



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Kerri Rademeyer - CEO



## From Outrage to Action: A Collaborative Approach to Wildlife Conservation

**Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) was founded on a simple yet profound realisation: wildlife and forestry conservation isn't just about protecting animals and trees, it's about addressing a complex human crisis fueled by exploitation.**

My background in protected area management opened my eyes to the devastating reality of poaching and its far-reaching impact on both wildlife, habitats and people. While our initial reaction is often outrage at the senseless loss, the situation becomes more nuanced when considering the driving forces behind poaching.

Understanding that poachers are often driven by desperation rather than greed, WCP's "why" is rooted in this complexity. We believe that lasting change requires addressing the systemic exploitation fueling the illegal wildlife and timber trade, from those taking desperate risks in the field to middlemen traders financially benefiting from the trade and exploiting rural communities to the end consumers creating demand.

01

**PROMOTING COMMUNITY EDUCATION:**

We educate potential poachers and communities about the true costs of wildlife and forestry crime, highlighting the negative impacts on their environment and families. Additionally, we emphasise the significant benefits of conservation and environmental protection.

02

**EMPOWERING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES:**

We provide them with the resources they need to effectively combat wildlife and forestry crime in compliance with international human rights.

**OUR APPROACH FOCUSES ON:**

**STRENGTHENING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM:**

We advocate for fair and just trials and sentences that deter future offenders.

04

**SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION THROUGH KEY AUDIENCES:**

We target our communication efforts towards local communities, potential local consumers, and travellers who might contribute to wildlife and forestry crime through their actions.

03

WCP firmly believes in the power of collaboration. Through partnerships with organisations who share our vision, we have significantly increased our joint impact. We understand that truly protecting our natural heritage requires addressing the underlying issues of exploitation, and we are committed to working alongside like-minded organisations to achieve real, tangible, and long-term results.

This report aims to provide you with a clearer picture of how we are addressing these challenges and making a difference in protecting wildlife and wild spaces by understanding and acting on the human element of wildlife and forestry crime



# INTRODUCTION

## The Global Threat of Wildlife Exploitation

The interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and wildlife exploitation demand a global solution. At WCP, we are committed to working collaboratively with governments and organisations to safeguard not only Africa's wildlife and communities but also the environment we all depend on.

Exploitation, primarily manifested as illegal wildlife trade and overexploitation, presents a multifaceted threat with devastating consequences for people, wildlife, and the environment. This global problem, valued at billions annually, fuels organised crime, corruption, and habitat destruction. The resulting decline in wildlife populations, estimated at a staggering 68% since 1970, directly jeopardises sustainable livelihoods and disrupts delicate ecosystems, ultimately impacting us all. Additionally, wildlife exploitation has economic implications for communities living in proximity to wildlife habitats. It can deprive local populations of potential income sources from ecotourism or sustainable harvesting of natural resources, disrupting ecosystems that provide essential services like pollination and pest control, thus affecting agriculture and livelihoods. Consequently, exploitation can exacerbate poverty and social inequality, often involving illegal activities driven by organised crime networks, leading to corruption, violence, and the exploitation of vulnerable communities. The profits generated from wildlife and forestry crime rarely benefit local communities and often exacerbate social injustices.

Recognising the interconnectedness of these challenges, WCP operates under a multifaceted approach. We work on multiple fronts, including supporting law enforcement, strengthening wildlife criminal justice systems, fostering regional collaboration, and promoting behaviour change through awareness campaigns. Our efforts aim to go beyond immediate protection, fostering broader conservation values and preserving biodiversity for a sustainable future.

# ENHANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

**Elias Banda**  
Director of Operations

Zambia's unique wildlife faces relentless threats from trafficking syndicates who exploit people and ecosystems for illicit profit. Impoverished communities near protected areas are often driven to participate in poaching due to poverty, human-wildlife conflict, and weak law enforcement. This localised poaching feeds into supply chains controlled by organised crime, causing lasting environmental damage.

Traditional law enforcement responses cannot fully address issues of exploitation that harm people, wildlife, and the environment. However, strategic intervention remains crucial to disrupt illicit operations and mitigate their

negative impacts. As Simon Sinek notes, the fight against the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) and forestry crime is an "infinite game", a constant struggle without a clear endpoint. Even without outright victories, law enforcement must stay ahead of the syndicates to deter unsustainable resource extraction.

This underscores the importance of partnerships and collaboration across government agencies and conservation groups. WCP is committed to supporting law enforcement efforts against environmental exploitation. This protects communities from organised crime and ensures Zambia's natural resources provide sustainable benefits for all.





# 2023 LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERVIEW

WCP has made significant progress reducing illegal wildlife trade's impact in Zambia and throughout the region. Strong partnerships with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and other NGOs have been central to our success. We provide long-term, sustainable support to the government, enhancing their multifaceted law enforcement capacity in the fight against exploitation. In 2023, we maintained and expanded our partnerships with key agencies DNPW and the Drug Enforcement Commission, National Prosecution Authority and Zambia Prison Services through MoUs. Collaborative agreements are also in progress with relevant stakeholders such as the Zambia Revenue Authority, the Anti-Human Trafficking Department, and the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Our law enforcement support in 2023 involved DNPW's intelligence and investigations units, rapid deployment teams, and a detection dog unit, working in close collaboration with Protected Area partners. This approach

focused on disrupting IWT syndicates by prioritising investigations (including financial investigations) to target a wide spectrum of wildlife criminals with a specific focus on higher-level suspects. This led to the arrest of 31 regional syndicate members in 2023, dismantling criminal networks and demonstrating the broad impact of focused long-term investigations.

Through our work, WCP supports multi-agency partnerships fostering strong collaboration in addressing the spectrum of environmental crimes. This enhanced understanding of how crimes converge, proves the value of collaboration in tackling multiple issues simultaneously.

WCP prioritises ethical law enforcement practices. We collaborate with conservation partners to provide continuous human rights (including gender rights) and use of force training to support law enforcement agencies. This ensures professionalism and reduces abuse within law enforcement operations.



## COUNTERING ILLEGAL TIMBER TRADE

Zambia faces a critical deforestation crisis, losing an estimated 300,000 hectares of forest annually with agricultural expansion, fuel wood removal, infrastructure development, and legal and illegal timber extraction as causative agents for this deforestation. Initial research shows that illegally harvested timber originates from all ten provinces of Zambia. The routes used for trafficking are thought to be the same for wildlife and timber products, with Zambia playing an important role as a transit location in the illegal timber trade. To combat this, WCP has expanded its support, by collaborating with the Forestry Department under the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment. This partnership also allows us to expose the damaging connections between forestry crime and the illegal wildlife trade.

Our commitment is demonstrated through action. In 2023, WCP supported joint investigations between the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and the Forestry Department across multiple provinces. These intelligence-led operations resulted in arrests, seizures, and prosecutions under the Zambia Forest Act No. 4 of 2015.



