

Patrons: David Gower OBE, Nick Price, David Pocock, Kim Hughes.

President's Report

Another good year for the rhinos.

Well, here we go, I've been meaning to write this since Good Friday and am now starting it on Easter Monday. I'm still in London looking after my mother as she creeps closer to her 100th birthday in July.

In 2021, Zimbabwe's rhino numbers burst through the 1,000 barrier for the first time in 30 years, and now they've gone through the **1,100** mark, with **86% of them being in the big three conservancies, Malilangwe, Bubyee and Save Valley. There were 661 black rhinos and 444 white rhinos.** At the other end of the scale there

are eight locations with 13 or less rhinos – one questions the viability of these small populations and their risk of inbreeding, though I don't doubt they are very precious to their custodians.

Here are some approximate figures from other African rhino states – **South Africa, 15,000 black and white, mainly white; Namibia 3,400, mainly black and Kenya 1,800, equally split.** Poaching is still a major problem with about **550 killed last year**, mostly in South Africa – just 15 in Zimbabwe and 87 in Namibia.



Because Malilangwe and Bubyee are so well funded by their owners, we offer our support to **Save Valley**, which in the last year has received **\$514,000** of support, our largest ever amount, or 76% of our total grant expenditure to our core projects. We are delighted to be this involved, especially when we hear they had **37 new calves last year**, a mighty growth rate for this property. We also funded their ear notching operations last year, through our members **naming 17 rhino calves for a donation of \$2,500 each**. The same will happen this year.



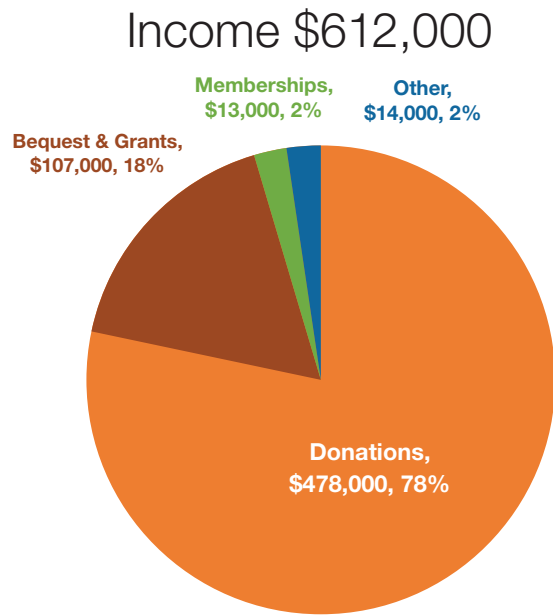
Ross the Rhino Calf

It's worth noting that the **ranger density for SVC is only 30%** of that of their two neighbours, their **budget is a mere 25%** of the others and they barely have any fencing still standing compared to nine feet high electrified fences of the other two areas. **We believe that Bryce Clemence and his team do a most amazing job and we're so happy to be their main sponsor.**

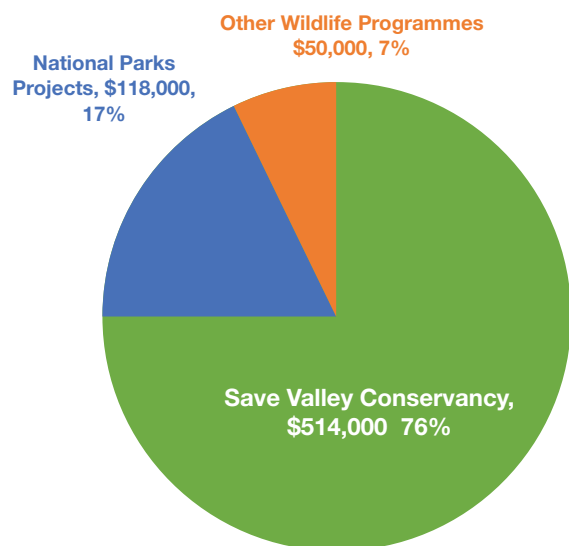
Our figures for **our core projects** show that we had an **income of \$612,000** in our 2022/23 financial year, mostly from donations, 95%, bolstered by a **bequest of \$57,000** and an **Australian Government grant of \$50,000**, through their Direct Aid Programme. Thank you **Matthew Davis and Nyarie Chingono** for expediting this and it's being used for a **new solar system at the Ranger Base, masses more tenting and sleeping equipment, 100 radio batteries, 12 cameras, a mobile solar charger, local clinic upgrades and water supply, ranger uniforms and personal trunks.**

We extend our very sincere thanks to our main donors, **Kate and Tim, Karin, Nola Criddle Foundation and Nicholas**. In turn, we funded **\$682,000 of vital supplies** to our key projects.

