



**Wildlife**  
**Conservation**  
**Action**

ANNUAL REPORT

**20**  
**24**



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## Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on our organization's journey, we are filled with gratitude and awe at the incredible progress we've made together. The year 2024 has been a remarkable one, marked by numerous milestones and achievements that have brought us closer to our mission.

We are proud of the impact we've made, from establishing a Research and Conservation Leadership program at Chizarira National Park to launching our ambitious 5-Year Strategic Plan, which will guide our work from 2024 to 2028. These achievements demonstrate our

commitment to advancing conservation and research, and to ensuring a sustainable future for our planet.

However, our celebration of these milestones is also tempered by sadness. In 2024, we suffered a devastating loss with the passing of our beloved colleague, Peter Mukuli. Peter was a dedicated and passionate member of our team, serving as a caretaker at our research centre. His hard work and dedication to ensuring the smooth operation of our facilities were invaluable to our organization. His tragic death due to an animal attack has left a void in our hearts and organization. We will continue to honor his memory and legacy through our work.

**We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you who has contributed to our success. Your trust, investment, and partnership have been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing our journey together.**

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Sincerely,  
WCA Founder and Executive Director



# Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of our organization. To our dedicated staff, who have worked tirelessly to advance our mission and vision, we thank you for your hard work and commitment.

To our board members, who have provided strategic guidance and oversight, we appreciate your leadership and expertise. To our partners and collaborators, who have worked with us to achieve our goals, we value your partnership and shared commitment to our mission. To our donors, whose financial support has made our work possible, we are grateful for your trust and investment in our organization.



## Our Mission

Strengthening the capacity of local communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in a changing climate for improved livelihoods and wildlife conservation.

## Our Vision

Local-led and community-driven human-wildlife coexistence for improved livelihoods and thriving wildlife populations.

## Our Values

- » Our teamwork is unique, all for each and each for all. All team members are there to support each member to achieve his or her assigned goals, and each member is there to support all others to achieve organizational goals.
- » We are passionate and dedicated to our work, and do it with joy and fun.
- » We are very adaptive to navigating the constantly evolving conditions.
- » We value and create space for diversity of perspective, using them to guide our search for innovative solutions.
- » Our motivation is to achieve our goals.
- » We upload a culture of respect, honouring everyone, in and outside our organization.



# Our 2024

## Numbers at a Glance



**20,595.3 km** covered by Community Guardians, responding to Human-Wildlife Conflict incidents, providing solutions, and enhancing community safety and livestock protection

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**11 elephants collared**, enabling better tracking and management of their movements to reduce human-wildlife conflict and protect both communities and wildlife.

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**30 Patrons** trained, equipping them to mentor students in protecting wildlife and caring for the environment.

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**2684 people** reached through Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation meetings, resulting in better conflict prevention, improved livestock protection, reduced retaliation against wildlife, and strengthened community resilience.

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**52 schools** reached with conservation education, equipping students with knowledge and skills to promote sustainable environmental stewardship.

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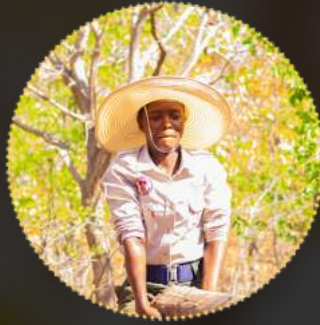
**80 households** benefiting from the beekeeping project, enhancing livelihoods through sustainable income generation and promoting biodiversity conservation.

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**9 seminars** held, reaching **694 students**, fostering awareness about the importance of protecting natural habitats and promoting sustainable practices for future generations.

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**1526 community patrols** conducted by the Community Guardians, fostering coexistence and safeguarding lives and livelihoods.

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**59 students** attended the Kids Conservation Camp, gaining valuable knowledge on wildlife conservation and becoming young ambassadors for protecting the environment.

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**224 Lion Lights** benefiting **56 households**, providing safety, peace of mind, and a sustainable solution to human-wildlife coexistence.

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**6 radio shows** held, spreading awareness and fostering dialogue on wildlife conservation and human-wildlife coexistence.

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**2,136 herd assessments** conducted, providing valuable insights for better livestock management and reducing human-wildlife conflict in the community.

