2024
Annual Report

VIEW

Veterinary Initiative for
Endangered Wildlife

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Letter from the VIEW Executive Director, Dr. Deborah McCauley

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year, we continued to break new ground in wildlife health and conservation. VIEW is at the forefront of conservation, integrating health into the very fabric of wildlife protection efforts. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our partners, and the generosity of donors like you, we've reached milestones that strengthen our ability to protect wildlife and the ecosystems they depend on.

We expanded training opportunities for veterinarians, refined our data tools to guide better decision-making, and forged new partnerships with communities and conservation organizations around the world. By working together, we're equipping the next generation of conservationists with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to address today's most urgent challenges. Your support has directly enabled us to mentor early-career veterinarians, study the effects of pesticides on rhinos and elephants, investigate the deadly virus threatening elephants, and offer hands-on training experiences at top institutions—all of which have made tangible improvements to the health and well-being of wildlife.

The following pages detail our progress—innovations in field diagnostics, successful efforts to prevent disease outbreaks, and impactful collaborations that blend science and policy to achieve lasting change. This work would not be possible without you, and we are profoundly grateful.

As we look ahead, we remain confident in our shared vision of a healthier, more resilient future for wildlife and all who depend on their well-being. Thank you for standing with us and making these achievements possible.

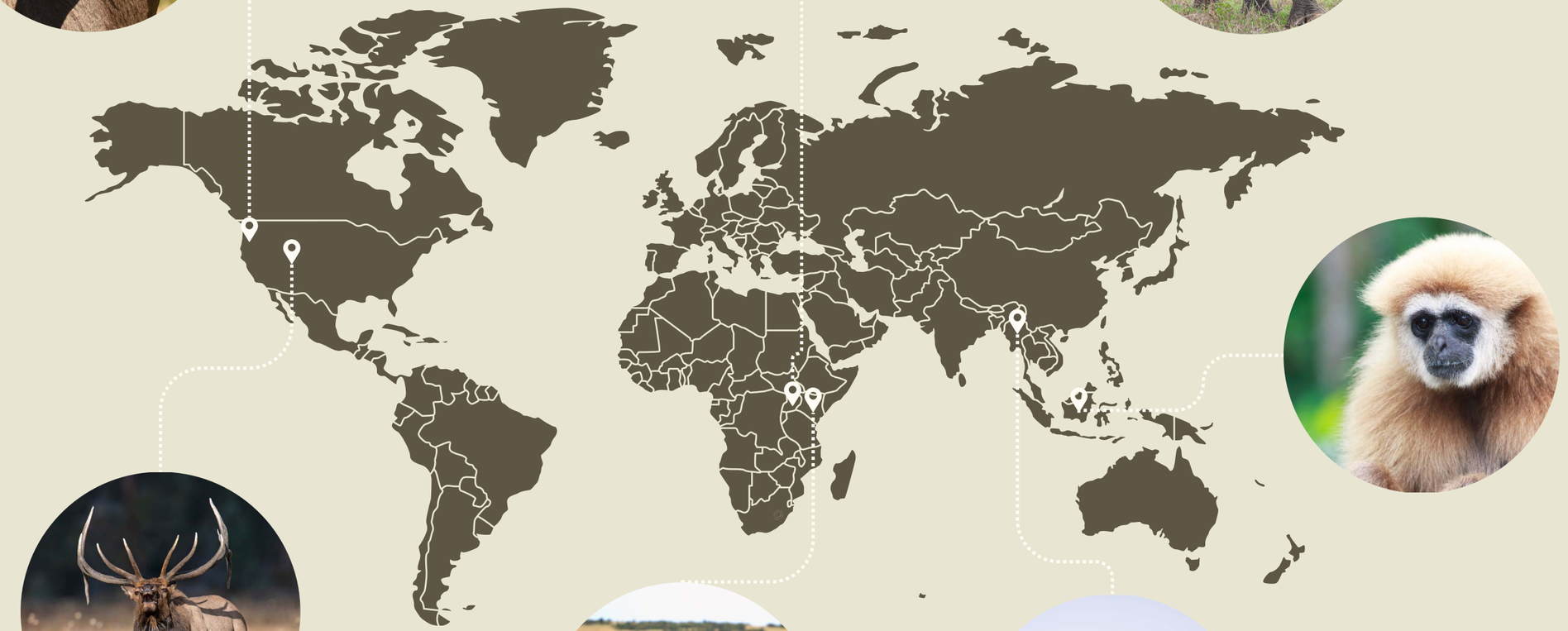
With gratitude,
Deborah McCauley

Mission:
To protect endangered wildlife by tackling the health threats they face in their native habitats.

