


October, 2021

The Zambezi Society teams have had a busy season in the field, with much of our effort currently concentrated in the Charara Safari Area at the eastern end of Lake Kariba. We are focused on this area because of its key location as a bridging link between the protected lands south of Lake Kariba (including the Matusadona National Park) and the Middle-Lower Zambezi Valley complex, including the Mana/Sapi/Chewore World Heritage Site. Charara is a challenge because it is surrounded on two sides by communities who practice subsistence agriculture in very harsh conditions. Wild animals threaten the communities' crops and livestock and a few errant people threaten the animals by hunting them for bushmeat and chopping down their woodland habitat for fuel wood. Somehow, workable solutions need to be found. We're onto it. Our Human Wildlife Co-Existence programme is rolling out shortly. Meantime, thanks to the support of our donors and friends, we continue to be active in Mana Pools and to maintain our "watchdog" role in helping to protect wilderness values throughout the wider Zambezi Valley. As always... we are grateful for your help.

- The Zambezi Society Team





More overleaf..

FIELD OPERATIONS



THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY

3 MONTH SUMMARY : AUG, SEPT, OCT 2021

 <p>CHARARA SAFARI AREA Arrests: 2 bush meat poachers 13 illegal fishermen 8 illegal miners</p> <p>MANA POOLS NP 0 Arrests</p>	 <p>CHARARA SAFARI AREA 5,110 km patrolled by rangers & vehicles 1,140 hours patrolled 320 ranger nights spent patrolling protected area 3 strategic patrols</p> <p>MANA POOLS NP 2,920 km patrolled 81 ranger nights spent</p>		
<p>WILDLIFE PROTECTION</p> <p>CHARARA SAFARI AREA 694 snares removed 10 weapons recovered 2 sets ivory recovered (1 poached, 1 natural death)</p> <p>MANA POOLS NP 0 snares removed 0 weapons recovered 2 sets ivory recovered (both natural deaths)</p>	<p>AMBUSH & ARRESTS</p> 	<p>RANGER WELFARE</p> <p>CHARARA, MANA POOLS MARONGORA & CHEWORE 200 rangers supplied with:- 240kg high energy patrol food 7,800kg maize meal for families</p> <p>CHARARA New uniforms for 30 rangers</p> <p>MANA POOLS US\$1,000 supplies for clinic</p> <p>MARONGORA Educational supplies & lunches for ranger school (30 kids + 4 teachers)</p>	<p>BOOTS ON THE GROUND</p> 

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



IN-FIELD ACTIVITY PAYS OFF

This hoard of 210 deadly wire snares was captured in an encounter with bushmeat poachers by ZimParks anti-poaching rangers accompanied by Zamsoc on a patrol in the Charara Safari Area in Sept 2021. These cruel traps (thousands of which have been removed in Charara this year alone) cause an agonizing death of strangulation and horror for animals in the wild. Zambezi Society management take an active part in field activities with ZimParks as part of our anti-poaching in the Zambezi Valley. We provide monthly support to ensure the SMART data capture system is current and delivers adaptive management information.



SOUTHERN BOUNDARY SURVEYS

The Zambezi Society's current operational focus in the Charara Safari Area at the eastern end of Lake Kariba has highlighted specific "high risk" challenges arising from the close proximity of human settlement to wildlife habitat. So, in early Aug 2021, a Zamsoc management team took on the task of surveying the southern boundary area on the ground, to identify main areas of concern and assess the level of human encroachment and illegal activity. Our findings revealed the severity of the problem and prompted ZimParks to call for a wider aerial survey conducted by [Flying for Wildlife \(FFW\)](#) to investigate human encroachment across the entire southern boundary of the Zambezi Valley Parks Estate. The ZimParks ecologist has submitted a report to the Regional Office. We await the results.



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CO-EXISTENCE

Zamsoc is set to embark on a new collaborative project to tackle the issue of human/wildlife conflict which is a contributor to the loss of elephants and predators across the Zambezi Valley. Our aim is to provide farming communities at the margins of wildlife land with the education and resources needed to mitigate conflict situations (introducing chilli bricks, chilli fences, bee-hive fences, building proper bomas for livestock etc.), and to respond in a mutually beneficial way. In 2022, we plan to deploy specially trained human-wildlife co-existence officers into the communities to start education and assistance programmes, to mitigate in conflict scenarios and guide communities in their responses. We are grateful to the [Lion Recovery Fund \(LRF\)](#), the [Elephant Crisis Fund \(ECF\)](#) and the [Zambezi Elephant Fund \(ZEF\)](#) for start-up funding for this project.



ILLEGAL MINING THREAT

Illegal mining activity (often gold-panning) continues to threaten the landscape throughout the Zambezi Valley, and Zamsoc continues to work with ZimParks to assist in tackling this. Recent patrol efforts in the Charara Safari Area uncovered a fully-functioning illegal mine. The subsequent follow-up resulted in the arrest of 8 people, confiscation of three vehicle-loads of equipment and the complete shut down of the mine. A court case is pending.



