



Zambezi
**ELEPHANT
FUND**

'The diversity of our natural world is a wonder, and there is so much to learn from its infinite contrasts - and unexpected connections.'

Nichole Sobecki, National Geographic

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Introduction

2023 was Zambezi Elephant Fund's (ZEF's) eighth year in operation and it was as interesting as the intricate trails created by elephants; after all this time, ZEF's journey continues to shape and open up the Zambezi Valley conservation landscape, and provide vital access to important resources for our conservation partners who are dedicated to their cause...

During the year, and through some administration and management changes, we kept our sights firmly fixed on ZEF's ultimate aim: 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.



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-  National Parks
-  Protected Areas
-  Middle Zambezi Biosphere Reserve |  ZVGN
-  UNESCO World Heritage Site
-  My Trees
-  KAWFT
-  Zambezi Society
-  Flying for Wildlife

ZAMBIA

Zambezi River

Cahora Bassa

MOZAMBIQUE

ZIMBABWE

Mana Pools Sapi Chewore Dande

Nyakasanga

Rifa

Pfundundu

Mukwichi

Doma

KARIBA

Charara

Lake Kariba

Gache Gache

Matusadona





What success looked like in 2023:



The Zambezi Society



Supported **500** Zimparks antipoaching patrols within the Mid-Zambezi Valley, totaling **2000+** ranger nights in the field.



Hosted **150** human-wildlife coexistence awareness campaigns across human-wildlife conflict hot spots within the mid-Zambezi Valley.



Moulded **3000+** chilli bricks for community members living in human-elephant conflict hotspots, to protect crops from elephants during the 2024 crop raiding season.



Erected several different trial boundary protection methods around community crops in human-elephant conflict hotspots.



Two team members completed a Leadership Development for Conservation Practitioners course.



Together with KAWFT, ZamSoc successfully removed **1,244** indiscriminate snares from wildlife paths, safeguarding various species, including elephants.



39 primary school engagements using Virtual Reality to improve human-wildlife co-existence knowledge.



My Trees Trust



Successful planting of **540,000** indigenous trees from **30** fully operational community-led nurseries, contracting over **1,900** farmers.



Acquisition of Tsetse Island within the Kariba Recreational Park (under lease from ZPWMA).



Continued Zero Elephant Conflict incidence within the Gache Gache community, (elephant-proof fence maintenance – only 1 incursion with crop damage).



Continued anti-poaching patrols and roads development within **112,000** ha concession area.



373 community farmers trained in environmental stewardship and climate resilience as part of the MTT Community-Based Environmental Protection and Social Cohesion Programme.



In terms of top **5** achievements in protected areas as a direct result of ZEF funding in 2023:



Over **1,200** snares removed.



Cumulative patrols of over **11,000**km.

30+ arrests by rangers encountering illegal activity.



140km of roads rehabilitated.



Daily fence monitoring patrols undertaken.



Zambezi Valley Conservation Network

- Established community dialogue platforms and implemented a youth conservation education program in local schools. Plan to reach more schools in 2024.
- Facilitated dialogue platforms (engagement, needs analysis, and understanding local practices) in Muzarabani communal areas, conducting **26** meetings across the district.
- Developed a youth conservation education program implemented in 21 rural schools in Mbire and Muzarabani districts. Over **480** children voluntarily enrolled in the program.
- Facilitated planting of **500** trees and established seven sustainable gardens in Muzarabani schools.



Kariba Animal Welfare Fund Trust

The Kariba Animal Welfare Fund Trust and its partners have achieved significant milestones in wildlife conservation and protection in the Kariba area. Here are key highlights and notes:



Snare Removal: Together with ZamSoc, KAWFT successfully removed **1,244** indiscriminate snares from wildlife paths, safeguarding various species, including elephants. Monthly snare counts remain below 100, despite challenges from poachers.



Poaching Arrest and Amnesty: KAWFT played a crucial role in capturing and sentencing a well-known poacher in 2020. However, due to a yearly prisoner amnesty, the poacher was, unfortunately, released early and resumed illegal activities with accomplices.



Collaboration on Elephant Repellent: KAWFT collaborated with Zimparks and the Zamsoc team to implement a chilli elephant repellent method. This initiative educates locals on using chilli-based methods to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.



Animal Rescues: KAWFT rescued and treated several animals caught in life-threatening snares, including an elephant calf, a zebra, and a waterbuck. They also removed litter from these animals, guaranteeing their well-being.



Addressing Human Waste/Litter: KAWFT initiated efforts to tackle the issue of human waste and litter, collaborating with various organizations to establish strong underground bins and repair the municipal dump's electric fence. COVID-19 disruptions impacted regular fence checks, allowing elephants access to the toxic dump site.



Collaboration with Zimparks: KAWFT assisted Zimparks in addressing wildlife deaths caused by litter ingestion, providing support for elephants and zebras affected by toxic litter.





Flying For Wildlife

Zambezi Valley Patrols

In 2023, Flying for Wildlife completed approximately 17,000km of aerial patrols in the Zambezi Valley. Patrols included boundary patrols to detect incursions, monitoring of illegal gold mining, patrols to identify any carcasses (no new seen – a first in many years), patrols to access very remote areas in the Zambezi Valley that are otherwise unpatrolled, water point patrols, etc.



Collaborated with Connected Conservation to collar eight elephants in the Sebungwe area – a key migration possible corridor between the Zambezi Valley and Hwange/Botswana



Collaborated with African Parks to provide aerial cover for Matusadona, including hippo counting, antipoaching surveillance.



