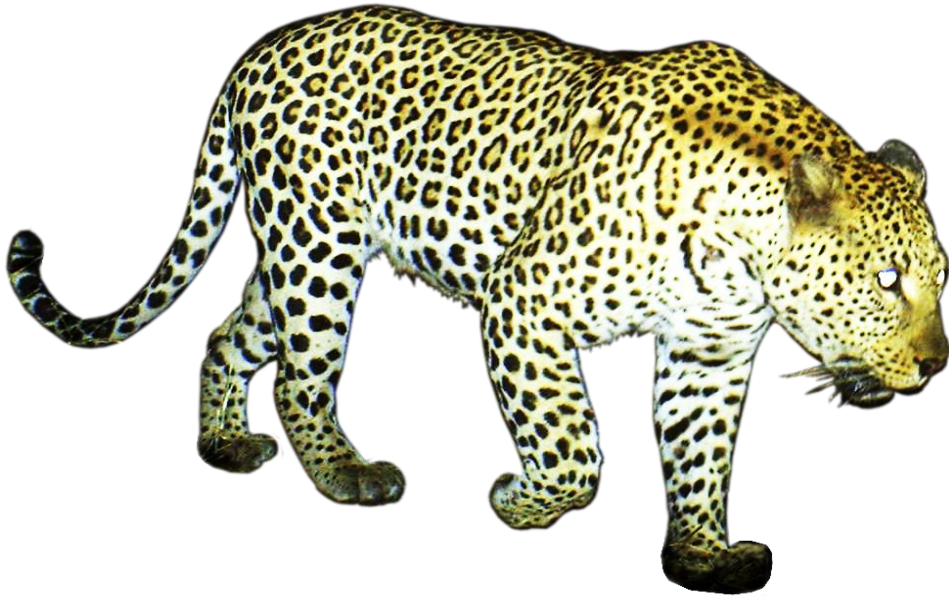


DAPU First Period Newsletter 2021

Charlton McCallum Safaris

20th May 2021



DAPU
DANDE ANTI POACHING UNIT

Dear Friends,

Let me start by thanking you all for your continued and unwavering support, that has more than kept DAPU afloat, allowing us to show some solid growth in key areas.

So, it seems that the World is slowly getting on top of the Covid situation and things are opening in fits and starts! Zimbabwe is apparently leading most African countries with respect to vaccinations, and we also have genuinely low numbers which we are extremely grateful for. DAPU staff – no recorded cases at all, there have been no recorded cases of Covid in the Mbire District as a whole.

The good news is that Zimbabwe is basically open to International Tourists and our hunters are flying.

More good news is that the 2020 / 2021 rains were superb and bumper harvest have been recorded nationwide. Good rains = low poaching BUT high incidences of human wildlife conflict (in two cases with tragic results).

In 2020 due to no hunters and no income, three competing land uses have sprung up in Dande. Hopefully in 2021 we can claw back some lost ground (literally). Our aim with DAPU and Dande in general has not been to simply “maintain” Dande in the condition in which we got it but to show measurable and improvement each and every year. We want Dande to be the flagship for sustainable utilization in Africa.

We have continued to meticulously document all of our support, deployments, wins and losses, and here we share a summary with everyone who so graciously and generously supported all of our efforts both financially and in kind. As we grow from strength to strength, we look forward to your continued support.

Stay safe,

Myles E. McCallum
James D. Charlton
Charles Nondo

Harare, Zimbabwe
28 May 2021

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1. COVID-19!

At long last this is a nice short section, and the day when we dedicate no time at all to COVID cannot come soon enough! Zimbabwe has “good” covid numbers and is doing well with Vaccines. Our hunters are flying in and supporting us – and all of them have been vaccinated back home. With our hunters finally joining us, we are going to be mounting a challenge to:

- Illegal and legal gold mining.
- Illegal and legal agriculture.
- Illegal charcoal production.

With an income once again, we need to remind local communities, council and National Parks that benefits received from hunting are significant, and that we are worthy of support. In 2020, understandably we lost ground to these other land uses. Thankfully only on the periphery not in the core areas, but we must remain ever vigilant.