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**80 Mobile Bomas** deployed, providing secure and sustainable solutions for protecting livestock from wildlife predation and improving community livelihoods.

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**3 field trips** conducted with **138 students** participating, providing hands-on learning experiences in wildlife conservation and environmental care.

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## A 5-Year Roadmap for Success

Wildlife Conservation Action (WCA) is committed to strengthening the capacity of local communities to mitigate human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in a changing climate. Our mission is to empower local communities to manage and conserve wildlife while promoting human-wildlife coexistence and supporting climate-resilient conservation.

Over the next five years (2024-2028), WCA will focus on four strategic objectives: strengthening community capacity, promoting human-wildlife coexistence, supporting climate-resilient conservation, and enhancing partnerships and collaboration.

To achieve these objectives, WCA will implement a range of strategies and activities. These include providing training and capacity-building

programs for local communities, developing and implementing effective HWC mitigation strategies, promoting ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience, and fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.

Through this strategic plan, WCA aims to make a significant impact on HWC mitigation and wildlife conservation in Zimbabwe. We envision a future where local communities are empowered to manage and conserve wildlife, and where humans and wildlife coexist in harmony.

With the support of our partners and stakeholders, we are confident that we can achieve our mission and create a better future for both people and wildlife.



## Empowering Community-Led Conservation through training of ESC.



To strengthen community-led conservation and address governance challenges in Zimbabwe's CAMPFIRE program, we conducted Environmental Sub-Committee (ESC) trainings in five districts: Mbire, Nyaminyami, Chipinge, Chiredzi, and Binga.

These trainings aimed to enhance the capacity and capability of community representatives, including knowledge of natural resource governance, effective leadership, and communication with their constituencies. By empowering local community institutions, we seek to promote sustainable natural resource management and improve benefits for local populations.

The ESC trainings are a critical component of our efforts to support the Community CAMPFIRE Association of Zimbabwe (CCAZ), a national body formed by community representatives to address governance challenges in the CAMPFIRE program.

Through these trainings, we are helping to build a stronger, more effective community-led conservation movement in Zimbabwe. By investing in the capacity and capability of local community institutions, we are confident that we can achieve long-term, sustainable conservation outcomes that benefit both people and wildlife.



## Greater coverage, greater impact by our community guardians

Acquiring motorbikes for our Community Guardians has revolutionised our approach to addressing Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC). As the foot soldiers of our organisation, Community Guardians are instrumental in mitigating HWC and promoting coexistence with wildlife. With their newfound mobility, they can now cover wider areas, accessing remote communities and responding promptly to HWC incidents.

This increased accessibility has enabled us to expand our conservation impact, engaging more communities and reducing human-wildlife conflicts. By empowering local communities to take ownership of conservation, we are fostering a culture of coexistence and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The motorbikes have been a game-changer in our conservation efforts, and we are confident that our community-led approach will yield long-term, sustainable results for both people and wildlife.

"When we started in 2021, we did all our patrols on foot. Later, we got bicycles, but they were hard to use and often broke, so we went back to walking. As a mother, it was difficult because I had to leave my baby at home for long hours. Sometimes, I would take my baby with me to work. But with the motorbikes, I can travel further and leave my baby at home, knowing I can come back quickly. We are very happy with this new development."—  
Tapfumaneyi Sigundu, Community Guardian

We are excited to witness the continued positive impact of this development and remain committed to furthering our mission to protect wildlife and wild places!

# Human-wildlife conflict mitigation program

Human-wildlife conflict has continuously impacted livelihoods and biodiversity across Zimbabwe and beyond, working with communities to find innovative solutions to this challenge remains a key priority for us.

Through various initiatives and interventions, such as predator proof mobile bomas, lion lights, fenced kraals, raised kraals and some workshops, we have made significant strides towards achieving a better balance and promoting coexistence.





## Building Capacity for Coexistence

**2684**

people reached through Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation meetings, resulting in better conflict prevention, improved livestock protection, reduced retaliation against wildlife, and strengthened community resilience.

Efforts to enhance community capacity for human-wildlife conflict mitigation were undertaken through a series of meetings and training sessions.

