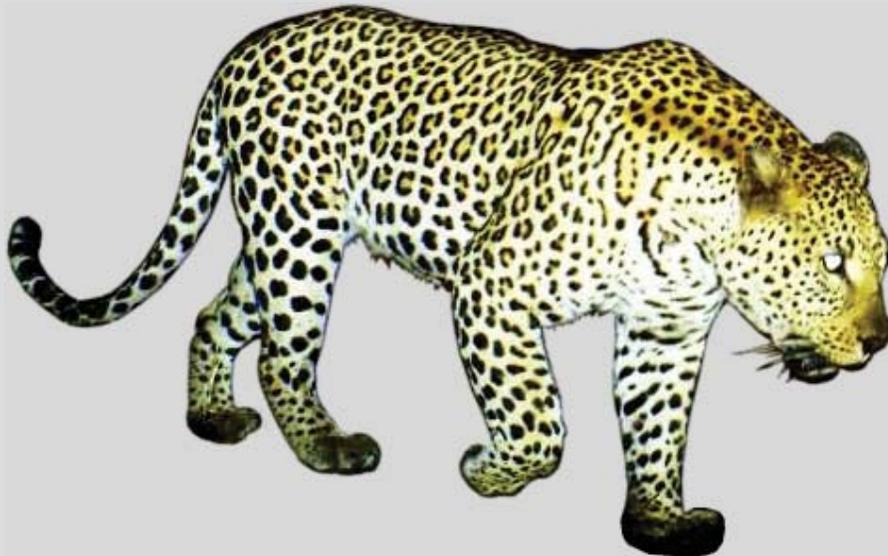


DAPU First Period Newsletter  
2020

Charlton McCallum Safaris

20<sup>th</sup> May 2020



**DAPU**  
DANDE ANTI POACHING UNIT

Dear Friends,

Let me start by thanking you all for your unwavering support. Buzz and I returned home from the U.S.A in February with an incredible year of safaris lined up. Due to the corona virus, the global economy rapidly unraveled and with it our season. In spite of personal worries we have learnt a lot. We both took our families to Dande for the first 21 days of lock down. It was a special time and one we will never forget!

Our education begins. We returned home with three points clear in our minds. First of all, we are more committed than ever to the Dande Area and DAPU. Secondly, we have been humbled by the generosity shown by so many people and well-wishers from all over the world. There are many passionate hunters and conservationists out there! And thirdly, hopefully the next generation of hunters and outdoor girls and boys has been encouraged!

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

Stay safe,

Myles E. McCallum  
James D. Charlton  
Charles Ndondo

Harare, Zimbabwe  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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## 1. COVID-19!

The major change has been a global one which has affected us all, the Covid 19 pandemic. Our hunters have been unable to travel, and as such our DAPU levy on all safaris has temporarily come to naught. Added to this is the lack of company earnings. Also in doubt are the long term contributions for Charlton McCallum Safaris.

Dande is a complex area to manage in that it is:

- a. A large area.
- b. Needs to show benefits to the local community.
- c. Requires constant policing (DAPU.)
- d. Largely a “communal area” (with villages).

A number of areas (mostly photographic) are in “protected areas” and require very little in the way of policing. However, all of Dande needs constant and proactive monitoring, or else, 11 years of gains could be eroded in just 6 months. This would be a tragedy.

Buzz and I are totally committed to keeping DAPU going. This will ensure that Dande remains viable, along with its splendor, an area for us to enjoy way into the future! We will ensure that this happens at any cost.

We are truly humbled by the generosity shown by so many individuals and organizations that share our vision and have been helping DAPU, in some cases for 11 years. Buzz and I are fully aware that are folk who are digging deep into their pockets whilst going through tough times at home.