This new intervention  
resulted in

**39**

Arrests



**4,139**

Planks seized



**267**

Logs recovered



**9**

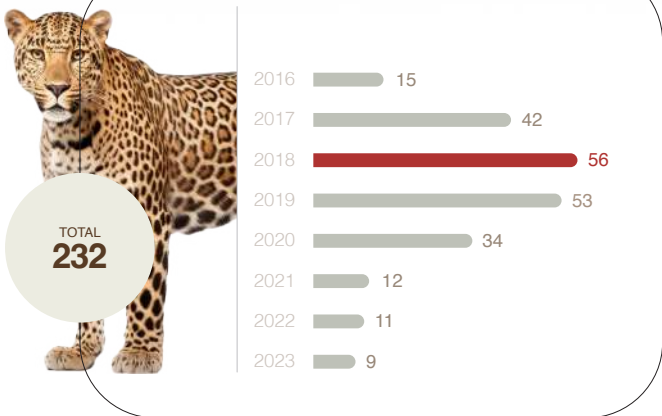
Chainsaws recovered



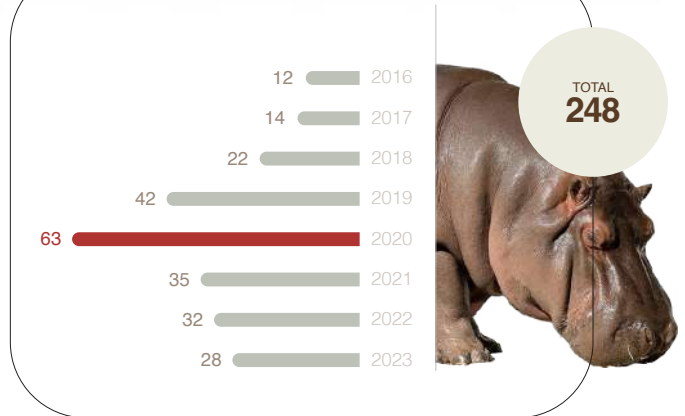
# RESULTS



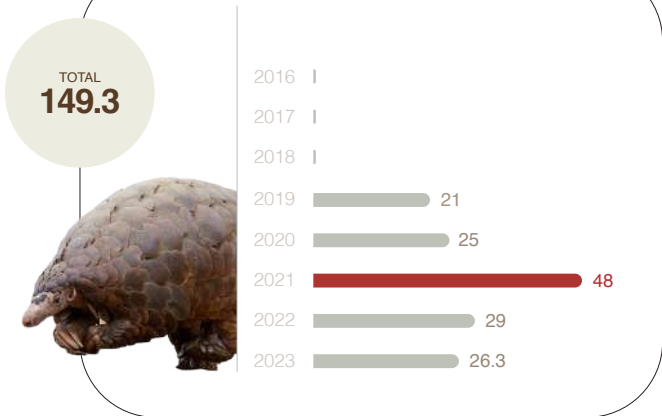
Leopard skins seized



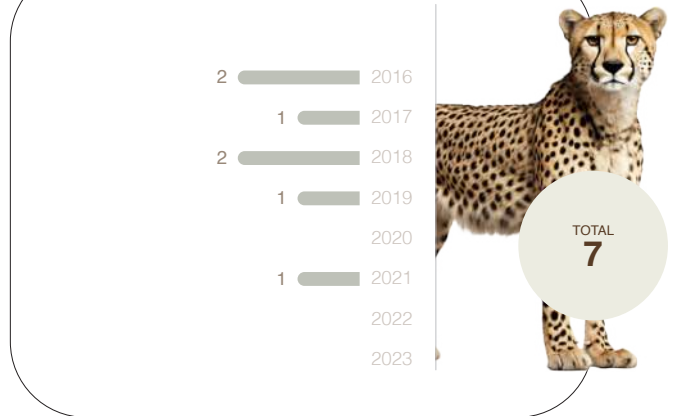
Hippo tusks seized



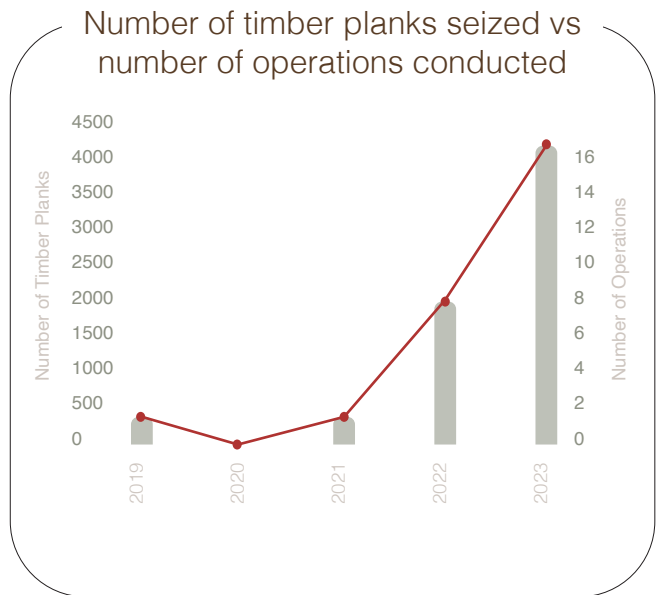
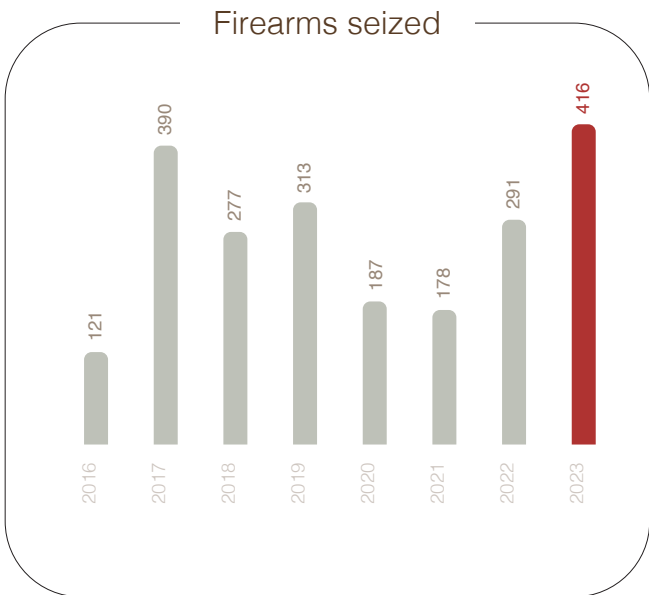
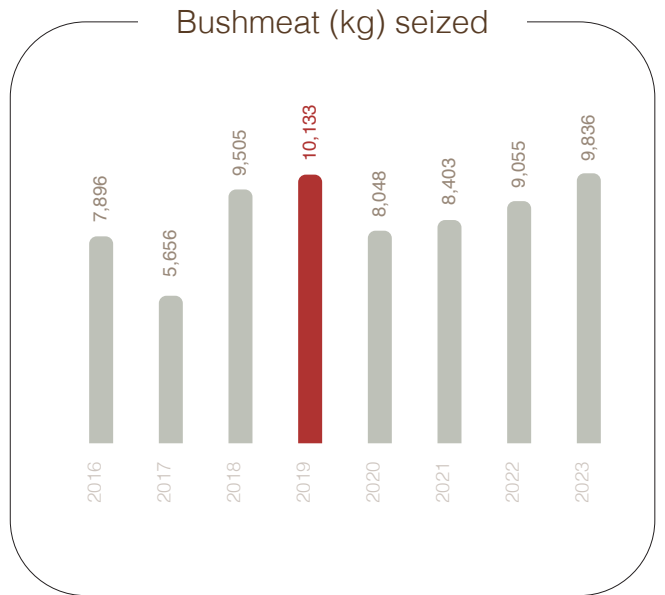
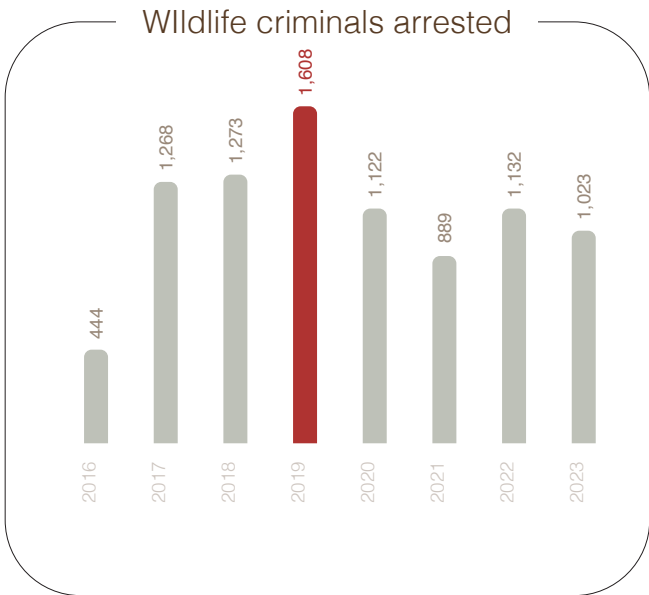
Pangolin scales seized