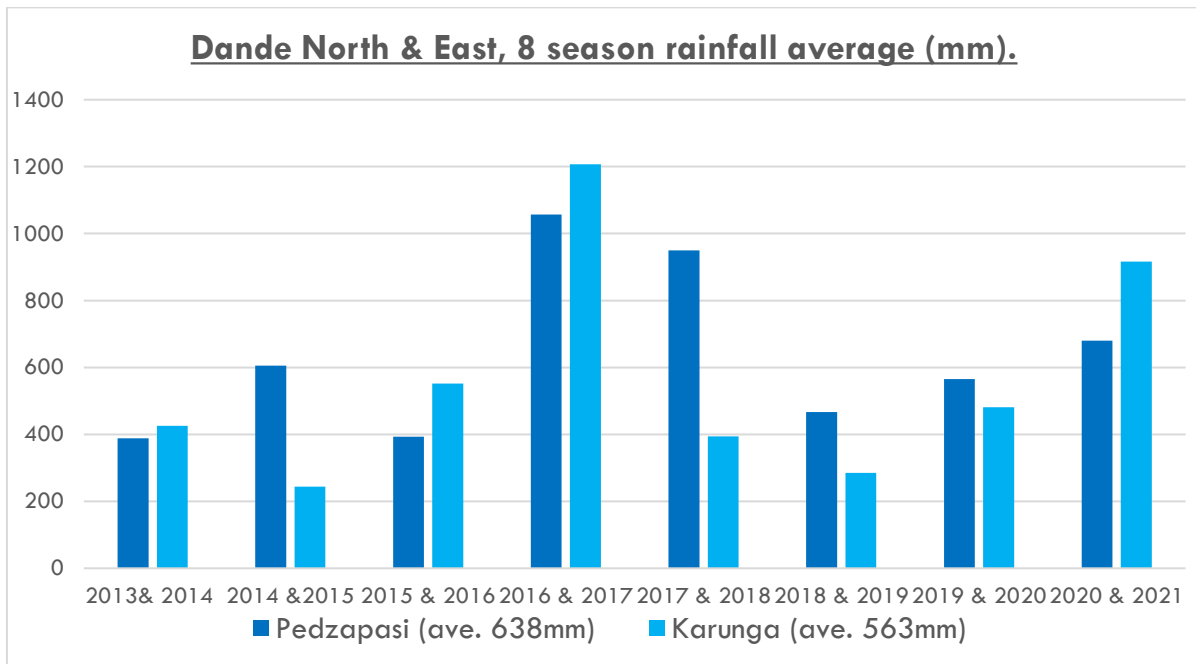
Most concessions in Zimbabwe are in “protected areas” and require very little in the way of policing. However, Dande is certainly the largest and most complex community wildlife area in Zimbabwe, and it needs constant and proactive monitoring, or else, 12 years of gains could be eroded in just 6 months. This would be truly tragedy, especially after what we have all achieved.

All reports from the field show that the game has done extremely well. Minimal pressure in 2020 coupled with excellent rains and Dande is looking as good as it ever has! With already over 100 days in the bush, and many hundreds of kilometers walked, our visiting hunters and professional guides have only reported a handful of snares and zero reported incidences of poaching. This is by far the most independent and reliable feedback that we can possibly receive about the efficiency of DAPU.



2. The “Rainy Season”

As already mentioned, the 2020 / 2021 rains were excellent. Consequently, there is almost zero subsistence poaching to report. All the local farmers are busy tending to their fields and by all accounts are looking forward to a bumper harvest. It is quite interesting to track rainfall (good harvest/ bad harvest to high or low poaching) particularly in this first period.





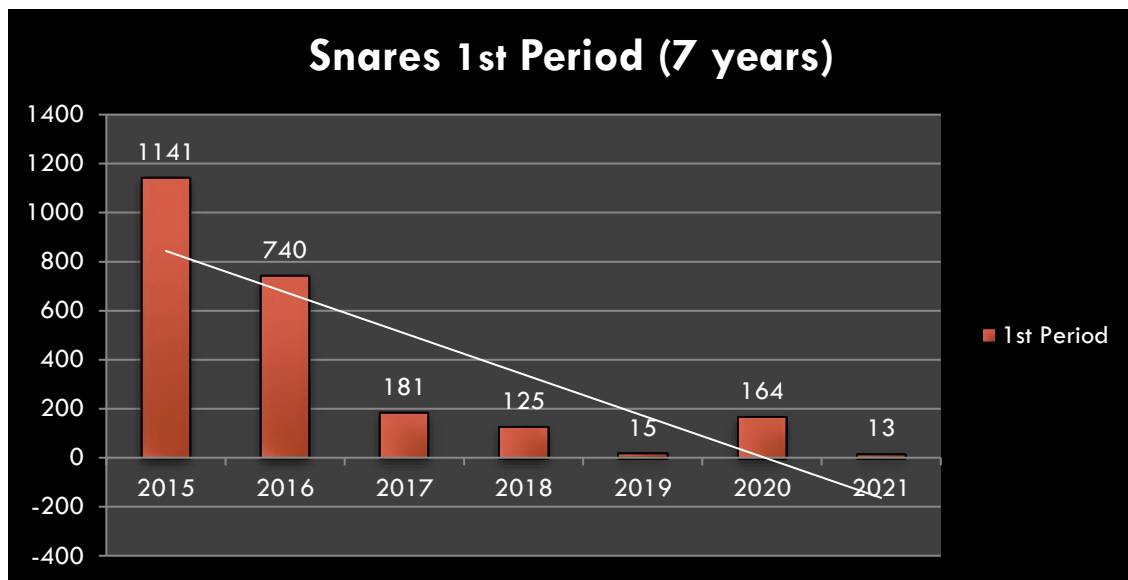
All pans totally full and they should last well into the dry season.



