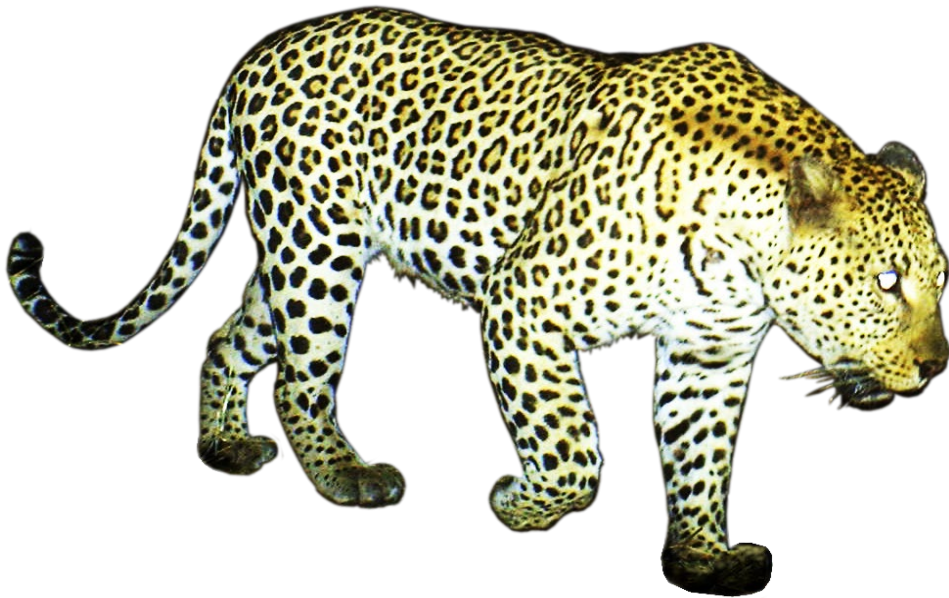


DAPU First Period Newsletter  
2023

Charlton McCallum Safaris

20<sup>th</sup> May 2023



**DAPU**  
DANDE ANTI POACHING UNIT

Dear Friends,

Let me start by thanking you all for your continued and unwavering support, which has helped immeasurably in keeping DAPU going.

The 2022/ 2023 rainy season was precisely average, and whilst total rainfall almost identical to 2021/ 2022 season the monthly averages were more consistent hence better crop yields. Because crops were decent this did translate across into increased Human Wildlife Conflict this rainy season. Crop yields are up year on year so likely (hopefully) we look forward to lower snare yields as the year goes on – it will be interesting to see!

Most concessions in Zimbabwe are in “protected areas” and require very little in the way of policing. However, Dande is certainly the largest and most complex community wildlife area in Zimbabwe, and it needs constant and proactive monitoring, or else, 12 years of gains could be eroded in just 6 months. This would be truly tragedy, especially after what we have all achieved.

We have continued to meticulously document all your support, deployments, wins and losses, and here we share a summary with everyone who so graciously and generously supported all our efforts both financially and in kind.

**10 year tale of the tape (2014 to date)**

No. of snares	Dogs shot	Meat Poachers convicted	Elephant poachers	Weapons retrieved	Rewards paid	Total DAPU cost
10883	114	233	25	218	\$59,388.00	\$1,043,271.50

As we grow from strength to strength, we look forward to your continued support.

All the best,

Myles E. McCallum  
James D. Charlton  
Charles Nondo

Harare, Zimbabwe  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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## **1. Global and Local Inflation**

High global Inflation, couple with even an even more acute local inflation situation is making itself felt in Dande. Prices in local shops are sky high which of course adds to general poverty and will continue to be a driving factor with reference to subsistence poaching, commercial poaching, and illegal gold panning. Zimbabwe's economy and currency is famously volatile often making it challenging to maintain high morale amongst staff.

## **2. The "rainy season"**

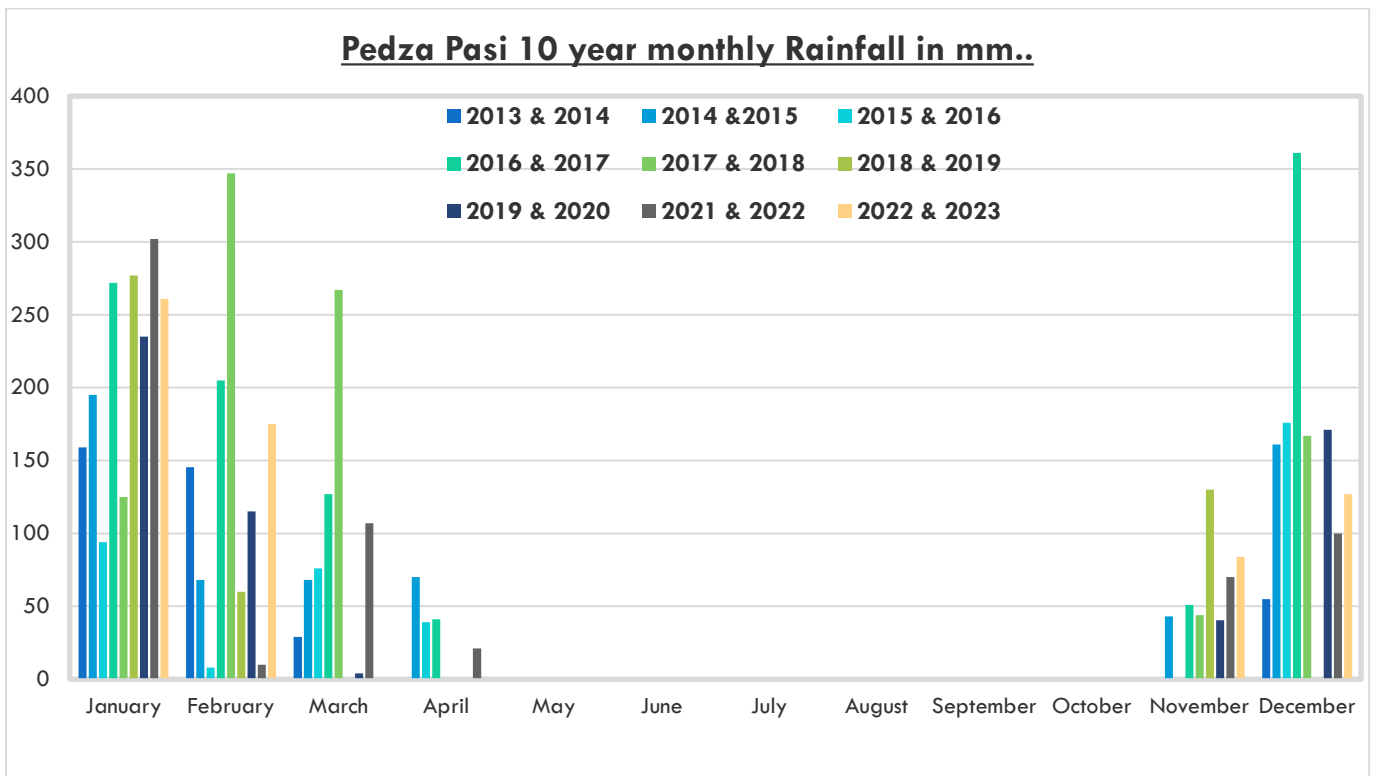
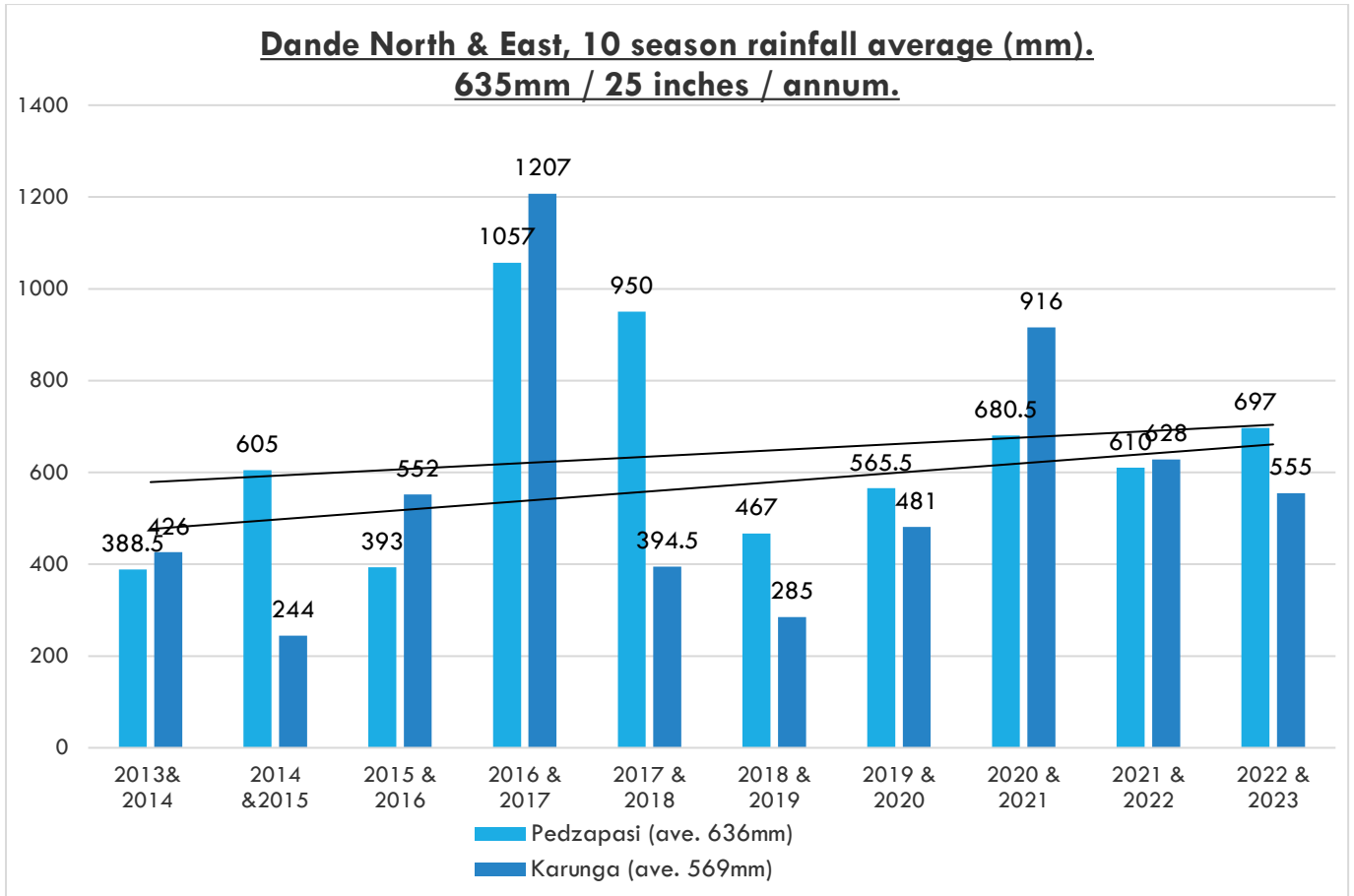
The rainfall in Dande tends to be erratic which is why it is zoned in "*agro ecological region 4*" which indicates a marginal region for traditional agriculture - but really is world class for wildlife.

As already mentioned, the totals for the 2022/2023 rainy season were exactly average and crop yields were in the average to decent range. Annually there are floods that destroy crops planted on riverbanks, but those crops should not be planted there. Currently the local farmers are busy tending to their fields making the most of their harvests. It is quite interesting to track rainfall (good harvest/ bad harvest to high or low poaching). Basically, subsistence poaching does track food security to some degree. The rain did finish early this season but there were no dry patches mid-season, so this helped the farmers.

All reports from DAPU and staff indicate that the game has had an excellent breeding season and we are all looking forward to getting into the bush and seeing for ourselves just how good as season was had!



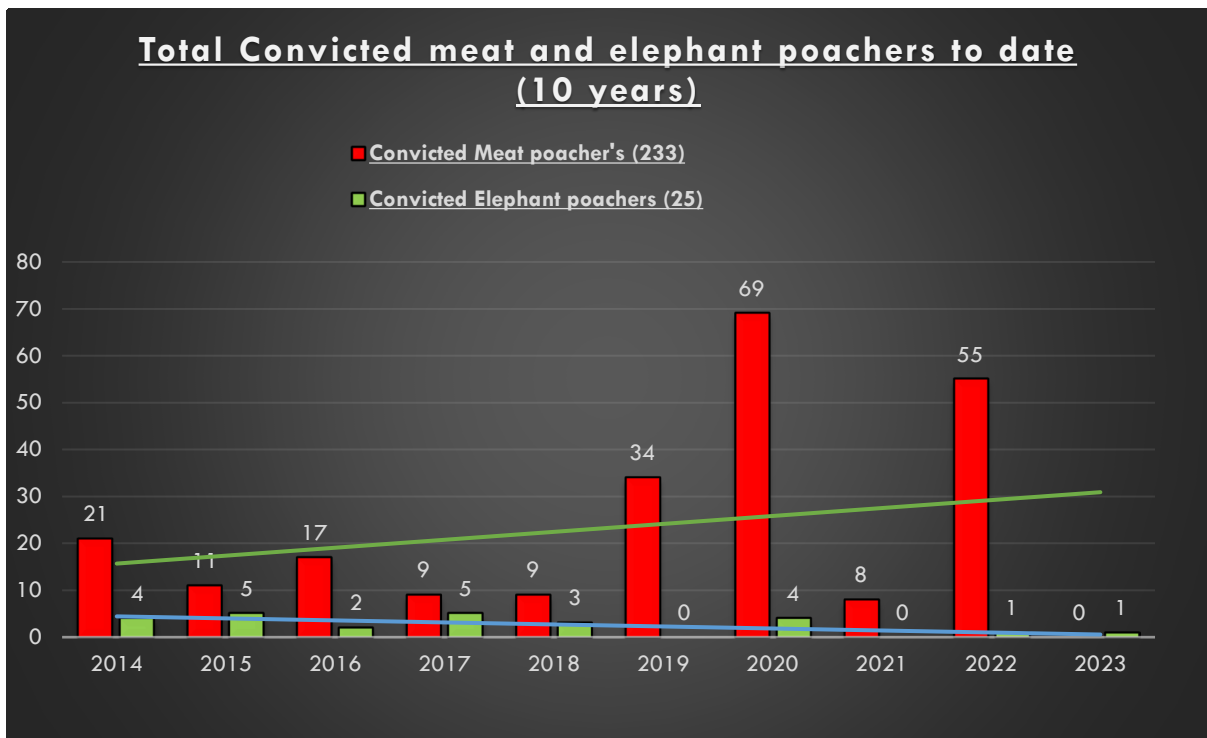
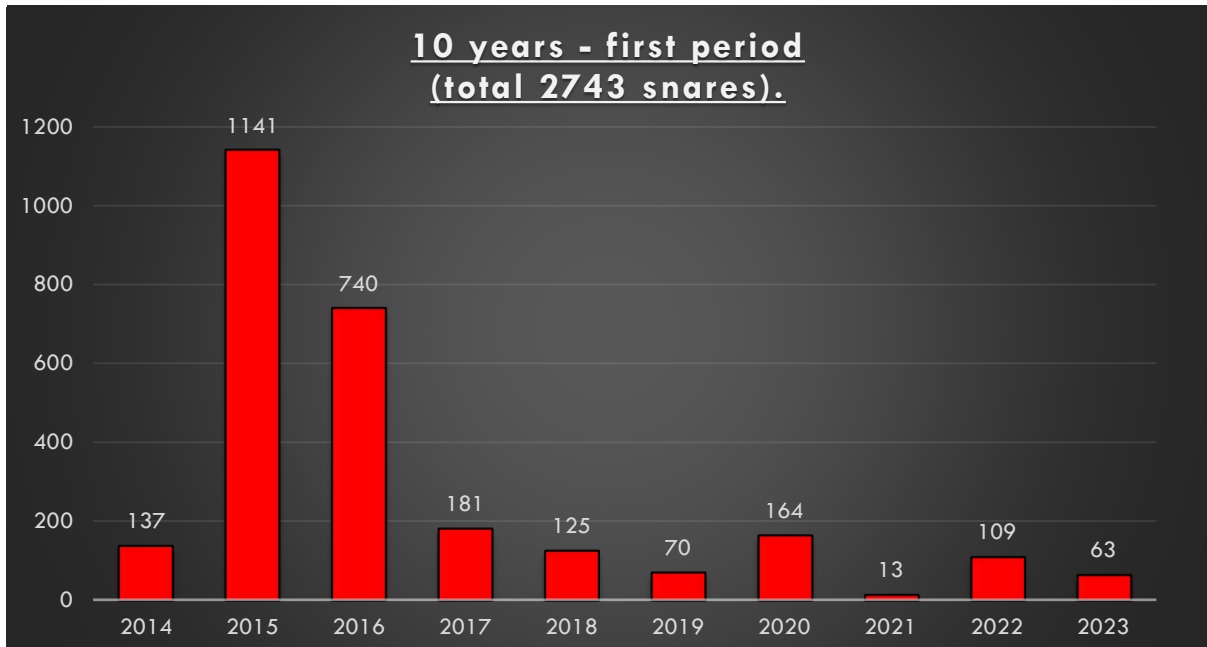
the pan in front of Karunga camp – full!



characteristically erratic rainfall

### 3. Snaring and General poaching first period 2023

The results have been really, extremely pleasing. We only picked up 63 snares (compared to 109 in 2022). Poaching is at a low / normal level. And most importantly the low snare yield has been backed up by our own observations in the field. Undoubtably as harvests are gathered, some locals will have a little more time on their hands and will use it to poach, but we feel that DAPU will be ready for them.