Cheetah skins seized

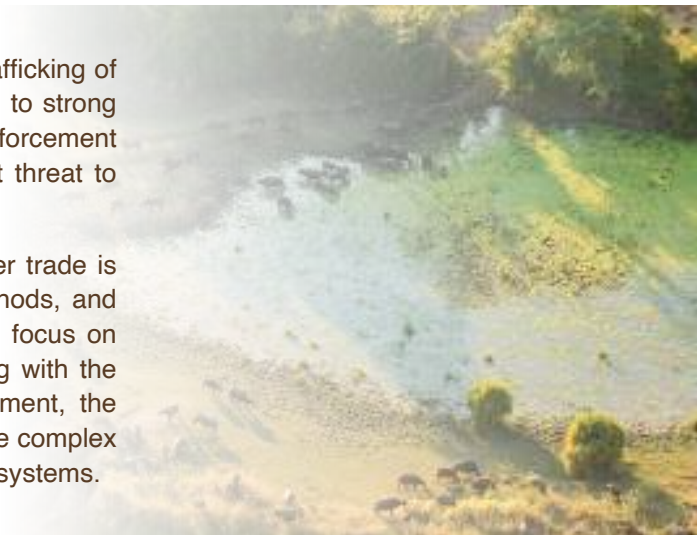






In 2023, promising progress was observed with a decline in the trafficking of ivory, big cat skins, and pangolins. This success can be attributed to strong partnerships among various stakeholders and effective law enforcement efforts. However, the illegal bushmeat trade remains a significant threat to biodiversity, necessitating our ongoing vigilance.

Furthermore, the convergence of illegal wildlife trade, illegal timber trade is increasingly clear. Criminal syndicates exploit similar routes, methods, and drivers, necessitating a coordinated response. In 2024, WCP will focus on enhancing government law enforcement capacity. By collaborating with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the Forestry Department, the Drug Enforcement Commission, and other agencies, we'll tackle the complex challenges posed by criminals who exploit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.





## WCP PROTECT THE PANGOLIN: RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RELEASE

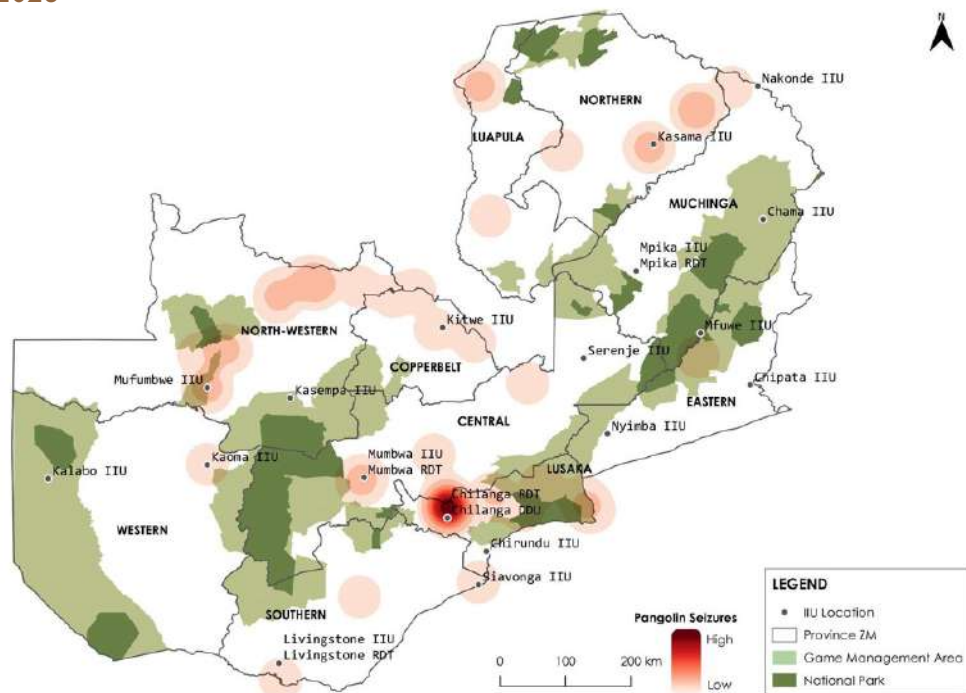
Luwi Nguluka - Director of Communications

Zambia is home to two species of pangolin: the Temminck’s ground pangolin and the white-bellied tree pangolin. Like many African countries with pangolins, Zambia has experienced an alarming rise in poaching and trafficking of these animals in recent years. The country serves as both a source and transit route for live pangolins and pangolin products.

Through our support to the DNPW, there has been a significant increase in the seizure of pangolins and pangolin products over the past few years. Between 2019 and 2023, WCP-funded operations led to the

seizure of more than 800 pangolins (both live and dead). Seizure records across the country indicate that Kitwe (in Copperbelt province), Mufumbwe (in North-western province), Serenje, and Mumbwa (in Central province), as well as Lusaka (in Lusaka Province), have reported the highest numbers of illegal pangolin activities. As a result, WCP has prioritised pangolin-focussed law enforcement efforts in these areas. Thankfully in 2023, we have seen a steady decrease in pangolin seizures and we hope this trend continues over the next few years as we increase our efforts to protect Zambia’s pangolin populations.

### PANGOLIN SEIZURES 2023



## REHABILITATION

Our pangolin rehabilitation centre sits within a 650-hectare game reserve near Lusaka. Here, pangolins receive care to recover from illnesses and injuries, in an environment similar to their natural habitat. Our dedicated staff ensures their well-being until they're fit for release back into the wild.

In 2023, Hellen, our first female pangolin keeper, joined the team. Together, they provide 24/7 care, including feeding, monitoring vital signs, and integrating Earth Ranger software for more precise data collection. This technology helps us understand pangolin behaviour better,

leading to improved management practices.

During 2023, 30 pangolins were successfully rescued from the illegal trade, rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

Additionally, in 2023, we became part of the IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group (IUCN-PSG), a global collaboration platform. Through this, we share our rehabilitation successes and receive support for our post-release monitoring programme. We've also partnered with local entities like the University of Zambia - School of Veterinary Sciences, which provides laboratory services for our pangolins needing medical attention.



## BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

Zambia serves as a significant source and transit route for illegal pangolin trade, necessitating an urgent awareness campaign targeting communities involved in this activity. To tackle this issue, we've initiated a pangolin awareness campaign to educate local communities about the ecological and economic importance of pangolins to Zambia, as well as the legal risks associated with illegal pangolin possession. In 2023, we commenced formative research to guide this campaign.



This study examines the capability, opportunity and motivation to change behaviour of communities residing in high pangolin trade areas. We've partnered with Oxford University and behaviour change expert Dr. Diogo Verissimo from the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (Wild CRU) for this research. Since Dr. Verissimo's involvement in September 2023, the study has evolved, incorporating three new study areas and two additional data collection tools. We've divided the country into three regions: West, North, and Central, with priority areas including Mungwi, Solwezi, and Lusaka districts due to their high pangolin seizure rates and robust law enforcement efforts.

A pilot survey was conducted in the Lusaka district, specifically in Kabulonga and Lubwa wards, to test the effectiveness of our data collection tool. During the pilot survey, 45 participants completed the household survey, and 37 ballot paper responses were collected.