The main Kanyemba access road in rainy season!

3. Snaring and General Poaching

The results have been really, extremely pleasing. We picked almost zero (13) snares. Poaching was at the lowest level that we have ever seen. And most importantly the historically low snare yield has been backed up by our own observations in the field. Undoubtably as harvests are gathered, some locals will have a little more time on their hands and will use it to poach, but we feel that DAPU will be ready for them.



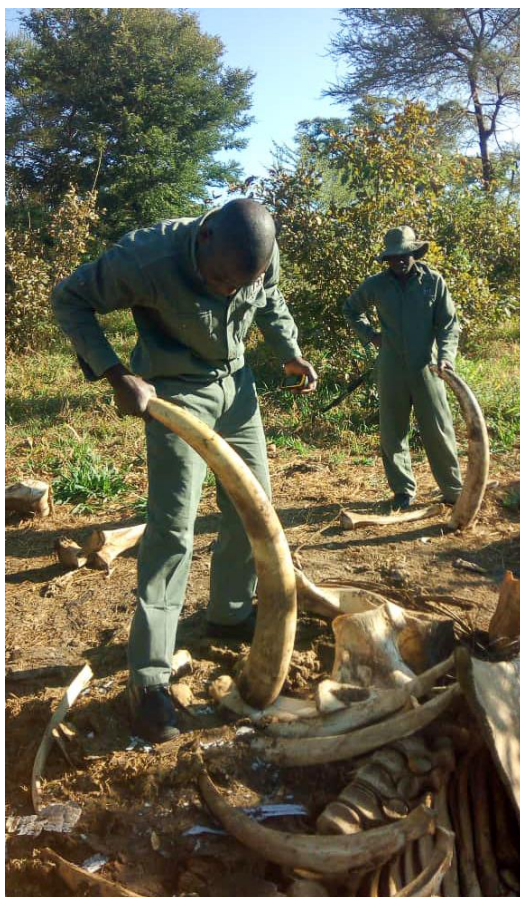
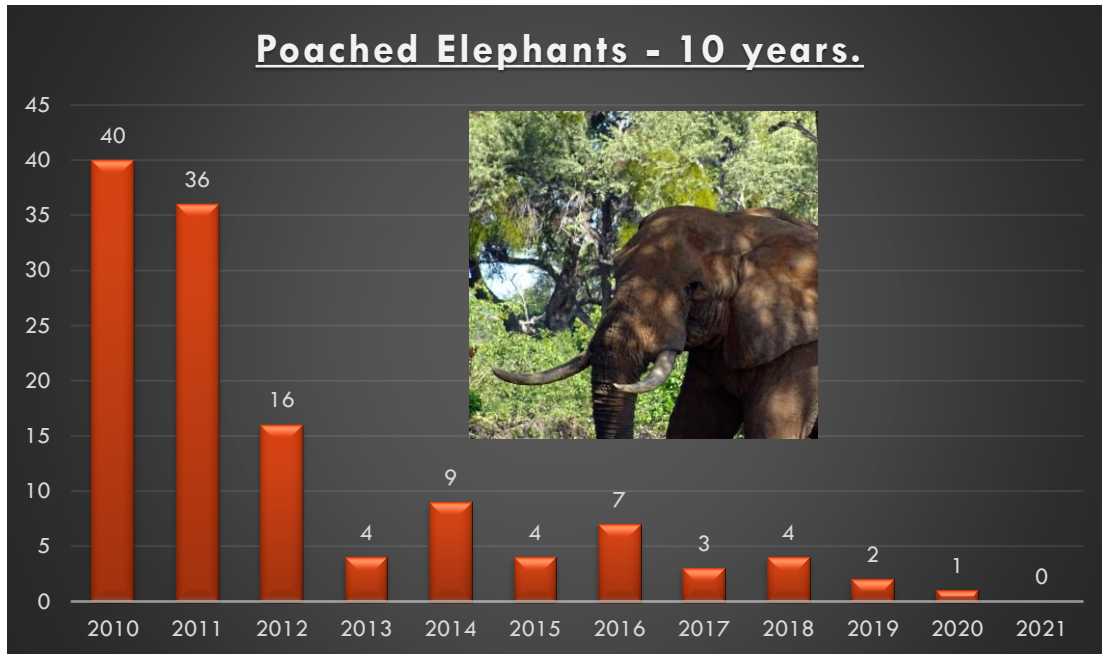
Removing a poacher's tree blind