Training was provided on effective HWC mitigation strategies, focusing on community-led initiatives and innovative solutions, and sensitization meetings were conducted to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife collaring and monitoring.

Additionally, meetings were facilitated with local farmers

and herders to discuss effective livestock and crop management practices that minimized the risk of HWC. Training on mobile boma management was also provided, focusing on best practices for protecting livestock from predators.

These initiatives reached a total of 2 684 community members, contributing significantly to enhancing community capacity for HWC mitigation, promoting a culture of coexistence, and reducing the risk of human-wildlife conflicts.



## Safeguarding Livestock with Lion Lights



The Lion Lights initiative is a conservation effort that has been implemented to reduce human-lion conflict in rural areas. Solar-powered lights have been distributed and

fitted around kraals in lion-prone zones, providing a deterrent against lion attacks.

To date, **56 households** have received Lion Lights, benefiting from the increased safety and security they provide.

The lights are effective in reducing lion attacks on livestock. As a result, the initiative has had a positive impact on the livelihoods of local farmers, who have experienced a reduction in livestock losses due to lion predation.

The Lion Lights initiative has contributed to a safer coexistence between humans and lions in these areas.

## Turning Hardship into Hope: Wairo Siadhembe's Mobile Boma Success Story

Wairo Siadhembe, a farmer and beneficiary of the predator proof mobile boma, exemplifies resilience in the face of the El Niño drought's harsh challenges. In 2024, Zimbabwe experienced one of its worst droughts in recent years, devastating crops and leaving many farmers struggling to survive.

Before adopting the mobile boma, Wairo's harvests were minimal—just one cart of maize and sorghum. However, after introducing the mobile boma and rotating it across his fields, his soil became enriched with cow dung and softened by livestock trampling. This transformation resulted in harvests of up to three carts of maize and 28 buckets of sorghum during better seasons. This year's drought reduced his harvest to only 10 buckets of sorghum. Yet, Wairo has sustained his family by relying on his livestock, which are also protected by the Mobile Boma.

"As a farmer, you have to depend on everything. If there is no water, like what happened last season, we rely on livestock. I could have had more than 50 cows now, but I sell some to take care of my



wife and grandchildren," he says. In the past year, Wairo sold two cows and ten goats and used the proceeds to support his family. He also utilised six goats for food. Keeping a smaller herd has allowed him to better manage his resources.

Despite the hardships, Wairo remains optimistic as he prepares for the upcoming farming season. By diligently rotating his mobile boma throughout the year, he has enriched his soil and hopes that the rains will reward his efforts with a fruitful harvest.

Wairo's story is a testament to the resilience and determination of farmers who, with innovative tools like the mobile boma, adapt and thrive even in the face of adversity.





## Enhancing small livestock safety

A total of **312 raised kraals** and **16 fenced kraals** were constructed to address the issue of small livestock predation. These enclosures provide a secure environment for goats and sheep to rest, reducing the risk of predation.

The program has transitioned from traditional wood-raised kraals to chain link fencing, which has proven to be more effective and durable.

This shift has not only improved the safety of small livestock but

also has environmental benefits, as it reduces the number of trees cut down to create traditional wood-raised kraals.

The fenced kraals also incorporate live fencing, which has enhanced the security of the kraals while promoting habitat restoration and biodiversity conservation.

This approach has helped farmers protect their livestock, ensuring their safety and strengthening their livelihoods