The main **National Parks** projects were **Hwange for \$20,000, Matobo for \$57,400, Sinamatella received \$27,600, Zambezi had \$8,400 and \$4,300 of vehicle repairs for Chipinge**. These are all long standing commitments and are made through local NGOs working in the region. Matobo has the most rhinos of any of the Zimbabwe national parks and hence, the greatest support goes to them, mainly for their annual rhino ops, their camera trap analysis programme and vehicle repairs.



Expenditure \$682,000



We have been supporting the **Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy** for more than 30 years, this year's contribution being **\$11,900**. We are very sorry to report the **passings of both their Chairman and his Deputy, Gary Kililea and Sailas Chaduka**.

Both had been heavily involved in conservancy matters for more than ten years, and were constantly challenged by political agendas that weren't necessarily favourable to rhino conservation. They used their diplomacy to navigate as best they could and the conservancy has nine healthy rhinos as a result of their diligence. **To Diane and other family members, we offer our condolences.**

RIP Gary and Sailas.



RIP Gary Kililea

We also have been supporting **Save the Rhino Trust in Damaraland, Namibia**, for more than 30 years and this year's **\$21,900** helps to fund their Principal Officer and Senior Tracker, **Sebulon**, who has worked for SRT for 30 years. To everyone's credit there were no rhino poaching deaths in 2022 in this desert environment. Congratulations to you all.

At our **AGM** last July, once the formal part was completed, the 45 members plus some on zoom, were lucky enough to witness a Q&A with **Bryce** and another of our stalwarts, **Paul de Montille**. **How inspirational and informative they both were, two dedicated men doing their damnedness for conservation, despite being constantly challenged by factors mostly beyond their control.**

Paul runs the **DART anti poaching** unit of four men and four women on the edge of Hwange NP and has secured the rights from the Catholic Church to manage a 25 sq km reserve. He's now pumping water into the dam and has up to 70 elephants at a time coming in to drink, as well as other wildlife, www.dartwildlife.org He's building a camp, The Waterhole, and two of our members are visiting him in late August, 20 – 26, and there's room for two more?

We continue to be impressed by the **skill and determination of Amos Gwema**, TUSK Ranger of the Year, 2020. He chisels away at the info he gets from his informants and pounces when the time comes. He's made several arrests in the last year for pangolin and ivory offences and just about everyone is sentenced to the mandatory nine years. As head of Zimbabwe wildlife

intelligence he has moved his base from his family home in Hwange to Zimbabwe's second city, Bulawayo. **He has coached the local judiciary in the significance of wildlife crime**, and hence the heavy sentences. Just recently he's made one of his most significant arrests of recent times, an **ex - National Parks ranger**, and two of his syndicate, responsible for **five rhino deaths in Matobo and one in Bubybe**. Mudenda is now serving **18 years**. Congrats to Amos and his key team members. We support Amos with fuel and reward money.



Bryce Clemence



Paul de Montille



Paul and team



Amos Gwema

Your **committee for the 2022/23** year was elected as follows; **President - Nicholas Duncan; Vice President - Nia Carras; Secretary - Evan Litis; Treasurer - Heather Atwell; General Committee – Evelyn Wong, Steve Harrison, Cameron Murray, Mark Beamish and Julie Bain.** Thank you to all of you for what you do for the rhinos.

And thanks also to the disbanded **Sub Committee of Mike Palmer, Tim Scarrott, Lynn Johnson, Oliver Basson, Luke Basson and Greg Nicolson.** We hope you will continue your support of our foundation in whatever ways you can.

Twins **Oliver and Luke Basson**, together with friends **Claire and Taryn**, successfully completed the **Rottneest Channel Swim** in February, and raised a terrific **\$6,750** for Save Valley Conservancy. We've bought **20 x Fenix 3 GPS watches** for the rangers and they were delivered over the Easter break. We still have nearly \$5,000 to spend on some more goodies. Thanks so much and congratulations to the four of you.