Bumper crop – Dande East.

4. Elephant poaching

Nothing to report in this first newsletter – no elephants have been poached in Dande this year – (that we know of) yet. One tuskless elephant cow was found dead in Dande East, also one bull found dead with ivory intact.



Bull found dead with ivory intact. Probably shot in the fields

5. Gold Panning

High global gold prices combined with huge unemployment and no hunters (COVID) have created a perfect storm with respect to illegal gold panning. The panning itself is hugely damaging environmentally, and comes along with poaching, general crime and a whole host of other undesirable things! So far, we have been quite lucky in that the panning has been on the periphery of our areas not inside yet. It seems the gold gets washed out of the Zambezi valley escarpment in fast flood water, then as soon as the rivers flatten and water slows down, it drops out of the water and gets trapped in rapids. Thus, the rivers with rapids closest to the escarpment are richer in gold. We have had a little panning and have managed to stop it but worry for the future. It is a fast-changing landscape that has been added to the DAPU to deal with list!

Unfortunately for Dande and Chewore a local company has been given a “Special Grant” to explore for gold in the Angwa riverbed. We have joined other partners to try and mitigate potential damage and to hold that company to account. Our real hope is that they are not able to make a go of it financially. There is a good chance that it is a sub economic prospect, and the problem goes away by itself, but in the meantime, we are doing our best to engage and mitigate.



6. Charcoal Production

Charcoal production is new to Dande and to Zimbabwe in general (although very common in Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya). People will burn down thousands of mopane trees in just days, make charcoal, bag it and smuggle it out to Harare for sale. Luckily our authorities are quite supportive in our efforts to stop it and we have had good success late last 2020. One again this is a peripheral activity, not in our “core areas” as it were, but definitely we do not need it this destructive behavior encroaching! So, we are taking it seriously and paying good rewards for convictions. No charcoal making reported since November 2020. We will have to see what happens a little later this year.

7. Canoe Making

Another seemingly harmless pastime – Mozambiquans contract Zimbabweans to fell huge old pod mahogany trees (*Azelia Quanzensis*) and also the White Syringa (*Kirkia Acuminata*) then they, hollow them out into dugout canoes for use on Lake Caborra Bassa. Whenever possible we put a stop to this.



8. Human and Wildlife Conflict

Duties for DAPU scouts include attending to Problem Animal reports (PAC). The peak season for PAC is during cropping season from January to the end of May. The major problem species are elephants, lions, crocodiles and hippo. All are impossible to wean from their bad habits and invariably genuine reports end in human tragedy or the offending animal is shot.

National Parks second rangers to DAPU for all PAC duties. Our constant goals with Problem Animal Control are:

- a. Protect human life.
- b. Protect property.
- c. IF POSSIBLE, deal with the offending animal by chasing it or them away using non-lethal means.
- d. Last resort is to shoot the animal. However, in cases where life or property is threatened, we do not hesitate.

9. Elephant

The bumper cropping season has unfortunately resulted in the elephants harvesting more than they should too. Each and every night DAPU crews have been chasing them. We had two vehicles and teams on permanent standby for 4 months, and its hats off to the DAPU staff, overall, they managed very well.

