

Newsletter

Updates

So far this year VFWT has been involved in a range of conservation projects from rhino protection to research on wildlife diseases to the removal of litter around Victoria Falls town, and snare removal of local wildlife. In early April, Roger went across to Botswana to assist Elephants without Borders and their team with a sick orphaned elephant in the Delta. After trying for days to help the young animal that had an intestinal blockage, a wildlife veterinary surgeon joined the team and together they removed the blockage and saved the elephant that is now flourishing. In the spirit of working together to conserve wildlife, VFWT aims to continue to work together for these type of efforts throughout the region, we thank all of you for your support!

Vulture Research

In late March, Birdlife Zimbabwe held a symposium to address the concern about the vulture populations in Southern Africa. Both Roger Parry and Dr. Chris Foggin presented at the conference on VFWT efforts with Judge our white backed vulture ambassador, poisonings and the need for additional research into vulture populations. Out of this a National Action plan was adopted and VFWT together with the local wildlife authority are now in the process of undertaking a population study to determine vulture population numbers and species and nesting sites in northwest Zimbabwe. Given recent poisoning cases, there is concern the populations are much less than expected. VFWT is in the process of developing a children's conservation booklet highlighting the plight of vultures that will be discussed and distributed in the children's conservation education program. Many thanks to African Bird Club for funding of the research component of this project, and Mzuri Wildlife foundation for funding of the development and printing of the booklet.



Photo courtesy of Elephants without Borders



KAZA Collaboration to save rhino

In mid-July the Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) found a white rhino had acquired a snare around its head and was dragging a wire attached to a log. ZAWA asked for assistance from Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust's wildlife veterinarian Dr. Chris Foggin to help remove the snare. VFWT responded immediately that they would be happy to help. In a short time the animal was located and the team moved in and immobilized the animal and removed the snare. Luckily the snare had not been on long and the ZAWA rangers were vigilant in their monitoring of the animals and able to quickly report the snare. The entire operation is a wonderful example of how the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) cross-border collaboration has benefited the wildlife in the region.



Teacher Training

In an effort to improve conservation knowledge among rural communities and children, VFWT sourced funding to provide a week long teacher training course. The course was held in early July and 30 local teachers participated in which Children in the Wilderness (CITW) trainers helped update local curriculum with current scientific concepts and conservation knowledge. All of the teachers were given curriculum notes, activities and supplies to augment their teaching in the schools. Much thanks to Safari Club International Foundation for funding of the training.



Local teachers learning about solar energy with a solar powered toy car

Community Animal Welfare Center

Most of the funding to establish a community animal welfare center in the bordering rural community of Monde has been secure. The project is in collaboration with the Vets for Animal Welfare Zimbabwe (VAWZ) who will run the center on a daily basis. The center will provide a facility for VFWT to use for clinical work with wildlife. VAWZ will have on site support for domestic animals and livestock from the rural area. Building will begin in the next few months.

Motorbike Enduro

More than 70 riders joined together in May for a multi-day motorbike ride in the area bordering Victoria Falls. The weekend had participants completing a timed course as well as fun riders out to enjoy the scenery. All of the funds raised benefit wildlife conservation.

Zambezi Cycle Challenge

Off-road cyclists from around the world came together to ride a three day course through Zambezi and Victoria Falls National Parks. Wildlife and beautiful views were course highlights with riders ranging from 17-70 years of age. The event was well received and successful and the funds will benefit Children in the Wilderness and VFWT.



Donate



Tuberculosis Testing of Elephant

Last year VFWT began a project testing all of the captive elephant in the region for tuberculosis (TB). After completing the blood testing of each animal we are now working with each facility to train the elephant to do a trunk wash. International Elephant Foundation kindly assisted by reaching out to Pittsburgh Zoo and their collaboration with Wuppertal to send over two experienced handlers who provided training at each facility. In the next few months we will be completing the trunk wash test to screen for TB in the elephant. Handlers at each facility are also being tested. This project aims to improve the health of the animals and the handlers.



Walking for Wild

126kms walked in 23 hours and 15 minutes. Leon Varley, Sara Norton and Adam Humphreys undertook the journey to raise much need funding for conservation of wildlife. VFWT is a beneficiary of this event and will put the funds towards a much needed generator for our facilities.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust
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Zimbabwe

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