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Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Project Reporting Information Note”:
(<https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2024

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT100
Project title	Stemming Illegal Wildlife Trade & Enhancing Community Livelihoods in Zimbabwe
Country/ies	Zimbabwe
Lead Partner	Savé Valley Conservancy
Project partner(s)	Anti-Poaching and Tracking Specialists (ATS)
IWTCF grant value	£ 307, 246.00
Start/end dates of project	01/04/2022 - 01/10/2025
Reporting period (e.g. April 2023-Mar 2024) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2023 – March 2024 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Nicola [REDACTED]
Project website/blog/social media	www.savevalleyconservancy.org https://www.facebook.com/savevalleyconservancy/
Report author(s) and date	Dumisani [REDACTED] 9 May 2024 Contributors: CLM, ATS & Project Leader & Accountant

1. Project summary

Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC), Southeast Lowveld of Zimbabwe, is one of Africa's largest private conservancies. With 304,000 hectares, the SVC is part of the Greater Limpopo Trans Frontier Conservation Area (GLTFCA), linking biologically significant protected areas in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Mozambique. Despite decades of economic challenges in Zimbabwe and a spike in poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking (IWT), SVC supports critical populations of rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species such as an IUCN-listed 'Key 1' population of black rhinos and an 'Important 1' population of white rhino, the endangered wild dog, ground pangolin, lion, cheetah, elephant, etc.

The 150,000 +/- households that live in and around SVC suffer from food insecurity and high levels of poverty. SVC is in an arid region and communities rely on agriculture and livestock, which are heavily impacted from human-wildlife conflict (HWC). SVC's long-term goal is to expand community engagement in the conservancy to help them transition out of poverty and increase their resilience. SVC's income is dependent upon the wildlife, which has and continues to be under severe threat from poaching. This project aims to enhance the anti-poaching and IWT work in SVC and coordination with the GLTFCA, effectively engage communities in anti-poaching and reduce HWC.

Illegal wildlife trade is prevalent in all the districts surrounding the Savé Valley Conservancy, including Chiredzi, Chipinge, and Bikita. It is so diversified that it includes both subsistence and commercial hunting. Subsistence hunting is more common in villages inside and near SVC and is done with snares, bores, arrows, and hunting dogs, to name a few. Commercial hunting is undertaken by well-connected syndicates who target rhinos and elephants for the monetary value earned from the horns, with a ready market in Asian countries.

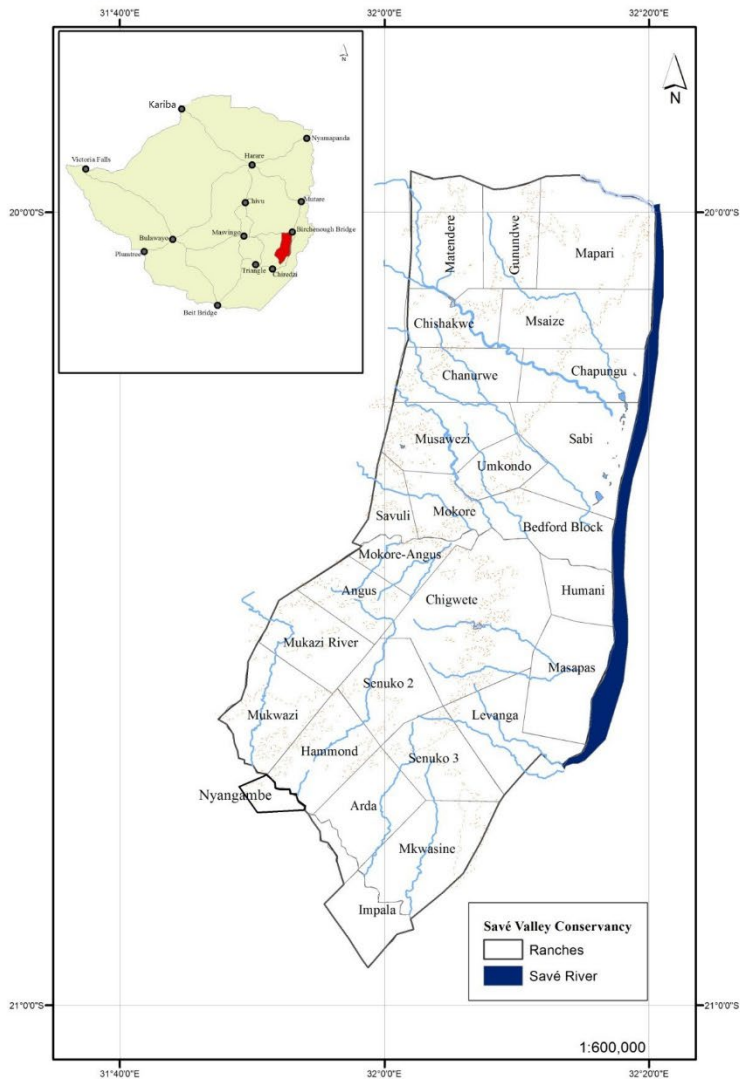
This project addresses the pressing issues of illegal wildlife trade to prevent the extinction of impacted species. Plains wildlife is targeted for meat with subsistence hunting. The threat level is high for all of these species. By adding female community rangers to act as a layer of intelligence gathering in communities and monitoring the perimeter, we are enhancing the effectiveness of our efforts and promoting gender equality in conservation. Combined with proper fence maintenance, this would significantly reduce the threats currently faced by IWT.

The communities affected by IWT stretch from Matedzi, Mukwazi, Mkwazi, Angus, and Bikita wards 1, 25, 24, 26, 27, and 31, Mkwazine range, Chipinge, Chibuwe, Chipangai, and Masapas, and to assist we will run awareness campaigns on the disadvantages of dealing in IWT with the backing of all relevant stakeholders and offer options in training to get them engaged in sustainable projects such as beekeeping, fish farming, chillie production to earn a living and reduce poverty.

The perimeter of SVC was fenced, buffering communities from wildlife incursion; however, because of lack of funding, the Conservancy has not maintained the fence, which created significant costs to the surrounding communities and animosity towards wildlife. Human-wildlife conflict has ravaged neighbouring communities with severe crop loss and livestock depredation because of the wildlife that enters the communities, and the communities have retaliated by killing the wildlife by using various methods, such as poisoning.

With this project, repairing the SVC fence with dedicated fence monitors is a crucial step. This, along with female rangers patrolling the communities, will ensure that Human-Wildlife Conflict is significantly decreased. The result will be higher crop yields for the communities and increased livestock to earn a living. The higher crop yield and increase in livestock population reassure the community that our project is not just about addressing the symptoms of the problem but also about implementing long-term solutions that will make a real difference.

Savé Valley Conservancy (SVC) is located in the Southeast Lowveld of Zimbabwe and surrounded by 3 Districts of Bikita, Chiredzi (both of which fall under Masvingo Province), and Chipinge (which falls under Manicaland Province).



Map 1: The Savé Valley Conservancy and its location in Zimbabwe.

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The support and engagement between SVC and its formal partner, ATS and key stakeholders, such as, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), Local government represented as Rural District Councils (RDCs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Traditional Leaders, Communities, Private Sector Tourism, Schools, and National Government has been heartwarming from the start. Before the project’s implementation, there was considerable awareness through actual visits to the various offices and explaining to the stakeholders how the program would be administered and its target achievements. ATS has been in the initial planning phases, as well as the design and recruitment of female community rangers, using their experience in selecting capable individuals and collaborating with Traditional Leaders to specifically focus on deprived families, providing a chance for a better life and thus uplifting the community’s livelihood. It was not an easy assignment, since the response was enormous, with up to 200 candidates considered, but owing to financing constraints, only a manageable number of 20 ladies were chosen.

