



Hwange Against All Odds – A Moving Story of Staying Power

Reproduced with kind permission, we are proud to share a wonderfully inspiring guest blog about Hwange, written by Kate Collins of Tasimba's operating partner, Wilderness Safaris.

In 2000, and for at least another decade, [Zimbabwe](#) took a hit on many fronts – political unrest, social upheaval, hyperinflation and virtual economic collapse. This was the start of a downward spiral that saw tourism in the country do a somersault as visitors began to dwindle and, as a result, many tourism businesses leave or close down, unable to justify the losses they were making. It was a hard time to stay in a country that had so little going for it – the silver lining was no longer apparent and getting people to visit was now a near-insurmountable task.

At Wilderness Safaris we suffered the same financial impact, but despite this we refused to give in, and we refused to renege on our investment in the day-to-day operations such as game water provision, firebreak maintenance, anti-poaching, community engagement – and just the simple matter of our presence on the ground.

To quote Tom Petty's song, 'I won't back down,' this is exactly how we felt about our beloved Zimbabwe and we have never backed down. Today we continue to run our [Zimbabwe camps](#) as we always have – with the utmost care and dedication to each and every one of our conservation operations.



*The following videos show just a few of the projects we have worked on in our camps in [Hwange](#) – the first of which is a video of the wonderful work being done by the [Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit](#). The Scorpion Anti-Poaching Unit was recently shortlisted in the [We Are Africa Innovation Awards](#). **In Harmony with Nature – The Scorpions Anti-Poaching Unit, Hwange National Park:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JO3GGZZ5IU>*

Our second video looks at our involvement in the communities of Hwange National Park and the role we have played in changing lives through our programmes – one of which is [Children in the Wilderness](#) which has reached out and helped improve the lives of many young children in the area.

“Tourism is not Tourism” – Wilderness Safaris, Children in the Wilderness and Hwange Community: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TcpFhhknJbq>

Another project that we are very proud to support – ‘The Beating Heart of Hwange - Elephants, Water and Conservation’ – showcases the importance of our 14 Hwange National Park [boreholes](#). We monitor the ecological implications of water provision through ground water measurement and regular game counts (species diversity and numbers) at the pans, and manage a long-running movement study of Hwange elephants to examine the relationship between this keystone species and water.

“The Beating Heart of Hwange” – Elephants, Water and Conservation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4n3xr11APk>

Why do we believe?

- We employ more than 100 local community members in our camps, and they support another 700 dependents.
- Our Children in the Wilderness programme runs Eco-Clubs, nutritional programmes for learners, school rehabilitation projects and more in villages like Ngamo, Ziga and Mpindo.
- Our anti-poaching operations remove fewer and fewer snares each year - demonstrating improvement in local conditions.
- All large mammal species in the area have increased over the past 16 years, even rare antelope such as roan, sable and eland, and predators like lion.
- The last six years have seen zebra, elephant and buffalo population increases at compound annual growth rates of 16%, 21% and 24% respectively.

- Kate Collins



We proudly share Kate’s blog post with you because it powerfully illustrates some of the many reasons why Tasimba chooses to partner with Wilderness Safaris and Children in the Wilderness. Together our partnership creates a [safari experience](#) like no other, that delights our guests while giving back to the community and conserving this vast, beautiful wilderness for generations to come. Our next safari is two months away from October 29th to November 5th, 2017. We have one luxurious room left, available for you to join a wonderful group of guests – there’s still time! Call now!

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