

A NOTE OF THANKS

The important work that Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust does becomes more relevant with each passing day and, it's only when we pause to assess our effectiveness and measure our progress that a staggering realization occurs: our conservation accomplishments are impressive and instantaneously expressed. Just ask the badly snared buffalo that we immobilized, treated and released last night, or the hundreds of rural school children that giddily met Sylvester for the very first time – their breath taken away by his gentle nature and majestic presence.



I am moved by the stories I hear from the field and stand in awe of the incredible support we receive from our friends and supporters. For without you, these stories end a little differently: the buffalo dies a grueling death, cultural fear of cheetahs, lions and other apex predators thrives among villagers, and wildlife-human conflict soars ending in loss of livelihoods for rural villagers, and sometimes injury or even death for people and wildlife.

There's no doubt, our work is needed and impact is clear. Incidents of snaring and poaching are on the rise, but we're treating and freeing more animals each year, able to respond quicker and more often. In response to plummeting vulture numbers we're monitoring populations and spatial movements while helping to mitigate the effects of cyanide and other poisons on these and other scavengers. Illegal wildlife trafficking is escalating and zoonotic diseases threaten our elephants, lions and other wildlife species so we're cataloguing wildlife DNA, vaccinating domestic animals and testing for and monitoring strains of TB in wildlife, people and captive animals.



At times, it can seem that with every meaningful step forward the Trust makes, more challenges confront us. The demand on our time, resources, staff and volunteers can be formidable. But it is the stories of hope, success and courage that keep all of us at VFWT going.

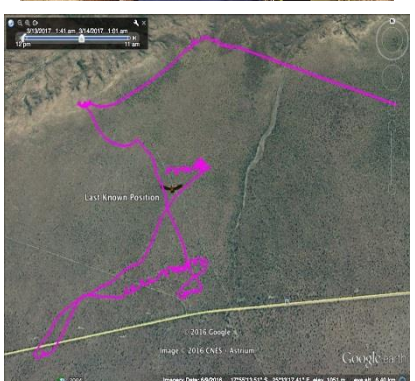
None of this would be possible without your help. We and the majestic wildlife of Africa owe you a great deal of gratitude. Together, we're saving animals, changing a culture of fear towards apex predators and training locals to be good stewards of their wild neighbors. And it's working. Our work is helping, and you've enabled us to do it. Thank you for your generous support; it makes our work possible. Please, keep the great work up!

For the Wildlife,
Bruno De Leo
Chairman, VFWT Board of Directors



BECAUSE OF YOU... The support of people near and far inspires our meaningful conservation accomplishments each and every day. Some of our most recent conservation highlights include:

- **Snare removal** remains at the core of our wildlife conservation work. Our team has reacted to multiple instances of snared animals, including immobilizing, treating and releasing several buffalo, warthog and wild dog. We were able to dart the animals, successfully remove the snares and release the animals back into the wild.
- **Mitigating human-wildlife conflict** continues to be a focus for VFWT: Recently, a bushbuck antelope was hit by a car on the Vic Falls road. It was concussed and had minor injuries but fortunately, we were able to react quickly, treat it and shortly after release it back into the wild.
- As the rainy season began in March, reports of conflict started to increase as crops came to life. Our **Community Guardians** program monitored our **Conflict Hotline 24/7** to respond to crop-raiding or livestock-killing wildlife. Elephants began raiding corn fields and the lions and hyaena soon followed, preying on livestock that were left unguarded at night. In response, three mobile bomas were erected in our **Community Guardians** program to protect livestock from predators. These movable kraals hold approximately 150 cattle, protecting the livestock overnight from predators. By placing these bomas in crops fields, the soil fertility improves as does the yield and health of the crops. We're deeply thankful to **The Darwin Initiative**, who funded this program
- So far this year we've hosted 250 students and 24 teachers at our **Education Day for Conservation program**, a record quarter for wildlife ambassador interactions.
- In 2016 VFWT in partnership with **Veterinarians for Animal Welfare Zimbabwe (VAWZ)** opened up the **Community Animal Health and Welfare Center**, a clinical facility for wildlife veterinary care as well as for vaccinations and sterilization of domestic animals. Diseases like rabies, TB and distemper (to name a few) are easily spread from our domestic animals to wildlife. A rabies vaccination campaign will occur July 24th-28th, and will coincide with a canine
- **Vulture populations** are plummeting throughout Africa due to increasing rates of poisoning, power lines, and use by local people for traditional medicine. VFWT has been GIS mapping each vulture nest site by species, to assess population numbers and spatial distribution. In 2016, we plotted an additional 184 nests, bringing the total number of nests surveyed to 360.
- A very ill white-backed vulture was brought to the **Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre** where he was treated and well looked after. The locals named him **Moringa**, and he was tagged and fitted with a satellite tracking device and released back into the wild. For a short time he stayed close to the **Victoria Falls** area and eventually flew to **Botswana**. (His flight course is depicted in the images to the right.) We'll continue to monitor this bird closely as juvenile vultures experience high mortality rates and, given the current low population numbers of vultures throughout Africa, every bird is important.
- **Ford Motor Company** kindly donated \$3,000 towards a new **High Care Rehabilitation Center (HCRC)** and many of you have generously donated additional funds towards this much-needed facility. We've outgrown the temporary facility we've used to treat and rehabilitate wildlife and, without this HCRC, we won't be able to accommodate the growing number of animals that need our help to survive. The total cost is £8,000 of which less than half remains needed. So please visit our secure [website](#) if you would like to make a donation. Thank you.



ENDURO! Victoria Falls Premier Off-road fun ride.

Thanks to generous sponsors and a growing participation, Victoria Falls' premier off-road fun ride was a huge success this year. A fundraiser to benefit Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust, this event is open to all off-road motorcycles and quad bikes. The purpose of this weekend is to raise money for the Trust, and to have a boat-load of fun! Evening events provided great food, drinks and entertainment to celebrate challenging and successful rides over the two days. Please visit the [Enduro Facebook](#) page for more information and to give a shout out to all of the people and sponsors who came out to support Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust



WALKING FOR WILD

Each year, Leon Varley, a Trustee of VFWT, one of Zimbabwe's most well-known and respected conservationists and a professional walking safari guide, donnes his hiking boots and walks more than 100 kilometers for wildlife. This year, Leon is walking next month for our furry and feathered friends, so we're currently accepting sponsors and donations for this event. Please help Leon put his feet to the test for our anti-poaching and snare removal efforts and [support this remarkable journey](#). Contact us if you would like to take action and help with peer-to-peer fundraising efforts (info@victoriafallswildlifetrust.org).



ZAMBEZI CYCLE CHALLENGE

Join us July 7-9th for this year's three-day, off-road cycling race through Vic Falls National Park and Safari Area. Stunning river scenery, views of the Zambezi River from atop the Batoka Gorge, and the wildlife in the area are all much anticipated highlights of the event. Visit www.zambezicyclechallenge.com for more information on how to get involved in this annual event.

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