



DAMBARI DIGEST

The Newsletter of the Dambari Wildlife Trust – www.dambari.com

July to December 2012

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.

Trustees and Staff

Dambari Wildlife Trust's international Board of Trustees convened again in November 2012 for the 20th Research Advisory Group Meeting and 31st Management meeting.

Dr Yogi Naik has retired from the Trust's board after 11 years service. We thank him for his support and efforts on behalf of the Trust.

Congratulations to Dr Nicky Pegg and her husband who had their first child, a son, in early November.

Dambari's new look website has been launched. You can also friend/follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.



Conservation Club Members checking one of the pitfall traps at Bazha Secondary School, Matobo
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

Biodiversity Monitoring Programme

DWT's Biodiversity Monitoring programme has this year successfully trained 171 pupils, in five secondary schools, in various data monitoring methods. The schools are Bazha, Matopos Mission, Silozwe, Tohwe and Whitewaters, all situated within a 10km radius of the National Park. Data have been recorded by the children and preliminary analysis is underway. Bulawayo Natural History Museum staff are working with DWT to identify invertebrates collected at each school.

The project is funded by **Rufford Small Grants Foundation, DWT and Edgars Stores.**



Golfers and the Rhino on World Rhino Day
© Dambari Wildlife Trust

Local fundraising and awareness

Dambari celebrated **World Rhino Day** with a four ball better ball golf competition at Bulawayo Golf Club. With some quirky rhino activities at selected holes or greens and thanks to the outstanding generosity of local businesses and golfers, DWT raised awareness of the plight of the rhino and the magnificent sum of \$3280 for our conservation projects in the Matobo Hills.

In December, DWT had a display at a local fair where we set up the rhino game for children. This was very popular with both children and adults and in exchange for throwing a ring onto the rhino's horn, competitors received a wildlife poster of endangered animals in Zimbabwe.



Tafadzwa

Sakhile

Theophilus

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Attachment Students

Tafadzwa Tichagwa (Bindura University of Science Education), Sakhile Seema (National University of Science and Technology) and Theophilus Mudzindiko (Chinoyi University) began their attachment at Dambari in September and presented their project outlines to Trustees and invited guests in November.

Tafadzwa will be working on "Evaluating the effects of the Matobo Biodiversity Monitoring program on student behaviour, knowledge and attitude towards biodiversity conservation."

Theophilus will conduct "A questionnaire survey of the mesocarnivore species inhabiting the Matobo heritage site based on indigenous knowledge from the local communities."

Sakhile will conduct a study entitled "Habitat selection and range use of white rhino in the Matopos National Park".

Between September and December they have been on field trips with the Biodiversity Monitoring Project, walking/clearing transects for the Antelope Project and assisting with the camera trap survey of rhinoceros as well as helping out around the Field Station..



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Antelope Collection and Research

In December DWT moved 6 Blue duiker (4 females and 2 males) to a collector in Harare to augment his small group of imported duiker. In return DWT received a male from Harare to invigorate the breeding options within our collection.

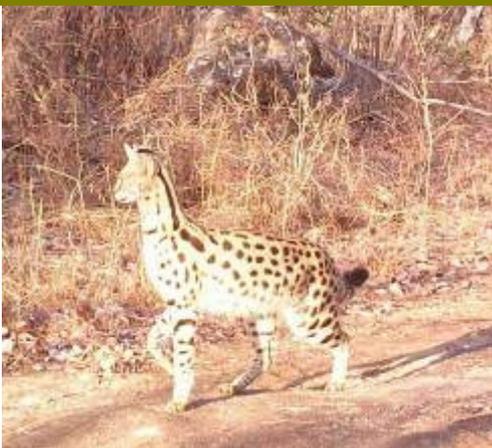
A female blue duiker was born in November. At birth a blue duiker weighs only 700 grams. The mother keeps the baby well hidden for at least the first three weeks of its life and babies are seldom seen, even in captivity.



© Dambari Wildlife Trust

Rhino Conservation Programme – camera survey

The camera trap survey is now in its second year with static cameras placed in key sections of the Matopos National Park. Photographs are retrieved bi-weekly and catalogued. Within the first four months of the second year 36 mammal species were recorded within the recreational section of the Park. During the first year of the survey 47 mammal species were recorded within the game park section. **Save the African Rhino Foundation** is providing ongoing support to this important project.

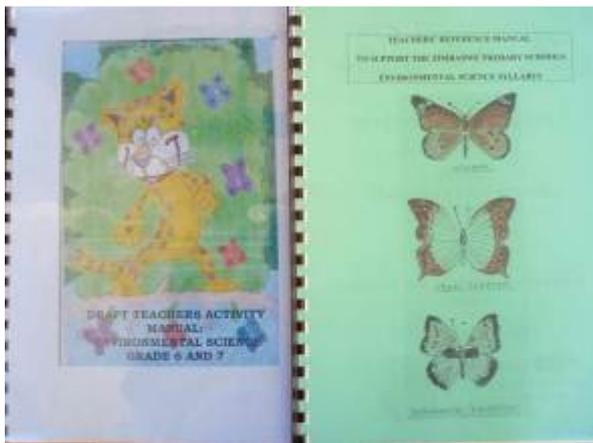


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Small Carnivore Survey

Dr Pegg with funding from **International Foundation for Science** is set to begin a survey of small carnivores along an East-West transect across the Matobo Hills.

The year-long project will incorporate data from camera traps and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and endeavour to establish the presence and habitat use of a number of cryptic small carnivore species, such as mongooses, jackals, serval and African civet.



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Environmental Education

Currently the final draft of the environmental science manuals for Teachers are with Zimbabwe's UNICEF office, who have expressed an interest in publishing these manuals under a grant facility to publish material for primary schools to enhance basic literacy and support the environmental science syllabus.

If UNICEF can produce these manuals this will ensure distribution to all primary schools in Zimbabwe during 2013.



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Thanks and Season's Greetings

DWT's Director and staff sincerely thank all those who have given material and in-kind support and advice during 2012 and we look forward to maintaining these close associations into 2013.

Please keep working towards the sustainability of the environment wherever you are in the world, and help curb the wanton exploitation and destruction of our natural resources.

Together we can!!



Sincere thanks to our generous sponsors and conservation associates.