We extend our gratitude to the DNPW Veterinary Department for their partnership, UNZA for their assistance, Conservation Lower Zambezi, Tikki Hywood Foundation, African Pangolin Working Group, IUCN Pangolin Specialist Group, The Pangolin Project, Pangolin Conservation & Research Foundation, our protected area partners for facilitating releases, the Miller family.

# WILDLIFE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME

**Sarah Davies** - Chief Operating Officer

*"Effective enforcement of wildlife laws, including strong prosecutions and sentencing, is essential to combat the illegal wildlife trade. It sends a clear message that wildlife crime will not be tolerated, thereby deterring potential offenders and protecting our precious natural heritage."*

**John E. Scanlon**, former Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Zambia has strong wildlife legislation, with robust sentences for the illegal possession of valuable wildlife products and unlawful hunting of protected species (penalties of minimum 5 years and 7 years imprisonment respectively, up to 20 years and 25 years respectively, without the option of a fine). When compared with the other countries in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, Zambia has the highest minimum sentences.

WCP's Wildlife Criminal Justice (WCJ) team is made up of nine Zambian lawyers who work as Legal Officers with both DNPW law enforcement teams including anti-poaching and intelligence and investigations officers, public prosecutors (NPA) and magistrates across various activities.



Through our MoUs with DNPW and NPA, courtroom monitoring takes place in over 56 courts across the country to better understand what is happening to wildlife crime court cases once they enter the criminal justice system. Six years of data has now been collected to build up a better picture of outcomes and sentences across the country which is being used to identify weaknesses as well as solutions.

Legal Officers also provide mentorship for more effective prosecutions to officers and prosecutors including facilitating pre-trial conferences, docket review, case-building, evidence

presentation, and submission drafting for aggravated sentencing. A "Rapid Reference Guide for the Investigations and Prosecutions of Wildlife Crime in Zambia" has been produced in direct consultation with DNPW and NPA and has been rolled out across the country with annual refresher training sessions, to improve understanding and communication between officers and prosecutors. In 2024 the scheduled Wildlife Act review will take place and WCP will revise the DNPW and NPA owned Rapid Reference Guide accordingly as well as including more narrative on wildlife-related financial crime and forestry offences.



Judicial engagement with magistrates through field visits to national parks promotes their better understanding of the practical context of cases and the value of PAs and wildlife populations. This work has so far resulted in an increase of the conviction rate for wildlife crime court cases from 63% in 2017 to 78% in 2023.



**Efforts in evidence management and security persist through our collaboration with the TRACE Network. We've provided two additional secure containers to DNPW in Kasama and Samfya, along with ongoing training on the DNPW Standard Operating Procedure on Evidence Management and Security.**

Additionally, we've maintained support for Wildlife Crime Related Financial Investigations in partnership with the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and Neil Bennett. This support is facilitated through the Interagency

Coordination Framework Wildlife Subcommittee, including Closed Case Reviews.

WCP is the only non-governmental actor to sit on the Government of the Republic of Zambia's interagency cooperation framework which involves 21 law enforcement agencies. We have also been appointed to sit on the Environmental Crimes Sector Working Group of the Second Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing and Proliferation Financing National Risk Assessment coordinated by the Financial Intelligence Centre.





## REDUCING RECIDIVISM

In 2023, through an MoU with the Zambia Correctional Services, WCP conducted over 300 interviews with wildlife offenders across 30 different correctional facilities nationwide. Understanding and addressing recidivism is crucial for sustainable conservation efforts. By implementing evidence-based strategies to prevent repeat offences in wildlife crime, we can better protect vulnerable species and ecosystems, ensuring their long-term survival. Reducing recidivism is critical not only for individuals leaving incarceration but also for the communities they return to. By breaking the cycle of re-offending, we can create safer, healthier, and more resilient communities for everyone. In 2024, we look forward to working with the Zambia Correctional Services on a trial wildlife offender reintegration programme, to reduce reoffending rates.

**300**  
Interviews

**30**  
Facilities



## HUMAN RIGHTS IN WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

WCP continues to provide capacity building support to DNPW wildlife law enforcement officers in human rights compliance throughout Zambia through various protected area partners including The Nature Conservancy, African Parks, Panthera, Musekese Conservation, Game Rangers International, Conservation South Luangwa and others. Ensuring human rights compliance in wildlife law enforcement is not only a moral imperative but also a practical necessity for effective conservation efforts. By upholding human rights standards, law enforcement agencies can build trust and cooperation within local communities, fostering partnerships essential for successful conservation initiatives. Moreover, respecting human rights principles helps prevent potential abuses and conflicts that could undermine conservation goals. For instance, ensuring fair treatment of suspects and defendants promotes transparency and legitimacy in legal proceedings, enhancing the credibility of law enforcement efforts.



IN TOTAL,  
IN 2023:

**791**

New wildlife crime court cases throughout Zambia were monitored across all provinces.



Of the monitored offences in 2023 (n=1,785), 1174 have concluded and resulted in:

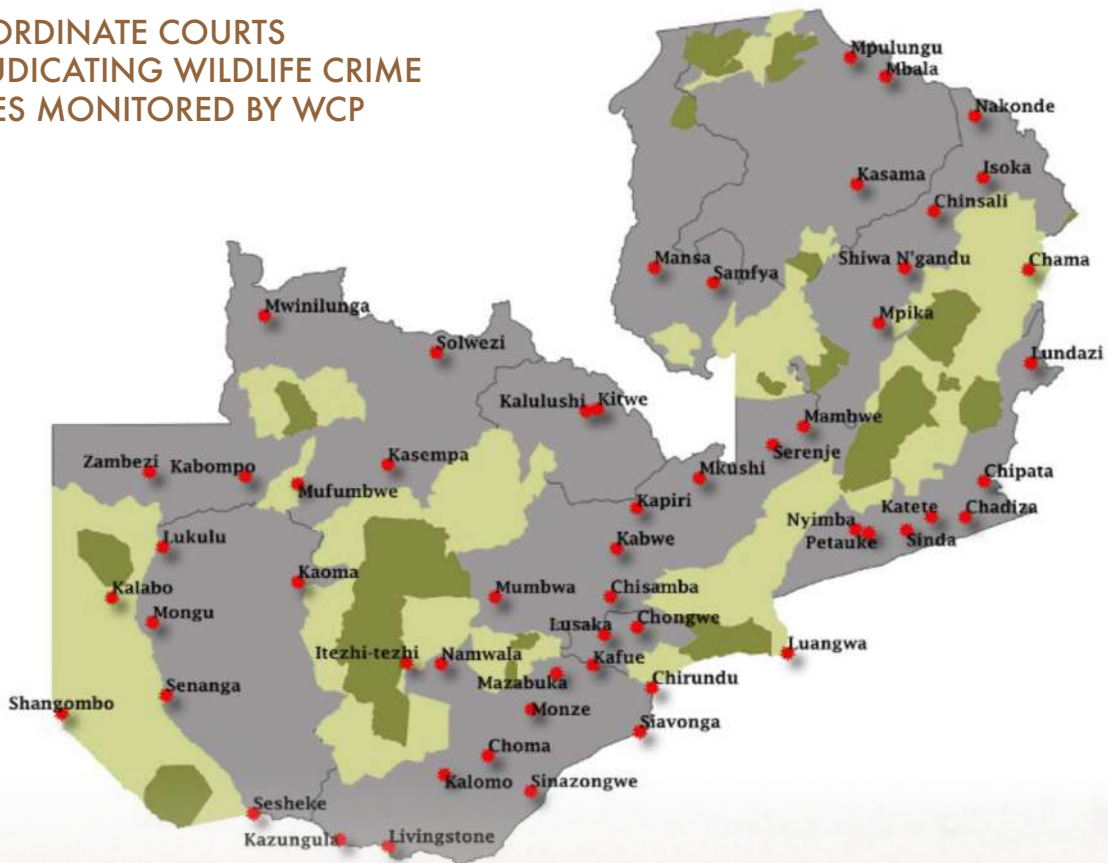
665  
**72%**

Jail sentences

918  
**78%**

Convicted offences

### SUBORDINATE COURTS ADJUDICATING WILDLIFE CRIME CASES MONITORED BY WCP



# WCP COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

Luwi Nguluka - Director of Communications

In 2023, the awareness program was rebranded as the 'Communications Department' to streamline its alignment with other organisational activities. This department has been highly active, disseminating 54 press releases that reached 28 media outlets across radio, newspapers, social media, and television platforms.

