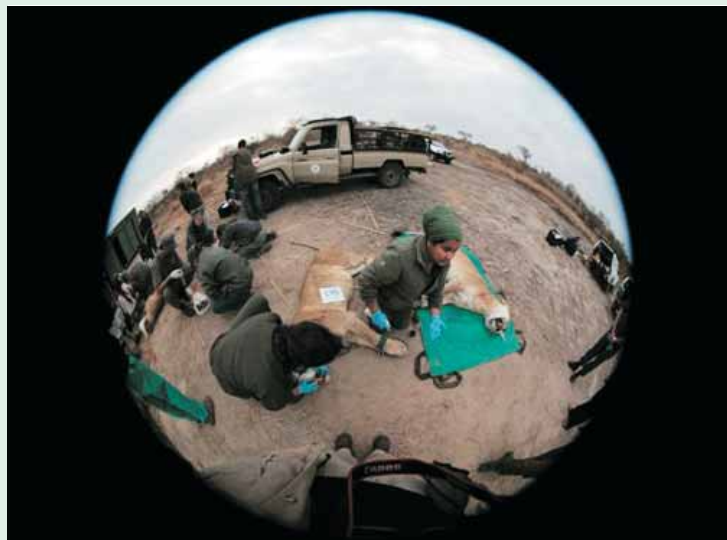
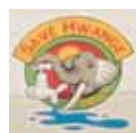


## IN THIS ISSUE

Spring Edition - September 2013



*Tiger Legend: "Yesterday... is history, Tomorrow... is a mystery, Today... is a gift"*





Our first edition of "Green with Envy", the SATIB Trust newsletter, was extremely well-received and a great success!

Thank you to all who sent me a personal note, complimenting me on this initiative and their enjoyment in reading the conservation articles – I am most grateful to you all.

I have just come back from a one-week trip to Kruger National Park, as a guest of Scientific Services/South African National Parks (SANParks) on field research – disease control in lions. Childhood dreams of being a researcher were soon shattered – the work is extremely demanding, going out from 16:00 into the field, only to return to the research camp well after midnight! I realized that we South Africans are so fortunate to have such dedicated, skilled people looking after our natural resources – the estate being in excess of 4 million hectares of land and 150 000 hectares at sea!

SATIB Trust is looking to assist SANParks with their conservation programmes, more on this in our next edition.

Thank you to Drs Sam Ferreira, Peter Buss and Markus Hofmeyer, and to Pauli Viljoen for arranging the trip!

The rhino issue continues unabated. Last I heard, in excess of 220 rhino charities/NGO's – raising money for anti-poaching, but also heard no more than +-40 of these organizations are legitimate! No wonder the public are asking "what is happening to the rhinos and all this money raised to fight anti-poaching?" Well, sadly, the answer is in the facts. Money is not going into the rhino cause! Wildlife defrauders are sadly operating overtime! Let's hope people realize that fraud is rampant in all societies, in all walks of life and conservation is no different!



SATIB Trust has confirmed commitment to work in collaboration with Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Wildlife Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA), as an ongoing involvement in certain projects currently underwritten by these local NGO's.



Dr. Michelle Henley, Brian Courtenay and Tony Pinfold (SATIB Trust) and The Frankfurt Zoological Society aircraft in Gonarezhou National Park.

*We welcome the Save the Elephants - South Africa/Elephants Alive subscribers currently on our mailing list. Our Newsletter includes articles from Dr Michelle Henley (Elephants Alive) and other elephant authorities/experts. It also includes interesting information on conservation programmes in Africa! Should you wish us to delete your name from our mailing for this publication (quarterly basis) please email me and I will attend immediately.*

**Brian Courtenay - Editor**

Email: [bcourtenay@satibtrust.com](mailto:bcourtenay@satibtrust.com)



**SATIB Trust**

PO Box 427

Umhlanga Rocks, 4320

South Africa

**Trustees:** BP Courtenay (Chairman), GP Courtenay, JI Freimond, PC Anderson, WD Forrester, AR Pinfold

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# AFRICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND

Chishakwe Ranch, Savé Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe

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



The African Wildlife Conservation Fund (AWCF) works to conserve Zimbabwe's large carnivores. Based in the south-east of Zimbabwe, and comprising a small, dedicated team of local staff, AWCF has made a significant contribution to carnivore conservation in the critically important Greater Limpopo Ecosystem.

Lions in both Savé Valley Conservancy and Gonarezhou National Park are on the increase; the lion population in Gonarezhou has more than doubled in just over four years.

Likewise endangered African wild dogs are doing well, despite the increasing predation pressure from lions (now there is a conservation conundrum for us)! The Savé Valley Conservancy is currently home to at least 164 wild dogs; 113 adults and at least 51 pups, after what has been a very successful denning season.

Lack of a reliable field vehicle have meant that the Gonarezhou Predator Project has had to take a back seat for the first part of the year, but all indications suggest that both lions and wild dogs continue to do well in the park.

Our education and community engagement program goes from strength to strength as well. We currently have 123 primary schools in 37 different communities engaged in the program – that's benefitting over 16,000 students! Evaluation suggests it's having a positive impact.



To support any of AWCF's programs please visit our website, or email: [information@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org](mailto:information@africanwildlifeconservationfund.org)



This page has been sponsored by:

# TWO'S COMPANY, THREE'S A CROWD SO WHAT IS 50 MALE ELEPHANTS?

By Dr. Kate Evans (Founder & Director - Elephants for Africa)

If you go down to the Makgadikgadi Pans in Botswana today you are in for a big surprise, not only is the Boteti River flowing again after a 20 year hiatus, but there has been an influx of elephants; male elephant mainly and they are meeting up in huge social groups, some more than 100 strong. But why are they doing this? What purpose do they serve? This is what we hope to find out.



Elephants for Africa has been studying the elephants of Botswana since 2002 with a focus on male elephants. Two PhD's and two Master degrees later the team is still out there finding the answers to more questions about these magnificent beasts that are dominating the local and international press as poaching obliterates populations and are often the centre of heated arguments by conservationists, with the 'there are too many and there are not enough debate'.

You may be surprised to hear that there is still much to be found out about their ecology, both ecological and social and it is the male elephants we know least about. What we do know about male elephants is that they are the main crop-raiders and that they have very different ecological requirements to females. This dimorphism in requirements has huge conservation implications if we are going to conserve viable populations of both male and females for healthy populations into the future.

