



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020

**CSL**  
CONSERVATION  
SOUTH LUANGWA





## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>Page</b>
Table of Contents	2
CEO Report	3
Snapshot of the CSL team	4
Wildlife Ranger Challenge	5
Anti-poaching update	6
New Command & Control Room	8
Elephant Mortalities	9
Aviation Impact	9
K9 Unit	12
Clean Sweeps & Community Game Drives	14
Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation	15
Wildlife Rescues	17
Donors & Partners	20
CSL Expenditure	23



## When something is important enough, you do it, even though the odds are not in your favour (Elon Musk)

This sums up how we got through 2020 largely unscathed. We set goals and once we reached them we set bigger goals, and if we didn't reach them we tried again and we will keep trying until we do reach them.

2020 was a year of many things for us – NGO survival, project expansion, persistence, resilience and a sense of some accomplishment. I have said it before and I'll say it again, we have an amazing team at CSL, who in a year of uncertainty, buckled down, worked hard and simply made things happen.

Of course this was only achievable because of our incredible team of donors, partners, trustees and supporters, who made it possible for us to continue with all of our projects and keep all of our 100 staff fully employed, it is impossible to put our feeling of gratitude in to words. So many individual people and organizations went above and beyond the norm in helping us, and I'd like to give a special mention to a few particular people who have provided outstanding support for so long and are both project partners and dear friends. Andy Hogg, Mfuwe Lodge and Vulcan provided bridging funds at a critical time in 2020, donated to our other projects and provided unwavering moral support throughout the year, TUSK provided us with an opportunity to raise additional critical funding for 2021 and financially supported us in many ways in 2020, Stacy James and everyone at Dazzle Africa came up with creative ideas and paid scout salaries, our vet and 50% of our aerial program, Wildlife Crime Prevention kept looking for and providing surprise funding for anti-poaching, Lion Recovery Fund, Elephant Crisis Fund, IUCN SOS and Wildlife Worldwide, Carol Van Bruggen / Africa Hope Fund all literally came to the rescue. This in no way takes away the support from all individuals and other organizations who were able to help however they could.

The year kicked off with great plans and aspirations and aside from our annual conservation fun run and in-service ranger training, we were able to achieve our major goals. These include significantly increasing our law enforcement support to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to curtail poaching, installing a new digital radio communications system at DNPW, rehabilitating the Command & Control Room and Quick Reaction Force wing, increasing our support to communities especially during this difficult time, increasing and expanding our Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation program and fully maintaining our anti-poaching aerial program. More detail on all of these programs are in the rest of this report.

On a personal note, I was incredibly lucky in 2020 to be one of 20 Women in Africa to join the first We Africa Leadership Training program for women. I am not only excited and in need of this training but also honoured to be among such inspirational women on this journey. Thank you We Africa sisters.

We started the New Year with more uncertainties as a second wave of COVID hit Zambia, but we remain confident our government is handling this in the best way possible, and that things will start to improve for people and tourism later this year. In the meantime, we pledge to continue with our important work which we hope will benefit people and wildlife in South Luangwa

Look after yourselves and those around you and thank you. Best wishes for 2021, Rachel





# Snapshot of the CSL Team



Thank you to all these amazing individuals who make CSL a team and run it well.

Benson Kanyembo - Law Enforcement Advisor, Eric Nkhoma - Deputy Unit Leader, Richard Zulu - Unit Leader, Godfrey Mwanza - Head of K9, Sidney Njobvu - Senior Handler, Mailes Mbewe – Stores Manager, Dr Mwamba Sichande - Veterinarian, Emma Robinson - HWC Program Manager, Ruth Chitindi - HWC Database Manager, Allan Ndhlovu - Accountant, George Bell - Operations / SMART Manager, Masugyo Nguni - Head of Workshop, Les Dillard - Pilot, GIS, Earth Ranger Manager.

And thank you to all of the other 90 members of staff who do an outstanding job.







**WILDLIFE  
RANGER  
CHALLENGE**



## Wildlife Ranger Challenge

In 2020, TUSK Trust and the Scheinberg Relief Fund joined forces to help keep 5000 rangers in the field across Africa through the Wildlife Ranger Challenge, a fundraising venture that culminated on 3<sup>rd</sup> October in a competitive 21km. Each ranger carried a 22kg back pack. 2000 rangers across 20 countries in Africa took part in the challenge. The CSL DNPW South Luangwa team included two incredibly fit and dedicated members from the K9 Unit, Sidney Njobvu and Given Phiri and 2 members from the specialized Quick Reaction Force team, Kelvin Mwiinga and Ceaser Chenda. The team completed the challenge in 2 hours and 49 minutes helping us to raise much needed funding to support our rangers in 2021. Their dedication and effort was inspirational as they had to fit in all their training in between normal demanding work.

Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated to our team not only helping us this year but also helping rangers across Africa.







## STRIVING TO SECURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR WILDLIFE IN SOUTH LUANGWA

Despite the unexpected global pandemic with the COVID-19 virus, which severely decreased tourism with cascading economic effects, we managed to keep all our programs going. In a year when all of our conservation efforts had the potential to become undone, we have been able to increase our support. To our surprise, overall wildlife poaching did not significantly increase in 2020. This is possibly due to a more holistic approach that includes more community support. Despite 2020 being largely successful we are mindful that 2021 will be a challenging year for both wildlife and communities.

In 2020 we significantly increased our support to our primary partner, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). Anti-poaching patrol assistance included rations, ranger equipment, incentives for arrests and recoveries, deployment via vehicle and boat, vehicle maintenance, aerial support and recruit ranger training.

Since signing a new MoU with DNPW in 2019 our partnership has gone from strength to strength and the benefits of this combined collaborative effort can be seen in the past two year's substantial results.

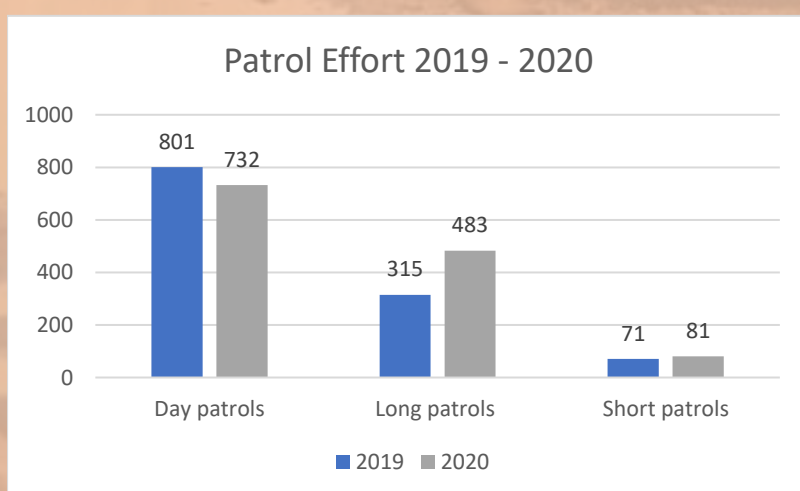


### INCREASED PATROL EFFORT IN 2020

10 DAY LONG PATROLS X 35% INCREASE

5 DAY SHORT PATROLS X 12%

DAY PATROLS X 9% DECREASE





## Results and Support

2019

2020



76 Arrests

165 Arrests



39 Firearms

87 Firearms



383 Snares

122 Snares

Patrol equipment for scouts supplied (bush overalls, rain boots, rain coats, bush hats, t-shirts, boots)



