



Wildlife
Conservation
Action



2024
Highlights

About us



We're a team of young, ambitious Zimbabweans who want to create a lasting impact on wildlife, people and wild spaces for generations.

Our founder, Dr Moreangels Mbizah, established Wildlife Conservation Action (WCA) in 2019 to address the escalating human-wildlife conflict in Zimbabwe. Her vision was to create an organisation centred on the coexistence of both people and wildlife. As one of the world's leading lion ecologists, Moreangels earned her PhD from Oxford and is a trailblazing young African leader reshaping the voice and face of conservation across the continent.

In less than 5 years, WCA has grown from a team of 3 to 42 passionate Zimbabweans, supported by a vibrant board with extensive expertise, all working towards a sustainable future for both communities and wildlife.

WCA promotes human-wildlife coexistence in Zimbabwe's critical wildlife areas by integrating indigenous knowledge with scientific expertise to address threats such as habitat loss and conflict with humans. Our culturally sensitive, non-lethal approaches involve raising awareness, advising farmers on livestock protection, and monitoring wildlife movements to safeguard livestock and crops.

We focus on key species like lions and elephants while fostering love and understanding of Zimbabwe's natural heritage among the younger generation. Through close community partnerships and collaboration with conservation organisations, we craft effective, lasting solutions that benefit both livelihoods and wildlife.

