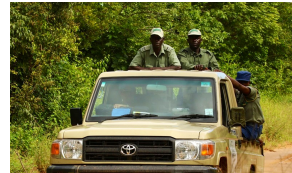




**Zambezi  
ELEPHANT  
FUND**



**EXPANDING OUR REACH**  
WORKING WHERE WE'RE  
NEEDED



**RANGERS ON THE  
GROUND**  
CONTINUING SUPPORT



**COMMUNITY**  
SUSTAINABLE  
SOLUTIONS

# IMPACT, ACTIVITY & DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS 2020



## The conservation of ecosystem integrity is a pivotal conservation objective

ZEF strives to be catalytic in the creation of a successful model for sustainable elephant conservation within the vast landscape of the mid-Zambezi valley. This model must include an ecological and economic resilience that benefits local communities as well as wildlife. Together with an alliance of key collaborative partners, ZEF's contribution is vital to achieve the innovation and impact necessary to unlock some of the most pressing challenges facing the preservation of large, intact elephant rangelands in Africa today.

We have increased our implementing capacity at ZEF through 2019; recruiting a core team to provide in-field expertise alongside administrative capability that can successfully roll out a suite of ambitious objectives through 2020. This activity combines to address the needs of People and Habitat that is vital in order to see elephants sustainably preserved.

## Activity and ambition includes...

### Creating essential employment opportunities for communities through the My Trees initiative

The My Trees Trust has been set up as a joint venture between the ZEF supported Zambezi Society and Zimbabwe’s largest agri-business corporation, Rift Valley. This flagship initiative aims to employ thousands of people (mainly women) for the sole purpose of planting indigenous trees at scale. A goal of My Trees is to become the region’s largest employer, creating job opportunities where few exist in these poor communities bordering the protected wildlife regions and allowing villagers alternatives to unsustainable cropping or illegal poaching.

### Restoration of lost habitat through My Trees

The environmental ambition of My Trees is to slow down deforestation and restore lost habitat within areas that have seen unprecedented degradation in recent times. The lost woodlands represented an essential buffer to the protected wildlife areas, which urgently require restoration to allow elephants and other wildlife space for seasonal movement.



Aerial view of lost habitat in peripheral community land



“What to expect from ZEF in 2020? We’re facing a future that holds so many plans and so much promise, including employment creation for nearby communities, education and awareness programmes, the restoration of lost habitat, ongoing ranger support and anti-poaching and tackling the illegal wildlife trade.”

James Egremont-Lee

**Awareness, education and human wildlife conflict programs within communities**

With an increased community activity footprint aided by the recruitment of a permanent community liaison officer, we will see the development of a suite of new and appropriate initiatives to increase awareness of conservation issues.

These communities see no benefit from wildlife and are often under threat of crop or stock losses. In the wake of My Trees’ employment impact, a long-term approach is necessary to secure further environmental wins through innovative education and conflict mitigating techniques.

**The distribution of fuel efficient cookstoves within communities**

With domestic fuel needs driving a significant amount of deforestation in the region, ZEF will be assisting the roll out of fuel efficient cookstoves within peripheral communities.

**The restoration of distressed wildlife assets in the Zambezi landscape**

ZEF aims to play a vital role in the restoration of key parts of the Zambezi landscape that have become degraded over recent years. These areas are principally those historically designated as hunting areas, which are no longer viable as such and generate no income through tourism.

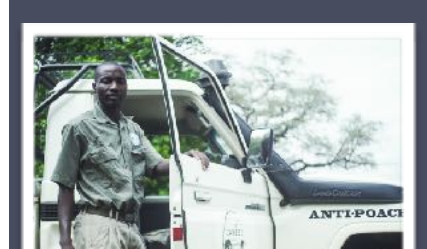
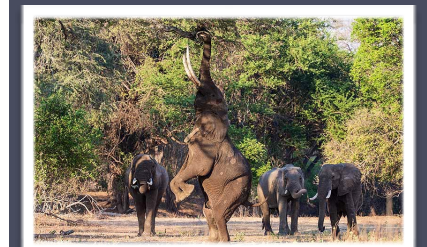
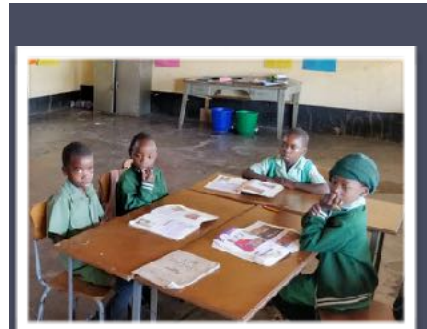
Their wildlife values have subsequently been eroded and the areas require proactive co-management together with ZimParks in order to see revived value. ZEF currently supports the Zambezi Society’s restoration of the Charara Safari Area, which began in 2019 and is already achieving results.

These large parts of the landscape will ultimately require acquisition through long term lease and/or formal co-management arrangement, which ZEF aims to broker through 2020.

**Anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trade**

ZEF works closely with The Zambezi Society (ZamSoc), Bushlife Foundation and Flying for Wildlife, whose local relationships with ZimParks allow for efficient operational support for anti-poaching and parks management-related activity. Significant success in the reduction of poaching has been seen over the last four years.

The specific development of an improved Illegal Wildlife Trading



response through Zambezi Society continues to increase in impact and has become a flagship initiative in partnership with the International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF).

**ZimParks personnel welfare**

ZEF contributes to the support of a range of localized ranger welfare projects. This includes the monthly supply of rations for ranger families who have seen vastly reduced means as a result of macro-economic circumstance and drought.

Improvements to ranger base facilities (including schools, clinics and communications continue, together with partners The Tashinga Initiative.

**The Zambezi Valley Support Alliance**

ZEF is leading the development of a formal collaborative Alliance of key partners within the landscape. These entities have all played a vital and longstanding role in the Valley and have been supported by ZEF over the years. They combine to deliver unique impact as a result of years of service to wildlife, rangers and communities.

The Alliance provides a strong collaborative platform from which to illustrate impact and optimised efficacy alongside the galvanising of a collective vision for the landscape. All Alliance partners will benefit from increased ZEF funding in 2020.

**The development of carbon revenues for conservation**

ZEF will be investigating opportunities to develop verification and sale of carbon units generated through the activities of the My Trees and cookstove initiatives. These potential revenues opportunities are a very exciting prospect for the Fund.

**Expanding our footprint**

2020 will be a year to further demonstrate ZEF's role in the ongoing preservation of the Zambezi valley.

Our visibility, impact measurement and storytelling will continue to grow in scale and efficacy to keep our friends and supporters up to date with progress and to also grow the ZEF network.

The map below illustrates ZEF's impact footprint and areas of core activity that align to the actions above. 2020 will be a year to further demonstrate ZEF's ability to be a prominent player in the ongoing preservation of the Zambezi Valley.