Until fairly recently it was assumed that males were solitary once they left their herd at adolescence and they become independent. However, recent findings have shown that they are very selective about who they hang out with, i.e. male groups are not random, they are choosing to be in groups with males of a similar age. This makes sense as male social society is based on a dominance hierarchy and so it is important that you know where you stand amongst your peers. Perhaps even more surprising is the finding that when there is a larger, older

male present, males of all ages will choose him as their closest neighbour. Matriarch's have been considered to be the repositories of social knowledge for herds for sometime, so it is not a massive leap to consider these older males have a pivotal role to play in male elephant social ecology. But what are these males gaining from these older bulls? Well, these bulls have been around for 50, even 60 years and in that time they would have experienced a lot of changes to the ecology upon which they will base their decisions on where to go. If you are a young bull finding your way in a new area (upon



independence male elephants not only leave their natal herd, but also their natal area), the quickest way for a young bull to learn a new area would be to follow someone it knows.

So here we are studying the males along the Boteti River working out who is who, who is hanging out with who and what happens when male elephants meet up in groups of 50 or more. It is proving to be a challenge, and the sudden presence of so many elephants is also a challenge to the local communities that live alongside the river. So as well as focusing on research, we also concentrate on education initiatives to work towards human-wildlife coexistence.

The Chicago Zoological Society, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and Memphis Zoo provide funding for this project. It is carried out with the support of the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

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

Registered Charity 1122027 (UK)

[Info@elephantsforafrica.org](mailto:Info@elephantsforafrica.org)



# SATIB INSURANCE BROKERS AND LAND ROVER JOIN FORCES

## Joint venture will support industry development and conservation in Africa

SATIB specialisation in tourism and leisure industry complements Land Rover's involvement in this market

Land Rover excited to improve the tourism industry  
Two Land Rover Freelanders will assist monitoring the SATIB Trust's conservation projects

05 August 2013, PRETORIA – SATIB Insurance Brokers and SATIB Trust are proud to announce their business association with Jaguar Land Rover South Africa and sub-Sahara Africa.

Land Rover, a preferred vehicle supplier to the Tourism and Leisure industry, along with SATIB Insurance Brokers, specialists in insuring the same industry have entered into a mutually-beneficial partnership. The two companies will pursue the quest to improve the industry - enriching guest experiences, service delivery efficiency and overall safety.

SATIB have committed to encouraging proper education amongst their staff, clients and the industry associations they are involved in on the risk benefits associated with the use of vehicles designed to accommodate the demanding needs of the Tourism and Leisure industry. SATIB will bring its 22 years

of experience in the industry to assist Land Rover in any future initiatives they have planned.

"We are very excited about our association with an iconic brand such as Land Rover," says Gavin Courtenay, Managing Director of SATIB Insurance Brokers. "We believe we can add real value to Land Rover's ambitions in developing new products for the tourism industry which will be for the benefit of the industry and ultimately the tourists they host at their establishments."

Land Rover in turn, has committed to be donors in kind and business partners of the SATIB Trust, the NGO set up and managed through SATIB focusing on a variety of wildlife and conservation projects within Southern Africa. At present, two Land Rover Freelanders have been donated to monitor the South African conservation projects being facilitated and funded by the SATIB Trust.

"We look forward to partnering with SATIB Insurance Brokers," says Kevin Flynn, Managing Director of Jaguar Land Rover South Africa and sub-Sahara Africa. "In addition to sharing similar business objectives, both Jaguar Land Rover South Africa and SATIB Insurance Brokers are committed to preserving our environment and our wildlife."



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JLRSA & SSA has supported African Wild Dog conservation extensively through its involvement with the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Further to this, the company's involvement with the Born Free Foundation and N/a'an ku sê are aimed at protecting the environment for future generations, while empowering local communities with far-reaching health, education and skills enhancement initiatives.

"Through the SATIB Trust we aim to further extend our involvement in African wildlife conservation. As a corporation we feel we have an essential role to play in contributing towards the sustainable development of our environment and our wildlife and are able to make a meaningful and valuable contribution that will be felt by our generation, and those to come," adds Flynn.

Brian Courtenay, Chairman of SATIB Trust says: "We are honoured to have Land Rover on board as a corporate business partner and sponsor. With our recent donation at Indaba 2012 of a Land Rover Defender 4x4 for Wildcru (Oxford University) Hwange Lion Research, this shows our commitment to the Land Rover brand, who has long-been associated with conservation initiatives such as the Born Free Foundation (involving Lions) and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (Wild Dog projects). Through SATIB Trust we will promote the Land Rover brand throughout Africa."

Contact: **Lesley Sutton**

**Media Affairs Manager - Jaguar Land Rover South Africa**

Telephone: +27 12 450 4000 Mobile: +27 (0) 83 233 4812

E-mail: [lsutton5@jaguarlandrover.com](mailto:lsutton5@jaguarlandrover.com)

## DONATED LAND ROVER FINALLY LEAVES FOR HWANGE



Finally, the SATIB Trust's donated Land Rover Defender 4 x 4, is leaving for Hwange to be used on our Hwange Lion Project by Dr Andrew Loveridge from Oxford University.

Mr Neville Bester, Managing Director of Vehicle Delivery Services, a division of Onelogix (Pty) Limited, confirmed to SATIB Trust that VDS would transport the vehicle from Durban to Harare (Zimbabwe) free of charge, in the interests of conservation in Africa!

This is a huge benefit to both the Trust and the Hwange Lion Research team and has saved us many thousands of Rands, said Brian Courtenay – SATIB Trust. Dr Andy Loveridge really needs a good, reliable, air-conditioned vehicle in order to

continue with the lion research, especially when accompanied by his wife and young son. So, I have bid farewell to my trusted Land Rover, which I had the pleasure of driving for 6000kms! I know she will be in good hands!



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Occasionally, you come across really interesting concepts and ideas in conservation – and without a doubt, the documentary film titled “To Skin A Cat” is, and was submitted to the Trust with a view to assistance and/or financial support!

This documentary film has really caught our attention – the plight of the leopard. My reason for publishing this initial report/overview is to “drum up” support, in particular the release of the documentary (which should be out by +- November 2013).

We will report in greater detail in our next edition. Please look at their website and feel free to contact me/SATIB Trust should you want additional information.

