

For Nature & People

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



GHANA
WILDLIFE
SOCIETY



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About us

The Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit making conservation organization located at the Accra Conservation Education Centre near the Efua Sutherland Children's Park. **Our mission is to conserve wildlife in all its forms to ensure a better environment and for improved quality of life for all people.** We belong to BirdLife International, the world's largest nature conservation partnership of 123 autonomous NGOs around the world.

Our vision is to promote the conservation (protection, management and wise-use) of nature in all its forms (plants, animals and their habitats). We operate based on the model that stipulates that conservation actions must hinge on credible scientific evidence. GWS is governed by a council, which is the highest decision making body within the organization. The institution has a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director who takes charge of day-to-day management, monitoring, and coordination of the society's policies, strategies and programmes as directed by the Council.

Under the Executive Director, exists a management team comprising four programme heads who work closely with their technical staff.

Our history

GWS was first formed in the early 1970s but functioned for few years and became dormant. It was not until 1991, when it was revived by the 'Save the Seashore Birds Project - Ghana' (SSBP-G) supported by the UK based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), a project that aimed at protecting the sea shore birds and their coastal wetland habitats in Ghana. When the SSBP-G ended in June 1994, the Society was incorporated on 19th May 1995 and subsequently took over and continued the conservation activities initiated by the project.

What drives us to work

Weak governance, economic growth and infrastructure expansion, increased consumption and poor public support for conservation, illegal mining and logging, human population growth triggering domestic demand and unsustainable agriculture patterns are some of the eminent conservation challenges that drive us to use our power to act.

Our response to some of these challenges include research into threatened species and facilitating interactions between people and biodiversity in different landscapes. Still, the impact of development on biodiversity and land use changes affect



patterns of migration of birds along their migratory routes. To contribute toward easing the growing global pressure on the corporate world to reduce their ecological footprints, we currently work in partnership with several private sector players to fashion out business models that safeguard biodiversity.

Our activities (research, policy work and site interventions) focus on conserving species, sites and landscapes that span different ecosystem realms (terrestrial, marine, wetlands, freshwater, mangroves and tropical forests). We work closely with government, the private sector and civil society organizations to find solutions to local, national and regional environmental problems. We tackle these challenges by initiating projects with the support of international foundations, corporate bodies, members, supporters and individuals.

We execute our mandate through four programme areas: Research and Conservation Science; Conservation Education; Membership/Marketing; and Community Based Natural Resources Management. The Society has dedicated Managers and technical staff with post-graduate degrees in conservation science, climate science, biodiversity management, tropical forestry, economics and project management.

Our achievements over the years

Our activities over the years have led to the ban on trade in Grey Parrots and provided models for community conservation actions. This is demonstrated by two of our flagship projects: Amanzuri Conservation and Integrated Development (ACID) Programme which led to establishment of the Nzulezu Tourists Centre and our long-term monitoring scheme on marine turtles and marine mammals. Our science work on Important Bird Areas (IBA's) has produced information for several national programmes and policies.

We believe that businesses have a role to play and must be supported to reduce their footprints to conserve biodiversity. Our current corporate engagement spans mining (Goldfields, GHACEM), oil and gas (ENI Ghana Exploration Ltd), forestry and agriculture (LUSH and GOPDC), Transport (Ghana Airport Company Ltd, China Harbour and Engineering Ghana Ltd) and the renewable energy sector (NEK-Ghana Ltd -Ayitepa and Konikablo).

We raise awareness and work with the youth through the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG) - a junior wing of the Society. We have developed long-term conservation partnerships with GHACEM, Toyota Ghana, Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel, Royal Senchi Hotel. Ghana Wildlife Society also serves on the national Management Advisory Board(s) (MABs) Committee.

Our Council



Emerita Professor Yaa Ntiama-Baidu

Founder / President

Emerita Prof. Ntiama-Baidu has served in various leadership roles. She served as Deputy Head (Research) in the erstwhile Ghana Wildlife Department; Executive Director of the Ghana Wildlife Society (Founder); Professor and Head of the Zoology Department, University of Ghana and the Director of WWF International Africa and Madagascar Programme. She is currently the chairperson of the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research (CBCRC), which she established in 2000 and also previously chaired the board of the Millennium Development Authority (MiDA). Emerita Prof. Ntiama-Baidu was the Director for BANGA-Africa, an institution dedicated to nurturing the next generation of African scholars.



Prof. Erasmus H. Owusu (PhD)

Technical Advisor

Prof. Erasmus Owusu is an Associate Professor in Conservation Science at the Department of Animal Biology and Conservation Science of the University of Ghana. He has a Ph.D. in biodiversity management from the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) of the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK. He was the Director for the University of Ghana Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies (C3SS).



