come.



Photo Captions:
Top: Location of the Bapela mine in relation to Epulu.
Middle: Preparing for the mine-closing ceremony.
Bottom: Community members filling in mine.

AUTOMOTIVE TRAINING

Investing in staff training helps all involved

As part of a commitment to provide training to the employees of ICCN and OCP, OCP supported a motor vehicle training course for the two drivers of vehicles in the Reserve, Jeannot ACHEKENI and Aimé KIRUZI, at the Kivu-Motor garage in Goma during May and June 2017.

Presently, ICCN has six (6) vehicles + one IVECO truck and seventeen (17) Yamaha AG type 100 motorcycles, and OCP has seventeen (17) motorcycles and two (2) Toyota Hilux Vigo vehicles, hence the importance of having a substantial expertise within the Epulu Station for the necessary maintenance of these machines. Having efficient vehicles supports the implementation of the field protection activities in the Reserve, but they are also needed to transport supplies, equipment, food rations and personnel to the Station from business centers located 300 km from Epulu and around the Reserve.

Due to the difficult conditions of the roads (or even lack of roads), vehicles and motorcycles have to be well-maintained and repaired quickly to allow the regular movement of ICCN rangers and OCP educators around the Reserve. Protecting okapi and



Jeannot ACHEKENI and Aimé KIRUZI,
ICCN Staff Members

its habitat requires the movement of large numbers of people and supplies on a daily basis over an area the size of North Carolina, and providing the opportunity for staff to increase their knowledge provides quick responses to correct any problems with the vehicles while driving on the challenging jungle roads.

Repairing Toyota Hilux at the
Epulu mechanic's station.

PASSING OF AN EDUCATOR

A tribute to Marcel Enckoto, Conservation Education Program Director



Marcel Enckoto, Okapi Conservation Project's Assistant Director and Director of our extensive community education program, succumbed to cancer on June 19 while being treated in Kampala, Uganda. He was buried in his hometown of Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and a service was also held in Epulu for those who could not make the trip to Beni. Marcel held the rank of Warden with ICCN, and rangers from Virunga National Park, Garamba National Park and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve served as pallbearers.

Marcel was born in Goma, DRC (then Zaire) on February 22, 1962. He married Alphonsine MASIKA and together they had 7 children – five daughters and two sons. Marcel joined the Okapi Conservation Project in 1989 as a Tourist Guide working out of the Tourist Information Center at the Epulu Station. Back in those days we had a lot of tourists, with some nights welcoming over 300 people camping at the Station where they were given tours of the okapi residing at our breeding and research facility and went on guided walks through the forest.

Because of his teaching background, Marcel moved up the ranks quickly, and in 1994, he became OCP Conservation Education Program Director, a position he held until his death. Since the 13,700-sq. km. Okapi Wildlife Reserve created in 1992 was occupied by people, there was a great need to educate those living in and around the Reserve about why the biodiversity was being protected and the role they played in sustaining a diverse, natural ecosystem that could meet their needs and still provide a home for okapi and the millions of species that called the forest home.

Our organization depended on Marcel for so much. He was always teaching, and everyone he met was treated with respect, giving him the status to be taken seriously. Marcel elevated the conversation about conserving okapi to a level that from every

chief and to every governor, they gave him an audience to hear what he had to say.

I watched Marcel grow into a wise elder and enjoyed his dry humor and perplexing questions on why we did so many weird things in America. I feel much pain in losing Marcel as it brings back memories of the loss we experienced in 2003 of important staff, and all we can do now is what we did then – carry on as before to honor their memory and service to okapi conservation.

I know Marcel has prepared our educators to reach as many people as they can with conservation messages that will secure a future for okapi in the wild. I will let the words of Jean Paul M'MONGA KIETE, Assistant Director of Education for OCP, express the feelings of the educators that worked every day alongside Marcel.

"Mr. Enckoto taught us so many things about education, public relations, and activity planning during his time with us, and the only way we can honor him is to show everybody what he taught us. We cannot replace Mr. Marcel because he had so many years of experience, but as his trainees, we will make sure that the Conservation Education Program keeps on informing, educating and communicating the importance of biodiversity with the local communities."