The selection of representation was fairly spread across the many villages in the 6 selected communities. This led to a successful and well accepted recruitment effort by both ATS and SVC. There was a heightened anticipation on how the training would progress, as this was the first ever female ranger training ATS had ever conducted, and for the SVC, so it was a momentous and life changing occasion. Against this background, the first phase of the training was successful

and exceeded all expectations, and the female rangers couldn't hide their joy of being part of such a history-making process and the knowledge that was imparted to them, which would change the trajectory of the surrounding communities and their lives, not to mention the SVC.

After the initial training, the rangers' integration back into the community followed steps that made the community accept the rangers easily. Each ranger went to her community or village and introduced herself to the villagers and the village head, and this self-introduction was followed by a team led by the project's community liaison Manager, which included ZPWMA officials, the Ward Councillor, and the adjacent SVC property ranch manager. The team aimed to push for total acceptance, collaboration, and support from the Ranger community.

The involvement of the various stakeholders who are not formal partners in the project, local government, ZPWMA, ZRP, traditional leaders, non-governmental organisations, national government, communities, surrounding schools, etc., have been engaged to be made aware of the project to enlist their full support as this is not only an SVC project, but a community, and a national project at large. The support of partners who are also working in that field is critical.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Contributing to Output 1 as per the attached log frame, the following activity has been achieved:

1.2 CLM to identify six priority community areas in consultation with community, project partners and other stakeholders – The following six priority communities in Bikita District (Villages 21, 36, and Manyuchi), and Chiredzi District (Villages 4, 6 Mkazi, and Egbross) were identified and the project's focus areas. Extensive consultations were made by the CLM with the Traditional Leaders, ATS, RDCs and ZPWMA. These were the most affected areas in terms of IWT, albeit they are not exhaustive because the area to cover is vast. Thus, this activity was carried out successfully in accordance with the updated plan. This activity is linked to Outcome 1 and is a pre-requisite for reducing Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the surrounding community areas.

1.3 CLM to arrange the recruitment and training session for 20 female community rangers - This was effectively carried out and led by ATS, in partnership with the CLM, ZPWMA, Traditional Leaders, and RDCs, but it was delayed for two months owing to key engagements by ATS, which were beyond our control, and was completed in December 2023. This also created a delay in scheduling the initial Community Ranger training camp which was to follow the selection process. The training camp was completed in the first week of March 2024.

The training itself was life-changing for the new female rangers. They were very appreciative of their participation in this project and becoming the first female rangers in the SVC.

The content covered in this training is as per the attached Training Report by ATS in Annex 5.

The conservancy has also successfully employed eight fence monitors to repair parts of the SVC fence. Community involvement in the recruitment of monitors was crucial to them to maintain a feeling of ownership of the fence repair project.

These fence monitors were the first to hit the ground running in November and have done a commendable job repairing their sections of the fence. However, the unexpected challenge of elephants, which destroyed some portions of the repaired fence, posed a significant hurdle. This challenge underscored the urgency and importance of an urgent resolution.

The challenge pushed SVC to devise a solution to rectify the situation, as the continued destruction of the fence would derail our much-needed progress. The answer was that the SVC purchased a solar system to electrify at least two wires to stop the elephants. This electrified fence will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

The community's acceptance of the fence monitors contribution is a testimony of how they value the changes brought by the monitors in their livelihoods. [Annex 8]

1.4 The CLM was to design the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the community rangers in consultation with the Special Species Protection Unit – This was completed successfully after consultations with ATS and SSPU Team, as well as ZPWMA. This then served as their working document for how they carried out their daily operations. An example contract document signed by female rangers is attached as Annex 17.

1.5 Stakeholders were to identify key stretches of existing fence line where repair work would help mitigate HWC – The CLM, in conjunction with ATS, SVC Members, RDCs and Traditional Leaders managed to successfully identify key stretches of the existing fence line that required urgent attention, on Chishakwe to Savuli, a stretch area of 27 km, on Sango a stretch area of 17.4 km and on Mapari a stretch area of 12 km, bringing to a total of 56.4 km.

1.6 CLM was also to organise bi-annual HWC trainings in target communities identified in 1.2 – The CLM has planned for the HWC trainings to start in May 2024 and go through to August 2024 for the first round of the trainings, as per Annex 6. The second set of trainings will be scheduled for 2025.

1.7 CLM to establish HWC baselines in target communities identified in 1.2 through consultation with community, project partners and other stakeholders – The CLM completed the baseline activities with assistance from ZPWMA, RDCs, ATS and communities. Most of the reports received in the last three years (2021 to 2023) have been of crop damage, mainly from hippos, buffalo, and elephants, who also reported significant numbers of threats to human life. These also contributed to the loss of life as they killed five people and injured one in 2021. Lions and hyenas are responsible for most livestock depredation, particularly in kraals. Refer to Annex 7 for a detailed number of reports SVC-wide for the problem species in the neighbouring communities, with elephants, buffalo and hippos leading the pack and the most problematic animals. Also refer to Annex 23 for a sample questionnaire used to gather data from the communities.

1.8 CLM to determine and develop six different mitigation measures through consultation with community, project partners and other stakeholders – The CLM spearheaded the activity, which ZPWMA, RDCs, ATS, and the affected communities supported. The SVC and partners analysed the current mitigation measures, what was working and what was not, and measures that have proven to be working in other areas. The villagers in the neighbouring communities will implement improvements as they get trained on HWC.

According to Annex 6, the following will be implemented as proven effective in reducing HWC in many areas: predator-proof kraals to protect livestock from lions and hyenas, beekeeping to keep elephants at bay, crop field fencing to keep elephants, hippos, eland, and baboons away from crops, and the use of solar lights and noise deterrents to keep lions at bay. Adopting these should result in a significant decrease in HWC reports, combined with SVC fence repairs to prevent animals from entering the community areas, and the Female ranger patrols will inform SSPU to respond quickly for assistance.

Contributing to Output 2, as shown in the attached log frame, the following operations have already begun as part of an agreed-upon program to establish a centralized Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) for the entire SVC, which ATS leads (Annex 20). All SVC members agreed upon this in the 2023 Annual General Meeting, and the recruitment process has already begun from the various ranches as they join and draw from the surrounding areas. The APU aims to establish five sections across SVC with 214 rangers on the ground. To date, 50 new rangers have been hired and are currently undergoing training. The operation will ensure that SVC has more boots on the ground. With the assistance of Female Rangers, species populations will undoubtedly increase as we clamp down on poaching syndicates.

2.1 Run recruitment and selection process for SSPU and ranch rangers drawing candidates from the SVC surrounding communities.

- 2.2 Successful applicants from the recruitment and selection process proceed to a basic ranger training course.
- 2.3 Employment of suitable candidates from Activity 2.2 by the SSPU and SVC and equip candidates with necessary uniform, kit, and equipment.
- 2.4 SSPU to co-ordinate deployments with rhino monitoring plan determined by the SVC rhino co-ordinator.
- 2.5 Purchase good quality rhino monitoring cameras so accurate and safe verification of rhino is possible.
- 2.6 Determine a reporting system from the ranch and community rangers that will be collated by central SSPU admin.
- 2.7 ATS to conduct annual SSPU and ranch rangers training. North and south training course to be arranged with rangers split into manageable groups. Training to refresh on basic techniques as well as update rangers on new innovations.
- 2.9 Ensure old and faulty ranger equipment replaced regularly for safety of rangers.