Oliver and Luke Basson with Claire and Taryn

Nia and Evelyn from our committee recently caught up with our youngest member, **Oliver** and his mother, Becky. Oliver donated **\$62** to SARF from his savings. **He has been doing odd jobs since kindy to help the rhinos.** He had watched a David Attenborough documentary on the Northern White Rhinos and became upset about their extinction and decided to make a difference himself. We are truly grateful for your efforts and donation Oliver. **The example you set and the concern you show at such a young age is an inspiration to us all!**



Evelyn, our youngest member Oliver and his mum Becky

One of our founding members, **Tim Scarrott**, a retired St John's Ambulance paramedic, has again gone to Zimbabwe to train basic first aid and survival techniques to all and sundry, all round the country. This is his **sixth such mission**, a truly mighty effort, and he pays all his expenses and uses our minibus. His report is in the following pages. Thanks, Tim, for your support with these vital skills.



First aid certificate recipients

Evelyn Wong has just walked the **Cape-to-Cape** trail in the south west corner of the country, together with her husband, **Martin**. It's 124 kms in seven days. She has raised funds for the rhinos, as she has also done by organising the Blue Whale sightseeing trips for the last three years and all our mango sales for several years. Thanks Evelyn for your ongoing support for the cause.



Evelyn on the Cape-to-Cape trail

Together with this newsletter you are also receiving your annual membership renewal form. We are trying to make this as easy a process as possible and are offering a few more payment options in order to make the admin a bit simpler. We have introduced a **Lifetime Financial member category for \$650 for evermore**. And there's also a **ten year membership for \$350 or three years for \$105**. In addition, you may like to set up a **recurring renewal payment for \$35 on 1 April for as many years as you like**. All this is hoped to ease the 'paperwork' that you and SARF need to do.

Cameron Murray and others have been working on a **Five Year Plan**, designed to offer more income streams than we currently have. With the loss of safaris and dinner auctions for the last few years, we have **taken quite a hit with our fundraising, at least \$600,000** – luckily we have been able to keep going with our key projects and have weaned off a few others. We are keen to make better use of the **Workplace Giving Programme**, which allows employees to make a pre tax donation per week/month, sometimes matched by the employer, www.good2give.ngo

Wouldn't it be nice if we could build up to **1,000 followers all giving just \$5 per week/\$20 per month**, how that would help. For those not in the workplace then you can give through our existing **Give Now** programme. <https://www.givenow.com.au/savefoundationaustralia>

And then there's the recycling project for plastic, glass and tin containers, **Containers for Change**, and our registration number is **C10283898**. It's brought in about \$10,000 so far and I think we should be doing so much more if we really thought about it and tried a little harder. Just think of all the little delis and eateries that you know that must have empty containers that get sent to general recycling locations. **Why not ask them to keep them for the rhinos, we can provide a bin and possible collection too? And thanks to Tim and Greg for continuing to collect from ENEX, 100 St George's Terrace, and to Jenny Garlick for facilitating it.**



Containers for Change collection

A lot of our members are senior citizens. We'd really appreciate if you were able to remember the rhinos in your Will please? **Bequests are now just about the biggest form of fundraising** for all the household name charities, so why not us, too, please? Just email me if you'd like a few more details on setting this up, thanks.

Here's an appeal for some help? If any of the projects in the last three paragraphs appeal to you, please drop me an email and we can set up a chat about how you can assist us. Thanks very much indeed.

I'm very glad to report that we have two Africa trips arranged for August and September, one to our main project at Save Valley for a **combined ranger experience and ear notching operations**, and the other is a game viewing trip to **Hwange, Chobe, Okavango, Victoria Falls and Etosha**. Both are fully booked, though I could be persuaded to take a couple more on each one if you really wanted to come along. RSVP.

That's about it for now, there is more news in the next few pages. **Thank you for your support in the past year, we really do value it, and we hope it will continue and even expand**. And I hope to 'see' as many of you as possible at our next AGM, date to be shortly announced.

Bye for now,

Nicholas Duncan

Vale Tony Evans



It is with immense sadness that we must advise that Travel Directors' Tours Director and inspiration, Tony Evans, has passed away suddenly from a heart attack. Tony was the head of the Travel Directors family, and his warmth, humour and kindness, made him many friends around the world. All of their overseas operators, tour leaders and guides were a part of the family, and they, as well as all of us here in Perth, are trying to come to terms with his loss. Travel Directors are our main corporate sponsor and have handled all our travel arrangements for the past 25 years.