Rest in Peace Marcel, we will miss you and your commitment to educate the young and old about conservation.

AGROFORESTRY

The program expands with a fourth nursery and new farmers

The agroforestry program continues to be a popular mechanism that provides food security to the local people while preserving critical okapi habitat by reducing slash-and-burn agriculture intrusions into protected area and deterring participation of residents in illegal activities such as mining and poaching. In 2017, OCP agronomists continued their efforts to expand their programs, responding to strong interest among farmers in all areas of the Reserve. New farmers continued to join the program as farmers move on to become self-sufficient, with OCP supporting about 500 farmers at any given time.

During the first 3 months of 2017, OCP agronomists distributed 7,848 tree seedlings and collected 1,000 kg of upland rice seeds and 250 kg of beans to distribute to farmers when the rainy season starts. After the seedlings are planted we are seeing a 75-80% survival rate. Students also planted fast-growing *Terminalia* tree seedlings around the community social meeting hall in Epulu.

In March, construction started on a new tree nursery in Niania and now tree seedlings are ready



Tree seedlings are distributed to farmers and reforestation.

for distribution in the western sector. This is the fourth tree nursery operated by OCP to provide tree seedlings to communities around the Reserve.

With the new nursery, tree seedling and vegetable seed production have increased – allowing us to distribute 39,565 tree seedlings to farmers and schoolchildren to reforest abandoned plots of land. A fifth nursery is planned to be built in Wamba in 2018.

Children plant trees provided by our nurseries to reforest areas around their school in Epulu.



WORLD OKAPI DAY

Using sport to educate communities about protecting okapi and its habitat

After last year's launch of the inaugural World Okapi Day on October 18th, the Okapi Conservation Project (OCP) wanted to increase the profile and the reach of the 2nd Annual World Okapi Day in 2017 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition to garnering support through social media postings and events held at zoos around the world that generously support OCP, it was determined that a series of organized races in the Democratic Republic of Congo would be undertaken. The events were planned to run simultaneously in the territories of Mambasa, Epulu, Niania and Wamba; these four territories are within the okapi range and where the bulk of the okapi population resides. OCP's approach has always been to engage the local communities, and a community celebration on World Okapi Day was a way to create lasting excitement for okapi.

The event was to be a celebration that included the community at large, as well as a way to disseminate a message of conservation and civic pride. The culmination of the event was a series of races with



local teens racing for World Okapi Day related prizes, and payment for their school fees. The logistics and planning for these events were conducted through the ongoing partnership with ICCN, local community leaders, officials and schools.

With the help of school coaches and headmasters, twenty runners were selected in each of the four

territories (Mambasa, Epulu, Niania and Wamba) to compete in the World Okapi Day race. The runners comprised of 10 girls and 10 boys, selected from the different secondary schools in each territory.

Each of the World Okapi Day celebrations started with a community parade, aimed at increasing the number of attendees and spreading the message to a larger percentage of the community. The parades concluded with the audience gathering for the student races. Prior to the start of the races there were several introductory speeches to the gathered audience that highlighted the purpose behind World Okapi Day and to inspire the community to continue to preserve the okapi and their natural resources. Each speaker strived to inspire pride in their communities and emphasize the role the community plays in protecting okapi.

We estimate that 15,000 children and adults around the Reserve participated in various World Okapi Day events and we all look forward to the next celebration in 2018.



WORLD OKAPI DAY SPONSORS:



Photo Captions
 Top: Race winner addressing the crowd.
 Middle: Race winner receiving prizes.
 Bottom: Community members watching the race.

WATER SOURCES

Providing access to clean water for over 8,000 people

The work to rebuild the eight water sources began in May 2017, and the last source was finished in October. Now complete, the eight rehabilitated sources make life easier for over 8,000 people (mostly women and girls) by providing them with a high flow, clean water source that can be accessed safely and quickly, giving them more time to devote to other activities.

For the supervisory engineer, Mbete, who is in charge of the infrastructure of the water rehabilitation project, this activity is very important and vital for the well-being of the local communities' in the OWR because their lives depend on it.

