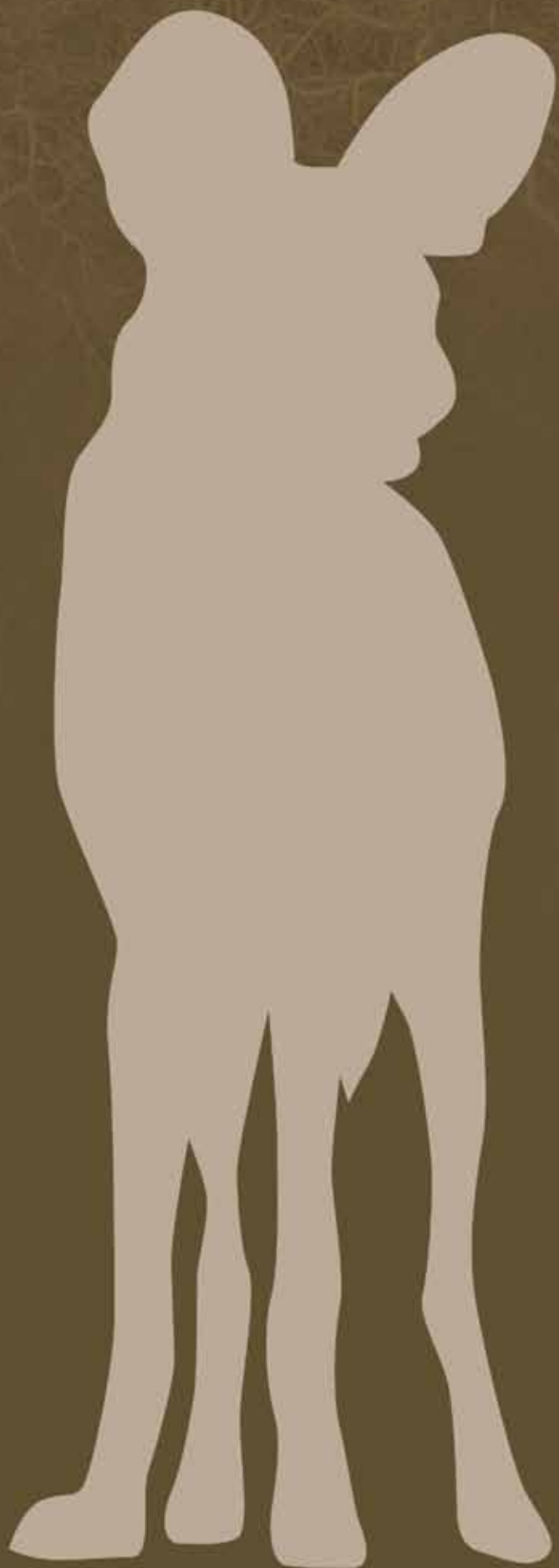
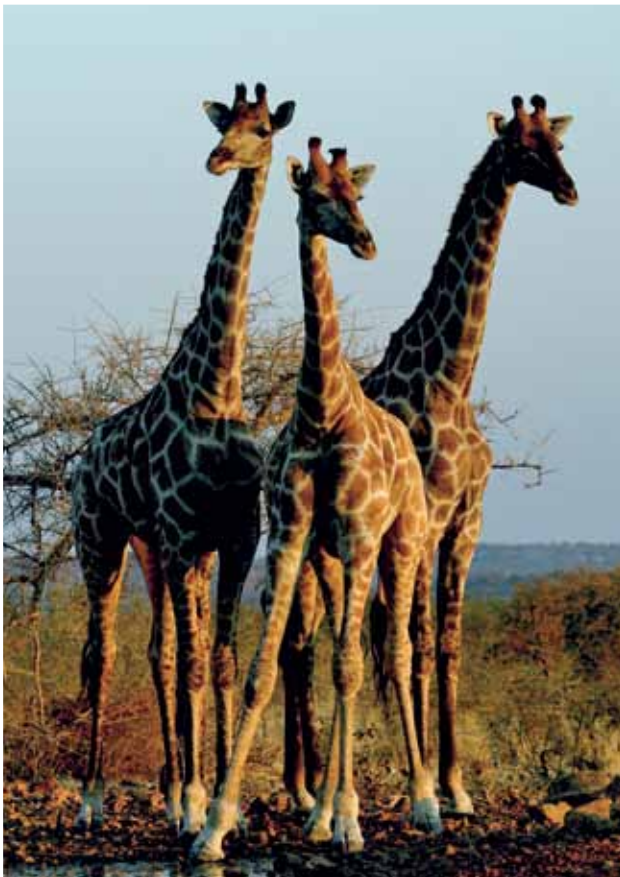