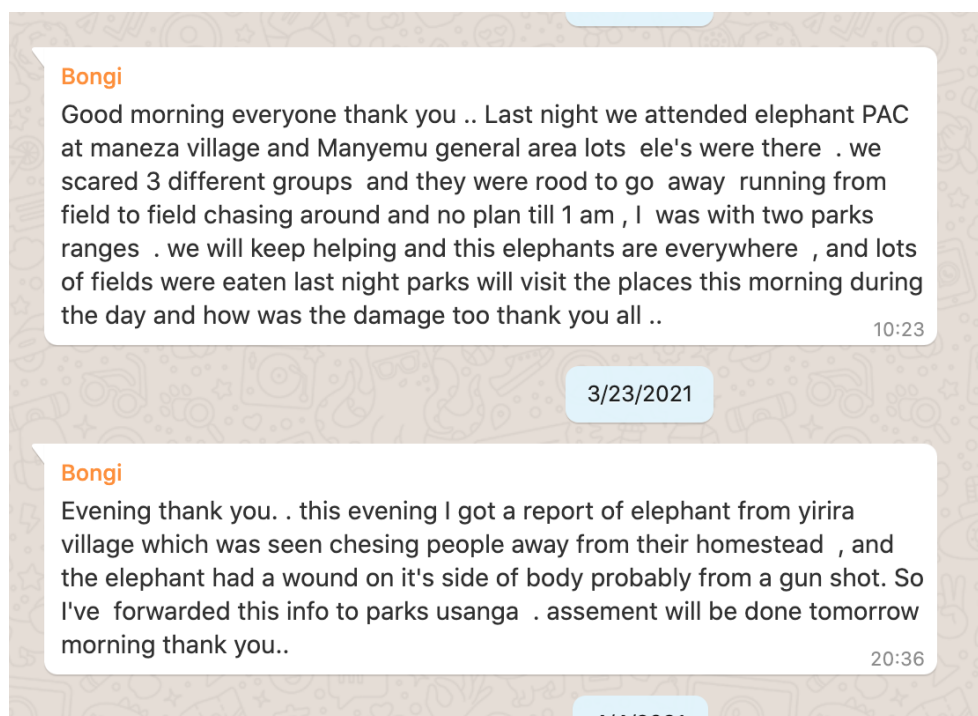
Despite their best efforts, liberally employing chilli bombs, shotguns, bright lights and noise, three elephants had to be destroyed. All three cases were totally genuine, repeat offender and all young elephant bulls.



Guilty – red handed.