*Editor*

## TO SKIN A CAT

To Skin a Cat is the story of one man fighting against the odds and thinking out of the box to save the big cat he loves. To put a stop to a rampant trade in leopard skins, Panthera’s leopard researcher, Tristan Dickerson must create a realistic, affordable fake fur as an alternative to the real thing, sought after by millions of members of the powerful Shembe Church as well as a wide cross section of Zulu society.

Tristan Dickerson has worked with leopards his entire adult life,

managing Panthera’s renowned Munyawana Leopard Project. What he’s found is that they are vanishing. After tracking one of his leopards for over 200km, Tristan finds the young male he has followed since birth dead in a poacher’s snare. This drives him to discover why leopards are being killed on such a large scale. Once he knows why he intends to put a stop to it.

In a country sensitive to culture and tradition, the law has proved an ineffective ally in protecting leopards and Tristan



A Panthera Project



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knows that if he wants to save Africa's most revered predator, he can't rely on traditional methods of conservation.

That answer turns out to be fake furs. After researching life and custom within the Church, the film follows Tristan's quest to make a realistic and, most critically, an affordable fake fur – and to have the Church leader, the powerful Shembe, endorse it.

Tristan must meet with tailors, designers, illustrators, photographers and textile manufactures to create the ideal fake fur. He must gain the support of the very people

responsible for the decline in leopards to best understand the supply and the demand of skins: traditional tailors, convicted poachers and skin dealers. And he must complete his greatest task: convincing the Church that protecting leopards is in their own interest.

Tristan's journey will take him from the depths of the African bush to Beijing, Shanghai, Cixi and to the halls of southern African power as he meets with kings and presidents to gain their support for his fake furs. He must track leopards across borders, negotiate corrupt law officials and bargain with Chinese textile manufacturers, all the while keeping an eye on the big cats he follows each day.

This is his story to save the leopard.

**[www.toskinacat.org](http://www.toskinacat.org)**

[info@toskinacat.org](mailto:info@toskinacat.org)

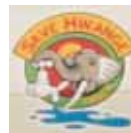
to learn more about Panthera's Shembe Leopard Project, please visit:

[www.panthera.org/programs/leopard/faux-fur-leopard-project](http://www.panthera.org/programs/leopard/faux-fur-leopard-project)

and we can include links / reference to YOU / Skin a Cat on this page too!!!







# SAVE HWANGE TRUST

by Mario Gomez



Some of you will have been privileged to have shared wonderful experiences in Hwange National Park. Viewing Africa's magnificent giants, predators and plains game is always a transforming experience. But they need your help. Why? Let me explain.

Around a hundred years ago the animals were free to roam. Food for grazing was in abundance and water was plentiful in rivers that still exist today. But as humans developed Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, wildlife was pushed into demarcated areas, such as Hwange, where land was not fertile and useless for human settlement. The park was established as a game reserve in 1928 and in 1961 it was proclaimed a National Park. It was mostly Kalahari sand.

Ted Davison became Hwange's first Warden in 1928 and as most of us are aware, he achieved wonders in the park without support from the authorities. Hwange has only three rivers running through it, the Deka, Lukosi and lesser known Gwabadzbuya located toward the north and south of the Park. During the dry winter season, the Deka and the Lukosi are reduced to small pools or water beneath the dry river bed. There are a few natural springs around Sinamatella but these do not hold much water.



The Gwabadzabuya in the south is a tributary of Botswana-sourced Nata River which I have not had the opportunity to investigate it in the dry season, but it is very far south. A fourth river, the Gwaai, is perennial but situated outside of the park

and animals migrating in and around the Forestry area probably use this water source as well as water pumped by lodges in the area.



Hwange is huge – around 14,600 square kilometers – so to prevent overgrazing near rivers Davison had more than 60 boreholes drilled and pumped into natural pans that are still there today. They were strategically placed throughout the Park to allow animals to spread out evenly with access to fresh water. Some of these boreholes were placed at natural pans located near roads so people could view animals from the comfort of their cars.

Hwange has a lot of natural pans formed from depressions in wetlands. These are extended and deepened by weather and elephants, but dry out after the rains and become mud wallows. Then, when the rains arrive, everything turns green, almost as if by magic. The stress of the prolonged dry spell is over and



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the animals become sleek and playful. This is when most animals drop their young and we conservationists marvel yet again at the circle of life. These are the good times in the park.

Because of the way the park is structured and the nature of the environment, the dry season (which starts around May through to early October, sometimes as late as November) it is hugely stressful to the animals. And when a drought hits, the carcasses begin piling up. There's nothing sadder than the carcass of an elephant which has dropped to its knees and died at the lip of a dry pan. At times like this the man-made pumped pans are the sole lifeline for thousands of animals.

We all know about Zimbabwe's political and economic woes, but what is not as well known is that these conditions affected wild animals as well. By 2005, National Parks had no fuel and could not afford to pump water into the pans. Outdated engines and pumps plus lack of spares compounded the problem. Park support systems ground to a halt. As a result, animals were dying in large numbers, particularly elephants and buffaloes. It was time to act. Wildlife Environment of Zimbabwe (WEZ) in partnership with National Parks stepped in and asked other environmentalists such as Save Hwange Trust and Friends of Hwange Trust for help water supply. This is still in place today, with Parks putting in their share of the work with the help of donations which are keeping this magnificent park alive. This is why we need your help.

At any one time Hwange has between 25 - 30 000 elephants, contrary to published figures up to 100 000. WEZ game census over the past 40 years have never recorded more than 46 000,

peaking in 1998/9. The annual game count takes place around late September/October during the full moon period, just before the rains begin.

The park has no fenced boundaries so elephants migrate in search of better grazing and water, appearing in Botswana, other Parks in Zimbabwe and other nearby countries, probably using ancient migration routes.

Therefore high elephant counts correspond with rains and not absolute park numbers, and with available water.

Save Hwange Trust's aim is to install solar pump units producing between 50 000 and 70 000 litres a day. There are already three such pump units in the park and, though very costly, is definitely the way forward.



The price for a good Solar Unit installed to be in the region of US\$ 15 – 20 000.00.

"SATIB Trust has worked with Save Hwange Trust/Friends of Hwange for many years, in particular our Hwange Lion Project with Wildcru/Oxford University. On behalf of the SATIB Trust we would like to assist Mario Gomes and his team (based in Bulawayo) with a special plea for your help and financial assistance by making a donation to SATIB Trust/Save Hwange Trust. No matter how much you donate, these funds will be passed on to Save Hwange Trust to assist with the water crisis and solar pump installation at water-holes in Hwange National Park. Your donations to:

**SATIB Trust, ABSA Bank, Account Number: 4079013707, La Lucia Branch, Branch Code 632005, Reference: SATIB TRUST/SHT**  
**Please bear in mind, SATIB Trust is a Non-profit and Public Benefit Organisation (PBO Number 930039588) registered with SARS for SA tax benefits and donations.**

May I ask you to please help this worthy cause and confirm your donation in full goes to SHT.

