

CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI

Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting wildlife and promoting the sustainable utilization of natural resources in the Lower Zambezi, Zambia. Founded in 1994, CLZ revolves around three core pillars: Wildlife Protection, Environmental Education, and Community Empowerment. Through collaboration with Zambia's local wildlife authority, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), CLZ actively contributes to fulfilling their shared mission of preserving the Lower Zambezi ecosystem.

Image cover: Michael Hensman and page 2-3: Harry Vlachos - The Guardian

Where we are

LUANO GMA

RUFUNSA GMA

LOWER ZAMBEZI

NATIONAL PARK

CHIAWA GMA

CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI



WILDLIFE PROTECTION

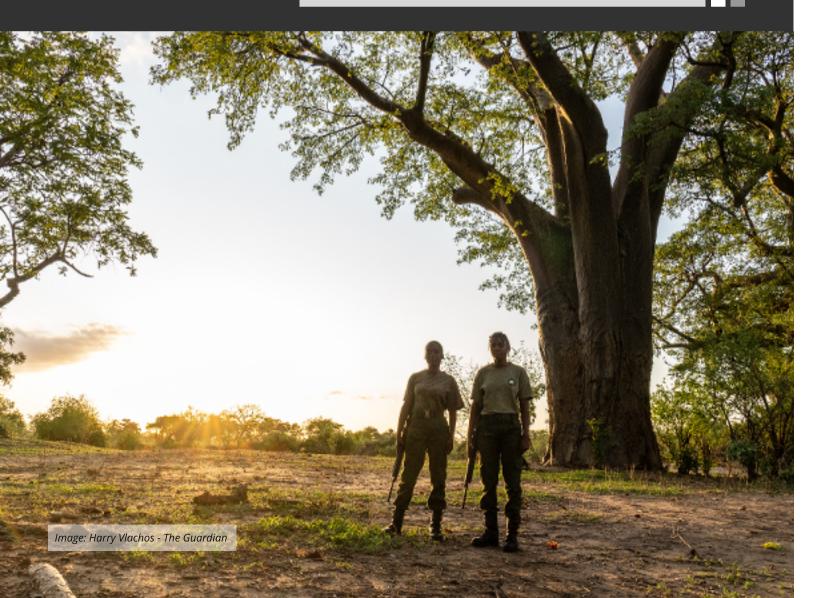


ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Conserving the Lower Zambezi for tomorrow through wildlife protection, environmental education and community empowerment.



Dear CLZ Partners, Friends, Members, and Donors,

What an exciting year 2023 was for CLZ! This years' Impact Report is filled with impressive work the team has accomplished from new infrastructure to support our growing team, to lasting sustainable interventions in the community to improve the human wildlife coexistence, to the impressive number of aerial and foot patrols, a 90% conviction rate, and DNPW capacity building workshops to name but a few of the notable accomplishments.

First and foremost, we must celebrate the news from ZEMA to halt the open pit copper mine located within the Lower Zambezi National Park. The CLZ Board thanks ZEMA for their due diligence and commitment to ensuring strong environmental practices are upheld within Zambia, particularly within the national parks, to ensure the protection of wildlife and natural resources.

Over the past year CLZ management and Board has continued to look at how we can strengthen our internal systems, but also enhance our partnership with the Government of the Republic of Zambia. We have recently begun the start of negotiating a co-management agreement with the Ministry of Tourism and DNPW. This will open new doors for CLZ, but also require some significant adjustments to take on this new role within the park. We look forward to the ongoing negotiations and strengthened partnership with Government.

In 2023 we welcomed our new Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, John Chituwo, who has introduced new and improved systems to improve and strengthen the organisation on the administrative front. Over the past three years we have worked with PKF Zambia Chartered Accountants and are excited to again have a clean independent audit for the year.

All of this work would not be possible without an enormous thank you to our incredible team on the ground whose dedication and passion has enabled CLZ to have such an incredible impact this year. I am also incredibly grateful for all of the work and support of my fellow Executive Committee and Board

Members over the year as we have supported the organisation. I would like to thank the Board for their commitment to supporting CLZ.

I would also like to thank our partners at DNPW, and Ministry of Tourism, who we work closely with on a daily basis to support their mission to conserve Zambia's wildlife resource for biodiversity and social economic enhancement.

