

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022




Zambezi  
ELEPHANT  
FUND

WORKING TO HELP OUR ELEPHANTS  
thrive.



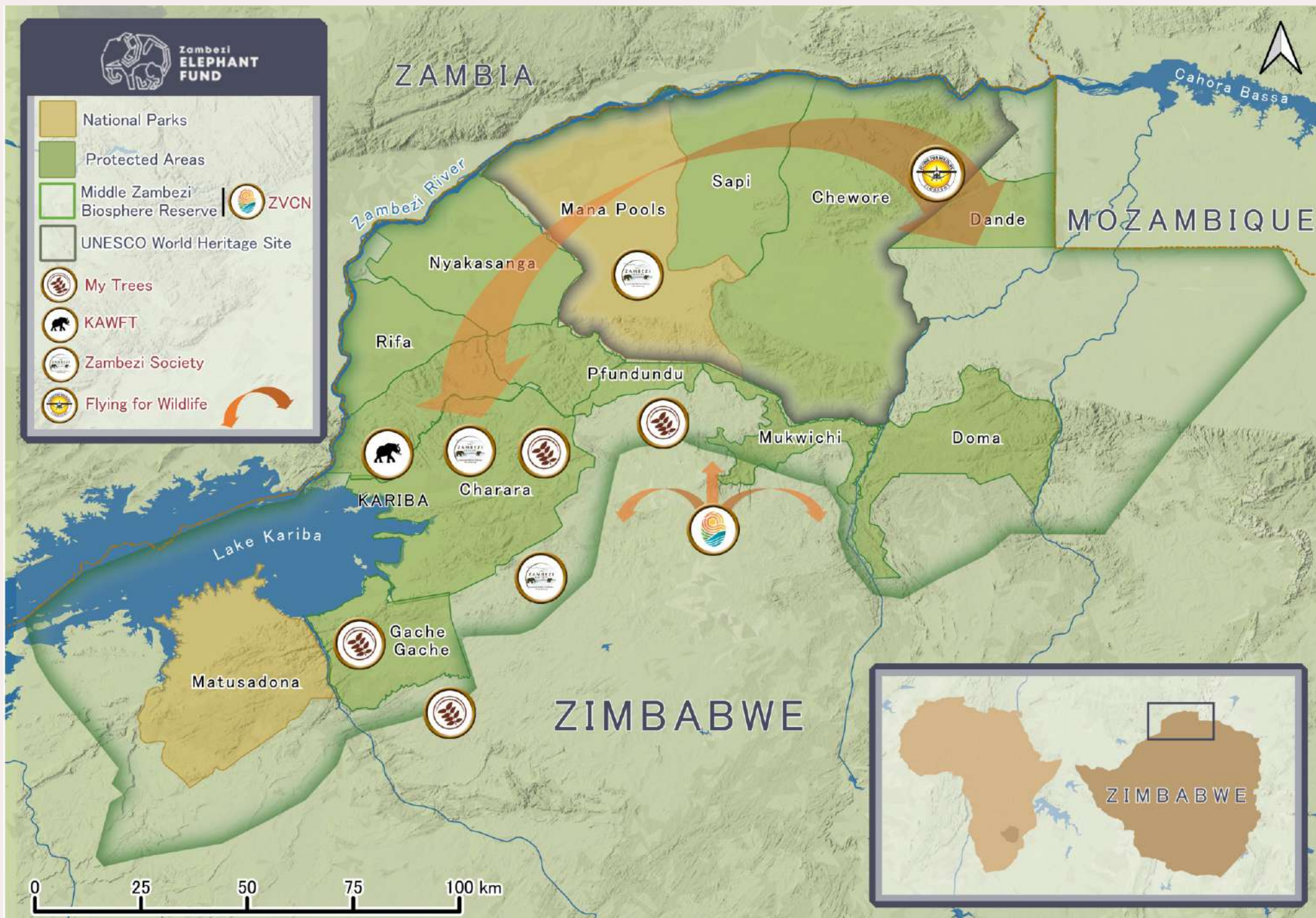


A large herd of elephants is seen in a savanna landscape. In the foreground, a group of elephants, including a young calf, is gathered near a watering hole. The background shows a vast herd of elephants stretching across the plain under a hazy sky.

