



ANNUAL REPORT 2010 Animal Life Line for Anti Poaching (ALL4AP™)

2010 was the third full year of operation for the ALL4AP™ anti Poaching team.

We saw the economic situation improving since the adoption of the US Dollar. This gives some relieve to the people and therefore wildlife of Zimbabwe. The year had good (late) rains so villagers were able to grow crops. This reason, combined with our anti poaching efforts and the new legislation (higher fines) resulted in a decrease in wire snare poaching. Poaching by wire seemed to be on the way down.

Ground coverage

This year we covered slightly different ground than last year. Two of our senior scouts went for an instructors training with a sister organization in Victoria Falls, which took three months. (In this period the managed to prevent rhino's from being poached by the tactical arrest of a poacher in possession of an AK47 which was a great achievement)

In total the team members recorded 2640 KM of patrols.

Area's covered stretched from our main area (Gwayi) to the Shangani River, to the Tjolotsjo safari area south of Hwange National Park to the Dete Forestry area and the Hwange National Park itself. We also covered the Bunga and Vumba Botanical reserves and gardens in Zimbabweans Eastern Highlands. Hunting unfortunately interfered with our operations on occasions. Some landowners still see anti poaching as an interference with their hunting, whilst others see it as a showcase to their clients to let them know that they are protecting what is there. Of course we support the latter and have seen the positive reactions from hunting clients that are always full of praise about it regularly.



Snared male greater Kudu

Snare removal

1165 wire snares where removed in 2010. (Actually a few more since the work in Vumba was still carrying on with one of our instructors present. It means an approximately 28% snares less than the previous year. This year we saw fewer animals with snares on them. Most snares that where found where removed along the Shangani river. In this area spoors of wildlife were hard to detect.

Some 220 snares were removed from the Eastern highlands, mainly targeting the blue duiker / bush bucks.

Prosecution

In July 2009 the fines for the 'Trapping of Animal (Control) Act' were changed from the Zimbabwe Dollar to newly adopted United States Dollar. This has shown an improvement. We already see the effects on the poaching. These new rules work as a deterrent, but would be insignificant without the anti poaching efforts of course.

An example from the new legislation; A poacher was caught and convicted: USD 10.000,- compensation had to be paid for snaring a lioness, on top of the fine itself. Less poachers were arrested this year (9).

Animal losses

The number of animals found as a carcass in the snares was only 19 this year. Species were Impala (6), Bush buck (3), kudu (4), Buffalo (2) and Duiker (3).

This number represents a historic low percentage of animals found in the snares. In only 1,6% of the snares a carcass was found.

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 represented an amount of over USD 21.500,- (domestic dog hunting victims and snared elephant not recorded (see picture))

TRAINING

In August we were asked by the 'Tikki Hywood Trust' to train scouts in the Eastern Highlands. Training is an important part of anti poaching and the fact that organizations ask us to assist in training is a positive and encouraging fact.

In November ALL4AP performed the training for 21 scouts (of which 13 managed to complete the course) in the Vumba, Eastern Highlands, Zimbabwe. This area is home to the Semango monkey and the shy blue duiker. It's a beautiful area with mountains, thick forests and rivers. Three scouts from National Parks and Wildlife Zimbabwe took part in the course and showed, just like the others, a keen interest in what the course could assist them with, in their practical duties later on. We anticipate this initiative will enhance the safety from this delicate and remote eco system. In the few days of patrolling during the course we already managed to remove 220 snares and arrested some poachers which means there is a high demand for anti-poaching. The local stakeholders that will carry the cost of the team in the future and National Parks, were very pleased to see this training and the immediate results.



Conclusion

Overall it was a successful year for ALL4AP.

The poaching was less intensive this year, although we have to admit that the numbers of snares could have been influenced by the fact that we were not always able to patrol the desired areas, because of different reasons.

Poaching in 2010 decreased. A decrease of 477 snares this year in the case of our team alone.

Figures from our sister organization PDC also reflect this trend. The total number of snares recovered between

the two organizations still reaches over 3200. This comes close to the year 2002 when a record of 3450 snares were removed, but in that year the snares were recovered by only one team instead of four.

The training in the Vumba was very successful. We know that training is a key element in the success of many anti poaching / wildlife protection units. We will try to move more into this area because we have seen that there is a high demand. On top of this it is highly rewarding to hear the positive reactions from the scouts that have done the training and their results. We think ALL4AP can be enhancing her effect drastically by moving into this area.

We would like to thank all those that supported ALL4AP in the past and will hopefully remain doing so in the future.---