

THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY - July 2023

While a deafening silence follows our strong objections to the threat of possible oil and gas exploration in the Hurungwe Safari Area west of Mana Pools, we welcome the news that mining activities at the Zambian Kangaluwi copper mining project opposite the Mana-Sapi-Chewore World Heritage Site have been halted (at least temporarily). We hope that efforts to combat such threats will be strengthened by the new Lower Zambezi/Mana Pools Trans-Frontier Conservation agreement which was signed in May 2023. Meanwhile, The Zambezi Society's teams have been busy with Human Wildlife Co-existence work in and around Charara during the cropping season and we are pleased to be now extending the project into Kariba Town and its surrounds. We've also been helping with carnivore research in the Zambezi Valley, supporting ZimParks rangers with vehicle deployments and contributing to food supplies, refurbishing the Marongora School and revamping our website! Thanks for your support! Please help us do more...

- The Zambezi Society Team

NEWS UPDATES



LOWER-ZAMBEZI MANA POOLS (LOZAMAP) TRANSFRONTIER CONSERVATION AGREEMENT SIGNED

On 26 May 2023 the governments of Zimbabwe and Zambia signed a Memorandum of Understanding formally establishing the **Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools (LOZAMAP) Transfrontier Conservation Area** (TFCA). The Zambezi Society was invited to the event and attended.

According to the Peace Parks Foundation which helped to facilitate this partnership, the agreement promises "*better management of shared resources and the associated challenges through a regionally integrated approach, which will encourage cooperation to protect unique ecosystems and to cultivate a robust, sustainable wildlife economy across a landscape unfettered by national boundaries.*"

Covering around 18,515 sq km of the Zambezi River basin downstream of **Lake Kariba** the new LOZAMAP TFCA encompasses core conservation and tourism areas including the **Lower Zambezi National Park** in Zambia and **Mana Pools National Park** in Zimbabwe, in addition to a mosaic of wildlife and safari management areas, communal land and private conservancies (see map). The Zimbabwe component also includes the UNESCO-designated **Mana Pools-Sapi-Chewore World Heritage Site** which allows for unimpeded movement of wildlife throughout the area.

Said Werner Myburgh, CEO of the Peace Parks Foundation: *This agreement paves the way for the joint management of shared natural resources in one of the most iconic conservation areas in Africa. Elephants, as a flagship species, that have been traversing the landscape irrespective of political boundaries for millennia will now once again be regarded as a single population to be managed and protected jointly within this ecosystem.*

The TFCA not only ensures the protection of a diverse array of wildlife and habitats, ranging from islands and riparian forests to inland woodlands and grasslands, but also creates ample opportunities for the local, rural communities who often have limited access and choice with regards to income streams - one of which is tourism.

We look forward to increased co-operation between Zambia and Zimbabwe with regard to conserving this vast, contiguous wildlife and wilderness area, so that future generations can continue to experience and benefit from its priceless natural wonders.



A FAMOUS SUPPORTER VISITS!

The Zambezi Society's Protected Area Project Co-Ordinator, Simba Kandiero, (pictured right) was delighted to spend time recently in the Zambezi Valley with one of the Society's most famous supporters. Sir Richard Branson, with a group of his family and friends, took part in the [Zambezi Elephant Fund \(ZEF\)](#)'s Zambezi Valley "**Walk for Wild**" Expedition in June-July this year. A few years back, funds from Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Unite charity, channelled through ZEF, assisted Zamsoc field operations with contributions towards the purchase of our ranger deployment boat and an anti-poaching vehicle.

The month-long **Walk for Wild** covered some 330km on foot and by canoe, through the 6,3 million acres of the middle Zambezi Valley, encompassing the wilds of the Matusadona and Mana Pools National Parks, and ending in Kanyemba. Its aim was to bring together conservation stakeholders and enthusiasts to highlight the work being done on the ground by a range of contributors (including The Zambezi Society, in its role of providing support to ZimParks) and to share the conservation successes, challenges and ongoing needs of the landscape. We congratulate **The Zambezi Elephant Fund** on enabling those taking part to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the conservation story, the human story and the vulnerability of this magnificent Zambezi area.



