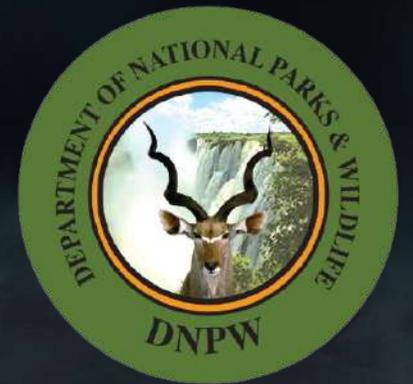
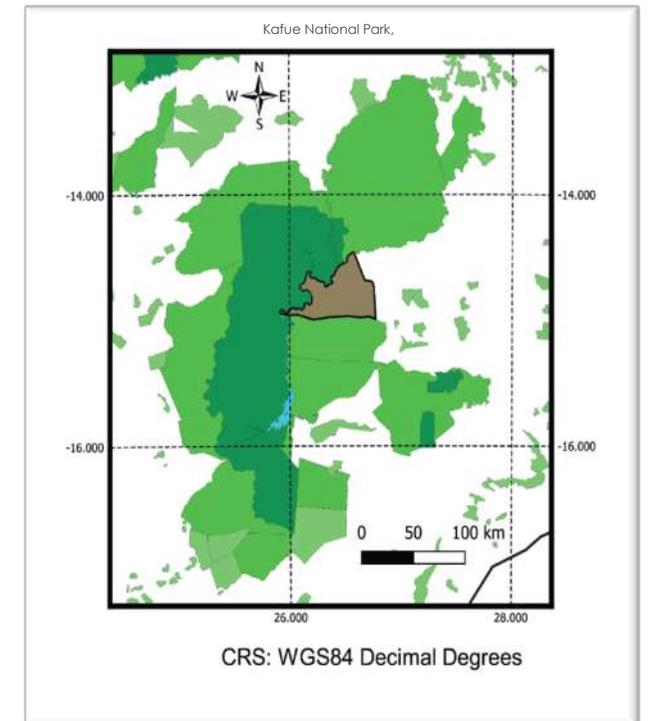
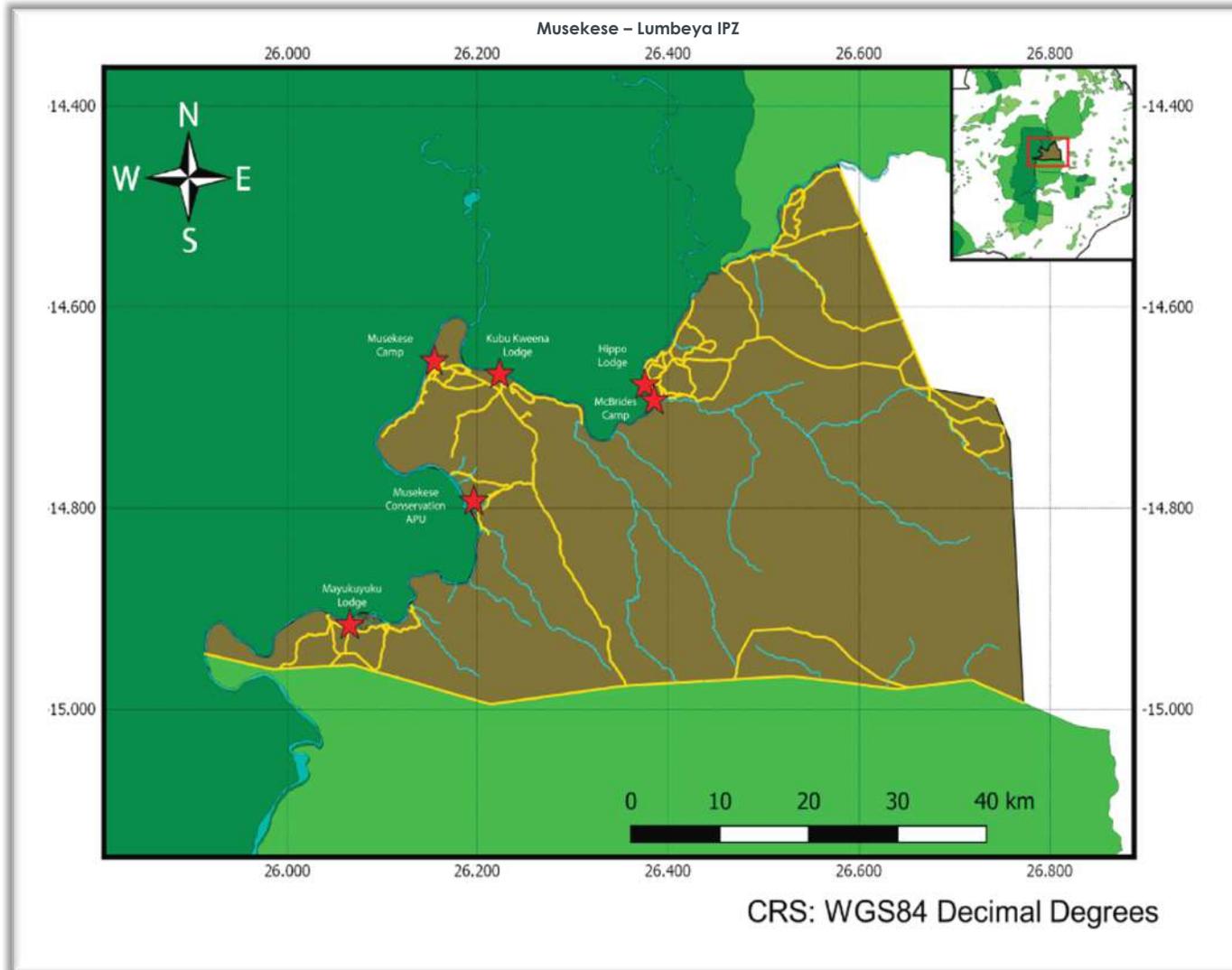




