



Q3 IMPACT REPORT

July – September 2021

PROJECT AIM: The pandemic brought Africa's \$39 billion tourism industry to a halt creating a negative economic ripple effect across tourism-funded conservation efforts, resulting in a high number of conservation workers being laid off, including anti-poaching rangers. The areas, previously safe havens to wildlife, quickly became targets for wildlife crime and areas saw a rapid increase in poaching.

INTRODUCTION

The global pandemic shot through the fabric of all our lives and almost no sector was left unscathed. Wildlife conservation is what I consider a second pandemic as bush meat, iconic species, lions, rhinos, elephants and pangolins took the brunt of it and we started to understand that this has become a massive, and highly organised transnational crime worth over \$27 billion a year. When we moved rhinos to Botswana (for our initiative Rhinos Without Borders) it was to give them a second chance, and many arrived with bullet holes already. From the 87 we brought in we've had 62 babies in the wild. And then walked straight into a massive poaching pandemic of our own.

Today about half of the adults have been killed, and although we are still in the positive 'black' it is depressing and traumatic for everyone involved. I have the image of Poster our head of anti-poaching and monitoring etched on to my mind and seeing this giant of a man, (6 ft 7!) say, "... they are like our babies and then you come across one..." and he puts his head down and weeps. Our collective compassion is no longer enough. It is a war, a classic war between good and evil now and at Great Plains, we must fight it.

Thank you for the incredible support. We simply cannot do this alone. Project Ranger's emergency relief fund has been supporting salaries, operational costs and supplies for units across Africa for over a year. So far we have supported over 16 projects in 9 countries and counting.

Regards

Dereck and Beverly Joubert co founders of Project Ranger.

Below is a map of all of our grantees and some highlights from our grantees active this quarter.¹



BUSHLIFE CONSERVANCY

BushLife Conservancy is a nonprofit that is dedicated to the protection of African wildlife for future generations in Mana Pools and the lower Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe. The region is at high risk for wildlife poaching activities because of Zimbabwe’s Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (Zimparks) limited resources. The threat to wildlife has been further amplified during the COVID pandemic, leaving both Zimparks and Bushlife’s partner safari camp without funding from tourism and local people desperate.

“We are grateful for your generous support and look forward to protecting this vulnerable habitat area with your support”

¹For the security and protection of the organizations we work with we are limited on what information we are able to share in public reports.

Bushlife provides operational and logistical support to ZimParks as well as employing its own rangers to increase coverage of the area. Project Ranger's support has allowed Bushlife to maintain and amplify its presence in the eastern part of Mana Pools, a particularly vulnerable section of the National Park. Project Ranger's support this quarter allowed Gushlife to hire new scouts and a driver to increase their patrol presence and efforts. Supplies and equipment were purchased including uniforms, mosquito netting and bedrolls.



PitTRACK

Pit-Track K9 Conservation and Anti-Poaching Unit is a South African non-profit specialising in using K9's and their passionate and disciplined handlers to protect endangered species in the Kruger National Park area (among others). PitTrack has had huge challenges this quarter from shortages of supplies for both the human team and the k9 team and Project Ranger's support has allowed them to maintain their operations and avoid staff furloughs in one of South Africa's key wildlife conservation areas.



PitTrack have noted "The International Tourism in our area, of which we relied heavily on, is non-existent. Hunting areas that were being pressured to turn to Eco are now re-exploiting that avenue at dramatically reduced rates to accommodate the local market. Hunting quotas have also been increased to accommodate the reduced rate with more volumes of animals, this breaks my heart as we work so hard to protect these animals, we cannot afford a shift of this mentality. "

Regardless of the challenges, the PitTrack team remain positive and determined. This quarter PitTrack finally saw the arrival of two long awaited 2 dogs from Germany. These two K9s are have exceptional detection ability, are trained in rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolin, firearms and ammunition. The 2 dogs are full steam ahead and already producing outstanding results. In addition, all of PitTrack's K9 Tracking Unit team were put through a Wild Response intensive field trauma medical course including a component of the course that included treating a K9 injured out in the field or at base. Finally, the PitTrack have a team based at Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, which has managed to continue its operations with no incidents reported.

“On behalf of Pit-Track Non-Profit K9 Conservation and Anti-Poaching Unit, we would like to thank the Project Ranger team for this incredible life-saving initiative for not only us but all boots on the ground across Africa.”



Without your support, life would most certainly be a lot more difficult, and we would not have been able to achieve as much as we have. We are forever in your favour and extremely grateful in all regards, you have given us so much shining a little light in the horizon and giving us all hope.”