**Brian Courtenay**

*Chairman – SATIB Trust"*



# SEEN AT HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

*All images by Brent Stapelkamp*



The best results are achieved by true specialists.



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# JOINING THE DOTS

## Big Cat Conservation in the 21st Century

*Dr Andrew Loveridge*

The world over, big cat numbers are in decline. Tiger, lion, leopard, jaguar and cheetah populations have all plummeted over the last few decades. The reasons are almost universally loss of natural habitat, conflict with people over livestock and in some cases commercial or illegal over-use.

While big cat populations are shrinking, the world's human populations are doing the opposite. In 2010 Africa's human population hit one billion people. Projected population trends have the continent's population doubling to 2 billion in the next 40 years. This is the fastest and most unprecedented growth in African history. While increased population size may bring with it a larger workforce and burgeoning economic growth, failure to invest in the environment is likely to presage dramatic and irreversible losses to Africa's wondrous habitats and diverse wildlife.

This is why the Kazungula Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA- TFCA) is so exciting. In a farsighted move the governments of five southern African countries (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) have signed up to invest in conservation and the environment over a 300 000km<sup>2</sup> swath of Africa - the largest conservation area in the world. The vision of linking protected areas is exactly what is required to protect the large African mammals that require huge expanses of natural bush to survive. Big cats are arguably (along with other charismatic species such as elephants) indicators that ecosystems are functioning and healthy. Lions, leopards and other species need abundant wild prey to survive, which in turn need undisturbed wild habitats. If either the habitat or the prey are lost then so, inevitably, are the large carnivores.

On the back of a long-term lion research project in Hwange National Park, my team and I, and colleagues in Zimparks and Zambezi Society have been increasingly intrigued by landscape scale movements of big cats (particularly lions and leopards). Aside from nearly 15 years of studying lion population dynamics and behaviour in Hwange we are in the final year of a National Leopard Survey. Starting this year, with a research permit from Botswana Department of Wildlife, we have extended our team to include Dominik Bauer and Kristina Kesch who will be

undertaking surveys for lions and other carnivores in north-eastern Botswana. These surveys provide valuable baseline information about carnivore population sizes and distribution, data which are critical for conservation managers.

We know from data we have collected from satellite radio-collared lions that they are capable of moving extensive distances, with records of study animals moving from Hwange National Park into Zambia and northwards to Chizarira National Park and Chete Safari Area. This is encouraging because it suggests that there is enough wild habitat connecting these areas to provide viable movements corridors for large mammals such as lions. The big question is whether these habitat links will remain hospitable to lions and other large wild mammals with the expected increases in human activities in these areas in decades to come. Habitat changes from wild lands to agricultural fields are very difficult to reverse, so land use planning under the umbrella of the KAZA-TFCA is crucial. To provide planners and managers with the information they need to do so, Nic Elliot, a doctoral student on the project is, through a cutting edge mathematical and spatial model is aiming to be able to predict which parts of the KAZA-TFCA would be most valuable to protect in order to preserve the integrity of the wider KAZA ecosystem.



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# ‘DHL LIONS’ - Lion Conservation Through Football

by Lovemore Sibanda

The Long shield lion guardian team consists of 21 members, (5 executive members and 16 players). Chief Mlevu is the Patron of the football team and J. Sibanda is the Head coach. The team consists of team players from Mlevu village in Tsholotsho Zimbabwe. Different villages get together to form soccer team - not doubting the fact that "football unites different people from different walks of life".

The soccer team is in a league with 5 other teams namely Gwenga, Green horses of Mtshayeli, Kapanyana, Kapane and Ngamo Pirates- of which all the names for each team are derived from the villages in which they come from.

Last year the team came second out of 6 after Ngamo Pirates- not so bad at all considering Ngamo Pirates is "the most feared team" in the league.

Hoping they will do better this year and come first and not only that but also to be pioneers in lion conservation.

On behalf of the Football team, we would like to Thank you very much for the kind donations, big Thank you to DHL as well. I met all the team members on Saturday and they looked smart in their

T Shirts. Just to update you so that you are aware as well. The Chief and I have agreed that the team should identify weak bomas in the whole Mlevu village, with the help of the local lion Guardian, they will repair and build strong lion proof bomas especially for the elderly and widows, the main Aim is to stop lions getting into kraals. however I still have to let Andy know about this and get his ideas before the football team can start. Once I get a reply from Andy, that's when we will start rebuilding bomas. I will get lots of pictures for you and to pass them on to DHL.

Thank you for everything you have done for us, all efforts are greatly appreciated.

Cheers  
Lovemore



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## ‘LONG SHIELD’ LION GUARDIAN PROGRAMME Launched by the Hwange Lion Research Project

*Written by Dr Andrew Loveridge*

The lion is an iconic symbol of Africa, yet co-existing with lions poses hardships for many African communities. Lion depredation on domestic livestock and has negative impacts on the livelihoods of livestock owners. Carnivores are impacted when retaliatory action is taken against them. Globally, human populations are expanding and this has resulted in increasing human-carnivore conflict and declines in many carnivore populations across the world. In the case of the African lion, populations across Africa are shrinking and lions are now absent from 85% of their historical range.

Great ingenuity, dedication and the will and support of local communities are needed to solve the problem of Human-Wildlife conflict. The ‘Living with lions’ project in south western Kenya has hit upon a unique solution. Maasai warriors were recruited to work alongside conservationists to protect both their community’s livestock and the predators in their areas. This ‘Lion Guardian’ programme has enjoyed significant success in reducing human-lion conflicts. Following the notable achievements of the Kenyan programme a number of similar projects have been initiated in community areas across Africa, including Ruaha and Ngorongoro in Tanzania and around Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.

The Hwange programme has been named ‘The Long Shields’ and is run by the Hwange Lion Research Project with sponsorship from Panthera, Great Wall Motors and SATIB Trust. The programme name has local resonance. In the late 19th Century the Matabele were known as ‘the people of the long shields’, so named because the fearsome warriors of the tribe carried tall raw hide shields for protection in battle. Our modern usage of the name communicates the protective role that contemporary ‘long shields’ play in their communities, protecting both village livestock and their community’s natural resources, including the predators that are so valuable to Zimbabwe’s tourism industry.

