

CONSERVATION IN ACTION | APRIL 2022

# WILDCRY

AD ALREADY SEEN GORILLAS REPATRIATED TO CONGO AND GABON

**BORN  
TO LIVE  
WILD**

 THE  
ASPINALL  
FOUNDATION  
CHARITY NUMBER 326567



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## WELCOME from Damian Aspinall

I would like to start by thanking you for taking the time to read this latest version of Wildcry, and for continuing to support our work around the world. It is so important for us to be able to show you the real change your support makes on the ground, day in day out. Without it, none of the incredible work you read about in these pages would be possible, so again, thank you.

Our spring edition offers us a chance to reflect on the year gone by. While 2021 did not pass by without challenges, our teams on the ground rose to the occasion time and time again, and achieved so much for endangered species. The year saw a world-first in Gabon, where Taàli became the first gorilla ever born in the wild to two captive-born parents. This story epitomises everything we are about: doing what others thought wasn't possible and leading the way in conservation projects like this.

At the other end of the continent, the year ended with the wonderful news of cheetah cubs being born to Nairo and Ava. To see Nairo grow from a captive cheetah in our parks to gradually living wild and free in South Africa has been awe-inspiring, and the new arrivals now offer the chance to add new genetics and increase the cheetah population in South Africa.

Of course, these are just two from hundreds of successful conservation projects and rescues in 2021, and I hope you enjoy reading about some of the others in the following pages. We are full of confidence that we can continue this hard work and look forward to embarking on our most ambitious projects yet in the very near future.



# BORN TO LIVE WILD

As a regular supporter, you may have read many of our stories about Djala, a western lowland gorilla whose life epitomises so much of the work we do at The Aspinall Foundation. This year, he will reach the grand age of 40. On the occasion of this stunning silverback gorilla's birthday, we would like to celebrate his life by taking a look back at the events, both good and bad, that culminated in his return to Africa and the continuation of his bloodline with a birth in the wild.

## 1982 – 1991 The First Decade A Fight to Survive

In 1982, Djala was born in freedom. We have no idea how large his family troop was, or how many siblings he may have had.

All we know is that he witnessed the slaughter of his entire family for bushmeat when he was less than one year old. The terrified infant, wounded in the stomach, was kept tethered to a stake until he was large enough to be worth killing. His fate seemed inevitable. Then he experienced a turn of luck. A French oil executive, flying over a small village in Congo, spotted children tormenting a small ape with sticks and stones. He immediately landed and purchased the infant for a few dollars. The young gorilla had plucked himself almost naked and was covered in sores and bruises. Fortunately, the man knew just the person to look after him, a French woman named Yvette Leroy. She took him into her care and named him Albin. The name of the village where he so nearly met his demise was Djala.

Yvette undoubtedly saved his life, but she also knew she would need to find a new home for him before he grew into adolescence. On a trip to France in 1984, she saw a documentary on the work

of John Aspinall and, having visited Howletts and assured herself it would be a suitable new home for the now boisterous youngster, the preparations for an animal transfer were made. Within months, Djala, as he was renamed, was in the UK. Thanks to the keen observations of John Aspinall, the gorillas at Howletts lived in groups, mirroring the troops of their wild counterparts. Soon, Djala was integrated into a group headed by silverback Kijo. For the first time since the destruction of his own family, Djala was able to experience the support and companionship of his own species. He began to flourish – the hair plucking stopped and he was soon weaned off the medication for his joints with no recurrence of the problems.

## 1992 – 2011 The Middle Years A Time For Family

By 1992, the young adult Djala was settled at Howletts, living in a group of five females and another male orphan from Congo. He was the alpha in the group, but he soon lost

interest in his females, allowing the younger silverback, Kouillou, to mate and father babies in 1993. That same year, Djala was moved to Port Lympne. It was thought he may remain non-breeding and live in a bachelor group there. As it turned out, that assumption was wrong. Not only would Djala's wild-born genetic line soon be introduced into a Port Lympne gorilla group, but he had already fathered his first male infant whilst at Howletts. After paternity tests were carried out on the two youngsters born into Kouillou's group, it was discovered that Djanghou, born in December 1993, was Djala's first son. Djanghou remains at Howletts to this day where he heads his own family group.

In many ways, Djala settled well into his life in Kent. Yet he never truly forgot his own past and the trauma he experienced as an infant. Visitors to the park would sometimes witness some of his deep-rooted memories when he would throw anything resembling a stick in their direction. Our mission

to halt the extinction of endangered species and return animals to the wild whenever possible had already seen gorillas repatriated to Congo and Gabon. No gorilla could have been more deserving of a chance to live in the wild than Djala.

