

IMPACT REPORT 2020 OUTLINE

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Matthew Pritchett
(cover)



Introduction

Together with the rest of the world, Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) commenced 2020 eagerly, anticipating the consolidation of positive results from over three years of continued, substantial support to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife's Intelligence and Investigations Units.

WCP had hoped that this would be the year we would be able to start consolidating strategically, moving into a new phase of combatting illegal wildlife in the southern African region. However, by March it was clear that 2020 would not be a normal year. Nonetheless, we are hugely grateful to be able to say that WCP have, with the vital support of our partners and donors, managed to stay the course of this tumultuous period even finding new opportunities to carry out our ongoing commitment to the increasingly important task of combatting this threat to both wildlife and people.

The global pandemic has highlighted the dangers posed by the illegal wildlife trade, not only to biodiversity but also directly to humans, risking exposure to spillovers of new zoonotic diseases, and the role played by conservation organisations such as WCP is being realised as central to our global, healthy and sustainable development.

A close-up photograph of two lion cubs lying on the ground. The cub on the right is slightly behind the one on the left, and both are looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A large, dark brown circular graphic is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing the text 'one Zambia in 2020'.

one

Zambia
in 2020

Covid-19 in Zambia

In 2020, Wildlife Crime Prevention and Zambia, along with the rest of the world, suffered the effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

On 12 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that a novel coronavirus was the cause of a respiratory illness in a cluster of people in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. On 17 March 2020, the Zambian government shut all educational institutions and put in place some restrictions on foreign travel. Zambia reported its first two cases of Covid-19 in Lusaka on 18 March, and its first death on 2 April. By the end of the year, the cumulative number of Covid-19 cases in Zambia was approximated at 20,725 with 388 deaths¹.

The government of Zambia responded quickly with directives of mandatory face mask wearing, hand washing, social distancing and limitations on public gatherings. Whilst there was no official lockdown, schools, non-essential shops and restaurants were closed temporarily between April and May 2020. Smaller airports throughout the country were closed temporarily, with Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, Lusaka remaining open for the very minimal amount of air traffic still coming through Zambia. Road borders remained open throughout the year.

After re-opening most of these services around June, the first wave of cases was seen in July to September 2020 (Zambia's coldest winter season) with the maximum number of new daily cases being recorded at 496 new cases daily on 17 August 2020. However, after this small peak the last quarter of 2020 saw a significant slowing of new cases and it was hoped that Zambia had escaped the global health crisis, somewhat lightly. Sadly, towards the end of 2020, the Christmas and New Year period saw a resurgence in Covid-19 case numbers and associated deaths with a new secondary peak of 337 new daily cases being recorded on Christmas Day 2020 (ramping up to 1,796 new cases a day on 16 January 2021). The South African Covid-19 variant was identified in Zambia in late December 2020, at which time it appeared to be the predominant variant in the country.

The US Embassy declared that



“Available data indicate that Zambia is experiencing a second wave of the pandemic, driven by a highly contagious and potentially more virulent strain of the virus. Cases are rising all over Zambia, and Lusaka is currently one of the hotspots.”

Whilst Emirates and other airlines ceased flying to Zambia, Ethiopian Airlines continued to operate. Proflight Zambia, a domestic carrier, significantly reduced its schedule once more.

Due to global travel restrictions, the Zambian safari tourism industry suffered a severe decline which impacted employment and income in several rural areas proximate to national parks throughout the country. Although some operators have stayed open and focussed on domestic tourism, many remained closed for the whole season and overall revenue (a percentage of which is often used to support conservation efforts) declined significantly. In June 2020, the International Growth Centre², reported that the first three months of 2020 had seen a drop of over 14,000 international visitors to Zambia and that the Zambian tourism industry would suffer a loss in income of USD100 million in 2020. Out of 257 lodges and camps, 165 had closed down already, with over 7,000 jobs likely to be lost. Unfortunately, the 2021 safari season doesn't seem to promise much recovery with global travel still restricted at the time of writing.

¹ Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), Covid-19 update (31 December 2020)

² <https://www.theigc.org/blog/tourism-and-covid-19-in-zambia/>




Overall Impact on Law Enforcement, Prosecutions and Wildlife Crime in 2020

Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)'s Intelligence and Investigations Units operations continued throughout the year, adhering to public health restrictions but maintaining a strong wildlife law enforcement presence nationwide.

Overall, the Zambian courts system has remained operational, although the public gallery has been prohibited and the magistrates' court room access restricted. Other measures such as time limits during some hearings have largely avoided huge case backlogs. Prisons have been closed to visitors since the beginning of the pandemic and recently suffered outbreaks of the virus in inmates.