MUSEKESE
CONSERVATION
2020 REPORT



WHERE WE ARE IN THE KAFUE NATIONAL PARK, ZAMBIA



Key

Points of Interest

- ★ ML IPZ Lodges and Camps

Roads

- ML IPZ Roads

Water Features

- Kafue NP Big Rivers
- ML IPZ Ephemeral Rivers

Study Area

- ML IPZ Study area

Zambia Protected Areas

- Kafue National Park
- Game Management Area
- Forest Reserve
- Zambia Outline

2020 OVERVIEW

To date, 2020 has been incredibly challenging and strange not just for Musekese Conservation (MC) but globally. With the collapse of tourism and global uncertainty, we are hugely grateful to have continued to progress the project from strength to strength.

Whilst Africa has not been as directly affected by the pandemic as other parts of the world the economic impacts, especially in the tourism industry, have been devastating; before 2020 MC received approximately 70% of its funding from tourism and tourism-related activities. The closing of borders and imposing travel restrictions and lockdowns did not bode well for conservation across the continent however throughout the year the MC team has displayed an extraordinary level of resilience that has enabled the project to continue and grow.

Until a full year passes, it will be challenging to determine the pandemic ramifications on illegal activity, and this data will need to be collaborated continent-wide and analysed. It is almost inevitable that the poor socio-economic circumstances many countries like Zambia find themselves in will have led to an increase in illegal activities, from encroachment to deforestation and poaching.

The 2,400 square kilometres of the Musekese-Lumbeya region in the Kafue NP that MC has undertaken to protect with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), had long been neglected and had become a notorious region for snaring; thus it was critical that MC got to work in getting ahead of the anticipated rise in illegal activities and continued to build on the excellent work that has been done and achieved over the last 18 months.