2.8 Equip community rangers with uniform and equipment i.e. radios for communication.

This activity, which links to Output 2, has been accomplished because the Female Rangers were granted uniforms after completing their first training stint, and the SVC bought equipment to communicate with SSPU Central Base and carry out their daily duties. Instead of radios, we got the latest Blackview BV8900 rugged phones, which are GPS enabled and have a high-quality camera. These devices have internet capacity and are able to take high quality photographs. The GPS reports and pictures will be uploaded via the Earth Ranger application, which is currently being rolled out SVC-wide for all rangers. The equipment will allow the SVC to obtain high-quality reporting from all rangers and analyse real-time information and responses.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Given the impact the Fence Monitors who are repairing the fence have already had from December 2023 to March 2024, and the support they have managed to garner from the communities that they come from, as well as the Female Community Rangers who have become a beacon of hope in their communities and have already made an immediate impact, and are viewed as role models in the communities as the first Female Rangers for SVC, coupled with the full support from various stakeholders, RDCs, ZPWMA, ATS, ZRP, NGOs, Traditional Leaders, Government, etc., the project has made significant progress and will achieve its purpose as set.

- Human-Wildlife Conflict –With reference to Annex 7, which details the baseline condition with the reports recorded on HWC for the past three years, and with the four problematic animals, elephant, hippo, buffalo, and lion, the employment of Fence Monitors and Female Community Rangers, as well as the rollout of HWC training and new mitigation measures, will effectively begin to address the HWC in SVC and see the numbers of these decrease within the next six months. The communities happily accepted our project and have been impatiently waiting for such an intervention for a long time. This project benefits SVC, the communities, and many families directly involved. A significant plus for this project was the recruitment of the CLM, which SVC had never had before, and this has proven to be a game changer. In the areas where the fence is already up, there has been a notable decrease in reports of wildlife destroying crops and livestock depredation; however, it's not the same for areas without fencing.

The Output indicators are measured using reports generated by rangers in conjunction with Problem Animal Control (PAC) Reports from ZPWMA (Annex 15). The Standard Indicators IWTCF-C05 and IWTCF-B01 will support the progress measuring for this output, as detailed in Annex 3. Short-Term Employment for Community Members – The Fence Monitors hired to mend the fence have provided much-needed respite to both the SVC and the communities. SVC's barrier was destroyed in many areas, and the monitor's participation has benefited from the decrease in HWC and assisted them in improving their livelihoods since the revenue generated by this short-term job has been quite beneficial. Most of these women are now professionally working for the first time, and having a monthly salary has immediately improved their lives by allowing them to support their families and care for themselves. See

comments from the Fence Monitors in Annex 8, on the impact this project has had in their lives.

- Community Ranger Response Unit and SSPU trained on key skills, deployed, and equipped – After the Female Community Rangers' initial training and deployment, they will be trained in other critical skills as they adapt to the new surroundings, and a particular response unit will follow. Already, they will be equipped with Blackview phones to enable them to input data on the ground via Earth Ranger. Their data collection progress will be tracked by ATS using Earth Ranger-generated reports, training reports, and Police reports filed. The Standard Indicators IWTCF-B09 will support the progress measuring for this output, as detailed in Annex 3.
- Coordinated ranger units and management teams within the GLFTCA collaborate effectively and share information to reduce poaching and IWT. The coordinated ranger report is under the purview of ATS, and their collaboration is ongoing with all the conservancies in the Lowveld. With successes in IWT, the prospect for increased community hunting quotas is genuine as the wildlife species numbers grow, and this will improve their livelihoods.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Progress towards our project Outcome for improved capacity and patrol coverage of community rangers leading to reduction in poaching and IWT and increasing our species population, including the black rhino population; and mitigation measures leading to a decrease in HWC throughout the duration of the project after employment of the rangers and the reduction of livestock and crop loss leading to improved livelihoods, has steadily improved with the deployment of the Female Community Rangers who have made an immediate impact in their communities in driving a change of mindset on how wildlife should be seen and protected, not only for the future generations, but for the country's economic benefits and their benefit as well, as SVC's species growth will translate into improved livelihoods as they get access to an increased hunting quota for the communities conservancies within SVC and the various projects that SVC initiates for the betterment of community livelihoods, which include schools, clinics, irrigation schemes, etc. There haven't been any reports of retaliatory killings of wildlife. HWC reports are now more precise, allowing the SSPU and ZPWMA to respond promptly, thanks to the rangers' training on reporting problem animal control. The rangers have added a layer of verification before submitting a report to avoid the worst of resources. Progress will effectively be monitored using Earth Ranger-generated reports to cover HWC reports, patrol reports, etc. Please refer to Annex 9 for evidence. The project indicators are adequate for measuring our intended Outcome and will be supported by Standard Indicators IWTCF-B06, IWTCF-B10, IWTCF-B14, IWTCF-B18, and IWTCF-C09 as indicated in Annex 3.

The project will achieve its intended Outcome by the end of funding. We hope that by then, we will have devised a plan for continuity so that we do not derail the progress that has already been made and that we can continue to grow our species numbers by keeping poaching and IWT under control and with a reduction in HWC, will guarantee improved community livelihoods.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Assumption 1: Continued collaboration and support from ZPWMA, the Government of Zimbabwe and ZRP.

Hiring a Community Liaison Manager (CLM) for the project has been transformative for SVC and the project's success. SVC had never had someone in this capacity before, and the CLM has provided that critical link between the SVC and its different stakeholders. His effect and success have been quick, and it is encouraging to notice that the project's success depends on his ability to maintain a balance between SVC and its stakeholders. Collaboration with ZPWMA, Government, and ZRP has witnessed a dramatic improvement; this was achieved through

personal meetings with the various stakeholders to rally support for the project held by the CLM and, at times, supported by the Project Administrator. All essential stakeholders supporting this excellent project attend every IWT or HWC-related event. The CLM's representation has been a positive for the project, as he now attends most meetings related to HWC as invited by different organisations, creating relationships and learning from others on best practices to ensure the project's success. See Annex 10 (Invitations and some meeting discussions of some meetings attended). Overall, collaboration with these stakeholders has been successful.

Assumption 2: Continued collaboration from the local communities.

The CLM's mediation efforts with the surrounding communities, which involves Traditional Leaders, to enhance relations between SVC and the communities have not gone unnoticed and have had a significant influence. His initiatives have shifted how communities perceive SVC and what they may expect to gain if they cooperate in dealing with HWC. The employment of Fence Monitors and Female Community Rangers has already improved livelihoods in the impacted areas, and they are eager to see this project succeed and find value in the wildlife that we have and are attempting to safeguard. The CLM has been visiting schools and giving books that were donated to SVC by a donor. In the process, they disseminate information on our project and enlighten the kids about the benefits of conserving our wildlife, what HWC is and how all stakeholders can resolve it collectively. Refer to Annex 11 for evidence.

Assumption 3: Continued engagement with GLFTCA partners.

The engagement is being led by the SVC partner ATS, who is working closely with other security personnel to exchange information on IWT. It's great to see collaboration among different stakeholders to combat such illegal activities.

Assumption 4: Women want to be employed to patrol the fence.

The women anxiously awaited this opportunity, which has become a reality. We have solely employed women as Fence Monitors and Female Community Rangers, and this has had a significant impact on how they are perceived in the impacted communities and the economic contribution they currently make to improving livelihoods by uplifting their communities.