Collaborated with African Parks and Zim Parks to ensure proper accountability and management of kapenta fishing in Kariba, to improve fishing sustainability with a resultant increase in yields to lower demand on bushmeat as a protein source.

Lest We Forget

John Stevens, ZEF Co-Founder

Not so long ago, Mana Pools, in the Zambezi Valley, was losing its elephants to poaching at an alarming rate. In 2015, I was motivated by the total eradication of wild rhino I'd witnessed as a safari guide in the area in the 80's to take action in case such devastation happened to elephants, also. And so, along with my wife, Nicci, Richard Maasdorp and a few other like-minded folks, the Zambezi Elephant Fund was formed. Today, through the work of a range of conservation partners on the ground and the support of donors, the elephant population in the lower Zambezi Valley is stable. Let's keep it that way! Thank you.



Win-Win Solutions in Support of Change



DISBURSEMENTS

2023 Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Revenue US\$

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Donations (Unrestricted) | 239,327 |
| Grants (Restricted) | 18,560 |
| Fundraising Events | 71,220 |
| Other Income | 3,150 |

Total Revenue 332,257

Expenses US\$

| | |
|--|---------|
| Impact Partners Grant Dispersal Unrestricted | 178,102 |
| Impact Partners Grant Dispersal Restricted | 24,662 |
| Ranger Rations | 17,784 |
| Administration and Marketing | 70,953 |

Total Expenses 291,501

Surplus For The Year \$40,756

Meaningful Events in 2023



The Zambezi Valley Walk For Wild Expedition June 2023

This exciting event was borne of an idea John Stevens and the ZEF team had in 2021, with the aim of bringing together conservation stakeholders and enthusiasts in a collaborative exercise that focused on the conservation successes as well as highlighting the challenges and ongoing needs of the landscape. This month-long journey over 330km of Zambezi Valley landscape, also highlighted Mana Pools National Park as the breathtakingly beautiful place where ZEF first came together. Objectives (right) included:



An increase in collaboration and communication between stakeholders.

Progress towards defining a shared vision and goals between conservation entities.

Fresh attention to the needs of the Zambezi landscape.

Reminding ourselves of the joys of adventure within the splendour of the Zambezi Valley.



TCS New York City Marathon November 5th, 2023

Whilst most of us walked, jogged, or strode around a 10km course for Saving the Elephants Run, a week later six intrepid athletes from all over the world, including Zimbabwe, completed over four times that distance, taking part in the 52nd edition of the TCS NYC Marathon in support of ZEF, and raising over US\$18,000.00.



Saving The Elephants Run November 11th, 2023

ZEF's biggest annual fundraiser is the Saving the Elephants Run/Walk (STER) held in Central Park, New York each November. Since 2018, ZEF has benefited from the funds raised by STER (over \$300,000 so far) and we would not be where we are today without their support. Our grateful thanks, always, to Laura Robertson, founder of STER.



Mukuvisi March For Elephants November 11th, 2023

On the same day, a couple of hundred people gathered in the beautiful Mukuvisi Woodlands for the ZEF Mukuvisi March for Elephants in Harare, Zimbabwe. Less of a race and more of a fun day, jogging or strolling in the sunshine to raise funds and awareness of ZEF's work and project support, the Mukuvisi March is always popular. ZEF is especially grateful to Triathlon Zimbabwe for putting it all together.



Shop To Support Our Work

Help spread the word about Zambezi Elephant Fund with our Conservation Collection! Show your support when you shop on our online store, where 100% of profits benefit our impact partners' work in field. **Explore the Store!** ➔



The Year Ahead

Bruce McKinlay, ZEF Executive Committee Chairman

As a small and hands-on organization, with your support, we managed to meet our 2023 targets, which will allow us to finance the varied and impactful work of our implementing partners in the year ahead. Despite last year's wins in the Zambezi Valley, there remains much to be done – and with the El Nino or drought prediction for 2024 looking increasingly more likely, we are expecting significantly more pressure on the land, its fauna and flora and, ultimately, its people.

With this in mind, ZEF's funding, expertise and energy is focused on the overall survival and sustainability of the valley. Whilst adapting 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 demonstrably making a conservation impact.

We will keep you updated throughout the year, at quarterly intervals, on our partner projects' progress. We encourage you to share this report with a friend who may be interested – and in receiving ongoing news from the Zambezi Valley

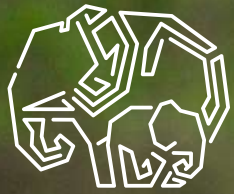
JOIN US - Sign up for news!



Meet the Elephants Safari...

You can plan to visit our beautiful part of the world, the Zambezi Valley, and meet the elephants for yourself in 2024 or 2025! We can put together a special safari journey designed to highlight the beauty here and help you understand and appreciate both the conservation needs and the wins! Your safari travels can help support our work directly. Please **GET IN TOUCH** if this is something that interests you!





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Connections that Count

Each of us has, in one way or another, been impacted by elephants and the Zambezi Valley's immense natural beauty, and we acknowledge and warmly thank those of you who continue to stand with ZEF today in their protection. Without your support, our partners on the ground could not have achieved what they do, against all odds.

The ZEF Trust

In line with the qualities of those that first put the organisation together, ZEF does everything possible to maintain a characteristic of authentic conservation. This trait endures in those organisations 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.

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