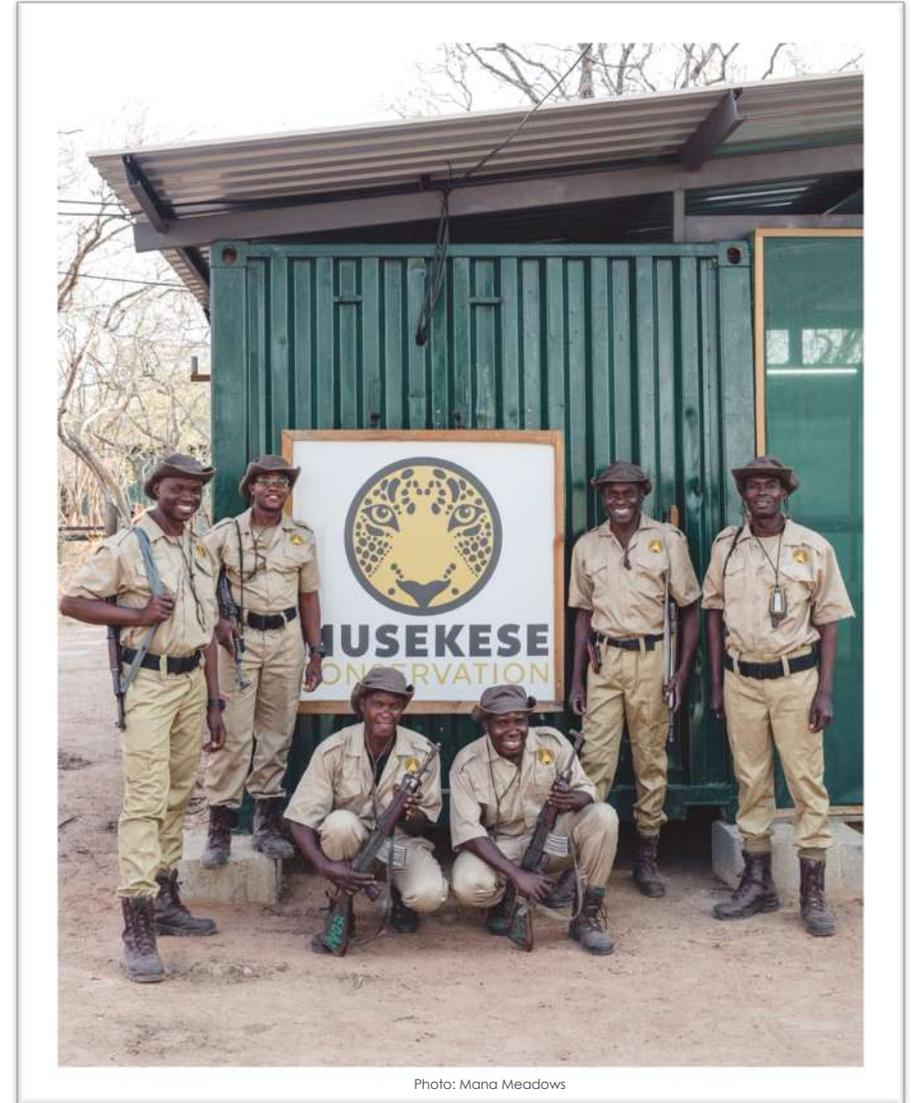
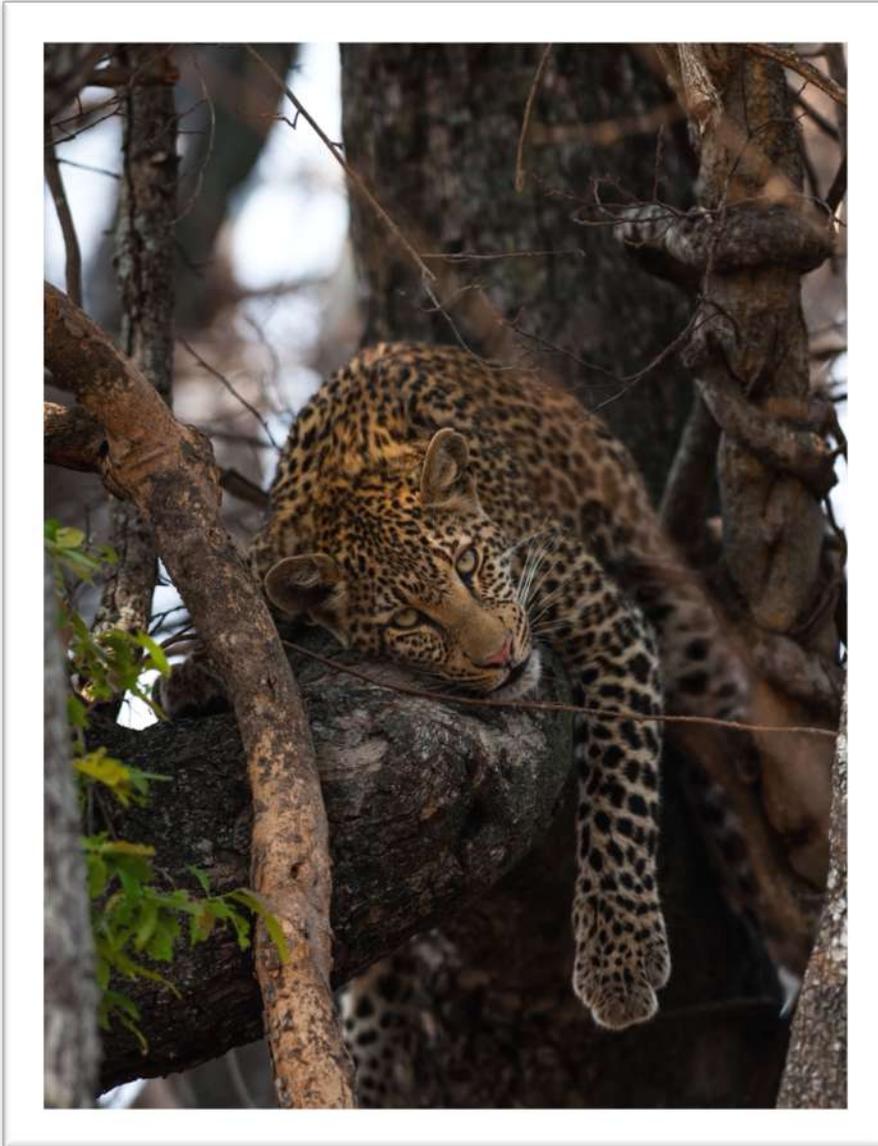