Duiker in a snare, Dande East, April 2023.

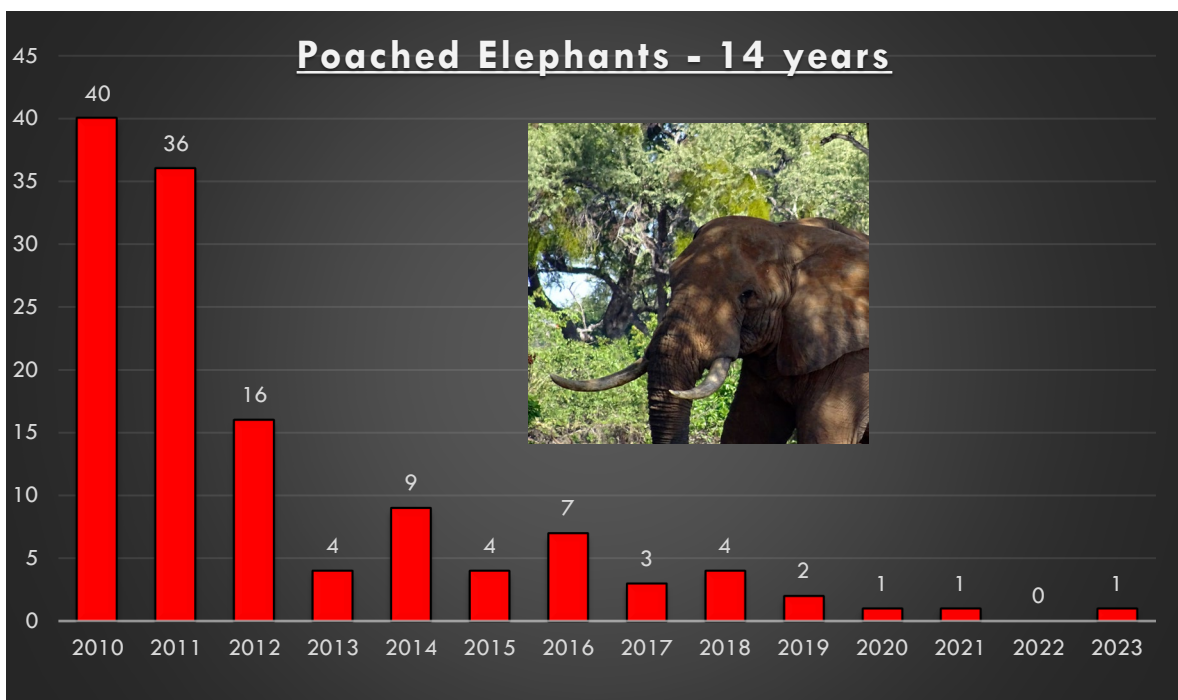


Snare lines for hares, Dande East, April 2023.

## 4. Elephant Poaching

Unbelievably, once again not much to report yet in 2023 just one elephant illegally killed – but not for the ivory, so not entirely sure if this is classified as truly poached. Just incredible to think in 2010 we estimated that 40 were poached to now nearly zero! Also of interest ...

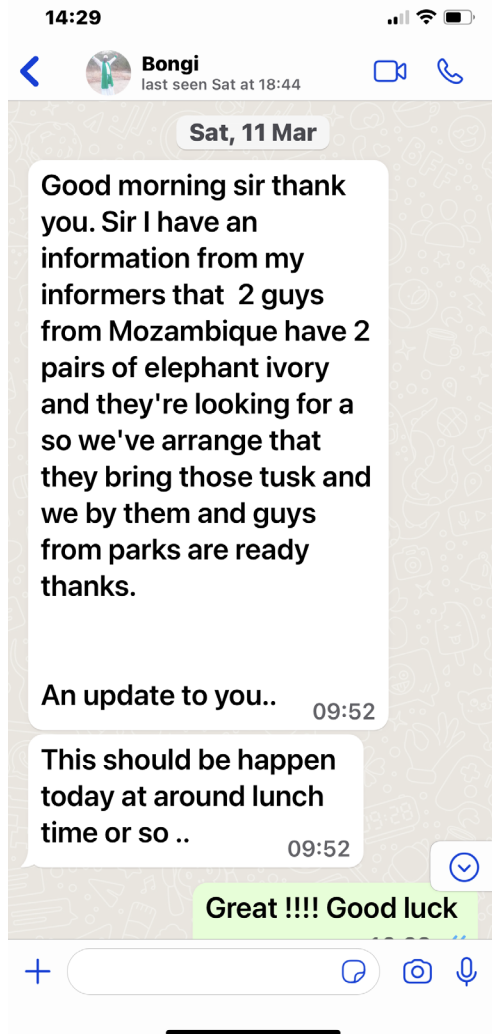
- not one carcass found in the last three years has had its ivory removed which really signals strongly that the risk associated with being caught with ivory is now too much. Strong deterrent sentences handed out by the Govt. of Zimbabwe has also been a positive contributing factor.
- We are noting that especially in “The East” where the elephants used to make one super herd (of about 300 animals) for protection, that now have dispersed into normal family units again.
- In the past all hunted elephant were “carrying lead” from poachers – this is now no longer that prevalent at all.





We did find one elephant cow carcass – clearly, she had been shot in the head, but the ivory was recovered intact. Almost certainly a retaliatory killing for crop raiding.





How it happens – this chap was given and began serving his 9-year sentence just one day after being caught.



## 5. Gold Panning

High global gold prices combined with huge unemployment and rampant inflation has created a perfect storm with respect to illegal gold panning. The panning itself is hugely damaging environmentally, and comes along with poaching, general crime and a whole host of other undesirable activities. So far, we count ourselves lucky in that the panning has been only on the rainy season and mostly on the periphery of our areas namely on the Mukanga, Angwa and Mwantamtanda rivers. There was a little along the Maunde river early season 2022 – but we believe it was not very successful. It seems the gold gets washed out of the Zambezi valley escarpment in fast flood water, then as soon as the rivers flatten and water slows down, it drops out of the water and gets trapped in rapids. Thus, the rivers with rapids closest to the escarpment are richer in gold.

The gold panners are most active in the rainy season and take advantage of water in the rivers (which they need for operations), poor access for DAPU and no hunters in the field. Arial patrols are also difficult due to stormy weather. A little like elephant poaching, we will gain a clearer picture as the season begins of what the gold panners have been up to when our hunters start walking to these out of the way places.

Generally speaking, as panners are always needing to go back to the same spot and are distracted digging they are relatively easy to apprehend. The expense of processing them is huge and sentences handed out if at all are normally no deterrence at all, but we keep going and have thankfully managed much better than our neighbor's.

## **6. Charcoal production**

Charcoal production is somewhat new to Dande and to Zimbabwe in general (although very common in Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya). Generally, not a rainy season pastime but villagers will burn down thousands of mopane trees in just days, make charcoal, bag it and smuggle it out to Harare for sale. Luckily our local authorities are quite supportive in our efforts to stop it and we had good success late 2020. Once again this is a peripheral activity, not in our "core areas" as it were, but definitely we do not need it this destructive behavior encroaching! So, we are taking it seriously and paying good rewards for convictions. No charcoal making reported since November 2020 within our core areas. The riskiest months are August onwards.

## **7. Canoe building**

Another seemingly harmless pastime – Mozambiquans contract Zimbabweans to fell huge old pod mahogany trees (*Azelia Quanzensis*) or the White Syringa (*Kirkia Acuminata*) then they, hollow them out into dugout canoes for sale to fisherman on Lake Cahorra Bassa. They work on these canoes during the dry season and then float them down one of the tributaries to the Zambezi for sale once the rains have started. Whenever possible we put a stop to this. Nothing reported yet in 2023.

## **8. Human and Wildlife Conflict**

Duties for DAPU scouts include attending to Problem Animal reports (PAC). The peak season for PAC is during cropping season from January to the end of May. The major problem species are elephants, lions' crocodiles and hippo. All are impossible to wean from their bad habits and invariably genuine reports end in human tragedy or the offending animal is shot.

National Parks second rangers to DAPU for all PAC duties. Our constant goals with Problem Animal Control are:

- a. Protect human life.
- b. Protect property.
- c. IF POSSIBLE, deal with the offending animal by chasing it or them away using non-lethal means.
- d. Last resort is to shoot the animal. However, in cases where life or property is threatened, we do not hesitate.

### **8.1 Elephant**

Unfortunately, elephants are the prime culprits for almost all call outs and 2023 having been a fair cropping season they have made themselves especially unwelcome. Each night DAPU crews have been out chasing them. We had two vehicles and teams on permanent standby for 4 months, and its hats off to the DAPU staff, overall, they managed very well.

Despite their best efforts, liberally employing chilli bombs, shotguns, bright lights, and noise, five elephants had to be shot. All cases were totally genuine, repeat offender and all young elephant bulls. 2023 has been our worst year in 10 years in terms of number of elephants destroyed.

#### 8.2 Lion

Relatively quiet so far in 2023 and fingers crossed that it remains that way.

#### 8.3 Buffalo

No reported serious problems to date in 2023. Herds and dagga boys do tend to wander through cotton and maize fields especially early season, but we have not had any serious complaints.

#### 8.4 Crocodile

Five attacks reported so far in 2023. As soon as the rains start and rivers begin to run, crocs immediately move up rivers from the Zambezi and take advantage of the dirty water to become a menace.

#### 8.5 Hippo

Multiple problem hippo reports but so far all appear to have resolved themselves without a hippo being shot.

#### 8.6 Snakes

One bite but no reported deaths to date in 2023.

### **9. Netting on the Zambezi**

DAPU continues to contribute 200 liters of petrol per month toward efforts to eliminate illegal fishing in a 50km stretch of the Zambezi River. Generally speaking illegal netting has been much reduced, and sport anglers and legal netters are reporting better catches.

In the big picture the reduction in fish poaching has had a significant effect in reducing game poaching, as the fish poachers were often responsible for the poaching of elephant and other game animals. The diameters of their nets had become noticeably smaller over the years, clearly indicating a seriously depleted fish reserve.

### **10. Goals for 2023**

We plan to:

- 1) Hold miners and farmers to account and try and mitigate the damage that they are causing.
- 2) Open all roads, (nearly 1000km's), then immediately pivot to early burning to better control late season bush fires. Annually we have 80 people, 3 tractors and 2 Landcruisers employed full time for 3 months doing this!
- 3) Keep going with the anti-poaching! The PAC season is over, so now we migrate to traditional anti poaching.
- 4) Funds allowing expand DAPU to give us two extra patrol "sticks" ... one each for Dande East and North respectively.

- 5) To improve accommodations at solar water installations for the guards so that they are also able to house DAPU patrols.
- 6) To continue to cushion DAPU staff as best we can from inflation.
- 7) Complete water projects.

## **11. Water Projects**

These projects will get water into the areas of Dande that need it most. Because of International Borders and human settlement, often big chunks of wilderness land are left without any natural water for animals. In short, the game’s traditional water points are no longer available to them OR are on the wrong side of an imaginary line (border).

So, the benefits will be:

- Year-round game and water in Dande
- Increased benefits to communities
- Less human wildlife conflict at water points close to villages.

### **United Nations Development Program, The African Wildlife Fund and CM Safaris**

As mentioned in previous newsletters the UNDP GEF 6 project has successfully drilled x 3 boreholes in Ward 1 / Dande Safari Area and 1 x borehole in Dande East in 2021 and the A.W.F also drilled and equipped one in the East. These boreholes were all sited after collaboration with CMS and have already made a big positive difference in the landscape.

All (bar the flagship project, which is to take water into the core area of the East) have been completed and commissioned. C.M Safaris are in negotiations with Mbire RDC and UNDP with the idea of co funding that outstanding project to have it completed – it was the one expected to have the greatest impact and of course it is the most expensive and complex.

So, 2023 will be the first year where all these installations, (servicing 8 pans) will be in operation for a full calendar year. We are hoping that animals that are forced to go into villages or Mozambique for water will stay permanently now!

	<b>Implemented by</b>	<b>Capacity l/h</b>	<b>Equipping</b>	<b>Goal for 2023</b>
Ward 1, Bongi road	UNDP	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Build a DAPU base here
Ward 1, Baobab	UNDP	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol
Dande Safari Area, Matemba Jesse	UNDP	6,000l l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol
Dande East	UNDP	30,000 l/h	Delayed due to funding.	Complete by December 2023. Possibly with CM Safaris co fund.
Dande East, Kabveve	CMS	5,000 l/h	Completed 2021	Maintain & Patrol
Dande East Kabveve	AWF	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol.

## **12. Collaring elephants**

The Research Unit of Biodiversity (UO/CSIC/PA), Oviedo University, Spain contacted us in 2020 reference collaring x 5 elephants (3 bulls and 2 cows), which is precisely the type of project that we would wholeheartedly support. The collars have been purchased and both the Research Council of Zimbabwe and National Parks have issued the relevant permits. So now we just need to get the collars into Zimbabwe, and book the helicopter and darting crew. Unfortunately this project has been delayed indefinitely because of bureaucratic issues in ... Spain!!! The collars are still sitting in Madrid which is a great pity as it was something that we were really excited about. Hopefully we have some positive news in the next newsletter.

### **13.1. Renovations of the Gonono Primary School (Dande East).**

This project has been well publicized and the school has gone from having a pre refurbishment enrolment of around 280 pupils to now over 500, so once again there are allot of kids attending school under trees outside which at certain times of the year is wonderful but certainly not optimum long term! The Jack and Marjorie Schillinger Foundation has again come to the rescue and plans are afoot to build a new three classroom block. Drawings have been submitted to our Ministry of Education for approval, and as soon as the plans are approved we will move onsite and begin work. The Foundation has made an initial \$25,000 donation which will get us more or less roof high. Fingers crossed for a further \$25,000 early 2024 and we can have it complete and handed over!