**2010** ANNUAL REPORT



WILDERNESS  
W I L D L I F E T R U S T





# CONTENTS

ABOUT THE TRUST.....	3
PROJECT LOCATIONS.....	4
FINANCIAL STATISTICS.....	5
FROM THE TRUSTEES .....	6
RESEARCH & CONSERVATION	
<b>Black &amp; White Rhino</b>	
Botswana Rhino Ecology Project .....	7
Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction Project .....	8
Hwange White Rhino Reintroduction Project .....	9
Liwonde Black Rhino Project .....	10
<b>Elephants</b>	
Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta.....	11
Linyanti Elephant and Biodiversity Project .....	12
Makuleke Transboundary Elephant Movements .....	13
Namibia Elephant Population Dynamics Project.....	14
Namibia Elephant and Giraffe Project .....	15
<b>Carnivores</b>	
Caprivi Spotted Hyaena Project .....	16
Central Kalahari Wild Dog Research .....	17
Cheetah Niche Segregation in the Okavango Delta .....	18
Eastern Zambia Wild Dog Conservation Project .....	19
Education for Predator Conservation .....	20
GLTCA Wild Dog Project .....	21
Hwange Leopard Population Dynamics .....	22
Okavango Wild Dog Research Project.....	23
Predator-Farmer Conflict Resolution Manual .....	24
Shadow Hunter Project.....	25
<b>Herbivores</b>	
Ecology of Buffalo in the Okavango Delta .....	26
Giraffe Social Organisation Study - Etosha.....	27
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra Conservation Project .....	28
Makgadikgadi Zebra Migration Project .....	29
Northern Botswana Giraffe Population Study .....	30
Okavango Sable Research Project .....	31
<b>Birds</b>	
Botswana Bateleur Eagle Project .....	32
Namibia Crane and Wetland Bird Conservation Project .....	33
Okavango Nest Box Project .....	34
<b>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</b>	
Biodiversity and Conservation of Amphibians in the Okavango Delta .....	35
<b>Primates</b>	
Self-medicative Behaviour in Chacma Baboons .....	36
<b>Vegetation &amp; Ecosystem Research</b>	
Botswana Wildlife Research - Increasing Capacity .....	37
Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy .....	38
Wildlife Migration Corridor Study - Northern Botswana .....	39
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT & EDUCATION	
Children in the Wilderness .....	40
Education Bursaries .....	46
Simonga Village Projects .....	47
ANTI-POACHING & MANAGEMENT	
Hwange Ecology Researcher and Coordinator .....	48
Hwange Anti-Poaching Project .....	49
Hwange Game Water Supply .....	50
Liwonde Ecological Monitoring .....	51
South Luangwa Conservation Society .....	52
Victoria Falls Anti Poaching Unit .....	53
Zambia Poacher Transformation Project .....	54
PAST PROJECTS .....	55
MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO AFRICA .....	61
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DONORS .....	63



# ABOUT THE TRUST



The Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust seeks to make a difference in Africa, to its wildlife and its people. These projects address the needs of existing wildlife populations, seek solutions to save threatened species and provide education and training for local people and their communities.