BUMI HILLS

The Bumi Hills Foundation is a non-profit organisation based on the shores of Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe and dedicated to conservation through anti-poaching and community empowerment. The Project Ranger Grant to Bumi Hills is supporting 9 rangers salaries for all of 2021. Most of the rangers are the sole breadwinners in their families, and the extra money that we have been able to include in their basic monthly salary has been received by them all with deep gratitude.

Bumi Hills comment “Our economy is in tatters—basic goods are expensive and sometimes unobtainable—add to that the Covid pandemic, and we have a perfect storm situation, with many rangers in other, not so fortunate organisations, having gone unpaid for many months. Our rangers are all deeply thankful for the extra they have received every month.”

“None of our operations would be possible without your kind support during the year which is HUGELY appreciated – we really would have been in a serious financial mess without your contributions so THANK YOU!!”

6,405km patrolled, 10 arrests made, 105 snares recovered





CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE FUND HWANGE

Project Ranger's support to CWF has been able to keep their scouts employed and patrolling through wages and rations for the scouts. CWF has therefore managed to continue its patrol operations in the Sikumi and Ngamo Forests as well as on some privately leased land and within Hwange National Park. A new partnership has arisen with Hwange Horseback Safaris and plans are in place for a CWF-led horseback anti-poaching unit (APU). With potentials increased team numbers, a new barracks is being built and the ablutions are being expanded alongside other building plans to accommodate the increase in rangers.

Patrol hours 1,823 , Distance patrolled 17,201km , arrests made 19 , traps and snares collected 82



CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI

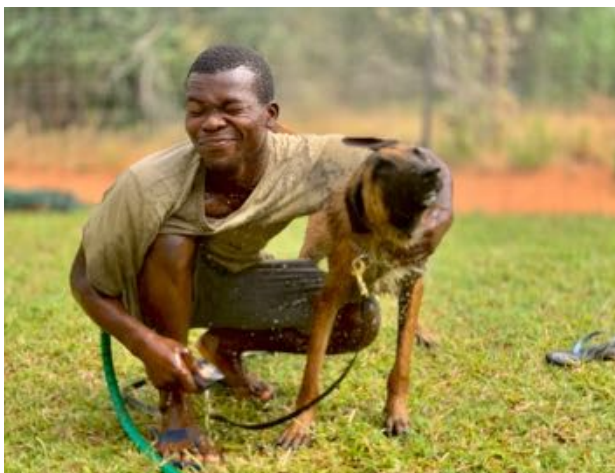
Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) is a non-profit committed to protecting the Lower Zambezi in Zambia which comprises almost 20.000km² of National Park and community-owned Game Management Area. CLZ's work includes support to DNPW, an Environmental Education Programme, a Community Scout Unit, a Community Engagement Programme, a K9 anti-poaching unit and a Rapid Response Unit. Due to a lack of funding and resources, DNPW has faced challenges in fulfilling their mandate. Poaching, and other illegal activities such as deforestation and human encroachment remain a constant threat and COVID-19 has led to rise in bushmeat poaching and illegal small-scale mining.

“Support from Project Ranger for the operation of the critical RRU and K9 Unit has contributed immensely to the protection of wildlife and the environment of the Lower Zambezi. “

Project Ranger's support to CLZ has been focused on the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) and the Detection and Tracking Dog Unit (K9 unit), allowing their uninterrupted operation. In Quarter 3, CLZ's K9 Unit and RRU have continued to address small-scale illegal mining inside Lower Zambezi National Park. Mining threatens the environment through pollution and land degradation and often coincides with other illegal acts such as poaching and illegal fishing. The K9 Unit, as well as teams on the ground, have continued to respond to illegal mining in the region with 51 arrests in Quarter 3 of 2021.

“CLZ would like to acknowledge and thank Project Ranger for this critical, timely and necessary grant, allowing the organisation to continue to protect wildlife and the ecosystems of Lower Zambezi.”

51 arrests, 10 snares collected





GORILLA DOCTORS

Gorilla Doctors is dedicated to conserving mountain and eastern lowland gorillas through veterinary medicine and science. The current COVID-19 pandemic poses a very real threat both because mountain gorillas are susceptible to COVID-19 infection but also because of the pandemic's impact on tourism.

Project Ranger has supported the great work Gorilla Doctors do to protect the endangered Mountain Gorillas. During Q3 they conducted 68 routine health checks, 43 veterinary monitoring visits, performed 10 clinical interventions to treat illness or injury. A large portion of the monitoring visits were in attempt to treat Ndakasi, one of the orphaned mountain gorillas at Senkwekwe. Despite their tremendous efforts, she passed away on September 26th. As you can imagine, they are heartbroken. Virunga National Park just released a statement today that you can read [here](#).