Photo: Mana Meadows



WILDLIFE AT A GLANCE

Regular snare sweeps and extensive patrols have significantly impacted the large carnivores in the region; before MCs presence the area recorded ten fatalities of large carnivores as a result of snaring in a single field season. Last year only a single leopard was found with a snare that was successfully removed in conjunction with the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) and DNPW.

This year we have been able to identify 18 individual leopards in the immediate vicinity of operations. We welcomed the arrival of 9 lion cubs across two prides and positively identified two lionesses as originating from the original Musekeke Pride not seen since 2017. One has a snare related injury but is in phenomenal condition and was last positively identified in 2015. This year we identified a hyena with a snare attached on a camera trap; however, after extensive searches and other efforts, we could not relocate the individual. This highlights the importance of camera trapping work in remote areas and the need to develop infrastructure such as roads. Spoor and direct sightings of hyena have increased.

Elephants have been seen in large numbers with multiple breeding herds moving through the region. Their extensive use of the area is testament to the safety provided by the patrol teams. Cape Buffalo has been seldom seen in this region of the KNP due to high poaching levels in preceding decades. Still, thanks to the use of camera traps, we have identified a moderate-sized herd beginning to establish themselves in the vicinity.

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

The Pandemic has highlighted the importance of protecting nature, wild places and people's livelihoods. This year we have been able to raise over \$300,000USD over a variety of channels from international wildlife organisations, Zambian businesses, philanthropists and fundraising events, we are indeed hugely grateful for this support. The funding received this year has been set forward to achieve the following:

- ◆ Training of 9 Community Scouts under the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)
- ◆ Full time support of 3x Anti-Poaching Teams, Radio Operator, 2 commanders and DNPW driver.
- ◆ Installation of 2 bore holes
- ◆ Acquisition of a light aircraft to assist Anti-Poaching Patrols and aid partner conservation organisations.
- ◆ Acquisition of a Tractor, disc harrow and slasher to assist with road maintenance and fire breaks
- ◆ Acquisition of another deployment vehicle
- ◆ Convert a Land Rover into a fire fighting vehicle with a 10,000l bowser on the back.
- ◆ Construction of an aircraft hangar at Lufupa Airstrip
- ◆ Continue support to the Nalusanga sector of DNPW
- ◆ Appointed a Project Coordinator
- ◆ Appointed a Research Coordinator
- ◆ Appointed a Zambian Intern whom recently graduated, in collaboration with ZCP to assist with research.
- ◆ Employ 6 individuals from the community on full-time contracts.
- ◆ Improve the facilities at the APU, food store room
- ◆ Improve the patrol equipment of Anti-Poaching teams, such as Garmin InReachs, digital cameras, lighter equipment.