### **13.2. Renovations of Pedza Pasi Primary school**

Another Jack and Marjorie Schillinger foundation donation in 2022 and effective refurbishments were done to this forgotten little school. Mr. Dave Katzenstein (of the Foundation) recently made a very generous personal donation to bring the number of desks in the school up to par and those we expect to be delivered in June. There is always something to do and to improve on in these schools and really these projects really touch the communities broadly and everyone is always so grateful.

## **14. We must extend our profound appreciation to:**

### **14.1 The Lubbock Sportsman's club and The Dallas Safaris Club – Foundation**

The DSC Foundation and the Lubbock Sportsman's club (through the DSC – F) have been our single biggest supporters for many years. They have helped us buy vehicles, equipment and with general running expenses of DAPU. Once again in 2023 they have stepped forward and helped – more on this in the next newsletter!

The roads are poor, distances big and to have a new vehicle to help with deployments and general management of biodiversity has been a massive bonus for DAPU. Vehicles are the single biggest cost for DAPU and being that there are basically no functioning banks in Zimbabwe, we were forced to end up keeping older vehicles for far too long.



DAPU # 3

#### **14.2 The African Wildlife Foundation**

We extended the pipeline from Kabveve (which is in the Southern part of “the East”) 4.0km northwards towards Karunga camp. This was a quick and cost-effective solution as the borehole, pump and staff are already at Kabveve it was simply a matter of clearing the line, trenching, laying the pipe, recovering and commissioning. The Southern part of the East is now fully watered (3 places) and future proofed against new settlement with big 10m cutlines. The AWF also drilled a prolific borehole near the Manyame River, and have piped water into the Northwestern part of the East. Once again this is geographically significant and hugely appreciated! These projects will add to the overall value to Dande East and the communities hugely. This were project completed in 2022, so this will be the first full year that we will enjoy the benefits of water full time in these critical areas.

#### **14.3 The Sylvarnus Trust**

Quietly and humbly sends DAPU a rather large cheque every year! The trust follows DAPU with keen interest and we are eternally grateful for the faith in which they have placed in us. We really hope that DAPU makes them proud!

#### **14.4 Flying for Wildlife**

FFW has grown immeasurably in the last couple of years. They now have two of their very own aircraft, piloted by Richard Tennant, Hannes Scholtz and Richard Calder. Richard Thornycroft and Edward Whitfield use their personal aircraft to assist Flying for Wildlife. All flying is gratis to DAPU – it costs us nothing, and those who understand how expensive

aviation is in Africa, will appreciate how significant this is!!!As things dry up and visibility improves, we hope that we can get FFW down for some arial patrols. They have been just tremendous for locating:

- Illegal charcoal making
- Illegal mining and gold panning.
- Illegal settlements.

Obviously all three of these activities are ones that we plan to continue to focus on in a big way in 2023.



#### **14.4 Trackit** (Richard Tennant and Hannes Scholtz of (Flying for Wildlife)

Provide free, real time satellite monitoring of the two DAPU vehicles. This has saved significantly on fuel and vehicle costs and has also helped us become much smarter with servicing and positioning of vehicles.

#### **Individual donors**

As previously mentioned, we have been truly humbled by all the kind folk who have donated to DAPU! Your generosity knows no bounds, and we will be eternally indebted to you! In thanks for your support, we shall endeavour to keep DAPU up and running to its fullest capabilities. We shall strive at all costs to keep poaching at bay, with the well being of wild life foremost in our minds.

We fully understand that times are tough for you too at home making personal donations even more special!

## **15. Conservation Force**

We continue to work hand in hand with John and Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force. John and Chrissie are proud hunters and legends in the fight for our way of life and the wild places that we all love. They work selflessly and endlessly in aid of conservation and to protect the rights of hunters around the world. Thank you, John and Chrissie!

Conservation Force is a registered non – profit 501(c) (3) public foundation.  
How to make a Tax-Deductible donation:

Please make a check out to:

Conservation Force

Mail to:

C/O John J. Jackson, III  
3240 S. 1-10 SERVICE ROAD W.  
SUITE 200, METAIRIE,  
LOUISIANA 70001  
USA

Check Ref: DAPU

Conservation Force Contact:

JOHN J. JACKSON, III  
TEL: (504) 837 - 1233  
FAX: (504) 837 – 1145  
Email: Jjw-no@att.net  
Website: [www.conservationforce.org](http://www.conservationforce.org)



**DAPU Income 2023**

**# 1. Donations.**

Myron Repka	\$	250.00
DR. Hans- Joachim Wieckmann	\$	350.00
Davis Peterson / Peter Stewart Painting	\$	1,500.00
Darryl Tones	\$	1,000.00
Trevor McEntee	\$	995.00
Dave Katzenstein	\$	3,000.00
David W. Kohlhorst	\$	1,000.00
Burton Foundation	\$	2,000.00
Jerry E. Jurena	\$	500.00
Colvin T. Matheson	\$	1,000.00
Richard B. Negley	\$	3,000.00
J. W. Grage	\$	100.00
Arthur E. Wendelken	\$	100.00
Brian Skeuse	\$	1,000.00
Gary Kraudelt	\$	100.00
J. D. Crouch II	\$	1,000.00
James Monte Gingery	\$	1,000.00
Michael J. Bayer	\$	1,000.00
Tim Rupli	\$	1,000.00
Mike core	\$	1,000.00
Louis Witwer	\$	250.00
<b># 1 Total donations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,145.00</b>
<b># 2. Hunting client levies</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>
<b># 3. Charlton McCallum Safaris</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>22,901.92</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>44,046.92</b>

Notes to accounts.

1. Game scouts also get paid by communities – we deduct from monies owed and pay scouts that portion directly but it is not listed above.
2. Donations listed are up to end of April and do not include May.
3. Our apologies if we have missed any one out, we will reflect your contribution in the next newsletter!

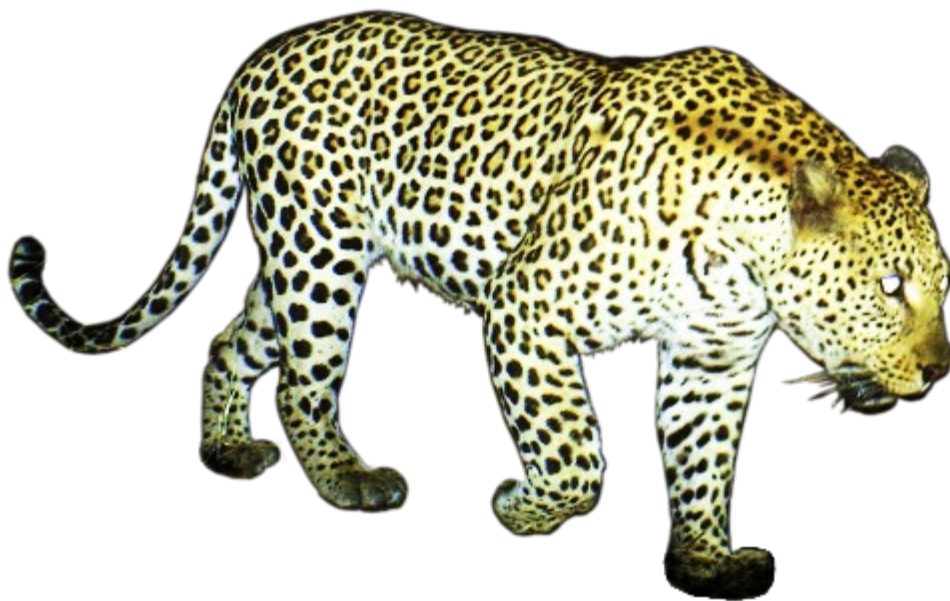
**DAPU Expenses 2023**

<b><u># 1. Wages, rewards &amp; rations.</u></b>	<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Game Scouts</u></b>	<b><u>Management</u></b>	<b><u>Rations</u></b>	<b><u>Rewards</u></b>	<b><u>Netting</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
	January	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 982.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 6,422.00
	February	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 5,540.00
	March	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 761.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 6,201.00
	April	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 1,605.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 5,450.00
			\$				
		\$ 11,040.00	6,420.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,853.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 23,613.00
<b><u># 2. Equipment expenses</u></b>							
	Ammunition (2 cases)						\$ 500.00
	Garmin inReach \$108/mo. January - April						\$ 432.00
							\$ 932.00
<b><u># 3. DSC - F Vehicles x 3</u></b>							
	(Fuel, minor services & Insurance)	MECA # 1 - (DAPU 1)	12,093.50 KM	US\$0.60			\$ 7,256.10
		ACX 3232- (DAPU 2)	15,987.00 KM	US\$0.60			\$ 9,592.20
	As per Sat Tracking x \$.6/km)	AFK 6838 - (DAPU 3)	4,422.70 KM	US\$0.60			\$ 2,653.62
		<b>Total Mileage YTD</b>					
		<b>2023</b>	<b>116,712.00 KM</b>				<b>\$ 19,501.92</b>
	<b>Total DAPU expenses YTD 2023</b>						<b>\$ 44,046.92</b>
	<b>Total DAPU Income YTD 2023</b>					<b>\$ 44,046.92</b>	
	<b>Credit/ debit carried forward to second period 2023</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

DAPU Second period 2023

Charlton McCallum Safaris

20<sup>th</sup> September 2023



**DAPU**  
DANDE ANTI POACHING UNIT

**2023 Highlights (YTD)**

No. of snares	Dogs shot	Meat Poachers Convicted	Elephant poachers Convicted	Weapons & tools retrieved	Rewards paid	DAPU cost
717	4	18	1	26	\$4,960.00	\$94,755.00

**10-year cumulative total (2014 - 2023)**

No. of snares	Dogs shot	Meat Poachers Convicted	Elephant poachers Convicted	Weapons & tools retrieved	Rewards paid	DAPU cost
11537	118	251	25	238	\$62,929.00	\$1,138,026.50

Dear Friends,

The second period of 2023 has been pretty well “ops normal” for DAPU. No major hiccups or changes. Results have tracked the general trends for same period over the last 10 years.

We have continued to document and report everything as faithfully and accurately as possible and thank you all for your support and interest in DAPU.

Best regards

Myles E. McCallum  
James D. Charlton  
Charles Ndondo

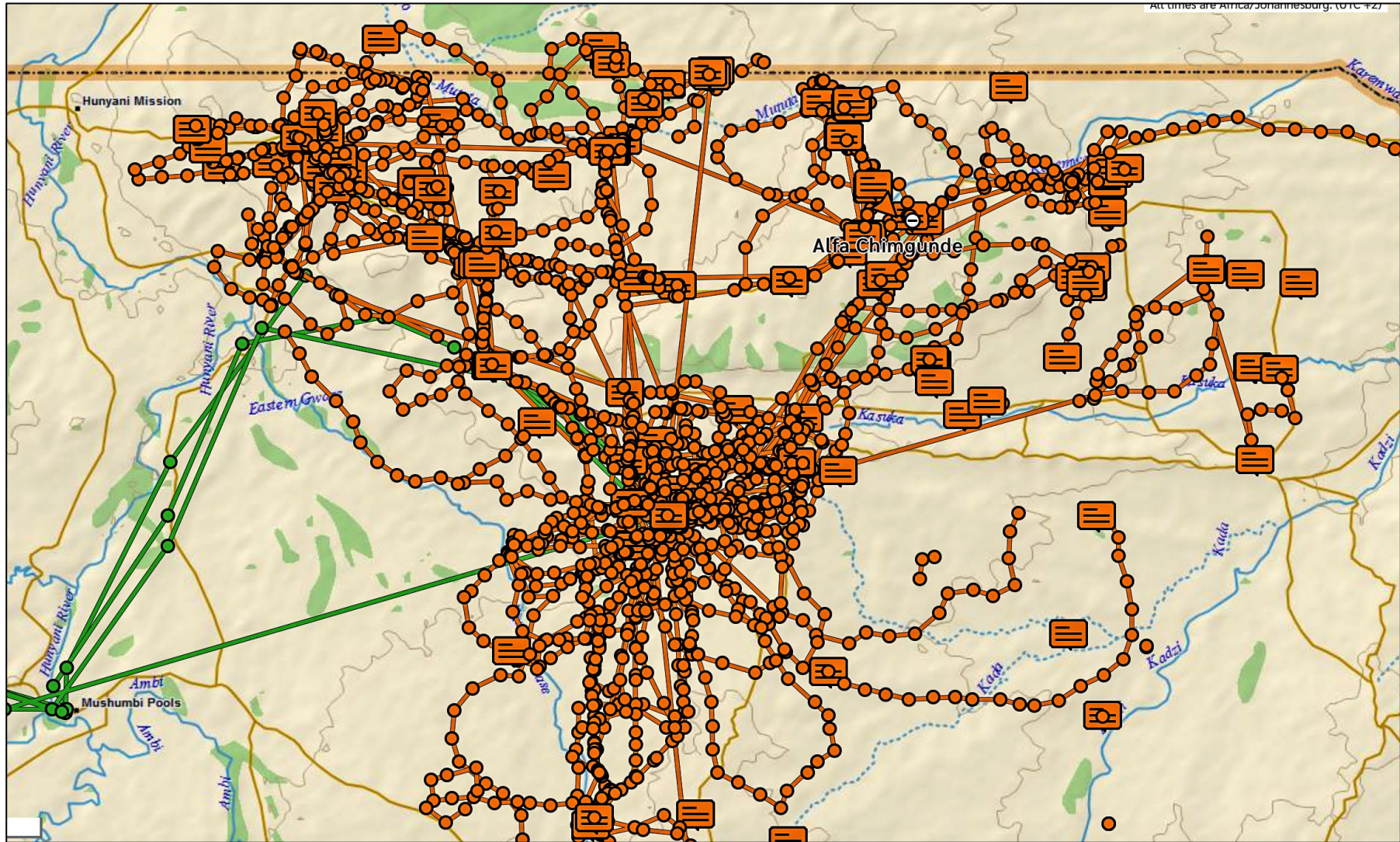
Harare, Zimbabwe  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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**Dande East 582km of patrols May – August, average 16 patrol days/ month**



## 1. The “hunting season”

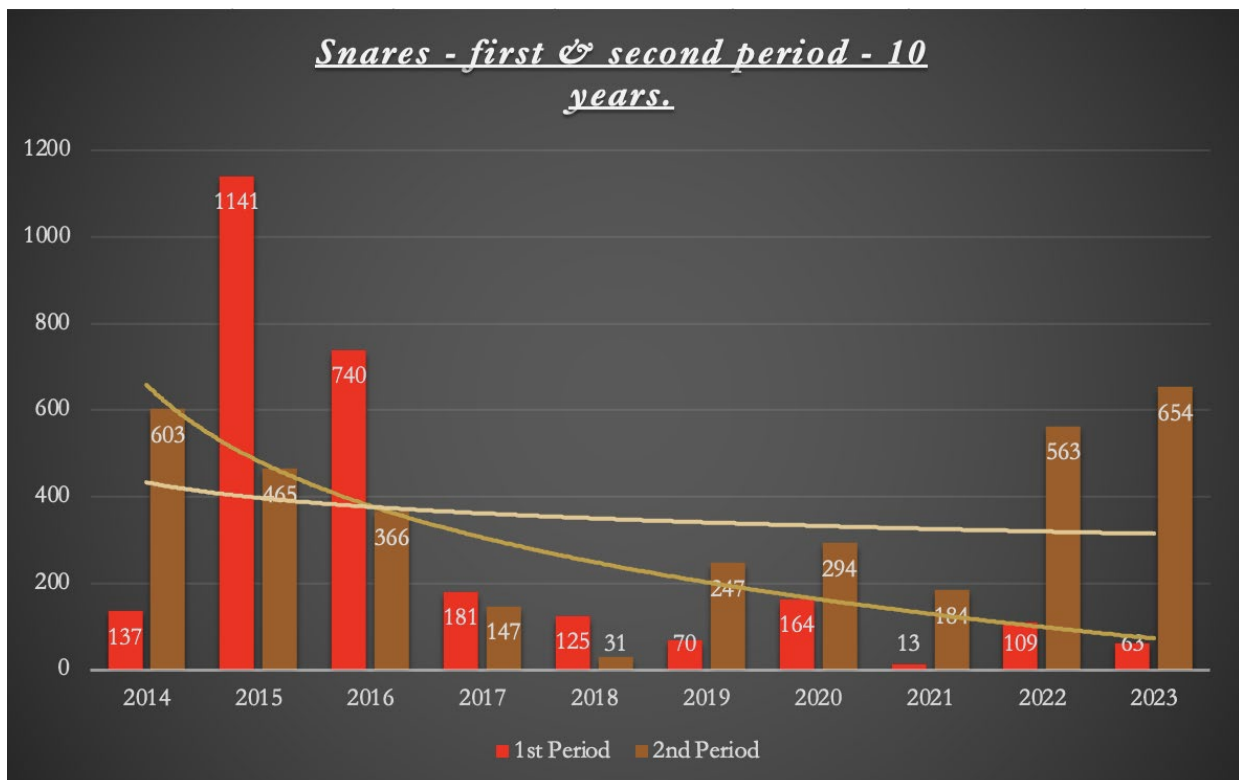
The hunting season is always the most relaxing time for DAPU, for two good reasons:

1. Our hunters out in the field are force multipliers for DAPU – being highly motivated and mobile they get into the most inaccessible areas regularly.
2. We get accurate unvarnished feedback from our hunters on the true state of the poaching and general health of the biodiversity of concessions.