Tony was a larger than life character whose greatest passion was travel, and in particular, showing the world to the people who travelled with Travel Directors: immersing them in cultures and experiences to understand the difference, yet similarity, of human beings around the world. The world was his workplace, and he made friends wherever he went. Tony was the heart and soul of Travel Directors, and they will miss him more than words can say. He was proud of his company and the unique tours he created, and his legacy will live on in the memories of past travellers, and those in the future who will, as he would say, 'see the world the way it should be seen'.

All in the Travel Directors family will continue to give their all to keep Tony's rich legacy alive, as he would want. We extend our condolences to Helen and their two young children, as well as their extended families.



Antony Richard Evans
1958 - 2023
RIP

Embassy Support via DAP Funding

We are again excited to report that the **Australian Embassy in Harare**, through the **Direct Aid Program** of grants, have stepped in to offer financial assistance to the Lowveld region of Zimbabwe in partnership with SARF. In early March we received official notification of our successful application to the program for funding towards two important projects, namely, **logistical support for the Special Species Protection Unit (SSPU) in Save Valley Conservancy (SVC) and improvements to a neighbouring health clinic, a total value of \$50,000.**

The **SSPU** in SVC has once again proven to be a highly effective unit under the guidance of **Bryce Clemence** of ATS. SVC reported a 14% natural growth rate in their rhino numbers at the recent annual Rhino Management meeting in Harare, the **highest growth rate of any rhino population in the country.** The DAP funding will see the supply of important logistical support including a mobile power generating unit, a solar power installation in the northern ranger base, mobile patrol logistics including tents and sleeping gear, to allow variable and rapid establishment of ranger locations and much needed uniform supplies.



DAP support supplies



SSPU Rangers with supplies

Increasingly there is a need for reliable power generation as the fight against poaching becomes higher tech. Reliable communications, GPS tracking devices and drones are all part of the necessary daily use items and this means that there must be reliable recharging facilities. **The DAP contributions will go a long way to ensuring the modern ranger is fully prepared heading in to the field whether it is from a fixed base or mobile location.**



A Ranger base



Manyuchi Clinic

The second part of the DAP funding supports a health clinic neighbouring SVC. For some time SARF has seen the benefits of ensuring that efforts are made to engage and assist neighbouring communities to conservation areas. From a conservation stand point this means that those living adjacent to wildlife populations see a positive to this situation rather than only being faced with the negatives of the inevitable human wildlife conflict scenario. With the assistance of DAP the **Manyuchi Clinic** will see the installation of a water tank and building upgrades which will significantly enhance this vital health centre. The clinic services approximately **2500 people** and is the first point of call for medical assistance with 4 nurses being employed there.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the Embassy through their DAP program and look forward to seeing these projects come to fruition. This support makes a big difference to the ongoing success of the rhino conservation program in SVC and also to the neighbouring communities.

Cameron Murray

Just about all of the nine projects have now been completed



2022 SVC Rhino Report



The **Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC)** is home to a **critical population of rhino** for Zimbabwe, with a phenomenal **14.4%** growth rate for black rhino, and **14.7%** growth rate for white. **SARF has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the award winning rhino protection and monitoring and security organisation serving the SVC for 11 years, ATS, Anti-poaching Tracking Specialists.**

2022 saw the **highest recorded** number of births in the SVC, with a total of **34** confirmed photo ID of calves, 26 black and 8 white rhino. We are delighted with this boost to the population. Added to the cause for celebration, was this season's high rate of first time mothers. 9 females had their first offspring, and are now a significant component of the breeding herd for the Conservancy.



Black rhino mother and calf

The ATS 2022 audit had no black rhino or white rhino outstanding from the data system, with **every rhino in the SVC accounted for.** Experience and implemented use of technology have put the SVC within the **top category of rhino monitors and population management in Zimbabwe.**

SARF have been our biggest contributor to the SVC, both paying the majority of the rangers' wages and annually funding the **rhino notching ops.** This is essential work and comes at a considerable cost, about **\$2,500 per rhino,** with a significant amount of man hours for multiple teams working together, consisting of ecologists analysing the population data, rangers maintaining sight of the wild rhino and the vet team performing the procedures. **We work closely with Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority** for all operations and this notching is no different. This year was another complete project success, with all **20 coming-of-age rhinos** notched correctly, within the allocated project timeframe. 13 black and 7 white rhino, were added to the Zimbabwe rhino database from the SVC. Well done to everyone for this achievement!



