



*Wildlife  
Research Fund*

# PRESERVING WILDLIFE HEALTH



AN ENDOWMENT FUND DEDICATED TO  
SAFEGUARDING ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY

**#CevaWildlifeResearchFund**

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## Editorial

# For us, animals, and our planet...



**Marc Prikazsky**  
President of Ceva Wildlife Research Fund

Everyone agrees that wildlife health is a matter of international urgency, yet almost no one is really taking it on. Unlike other areas of research, this field remains hugely under-financed. Why? Quite simply because no economic model exists that is viable enough to sustain this kind of research.

And yet wild animals are the **“barometer” of our planet’s health**, and it is our duty to protect this living heritage. Ignoring wildlife health ultimately means turning a blind eye to the signals nature is sending us. The evidence speaks for itself: climate change, deforestation and urbanisation are disrupting ecosystems and forcing multiple interactions with wild animals. These are major challenges that call on us to change our approach, in order to **guarantee the preservation of biodiversity and secure a sustainable future for generations to come**. They require coordinated action on an international scale.

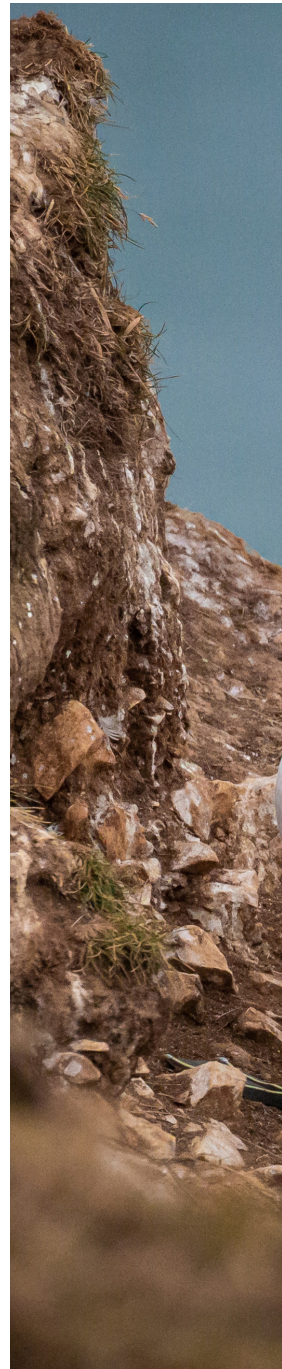
All of this context made us decide to put our skills and expertise to work for a cause that is too often overlooked: **wildlife health**. That is how, on 2 March 2023, the eve of World Wildlife Day, Ceva Wildlife Research Fund came into being.

This endowment fund provides **funding and expertise to scientific projects dedicated to wildlife health**. The research we support aims to treat and prevent wildlife diseases, to understand and measure them so as to anticipate health crises, and to help restore the balance of ecosystems so that different species can coexist sustainably.

Building on a first chapter marked by support for around twenty projects, Ceva Wildlife Research Fund is now choosing to broaden its horizons. **We want to give companies and partners the opportunity to get involved in this venture**, driven by an awareness of just how vital it is to protect animal health, and by recognition of the ties that bind every living being on our planet together.

Investing in the health of wildlife is, ultimately, investing in our shared future, because the survival of wild species is closely bound up with our own.

**Together, let’s share our commitment to global health, for the benefit of people, animals and our planet.**



# Human activities weaken biodiversity

Biodiversity rests on a balance that is as fragile as it is precious. By altering ecosystems, human activities create imbalances and break this “environmental homeostasis”. These disruptions threaten wildlife health and, by extension, human health too. To act effectively, we first need to understand how these pressures are disrupting our natural heritage:



## Population pressure:

The human population is experiencing sustained, rapid growth:

1.6 billion  
in 1900

2.6 billion  
in 1950

over 8 billion  
today

X3 in 75 years

This overpopulation is encroaching further and further on natural habitats: the factor with the greatest impact on wild animals and plant life.



**Deforestation**, particularly marked in Asia, Africa and South America, is forcing human and animal populations **to share the same territory**, inevitably intensifying interactions between people and wild animals.