Zambia's economy in 2020

The country's debt profile has increased in recent years owing to issues predating the pandemic. In November 2020, Zambia became the first African nation in the Covid-19 era to default on a \$42.5 million Eurobond repayment.



Zambia has called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a bailout, and in December 2020, the government put together an Economic Recovery Programme proposal; a decision has yet to be announced.

Zambians will head to the polls for a presidential election in August 2021, with President Edgar Lungu seeking a third term. There are concerns that the impact of any bailout and austerity measures will only be felt after the election, and subsidy cuts and wage freezes may be seen towards the end of 2021.



WCP's Resilience and Adaptability during Covid

During 2020, to protect staff from exposure and infection, the Lusaka office closed and partially re-opened to staggered teams.



With 43 employees in 2020 across the entire country (in Lusaka, Chipata, Mfuwe, Kitwe, Mpika, Chinsali, Livingstone, and Mumbwa), WCP already had a level of remote, online communication and working practices in place. Luckily with this head start, WCP used online project management tools to collaborate on work plans, joint to do lists, timesheets and regular online meetings and discussions keep productivity and progression levels high. Whilst the “new normal” has presented challenges, there have also been opportunities such as more online events and international participation. WCP has continued with its commitment to work tirelessly to prevent wildlife crime, which is crucial at this time, now more than ever.

During this critical period of Covid-19, WCP has not only been concerned with the short-term impacts of the virus but also the long-term impacts on the tourism industry, global economy, funding shortages (for us and our critical partners in protected areas and illegal wildlife trade), job losses and increased poverty across the country, and the increasing and long-term impact on Africa’s natural resources.

Throughout this period a number of key funding organisations have assisted with much-needed short term emergency funding. This support has ensured that WCP were able to maintain and increase current efforts as well as take advantage of law enforcement opportunities. It has also allowed us to extend our collaboration with a number of partner NGOs working in Zambia and regionally, to ensure they could continue to safeguard critical protected areas and wildlife populations.

If anything, Covid-19 has made WCP more resilient and adaptable to changing environments. It has provided opportunities to strengthen our systems, increase our communication, diversify our activities, become innovative in our messaging and build relationships. It has also driven wildlife criminals to be careless and expose their activities while others have been driven (though possibly temporarily) away from wildlife crimes all together.

Going into 2021, WCP remains optimistic about the future having, along with our partners, done all we can in 2020 to ensure the protection of Zambia’s wildlife. We are confident that we have sufficiently maintained our efforts supporting DNPW in combatting the illegal wildlife trade and will continue to be impactful into 2021. We know that now, more than in any other year so far, we are going to have to work hard to achieve the best possible outcomes for wildlife and wild spaces in 2021 and beyond.



From Alexandra Kennaugh,
Head of Wildlife Conservation & Trade at Oak Foundation

In the aftermath of a hurricane where trees, buildings and cars are swept away, it is hard to imagine an animal as small as an ant surviving. However, that's just what fire ants were able to do in the wake of Hurricane Florence. Where a single fire ant would easily drown in the flood waters, the fire ants bunched together in clusters of 100,000 to form "rafts" that float on the water to survive.

Ants use collective intelligence that allows them to solve complex problems such as finding the closest food source, creating complex tunnel systems within their nests and even banding together to create rafts to ensure survival of the colony. Similar to human-designed infrastructure systems, insect systems need to keep working in the face of a multitude of threats including natural disasters, breakdowns in the transportation network, and even outbreaks of disease.

In the natural world there are many species that are able to find broadly-useful solutions to difficult problems allowing them to adapt more readily to changing environments. We can learn valuable lessons in resilient systems from nature as we move forward and adapt for the future.

Like the example of the ant raft, resilient systems continue to function despite challenges and unpredictability so by understanding which resilience attributes of a managed social-ecological system need attention is an important first step towards avoiding undesirable thresholds, absorbing shocks, mitigating disruptions, and managing transitions.

Attributes of resilient systems are peppered in a wide range of scientific literature, from ecology to economics, from psychology to pop culture. In *Resilience Thinking*, Walker and Salt (2006) described a series of key attributes of resilience, including functional diversity, response diversity, modularity, redundancy, tightness of feedbacks, reserves, and collaboration. In *Resilience Thinking*, Walker and Salt developed a framework for assessing general resilience focussed on adaptive capacity, with specific attributes of diversity, openness, reserves, tightness of feedbacks, modularity, leadership, social networks, trust, and levels of capital assets.