“Under the unsatisfactory conditions around these sources, communities were not only exposed to water-borne diseases, but also given the large number of users, water requirements and the amount of water that was flowing, they were obligated to spend hours and hours at the springs to take their turn to access the water. Through these repairs, their efforts to access water are diminished, and the quality of water is much improved. We intend to continue rebuilding water sources to ensure the quality and availability of water for all the local communities living in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve.”

Our educators had the chance to speak with many women that use the sources daily, and all were very pleased with the initiative to rehabilitate the water sources that were in poor condition. Not only did the women have to wake up very early in the morning around 4:00 am to be the first in line because the water flow was so low, but their children also suffered from regular stomach aches and typhoid fever due to the poor water quality and unhygienic conditions.

After the repairs were completed, each woman could fill up their containers quickly because of the easy access to the spigot and the strong flow of clean water. The lines are shorter, less time is wasted waiting to access the water, and their children have suffered less from water-borne diseases.



Photo Captions:
Top: Water source before rehabilitation.
Middle: Water source after rehabilitation.
Bottom: Women collecting water.

WHERE ARE WE LOCATED?

Inside the lush, Ituri Rainforest in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Okapi Conservation Project works in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (OWR) in the northeastern sector of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Covering nearly 14,000 square kilometers and encompassing one fifth of the Ituri Forest, the OWR was established in 1992, declared a World Heritage Site in 1996 and supports the largest

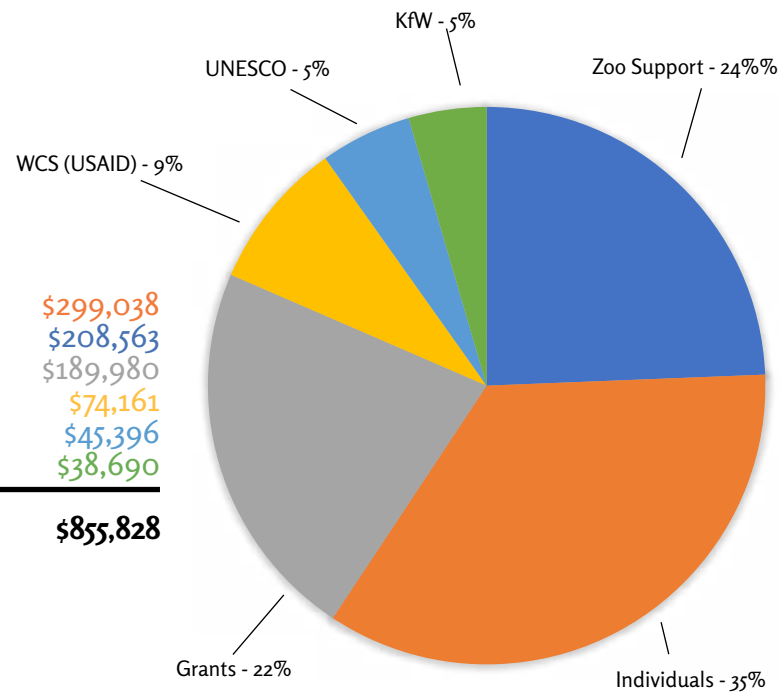
populations of okapi, chimpanzees and forest elephants in DRC. In addition to the many species of plants and animals, the OWR is also home to the indigenous Mbuti Pygmies, a population of hunter-gatherers that share the forest with the endangered okapi.