Assumption 5: FPIC received by the communities for HWC mitigation measures.

This is still true, and the communities were fully involved in developing HWC mitigation methods that would benefit them by reducing livestock and crop loss, ultimately leading to improved livelihoods.

Assumption 6: Coordination between SVC, ZPWMA and ZRP continues to work effectively.

The presence of the CLM has significantly improved coordination between SVC, ZPWMA, RDC, NGOs, schools, environmental committees, and ZRP, as he now communicates and collaborates with them frequently on all matters relating to HWC and IWT.

Assumption 7: GLFTCA partners willing to share intelligence and information on IWT and poaching.

This is still valid and is supported by ATS, which has a security relationship with these GLFTCA partners.

Assumption 8: GLTFCA partners willing to coordinate on poaching and IWT incidences.

Again, this remains accurate, and, as with assumption 7, is championed by ATS because they have a security connection with the GLFTCA partners.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction

Our Impact in our original application:

There is increased protection of all target species (wild dogs, cheetahs, rhinos, lions, ground pangolins, and elephants) in the short term and a positive growth rate for all species in the long term.

This project is making a notable contribution to a higher-level impact on illegal wildlife trade by implementing measures to curtail the IWT, such as the repair of our fence, which was an open gateway used by poachers to have access to our wildlife, and some of these animals the poachers didn't even have to enter our Conservancy because they would poach them as they wandered out of the Conservancy via areas where the fence was down; employment of Fence Monitors to repair the fence has been a considerable contribution and an effective measure to reduce exposure to poaching; the employment of Female Community Rangers provides an added layer of intelligence gathering and monitoring of the perimeter to ensure that all known and want to be poaching syndicates are destroyed and all perpetrators brought to justice and given lengthy jail sentences; education of the communities on the disadvantages of IWT to the SVC, communities and the country as a whole assists in changing mindsets and also offering options through training the communities to engage in sustainable projects, such as bee keeping, fish farming, etc. to improve their livelihoods. These sustainable trainings have been planned for the communities and will begin in May 2024 to reach out to 1,200 people who will significantly impact IWT going forward. Refer to Annex 16 for more information.

With regards to contribution to a higher-level impact on human development and well-being (poverty reduction), the project has already made initial strides by training the Fence Monitors to repair fences and at the same time, they were taken through first aid training to handle emergency incidences while on duty and this has been quite some impartation and will benefit the individuals in saving lives in their various communities and also teach others on this crucial life-saving skill afforded them by this project. The Female Rangers were given significant information and now understand some areas of ecology, animal behaviour, intelligence gathering, law enforcement aspects, etc., as detailed in the training report, Annex 5. The knowledge will also encourage their children and others in the community to want to be engaged and have a passion for conservation, an opportunity and a window that they never had but has been opened by their participation in this initiative. The planned HWC training will provide communities with animal behaviour knowledge that they can pass on to their children, as well as ensure that proper implementation of the HWC mitigation measures results in increased growth of their wealth stored in livestock and improved crop yields, which provides food security and even proceeds from excess harvest sales. Sustainable training on diverse initiatives, such as beekeeping and fish farming, will significantly reduce poverty in communities, enhance livelihoods, and provide access to a balanced nutritional diet. For evidence, refer to Annex 6, 16 and 21.

4. Thematic focus

As stated in our Annual Report 1 2023-24 last year, our project will strive to meet all four project themes. To date, we have implemented a strategy to reduce demand for IWT products by conducting awareness campaigns in the SVC's surrounding communities and collaborating with all relevant conservation stakeholders (ZPWMA, RDCs, ZRP, African Wildlife Conservation Fund (AWCF), schools, and those who have an interest due to the nature of their service This strategy's theme is 'Stopping Illegal Wildlife Trade in Our Communities Begins with Me.' The first of several such initiatives was carried out successfully on February 23, 2024, at Mkwasi - R Area. Although media coverage needs to be improved, we have already made plans to put it in place for our next campaign in Chipinge District in June 2024, on a date to be determined. Our focus is not only on SVC and the neighbouring people but also on influencing conduct inside Zimbabwe to ensure the protection of valuable species for future generations and our overall economic value. The objectives are to create awareness of IWT, educate consumers on the effects of IWT

and the value of wildlife, promote the theme 'Stopping Illegal Wildlife Trade in our Communities begins with ME.', and offer visibility to issues involved.

The Community Liaison Manager (CLM) has conducted extensive research and observation to develop a strategy to tackle illegal wildlife trade (IWT) in various communities. This strategy targets four specific centres: Mkwesine in Chiredzi District, Checheche in Chipinge District, Nehanda in Bikita District, and Chiremwaremwa in Zaka District. These centres are notorious for high levels of IWT.

The initiative has devised a strategy to advance the campaign's aims as an IWT mitigation tool, and each quarter, the SVC will target a location for an awareness campaign. These campaign techniques will include marches, roadshows, exhibits, live music, and sports, as all these activities attract large crowds and provide an excellent platform for disseminating information. The Mkwesine march on February 23, 2024, attracted almost 200 participants. The figure was calculated from the number of participants and observers lined the road to watch the march. With many lessons learned from the first campaign, the upcoming effort in Chipinge will be larger, reach a greater audience, and be covered nationwide.

During these campaigns, the various stakeholders, ZPWMA, delivered a speech warning about the dangers of IWT to the economy and future generations. At the same time, the ZRP informed the people of the penalties involved if caught dealing in IWT, the revised sentences to ensure a stop to IWT, and their support for this project, while the CLM concluded by educating the people on projects that they could engage in that would improve their livelihoods, of which the project will offer training in, such as beekeeping, fish farming, chilli production, harnessing non-forest timber products, etc.

The ZRP also issued a warning message regarding drug and substance usage, which has been linked to poaching, as the culprits do so to sustain their habits, and these are community poachers. The initiative has proven to be a fascinating feature, and we will keep an eye on it as we roll out our campaigns.

5. Impact on species in focus

Realistically, the project should impact the species growth in numbers for Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, Rhinos, Lion, Ground Pangolin and Elephants. As the fence goes up, we expect a considerable percentage increase for all species. The rangers increase their visibility on the ground, contributing significantly to the drop in poaching incidents and the resultant change in mindset due to the IWT campaigns, the HWC training, and the Sustainable Training starting in May 2024. We can compare figures based on last year's aerial game count, which was done in September 2023 and will be conducted again around the same time this year, 2024. The 2025 aerial count is focused on showing a significant improvement, allowing us to truly quantify the success of all interventions given by the project to date.

6. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction

The project's expected beneficiaries are communities listed in section 3.1, affected by the IWT and HWC issues the project seeks to address. The SVC and stakeholders will teach communities the value of wildlife and change mindsets, as well as offer training to engage in various lucrative projects, such as beekeeping, fish farming, chilli production, etc., so that they have options other than focussing on IWT and in the way deplete the precious wildlife species which are not easily replaceable and are an excellent resource for the country's economy and the future generations.