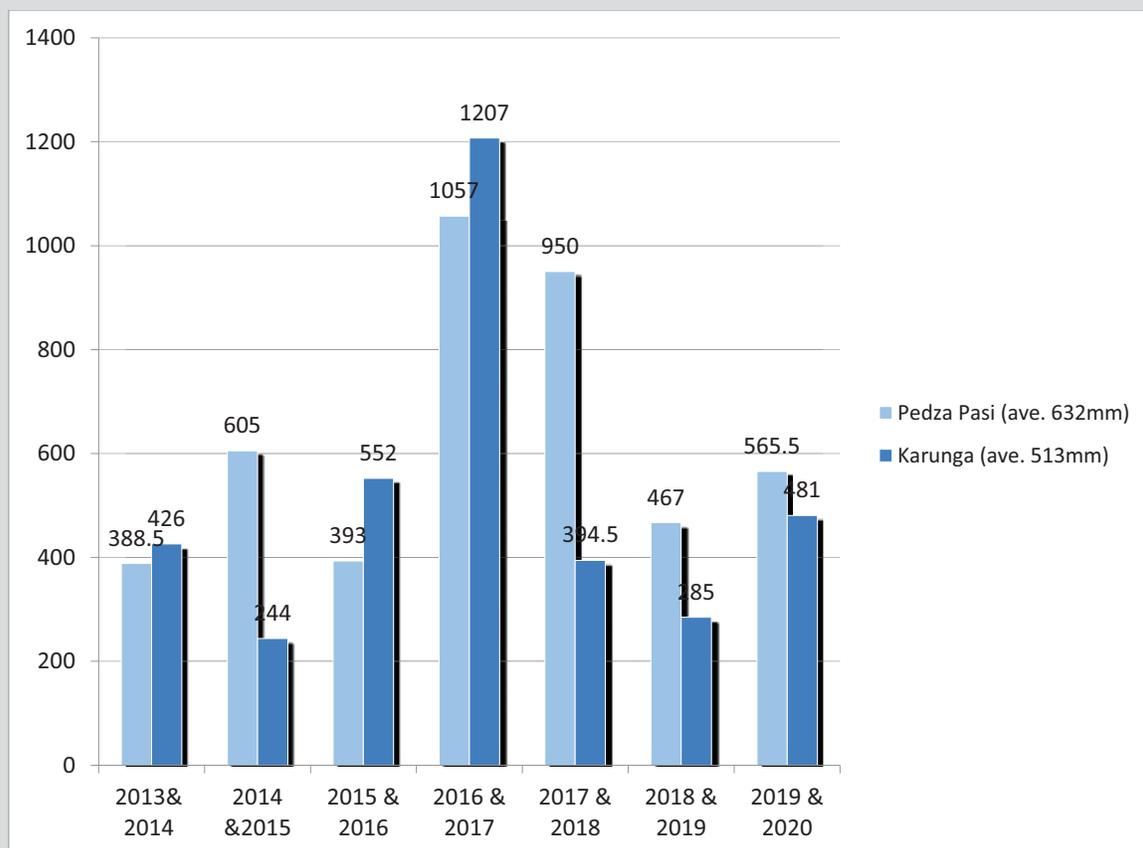


David Mann servicing DAPU # 2 prior to PAC deployment

## 2. The “Wet” Season

The 2019/2020 rainy season started late, and finished early in the Mbire district. Crops once again are universally poor in Dande, but considerably better than the 2018/2019 season. Decent rains in January and February, resulted in a good start for the farmers, but yields were negatively impacted by the early end to the rains. The district is already receiving supplementary food aid and as such we expect a heavy poaching season, commencing soon and continuing until February 2021. Whilst the crops are poor, there is still sufficient grazing and browse for the game. Most of the northern area is blessed with natural springs, so water is not a problem. However, in the east, water remains an ever-present challenge.

Seasonal rainfall in mm. (7 years)



This is a reminder that Dande is in “agro ecological region 5” which at best is marginal for agriculture, but is ideally suited to wildlife. As responsible custodians we need to make sure that “region 5” concessions continue to improve. It is increasingly evident that they need to compete favorably with the ongoing conflict in land usage.