Mr. Gerard H. Osei Boakye

Member

Gerard is currently the Executive Director at Golden Star Resources Ltd. Until then, he was the Group Corporate Affairs Manager. He also consulted for not-for-profit organisations in corporate and public relations, sustainable development and marketing. He was appointed Commissioner to the Forestry Commission representing wildlife trade and export issues, between 2009 and 2016. He has a Bachelor of Marketing degree from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration and a Diploma in Natural Resources and Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Our Team



Richard Appoh
Director
(Conservation and Research)



Fred Opoku Jnr.
Finance & Administrative Manager



Solomon Kenyenso
Programme Officer
(Conservation & Research)



Kwame Boafo
Programme Officer
(Conservation & Research)



Perpetual Abeyie
Library Assistant



Joseph Kwasi Afrifa
Programme Officer
(Conservation & Research)



Bernadine Gillian Naakuma
Accounts Officer



Vivian Larbi
Project Officer
(Conservation Education)



Raphael Nii Laate Lartey
Project Officer
(Communications)



Edith Ludu
Front Desk Officer



Georgina Antwi
Assistant Project Officer
(Conservation Education)

Isaac Osei

Lawrence Kumesi

Alhassan Abu

Derrick Peprah

Abdul-Salam Adjetey

Dorothy Ainooson

Wendy Owusu

Emmanuel Ahiaku

Benedicta Amewoha

Driver

Driver

Driver

National Service Personnel

National Service Personnel

National Service Personnel

National Service Personnel

National Service Personnel

National Service Personnel

Twila Kekeli Afari

Abiba Mamphrey

Intern

Intern

Message from the President



Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the support of our donors and partners, and the active participation of local communities.

Dear Friends, Partners, and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the Ghana Wildlife Society for 2024. Together with our partners, donors and the communities we work with, GWS continues to work towards the conservation of nature, despite the increasing pressures from deforestation, climate change, illegal mining, plastic pollution etc. that threaten Ghana's natural ecosystems.

During the year, we made significant strides towards safeguarding species and habitats across the country. Our long-term efforts - to improve the status of the White-Necked Picathartes (a vulnerable Upper-Guinea endemic species) are beginning to yield results - this year, we recorded new nesting colonies. The support of the A.G. Leventis Foundation, our long-term donor for this project, enabled us to increase community conservation awareness events, reaching about 1,200 people in the local communities. This project also supported postgraduate student researchers, a crucial step for building human resource capacity and ensuring the long-term conservation of the Picathartes

The support from the Fondation Franklinia, facilitated our work on three rare and threatened tree species endemic to Ghana (*Talbotiella gentii*, *Hunteria ghanensis*, and *Drypetes singroboensis*). Aside the tree planting, we engaged schools and communities, revived local ecological knowledge, and increased maintenance and restoration activities in forest areas where these species remain.

The support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), our long-term partner, gave our work in the Mole Ecological Landscape a new life. This initiative uses community-based conservation approaches to support people and diverse wildlife. The refurbishment of a solar-powered nursery which houses about 10,000 seedlings, and the establishment of a CREMA in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, are key achievements that would enhance the protection of the Mole National Park, a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).

Within the year, a major review of Ghana's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), to strengthen the scientific foundation for conservation decisions and landscape-level decision-making, was carried out with assistance from key international and local partners and stakeholders.

Our conservation education initiatives also grew in scope and reach. The Spring Alive programme engaged Wildlife Club members on migratory birds. Other environmental campaigns that were undertaken during international commemorations such as World Wildlife Day, World Wetlands Day, and World Clean-Up Day, helped to mobilize hundreds of young and older volunteers for conservation. Our monthly bird walks continued throughout the year, recording over 200 bird species, including migratory birds. This activity has significantly enhanced our citizen-science programme. We encourage participants to formally register as members of the Ghana Wildlife Society.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, donors, members, and partners for their unwavering support to serve nature and people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Y. Ntiemoa-Baidu'.

Prof. Yaa Ntiemoa-Baidu (PhD)
President (GWS Council)



Improving the Status of the White-Necked Picathartes in Ghana.

Status: ● Ongoing

Background

The A. G. Leventis project focuses on conserving the White-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes gymnocephalus*), a Vulnerable species and flagship for Ghana's forest biodiversity. Since its rediscovery in the early 2000s, efforts have centered on monitoring populations, protecting nesting colonies, and engaging forest-fringe communities in safeguarding critical habitats.

In 2024, the project expanded its work through ecological monitoring, capacity building, and awareness creation. Activities combined scientific research with inclusive community involvement, ensuring conservation efforts address both ecological needs and local stewardship. By integrating updated distribution data, education, and biodiversity assessments, the project strengthens Ghana's long-term strategy for species and habitat protection.

Goal

Strengthen long-term monitoring, enhance species knowledge, and foster inclusive community engagement to ensure the sustainable conservation of the White-necked Picathartes and its forest habitats in Ghana.

Project Location

The project operates in Ashanti Region, of Ghana, specifically Fum Headwaters, Nyame Bepo, Bosomtwe Range, and Nkrabia Forest Reserves; locations with confirmed sightings of White-necked Picathartes.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the year in review:

- Conducted Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) assessments and developed habitat change maps to guide site designation and long-term species protection.
- Trained community members for long-term monitoring, supported postgraduate research and confirmed new Picathartes nesting sites.
- Reached 1,200+ people, increased women and youth involvement, and started six wildlife clubs, with plans for a community library.



Signage being installed to raise awareness and direct visitors to White-necked Picathartes sites

Achievements

Community Engagement and Awareness

Over the past two years, our education and awareness campaigns have reached more than 1,200 forest-fringe community members. These engagements have not only raised awareness about forest and wildlife conservation but also fostered stronger community ownership of conservation actions. A key highlight has been the increased participation of women (40% increase) and youth (45% increase) in our activities by the end of 2024, demonstrating a more inclusive approach to conservation.