Since its formation, the Trust has supported a wide variety of wildlife management, research and education projects in southern Africa, making use of a number of methods and types of projects to do so.

One kind of project studies and monitors a particular species in its natural environment and in so doing also contributes to its protection. The long-running Maputaland Turtle Project in South Africa, the Namib Brown Hyena Project and the Namibian Desert Elephant and Giraffe Project are cases in point. Moving beyond research into hands-on management is another variation on this theme.

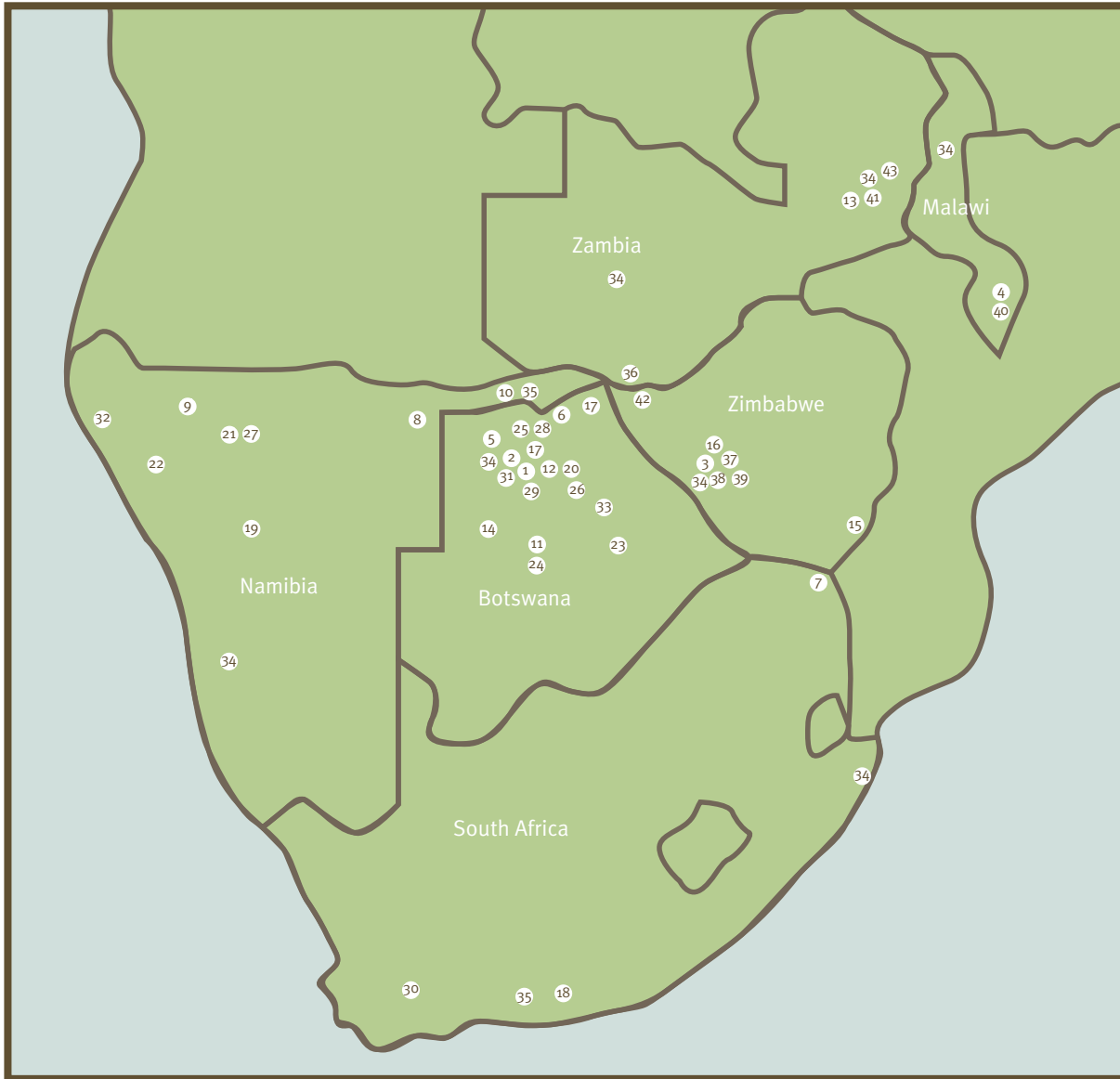
Study of a species sounds like a purely academic pursuit, but within such investigation lie the seeds for its protection and survival. The better we understand a species and its environment, the more efficiently we'll be able to protect it in a world where the struggle for space becomes paramount and human-animal interactions become increasingly conflicted. Most of the Trust's projects have this as an ultimate objective and some amazing headway has been made, for example in the Lake Ngami Bird Monitoring Project, which brought the Lake and this Important Bird Area (IBA) to the attention of the Botswana government, resulting in its being declared a "no-hunting area."