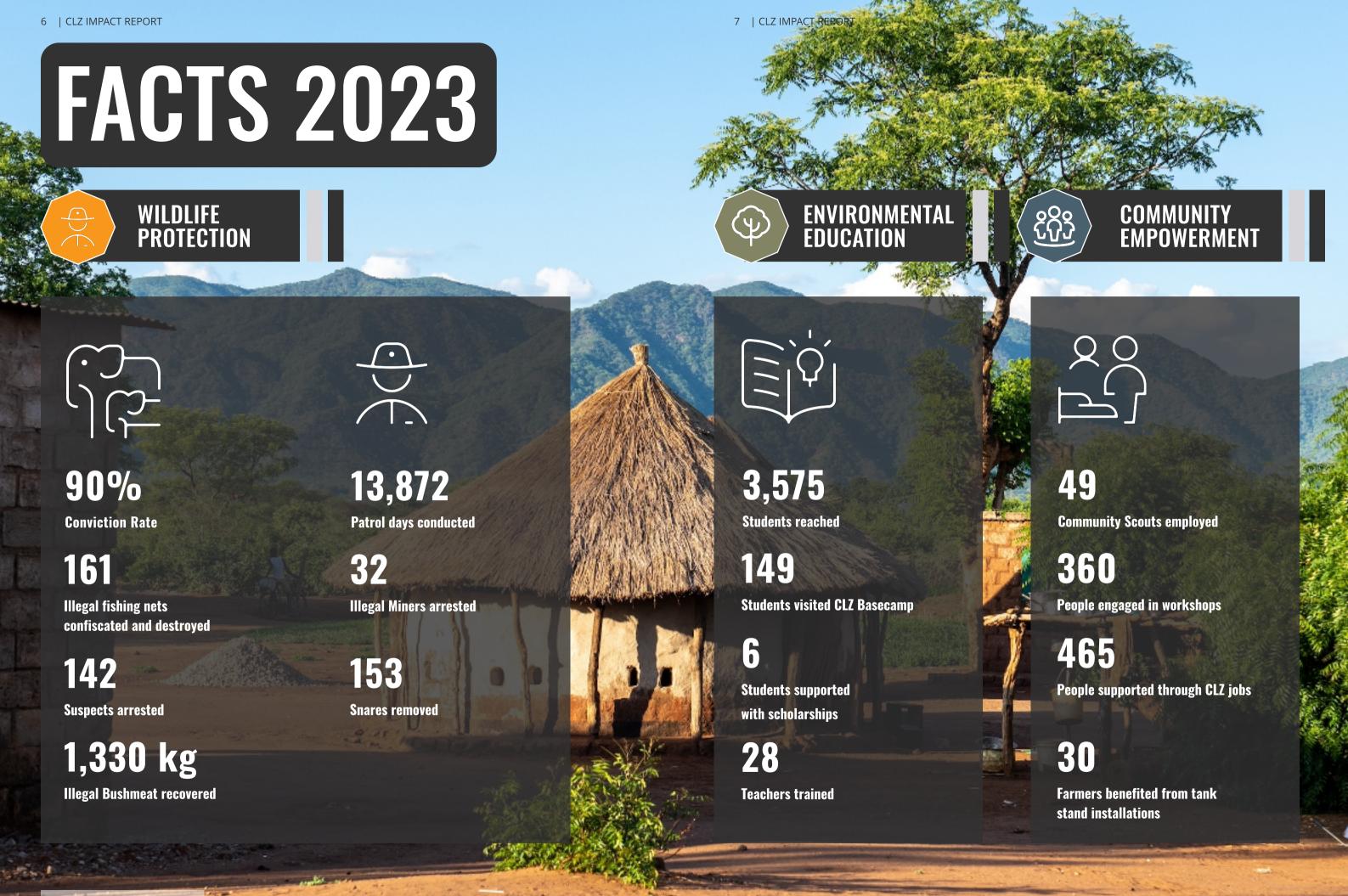
Lastly, I would like to thank all members for your ongoing support and dedication to CLZ, without such a dedicated and supportive membership base CLZ would not have the impact it does in protecting the national park.

Sincerely,

Jill Morse

Chairperson
Conservation Lower Zambezi





WILDLIFE **PROTECTION**

CLZ has worked alongside DNPW for nearly 30 years, sharing the same mandate to protect the Lower Zambezi. The law enforcement pillar of CLZ has been developed over the years to include sophisticated and technologically advanced systems and databases to ensure 24/7 monitoring and a proactive approach to anti-poaching. There is an Operations Centre that is constantly monitored by a dedicated team of DNPW and CLZ staff that ensure data capturing and safety of all teams in the field.

Our comprehensive Law Enforcement Programme is made up of multiple teams;

On the Ground:

- DNPW Patrols
- Community Scout Patrols
- Dog Unit
- Rapid Deployment Team
- *Investigations and Intelligence Units*
- Forward operating bases in LZNP

In the Air:

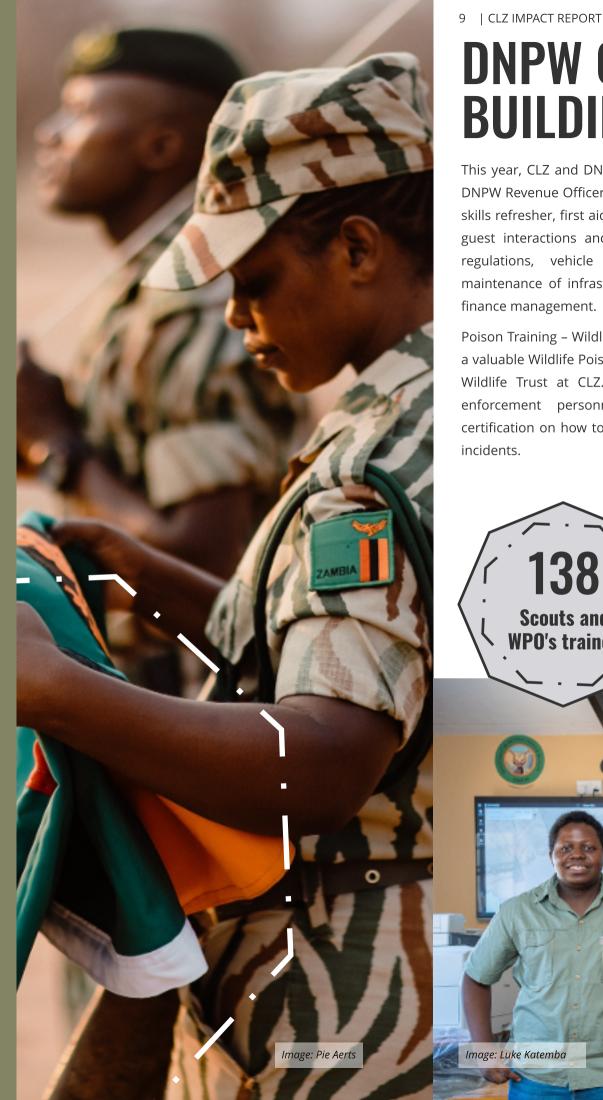
- Aerial patrols
- Helicopter operations