Community members sharing knowledge about the White-necked Picathartes after an education session

Improved Knowledge of Species Distribution

Our field team revisited previously identified nesting sites and followed up on new reports of White-necked Picathartes colonies across several forest reserves. This effort confirmed six additional nesting sites: four at Fum Headwaters, one at Nyame Bepo (Bonkro), and one at Bosomtwe Range Forest Reserve, strengthening our understanding of the species' distribution.



A map showing all confirmed nesting sites of the White-necked Picathartes in Ghana



GWS Staff training site support groups in birdwatching and nature interpretation



GWS Staff installing a camera trap at Nyamebe Bepo



Camera trap captures footages of Picathartes

Improving the Status of endangered tree species in Ghana.

Status: ● Ongoing

Background

The Fondation Franklinia Project focuses on restoring degraded forests and conserving three rare and endangered tree species native to Ghana; *Talbotiella gentii*, *Hunteria ghanensis*, and *Drypetes singroboensis*. These species have limited distributions and are threatened by deforestation, wildfires, and human disturbance. Through habitat restoration, species inventory, and strong community involvement the project aims to secure their long-term survival.

The project is implemented across the Akwamu Community Forest, Osimpo near Obutu, and other confirmed sites in Ghana's Eastern and Central Regions. These areas were selected due to verified occurrences of the target species and the potential for restoration to improve their habitats. Efforts include maintaining restored areas, conducting field inventories, and engaging local people in tree identification and conservation monitoring.

Now in its second phase, the project built on the achievements of Phase I to consolidate restoration gains and strengthen local stewardship. It also deepened research partnerships, particularly with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Under this collaboration, researchers from the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources led propagation trials for *Hunteria ghanensis* and *Drypetes singroboensis*. These trials, conducted at KNUST's greenhouse, tested vegetative propagation using stem cuttings to supplement seed-based propagation. Successfully rooted cuttings were then transferred to the project nursery in Kumasi for monitoring and future out-planting, advancing efforts to improve the survival and recovery of these endangered tree species.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the year in review:

- Surveyed nine sites to locate new populations of *Hunteria ghanensis* and *Drypetes singroboensis*.
- Collected 3,000 *Hunteria ghanensis* seeds. Started nursery trials to improve germination rates.
- Maintained 100 hectares of restored forest and achieved 70% seedling survival through watering, mulching, and fire control.
- Trained 20 locals in species identification and inventory.
- Conducted stem-cutting propagation trials to boost seedling production
- Built about 10 km of fire belts around restoration sites.



Personnel from GWS sorting out *Talbotiella* seeds for planting.

Community Participation Leading to New Species Discovery

Training in tree identification and survey techniques empowered local community members to take an active role in conservation. Their involvement led to the discovery of a previously unrecorded *Talbotiella gentii* population in the Akwamu Community Forest. This achievement highlights the vital role of local knowledge and participation in advancing species conservation and long-term forest stewardship.



GWS Personnel show a community member photos of the target tree species during an identification exercise

Post-Planting Care and Maintenance

Following the planting phase, continuous maintenance activities were carried out to ensure high seedling survival and healthy forest growth. Regular watering was conducted during the dry months to reduce mortality and support early establishment. Mulching was applied around seedlings to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and improve nutrient content. Fire control measures were also implemented, including the creation of 10 km of fire belts around restoration areas to safeguard young plants and natural stands. These combined efforts contributed to an average survival rate of 70% across the 100 hectares of restored forest sites.



Post-planting activities carried out by community members to ensure healthy seedling growth and forest recovery



Fruits of *Hunteria ghanensis*



Drypetes singroboensis leaves showing buds

QUICK GLANCE AT THE IMPACT



100

hectares of forests maintained under active restoration.



20

locals trained in tree identification and monitoring.



10 km

of protective fire belts established.

KBA Assessment for Mole National Park

Status: ✔ Completed

Background

As part of efforts to identify and safeguard Ghana's most important wildlife habitats, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), with funding and technical support from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), conducted surveys to assess Mole National Park's qualification as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA).

Vultures were chosen as indicator species because of their crucial role in maintaining ecosystem balance. The study focused on three species in the landscape: White-backed, White-headed, and Hooded Vultures, with incidental sightings of the Bateleur.

Goal

To evaluate the population status of Critically Endangered and Vulnerable vulture species in Mole National Park and determine the park's eligibility for designation as a Key Biodiversity Area.

Project Location

The assessment was carried out in and around Mole National Park, located in Ghana's Savannah Region, covering key transects that support diverse wildlife, including large mammals and scavenging birds.



A White-backed Vulture Soaring above Mole Motel



A Bateleur soaring over the Mole National Park.

West African Nature Transformation Initiative (WANTI) Regional Workshop

Accra, Ghana.

Background

In October 2024, the Ghana Wildlife Society, in collaboration with BirdLife International and the Cambridge Conservation Initiative (CCI), successfully hosted the West African Nature Transformation Initiative (WANTI) Regional Workshop in Accra, Ghana. The three-day workshop, held from October 1 to 3, brought together conservation experts, policymakers, and community representatives from across West Africa to co-develop a transformative Theory of Change for the conservation of the Guinea Forests of West Africa.

Discussions during the workshop focused on promoting the sustainable use of biological resources while ensuring the protection of biodiversity and respect for local practices. Participants explored practical approaches for strengthening biodiversity governance, promoting transboundary collaboration, and integrating traditional knowledge systems into modern conservation planning. The event also provided a platform for sharing lessons and experiences from different countries in the region, deepening regional cooperation and collective action.

