



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

Fostering harmony between

# People and Wildlife

in a changing climate



## We work to ensure both people and wildlife thrive in shared spaces

Founded in 2019, Wildlife Conservation Action (WCA) is committed to promoting human-wildlife coexistence in Zimbabwe's critical wildlife landscapes. Integrating indigenous knowledge and scientific expertise, we partner closely with communities to craft effective solutions for human-wildlife conflict, benefitting both livelihoods and wildlife, especially key species such as lions and elephants. We address pressing threats faced by these wildlife species due to habitat loss, climate change, and conflict with humans.

Using a non-lethal, culturally sensitive approach, we conduct research to understand wildlife behaviour and trends, which guides our interventions. In addition to reducing human-wildlife conflict and improving community livelihoods, the non-lethal and climate smart mitigation measures such as the use of mobile bomas, chilli farming, bee keeping and land restoration also contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by promoting sustainable agriculture practices, carbon sequestration, and enhancing ecosystem services.

We also raise awareness among the community and advising farmers on fortifying livestock enclosures, monitoring wildlife movements to protect livestock and crop fields, and collaborating with broader conservation and community associations for greater impact. We educate and raise awareness of wildlife and environmental conservation to Zimbabwe's younger generations, fostering love and understanding of their natural heritage.



## Why coexistence is vital for Zimbabwe's people and wildlife

Zimbabwe is home to some of Africa's important landscapes and iconic wildlife, including elephants, lions, cheetahs, wild dogs and more. However, since 2000, the country has experienced an alarming surge in human-wildlife conflict, often resulting in livestock predation, crop raids, human injuries and deaths. Between 2016 and 2021, for example, these conflict cases increased by nearly 300%. In 2021 and 2022, a total of 138 human lives, and over a thousand livestock were lost. This rise in conflict is mainly due to human encroachment into wildlife habitat, an increase in wildlife numbers, and climate change induced droughts which intensify the competition for resources between people and wildlife..

In addition, Zimbabwe's prolonged economic recession since 2000 significantly reduced the ability of the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) and Rural District Councils (RDC) to attend to 'problem' wild animals. Furthermore, the communities in Zimbabwe have no legal mandate nor capacity to effectively deal with the 'problem' animals, leaving them vulnerable to the increasing conflict. Consequently, this has increased hostility towards wildlife by some local communities, leading to further negative outcomes such as retaliatory killing and poaching.



## We're a team of young, ambitious Zimbabweans

Our founder, Dr Moreangels Mbizah, established WCA in response to the escalating human-wildlife conflict and wildlife population declines in the country, aiming to create an organisation that was not just about the animals or people, but both. As one of the world's leading lion ecologists, Moreangels earned her PhD from the University of Oxford and stands as a trailblazing young female African leader transforming the voice and face of conservation across the continent. Moreangels delivered a compelling **TED talk** in 2019, advocating for community-led conservation as a solution to safeguarding wildlife. She continues to use various platforms to champion this people-centered approach to conservation.

