



YEARS OF VISIONARY
CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP

**AFRICAN WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION**

AWF LANDSCAPES REPORT NEWSLETTER

*A roundup of 2022 field highlights
from the African Wildlife Foundation*

AUGUST 2022



KENYA

TSAVO

During the World Ranger Day celebrations on July 31, 2022, AWF donated a brand-new Land Cruiser to the Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association at Kasigau Ranch. The donation is part of AWF's continued effort to support anti-poaching work in Tsavo.

The new vehicle will help the conservancies' rapid response unit deploy more quickly and travel faster, easing the mobility of the rangers in the landscape as they conduct patrols. The response unit was launched last year to address poaching incursions and other emergencies.

"Given the landscape faces increased poaching and human-wildlife conflict, the vehicle comes timely to help us start taking care of the gaps and complement existing efforts," said Alfred Mwanake, the Association's CEO. "Having a proactive and independent team is important in curbing these challenges."



"It is good, timely support to aid mobility of the scouts within the ranches," said Noel Kasololo, the Association's program officer. "We look forward to having the team more equipped, well-coordinated, and capacitated."



ZIMBABWE

LOWER ZAMBEZI-MANA POOLS

AWF continues to make an impact in mitigating human-wildlife conflict in areas adjacent to the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools Transfrontier Conservation Area, working with communities to identify and mainstream best practices. For example, as part of the conflict-mitigation strategy, AWF supports the production of chili pepper crops, which have a pungent aroma that helps keep elephants out of agricultural fields.

We followed up on the farmers' progress through an AWF-sponsored Chili Field Day in June 2022. Said Albert Zengeretsi, who won the first prize for chili farming in the Masoka Ward of Mbire District: "We are happy with the support that we are receiving from AWF, and now we are making real money from the sale of chili."

"The project aims to support the development and implementation of alternative income-generating activities for community members while using tools such as chili to mitigate human-wildlife conflict," says Collen Matema, AWF senior project officer,



community-based natural resource management. There have been reports of crop raids in fields and, tragically, the killing of a man guarding a field in Angwa Ward.



ZIMBABWE

MBIRE

To support wildlife-attack victims in Mbire communities that are implementing conservation activities, AWF has provided start-up capital for small businesses. The recipients are members of families who've lost a breadwinner or have otherwise been affected by human-wildlife conflict. Some have sustained injuries from crocodiles and other wildlife.

To encourage the development of alternative livelihood options, AWF provides training in financial management and entrepreneurship. We have facilitated workshops in skills such as soap manufacturing—a project that is changing lives and improving quality of life at the household level. Participants are now diversifying their inventories, adding snacks such as popcorn and soft drinks to their bar- and powder-soap inventories. With the added income, families can pay school fees and better take care of their families.

“Business is brisk,” says Dzomba, 43, secretary of the victims group. “When we manufacture our bar and powder soap, there are already people waiting



to purchase detergents. We are actually failing to meet the demand, and we are making plans to relook at our manufacturing schedule. We are cheaper than the conventional shops, so we are attracting a large market, thanks to AWF support,” Dzomba shared.



AWF empowers victims of violence and child marriage in Mbire

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, AWF and community members in Zimbabwe's Mbire district helped set up a new women's project, the Batanai Sewing Group, to empower vulnerable victims of child marriages and gender-based violence.

The group started by making sanitary wear and has significantly benefited the Mbire community, particularly vulnerable women. Recently it has scaled up to produce and sell school uniforms, shawls, and clothes. "We would like to thank the

African Wildlife Foundation for the tangible project that they supported—it makes women financially independent," says Raphael Karaza, admin executive officer, Mbire Rural District Council.

The Batanai Sewing Group's work went global when the group's table napkins were featured at AWF's 60th-anniversary "Into the Wild" fundraising event in the United Kingdom in June 2022. The hand-sewn linens helped lend an authentic African feel to the evening while promoting the Batanai group's wares.



ZIMBABWE

MANA POOLS, MID ZAMBEZI

In May and June 2022, AWF increased patrol effectiveness and efficiency in the lower Zambezi Valley through refresher and advanced ranger training. Sessions included a court procedures training at Mana Pools National Park for 22 rangers and officers from the mid-Zambezi Valley—4 females and 18 males. The training focused on four critical areas: arresting a suspect, chain of custody (preservation of evidence), presenting evidence in court, and human rights.

“We hope for increased convictions of accused persons due to the improved handling of illegal cases and proper use of the rule of law, improved presentation of illegal cases before court officers, and, above all, observing and respecting human rights in enforcing the law,” said Simon Muchatibaya, AWF program manager, mid-Zambezi Valley.

AWF also conducted a training session for 30 Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority rangers and officers. The workshop covered disciplinary hearing procedures and mechanisms as well as handling work-related grievances.



As part of efforts to increase patrol effectiveness in the mid-Zambezi Valley, AWF also provided fuel and routine maintenance to support Chewore operations. Anti-poaching fuel worth \$8,000 and patrol rations worth about \$12,000 were purchased and distributed in Mana Pools, Chewore North, Chewore South, and Sapi.

Three arrests were made in Chewore South, with one case pending and two of the accused persons made to pay fines by the courts.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

BILI-UERE

Under a community-based counter wildlife trafficking project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, AWF has trained 45 women from three women's associations in Bili-Uere in improved stove-making. The project aims to minimize fuelwood consumption and reduce the human impact on the Bili-Mbomu Protected Area Complex.

After using their improved stoves post-training, the women testified that the new technology was better than the old charcoal-based one, improving cooking time, stove mobility, and cleanliness.

“I used to worry too much during the rainy season because there was no way to cook anywhere else but outside. But now I can cook even in the living room without fear of fire, even though my house is made of straw,” said Georgette Nyamwero. “I will do my best to pass on this training to my children and family members in order to keep this practice up and running.”



This cohort of beneficiaries, who have become area experts, have already trained 90 women in Bili-Uere and are preparing to deploy five experts to Bondo territory, with the aim of training 50 more women.

Many thanks to our generous donors, who make our work possible.