The 2023 season has been a very good one for us – numerous hunters spread out. from April to the end of October means that for a solid 7 month’s things are genuinely “under control”!

## 2. Snaring and General poaching second period 2023

The results have been what we have come to expect following previous years trends. As water becomes scarcer, the game more concentrated, a few local folks will take the opportunity to go snaring. The locals are “in between jobs” as it were – as they have harvested their crops and are sitting around idle waiting for the rain to plant the next crops. The higher snaring will carry on until after Christmas. In this period, we have collected 654 snares, which is the highest in 10 years. The trend towards higher snare counts second period is certainly on the up and we are not too sure what to make of it – we hope it is because DAPU are becoming more and more effective.





A good haul of snares, Dande East, July 2023



Poached Buffalo (shot with muzzle loader) Kanyemba, Aug 2023



The poacher with his homemade musket, (which he commissioned from a maker in Mozambique) and used to poach the buffalo with.



Poachers camp, close to the border with Mozambique, Dande East.

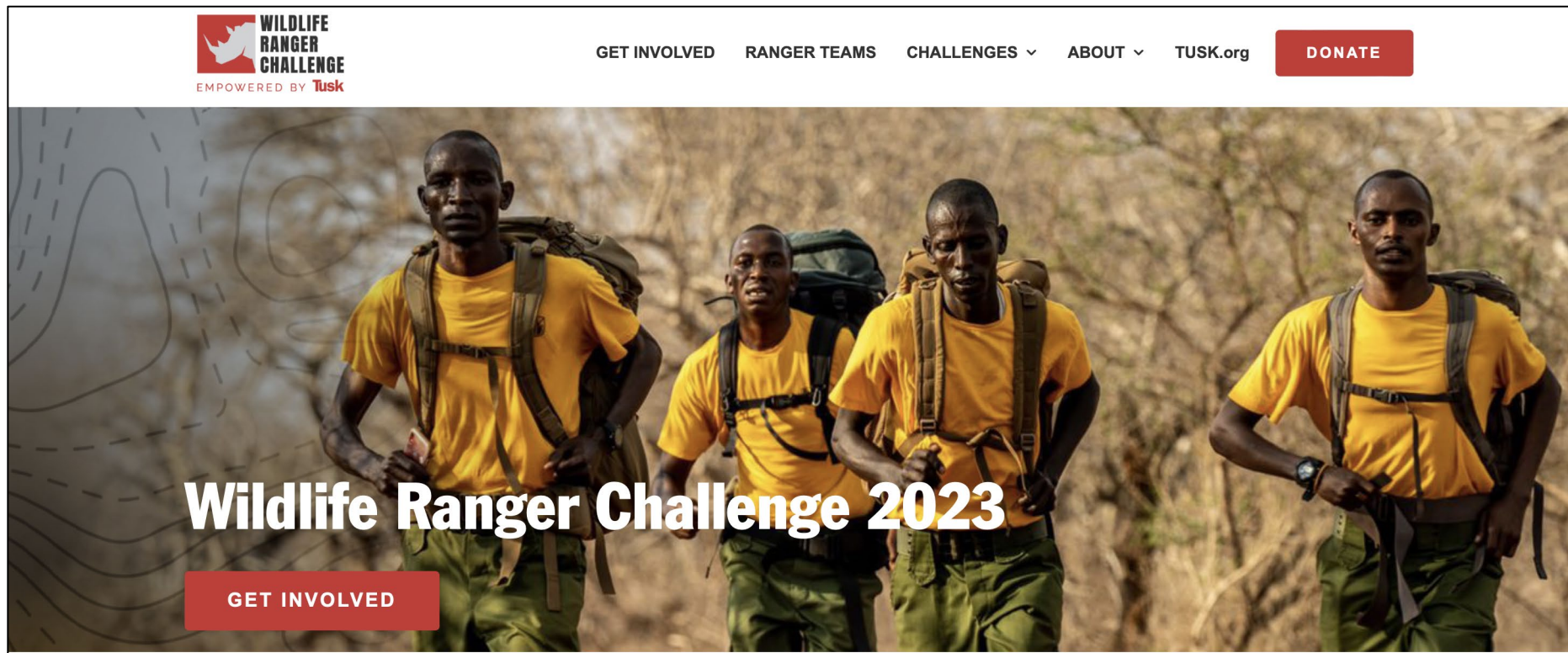


DSC, Lubbock & DAPU = a winning Combination!



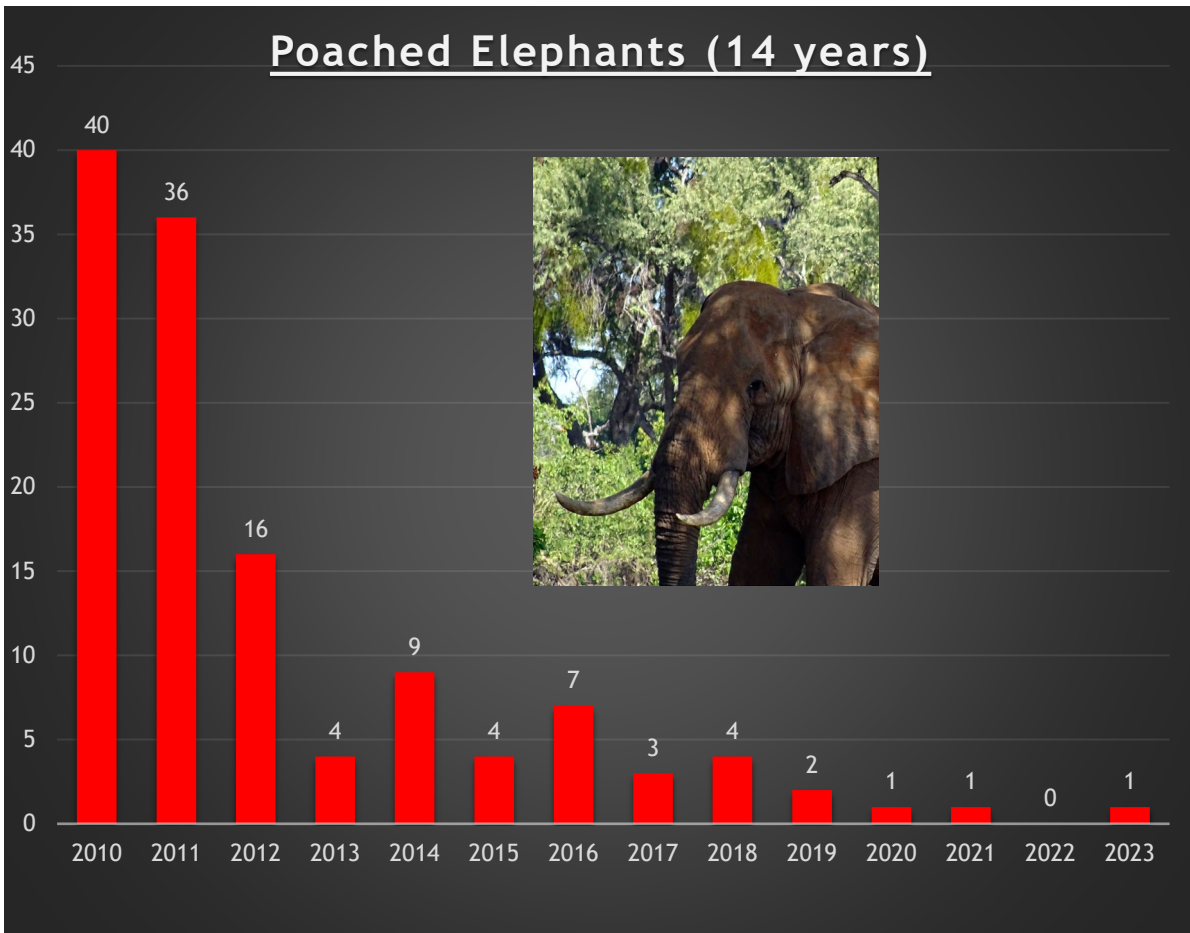
A massive thankyou to Lynn Taylor and Neil Nativel of the Tashinga Initiative <https://tashinga.org> who entered, mentored, coached, encouraged and equipped our DAPU team into the Ranger Wildlife Challenge <https://wildliferangerchallenge.org> All teams have completed the press up and sit up challenges, building up to the 21km half marathon race later this September 2023. Athletes must carry 22kg each and their run will be entered via Strava. Being DAPU's first year they have done well so far!!!

Some folks have already sent a little \$ towards this – if you are able to - it is a really top notch motivational event and well worth supporting.



### 3. Elephant poaching

Just the one young bull killed but the ivory recovered still in the skull. He was most likely a crop raider shot in the fields and left to wander off and die. The fact that we consistently find the ivory in the carcasses is a signal that these are revenge killings, but the perpetrators are not prepared to take the risk of being found in possession of ivory.



### 4. Mining

#### a. Gold Panning

High global gold prices combined with massive local unemployment (90%) has created a perfect storm with respect to illegal gold mining. Panning itself is damaging environmentally but it comes along with poaching, general crime and a whole host of other undesirable activities. So far, we have continued to be relatively lucky in that the panning has been mostly on the Angwa river, which is our Southern border, sadly seems to be the target of most activities. A Chinese /local company had three excavators on site very close to the Angwa Bridge and they were engaged in alluvial mining but seem to have abandoned their plans and the site – leaving behind a big mess.

We are finding more and more evidence of panning along the Maunde and Mukanga rivers within the Dande Safari Area so clearly unfortunately there seems to be a small amount of gold to be

found. It seems the gold gets washed out of the Zambezi valley escarpment in the fast flood water, then as soon as the rivers flatten and water slows down, it drops out of the water and gets trapped in the rapids. Thus, the rivers with rapids closest to the escarpment are richer in gold. We have managed to control the panning so far but worry for the future.



**b. Oil and Gas Exploration – Invictus Energy** <https://www.invictusenergy.com>

Dande East falls under the Australian firm “Invictus Energy Limited’s” special grant. Geographically the southern eastern portion of “the East” is on the Western edge of their area of interest. Invictus completed their Seismic work in 2021 and mobilized a Romanian drill rig which drilled “Mukuyu 1” in September/ October 2022. They had some technical issues, and the results were apparently inconclusive. They are currently about to begin drilling a second hole “Mukuyu 2” in the very southeast corner of the core area which is a real blow to us. Obviously, a lot will depend on whether Invictus are successful or not as to what the future will look like for the East. According to Invictus the chances of success in terms of finding a commercial discovery sit at 15%. Thankfully thus far Invictus have been relatively communicative and quite professional, and we hope that positive dialogue may continue.

**5. Agriculture**

The Government of Zimbabwe has embarked on various ambitious initiatives in “Kanyemba” which is in the North of Dande (on the Zambezi River). Apart from some re-zoning, they are hoping to set up a sizable irrigation scheme using water from the Zambezi River. Bush/ land clearance has been completed for this with about 1500 ha (3,700 acres) cleared. Although regrettable, this is still fortunately mostly in areas close to the villages that were not prime wildlife areas. Once again, all that we can really do is stay engaged to mitigate the long-term disturbance as best we can and if possible, search for some common ground! If the scheme stays as it is, whilst sad, will not really affect us too much at all. Currently the clearing of fields has stopped for the moment and the regrowth already stands at 4 to 5 foot tall.

**6. Charcoal production**

Charcoal production is new to Dande and to Zimbabwe in general (although very common in Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya). People will burn down thousands of mopane trees in just days, make charcoal, bag it and smuggle it to Harare for sale. Luckily our authorities are quite supportive in our efforts, and we had good success in 2020, 2021& 2022.



In June 2023, DAPU did catch a family, their charcoal was forfeit and they were fined US\$80.00

## **7. Canoe making**

Another seemingly harmless pastime – Mozambiquans contract Zimbabweans to fell huge old pod mahogany trees (*Azelia Quanzensis*), then they, hollow them out into dugout canoes for use on Lake Caborra Bassa (Mozambique). We have no arrests or convictions in 2023 yet. Once more these activities are commonplace outside of our core areas of operations.

## **8. Problem Animal Control (Human and Wildlife Conflict)**

DAPU scouts duties include attending to Problem Animal reports (PAC), now more fashionably termed as “Human Wildlife Conflict”. The peak season for PAC is during cropping season from January to the end of May. The three major problem species are elephants, lions and crocodiles. Both elephant and lion are extremely difficult to wean from their bad habits and are notoriously stubborn!

National Parks send rangers with DAPU for all PAC duties. Our goals with Problem Animal Control are:

- a. Protect human life.
- b. Protect property.
- c. IF POSSIBLE, deal with the offending animal by chasing it or them away using non-lethal means.
- d. Last resort is to shoot the animal. However, in cases where life or property is threatened, we do not hesitate.

### **8.1 Elephant**

In general, elephants in 2023 have made quite a nuisance of themselves although as per normal that activity thankfully and predictably did slowdown in May after the harvest. Unfortunately, politics and electioneering played into decisions regarding PAC and all too many elephants were shot in the district. In our core areas x 5 but district wide considerably more than that.

### **8.2 Lion**

Not much to report this year so far and long may that last. We did find the remains of a big male lion well within the Safari Area – no foul play suspected.

### **8.3 Buffalo**

No serious problems reported to date in 2023. There are always dagga boys hanging around villages especially those which are located on lush riverbanks as they afford a level of protection from lions and superior grazing!

### **8.4 Crocodile**

The five attacks reported first period no further cases during second period 2023.

### **8.5 Hippo**

No reports second period 2023.

### **8.6 Snakes**

No reports second period 2023.

## **9. Netting on the Zambezi**

DAPU continues to contribute 200 liters of petrol per month toward efforts to eliminate illegal fishing in a 50km stretch of the Zambezi River. Illegal netting has been much reduced, and sport anglers and legal netters are reporting better catches which has been a big help to the local economy.

In the big picture the reduction in fish poaching has had a significant effect in reducing game poaching, as the fish poachers were often responsible for the poaching of elephant and other game animals. The diameters of their nets had become noticeably smaller over the years, clearly indicating a seriously depleted fish reserve.