65 sets

300 sets

Ranger Rewards / Bonuses

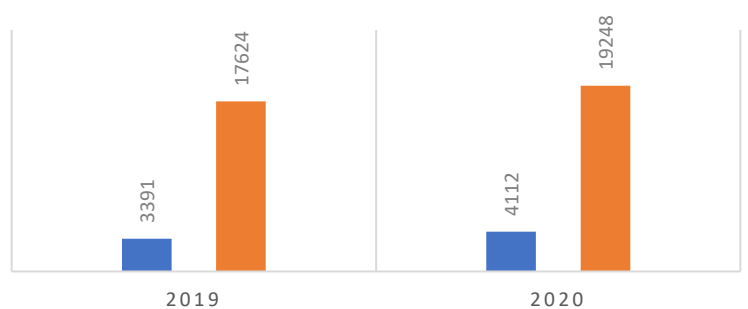
\$8000



\$15,000

## PATROL DAYS, MAN DAYS 2019 - 2020

■ Patrol days ■ Man days





BEFORE  
RENOVATIONS  
IN 2019



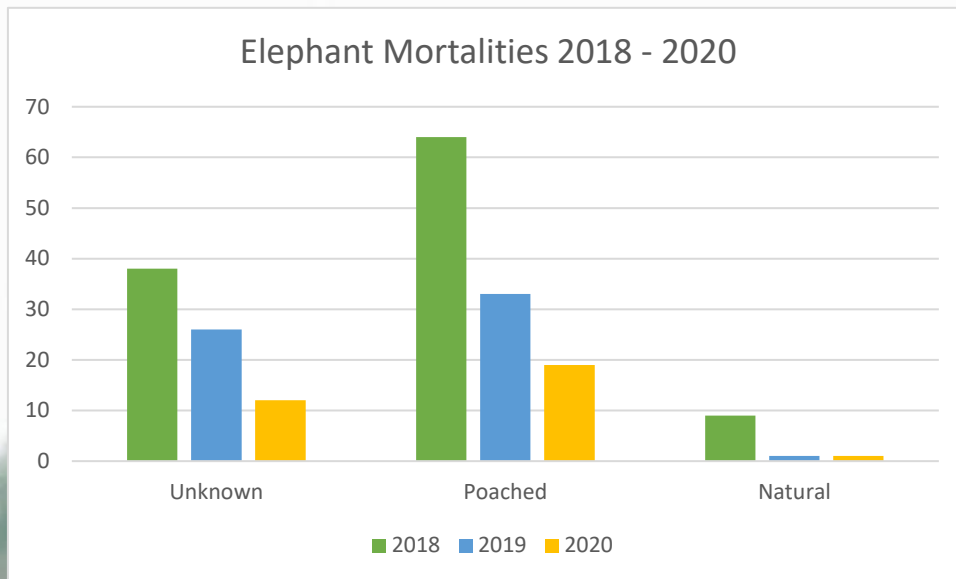
### New Command and Control Room

For years, our communications system has been outdated and we have been using old technology housed in old buildings. In 2020, with support from USFW and Dazzle Africa we were finally able to install a new digital radio system and completely upgrade the DNPW control room. This was a massive undertaking for a protected area of over 15,000km where we work. We do not yet have full coverage but during the year we hope to install a third repeater for South Luangwa, enabling full coverage. The digital radio system allows management to monitor and support patrols more effectively. In addition to the new digital radio system, we are also in the process of installing Earth Ranger, software which collects, integrates, and displays all historical and available remote sensing data available and combines it with reports from the field to provide one unified view of collared wildlife, rangers, enforcement assets, and infrastructure within a protected area.



