



# DAMBARI DIGEST

The Newsletter of the Dambari Wildlife Trust – [www.dambari.com](http://www.dambari.com)

**January to September 2013**

**Goal: To ensure the conservation and sustainable use of Zimbabwe's rich natural heritage for present and future generations**

**Mission: To promote the furtherance of biological knowledge, the conservation of biodiversity, and the sustainable use of natural resources, while integrating conservation across boundaries in selected landscapes in Zimbabwe and adjacent countries.**

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*It has been a busy year so far, with the result that this will be our only Dambari Digest for 2013. We hope you enjoy reading it and catching up with what we have been up to!*

Dambari Wildlife Trust's international Board of Trustees convened again on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013 for the Annual General Meeting and 32<sup>nd</sup> Management meeting. The 21<sup>st</sup> Research Advisory Group Meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April. We are making steady progress towards our "Conservation Across Boundaries" goals and hope to advance in leaps and bounds in 2014.

Please also visit our Facebook page (Dambari Wildlife Trust) and "Like" us. We post material when it happens so you don't have to wait for the *Digest* to come out to keep up! There are some great albums with photographs of the fieldwork projects along with snippets of news on our activities.

In this edition we highlight some of our cornerstone projects in the Conservation Across Boundaries (CAB) programme. These projects are integrated activities under one or more of five structured outputs that will help us achieve our CAB goal "to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of Zimbabwe's rich natural heritage for present and future generations".

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## ***CAB OUTPUT – Implementation of communications, outreach and capacity building involving full range of stakeholders.***

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### **Student Programme**

The 2012/13 student intake completed their attachment period at the end of June. We wish this trio of highly enthusiastic students **Sakhile Seema**, **Theo Mudzindiko** and **Tafadzwa Tichagwa** every success in their final year at university.



**Vimbai**

**Kudzanai**

**Noleetah**

© Dambari Wildlife Trust

At the beginning of September we welcomed **Noleetah Moyo**, (National University of Science and Technology) **Vimbai Vhera** and **Kudzanai Chimutanda** (Bindura University of Science Education) to the team. They'll be with us until June 2014 and are currently gaining experience in the various departments at Dambari Field Station, accompanying researchers on fieldtrips, and developing their research project proposals.

News from previous students is that **Cedric Maforimbo** (2011/12 intake) was awarded a distinction for the project he carried out with Dambari. Congratulations, Cedric!



Constructing herbaria assists with vegetation mapping around schools and villages



Pupils learning to use a Malaise trap to catch flying insects  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

## Biodiversity Monitoring Programme at five rural schools

Over the past year the biodiversity monitors have collected vast amounts of data on both vertebrates and invertebrates. They recorded species of interest on an ad hoc basis on their data sheets and invertebrates were sampled using pitfall traps. From their data sheets a list of 60 organisms in nine classes was compiled across all schools. A joint project with the **Natural History Museum** in Bulawayo, using pitfall traps to sample terrestrial invertebrates, generated in excess of 2,120 specimens, representing five classes, 13 orders, 34 families and 107 species between November 2012 and March 2013.

Standardised monitoring of biodiversity continues, with the inclusion of vegetation and birds as focal groups in the first two school terms, and invertebrates and amphibians in the third term.

The programme has been a huge success (club membership exceeds 150 pupils) and it has positively impacted the monitors' attitudes and knowledge towards conservation. Prior to the programme, just 36% of children believed that natural resources were the responsibility of the local community. By March 2013, more than half of the children took this view. This was assessed using a questionnaire survey. With this kind of change in attitude, children will be more inclined to take action for the environment.



Selling branded merchandise (left) and setting up displays at public functions (right) help to raise Dambari's profile.  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

## Awareness campaigns

We continue to publicise the Trust's activities at various events such as at the Bulawayo Theatre where the National Ballet danced a tale of the rescue of an orphaned rhino.

We also have a limited range of branded items which are available for sale during these events.

Bulawayo was the epicentre of the Zimbabwe World Rhino Day celebrations for 2013, and the Bulawayo public was fantastically supportive. DWT contributed to the planning of awareness activities organised by **Parks and Wildlife Management Authority** that included a parade through the city centre led by Twalumba, followed by speeches from the Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, the Director General of PWMA, stakeholders and other dignitaries. There was also an abundance of rhino related entertainment to raise awareness of the issues surrounding the survival of the rhino. The **Matopos Rhino Initiative Trust** also hosted a fun walk, run and ride in the Matopos to raise awareness and funds for a new perimeter fence around the National Park. The following week, DWT's **Nicky Pegg** gave an illustrated talk about the history of rhinos in the Matobo Hills at the **Natural History Museum**.



