
GAME RANGERS

INTERNATIONAL



BUSH TELEGRAPH

VOL. 9
OCTOBER 2023



#WeAreAllRangers

Table of
CONTENTS

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE	03
10-MONTH OLD ORPHANED ELEPHANT RESCUED	05
PREPARING PRIMATES FOR RELEASE	06
MABULA'S RESCUE	07
GRI HEIGHTENS COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN RUFUNSA GMA	09
BIRD-THEMED DISCOVERY DAY	10
THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLARED ELEPHANTS	11
WORLD RANGER DAY	13
NOTABLE OPERATIONS	14
PARTNERS	15



Above: Large pack of African Wild (painted) Dogs seen by Volunteers in October in the Kafue National Park - Photo credit Jennifer Fought

Front Cover: Chikumbi and Mataya in Lusaka National Park

Page 3: Marine Unit on patrol

Page 4: Chrispine Tembo, Community Outreach Ranger, conducts a conservation radio show

Back Page: Release elephants spend their days in the Kafue wilderness

EMPOWERING RANGERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CONSERVE NATURE



INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE

By Jonathan Churcher

Empowering Rangers isn't simply about supporting them in the field with better training, equipment; it is about understanding the journey they go on as people, as members of a family and a community. This includes celebrating their successes and remembering those who sadly aren't with us today.

That is why, this year we collaborated with DNPW, IFAW and Thin Green Line Foundation to support World Ranger Day. It is essential that we show our respect and our appreciation to these amazing people who do so much for us. This year, for the first time, at the National Ranger Memorial, we celebrated and remembered all Rangers, with over 200 of their colleagues and members of their families.

Rangers aren't just on the front line, they are everywhere, as you will see in this issue. From rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing elephants and primates back into the wild; to educating the next generation of future Rangers and decision makers. It has also been a landmark moment in the journey of GRI as we welcome the Zambian Primate Project into our team, helping them grow to rescue and release captive primates from the pet and bushmeat trade.

Each Ranger's journey is different, as such our support must be tailored to make sure we see the impact and feel the positive change that they can make. We stand with these Rangers, with every step they take, whatever their role and wherever they are working.



Jonathan Churcher

GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL



WILDLIFE RESCUE PROGRAMME

RESCUE
REHABILITATE
RELEASE



Bupe being kept at Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust upon rescue

10-MONTH ORPHANED ELEPHANT RESCUED

BUPE

On the 10th October, our partners at Department of National Parks & Wildlife, Conservation South Luangwa - (CSL), and Lion Camp Zambia rescued an elephant calf who had been reported alone for at least five days. Upon rescue, the orphan elephant was taken to Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust (CWET) as our experienced keeper Matthews was transported to the scene.

He starting to bond with Matthews almost immediately, comfort suckling his fingers, and within two days Matthews was able to move safely inside the enclosure with him to provide feeds and comfort (whilst Bupe was small he was still over 100kg and strong enough to injure someone in his confusion, even if they are trying to help him). However after a week in care little Bupe was recovering very nicely thanks to the around-the-clock care from Keeper Matthews and our friends at CWET in Mfuwe.

Bupe had been away from his mother for at least 5 days, and as a milk dependent calf the loss of condition was evidenced in his sunken face. He was rescued with multiple wounds from the dense thorny thickets in which he was hiding. Without good nutrition and with the stress of losing his mother, his immune system was compromised, and his wounds became very infected. However, Bupe responded well to the milk formula and tolerated intensive wound management which enabled a fairly rapid recovery.

Bupe was stabilised and prepared for relocation to the Elephant Nursery where he was transferred to become part of a new family who will help him recover from his traumas and together, they will take their next steps towards a life back in the wild where they belong.

“**He is getting better and better every day, the swollen leg is gradually healing, and you can see the difference from the way it was when he came, and the way it is now. I'm happy to say that his body condition is really changing and very encouraging.**” Reported Keeper Matthews.



Bupe found alone by guests at Lion Camp Zambia



Keeper Matthews provides much needed love and care to little Bupe



Bupe flies to Lusaka Elephant Nursery thanks to Pro-Charter



The Veterinary team conducts pre-release screening on the monkey

PREPARING PRIMATES FOR RELEASE

COLLARING OPERATION

Each year as the rains set in and natural resources become plentiful, we aim to release primates who have been through rehabilitation back into the wild. In anticipation of this year's release our team at the Primate Transit Home, Kafue National Park have been busy with all preparations.