Ear notching operation

The SVC well utilised the rhino op budgeted vet time, and SARF funded a pilot trial program of VHF transmitters on a considered selection of rhino in the Conservancy. **8 satellite tags** were fitted into the horns, ATS are collaborating this project in association with rhino in two other areas in Zimbabwe, **Malilangwe Trust** which holds the largest population, and a small conservancy, **Imire,** which holds four semi wild rhino.



Satellite tag fitted into the horn

We are pleased to report that the SVC team has managed to implement the **EarthRanger** program for geo-mapping the region. While still in its initial phase, this program will ultimately enhance **databasing, reporting, geo-space awareness and asset management**. Integrated with ecology and the ATS Protect & Collect model, the EarthRanger technology will help in projecting the location of the rhino on a digital map, further enhancing the visual accountability system.

The **SARF Ranger Awards** program, sponsored by **Will Thomson and Lynn Vale**, long time SVC supporters, has helped to reward eight rhino monitors this year. These awards recognise excellence in the field work of rhino monitoring and make a huge impact on the team. **Tracking wild rhino on foot is dangerous work, we commend the rangers for their skill and dedication to the animals.**



Rangers receiving SARF Ranger Awards

Further SARF donor support, via the **Australian Embassy's DAP grant**, has assisted with a **solar panel electricity system** at the ranger base for the rhino monitors and anti poaching units. The previous system, also sponsored by SARF, had run its course. So having hot water and electricity again has elevated the living conditions of the rangers, who are able to properly rest after a hard day's work in the bush. We are proud to have contributions going to direct projects, and next year also plan to be more involved in the community clinic.

While poaching rates are down and within the IUCN international guidelines, the SVC had **three rhino poached in 2022**. We sadly lost **Sloth, Jellybean and Tapedza**. Since 2012, operating in service for the SVC, ATS has apprehended and removed **30 rhino gangs from the field, with an accumulated 202 years** of sentencing. This is a commendable accomplishment for any rhino APU.



Solar panel electricity system



ATS

Working together, with Zimbabwe Republic Police and Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority, the **ATS elite K9 unit** has been up against some of Africa's most **notorious regional poachers and gang members**. They have dismantled critical network pathways and infiltrated vital channels, that have been devastating to the rhino and protected species population in Zimbabwe. **Please join us as we show our gratitude to Bryce Clemence and the ranger team at the front line in the SVC.**



Bryce Clemence and his team

Recognising this level of service to rhino, on **20 July 2022**, **ATS**, won the **World Commission on Protected Areas, International Ranger Award**. This was collected at the **Africa Protected Area Congress, Rwanda**, by the **Deputy Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Honourable Barbara Rwodzi**, and the **Director General of ZimParks, Dr Fulton Mangwanya**. These awards recognise excellence in the field of wildlife management. **The unit was honoured by the Zimbabwe Wildlife Patron, The First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Her Excellency, Dr Auxillia Mnangagwa** “Thank you to the ATS ranger family and your remarkable dogs, for your contribution to our country’s wildlife and wild spaces”, the First Lady said of the team.

Lauren York | ATS External Affairs



ATS Elite K9 Unit



The SVC Ranger team

How about naming one of the young sub adult rhinos, being ear notched in August?



Ear Notching Trip

August 2022

The **Rhino Ear Notching Trip in August 2022** was adrenaline fuelled and a very different trip to the 2 SARF trips I had been lucky enough to be part of previously. The gang were all familiar to each other, most of us having been on Ranger Support trips together before. Our group was small but mighty; **Heather** our SARF Committee Rep/Treasurer led the trip from Perth in Nicholas' absence, frequent flyers/VIPs **Lynn and Will, Jim** (of Rock the Rhino fame) and the **Tikky sisters, Jackie and Mieneke** (the best Tick removers ever from both Rhinos and the group) and myself.



The gang

We stayed at the amazing **Sango Expedition Camp**, under the expert care of **Dave**, Manager at Sango, **Brendan** our Guide and our hostess **Shelby** and not forgetting camp puppy dog Banjo (who we all cuddled round the fire at the start and end of each day)!

We shared "glamping" tents with our own outdoor showers, toilets and a stunning dining area under the stars surrounded by the noises of the bush, we heard, leopard, lion, kudu and baboon! Based on rustles and fresh droppings seen in the morning there were nocturnal visitors too!

