

MAY 2021

# ZCA OUTREACH PARTNERS UPDATE

THE ZAMBESIA BUSH TELEGRAPH

*Zambia*

CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Watch the  
Ranger Alert  
video here!

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Photo : Gregg Robinson #greggrobinsonafrica

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## FOREWARD

BY RICHARD MAASDORP  
THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY  
ZAMBEZI ELEPHANT FUND



# Collaboration is Key

“

It is so refreshing to witness the ripples of collaboration starting to spread across the landscape of conservation.

Some years ago I retired from the highly driven construction industry, only to walk into the unexpectedly competitive arena of conservation. I made nurturing co-operation across all spectrums a new personal goal. Now ZCA have stepped into the frame and are taking this to scale. Wonderful. A case study in motion is the ZCA strengthening the conversation across the Middle Zambezi, uniting three countries and helping build a trans-boundary ethos while the bureaucratic processes grind on.

In addition to the stated objectives, I believe ZCA is in pursuit of a shared, over-arching vision. I hope this will lead us into a new territory of engagement. The platforms and networks to enable robust and respectful discussion. There are very, very few generic solutions across Africa or even within one country. Individual wild landscapes have their unique challenges which spill over into communities and into the dynamics of the host nation. A solution in one area may in fact be the cause for demise of a habitat in another.

I also hope that through a new way of engaging with each other we will find the need to prescribe and preach less, and rather listen more. Creative, pioneering ideas are borne out of wide and deep listening.

In closing I commend ZCA in their quest to provide insurance cover for over 3,000 rangers. Every ranger has a family. Every ranger has a story. Let's listen and share these.

”

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

### BY THE ZCA TEAM

It has been a tumultuous start to 2021 for the world. The steady global roll out of the vaccine hopefully bodes well for the resumption of business in every sector. Zimbabwe sprang into action and has now vaccinated most of the population of Victoria Falls with both doses. It seems the region is catching up, with "herd immunity" at the top of every marketing campaign.

At the ZCA we have been focused on gaining market exposure and in building numbers within the Alliance. In this update we give you some in-depth information on just three members of the twenty four that have joined the ZCA to date. Over time we aim to highlight you all.

Our list of strategic partners is growing too. These organisations are identified as working in fields that link in some way to the work many of you do. We believe that by bringing them into the team we can all benefit from their expertise. They can learn from you, and we can establish how best to package and provide solutions between us.

The ZCA has established itself as an Alliance, focused on, but not limited to, effective operations in areas adjacent to the big Parks. These areas are often those where communities live on the boundary and have to deal with the impact of human wildlife conflict each day. It is our belief that this is the front line for the future of natural habitat and the endemic species living there. Your work in creating both a firm relationship with the communities you work with and in preserving the intrinsic value of the bush, is so vital.

A priority of the ZCA is the need to tell the story on the global stage, because the message is very often lost in the plethora of information out there. There is a need to recognise that conservation work comes in many shapes and sizes and often involves hard decisions and other things that the softer wildlife enthusiast has become averse to. One of these areas of contention is consumptive tourism and the role being played through professionally managed and controlled offtake. Whilst we all want to see animals thrive, the reality is that until funding streams not linked to this business allow for sustainable income to preserve habitat across all terrain, consumptive tourism has a place at the table and while it does, we must support the absolute best and most ethical of them.



## THE ZCA COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



### Conservation Calls

The Conservation Calls initiative is our newest project, linking a specialist conservationist to a group of people via a Zoom call. The talk is an hour long and focused on the conservationist's particular area of expertise. It is an interactive, educational discussion aimed at bringing to the forefront the reality of the situation in the region. Half the proceeds from the Conservation Calls goes to conservation, while the other half goes towards the Conservation Calls presenter. If you would like to participate, please contact us on [robin@zambesia.com](mailto:robin@zambesia.com).



### The Conservation Kabunga

The inaugural [Conservation Kabunga](#) held at the end of March was a resounding success, with 120 online participants. We've had excellent feedback and plan to make this an annual event, whether it will be online, or a face-to-face event, remains to be decided by Covid restrictions. Either way, 2022 planning is already in motion.



### The ZCA News Hub

The News Hub on ZCA's [Zambesia.com](http://Zambesia.com) website includes both a news hub and a blog hub and on this platform we publish relative stories which provide unique content about our Outreach Partners. Do have a look at some of the recent material posted there and please send us through stories and content about your operations that you feel would fit in with the [hub](#).