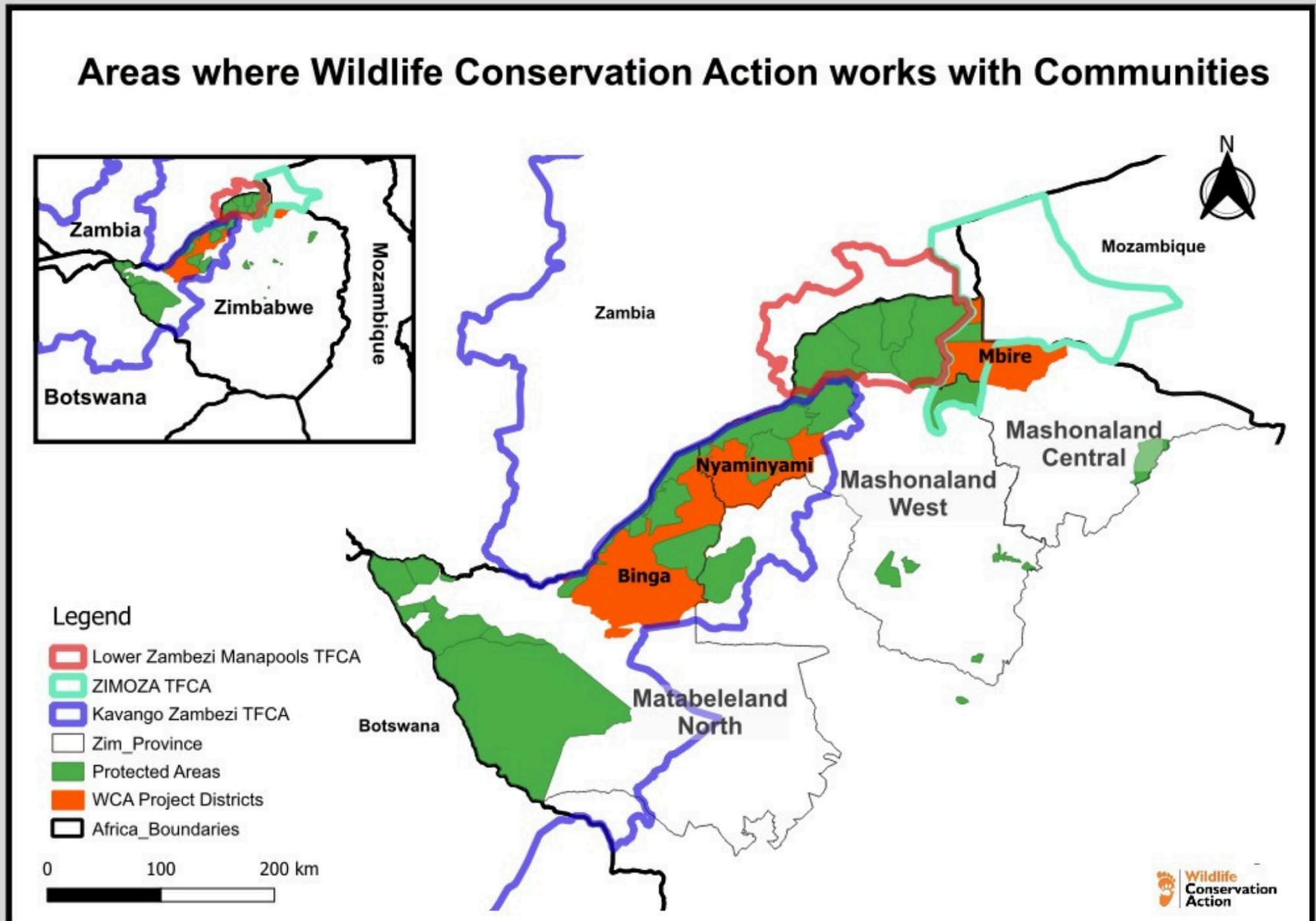
In less than five years since WCA's inception, our team has grown from three to 39 driven and dedicated young Zimbabweans committed to creating a better and more sustainable future for our communities and wildlife.



# Where we work

WCA operates largely in communal areas adjacent to wildlife protected areas, in three rural districts of the Zambezi Valley region which are: Nyaminyami, Binga and Mbire districts located in the north and north-western Zimbabwe.

The districts are important wildlife corridors where local communities share their space with wildlife. These three district we are working in are around three National Parks which are Mana Pools, Matusadona and Chizarira National Park and around six Safaria Area which are Dande, Doma, Chewore, Charara, Chete and Chirisa Safaria Area and several Conservancies. This landscape is critical for biodiversity conservation in the region as it is part of three Transfronteir Conservation Areas which are Kavango Zambezi (KAZA), Lower Zambezi-ManaPools and ZIMOZA Transfronteir Conservation Area. These three Transfrontier Conservation Areas are a transboundary, multi-use landscape of vast proportions that is critical to the future of wildlife in southern Africa.





**Our impact at a glance**

## Increased tolerance for lions and hyenas

**Our work has helped to reduce human-wildlife conflict by 61.3% over the last 3 years.**

We work with communities to mitigate conflict with wildlife mainly lions, hyenas and elephants by using non-lethal methods. We've trained, and currently employ 25. Community Guardians, who are part of the community fabric grew up in these communities and are facing the same challenges from living alongside wildlife.

The Community Guardians are the foundation of our locally led-and community-driven conservation efforts. Their work includes monitoring carnivore movements, constructing predator-proof mobile bomas and assessing livestock kraals to strengthen them. This has led to significantly fewer livestock deaths. The Community Guardians also give tailored advice to victims of human-wildlife conflict on how to avoid further attacks, which has resulted in a decline in incidences of conflict. This approach has been well-received, as it shifts from killing problem animals to finding peaceful solutions for coexistence.