The Trust is involved financially in a number of such projects, supporting research, habitat management, and practical conservation measures such as anti-poaching projects, while Wilderness Safaris contributes logistically in terms of human resources and equipment.

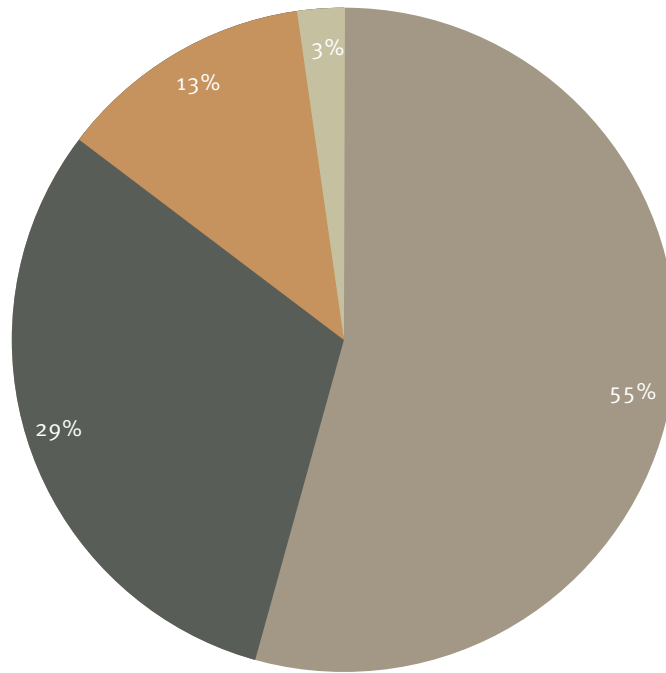
But conservation of flora and fauna is limited as long as the people who live in the vicinity are unconvinced or left out of the process. Financial and educational empowerment of local communities so that they benefit from the wildlife on their doorsteps is therefore vital, and as such, broad-based and comprehensive initiatives are in fact the bedrock of the Trust, providing skills, knowledge and education necessary to communities to value and manage their wildlife populations.

Wilderness Safaris is acknowledged as a leader in the educational process thanks to its innovative formal and informal education projects, supported by the Trust in the form of grants and bursaries. The Children in the Wilderness programme aims to educate the youth of Africa, inspiring and assisting them to preserve their magnificent natural heritage.