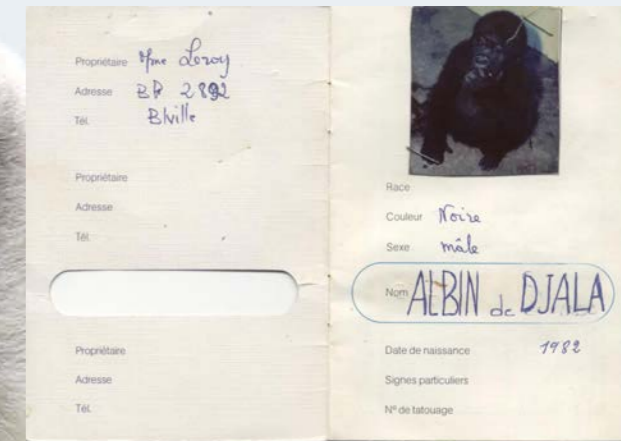
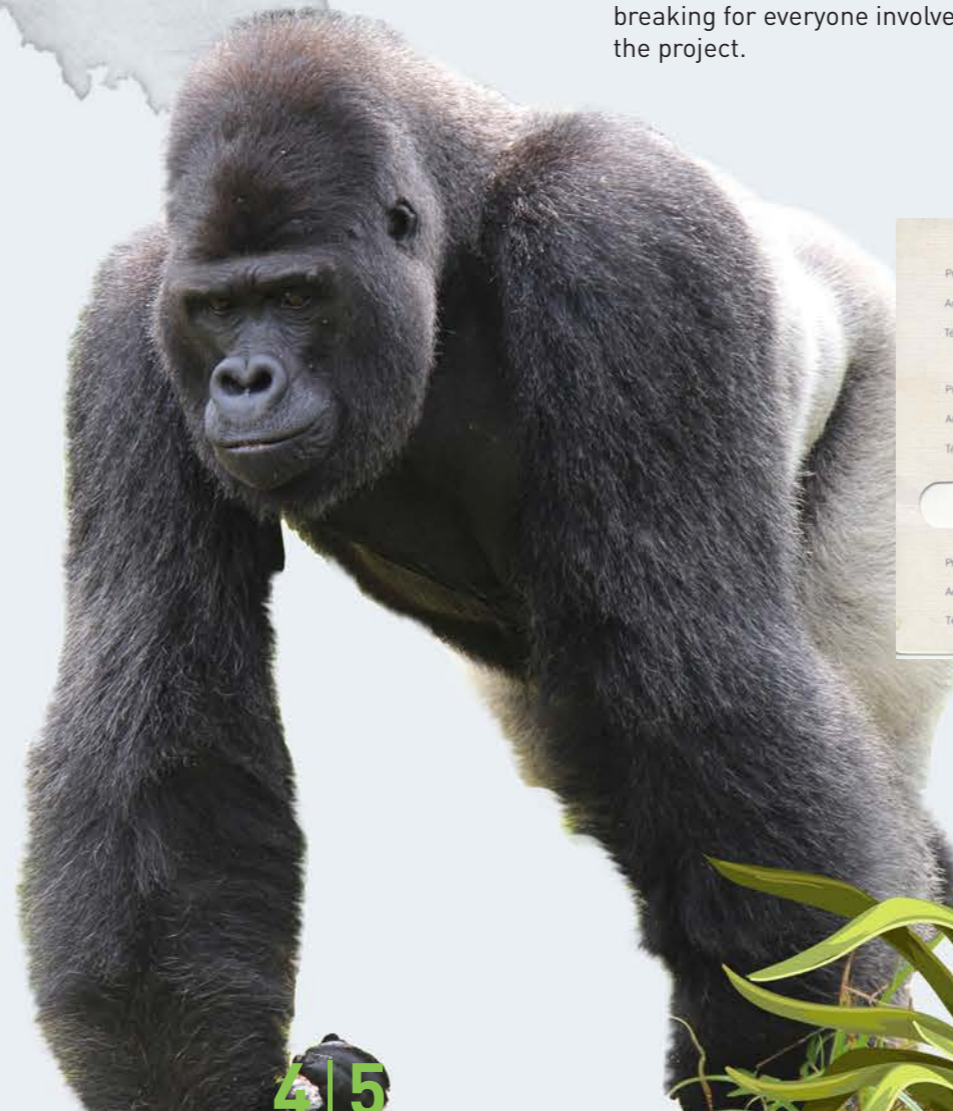
## 2012 – 2021 The Last Decade A Chance to Live in Freedom

By 2012, Djala had fathered 14 surviving offspring and his wild genetic bloodline was integrated into captive collections both in the UK and overseas. He was 30 years old and, if he was to have the chance of returning to the wild, the time was right. Extensive preparations were made for Djala and his group, eleven in total, to make the journey to our Gorilla Protection Project in the Batéke National Park in Gabon. In June 2013, the gorillas left Port Lympne on their 5,000-mile trip to Africa. The move went well, and the family group initially settled into their new life. Sadly, about one year after their arrival in Gabon, tragedy struck when a number of the group died. A definitive cause was never established, but it was heart-breaking for everyone involved in the project.



Fortunately, Djala remained in good health, as did his daughter Mbwanbe and his son Djongo. All three continue to live in freedom. Mbwanbe was moved when she reached maturity. She was introduced to Rafa, a male wild-born orphan, and they have stayed together now for several years. Djongo, who initially remained with Djala, has grown into a stunning silverback and, in 2021, after mating with a repatriated captive-bred female, the pair produced a female infant – the first wild-born gorilla in the world born to captive-bred released parents. Djala, as he reaches his 40th year, is still a beautiful silverback. He continues to live in the wild, close to his son and the latest addition to his family line.

He has experienced a complex life; his dislike of humans easy to understand given the pain and loss he endured at such an early age. Yet he has also received care



across the years. Our team in Gabon continue to monitor him daily. The average lifespan for a western lowland gorilla in the wild is 30-40 years, a few years more in captivity. Whatever the future brings, Djala will live in freedom, in the wild, with African soil at his feet and two generations of his family sharing his forest home.



100 SNARES  
DESTROYED  
IN ONE  
OPERATION

# A YEAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

RAMPING UP OUR LIFESAVING ANIMAL WELFARE WORK ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The Aspinall Foundation is involved in a multitude of projects in Southern Africa, where our diligent team divide their time between rewilding captive animals and emergency rescues and translocations, in close collaboration with partners. These projects support governments in securing important habitats and implementing specialist conservation strategies, as well as coordinating interventions to secure the lives of animals at immediate risk.

A focus on meaningful contributions to rural communities is at the heart of our work in the region. Dereck Milburn, The Aspinall Foundation's Regional Director for Southern Africa, outlines some of the key projects undertaken within the last 12 months:

We recently partnered with Hope for Wildlife Helicopter Services and The Wildlife Emergency Fund in providing aerial support for a massive anti-poaching sting operation, in an area adjacent to the Kruger National Park.



The operation was a collaboration of a number of different organisations and local game reserves, including Balule Nature Reserve, Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, Hemmersbach Rhino Force and Phalaborwa Natural Heritage Foundation. The collaborative group got together to clear an unmanaged portion of land which borders the Kruger Park. The team uncovered horrific scenes and destroyed a number of poacher butcher camps where bush meat was hanging to be dried. Weapons and equipment were also uncovered.