Vision:
A world where all countries have the commitment and local capacity to support wildlife health as a cornerstone of conservation.

Where VIEW Works

VIEW makes a global impact on wildlife health by working in North America, Asia, and Africa. Through education, infrastructure development, technology, research, and policy advocacy, we help create healthy environments for wildlife, domestic animals, and the people who share their habitats.



Our Partners

All of VIEW's accomplishments arise from strong, collaborative partnerships with local wildlife professionals, veterinarians, governmental agencies, universities, and conservation organizations. Working side by side, we share expertise and resources, ensuring that strategies are guided by those who know their environments best and that the wildlife health programs are sustainable.

This collective approach strengthens local capacities, helping our research, training, and policy guidance endure beyond any single project. The skills and tools we build together empower communities to manage their own wildlife health initiatives and foster lasting resilience. We are deeply grateful to all of our partners and funders whose support makes these achievements possible.

Akagera NATIONAL PARK RWANDA

OL JOGI WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY KENYA

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IUCN PRIMATES SECTION ON SMALL APES

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PROJECT AnimalAid
Healing the Planet One Animal at a Time

CONSERVATION NATION

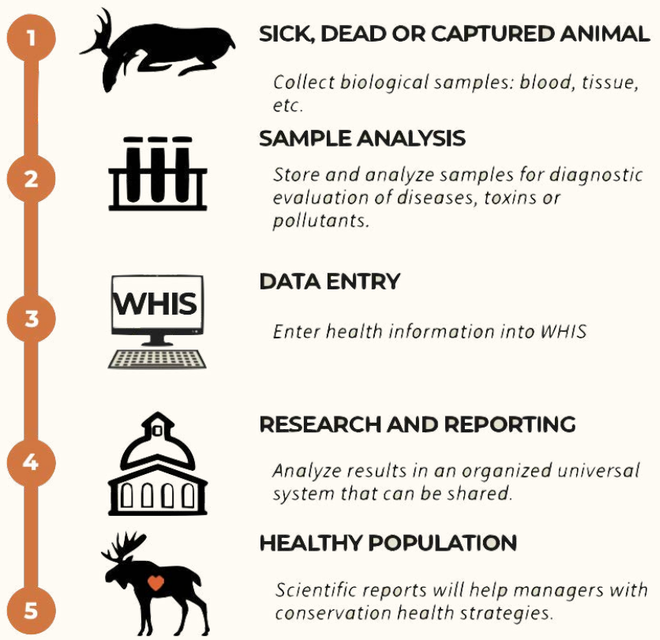
A special thank you to our funders:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our funders—Conservation Nation and the Arcus Foundation—for their unwavering support of our mission. Your commitment and generosity have enabled us to pursue innovative conservation strategies, empower local communities, and protect critically endangered wildlife. Thanks to your belief in our work, we continue to build sustainable programs that ensure a healthier future for both wild animals and the habitats they call home.

WHIS

Wildlife Health Information System

Wildlife management and conservation require adaptation to modern digital solutions and proactive prioritization of wildlife health and disease. The Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS), currently being developed by VIEW, is a cloud-based electronic medical record database that is targeted at wildlife management officials, government agencies, conservation organizations, and research groups. This database is intended to assist in organizing, managing, and protecting important data on free-living wildlife health. The database allows for some customization to the organization's needs, simple mapping and reporting tools, and mobile use in the field.



Key Achievements and Impacts:

- **Overhauled data infrastructure:** Under the leadership of Senior Software Developer Josh Lichty, we successfully transitioned WHIS to a modern database framework and programming language. This upgrade streamlines maintenance, ensures ongoing security, and accelerates the development of new features.
- **Enhanced field capabilities:** With the improved framework in place, we can now develop mobile applications in parallel. These apps will be essential tools for veterinarians, enabling more efficient and accurate health data collection directly in the field.
- **Collaboration with gold standard industry partners:** WHIS is being piloted to meet the needs of diverse user groups—including wildlife managers, field researchers, and multi-agency teams.

