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Friends of Hwange Trust



News Update - March 2023

Greetings from a wet, green Hwange National Park.

Happily, the rains during January and February have been prolific resulting in lush, thick vegetation and very tall grass. The rain has eased off now, but conditions remain somewhat soggy although daytime temperatures are hot! Repairs to road damage have been necessary in places as heavy rains coupled with vehicle traffic quickly destroys them. Where needed additional drains to remove standing water and puddles have been cut.



The Main Camp water supply has been sporadic and unreliable for years. Recently the situation became untenable with visitors being refused entry to Main Camp accommodation for hygienic reasons due to lack of water. It was a disaster! A solution had to be found.

A borehole yielding plentiful water was drilled early in the year thanks to assistance with funds from Hwange Conservation Society UK.



A new solar array has been erected, a water pump installed, and a trench dug for the piping. Several large water storage tanks have been placed strategically around the camp.

All that remains is for the water to be connected to the Main Camp reticulation system. This water system will supply the Park's Main Camp staff, all visitors to Main Camp, the restaurant, the shop, and the fuel station. Grateful thanks must be extended to The EverEden Foundation and Wildlife Environment Zimbabwe

(WEZ Matabeleland Branch) for their assistance in funding this huge project.



A new platform has been built at Kennedy 2 Pan and includes necessary baboon proofing. The platform was organised and funded by WEZ Matabeleland and will be a lovely stopping off point for safari-goers. There are plans to include a new trough to serve the wildlife which should provide some wonderful photo opportunities.

Maintenance work to the platform at Makwa Pan has included baboon proofing. Large troops of these fascinating primates enjoy the vantage point so obligingly provided, but they leave the place in unpleasant disarray! Plans to divert the water to provide a continuous supply to the ablutions Makwa are afoot and this should be completed soon.



Despite the hazards and dangers posed by rain and extremely dense

vegetation, the DART Anti-poaching Team has carried out daily anti-poaching patrols. Long range vehicle deployments along the 20km stretch of National Park Boundary from the DART APU Base Camp to Chokamela ferry the Anti-poaching Team to various locations from where they walk back to Base Camp.

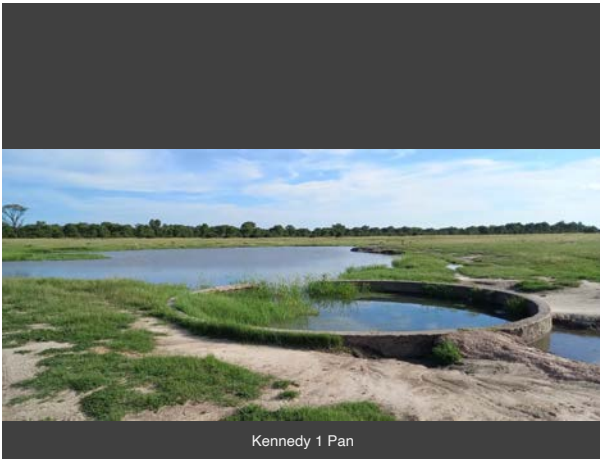


The scouts search out snares and signs of other illicit poaching activities. These include illegal cattle grazing and wood cutting as well as wildlife poaching. Transgressors are arrested, photographed, warned and cautioned. Repeat offenders are prosecuted.

The boundary track is in terrible condition and almost impassable in places. The DART Team repairs the road and regularly clears elephant damaged and fallen trees.



Both natural and pumped pans are all holding very good water. The vlei line through Balla Balla, Tshebe Tshebe, Kaoshe, Garakamwe and Mbuya Mabema all the way to White Hills is completely full which bodes well for the dry season ahead. Guvelalala, Nyamandlovhu, Dom, Livingi, Sinanga, the Kennedys and Ngweshla are all full to overflowing. The Mangas, Jambile, Dopu and Caterpillar are also all wonderfully full, and Mbiza is exceptional.



Kennedy 1 Pan



Mbiza Pan

Update on Silwane Camp

Silwane Camp, bordering Hwange National Park, is situated in the wildlife rich Kennedy area and is now complete and ready to accommodate visitors. Silwane offers beautifully appointed chalets at very reasonable prices with both catered and self-catering options now available. There is also a lovely campsite should that be your preference.

Silwane was set up to support wildlife and promote conservation in what was previously a renowned hunting area. The concept has proved successful and the wildlife, now safe, has returned in numbers. It is especially gratifying to see magnificent, previously targeted, lions roaming the area and making it their home territory. So far so good!

EXPERIENCE THE REAL Africa

Silwane
CAMP - ZIMBABWE
HWANGE

Camp Silwane is a new camp situated in the recently established Silwane Conservation Area bordering southern Hwange National Park - entry point into the Park is only 2 km away, close to Kennedy 1 water hole.

The Silwane Experience Offers

- An affordable holiday in unspoilt wilderness for the adventurous in 3 stunning locations, each over looking their own water hole.
- We offer **GAME DRIVING** into Hwange National Park plus the ever popular night drives within the Silwane Conservation area providing the perfect opportunity to view and photograph the abundant wild and bird life in the area.
- Forest Expeditions**, with spacious, fully furnished tents with en-suite bathroom and shared self-catering facilities - with the option of being fully catered in the near future.
- Victoria Grove Camping Site**, the only private camping site in the southern area of the Park.
- Madada Platform**, a truly unique experience, where you camp exclusively and sleep on the platform with stunning views and be one with nature.

+263 785 781 539
enquiries@campsilwane.org
www.campsilwane.org
campsilwane

Please turn over for map

Art for sale

Ending on a happy note, we are lucky enough to have for sale a lovely piece of art (700mm x 540mm) depicting Cecil the Lion by talented, young artist Simon Phiri from Bulawayo. Many thanks to Liam Hamilton-Potts for this special donation and for his staunch support spanning many years.

The work has been kindly framed pro bono by Fred and Harriet Knott of Wechi framing.

Please email Dave Dell to register a bid:
dave@friendsofhwange.com



Friends of Hwange is dependent on the goodwill of benefactors and nature lovers for funds to accomplish the work we do. We appreciate that post-Covid, spare cash has become tight for many. We are extremely indebted to those that send regular donations regardless. Every dollar really does help to make a difference.



Friends of Hwange is committed to ensuring the future of Hwange National Park and its wildlife. Contributions are always most gratefully welcome.

- Facebook
- Website
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Trustees: D.C. Dell; B. Edwards; B. Wolhuter; D. St Quintin; K. Jenkins; G. J. Brebner

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