**The intensification of human activities** is exemplified through changes in **land use, intensive farming and the exploitation of natural resources**, all at the expense of ecosystems. These disruptions unbalance habitats and threaten biodiversity, change the way species interact, and increase health risks for both animals and people.



**Poaching and wildlife trafficking** often target populations that are already endangered, hastening their disappearance, by disrupting natural interactions between species and forcing people and wildlife into close, unnatural contact. Trafficking also helps **spread pathogens**.



**Climate change**: melting ice, rising sea levels, shifts in the food chain... Climate change is **upending the ecosystems** that wildlife depend on.



# Acting today to better **understand tomorrow's diseases**

**“There is an intrinsic link  
between the health of people,  
animals and the environment”**



Today, interactions between wildlife and humans are on the rise as habitats shrink. These exchanges, often unplanned and involving pathogens, increase the risk of cross-contamination in equal measure. This is a doubly worrying situation. For wild animals first, since some species are already endangered or may be exposed to new health risks they are not prepared for. And for people too, **since 75% of emerging infectious diseases originate in the animal kingdom**, and in wild animals in particular, according to the World Health Organization.

While diseases of animal origin, or zoonoses, have been known since the Neolithic period\*, in recent decades we have seen a worrying rise in “animal-to-human”

transmission and vice versa, with the emergence of new infectious agents: bacteria, viruses, parasites, and so on.

**Therefore, we must act to better understand and monitor interactions within and between species, in order to protect the health of wildlife and, by extension, that of humankind.**

\*[www.notre-environnement.gouv.fr](http://www.notre-environnement.gouv.fr)

# One objective : preserving wildlife health

Beyond financial support, Ceva Wildlife Research Fund provides relevant **strategic guidance** to projects dedicated to protecting wildlife health:

## **Dedicated funding:**

All of the Fund's resources go towards supporting research into wildlife health. Ceva WRF is a private philanthropic body guided by scientific progress.

## **Expertise on hand:**

Staff from Ceva Animal Health, the world's 5th largest animal health company, choose to get involved voluntarily alongside project leaders, bringing recognised expertise in animal health directly to the service of wildlife.

## **An active network:**

Researchers, vets and health experts connected with one another across borders, creating synergies that help move science forward in the service of wildlife preservation and global health.

This endowment fund allocates its resources to **applied research projects that typically run for 3 to 5 years**. These projects must deliver **tangible, concrete results** within a reasonable timeframe. The programs Ceva Wildlife Research Fund supports are carried out in partnership with both private and public organisations (universities, research centres, and so on).

**Our endowment fund helps give every scientific project what it needs: the means to move forward, the expertise to succeed, and the connections to go further.**

## Our mission

**Contributing to the preservation of wildlife health and the maintenance of global health.**



**Treat and prevent:** Faced with certain diseases that threaten the survival of wildlife, we support research into appropriate health solutions. By transforming knowledge into practical applications, we provide field teams with additional tools to protect the health and improve the resilience of threatened populations.



**Understand and measure:** Monitoring diseases, whether for emerging, endemic, or cross-compartment diseases, is essential to protect the health of animal populations and ecosystems. We support research aimed at understanding epidemiological mechanisms and developing tools for surveillance, analysis, and modeling. This enables better measurement, anticipation, and control of pathogen transmission before major health crises emerge.



**Rebalance and coexist:** In the face of pressures on wildlife - habitat loss, genetic depletion, or environmental changes - that compromise their health, the Fund supports innovative strategies to restore ecological balance, reduce conflicts, and enable sustainable coexistence among all species.

# An operational fund, a dedicated governance

Chaired by Dr Marc Prikazsky and directed by Dr Pierre-Marie Borne, Ceva Wildlife Research Fund is a private philanthropic body that has been operational since 2 March 2023.

The endowment fund has **a board of directors and an advisory committee**, which meet to assess and follow the progress of the various projects and ensure the appropriate use of funds. Ceva Wildlife Research Fund also works closely with expert contributors from Ceva Animal Health, who help feed into projects and provide informed scientific opinions to guide research efforts.