This project directly impacts poverty because it employs Female Community Rangers and Fence Monitors, who are now mending our fence. Thus, their income has substantially enhanced their families' lifestyles and the community at large by supporting others' businesses and by purchasing goods and services from them and being able to start specific projects to supplement their level of living. The income has increased food security in these households and ensured that children's school fees are paid with the cash they now get. In the long term, the uptake of

the various sustainable training programs to venture into projects will transform the communities' economy and ensure most households will have a steady income, as there is a massive demand for honey, fish, and chilli, which works as a mitigation measure to protect their fields from crop damage by elephants and as a means of earning an income through sales, and various non-timber forest products, such as baobab fruits (Mauyu/umkhomo), etc. Furthermore, an improved understanding of the value of wildlife will shift mindsets and guarantee that people cherish what they have and will benefit from it as SVC benefits; this will be the trust of upcoming HWC meetings and IWT initiatives. (driving value from natural resources around the community).

The CLM operating the SVC-initiated Books Project and educating students on wildlife conservation and sustainable projects to improve livelihoods will result in an improved understanding of the importance of wildlife. The planned technique of educating schoolchildren will cause the youngsters to serve as an additional communication channel to inform their parents. SVC members execute individual projects in neighbouring villages to alleviate poverty and IWT appetite. Humani Ranch has just created a Community Irrigation Scheme to assist communities in improving their yield.

7. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	30 %
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women ² .	50 %

GESI Scale	Description	Put X where you think your project is on the scale
Not yet sensitive	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
Sensitive	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups, and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	X
Empowering	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	
Transformative	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

According to a Change Request which we submitted and was approved for this project, a woman was appointed to the Project Board to head the project, replacing a male figure who had departed the organisation. This adjustment altered the Project Board's representation, making it

¹ A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

² Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

measurable on the GESI scale as sensitive. The challenge is that there aren't many women in our organisation who can take on such positions, but we sincerely hope that after seeing the new project leader's successes, they will be interested in participating in future projects.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

- To ensure the project's success and the realization of the project's Outcome, the project office has designed a system internally for monitoring and evaluating the project where the CLM is required to submit a weekly plan in advance, which the Project Administrator, Project Accountant and the Project Leader discuss with the CLM on what it will be covering for the project and if those activities are project specific, contribute to the project Outcome and are authorized beforehand. Where changes are required, they are affected. The checks and balances ensure that the Project Office is aware of what the CLM is doing on the ground and what will be covered for the week, which is then cross-checked with occasional trips by the Project Office to the Conservancy to inspect progress on the ground and verify the activities that would have occurred before that visit. It is essential to promptly address any issues or challenges during a project's development to avoid potential risks. The CLM should report problems promptly to resolve them quickly and efficiently to keep the project on track. The project can proceed smoothly without any unexpected setbacks by revisiting these topics and finding solutions as soon as possible.
- Weekly WhatsApp meetings check and measure progress for the week. As for indicators of achievements, we have adopted the Standard Indicators, as reflected in Annex 3. As actions are planned or covered, we cross-check if they impact one or more of these indicators, ensuring that our Outcome is met.
- Since the project started, our Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has remained the same.
- Partners have a share in the Monitoring and Evaluation since it would be easier to accomplish the targeted Outcome with their support on the ground and their critical input and knowledge, which is essential for the project's success, that is, ATS. Information for the project is shared via monthly reports from the Project Office as per Annex 12.

9. Lessons learnt

The most challenging component of this project from the beginning was the selection of a suitable CLM for the project. Several interviews were conducted to find the ideal candidate, causing a significant delay in the project's launch, which eventually occurred when the CLM began work in August 2023. Further delays were also caused by the initially selected candidate's cancellation to take up another post. As a lesson to others when preparing such a comparable endeavour, we suggest having at least two standby candidates who will also have the capacity to fill in the job if the original targeted candidate fails.

Administratively, we had a difficult time paying the employed ladies because they do not have bank accounts, and we had opted to pay them in cash, but this resulted in significant bank charges and delays in getting the money on the ground, and having someone move around paying the ladies was also costly because they are geographically far apart. Finally, we successfully resolved to pay them via an online telephone platform (Ecocash, Annex 22), which they can access in their locations to obtain actual cash or pay for goods and services. This method will also assist in keeping a digital record of payments made to the rangers. As a lesson to others who might have a project in similar circumstances, determining how payments will be handled should begin early in the design stage, before the project starts, to guarantee that operations run smoothly.

Things could have gone better on the technical side, but they worked great once they were implemented. Our Partner ATS has an enormous task to ensure the safety of our rhino species, which has been their primary focus. This, combined with the design and planning phases of establishing the centralised APU for the SVC, has made time for this project a challenge, resulting in a significant delay in the recruitment and training of Female Rangers. However, when they then obtained time to execute this task, it was done incredibly well without

questions, and the training of the rangers went according to plan and even exceeded all expectations. This was also ATS's first assignment to train ladies, and it caused many issues because their training base was full of men, and they needed to empty the base and reassign them to other areas to camp to train the female rangers. To avoid missing project commencement dates, the SVC recommends that those involved in a similar project have a standby trainer capable of training.

Our schedule will remain the same going forward, as we have now agreed on definite dates for the remainder of the female rangers' training and chosen a secondary training facility to ensure training is not jeopardised.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Action has been taken to respond to all concerns raised in the last Annual Report as detailed below, and reference is made. The view of our project partner was that the project would have to take shape as it had a huge benefit to the SVC in adding another layer of support for the SSPU.

Comment 1: This was addressed in the Half-Year Report of 2022-23.

Comment 2: This was addressed with the BCF Administrator and this via a Change Request which detailed the circumstances surrounding the change.

Comment 3: This has been addressed within this Annual Report under the appropriate section.

Comment 4: This was addressed via a Change Request which saw the appointment of a female Project Leader and thus has impacted on gender equality.

The second part of this comment was also addressed within this Annual Report as per Annex 3.

Comment 5: This was addressed as per the BCF Administrator's recommendations.

Comment 6: It was understandable that the project had not progressed at the time, but we needed to keep talking about it to generate interest and assure that it would be completed, despite the problems that arose. An example newsletter is attached that mentions the project as Annex 13.

Comment 7: This was addressed, and our website's wording was changed as recommended, including the appropriate funding logo.

Comment 8: This is being addressed, and a Safeguarding policy document was created, along with an appointed focal point, to ensure that everyone follows the policy and is aware of the consequences involved through the initial training provided when one joins our organisation or works as a partner within our organisation. Refer to Annex 19.

Comment 9: Though referred to as second 7 in the review. This was addressed with the BCF Administrator.

11. Risk Management

Two new risks did arise in the year under review.

1. Delayed Female Ranger Recruitment – This was due to our Partner ATS's involvement in some important pressing commitments, which prevented them from engaging in the process. This was successfully completed after a few weeks delay.
2. Delayed Female Ranger Training – The initial female ranger training phase was pushed back to early 2024, as a result of the recruitment process delay, and ATS's other commitments. This was successfully completed in March 2024.

12. Sustainability and legacy

There are plans to create a formal newsletter specific to the project that will detail what the IWT Challenge Fund is about, how far our project has come since its inception, what we hope to achieve with the project, the benefits it has brought to the SVC and the surrounding communities, the impact it has had on those directly employed with the project, and outstanding achievements to date. This newsletter is a powerful testament to our collective efforts and a platform that proudly acknowledges the invaluable contributions of all stakeholders involved in our conservation efforts, including the Ministry of Environment, conservation agencies, and the public subscribed to SVC's mailing list. We recognize the crucial role that each of them plays in achieving our mission and are proud to highlight their significant contributions. This newsletter will inspire others to join us in our efforts to protect and conserve the environment.