## **10. Goals for 2023**

<p>1) Hold miners and farmers to account and try and mitigate the damage that they are causing.</p>	<p><i><u>Ongoing</u> – hopefully easier now elections are over.</i></p>
<p>2) Open all roads, (nearly 1000km’s), then immediately pivot to early burning to better control late season bush fires. Annually we have 80 people, 3 tractors and 2 Landcruiser’s employed full time for 3 months doing this!</p>	<p><i><u>Complete</u> along with early burning.</i></p>
<p>3) Keep going with the anti-poaching! The PAC season is over, so now we migrate to traditional anti-poaching.</p>	<p><i><u>Ongoing.</u></i></p>
<p>4) Funds allowing expand DAPU to give us two extra patrol “sticks” ... one each for Dande East and North respectively.</p>	<p><i><u>One extra “stick” in place in East, still to implement in North funds allowing.</u></i></p>

## **11. Water Projects update**

These projects will get water into the areas of Dande that need it most. Because of International Borders and human settlement, often big chunks of wilderness land are left without any natural water for animals. In short, the game's traditional water points are no longer available to them OR are on the wrong side of an imaginary line (border).

So, the benefits will be:

- Year-round game and water in Dande
- Increased benefits to communities
- Less human wildlife conflict at water points close to villages.

### **United Nations Development Program, The African Wildlife Fund and C.M Safaris**

As mentioned in previous newsletters the UNDP GEF 6 project has successfully drilled x 3 boreholes in Ward 1 / Dande Safari Area and 1 x borehole in Dande East in 2021 and the A.W.F also drilled and equipped one in the East.

These boreholes were all sited after collaboration with C.M.S and have already made a big positive difference in the landscape.

All (bar the flagship project, which is to take water into the core area of the East) have been completed and commissioned. C.M Safaris are in negotiations with Mbire RDC and UNDP with the idea of co funding that outstanding project to have it completed – it was the one expected to have the greatest impact and of course it is the most expensive and complex.

So, 2023 will be the first year where all these installations, (servicing 8 pans) will be in operation for a full calendar year. We are hoping that animals that are forced to go into villages or Mozambique for water will stay permanently now!

Area	Implemented by	Capacity l/h	Equipping/ status	Goal for 2023	Status
Ward 1, Bongi road	UNDP	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Build a DAPU base here	Base built & operational.
Ward 1, Baobab	UNDP	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol	Working well.
Dande Safari Area, Matemba Jesse	UNDP	6,000l l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol	Working well.
Dande East	UNDP	30,000 l/h	<u>Delayed due to funding.</u>	Complete by December 2023. Possibly with CM Safaris co fund.	<u>No resolution from UNDP yet.</u>
Dande East, Kabveve	CMS	5,000 l/h	Completed 2021	Maintain & Patrol	Working well.
Dande East Kabveve	AWF	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol.	Working well.



## **12. Boundary cut lines**

The boundary lines (80km) in Dande East were completed in 2021, and now we simply maintain those lines as roads for which to deploy scouts and to burn against – they have been very useful indeed.

## **13. Collaring elephants**

The Research Unit of Biodiversity (UO/CSIC/PA) from Complutense University, Spain contacted us about collaring 5 elephants (3 bulls and 2 cows) which is exactly the type of project that we would support. They wish to study the “Influence of habitat conservation actions on elephant movements and poaching rates in the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA” in Zimbabwe. The collars are sitting in Madrid and sadly due to bureaucratic issues in Spain the project has until further notice been postponed.

## **14. Early burning**

Every year our rule of thumb is to burn relatively aggressively in a patchwork pattern until the end of June and then sit tight and fight any fires after that. This way we achieve some rotational burning and protect ourselves against those massive late season fires which can and do eat up large areas in just a few days.

## **15. The Gonono campfire club**

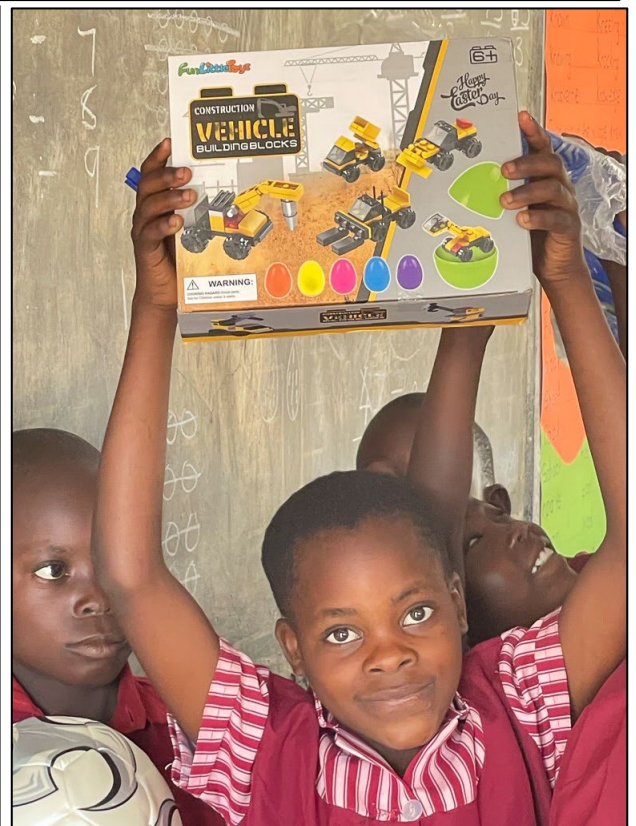
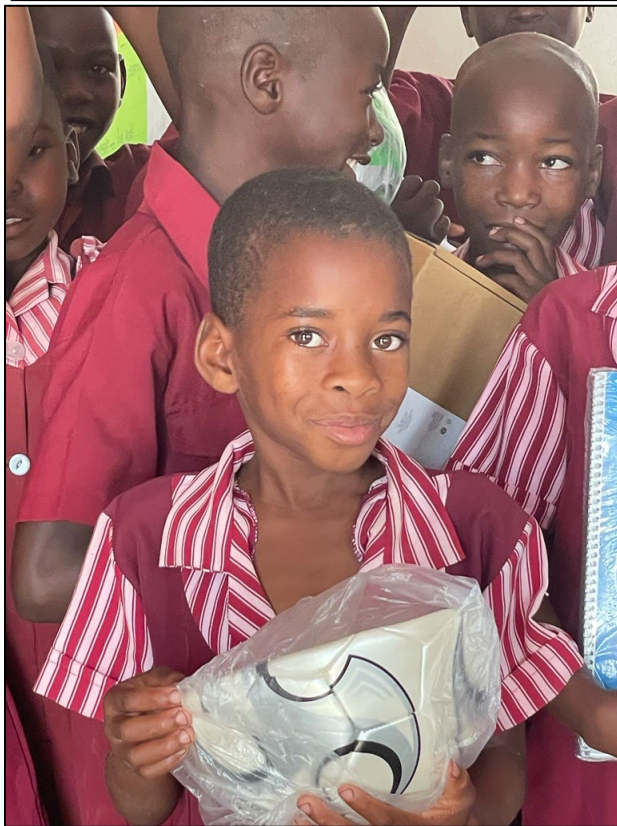
Alfa the DAPU manager in the East has set up a CAMPFIRE CLUB where he goes to the local schools along with a TV, (and generator) and shows the kids various wildlife movies, sets them work and holds quiz evenings. This is an initiative that we commend Alfa for initiating and one that we plan to make sure continues!



## **16. The Pedza Pasi and Gonono Primary Schools and the Jack and Marjorie Schillinger Foundation**

Over the course of 2021 & 2022, we had the great pleasure and privilege in renovating the Gonono and Pedza Pasi Primary schools with and on behalf of the Jack and Marjorie Schillinger Foundation. It has been a genuinely rewarding project, and student enrolment has jumped up from 300 pupils (ages 5 – 12) to closer to 500 in both schools. Notably the schools also have a full staff compliment for probably the first time ever. Of course, these projects are never complete – there is always lots to do! In October 2023 we hope to break ground in the construction on a new classroom block at the Gonono Primary School and all being equal suppose that it may be complete by February of 2024. We will have more on this project by end of year 2023!





## **17. We must extend our profound appreciation to:**

### **The African Wildlife Foundation <https://www.awf.org>**

The AWF quietly behind the scenes helps DAPU especially in “the East”. We are enjoying the benefits of two water projects paid for by them and the use of one tractor.

### **The Dallas Safaris Club – Foundation and the Lubbock Chapter of Dallas Safari Club <https://dscf.org>**

DSC Foundation and the Lubbock Chapter have been our single biggest financial and moral supporter for many years now! Mobility is the single biggest challenge for DAPU and the DSCF have provided two land cruisers – one for “the North” and the second in “the East” and both vehicles have literally not stopped since new! They are both tracked daily via satellite so that we can make sure they are used only for the purpose intended.

### **Flying for Wildlife <http://www.flyingforwildlife.org>**

FFW has grown immeasurably in the last couple of years. They now have two of their very own aircraft. All volunteer pilots include Richard Tennant, Hannes Scholtz and Richard Calder. All flying is gratis to DAPU – it costs us nothing, and those who understand how expensive aviation is in Africa, will appreciate how significant this is!!!

In 2023 we are hoping to get Flying for Wildlife to do some sorties in October and November when:

- a. the visibility will be much improved and
- b. We will have no hunters out if the field.
- c. This is the time of the year that new fields are cleared and charcoal making seems to begin.



Z-FFW, A savannah S, perfect for its mission.

**Trackit** (Richard Tennant and Hannes Scholtz of (Flying for Wildlife)

Provide free, real time satellite monitoring of the two DAPU vehicles. This has saved significantly on fuel and vehicle costs and has also helped us become much smarter with servicing and positioning of vehicles!

**Individual donors**

As previously mentioned, we have been truly humbled by all the kind folk who have donated to DAPU! Your generosity knows no bounds, and we will be eternally indebted to you. In thanks for your support, we shall endeavour to keep DAPU up and running to its fullest capabilities. We shall strive at all costs to keep poaching at bay, with the well-being of wildlife foremost in our minds.

Buzz and I simply cannot tell you what a relief all these contributions have been to us. We now go into the third period with enough cash on hand to keep DAPU going strongly for the rest of the year and into 2023.

**Conservation Force**

We continue to work hand in hand with John and Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force. John and Chrissie are proud hunters and legends in the fight for our way of life and the wild places that we all love. They work selflessly and endlessly in aid of conservation and to protect the rights of hunters around the world. Thank you, John, and Chrissie!

Conservation Force is a registered non – profit 501(c) (3) public foundation.

**How to make a Tax-Deductible donation:**

Please make a check out to:

Conservation Force

Mail to:

C/O John J. Jackson, III  
3240 S. 1-10 SERVICE ROAD W.  
SUITE 200, METAIRIE,  
LOUISIANA 70001  
USA

Check Ref: DAPU

Conservation Force Contact:

JOHN J. JACKSON, III  
TEL: (504) 837 - 1233  
FAX: (504) 837 – 1145  
Email: [jjw-no@att.net](mailto:jjw-no@att.net)  
Website: [www.conservationforce.org](http://www.conservationforce.org)

**DAPU Income 2023**

**# 1. Donations.**

Myron Repka	\$500.00
DR. Hans- Joachim Wieckmann	\$350.00
Davis Peterson / Peter Stewart	
Painting	\$1,500.00
Darryl Tones	\$1,000.00
Trevor McEntee	\$995.00
Dave Katzenstein	\$3,000.00
David W. Kohlhorst	\$1,000.00
Burton Foundation	\$2,000.00
Jerry E. Jurena	\$500.00
Colvin T. Matheson	\$1,000.00
Richard B. Negley	\$3,000.00
J. W. Grage	\$100.00
Arthur E. Wendelken	\$100.00
Brian Skeuse	\$1,000.00
Gary Kraudelt	\$100.00
J. D. Crouch II	\$1,000.00
James Monte Gingery	\$1,000.00
Michael J. Bayer	\$1,000.00
Tim Rupli	\$1,000.00
Mike core	\$1,000.00
Louis Witwer	\$250.00
Keith Shope	\$500.00
Keith Dematteis	\$200.00
M.B. Flippen	\$5,000.00
Sylvarnus Trust	\$7,000.00
<b># 1 Total donations</b>	<b>\$34,095.00</b>
<b># 2. Hunting client levies</b>	<b>\$14,130.00</b>
<b># 3. Charlton McCallum</b>	
<b>Safaris</b>	<b>\$46,530.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$94,755.00</b>

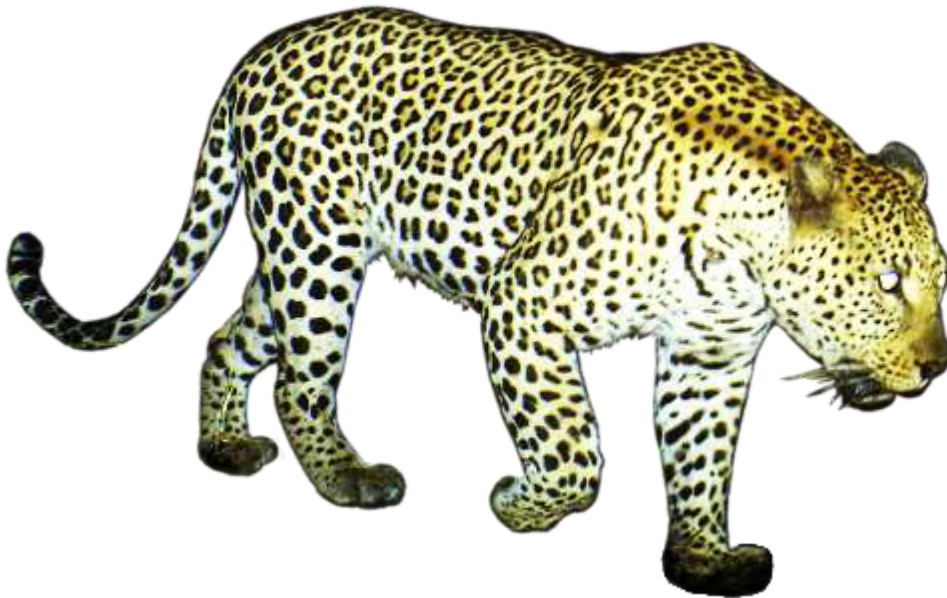
**DAPU Expenses 2023**

<b><u># 1 Wages, rewards &amp; rations.</u></b>	<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Game Scouts</u></b>	<b><u>Management</u></b>	<b><u>Rations</u></b>	<b><u>Rewards</u></b>	<b><u>Netting</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
	January	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$982.00	\$200.00	\$6,422.00
	February	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$5,540.00
	March	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$761.00	\$200.00	\$6,201.00
	April	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$10.00	\$200.00	\$5,450.00
	May	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$232.00	\$200.00	\$5,672.00
	June	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$863.00	\$200.00	\$6,303.00
	July	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$2,261.00	\$200.00	\$7,701.00
	August	\$2,760.00	\$1,605.00	\$875.00	\$196.00	\$200.00	\$5,636.00
		<b>\$22,080.00</b>	<b>\$12,840.00</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,405.00</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>	<b>\$48,925.00</b>
<b><u># 2 Equipment expenses</u></b>							
		Ammunition (2 cases)					\$500.00
		Garmin inReach \$108/mo. January - August					\$864.00
							<b>\$1,364.00</b>
<b><u># 3 DSC - F Vehicles x 3</u></b>							
		MECA # 1 - (DAPU 1)	25,160.00 KM	US\$0.60			\$15,096.00
		ACX 3232- (DAPU 2)	31,256.00 KM	US\$0.60			\$18,753.60
		AFK 6838 - (DAPU 3)	17,694.00 KM	US\$0.60			\$10,616.40
		<b>Total Mileage 2023</b>	<b>74,110.00 KM</b>				<b>\$44,466.00</b>
		<b>Total DAPU expenses YTD 2023</b>					<b>\$94,755.00</b>
		<b>Total DAPU Income YTD 2023</b>				<b>\$94,755.00</b>	
		<b>Credit/ debit carried forward to third period 2023</b>					<b>\$0.00</b>

DAPU third period 2023

Charlton McCallum Safaris

20<sup>th</sup> January 2024



**DAPU**  
DANDE ANTI POACHING UNIT

**2023 Highlites (YTD).**

No. of snares	Dogs shot	Meat Poachers Convicted	Elephant poachers Convicted	Weapons & tools retrieved	Rewards paid	DAPU cost
1509	29	22	2	41	\$6,758.00	- \$153,623. 00

**10-year cumulative total (2014 - 2023).**

No. of snares	Dogs shot	Meat Poachers Convicted	Elephant poachers Convicted	Weapons & tools retrieved	Rewards paid	DAPU cost
12329	143	255	26	253	\$64,727.00	\$889,648 .50

Dear Friends,

The Third period of 2023 has been “ops normal” for DAPU. No major hiccups or changes. Snare yields seem to be creeping up year on year, but so are arrests and patrol effort so we hope that this is simply a reflection of DAPU being ever more effective!

