

40 YEARS OF CONSERVING ZAMBEZI WILDLIFE & WILDERNESS!
and proud of it!

April-May 2022

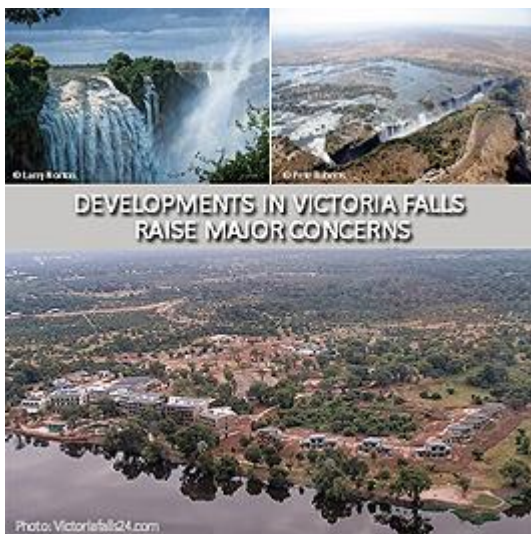
The Zambezi Society's 40th year of operation proceeds apace, with field operations and road clearance swinging into full action now that the end of the rains makes access easier. Work to help rural communities living close to wildlife on the edges of the Zambezi's protected areas is progressing well, thanks to our four new Human-Wildlife Co-Existence Officers. With specialised training, they are encouraging villagers to make use of some intriguing devices like Vuvuzelas and chilli bombs! Meanwhile Zamsoc continues its watchdog role with regard to initiatives that may have undesirable impacts on wild areas - a rush of tourism developments in Victoria Falls is the latest focus. We hope you enjoy this quarterly update, and continue to support our activities and our collective passion!

- **The Zambezi Society Team**

A REMINDER
PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS
info@zamsoc.org

We've had problems with our previous e-mail addresses which were **zambezi@iwayafrica.co.zw** or **zambezi@mweb.co.zw**
IF YOU HAVE SENT US AN E-MAIL RECENTLY TO EITHER OF THE OLD ADDRESSES, PLEASE RE-SEND TO
info@zamsoc.org

STOP PRESS!



FALLS TOURISM CONTROVERSY

A current rush of tourism developments and new activities in and around the Victoria Falls which could have adverse impacts on the famous World Heritage Site, has prompted ZimParks to call an urgent meeting in the resort town on Monday 9th May 2022. The aim is to seek clarity and feedback from the authorities, stakeholders and the local community. Meanwhile a petition called [#KEEPVICTORIAFALLSWILD](#) has been launched. [FIND OUT MORE HERE.](#)

Zamsoc would like to hear your views. Please feel free to [email us](#), and we will pass the feedback on.

FIELD OPERATIONS



ZAMSOC OPENS ROAD ACCESS IN CHARARA

Zamsoc's road repair programme in the Charara Safari Area began this year in mid April and the team was, once again, ably managed by Alistair Hull. Two important access roads in the area were successfully re-opened for anti-poaching deployment access after this year's rains (see map). We would like to express our grateful thanks to [Padenga Holdings](#) for contributing 600 litres of fuel to this exercise.

The priority was the 'game fence' road which runs roughly through the middle of the area for 42 kms - from the powerlines in the south-west to the Chirundu–Harare main road in the north-east. It crosses a number of rivers, the biggest being the Charara River. The other focus of this exercise was a road running north from the 'game fence' road, crossing the Charara River and then on to the Chipitani turn off.

Unfortunately, the exercise was cut short due to a breakdown of the roadworking machinery. Our operations team is currently in field assessing further road repair needs, and the second phase of the roads program will continue in June.