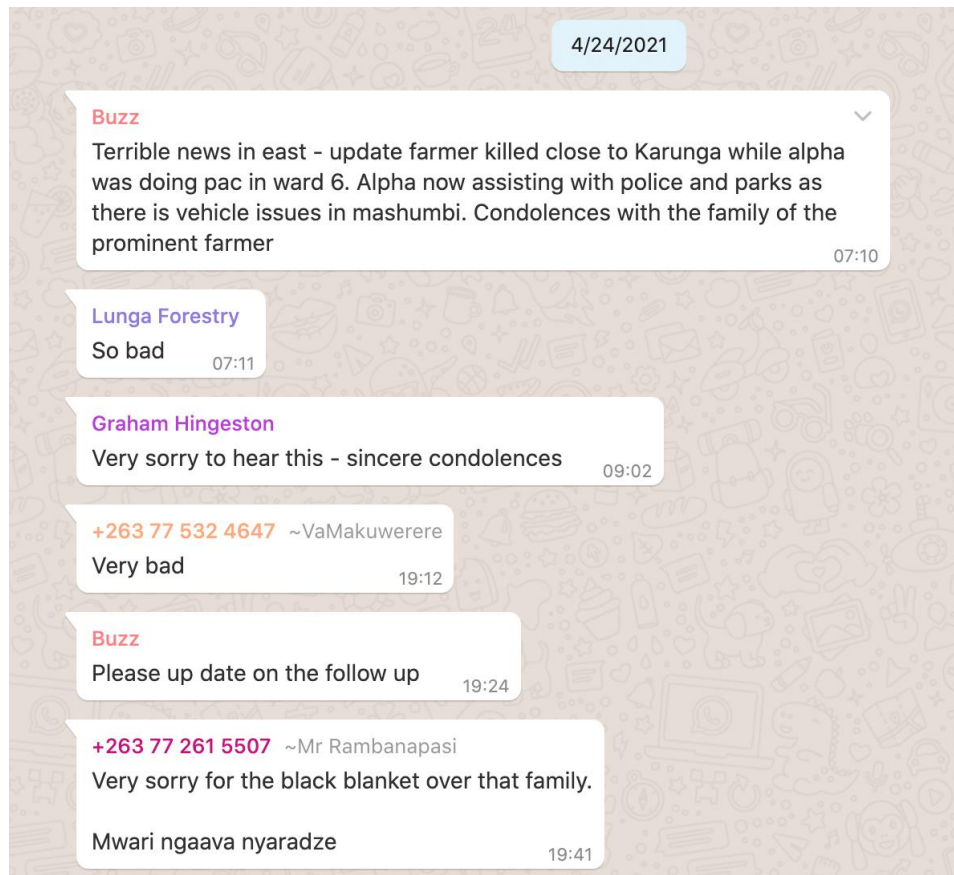


Old man exhausted after a night chasing elephant

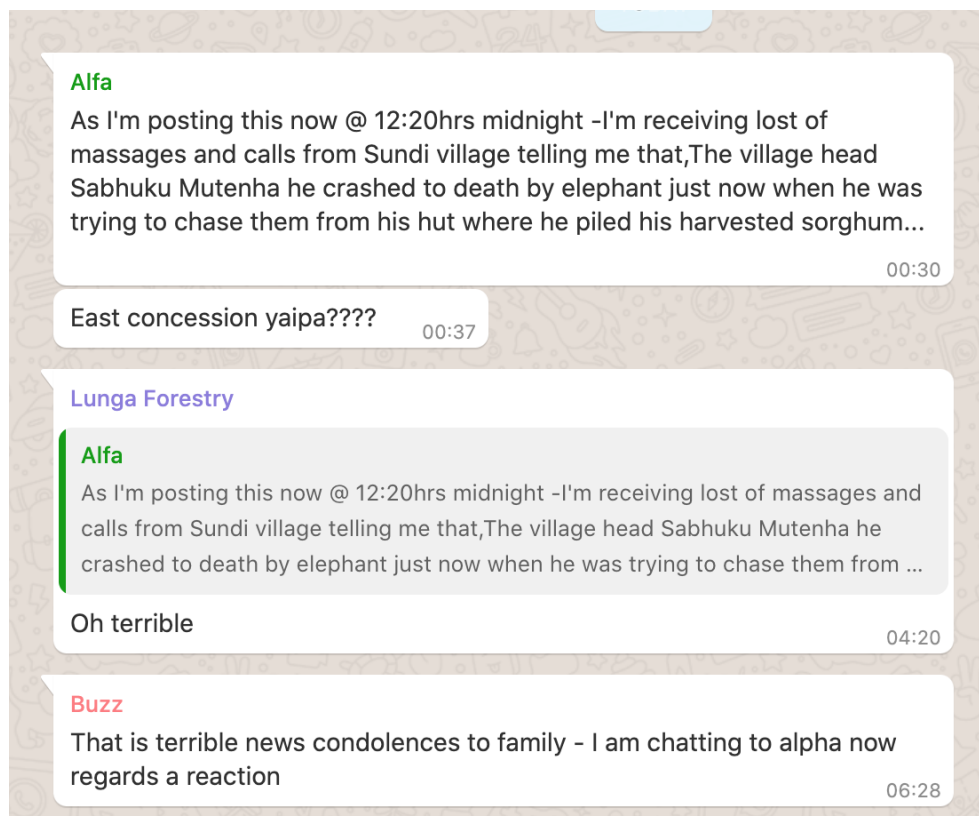


A screenshot of a typical message from Bongi.

- a. Despite DAPU's best efforts however, one old man in the east (Gonono village) was killed on the 24th of March 2021 whilst attempting to chase a breeding herd of elephants from his fields. Messages like this are all too common:



b. And again just last night 25th May 2021:



These events leave families without a breadwinner and highlight the challenges that all of us face trying to persuade folk that elephants are “nice” to have about. For sure without meaningful financial worth the elephants would be removed to make way for subsistence agriculture.

9.2 Lion

Relatively quiet so far in 2021 and fingers crossed that it remains that way. Two cattle were killed – the lions never came back, and have not killed again (which is unusual).

9.3 Buffalo

No reported serious problems to date in 2021. One dagga boy was living in amongst the villages at Irira but so far, no bad report. These dagga boys often choose to live in villages to better avoid lions, but eventually something bad happens.

9.4 Crocodile

One young boy was grabbed on the head by a small crocodile near Irira. They both went their separate ways, and the child is fine.



Lucky escape from crocodile.

9.5 Hippo

One injury to a young boy in Dande East to date. He has made a complete recovery and the hippo was not shot.

9.6 Snakes

One bite but no reported deaths to date in 2021.

10. Netting on the Zambezi

DAPU continues to contribute 200 liters of petrol per month toward efforts to eliminate illegal fishing in a 50km stretch of the Zambezi River. Generally speaking illegal netting has been much reduced, and sport anglers and legal netters are reporting better catches.