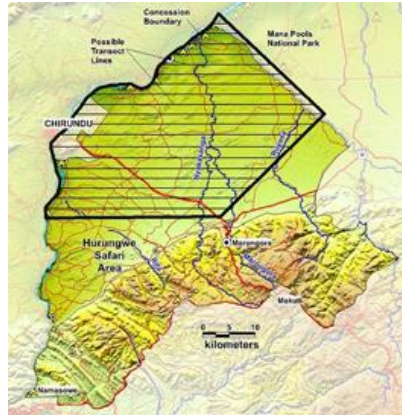
ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HALTS KANGALUWI MINE

Conservationists and the tourism sector breathed a sigh of relief when, on 31 May 2023, the Zambian government ordered mining company Mwembeshi Resources Ltd to immediately halt all activities on the controversial US\$494 million Kangalwi copper project in the Lower Zambezi National Park opposite the Mana Pools/Sapi/Chewore World Heritage Site, stating that the company had violated several environmental conditions. The mining project had been given the go-ahead by a previous government in June 2021.

However, relief at the news of the ban could be short-lived, as the company is already exploring ways to resume operations in the area.

The proposed mine is expected to cover about 980 square kilometres – about 25% of the Lower Zambezi National Park – but it is estimated that the entire northern part of the park (more than 50%) will be affected.

Conservation and tourism industry stakeholders, including [Conservation Advocates Zambia \(CAZ\)](#) and the campaign [Save Zambezi Safe Zambezi](#) have warned that the proposed mine threatens wildlife in the National Park, will have environmental impacts on the Zambezi River downstream of the site, and will hurt a flourishing tourism industry that draws visitors from around the world. We await further developments in this ongoing saga.




OIL & GAS EXPLORATION? NO FURTHER NEWS

Meanwhile a deafening silence has followed the furore stirred up in May this year when The Zambezi Society and hundreds of others filed formal objections to an application by Shalom Mining Corporation (Pvt Ltd) to prospect for oil and gas within the Hurungwe Safari Area in the Zambezi Valley adjacent to the Mana Pools National Park. We await further developments. Read our full and detailed objection [HERE](#)

THANK YOU TO THE RANGERS







The Zambezi Society salutes wildlife rangers throughout the Zambezi Valley for their dedication to duty in harsh working conditions. With funding from The Zambezi Elephant Fund, Zamsoc supports men and women rangers working for [ZimParks](#), and their families, with food supplies. So far this year we have delivered some 15,600kgs of roller meal food rations to Zambezi Valley Park stations, as well as 480kgs of high energy food for use by rangers while they are out on patrol. These rangers at Marongora Station are pictured with a recent delivery this July.



THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY

FIELD OPERATIONS SUMMARY JAN-JUNE 2023

<p>CHARARA SAFARI AREA 410 wire snares removed 6 poachers camps destroyed</p>		<p>CHARARA SAFARI AREA & MANA POOLS NP (with ZIMPARKS) KARIBA (with KAWFT)</p> <p>16,000 kms covered by vehicle 1,086 ranger nights in field 227 day patrols 44 extended patrols</p>	
WILDLIFE PROTECTION	RANGER WELFARE	LAND & WATER PATROLS	ROAD REPAIRS
	<p>CHARARA, MANA POOLS MARONGORA & CHEWORE 200 rangers supplied with 480 kgs high energy patrol food 15,600 kgs maize meal</p> <p>MANA POOLS NP US\$563 medical supplies for clinic</p> <p>MARONGORA SCHOOL Educational supplies & lunches 38 students & 4 teachers Repairs (door frames, windows plumbing, roof trusses, & wall cracks, Repaint of school</p>		<p>CHARARA SAFARI AREA Several river crossings & eroded areas repaired</p>

In partnership with Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Kariba Animal Welfare Fund Trust and Zambezi Elephant Fund



WELCOME COLLIN TAPI

The Zamsoc team is delighted to welcome Collin Tapi as our new Project Manager. For the past two months Collin has been working in the field assisting [Zimparks](#) and the [Wildcru](#) team with setting up and checking camera traps for their large carnivore survey in the Zambezi Valley (see the Research section below). Collin has also been involved in procurement, data management, analysis, mapping and reporting across all Zamsoc projects.