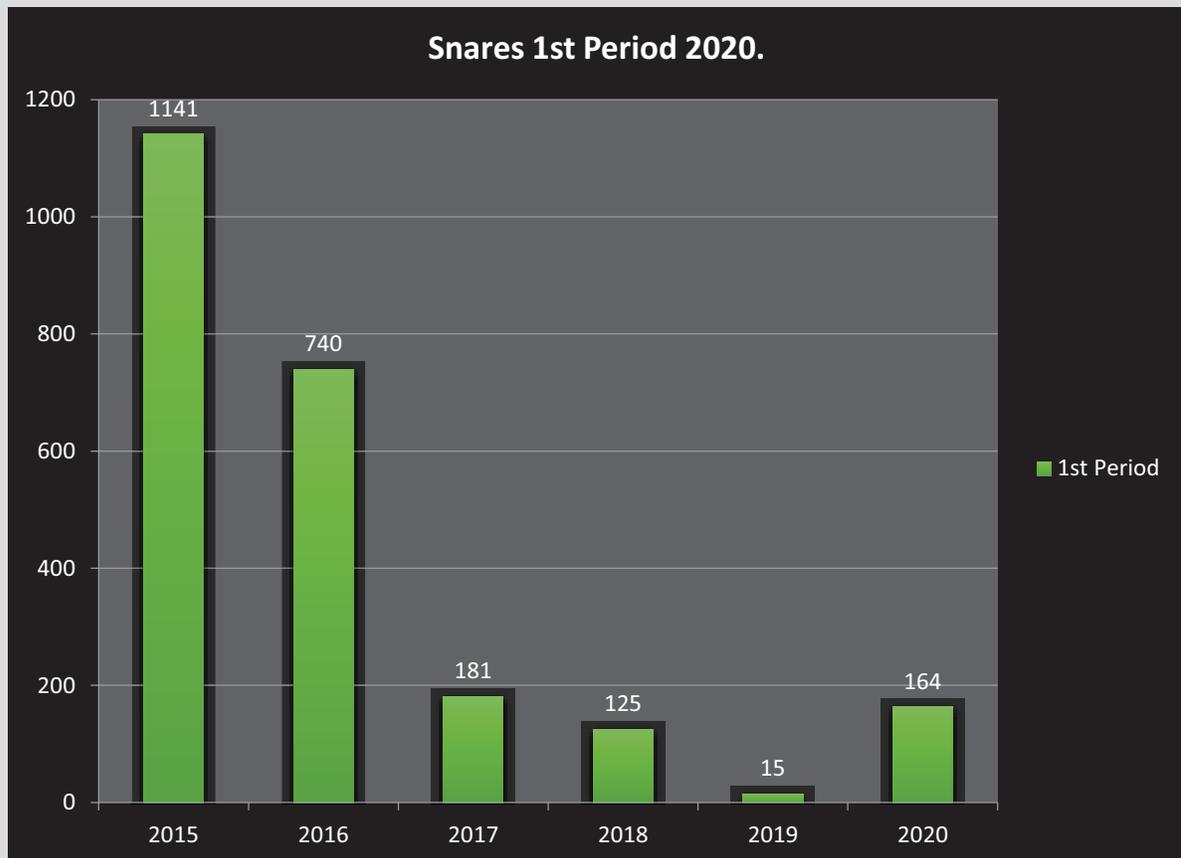
### 3. Snaring and General Poaching first period 2020

We have had another good start to the year as far as results are concerned. On the 10<sup>th</sup> February, Alpha and his east team arrested and convicted 2 kudu poachers. On 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2 locals were arrested in possession of spears, axes and three dogs. Unfortunately, due to the Covid lockdown, the second group was not processed in the normal manner. However, they were all fined for breaking the lock down, which was better than nothing!

We have information of two locals hunting buffalo with spears and dogs and selling the meat in Angwa Bridge, but we have yet to catch them. It is just a matter of time before we do, for as good as it would be to arrest them, one has to acknowledge that it takes a lot of courage to spear a buffalo!!!

Our snare yield was higher than in 2018 and 2019 but similar to 2017. But in real terms the yield is very low. The signs are clearly visible that we'll be experiencing a heavier poaching season, compounded by the fact that we are going to be without our best scouts of all – our hunters!

#### Snares - 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020 (first period)



This graph would have been more profound had we recorded snares from 2010 - 2014 onwards!



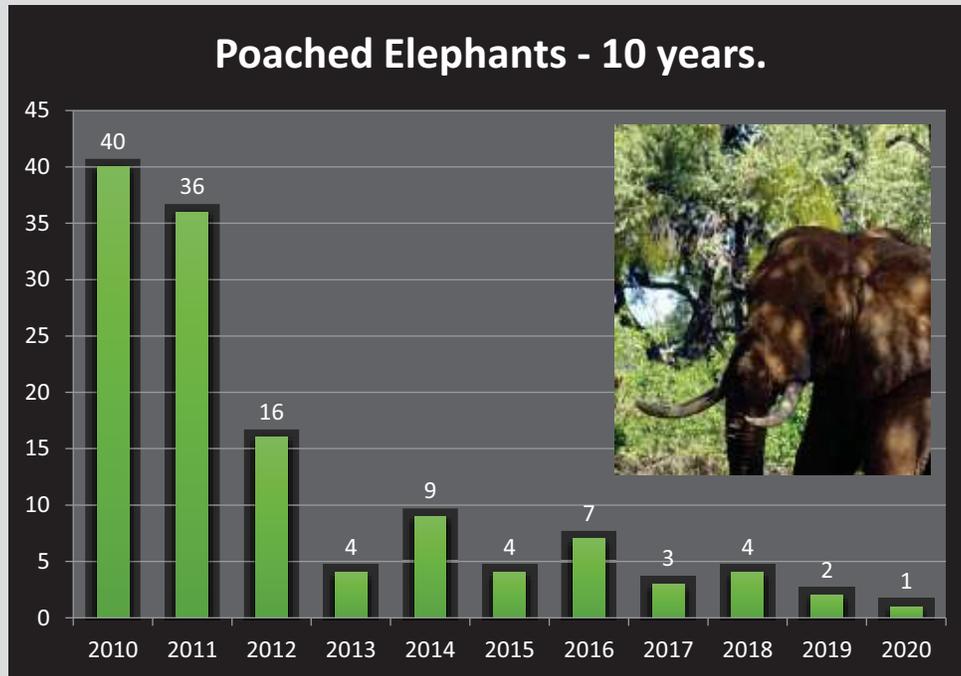
Kudu poachers with spears being processed