In late 2012, after fruitful discussions with the Tsholotsho and Hwange Rural District Councils, CAMPFIRE officers and local traditional leaders the programme was launched around Hwange National Park. The programme is led by the Hwange

Lion Research Project’s Brent Stapelkamp and Lovemore Sibanda and has, over the last few months, recruited seven men and one lady from candidates put forward by the local chiefs.

Each ‘long shield’ is equipped with a rugged mountain bike (kindly donated by Des Stephens of SATIB insurance), a cell phone to communicate with project co-ordinators and GPS to record information about conflict incidents in their area. As fearless as the warriors of old, the ‘Long Shields’ actively mobilise villagers to deter would-be stock raiding lions with loud noises and bright lights and by lighting watch fires. They also warn their neighbours to move their cattle away from areas where lions are present. This strategy appears to work well and we have monitored the movements of these lions as they move back into the National Park to avoid this unwelcome disturbance. The ‘Long Shields’ also monitor local wildlife, assist and advise local people with livestock protection.

The ‘Long Shields’ lion guardian programme is part of ongoing long term research being undertaken by the Hwange Lion Research Project in close collaborative partnership with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority for over a decade. Since 2007 the project has focused on understanding the causes and extent of human conflict with lions in the Hwange area. This programme has been extended to the Victoria Falls region in partnership with Roger and Jess Parry of Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust.







# THE KGALAGADI LION PROJECT

## “SATIB SUPPORTED PROJECT”

This is a new project which SATIB Trust have identified with South African National Parks (SANParks) and currently in discussion with SANParks. A full Overview of our intentions on this Project will be included in our next edition. For more information, contact Maya or Otto Beukes – otto.beukes@yahoo.com

The KGALAGADI LION PROJECT is a research orientated programme aimed at investigating and monitoring the lion population of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park (the South African section of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park). This project is being implemented under the auspices of South African National Parks (SANParks) and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology with the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa acting as the financial administrator of the project.



Within the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (Kgalagadi) a key management issue is the persistence of large carnivore species. In 2009 SANParks conducted a survey on the lion population and noted disturbing changes in the sex ratio of the population. The survey indicated a significant shift towards more males than females. It was predicted that if this skewed sex ratio were to persist it could ultimately lead to the collapse of the population. Several theories were put forward to explain this trend, the primary theories included:

- A change in prey availability due to changes in the prey numbers and distribution over time and consequent utilization by lions, leaving females in good body condition. Research findings elsewhere have suggested that some female mammal species in good body condition tends to produce male-biased litters.

- Increased incidences of human-lion conflict might lead to a disruption in the social structure and dynamics of the lion population and may lead to an increased rate of male coalition change overs in prides. Rapid coalition changeover has been found to promote male biased litters.

Although many theories exist, the exact cause of the detected sex skew is currently unresolved. Further research is urgently required in order to effectively plan and direct conservation management practices that will ensure the survival of this lion population. Thus the KGALAGADI LION PROJECT was brought into being.

The research conducted entails two independent yet related areas of enquiry. The first being a detailed study of lion demography and the effects this may have on future population trends, as well as determining which mechanisms influence the lion population's composition and change. An individual identification catalogue of all lions encountered in the park is being created using photographs of lions sighted by park rangers, researchers and tourists. This allows us to record changes in the lion demographic profiles. Individual identification of lions is achieved through the recording of scarring, damage to the ear lobes and whisker spots.

The second area of enquiry is concentrated on understanding the present patterns of lion diet in the Kgalagadi in relation to pride composition, prey availability, season and opportunities to interact with livestock. We will also be investigating whether the diet of the Kgalagadi lions has changed over time. This will be achieved through using a combination of methods including direct observations, lion scat analysis, GPS cluster analysis and isotope analysis.

## PROJECT UPDATE

Arriving in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park on Saturday the 27 April 2013 was a momentous occasion and marked the beginning of the KGALAGADI LION PROJECT! The first few weeks were

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spent getting to know the park and building relationships with the staff. We have been warmly welcomed in the Kgalagadi and there is a genuine interest in the project. We will be working closely with these people in the years to come. The project base camp is located at Twee Rivieren (Southern most point of the park). When not on field trips, this is where we can be found. The 1st June marked the official start of data collection for the KGALAGADI LION PROJECT. Data collection has already been initiated in the form of a lion identification catalogue, collection of biological material for isotopic analysis, lion scat analysis and recording of predation events observed. We have conducted a number of field trips totaling 46 field days thus far throughout the park. Since arriving we have already travelled over 8700 kilometers in search of lions resulting in 52 lion sightings. Of these, only two of the sightings were of lions we had seen previously. At an average traveling distance of 170km per lion sighting one begins to see just how sparse the Kgalagadi lions are in this arid environment, with home ranges spanning as much as 500km<sup>2</sup>.

From park staff and tourist sightings we have already come to identify almost 100 lions in the South African section of the Kgalagadi. This is rather significant as previous estimations of the lion population size were approximately 130 lions. This gives us a good starting point in being able to track individual life histories through individual identification.

It does not end here, thanks to the submission of lion photographs from park staff and loyal Kgalagadi visitors the database is continually growing. We would like to thank those

who have submitted photographs and thus providing crucial information to aid us in gaining an understanding of this great national treasure!

### HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

A major part of the KGALAGADI LION PROJECT is the development of the Identification Catalogue of all lions encountered in the park. This is where you can partake directly in the project by sending us your Kgalagadi lion photographs from 2010 onwards.



When sending us your photographs what we need to know is: Where the lion was sighted (GPS location and/or location name), Photograph/s showing the whiskers spots (left and right side of the face), Photograph/s showing the body (left and right side) and any additional notes e.g. what it was feeding on, time, was it in a pride or alone etc.

We know that you may not have the opportunity to gather all of this information or photographs. Therefore send us whatever you can, most importantly the photographs of the whisker spots together with the date and location of the sighting.

### A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to express a heart felt word of gratitude to all of our corporate sponsors and to all who have made private donations to the KGALAGADI LION PROJECT! The success of this project relies on your good will and us all working together to ensure the survival of the iconic lions of the Kgalagadi!