## Increased tolerance for elephants

**Our Community Guardians have become a critical community resource, using early warning to help reduce conflict.**

The Community Guardians monitor the movements of elephants in the communities and use early warning systems, such as text messages and word of mouth, to raise awareness about elephant presence. WCA, through the Community Guardians, also provides farmers with training on implementing elephant deterrent measures like chilli fences and chilli bricks.

The communities receive guidance on best practices for chilli farming, and WCA facilitates connections between these farmers and potential markets for surplus chilli sales, which helps to generate extra income for families.

The safeguarded livelihoods resulting from protected crops and the economic benefits from chilli cultivation are improving tolerance for elephants.

## Promoting food security for families

The areas where we operate experience low rainfall and have poor sodic soils, leading to widespread food insecurity among households. And this is being exacerbated by climate change.

The concept of mobile bomas has proven effective in protecting livestock from predation and boosting crop yields. Bomas enhance soil fertility as cattle dung enriches the soil when cattle are confined. **In Nyaminyami, households making use of mobile bomas have seen an increase in crop productivity.**

Additionally, using elephant mitigation strategies, such as chilli deterrents, enables farmers to sell surplus chilli for improved household income. Growing chillies is also a way of climate change adaptation for these communities who are constantly experiencing climate change-induced droughts.

WCA is also implementing the herding for health (H4H) model which seeks to strengthen the capacity of local communities living around these wildlife areas to manage their livestock in a holistic manner that results in the restoration of rangelands and wildlife habitats, improved livelihoods and the protection of lions and other wildlife species.



# Empowering Communities Through Environmental Education and Awareness

WCA empowers local communities and conservationists through education, training, and capacity building, addressing food insecurity, poor soil quality, and climate change. Our initiatives include Conservation Education Clubs, integrating conservation content into school curricula, and connecting children with nature through hands-on experiential learning experiences. We also leverage social media for environmental stewardship and implement Training and Capacity-building programs to develop effective conservation leaders and environmental stewards who can drive positive change and ensure a sustainable future for Africa's natural heritage.



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CHIZARIRA NATIONAL PARK

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

## Advancing Conservation through Research and Leadership

WCA's conservation efforts are grounded in rigorous scientific research, providing critical insights into wildlife ecology and informing effective conservation action. Our initiatives include Collaring for Coexistence, which helps monitor wildlife movement patterns and identify and protect wildlife corridors as well as reduce human-wildlife conflict; Camera trapping for species behaviour and population dynamics; and Wildlife abundance assessments to inform conservation strategies. Additionally, we nurture the next generation of conservation leaders through our Undergraduate and Graduate Training programs, equipping them with theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and hands-on experience to tackle complex environmental challenges and safeguard biodiversity.



## Looking forward

These high-level goals will guide our future work, leveraging the foundation we've built in recent years. With ambitious targets set for each goal, we aim to amplify our impact.



## Goal: Human-wildlife Conflict Mitigation

- Improve understanding of human aspirations and behaviour to inform coexistence interventions.
- Continue to reduce livestock losses caused by large carnivores with the use of non-lethal, community-led and locally designed human-carnivore conflict (HCC) mitigation measures.
- Similarly, continue to reduce crop losses caused by elephants and other large herbivores with the use of non-lethal, community-led and locally designed mitigation measures.



## Goal: Climate Smart Livelihoods

- Increase household income and economic benefits from sustainably living alongside wildlife. We want to see at least 2,000 households benefitting from predator proof mobile bomas by 2028, and mobile boma beneficiaries registering zero livestock losses to predation.
- Incentivize the protection of wildlife and increase community economic benefits through improving livestock herd health, championing holistic land management and restoration for better productivity and climate change adaptation and mitigation.



## Goal: Research and Conservation Leadership

- Improve understanding of wildlife behaviour and ecology to inform conservation action and management. This includes having better insights into wildlife population trends, movement patterns, changes in behaviour, and more.
- Strengthen the capacity of the next generation of conservation leaders by providing internships to undergraduate students, mentorship to women, establishing networks for career opportunities, and providing field and skills training at our Research and Conservation Leadership Centre.