Rhino Ops, as the locals called it, involved many people:

Primarily led by the **African Wildlife Management** and Conservation team (Zimbabwe) which was a family affair, **Josh** wrangler of all wildlife and darter, **Jaq** who was the Chief Vet/GI Jane and their junior wildlife warrior kids **Shiyloh, Jachine and Corbin**, and brother **Nick** who was the helicopter pilot. There was also an array of Vet students, Zim Parks officials, family, friends, a media crew from Save Conservancy and even a Zim influencer **Cody**! People came and went over the week or so that made up Rhino Ops.



Rhino Ops

Bryce Clemence and his father, **Pete**, led the fabulous **ATS team** of Rangers, tracking the rhinos to be notched by foot, then observed from the microlight plane until the team arrived by landcruiser. Of course, **Lara and Bethy** were involved and we were joined for two days by our illustrious leader **Nicholas** from the UK, as well as diplomatic representatives from **The Australian Embassy** in Harare.

We were privileged to witness/assist with 17 rhino experiences, each was different, and most were straightforward whilst others riskier.

One particularly scary moment was when a young black rhino after being darted had fallen between the branches of a tree and was occluding his airway, the team yelled out "Chain Saw" and immediately two guys appeared from the cruiser (parked some way off from the dense bush we were in) and released the poor chap, then we were told "everybody help roll him" and we all jumped in to safely roll the guy onto his side to allow a clear airway. Time was of the essence as the team only want the rhino to be sedated for 15 minutes before the antidote is required to be administered to wake him up!



Assisting with a rhino experience

Although this was a very tense situation, with clear instructions and everybody working together, the rhino was successfully treated. It reminded me of the Emergency crash team, everyone has an equally important role no matter how small the task seems and although it looks chaotic, it is a well-oiled machine.

As a SARF member you can be as involved as you wish, observing the team in action is probably a good idea for your first experience and always be ready to run back to the cruiser, you are in the bush after all!

The team are so inclusive, and you can ask to assist when you feel confident. Our group was very hands on and assisted with; **monitoring vital signs, pouring water on the rhino when his temperature was elevated, removing ticks, holding the prong (to be passed hastily to Josh if the patient awoke), painting a white cross on the rhino's back (to identify it as having been notched), ensuring equipment was returned to the cruiser** and generally being available if anything was requested.



Assisting with a rhino experience

Being hands on was what made the trip so special, touching a beautiful wild rhino and really witnessing and doing something meaningful. Also, by chance, one of the rhinos was found to have a snare which was so embedded it had caused infection, the snare was removed and the wound treated, potentially saving the rhino's life.

We saw a good mixture of black and white rhinos and although most were younger calves being ear-notched they **ranged between 2- 4 years** in age. We also saw a first for Save valley, a GPS transmitter device being successfully embedded into the horn of a 2.5 tonne male. This was an experimental project using an Australian start up product, designed for cattle's ears, and more research is required to make it successful in rhino horns. As well, one was fitted into the ear of **Rocky**, who you may remember was found in mud, almost dead and abandoned by his mother a couple of years ago. It was a heart-warming moment to see him thriving!

I could continue as there are so many other stories, we saw the rangers' new quarters and Ops room, witnessed the award winning K9 team demo which included one of the dogs emerging with his handler from a helicopter! There were game sightings and stunning scenery, but my lasting memory is of the friendships made and our shared love of these amazing creatures, thank you SARF.



Assisting with a rhino experience

Nelly Newall

Our special thanks goes to the following members and supporters who made a rhino naming donation of \$2,500 each; Angela & Paul Nilsen, Christine Stewart, Evan Litis, Greg Nicolson, Heather Atwell, Jenny Garlick (ENEX), Jim Litis, Linton Kirk, Lorraine Dunn, Neill & Karen Stevens, Pat & Pauline Credlin, Pat Thomson, Phil & Trix Wollen (2) and Tim & Kate Scarrott (3).

**Would you like to name a rhino?
10 still available. Just email me:
nicholas@savefoundation.org.au**

Conservation Talk with Amos Gwema

The Four Pillars for Effective Wildlife Conservation

1. COMMUNITY

The community is the first line of defence for effective wildlife conservation. The community can be an urban set-up, rural setup, ranger camp or any place where human beings settle. The poachers dispose of their products in the community. The poaching syndicate leaders recruit the poachers in the community.

Hence if the community is not on the side of the law enforcement officials they will work with the poachers. The poachers will have a sanctuary from the community hence they will easily dispose of the wildlife illegally obtained e.g. **ivory, rhino horn, game meat.** If the community is supportive, then all the illegal activities are reported to the law enforcement officials.



