

WPP&CR NEWSLETTER – 1 OF 2018



BEST WISHES FOR 2018 – FROM TIM SNOW

We would still like to wish all our friends, associates and supporters everything of the best for 2018. I say we, because this skinny NGO consists of myself as director/trainer/mechanic/bookkeeper; and Margaret Roestorf as fundraiser. We have two part-time staff to clean and do odd jobs from time to time, so we are really lean. It is unpleasant to constantly speak of money and fundraising, but we feel that it's important for you, as our supporters, to know that we are dependent on your goodwill and support. We give the assurance that we will do what we say; and we will disclose our annual financial statements to anyone who needs to know, or wants to be assured of our frugal fiscal operations. There are no frills or five-star hotels here!



The reason for including this picture of the cheetah and the speed limit, is to suggest we should not impose restrictions on our dreams, our potential or on what we can achieve! Let's face 2018 and the challenges it presents head-on. I am sure if our past track record is anything to go by, then even though we may walk through a few storms and face a few adversities; we are going to succeed despite all odds! We believe that everything will work out.

I encourage all to have a look at Dan Pallotta's TED talk "[The way we think about charity is dead wrong](#)" because it's certainly had an effect on my views. He questions our belief systems and how we think about the functions and support systems around non-profit ventures and our societal role, and reveals how people generally perceive the non-profit sector with the sometimes demoralising fundraising wall that we are up against.

POISONINGS (QUOTES AND FACTS FROM THE FIELD)

A small positive note! Elephant poisoning is down in Zimbabwe: during 2015, 76 elephants were poisoned using cyanide. In January 2016, the Zimbabwe Republic Police confiscated about 100 kilograms of cyanide in roadblocks in western Zimbabwe, near Hwangwe National Park. This led them to a warehouse in Bulawayo, where a further 5,900 kilograms of cyanide were found and confiscated. In 2016, only 14 elephants were poisoned. In 2017, this number decreased to 11. By eliminating the source, and through team work and collaboration, we have minimised the problem! It is pleasing to note that our training brings rangers, police and prosecutors under one roof to address a common problem and it seems to be working!



We find it enigmatic that the South African Department of Environment Affairs are in support of the export of 800 lion carcasses per annum, because we often receive reports of lion poisonings. From 31 July 2015 to 31 July 2016, 54 lions were reported poisoned. How many went unreported? In January 2017, we heard of six lions poisoned at The Ranch, near Polokwane in Limpopo province, South Africa. On-going poisoning reports indicate that mutilation of the carcasses is happening, and we believe the body parts are destined for muti, or Asian traditional medicine markets, where lion parts are substituting tiger parts that are so scarce they have become almost unobtainable. What will happen if lions become extinct? What will the emerging Chinese middle class use to appease their insatiable appetite for exotic wildlife “remedies”?

Other organisations continue with some training on poison prevention, but we have no control over the standard or pedagogical quality. We have Trade Mark copyright on our logo and our training manuals carry a Copyright page in order to maintain the integrity of our training.

During 2005, I established a National Chemical Crime Management Forum. Of course, this was a slog; bringing State regulatory and enforcement agencies, NGO's and the Chemical industry role-players together in an attempt to collaborate towards solutions to poisoning issues. As a member of the UNEP - Convention for Migratory Species, Minimising Poisoning Working Group, I attended a triennial meeting in Spain during February 2017, where I intended to seek support to re-establish a similar forum. With hindsight this was not the right forum as most participants are NGO's themselves and many of the potential role players were not involved. This meeting seeks to address, particularly, the ongoing poisoning of migratory birds; I believe our ranger training in southern and East Africa aligns well with this. We also continued collaborative work towards the objectives of IUCN Resolution towards minimizing poisoning (World Conservation Congress-2016-Resolution-078 entitled Supporting implementation of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the African Agenda).



On a positive note, at the UNEP-CMS meeting I was astounded when Prof. Ahmad Mahdavi of the University of Tehran stated:

“Wildlife Poisoning Prevention and Conflict Resolution”, an NGO from South Africa that is making a big difference to counter poisoning of wildlife, and is showing an example for others to follow.”