After carefully selecting a new release site, that does not overlap with previous years releases (as each primate troop requires its own territory) a temporary holding enclosure was constructed - this ensures the troop can settle into the new environment gradually and not get scared.

We carried out a pre-release health screening on the group of 27 vervet monkeys to affirm their well-being and suitability for reintroduction into the wild (to ensure that they do not harbour any diseases that could pose a risk to wild populations, such as tuberculosis). The screening was expertly executed in collaboration with University of Zambia (UNZA) School of Veterinary Sciences and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). Dr. Mudenda, the Senior UNZA Veterinarian overseeing the operation, emphasised "Pre-release tests are crucial at this stage to ensure that we are releasing healthy primates. This helps us prevent and mitigate the risk of transmitting infectious diseases to other animals through interactions." We are pleased to report that after laboratory analysis of samples taken, all 27 monkeys were given the green light for release this year."

Whilst the monkeys were under anaesthesia, Zambia primate Project (ZPP) Project Manager, Cosmas Mumba, took advantage of this opportunity to fit 5 troop members with lightweight radio collars. Cosmas explained "Collaring the vervet monkeys before release is an important activity. It helps us track and monitor their movements, the areas they frequent, the vegetation in these spaces, and provides us with valuable data to improve future releases. Our goal is to monitor them daily for one year after release to ensure their successful integration back in the wild".



The ZPP and UNZA teams ensure the primates are healthy before releasing them



This Vervet Monkey is fitted with a Very High Frequency radio collar



Tiny Mabula gets the vital nourishment and love he needs to survive

MABULA'S RESCUE

ZAMBIAN PRIMATE PROJECT

On 18th September we were contacted by friend and previous Zambia Primate Project (ZPP) CEO, Sara Ortin, who had received intelligence of this tiny Vervet Monkey. He was in very poor condition and was reported as being used "as a ball" in a village in Mpongwe.

Sara was based much closer to him at Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage (300km vs 500km from the Primate Transit Home, PTH) and with ZPP funding she was able to conduct the rescue on our behalf with the assistance of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and agreed to initially support him as a surrogate mother, with Chimfushi's aid. At such a young age Mabula required around-the-clock contact and feeds.

With the love and attention he was provided, little Mabula (meaning Flowers) has made a dramatic recovery. In the absence of his mother his soft snuggle blankets are now a huge comfort to him. He was transferred to ZPP in early October and we have since introduced him to other orphaned Vervets at the Primate Nursery where he is now receiving the social interaction he also needs.