Rifles used to poach wildlife

The picture above shows rifles used to poach wildlife. The information leading to the recovery of the rifles came from the community members. Hence that helped to stop poaching of wildlife e.g. rhinos.

The picture top right shows poachers arrested through a tip-off from the community. The ivory was hidden in the travelling bag with clothes. Without information from the community you can not detect that there is ivory in the bag.

One of the poachers from the image top right was working in a protected area and they picked the ivory and took it outside the Park for selling. However due to the community support they were all arrested.



The arrested poachers

The community is the first line of defence for effective wildlife conservation. Without community support wildlife will be non-existent.

2. DEDICATED RANGERS

The other key factor for wildlife conservation is **dedicated conservation personnel.** The right calibre of wildlife law enforcement official is rare to get. A dedicated wildlife law enforcement official can change wildlife conservation in a positive manner. The type of official is incorruptible and dedicated to duty.

3. LAW

The other key component is **fair and effective laws which protects wildlife conservation.** The community and dedicated rangers can be demotivated.

4. JUDICIARY

The last line of defence for effective wildlife conservation is the **judiciary.** With a weak judiciary it means arrested persons will be released and go back to the community to continue committing wildlife crimes. The poachers will mock the law enforcement officials.

Below; Amos Gwema with a village head. The village head supports conservation. Imagine if the village head is given a token of appreciation then how supportive he will be for conservation. I am currently building a Blair toilet for the village head.



Amos Gwema (R) with a village head



House for the Village Head



Community members loading mealie-meal

Above, community members loading their mealie-meal in my personal vehicle. I assist the villagers with transport to go to the nearest grinding mill which is 20 km away. The plan is that I want to buy a grinding mill for the community.

During the month of March 2023 an **ex-ranger was arrested for rhino poaching**. The ex-ranger admitted to rhino poaching in **Matopos and Bubyie conservancy**. Two Bubyie scouts were also arrested and are currently in custody. The case is at the trial stage. A third scout escaped because he was also involved in rhino poaching. The arrest of this ex-ranger and two scouts cleared four outstanding rhino poaching incidents in Matopos and two in Bubyie.

The ex-ranger has been sentenced to **9 years imprisonment** with labour for the rhino at Bubyie and will get that amount or more for the Matopos rhinos.

**Amos Gwema, Zimbabwe National Parks
Chief Wildlife Intelligence Officer**

**Please remember to
renew your subscription
in the next few days.**

Thanks!



Zim Basic Life Support Courses *March/April 2023*

Unable to visit this **lovely country of Zimbabwe** for the past 3 years, **I am so happy to be back again** - times are tougher, but these resilient folk 'battle on' against all sorts (power on/off-water on/off-poor roads, etc) and still make time to protect the rhino and other precious creatures.

With an extra suitcase allowed **"Thanks" to Singapore Airlines**, I cleared Harare Customs easily this year, with great relief!

Bearing in mind the state of the roads, as advised by trusted friends, I decided to head to **Bulawayo** first for courses at **MARES Donkey/Animal Sanctuary, Ethendwene Childrens' Home, and Matopos National Park.**



First aid course

The road to Vic Falls was in a dreadful condition and fortunately we had had a puncture just out of Bwyo, that urged me to get 2 new tyres for Doris! - my travel time quadrupled, but Doris got us 1/2 way, by nightfall, where we broke the journey. I stopped with **Paul (DART out of Dete)** and then onto **Vic Falls** – the same 'pothole tale' and need for 100% concentration! I stayed at **'The Wallow'** and 3 courses were organised over 3/4 days for **67 people** in beautiful Victoria Falls.

Then it was back to **Hwange**, for a course with Paul and his mighty DART Team, local school teachers and Hwange Horseback Safaris (35 students) - beautiful, small tented camp that Paul is designing and building with the school/Marist church – canoeing and elephant viewing in abundance! He has great plans.

Unable to visit this **lovely country of Zimbabwe** for the past 3 years, **I am so happy to be back again** - times are tougher, but these resilient folk 'battle on' against all sorts (power on/off-water on/off-poor roads, etc) and still make time to protect the rhino and other precious creatures.



Tim canoeing at Hwange

With an extra suitcase allowed **"Thanks" to Singapore Airlines**, I cleared Harare Customs easily this year, with great relief!