Collin holds a BSc in Geographical Biogeoscience from the University of Zimbabwe and a Postgrad diploma in Project Management. He's working towards an International certification in Project

Management (PMI). He is passionate about wildlife conservation and is strongly interested in the applications of technology to improve wildlife research and strategic management. He hopes to evolve his skills with Zamsoc in a challenging environment, as well as to gain conservation leadership experience.



OUR HUMAN-WILDLIFE CO-EXISTENCE WORK WITH COMMUNITIES IN CHARARA & KARIBA

The Zambezi Society's Human Wildlife Co-Existence (HWC) team has been making good progress working with communities living in the settled areas surrounding the Charara Safari Area. This Bulletin reports on the continued efforts to record and map conflict situations with elephants and carnivores (mainly hyenas); efforts to reduce damage to crops and livestock using a variety of mitigation methods, including chillis and predator-proof bomas; holding community awareness workshops and seeking to change the negative attitudes of schoolchildren towards wildlife, with positive messages through Virtual Reality wildlife videos. In May this year, we received the go-ahead to extend our work into Kariba Town, where people and wild animals live in very close proximity. We are focusing on reducing human-wildlife conflict in the high-density areas of the town by prioritising awareness workshops, conflict mitigation method demonstrations and introducing our Virtual Reality videos into the primary schools. Initiating training in conflict mitigation methods will follow. A more detailed update of this work is available as a PDF download on our website [HERE](#).

RESEARCH



SURVEYING THE ZAMBEZI'S LARGE CARNIVORES

Last year, The Zambezi Society collaborated with Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) and [WildCru](#) (Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit) to help carry out a large carnivore survey across the mid Zambezi Valley through Charara, Hurungwe, Mana Pools and Sapi. We congratulate these organisations for making the results of this survey available promptly in order to allow for adaptive management. [READ THE SURVEY RESULTS HERE](#).

This year, the survey is being carried out across the remainder of the mid Zambezi Valley - Chewore and Dande. In early June, members of Zamsoc assisted Zimparks and WildCru in setting up a series of camera trap sites across the survey area. This was then followed by predator 'call up' surveys and checking that the camera sites were still working and in position. The team is now working to take down the cameras so that all data can be collated and analysed. The aim is to repeat this survey at regular intervals across all mid Zambezi Valley protected areas to ensure maintained monitoring of large carnivore population trends. These surveys are essential to understanding the demographics, and distribution of large carnivore species and help to inform conservation management decisions across the Zimparks estate.



CARNIVORE ID DATABASE

Images of large carnivores captured by WildCru during their camera trap survey described above, are used to identify individuals. These images highlight exactly which large carnivores (particularly lion, leopard, wild dog and cheetah) are in these areas, and will allow closer monitoring of individuals and changes in demographics between the camera trap cycles. Our grateful thanks to [WildCru](#) for sharing the images.