In the big picture the reduction in fish poaching has had a significant effect in reducing game poaching, as the fish poachers were often responsible for the poaching of elephant and other game animals. The diameters of their nets had become noticeably smaller over the years, clearly indicating a seriously depleted fish reserve.

11. Goals for 2021

As mentioned, we plan to:

- 1) Hold miners and farmers to account and try and mitigate the damage that they are causing.
- 2) Stay on top of early burning and bush fires.
- 3) Keep going with the anti-poaching!



The "Mukanga pack" (15 dogs) – a regular sighting.

12. Water Projects

The UNDP GEF 6 project has successfully drilled x 3 boreholes in Ward 1 / Dande Safari Area and 1 x borehole in Dande East.

Ward 1	Bongi road	5,000l per hour
Ward 1	Baobab	5,000l per hour
Dande Safari Area	Matemba Jesse	6,000l per hour
Ward 4	Dande East	30,000l per hour.

In the next week or two we will hear about solar equipping those boreholes. The one in Dande East will require a significant solar pump, a 500,000l tank and 40km of pipelines to get the water to where we need it in the core area. So, all really exciting stuff and we look forward to sharing more and more about these projects in subsequent newsletters.

This project will really get water into the areas of Dande that need it most. Because of International Borders and human settlement, often big chunks of wilderness land are left without any natural water for animals. In short the game's traditional water points are no longer available to them OR are on the wrong side of an imaginary line (border).

So, the benefits will be:

- Year-round game and water in Dande
- Increased benefits to communities
- Less human wildlife conflict at water points close to villages.

13. Collaring Elephants

The Research Unit of Biodiversity (UO/CSIC/PA), Oviedo University, Spain contacted us about collaring x 5 elephants (3 bulls and 2 cows) which is exactly the type of project that we would support. Anyhow they have purchased the collars, National Parks have given blessing, so now we wait for final approval from the Research Authority of Zimbabwe and this will be another fun project that we look forward to sharing details about in subsequent newsletters!

14. Renovations to Gonono Primary School (Dande East)

A huge vote of thanks to the Jack and Margorie Schillinger Foundation for an extremely generous donation towards the rehabilitation of the Gonono Primary school. The project is 70% complete and we will give a much better update in our next newsletter. These types of initiatives are so important as so often we talk about benefits accruing to communities but have little concrete to show for it. We also hope to get the headmaster to allow Alfa to teach a class about benefits of sustainable use conservation.

We have:

- totally stripped the old asbestos roofing off the entire school, re purposed a few trusses that we could save, made new ones where we could not, are re roofed in high quality aloe colored Chromadeck (steel).
- As a ceiling we have used highly durable plastic T & G ceiling boards which will be impervious to ants and also offer excellent Insulation.
- Door frames and doors have been replaced as required.
- All windowpanes and window frames have been replaced as needed.

To do:

- Scrub interior walls, repair cracks.
- Prime and paint all interior walls.
- Paint all doors, window frames.
- Repair any cracks in floors and polish.
- Get to work on the teachers houses budget allowing!



15. We must extend our profound appreciation to:

The Lubbock Sportsman's club and The Dallas Safaris Club – Foundation

DSC Foundation has been our single biggest corporate supporter for many years, and in 2020 we used most of the money that they sent us to purchase a new Landcruiser.

Vehicles and mobility are a perennial challenge for DAPU. The roads are not good, distances big and to have a new vehicle to help with deployments and general management of biodiversity has been a massive bonus for DAPU. The vehicle delivery was delayed because of COVID but has finally arrived and been send down to Dande!



"DAPU #3"

Flying for Wildlife

FFW has grown immeasurably in the last couple of years. They now have two of their very own aircraft, piloted by Richard Tennant, Hannes Scholtz and Richard Calder. Richard Thornycroft and Edward Whitfield use their personal aircraft to assist Flying for Wildlife. All flying is gratis to DAPU – it costs us nothing, and those who understand how expensive aviation is in Africa, will appreciate how significant this is!!!As things dry up and visibility improves, we hope that we can get FFW down for some arial patrols. They have been just tremendous for locating:

- Illegal charcoal making
- Illegal mining and gold panning.
- Illegal settlements.

Obviously all three of these activities are ones that we plan to focus on in a big way in 2021.



Trackit (Richard Tennant and Hannes Scholtz of (Flying for Wildlife)

Provide free, real time satellite monitoring of the two DAPU vehicles. This has saved significantly on fuel and vehicle costs and has also helped us become much smarter with servicing and positioning of vehicles.