The most important win for the day, however, was the fact that over 100 snares were destroyed, and a trapped impala was released. Snares are a brutal method of killing smaller animals in Africa but they can also cause permanent damage to larger animals such as elephant and rhinos, where they often lose limbs.



55  
ELEPHANTS  
RESCUED  
IN 2021



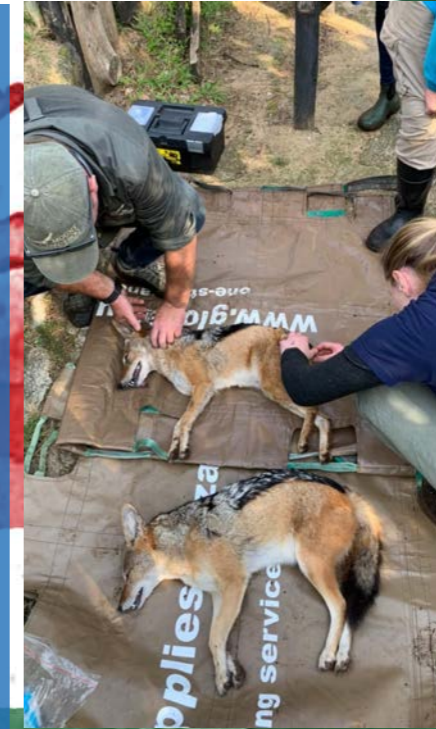
Autumn 2021 saw our team partnering with Wild and Free Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, to help transfer a number of animals from Seaview Predator Park, near Port Elizabeth, which recently announced its closure until further notice. The closure followed the tragic death of a Seaview employee, who was attacked and killed by a tiger.

We found shockingly substandard conditions at the park. One of the lions had been badly injured in a fight with the other males and had to be removed under emergency conditions and operated on. He is now doing very well. Three other lions were removed along with him, and these beautiful boys are now safe and comfortable at Three Valleys Sanctuary, a reserve in Bathurst.



Two black-backed jackals were moved to the Wild and Free Rehabilitation Centre in Hectorspruit – a journey of 930 miles, with a half-way stop for veterinary checks.

Once the team are confident that they can be put back into the wild, the pair will be released with tracking collars at Lionspruit Nature Reserve where they will be closely monitored by a full-time team.



# 29 RHINOS RESCUED IN 2021



The team also secured the life of a Siberian tiger and a stunning black leopard, named Shadow, from the park, again in partnership with Three Valleys. Without their support and significant investment, these incredible cats would not have had a second chance at life.



Seaview also donated two caracals for rewilding by The Aspinall Foundation. To facilitate the transfer, we partnered with Mount Camdeboo Private Game Reserve in the Great Karoo, the destination for these two beautiful, sleek wild cats. Joining these two animals on the journey was a four-month-old caracal from the Daniell Cheetah Project in the Eastern Cape Province, donated by the project for rewilding.

With the assistance of partners Grahamstown Veterinary Clinic, all three caracals were moved to holding bomas on the stunning 35,000-acre private reserve, which offers the perfect habitat for these agile nocturnal hunters. They have since settled very well, bonded successfully and, once the expert team are confident they are able to sustain themselves in the wild, will be released onto the wider reserve.

We are hugely thankful to Annie Mears of the Grahamstown Veterinary Clinic for conducting the veterinary work for the Seaview mission, and to Greenleaf Solar Energy for the support provided to make the translocations possible.



# AN EMOTIONAL FEW MONTHS AT MOUNT CAMDEBOO

NEWS FROM OUR GROUNDBREAKING  
CHEETAH REWILDING PROJECT



The last few months have been a hugely emotional time for The Aspinall Foundation team in South Africa, as reports from Mount Camdeboo brought news both celebratory and heartbreaking.

#### Saba: A pioneer for the species

In October, we received word from our monitoring team and partners at the reserve that Saba had died while hunting in the wild. Our dedicated team of rangers undertook a challenging operation to airlift his body off the summit within Mount Camdeboo, where he had climbed with his brother.

A post-mortem determined that he was killed by a horn penetrating his chest and abdomen, very likely whilst he was on top of his prey, possibly a young eland or oryx. He died within minutes, and given the inaccessibility of the location, there is simply no way anyone could have rescued him in time.

We have taken comfort in the fact that Saba died a hero, hunting as a truly wild cheetah and pursuing his prey on a mountain top. Along with his brother, he was a pioneer for the species: the first captive-born cheetahs to ever be successfully rewilded from Europe. He enjoyed two remarkable years in the wild

and was given a dignified burial in his favourite spot in the vast expanse of the Great Karoo.

#### New arrivals

November saw rather happier news emerging from the reserve. The Aspinall Foundation and our partners were absolutely elated to hear that four cheetah cubs had been born to Nairo and Ava, a captive-born cheetah who had grown up at Ashia Cheetah Centre and had been introduced to Nairo and Saba during their time in the rewilding section.

The four youngsters arrived on the 14th November, and represent critical new genetics in the Southern African Cheetah Metapopulation Project, administered by the Endangered Wildlife Trust. All are doing very well and are being regularly monitored by rangers. One of the primary goals of our rewilding projects is to increase much-needed genetic diversity in wild populations, so these births are a huge win in ensuring the brothers' legacy will live on through their valuable genetics, augmented by Ava's strong genes. Nairo and Ava are skilled hunters, so they will both be fantastic providers for the cubs as they begin to explore their surroundings.