# PROJECT LOCATIONS

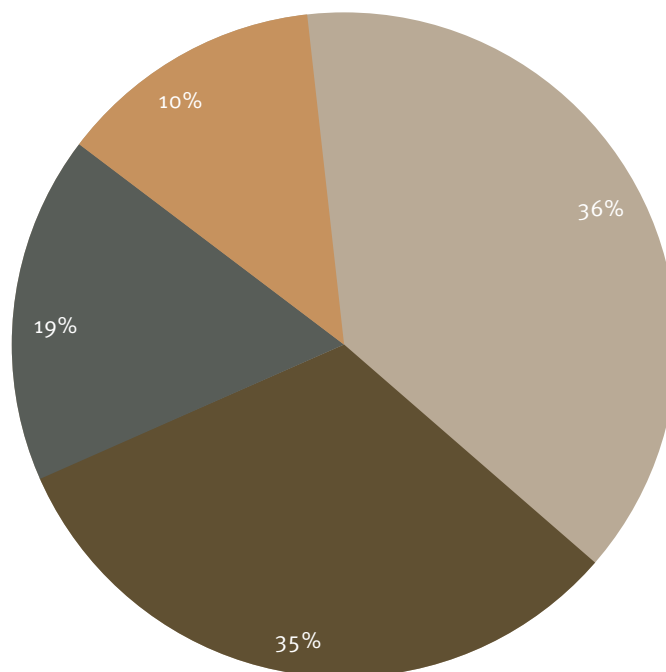


- |                                                        |                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Botswana Rhino Ecology Project                       | 23 Makgadikgadi Zebra Migration Project                              |
| 2 Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction Project | 24 Northern Botswana Giraffe Population Study                        |
| 3 Hwange White Rhino Reintroduction Project            | 25 Okavango Sable Research Project                                   |
| 4 Liwonde Black Rhino Project                          | 26 Botswana Bateleur Eagle Project                                   |
| 5 Human-Elephant Conflict in the Okavango Delta        | 27 Namibia Crane and Wetland Bird Conservation Project               |
| 6 Linyanti Elephant and Biodiversity Project           | 28 Okavango Nest Box Project                                         |
| 7 Makuleke Transboundary Elephant Movements            | 29 Biodiversity and Conservation of Amphibians in the Okavango Delta |
| 8 Namibia Elephant Population Dynamics Project         | 30 Self-medicative Behaviour in Chacma Baboons                       |
| 9 Namibia Elephant and Giraffe Project                 | 31 Botswana Wildlife Research - Increasing Capacity                  |
| 10 Caprivi Spotted Hyaena Project                      | 32 Kunene Regional Conservation Strategy                             |
| 11 Central Kalahari Wild Dog project                   | 33 Wildlife Migration Corridor Study - Northern Botswana             |
| 12 Cheetah Niche Segregation in the Okavango Delta     | 34 Children in the Wilderness                                        |
| 13 Eastern Zambia Wild Dog Conservation Project        | 35 Education Bursaries                                               |
| 14 Education for Predator Conservation                 | 36 Simonga Village Projects                                          |
| 15 GLTCA Wild Dog Project                              | 37 Hwange Research Coordinator and Ecologist                         |
| 16 Hwange Leopard Population Dynamics                  | 38 Hwange Anti-Poaching Project                                      |
| 17 Okavango Wild Dog Research Project                  | 39 Hwange Game Water Supply                                          |
| 18 Predator-Farmer Conflict Resolution Manual          | 40 Liwonde Ecological Monitoring                                     |
| 19 Shadow Hunter Project                               | 41 South Luangwa Conservation Society                                |
| 20 Ecology of Buffalo in the Okavango                  | 42 Victoria Falls Anti Poaching Unit                                 |
| 21 Giraffe Social Organisation Study - Etosha          | 43 Zambia Poacher Transformation Project                             |
| 22 Hartmann's Mountain Zebra Conservation Project      |                                                                      |



**DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, FINANCIAL YEAR: 2009/10**

- Research and Conservation
  - Community Empowerment and Education
  - Anti-Poaching and Management
  - Administration (brochure, website, printing)



**SOURCE OF FUNDS, FINANCIAL YEAR: 2009/10**

- Wilderness Safaris Guests
  - Wilderness Warmers
- Wilderness Safaris
  - Funding Agencies

# FROM THE TRUSTEES

The 2009/10 financial year was a challenging one. The Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust anticipated a reduction in donations and a consequent reduction in the extent of its project funding ability. To combat this anticipated reduction the fundraising strategy of the Trust was changed. For the first time the Trust actively attempted to raise its profile with our various donor constituencies, at the same time developing new income streams in the form of various initiatives, the most successful of which was the introduction of Wilderness Warmers which are now sold in Wilderness Safaris camps throughout southern Africa with the entire proceeds going to the Trust. As a result of these initiatives the reduction in income experienced by the Trust was minimal.