Additionally, WCP has formed a significant partnership with the Daily Nation, one of Zambia's most prominent newspapers. Since March 2020, this collaboration has produced weekly conservation-themed articles published in the Sunday edition. In 2023 alone, 50 conservation stories were published, with 4 of those written by WCP Environmental Crime Journalism Fellows. This fellowship program plays a crucial role in empowering young Zambian media professionals, equipping them with a deeper understanding of environmental and climate change issues. This knowledge translates into well-informed and balanced reporting on these critical topics.

## THIS IS NOT A GAME

Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) partners with WCP to support Zambia's first behaviour change campaign focused on combating the illegal bushmeat trade: "This Is Not A Game" ([www.thisisnotagame.info](http://www.thisisnotagame.info)). The campaign utilises a variety of media channels, including social media, traditional radio broadcasts, billboards, and activation events.

## IN 2023:

### SOCIAL MEDIA:

 23,000 Followers

 797,500 Reached

### LEGAL GAME MEAT:

The campaign promoted legal game meat through



### RADIO:

A series of 19 interactive quiz radio shows aired on Hot FM radio, covering topics related to the dangers of illegal bushmeat. These broadcasts reached approximately

**2.5 million** listeners

across Kafue, Mazabuka, Chisamba, Chongwe, and Lusaka.





# LAUNCHING AN EVALUATION REPORT

In 2021, WCP conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the first three years of the campaign. Using robust monitoring systems, we assessed the impact of the behaviour change campaign on the illegal bushmeat trade in Lusaka and nationwide, aiming to maximise its effectiveness in the future.

The evaluation included 401 phone call surveys conducted in English, Bemba, and Nyanja by four Zambian enumerators. These surveys aimed to gauge the current knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding illegal bushmeat consumption among potential consumers in Zambia, regardless of their exposure to the This Is Not A Game campaign material. Respondents were identified using the snowball sampling method. Additionally, eight focus group discussions involving 52 participants were conducted.

The final report was disseminated during a launch event in early December 2023, attended by policymakers, including officials from DNPW and the Ministry of Tourism.

The report can be read here:

[https://issuu.com/wcpzambia/docs/tinag\\_campaign\\_report?fr=xKAE9\\_zU1NQ](https://issuu.com/wcpzambia/docs/tinag_campaign_report?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ)



# WOMEN FOR CONSERVATION

Women for Conservation is an inclusive network for all gender equality supporters who work in or are interested in wildlife conservation in Zambia to meet, share ideas and opportunities and support each other. In the last five years the network has grown a significant following and now has a database of 562 people. Each event has provided an opportunity for many women who are interested in conservation to engage with conservationists who are often based at remote field sites to learn more about their work and the challenges they face.

enforcement personnel on gender equality and GBV in the sector.

These trainings are also aimed at creating a stronger women's network and strengthening the effectiveness of women in the conservation space. The initiative conducted its first two trainings in partnership with the International Crane Foundation Zambia (ICF). To date, a total of 30 (14 women and 16 men) law enforcement personnel operating in Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon National Parks in Zambia have been trained by WCP.

In 2023 we included Women Leadership and Empowerment (WLE) training in its quarterly activities. A few topics from the broad WLE manual designed the USAID-funded Integrated Land Resource Governance programme were customised for career entrants to create a Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) orientation manual. The manual is currently being used to create awareness among law

## IN 2023 4 NETWORKING EVENTS WERE HELD:

- 1 Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence Awareness training with Wildlife scouts and wildlife Police Officers in Lochinvar National Park
- 2 Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence Awareness training with Wildlife scouts and wildlife Police Officers in Blue Lagoon National Park
- 3 W4C Mentorship Programme Graduation
- 4 Conservation Games Night



# CONSERVATION CAREERS FAIR

Since 2018, WCP Zambia has been hosting the **Zambian Conservation Careers Fair**, offering a crucial platform for students and employers to connect. The fair aims to encourage active participation from young Zambians, who represent the future of conservation in the country. This year's event, held on September 14th, 2023, at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA), was a significant gathering for conservation enthusiasts and those dedicated to preserving Zambia's natural heritage.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FAIR INCLUDE:

### ATTENDANCE

# 1000+

people, with representatives from 35 Zambian conservation, private, and public organisations participating as exhibitors.

### SPEAKERS:

Four speakers, including the Special Assistant to President Hakainde Hichilema, Jito Kayumba, and Chilekwa Mumba, an environmental activist and recipient of the 2023 Goldman Environmental Award, shared valuable insights during career talks.

### SPONSORS:

The fair was proudly sponsored by First Quantum Minerals, HLB, and the National Institute of Public Administration.



### SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

The event reached

# 418,646

people on various social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

### NEW FOLLOWERS

The fair garnered

# 3625

new followers on social media.

### CONSERVATION JOBS

A total of

# 55

conservation jobs were posted on the conservation careers website during the fair.



# WCP ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME JOURNALISM FELLOWSHIP

In June 2023, WCP Zambia launched the Environmental Crime Journalism Fellowship (ECJ) to empower young media professionals in Zambia. The fellowship aims to enhance their understanding of environmental and climate rights issues and improve their ability to report on these topics in a balanced and informed manner. Ten Zambian journalists were selected through a transparent application, interview, and shortlisting process to participate in the 12-month fellowship.

## KEY DETAILS OF THE FELLOWSHIP INCLUDE:

NUMBER OF  
JOURNALISTS  
TRAINED:

**10**  
Fellows

DURATION  
OF THE  
FELLOWSHIP:

**12**  
Months

MEDIA FIELD  
VISIT:

**01**  
Conducted

MONTHLY MEETINGS ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

**9**

sessions, including online and in-person lectures from experts

MENTORSHIP AND GUIDANCE IN  
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING:

Provided to all fellows, resulting in the publication of

**7**

conservation stories by the participants.



**LAIDA  
CHONGO**



**JUSTINE  
KAWISHA**



**ZANJI  
SINKALA**

# IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PREVENTION

Women encounter significant barriers when entering and working in the conservation sector, leading to underrepresentation in fields like those found in Zambia. To foster greater effectiveness in conservation roles, it's crucial to encourage and support women's participation. This involves empowering them with sector-specific knowledge, addressing challenges, and providing the necessary skills. Evidence suggests that women's involvement in resource governance benefits not only the women themselves but also their families, communities, and broader conservation efforts.

Gender equality has been a growing focus in Zambia, leading to programs that promote women's empowerment. Building on this momentum, organisations like

WCP recognise the value of women as stakeholders in environmental protection. With its dedication to achieving gender balance within its staff, the WCP serves as a powerful example of this commitment to women's empowerment.

Women's empowerment directly supports law enforcement efforts by strengthening community involvement, facilitating the reporting of environmental crimes, and raising awareness of environmental legislation. Initiatives such as Women for Conservation highlight diverse gender roles in conservation and educate communities about environmental laws. This approach fosters a culture of environmental responsibility and compliance, contributing to long-term conservation success.