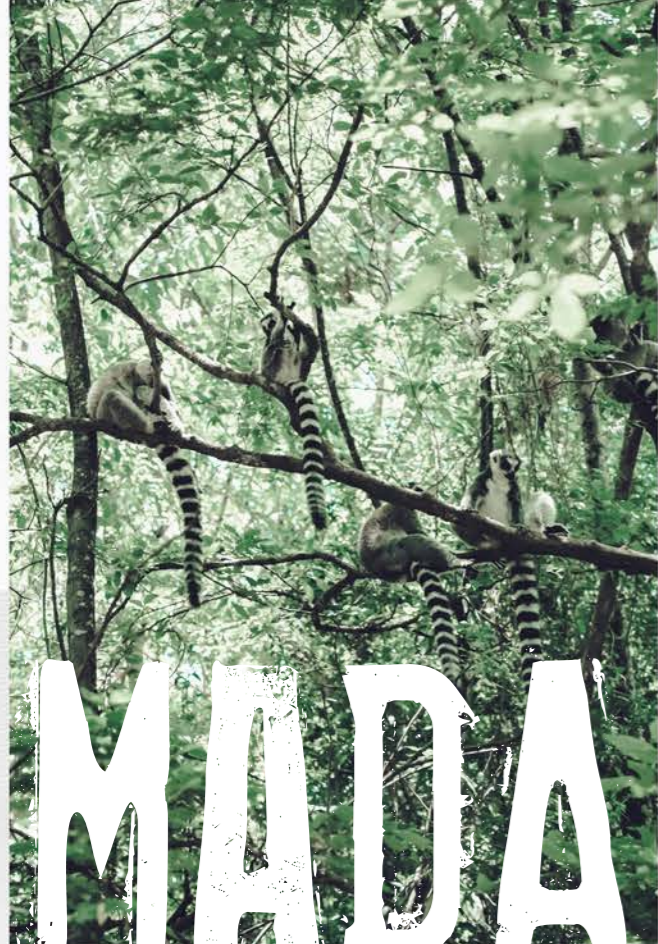


The project has emphatically proved that two captive-born cheetahs can breed successfully in the wild. We'll continue to bring you updates on these spirited new-borns' first steps under the epic skies of the Great Karoo.





# MADAGASCAR



Madagascar is one of the most important places for wildlife on earth. As the world's fourth largest island, its isolation has meant that native plants and animals have evolved like nowhere else on the planet. Incredibly, 90% of the species found in Madagascar are found only there. It is the only place in the world that lemurs live. It is a truly incredible country, and one that we need to protect.

However, Madagascar's incredible diversity is under threat. It is estimated that 90% of its forests have been lost, mainly to slash and burn agriculture, and also the growth of cash crops like coffee. There has been a 40% decrease from the 1950s alone. 17 species of lemur are now extinct, and with most of the remaining species also at risk of extinction, we need to act now to turn things around and save this amazing ecosystem.

## Reversing decades of destruction



### Green shoots of recovery

We have been fighting to protect lemurs and their habitats ever since we started our Madagascar project. Our community work has helped local people to protect the forests around them, and our education projects have taught the next generation the importance of protecting their beautiful country and its natural habitats. Alongside this we have undertaken a vast reforestation project in recent years. In 2021 alone we planted over 48,000 trees. The above map shows where these reforestation projects, the result of careful work with hundreds of community groups, have taken place.

### How are we doing this?

Our reforestation projects are conducted by local communities, from tree production in the nursery to the transplantation and monitoring of the trees after they are planted. All dead trees are replaced, so the 48,000 number is all surviving saplings. We are planting native tree species which are based on the lemur's diet and the local communities' need for their everyday life. We speak to as many local people and groups as possible

to ensure that they buy in to our plans. They will then use any dead wood for cooking or building houses, fences and boats.

### Rewarding

The local communities are offered a reward to help with this reforestation, chosen based on the community group's interest. These rewards can include agricultural tools, seeds (rice and market gardening), fruits or spice plants. Football teams who join in the effort are rewarded with kits, football boots and training equipment, whilst school groups usually choose drinks for the children during the reforestation session. They benefit from the schoolbooks we share with them every year, and when we are lucky with additional funding, they can even get a new school classroom built.

### Hope for the future

Work like this, and similar projects from other organisations, is slowly helping to reverse the alarming decline of Madagascar's unique habitats. Worldwide interest in protecting Madagascar has never been higher, but it is only dedicated

projects on the ground, like ours, and help from local communities that will turn things around. Our hope is to continue this crucial work and see further areas of Madagascar reforested, and lemur populations increase.



### FACTS

Incredibly, 90% of all species in Madagascar are only found there. 103 species of lemur – almost all of them – are classed as rare, vulnerable or endangered.

Did you know? the greater bamboo lemur was removed from the list of most endangered primates in the world, thanks to our conservation work.

Did you know? the golden bamboo lemur consumes enough cyanide (found in the bamboo they eat) each day to kill 3 people.



OUR MUCH-LOVED HOWLETTS GORILLA, JOSHI, CONTINUES TO LEARN TO LIVE WILD AND FREE WITH TWO ORPHANED GORILLAS, LOUKELELA AND BOMASSA. HERE WE BRING YOU THE LATEST CHAPTER IN THEIR STORY....

# TAÀLI - AN EMBLEM OF HOPE

Last year, we were delighted to announce that our conservation history-making baby gorilla born at our groundbreaking reintroduction project in Gabon has been named Taàli - meaning 'hope' in Batéké.

The female baby western lowland gorilla, born in June in the Batéké Plateau National Park, Gabon, to mother Mayombe and father Djongo, was the first ever birth to captive-born gorillas in the wild.

Damian Aspinall, Chairman, said: "We feel that this name, jointly chosen by the teams from ZooParc de Beauval and The Aspinall Foundation, truly captures every facet of what this newborn symbolises to conservation. We are hopeful she will be the first of many wild-borns to captive-born parents at our Gorilla Protection Project, another step in restoring this previously eradicated species to the region."

The latest observations from our team out in Gabon report that Taàli and her parents are doing very well. The small family is maintaining a very calm behaviour, with a closer and stronger relationship between Mayombe and Djongo seen on numerous camera trap videos. Hearteningly, they follow each other's movements and always try to stay within sight of each other.

Little Taàli continues to be very curious about the world around her, absorbed by the spectacular surroundings. Riding around on her mum's back, she is very inquisitive, grabbing branches and leaves as the pair explore this unique ecosystem.