AFTER  
RENOVATIONS  
IN 2020



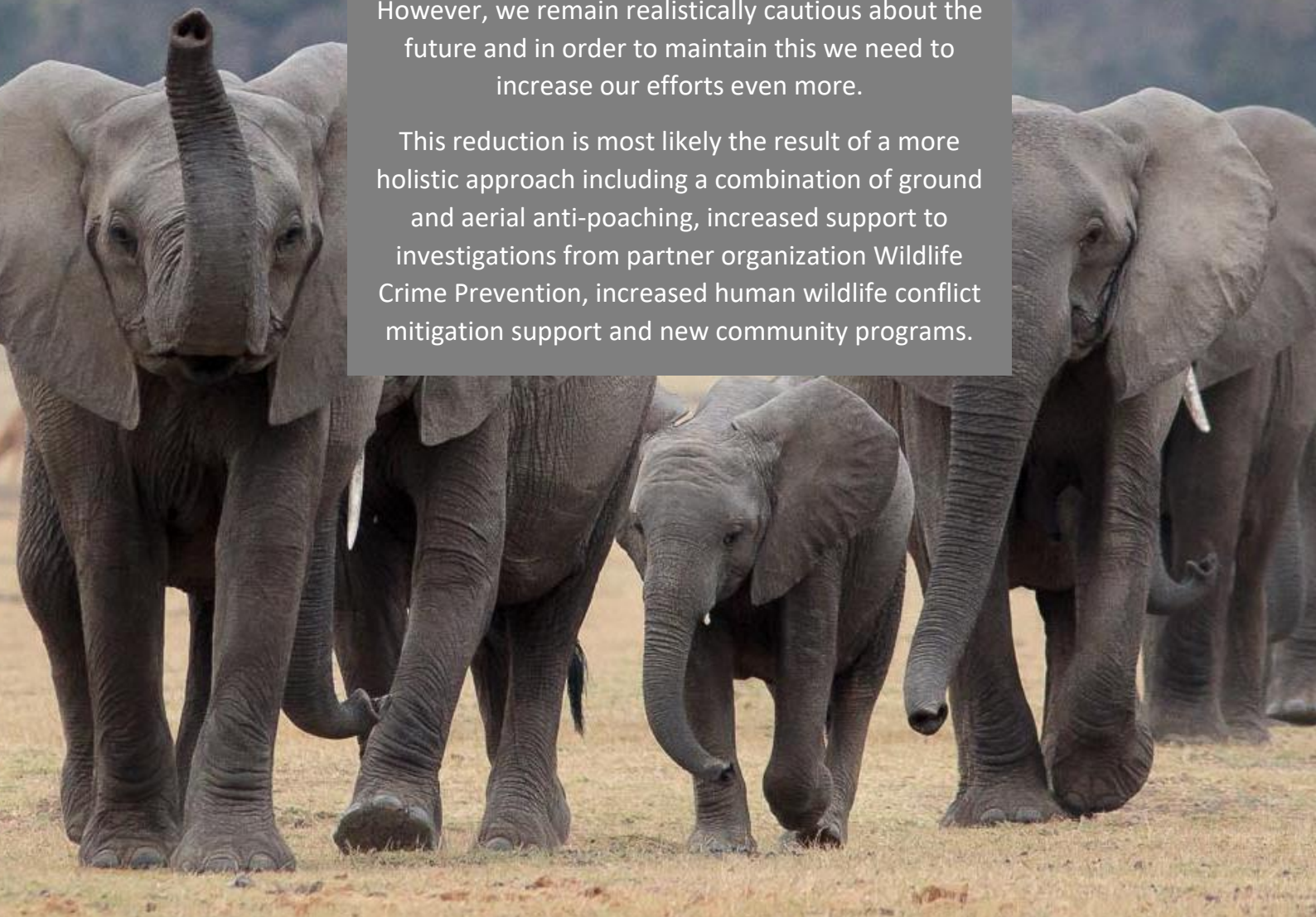


### A 2020 Success worth Shouting About

Elephant mortalities have reduced in South Luangwa by 66% from 2018 – 2020 (116 – 71 - 41). This is a major achievement in just a few years and DNPW should be commended for their excellent efforts over the past three years.

However, we remain realistically cautious about the future and in order to maintain this we need to increase our efforts even more.

This reduction is most likely the result of a more holistic approach including a combination of ground and aerial anti-poaching, increased support to investigations from partner organization Wildlife Crime Prevention, increased human wildlife conflict mitigation support and new community programs.