In July, Gorilla Doctors hired a new Gorilla Doctor who will focus on monitoring Grauer's gorillas in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DRC.





ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME INVESTIGATION CENTRE(ECIC)

The Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) is the government entity that manages the National Parks and protected areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Through a partnership with the Maisha Group, a key partner of the ICCN, Project Ranger provided a grant for the establishment of a centralized communication and information centre for the ICCN. The centre will provide digital tools to investigate cyber crime and aggregate and analyse data from the field to allow significant anti-poaching and wildlife crime law enforcement actions on a national scale.

There has been considerable progress throughout Q3 for ECIC to get underway with plans. Progress has included the start of construction of a new building to house the centre as well as the ICCN leadership and enforcement entity. In the meantime an interim location has been used until the building is ready. High speed internet connection has been implemented as well as computers, licenses softwares where the local analyst will soon begin training additional analysts on the use of the system. The analysts will start collecting data and populating the local database.

RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS

Rhinos Without Borders are continuing the strategy of increasing our wildlife monitoring of existing animals instead of re-locating more animals from South Africa due to the current situation that Covid-19 has created with the devastating loss of tourism and its economic support.



Due to the high poaching pressure in recent months, our patrol effort in this quarter has increased dramatically. Due to this increase in patrol effort by our wildlife monitoring team, we are thrilled to announce that 0 animals were poached in Q3. And we are even more excited to announce that we saw some new calves born in this quarter. Hope for the next generation and future of rhinos. But these positive numbers are not without huge effort of our dedicated and passionate wildlife monitors on the ground and our partnerships with other organisations.

With the annual floods water level continuing to drop, it is expected that the area will become more accessible to intruders and the team are preparing to increase their patrol efforts even further as their presence works as a deterrent for potential poachers.

284 patrols, 1,419 hours patrolled, 0 poachings

ENDUIMET

A significant drop in tourism to almost zero due to COVID-19 since March 2020 has brought serious challenges on the work of the Enduimet due to limited operational

budget. This has led to increased bushmeat, human wildlife conflicts and charcoal burning, threatening to reverse the achieved conservation gains and therefore posing a serious challenge in wildlife security in the area.

Enduiment noted “With the Valuable support from the Great Plains Conservation Foundation we have managed to finance and implement all the conservation activities planned for this quarter, all contributing to the efforts of conserving this important transboundary ecosystem.”

“We convey our sincere gratitude to Project Ranger through Great Plain Conservation Foundation for the crucial support without which we couldn’t be able to keep up our dedicated rangers at work to struggle for our collective conservation objective to conserve wildlife and their habitats for a sustainable development and welfare of the Local communities and the Nation at Large.”



The main patrols were carried out by two teams, each with about 15-20 rangers and supporting staff. The teams arranged frequent patrols along the Kenya-Tanzania Boarder line to ensure security of wildlife and their habitat Particularly the VGS did patrols from Esoit Narok – Ng’ararambuni to the Kitenden Corridor.

[In terms of illegal activities, 12 arrests were made of 13 incidents.](#)

UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY / UGANDA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Operations have continued across Murchison Falls (MFPA) and Queen Elizabeth (QE) Protected Areas resulting in Uganda Wildlife Authority being able to maintain control of the protected areas during the last quarter.

Uganda Conservation Foundation has been able to continue to supply monthly food rations to both parks, ensuring rangers and scouts can continue their work. Patrol fuel has been essential for land and water patrols across both parks. In some cases, fuel has also been needed to repair roads to be able to access regions and ranger posts due to the continued flooding and high rain fall in Murchison Falls.

The Murchison Falls Community Scouts team continues to be an incredible success in the park, and ambassadors outside the park, building relationships and change within difficult areas. By controlling the Semanya, Kabim and Delta areas, poaching has been isolated to predictable areas and routines, allowing for operations to have the upper hand and for the poaching community to be unable to succeed.



149 snares have been recovered in the area. Snares are marked with tags, which help poachers know whose snare is whole – this also helps us understand which poachers are operating where. If caught, this can be used as evidence against them. This quarter, large poacher camps have been found, destroyed and many poachers have been arrested.

On behalf of UWA, UCF and the communities, ... and of course all of the bugs, beasties, birds and animals that can't thank you (!) – thank you for all of your efforts to support us and others. We are truly humbled and extremely grateful.

149 snares collected, many poachers arrested.