

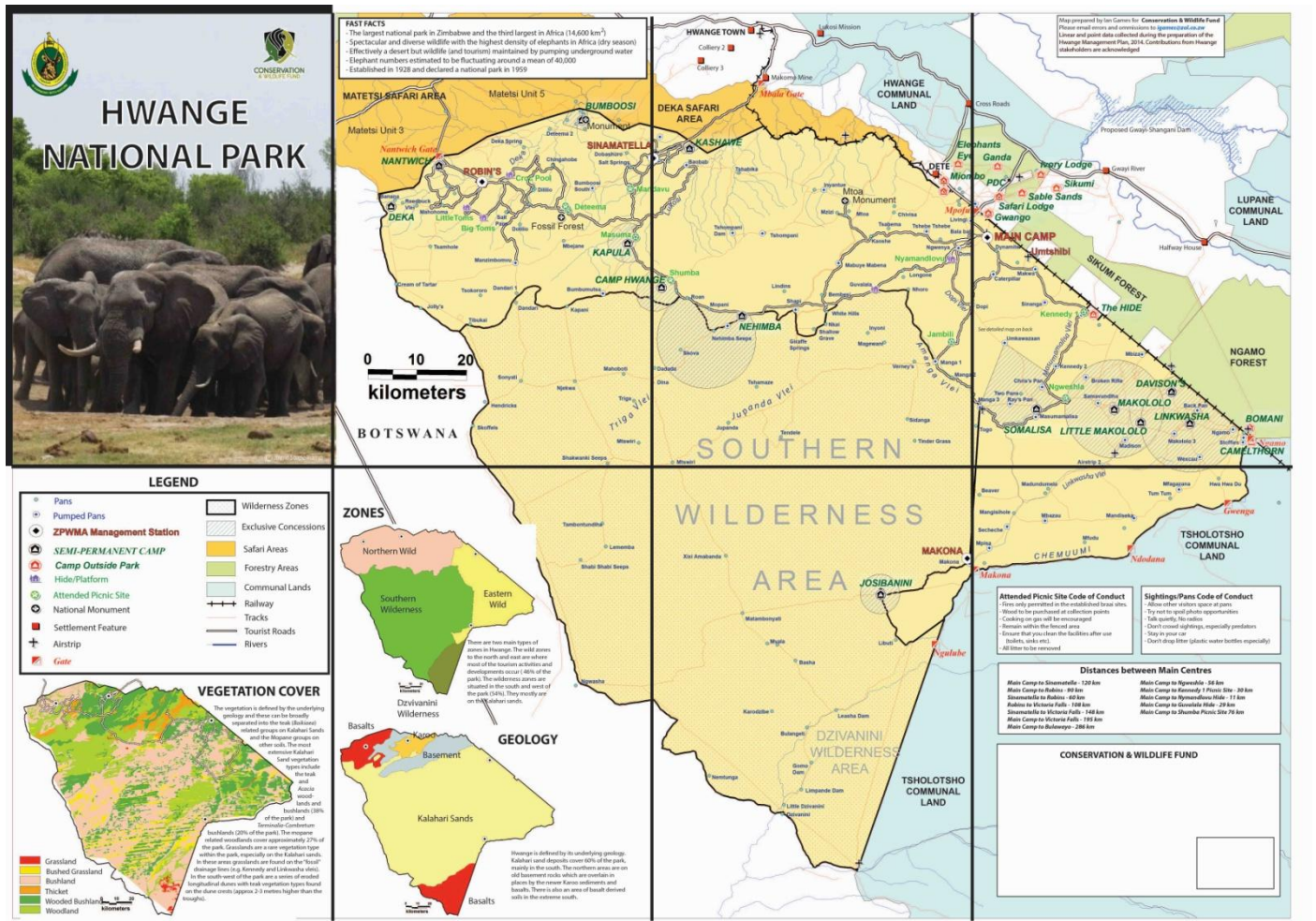


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HWANGE

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SUPPORTING WILDLIFE RESEARCH

