



ANNUAL REPORT 2009 Animal Life Line for Anti Poaching

2009 was the second full year of operation for the ALL4AP anti poaching team. Despite the economic situation improving a little, it unfortunately did not result in a decrease in wire snare poaching. Poaching seemed to have picked up instead. In our annual project plan for 2009 we stated that our focus would be on the removal of snares and to a lesser extent to arrest poachers. This was due to the fact that the fines were not reflecting the true value of the animals and that arresting was without purpose for that matter.

Ground coverage

This year we covered slightly more ground than last year since we did not have a training for new scouts. Especially in the hot season (August-Nov) we did our best to be a 'roving unit' exploiting our 'bush camp' equipment to the fullest.

We went out further away from our base than last year. We went up north to the 'Shangani River', west to the Dete area, east up to the Ngamo Forest and down south to Hwange National Park.



Sub adult female Bush buck snared around the waste

Snare removal

We managed to remove 1515 snares by ourselves and recovered another 127 snares in joint operations with our sister organization PDC which make a total of **1642** snares in all for 2009. A respectable **390** snares more than the previous year.

Prosecution

In July 2009 the fines for the 'Trapping of Animal Control Act' were changed from the Zimbabwe Dollar to the United States Dollar. This is a huge improvement. We will have to see what the effects will be on the poaching but we anticipate that the rule will work as a deterrent.

An example; the fine for poaching a male Buffalo is now US\$ 6.000,-.

Gwayi – Shangani Area

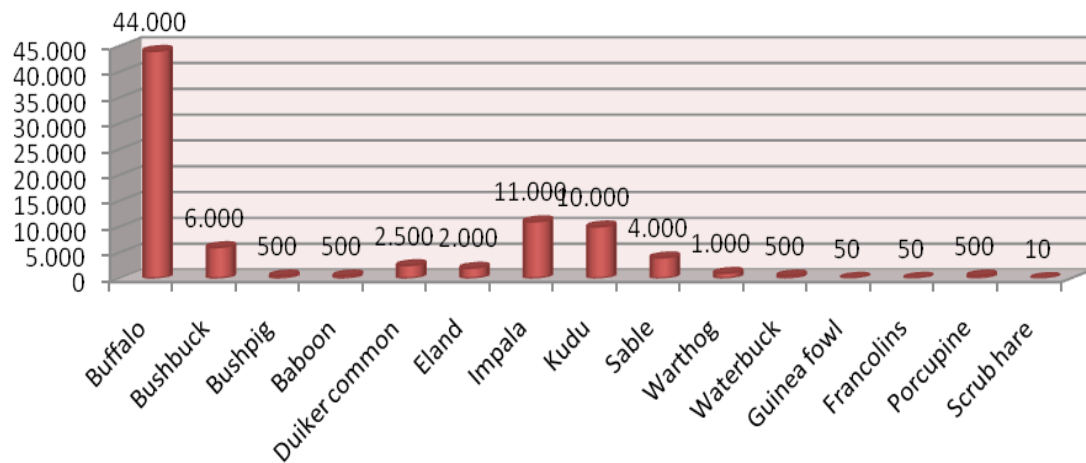
Not much has changed compared to last year when NPWAZ in December 2008 concluded that a lot of the farmers in the Gwayi region, forming the ICA (Intensive Conservation Area) are not successful enough in protecting their farms from poaching.

Many of the farmers have a few people on their estate that are supposed to look after the farm but those people often actually turn to do the opposite and start to poach themselves. Some of the farmers are seldom seen on their estate which enhances of the problem. Positive however is that most farmers allow us to go on their properties and give us their full support.

Animal losses (see table 1)

The number of animals found as a carcass in the snares was **69** this year. Main species were Impala, Bush buck, kudu, Buffalo and Duiker. If a value is to be put to the animals we found in the snares according to the hunting quota, set by the National Parks and Wildlife Authority Zimbabwe (NPWAZ) 2009, the total value of all these animals represent an amount of over **USD 82.000,-**

ALL4AP 2009: VALUE LOSS OF ANIMALS US\$ 82.610,- (Parks and Wildlife Statutory Instrument 92, 2009)



(table 1)

Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe

In June 2009 ALL4AP formed a companionship with W.E.Z. This conservation and education minded organization has been very helpful to us. Why we did so, was that we have many overlapping interests and WEZ has an already established National Network. We are convinced that our cooperation will be beneficial for both organizations in de future. For further information we would like to refer to our website at www.all4ap.org.

Elephant with maimed trunk (at lower part of trunk)



Conclusion

Overall it was a very successful year for ALL4AP. Our last year’s expectations proved to be right. The poaching was more intensive this year. Poaching in 2009 was still on the rise. An increase of 390 snares this year (*more than 30%*) Figures from our sister organization PDC also reflect this trend. The total number of snares recovered between the two organizations reaches well over 3200.

This comes close to the year 2002 when a record of 3450 snares were found.

These numbers are influenced by the fact that we had no training this year and less vehicle problems for PDC (which kept us out of the field for some time), 30% remains a serious increase.

Hunting with domestic dogs is continuing. These poachers, like mentioned in our previous annual report, are hard to trace, since they do not have to return to one place, like wire snare poachers have to. Unfortunately also this year we did not manage to arrest those hunters.

Wire snare poaching however is a far more serious type of poaching, because of its wasteful nature. Therefore our main focus was and always will be this type of poaching.

Animal Life Line 4 Anti Poaching will keep on doing it’s best to des encourage poachers by arresting them and by removing there snares and so reduce the harm and losses these cruel traps inflict.

We would like to thank all those that supported us in the past and will hopefully continue doing so in the future.