Special attention was given to ensuring that conservation efforts contribute to improved community well-being, with emphasis on empowering women and youth. Participants also examined the role of sustainable agriculture and nature-based solutions in addressing environmental challenges and building ecological resilience. The workshop concluded with renewed commitment among stakeholders to work collaboratively toward a sustainable and just future for the Guinea Forests of West Africa.



Stakeholders collaborate during a breakout session to co-develop strategies for nature conservation in West Africa



Participants present outcomes from group discussions on transforming conservation practices in the Guinea Forests of West Africa



Presentation by the workshop coordinator on the final day of the workshop

Monthly Bird Walk



Status: ● Ongoing

Background

Since 1994, the Ghana Wildlife Society has been using birds as bio-indicators for environmental monitoring and conservation education. The monthly bird walks, initiated in 2012, have become a cornerstone of public engagement in wildlife conservation, combining recreational bird watching with environmental education.

These walks serve a dual purpose: promoting bird conservation while contributing to Ghana's growing ecotourism sector. The program has successfully created a platform for both experienced birders and newcomers to engage with nature.



Participants use Binoculars in Birdwatching for the first time



Keep an eye out for this logo...

It features selected bird stars that made our 2024 fieldwork memorable, showcasing the beauty and diversity we strive to protect.

Goal

Promote bird and wildlife conservation through public engagement and education while contributing to biodiversity monitoring efforts.

Birdwalk Location

The birdwalk is held in various sites in and around Accra, including; Legon Botanical Gardens, Densu Delta Ramsar Site and Dawhenya Irrigation Dam.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE IMPACT



150+

bird species spotted with regular sightings of migratory birds.



10

successful birdwalk events organised in three key locations in and around Accra.



30+

average participants per birdwalk with a mix of expert and beginner birders.

Ghana Wildlife Society Hosts Stakeholder Workshop to Update Key Biodiversity Areas in Ghana

Aburi, Accra.

Background

In August 2024, GWS, with support from CEPF and in collaboration with BirdLife International, organized a two-day workshop to review and update the status of Ghana's 34 Key Biodiversity Areas. The event brought together 28 stakeholders from government agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions to assess recent species data, identify priority threats, and discuss gaps in existing management plans. Key recommendations included updating outdated KBA plans, improving national biodiversity data systems, and strengthening collaboration among conservation actors. The workshop represents an important step toward more coordinated and data-driven biodiversity conservation in Ghana.



Stakeholders engaging in open dialogue on emerging threats and conservation gaps



Stakeholders engaging in open dialogue on emerging threats and conservation gaps



Prof. Erasmus Owusu highlighting the urgency of coordinated action to safeguard Ghana's Key Biodiversity Areas.

Enhancing Habitat Conditions and Ecosystem Services in the Mole Ecological Landscape

Status: ● Ongoing

Background

The ERF Project seeks to enhance ecosystem connectivity and improve habitat conditions within the Mole Ecological Landscape by promoting collaborative conservation among fringe communities. Mole National Park, Ghana's largest protected area and a key stopover for Afro-Palearctic migratory birds, is bordered by 33 communities with over 40,000 residents who depend on its natural resources.

However, the absence of a natural buffer has exposed the park to illegal exploitation. To address this, the project supports the formation of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) to serve as social buffers that promote sustainable resource use and biodiversity protection.

Funded by the RSPB, the project aims to bring the Larabanga, Kananto, and Kbampe communities together to establish a new CREMA and restore degraded habitats in and around the Kenikeni Forest Reserve. The initiative is designed to enhance ecological connectivity, safeguard key biodiversity, and strengthen community stewardship in northern Ghana's savannah ecosystem.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the year in review:

- Conducted participatory mapping in three communities to guide CREMA boundary demarcation.
- Established a nursery at Larabanga with 4,000 seedlings of six native species for upcoming restoration activities.
- Conducted biodiversity baseline surveys covering flora, avifauna, mammals, herpetofauna, and entomofauna.
- Established a Project Steering Committee on comprising representatives from GWS, RSPB, and the Wildlife Division to provide strategic oversight and guidance for project implementation.



Community nursery nurturing 4,000 seedlings of six native tree species to support upcoming restoration work.

Stakeholder Collaboration Marks the Start of the CEPF Project

Background

The Ghana Wildlife Society commenced the implementation of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Project aimed at strengthening community-based conservation and promoting sustainable livelihoods within the Cape Three Points landscape. The project seeks to enhance biodiversity conservation through capacity building, mentorship, and stakeholder collaboration, with a strong focus on leadership development, women's empowerment, and the promotion of sustainable livelihood practices such as beekeeping and ecotourism.

A joint community engagement led by the Ghana Wildlife Society in collaboration with Hen Mpoano and Resource Trust Network was conducted to introduce the CEPF Project to seven communities; Animakrom, Adelazo, Seremawu, Asuboe, Aketakiyi, Cape Three Points, and Akwidaa. The sessions provided an overview of planned capacity-building activities in sustainable beekeeping, ecotourism, and nature interpretation mentorship.