Somewhere amidst the tensions between resilience theory and practice are four key insights we should consider most when resourcing the sector in the future, including:

- Stakeholders usually know their systems best. An outsider may offer new ways of examining a system, but self-organising stakeholders will have both the broadest and the most intimate knowledge about that system and are more likely to be affected people who can influence the rules.
- Social capacity, including leadership, social networks, trust, innovation and skills must be there. It is essential to have the ability to motivate, mobilise, and provide direction in response to disruptions, as is an initiative to assume responsibility and act. This leadership style also tilts toward decentralised collective action, includes strong conflict resolution skills and uses graduate sanctions developed by the group.
- Adaptive management (and co-management) actions that build resilience are flexible, open to learning, memory and collaboration, and are often associated with diversity – both functional and response diversity. This also fosters legitimacy.
- The various collectives involved should be building cross-scale linkages and problem-solving networks. These linkages should span scales of governance, build knowledge, orchestrate networks, communicate understanding and reconceptualise issues, reconcile problems, recognise or create windows of opportunity, promote and steward experimentation at smaller scales and promote novelty by combining different networks, experiences and memories.

But after all that, it is the fire ants that show us the real secret to resilience: many weak links are far better than one strong link.



Overall Results by DNPW through WCP Support 2016 – 2020

Results	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
IIUs, RDTs and DDUs supported	12	17	23	26	24	
Arrests	695	1,265	1,266	1,608	1,122	5,956
Ivory seized (kg)	1,932	3,062	2,535	4,366	1,939	13,834
Rhino horns seized	0	0	3	3	8	14
Bushmeat seized (kg)	8,500	5,656	9,504	10,133	8,048	41,841
Pangolins seized	65	70	80	163	162	540
Cat skins seized	39	116	62	159	41	417
Weapons seized	158	390	468	313	187	1,516
Conviction rates in court cases monitored		63%	70%	80%	83%	
Wildlife crime court cases monitored		98	354	770	728	1,950

2020 results



1,122
Suspects arrested

2019: 1,608
2018: 1,266
2017: 1,265
2016: 695



1,939
Ivory seizures

2019: 4,366
2018: 2,535
2017: 3,062
2016: 1,932



8
Rhino horn seizures

2019: 3
2018: 3
2017: 0
2016: 0



8,048
Bushmeat cases

2019: 10,133
2018: 9,504
2017: 5,656
2016: 8,500



187
Firearms seizures

2019: 313
2018: 468
2017: 390
2016: 158



162
Pangolin seizures

2019: 163
2018: 80
2017: 70
2016: 65



41
Cat skins seized

2019: 159
2018: 62
2017: 116
2016: 39





WCP Achievements in 2020

Law Enforcement

WCP's role is to provide support to local authorities and partners involved in combatting illegal wildlife trade, to prevent and disrupt poaching and trafficking of wildlife across Zambia and regionally. This includes building interdiction, investigative and enforcement capacity; disrupting poaching; counter trafficking; supporting the provision of capacity building to address the multifaceted dimensions of poaching and wildlife trafficking; facilitate information sharing networks across borders; as well as addressing challenges around weak and porous borders.

In order to address these multiple challenges, WCP works towards a regional problem-solving approach to reduce crime, with or without arrests, across a larger regional geographic area, collaborating with key partners and stakeholders. These partnerships allow WCP and other organisations to think regionally and act locally. It also works towards bringing together anti-poaching and counter-trafficking efforts to amplify their effects and maximise their ability to disrupt and prevent wildlife crime.

At the beginning of 2020, WCP anticipated a decline or levelling out of poaching and trade across Zambia after three years of intensive support from WCP and partners to a large number of the investigations and intelligence teams, resulting in a high number of arrests and seizures. However, 2020 has seen unprecedented events and challenges which have affected the projected trends. The year started off well with overall arrests, ivory and firearm seizures down. However, there was an indication of increased rhino horn,

bushmeat and pangolin trafficking in the first quarter. During the second quarter the numbers of arrests and seizures slowed down again, likely due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions and lack of public transport such as buses and taxis and increased law enforcement pressure (such as roadblocks).

By the end of the year there had been a significant reduction in trade throughout Zambia. Although all units continued to operate at full capacity, in adherence with Covid-19 restrictions, the overall numbers of illegal wildlife product seizures decreased significantly with the exception of pangolin and rhino horn which remained high. In addition, a shift in the illegal bushmeat trade was reported, with increased levels of subsistence poaching exacerbating an already major commercial trade. A larger number of subsistence level poachers were arrested outside national parks, with smaller seizures of bushmeat (by kg) thought to be intended for consumption at home rather than commercial trade.