The African Wildlife Foundation

We are extending the pipeline in Dande East from Kabveve Northwards by 3.6 km to another pan. The AWF very kindly went ahead and purchased the 3,600m of 63mm piping required and will fund the trenching. Once this is complete, we will have effectively opened up 16,000 ha (40,000 acres) of land up for game (the permanent water is settled by people) which will we hope will pull the elephants away from humans and conflict back into a wilderness area.

The Sylvarnus Trust

Quietly and humbly sends DAPU a rather large cheque every year! The trust follow DAPU with keen interest and we are eternally grateful for the faith in which they have placed in us. We really hope that DAPU makes them proud!

Individual donors

As previously mentioned, we have been truly humbled by all the kind folk who have donated to DAPU! Your generosity knows no bounds, and we will be eternally indebted to you! In thanks for your support, we shall endeavour to keep DAPU up and running to its fullest capabilities. We shall strive at all costs to keep poaching at bay, with the well being of wild life foremost in our minds. We fully understand that times are tough for you too at home making personal donations even more special!

16. Conservation Force

We continue to work hand in hand with John and Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force. John and Chrissie are proud hunters and legends in the fight for our way of life and the wild places that we all love. They work selflessly and endlessly in aid of conservation and to protect the rights of hunters around the world. Thank you, John and Chrissie!

Conservation Force is a registered non – profit 501(c) (3) public foundation.

How to make a Tax-Deductible donation.

Please make a check out to:
Conservation Force

Mail to:
C/O John J. Jackson, III
3240 S. 1-10 SERVICE ROAD W.
SUITE 200, METAIRIE,
LOUISIANA 70001
USA

Check Ref: DAPU

Conservation Force Contact:
JOHN J. JACKSON, III
TEL: (504) 837 – 1233
FAX: (504) 837 – 1145
Email: Jjw-no@att.net
Website: www.conservationforce.org



DAPU Income and Expenses 2021 YTD

2020 income

1 Donations

Jytte Merjentsen	US\$400
Jerry Jurena	US\$500
Charles Banks	US\$2,500
Mike Core	US\$1,750
Hans-Joachim Wieckmann	US\$500
Julius Fortuna	US\$500
Peter Moran	US\$502
BUSY BEE GARAGE Julian C HINGSTON	US\$1,353
BUSY BEE GARAGE Julian C HINGSTON	US\$674
Harold (Buzz) Arthur	US\$2,200
Sylvarnus Trust	US\$7,000
# 1 Total donations	US\$17,879
# 2. Hunting client levies	US\$2,282
# 3 Vehicle sale (ABK 7074)	US\$9,100
# 3. Charlton McCallum Safaris	US\$0
# 4 Balance carried forward from 2021	US\$49,513
Total Income	US\$78,774

2020 Expenses

1 Wages, rewards and rations.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Game Scouts</u>	<u>Management</u>	<u>Rations</u>	<u>Rewards</u>	<u>Netting</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$0	US\$200	US\$3,780
February	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$0	US\$200	US\$3,780
March	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$13	US\$200	US\$3,793
April	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$0	US\$200	US\$3,780
	US\$4,400	US\$6,420	US\$3,500	US\$13	US\$800	US\$15,133

2 2020 DAPU equipment expenses

Uniforms (Tselentsis)						US\$1,283
Ammunition (2 cases)						US\$350
Aimguard shotguns x 2						US\$1,700
New Landcruiser local agent						US\$2,800
New Landcruiser 4 x 4 conversion						US\$4,232
-						US\$10,365.00

3 DSC -F Vehicles x 2 plus 1 (Fuel, Servicing, Insurance, Sat Tracking).

	<u>Km's</u>	<u>\$/km</u>	
MECA # 1 (DAPU #1)	12756.00	US\$0.50	US\$6,378
ACX 3232- (DAPU # 2)	10883.90	US\$0.50	US\$5,442
AFK 6838(DAPU # 3)	3406.00	US\$0.50	US\$1,703
	27045.90		US\$13,523

<u>Total expenses</u>	-	-	-	-	-	US\$39,021
<u>Total Income</u>	-	-	-	-	US\$78,774	-
<u>Credit carried forward to second period 2021.</u>						US\$39,753

Notes to accounts.

- Game scouts also get paid by communities – we deduct from monies owed and pay scouts that portion directly but it is not listed above.
- Donations listed are up to end of April and do not include May.
- Our apologies if we have missed any one out, we will reflect your contribution in the next newsletter!