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# THE REMARKABLE ADAPTIVE NATURE OF ELEPHANTS

*Peter Anderson – Trustee of SATIB Trust*

I have just spent a few days in the Pafuri Concession of the Kruger National Park in the Trails camp operated by Wilderness Safaris. The spectacular camp on the Luvuvhu River that I spent a few years working on establishing whilst at Wilderness Safaris a few years ago was washed away in January this year. The concession is thriving with animals and in the flood plain in view of the camp there are hundreds of head of wildlife to be seen throughout the day. The surprising increase is in the herds of Zebra which are plentiful and seen to be feeding amongst Nyala, Baboon, Vervet Monkey, Impala, Kudu and Wildebeest.



Photo: Peter Anderson

*The young elephant bull making its way through the Fever Tree Forest*

Driving through the fever tree forest en route to Crooks corner we encountered this young elephant bull. He was limping badly and on closer inspection it was apparent that he had detonated an anti personnel mine on his left rear foot. Taking a closer look it seems that this injury is at least a year or two old which shows that the bull has adapted to living with this terrible injury. It is surprising how it has avoided becoming infected straight after the incident and judging from the scar tissue has healed without any remaining open wound.

I spoke with Willem, a guide who has spent 6 years in the concession, and he has not seen this bull before. There have been a few elephant that have entered from Zimbabwe & Mozambique with land mine injuries from this incredibly

cowardly warfare of man. Unfortunately these land mines lie there for years after the conflict has ended. It just makes one realise what a remarkable adaptive nature these pachyderms have & how badly our species impacts on these forgiving animals.



Photo: Peter Anderson

*The healed scar tissue is evident*



Photo: Peter Anderson

*One can see the large amount of flesh & muscle that was blown away by the land mine*

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# LOOKING AHEAD WITH ELEPHANTS ALIVE

by Dr. Michelle Henley

We are currently faced with an interesting dichotomy of elephant management decisions. In the face of a continental decline in African elephant numbers due to poaching, the Kruger National Park's expanding elephant population poses certain risks to various components of the ecosystem and human infrastructure. The growing elephant population can be ascribed to past management practices which not only afforded them the protection needed to proliferate, but also inadvertently disrupted certain natural cycles which are meant to regulate the population. In particular, historical approaches were firstly aimed at suppressing population numbers through reduction, and secondly, accommodating tourism values to increase game viewing opportunities by means of implementing a water stabilising programme. Respectively, these approaches resulted in increasing the amount of food per head available to an individual elephant, thereby increasing reproductive output, and removing limiting factors such water availability which is key to elephants' spatial distribution and survival rates. Consequently it has become imperative to understand the movements and possible dispersal patterns of elephants in

have long been emotive and contentious and although elephants are one of the most studied mammals, we are still learning more about them as a result of new technologies which are being developed and deployed.

In keeping with current conservation and research trends in South Africa, Save the Elephants – South Africa have decided, after a decade of research within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, to change our name to Elephants Alive. Our mission is to ensure the survival of elephants and promote the harmonious co-existence between elephants, their habitats and people. In close collaboration with Save the Elephants we will continue to track elephants in this region which stretches across three international boundaries and covers an area roughly the size of Belgium. Over a period of ten years we have been acquiring real time accurate data collected by satellite tracking collars in order to understand the drivers of elephant movements which include nutritional, social and safety benefits. In total, we have collared 56 elephants during 89 collaring operations in the western, eastern and northern regions of the Kruger National Park. The distribution data are backed up with observations in the field, recording changes in associations between individuals, musth status and elephants' reactions to observers (perception of risk). Within the Associated Private Nature Reserve we have fitted 36 elephants with collars since 1998. We currently have distribution data from eight breeding herds and 28 bulls (ranging in age from 12 to 50 years) within the Private Reserves, spanning more than 10 years. Within the neighbouring Kruger National Park, we have collared 14 bulls and six breeding herds since 2006.



Photo: Michelle Henley

relation to localised impact to the vegetation across core conservation areas such as the Kruger National Park and to the North (Zimbabwe), the East (Limpopo National Park in Mocambique) and the West (Associated Private Nature Reserves) of this world-renown conservation area. This information will contribute towards improving our knowledge of the ecological processes that will propagate the coexistence of elephants, their habitat and people. Issues related to elephant management

Since the project's official inception in 2003 we have gathered data by tracking elephants and identifying individual elephants in order to study their population dynamics, their movements and habitat use. Vegetation surveys have also been conducted for almost a decade to understand the effects of elephants as drivers of ecosystem change in relation to indicator species such as large trees (primary) and selected tree nesting birds (secondary). In addition, one of the focal areas of the project over recent years has been to select and collar a number of large tusked bulls or bulls that exhibit the potential to become large tusked individuals in order to promote the conservation of Africa's largest concentration of big tuskers. There are very

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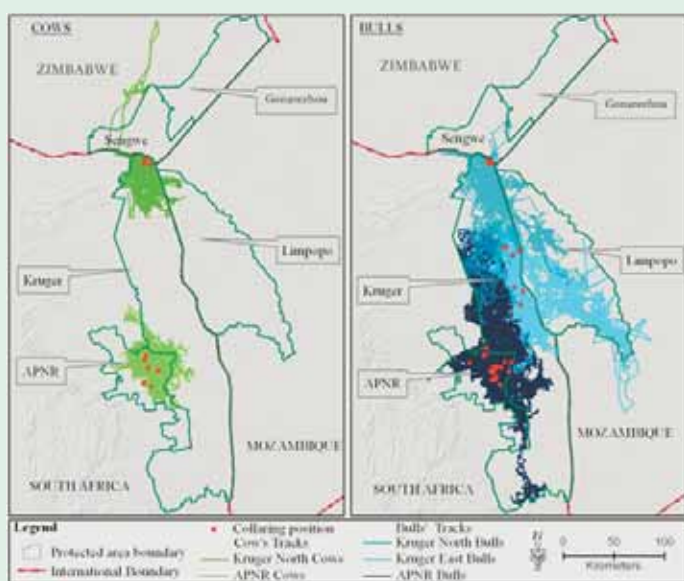
few large tusked bulls left in Africa today, as they are the first to be targeted by unregulated trophy hunting and illegal poaching. It is a privilege to catch a glimpse of these great animals, like sentinels of bygone eras, they represent benchmarks of successful conservation endeavours - symbols of beauty and age that are kept alive and protected, despite man's greed and the high price of ivory. The Kruger National Park and a few other conservation areas in Africa are to be commended for their vision and dedication to the protection of these magnificent individuals. By understanding the abundance, movements and social importance of the remaining large tusked bulls to both human and elephant society, we strive to use these flagship individuals as educational tools to address broader conservation concerns.