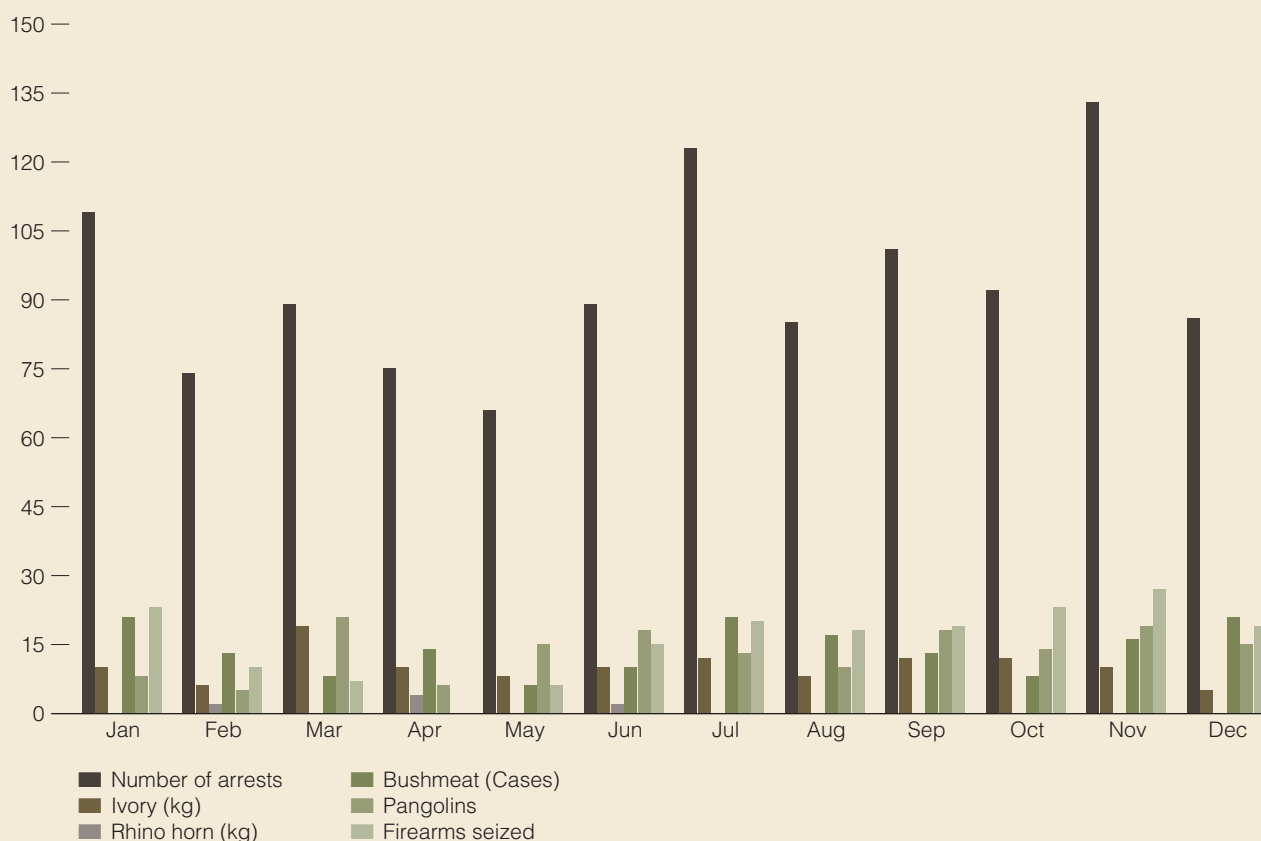


The elephant ivory market seems to have declined considerably, with the local price of ivory remaining consistently low for two years at around \$10-20 per kg, down from \$120 per kg in 2019. However, towards the end of 2020, a small price increase was reported to around \$35 per kg. According to information gathered from the suspects it seemed that the majority of the ivory seized in 2020 originated from Zambia with far less being reported to have been harvested from neighboring countries.



Pangolin cases remained high throughout the year with numbers matching those of 2019 at 162 pangolins seized (both live and dead). However, separate to this, we also saw an increased number of pangolin skins and scales being seized in 2020. Further, after seizure, an increased number of the pangolins were found to be physically compromised. This may be as a result of the traffickers keeping the pangolins in their custody for longer periods of time due to difficulty finding buyers over the Covid-19 period.

WCP supported DNPW seizures 2020



Regardless of the many challenges faced in 2020, the DNPW teams responded to the situation, changing circumstances and uncertainties with relentless dedication.