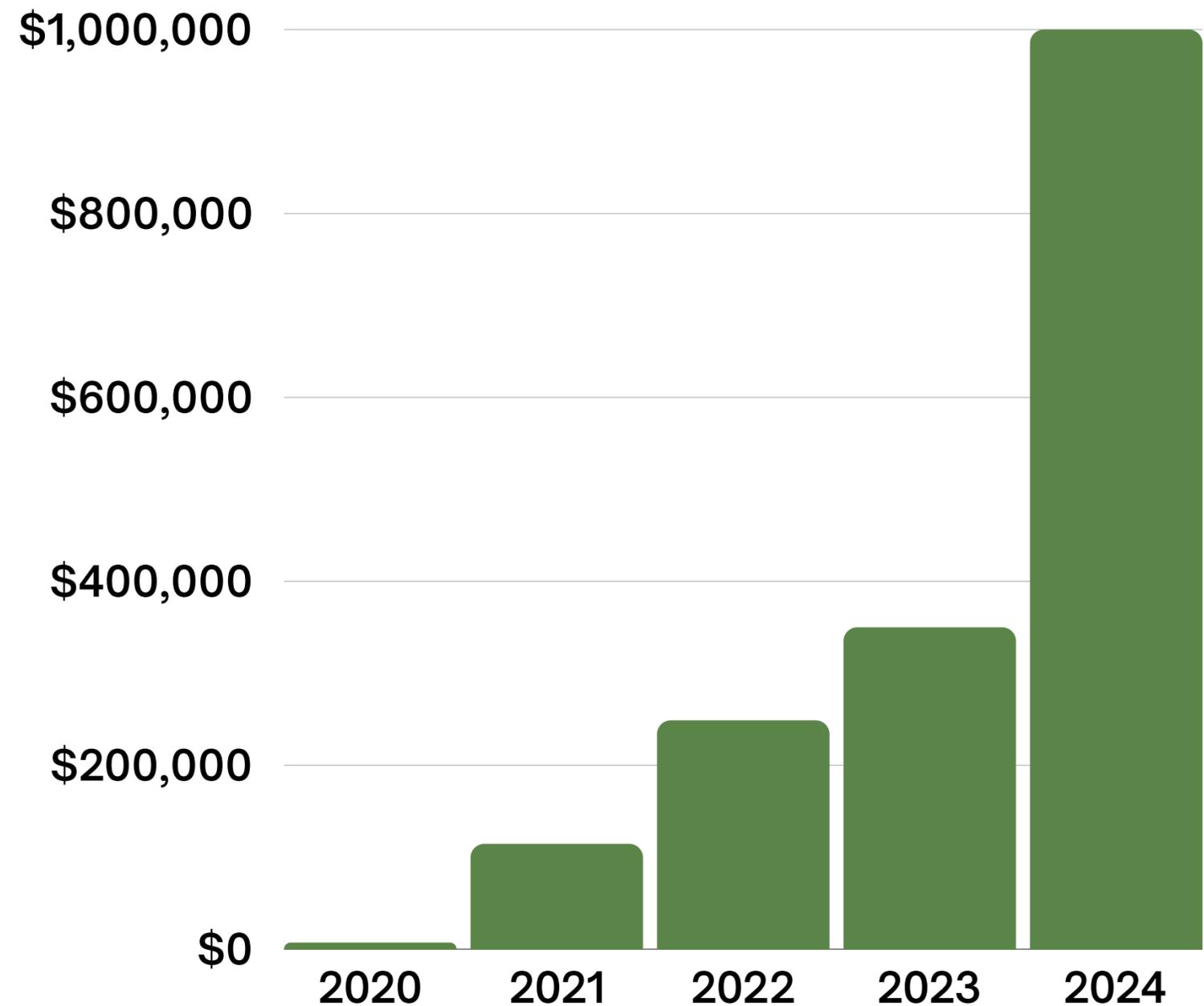
## Goal: Environmental Education and Awareness

- Increase environmental and wildlife conservation knowledge among the youth and members of the community. This includes:
  - Co-designing conflict mitigation strategies with the communities, and sharing knowledge through field visits, dialogue and workshops.
  - Increasing conservation knowledge in schools by helping establish wildlife clubs, developing an environmental education manual, training teachers, conducting learning visits to National Parks, hosting Kids Conservation Camps, and more, reaching and impacting thousands of young people.

# Our growing budget

The work we do is urgent and critical, and our budget has continued to grow every year to meet the demand of our interventions. With an expanding scope and diversified areas of focus, our impact continues to broaden.

In 2025, our goal is to secure at least **\$1,600,000**. This funding will enable us to reach some of our important, ambitious targets and further expand our programmes in alignment with our strategic goals.





# Stay Connected

[moreangelsm@wildlifeconservationaction.org](mailto:moreangelsm@wildlifeconservationaction.org)

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



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