Community members expressed strong interest and commitment to the project's objectives, recognizing its potential to enhance livelihoods and promote environmental sustainability. Key concerns raised included weak local leadership, illegal logging, mining, hunting, and the expansion of rubber plantations around the reserve. Local stakeholder groups such as the CREMA Executive Committee, Biodiversity Monitoring Team, Beekeepers Association, National Fish Processors and Traders Association (NAFPTA), and Ghana National Canoe Fishermen Council (GNCFC) were identified as potential beneficiaries of the project's interventions.



Community engagement session introducing the CEPF Project and its planned capacity-building activities.



Meeting with the Forest Services Division Director to discuss partnership opportunities under the CEPF Project.





Abyssinian Roller

Coracias abyssinicus

LC Least Concern

The Abyssinian Roller is one of West Africa's most striking and charismatic birds, known for its vivid plumage and spectacular flight displays.

Adorned in shades of turquoise, royal blue, and chestnut-brown, with long, elegant tail streamers, it is a true spectacle when it soars or performs acrobatic dives in pursuit of insects.

Often seen perched conspicuously on trees, wires, or fence posts, the roller scans the ground for prey such as grasshoppers and beetles before swooping down with precision.

Found in open woodlands and farmlands dotted with trees, the Abyssinian Roller adds a splash of colour to Ghana's skies with its graceful presence reminding us of the need to cherish and protect the natural places where such beauty thrives.

Spring Alive: Sensitization on Migratory Birds Conservation



Background

On January 26, 2024, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) organized the Spring Alive project at the Legon Botanical Gardens under the theme “Sensitization on Migratory Birds Conservation through Environmental Education.” The event brought together 50 participants, to deepen their understanding of migratory bird conservation.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration:

- Hosted a quiz competition between Glory Hill and Mercy Schools, with Peter K. Dumfour of Glory Hill International School emerging as the winner.
- Guided WCG members in identifying key migratory species such as the Yellow-billed Kite and Black Kite.



Peter K. Dwumfour from Glory Hill International School, winner of the quiz contest.



Participants engage in an interactive session, learning about the tree preferences of migratory birds in the Legon Botanical Gardens.



Young conservationists attentively listen to a presentation on migratory bird protection.

World Wetlands Day

Background

World Wetlands Day 2024 was observed by the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) on February 2 under the theme “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing,” drawing attention to the essential role wetlands play in biodiversity conservation and sustainable water management.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration:

- Published an article highlighting the ecological value of wetland, emphasizing the services they provide the ecosystem.
- Highlighted threats such as urbanization, pollution, and climate change while urging the integration of wetland conservation into national land-use policies.



The beautiful Amansuri Wetland



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LIFE INTERLACED WETLANDS AND PEOPLE - WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2024

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Alternatively, you can visit
www.ghanawildlifesociety.org/publications to read.



The Sakumo Ramsar Site.

World Wildlife Day



A Camera Trap.

Background

On March 3, 2024, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) marked World Wildlife Day under the theme “Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation.” The celebration highlighted how technology is transforming efforts to protect biodiversity.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration include:

- The Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) published a statement on its website and social media, highlighting how digital innovation is transforming wildlife conservation in Ghana.
- Partnered with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to train Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) Executives around Mole National Park in mobile phone and Open Data Kit (ODK) use for biodiversity monitoring.



Drones are transforming conservation helping track species and protect habitats with greater efficiency.



**STATEMENT BY GHANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY TO
COMMEMORATE WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2024**

Please scan the QR code to download and read the full position paper.

Alternatively, you can visit
www.ghanawildlifesociety.org/publications to read.



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Camera traps reveal wildlife activity and species diversity without disturbing natural behavior.

Global Recycling Day

Background

As part of efforts to engage newly formed Wildlife Clubs, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), in collaboration with the Ghana Recycling Initiative by Private Enterprises (GRIPE), organized an environmental awareness session on March 13, 2024, at Mercy Schools Limited. The initiative aimed at educating school children on the importance of recycling to reduce plastic waste and promote a green environment.

The session, attended by 40 Wildlife Club members (ages 8-16), four teachers, and five GRIPE representatives, covered topics such as recyclable vs. non-recyclable plastics and the life cycle of plastic waste. Participants learned about various plastic types (PET, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, etc.) and how they can be repurposed into reusable items.

A short quiz was conducted to assess knowledge retention, demonstrating that over 85% of participants could correctly identify recyclable plastics and their uses. This initiative fostered environmental stewardship among young learners, equipping them with practical solutions to plastic waste management. By integrating hands-on learning and industry collaboration, the event strengthened awareness on recycling and its role in sustainability. The attached is the link to Photos of the activity

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration include:

- Introduced students to various plastic types (PET, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, etc.) and their potential for repurposing into reusable items.
- Conducted a short quiz to test participants' knowledge on recyclable plastics and their uses.



Young Wildlife Club members picking up trash as part of Global Recycling Day activities.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE IMPACT



85%

of participants successfully identified recyclable plastics and their uses after the session.

World Earth Day



Titanic Beach, Accra

Background

World Earth Day (WED) 2024, themed “Planet vs. Plastic,” was marked in Ghana on April 20 with a clean-up exercise at Titanic Beach, Sakumono. Organized by the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) in partnership with Ecozoil the event raised awareness about the impacts of plastic pollution on marine life while contributing to the SDGs.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration:

- Mobilized 82 participants, including Wildlife Club members from Achimota Senior High School, Ecozoil staff, volunteers, GHAPHA personnel, GWS staff, and teachers.
- Educated participants on recyclable vs. non-recyclable plastics, ecological threats of plastic pollution, and proper waste management.
- Equipped participants with gloves, bin bags, and rakes to conduct a large-scale beach clean-up.