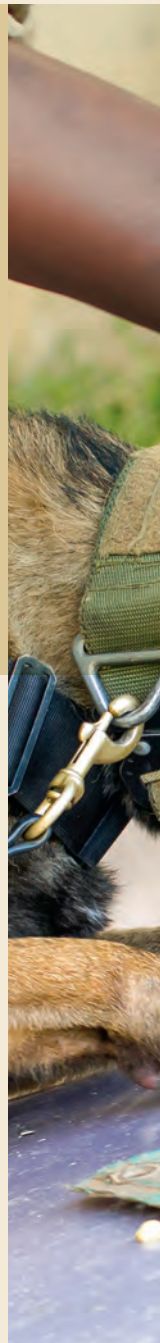
In many regards, the situation around poaching and trade transformed unpredictably with the teams having to adapt accordingly as well as having to manage the various safety issues around Covid-19 for themselves and their families. As always, we are privileged to work with DNPW and sincerely grateful for their efforts and partnership in 2020.



“The bushmeat trade is one of, if not, the most serious threats facing wildlife in Africa today. This issue affects lions in two ways, firstly by causing direct mortality in the snares and traps set for species such as antelopes and buffaloes, and secondly because it results in the loss of the prey base on which they depend. The Lion Recovery Fund is partnering with WCP on various strategic levels to help tackle this issue, via support for campaigns to reduce demand for bushmeat and efforts to disrupt the trade through various forms of anti-trafficking.”



*Dr Peter Lindsey, Director – Lion Recovery Fund,
Wildlife Conservation Network*





To address many of these persistent challenges, WCP is working with partners to develop a number of strategies:

Bushmeat Strategy –

integrating an understanding of, and addressing, the major threat posed by the illegal bushmeat trade to Zambia's biodiversity, across all WCP activities;

Lion Protection Strategy –

improving understanding around demand and markets for lion parts across the region and collaborative, innovative ways in which to improve protection of lions in their natural habitats;

Regional Illegal Wildlife Trade Strategy –

improving collaboration, support and understanding of the illegal wildlife trade continent-wide and internationally to achieve greater disruption;

National Law Enforcement Strategy –

in conjunction with and led by DNPW to ensure a cohesive approach to tackle and disrupt poaching and trade across Zambia.



DNPW Detection Dog Unit

The use of detection dogs in conservation has been proven to increase detection accuracy and decrease search time. It also allows for a wider range of detection as the dogs are trained to detect multiple products from ivory, pangolin, skins, bushmeat to firearms.

Due to this, the DNPW detection dogs have proved to be an important aid in tackling illegal wildlife trade. Much of this is credited to the detection dog handlers and training which is provided throughout the year both in the field and off. All WCP's detection dogs and handlers are accredited by the American Society of Canine Trainers (ASCT) resulting in internationally recognised certification of canines and handlers for 2020 and improved operational standards.

These high standards and collaboration along with information-led policing allow for a formidable team. The DNPW Lusaka Detection Dog Unit achieved 111 arrests and the seizure of 99.5 kgs ivory, 1,543 kgs bushmeat, ten firearms, nine live pangolins (plus two skins) and 307 kgs of illegal fish, in 2020.

The detection dog unit will be key in our new strategy to tackle the illegal bushmeat trade and lion part trade. A large part of the unit's mandate is to ensure the disruption and deterrence of the trafficking routes by working along road networks and at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (Lusaka). It will also provide increased physical presence in Livingstone until we are able to set up a permanent team based in Livingstone to tackle the increased illegal trade across Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Angola.





Regional Coordination

Protecting Africa's biodiversity will require a sustainable, regional response to conservation and environmental challenges. It will also need multi-faceted and interdisciplinary approach to disrupt illegal wildlife trade that builds and leverages relationships, increases data accuracy and availability and builds capacity. To succeed, we need to build resilience and adaptability to changing environments and increasing challenges, slowing biodiversity loss and creating healthier ecosystems.

Conservation efforts are far too often reactionary and addressed at a macro-level. What is needed is collaboration within and beyond wildlife authorities and to support grassroot initiatives that can address the context of a specific problem, taking into consideration the limited resources and mandates for many authorities and conservation NGOs. This conservation approach compels for the building of partnerships with government, civil society organisations and private sector. Considering the impact of wildlife trade over a larger ecosystem/landscape could optimise synergies with other biodiversity-related activities and ultimately better protect wildlife and biodiversity. For example, poaching needs to be addressed alongside habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, poverty,

public health, weak governance, etc. Combining various activities, solutions and partners will help increase the chances of success and sustainability.

To achieve this, WCP has been building relationships, collaborations and providing support to a number of individuals, organisations and government departments in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, Namibia, Tanzania and DRC. These collaborations are developed through a number of projects, including lion conservation, bushmeat trade, wildlife justice interventions and transnational illegal wildlife trade to provide adequate resources and solutions to mandated partners to address illegal wildlife trade.