Looking Ahead:

In the coming year, we will introduce new features designed to enhance the utility and accessibility of our platform. These will include the completion of a mobile application for field use, improved handling of grouped or herd records, and simple customization tools to better serve the needs of diverse user groups. We will implement our solution in managed elephant populations across Asia as part of the EEHV surveillance project. Additionally, we will continue to develop WHIS for broad application in our African and North American projects. To support this growth and ensure long-term sustainability, we will also transition from our current in-house technical development and management model to a more scalable structure supported by a dedicated technical enterprise.

Rewilding Rwanda

Rwanda is home to one of Africa's oldest national parks, Akagera National Park (ANP), which has successfully rewild its landscapes with megavertebrates such as elephants and rhinos. Now that these animals are thriving in their habitats, the park needs dedicated veterinary care to ensure their continued health and reproduction. To support these efforts, VIEW and its partners are building the capacity of local veterinarians and establishing wildlife health programs in protected areas.

Highlight

Identifying Pesticide Exposure Risk in Akagera National Park

As agricultural activities expand around ANP, pesticide contamination becomes an increasing threat. VIEW veterinarian Dr. Charline Rutagengwa, in collaboration with Yale University, is leading a study to detect these chemicals and establish critical baselines. Using innovative, non-invasive passive silicone samplers, the study aims to identify potential pesticide contamination across the park's land and waterways.

This study lays the groundwork for protecting wildlife health, preserving ecological balance, and reinforcing the long-term resilience of Akagera's rewilding efforts. This work, supported by Conservation Nation's People & Pachyderms Collective, will help guide future community engagement, informing safer agricultural practices and more effective conservation strategies.

Key Achievements and Impacts:

- **Building veterinary capacity and skills:** Rwandan veterinarians participated in various wildlife activities such as the reintroduction of zebras back into ANP, removal of a snare from a young rhinoceros, and an advanced immobilization training with the Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association. VIEW's Dr. David Murenzi returned to Wildlife Safari in Oregon, where he improved his skills in diagnostics, anesthesia, disease management, and surgical procedures, while also deepening his knowledge of pathology and necropsy. Meanwhile, Dr. Rutagengwa attended courses in infectious disease management and global health.

- **Driving research:** Drs. Murenzi and Rutagengwa led their own research projects which will continue into 2025: the comparative analysis of endoparasites in African forest and savanna elephants, and examining pesticide residues in the ANP landscape, respectively.

- **Training future vets:** VIEW sponsored 13 courses, webinars, and workshops for veterinary students at the University of Rwanda. Highlights included an elephant and rhino antimicrobial resistance field and lab course, remote webinars from wildlife veterinary experts, and multiple problem-based learning sessions.

Looking Ahead:

In 2025, VIEW aims to secure long-term sustainability of the Elephant and Rhinoceros Health Program (ERHP) established under a Conservation Nation People and Pachyderms Collective grant. During this final grant year, we plan to transition core responsibilities to local leadership, strengthen institutional partnerships, and secure resources for continued impact. We will focus on advanced training for Rwandan veterinarians to become national leaders in wildlife health, explore creating a Rwanda-based nonprofit focused on pachyderm conservation, and align the ERHP with Rwanda's developing National Wildlife Health Strategy. Finally, VIEW will maintain a steady pipeline of wildlife health research and veterinary education through scholarships, workshops, and field training ensuring lasting progress beyond the grant period.

Elephant Health

Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) is the leading cause of death of young elephant calves under human care, and is a major threat to the sustainability of managed elephant populations. The virus can cause rapid onset of and sudden death from hemorrhagic disease. Unfortunately, attempts at treatment are often unsuccessful, and very little is known about the impact of EEHV in range countries and in wild herds. VIEW is committed to advancing research and training on EEHV. As part of her PhD in Wildlife Epidemiology at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Jennifer Yu will be applying epidemiologic study design and methods to: 1) an EEHV serosurveillance project in North America; and 2) understanding the impact of EEHV in the managed elephant populations in Asian range countries.

Key Achievements and Impacts:

- **Specialized EEHV serology training (July–August 2024):** Dr. Yu completed hands-on training at Dr. Paul Ling's EEHV Serology Testing lab at Baylor College of Medicine, mastering the specialized luciferase immunoprecipitation assay (LIPS). This assay detects elephant antibodies to EEHV and can differentiate between specific types in both Asian and African species. This specialized EEHV assay is a critical tool for continued monitoring of the immune status of both adult elephants and calves, and for the management of the population at large.