### The WhatsApp Group

We have decided to delay the WhatsApp group for OPs for the time being and continue to focus on direct email liaison.



### The Facebook Initiatives [#WeSharesAfrica](#) and [#SportForConservation](#)

Both of these hashtags are closed groups which are very active - especially [#WeShareAfrica](#). We currently have about 1,400 participants, so please do come and join the group and the discussions. We focus the postings on stories trending online that are unique to conservation efforts and those linked to conservation on the continent.



The [#SportForConservation](#) closed group has been a great place to post information about those sports events taking place around the world that in some way provide exposure of funding for conservation

## ESTABLISHING FUNDING STRUCTURES



Behind the scenes the ZCA team has been working hard to establish legal entities in the USA and the UK. Both countries will have the Zambesia Conservation Alliance registered as a charity by the end of 2021. We are proud of our trustee boards in both countries and we will update you with full details in due course.





## A Conservation Hero Passes Too Soon



We recognise the inspirational work of a conservation legend - Rory Young of Chengeta Wildlife who many of you knew.

Rory was leading a wildlife protection patrol in Arly National Park, Burkina Faso on 26th April 2021 when they were attacked by terrorists, which resulted in his death and that of two Spanish journalists who were capturing his efforts to protect precious wildlife.

Rory was the co-founder of Chengeta Wildlife, an extremely effective anti-poaching and conservation focused NGO that works in difficult spaces on the continent.

We had been in close discussion with Rory in recent times - he was helping us with some ideas on how best to structure and fund assistance to a particular Alliance partner in Mozambique. He gave freely of his valuable time and extensive knowledge and he was extremely interested in the group of partners that we are building across the region.

I feel privileged to have known Rory for many years, dating back to some enjoyable times in Kariba and canoeing on the lower Zambezi River. He was well liked and respected by many in the industry for his skills and leadership. His loss will be felt across the conservation world and especially so on the ground in Africa, in the extremely hard areas within which he dedicated his time.

I am sure you will all join us in sending deep respects and sympathy to his wife Marjet and their two children Astrid and Aiden. He will be remembered as a champion for nature.

[Rory Young obituary: The 'Mad Max' of wildlife rangers](#)



## OUTREACH PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



This release we focus the spotlight on three partners who are working hard to establish a unique community-based model, to offset the difficulties of human/wildlife conflict. We are sure you will be interested in their work and may have a reason to contact them for more information or to share/swap ideas and experiences.



The team at Isibaya have begun work on a wonderful scheme to develop a wildlife conservancy in a rural area of Western Matabeleland in Zimbabwe. The area has a high number of Leopard and the local community lose considerable livestock to these spotted predators. Of course, the Leopard are valuable, but not to the community. The Isibaya plan is to use modern farming techniques to develop a faster growing herd of cattle and goats that can be used as a bank to offset the losses. [Read more here](#)



The Niassa Reserve in Northern Mozambique is a fabled area for many of us nature lovers. The team at Luwire has embarked on a process to completely diversify their conservation model with a variety of new projects. With a population of 60,000 people and some of the most diverse ecosystems combined, in a part of Africa that is remote and harsh, we are astounded by their ability to turn their situation into one that is so positive and industrious. Clothing factories for export, commercial agriculture on an intensive scale and an international football event. [Read more here](#)



The South Luangwa in Eastern Zambia needs little introduction. The team at Nsefu has been working tirelessly in the areas adjacent to the Park to build resilience in the human/wildlife conflict. One of their success stories is the bee keeping project which is expanding and has the dual effect of helping to keep elephant away from crops while also providing a new income stream for the community. [Read this delightful report from one of the project leaders here](#)

## Outreach Partners by country



### Zambia

Conservation Lower Zambezi  
Nsefu Wildlife Conservation Foundation



### Angola

Fundação Kissama  
Wild Bird Trust Angola



### Botswana

The Ecoexist Trust  
Wild Bird Trust



### Namibia

Giraffe Conservation Foundation  
NYIME Anti Poaching Unit



### Mozambique

Luwire Wildlife Conservancy  
Panyame Anti poaching Unit



### Zimbabwe

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust  
The Tashinga Initiative Trust  
Zambezi Valley Conservation Network  
Take Action Trust  
Victoria Falls Anti Poaching Unit  
Bumi Hills Anti Poaching Unit/Bumi Hills Foundation (BHAPU)  
Save Valley Conservancy Trust  
Conservation & Wildlife Fund  
Bushlife Support Unit Trust  
Imire Rhino and Wildlife Conservation  
Friends of Hwange  
The Zambezi Society  
Dart Wildlife  
Isibaya Leopard Project

