

# securing one of the last great elephant sanctuaries in the world

**83,000**

wild savanna elephants, the world's second largest population of wild elephants, can be found in Zimbabwe

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**45,000+**

savanna elephants roam Hwange NP, the largest national park in Zimbabwe

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► Elephants grazing by the water in Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe.

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## Supporting rangers, enhancing biodiversity conservation in Hwange National Park

The challenge of protecting this vast landscape falls to Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) where conservation resources are inadequate due to long-term socio-economic developments and have been stretched even thinner by the impact of COVID-19. IFAW's tenacious support for ZimParks throughout ensured zero incidents of elephant poaching occurred in IFAW-supported areas of Hwange.

Facing these challenges is enormous and requires strategy and smart partnerships. IFAW supports ZimParks in its efforts to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity in and around Hwange National Park, including three pillars of work: law enforcement, community engagement and securing functional habitats. This is reflected in our efforts to re-tool and empower rangers for them to effectively and efficiently secure Hwange NP's poaching "hot spots" and our tactics are already showing results.



Photo: © IFAW



Photo: Shaun McMinn / © IFAW

## US\$2.4 million / 3 years

invested by IFAW in infrastructure development, ranger training, tools and equipment and ops support

## 176

field rangers supported with patrol rations and PPE with 25 more receiving refresher anti-poaching training

- ◀ An IFAW-sponsored animal ambulance will allow ZimParks veterinary staff to treat injured wildlife in Hwange NP in situ, and to transport smaller animals back to their veterinary facility for care if needed.
- ▶ Moses with Paradzai Mutize, chief handler at Panda Masuie.

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



**#StopWildlifeCrime**

One of the world's most diverse protected areas, Hwange NP is home to more than 100 mammal species, including 45,000+ savanna elephants and 600 lions, over 400 species of birds and more than 1,000 floral species. Bordering Botswana on its western side, it is a lynchpin of the vast Kaza-Transfrontier Conservation Area spanning Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Angola and Namibia and is half the size of Belgium.

### A conservation strategy to save elephants

At Hwange, IFAW has largely focused its support on the Makona sub-sector, an extensive known "hot spot" for poaching within Hwange NP covering 4,500 km<sup>2</sup>, due to the lengthy porous border it shares with Botswana and Tsholotsho communal lands. Keeping wildlife safe in this area requires continuous and intense protection by well-equipped, trained and motivated wildlife rangers.

IFAW has been supporting this critical area through rehabilitating strategic water pans (Nyamandhlovu Pan), upgrading roads, constructing ranger living quarters and operations office blocks including communications technology. We have provided equipment to the veterinarian laboratory and animal ambulance in the field, thus enabling swift response to animals in distress. In addition, we have purchased

off-road vehicles for anti-poaching support and refurbished others, supported training for staff in the latest anti-poaching techniques, and issued them with the rations and fuel needed to operate at optimum efficiency.

New equipment and kit mean bush patrols can travel further and deeper into the wilderness, and stay longer in their endeavours to disrupt poaching activity. The K9 Dog Unit has not been left out with dietary and veterinary care provided for the canine crime fighters to help track and apprehend poachers.

The basket of anti-poaching tools deployed and strategies have produced good results, and IFAW's support helped ensure that not one elephant was poached in the Main Camp, Sinamatella and Robin's Camp areas of Hwange NP during 2020.

Our Junior Ranger programme has recruited about 200 children from schools in the Tsholotsho communal area. The programme creates an awareness of nature and conservation in the hope that some of these youngsters will one day make their own meaningful contribution to securing wildlife.