Mabula in a sad state at point of rescue



Mabula with ZPP Support Manager, Caribou



1-week old Mabula



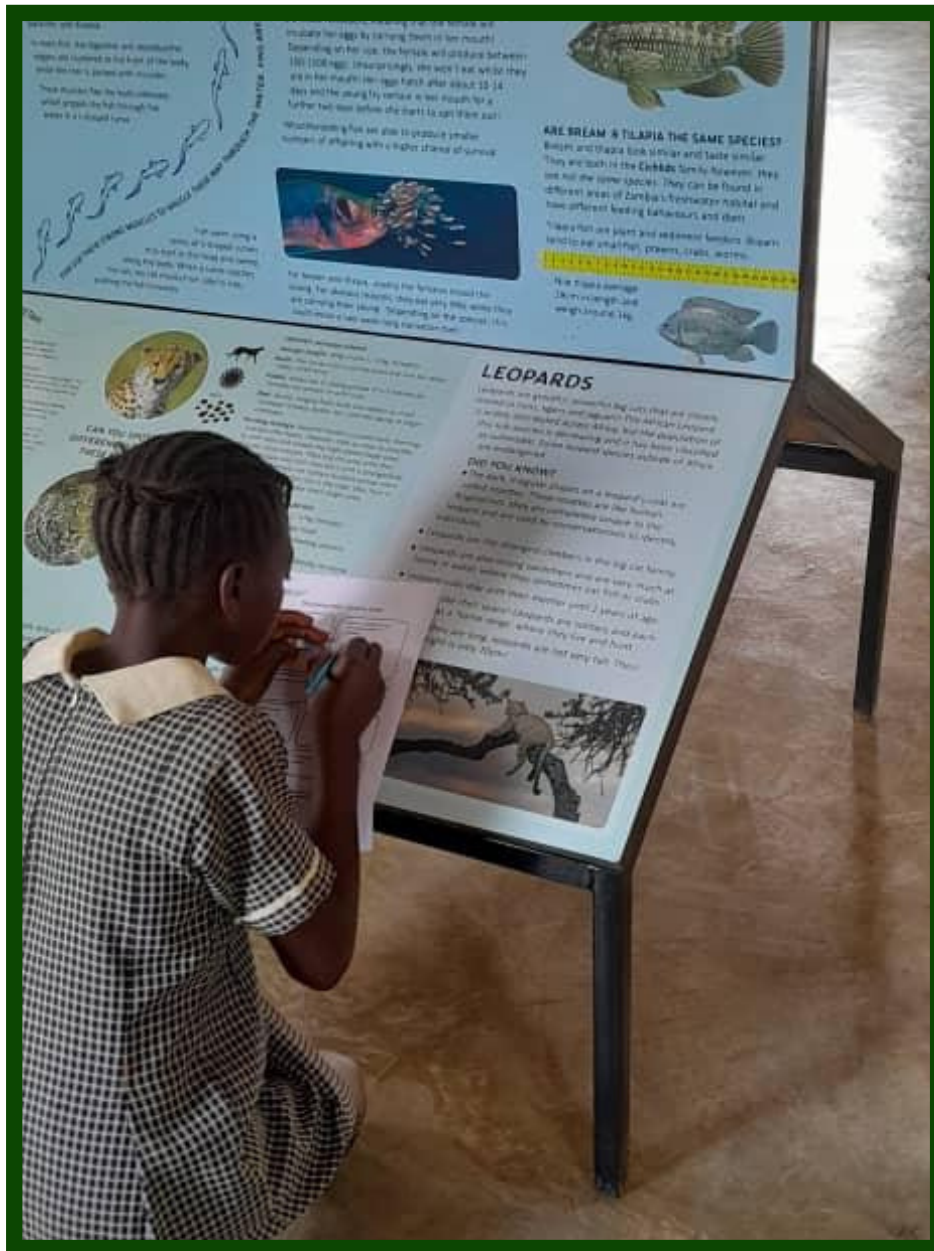
Mabula with his new friends, Bobu and James



Mabula shows Bobu and James how to jump!

GAME RANGERS

INTERNATIONAL



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

ENGAGE
EDUCATE
EMPOWER



Children from State Lodge Primary School receive a lesson on Zambian birdlife

BIRD-THEMED DISCOVERY DAY

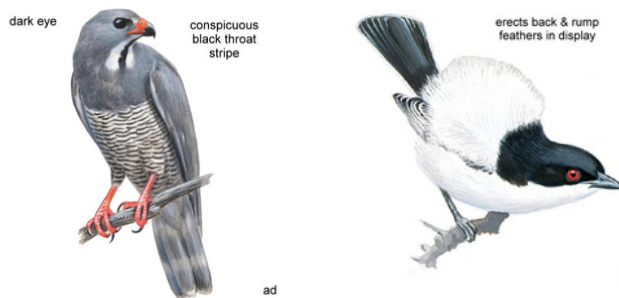
WILDLIFE DISCOVERY CENTRE



Students from State Lodge Primary School go on a bird-watching walk in Lusaka National park

In September, we collaborated with BirdWatch Zambia to deliver a special bird-themed Discovery Day for State Lodge; A Primary School. Students spotted the following birds during their experience:

- Tropical Boubou
- Mourning Collard Dove
- Tawny-flanked Prinia
- Fork-tailed Drongo
- Dark-capped Bulbul
- Red-faced Mousebird
- Namaqua Dove
- White-bellied Sunbird
- Blue Waxbill
- Village Weaver
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird
- Little Bee-eater
- Lizard Buzzard
- Black-backed Puffback.



Lizard Buzzard (l) and Black-backed Puffback (r)
Identification images taken from the Roberts Bird Guide 2 iap.

Since launching our Discovery Days on the 15th of September 2022, 1,764 children have enjoyed our 'Habitats and Adaptation Educational Experience'. This quarter, we introduced two new Discovery Day experiences, 'Primate Day' for Reception to Grade 2 students and 'Ecosystems and Food Chains' for Grades 6 to 8.