## WHAT THE WCP-W4C INITIATIVE HAS ACHIEVED

### WOMEN FOR CONSERVATION MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME



The WCP - Women for Conservation Virtual Mentorship Program targeted at early career conservationists was created to provide support, guidance, and encouragement to young Zambian female conservationists by pairing them with accomplished and experienced Zambian and international conservationists. Since 2020, the programme has hosted two cohorts with 26 participants who graduated in June 2023. The graduation programme provided an interactive space to share experiences in their journey with some mentor-mentee pairs meeting each other for the first time.

#### MENTEE TESTIMONIAL



*"I found the mentorship programme valuable. Being able to be able to talk and relate to someone who's walking the path I want to take was insightful. I have been promoted and I am finding the information my mentor provided very useful"*

**KACHAMA BANDA**





# ALINEA – WCP'S REGIONAL COLLABORATION PROGRAMME

**Jack McMahon** - Director of Regional Strategic Development

Alinea was founded to provide financial and technical assistance to organisations in Africa with a common goal:

protecting the natural world and combating the exploitation of vulnerable populations, including humans, wildlife, and the environment. Serving as a transformative intermediary, Alinea brings together organisations committed to this shared mission. Our efforts are guided by three strategic pillars: Connect, Support, and Promote.



## CONNECT

Align law enforcement, community and development agencies at landscape level.

Encourage creation and adoption of new models where appropriate.



## SUPPORT

Support and strengthen affiliates in Africa and beyond that share common goals.

Enable learning networks and platforms through peer exchange.

Support new perspectives, pilots & prototypes to inform and influence operating models.



## PROMOTE

Expand knowledge of new operating models.

Convene non-traditional experts to inform and adapt models.

Advocate and encourage government champions.



Alinea is strategically positioned to introduce innovative thinking and approaches to the natural security sector. Our aim is to address crucial gaps, both on the ground and at strategic levels, where grassroots organisations lack the time, expertise, or staffing resources to operate effectively without support. In addition to providing financial assistance, we offer technical capabilities to support organisations, as well as their government and civil society partners. This enables us to expand our partnerships and go beyond just countering Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). We tackle natural security challenges with a people-centred, multi-sector approach that spans the entire value chain, aiming to disrupt exploitation at a sustainable scale.



In 2023, we focused on learning and solidifying our role in enhancing the work of our growing partnerships. In July, we hosted our inaugural multinational platform meeting, bringing together Alinea partners, technical and financial stakeholders, potential collaborators, and guest speakers. The event, themed 'The Infinite Game,' aimed to assess the status and future goals of partner organisations, as well as the critical factors for achieving those goals. Key takeaways highlighted the need to support effective grassroots organisations with resources and technical development, given their deep integration within their communities, landscapes, and countries. Concerns were also raised about the limited capacity to effectively communicate accurate narratives, particularly regarding broader environmental and global issues.

The meeting highlighted that Alinea's role goes beyond being a regional intermediary for de-risking investments in grassroots organisations. It should also focus on facilitating strategic functions, including strategic communications, to amplify the issues and realities of natural security work with a unified voice. As a collective of partners, Alinea strives to create an enabling environment for smaller yet effective organisations to maintain both their reputation and operational integrity. This involves providing essential funding to these often-overlooked entities and supporting critical work on the ground. We will continue to foster learning and innovation, offer technical support and development, promote partner-to-partner collaboration, and ensure that relevant messages reach the appropriate audiences at the right times.



# 2023 IMPACT

CAPACITY BUILDING  
AND MENTORING:

9 #COUNTRIES

17 #ORGS SUPPORTED

## TYPE OF TOPICS:

01 Legal Program  
Support and Guidance

02 Investigations and  
Operations

03 Finance and  
Governance

04 Organisational  
Strategy

05 Data Analysis,  
Security

06 Technology Tools and  
Systems

07 Operational  
Monitoring

08 Data  
Collection



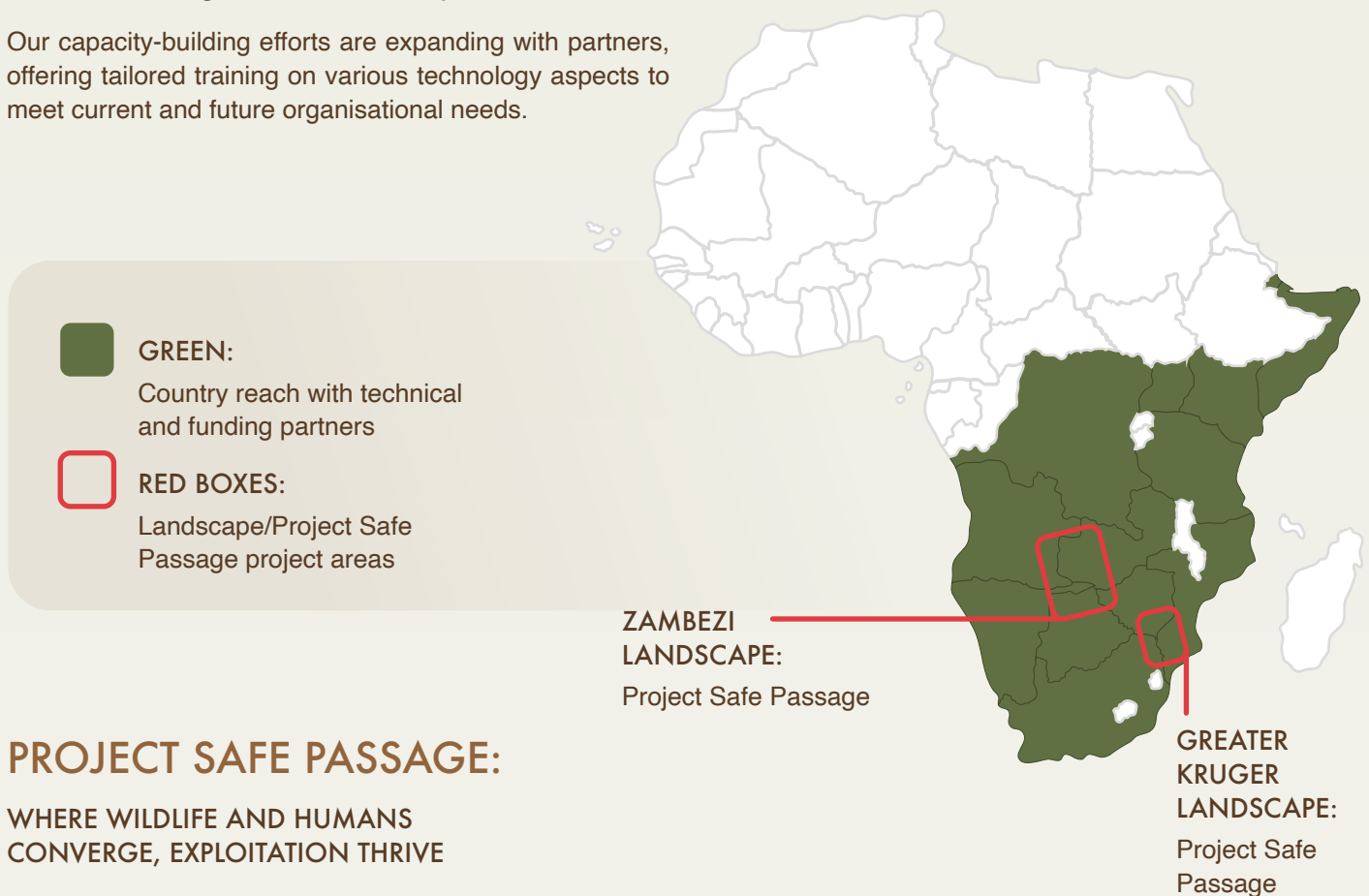
## TECHNOLOGY:

The training, deployment, and guidance have covered several key tools: Cortex Edge, a database system for large scale data management and link analysis, Tableau, a dashboarding tool for analytics, reporting, and data visualisation; EarthRanger, a real-time data collection and asset monitoring tool; and SMART, a customizable data collection and reporting tool. Additionally, training has included Microsoft products for effective company communication channels and Google Workspace for document management and communication. While advanced technologies like AI and satellites are valuable, refining everyday tech use can significantly impact workflows and organisational efficiency.