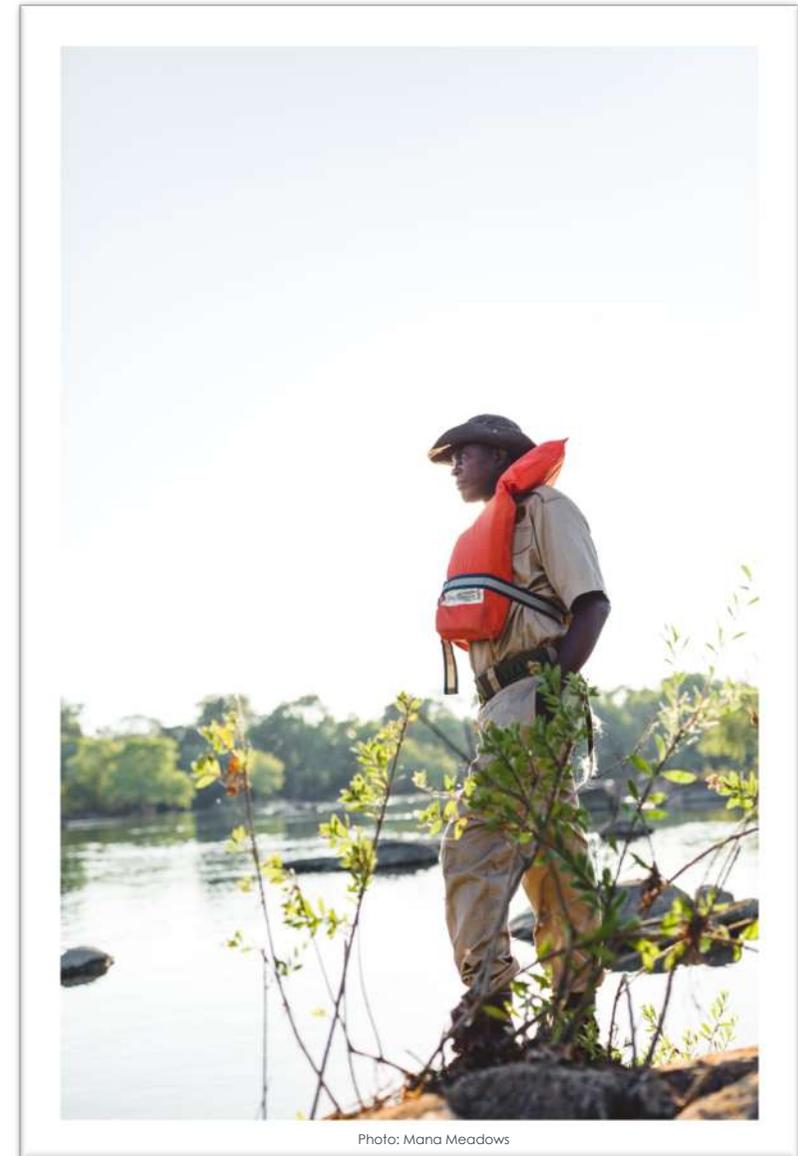
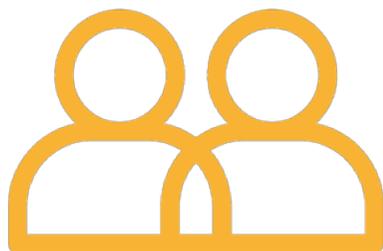


Photo: Mana Meadows

OUR APPROACH



COLLABORATE

The sheer size of Kafue National Park makes it a near impossible task to protect, and it has always been our goal to collaborate with partner organisations that share the same objectives as us. Within the KNP we work alongside Panthera, Zambian Carnivore Programme, Game Rangers International and ByLifeConnected to name but a few.

Successful conservation is a team effort and that expands to partner organisations, and it is undeniable that we complement one another and each bring value to the overall conservation mission.



PROTECT

The area in which MC has been tasked with looking after was identified as 1 of 5 Intensive Protection Zones (IPZ's) by DNPW, and measures some 2,400 square kilometres. The majority of 2020 we had 2 Anti-Poaching teams operating and enabled us to secure approximately 800 sq. km. In November we welcomed our 3rd anti-poaching team. Supporting these teams and their welfare enhances the environmental conservation and directly secures the livelihoods of those individuals and their families.



EMPOWER

Working with the communities for both employment of Scouts and APU staff has a ripple effect within the local communities – many of our team have not previously been employed and it is our ambition to constantly enhance their skill set and their livelihoods. Immersing individuals from the communities within a conservation focused environment has a positive impact in reinforcing the importance of wildlife. This year we welcomed our first female members, 1 radio operator and 2 Field scouts - we are thrilled to be building a more diverse team.