On the River:

- Marine Unit
- River patrols
- Community Fishing Monitoring Unit
- Cross-border collaboration

In the Courts:

- Court case monitoring
- Engaging Magistrates in conservation efforts
- Supporting the National Prosecutions Authority
- Cross-border collaboration



DNPW CAPACITY BUILDING

This year, CLZ and DNPW held a training course for DNPW Revenue Officers that covered the usual basic skills refresher, first aid, weapon handling, as well as guest interactions and hospitality, park rules and regulations, vehicle searches, role structures, maintenance of infrastructure and equipment, and

Poison Training - Wildlife Crime Prevention arranged a valuable Wildlife Poisoning Training course with VF Wildlife Trust at CLZ. 20 rangers and other law enforcement personnel received training and certification on how to detect and handle poisoning incidents.

Courses

conducted

138

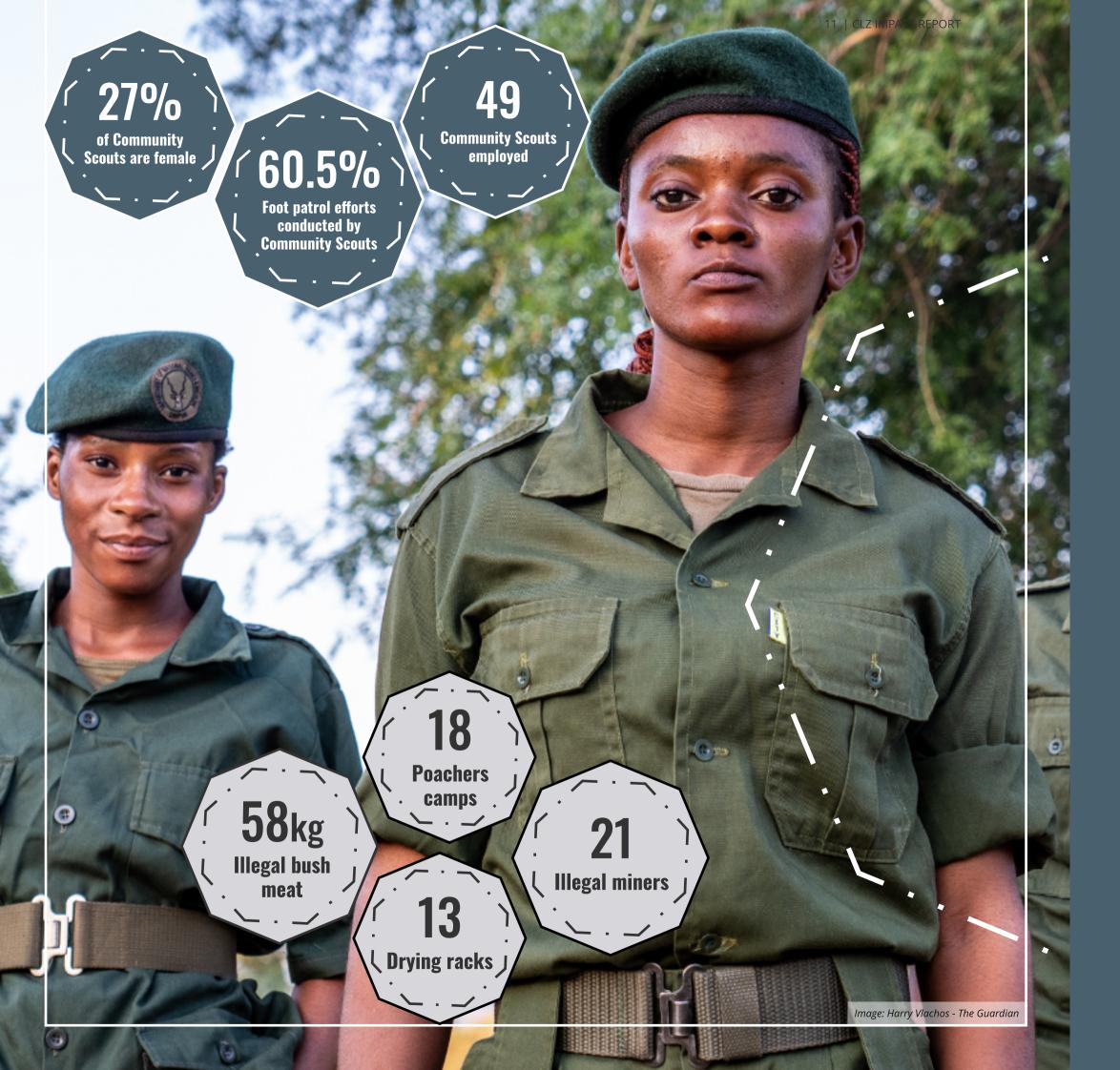
Scouts and

WPO's trained

Partner organisations engaged

ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT

Image: Harry Vlachos - The Guardian



COMMUNITY SCOUTS

The diligent efforts of the DNPW and Community Scout patrols form the bedrock of wildlife and natural resource protection within the national park. Working tirelessly amidst rugged terrain and adverse conditions, these teams are the frontline defenders against illegal activities..

With a staggering 13,872 patrol-person days conducted in 2023, DNPW and Community Scouts demonstrated unwavering commitment. Notably, CLZ took a groundbreaking step in 2021 by establishing Zambia's first all-female Community Scout Unit, named *Kufadza*, which translates to "Inspire" in the local Goba language. This initiative, in collaboration with DNPW, signifies a commitment to gender equity and recognises the invaluable contributions of women in natural resource protection.

