



*Hwange's people and  
wildlife need you now  
more than ever before*

**In and around Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, the drought - compounded by continued economic hardship - is threatening Hwange's livelihoods and wildlife.**

***Despite Covid-19 stalling tourism across the world, Imvelo Safari Lodges perseveres with its conservation and community initiatives during this challenging time.***

Natural surface water is limited in both Hwange and the communities neighbouring the park and rainfall is therefore a lifeline for both people and wildlife. The recent drought, which is going into its second year, has brought few and erratic rains to the area, putting both communities and animals in a precarious situation.

The drought has caused widespread crop failure and poor yields for the local subsistence farmers. They are also starting to lose valuable livestock to starvation and thirst. These isolated communities are therefore dangerously food insecure. These same communities are bearing the brunt of human wildlife conflicts and are on the frontlines in the fight against poaching.

Last year's 2019 drought triggered widespread wildlife deaths from starvation and thirst; a phenomenon expected to occur again this dry season. During dry months, the park's wild animals are known to wander into communal lands in search of water and enter into conflicts with the people living there; during the wet season, elephants get a taste for farmers' crops and raid fields while predators, including lions, hyena, cheetah and wild dogs kill domestic livestock. Not to mention the significant infrastructural damages and occasional attacks on humans. These interactions burden already threatened livelihoods.

In times of crises, people living around the park might turn to poaching for food, money or simply to protect the few crops and domestic livestock they have; poaching incidents and negative attitudes towards wildlife significantly hinder conservation ambitions. In particular cases, villagers might support organised international ivory poaching activities and disregard local anti-poaching efforts.

Hwange is prone to drought and Imvelo Safari Lodges, both by reinvesting much of its tourism revenue and with support from generous guests and donors, continuously sustains water security for the wildlife inside the park and water and food provision for the people living along its boundaries and often alongside its wildlife. Without the generosity of its visiting guests to help maintain these vital activities, Imvelo's efforts are under significant strain; additional funds are urgently required to supplement, expand and increase our ambitions.



**Imvelo will continue:**



To maintain **19 solar hybrid pumps** and pump 16 water pans in and around Hwange.

Our hybrid solar units pump over 750 million litres of water a day to the surface for up to 10,000 elephants and a number of other animals.



To provide maintenance for over **80 domestic water supply units** and strive to solarize as many of these as possible.

These water points provide clean water to thousands of people in our frontline communities south of Hwange.



To aim to provide over **3000 children with school lunches** during the dry months of May to December.

This gives children the energy to walk to school, to learn more effectively, and ensures attendance and the continuity of education.



To deliver food aid to isolated and drought-stricken villages until productive harvests re-establish food security.

Last year, we managed to deliver **two 30 tonne truck loads of maize** to our frontline communities prior to the rains.



To operate the Cobras Community Wildlife Protection Unit, made up of **19 scouts** from the local villages.

The Cobras are also an integral part of a community wildlife sanctuary project; communities have begun setting aside communal land to conserve wildlife outside of the park and on their own lands.



To improve access to healthcare by building infrastructure and by running the annual **Smile and See Safari**.

Over the course of the last 8 years, volunteer dentists and optometrists from Spain and Italy have provided over **27 000 people** with dental and eye care.



**\$1**  
provides lunch to one school child for at least a week



**\$500**  
maintains one community manual water pump during the dry season



**\$2000**  
provides one Community Wildlife Protection scout with high-tech equipment



**\$7000**  
maintains one solar hybrid pump for wildlife during the dry season

**In anticipation of the day when our valued guests return to Hwange, we will continue to support the very people and wildlife that make it such a magical place to visit.**

**CONTRIBUTE**

For more information on the different projects and the costs associated with maintaining our conservation and community efforts please contact: [donors@imvelosafarilodges.com](mailto:donors@imvelosafarilodges.com)