We have continued to document and report everything as faithfully and accurately as possible and thank you all for your support and interest in DAPU.

Best regards

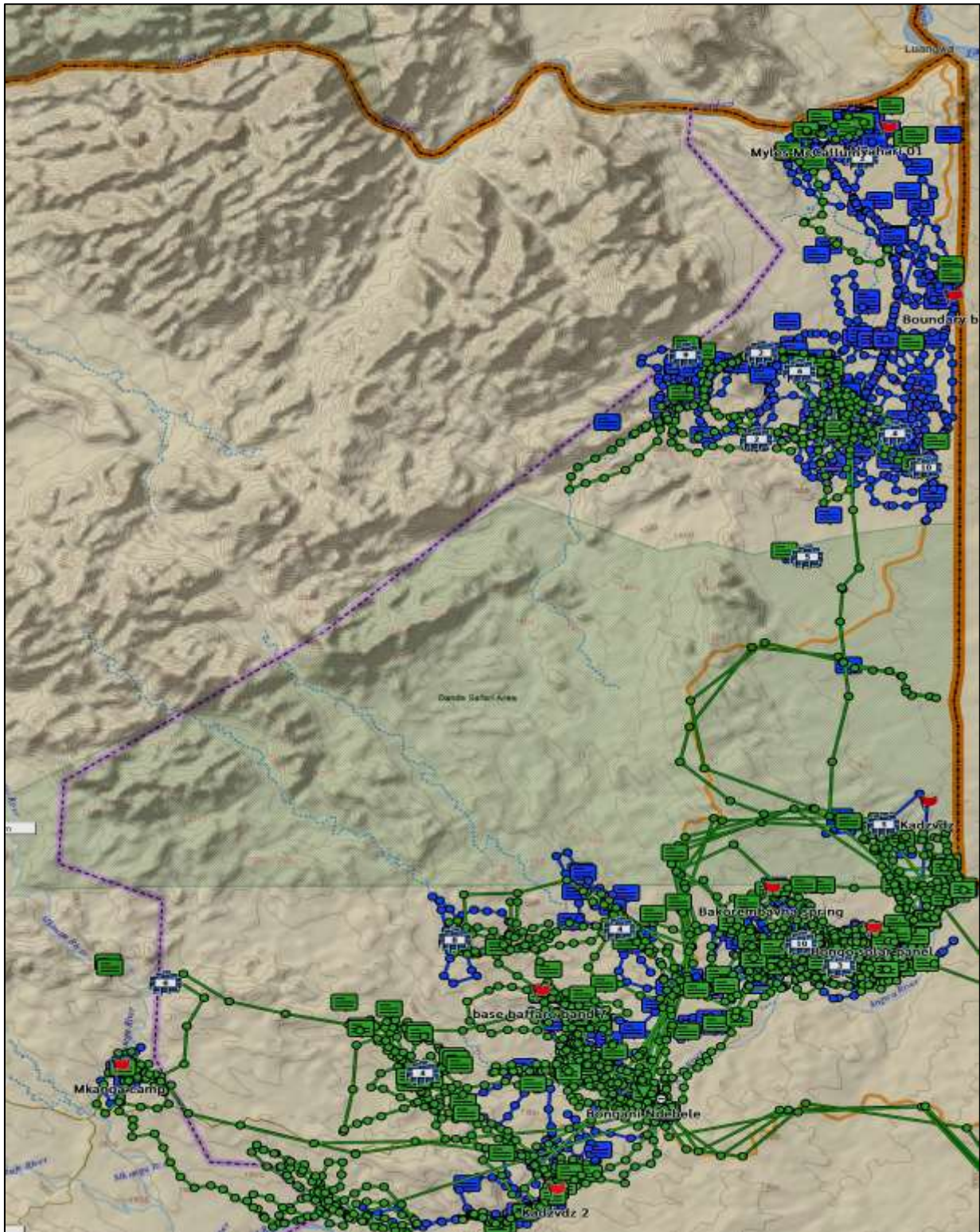
Myles E. McCallum  
James D. Charlton  
Charles Nondo

Harare, Zimbabwe  
20<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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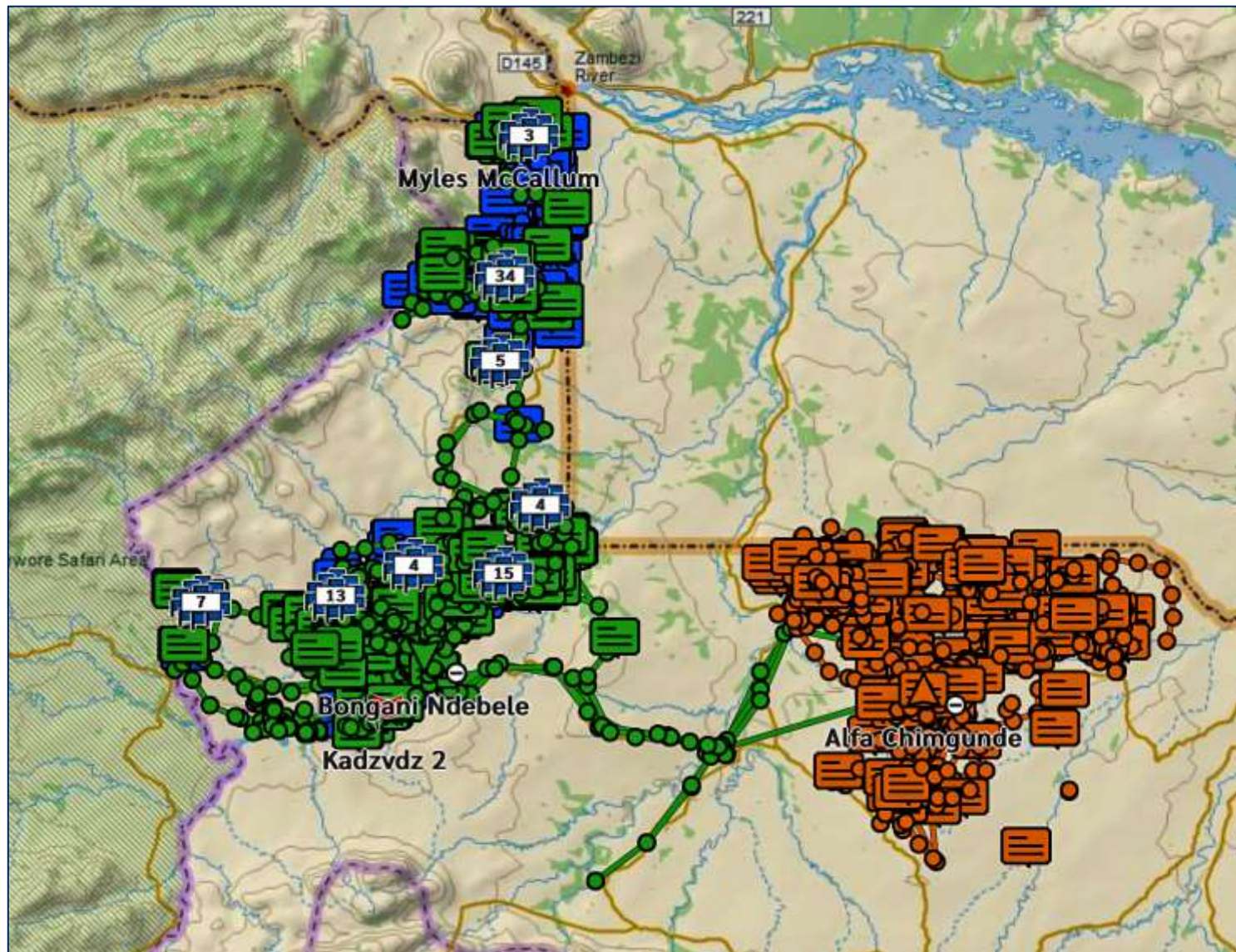
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**Dande North 1250km of patrols, 1<sup>st</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**  
**(average of 17 patrol days per month)**





**Combined Dande North and East, 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



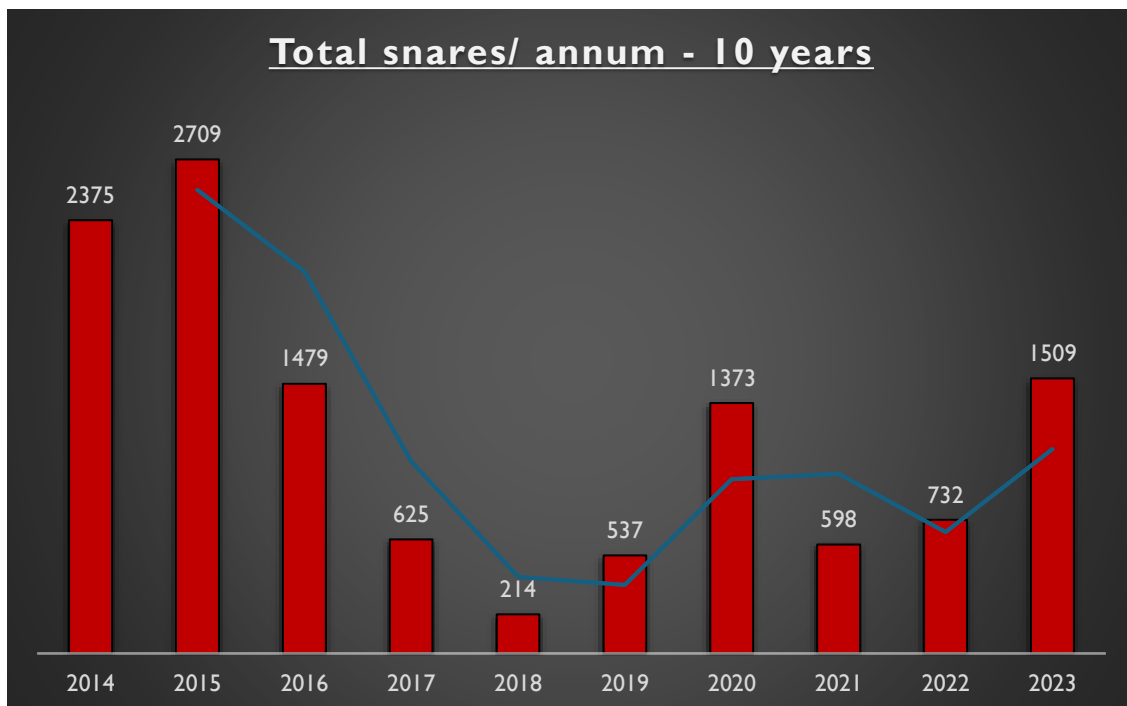
## **1. The “dry season”**

The dry season is generally a stressful time for DAPU, for good reason:

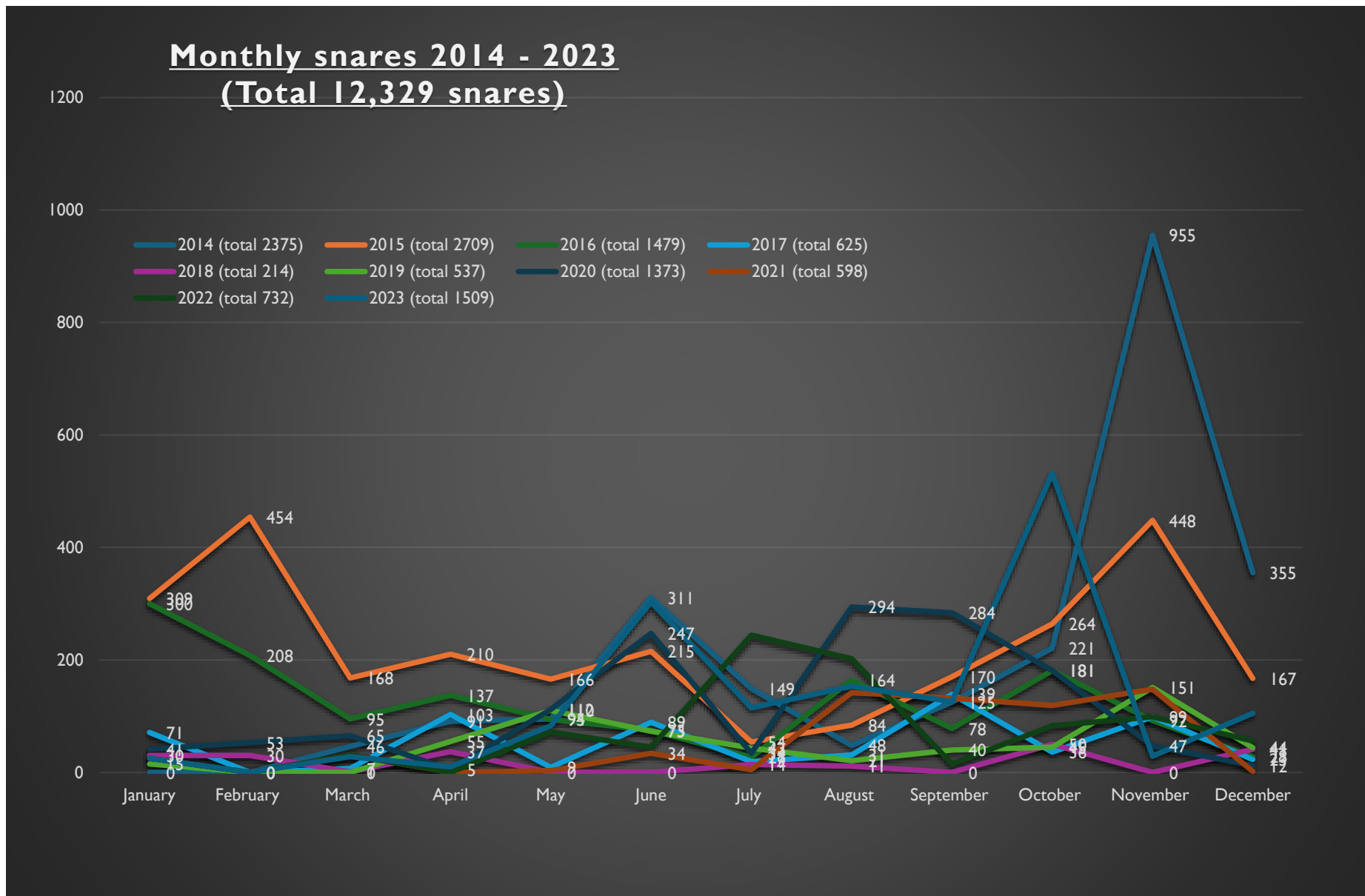
1. Our hunting season is winding down and we are needing to do more and more with DAPU, as we have less hunters to rely upon.
2. Hot and dry conditions make for higher game concentrations at all water points so the incidence of snaring increases daily around water until after the Christmas holidays up to the first proper rains.
3. The local farmers are relatively idle as no rain = no farming therefore they often venture out poaching.
4. Any fires now are huge and uncontrollable, and our farmers are still in the practice of burning their fields in preparation for the new season, so these fires often escape with disastrous results.
5. Villagers cut poles and grass to rain proof their houses so we have traffic into the wilderness areas that can end up in snaring and dog poaching.