FINANCIALS 2018

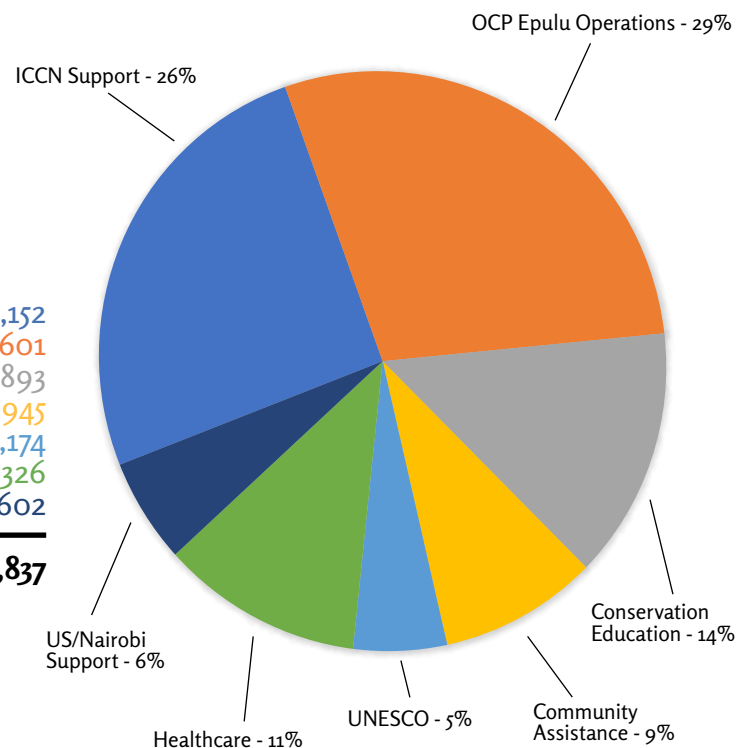
REVENUE

Individual Support	\$299,038
Zoo Support	\$208,563
Grants	\$189,980
WCS (USAID)	\$74,161
UNESCO	\$45,396
KfW	\$38,690
TOTAL REVENUE	\$855,828



EXPENSES

ICCN Support	\$257,152
OCP Epulu Operations	\$224,601
Conservation Education	\$139,893
Community Assistance	\$36,945
UNESCO	\$85,174
Healthcare	\$77,326
US/Nairobi Office	\$70,602
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$851,837



DONORS & SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS & RELATED INSTITUTIONS

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| Amazon Smile | Benevity | Briar Patch Fund | CGMK Foundation | Columbus Zoo | Conservation Fund | Global Giving | George and Mary Rabb Charitable Fund | International Animal Exchange | International Fund for Animal Welfare | KfW – German Forest Biodiversity Conservation Project | M. Piuze Foundation | Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund | Prince Bernhard Conservation Fund | Tusk Trust | Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund | Swiss Embassy - Kinshasa, DRC | Vanguard Charitable | USAID – CARPE | UNESCO | US Fish & Wildlife | Walt Disney Company | Wildlife Conservation Global | Wildlife Conservation Network | Wildlife Conservation Society | Your Cause |
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ZOO PARTNERS AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

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| AAZK – Dallas Zoo | AAZK – Greater Orlando | AAZK – South Florida Chapter | Antwerp Zoo | The Maryland Zoo at Baltimore | Bioparc de Doue la Fontaine | Chester Zoo | Cheyenne Mountain Zoo | Chicago Zoological Society | Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden | Cologne Zoo | Columbus Zoo & Aquarium | Copenhagen Zoo | Dallas Zoo | Detroit Zoological Society | Disney Worldwide Services | Dublin Zoo | Dvur Králové Zoo | Fort Worth Zoo | Houston Zoo | Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens | Lisbon Zoo | Nashville Zoo | National Zoological Gardens of South Africa | Northwest ZooPath | Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium | Parco Zoo Falconara | Potawatomi Zoo | Rotterdam Zoo | Saint Louis Zoo | San Antonio Zoo | San Diego Zoo Global | Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund | Stichting Wildlife | Sedgwick County Zoo | Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo | Tanganyika Wildlife Park | Tokyo Zoological Park Society/Ueno Zoo | White Oak Conservation | Wilhelma Zoo | Wroclaw Zoo | Yokohama Zoological Gardens | Zoo Basel | Zoo Berlin | Zoo du Bassin d'Arcachon | Zoo Leipzig | Zoo Miami | Zoo Wuppertal |
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INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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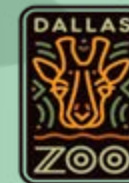
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Scott Citino

Vanessa Lukas
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Sir Harry Johnston's surprisingly accurate depiction of okapi, drawn after seeing a preserved skin in 1901, and before seeing a living specimen.



OKAPI CONSERVATION PROJECT

Protecting the endangered okapi, and its habitat, in the
Democratic Republic of Congo

Okapi Conservation Project is represented by Wildlife Conservation Global, Inc. (WCG), a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. One hundred percent of gifts made to the Okapi Conservation Project directly support the management of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, help local communities find sustainable ways of living and provide an extensive refuge for the region's endangered creatures.