She has recently been taking her first steps on her own under Mayombe's supervision, collecting food from the ground to carry on Mayombe's back to consume there. Like her dad, she loves her food and continues to explore the different edible young leaves and stems growing in the vast canopy forests.

## UPDATE FROM

**Joshi is gaining more and more confidence in his new life at the Lesio-Louna Reserve. Together with the young Bomassa (5 years old) and Loukelela (7 years old), he continues his path to a life in the wild and learns to explore his new environment.**

The two young gorilla orphans have helped Joshi to acclimatise easily to his new living conditions. Recently, he has begun to explore the island more thoroughly, in the company of the two young gorillas.

### Adapting to his new diet

Joshi has been trying out new foods and plant species that are present in

the reserve, which Bomassa and Loukelela have helped to identify for him. His adaptability and willingness to try new foods or explore new areas is enabling him to adjust well to life in the wild and he now eats a variety of local plants.

His physical condition is excellent, he has not lost any weight or shown any signs of stress since he arrived.

Joshi continues to have a very calm and sometimes shy nature, but he is not intimidated by the two young gorillas, showing good qualities for a silverback leading his group. Bomassa and Loukelela benefit enormously from the cohesion with the silverback, as once released,

Joshi will be able to guide and protect them from possible predator attacks. Given all these positive developments, we expect that the three gorillas will become completely independent in their search for food resources and that the two young males will continue to guide Joshi in exploring the island.

**With this wonderful progress, we can look to eventually moving the gorillas off the island to the freedom of the entire 173,000 hectare reserve.**

# WILDLIFE IN GABON



# JAVA PROJECTS: OFFERING SALVATION TO VANISHING SPECIES

**Our Indonesia team continues to provide a full rescue and rehabilitation programme for threatened primates that have fallen victim to the illegal pet trade, which continued unabated in 2021.**

Despite pandemic-driven delays in some areas, such as community programmes and school trips, the team have continued with successful initiatives such as the online education project they began in 2020.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to transfer any of the Javan langurs and gibbons from our UK parks, but we hope that a repatriation may be achieved during 2022.

Despite the challenges of the last year, we feel sure you will join us in congratulating the team in Indonesia for the wonderful work they continue to carry out.

At our langur rehabilitation centre in East Java, twelve rescued langurs entered the centre, along with a further seven transferred from our West Java centre ready for release. In total, the team released nineteen langurs back to the wild. Regular monitoring of langur groups already released provided encouraging evidence of more babies born in the wild.

At our Javan Primate Rehabilitation Centre in West Java, the team also received rescued and confiscated animals: five Javan gibbons and eight Javan langurs over the course of the year.



**Gabriel's group of 1 male and 3 females were released October 2021**

Sadly, it was not possible to save them all. Some of these langurs were just weeks old, and stress and lack of adequate nutrition are immensely damaging to wild animals, particularly in infants so young.

Fortunately, the dedicated round-the-clock care provided by the team enabled most of the babies to survive, and a total of six Javan gibbons and five Javan langurs were returned back to the wild.

The rescue and rehabilitation of primates is an ongoing process, alongside which the team also maintain the sites, look after the animals in their care, monitor and report on released primates and create and implement local community programmes.

This is undoubtedly hard and sometimes emotionally difficult work, but also immensely rewarding, as animals once denied their right to freedom are able to live back in the wild where they belong.



**Mother & baby in Nunuk's group**

Our hard work continues in 2022; vulnerable primates will continue to need our help and we hope to expand our community and education work and ultimately return as many animals to the wild as possible.

## ASPINALL FOUNDATION JAVA PROJECT 2021 STATS.

**500+ education sessions delivered in schools, universities and the community.**

**34- primates released into the wild from our rehab centres.**



**Baby langur at Javan Primate Rescue Centre**



**Released Javan gibbon at Mount Tilu Nature Reserve**



HOWLETT'S

PORT LYMPNE

THE ASPINALL FOUNDATION WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOWLETT'S WILD ANIMAL TRUST WHO OPERATE THE PARKS AT HOWLETT'S AND PORT LYMPNE.

GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



# PARK NEWS

## BIRTHS

### Baby Drill

On 29th August 2021, Port Lympne Reserve was delighted to welcome a new baby drill – a female, born to mum Bibundi and dad Nebosja. The inquisitive newborn joins the list of 16 drill babies who have been born at the reserve.

Bibundi is a very experienced mum now, having had ten babies. Her and Nebosja, plus his other two wives, Khari and Yola, and another eight youngsters make up the reserve's current troop of 13.

Jamie Robertson, Head Keeper of Primates, said: "The baby is proving to be quite adventurous, and hops off mum to explore whenever she stops. But the baby doesn't like to venture too far, and mum usually ends up tripping over her.

"She loves her food and is eager to try everything at the moment."

Drills are among Africa's most endangered mammals and are listed by the IUCN as the highest conservation priority of all African primates. Found only in Cross River State in Nigeria, southwestern (south to the Sanaga River), and on Bioko Island, part of Equatorial Guinea, in rainforest habitats, their entire world range is less than 40,000 km<sup>2</sup>.

Females give birth to a single baby, although twins have been recorded once at the Drill Rehabilitation & Breeding Centre in Nigeria. They live in small troops of around 20 individuals, consisting of a single dominant male, related females and their offspring.

Mainly foraging on the ground or lower levels of the trees for plants, seeds and insects, drills are wide-ranging and opportunistic feeders.



## OBITUARIES

### Layla

Back in October, the Howletts team were devastated to announce the loss of our 18-year-old Barbary lioness, Layla.

Layla was a much-loved character on the carnivore section and was well-known to many supporters.

Following a period of declining health, she had recently been receiving intensive veterinary treatment from our dedicated team, but had sadly shown no signs of improvement. Mindful of her quality of life and wellbeing, our vets and keepers felt it was the right time to put her gently to sleep to ensure she did not suffer.

Layla was born at our sister site, Port Lympne, in 2003, and came to Howletts with half-brother Jabir in 2012.