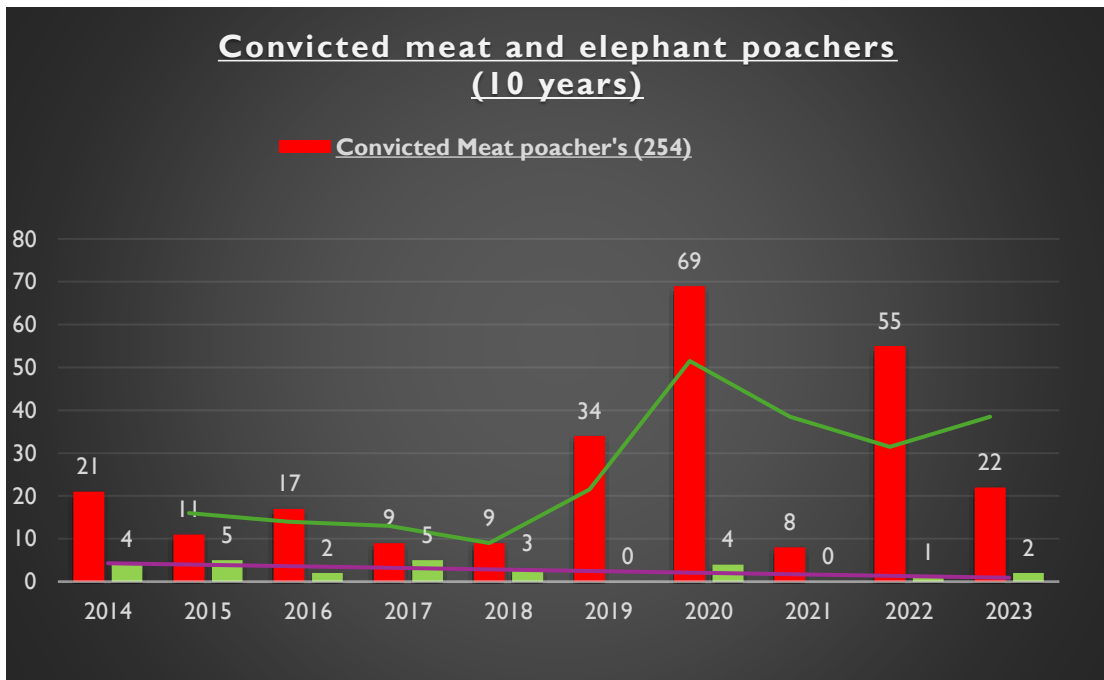
## **2. Snaring and General poaching third period 2023**

The results have been what we have come to expect following previous years trends. As water becomes scarcer, the game more concentrated, a few local folks will take the opportunity to go snaring. The locals are “in between jobs” as it were – as they have harvested their crops and are sitting around waiting for the rain to plant the next crops. The higher incidence of snaring will carry on until after Christmas and in this period, we have collected 792 snares.



We are seeing the total creep back up to 2016 levels, hopefully because of DAPU being more effective.





Good morning, East update. This morning I deployed all two groups at Sundi area, since we had a rumour of poaching activity from that village..

# during the patrol close to Sundi village 100 meters away from one of the villagers house,

#the scouts discovered a white sack hidden on a tree with dried kudu meat in it.

# They tracked the fresh spoor which was easy to track because of wet soil led to Kabheki Tavasika house..

#when they get by the house they asked Kabheki's son concerning the case and he said , his father was the one who knew about that.

#then the guys proceeded to arrest the father.  
Now I'm taking him to parks then to police with his sack of dried meat.

11:29

Message from Alfa and the result below!  
A great deal of our success comes from information first.





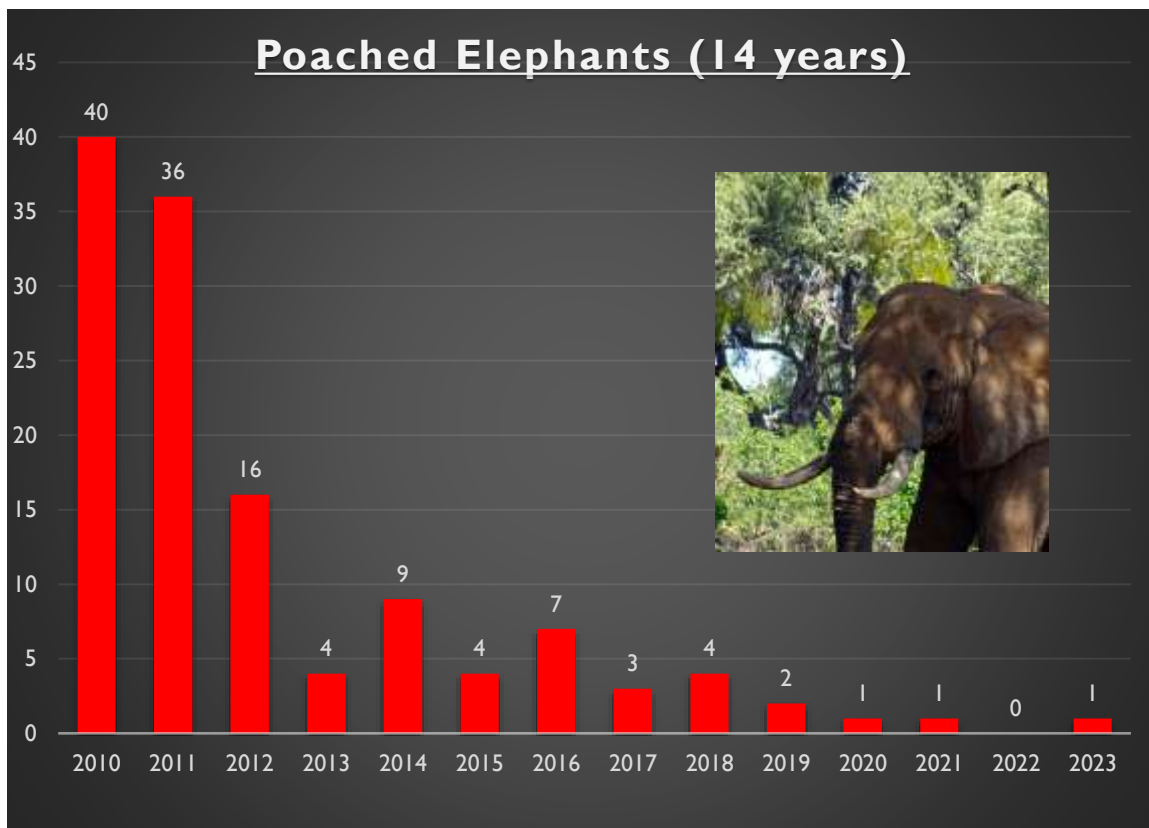
Quite common, bumping into poachers, they drop their kit, and we are unable to catch them!



Same DAPU team, same month – these poachers not as lucky. Catching the one older poacher normally leads DAPU to the rest of the group.

### 3. Elephant poaching

Just the one young bull killed but the ivory recovered still in the skull. He was most likely a crop raider shot in the fields and left to wander off and die. The fact that we consistently find the ivory in the carcasses is a signal that these are revenge killings, but the perpetrators are not prepared to take the risk of being found in possession of ivory. A total of two elephant poachers caught and convicted in 2023 – more accurately two people caught in possession of ivory.



### 2023 Summary and Highlights:

#### 4. Mining

##### a. Gold Panning

No real change in third period of 2023. High global gold prices combined with massive local unemployment (90%) has created a perfect storm with respect to illegal gold mining. Panning itself is damaging environmentally but it comes along with poaching, general crime and a whole host of other undesirable activities. So far, we have continued to be relatively lucky in that the panning has been mostly on the Angwa river, which is our Southern border, which seems to be the target of most activities. A Chinese /local company had three excavators on site very close to the Angwa Bridge and they were engaged in alluvial mining but seem to have abandoned their plans and the site – leaving behind a big mess.

We are finding more and more evidence of panning along the Maunde and Mukanga rivers within the Dande Safari Area so clearly unfortunately there seems to be a small amount of

gold to be found. It seems the gold gets washed out of the Zambezi valley escarpment in the fast flood water, then as soon as the rivers flatten and water slows down, it drops out of the water and gets trapped in the rapids. Thus, the rivers with rapids closest to the escarpment are richer in gold. We have managed to control the panning so far but worry for the future.

### **b. Oil and Gas Exploration – Invictus Energy**

Dande East falls under the Australian firm “Invictus Energy Limited’s” special grant. Geographically the southern eastern portion of “the East” is on the Western edge of their area of interest. Invictus completed their Seismic work in 2021 and mobilized a Romanian drill rig which drilled “Mukuyu 1” in September/ October 2022. They had some technical issues, and the results were apparently inconclusive. Mukuyu 2 was successfully drilled, tested and a “commercial discovery” was officially announced at the end of 2023. If anyone is interested, you can find all the information on <https://www.invictusenergy.com>

What this all really means going forward we are not sure, but we will be contacting Invictus early 2024. There are lots of amazing announcements, but their share price continues to fall.

## **5. Agriculture**

The Government of Zimbabwe has embarked on various ambitious initiatives in “Kanyemba” which is in the North of Dande (on the Zambezi River). Apart from some re-zoning, they are hoping to set up a sizable irrigation scheme using water from the Zambezi River. Bush/ land clearance has been completed for this with about 1500 ha (3,700 acres) cleared. Although regrettable, this is still fortunately mostly in areas close to the villages that were not prime wildlife areas. Once again, all that we can really do is stay engaged to mitigate the long-term disturbance as best we can and if possible, search for some common ground! If the scheme stays as it is, whilst sad, will not really affect us too much at all. Currently the clearing of fields has stopped for the moment and the regrowth already stands at 4 to 5 foot tall. Agriculture is the first-place undisputed worst land use for habitat loss Globally and Dande is no exception to this.

## **6. Charcoal production**



Charcoal production is new to Dande and to Zimbabwe in general (although very common in Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya). People will burn down thousands of mopane trees in just days, make charcoal, bag it and smuggle it to Harare for sale. Luckily our authorities are quite supportive in our efforts, and we had good success in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Outside of our protected areas unfortunately Charcoal production is rampant. Tobacco farmers and the city of Harare are ready and insatiable markets for charcoal – especially Mopane wood charcoal.

In June 2023 however, DAPU did catch a family. Their charcoal was forfeit and they were fined US\$80.

## **7. Canoe making**

Another seemingly harmless pastime – Mozambiquans contract Zimbabweans to fell huge old pod mahogany trees (*Azelia Quanzensis*), then they, hollow them out into dugout canoes for use on Lake Caborra Bassa (Mozambique). We have no arrests or convictions in 2023 yet. Once more these activities are commonplace outside of our core areas of operations.

## **8. Problem Animal Control (Human Wildlife Conflict)**

DAPU scouts duties include attending to Problem Animal reports (PAC), now more fashionably termed as “Human Wildlife Conflict”. The peak season for HWC is during cropping season from January to the end of May. The three major problem species are elephants, lions, and crocodiles. Both elephant and lion are extremely difficult to wean from their bad habits and are notoriously stubborn!

National Parks send rangers with DAPU for all PAC duties. Our goals with Problem Animal Control are:

- a. Protect human life.
- b. Protect property.
- c. IF POSSIBLE, deal with the offending animal by chasing it or them away using non-lethal means.
- d. Last resort is to shoot the animal. However, in cases where life or property is threatened, we do not hesitate.

### **8.1 Elephant**

In general, elephants in 2023 have made significant nuisance of themselves although as per normal that activity thankfully and predictably did slowdown in May after the harvest. Unfortunately, politics and electioneering in 2023 played into decisions regarding PAC and all too many elephants were shot in the district. In our core areas x 6 but district wide considerably more than that. One elephant cow was shot in September 2023 soon after killing a villager.



A perennial picture of total waste – an elephant cow shot, soon after killing a local villager. She was on her way to water at night and he was walking home after a few drinks, and they met.

## 8.2 **Lion**

Not much to report this year so far and long may that last. We did find the remains of a big old male lion well within the Safari Area – no foul play suspected.

## 8.3 **Buffalo**

No serious problems reported in 2023. There are always dagga boys hanging around villages especially those which are located on lush riverbanks as they afford a level of protection from lions and superior grazing!

## 8.4 **Crocodile**

Six attacks reported in 2023 (one in December 2023, five in first period). Crocodiles are statistically at their most dangerous when the small rivers are in spate so the December to May times.

## 8.5 **Hippo**

No serious reports in 2023.

## 8.6 **Snakes**

Two snake bites in 2023 – recorded in September and October respectively.

## 9. **Netting on the Zambezi**

DAPU continues to contribute 200 liters of petrol per month toward efforts to eliminate illegal fishing in a 50km stretch of the Zambezi River. Illegal netting has been much reduced, and sport anglers and legal netters are reporting better catches which has been a big help to the local economy.

In the big picture the reduction in fish poaching has had a significant effect in reducing game poaching, as the fish poachers were often responsible for the poaching of elephant and other game animals. The diameters of their nets had become noticeably smaller over the years, clearly indicating a seriously depleted fish reserve. The last three years have seen better catches year on year, so we are very pleased with the results – things are certainly going in the right direction.

## 10. **World Ranger Challenge**



A massive thank you to Lynn Taylor and Neil Nativel of The Tashinga Initiative <https://tashinga.org> who entered, mentored, coached, encouraged and equipped our DAPU team for the Ranger Wildlife Challenge <https://wildliferangerchallenge.org> The results are show here: <https://wildliferangerchallenge.org/wrc23-21km-ranger-team-results/>

DAPU placed 46 out of 72 in 2023 and the team have learned allot – we are confident of a better showing in 2024 and are aiming for a top 10 finish for team DAPU! Thank you so much to those of your who donated to our DAPU team it was much appreciated!

## 11. Summary of Goals for 2023 and goals for 2024

Our focus is always in **two areas** (not necessarily in this order!) and our goals and projects feed in the below:

### 1. Biodiversity

- a) Anti-Poaching (DAPU).
- b) Early burning
- c) Road work
- d) Water projects
- e) Boundaries
- f) Deforestation
- g) Keeping illegal mining and agriculture in check as best we can.