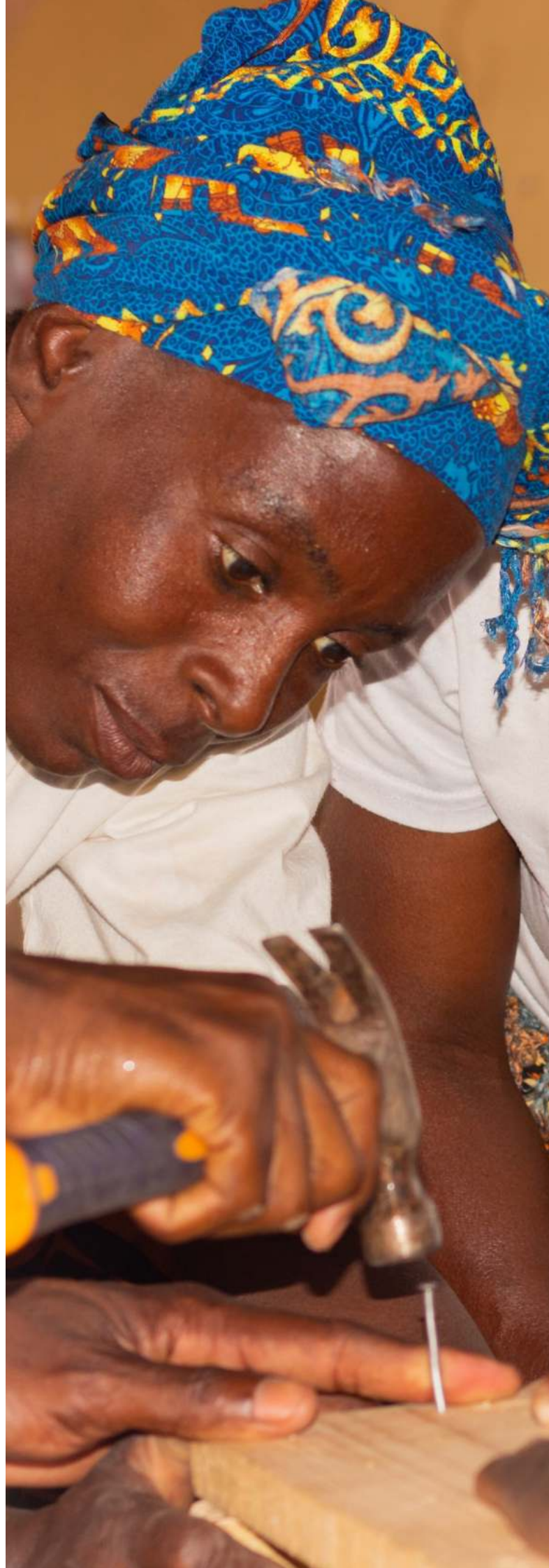
## Expanding Coexistence Efforts in Mbire

The Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (HWCM) program has expanded its presence in Mbire with the addition of a **HWCM Project Assistant and 6 new Community Guardians**.

These Community Guardians, who hail from the local areas, are well-positioned to understand the unique needs and challenges of their communities.

They are assisting communities in implementing measures to protect livestock and crops from wildlife damage.

By working closely with residents, the Community Guardians are helping to reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife and promote coexistence between people and wildlife in the area.







# Climate smart livelihoods program

The Climate-Smart Livelihoods Program focuses on promoting resilient livelihoods that address the impacts of climate change while ensuring compatibility with wildlife conservation for communities living alongside wildlife in drought-prone areas.

The program supports sustainable income-generating activities that contribute to the regeneration of degraded landscapes and the restoration of habitats, enabling both ecosystems and rural communities to thrive. These livelihoods are supported by measures that reduce human-wildlife conflict (HWC), helping communities stay resilient against wildlife raids and attacks while promoting coexistence and sustainable development in vulnerable areas.





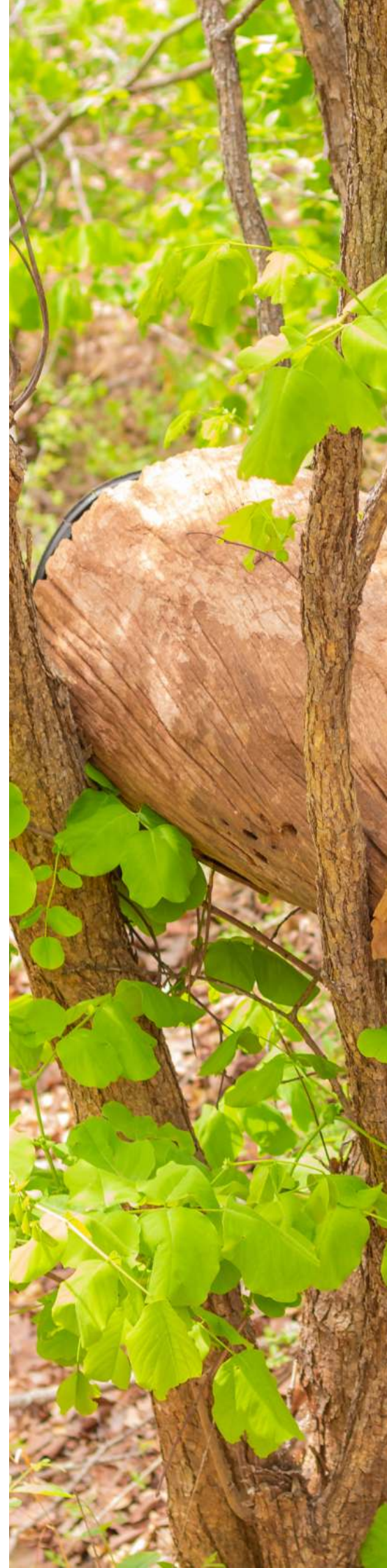
## Hives of Hope: Supporting Communities Through Beekeeping