LAW ENFORCEMENT



This has always been the core of our mission; it remains our ambition to support additional Anti-Poaching teams and expand our outreach in securing core areas of the Kafue National Park. The MC APU can hold up to 6 teams of Anti-Poaching teams. The Lion Recovery Fund (LRF) enabled us to train and facilitate the 3rd team this year. LRF also issued funding to acquire a light aircraft for Anti-Poaching patrols; this aircraft will be based at Lufupa airstrip in initial phases. We have constructed an aircraft hangar at Lufupa to accommodate this asset. It remains our ambition to build an airstrip at the MC APU when funding allows us to do so.

We have continued support to DNPW's Nalusanga unit throughout the year financially and with assets, such as a secure container for storage. We will endeavour to continue supporting the Nalusanga unit.

RESEARCH

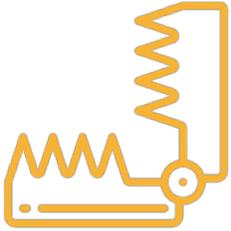


Earlier this year MC was awarded its first research permit, although our principal objectives were unable to be achieved as a result of delays due to COVID. In collaboration with ZCP we also hired a young Zambian intern who recently graduated from the Copperbelt University - we are incredibly pleased to have Ruthon the team. The research being conducted is surrounding the population dynamics of key species within and around the Musekese- Lumbeya region. Fundamentally the research is to establish baseline data; the analysis of trends in this data will enable DNPW in making informed management decisions within law enforcement. With the assistance of JM Safaris and ZCP, MC were able to identify at least 16 different lions recorded in the Musekese-Lumbeya core area, along with at least 18 different leopards and two painted dog packs.





MUSEKESE CONSERVATION WORK SO FAR



137 Snares recovered



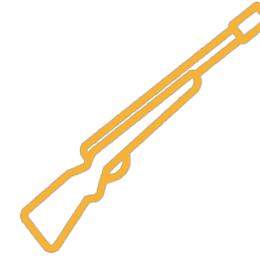
+5000 Patrol Days



61 Poachers arrested



+1500kg Bushmeat recovered



9 Firearms recovered



+7000km on foot



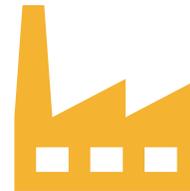
3 Full time Anti-Poaching teams trained and supported



+9000km in Vehicle



+35 individuals directly supported



1 Fully equipped Anti-Poaching Unit



1 Light aircraft



1 Aircraft hangar

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Despite the challenges that 2020 has caused we wanted to share some of our highlights this year.

- ◆ Acquired a light aircraft to introduce aerial support
- ◆ Being involved and a beneficiary to The Wildlife Ranger Challenge, TUSK
 - ◆ Expanded to 3 teams of Anti-Poaching Rangers
 - ◆ Welcomed our first female scouts
 - ◆ Acquired the assets to aid Fire Management in the future
 - ◆ Identify 2 Lionesses who have not been sighted since 2017
- ◆ Deploy satellite tracking collars on a dispersing lion and a newly formed wild dog pack in collaboration with DNPW and ZCP.





THE FUTURE AND THANKS

With the world still very much in limbo as a result of COVID-19 it is difficult to predict what the future holds for conservation in Africa. We however remain committed to our goals of empowering DNPW, building capacity and improving existing operations and have no doubt that we shall be able to do so for many years to come and whilst it is necessary.

Tourism operators that have previously supported us so generously remain committed to continue their support when tourism resumes. This year we have expanded our donor base not only ensuring financial stability with the organisation but endorsing the project even further. We will continue to seek funding to achieve our goals in securing core areas of the Kafue National Park and enhancing the opportunities for tourism and local communities to benefit.

2021 GOALS INCLUDE

- The training and equipping of an additional 2 antipoaching teams
 - Construction and fabrication of a visitors centre
 - Establish a secondary antipoaching outpost
 - Acquire a second, larger patrol boat
 - Improve radio communications across the region
- Increase training opportunities for scouts and general staff alike
- Complete extensive human rights work with patrol teams
- Establish a framework and strategy for community engagement
 - Complete survey work across the region
 - Integrate Earth Ranger system

We cannot thank our supporters enough for all the support and do hope that when travel restrictions lift, we can welcome you to the Kafue!

Please do get in touch with any questions or pledges to katrina@musekeseconservation.com.



OUR SUPPORTERS



Lion Recovery Fund



EMILY LAMB ART



IN COLLABORATION WITH



www.musekeseconservation.com

@musekeseconservation

Katrina@musekeseconservation.com



MUSEKESE
CONSERVATION