Meet our Human Wildlife Co-existence (HWC) Officers



INTRODUCING OUR HWCOS

We are delighted to introduce Zamsoc's team of four Human-Wildlife Co-Existence Officers (HWCOS) who are working among rural communities on the southern boundary of the Charara Safari Area and in the Gache Gache communal area. Their task is to work with community members to help reduce loss of livelihoods caused by conflicts between villagers and the wild animals living next door. Having surveyed households in the area, they are gathering baseline data about conflict incidents using the SMART data-capture system, and have introduced the use of Vuvuzelas which give advance warning to villagers about wildlife moving through their areas. [READ MORE HERE.](#)



LION RECOVERY FUND DIRECTOR VISITS CHARARA WITH US

In 2019, thanks to funding from the [Lion Recovery Fund \(LRF\)](#) The Zambezi Society initiated the **Charara Wildlife Recovery Project** in partnership with ZimParks, recognising that the Charara Safari Area is a key wildlife corridor in the Middle Zambezi Valley.

In April this year, Zamsoc's management were delighted to facilitate a site visit to Charara with Dr Peter Lindsey, Director of the Lion Recovery Fund, to meet the team and familiarise himself with the area's layout and the project's work.

The visit took Dr Lindsey through the communities living along the southern boundary of the Charara Safari Area and into the Gache-Gache Communal Area, where Zamsoc has employed Human-Wildlife Coexistence Officers to help reduce loss of livelihoods caused by human-wildlife conflict. He also took part, with ZimParks rangers, in an anti-poaching patrol through known hotspot threat areas in the Charara Safari Area and then visited Kariba Town where the central hub for the area's management, rangers and project operations is based.

The above images show Dr Lindsey on deployment with ZimParks rangers headed by patrol leader, Peter Chikwiramakomo, and meeting the ZimParks management team in the Operations Room built by Zamsoc, with LRF funds, at Charara's Nyanyana Station near Kariba.

The trip provided valuable space for productive conversations about the future of the project, and the shared vision for the future of this very important area which is a vital wildlife bridging corridor between the western and eastern sections of the Zambezi Valley.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR EFFORTS

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MANA ROAD ACCESS RESTORED - BRIDGES REPAIRED

We are delighted to report that road access into Mana Pools has been fully restored following major roadworks to repair the approaches to three main bridges damaged by flooding rivers during a cyclone at the end of January. The repair project is now constructing gabions along a damaged section of the road and will complete some final concreting work on the long bridge over the Ruckomechi River shortly. We congratulate ZimParks on moving swiftly to organise the repairs. Fortunately, the Zambezi Society's vehicle was able to continue with anti-poaching deployments inside the Park while access was restricted and our driver, Mika Muzezewa, managed to exit and re-enter by crossing the Ruckomechi River on foot to take his time off!



SAPI WILDLIFE TRANSLOCATIONS

The Zambezi Society is in discussion with tour operators, [Great Plains Conservation](#), who propose to translocate 400 elephants and other wildlife species (including possibly giraffe and wildebeest) from the Save Conservancy in the south of Zimbabwe into their Sapi Private Reserve concession in the Zambezi Valley. Zamsoc is currently consulting with experts in the fields of conservation biology, ecology and veterinary science to gain their insights and opinions in order to respond. We welcome informed inputs from our friends and supporters with experience in this field. Please [be in touch](#).

THANK YOU



THANK YOU TO KEN, OUR VOLUNTARY TREASURER

The Zambezi Society is extremely sad to say farewell to Ken Fisher who has retired after devoting more than a decade of dedicated work to our organisation as a voluntary (co-opted) treasurer. We thank you, Ken, from the bottom of our hearts, for dealing quietly behind the scenes with the unexciting challenges of financial accountability while you'd MUCH rather be enjoying the peace and quiet of relaxing on the Zambezi River with binoculars to the ready and a fishing rod to hand!

40 YEARS OF CONSERVATION HISTORY JOIN US AS WE LOOK BACK ON OUR JOURNEY



In 2022, Zamsoc celebrates 40 years of in-field conservation work in the Zambezi Valley. To mark the occasion, our Historical Series articles highlight significant moments and conservation achievements that we're proud of over the past four decades.

Click on the links below to read our Historical Episodes:-

[THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY HISTORICAL SERIES](#)

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