Students learning to identify and sort recyclable plastics from other waste materials.



Wildlife Club members from Achimota Senior High School and Ecozoil staff collecting waste materials at Titanic Beach, Sakumono.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE IMPACT



6 tonnes

of waste collected, of which four tonnes of plastic were sorted as recyclable and sent to a recycling facility.



Awareness Campaign on Critically Endangered Species

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Yonguase, Somanya

Background

As part of the Franklina Project, the Ghana Wildlife Society held an outreach from March 19–21, 2024, in three schools near Yonguase Forest Reserveto raise awareness about two trees *Hunteria ghanensis* (Critically Endangered) and *Drypetes singroboensis* (Endangered) and inspire students to take part in forest conservation.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration:

Conducted a three-day educational outreach (March 19–21, 2024) in three schools: Yongua M.A Basic, Ajena Dornor M.A Basic and Nnudu Aboasa J.H.S

Students joined in quizzes, drawing contests, and tree-nursing activities while learning about forest conservation, wildfire prevention, and the vital role of trees in protecting nature.



Students and GWS facilitators posing after a successful outreach session promoting forest conservation in the Yonguase area



Artwork of the endangered Talboetiella gentii by a pupil



Student illustrating Talbotiella during an interactive session

WCG Members Visit To ACEC

ACEC, Ridge

Background

The Accra Conservation Education Centre (ACEC) hosted 12 pupils and their patron, Mad. Elsie Gordor, from May's Day Care and Educational Centre on April 17, 2024, for an educational visit focused on the work of the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) and ongoing conservation efforts.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration:

- Pupils were introduced to the three core programs of GWS: Conservation & Research Science, Conservation Education, and Community-Based Natural Resource Management.
- A facility tour led by Ms. Vivian Larbi took them through the Swiss Hall, A.G. Leventis Library (children's section), and GWS offices, where they interacted with staff.
- Souvenirs, including wildlife-themed brooches, Nko Magazines, and the Bongo Newsletter, were shared with the pupils, while their patron received a teacher's guide on environmental education.

GLOBAL RECYCLING DAY

On March 13, 2024, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), in partnership with the Ghana Recycling Initiative by Private Enterprises (GRIPE), held an environmental awareness session at Mercy Schools Limited to engage newly formed Wildlife Clubs. The event educated students on the importance of recycling in reducing plastic waste and promoting a greener environment.

Forty Wildlife Club members (ages 8–16), four teachers, and five GRIPE representatives participated. Topics covered included recyclable vs. non-recyclable plastics, plastic types (PET, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP), and how plastics can be repurposed. A short quiz showed over 85% of participants could correctly identify recyclable plastics. The session enhanced environmental awareness among students and encouraged practical waste management habits through engaging, hands-on learning.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE IMPACT



Provided educational materials that extended learning beyond the visit

World Clean-Up Day

Laboma Beach, Accra

Background

On September 16, 2024, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) partnered with Let's Do It Ghana to commemorate World Cleanup Day at Laboma Beach. The initiative sought to tackle Ghana's plastic waste challenge, promote proper waste segregation, and contribute to SDGs 6, 11, 13, and 14.

Specific Activities

Key activities carried out during the celebration:

- Mobilized over 500 participants, including students, volunteers, community members, partner organizations, and media.
- Collected, sorted, and weighed several tonnes of waste to assess coastal pollution levels.



Volunteers sweeping and gathering plastic and other waste materials.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE IMPACT



500+

participants joined in the clean-up at
Laboma Beach

A.G LEVENTIS PROJECT

As part of efforts to nurture the next generation of conservation stewards, we began the formation of six new wildlife clubs. Three of these clubs will benefit from a new community library under construction at Dotom Camp, which will provide a hub for environmental education. This initiative revitalizes the old wildlife club network while creating new platforms for community-led conservation learning.







Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis

LC Least Concern

The Pied Kingfisher is a striking sight along Ghana's rivers and lagoons, its black-and-white feathers flashing as it hovers gracefully above the water.

With rapid wingbeats, it hovers effortlessly above the water, eyes fixed below before plunging headfirst to snatch a fish with astonishing precision. The splash lasts only a second, but the moment captures the very essence of life along our rivers and wetlands.

Often seen in pairs or small groups, their sharp calls echo across lagoons, lakes, and rivers, adding music to the stillness of the water.

Its presence is a vivid reminder that thriving wetlands are not just beautiful; they are alive, sustaining the rhythm of both people and wildlife that depend on them.

Digital Communications

The Society effectively reaches its key audiences through various communication channels, including the primary website: ghanawildlifesociety.org, the blog site: blog.ghanawildlifesociety.org, and a variety of social media platforms.

While the website and blog remain our number one sources of information and consumption, the significance of social media in communication has significantly grown.

Shown here is a summary of user engagement on channels managed by the GWS communications unit. Facebook was the most engaging social media platform, with 10,120 interactions (likes, comments, and shares) from 3,957 followers.