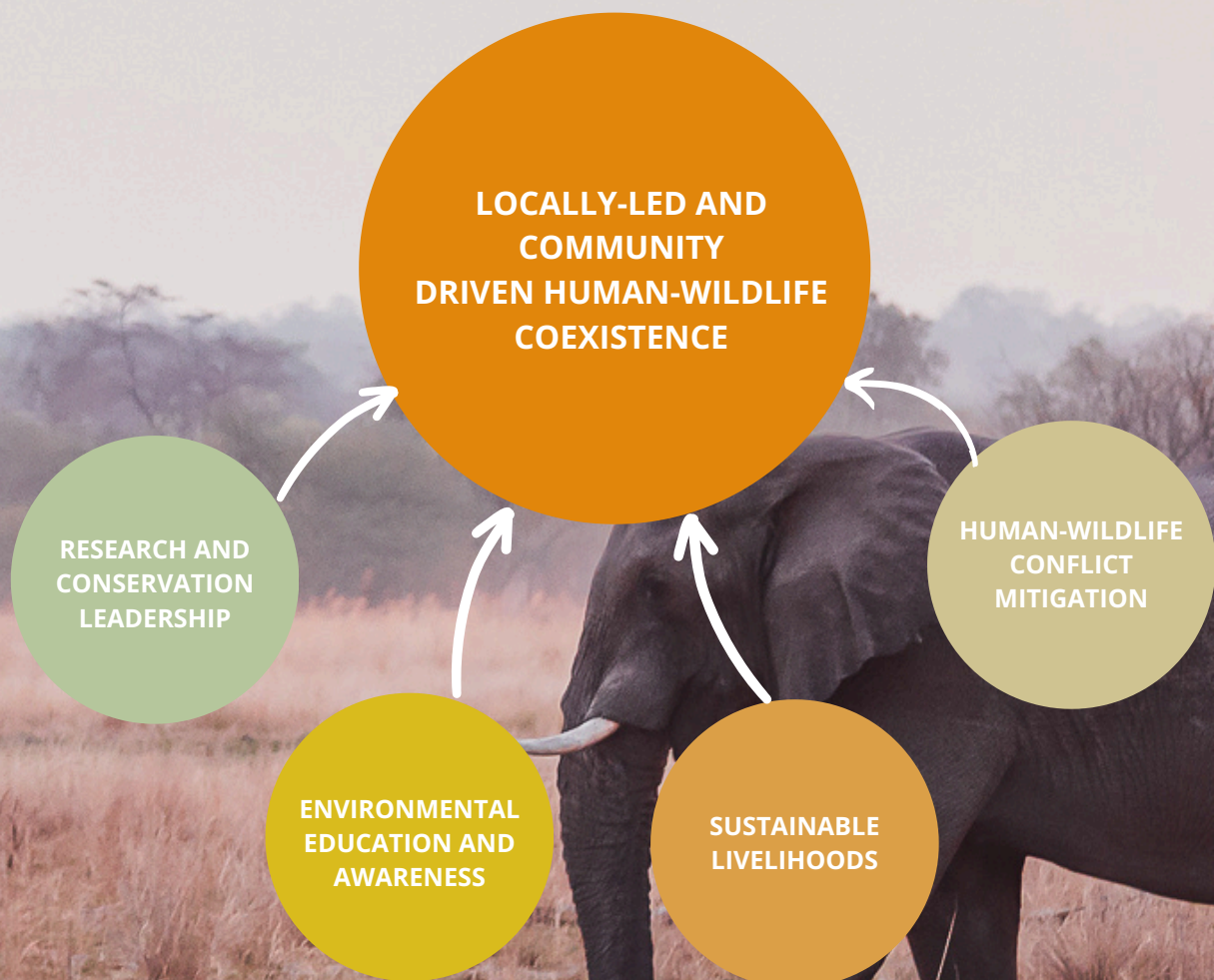
Our Mission

Strengthening the capacity of local people to mitigate human-wildlife conflict for improved livelihoods and wildlife conservation.

Our Vision

Local-led and community-driven human-wildlife coexistence for improved livelihoods and thriving wildlife populations.

OUR APPROACH



Our 2024 Numbers at a Glance



2,702 people

Reached through human-wildlife conflict mitigation sensitisation meetings, resulting in better conflict prevention, improved livestock protection, reduced retaliation against wildlife, and strengthened community resilience.

224 lion lights

Benefiting 56 households, providing safety, peace of mind, and a sustainable solution to human-wildlife coexistence. Lion lights are a series of flashing LED lights strategically placed around a cattle enclosure or other areas to ward off predators.

68 mobile bomas

Were set up, providing secure and sustainable solutions for protecting livestock from wildlife predation and improving community livelihoods.

80 people

Benefiting from the beekeeping project, enhancing livelihoods through sustainable income generation and promoting biodiversity conservation.

11 elephants

Collared, enabling better tracking and management of their movements to reduce human-wildlife conflict and protect both communities and wildlife.

59 students

Attended the Kids Conservation Camp, gaining valuable knowledge on wildlife conservation and becoming young ambassadors for protecting the environment.



1526 patrols

Conducted by the Community Guardians, fostering coexistence and safeguarding lives and livelihoods.

20,595.3 km covered

By Community Guardians, responding to human-wildlife conflict incidents, providing solutions, and enhancing community and livestock safety.

2,132 herd assessments

Conducted, providing valuable insights for better livestock management and reducing human-wildlife conflict in the community.

Turning Hardship into Hope: Wairo Siadhembe's Mobile Boma Success Story



Wairo Siadhembe, a farmer and beneficiary of the predator proof mobile boma, exemplifies resilience in the face of the El Niño drought's harsh challenges. In 2024, Zimbabwe experienced one of its worst droughts in recent years, devastating crops and leaving many farmers struggling to survive.

Before adopting the mobile boma, Wairo's harvests were minimal—just one cart of maize and sorghum. However, after introducing the mobile boma and rotating it across his fields, his soil became enriched with cow dung and softened by livestock trampling. This transformation resulted in harvests of up to three carts of maize and 28 buckets of sorghum during better seasons.

This year's drought reduced his harvest to only 10 buckets of sorghum. Yet, Wairo has sustained his family by relying on his livestock, which are also protected by the Mobile Boma.

"As a farmer, you have to depend on everything. If there is no water, like what happened last season, we rely on livestock. I could have had more than 50 cows now, but I sell some to care for my wife and grandchildren," he says.

In the past year, Wairo sold two cows and ten goats, using the proceeds to support his family. He also utilised six goats for food. Keeping a smaller herd has allowed him to better manage his resources.

Despite the hardships, Wairo remains optimistic as he prepares for the upcoming farming season. By diligently rotating his mobile boma throughout the year, he has enriched his soil and hopes that the rains will reward his efforts with a fruitful harvest.