## Board members



**Marc Prikazsky**

President



**Pierre-Marie Borne**

Director



**Marie-Dominique Piccoli**

Treasurer



**Géraldine Kutas**

Board member,  
communications  
expertise



**Valérie Mazeaud**

Board member,  
legal expertise

## Advisory committee members

**Ad Vos**, Chairman, wildlife biologist specialising in disease management and oral administration of biological products at Ceva Animal Health.

**Gwenaëlle Dauphin**, veterinarian and director of the SSRU platform (Scientific Studies and Research Units) at Ceva Animal Health.

**Fabian Deutskens**, veterinarian and director of research and biological discovery platforms at Ceva Animal Health.

**Hamadi Karembé**, veterinarian and senior scientific expert at Ceva Animal Health.

**Linnea Tracy**, veterinarian and head of veterinary services at Ceva Animal Health.

## 5 key selection criteria

Ceva Wildlife Research Fund takes a proactive approach to identify and select projects. Five key criteria guide the selection process. This rigorous approach ensures that only projects aligned with the Fund's goals are supported, the aim being to make sure allocated resources are used appropriately and deliver solid results in the field of applied research.



- **Strategic relevance**

Projects must fully align with the Fund's strategic direction, specifically focusing on applied science and wildlife health.



- **Achievable goals**

Projects must pursue definitive, achievable goals, in line with scientific, legal and regulatory standards.



- **Shared values**

Project leaders must share the Fund's philosophy and be capable of leading the project through to completion.



- **Impact assessment**

Before backing a project, the Fund carefully reviews its potential impact, whether positive or negative, along with its effects on the species being studied, its environment, and how those impacts are perceived by society.



- **Cost analysis**

Besides looking at impact, the Fund also assesses the costs involved in each project to evaluate its financial viability.

# PROTECTING

## TASMANIAN DEVILS

### Context

Tasmanian devils are marsupials that disappeared from mainland Australia around 3,000 years ago and **today survive in the wild only on the island of Tasmania.**

Endemic to this region, the Tasmanian devil is now **classified as endangered on the IUCN Red List.** Since 1996, Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD), a contagious cancer spread through biting, has driven **a decline of around 80% in wild populations,** from roughly

54,000 to just 15,000 individuals in 20 years. The first strain (DFTD1) spread widely across the island. In 2014, a second, independent strain (DFTD2) was identified in the south, then detected elsewhere in 2022, raising fears that it will continue to spread.

On top of these diseases, the devils also face human-driven threats such as road collisions, attacks by domestic dogs, and habitat loss. The disappearance of the Tasmanian devil would have **major ecological consequences.**

As a scavenger, it helps keep ecosystems balanced. Its decline is allowing opportunistic species such as feral cats to reproduce, to the detriment of native species like bandicoots.

**Protecting the species is now a major conservation priority.**

### Challenges

This project, which involves **developing an oral vaccine against the facial tumours affecting Tasmanian devils,** has now reached a decisive stage: turning promising scientific breakthroughs into a concrete, large-scale solution to protect devil populations.

The challenges are numerous. The first is optimising vaccine

distribution using innovative technology, such as AI-powered bait dispensers that can identify previously-immunised animals and improve the effectiveness of field campaigns. At the same time, ongoing monitoring is essential to track how the disease is evolving and adapt the vaccine accordingly. Establishing local production is also a key lever for ensuring lasting access to the vaccine while strengthening the independence of teams

on the ground. Finally, the project's success depends on continuing operational support for testing centres and the gradual roll-out of a new version of the vaccine to wild populations, with the ultimate goal of protecting the species in the long term.



### THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

- Research project led by **the University of Tasmania and the Menzies Institute,** headed by Associate Professor Andrew Flies.
- Development of an oral bait vaccine against facial tumours in Tasmanian devils.



# 99.5 %

THE MORTALITY RATE LINKED TO THE FACIAL TUMOUR REACHES UP TO 99.5%, MAKING IT AN ALMOST INVARIABLY FATAL DISEASE FOR THE ANIMALS AFFECTED.