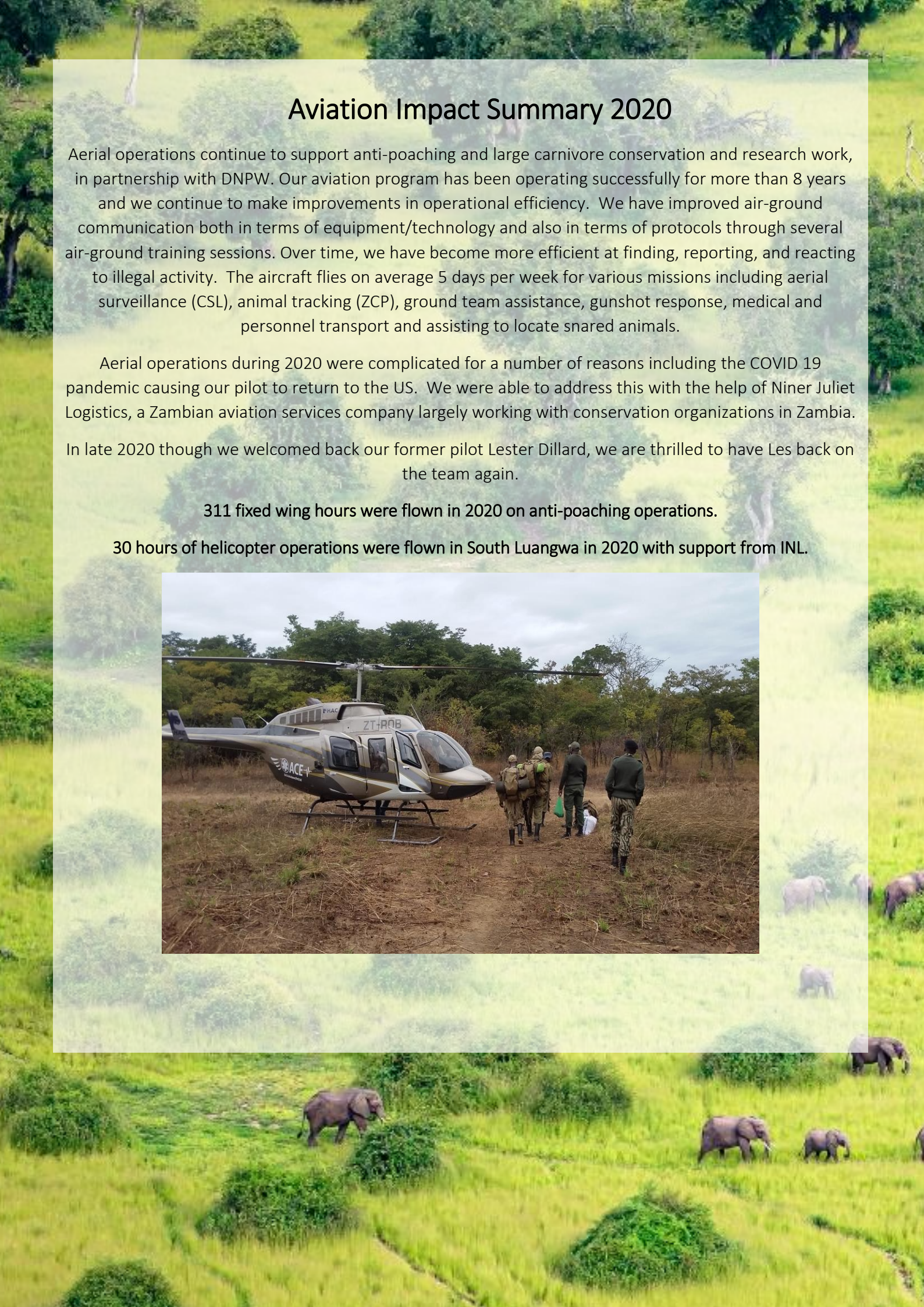
## Aviation Impact Summary 2020

Aerial operations continue to support anti-poaching and large carnivore conservation and research work, in partnership with DNPW. Our aviation program has been operating successfully for more than 8 years and we continue to make improvements in operational efficiency. We have improved air-ground communication both in terms of equipment/technology and also in terms of protocols through several air-ground training sessions. Over time, we have become more efficient at finding, reporting, and reacting to illegal activity. The aircraft flies on average 5 days per week for various missions including aerial surveillance (CSL), animal tracking (ZCP), ground team assistance, gunshot response, medical and personnel transport and assisting to locate snared animals.

Aerial operations during 2020 were complicated for a number of reasons including the COVID 19 pandemic causing our pilot to return to the US. We were able to address this with the help of Niner Juliet Logistics, a Zambian aviation services company largely working with conservation organizations in Zambia. In late 2020 though we welcomed back our former pilot Lester Dillard, we are thrilled to have Les back on the team again.

**311 fixed wing hours were flown in 2020 on anti-poaching operations.**

**30 hours of helicopter operations were flown in South Luangwa in 2020 with support from INL.**







### Impacts Anti-Poaching Efforts

- In 2020, aircraft flew 311 hours in support of anti-poaching efforts on 134 missions dedicated to aerial surveillance covering most of the park and GMA, but concentrating on areas near the Luangwa River where wildlife populations and potential illegal activities are high.
- Assisting ground teams with rapid aerial support upon request and as a quick aerial response to reports of gunshots, providing vital intelligence to ground responders
- Providing aerial surveillance of remote and largely inaccessible areas especially along borders and largely road less interior areas
- Deterring poachers from entering the park for illegal purposes by providing a regular, intimidating aerial presence along park boundaries and around sensitive areas
  - Air-dropping supplies to ground teams and remote camps
- Detecting and reporting recent illegal activities for ground team follow-up and patrol planning including
  - We had 2 helicopter operations in 2020, which were supported by fixed wing aircraft.
- The helicopter was used for rapid response and deploying QRF and dog teams and also to drop officers at remote elephant carcass locations to determine cause of death.





## SOUTH LUANGWA K9 Unit



## K9 Update

We were fortunate to receive a visit from Working Dogs for Conservation's Dr Megan Parker in early 2020 before the outbreak of COVID and subsequent travel restrictions. Two further international visits by WD4C had to be cancelled thereafter.

Nevertheless, to keep the teams motivated and learning we undertook a variety of internal training where possible. The team took two trips to visit partner organizations in Lusaka and Lower Zambezi to share ideas and learn from their programs. Thank you to Conservation Lower Zambezi and Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) for your collaboration.

Our veterinarian Dr Sichande presented K9 first aid training with the whole team, including the kennel keepers. The training included basic and emergency first aid and treatment, implementing new and more advanced health checks for all dogs.

Two of our K9 handlers, Sidney Njobvu and Godfrey Mwanza are undertaking long distance diplomas in canine behaviour and both are doing really well developing their knowledge.







## K9 Operations 2020

122 road blocks

69 building searches

23 area searches

11,500 vehicles searched (cars, trucks, buses, motorbikes)

54 people apprehended

27 firearms confiscated

Recovered 1 x leopard skin, 2 x whole dead pangolins, 1 x live pangolin, 2 x bushbuck skins, 1 x full crocodile skin, 43 x crocodile eggs, 182 pangolin scales, 350kg's illegal bushmeat, assorted other wildlife products (aardvark, vulture parts, genet, honey badger)

**With INL funding we purchased a second landcruiser for the K9 team enabling them to expand operations. Additional K9 equipment for both handlers and dogs was also procured in 2020.**







## Easing the Burden of COVID 19 Impacts in Local Communities

### Community Game Drives and Clean Sweeps

*An innovative joint CSL ZCP program, with funding from Lion Recovery Fund.*

*With these much needed programs we were able to pay tourism staff and community members for conservation services.*

*In 2020 nearly 900 people went on a game drive of which 59% had never been on one before. All of these people are from the local community and have lived around the national park their whole lives. \$4500 / K90, 000 was paid out to safaris guides and local vehicle owners currently out of work.*

*The clean sweeps program is also hugely successful with over 450 snares being removed from the bush in four months and 700 people engaged in this work. \$9000 / K180, 000 was paid out to tourism staff. For the wildlife, this resulted in zero snared lions reported in South Luangwa, the first time in over a decade. We intend to keep both of the programs running throughout 2021.*



**Lion  
Recovery  
Fund**





## Promoting Human Wildlife Co-existence



### The Human Wildlife Conflict Team Update

Completely separate from the anti-poaching and law enforcement wing of CSL. The HWC team occupies a small office at the CSL base, however the majority of our work is done out in field, in the communities surrounding South Luangwa National Park. The field team complete conflict assessments for a SMART database, work on educating communities and advise on mitigations. In 2020 we were able to train another volunteer so we are now a team of 10; 6 full time and 4 volunteers. The volunteers receive a monthly allowance for completing conflict assessments.