We are thus pleased and proud that the Trust was able to continue making a difference to Africa, its wildlife and its people over 2009/10. In fact, in some ways, the past year has been one of the most successful in the Trust's history with a growing cohesion in strategy and the strengthening of relationships with our donors, our partners and the southern African conservation community. We are exceptionally proud of the efforts and achievements of those who received funding from the Trust during the past year in our three target areas:

- **Research and conservation;**
- **Community empowerment and education;**
- **Anti-poaching and management.**

Together they are all having a tangible and significant impact.

The amount expended on administration continues to be small, approximately 3% of funds raised. This expenditure comprises the Annual Report, awareness platforms such as the website, block-mounted posters displayed in Wilderness Safaris camps and information cards distributed in the camps and on Sefofane aircraft.

Costs outside of this realm have been covered by Wilderness Safaris and donations in kind by a number of our partners, including auditors Deloitte & Touche, legal advisors Bell-Dewar, website designers Buynary, printers Colorpress, Amos Eno and Laura Dover from the Resources First Foundation, and of course the individuals who donate their time to the Trust: administrator Mari dos Santos, accountant Richard van der Wel, advisor Chris Roche and editor Ilana Stein. The design of this year's Annual Report was ably handled by Mary-Anne van der Byl and Mike Myers. Other design work throughout the year was fulfilled by both Mary-Anne and Ulrike van der Hoven while Martin Benadie and Paula Chaplin have kept the website up to date. A big thank you to all the Wilderness Safaris camps for continuing to support the Trust via the placement of the Annual Report in the tents and their enthusiasm in informing guests about our work.

Lastly, thank you to all our donors and contributors over the past year, as well as those who have continued to perform their conservation work in the field. Thanks in no small part to your generosity and efforts, the Trust continues to go from strength to strength.

*Russel Friedman, Andrew Leontsinis & Dr. Jennifer Lalley*





# BOTSWANA RHINO ECOLOGY PROJECT

Researcher: Pelotshweu Pearl Galebotswe



This project, which forms part of the Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction Project, is progressing well, albeit slower than anticipated. This is primarily due to limited access to the study area thanks to exceptionally high rainfall and flooding over the past year. However, to date 50 rhino (27 in 2001, 6 in 2006 and 15 in 2009) have been radio collared, six of which were successfully tracked over seven months, gaining a greater understanding of rhino habitat use in this protected area. The Department of Wildlife and National Parks' Anti-Poaching Unit has been providing security and monitoring the rhino on a daily basis since 2001, at the same time recording the GPS positions of the animals.

Where radio transmitter lifespans expired, rhino were also tracked on foot. In order to determine the diet of various individuals, a method known as "back-tracking" was used, where a rhino's feeding path is covered on foot and all grass species consumed in a number of 1x1m<sup>2</sup> quadrants identified. The preferred species in the diet can then be determined.

Three calves were born in 2009 bringing the total number of calves born in the reserve since 2001 to more than 23. Territorial fighting has recently been observed between the dominant males and a few newly recruited subordinate males, but with no known mortalities. Five territorial males have been identified in the study area.

This study has thus far shown that rhino distribution is largely influenced by the availability of water, food and vegetational cover. Rhino sightings and signs (rubbing posts, middens, scrape-markings, etc) were primarily located along the river channels during the dry season but were distributed more throughout the reserve during the wet season as water and food were readily available. Fieldwork will continue as soon as the floodwaters subside.