

# Creating our conservationists of the future!



## Conservation comics for rural schools

Many children in rural areas of southern Africa attend primary schools adjacent to national parks or other protected wildlife areas, living alongside dangerous species every day. The communities' primary interaction with wildlife is often to protect their families, crops and livestock from being destroyed, with little concern for the impact killing wildlife has on the wider ecosystem in which they live.

For many years, Southern African Conservation Trust (SACT) has pursued the goal of creating 'conservationists of tomorrow' through its rural schools' education program. This initiative is presented through a comic book series entitled, *Vusa the Wildlife Guardian*. Distributed free to rural schools situated on the periphery of protected areas, it shares valuable information with families who need to co-exist with wild animals. Through their adventures and encounters with local wildlife, Vusa (a rural schoolboy) and his sister Thandi pass along knowledge to their friends and classmates about the species they are likely to encounter and their role in the ecosystem. By educating children, and indirectly the local community to value their natural heritage, we aim to change the attitude of local communities towards conservation so that alternative solutions to protecting their crops and livestock can be considered. These educational comics focus on ways to reduce conflict with wildlife as well as highlighting the economic benefits of wildlife, including tourism. Armed with this knowledge, we hope to help create the 'conservationists of tomorrow', starting with school children.

With ten titles now in print, the comics are read by tens of thousands of children in southern Africa, helping to educate the younger generation. Over the years these comics have been reprinted many times, with countless design and content updates, and there are more new titles currently in production.

2024 will see the publication of *Vusa the African Wild Dog Guardian*, the latest in this series, and our earliest educational comic, *Vusa the Lion Guardian* is undergoing a complete update.

## Southern African Conservation Trust

At Southern African Conservation Trust (SACT) we dream of an Africa where communities and wildlife live together in harmony. To achieve this ambitious goal, we need to understand the fundamental drivers of conflict between communities and wildlife in order to develop and implement creative and sustainable solutions to these issues. In our rapidly changing world, we believe the future survival of wildlife in Africa will be determined by rural communities and we proudly support wildlife conservation research and community benefit projects which support our vision.

**We invite you to join us as an eco-warrior, helping to fund the production, printing, and distribution needed to get even more comics into the hands of rural children.**

**GlobalGiving** is a nonprofit organisation that makes it easy and safe to donate to projects anywhere in the world. DIRECT LINK: <http://goto.gg/62418>. Since SACT is an accredited organisation, USA donors (individuals and companies) will receive a 501(c)3 tax certificate.

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THANK YOU!

SACT is a Public Benefit Organization registered with SARS: PBO 930039588, and Registered Trust IT 18/2012PMB.

**PLEASE JOIN US AS AN ECO-WARRIOR**



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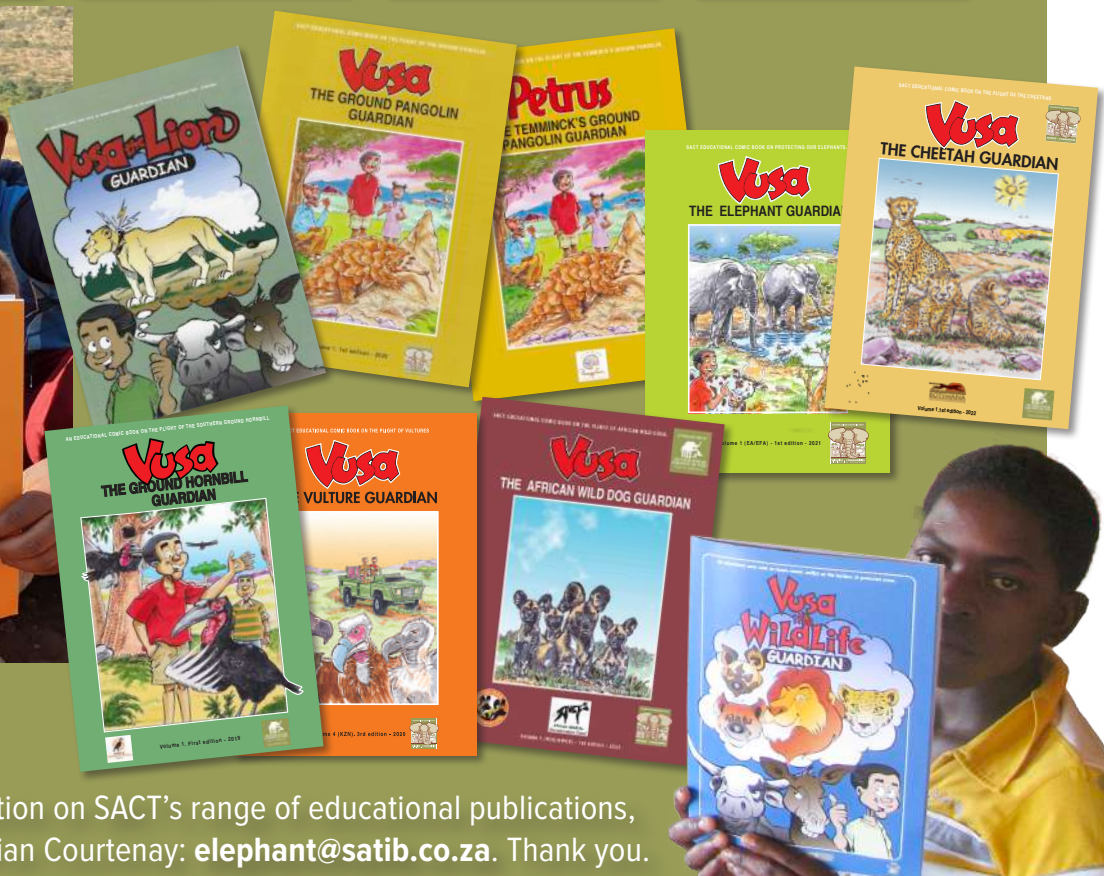
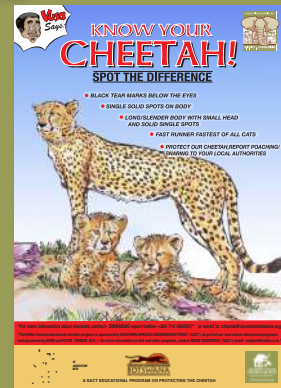
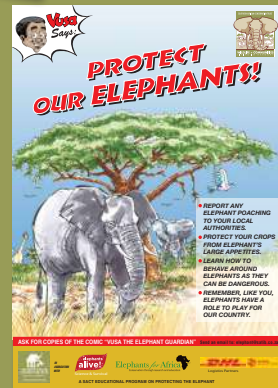
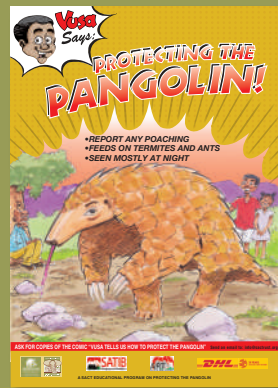
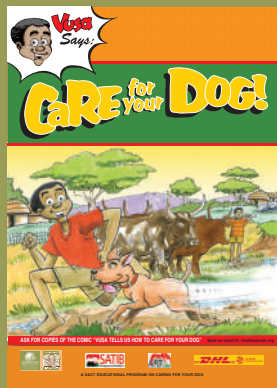
# Education today is the currency of tomorrow.

We're very proud of our growing family of educational posters and comics...

SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONSERVATION TRUST



WILDLIFE + COMMUNITIES  
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For more information on SACT's range of educational publications, please contact Brian Courtenay: [elephant@satib.co.za](mailto:elephant@satib.co.za). Thank you.