“We are lucky to have the support of Ceva WRF, which allows us to turn our laboratory research into concrete, long-term strategies that can be deployed in the field. That’s how we can make a real difference in protecting the species”

**Andrew Flies**

Associate Professor at the Menzies Institute

# UNDERSTAND AND MEASURE

## UNDERSTAND IMMUNITY AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA IN KING PENGUINS

### Context

In recent years, Influenza viruses have re-emerged and pose a growing threat to wildlife and global health. **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is now affecting seabirds in Europe on a massive scale**, an unprecedented situation. Already weakened by broader environmental change, these species are especially vulnerable during breeding season, as they gather in dense colonies that facilitate the spread of infectious diseases. **HPAI is highly transmissible, known for evolving rapidly, and can affect both domestic poultry and wild birds.**

Since 2022, HPAI has spread worldwide, affecting wild bird populations from the North Atlantic to the Pacific and all the way to South America. **The French Southern and Antarctic Lands (FSAL), previously untouched, have now been affected too**, notably via migratory species that act as reservoirs, such as scavenging birds. This spread demonstrates that even the most isolated ecosystems are no longer protected, with a high risk of rapid transmission in any areas with dense animal populations.

Located in the Southern Ocean, between Madagascar and Antarctica, the FSAL are home to millions of seabirds and mammals

in an exceptional but fragile environment. On Possession Island (Crozet archipelago), scientists work in extreme conditions to study and protect these ecosystems. Since HPAI appeared in the FSAL, innovative research programmes have been under way. Strictly protected and largely untouched by humans, these territories are now a unique natural laboratory for understanding and anticipating how this pandemic will evolve.

### Challenges

King penguins are especially vulnerable to avian flu because of **their very dense colonies and long periods spent gathered together**, which makes it easier for the virus to spread. A peculiarity of their breeding cycle is that: chicks stay on land for more than 300 days, offering an exceptional window for

observation and intervention in the wild. This makes it possible, for the first time in a wild species, to establish a long-term vaccination and monitoring strategy under natural conditions.

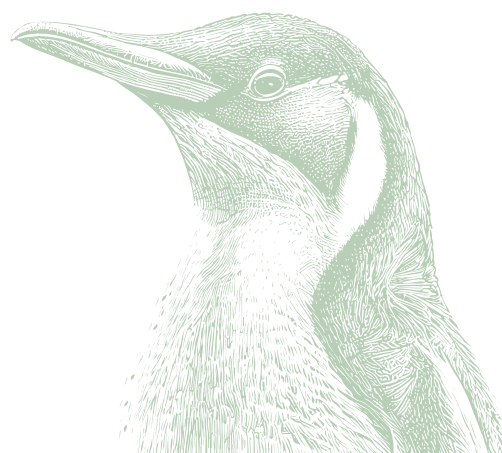
The Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology (CEFE-CNRS), an expert in FSAL seabirds (through the ECOPATH-IPEV project), is using

this opportunity to trial an innovative approach to protection.

**Vaccinating chicks makes it possible to evaluate a potential preventive strategy in real-world conditions and to study the king penguins immune response in a broader ecological context.**

## THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

- Research project led by the **Centre for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology, part of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)**, headed by Dr Thierry Boulinier.
- Vaccination campaign against avian flu in king penguin chicks during their 300 days on land.





FRENCH SOUTHERN  
AND ANTARCTIC  
LANDS (FSAL)



## DID YOU KNOW?

AVIAN FLU IS A POTENTIAL **ZOOONOSIS**: AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE THAT CAN PASS FROM ANIMALS TO HUMANS, AND VICE VERSA. THESE DISEASES CAN BE VIRAL, BACTERIAL OR PARASITIC IN ORIGIN, AND CAN SPREAD THROUGH DIRECT OR INDIRECT CONTACT, INCLUDING VIA WATER, FOOD OR THE ENVIRONMENT.