Our capacity-building efforts are expanding with partners, offering tailored training on various technology aspects to meet current and future organisational needs.

## FUNDING:

Our role as an intermediary supporting partners is made possible thanks to our generous funding partners, notably the Oak Foundation, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the US State Department (INL), and the Wildlife Conservation Network. Their continued support, guidance, and belief in our mission enable Alinea to assist our partners and expand partnerships, thereby increasing the impact of organisations across Africa. In 2023, we provided multi-year funding support totaling more than USD 4 million, facilitating our collective efforts to conserve wildlife and protect vulnerable populations.



## PROJECT SAFE PASSAGE:

### WHERE WILDLIFE AND HUMANS CONVERGE, EXPLOITATION THRIVE

Africa grapples with the intersection of development and environmental challenges. This dynamic creates a scenario where marginalised communities living near wildlife and wild places also reside near valuable resources. Due to proximity and institutional limitations, organised crime exploiting natural resources thrives. Motivated by the lack of opportunities, vulnerable communities, whether urban or rural, resort to environmental crimes for survival. However, this

inadvertently fuels a global black market driven by demand for resources like timber, minerals, protein sources, and exotic animal parts. As impoverished individuals exploit Africa's biodiversity for economic relief, they unintentionally contribute to environmental degradation and fall victim to criminal enterprises. This cycle undermines the once-preserved coexistence with nature, destroying both lives and natural resources.



## BUILDING FUNCTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS LANDSCAPES

Alinea aims to develop and support landscape-level approaches in key biodiversity areas to enhance natural security and disrupt exploitation. Recognising the need for diverse approaches and partners, we're conducting two projects under Project Safe Passage. These projects directly support nine organisations and multiple government departments across seven countries, focusing on Counter Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT), Social Impact, and Research sectors. Our goal is to secure areas where humans and wildlife coexist, enhancing funding and technical support for grassroots NGOs and NGLs. Project Safe Passage seeks to achieve macro-scale impact by working in key locations and disciplines, fostering partnerships transcending geographic boundaries.

Moving forward into 2024 and beyond, we empower partners to strengthen their systems as they grow. While not all partners receive financial support, we increasingly engage technical partners across the continent. Our development efforts encompass security systems, finance, governance, reporting, and project evaluation, as well as field-related actions like operational development, legal programs, technology use, and data analysis. Focusing on four core areas - Systems, Innovation, Disruption of exploitation, and Scale - we aim to build partners' capacity and achieve positive impact across countries and landscapes.

## CORTEX EDGE AND SEMANTIC AI

Cortex Edge, developed by Semantic AI, is an advanced analytical tool designed for efficient data management and analysis. It enables users to ingest large volumes of both current and historical data into a centralised platform, facilitating quick identification, analysis, and reporting. The software seamlessly connects to diverse data sources, structured and unstructured, consolidating them for streamlined searching. This unified search capability enhances organisations' data analysis, allowing for comprehensive investigations into the who, what, where, when, how, and why of complex cases.

In 2023, a collaborative effort between Semantic AI, EarthRanger, and WCP resulted in a connector linking Cortex Edge with the EarthRanger platform. This connector enables real-time updates from field operatives entering data into EarthRanger, which analysts can cross-reference with historical datasets in Cortex Edge. Additionally, three new organisations received training on Cortex Edge, exploring innovative ways to integrate veterinary research with intelligence on illegal wildlife trade (IWT). This integration helps identify individuals, locations, and syndicates involved in wildlife crime and identifies areas where seized wildlife may have life-threatening injuries. Seven previous organisations also received additional training to enhance their ability to analyse phone data from various networks, consolidating multiple datasets into one location and saving time for field operations.



# COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Michelle Carter - Strategic Data Analyst

Human Trafficking remains a global epidemic, disproportionately affecting impoverished and marginalised populations. To effectively combat it, collaboration among multiple agencies is crucial. By working together, we can reduce victimisation, disrupt trafficking operations, deter offenders through court sentences, and provide survivor testimonies to prevent exploitation.

A key challenge is the lack of understanding and communication. Criminal syndicates exploit vulnerable individuals, often luring them with promises of employment and luxury lifestyles. This exploitation extends beyond humans to illicit trades like wildlife, drugs, and weapons. Understanding these connections is vital.

WCP has established relationships with Zambian government agencies, enabling action on trafficking information. Our Communications Team reaches rural communities to raise awareness. The Wildlife Criminal Justice program is deepening our understanding of trafficking threats and legal frameworks.

By identifying individuals involved in wildlife crime and linking them to human trafficking syndicates, we can provide actionable intelligence for stronger enforcement. Sharing this knowledge with credible partners amplifies our impact, helping reduce victimisation globally.



# WHAT'S NEXT FOR WCP

In 2024, WCP is committed to advancing impactful initiatives aimed at addressing key challenges in wildlife conservation and law enforcement. Our planned activities focus on several critical areas:

01

## ADDRESSING CONVERGENCE OF WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY CRIME:

We will intensify efforts to combat the convergence of wildlife and forestry crime by implementing targeted interventions and collaborative strategies. This includes enhancing monitoring and enforcement measures to deter illegal activities and protect vulnerable ecosystems.

02

## PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Recognising the importance of human rights compliance, we will advocate for and uphold ethical standards in wildlife law enforcement practices. Our initiatives will prioritise the protection of both wildlife and human rights, including gender equality and ensuring fairness and justice in conservation efforts.

03

## ENHANCING WILDLIFE-RELATED FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS:

To disrupt high-level wildlife criminals, we will strengthen our focus on wildlife-related financial investigations. By tracking illicit financial flows and exposing the financial networks of wildlife criminals, we aim to support efforts to dismantle organised crime syndicates involved in wildlife trafficking.



04

#### REDUCING RECIDIVISM IN LOWER-LEVEL WILDLIFE CRIMINALS:

We will implement evidence-based strategies to reduce recidivism among lower-level wildlife criminals. Through rehabilitation programs and community-based interventions, we seek to break the cycle of re-offending and promote rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

05

#### PROMOTING BEHAVIOR CHANGE IN ILLEGAL WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES:

Our efforts will target behaviour change in illegal wildlife activities, particularly in Zambia, focusing on the bushmeat and illegal pangolin trade. Through education, awareness campaigns, and community engagement, we aim to shift attitudes and behaviours towards sustainable practices and wildlife conservation.

06

#### REGIONAL SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION:

We will grow our network of organisations under our Alinea programme. Increasing support and expanding sustainable impact. Focused on the two critical landscapes under Project Safe Passage.

These initiatives align with our values of evidence-based and data-driven programmes, problem-oriented policing, and collaboration with government institutions and stakeholders across Southern Africa. By working together with all relevant partners, we strive to achieve lasting impact in tackling the illegal wildlife and timber trade in the region.

## PRESERVING IMPACT:

### THE CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS OF SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

At the heart of WCP's mission lies a desire for lasting change – securing nature and protecting vulnerable populations. Yet, like many dedicated NGOs, we face the continuous challenge of ensuring financial sustainability. The world of philanthropy is a shifting landscape; short-term grants, though essential, make long-term planning difficult. It's a balancing act: we maximise the impact of every donation while upholding the highest professional standards.

Accountability to our supporters means maintaining meticulous financial records and reporting procedures. These are vital, but with limited capacity, they can be a significant hurdle. It's a challenge we embrace because transparency builds trust and ensures long-term support.