Today, *Kufadza* comprises of dedicated women who are reshaping the narrative in a traditionally male-dominated field. Their exemplary dedication has seen some members transition into specialised units such as the Marine Unit, Dog Unit, and Rapid Deployment Team. In 2023, new recruits joined *Kufadza*, undergoing rigorous training in Kafue National Park under DNPW's guidance. At the end of 2023, CLZ employed 49 Community Scouts, with 13 of them being women, marking a significant stride towards gender equity in the Lower Zambezi region.

Beyond their operational duties, *Kufadza* members serve as catalysts for change, challenging stereotypes and inspiring the next generation of female leaders within their communities. Through their patrols, snare sweeps, and unwavering resolve, *Kufadza* not only protect wildlife and combat poaching but also serve as beacons of empowerment, raising awareness and serving as role models for women and girls across the region.

Over the year, the village dogs made a steady transition in the development of their detection and tracking and started Initial Operating Capability with the Belgium Malinois.

Health is always the biggest risk when operating a Dog Unit and this year, despite the precautions taken, all four of the dogs were affected by Trypanosomiasis during the year and Hammer was infected twice, making it the worst year on record for sleeping sickness. The challenge was persistent with noticeably higher numbers of tsetse flies in the area but impressively all infections were detected early by the team enabling rapid treatment and full recovery.

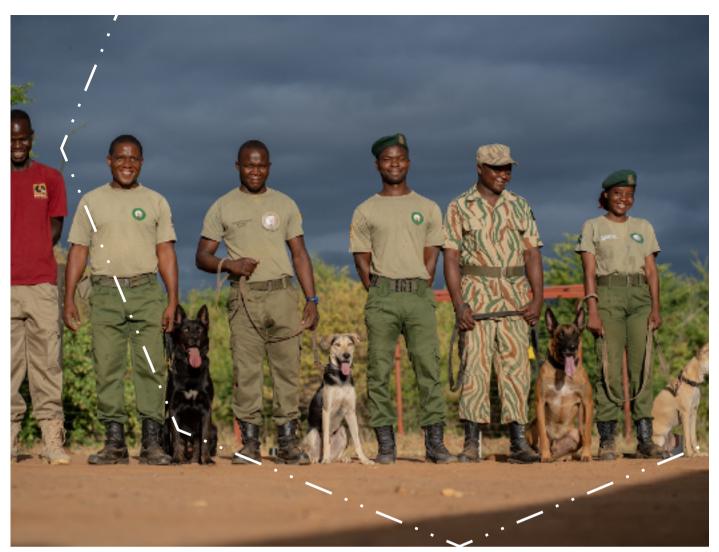
Our handler team gained valuable capacity building through a trip to Agakera National Park in Rwanda, and an international handler exchange with Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe. Ongoing training was facilitated and made possible by Resolve Wildlife throughout the year.

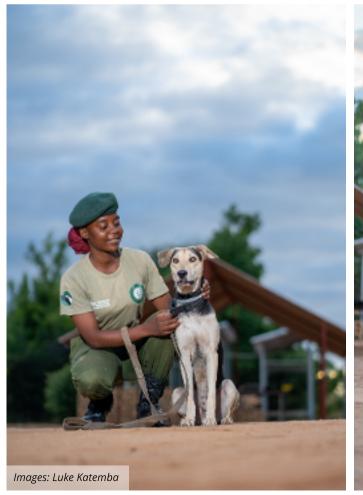


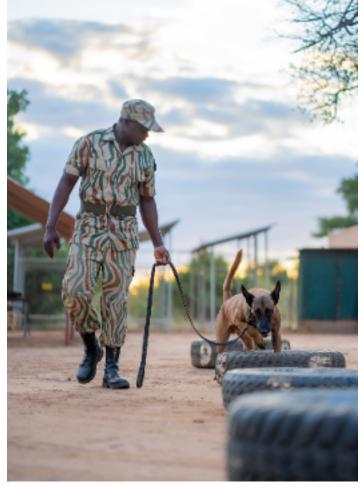










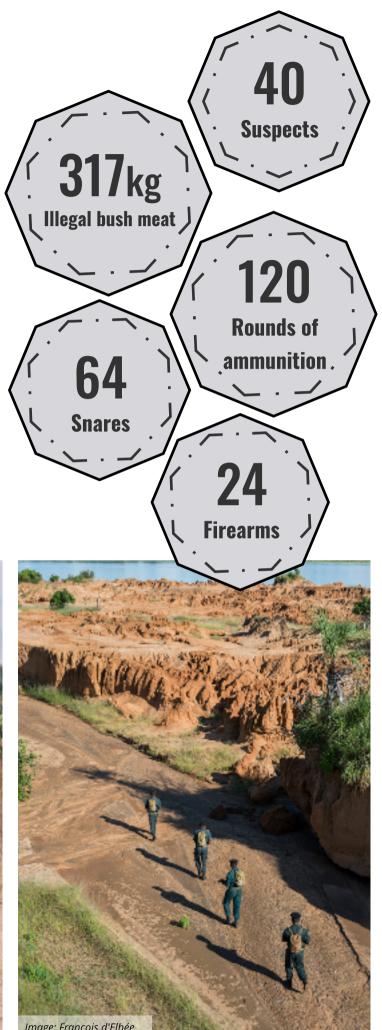


RAPID DEPLOYMENT TEAM

Formed in 2022, the Rapid Deployment Team (RDT) represents a formidable alliance between DNPW Officers and CLZ Community Scouts, united in the fight against poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. Charged with responding swiftly to informer intelligence, the RDT is at the forefront of efforts to dismantle trafficking networks and intercept the illicit trade routes that threaten endangered species within and beyond Zambia's borders.