#### 4. Elephant Poaching

We know of only one elephant being poached in Dande this year. “Flying for Wildlife” have completed two flights in the area, and combined with the air survey, plus our patrols and informants, only the one elephant has so far been reported. It is possible however; there may be carcasses yet to be found. The elephant in question was a young bull that had clearly been shot. It may be that the elephant was shot by a villager protecting his crops and had subsequently died. The ivory was recovered.



Parks Officer inspecting wounds to determine cause of death



This graph only shows 1<sup>st</sup> period for 2020 compared to full year all other years

## 5. Problem Animal Control

Duties for DAPU scouts include attending to Problem Animal reports (PAC). The peak season for PAC is during cropping season from January to the end of May. The two major problem species are elephants and lions. Both elephant and lion are extremely difficult to wean from their bad habits and are notoriously stubborn!

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

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

### 5.1 Elephant

In general, elephants in 2020 have made a nuisance of themselves. Each and every night DAPU crews have been chasing them. We had three vehicles and teams on permanent standby for 4 months, and its hats off to the DAPU staff, overall they managed very well.

Despite their best efforts however, one old man in the east (Gonono village) was killed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March whilst attempting to chase a breeding herd of elephants from his fields. We also had to shoot a young elephant bull in the Irira villages. He had become a dangerous, belligerent and bad-tempered animal, who could not be chased in the normal way. It was therefore only a

matter of time before a villager or DAPU scout was killed. The elephant in question was responsible for serious damage to a number of crops. The good news is that the situation has been quiet in that area since then.



DAPU and Parks conduct joint PAC operations



Attending the scene where the farmer was killed by elephants in his fields

5.2 Lion

So far so good – 2020 has been very quiet and fingers crossed that it remains that way.

5.3 Buffalo

No reported serious problems to date in 2020.

5.4 Crocodile

Two people attacked and mauled in the same area by a small croc! Both escaped with moderate injuries and are expected to make full recoveries.

5.5 Hippo

One injury to a farmer on the Musengezi river (Dande East) to date. He has made a complete recovery and the hippo was not shot.

5.6 Snakes

No reported deaths to date in 2020.

## **6. Netting on the Zambezi**

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

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

## **7. Goals for 2020**

Survival!!! No lofty goals for us in 2020 – to keep the DAPU show on the road will be enough for us. DAPU will have to work really hard, as at the end of the day there will be precious few hunters to help.

## **8. Water Projects**

For obvious reasons, C.M Safaris have decided not to proceed with any new water projects in 2020. The UNDP were supposed to undertake various projects but it remains to be seen if they do. Due to the premature end of the rains we have already commenced pumping at current installations, and expect to keep these key pans full.

## 9. We must extend our profound appreciation to:

### The Dallas Safaris Club – Foundation

DSC Foundation has been our single biggest corporate supporter for many years, and it came as no surprise to us that as soon as the global Covid 19 pandemic took hold, they were the first to contact us to see what they could do to help. We immediately indicated that simple cash flow support would be of utmost value to DAPU 2020 in the form of cash for fuel, repairs and maintenance, salaries, uniforms, rewards and food.



Loading up rations for a 14-day patrol deployment



Bongi handing out rewards

### **Flying for Wildlife**

FFW has grown immeasurably in the last couple of years. They now have two aircraft, piloted by Richard Tennant, Hannes Scholtz and Richard Calder. Richard Thornycroft and Edward Whitfield use their personal aircraft to assist Flying for Wildlife. All flying is gratis to DAPU – it costs us nothing, and those who understand how expensive aviation is in Africa, will appreciate how significant this is!!!