**ZEF ASPIRES TO SECURE A LONG-LASTING FUTURE FOR ELEPHANTS AND THEIR RANGELANDS, NOT ONLY WITH STRATEGIC, COST-EFFECTIVE FUNDING FOR THE PROJECTS THAT ALIGN WITH OUR AMBITIONS, BUT WITH COLLABORATIVE AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND SUPPORT. ULTIMATELY, IT IS OUR AIM TO CREATE A MEANINGFUL AND FAR-REACHING IMPACT ON CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITIES IN THE ZAMBEZI VALLEY OF ZIMBABWE.**

The focus of elephant conservation is shifting, and with it, Zambezi Elephant Fund's impact is widening to ensure lasting and scalable change across the Zambezi Valley's beautiful elephant rangelands. Our specific goals tackle head-on the systemic issues that adversely affect the future of elephants.









OUR WORK AND HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE



Zambezi  
ELEPHANT  
FUND

# ZAMBEZI CONSERVATION STORY

Since ZEF began, 8 short years ago, our primary role has been to support organisations doing bona fide conservation work in the Zambezi Valley deliver optimal impact. Those that need financial help to do the work they do more effectively, apply to us for funding and each year we do all we can to provide them with the support they need to make a measurable difference to their operations.

Our secondary role has been to assist with providing human and financial resources to promote the preservation of elephants in the landscape through wider policy, management and economic stability; only possible through the efforts of our team who are uniquely placed to add their authentic advisory.

The purpose of this report is to describe the variety of activities that ZEF helps deliver and to bring our donors and supporters closer to the detail of our work, our impact, and our ambition.



# A MESSAGE



## A Message From Our Co-founder: RICHARD MAASDORP

Together with my fellow founders, John and Nicci Stevens, I thank our wide range of donors for their generous and considered support. It is also important to note that with your support our implementing partners leverage on the funding they receive from ZEF to secure co-funding for their projects. This leverage from ZEF funding so often goes unrecognised.

Although there has been a drop in poaching across much of Africa, said to be due to the fall in the price of ivory, I urge donors and our ZEF team to continue to fund the fundamental activity of law enforcement. The dynamics around ivory are both fickle and varied. The assault on elephants could resume overnight. I am pleased that all ZEF partners work closely with the custodians of Zimbabwe's elephant - Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority - in pursuit of continual development of the ranger force.



We should all be proud of the continued innovation that our Zambezi conservation partners add to the advances in conservation we see in Zimbabwe.

- A 12km elephant proof fence erected in a very short time to surround and protect a highly vulnerable community.
- A virtual wildlife safari using virtual reality technology for school students in the communities. (I have witnessed, with goose bumps, the excitement of our future benefactors, as they watch the scenes with awe and wonder.)
- The application of science to pinpoint conflict hot spots so that mitigation methods can be deployed with precision and affected villages trained in their use.
- The successful testing and now roll-out of the latest camera and recording methods to conduct aerial surveys using light sports aircraft. (Reducing the costs of surveys dramatically, producing results promptly and allowing for annual surveys.)
- Finally, the planting of fast growing, indigenous trees by the villagers who earn a modest income and take ownership. Decimated bio-diversity is systematically being recovered.



# OPERATIONS



## HOW ZEF OPERATES

The Zambezi Elephant Fund (ZEF) was formed and began activity in 2015 as a response to an unprecedented increase in elephant poaching within the Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe.

ZEF's immediate aim, back then, was to assist the reduction of elephant losses, through improvements to anti-poaching operations that have since advanced to provide a greatly improved scenario for both elephants and all wildlife.

Today, we still focus a large proportion of funding and energy into the protection of elephant, wildlife and habitat that is under threat, whilst also supporting human wildlife issues and the economic resilience of local communities.





# OPERATIONS



## THE TEAM

Our team in 2022 has included one full time and two part time staff members who have managed the fundraising, communications, in-field project development, partner programming and financial tracking needs.

Assisting this team are our advisors, founders John & Nicci Stevens and Richard Maasdorp, who are closely involved with guiding ZEF's operational success.

## GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS

In step with the attributes of those that first put the organisation together, ZEF does everything possible to maintain a characteristic of authentic conservation. This trait continues to those entities who receive support from ZEF; our partners in the landscape, with whom we maintain a close relationship and ensure a strong culture of safeguarding, operating standards, efficiencies and ethics.

Overseeing the governance of the Trust, our trustees meet twice annually.

## ACTIVITY AND IMPACT: FOCAL ACTIVITY PILLARS

In 2022, ZEF supported five organisations that deliver on four key pillars of activity:

- 1 FRONTLINE PROTECTION**
- 2 RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**
- 3 CONSERVATION EFFICIENCIES**
- 4 SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**





## FRONTLINE PROTECTION

Protecting elephants and restoring the wild by supporting teams dedicated to the frontline defence of wildlife and habitats.



## SCIENCE & RESEARCH

Improving our knowledge and ability to make the best decisions for conservation, by mobilising elephant rangelands scientific research and data analysis.

# IDEAS THAT SUPPORT THE BIG PICTURE SOLUTIONS THAT FOCUS ON THE DETAILS



## YOUNG CONSERVATION LEADERS

Inspiring the next generation of African conservation champions through exposure to hands-on environmental programming, technology and employment opportunities.



## RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Tackling the double challenge of economic hardship and wildlife co-existence through community-based interventions that provide wildlife conflict solutions and opportunities for improved livelihoods.



## CONSERVATION EFFICIENCIES

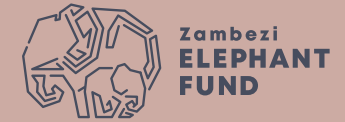
Boosting the impact of conservation activity in the Zambezi Valley by delivering professional services to meet the critical gaps, needs and threats of the landscape.



# OUR PARTNERS' SUCCESSES IN 2022



## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



### The Zambezi Society

In-field training for **24** rangers

Operational area **617,763** acres

**44** extended patrols + **524**-day + **6** boat  
= 1198 ranger nights in the field

**14,000** kms patrolled on foot

**948** snares removed

**65** kms of roads maintained

**3** arrests made

**4** Human Wildlife Conflict officers  
deployed into communities

**8** Human Wildlife Conflict workshops

**75** vuvuzelas distributed to deter  
elephants from community crops

**484** chilli bricks moulded in communities  
vulnerable to elephant crop raids

Virtual reality conservation education  
in schools with **3** sets of VR goggles

### Kariba Animal Welfare Trust Fund

Daily snare sweeps of town surrounds

Facilitation of veterinary interventions  
to assist animals injured by snares  
and human interference

### Zambezi Valley Conservation Network

Maintenance of communications  
to valley-wide stakeholders

Facilitation of stakeholder meetings to  
introduce new project partners to rural  
communities with a focus on livelihood  
improvements, human wildlife conflict  
and climate change resilience

### Flying For Wildlife

**749** Patrol hours flown

**96,456** km distance covered

**48,228** km<sup>2</sup> area searched

### My Trees Trust

**350,000** indigenous trees planted

Over **1,000** families benefitting from  
tree planting income

Over **290,000** acres of  
vulnerable habitat secured

**130** km of roads renovated

**80,000** fuel efficient stoves distributed

**12** km of elephant proof fence erected  
to protect vulnerable communities

**20** full time antipoaching rangers  
recruited, trained and deployed

**1000** snares removed

**44** arrests made related to wildlife crime

Through funding contributions, ZEF enables these organisations to deliver conservation impact across the Zambezi Valley.