With a population in Mambwe estimated at 99,981 in 2020, and an annual growth of 3.5%, increasing conflict with wildlife is to be expected as new areas are settled and more fields are cultivated. This is why our mission to enable both people and wildlife to coexist peacefully in the game management areas is so important. It is also the reason we up scaled our community sensitisation work in 2020.



Support from the community for chilli patrollers has increased as they have seen the benefits of working with the patrollers. There is high demand for them to protect fields from crop raiding elephants. The patrollers are most effective when farmers have constructed watchtower shelters to provide early warning of elephants approaching, and have also cleared pathways to the fields to enable safe and quick access. In 2020, 23 patrollers completed 3056 man nights, guarding fields from crop raiding elephants.



## Chilli Farming

The combination of poor rains followed by heavy flooding resulted in a poor chilli crop in 2020 of just 3970 kg bought from 108 farmers. This is roughly 13% of the previous year's bumper harvest. Though, the project was downsized in 2020 to focus only on areas of high conflict in Mambwe district. In October 2020, 13 chilli farmer training workshops were held and 301 farmers were trained. 69% (209) being new to chilli farming. 53% of the farmers trained were female. Chillies can be grown in areas where elephants destroy crops like maize. CSL buy the dried chillies direct from the farmer paying cash, and then sell on their behalf to chilli sauce manufacturers.



605 conflict assessments completed involving 883 victims/sites who had been negatively affected  
23 chilli patrollers defending 633 farmers' fields  
108 chilli farmers engaged in our chilli program

All conflicts are entered into our HWC SMART database, shared with DNPW in monthly and annual reports and used to aid HWC management decisions.

### Elephant Safe Grain stores

Instead of constructing more elephant proof grain stores we instead focused on rehabilitating the 120+ existing stores to ensure they can all be used to safely store crops during the dry season. We identified why some had been abandoned, and have learned from this.



**“We can’t teach elephants what to do, but we can educate people how to minimise conflict.”**

Joint trips together with DNPW, Zambian Carnivore Programme and the CRB’s ran across all the chiefdoms to reach rural areas where conflict is high. The teams distributed information on reducing elephant and lion conflicts, and shared the new HWC hotline number which makes it much easier to report Human-Wildlife Conflicts.



The local radio show we started in late 2019 is extremely popular and ‘The Conservation Hour’ is now a regular weekly fixture. Joining forces with DNPW, ZCP and Chipembele mean a wide variety of conservation topics are covered and it is a source of reliable information. It has also proven to be a great opportunity to address popular misconceptions. **A mixture of 43 radio shows were hosted in 2020 and after just one year, community perceptions and attitudes have shifted significantly and the community are more supportive of our work.**

### **Carnivore Conflict Increases in South Luangwa**

In 2020, there was a dramatic increase in livestock predation by lion in Nsefu chiefdom. From 3 conflicts in 2019, to 85 in 2020. The increase in the number of conflicts can be largely attributed to the sudden increase in the number of livestock kept by communities, especially pigs, the weak enclosures livestock are kept in and an influx of new settlers in the valley.

Addressing these conflicts by CSL, ZCP and DNPW includes large scale sensitization and training on improved livestock husbandry (below left, weak piggery and right, improved and safe piggery) and providing communities with aversive conditioning equipment to chase lions away.





## Wildlife Rescues



It takes many hands to rescue large mammals and none so more as giraffe and elephant. In 2020 we immobilized and rescued 4 snared giraffes, 2 elephants, 1 buffalo, 3 puku, 1 waterbuck and 1 wild dog. Our experienced team of vets, scouts and helpers are always on hand to. CSL and ZCP vet Dr Mwamba Sichande works closely with DNPW vet in South Luangwa Dr Lengwe Bwalya and what a great team they make.

### NO SNARED LIONS REPORTED IN SOUTH LUANGWA IN 2020

Snaring increased as expected during the dry season but thanks to increased anti-snaring patrols, community clean sweeps and important data from our partner the Zambian Carnivore Program, over 700 snares were removed from the bush and no lions were reported snared in the whole of 2020. This is the first time we are able to report this in over a decade.