The Beekeeping Project in Nyaminyami has experienced significant growth this year, becoming an integral part of the Climate-Smart Livelihoods (CSL) program. Following successful meetings with local communities, our team launched comprehensive training on beekeeping best practices and distributed beehives and equipment to households in the area.

One inspiring story comes from Gregory Siamulema, a local father of three kids who has already achieved success with his beekeeping venture. "After the training and receiving the beehives and equipment, my hives have been colonised, and I even made an extra hive to add to my apiary. Many of my peers are now motivated by my success," Gregory shared. "I have 3 kids, and I hope the honey I harvest will help me earn money to send them to school next year." **The Beekeeping Project is supporting 80 households in Nyaminyami**, helping them generate income through honey production and sales.

This initiative not only improves livelihoods but also promotes environmental conservation by enhancing crop pollination, supporting biodiversity, and reducing human-wildlife conflict by deterring elephants and decreasing crop damage.

Through this project, we are providing a climate-resilient, environmentally friendly alternative to traditional livelihoods. It empowers the community to adapt to climate change challenges while promoting sustainable natural resource management. The success of Gregory and others highlights the transformative potential of the Beekeeping Project, and we look forward to its continued growth and success.







## Collaborating for Change: Insights from the Sebungwe Stakeholder Workshop

In 2024, we marked a significant milestone by convening a stakeholder workshop in Binga. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from the Sebungwe Region, including Chiefs from Nyaminyami, Gokwe, and Binga, District Development Coordinators from Kariba and Binga, and representatives from various organisations.

These areas are critical to our work due to their rich biodiversity, abundant wildlife, and frequent human-wildlife conflict cases. Using the “4 Returns” framework, participants identified the most pressing needs of Sebungwe communities, gaining valuable insights into the region’s complex challenges.

The discussions also highlighted numerous opportunities for sustainable development, conservation, and community empowerment. Chief Sinansengwe of Binga underscored the importance of sustained collaboration, stating, “This should not be a one-time event but a continuous effort that brings real and lasting change to the Sebungwe Region.” His message resonated deeply with participants, who recognised the workshop as the starting point of a long-term journey towards positive transformation.

Following the workshop, WCA, with support from Commonland, is now translating these ideas and discussions into concrete actions. This includes developing a comprehensive report outlining the region’s key challenges, opportunities, and recommendations. We are excited to continue this critical work in the years ahead.





# Research and Conservation Leadership





## Setting the Ground: A New Hub for Conservation Excellence

Deep within the stunning landscapes of Chizarira National Park in Binga, a transformative initiative is taking shape. We are proud to announce the establishment of the Research and Conservation Leadership Centre, a cutting-edge hub poised to drive meaningful impact for both people and wildlife.

This exciting venture is dedicated to advancing conservation through research, innovation, and leadership development. The centre will conduct pioneering research into wildlife behaviours, habitats, and population dynamics, generating critical insights to inform and enhance our conservation strategies. By leveraging science and innovation, we aim to make a lasting impact on the region's biodiversity.

However, our vision extends far beyond research. We are committed to cultivating the next generation of conservation leaders by offering mentorship and equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to protect and preserve our natural world.

By investing in future leaders, we are ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for conservation efforts. Chizarira National Park, with its breathtaking Mucheni Gorge, provides visitors with a unique and unforgettable experience. By visiting the park and supporting our work, you will contribute to a deeper understanding of wildlife conservation and help develop solutions to protect endangered species and their habitats.