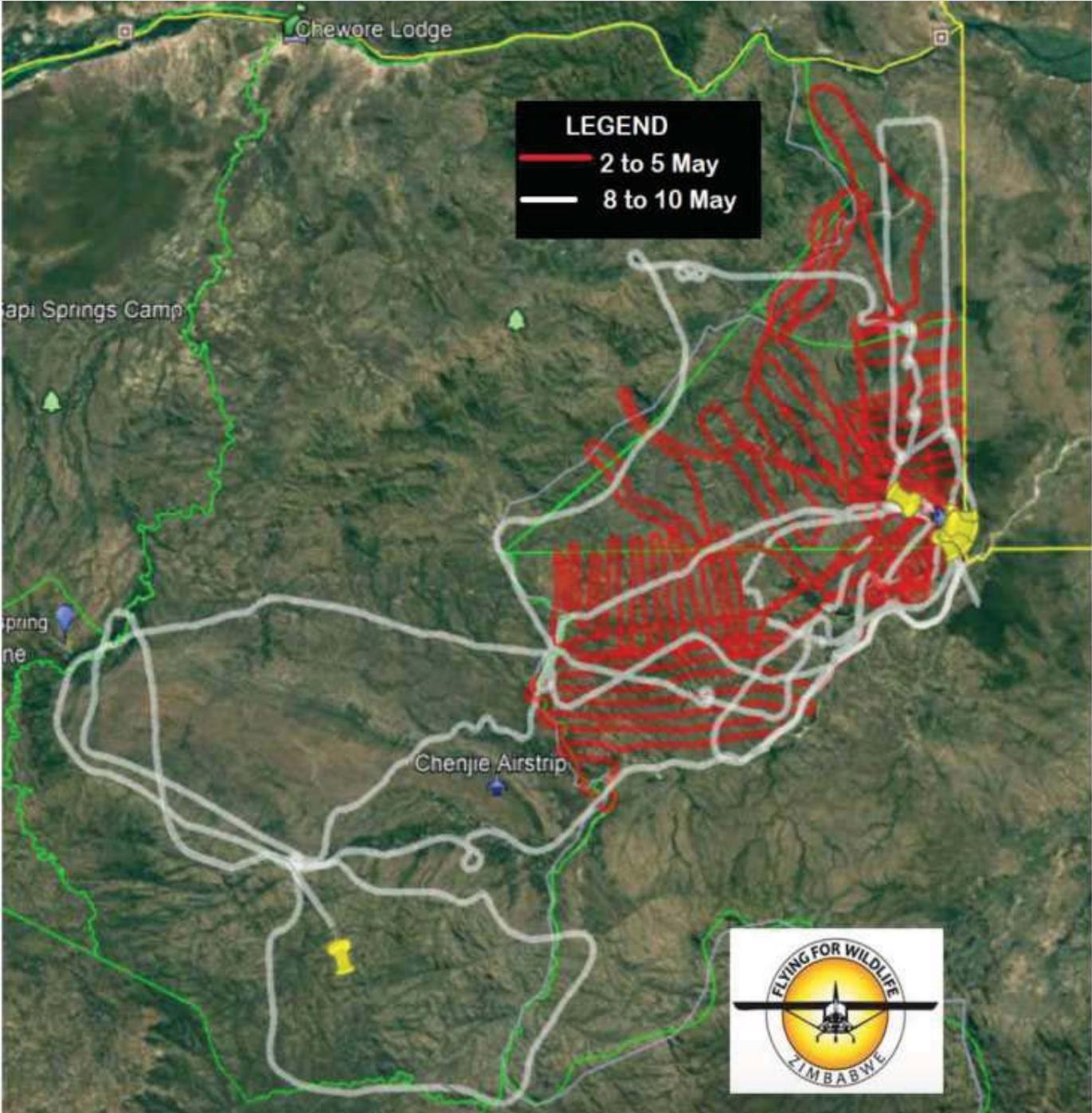
In 2020, prompted by the fact that we no longer have hunters in the field, we asked Flying for Wildlife to undertake two intense aerial patrols. The expectation was to discover signs of poaching, illegal settlement, gold panning, logging or any other illegal occupation. Two DAPU call signs were positioned in the highest risk areas in order to respond immediately, should the pilots observe illegal activity.