# Zambia

CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

# IWT UPDATE : NICK HOLME



The battle against IWT lost a leading light and champion when Rory Young, Co-Founder and CEO of Chengeta Wildlife, was murdered by terrorists in Burkina Faso on 26th April 2021. "Chengeta" is exactly what Rory and his team have been doing, looking after wildlife in some of the harshest terrains on earth and in the most difficult of circumstances.

In terms of the work ZCA is doing to combat IWT, we are making steady inroads into establishing a firm foundation from which to assist all of our Outreach Partners in the Zambesia region. One of our goals is to facilitate, where possible, the sharing of information and best practice, in order to increase the effectiveness of intelligence gathering at a regional level and to link our partners together in this crucial task. To that end we hope soon to be entering into an agreement with a strategic partner for the rolling out of appropriate technology to assist anti-poaching units in the region, with the aim of trying to ensure a standardised approach to information capture and the subsequent use of that information.

Furthermore, we are working closely with [The Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife](#) to form a Southern Africa chapter of its Financial and Transport Taskforces. The remit of these taskforces is to disrupt IWT as much as possible through the monitoring and prevention of criminal financing of IWT, as well as the transportation of illegal animal products. This is a work in progress and if anyone knows of a financial institution, or transport company in Southern Africa which they feel would be a useful member of these taskforces, then please let us know at [nick@zambesia.com](mailto:nick@zambesia.com).

The third area of IWT where the ZCA is focusing its attention is on our [Ranger Alert Campaign](#) in partnership with the [Commonwealth Conservation Network](#) initiative of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra. The primary aim behind this is to raise funds for the provision of life insurance for up to an initial 3,000 rangers in the Zambesia region and we would ask that you kindly let all of your contacts know about this, so that we can create global support for the campaign to help the men and women who are putting their lives at risk, on a daily basis, to protect our wildlife from the scourge of poaching.

As each of these initiatives progresses we will keep you updated and if anyone has thoughts or suggestions as to what more we can be doing in the fight against IWT then please feel free to contact us, as this needs to be a truly unified and collaborative effort by us all.

**RANGERALERT**



## FINAL WORDS

### A FEW CLOSING THOUGHTS FROM LUKE BROWN

It is an honour to have the opportunity to close off this update. What a privilege it is to walk with all of you, shoulder to shoulder, as we fight to safeguard our planet's most precious gifts. The desperate need for unconditional collaboration in these efforts was the most important reason why we founded the Alliance. We hope that by doing so we can help catalyse the fight forward. Gone are the days where walking alone seemed the path of least resistance. The incredible efforts being undertaken by you, our Outreach Partners, on the frontline are nothing short of heroic. Never ever doubt your abilities or feel disheartened! You are noticed and appreciated, and quite frankly your sacrifices deserve to be shouted about from every corner of the globe. Similarly please commit that you will never allow your efforts to be undermined because of perceived divisions or differences between you. Your fight is the same as that of the one next to you. In this Alliance there can be no divisions, only bonds. Only one goal matters: habitat preservation for the betterment of all creatures and humanity. Only together will we create the wave required to wash away the challenges that lie ahead. That must never be forgotten.

I am so proud to be part of the team driving the initiation of some ground breaking projects in support of conservation. In particular the Conservation Kabunga, the Ranger Alert Campaign, the Conservation Calls and the #WeShareAfrica & #SportForConservation movements are worth mentioning again. We shall continue to grow these efforts so that their benefits to all in the Alliance have a greater impact for all. Please use these platforms to amplify your voices and help galvanise the support desperately needed to shore up your efforts.

As the [Ranger Alert Campaign](#) gains momentum I would like to ask you all to please send in the best pictures and videos of your brave Rangers. We will use these to tell people across the world their story, the story of a hard fought and ongoing battle by true warriors whose quest it is to secure triumph over the evils of the Illegal Wildlife Trade.

Please visit [Zambesia](#) for more on what we are doing



\*[Music](#) exclusively composed for ZCA by the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra (CYO)