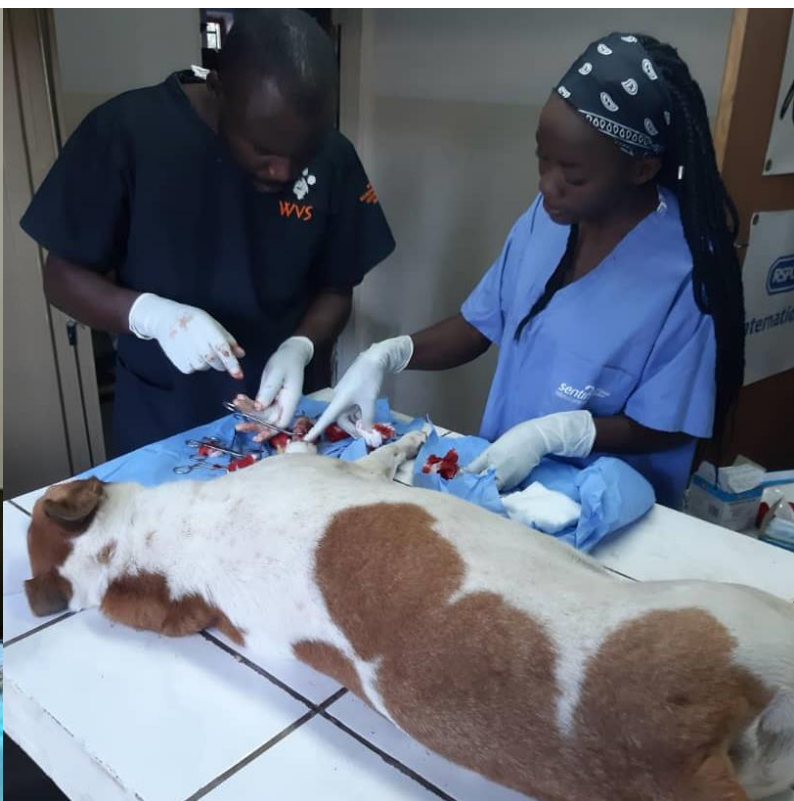




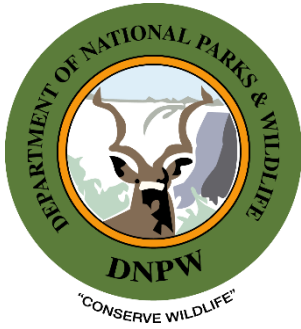
## Student Mentoring and Community Outreach

Dr Sichande continues to mentor a number of students, passing on his valuable field knowledge to aspiring vets. He is currently mentoring 6 Zambian national university students. We were devastated in late November to learn of the passing of an exceptional student and friend Fitzgerald Mukumbi (pictured below left with Dr Sichande) who was due to graduate just a few months after his passing. His memory lives on in all of the students we are currently supporting and they strive to be like him.

Our rabies, spay and neuter community outreach program went exceptionally well last year and during the times he was not in the field Dr Sichande sterilized 102 cats and dogs and vaccinated 257 pets.







We are grateful to DNPW for the long-term partnership and trust vested in us to continue working together to protect South Luangwa. We would also like to thank the following donors for their ongoing and increased financial support in 2020.

### Key Financial Donors



Lion Recovery Fund



Supported by IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union.



*This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union through IUCN Save Our Species. Its contents are the sole responsibility of Conservation South Luangwa and do not necessarily reflect the views of IUCN or the European Union.*



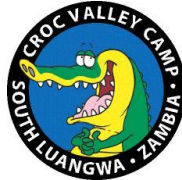
## Financial Donors and Partners Continued



Painted Dog Conservation  
Inc.



philanthropic  
ventures  
foundation



Luangwa Conservation Community Fund - Flatdogs Camp, Robin Pope Safaris, Lion Camp, Remote Africa Safaris, Kafunta Safaris, Puku Ridge, Time and Tide, Mfuwe Lodge and The Bushcamp Company, Shenton Safaris. Gavin Opie Safaris.

Despite an almost total standstill in tourism in 2020, The Luangwa Conservation Community Fund who have generously supported CSL for over a decade continued to offer support however they were able to. We are grateful for this and all of their historical support. The world has come to realize just how important tourism is for conservation and we hope things can return to normal as soon as possible.





In addition, we would like to thank the following individual ongoing donors whose support means so much to us. Special thanks to Edward Selfe, CSL Trustee for his wonderful photography used in this report.