- **North American elephant serosurveillance project (Ongoing):** As a component of her PhD project, Dr. Yu is currently working with collaborators at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, the Ling lab, and the Houston Zoo to characterize the immune status of elephants in North America, while investigating the role of suspected risk factors. This research may have important implications for the management of elephant populations under human care to reduce EEHV risk.

Highlight

In October, Dr. Yu presented initial findings from the North American EEHV serosurveillance project at the 2024 Elephant Managers Association (EMA) Conference hosted at the Columbus Zoo.

Looking Ahead:

Dr. Yu will spend additional time at Dr. Ling's laboratory to finalize critical serology testing, advancing the North American EEHV serosurveillance project toward completion by mid-2025. Beyond these efforts, VIEW will launch a two-year EEHV initiative in Asia, where Dr. Yu will continue to facilitate project coordination and provide technical assistance for local elephant veterinarians and collaborators utilizing WHIS. Through these collaborative actions, we aim to strengthen early detection, enhance preventive care, and ultimately improve the health and well-being of elephant populations worldwide.

Gibbon Health and Rehabilitation

Today, 19 out of 20 gibbon species are endangered or critically endangered; therefore, every gibbon released back into the wild holds tremendous conservation value. With the IUCN Section on Small Apes (SSA), VIEW is working to address health challenges facing gibbons undergoing rehabilitation in Asian range countries. Due to ongoing threats from habitat loss and the illegal wildlife trade, many gibbons are orphaned or injured, some requiring years of intensive care in rehabilitation centers before release. This capacity-building project aims to establish an international working group on gibbon health to better facilitate information-sharing and coordinate research efforts.

Key Achievements and Impacts:

- **Facilitated global collaboration:** Established a network connecting over 50 members from 19 rehabilitation and release centers, fostering continuous communication and knowledge exchange among gibbon health professionals.
- **Training initiatives:** Following a March kick-off meeting with 11 centers, Drs. Zimmerman and Yu led two specialized breakout sessions at the Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group (OVAG) annual conference in July, focusing on critical aspects of gibbon health. These sessions provided a forum for discussion on health concerns, and how we could collectively improve veterinary care and management techniques.
- **Knowledge sharing:** In October, the team held a one-day health session at the 2024 Gibbon Husbandry, Health, and Conservation meeting in Malaysia, further reinforcing shared guidelines and best practices. In December, VIEW facilitated a webinar on fluid therapy for gibbon groups, the first of a webinar series we are establishing for the gibbon health working group.

Highlight

During the Gibbon Husbandry, Health, and Conservation meeting in Malaysia, VIEW delivered microscopes and related accessories to the Gibbon Conservation Society (Malaysia) and Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue (Indonesia).

Looking Ahead:

VIEW will finalize standardized health protocols for in-situ gibbon rehabilitation centers, distributing these living documents by June 2025 to support wildlife veterinarians working with gibbons in range countries. Concurrently, a comprehensive literature review of gibbon infectious diseases will highlight existing knowledge gaps, guiding future research and informing enhanced medical care - particularly as related to risk assessment for gibbons being released back into the wild. As we strengthen these foundations, we are partnering with on-the-ground wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers to organize hands-on training internships and exchanges for gibbon veterinarians in 2025.

Empowering Women in Science and Technology

At VIEW, we believe that empowering women in science and conservation is key to safeguarding wildlife and their habitats. By providing education, mentorship, and hands-on experience, we aim to equip women at every career stage with the skills, confidence, and international networks needed to excel. Our support spans the globe—from established professionals conducting groundbreaking research, to students gaining field expertise, to young girls pursuing new educational opportunities. Together, we're shaping a future where women lead the way in protecting biodiversity and advancing sustainable conservation practices.

Key Achievements and Impacts:

- **Empowering Samburu girls in conservation:** Our mentorship of girls in Kenya's Samburu region began in 2023 and will extend into 2025. With funding secured for them to attend a 4-year secondary school, VIEW has also facilitated field trips for experience and mentorship in conservation. In November 2024, three scholarship recipients spent a week at the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, mentored by Kenya's first female elephant keeper, where they cared for orphaned elephants, hosted visitors, and gained a deeper appreciation for wildlife.