What have these collars taught us about this valuable cohort of elephant society? We have seen that elephants range over far larger areas than what was previously thought. The average home range for older bulls is about 3000 km<sup>2</sup> with females usually moving over one third of this range size. Mac, first collared in 2002, has rewritten the textbooks with his home range of over 7000km<sup>2</sup>. We have seen that older bulls with regular annual musth cycles, a few months in duration, have discrete musth and non-musth ranges if reserves are large enough to accommodate both range types without overlap. Whilst not in musth, for approximately eight months of the year, these older bulls are accompanied by younger bulls who prefer their company and who actively seek their guidance and mentoring after having moved away from their natal family units into these so-called bull areas. We have also discovered that long after fences separating reserves have been removed,

the memory of these fences are retained and it takes a number of years for the animals to explore beyond these invisible lines. Overall, the extensive area that is covered by these males stresses the importance of consolidated conservation efforts across national and international boundaries, thereby ensuring their safety and protection while enabling their wanderlust. Some elephants, such as Mac, spend most of their time in core conservation areas such as the Kruger National Park with a musth range which incorporates the Associated Private Nature Reserves to the west of Kruger. Other bulls, such as Quinto who was first collared in 2006 moved to the east and spent most of his time in Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, at times even leaving the protected area to move southwards. WESSA who was collared in the same year appears to be restricted by the western boundary fence, moving on occasion as far west as he possibly can when entering Great Letaba Ranch. As these bulls slowly add 730g of ivory to their already exquisite tusks on an annual basis, with accelerated growth as the pulp cavity of the tusks fill with old age, we feel privileged to be able to follow in the tracks of these rare giants as they move across an ancient landscape where once elephants of their stature were more prolific. May we do all we can to ensure the survival of these remaining living museums.

We would like to thank the all the Wardens and landowners of the Associated Private Nature Reserves to the west of the Kruger National Park where our headquarters are based, for their continued logistical support. SANParks and SA WorldVets has supported and assisted with numerous collaring operations while various organisations and private landowners have sponsored collars over the years. We appreciate all the long-term support from African Wildlife Tracking, the Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa (WESSA) and Wilderness Safari Trust. We are very grateful to the US Fish and Wildlife Services for financially supporting our project for more than four years.

Contact details: Michelle Henley (PhD.)  
 PO. Box 960 Hoedspruit 1380  
 Email contact: [info@elephantsalive.org](mailto:info@elephantsalive.org)



Map: Festus Ihwagi

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## HERDING CATS WITH THE ART OF VUVUZELAS

*Written by Brent Stapelkamp*

The mighty vuvuzela, so maligned in international football circles and capable of making a “monkey bite it’s mother”, has finally been put to good use.

Not for scaring fancy European football teams but for intimidating cattle killing lions!

The relationship between lions and livestock is an ancient one with something of a battle of arms continuing to this day and more lions in Africa are killed in retaliation for livestock depredation than for any other reason. Often, the call is for a “quick fix”... usually in the form of a bullet but today we are trying something different. We are trying to teach individual lions that have resorted to a diet of beef that they are not welcome amongst the people. We do this by collaring the lions in satellite collars and monitoring them in real time. When we see that they have entered or are about to enter a communal area where they may predate on livestock we jump into action.



Local men employed as “Long Shields” are sent the location of the lion via txt message and there they gather for the showdown with neighbours, drums, dogs and vuvuzelas. Creeping to within 60m of the lion’s location (usually in thick bush) the people fan out to give the lion the sense that he is outnumbered and on the command of three... the vuvuzelas open up like the death bellow of a locomotive!!!

We have performed this not so subtle mitigation technique on a number of occasions recently with some amazing results. Almondo the

lion is one particular individual who repeatedly returns to an area outside of the national park. It is broken country, made up of hills and gullies and thick combretum bush. His modus operandi is to lie up during the day in the hills and descend at night to prey on unattended livestock. Whilst trying to convince people to bring their cattle into stockades at night we are also making life for Almondo as uneasy as possible in his hilly hideaway. We scare the wits out of him!!

He has been fleeing into the park, only to return a week or two later but we are hopeful that this repeated disturbance will take its toll and he will change his ways... best case scenario... he will become vegetarian!

We need to be creative in coming up with locally sustainable but modern adaptations of traditional mitigation methods! And who knows...

Perhaps one day the safest place to keep cattle will be near the local football ground!



## 2013 NEDBANK TOUR DE TULI

In Africa we have as much rich and diverse beauty as we have challenges and need. The Nedbank Tour de Tuli, hosted by Children in the Wilderness, is fast becoming an iconic mountain biking event that combines a breathtaking, life-changing experience with the opportunity to empower communities. Over four days, 350 cyclists and 150 support crew cover nearly 300km of challenging and varied remote African terrain in South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Russel Friedman, Nedbank Tour de Tuli participant, one of founders of Wilderness Safaris and Children in the Wilderness board member puts the tour into perspective. "It's not a race, this cannot be emphasised enough. We spend 5 to 6 hours a day in the saddle, traversing pristine wilderness. The route does not include manicured single tracks; we'll follow animal tracks through areas that are normally only accessible to elephants and other game, and now mountain bikes. Many new friendships are created on the tour. The days are long, and tough, but well worthwhile being able to appreciate the biodiversity of these incredible areas."

Children in the Wilderness director Rita Bachman highlights the positive impact of the event on local communities and the environment. "The huge media coverage generated by the cycle tour helps create much awareness for the areas through which we travel. Monies raised through the tour help with the sustainability of the Children in the Wilderness programme by hosting more children's camps, Eco-Clubs and hosting quality staff training."

### 3 August 2013

Day 1 began in the Limpopo Valley Camp, and ended in the Amphitheatre Bush Camp, in Botswana. Highlights of this 60km route included numerous elephant sightings, one big cat encounter within the Croton forests, a playground of slick rock and plenty of undulating single track. Elephant warnings and a fantastic descent will took riders into the new site chosen for Camp 2. An ancient and spiritual space welcomed the weary.

### 4 August 2013

Day 2 took riders from the Amphitheatre Bush Camp in



Being challenged in life is inevitable,  
being defeated is optional.