Elephant research

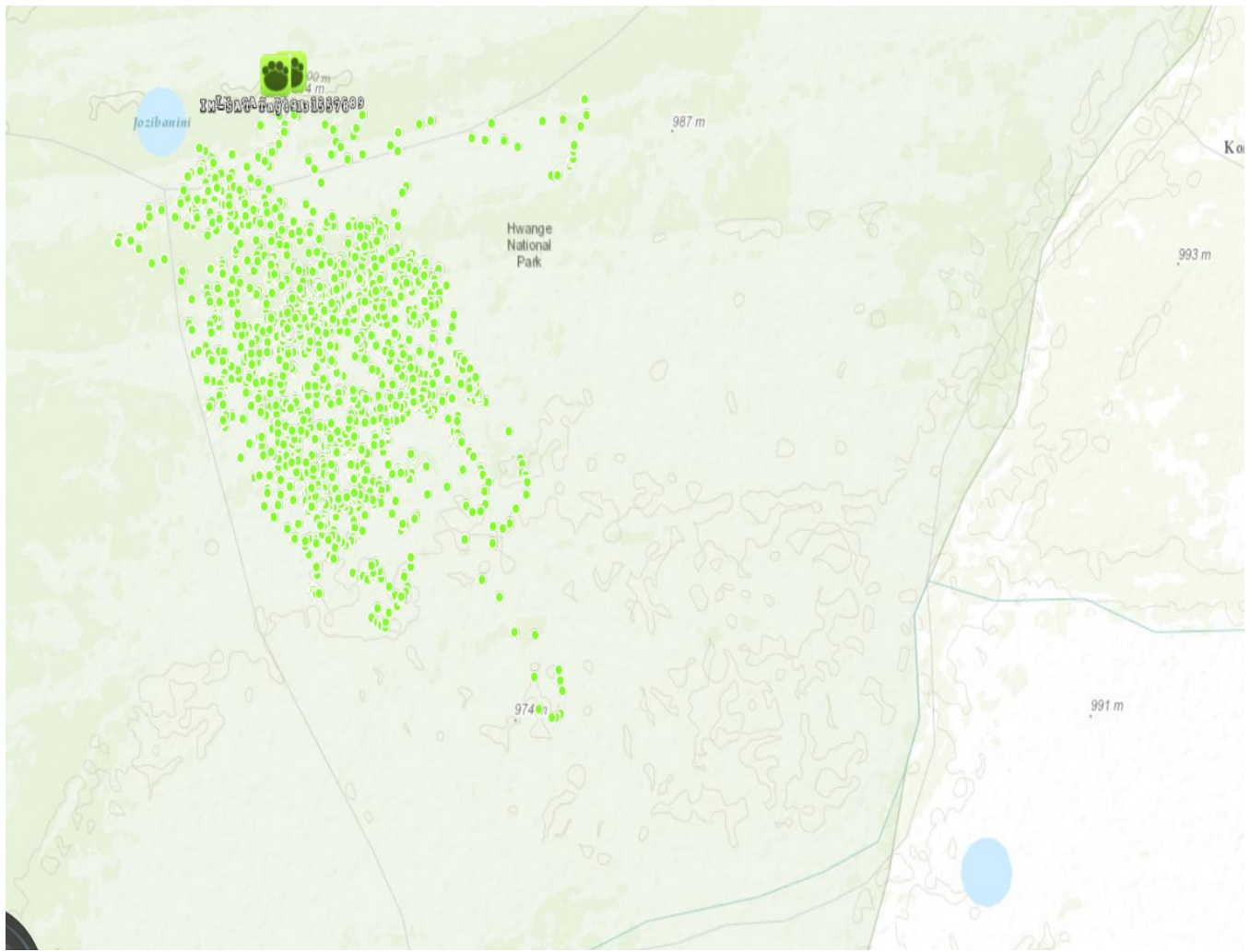


With a Parks representative present, a small CWF team deployed four collars in August on Hwange elephant bulls – two each in the known ‘bull areas’ of Nehimba and Jozivanini. Very generous logistical support was provided by Imvelo Safari Lodges at both locations. At Nehimba the NGO Flying for Wildlife briefly assisted searching with a Microlight aircraft but at Jozivanini the darting was done at the pan. Two approximately 70lb ivory tuskers were collared and two others were about 65 and 50 lbs a side. A further two days of intense ground searching in the Kennedy, Mbiza and Somalisa areas for a 5th tusker were unsuccessful. This animal will hopefully be collared in October. Dr Lochran Traill – a Zimbabwean at Liverpool John Moores University in the UK – has taken on all scientific analyses of hourly fixes from the collared bull elephants for two years from August 2018. Maps generated by the tracking software will be shared with CWF members, financial sponsors and with NationalParks.



The two elephant bulls immobilized and collared at Jozivanini Pan





October 2018. The collared elephant bulls have not yet moved far, showing that brief capture does not upset them. Each green dot represents a location fix from the collar - showing that the elephant is remaining within about 5km radius of the nearest water in the late dry season. Movements at the onset of rains in November are eagerly anticipated and maps will be sent to all interested parties.

During the above collaring operation in August at Jozivanini, the camp owner Mark Butcher requested that a distressed young elephant with a massive abcess on one ear, be treated.



The Parks representative agreed and I darted it and drained about 15 litres of pus from the ear. The procedure was carried out after sundown under torchlight. The cause of the condition could not be established but the animal was greatly relieved on recovery.