- **Mentoring young veterinarians:** VIEW continues mentoring Dr. Charline Rutagengwa, a University of Rwanda (UR) veterinarian leading our collaboration with UR and Akagera National Park. Through workshops and lab work, she gains hands-on experience in our Elephant and Rhinoceros Health Program. We're also supporting early-career professionals like Sydney Watts, a junior at Montana State University, who is extending her 2025 internship with VIEW while working with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks on bat observation initiatives.

Looking Ahead:

Building on these successes, VIEW will continue investing in women's professional development and expanding opportunities for international collaboration and specialized training. VIEW plans to continue supporting the Samburu girls so that they can become female leaders in their respective fields. Pending funding, we hope to bring the girls to Ol Jogi Wildlife Conservancy in order to introduce them to the members of the Conservation Nation People & Pachyderms Collective, and allow them to see how another Kenyan conservancy is helping both people and wildlife thrive side by side. By sustaining educational scholarships and mentorship in communities like the Namunyak Conservancy, we will encourage even more young women to enter the field of wildlife conservation. Next year, with VIEW's guidance, Dr. Rutagengwa will continue expanding her skill set, and we plan to support more aspiring scientists like Sydney Watts through internships and field experiences.

East Africa Center for Wildlife Health

VIEW and Ol Jogi Wildlife Conservancy, one of Kenya's oldest and most respected wildlife sanctuaries, are partnering to establish a regional center for wildlife health in Laikipia, a key region for wildlife conservation, particularly for the critically endangered black rhino. Unfortunately, the loss of pristine habitats has intensified the human-livestock-wildlife interface, increasing the risk of disease transmission. Wildlife populations face potentially devastating consequences from diseases transmitted by livestock, domestic animals and humans, further endangering their fragile numbers. To protect endangered species and counter extinction trends, it is essential to integrate wildlife health practices and local wildlife-specialized veterinarians into conservation efforts.

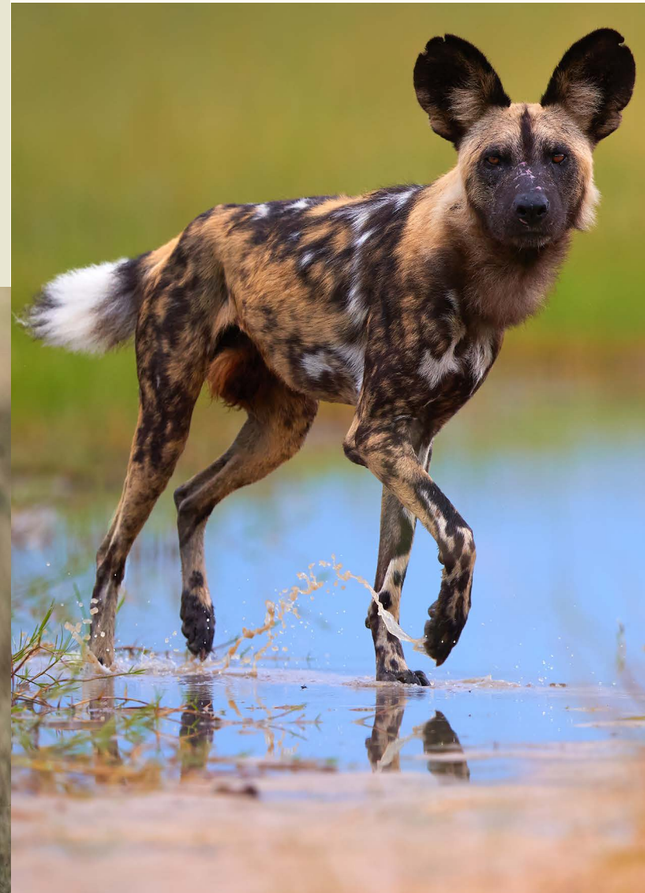
Countries like Kenya and Rwanda are striving to rewild protected areas and bring endangered species back to their historic habitats. VIEW hopes to fill the gap in veterinary services, disease surveillance, and wildlife health research, providing the foundational support necessary for successfully reintroducing healthy native species as well as mitigate future threats through prevention and response.

Through a collaborative wildlife health program, VIEW and Ol Jogi Wildlife Conservancy aim to build a Center for Wildlife Health with the infrastructure, veterinary capacity, and protocols needed to help save endangered species such as black rhinos, Grevy's zebras, and savanna elephants.