Easily recognisable from her very stern facial expression, she was known for being a rather headstrong lady, who could often be seen basking in the sun on her viewing ramp with her tongue sticking out. When no-one was watching, she was a big kid at heart, who loved to play with her custom-made tyre-ball and was very protective of it, dragging it into her bedroom at night.

**Her passing is a huge loss to the park, and we will miss her immensely.**

LAYLA: 11/09/2003 - 25/10/2021



### Settanta

The Port Lympne Reserve team unfortunately said goodbye to our beloved Nubian giraffe Settanta on Monday 1st November 2021. The team found him unable to get up when they arrived in the morning and after an assessment by the veterinary team and a discussion with all, the decision was made to put him gently to sleep.

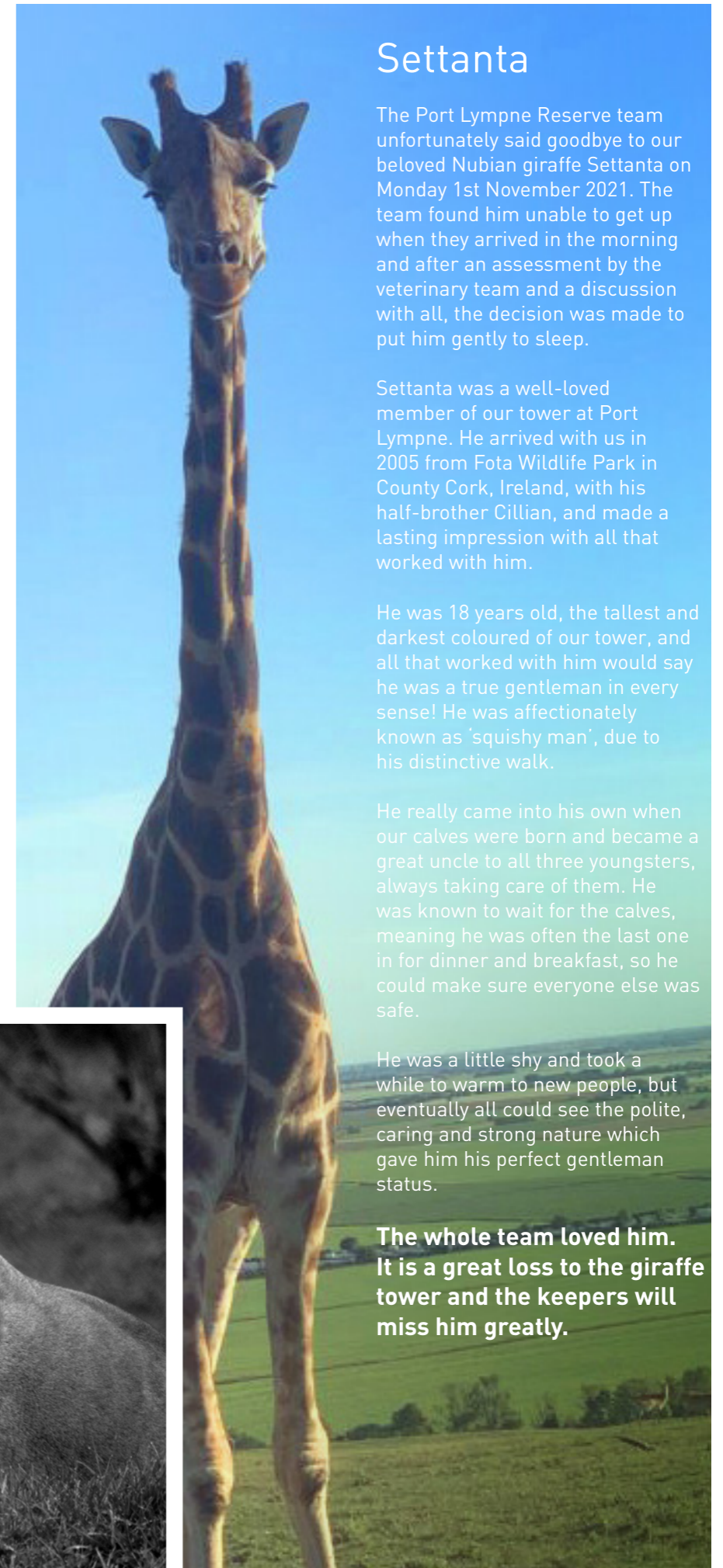
Settanta was a well-loved member of our tower at Port Lympne. He arrived with us in 2005 from Fota Wildlife Park in County Cork, Ireland, with his half-brother Cillian, and made a lasting impression with all that worked with him.

He was 18 years old, the tallest and darkest coloured of our tower, and all that worked with him would say he was a true gentleman in every sense! He was affectionately known as 'squishy man', due to his distinctive walk.

He really came into his own when our calves were born and became a great uncle to all three youngsters, always taking care of them. He was known to wait for the calves, meaning he was often the last one in for dinner and breakfast, so he could make sure everyone else was safe.