Wairo's story is a testament to the resilience and determination of farmers who, with innovative tools like the mobile boma, adapt and thrive even in the face of adversity.

Collaborating for Change: Insights from the Sebungwe Stakeholder Workshop



In 2024, we marked a significant milestone by convening a stakeholder workshop in Binga. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from the Sebungwe Region, including Chiefs from Nyaminyami, Gokwe, and Binga, District Development Coordinators from Kariba and Binga, and representatives from various organisations. These areas are critical to our work due to their rich biodiversity, abundant wildlife, and frequent human-wildlife conflict cases.

Using the "4 Returns" framework, participants identified the most pressing needs of Sebungwe communities, gaining valuable insights into the region's complex challenges. The discussions also highlighted numerous opportunities for sustainable development, conservation, and community empowerment.

Chief Sinansengwe of Binga underscored the importance of sustained collaboration, stating, "This should not be a one-time event but a continuous effort that brings real and lasting change to the Sebungwe Region." His message resonated deeply with participants, who recognised the workshop as the starting point of a long-term journey towards positive transformation.

Following the workshop, WCA, with support from Commonland, is now translating these ideas and discussions into concrete actions. This includes developing a comprehensive report outlining the region's key challenges, opportunities, and recommendations. We are excited to continue this critical work in the years ahead.

Nyaminyami Unites for Conservation and Sports

Our environmental education and awareness efforts reached new heights with the launch of Conservation Sports in Nyaminyami, a pioneering initiative that merges sports with conservation awareness. This dynamic event brought together students and community members for a vibrant day filled with sports, music, and environmental education.

The event featured 4 popular sports—football, handball, volleyball, and netball—attracting enthusiastic participation from both students and the wider community. A highlight of the day was a friendly football match between the Patrons, the WCA team, and the Community team. The match concluded with the presentation of footballs to the community team and local schools, accepted by the chief on behalf of the community.

Beyond the sports activities, the event included music, dance, engaging presentations, and distributing conservation awareness materials to schools. This innovative blend of entertainment and education has generated excitement throughout the community, establishing Conservation Sports as a standout success in our environmental education initiatives.





Greater coverage, greater impact by our community guardians

WCA is proud to support community-led conservation efforts and thrilled to share a major milestone in our journey! Our dedicated Community Guardians have made a significant advancement in their patrols, transitioning from foot and bicycle patrols to motorbikes. This boost in mobility empowers local communities to take greater ownership of protecting their natural heritage and fosters a deeper connection to their environment.

"It is a great thing that WCA is doing for our community. Firstly, they gave our kids jobs, and now, with the motorbikes, they can easily attend to their duties. They have also learned new skills that will help them in the future. We are very thankful for the motorbikes you have given them." – *Fastino Mawadze, Council Chairman, Nyaminyami Rural District Council.*

With their new motorbikes, the guardians can cover more ground, respond swiftly to threats, and monitor wildlife more effectively. This initiative demonstrates the power of community-led conservation in creating a safer and more sustainable future for generations to come.

"When we started in 2021, we did all our patrols on foot. Later, we got bicycles, but they were hard to use and often broke, so we went back to walking. As a mother, it was difficult because I had to leave my baby at home for long hours. Sometimes, I would take my baby with me to work. But with the motorbikes, I can travel further and leave my baby at home, knowing I can come back quickly. We are very happy with this new development."

– *Tapfumaneyi Sigundu, Community Guardian*

"Before, when we did patrols on foot, we struggled to get to incident scenes on time due to the long distances. But now, with the motorbikes, we can reach scenes faster and address issues quickly. This is a big step toward reducing human-wildlife conflict by more than 90%." – *Charles Charinga, Community Guardian*

We are excited to witness the continued positive impact of this development and remain committed to furthering our mission to protect wildlife and wild places!

Conservation Champions in the Making!



Our inaugural Kids Conservation Camp in Mbire District was a resounding success! In partnership with Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and support from Great Plains Foundation, 59 students from four local schools participated in an unforgettable adventure in August.