Building the Groundwork:

VIEW's work in Kenya is just beginning; in 2024, we laid a solid groundwork:

- **Wildlife hospital:** Ol Jogi has invested millions of dollars to protect critical habitats with some of the most iconic species in the world. They have built a state-of-the-art wildlife health hospital, which includes a surgical theater, laboratory, and digital x-ray machine. We hope to extend the use of this facility to enable training which includes disease surveillance in bordering livestock populations.
- **Strengthened partnership:** In 2024, VIEW formalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Ol Jogi Conservancy for collaborative wildlife health initiatives regionally and internationally.
- **Initiated fundraising efforts:** Funds were raised to purchase a mobile vet response vehicle for Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) veterinarians for field operations.
- **Equipment acquisition:** Through donations, VIEW placed biochemistry, coagulation, and hematology machines as well as various consumables at the Ol Jogi wildlife hospital.



Looking Ahead:

To increase use and impact of this one-of-a-kind hospital at Ol Jogi, VIEW will continue to outfit the laboratory with the necessary diagnostic resources to enable quick, efficient, and quality veterinary care and advance the facility's research capabilities. We look forward to placing a KWS veterinarian at Ol Jogi to serve the region and oversee Ol Jogi's Wildlife Rescue Center, which frequently cares for orphaned animals. Plans are also underway to build a dormitory teaching facility, offering a hub for wildlife health education and workshops. Our first training will occur in February on clinical pathology, and VIEW will continue to host specialized training sessions and workshops for veterinarians and vet assistants, ensuring they possess the knowledge and skills to protect East Africa's most vulnerable wildlife.

Education and Outreach

VIEW works to educate broader audiences about wildlife health and its critical role in protecting our planet. By collaborating with universities, engaging youth, and partnering with agencies, we emphasize the importance of addressing health-related challenges and demonstrate how education can lay the groundwork for comprehensive wildlife programs. We participate in a range of outreach activities, including virtual discussions, in-person workshops, mentorships, and training sessions for students and emerging professionals. A key priority is expanding our audience to include more students and universities, empowering people of all backgrounds to take meaningful actions for conservation and safeguard endangered species for generations to come.

EVENTS IN 2024

January 2024

- Dog vaccination campaign and study outside Akagera National Park in Rwanda

Feburary-March 2024

- VIEW partnered with the IUCN Section on Small Apes to kick off the Gibbon Health Project
- Dr. McCauley spoke at the Exowild Conference "Careers in Wildlife Vets," sharing insights with aspiring professionals.
- At the EEHV Global Symposium, VIEW joined experts to advance research and develop better mitigation strategies.
- VIEW published an Op-Ed in the World Economic Forum highlighting the need to unite veterinary medicine, conservation, policy, and communities to avoid irreversible wildlife losses.
- Dr. Rutagengwa with the guidance of Dr. Irimaso led a 5-day advanced training at the University of Rwanda (UR) for VIEW staff and five UR vet students, covering sample prep, ELISA testing techniques, and result interpretation.
- Dr. Drew led a Large Mammal Capture & Restraint Workshop for 23 UR veterinary students, covering both physical and chemical restraint techniques for elephants and rhinos.
- Dr. Rutagengwa participated in a 5-day, in-person training by Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa.

April 2024

- Dr. McCauley presented Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS) at the World Veterinary Association Congress (WVAC) in South Africa.

May 2024

- Dr. McCauley's interview on Matter of Facts with Soledad helped broaden public awareness of VIEW's work, underscoring the importance of wildlife conservation and health surveillance.
- During VIEW's 2024 Give Big Campaign, we raised $7,500, providing monetary support for our ongoing wildlife health initiatives.
- Dr. Murenzi attended the People & Pachyderms Collective Workshop in Tanzania, where he joined a Community of Practice (COP) set to meet quarterly and explore collaborations and assistance opportunities. He also joined a dedicated WhatsApp group and will work with SORALO to develop a one-health partnership for their programs.

June 2024

- Sydney Watts started at VIEW as a summer intern, where she contributed to several wildlife health projects in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem including participating in a Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) bear immobilization course.