Botswana to Maramani Camp in Zimbabwe. This 72km leg, comprising a combination of sublime single track along ancient elephant game trails and wilderness jeep track, traversed the spectacular wildlife areas of Mashatu and Shalimpo. A unique informal border crossing on the Shashe River introduced the riders to the ever hospitable rural communities of south-western Zimbabwe.

The day ended at a unique camp alongside the Limpopo River: Maramani Camp. The mournful sounds of cowbells and donkey brays merged with a combination of laughter and war stories as cyclists prepared for day three along a crocodile-filled section of the great Limpopo. Flooding of the Limpopo earlier this year has not only had a marked effect on its natural floodplain but swept an additional 17 000 juvenile crocs into this river system when a croc farm upstream was submerged. The warnings were straight forward; no swimming allowed!



### 5 August 2013

Fast donkey cart roads in the Maramani community began the 58km day. As promised by the organisers the new FlyCamp site on Nottingham Estates was awe-inspiring and memorable enough to bring participants back over and over again. Situated close to a spectacular sandstone feature, this natural rocky outcrop attracts herds of game which come to feed well into the night. Visible from a vantage point within striking distance of the camp, this gladiator ring teeming with elephant, eland, impala, baboons and many other species of game necessitated a beer in hand to celebrate the end of the third day in the saddle.



### 6 August

There were two options on Day 4: the long and challenging (but spectacular) 84km route, or a 47km route made up of single and jeep track.

The longer option route is guaranteed to test even the most battle-hardened rider as it packs a hefty punch within the first few kilometres of riding. Bundu-bashing their way back onto what has been hailed as the ultimate single track section of the Zimbabwe leg, the Nedbank Tour De Tuli participants will have little time to recover from the elation of being back on ancient elephant trails and having to keep an eye out for these wandering pachyderms before they were thrust onto the banks of the Mutshishokwe River and Dam where basking crocs had to be avoided at all costs.

With parts of the route having been affectionately named the Spine Breaker, Jaw Breaker, The Botanical Garden and Rock Camp, many a war story was recounted when the day ended in the South African Mapungubwe. The final push in Zimbabwe

He who knows not his own strength,  
has not met adversity.

included crossing from Nottingham Estates to its equally awe-inspiring western neighbour, Sentinel Ranch.

A well-earned evening celebration overlooking the shared borders of Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa ended this year's Nedbank Tour de Tuli. A traditional bagpipe serenade courtesy of one of the volunteers marked the end of an incredible adventure.

#### Notes to editor:

Monies raised through the Nedbank Tour de Tuli help with the sustainability of the Children in the Wilderness programme by hosting more children's camps, Eco-Clubs and hosting quality staff training. Children in the Wilderness is a non-profit organisation that operates in 7 southern African countries, providing an environmental and life skills educational programme for children, focusing on the next generation of decision-makers: inspiring them to care for their natural heritage and to become the custodians of these areas in the future.

#### Numbers:

During the 2013 Nedbank Tour de Tuli, 350 cyclists and 150 staff and volunteers were accommodated in 2 500 dome tents in five camps (two in Botswana, two in Zimbabwe and one in South Africa). 100 000 litres of water had to be supplied for the mobile showers across the camps. An additional 15 300 litres of drinking water was distributed across the three host countries as well as 618 cases of soft drinks, 489 cases of beer and 177 cases of wine and spirits. 13 Super Rent 8-tonne Cargo and Reefer trucks bring catering goods and drinks to the camps, with a further 3 Super Group 18 wheel Super Links carrying all camp and setup equipment. In addition to a tent for every participant, staff member and volunteer, each camp boasts a medical tent, support desk with power points, Cycle Lab bike maintenance station, an extensive and impressive catering station by Mango Catering, a generator-powered media tent, fully stocked bar, mobile toilets, hot showers, a masseuse station as well as a popular coffee station courtesy of Bean There.

Media queries email: [kim@kimstephens.co.za](mailto:kim@kimstephens.co.za)



SATIB Insurance Brokers have been a long-time sponsor together with many others, of the Tour de Tuli, and for us this is really a wonderful initiative to support.

Well done to Russel Friedman, Rita Bachman and your hard-working team, and a special thank you to all the sponsors, in particular Nedbank Group – you all bring a huge amount of happiness to children in Africa!

*Comment by SATIB Trust Chairman*

## The undertaking of a new action brings new strength.



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The following people/organizations need a special mention for their continued support in conservation projects in Africa:

**DHL Express** – for their continued service, moving samples, from dung to blood, documents, satellite collars, brochures – all around Africa and also internationally for the SATIB Trust – we thank you!



**GWM Motors South Africa** – donated three GWM 4 x 4 vehicles for various carnivore projects in Africa, funded the Beauty in the Beast calendar 2013 and 2014 and various items of clothing for the anti-poaching and lion guardians. Thank you!



**Mr Clive Johnstone** and **Mrs Beazley** for the substantial donation to produce the 2000 copies of *Vusa - The Lion Guardian Comic*, and salaries for our lion guardians – We thank you!

**Mr Kevin Watson/Anthony Courtenay** of Ivory Group and SATIB Insurance Brokers Durban, for their continued support and infrastructure of SATIB Trust core expenses - accommodation, telephones, IT support, art department, secretarial and accounting services - this is an invaluable service which you provide to the Trust - Thank you!



Mr Warren Freimond for his continued help when requested – We thank you!

To Mark Stewart of BDO Spencer Steward (Auditors/Accountants)



To Lance Coubrough of Livingston Leandy Attorneys for your commitment to the Trust and “pro bono” services.



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**Mr John Davison** (son of first Warden of Hwange National Park, Mr Ted Davison) – R500-00 for Elephants Alive – Many thanks John!

**Mr Matt Todd** (UK) – Matt met me in Hwange and has now become a supporter of the Hwange Lion Research Project. Matt your R25 000 donation for equipment for our Project is most generous. We hope to see you in Hwange again this year. Thank you most sincerely.

**Mr Armand Gilanyi** – International artist from New York for the kind donation of 3 beautiful, limited edition Elephant paintings – Elephants in Crisis! We will auction these off at a VIP Dinner function at the end of the year. Watch this space! However, if any of our readers would like to make an offer of purchase on these limited edition prints please contact me – thank you kindly to Armand and Thomas.



Ivory Balloon  
50x38



Tusks (Detail)  
50x38



Over the Precipice (Detail)  
50x38

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