Your support will also enable us to deliver vital assistance to the local community, creating tangible benefits for both people and wildlife. Together, we can unlock the full potential of conservation, making a lasting impact in Chizarira National Park and beyond. Join us on this incredible journey as we shape a brighter future for our natural world.



## Monitoring Elephants, Transforming Communities

Elephant conservation in Zimbabwe's Nyaminyami and Binga districts has taken a significant step forward with the successful collaring of **11 elephants**. This initiative aims to improve the understanding of elephant behaviour, habitat use, and migration patterns.

Data collected through this project informs conservation strategies, mitigating human-wildlife conflict and promoting coexistence between local communities and wildlife. Local stakeholders are engaged through a collaborative approach, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for conservation efforts.



## Empowering the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

Nurturing young minds is at the heart of our commitment to developing the next generation of conservation leaders. Currently, we are hosting three student attachées from local universities. These individuals are gaining hands-on experience in conservation research

and practice, developing skills that will shape the future of wildlife management.

Through our student attachée program, we aim to foster a culture of innovation, collaboration, and leadership among the next generation of conservationists. By providing a platform for students to engage with conservation professionals, we hope to inspire and equip them to tackle the complex conservation challenges facing our world.



# Environmental Education and Awareness





# Conservation Champions in the Making!



Our inaugural Kids Conservation Camp in Mbire District was a resounding success! In partnership with Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and support from Great Plains Foundation, **59 students** from four local schools participated in an unforgettable adventure in August 2024.

The camp offered a diverse range of activities, including inspiring presentations, exciting outdoor expeditions, safari walks, game drives, conservation-focused games, art, drama sessions, career guidance, and animal tracking. A movie night featuring *The Lion King* and a National Geographic documentary on elephants added a touch of wonder to the experience.

For many of the campers, this was their first time encountering wildlife in its natural habitat. Seeing animals roaming freely – rather than as sources of conflict – sparked wonder and a new found appreciation for conservation.

The camp achieved significant outcomes, including:

- » Enhanced knowledge and skills in environmental conservation and wildlife management.
- » Increased enthusiasm for pursuing careers in conservation.
- » Strengthened relationships among students, schools, and conservation stakeholders.

We're excited to build on this momentum, empowering even more students to become conservation leaders.

Join the movement by sponsoring our Guardians of the Wild initiative, you can help inspire a new generation of conservation champions. Your support will contribute to conserving Zimbabwe's incredible wildlife and wild places for years to come.



## Empowering Students through Field Trips

A total of **3 field trips** were conducted as part of the Kids Conservation Trip program. The trips provided opportunities for students to engage with and learn about their natural environment.

Three field trips were held in Harare, with visits to Monavale Vlei and Mukuvisi Woodlands. At these sites, students learned about birds and biodiversity species. The fourth field trip took place in Nyaminyami at Chifudze Camp, where students learned about species found in the region.

In total, **138 students** participated in the field trips. The experiences provided students with hands-on learning opportunities and exposure to various conservation topics.



## Empowering Young Conservation Champions through Guardians of the Wild Initiative

Guardians of the Wild, an innovative conservation initiative, is empowering young minds to become the next generation of

conservation leaders. Focusing on in-school students, the initiative aims to promote conservation awareness, knowledge, and community-led conservation initiatives.

A comprehensive Patrons Training program was conducted to equip **30 new patrons** with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to effectively deliver conservation education to students. Armed with co-created lesson plans, the trained patrons went on to lead engaging and interactive **Club Sessions in 31 schools, reaching 378 students.**

The impact of the Guardians of the Wild initiative has been profound, with enhanced conservation awareness and knowledge, community-led conservation initiatives, and a network of young conservation champions emerging as a result. By investing in the education and empowerment of young minds, Guardians of the Wild is shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

## Nyaminyami Unites for Conservation and Sports

Our environmental education and awareness efforts reached new heights with the launch of Conservation Sports in Nyaminyami, a pioneering initiative that merges sports with conservation awareness.

This dynamic event brought together students and community members for a vibrant day filled with sports, music, and environmental education.