“The arrival of avian flu in 2022 in territories as remote as the FSAL highlights how urgent it is to protect animal populations in their natural habitat, given the risk of mass mortality”

**Dr Pierre-Marie Borne**  
Director of Ceva Wildlife Research Fund

# REBALANCE AND COEXIST

## COEXISTING WITH LEOPARDS

### Context

Large carnivore populations are declining worldwide, mainly due to **habitat loss and conflict with human activity**. This threatens their survival, while livestock predation causes major economic losses for farmers, estimated at tens, even hundreds, of millions of dollars a year depending on the region.

One promising approach to overcoming these challenges is now being explored: **mammal chemical signals**. These are natural molecules given off by animals (via urine, glands or skin, for example) that are used to communicate between individuals: **marking territory, signalling presence, or influencing behaviour**.

These scents play an essential role in the social life and survival of some species. Long seen as too complex to make use of, these signals can in fact rely on **compounds that are simple, reproducible and usable in the field**. The BioBoundary project is exploring their potential, applied to the leopard.

### Challenges

The BioBoundary project aims to address a major challenge: **reconciling the conservation of large carnivores with the protection of farming activities**. The goal is to reduce retaliatory killings while limiting the economic losses caused by livestock predation, in order to foster sustainable coexistence between people and wildlife.

The challenges are scientific and practical too: demonstrating that natural chemical signals can be

used as effective, field-ready, non-lethal management tools. The project is exploring an innovative alternative to traditional predator-culling methods.

Ultimately, the aim is to produce **a solution that can be applied in other species and regions of the world**, helping to protect biodiversity while safeguarding the livelihoods of local communities.



## THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

- Research project led by **Wild Entrust and Botswana Predator Conservation**, headed by Dr Peter Apps.
- Development of a natural solution to foster coexistence between wild animals, livestock and people.



# The three pillars of the Fund's mission

Ceva Wildlife Research Fund supports applied research projects which deliver tangible, operational results within 3 to 5 years, with no geographical limits.

Every initiative addresses at least one of the Fund's three pillars: treat and prevent, understand and measure, rebalance and coexist.

Beyond the projects already presented, the Fund also supports the following initiatives:

## Treat and Prevent

**Developing a vaccine** to protect koalas against chlamydia.

**Australia**

**Studying** avian flu vaccination in pelicans and African penguins.

**Belgium - animal park**

**Studying** avian flu vaccination in wild bird species. - **Hungary - zoos**

**Establishing** reference values to better rehabilitate and protect white-bellied and black-bellied pangolins. - **Cameroon**

**Developing a vaccine** to protect Tasmanian devils against facial tumour disease. - **Tasmania**

**Vaccinating** to protect Ethiopian wolves against rabies. - **Ethiopia**

**Studying** a new avian flu vaccination strategy in wild bird species.

**France - zoos**

**Studying** preventive avian flu vaccination in wild bird species.

**Singapore - zoos**

**Studying** avian flu vaccination in king penguins.

**French Southern and Antarctic Lands**





## Understand and Measure

**Studying** the effects of avian flu on a population of **Northern gannets**.

**France**

**Understanding** the virology of avian flu to protect **animals and people**.

**France**

**Studying** the microbiome of **gelada baboons** to protect the health of all (PhD).

**Ethiopia**

**Learning** more about **Temminck's pangolins** to improve their care and rehabilitation (PhD).

**South Africa**

**Studying** the epidemiology of avian flu and West Nile virus in **South African** vultures.

**South Africa**

**Studying** the transmission of strongyloides worms between **human, primate and canid** populations. - **Republic of the Congo**

**Assessing** avian flu risk in **seabirds and wild mammals** along the Patagonian coast.

**Patagonia**

## Rebalance and Coexist

**Understanding** elephant movements to better manage their populations.

**South Africa**

**Coexisting** with **leopards** through natural solutions. - **Botswana**



All the projects the fund supports can be explored in full on the Ceva Wildlife Research Fund website :

[www.cevawildlife.org](http://www.cevawildlife.org)



# Why become a partner?

**Becoming a partner and supporting wildlife health is both a philanthropic and a strategic commitment.**

**Every company depends, to different levels, on the services provided by healthy ecosystems. Protecting these fragile balances and wildlife health directly supports the resilience of our economic systems and the sustainability of our societies.**

**By supporting wildlife health, you are helping to preserve an entire world.**

## 1/ Contribute to a sustainable future

Supporting our endowment fund is a direct contribution to a more sustainable future. By helping protect biodiversity, you actively take part in safeguarding species and the health of our planet.

