

# protecting panda masuie in Zimbabwe



**34,000  
hectares<sup>2</sup>**

of unfenced wild landscape close to Zimbabwe's famous Victoria Falls

- ▶ At Panda Masuie Forest Reserve, orphan elephants are slowly being reintroduced to join the wild herds that roam free. The elephant on the left is wearing a radio collar.



## Securing landscape for life

Panda Masuie Forest Reserve is situated on the western boundary of Zimbabwe, which forms part of the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), and provides a safe haven for rescued and wild elephants.

Wild elephants roam freely across the restored pristine forestland and now, so do their orphaned cousins rescued by Zimbabwe's only elephant rehabilitation project. The gradual release of each of these elephants into the landscape represents years of devoted care.

Rangers on the front-line are given training and vital equipment to help them secure and ensure the reserve remains protected from deadly wildlife poachers, traffickers and timber poachers intent on degrading habitat.

The KAZA Transfrontier Conservation Area spans Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Angola and Namibia, an area twice the size of the United Kingdom, enabling wildlife, including thousands of elephants, to roam freely across borders. Dozens of protected areas in Zimbabwe make up 14 per cent of the total area of the KAZA TFCA. Panda Masuie Forest Reserve is a key part of the network.

## Rewilding elephants

It's not just wild elephants that benefit from a secure environment. At Panda Masuie, IFAW is a key partner of Wild is Life-ZEN in a unique project to reintroduce and release rescued and orphaned elephants into the wild. So far five elephants have been successfully released to survive and thrive within free roaming herds.



# 800

people benefited from an electric fence built to protect their crops and livestock from wildlife, including predators

- ◀ This aerial photograph shows the elephant boma at Panda Masuie Forest Reserve.
- ▶ A Forestry Commission ranger inspects a confiscated wire snare.

### Rangers need support, so do people

Supported by IUCN Save Our Species and co-funded by the European Union, we train and equip rangers to secure Panda Masuie. Provision of SMART technology makes it quick to report the movements of poachers and special sightings of rare and endangered species. Uniforms, equipment and rations motivate rangers and make them more effective on patrol. Training improves their skills as frontline protectors of wildlife and habitat, and hones knowledge of the law. At nearby Masuwe, about 800 people benefit from an electric fence built to protect their crops and livestock from wildlife, including predators. Local people are employed to maintain the fence. A veterinary programme, including dipping, keeps community cattle healthy.

The fence attendant programme ensures the serviceability and integrity of the fence, ensuring wildlife conflict is mitigated and wildlife can co-exist in harmony.

Panda Masuie Forest Reserve is owned by the Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe and co-managed by the Commission. Together WIL and IFAW work on a long-term project to restore and secure the landscape. A number of species listed as vulnerable, near threatened, endangered and even critically endangered by the IUCN Red List are found here.

▶ see how at [ifaw.org](https://www.ifaw.org)



#ActsForAnimals

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