This will enhance interest and capacity in this initiative. In the meantime, the planned awareness efforts titled 'Stopping Illegal Wildlife Trade in our Communities Begins with ME.' are sure to generate a lot of interest as we continue to roll them out in various formats. Not to mention that some of our stakeholders, including ZPWMA, RDCs, ECODIT, AWCF, and ZRP, have expressed a strong desire to participate in the conservation programs that we want to implement. People are now being treated to a wholly packaged conservation message, filled with hope and optimism for a better future for our communities.

As the project is now underway, the intended sustainable benefits post-project remain valid. These include better educated communities, which lead to reduced poaching, which we believe will lead to reduced IWT and increased community awareness of the value of wildlife. There are no plans to change the previous proposal, but we ensure we stay committed to [project goals].

The value and contribution that the Female Rangers have brought to SVC with this project cannot be overstated, and in the future, we will make every effort to make plans on retaining their services for continuity's sake and even expand the team as this would greatly help SVC and its communities and will ensure continuous improvements in the growth of our wildlife species as we keep a check on IWT, poaching and HWC issues for the benefit of everyone. The future can only be bright as we expose the communities to many viable options, with sustainable training to engage in various projects for the betterment of the communities' livelihoods, as knowledge is disseminated on the benefits of wildlife conservation continuously, and as schoolchildren grow and develop a passion for sustainable conservation, the communities will transform. Refer to Annex 14.

13. IWT Challenge Fund identity

The SVC will publicise the IWT Challenge Fund throughout the project and beyond, as we strive to make the IWT Challenge Fund Logo and the UK Development Logo visible and inform people that the project was made possible by their funding to curtail IWT, reduce HWC, and improve people's livelihoods. In the recent IWT awareness campaign hosted at Mkwazine, we had t-shirts emblazoned with the IWT and UK Development emblems and the theme 'Stopping Illegal Wildlife Trade in our Communities begins with ME.' The t-shirts distributed to all campaign participants, ensures the message will continue to be shared if the t-shirts in the coming years (Refer to Annex 21).

We will continue to display the IWT and UK Development logos throughout planned campaigns and trainings. In addition, we have secured two branded banners with the IWT and UK Development emblems, indicating that the initiative the UK Government sponsors IWT100 through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund. These banners grace all project-related meetings, workshops, training, and presentations.

We also updated our website (www.savevalleyconservancy.org) with the IWT Challenge Fund Logo and have a brief write-up about this important project for SVC. The CLM's vehicle and clothing display the IWT and UK Fund logos.

The UK government's contribution to our project's work is recognised and appreciated daily due to its influence and the changes it has brought about, particularly in SVC and our adjacent communities. We also highlight the project regularly on our social media platforms. We will obtain a written report from the SVC Chairman, certain SVC members, other stakeholders, and community members on how they have benefited from this project to share in the next report.

The IWT Challenge Fund funding is a distinct project with a clear identity. However, it is now part of a larger programme because other organisations, such as USAID, have launched a similar project with Fence Guardians and Community Verifiers who have a similar mandate to our Female Community Rangers. The only difference between our project and theirs is that they include men as well as women, which is where the distinction lies.

As the project progresses and we continue to connect with the numerous stakeholders, including the Minister of Environment, they will better understand the IWT Challenge Fund, particularly the schools and communities that will greatly benefit from it.

Plans to link our social media sites to the IWT Challenge Fund / Biodiversity Challenge Fund, are imminent.

14. Safeguarding

Also refer to Annex 19.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been reported in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes <i>Dingani</i> [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	No
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 0 % [and number] Planned: 100 % [80]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. NIL	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. YES During the second training session for the Female Community Rangers, in-house training on safeguarding issues will be delivered, as well as for the SSPU and anybody else who is connected with the projects or regularly interacts with project participants	

Please describe any community sensitisation that has taken place over the past 12 months; include topics covered and number of participants.

This will be covered as part of the HWC training that have been planned from May 2024

Have there been any concerns around Health, Safety and Security of your project over the past year? If yes, please outline how this was resolved.

Fortunately, there hasn't been any concerns to date.

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (April 2023-March 2024)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				Late start
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				Less trips
Operating Costs				Late start
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				132,305.00

Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)	NIL		
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of			

the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			
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16. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

N/A

17. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

The most remarkable item in this last year for this project was providing the Fence Monitors with crucial First Aid Training skills to ensure they could assist someone in need as they carry out their day-to-day fence repairs in the wildlife prone areas. Unfortunately, the ladies' level of education was low, and they were unable to write notes which would later help them as reference points over time, as the trainer started to take them through the lessons. The trainer realised this incapacity, devised a way to reach their level and found a way to make them understand and grasp the skills, using songs they created for these purposes, and what a masterstroke it was, as the trainer managed to train all the ladies. They all grasped the important life changing skills. This not only transformed lives, but the joy of holding a certificate in first aid in a community where literacy levels are low, and people are prone to losing lives due to lack of basic first aid knowledge to assist in serving lives, even from a simple snake bite. This has changed as IWTCF gave these women the power to help others and even impart the knowledge they learned to their children and others in the community as teachers.

Another plus is that they had never had formal employment. Most of them are single parents or widowed. They are empowered to provide for their families, buy sanitary ware, pay school fees for children, etc. Lives are changing, and the project has brought a huge transformation to SVC and its surrounding communities, and for this, we appreciate the IWT Challenge Fund. Refer to Annex 24 for evidence.

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption including description, country and credit	Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

				Yes / No
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Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2023-2024

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2023 – March 2024	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>An increased protection of all target species (Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, Rhinos, Lion, Ground Pangolin and Elephants) in the short term and a positive growth rate of all species in the long term.</p>	<p>The concept of using awareness campaigns in the most affected areas regarding IWT will show to be a trump card and an effective program to educate people and ensure the reduction of IWT in nearby SVC communities. The effective recruitment of female Rangers to provide an additional layer of intelligence gathering in communities will result in the arrest and liquidation of the many poaching syndicates, as well as a significant reduction in IWT. The Fence Monitors will also repair the SVC fence, closing the vulnerable access and exit spots used by the poachers. The planned training on sustainable projects (beekeeping, fish farming, etc.) will ensure that communities have a way to make a living and improve their livelihoods.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Improved capacity and patrol coverage of community rangers leads to reduction in poaching and IWT and increasing the species population, including the black rhino population; and mitigation measures lead to a reduction in HWC throughout the duration of the project from the second quarter after employment of the rangers.</p> <p>Reduction of livestock and crop loss leading to improved livelihoods.</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>0.1 20 community rangers effectively deployed across 2,500 km² of SVC.</p>	<p>Female Rangers were successfully recruited and went through their first training phase before being deployed in their respective localities. Evidence provided in section 3.3 and as per Annex 5. Standard Indicators IWTCF-B06, IWTCF-B10, IWTCF-B14, IWTCF-B18, and IWTCF-C09 as indicated in Annex 3, will be used to assist in measuring the outcomes.</p>	<p>The next training phase to take place in May (20 – 26)</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>0.2 Black rhino population numbers increased for the duration of this project. Target IUCN 2% per annum.</p>	<p>The species numbers will increase as the project progresses and as we destroy the poaching syndicates, secure our borders with more boots on the ground, fix the fence, and educate people on the importance of wildlife.</p>	<p>Increased patrols from the rangers using Earth Ranger software for effective reporting and monitoring.</p>