Wildlife Criminal Justice

The WCP Justice team consists of nine qualified Zambian lawyers (and one in partnership with Conservation Lower Zambezi) based throughout the country in towns of importance in the adjudication of wildlife crime court cases.

These legal assistants play supporting roles liaising between DNPW and the National Prosecution Authority to support effective prosecution.



Throughout 2020, in adherence to Covid-19 protocols, WCP legal assistants have continued to monitor cases through communication with investigators and prosecutors with whom they have good working relationships already. Where possible, pre-trial meetings between investigators and prosecutors have been conducted in safe, open spaces or over the phone to continue to ensure good case building and evidence presentation. Delays in some cases were witnessed in circuit courts where magistrates had to travel to attend, however in general caseloads have continued to be managed well.

In total, in 2020 **728** new wildlife crime court cases throughout Zambia were monitored. Of the monitored cases that concluded in 2020 there were **584** convicted persons (**83%**) of whom 392 were jailed (**78%**). In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, this indicates a successful maintenance of strong adjudication of wildlife crime which continues to be treated seriously by Zambian courts even under current pressures. The conviction rate has increased to above pre-Covid levels and the custodial sentencing rate although not yet back to normal is increasing.



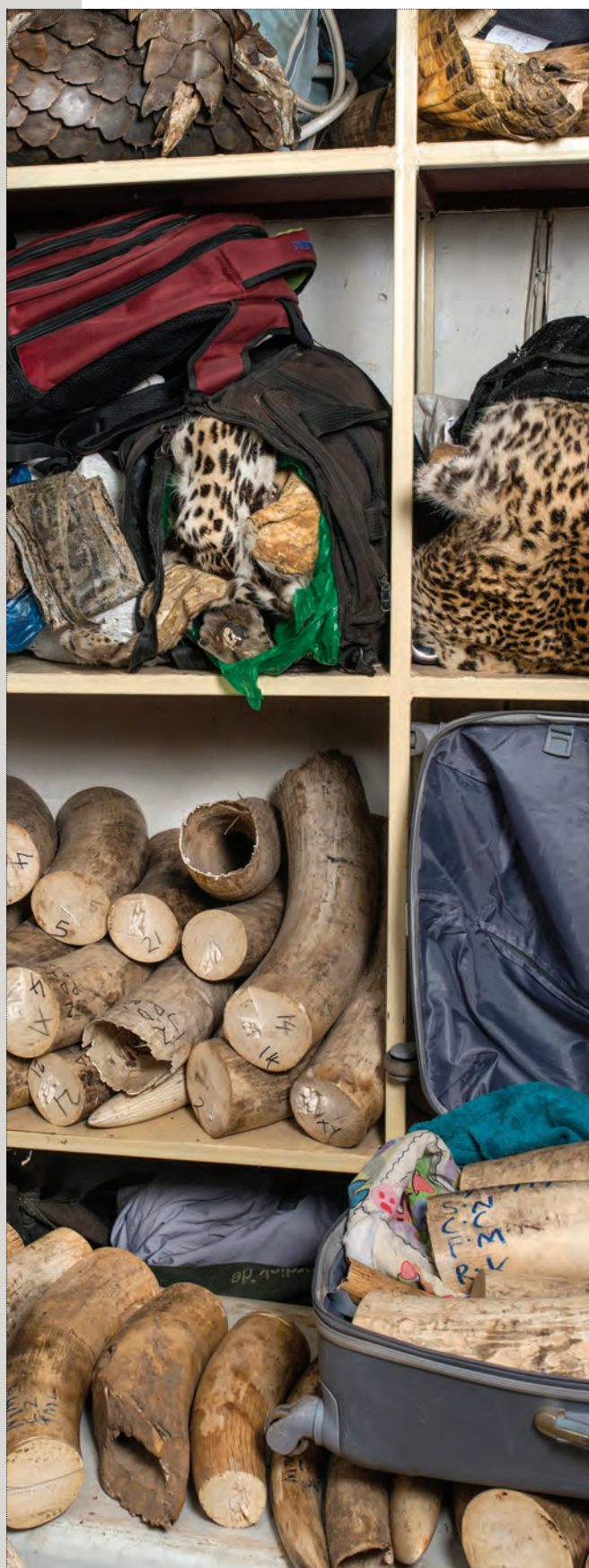
728 new wildlife crime court cases throughout Zambia were monitored