### 2. Communities

- a) Meat and money from Safaris
- b) Employment
- c) Clinics and potable water
- d) Schools.
- e) Tradition and local customs.
- f)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	
1)	<b>Hold miners and farmers to account and try and mitigate the damage that they are causing.</b>	<i>Ongoing – hopefully easier now elections are over.</i>	<i>We intend to really try and get Invictus to at the very least contribute meaningfully to DAPU</i>
2)	<b>Open all roads, (nearly 1000km’s), then immediately pivot to early burning to better control late season bush fires. Annually we have 80 people, 3 tractors and 2 Landcruiser’s employed full time for 3 months.</b>	<i>Complete along with early burning. 2023 was a medium successful year with reference to the bush fires.</i>	<i>Road work as usual, with emphasis on better early burning, perhaps discing some roads as opposed to grading and erosion gully reclamation. Keep <u>boundary lines</u> in Dande East immaculate.</i>

3)	<b>Anti-poaching.</b>	<u>Ongoing</u> – we had a productive year despite toxic politics (due to elections.)	Continue improving, elections are behind us so hope for better convictions.
4)	<b>Funds allowing expand DAPU to give us two extra patrol “sticks” ... one each for Dande East and North respectively.</b>	<u>Complete</u> in the East, extra stick for North in 2024 funds allowing. One stick in East was added.	Add one more stick in Dande North to bring total DAPU up from 28 at year end 2023 to 32 by end of first period 2024.
5)	<b>Water projects, complete, maintain and optimize.</b>	<u>All but one project now complete.</u>	The one last large, flagship project in the East to complete. Continue to maintain and optimize.
6)	<b>The campfire club</b>	<u>Alfa’s initiative in Dande East– well supported by the kids!</u>	Offer more support and rollout into Dande North too.
7)	<b>Schools</b>	<u>Ongoing</u> – desks to Pedza and new block @ Gonono!	Keep going – so vital, so appreciated!
8)	<b>Clinics</b>	<u>Keep clean potable water flowing</u> – pumps @ Angwa & Kanyemba replaced.	Continue to assist wherever possible.
9)	<b>Cattle</b>	<u>Local cattle in Dande East.</u> We failed to control largely due to elections and politics.	Hopefully the political climate will be favorable for finding a workable long-term solution



## 12. Water Projects summary 2023

These projects will get water into the areas of Dande that need it most. Because of International Borders and human settlement, often big chunks of wilderness land are left without any natural water for animals. In short, the game's traditional water points are no longer available to them OR are on the wrong side of an imaginary line (border).

So, the benefits will be:

- Year-round game and water in Dande
- Increased benefits to communities
- Less human wildlife conflict at water points close to villages.

### United Nations Development Program, The African Wildlife Fund and C.M Safaris

As mentioned in previous newsletters the UNDP GEF 6 project has successfully drilled x 3 boreholes in Ward 1 / Dande Safari Area and 1 x borehole in Dande East in 2021 and the A.W.F also drilled and equipped one in the East. These boreholes were all sited after collaboration with C.M.S and have already made a big positive difference in the landscape.

All (bar the flagship project, which is to take water into the core area of the East) have been completed and commissioned. C.M Safaris are in negotiations with Mbire RDC and UNDP with the idea of co funding that outstanding project to have it completed – it was the one expected to have the greatest impact and of course it is the most expensive and complex.

So, 2023 was the first year where all these installations, (servicing 8 pans) were in operation for a full calendar year. We had hoped that animals that were previously forced to go into villages or Mozambique for water will stay permanently now! Trail camera pictures and reports are very, very positive indeed and we are thrilled with the overall results!

Area	Implemented by	Capacity l/h	Equipping/ status	Goal for 2023	Status year end 2023	2024
Ward 1, Bongiroad	UNDP	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Build a DAPU base here	Base built & operational.	Maintain
Ward 1, Baobab	UNDP	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol	Working well.	Maintain
Dande Safari Area, Matemba Jesse	UNDP	6,000l l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol	Working well.	Maintain
Dande East	UNDP	30,000 l/h	<u>Delayed due to funding.</u>	Complete by December 2023. Possibly with CM Safaris co fund.	<u>No resolution from UNDP yet.</u>	Push for resolution & completion
Dande East, Kabveve	CMS	5,000 l/h	Completed 2021	Maintain & Patrol	Working well.	Maintain
Dande East Kabveve	AWF	5,000 l/h	Completed 2022	Maintain & Patrol.	Working well.	Maintain



### **13. Boundary cut lines**

The boundary lines (80km) in Dande East were completed in 2013, re done in 2021, and now we simply maintain those lines as roads for which to deploy scouts and to burn against – they have been very useful indeed.

### **14. Collaring elephants**

The Research Unit of Biodiversity (UO/CSIC/PA) from Complutense University, Spain contacted us about collaring 5 elephants (3 bulls and 2 cows) which is exactly the type of project that we would support. They wish to study the “Influence of habitat conservation actions on elephant movements and poaching rates in the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA” in Zimbabwe. The collaring is sitting in Madrid and sadly due to bureaucratic issues in Spain the project has until further notice been postponed.

### **15. The Gonono Campfire Club**

Alfa the DAPU manager in the East has set up a CAMPFIRE CLUB where he goes to the local schools along with a TV, (and generator) and shows the kids various wildlife movies, sets them work and holds quiz evenings. This is an initiative that we commend Alfa for initiating and one that we plan to make sure continues! Plans are afoot to roll this same club out in Kanyemba and Angwa via DAPU.



## **16. The Pedza Pasi and Gonono Primary Schools**

Over the course of 2021 & 2022, we had the great pleasure and privilege in renovating the Gonono and Pedza Pasi Primary schools with and on behalf of the Jack and Marjorie Schillinger Foundation.

In rural Zimbabwe, something like 50% of kids leave school after “grade 7” which is basically 12 years old. So, we decided to focus on the 6 – 12-year old’s in the hope that we can help them leave with basic Writing, Math and English and a school certificate. It has been a genuinely rewarding project, and student enrolment has jumped up from 150 pupils (ages 5 – 12) to closer to 500 at Gonono and 300 in Pedza Primary. Notably the schools also have a full staff compliment for probably the first time ever. Of course, these projects are never complete – there is always lots to do! In October 2023 we broke ground in the construction on an all-new classroom block at the Gonono Primary School and all being equal expect that it may be complete by February of 2024. Next pictures will be of a complete project being handed over!

We would so welcome more folk getting involved in the education side and encourage every hunter to bring out a few small things for the kids!



Materials on site



The new block pegged out in the foreground.





Floors in and walls going up.



Window level – work stopped for holidays 2023.

**The Annual Charlton McCallum Safaris soccer tournament**

For 14 years now we have held a knockout soccer tournament, Angwa vs Kanyemba! These two areas have x 9 teams each and play knockout tournaments at ward level, then send forward their best team to the finals. C.M Safaris then host a best of ward 1 vs best of ward 2 match. There is normally a crowd of +2000 folk and allot of transport and refreshments are provided! Referees are from Zambia or Mozambique to keep it clean! Anyhow there is always a very spirited match and in 2023 The Kanyemba F.C took the trophy back home! I believe in 14 years the winner has come from the Kanyemba area 9 times!



The Kanyemba F.C,  
2023 champions

**17. We must extend our profound appreciation to the following for their support:**

- **The African Wildlife Foundation** <https://www.awf.org>

The AWF quietly behind the scenes helps DAPU especially in “the East”. We are enjoying the benefits of two water projects paid for by them and the use of one tractor.

- **The Dallas Safaris Club – Foundation and the Lubbock Chapter of Dallas Safari Club** <https://dscf.org>

DSC Foundation and the Lubbock Chapter have been our single biggest financial and moral supporter for many years now! Mobility is the single biggest challenge for DAPU and the DSCF have provided two land cruisers – one for “the North” and the second in “the East” and both vehicles have literally not stopped since new! They are both tracked daily via satellite so that we can make sure they are used only for the purpose intended.

Not often that these vehicles are in the same place at the same time!



Sorting through DAPU rations November 2023



- **Flying for Wildlife** <http://www.flyingforwildlife.org>

FFW has grown immeasurably in the last couple of years. They now have two of their very own aircraft. All volunteer pilots include Richard Tennant, Hannes Scholtz and Richard Calder. All flying is gratis to DAPU – it costs us nothing, and those who understand how expensive aviation is in Africa, will appreciate how significant this is!!!

October and November are great times to fly as:

- a. the visibility is much improved and
- b. We have no hunters out if the field.
- c. This is the time of the year that new fields are cleared and charcoal making seems to begin.



Z-FFW, A savannah S, perfect for its mission.

- **Trackit** (Richard Tennant and Hannes Scholtz also of Flying for Wildlife)  
Provide free, real time satellite monitoring of the two DAPU vehicles. This has saved significantly on fuel and vehicle costs and has also helped us become much smarter with servicing and positioning of vehicles!

- **The Sylvarnus Charitable Trust**  
Have supported DAPU since 2015 to the tune of US\$5,000 to US\$7,000 per annum! They do so very quietly, and humbly - we sincerely hope that we do make them proud supporters!

- **African Safari Club of Florida Conservation Fund**  
Made a significant donation of US\$4,000 to DAPU. Once again, we really hope to grow our partnership with them and do justice to do faith, they have showed in us.

- **Individual donors**

As previously mentioned, we have been truly humbled by all the kind folk who have donated to DAPU! Your generosity knows no bounds, and we will be eternally indebted to you. In thanks for your support, we shall endeavour to keep DAPU up and running to its fullest capabilities. We shall strive at all costs to keep poaching at bay, with the well-being of wildlife foremost in our minds.

Buzz and I simply cannot tell you what a relief all these contributions have been to us. We now go into the third period with enough cash on hand to keep DAPU going strongly for the rest of the year and into 2024.

- **Conservation Force**

We continue to work hand in hand with John and Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force. John and Chrissie are proud hunters and legends in the fight for our way of life and the wild places that we all love. They work selflessly and endlessly in aid of conservation and to protect the rights of hunters around the world. Thank you, John, and Chrissie!

Conservation Force is a registered non – profit 501(c) (3) public foundation.

**How to make a Tax-Deductible donation:**

Please make a check out to:

Conservation Force

Mail to:

C/O John J. Jackson, III  
3240 S. 1-10 SERVICE ROAD W.  
SUITE 200, METAIRIE,  
LOUISIANA 70001  
USA

Check Ref: DAPU

Conservation Force Contact:

JOHN J. JACKSON, III  
TEL: (504) 837 - 1233  
FAX: (504) 837 – 1145  
Email: [jjw-no@att.net](mailto:jjw-no@att.net)  
Website: [www.conservationforce.org](http://www.conservationforce.org)

**DAPU Income 2023**

**# 1. Donations.**

Myron Repka	\$	500.00
DR. Hans-Joachim Wieckmann	\$	350.00
Davis Peterson / Peter Stewart Painting	\$	1,500.00
Darryl Tones	\$	1,000.00
Trevor McEntee	\$	995.00
Dave Katzenstein	\$	3,000.00
David W. Kohlhorst	\$	1,000.00
Burton Foundation	\$	2,000.00
Jerry E. Jurena	\$	500.00
Colvin T. Matheson	\$	1,000.00
Richard B. Negley	\$	3,000.00
J. W. Grage	\$	100.00
Arthur E. Wendelken	\$	100.00
Brian Skeuse	\$	1,000.00
Gary Kraudelt	\$	100.00
J. D. Crouch II	\$	1,000.00
James Monte Gingery	\$	1,000.00
Michael J. Bayer	\$	1,000.00
Tim Rupli	\$	1,000.00
Mike core	\$	1,000.00
Louis Witwer	\$	250.00
Keith Shope	\$	500.00
Keith Dematteis	\$	200.00
Sylvarnus Trust	\$	7,000.00
DSC F/ Lubock donation	\$	30,000.00
African Safari Club of Florida Conservation Fund	\$	4,000.00
<b># 1 Total donations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>63,095.00</b>
<b># 2. Hunting client levies</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,890.00</b>
<b># 3. Charlton McCallum Safaris</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>70,638.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>153,623.00</b>

**DAPU Expenses 2023**

<u># 1 Wages, rewards &amp; rations.</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Game Scouts</u>	<u>Management</u>	<u>Rations</u>	<u>Rewards</u>	<u>Netting</u>	<u>Total</u>
	January	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (982.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (6,422.00)
	February	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (100.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (5,540.00)
	March	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (761.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (6,201.00)
	April	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (10.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (5,450.00)
	May	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (232.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (5,672.00)
	June	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (863.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (6,303.00)
	July	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (2,261.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (7,701.00)
	August	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (196.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (5,636.00)
	September	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (424.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (5,864.00)
	October	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (607.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (6,047.00)
	November	\$ (2,760.00)	\$ (1,605.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (102.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (5,542.00)
	December	\$ (5,520.00)	\$ (3,210.00)	\$ (875.00)	\$ (665.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (10,470.00)
		\$ (35,880.00)	\$ (20,865.00)	\$ (10,500.00)	\$ (7,203.00)	\$ (2,400.00)	\$ (76,848.00)
<b># 2 Equipment expenses</b>	Ammunition (3 cases)						\$ (750.00)
	Garmin inReach \$108/mo. January - December						\$ (1,296.00)
	Pedza School & Angwa clinic pumps.						\$ (600.00)
	Uniforms – branded – Tselentis						\$ (1,073.00)
	Mecca 1 service & shocks						\$ (2,090.00)
	New tires – AFK 6838						\$ (852.00)
	ACX 3232 major service						\$ (3,135.00)
	DAPU tents (x 10)						\$ (3,000.00)
	<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Mileage (Km)</b>	<b>.km cost</b>				<b>\$ (12,796.40)</b>
<b># 3 DSC - F Vehicles x 3</b>	MECA # 1 - (DAPU 1)	37,646.00 KM	US\$0.60				\$ (22,587.60)
As per Sat Tracking x \$.6/km	ACX 3232- (DAPU 2)	42,245.00 KM	US\$0.60				\$ (25,347.00)
	AFK 6838 - (DAPU 3)	26,740.00 KM	US\$0.60				\$ (16,044.00)
	<b>Total Km</b>	<b>106,631.00 Km</b>					<b>\$ (63,978.60)</b>
	<b>Total DAPU expenses YTD 2023</b>						<b>\$ (153,623.00)</b>
	<b>Total DAPU Income YTD 2023</b>					<b>\$ 153,623.00</b>	
	<b>Credit/ debit carried forward to third period 2023</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

**Pedza Primary School (desks)**

<b>Dave Katzenstein</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,325.00</b>	
Desks (teachers & pupils)			\$ (5,000.00)
Transport			\$ (1,325.00)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>	

**Gonono Primary school  
(new building)**

	<b>Schillinger Foundation</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25,300.00</b>	
	<b>Susan &amp; Flip Flippen</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	
31-Oct	Hardware (incl 50 bags cement)		\$ (1,329.00)	Complete
	Cash (bricks, sand & labor)		\$ (6,000.00)	Complete
1-Nov	Cement (250 bags)		\$ (4,000.00)	Complete
	Window frames x 20		\$ (1,255.00)	Complete
	Transport x 4		\$ (2,800.00)	Complete
20-Nov	Termite poison		\$ (240.00)	Complete
20-Nov	Door frames and wire mesh		\$ (665.00)	Complete
20-Nov	Plastic		\$ (210.00)	Complete
	Setting out foundations as per plans		\$ (100.00)	Complete
	Dig foundations		\$ (300.00)	Complete
	Throwing footing concrete		\$ (450.00)	Complete
	Building box to slab level		\$ (600.00)	Complete
	Backfill and compact		\$ (250.00)	Complete
	Throw the slab		\$ (400.00)	Complete
	Brickwork to window level		\$ (700.00)	Complete
19-Dec	To Cill height		\$ (300.00)	Complete
19-Dec	15 000 bricks and transport		\$ (1,025.00)	Complete
19-Dec	70 x cement		\$ (1,000.00)	Complete
	Ring beam and brickwork to roof			
3-Jan	level		\$ (450.00)	Complete
3-Jan	Bricks and transport		\$ (410.00)	Complete
3-Jan	Windowpanes, deformed bar hardware list.		\$ (3,000.00)	Complete
3-Jan	Transport steel to school		\$ (700.00)	Complete
	Plaster walls inside and out		\$ (700.00)	
	Internal and verandah floors		\$ (300.00)	
	Roofing contractor deposit		\$ (14,000.00)	Complete
	Roofing contractor balance		\$ (4,102.00)	
	Transport of roofing materials		\$ (1,400.00)	Estimated
	Doors/ carpentry		\$ (1,000.00)	Estimated
	Painting		\$ (4,000.00)	Estimated
	Extras		\$ (2,500.00)	Estimated
	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(54,186.00)</b>	
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(23,886.00)</b>	