<p>Outcome indicator 0.3</p> <p>0.3 Reduction in retaliatory wildlife killing from HWC once the new rangers have been recruited in the first quarter.</p>	<p>The rangers will educate their communities on HWC and encourage them not to respond by killing wildlife, destroying their crops and livestock, and this they will be assisted by the fence monitors to change the community's mindset. This will be measured by the HWC reports from the rangers as generated by Earth Ranger and the Standard Indicators IWTCF-B01 in Annex 3.</p>	<p>Planned HWC training coming up from May 2024.</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>0.4 Reduction in HWC incidents from baselines in each community area after the first quarter when the new rangers are employed.</p>	<p>The continual repair of the SVC fence by the Fence Monitors, monitoring by the Female Rangers on the ground, effective reporting of problem animals in the communities, and timely response by the SSPU and ZimParks have all begun to show results in reducing the amount of HWC reports. The standard indicators IWTCF-C05 and IWTCF-B01 in Annex 3 will be used to track the progress of this outcome indicator. Evidence provided in Annex 7 on HWC baselines.</p>	<p>Planned HWC training coming up from May 2024.</p>
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Human Wildlife Conflict reduced in a minimum of six adjacent community areas through training and development of mitigation measures. Reduction of conflicts from livestock and crop loss leading to improved livelihoods in the communities adjacent to the Conservancy. Employed community rangers will earn salaries improving livelihoods of their families.</p> <p>Short term employment for community members during fence repair helps improve livelihoods.</p>		
<p>Output indicator 1.1</p> <p>1.1 Twelve HWC trainings held in the adjacent communities with 20 people in each training, 50% men and women in each training.</p>	<p>The HWC's initial round of training will begin in May and continue until August 2024. Following conversations with affected communities, the CLM identified problem species and proposed mitigation measures for the surrounding communities in consultation with the communities and other stakeholders. Evidence is provided in section 3.2 and Annex 6. Standard Indicators IWTCF-C05, IWTCF-B01 in Annex 3 will also be used to monitor progress of this outcome indicator.</p>	<p>Planned HWC training coming up from May 2024.</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.2</p> <p>1.2 50KM of HWC mitigation fence repaired.</p>	<p>After the Fence Monitors were engaged late 2023 in November, they began repairing the fence in the most</p>	<p>Continued repair of fence to cover other areas bordering</p>

	<p>affected section bordering Savuli Ranch, and their contributions have already had an impact on the decrease of HWC in this area, as well as changing perspectives on how other community members view wildlife and its importance. Progress has been steady, and the SVC boundary will be secured with certainty.</p>	<p>Matendere, Mapari and Senuko ranches.</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.3</p> <p>1.3 20 women (community rangers) employed to patrol the fence, starting in year 1 of this grant commencing in the first quarter.</p>	<p>The recruiting of the Female Rangers was successful, and the ladies began their first training phase in March 2024, following a delay in the recruitment procedure. Following initial training, they were effectively deployed in their respective localities. Their patrolling of the boundary, which is currently being repaired by the Fence Monitors, will reduce HWC and IWT, resulting in an increase of our species' population. Evidence provided in section 3.2 and as per Annex 5 and Annex 18. Standard Indicators IWTCF-B06, IWTCF-B10, IWTCF-B14, IWTCF-B18, IWTCF-C09, and IWTCF-D26 as indicated in Annex 3, will be used to assist in measuring the outcomes.</p>	<p>The next training phase to take place in May (20 – 26)</p>
<p>Output indicator 1.4</p> <p>1.4 Baselines established in six priority community areas.</p>	<p>Progress was achieved in determining the level of HWC reports dealt with in the SVC, and baselines were established for comparison. The Standard Indicator IWTCF-B01 will be used to track progress on reports.</p>	
<p>Output indicator 1.5</p> <p>1.5 Six mitigation measures developed in six different community areas, in addition to the fence (1.2).</p>	<p>After successful consultations with the communities and other stakeholders, mitigation measures were developed to assist the six communities with to ensure a reduction in HWC in addition to the fence as evidenced in Annex 6 and detailed in section 3.2. Standard Indicator IWTCF-B01 will be used to monitor progress with this.</p>	<p>Communities to be trained in these during the planned training from May to August 2024.</p>
<p>Output 2.</p>		

Community ranger response unit and Special Species Protection Unit trained on key skills, deployed and equipped with proper equipment. Coverage expanded and operational across 2,500 km ² of SVC.		
Output indicator 2.1. 2.1 20 rangers operational under ATS and SVC coordination.	After the first training phase, the Female Community Rangers were deployed in their areas of operation in the communities they came from, reporting to ATS, with SVC coordination via the Community Liaison Manager. Annex 14 details some comments from the rangers already on the ground.	
Output indicator 2.2. 2.2 Three trainings by ATS, one per year, for the 20 rangers held, with 95% participation, and engagement from GLFTCA partners where appropriate.	The first training phase was conducted successfully as detailed in section 3.2 as evidenced in Annex 5.	The next training phase to take place in May (20 – 26)
Output indicator 2.3. 2.3 Community and SSPU rangers provided cameras and GPS units for rhino monitoring, and tents, motorbikes and raincoats for patrols.	The rangers were provided with the necessary equipment for reporting and monitoring, for example the BV8900 Blackview phones which are GPS enabled, tents, uniforms, etc., as they patrol their areas of operation. See attached invoices of purchases.	
Output indicator 2.4. 2.4 Number of poaching and IWT arrests by community ranger units, SSPU, ZPWMA and ZRP increased from current level.	This is yet to be realised as the rangers familiarise with their new responsibilities.	
Output indicator 2.5. 2.5 Verification of individual rhinos in the field through patrolling at 95% annually.	This will improve and monitored using the reports generated by Earth Ranger software.	
Output 3. Coordinated ranger units and management teams within the GLFTCA collaborating effectively and sharing information to reduce poaching and IWT. Potential for increase in community safari hunting quotas in the GLFTCA improving rural livelihoods.		
Output indicator 3.1. 3.1 Quarterly coordination meetings between GLFTCA partners.	This has been on-going under ATS's purview.	

<p>Output indicator 3.2.</p> <p>3.2 Number of joint responses to IWT and poaching incidences mapped and updated every quarter.</p>	<p>Details of these will be reported in the next report.</p>	
<p>Output indicator 3.3.</p> <p>3.3 Number of occurrences of information-sharing between project partners on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>This is being done via monthly reports and meetings. See Annex 12 for evidence.</p>	