The society's audience tends to engage with content on convenient platforms and, increasingly, with visually appealing content, such as images and videos. The number of followers and engagement on social channels is continuously increasing.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOOTPRINT


5.0K
WEBSITE
PAGE VISITS


400
NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS


4.0K
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS


1.3K
TWITTER
FOLLOWERS


2.1K
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS


80
YOUTUBE
SUBSCRIBERS



Visit and check out our recent publications:
ghanawildlifesociety.org/publications/

Corporate Membership



Endangered Animal Species Fence

The celebrated endangered animal species project was launched by GWS in 2003 with the aim of educating and creating awareness among the public on the plight of rare, vulnerable and threatened animal species in the bush meat trade in Ghana. It was setup to also compliment fundraising efforts for our conservation activities.

The impact has been enormous, raising many inquiries and requests for further information and reference materials on endangered species.

Through partnership with corporate institutions, the fence provides organisations and businesses the opportunity to fulfil their corporate social responsibilities by committing funds towards the Society's conservation activities whilst projecting their corporate image.



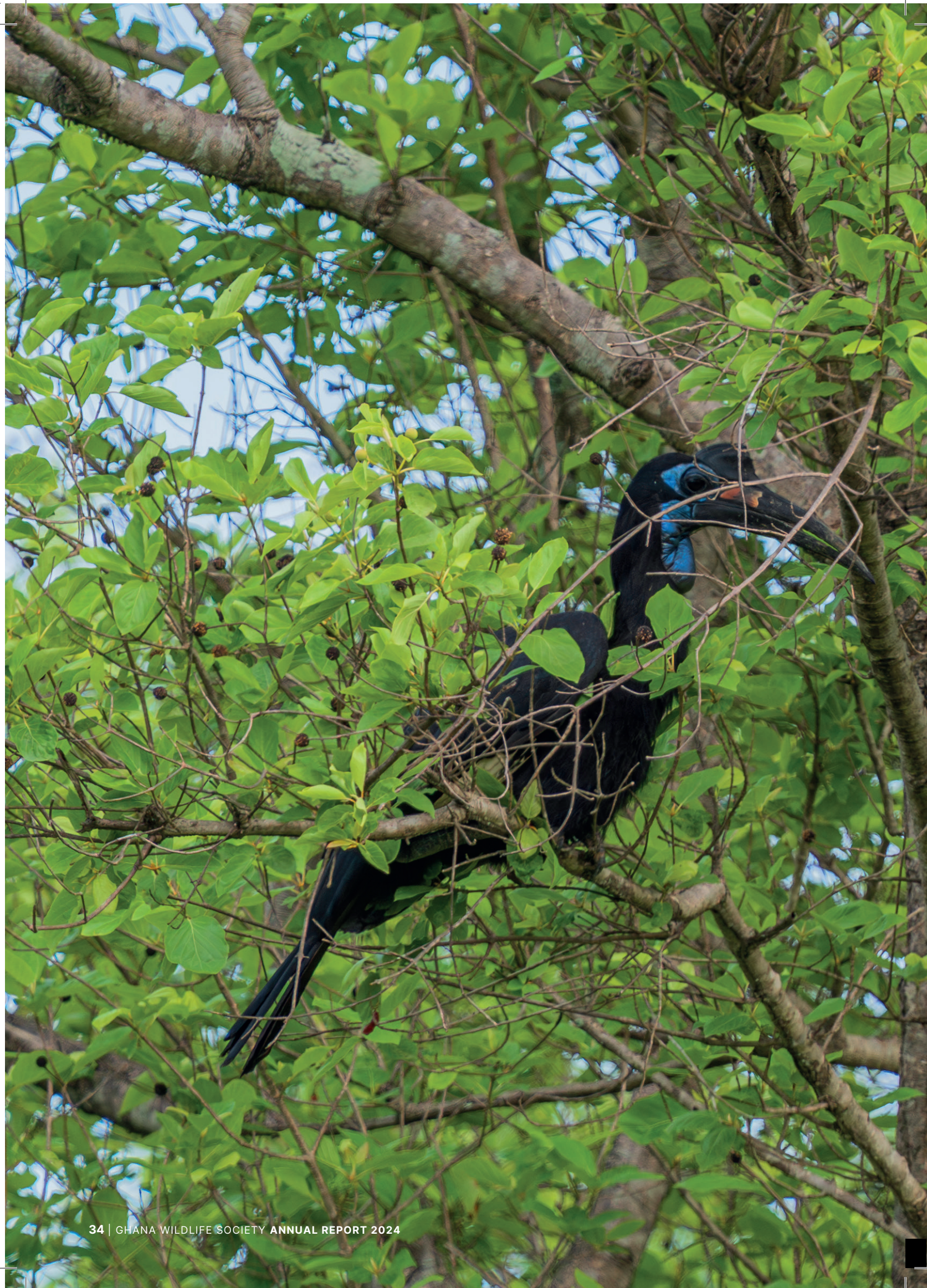
GOLDEN STAR



The Society currently has nine (8) corporate partners.



Endangered Species Fence: The species fence facing the independence avenue was renovated and updated to reflect our new corporate partners.





Abyssinian Ground Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus

VU Vulnerable

The Abyssinian Ground Hornbill is a large, terrestrial bird commonly found in open savanna and woodland habitats across sub-Saharan Africa.

Unlike most hornbills, it spends much of its time walking on the ground in pairs or small family groups, foraging for insects, reptiles, small mammals, and other prey.

Recognized by its striking black plumage, bare red facial skin, and long eyelashes, the species is both distinctive and ecologically important, playing a role in controlling small animal populations. Its deep, booming calls often resonate through the early morning landscape, serving as a characteristic sound of the African savanna.