July-August 2024

- Dr. Yu received hands-on training at Dr. Paul Ling's EEHV Serology Testing lab at Baylor College of Medicine in the specialized EEHV luciferase immunoprecipitation system (LIPS) assay, which detects antibodies to EEHV in elephant serum. This assay is a critical tool for monitoring the immune status for elephants under human care.
- Drs. Rutagengwa and Murenzi spent a week at Ol Jogi Nature Conservancy in Kenya, where they assisted at the rescue center, saw the last remaining northern white rhinos, and visited a local conservation center. This trip marked the beginning of a long-term collaboration between wildlife veterinarians in Kenya and Rwanda.
- Dr. Rutagengwa completed a two-week training at North Kenya Veterinary Services, a mixed animal clinic serving livestock, domestic animals, and wildlife.

September 2024

- Dr. Murenzi received hands-on training in identifying common elephant parasites from Dr. Bärbel Koehler at the Bwindi Community Hospital laboratory in Entebbe, Uganda.

October 2024

- Drs. Dawn Zimmerman and Jenn Yu attended the Gibbon Husbandry, Health, & Conservation Conference in Malaysia, deepening VIEW's involvement in primate health initiatives.
- Dr. Yu also presented preliminary findings from the North American EEHV serosurveillance project at the Elephant Managers Association Conference.
- Dr. Murenzi traveled to the U.S. for specialized training at Oregon Wildlife Safari, where he refined his skills in diagnostics, anesthesia, disease management, and surgical procedures.

November 2024

- Dr. Rutagengwa met with Dr. Krystal Pollitt of Yale School of Public Health on how to safely handle, store, and ship the passive silicone samplers used in her pesticide research at Akagera National Park.

December 2024

- Dr. Rutagengwa initiated her research project on pesticide exposure in Akagera National Park.
- Dr. Rutagengwa worked closely with Dr. Irimaso at the University of Rwanda to plan and facilitate this 3-day field workshop = specialized workshops and training, covering topics on tuberculosis, megavertebrate anesthesia, and antimicrobial resistance in elephants and rhinos.

The Impact of Your Support

VIEW's private funders make our work possible. We recognize that you have many choices when it comes to philanthropy, and we're deeply grateful that you've chosen to invest in our mission. Your contributions fuel every success highlighted in this report.

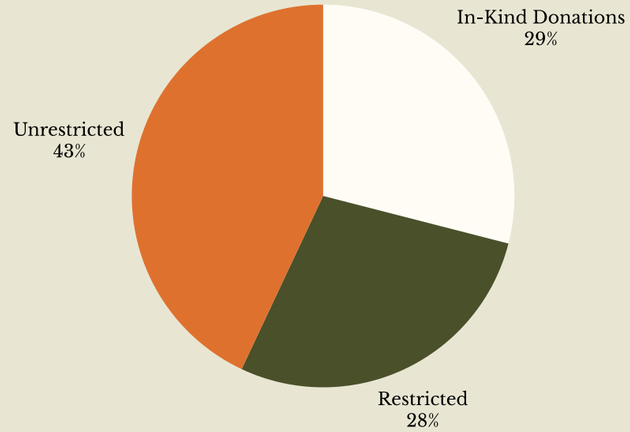
We extend our sincere appreciation to our grant partners as well, whose support has been integral to our research initiatives, community engagement efforts, and the development of essential tools for veterinarians and conservationists in the field.

Although VIEW's investment returns in FY 2024 were below our target, our overall financial position remains sound. Thanks to your generosity and a strong foundation of support, we continue to invest in the critical programs that uphold our mission. We're honored to have you by our side.

Thank you!

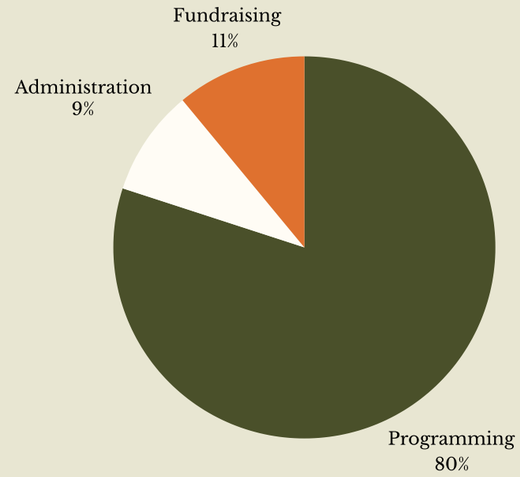
Financial Report

Income



Total: $1,062,901

Expenditures



Total: $923,581


VIEW
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