Twalumba, a rhino made of drinks cans, was paraded around Bulawayo City and made an appearance at the fun day at Matopos.  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

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**CAB OUTPUT - Conservation projects across boundaries for endangered species and ecosystems developed and supported.**

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A white rhino calf playing with her older sister  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

**Rhino Camera Trapping Project**

July 2013 brought up the 2-year anniversary of the start of rhino monitoring using camera traps. This project, funded by **Save the African Rhino Foundation (SAVE)**, and carried out in partnership with the **Parks and Wildlife Management Authority**, has proved extremely valuable for monitoring rhinos in the Matopos National Park. On at least three occasions, cameras have provided the first confirmation of new calves. And the bycatch is also interesting – 55 mammal species have been photographed in the Park so far, including pangolin, Gambian giant rat and spotted hyaena.



Rhinos were dehorned during the recent management operations  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

**Rhino Conservation Programme – Management Operations**

Between 8<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September DWT, in partnership with **Parks and Wildlife Management Authority**, staged a dehorning operation in the Matopos National Park to make the animals less attractive to poachers. A number of younger rhino were also ear-notched to make them recognisable as individuals once they leave their mothers in the near future.

The operations, which were funded by international and local donors, including **SAVE, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Kolmarden Foundation and Bumi Hills Safari Lodge** went very smoothly and efficiently ensuring that an optimum number of animals were processed in the time available and within budget limits.

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**CAB OUTPUT – Status and use of selected species, resources and ecosystem services investigated and sustainable use across boundaries facilitated.**

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Genets are the only species photographed in all land uses so far  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

**Small Carnivore Survey in the Matobo Hills**

The fieldwork component of Dambari Wildlife Trust's small carnivore survey (funded by **International Foundation for Science**) commenced in June. Structured interviews with inhabitants of the Matobo Hills generated a list of 22 carnivore species. By the halfway point of the camera trapping component of the survey, seventeen species had been photographed, including two not recorded during interviews. Conflict with carnivores is variable across the Hills, but losses to hyaenas seem to be on the rise. DWT will seek funding to run farmers' workshops to assist with livestock protection.

This project has been uploaded onto the MAPA website ([www.mapaproject.org](http://www.mapaproject.org)) where updates will be posted intermittently.



*Tafadzwa a couple of days after birth  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust*

### **Antelope Project**

A blue duiker was born in July, and was christened Tafadzwa after one of Dambari's attachment students. We're expecting a lamb sired by our new male Bongile in the next couple of months.

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## ***CAB OUTPUT – Overall programme funding, co-ordination and management established and working effectively***

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*The World Rhino Day Golf Competition Trophy  
© Dambari Wildlife Trust*

### **Fundraising initiatives**

Dambari once again celebrated **World Rhino Day on 21<sup>st</sup> September** with a four ball better ball golf competition at Bulawayo Golf Club. This year we presented a floating trophy generously donated by **SAVE Foundation** to the winners. This event along with an auction of golf memorabilia (donated by SAVE) raised over \$6200 for our CAB projects. Heartfelt thanks to all those who supported the day and made it such a fantastic success! Sponsors are listed on our Facebook page.

**Tendele Crafts** have started fundraising for rhino, by manufacturing and selling beaded bracelets that feature a silver rhino charm. All proceeds from the sale of the bracelets are donated to DWT's rhino related projects.

Dambari Wildlife Trust has a project listed with Greenvolved ([www.greenvolved.com](http://www.greenvolved.com)). Using a crowd-funding type approach, we hope to raise funds for critical biodiversity and environmental conservation activities under CAB in the Matobo Hills over the next three years. Please "follow" our project – registration on the website is free and only takes a couple of minutes!



### **Donations**

Dambari Wildlife Trust has been very fortunate to receive a \$6500 donation from Irvine's Africa and Cobb International, in memory of the late Mr William Irvine, founder of Irvine's Africa. Mr Irvine and DWT's founding trustee Dr John Knowles were business associates 50 years ago when Mr Knowles introduced Irvine's to Cobb International. It has resulted in an enduring partnership, something which was remembered by the Irvine family and resulted in DWT becoming the beneficiary of this donation. Our grateful thanks go to the Irvine family for this generous donation!



Sincere thanks to  
our generous  
sponsors and  
conservation  
associates.