RANGER WELFARE



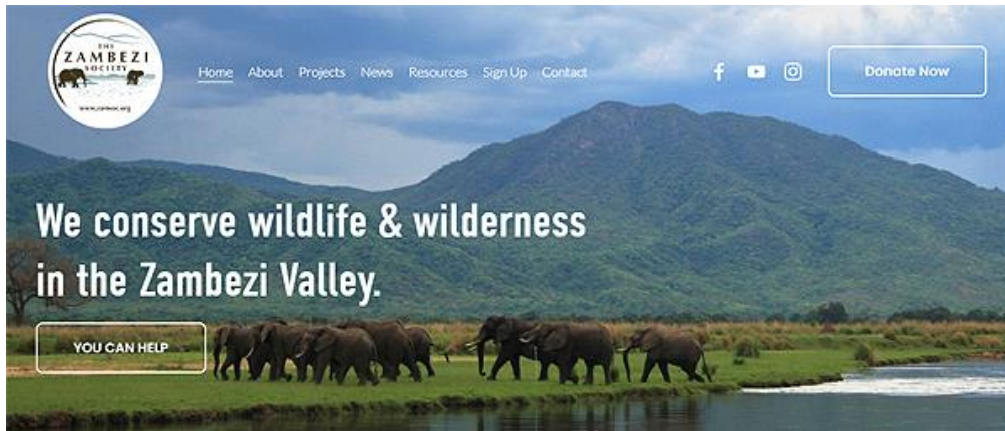
A BRIGHT NEW-LOOK SCHOOL AT MARONGORA

The Zambezi Society's partnership with the Pisek Family in Austria continues to provide Zimparks ranger's children with an improved educational experience at the Karl Pisek Primary School at Marongora Station. In addition to ongoing donations of stationary, textbooks and lunches at school, this term the students returned to a bright, fun, newly renovated school! With generous funding from the Pisek Family, we were able to renovate the students' showers and toilets and replace broken roof beams, windows, and classroom doors. We were also able to give the whole interior of the school a fresh new look with a coat of paint!

WE WELCOME ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR EFFORTS - BIG OR SMALL

[PLEASE DONATE HERE](#)

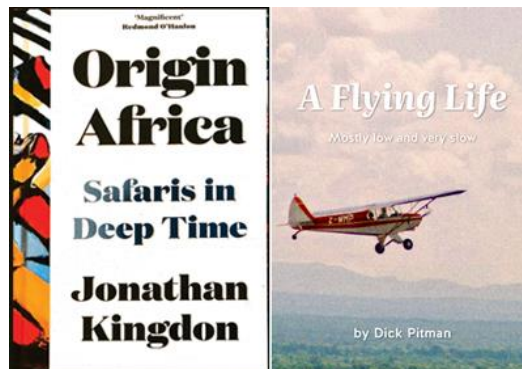
WE'VE REFRESHED OUR WEBSITE!



TAKE A LOOK!

We have recently spent some time giving The Zambezi Society's website a fresh new look with lovely images, updates to our project information, streamlining of our news channel and updated lists of resource documents and educational materials. Please take a few moments to check it out at <https://zamsoc.org>

RECOMMENDED READS



- **ORIGIN AFRICA: SAFARIS IN DEEP TIME** - by Jonathan Kingdon

In May 2023, The Zambezi Society was privileged to host a lecture by artist, biologist and author, Jonathan Kingdon, covering his latest book. Thank you to all those who attended. The lecture theatre was packed! **Origin Africa: Safaris in Deep Time** is described as 'A unique guide to the most misrepresented continent on Earth. Africa is the richest continent, containing every habitat from desert to tropical forest and the widest range of flora and fauna found anywhere. It has survived extraordinary climate fluctuations, meteor bombardment and cataclysmic volcanic eruptions. But life has still managed to retain a hold on this vast continent, eventually evolving a myriad of species' Anyone interesting in purchasing Jonathan's book can do so via Amazon (US\$39.95); Kindle (US\$17.00) - this version will be the American version entitled "**Original Africa: A natural history**"

- or via Jonathan Ball Publishers, South Africa.

- A FLYING LIFE - MOSTLY LOW & VERY SLOW - by Dick Pitman

This latest book by The Zambezi Society's Co-founder and former Director focuses on aviation - his second passion (the first is conservation). Dick Pitman has been flying for 65 years, first in England and later in Zimbabwe, in more than 40 types of glider and light aircraft, none of them larger than a SuperCub. A lot of it has been "bush-flying" - mostly low and slow - for wildlife conservation in the Zambezi Valley. Readers will find this light-hearted description of his adventures (and mis-adventures) in the aviation world just as entertaining as his previous autobiographical book **A Wild Life** - published in 2006.

Order by e-mail through [The Zambezi Society](#). Hard copies available in Zimbabwe for US\$20. If you live outside Zimbabwe, contact us anyway and we'll try and make a plan.



In case you missed our Historical Series of articles highlighting The Zambezi Society's past 40 years of in-field conservation work in the Zambezi Valley, you can read the series on our new website by clicking on the link below:-

[ZAMBEZI SOCIETY HISTORICAL SERIES](#)



[Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Email](#)

Know someone who'd like to receive these Bulletins?
SIGN THEM UP
[HERE](#)

Special thanks to this generous sponsor