Although still widespread, the Abyssinian Ground Hornbill faces threats from habitat loss and hunting, underscoring the need for continued conservation efforts to protect this remarkable species and its grassland environment.

Summarised Financial Statements

Ghana Wildlife Society Statement of Income and Expenditure and Accumulated Fund for the year ended 31st December, 2024

2024 (GH¢)

2023 (GH¢)

Income

Rental Income	16,700	23,235
Project Funds	5,450,261	3,243,948
Other Income	1,328,985	2,701,614
TOTAL INCOME	6,795,946	5,968,797

Expenditure

Administrative Expenses	2,110,344	1,574,679
Project Expenses	1,988,044	4,868,644
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,098,388	6,443,323

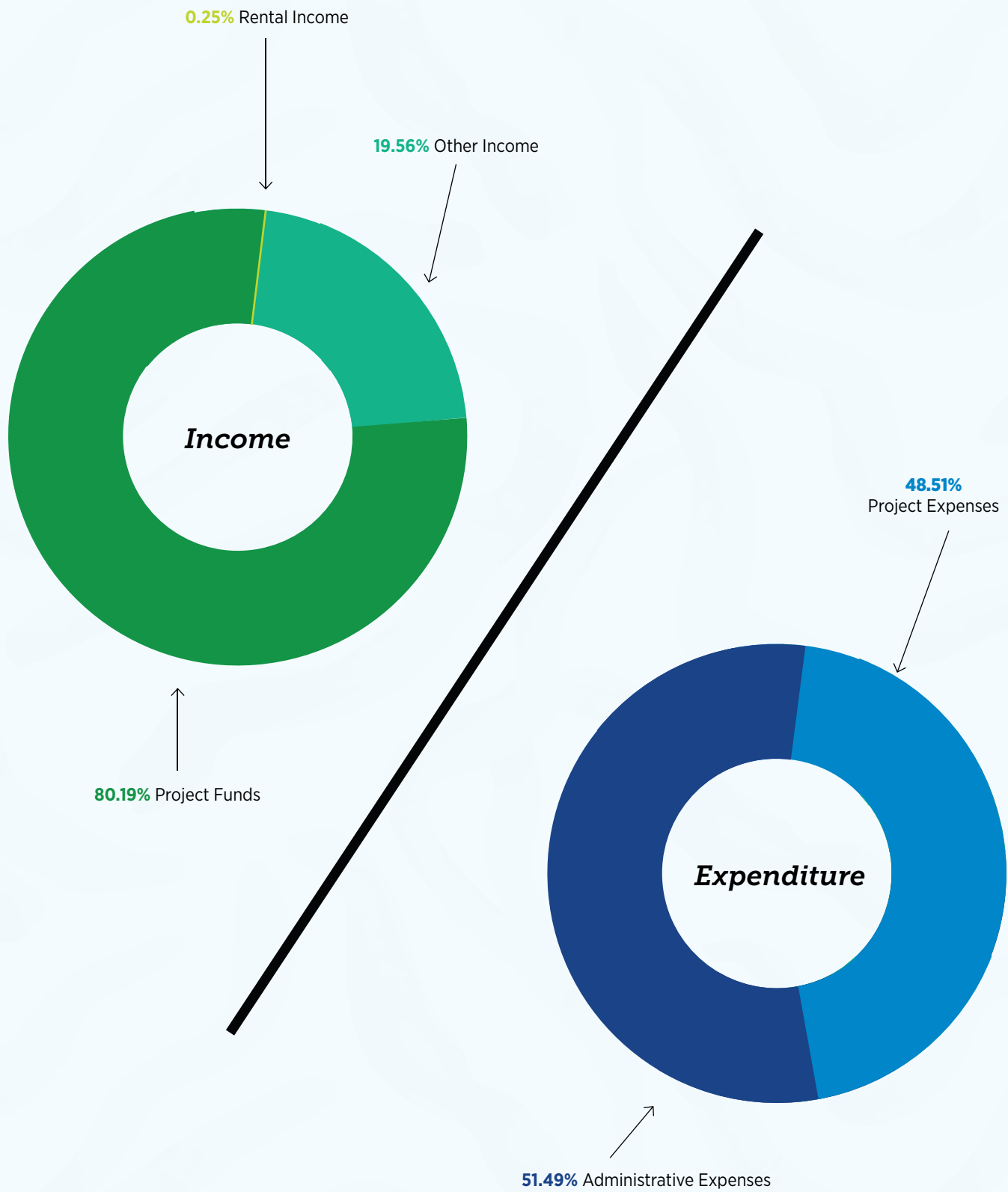
Excess of Income over Expenditure

2,697,559

(474,526)

Accumulated Fund

Balance as at 01/01	10,112,355	10,684,149
Prior Year Adjustment	(2,171,706)	(97,268)
Excess of Income over Expenditure	2,697,559	(474,526)
BALANCE AS AT 31/12	10,638,208	10,112,355





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Our work is firmly rooted in partnerships, and relies on science that inspires positive conservation actions in collaboration with communities, civil society groups, businesses, universities and the government.



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Relying on science to inspire
conservation actions for the
benefit of **people** and **nature**

📷 COVER PHOTO | © RAPHAEL NII LAATE LARTEY

Bushbuck

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