The event featured 4 popular sports—football, handball, volleyball, and netball—attracting enthusiastic participation from both students and the wider community.

A highlight of the day was a friendly football match between the Patrons, the WCA team, and the Community team.

The match concluded with the presentation of footballs to the community team and local schools, accepted by the chief on behalf of the community.

Beyond the sports activities, the event included music, dance, engaging presentations, and distributing conservation awareness materials to schools.

This innovative blend of entertainment and education has generated excitement throughout the community, establishing Conservation Sports as a standout success in our environmental education initiatives.





# Financial Report

2023 and 2024 Financial Trend

	2023 (USD)	2024 (USD)
INCOME	439 854	1 570 063
EXPENDITURES:		
HUMAN RESOURCES	114 069	263 025
FIELD OPERATION	62 581	513 939
OPERATION SUPPORT	43 254	122 294

## 2024 EXPENDITURE

■ **Operation Support**

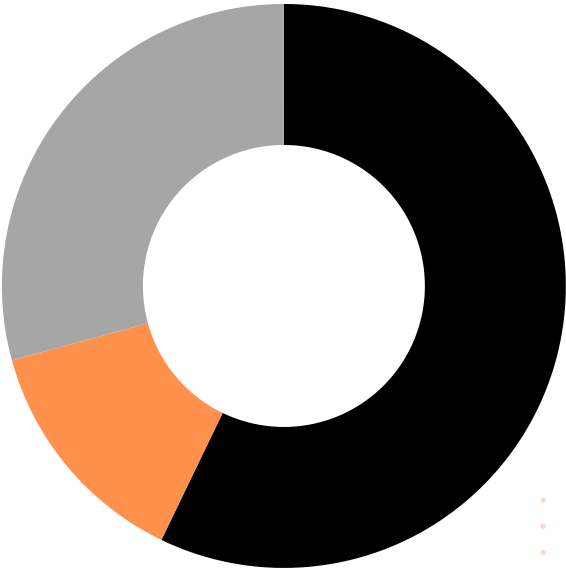
\$122 294

■ **Human Resources**

\$263 025

■ **Field Operation**

\$513 939



# Our Team







## Adopt a Community Guardian (CG)

Through our locally recruited Community Guardians, known as “Batabili”, we engage closely with communities to safeguard their livestock, crops, and lives from the potential danger and destruction caused by wildlife.

Our multifaceted approach includes responding to conflict incidents, collecting valuable conflict data, monitoring wildlife movements, alerting farmers to the presence of problem wild animals, and conducting awareness campaigns.

### Community Guardian's Basic Support:



- ◇ Allowance
- ◇ Uniforms
- ◇ Motorcycle Mileage
- ◇ Airtime and Data
- ◇ Smart Devices
- ◇ Training & Refresher Training cost

**\$6 420.55 per CG/ Year**

### Interventions:



- ◇ Predator Proof Mobile Bomas
- ◇ Lion Lights
- ◇ Chainlink Raised Kraals
- ◇ Barbed Wire Reinforced Kraals
- ◇ Human-wildlife conflict mitigation trainings
- ◇ Livestock and Crop management trainings

**\$5 688.90 per CG/ Year**



**Total:  
\$11 688.45 Per CG/ year**

Join the cause. Adopt a Community Guardian Today!  
Let's empower communities and protect wildlife together.  
Email: [moreangelsm@wildlifeconservationaction.org](mailto:moreangelsm@wildlifeconservationaction.org)  
for more information

# Our Partners and Donors

We would like to thank our partners and donors for their generous support and commitment to our work. Your contributions have been a big part of our efforts to protect wildlife, care for the environment, and help local communities. With your help, we have been able to create programs that make a real difference, from reducing human-wildlife conflicts to educating children about conservation.

Your partnership means a lot to us, as it shows that we share the same vision for a better future where people and wildlife can thrive together. Thank you for believing in us and for continuing to support our work.



Lion  
Recovery  
Fund







## **Stay Connected**

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[www.wildlifeconservationaction.org](http://www.wildlifeconservationaction.org)

## **Support our work**

Your donations to Wildlife Conservation Action will go a long way in supporting our work in developing and providing innovative solutions for humans and wildlife to coexist.

## **Donate**