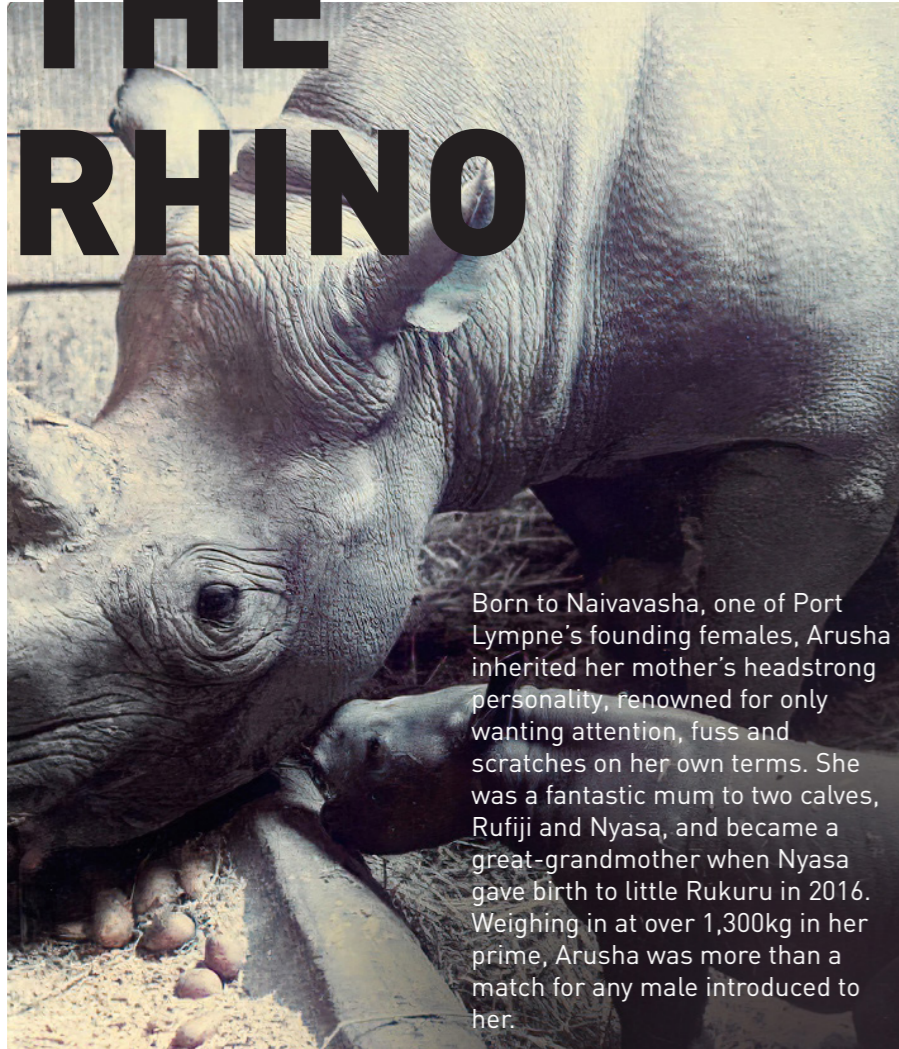
He was a little shy and took a while to warm to new people, but eventually all could see the polite, caring and strong nature which gave him his perfect gentleman status.

**The whole team loved him. It is a great loss to the giraffe tower and the keepers will miss him greatly.**





# ARUSHA THE RHINO



Born to Naivavasha, one of Port Lympe's founding females, Arusha inherited her mother's headstrong personality, renowned for only wanting attention, fuss and scratches on her own terms. She was a fantastic mum to two calves, Rufiji and Nyasa, and became a great-grandmother when Nyasa gave birth to little Rukuru in 2016. Weighing in at over 1,300kg in her prime, Arusha was more than a match for any male introduced to her.

It was with great sadness that we announced the passing, last June, of Arusha, one of Port Lympe's much-loved female black rhinos, at the grand age of 39.

A spirited character and a great grandmother, Arusha had a very special bond with her dedicated keepers.

In recent years, she had developed arthritis, which was successfully treated with painkilling medication. However, more recently her condition deteriorated and she became unable to do the things that she enjoyed. Mindful of her quality of life and wellbeing, our vets and keepers felt it was the right time to put her to sleep to ensure she did not suffer.

In her later years, she became less tolerant of other rhinos, but craved human attention more and more, often rattling her internal door until someone came over to chat to her or give her a stroke or two.

She leaves a lasting legacy, not only at The Aspinall Foundation, but crucially in helping to preserve the species, which is under great pressure in the wild, for future generations.

**Arusha will be greatly missed by all the keepers and staff who worked with her.**



## HAPPY NEW TAPIR! : PORT LYMPNE RESERVE WELCOMES MOGLI THE TAPIR FROM EDINBURGH ZOO

Port Lympe Reserve welcomed a new arrival just before Christmas: a Malayan tapir who was transferred from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland's (RZSS) Edinburgh Zoo.

12-year-old Mogli was waved off by his dedicated keepers in Scotland before making the 470-mile journey by road to South East England, arriving at his new home on the 9th December. He joins three other Malayan tapirs – one male and two females – at the 600-acre reserve.

Specialist wild animal transporters Ventura Wildlife Services ensured that the journey was as smooth as possible for the handsome black-and-grey ungulate.

Mogli was a long-standing favourite at Edinburgh Zoo, where he had been resident from 2012, having been born in Dortmund, Germany, on the 11th December 2009. His transfer was recommended by the EAZA Ex-situ Programme (EEP), aimed at helping to sustain a healthy population of this endangered species under human care for conservational purposes. It is hoped Mogli's new female companions will show some interest in breeding with him. Alice Elliott, Deputy Head Keeper of Hoofstock at Port Lympe, said: "Mogli is settling in well, is very active, and has been exploring his new surroundings and the indoor swimming pool. With the scent of multiple other tapirs in the house,

he has spent a lot of time sniffing around and scent-marking.

"He is very chatty, and clicks and whistles to the keepers, and to one of our females, Tengui, next door – although she hasn't been quite as enthusiastic as he has to say hello! "We are giving him space to get used to his new surroundings and won't start doing introductions until he has fully made himself at home."

Malayan tapirs are currently classed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, with less than 2,000 mature individuals left in the wild. One of the main reasons for their decline is due to their natural habitat being converted into palm oil plantations. They are also being increasingly targeted by hunters.

Native to southern Thailand, Myanmar, the Malayan peninsular and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, they are most commonly found in dense primary rainforests where they eat grass, aquatic plants, leaves, buds, soft twigs and fruits on low-growing shrubs. Shy, crepuscular animals, Malayan tapirs are the largest of the four tapir species. Their unique feature – a fleshy prehensile nose – is used to grab leaves and is even deployed as a snorkel while swimming.



# NEW HOOVES AT HOWLETTS



On the 3rd of November 2021, we welcomed four female Cape buffalo to Howletts.