ROAD CLEARANCE EXERCISE REVEALS POACHERS' CAMP

In October, The Zambezi Society assisted ZimParks with assessing and repairing access roads in the remote interior of the Charara Safari Area in preparation for an upcoming camera-trap survey of predators to be conducted in Nov-Dec 2021 by the wild cat conservation organisation, [Panthera](#). A hardworking team of manual labourers spent three days working in harsh, hot conditions to repair 12.3km of trackway, filling gullies with rocks, then surfacing them, cutting back overgrowth and removing trees felled by elephant. During the course of their work, the team located a well-established bushmeat poachers' camp with drains and meat racks from last rain season, located just a few hundred metres off the road. Bushmeat poaching is the major challenge for wildlife protection in Charara. The discovery of this camp highlights the importance of reopening roads for anti-poaching patrol access to remote (and hitherto neglected) areas.





ELE CARCASS FOLLOW-UP

In October 2021, a Zambezi Society team visited the Makuti Pools area (in the NE section of the Charara Safari Area) to inspect an elephant carcass discovered earlier this year. They carried a metal detector (vital in quickly determining the cause of death) which had not been available to those making the initial inspection) Our team found no evidence of bullets or ammunition casings (which would have indicated ivory poaching). Closer inspection of the carcass showed that the single tusk had been easily removed some time after the animal had died. The most likely cause of death was probably a fight with another elephant bull.



NEW UNIFORMS FOR CHARARA RANGERS

With funding from the [Zambezi Elephant Fund](#), The Zambezi Society has been able to equip the ZimParks rangers in the Charara Safari Area with new uniforms and patrol equipment: long-sleeved shirts, t-shirts, trousers, jumpers, one-piece worksuits, boots, caps, beanies, belts, water bottles, pouches, handcuffs and rain-proof ponchos. All active rangers from the ZimParks station based at Nyanyana are now properly equipped to patrol as comfortably as possible throughout the year. Next up, tents and mosquito nets. If you can help, see below.



PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR WORK

[**DONATE HERE**](#)



IN SUPPORT OF THE RANGERS

A Zamsoc team joined with colleagues from the [My Trees Trust](#) and the [Zambezi Elephant Fund](#) to accompany the ZimParks Charara team taking part in the Tusk Trust 21km **Wildlife Ranger Challenge** held on 18 September 2021. Around 100 teams throughout Africa volunteer annually to undertake three months of hard training for this marathon event, carrying a total of 26kg of equipment on their backs! This year, rangers from seven different protected areas across the Lower Zambezi Valley took part. Hats off to those who tirelessly dedicate their every day to protecting the wildlife that makes Africa so unique.

THANK YOU



VEHICLE FUNDING & BRANDING

A special thank you to the [Elephant Crisis Fund \(ECF\)](#) for their continued support of our Mana Pools operations by funding the costs of keeping our Land-Cruiser vehicle (pictured above with Zamsoc driver, Mica Muzezewa) in the field, deploying rangers to key threatened areas. ECF contributed to the original purchase of this vehicle for Mana operations. We are extremely grateful for their continued support. Thank you, also to [Compusign and Graphics](#) for refreshing the branding of all our Zamsoc vehicles. Pictured below is our Charara vehicle with team leader and head driver, Simba Kandiero.

OUR SPECIAL DONORS

All Zamsoc's in-field operations are made possible by generous funding support from:-

[The Lion Recovery Fund \(LRF\)](#)
[The Elephant Crisis Fund \(ECF\)](#)
[The Zambezi Elephant Fund](#)

Chisipite Junior School (Grade 6)
Steve Bolnick - Camp Mana
Our loyal individual donors

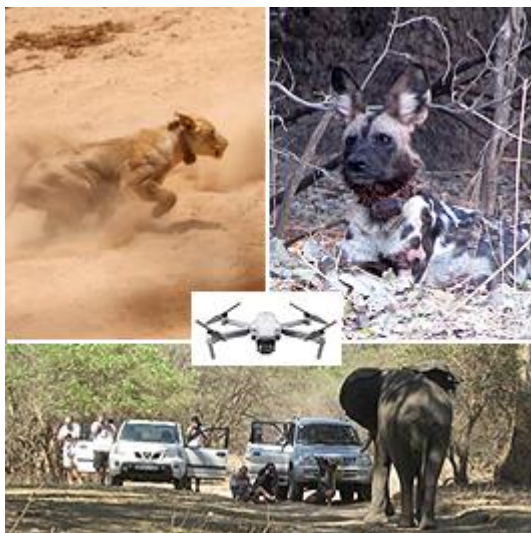
We are extremely grateful for their belief in our conservation ethos and for their support for our work.