Operating in close coordination with the Investigations and Intelligence Units, the RDT leverages a collaborative approach to maximize impact and effectiveness. Through combined efforts, they have achieved notable successes, disrupting criminal activities and safeguarding vulnerable wildlife populations.





MARINE UNIT

In 2021, the inception of the Marine Unit marked a significant milestone in conservation efforts along the Lower Zambezi River, serving as a crucial barrier against illicit activities.

Their primary focus lies in thwarting the cross-border trafficking of illegal wildlife products, thus stemming the flow of illicit trade between the two nations. Additionally, the unit is entrusted with monitoring compliance with sustainable fishing regulations, ensuring the preservation of aquatic ecosystems and the livelihoods dependent upon them.

41 Suspects

pects 2

72Rounds of

ammunition

262kg
Illegal bush
meat

18



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

With support through Conservation International and Agence Francaise de Développement, CLZ is proud to be part of the Pro-Nature Enterprises for the People of Southern Africa project. This regional project aims to restore and conserve one million hectares of biodiversity-rich habitats and directly benefit 30,000 people in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Thanks to this support, CLZ is working to promote sustainable fisheries co-management models which include investing with communities on "nature-friendly" enterprises that can deliver environmental and social benefits.

CLZ, the Department of Fisheries, and the Chiawa Community Resource Board recruited people from communities living along the Zambezi River to form a Community Fisheries Monitoring Unit. Candidates underwent a rigorous selection and training process facilitated by Resolve Wildlife. From 84 applicants, 8 members completed the course and graduated.

This unit will focus on sensitising fishers on good fishing practices, Issuance of fishing licences, registration of boats and fishers and Conducting Catch Assessment Surveys.





AERIAL SUPPORT

Our eyes in the sky, the CLZ Cessna 172, remains a crucial detection tool in our Law Enforcement programme. With regular aerial patrols, we are able to detect illegal activities and monitor animal movements in difficult to reach areas such as the escarpment. In 2023, CLZs plane flew a total of 137.9 hours - providing critical assistance to the teams on the ground. This year we carried out one helicopter operation, and after almost 3 years of data collection,

all ten elephants which were being monitored by DNPW and CLZ were darted and de-collared without any injuries. The operation's effectiveness was the result of a well-coordinated effort resulting in apprehension of five miners, disruption of seven poacher camps, the successful installation of communications at Chilapira, and training of teams for 48-hour strike operations.

Drying racks Poachers' Elephants de-collared **Hours of helicopter** operations Image: Estella Snowd

LEGAL **ASSISTANT**

CLZ's Legal Assistant works with DNPW and the National Prosecutions Authority on wildlife crime related cases in courts surrounding the Lower Zambezi.

Our Legal Assistant is part of Wildlife Crime Prevention's Judicial Programme to support the criminal justice system. This programme resulted in a conviction rate of 90% for the cases monitored in the Lower Zambezi Area Management Unit in 2023.

The Legal Assistant's responsibilities extend beyond mere administrative support; they play a pivotal role wildlife crime-related cases. This meticulous data collection serves as a foundation for future quantitative analyses, providing invaluable insights into the patterns and trends of wildlife crime in the



ELEPHANTS & PANGOLINS

Between 2020 and 2023 DNPW and CLZ had 10 elephants in the Lower Zambezi which were fitted with a collar. The collars were successfully removed in 2023. We now have a better understanding of their movements, water points, home ranges and cross border movements. This helps to put better protection systems and planning of operations in place.

The pangolin release programme in partnership with Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) involves the release of confiscated pangolins back into the wild. In total 10 pangolins fitted with a GPS and VHF tag have been released so far. The goal of the programme is to get a better understanding of the survival rate of released pangolins. In 2023 we had a survival rate of 60%.



ANNUAL POACHED ELEPHANTS IN THE LOWER ZAMBEZI NATIONAL PARK 2001 - 2023 CLZ has been recording elephant poaching in the LZNP since 2001. In 2023 there were 11 poached elephants in the Park recorded.

OPEN-PIT COPPER MINING

In 2003, prospecting was approved for a proposed large scale open-pit copper mine located in the heart of the Lower Zambezi National Park. Fast forward 20 years of our efforts to stop the mine, and the Kangaluwi Copper Mine Project is still very much a threat to the health and well-being of the communitities, the environment, its wildlife and the water systems.

CLZ is part of the *Save Zambezi Safe Zambezi* (SZSZ) campaign, which was started in 2021 by concerned individuals and organisations to support efforts to stop the construction of the mine.

CLZ supported and attended a press conference in Lusaka to express concerns regarding the misleading information being disseminated by Mwembeshi Resources Limited about the mine. The company has made promises that jobs will be available to local communities however, the number of jobs they claim to be creating is not consistent with those outlined in their own assessment submitted to Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA).

In June 2023, the Minister of Green Economy and Environment visited the Lower Zambezi National Park mining site and confirmed that the matter is now being handled by the Ministry and the ZEMA.

After a long and complex legal battle with numerous counterparts, the ZEMA made the decision to officially halt the proposed large-scale mining activities by Mwembeshi Resources Limited in the Lower Zambezi National Park. This is a commendable testament that upholds best practices in natural resource protection and ensures the integrity of Zambia's National Parks. With the generous support of concerned lodge owners and organisations, we continue to fight this case in court.

SMALL-SCALE ILLEGAL MINING

Over the last four years small-scale illegal gold mining inside the park has posed large challenges for ecosystem conservation.

A baseline study was conducted to assess the drivers of this activity and identify opportunities for alternative livelihoods for communities.