Batoka in Lusaka National Park

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLARED ELEPHANTS

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT MITIGATION

As the number of collared elephants traversing Kafue National Park increases we began raising awareness of the importance of these elephants and the need to treat them like any other wild animal.

180 community members attended a meeting at Musungwa School in September. Participants were taught to identify signs that elephants are uncomfortable in their presence and how to behave if they encounter a wild animal. GRI's Research Department provided valuable guidance and visual aids.



About

Batoka is one of the orphaned elephants who has been released from Game Rangers International's Kafue Release facility back into the wild.

The bull elephant has been spotted regularly in Nkala GMA near Musungwa Lodge, GRI field HQ Musa, and other surrounding areas in the community.

As GRI we would like to inform the community that the bull elephant in particular must be treated the same as other elephants in the area. Here is what to do when you encounter Batoka:



Driving

Give the elephant right to passage and let him cross.



Walking

Slowly back away and give the bull space.



Encounter

Do not approach.

For queries
Email: info@gamerangersinternational.org
Website: www.gamerangersinternational.org



Brian Bulongo delivers Collaring Awareness to students and parents of Musungwa School

Poster showing what to do if one comes in contact with a collared elephant.

GAME RANGERS

INTERNATIONAL



RESOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAMME

STOP
SECURE
SAVE



Mr. Johns Masonde - Acting Director of Conservation Management at the Department of National Parks placed a wreath in memory of Fallen Rangers

WORLD RANGER DAY

REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION

On World Ranger Day 2023, a ceremony was held in Lusaka National Park of remembrance and celebration for the vital work done by Wildlife Rangers. Officers from Units across Zambia from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife attended the official ceremony, where they paid tribute to their fallen comrades and remembered their sacrifice.

“ — **GRI Chief Executive Officer, Jonathan Churcher said,**
“Today we remember the fallen Rangers who aren’t with us and aren’t able to celebrate their day. We are delighted that so many Rangers could join us at the National Ranger Memorial in Lusaka Park to pay their respects. This day reminds us all of the commitment and sacrifices, that every Ranger makes in protecting our wildlife and wild spaces.” — **”**





Recovery of hippo meat in July by Ngabwe APU and the suspects apprehended for its possession

NOTEABLE OPERATIONS

APPREHENSIONS AND CONFISCATIONS

In July, Ngabwe teams conducted a highly successful operation along the Kafue River which resulted in the apprehension of 2 suspects in the possessions of 221kg of dried hippo meat, follow-ups are now underway to trace all hunters involved. Also in July, Mujimanzovu (MMZ) teams apprehended 1 suspect in possession of 3kg baboon meat, 1 firearm, 4 ammunition and 2 axes. Meanwhile, teams in Rufunsa Game Management Area (RGMA) successfully recovered a high powered MLG rifle, ammunition and 2 wire snares. Investigations were underway to trace the origins of the firearm and ammunition.

In September, Ngabwe teams apprehended 1 suspect in possession of 70kg of warthog and reedbuck meat, 51 wire snares and 2 bicycles. During the same period, Ngabwe teams recovered a further 102kg of bushmeat and apprehended 1 suspect.

The Special Intelligence Unit (SIU) and Special Anti-Poaching Units (SAPU) followed local intelligence to apprehend a suspect in the Itezhi-Tezhi area for the unlawful possession of a pair of ivory. The suspect had been in search of a buyer. Such a recovery removes ivory from the market and will act as a deterrent to others.

PROSECUTIONS

The suspects apprehended in July for possession of a live pangolin by SAPU teams have since all been convicted and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment and their vehicle forfeited to the state. Meanwhile the suspects apprehended by Ngabwe and MMZ teams in July were sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.

A sentence of 5 years imprisonment was also handed down to the suspect found in possession of a pair of ivory in September.

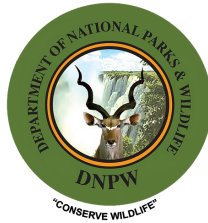


Suspect apprehended by SAPU for possession of ivory



*Suspect apprehended by MMZ APU in July (left)
Suspect apprehended by Ngabwe APU in September for unlawful possession of bushmeat (right)*

GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS





WWW.GAMERANGERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG



Game Rangers International is a Registered Non-Governmental Organisation in Zambia. Cert. No. RNGO 101/0185/2014
Game Rangers International is a Registered UK Charity. Number SCO52359
info@gamerangersinternational.org