The camp offered a diverse range of activities, including inspiring presentations, exciting outdoor expeditions, safari walks, game drives, conservation-focused games, art, drama sessions, career guidance, and animal tracking. A movie night featuring *The Lion King* and a National Geographic documentary on elephants added a touch of wonder to the experience.

For many of the campers, this was their first time encountering wildlife in its natural habitat. Seeing animals roaming freely - rather than as sources of conflict - sparked wonder and a newfound appreciation for conservation.

The camp achieved significant outcomes, including:

- Enhanced knowledge and skills in environmental conservation and wildlife management.
- Increased enthusiasm for pursuing careers in conservation.
- Strengthened relationships among students, schools, and conservation stakeholders.

We're excited to build on this momentum, empowering even more students to become conservation leaders.

Join the movement!

By sponsoring our Guardians of the Wild initiative, you can help inspire a new generation of conservation champions. Your support will contribute to conserving Zimbabwe's incredible wildlife and wild places for years to come.

Hives of Hope: Supporting Communities Through Beekeeping

The Beekeeping Project in Nyaminyami has experienced significant growth this year, becoming an integral part of the Climate-Smart Livelihoods (CSL) program. Following successful meetings with local communities, our team launched comprehensive training on beekeeping best practices and distributed beehives and equipment to households in the area.

One inspiring story comes from Gregory Siamulema, a local father of three who has already achieved success with his beekeeping venture. **"After the training and receiving the beehives and equipment, my hives have been colonised, and I even made an extra hive to add to my apiary. Many of my peers are now motivated by my success,"** Gregory shared. **"I have 3 kids, and I hope the honey I harvest will help me earn money to send them to school next year."**

The Beekeeping Project is supporting 80 people in Nyaminyami, helping them generate income through honey production and sales. This initiative not only improves livelihoods but also promotes environmental conservation by enhancing crop pollination, supporting biodiversity, and reducing human-wildlife conflict by deterring elephants and decreasing crop damage.

Through this project, we are providing a climate-resilient, environmentally friendly alternative to traditional livelihoods. It empowers the community to adapt to climate change challenges while promoting sustainable natural resource management. The success of Gregory and others highlights the transformative potential of the Beekeeping Project, and we look forward to its continued growth and success.



Setting the Ground: A New Hub for Conservation Excellence



Deep within the stunning landscapes of Chizarira National Park in Binga, a transformative initiative is taking shape. We are proud to announce the establishment of the Research and Conservation Leadership Centre, a cutting-edge hub poised to drive meaningful impact for both people and wildlife.

This exciting venture is dedicated to advancing conservation through research, innovation, and leadership development. The centre will conduct pioneering research into wildlife behaviours, habitats, and population dynamics, generating critical insights to inform and enhance our conservation strategies. By leveraging science and innovation, we aim to make a lasting impact on the region's biodiversity.

However, our vision extends far beyond research. We are committed to cultivating the next generation of conservation leaders by offering mentorship and equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to protect and preserve our natural world.

By investing in future leaders, we are ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for conservation efforts. Chizarira National Park, with its breathtaking Mucheni Gorge, provides visitors with a unique and unforgettable experience. By visiting the park and supporting our work, you will contribute to a deeper understanding of wildlife conservation and help develop solutions to protect endangered species and their habitats.

Your support will also enable us to deliver vital assistance to the local community, creating tangible benefits for both people and wildlife. Together, we can unlock the full potential of conservation, making a lasting impact in Chizarira National Park and beyond. Join us on this incredible journey as we shape a brighter future for our natural world.



THANK YOU!

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our entire WCA team, the communities we work with, partners, donors, well-wishers, and volunteers for their outstanding contributions to a successful year in 2024. Your collective efforts have not only fueled our conservation initiatives but have also yielded tangible results that significantly impact wildlife and communities alike.

Through your dedication, support, and generosity, we have achieved milestones, implemented vital projects, and fostered positive change. Your commitment to our mission has been instrumental in shaping a brighter future for conservation, and we look forward to continued collaboration and success in the years to come.





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STAY CONNECTED

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