Arriving from Austria, these lovely ladies had to spend a month in quarantine, giving them plenty of time to settle into their new surroundings and routine at the park. Our keepers have got to know them well during this time and they all have big and very different personalities.

Since their quarantine ended, the herd have slowly been allowed access to the paddocks, enabling them to build their confidence and become familiar with the sights and sounds of the park. They now have full access to all parts of their enclosure and are making the most of all their new space.

One of four distinct subspecies of African buffalo, Cape buffalo reside in grassland habitats from Southern to East Africa. The IUCN Red List classifies them as Near Threatened, with 400,000 individuals left in the wild and populations decreasing. Their main threats are habitat loss and conflict with humans.

They are formidable and heavy animals – with adults weighing up to 900kg – and are known to be very grumpy and unpredictable when faced with any potential threat.

Instantly recognisable by their fused horns, which form a broad shield on their forehead called a 'boss', they spend most of the year in herds of anywhere between 50 and 500.

**FREE ENTRY**  
TO HOWLETTS OR PORT LYMPNE  
WILD ANIMAL PARKS  
presentation of this voucher at the ticket office of either Howletts or Port Lympe Animal Parks will give the bearer one FREE admission  
Please note there are restrictions on use

Voucher Valid Between:  
**1st April – 30th Sept 2022**  
excluding Bank Holiday Weekends

Please keep this voucher safe as we are unable to issue a replacement

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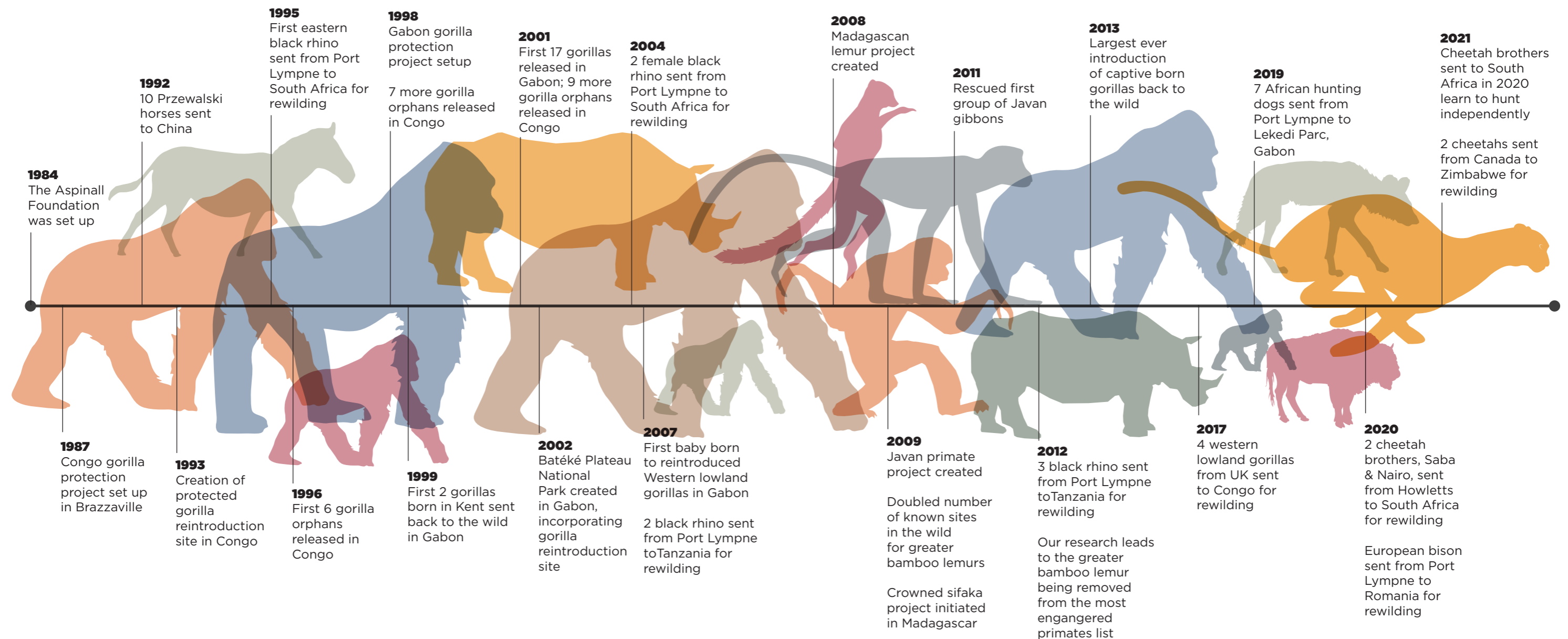
# The Aspinall Foundation Timeline - Charting Decades of Conservation Success

## WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS ENABLED US TO ACHIEVE

The Aspinall Foundation has achieved so much over the years with your support. For over 35 years we have rewilded some of the world's most iconic but threatened animals. A gift in your will could help us return even more endangered animals to the wild, and achieve new conservation firsts like our rewilding of Saba & Nairo.

Imagine the difference your gift could make for future generations.

Check our legacy page for more information, including our free will writing service [aspinallfoundation.org/legacy](http://aspinallfoundation.org/legacy)





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Biville

Race

Couleur

Noire

Sexe

male

ALBIN or DJALA

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OUR MISSION TO HALT THE EXTINCTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES AND RETURN ANIMALS TO THE WILD WHENEVER POSSIBLE HAS NO GORILLA COULD HAVE BEEN MORE DESERVING OF A CHANCE TO LIVE IN THE WILD THAN DJALA

In June 2013, the gorillas left Port Lympne on their 5,000-mile trip to Africa.

# Djala

As a regular supporter, you may have read many of our stories about Djala, a western lowland gorilla whose life epitomises so much of the work we do at The Aspinall Foundation. This year, he will reach the grand age of 40.

On the occasion of this stunning silverback gorilla's birthday, we would like to celebrate his life by taking a look back at the events,

both good and bad, that culminated in his return to Africa and the

continuation of his bloodline with a

birth in the wild.