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: An increased protection of all target species (Wild Dogs, Cheetahs, Rhinos, Lion, Ground Pangolin and Elephants) in the short term and a positive growth rate of all species in the long term.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Improved capacity and patrol coverage of community rangers leads to reduction in poaching and IWT and increasing the black rhino population; and mitigation measures lead to a reduction in HWC throughout the duration of the project from the second quarter after employment of the rangers.</p> <p>Reduction of livestock and crop loss leading to improved livelihoods</p>	<p>0.120 community rangers effectively deployed across 2,500 km² of SVC.</p> <p>0.2 Species population numbers increased for the duration of this project.</p> <p>0.3 Reduction in retaliatory wildlife killing from HWC once the new rangers have been recruited in the first quarter.</p> <p>0.4 Reduction in HWC incidents from baselines in each community area after the first quarter when the new rangers are employed.</p>	<p>E.g Patrol records, CyberTracker reports.</p> <p>0.2 Species population number reports generated after every 12 months.</p> <p>0.3 Patrol records, CyberTracker reports updated every month.</p> <p>0.4 HWC records updated every month.</p>	<p>Continued collaboration and support from ZPWMA, the Government of Zimbabwe and ZRP.</p> <p>Continued collaboration from the local communities.</p> <p>Continued engagement with GLFTCA partners.</p>
<p>Output 1 Human Wildlife Conflict reduced in a minimum of six adjacent community areas through training and development of mitigation measures. Reduction of conflicts from livestock and crop loss leading to improved livelihoods in the communities adjacent to the Conservancy. Employed community rangers will earn salaries improving livelihoods of their families. Short term employment for community members during fence repair helps improve livelihoods.</p>	<p>1.1 Twelve HWC trainings held in the adjacent communities with 20 people in each training, 50% men and women in each training.</p> <p>1.2 50KM of HWC mitigation fence repaired.</p> <p>1.3 20 women (community rangers) employed to patrol the fence, starting in year 1 of this grant commencing in the first quarter.</p> <p>1.4 Baselines established in six priority community areas.</p>	<p>1.1 Training reports, including gender split.</p> <p>1.1 Fence construction reports.</p> <p>E.g Employment contracts in the first quarter and patrol reports every month.</p> <p>1.4 HWC baseline established in the second quarter.</p>	<p>Women want to be employed to patrol the fence.</p> <p>FPIC received by the communities for HWC mitigation measures.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	1.5 Six mitigation measures developed in six different community areas, in addition to the fence (1.2).	1.5 Report on HWC mitigation measures and record of HWC incidents updated every month.	
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Community ranger response unit and Special Species Protection Unit trained on key skills, deployed and equipped with proper equipment. Coverage expanded and operational across 2,500 km² of SVC.</p>	<p>2.1 20 rangers operational under ATS and SVC coordination.</p> <p>2.2 Three trainings by ATS, one per year, for the 20 rangers held, with 95% participation, and engagement from GLFTCA partners where appropriate.</p> <p>2.3 Community and SSPU rangers provided cameras and GPS units for rhino monitoring, and tents, motorbikes and raincoats for patrols.</p> <p>2.4 Number of poaching and IWT arrests by community ranger units, SSPU, ZPWMA and ZRP increased from current level.</p> <p>2.5 Verification of individual rhinos in the field through patrolling at 95% annually.</p>	<p>2.1 CyberTracker / SMART patrol data to be mapped every month starting in the second quarter.</p> <p>2.2 Training reports attendance sheets and photographs</p> <p>2.3 Equipment inventory and handover reports.</p> <p>2.4 Police reports and filings with ZRP / ZPWMA.</p> <p>2.5 Rhino monitoring report, photos and GPS recordings updated every month.</p>	<p>Coordination between SVC, ZPWMA and ZRP continues to work effectively.</p>
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Coordinated ranger units and management teams within the GLFTCA collaborating effectively and sharing information to reduce poaching and IWT.</p> <p>Potential for increase in community safari hunting quotas in the GLFTCA improving rural livelihoods.</p>	<p>3.1 Quarterly coordination meetings between GLFTCA partners.</p> <p>3.2 Number of joint responses to IWT and poaching incidences mapped and updated every quarter.</p> <p>3.3 Number of occurrences of information-sharing between project partners on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>3.1 Minutes from GLFTCA partner meetings.</p> <p>3.2 Patrol reports from joint response to IWT and poaching incidences.</p> <p>3.3 Records from information sharing.</p>	<p>GLFTCA partners willing to share intelligence and information on IWT and poaching.</p> <p>GLFTCA partners willing to coordinate on poaching and IWT incidences.</p>

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example, 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)			
1.1	Sign employment contract with Community Liaison Manager (CLM) and purchase vehicle and office equipment for his role		
1.2	CLM to identify six priority community areas in consultation with community, project partners and other stakeholders.		
1.3	CLM to organise recruitment and training course to select 20 female community rangers.		
1.4	CLM to design the TOR for community rangers in consultation with the SSPU.		
1.5	Stakeholders to identify key stretches of existing fence line where repair work would help mitigate HWC.		
1.6	CLM to organise bi-annual HWC trainings in target communities identified in 1.2.		
1.7	CLM to establish HWC baselines in target communities identified in 1.2 through consultation with community, project partners and other stakeholders.		
1.8	CLM to determine and develop six different mitigation measures through consultation with community, project partners and other stakeholders.		
2.1	Run recruitment and selection process for SSPU and ranch rangers drawing candidates from the SVC surrounding communities.		
2.2	Successful applicants from the recruitment and selection process proceed to a basic ranger training course.		
2.3	Employment of suitable candidates from Activity 2.2 by the SSPU and SVC and equip candidates with necessary uniform, kit, and equipment.		
2.4	SSPU to co-ordinate deployments with rhino monitoring plan determined by the SVC rhino co-ordinator.		
2.5	Purchase good quality rhino monitoring cameras so accurate and safe verification of rhino is possible.		
2.6	Determine a reporting system from the ranch and community rangers that will be collated by central SSPU admin.		
2.7	ATS to conduct annual SSPU and ranch rangers training. North and south training course to be arranged with rangers split into manageable groups. Training to refresh on basic techniques as well as update rangers on new innovations.		
2.8	Equip community rangers with uniform and equipment i.e. radios for communication.		
2.9	Ensure old and faulty ranger equipment replaced regularly for safety of rangers.		
3.1	Arrange quarterly coordination meetings with GLTFCA partners and ensure meetings are minuted.		
3.2	Continued provision of good communication systems (radio/mobile/satellite) to promote and encourage sharing of intelligence, poaching etc information between SVC, GLTFCA and other stakeholders.		

Annex 3 Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF- A01	Number of people who received training in sustainable livelihood skills.	People	Gender; Male & Female Age Group; 15 -45 Local Communities, Bee keeping, Chilli production & Fish Farming					1200
IWTCF-B10	Number of arrests (linked to wildlife crime) facilitated by the project	Number	Poaching, trafficking etc.					18
IWTCF-B14	Number of individuals successfully prosecuted for wildlife crimes.	Number	Poaching / IWT					60
IWTCF-C09	Number of markets trading in IWT products closed.	Number	Local					6
IWTCF-D26	Number of new and enhanced tools/approaches developed for tackling IWT.	Number	Tools/approaches. Local Communities.					6
IWTCF- A02	Number of people reporting they are applying new capabilities (skills and knowledge) 6 (or more) months after training.	People	Gender; Age Group; Local Communities, Bee keeping, Chilli production & Fish Farming					18
IWTCF- B06	Number of criminal networks/trade routes mapped/identified.	Number		4			4	6
IWTCF-B09	Duration or frequency of patrols by law enforcement rangers supported through the project.	Duration (hours or days)8						

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCF-B18	Number of intelligence reports fed into management decisions on species protection	Outline the details on the law and regulations						12
IWTCF-C03	Number of communication channels carrying campaign message.	Number	Radio, television, internet, social media, print media, campaigns	1			4	6
IWTCF-C04	Number of partners with influence on target audience that have distributed campaign message(s).	Number of partners	Nationals, public sector, civil society, private sector.					6
IWTCF-C05	Number of people reached with behaviour change messaging (i.e. audience).	Number	Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities,	1000			1000	15,000
IWTCF-D02	Number of individuals benefitting from training (i.e. broader households of individual directly trained)	People/ Number trained	Gender; Age Group; Local Communities, Bee keeping, Chilli production & Fish Farming					
IWTCF-D27	Number of partnerships established	Number	Type of partnership;	6			6	10
IWTCF-B01	Number of people trained in HWC aspects.	Number	Gender; Age Group; Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities,					1200

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, best practice manual, blog post, online videos, podcasts, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the correct template (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and deleted the blue guidance text before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	X
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	