# FINANCIALS



## THE WAY WE MANAGE OUR FINANCES

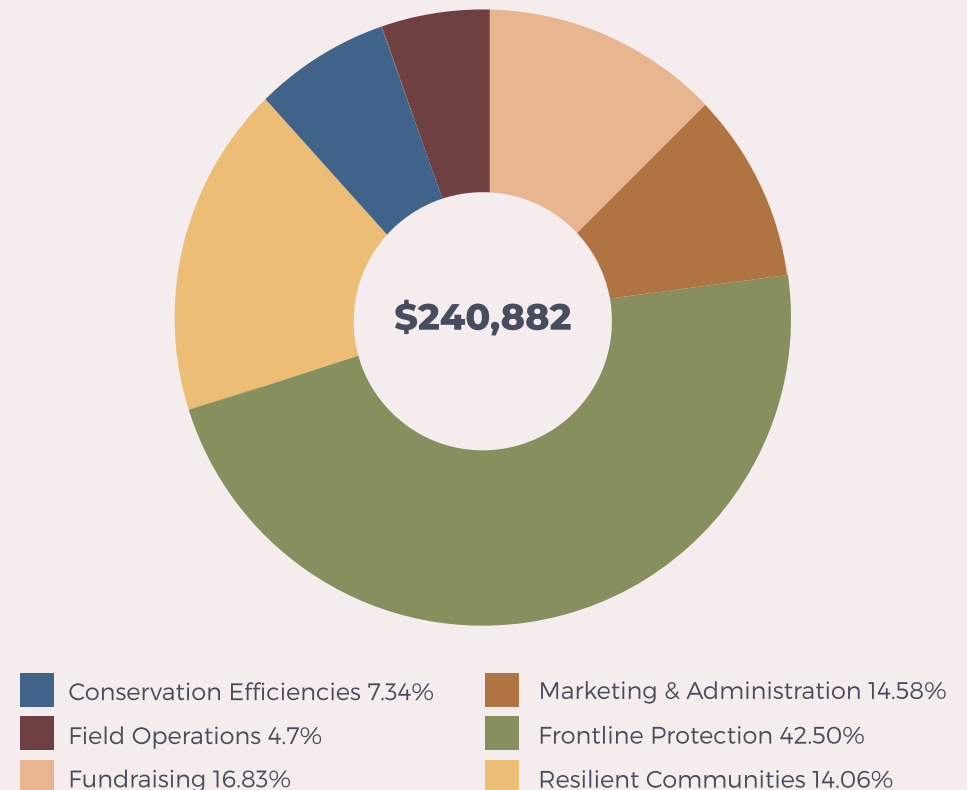
ZEF has benefited enormously, since its inception, by the fiscal sponsorship of USA based international conservation organisation, Re:wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation). This relationship has allowed for tax deductible donations to be kept for us under their supervision, to be then drawn down to Zimbabwe for in field operations when needed. We are grateful for Re:wild's continued support, both from a financial management perspective, but also in their ability to link donors to the cause of the Zambezi Valley.

## DISBURSEMENTS

### 2022 Statement of Revenue & Expenses

Revenue (US\$)	
Donations (Unrestricted)	\$342,228
Grants (Restricted)	\$13,354
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$355,582</b>
Expenses (US\$)	
Programme Grants & Services	\$165,221
Marketing & Administration	\$35,122
Fundraising	\$40,539
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$240,882</b>
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>\$114,700</b>

## 2022 EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS



- From 2022, we are no longer reporting on restricted funding held on behalf of other organisations/programs, which amounts to \$697,550.23 in 2022.
- Surplus reflects some unspent funds, plus multi-year grants.



# THE FUTURE



## ZEF IN 2023

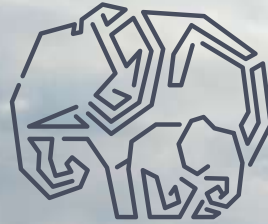
As ZEF adapts to the needs of the Zambezi and its iconic wildlife, we aim to continue our focus on supporting those that both rely on our financial assistance and who are also demonstrably making a conservation impact.

Whilst the landscape has thankfully seen a significant expansion of conservation actors and financial inflows over the last few years, gaps both geographically and by activity remain, whilst new threats emerge. Our role will be to continue to provide catalytic support to sustainable conservation activity in those areas that are most in need.





# THANK YOU



**Zambezi  
ELEPHANT  
FUND**

Zambezi Elephant Fund's vision is that the Zambezi Valley, in its magnificent entirety, will always be a safe environment where elephants and other wildlife can thrive, for the benefit of Zimbabwe, its people and global biodiversity.

Thanks to our wonderful supporters and partners around the world, we are starting 2023 on solid ground. We couldn't do it without you.

Photography with thanks in order of appearance to:  
Marlon Du Toit, Simon Smith, Chris & Monique Fallows, Craig Martin.