584 convicted persons



392 were jailed

Other Activities with the Judiciary and National Prosecuting Authority in 2020



During 2020, the average custodial sentence **for all wildlife crime offences monitored by WCP** was **26 months (2.2 years)** months (only 1 month less than in 2019) but more specifically high value wildlife product sentences have increased slightly above the minimum which is a positive development:

AVERAGE CUSTODIAL SENTENCE GIVEN IN 2020:



Elephant Ivory

62 months



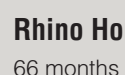
Leopard Skin

62 months



Pangolin

60 months



Rhino Horn

66 months

OTHER ACTIVITIES WITH JUDICIARY AND THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION AUTHORITY IN 2020:

Workshops, training and other large meetings (which include Workshops for the *Rapid Reference Guide* to the Investigation and Prosecution of Wildlife Crime in Zambia and Magistrate Field Visits) were postponed until the third quarter of 2020, conditional on the ability to hold public gatherings safely. However, we successfully conducted most of the planned activities in the latter half of the year with important networks being built and experiences being shared.

IN 2020, THE WILDLIFE JUSTICE TEAM FACILITATED THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:



7 Magistrate Field Visits to National Parks in Zambia:

(Lower Zambezi, South Luangwa (2), Kafue National Park (3), Nsumbu National Park) involving in total:

- 34 magistrates from 16 courts
- 19 prosecutors
- 22 DNPW personnel



15 Workshops across the country using the

Rapid Reference Guide for the Investigations and Prosecutions of Wildlife Crime in Zambia involving:

- 136 DNPW investigators
- 143 prosecutors



Protect the Pangolins

Whilst the first quarter of 2020 saw a 100% increase of confiscated pangolins compared to the first quarter of 2019, the second quarter of 2020 saw a decrease of almost 40% compared to 2019.

However, by the end of 2020 the pangolin seizure figures matched those of 2019 at 162 seized pangolins, despite efforts in both awareness and law enforcement to tackle this growing market. It is believed that there is a large local market for pangolin in Zambia as well as the ever-looming threat of great international markets/demands. In 2020, 54 pangolins were taken to the DNPW Pangolin Rehabilitation Centre because they were either too physically compromised, wounded or too small to be released directly after seizure. Once they were healthy enough, these pangolins were released safely back into national parks where we can be assured of their future protection.

Due to the increasing number of sick or injured pangolins at the rehabilitation centre, WCP employed Dr Suwilanji Sichone, a senior vet from the University of Zambia (UNZA). Dr Suwilanji works in close collaboration with the DNPW veterinary team to treat and evaluate the pangolins before their release back into the wild. A veterinary clinic for the pangolins has also been set up to provide first aid care to sick and injured pangolins, with more advanced care or evaluation conducted at the university.

We would like to thank a number of partners who have helped us to protect and care for Zambia's pangolins. Many thanks to the DNPW Veterinary Department for their partnership and support; UNZA for all their assistance; Niner Juliet Logistics for allowing us to transport the pangolins quickly, with reduced stress, back to the wild via our plane; our protected area partners for support and providing assistance in release and their future security; the Protect the Pangolin team for their 24 hour, 7-day-a-week tireless work to care for the pangolins in the centre and our donors for this project: the Stadler Family Foundation and Woodtiger Fund, the Miller family and additional contributions from Mr and Mrs Young, Susan Allen, Eric Hunter and Wendy Mouritzen.

Awareness

The WCP Awareness Team have continued their efforts to create greater understanding, access and ownership to wildlife issues in Zambia.

In particular, at the beginning of the pandemic the awareness team made a major effort to convey the message about the link between the illegal wildlife trade and Covid-19 to both rural and urban audiences in Zambia through radio. DNPW Senior Veterinary Officer appeared live (with WCP facilitation) on four national and local radio stations discussing the dangers of the illegal wildlife trade (particularly pangolins and bushmeat) encouraging all people to leaving wildlife in the wild. One interview was recorded and re-aired on eight further local radio stations.

Without the ability to conduct large meetings and events, the awareness team have focussed on other media outlets such as radio and social media to disseminate our messages. The various campaigns' social media (This Is Not A Game, Protect The Pangolins, Women for Conservation) are regularly updated, and our following has grown significantly. We have embraced innovative online methods to engage our audiences, such as, FAQ livestreaming sessions, online symposium events and establishing a virtual mentoring concept through our Women for Conservation Programme. WCP are excited about this growth and development in Zambia's media and being an important part of it.

IN 2020, THE WCP AWARENESS TEAM DRAFTED:



46 Press Releases about the successful efforts of the DNPW in wildlife law enforcement and convictions of illegal traffickers and other pertinent wildlife conservation issues.