## 2/ Strengthen your sense of responsibility

By committing to the protection of wildlife health, you build on and complement your CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiatives. This commitment strengthens your company's image as an ethical player, mindful of our planet's future.

## 3/ Attract and retain talents

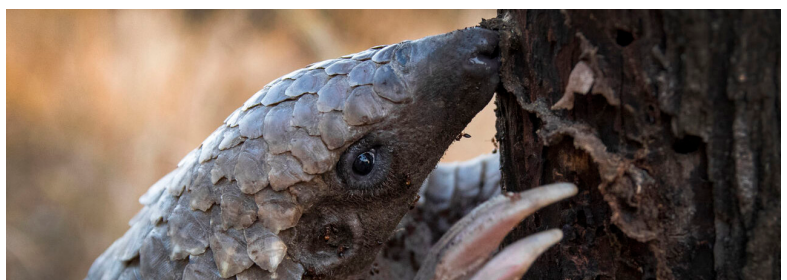
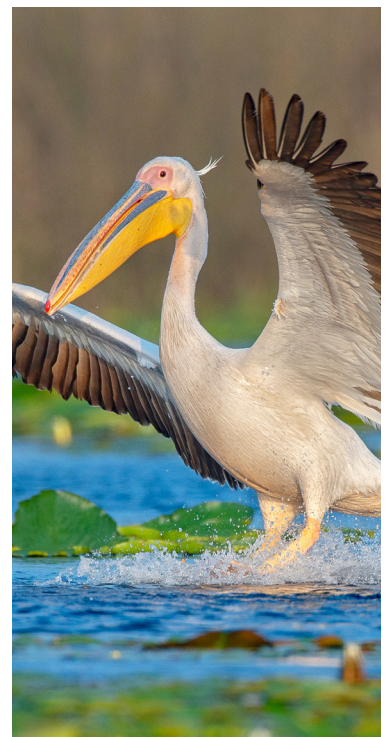
Younger generations favour companies that are committed, give meaning to their work, and share genuine values. By supporting our endowment fund, you show your commitment to a cause of general public interest.

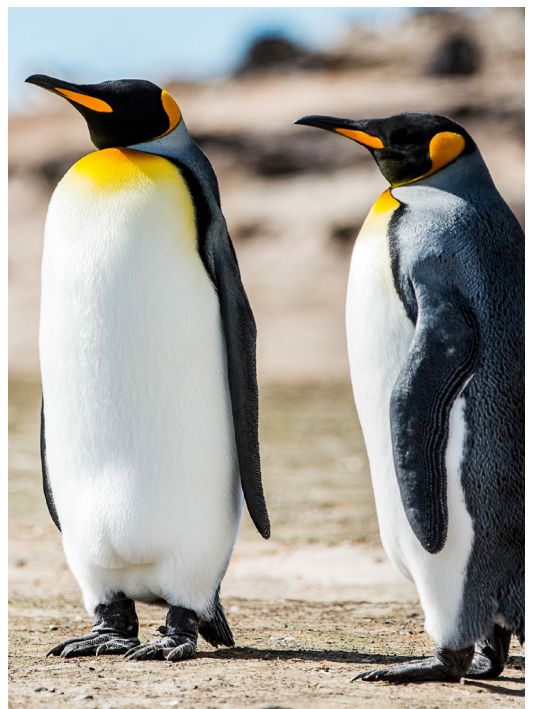
## 4/ Boost your visibility and grow your professional network

Companies which partner with our endowment fund benefit from our visibility, feature in dedicated communications, and take part in our network of stakeholders, opening up numerous opportunities.

## 5/ Attractive tax incentives to support the public good

Depending on the circumstances, donations to the endowment fund can qualify for tax deductions, while supporting an important cause. This makes it possible to reinvest resources into other projects of general public interest.







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