In 2023, 32 illegal miners were arrested in our area of operations, of which 20 were convicted.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Environmental Education Programme (EEP) is aimed at improving the level of interest and knowledge of the environment in the areas surrounding the Lower Zambezi National Park by engaging with scholars and teachers from 65 schools, ultimately reaching approximately 3,500 scholars annually.

CLZ also aim to increase community engagement in wildlife protection through school conservation clubs as well as monitor and evaluate engagement levels of local school pupils in environmental education and conservation initiatives. Furthermore, through the use of e-learning and tablets in school, students are able to develop their Information and Communications Technology (ICT) based skills. We hope that through this programme, learners will learn the value of wildlife and see them in a more positive light.







We hosted six school visits this year, which saw a total of 149 pupils and 24 teachers come and spend four nights at the CLZ Basecamp. The visits teach students about the geography and ecology of the natural environment, how and why the wildlife and natural resources of the Lower Zambezi need to be protected as well as improving their Information and Communications Technology (ICT) based skills through CLZ's conservation curriculum developed on tablets.

Children take part in lessons and activities, including educational game drives and boat cruises that take them into the LZNP. Through this, students experience wildlife in their natural habitat, which often changes the perception of wildlife that they had previously due to Human-Wildlife Conflict within their communities.



OUTREACH VISITS

Environmental Education Outreach Visits are run by our Environmental Education Manager annually when he visits the conservation clubs in the 65 schools in our area of operation. We work with each club to conduct awareness outreach to secondary and primary school students about the relevance of protecting wildlife and the environment of the Lower Zambezi ecosystem as well as health lessons.

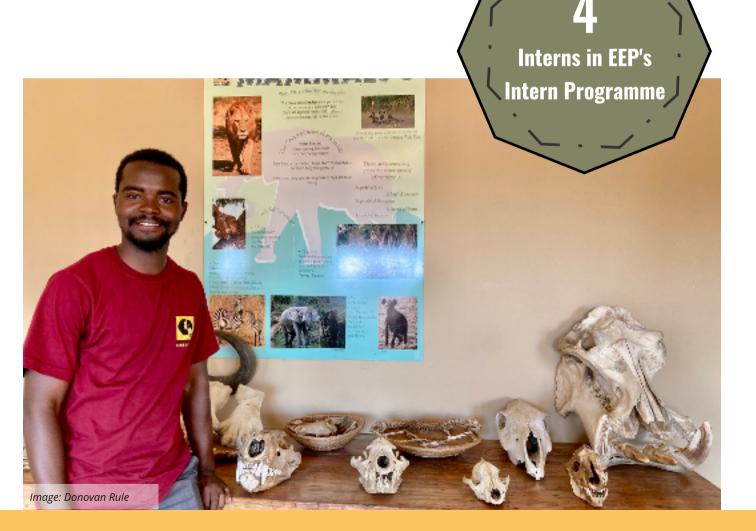
These clubs continue to meet on a weekly basis in CLZ's absence and make use of CLZ's EEP Conservation Teacher's Club Curriculum and an HIV/AIDS Activity Booklet which are distributed as part of the Outreach Visits.

Thanks to Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP), the Outreach visits were able to include segments on the bushmeat trade and a video from the *This is NOT a Game* campaign to educate people on the risks of consuming illegal bushmeat.

INTERNS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The Intern Programme is a programme whereby students from the University of Zambia (UNZA) and The Copperbelt University (CBU) are invited to spend time at CLZ Base Camp. They obtain valuable experience in a working situation while analysing the data collected from the EEP and amalgamating these results in the form of an annual report vital to the programme monitoring & evaluation. This year we had four interns come through CLZ.

Our University scholarship programme supports 4 students in different Zambian Universities. They are supported with school fees, accommodation and living expenses and are all in their third year of University.



TEACHER TRAINING

In April this year, 28 teachers traveled to CLZ Base Camp to attend a three night and two day teacher training workshop at CLZ's Environmental Education Centre. This is a key component of the Environmental Education Programme (EEP) as it allows teachers the opportunity to discuss conservation issues, learn key components of the EEP curriculum, and travel into the park on game drives and boat cruises to enjoy the natural environment.

DEBS VISIT

CLZ hosted the first District Education Boards Secretaries (DEBS) visit since 2021 this year which was viewed as a great success in building key relationships between Zambia's Ministry of Education (MOE) and CLZ. Fundamental to the successful running of any Environmental Education Programme in Zambia.

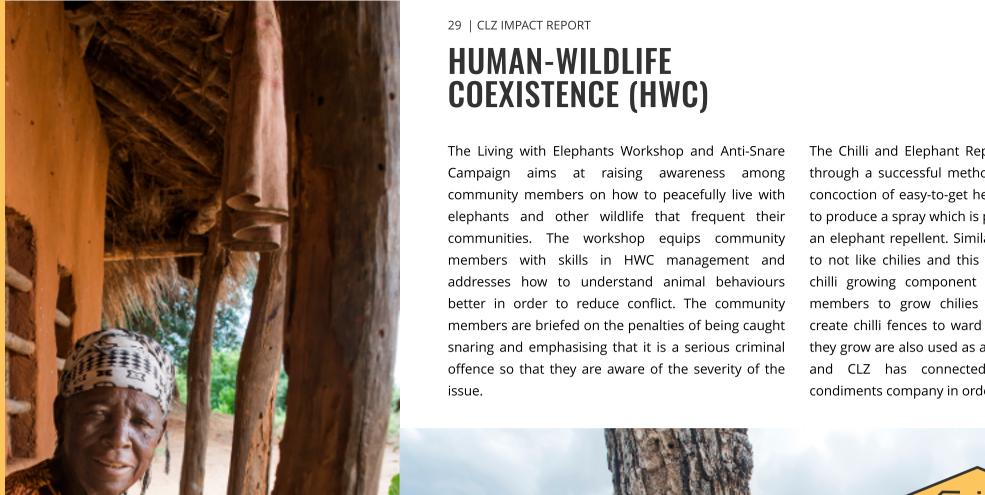


COMMUNITY **EMPOWERMENT**

CLZ work with local communities in partnership with the Community Resource Boards, to build capacity with local farmers and teachers, and human-wildlife coexistence promoting supporting farmers, reducing crop-raiding, and lessening resentment and retaliation towards wildlife through environmental education.

