



16 Preston Drive
Alexandra Park
Harare, ZIMBABWE
info@conservationwildlifefund.org
www.conservationwildlifefund.org
Tel +263 771 052888

27th October 2017

Dear Drs Wolfgang & Gisela Hennig,
(www.hennig-praxis.de)

I received a message from Nic Polenakis saying that you would like to hear about progress in the CWF anti-poaching project where your generous donation to the above CWF is being spent. I can confirm that it is playing a vital role in establishing the first Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) which we are setting up at present at The Hide Concession – also known as the 'Kennedy Annex'. This is north of Somalisa Camp on the railway line on the Hwange park boundary.

We signed the WWF funding agreement for your funds in May, but the person we employed to do the field job did not work out. It was very difficult to find a suitable replacement and this took a lot of time. However, the new Field co-ordinator, Steve Alexander – a 55 year old Zimbabwean experienced in anti poaching and security, tourism and many aspects of running operations in the bush – has started work on a full employment contract with CWF from 1st October.

The base building for the APU has been refurbished by The Hide and will be internally furnished in the next few weeks by CWF's own funds. From October 2017 to March 2018 (when the WWF agreement expires) a significant amount of the start-up costs of this unit will be supported on the budget of US\$27 000 which you donated. There are only three budget items on which to spend your donation and all payments are made by transfer via the CWF accounts section:

- running costs for the 4WD vehicle, now owned by CWF
- monthly wages for scouts
- purchase of food rations for scouts

The field co-ordinator is now in Hwange. He is busy recruiting 4 scouts and we have a new signed agreement with the nearest land holder (Forestry Commission of Zimbabwe) to patrol on their state forest lands, accompanied by one of their officials. Thus the patrol strength will be 5 men. The forestry areas have suffered neglect and there is a lot of illegal activity affecting wildlife which occupies them or disperses out of Hwange park across the railway. The commission is broke and desperately needs help from the private/NGO sector to re-establish effective authority in its natural forests. In addition some privately owned land neighbouring the state forests has been badly managed for wildlife and Steve and his team will assist to reorganize security there as well. We also have very good relations with the park authorities and anticipate we will also help them in time. At the start of the project however, CWF is concentrating on the vulnerable park periphery to help protect the park wildlife from illegal activity like poaching, snaring and poisoning. Arrests in these areas have been increasing this year.

Angus Preston and The Hide are kindly arranging a site with tentage for Steve to live in, close to the Kennedy siding APU base. Initial basic facilities like a small solar power pack and a cellphone network booster are being bought with CWF core funds – money mostly coming from US\$10 'bed levies' from CWF members. The unit will receive training in November on a digital software program to record all data from anti-poaching patrols and the associated intelligence network.

So we are starting on a professional footing. I did send an interim report to WWF in Germany and Zimbabwe this month as required. It was vital that we received your support for the new manpower and the next report due in April will likely document how most of the funds have been really put to good use. We look forward to your next visit to Hwange when we will of course hopefully be able to take you to see all the above on the ground.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Richard Hoare, Project Manager

Trustees: Angus Preston & Bekezela Ndlovu