The basic summary of the flying exercise in Dande was that the bush was very thick, with an abundance of water. Multiple herds of buffalo and elephant were also spotted. Plains game animals turned out to be virtually impossible to see! In fact, in some areas, the pilot's reported as being unable to see the ground beneath the tree canopy!

One category 4 elephant carcass noted. Category 4 is defined as *“bones scattered and turning grey. Skeletons no longer stand out as distinct entities, often just skulls or larger bones seen.”* Thus a very old carcass. Otherwise Dande was quiet as far as illegal activity was concerned. Gold panners were noted in Chewore South and National Parks were informed. They in turn reacted immediately and multiple arrests were made.

Total patrol time was 17.86 hours with 1983km of aerial patrol!





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

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

**The African Wildlife Foundation**

AWF contributed (financially) to the new game scout quarters at Karunga camp as well as providing patrol rations. They are also finalizing assistance for DAPU in the light of current circumstances. We will be able to tell you much more in the next newsletter!



The doors will not stay pink!

### **Individual donors**

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

Charlton McCallum Safaris may not have a meaningful income in 2020, and will be unable to contribute in our usual manner. This is what led Buzz and I to ask for contributions. It is a different thing when individuals send us money as we know all too well that money came directly from you and your families. Your donations and continual support have been greatly cherished by us all, and without that help I do not think we would realistically make it.

### **10. Conservation Force**

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

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

How to make a Tax-Deductible donation:

**Please make a check out to:**

Conservation Force

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

**Check Ref:** DAPU

**Conservation Force Contact:**

JOHN J. JACKSON, III  
TEL: (504) 837 - 1233  
FAX: (504) 837 – 1145  
Email: Jjw-no@att.net  
Website: [www.conservationforce.org](http://www.conservationforce.org)



Guarding cable that would have ended up as buffalo snares



Attending to an accident

## **DAPU Income and Expenses 2020 YTD**

### **2020 income**

#### **# 1. Donations.**

D.S.C Oklahoma	US\$4,000
Burton Foundation	US\$4,000
J.D Crouch	US\$500
Paul Brewer	US\$500
Jytte Mejnertsen	US\$400
Jerry Jurena	US\$500
Martinus van der Reyden	US\$1,200
National Capital Chapter SCI	US\$1,000
Tony Statuto	US\$2,000
Mike Tenny	US\$2,000
Buzz Arthur	US\$1,200
Mike Core	US\$1,300
Jeff Butterfield	US\$1,000
Nick Moffat	US\$50
Jerry Meuthing	US\$200
Keith & Judy Shope	US\$100
Bob Schofield	US\$300
D.S.C Foundation.	US\$25,000
Grant Wilson	US\$500
"Ox of Okavango" - Fred Mannix.	US\$5,000
Bill Wilson	US\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>US\$51,250</b>
<b># 2. Hunting clients</b>	<b>US\$0</b>
<b># 3. Charlton McCallum Safaris</b>	<b>US\$0</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>US\$51,250</b>

**2020 Expenses****# 1 Wages, rewards and rations.**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Game Scouts</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Rations</b>	<b>Rewards</b>	<b>Netting</b>	<b>Total</b>
January	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$56	US\$200	US\$3,836
February	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$390	US\$200	US\$4,170
March	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$80	US\$200	US\$3,860
April	US\$1,100	US\$1,605	US\$875	US\$514	US\$200	US\$4,294
	<b>US\$4,400</b>	<b>US\$6,420</b>	<b>US\$3,500</b>	<b>US\$1,040</b>	<b>US\$800</b>	<b>US\$16,160</b>

**# 2 2020 DAPU equipment expenses**

Rear axle repair ABK 7074 Darryl's service centre.						US\$225.70
Uniforms (Tselentsis)						US\$999.25
ACX 3232 major service Darryl's service centre.						US\$431.57
Eric Engineering (welding of chassis)						US\$500.00
MRC motors (New radiator ABM 5149)						US\$440.37
						<b>US\$2,596.89</b>

**# 3 DSC -F Vehicles x 2 (Fuel, Servicing, Insurance).**

ACX 3232, 2073km @ \$.5/km						US\$1,037
AAX 9832, 10,059km @ .5/km						US\$5,030
ABM 5149, 5255km @ \$.5/km						US\$2,628
						<b>US\$8,694</b>

<b>Total expenses</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>US\$27,450</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	-	-	-	<b>US\$51,250</b>	-	-
<b>Credit carried forward to second period.</b>						<b>US\$23,800</b>

**Notes**

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