ADVOCACY



MANA POOLS BOATING UPDATE

We still await the final report on the [survey conducted by ZimParks](#) in Dec 2020 for motorised boating on the Zambezi River in Mana Pools National Park. Meantime, we have been informed of the following: - Rainy season fishing/boating downstream of Nyamepi will continue; - Two operators ONLY have been granted licences to provide boat transfers between Chirundu and Nyamepi; - Permission has been granted to one camp in the Nyamatusi Wilderness Area for boat fishing in front of their concession, with motors limited to 60 horsepower ONLY.



VIEWING GUIDELINES

FOR RESEARCH & FILMING

The Zambezi Society and other stakeholders, recently provided inputs to ZimParks in drafting conditions for viewing of carnivores (and other wildlife species) for research or filming purposes. This initiative seeks to address reports of film and research crews breaching Park Rules that tourists are expected to abide by, and the perception that wildlife tracking collars and aerial drones, are intrusive to animals and visitors and degrade wilderness quality. Zamsoc's existing [Codes of Conduct for Visitor Behaviour](#) (see below) will assist the process.



VISITING MANA POOLS?

DOWNLOAD OUR GUIDELINES FOR VISITOR BEHAVIOUR

Every safari season, The Zambezi Society receives reports about self-drive visitors, photographers and some tour operators in Mana Pools and Chitake Spring (in the southern section of Mana Pools National Park) breaching Park rules by driving offroad, disturbing wildlife and generally behaving insensitively in one of Africa's prime wilderness areas. This year has been no exception. We once again remind everyone of our carefully-formulated **CODES OF CONDUCT FOR VISITOR BEHAVIOUR**, and encourage all visitors (and operators) to take them seriously - for the benefit of wildlife and also to ensure that the wilderness experience in this Park that tourists come for, remains the best in Africa.

You can download these CODES OF CONDUCT from our website [HERE](#).

FUND-RAISING



JOIN THE STAMPEDE FOR ELEPHANTS - 13 NOV 2021
and stand to win an incredible safari prize as top fundraiser

Have you signed up or donated to support this year's **Saving the Elephants 10K Run/Walk** taking place in Central Park, New York (and virtually elsewhere) on Saturday 13 November 2021? It's not too late!

You can run or walk your 10kms anywhere in the world.

Funds raised are in aid of the **Zambezi Elephant Fund** which supports the activities of The Zambezi Society and other conservation implementers working in the Zambezi Valley.

[Register today](#) and set up your own personalized fundraising page!. You stand a chance to win the fantastic conservation-focused safari prize for the top fundraiser (minimum \$15,000) in this year's event.

Valued at \$20,000 for two people, The **Saving the Elephants Safari**, created by **Mavros Safaris**, offers a conservation-inspired journey through Zimbabwe's most beautiful landscapes. Nine nights in the best possible safari camps, all of which support the preservation of elephant in their natural habitat. Meet with conservationists on the ground to see their impactful work first hand, and also meet the rescued elephants of Wild Horizons' orphanage in Victoria Falls for an intimate and memorable finale.

PLEASE TAKE PART OR SUPPORT BY GIVING WHAT YOU CAN!

[CLICK HERE](#)



ROCK BAND 'COLDPLAY' TO SUPPORT 'MY TREES'

The British rock band, *Coldplay* has chosen to support Zamsoc's partner the [My Trees Trust \(Miti Yangu\)](#) as one of their conservation beneficiaries for the band's upcoming ecologically friendly "*Music of the Spheres*" World Tour in 2022. This is a substantial boost to the Trust's work to replant, restore and protect indigenous forest lost to agriculture (particularly tobacco growing) in community lands adjacent to Zambezi Valley protected areas. Such good news!

ZAMSOC'S HISTORICAL SERIES NEARLY 40 YEARS OF CONSERVATION HISTORY

Join us as we look back on our journey



THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY 1982 - 2022

As Zamsoc approaches 40 years of in-field conservation work in the Zambezi Valley, we are featuring monthly articles highlighting significant moments and conservation achievements

that we're proud of over the past four decades.
Click on the links below to read our Historical Series Episodes:-

THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY'S HISTORICAL SERIES

AN INTERESTING READ



TUSKLESS ELEPHANT COWS

Visitors to the Zambezi Valley may have noticed the remarkably high number of tuskless elephants (almost always females). This has been the subject of research in the past, but now a new study following Mozambique's 20-year-long civil war (in which it lost 90% of its elephants to poaching by armed forces), has shown that as the population recovered after the war, a relatively large proportion of females were born tuskless. While elephants with tusks were specifically targeted for their ivory which was sold to finance the conflict, those without tusks were left alone, leading to an increased likelihood they would breed and pass on the tuskless trait to their offspring. What is new, is that this research has shown that the phenomenon has a genetic cause and is linked to gender.


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