Empowering local communities lies at the heart of our mission. Through annual workshops tailored for local farmers and residents, we strive to foster a harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife. By offering economic alternatives to those most affected by wildlife interactions, we aim to mitigate crop-raiding incidents and alleviate tensions, thereby reducing resentment and retaliatory actions towards wildlife.



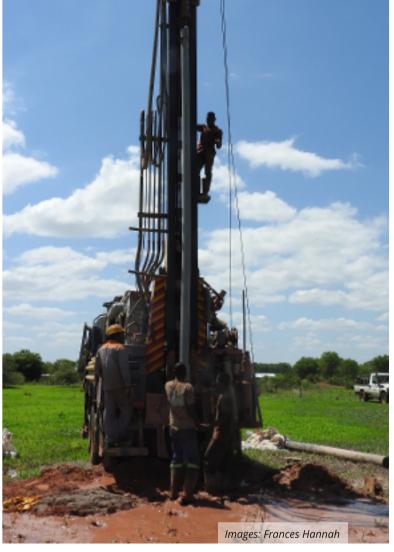


The Chilli and Elephant Repellent Workshop is done through a successful method provided by WildAid, a concoction of easy-to-get herbs and spices are mixed to produce a spray which is put onto crops and acts as an elephant repellent. Similarly, elephants are known to not like chilies and this workshop has a practical chilli growing component that teaches community members to grow chilies around their crops and create chilli fences to ward off elephants. The chilies









SOLAR WATER TANKS

CLZ plays a pivotal role in enhancing the livelihoods of women farmers by spearheading the installation of water tanks, stands, and solar-powered water pump systems. These initiatives provide a safer and more reliable water source for women's farming groups, significantly reducing the need for them to venture into potentially hazardous areas along the river.

Two solar powered borehole pumps with 5,000L water tank stands were successfully installed in the two villages of Chimusabo and Kanyangala.



RUBATANO

Rubatano (meaning Unity in Goba) is CLZ's annual community sports day that brings together netball and football teams from the villages of Lower Zambezi to compete for prizes and bragging rights of being the best team in the valley. The deeper reason for the event is to promote positive relationships between the local community members, DNPW, conservation lodges, private sector, and other stakeholders.

This year the UK-based company APAM raised a big part of the funding for the day. They also came out from the UK with a group to assist with organising the event. Since we started Rubatano in 2014, the distribution of 439 lunches has never been so well coordinated!







NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

CLZ finalised the construction of a new storage facility for rations vehicle spares, construction materials, patrol equipment, and uniforms. In the past, CLZ has stored rations and supplies in recycled shipping containers. These containers have now been renovated and made into a more secure building to prevent animals such as rodents and termites from entering the area.

Every ranger team that goes out is supplied with equipment like tents, sleeping bags, backpacks and food rations to make sure they can do their patrols effectively.

CLZ also provides all transport and has a carpark of 23 vehicles which need to be maintained and service.



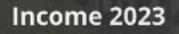


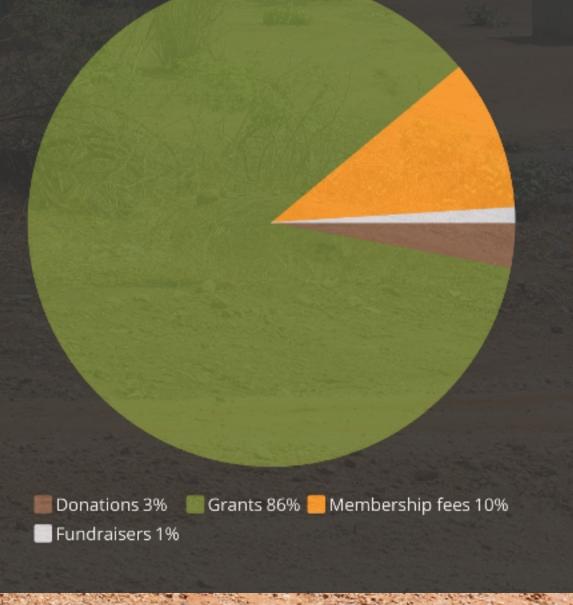
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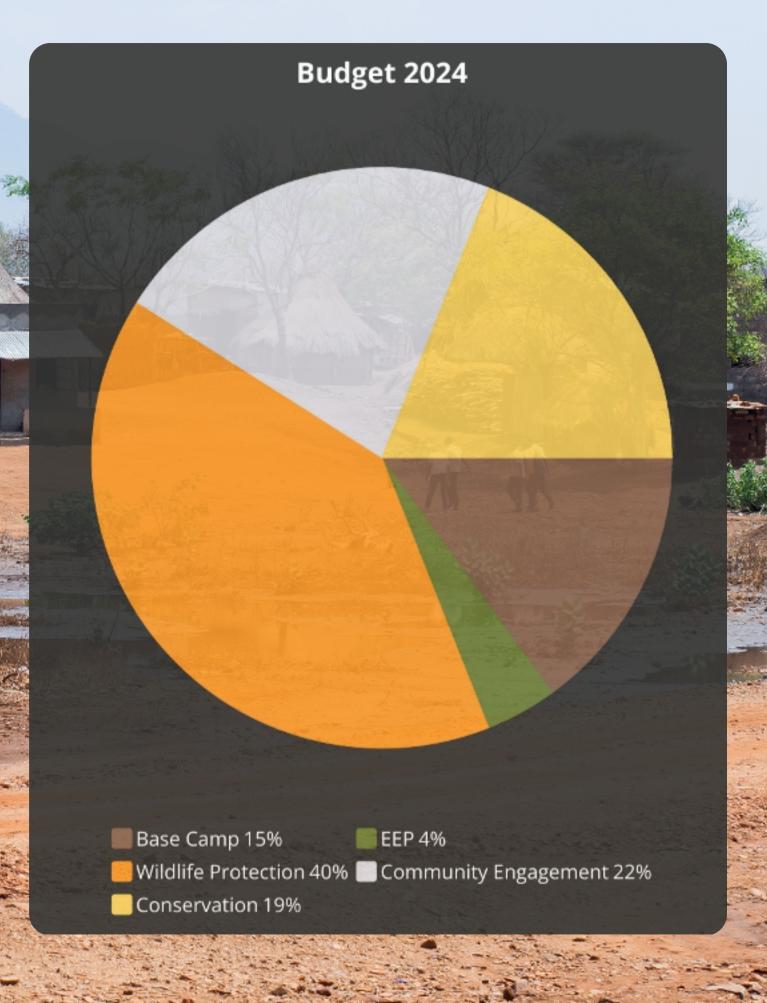
FINANCIAL