Aisling Ryan  
Charles Wemyss – Dunn  
P.A.W Foundation  
Eric Schmidt  
Wildlife Protection Solutions  
Fil Hide  
Alan Black  
Lyn Sales  
Paul Maxwell  
Petra Kurth  
Katerina Ring  
Beth Touma  
Virginia Kubic  
Artie Owen  
John Elzenga  
Nick Riddin – Walk Luangwa  
Julie & Mark Mills  
Leonie Bayley  
Jemma Kaluski  
Sibylle Brodmann  
David Lavine  
Julia Cassels  
Odell Dillard  
Frederick Bell  
Sungani / Davy Family  
Matthias Gottler  
Susan Stribling  
Alison Bell  
Will & Lianne Steenkamp  
Into Nature Productions B.V  
Mari Passanati  
Christopher Anderson  
Alec & Kate Lindsay  
Anne Sibbald  
Terence O'Rourke  
Morshed Sheba  
Lincoln Palmer  
Matt Armstrong Ford – Tatenda  
Andrew White - Tatenda  
Conan & Linda Butcher  
Chris Brown  
Keith Grundy  
Ellen Chestney  
Gid Carr  
John & Rachel Clark  
Murray Katz  
Jeff Zuba  
Alison Cohen  
Selfe Family  
Dr Bryan  
Kris Kolman  
Simone Anzboek  
Jeffrey McDowell  
Jean-Pierre Leuenberger  
Gary Goelitz  
Gary Levy  
Simon Artley  
Martin Winter  
Chris Anderson  
Derek & Sarah Solomon  
Jim Auburn

Frances Foster  
Jeffrey Balin  
Jess & Adrian Coley  
Ngairie Booth  
Cousins Family  
Ian Shenton  
Walter Prodorutti  
Carol Van Bruggen  
Greta Utecht  
Richard Pitt  
Neil Clark  
Catherine Mignard  
Gayatri Wilson  
Babette Alfieri  
Volker & Gabi Sproede  
Tristan Davenport  
Ellen Chestney  
Patrick Bentley  
Ceri Keith  
James & Hebe Beard  
Raymond Strove  
Gruner Family  
Mark & April Johnston  
Callie Patterson  
Scott Farquhar  
Katya Gunther  
Bradley & Jessie Reid  
Jacob McKinney  
Steve Kuhn  
Elizabeth Antell  
Lydie Delineau  
Sheda Morshed  
Jiří Zejval  
Paul Cunha  
Lars Heurgren  
Christopher Barlow  
William Finnan  
Randy Edwards  
Daniel Mangold  
John Miller  
Noel Dunn  
Ariane Qureshi  
Jennifer Mayle  
Derek Perkins  
Alison Clarke  
Puk Daniels  
Helga Bintner-Mehlert  
Michele Sutton  
Frank Tenczar  
James Beard  
Ngairie Booth  
Global Conservation  
Fiona Ashley Miller  
Juergen Ritterbach  
Joel Ayres  
Alexandra Joyner  
Catherine Sloan  
Jennifer Moratto  
Martha Girolami  
Carl von Schreiber  
Diane Boteler  
Anthony Howard  
Hugh Pope

Andreas Kuhn  
Linda Potter  
Josh Earhart  
Jacqueline Robinson  
Andy Richardson  
Emma Smithson  
Nathalie Green  
Ted Schmitt  
Cherri Briggs  
Nicola John  
Brooke Berlin  
Aisling Wilson  
James Beckley  
Evelyn Wisniewski  
Mary Durfey  
Michael McGuire  
William Finnan  
Rachel Fryer  
James Dore  
Craig Nolan  
Anne G Alderman  
Monika Emch  
Frederike Otten  
Andrew Danckwerts  
Gareth Broekhuizen  
Jill Peterson  
Michael Thornton  
Hendrik Vandermaesen  
Alastair Anton  
Donna Cooke  
Carl Taylor  
Anne Stone  
John Spreitzer  
Mark Brown  
Sue Nicholson  
Agata Passoni  
Kathy Minniti  
Jenny Bryan  
Judy Jordan  
Gail Edwardson  
Alice Peretie  
Edward Reder  
Ines Guttmann  
Karl & Karen Ososki  
Katja Geunther  
Catherine Chow  
Terence L O'Rourke  
Mark Sprong  
Christopher Hepworth  
Georgia Matousek  
Stephanie Reeves  
Gail Kleinschmidt  
John Shields  
Timothy Nicholson  
Paul Robinson  
Jacholeen Kruger & Dawie Marie  
Tessa Barlin  
The Carnivores



RNGO registration NGO/101/0010/2013

CSL Board of Trustees 2020

- Chairman – Adrian Carr
- Secretary – Edward Selfe
- Treasurer – Carol Van Bruggen
- Trustee – Mtimba Zulu
- Trustee – Anna Tolan
- Trustee – Graph Evans
- Trustee – Nick Aslin
- Trustee – Derek Shenton
- Trustee – Simon Barnes
- Trustee – Chris Breen
- Trustee – Aisling Ryan

### 2020 Expenditure