So, how do we secure a brighter future for both the communities we serve and WCP as an organisation? The answer is multifaceted. We are actively looking for ways to diversify our funding base. We're investing in internal efficiency, continually identifying ways to streamline processes and deliver more impact with each dollar. And, importantly, we are prioritising the development of our team, investing in Zambia's future.

These proactive steps are laying the foundation for the sustainable future of WCP. Ultimately, they help us weather changing environments, remaining unwavering in our commitment to our mission of grassroots impact.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WCP would like to express our sincere appreciation to our government partners: the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the National Prosecution Authority, the Judiciary, the Drug Enforcement Commission, the Zambian Correctional Services, the Forestry Department, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Zambia Revenue Authority (Customs and Excise) and the Anti Human Trafficking Department, the University of Zambia, the Copperbelt University and Zambia Airports Corporation Limited, for their unwavering dedication and commitment to safeguarding Zambia's precious wildlife and people.

Throughout the past year, these departments have demonstrated unyielding determination in protecting and preserving Zambia's wildlife and its people. Their tireless efforts and remarkable achievements stand as a testament to their professionalism and passion for conservation.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the men and women who work diligently in this challenging field, even though many of them cannot be publicly recognised due to the sensitive nature of their work. We deeply value our ongoing partnerships, and together, we have made remarkable progress in combating wildlife crime and ensuring the well-being of Zambia's diverse ecosystems. The collaboration efforts and shared expertise have yielded tangible results and have undoubtedly contributed to the continued protection of Zambia's wildlife heritage. We applaud their dedication and achievements.

We, at WCP, would like to extend our gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders, and donors who have played a pivotal role in supporting our government partners and WCP itself. Without your unwavering commitment and generous contributions, our efforts to protect Zambia's wildlife would not have been possible.

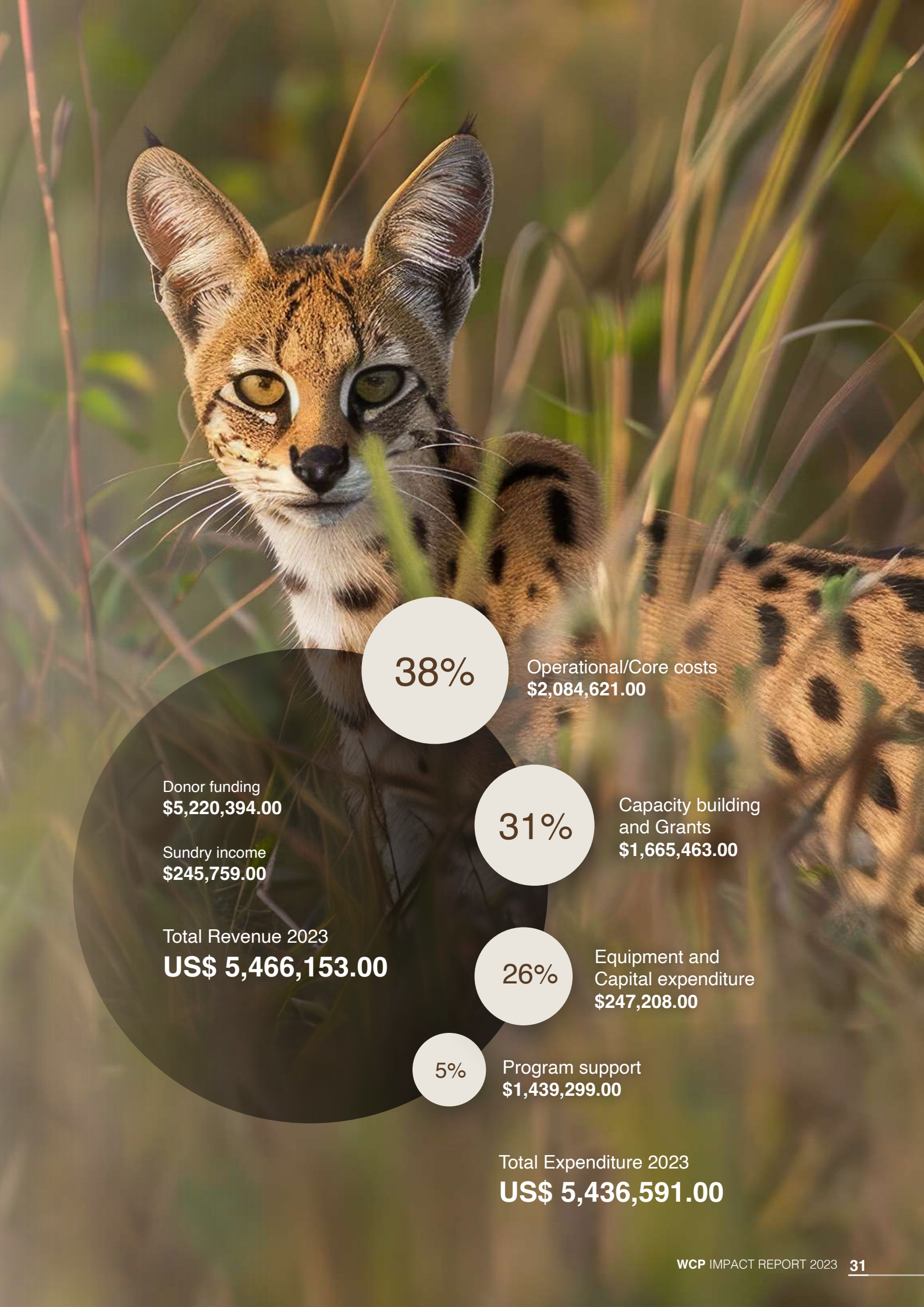
We would also like to thank our Board of Directors: Alita Mbahwe, Mwelwa Chibesakunda, Michael M. Kachumi, Craig Reid, Claire Lewis, Robert Stacey, and Kerri Rademeyer. With their support WCP can continue to thrive through sound governance, fresh perspectives, expertise, and contributions, which undoubtedly enrich our organisation's work and further strengthen our partnership with our government counterparts.

Funding partners play a crucial role in wildlife conservation by providing essential funding, resources, and support to grassroots organisations and our government partners. Without their support, there would be insufficient funding to effectively protect Africa's wildlife and address key conservation and biodiversity challenges. These partners are instrumental in ensuring the sustainability and success of conservation efforts through their financial support, resource provisions, and fostering collaborative partnerships. We extend our deepest gratitude to our funding partners for their continued support, collaboration, and guidance. Our heartfelt thanks go to: Oak Foundation, Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Rhino Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Network's Elephant Crisis Fund, Rhino Recovery Fund, Lion Recovery Fund and Pangolin Crisis Fund, National Geographic Society's Big Cat Initiative, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, Panthera, The Nature Conservancy and USAID, Trace – Wildlife Forensics Network, Caring for Conservation and First Quantum Minerals.

We would also like to express our gratitude to our **Founding Partners** for their initial belief in WCP who helped us develop proof of concept and achieve our strategic goals. Without them, WCP would never have been able to make the impact we have achieved over the last eight years. To these organisations, we will forever be grateful: **Wildcat Foundation, Elephant Crisis Fund, and Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.**

Special thanks to Belinda Pumfrett, C4ADS, Niner Juliet Logistics, Frontier, Earth Ranger, and Semantica AI for their technical support. We also extend our gratitude to Lilayi Lodge and the Miller Family for their material support.

Finally, we express our gratitude to all our partners, individuals, organisations, and companies that assist us in numerous ways. Your collaborative efforts and commitment to wildlife conservation are invaluable, and while there are too many to mention individually, your contributions are deeply appreciated.





**Wildlife Crime Prevention**

[www.wildlifecrimeprevention.com](http://www.wildlifecrimeprevention.com)