CLZ's accounts are managed in-house and are audited externally by an independent professional auditing company. In addition a mid-year review was conducted by a separate independent accounting firm to assess CLZ's policies & systems, new payroll software and general finances.

In 2023 CLZ's expenditure was \$1,617,156 and income was US\$1,660,402 which was raised through memberships, fundraisers, grants and donations. Most of this funding is earmarked specifically for CLZ's main activities in wildlife protection, environmental education and community empowerment.







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MEMBERS

Support towards CLZ's administration and operating costs comes from tour operators in the Lower Zambezi as well as corporate companies, families and individuals who

contributed approximately US\$157,727 to the organisation's operational costs in 2023.

PLATINUM

FOUNDATION





































CORPORATE













Khal Amazi



PROGRAMME DONORS

CLZ relies on donations from government institutions, wildlife NGOs, companies and philanthropists for funding towards all

conservation activities.

A big thank you to all 2023 programme donors!































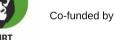
































GOVERNANCE

BOARD

As a society, CLZ is governed by a Board of annually elected members. in May 2023, the following board members were elected:

Chairperson: Jill Morse

Vice-Chairperson: Francesca Cooke and Riccardo

Garbaccio

Treasurer: Peter Malao **Secretary:** Carrol Fleming

Chief Executive Officer: Ian Stevenson

Other Board Members: Grant Cumings, Mehluli Malisa, Stephen Mwansa, Suzyo Kumwenda Mwanza, Jelous "Chops" Nyandowo, Kristina Kesch, Juri Van

Zyl.

MANAGEMENT

CEO: lan Stevenson CFAO: John Chituwo

Operations Manager: Rabson Tembo Finance and Projects Manager: Hanneke

Hogerheijde

Environmental Education Manager: Besa Kaoma

Grants Manager: Donovan Rule

Programmes Manager: Estella Snowden - Frances

Hannah (from Nov)

Legal Assistant: Chilufya Chongo

Lower Zambezi Fisheries Management Project Manager: Sven Vrdoljak - Davy Mwanamambo (from

Oct)

Fisheries Officer: Nzala Hikapulwe

Community Liaison Officer: Masauso Lipah **Monitoring and Evaluation Officer:** Peter Longwe

Basecamp Manager: Monica Kalo

Stores and Logistics Officer: Moses Chabala Data Management Officer: Chama Chanda **Data Management Assistant**: Treaser Nyirenda

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS, DONORS AND PARTNERS

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APAM Azimai Beyond Me

BioCarbon Partners Bundu Adventures

Buya Bamba **CC** Systems

Chakanaka Farms Chipembele Wildlife **Education Trust**

Community Resource

Boards Conservation Lake

Tanganyika

Conservation South

Luangwa

Parks & Wildlife

Eden Found **Elephant Wood**

Essential Zambia Frankfurt Zoological

Empowered By Light

Society

François d'Elbée Game Rangers International Grandaddys

GRI Elephant Nursery

Gwabi

Jan Armstrong Jeroen van Rooijen

John Taylor Jungle Jayne

Kamba Communications

Kiambi Safaris

Kikoza Lilayi lodge Little Ndaba

Marika Coffee/Peaberry Muchichili Safaris

Mulberry Mongoose

Mvuu Mwezi Blu

National Milling

Niner Juliet Logistics

Nsofu

Pack for a Purpose Page Sorcerer

Paintball Mania

Panthera Pie Aerts

Proflight Zambia Royal Air Charters

Royal Zambezi Lodge Scott Ramsay

Sikhulu House Skin Africa Sky Trails Zambia

Sunny Money

Southern Sun Ridgeway The Other Side/Latitude

Trade Kings / Musangu

Tribal Textiles Turn n Tender

Victoria Falls Aviation

Services

Wallace Kapomba Wildlife Crime Prevention

World Wildlife Fund

Zambia

Workwear Zambia

Zambeef Zamleather Zambian Carnivore

Programme

This report has been designed by: Giulio Sotgiu and printed and sponsored by: Digiprint Ltd.