24 Weekly Daily Nation Articles about general wildlife issues in the region.





Women for Conservation

During the various office closures and restricted social contact, we have all experienced during the pandemic, mental health has become a serious concern for many and support networks such as Women for Conservation can be a lifeline for those feeling particularly isolated.

In 2020, quarterly networking events continued in-person when possible and, remotely when not, with virtual methods being used to continue to support and share news and opportunities with women interested in conservation.



A Walk in The Wild in the Lusaka Forest Reserve, 7 March 2020



W4C Virtual Mentoring Programme Launch 22 June 2020: 12 mentors and mentees paired for online career support.



Coping with COVID: How to work from home Online Webinar, 27 August 2020



Legal Game Meat Braai Lusaka, 11 December 2020

The “Women for Conservation” virtual mentoring programme has received a very positive response so far with 12 mentors committed from across the globe and mentees and mentors, connecting at least once a month.



Conservation Careers Fair 2020

WCP hosted a Virtual Conservation Careers Fair between 5 and 8 October 2020. Event talks and organisation highlights were all streamed on the Conservation Careers Zambia Facebook page, and could be accessed for free during the event, thanks to a partnership with MTN Zambia.

As with previous years the aim was to showcase the wide array of career opportunities available in Zambia and to connect job seekers with employers. Opening remarks were made by Dr Auxilla Ponga, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Arts and Mr Bwalya Nondo, Assistant Director Commercial Services for the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. WCP is hugely appreciative of the government endorsement and support to this positive event.

CONSERVATION CAREERS FAIR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

- 4 days
- 12 Speakers (6 men and 6 women)
- 14,296 total views of speakers on Facebook
- 18 organisations participated in a virtual exhibition
- 1 Feature on the ZNBC national evening news
- Coverage in the national newspaper the *Zambian Daily Nation*.
- 2,347 followers on Facebook
- 295 followers on Instagram
- Launched Conservation Careers Fair, Zambia – Facebook Page.
- Launched Conservation Careers Fair, Zambia – YouTube Channel

In partnership with ARC Zambia, WCP also launched the Conservation Careers Zambia website (www.cczambia.com), the first of its kind in Zambia, as an innovative online resource that provides young Zambian job seekers with information about organisations in Zambia direct links to jobs and training opportunities in conservation. In 2020, despite the obvious challenges, 54 conservation jobs in Zambia were posted on the website.



Airport Training and Awareness

In 2020, WCP planned to focus strategic support, particularly through awareness efforts, on the four international airports in Zambia. However, airport traffic reduced significantly and therefore efforts, although continued, will be refocused more strategically in 2021, when airports reopen fully.

In February 2020, in partnership with Zambia Airports and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), WCP facilitated *Illegal Wildlife Trade Awareness Training* for 54 Airport Security and other personnel, including Zambia Revenue Authority, Immigration, Police, various cargo handlers at Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, Lusaka. In December 2020, another training session was conducted at Harry Mwanga Nkumbula Airport, Livingstone for 52 participants.

THE TRAINING ADDRESSED:



Understanding the impact and threats posed by the illegal wildlife trade to Zambia and the aviation industry.



How to recognise and report wildlife trafficking being conducted at the airport.

Participants learnt about the trail of the trafficker through the airport and the opportunities for detection and interception, such as passenger check-in, hand baggage check and scan, ground staff baggage control and scanned baggage amongst. Common smuggling techniques discussed included being hidden under clothing, for example, ivory in a vest, or being disguised by being covered in boot polish, wrapped in foil or even as chocolate bars! These training sessions will be continued in other international airports in Zambia as they reopen in 2021.



Zambian Media Engagement with Wildlife Issues

As the media plays an increasing role in public understanding and engagement in wildlife issues, WCP has focussed on building strategic relationships with the media to support their reporting of wildlife issues to the general public.

Although meetings and in-person engagement was limited in 2020, online methods were used to progress this activity and there was one socially-distanced visit to a National Park:



1-hour online webinar via Zoom on 12 August to share information on the illegal wildlife trade in Zambia with local journalists. Ten journalists from various media houses in Eastern Province joined the webinar.



Eight journalists and the Public Relations Officer for the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, Mr Sakabilo Kalembwe: **3-day visit of South Luangwa National Park** from 30 October 2020. The visit provided a better understanding of the key conservation challenges and efforts in the area. The visit linked journalists to key conservation organisations in the area including the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to engage more reporting of wildlife and conservation issues.



WCP has produced a **Media Kit for Wildlife Crime Prevention** to assist Zambian journalists in reporting wildlife crime issues which has been shared with a larger database of media partners.

Acknowledgements

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