Bearing in mind the state of the roads, as advised by trusted friends, I decided to head to **Bulawayo** first for courses at **MARES Donkey/Animal Sanctuary, Ethendwene Childrens' Home, and Matopos National Park.**

The road to Vic Falls was in a dreadful condition and fortunately we had had a puncture just out of Bwyo, that urged me to get 2 new tyres for Doris! - my travel time quadrupled, but Doris got us 1/2 way, by nightfall, where we broke the journey. I stopped with **Paul (DART out of Dete)** and then onto **Vic Falls** – the same 'pothole tale' and need for 100% concentration! I stayed at **'The Wallow'** and 3 courses were organised over 3/4 days for **67 people** in beautiful Victoria Falls.

Then it was back to **Hwange**, for a course with Paul and his mighty DART Team, local school teachers and Hwange Horseback Safaris (35 students) - beautiful, small tented camp that Paul is designing and building with the school/Marist church – canoeing and elephant viewing in abundance! He has great plans.



First aid course



Participants with their Time Critical certificates

Main Camp had a good turnout with 26 folk and then back on the road south to Bulawayo, for a trip down to **Di Drummond** at **Bubiana** where some rhinos were relocated in the early days. I met up with **'hard working Amos'** in town, **Verity and Nicky (Dambari)** and then over to **Save Valley** for a quick visit to **Bryce, Lara, Bethany** and their hardworking crew. They were very busy with a full moon and visits.

My friends from Chimanimani were in Harare, so I passed the beautiful hills, the road has been well repaired, and on to **Mutare**, where I met with **Blessing**, a Policeman, who, during that terribly sad, destructive lethal episode in 2019 (Cyclone Idai,) guided us in 2 L/cruisers through thick, rocky bush, wearing a smart red blazer!

I had a night in Harare and then caught a light plane up to **Kariba** where I was looked after by Debbie and her mum, **Joy**, and then a return flight with **'ExecAir'** back to small Charles Prince A'port and an entertaining evening with the Skydivers who were putting on a great show right up to sunset. Then an early morning start to **Imire** for a couple

of ranger/family groups and a new little baby black rhino, named **Foggin**, after **vet Chris**, and then onto **Twala**, arriving in time for, **"Waggly Tail Tuesday Doggie Lunch Club"** where hundreds of dogs get a good weekly feed/ vet check, making their way, with their young owners, but some alone, enticed by the 'chuck cooking-pot smell' - all donated by local businesses!

Thanks so very much for your kind, very comfortable hospitality to Pete Musto (Zamsoc), Claire and Pete (MARES), Painted Dogs (Maria/David), Paul (DART), Roger, Zenzo, Gloria and team at The Wallow (VFWT), Jerome Brighton (Nat/Pks at Main Camp), Reilly, Bev, Paul and Maddie and all (Imire) and Sarah, Vin, Solomon and the Twala/24 hr Vet Clinic team in Harare - your cheerful kindness, determined hard work and sheer tenacity continues to inspire me.

Many, many thanks to my Kate and family, for putting up with my 'wandering' - SJA for my 'medical goods collection cage' (for nearly 40 years!) and ARC for support/storage, "Time Critical" (Fleur and Susan) for letting me use their Course and Certificates, Travel Directors (Nia), Jim Kidd Sports (Soccer/ Rugby Balls), SARF Committee and Spike for continual support and, of course, ND for being Nicholas (a continual inspiration to us all - love to his mum too).

In total, 262 were taught (15 courses) at 10 beautiful places over 37 days, 3,940km, plus 2 enjoyable light aircraft flights, and thousands of beautiful Zimbabwean people and animals.

As I say, each year, Australia/England, all countries, please come and visit this piece of paradise - you will NOT regret it. God bless you all and I hope to catch up next year.

Luv from Doris and Tim.zw 🐘🐘 AU

Tim Scarrott

**travel
directors**

Travel Directors have been in operation for over 25 years.

NOT ONLY DO WE OFFER WORLDWIDE "ADVENTURES OF A LIFETIME" FULLY ESCORTED TOURS BUT WE ARE ALSO ABLE TO OFFER ALL ASPECTS OF RETAIL AND CORPORATE TRAVEL. RANGING FROM ALL AIR FARES, PACKAGE TOURS, CRUISING AND RAIL.

CALL US ON 08 9242 4200

TO DISCUSS YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS OR COME IN AND SEE US AT
2A/661 NEWCASTLE STREET, LEEDERVILLE

www.traveldirectors.com.au | info@traveldirectors.com.au