He said many wildlife toxicologists talk about the problem of wildlife poisoning, but very few actually do anything about it. He was quite taken aback when I introduced myself to him. A second positive was my meeting with Ambassador Smuts Ngonyama at his home in Madrid. How this meeting came about is a long story, but the point is that we were entertained in his home and had the opportunity to showcase our work in the international arena.

TRAINING TRIPS 2017

During 2017, Tim travelled to various venues in Botswana, with support from Birdlife Botswana, to whom we are most grateful for their support, and also within South Africa.

So many people speak with envy about this travel, and, yes, it is nice to see places and wildlife and to meet people, but travelling around southern Africa is not a walk in the park, especially when one goes off the beaten track. The worst roads encountered were in south-western Zimbabwe, where the bush bar of Tim's bakkie fell off and had to be fastened with wire until Digby Bristow at Sentinel Eco Safaris supplied bolts to do a better repair! During October, the vehicle overheated without warning, causing extensive (and expensive!!) damage to the engine and to Tim's finances, and this left the NGO without any transport for nine weeks. We are grateful for all the lifts and car loans during this time!



During these trips, we increased our total number of trainees for the project to 264 rangers/police/prosecutors and we are sincerely grateful to all our friends in those areas who believe in what we are trying to achieve, and who sacrificed their time and effort to make our training ventures work. Our annual goal is 100 trainees, so again we had to reprint training notes mid-year (thanks to The Rufford Foundation) and make up more forensic/toxicology sampling kits (thanks to Mohammed Bin Zaid Species Conservation Fund). We also had SeaWorld and Busch

Gardens Conservation Fund and Columbus Zoo come on board as donors. This saved our bacon as we stretched our frugal budget to the limits! Overhead costs like staff, internet, power and security remain a challenge for us.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Keeping up with our own achievements will be difficult, but we are going to try! Our target for 2018 is to cross the 400 number of phase 1 and phase 2 trainees, which will place us 30% ahead of our targeted goal. We have achieved this by longer trips and back-to-back training. We have a few funding proposals out for consideration and we are hopeful that following our track record, we will be successful. There is demand for our training and we do need to extend our reach, but we remain fully reliant on donors and sponsors to enable our project to reach full potential.

We are confident that our fundraising effort will surprise us pleasantly and push up our financial viability and sustainability. Another supporter who we hope to get on line and functional during 2018, is Bain Coffee, who has suggested support of a project vehicle and other possibilities and this would most certainly help us to meet many sustainability dreams. One of our greatest challenges is keeping our overheads, like salaries and office costs low, because many funders have a mind-set against project support, without realising that every project needs people, equipment, running costs and support costs to make it work. I believe that we need corporate social responsibility donations towards the function of the NGO and its projects, as a percentage of annual sales or profits, because such “unallocated funds” are what will help us grow, expand our goals and our reach and become sustainable. Supporters should not think that we are seeking to become frivolous and lavish! On the contrary, we will remain frugal and achieve as much “bang for buck” as we can, but realistically, we really do need to pay power bills, fix vehicles and pay fund raisers, book keepers and field workers for what they do, and we all need to put food on the table!

So, having got that ugly subject out and off my chest, our plans for 2018 are as follows:

Chosen locations correlate to areas where poisonings occur. Our locations include current hot spots and our programme may change if new poisoning events dictate.

► TRIP 1:

- **Mozambique/Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area** (25 Phase 2 trainees),
- **Kruger National Park SA** (25 Phase 2 trainees), and
- **Mapungubwe Transfrontier Park at Sentinel Eco Safaris, Zimbabwe** (Phase 2 and Phase 1 – total 25 trainees).

► TRIP 2:

- **Botswana:**
 - **Khutse** (25 Phase 1 trainees, using Birdlife Botswana and Raptors Botswana to assist with venues),
 - **Ghanzi** (25 Phase 1 trainees) (use Birdlife Botswana and Raptors Botswana to assist with venues),
 - **Maun** (25 Phase 2 trainees) (use Birdlife Botswana and Raptors Botswana to assist with venues),
 - **Shakawe – Bwabwata Game Reserve** (25 Phase 1 trainees at Bwabwata GR),
- **Northern Namibia (Caprivi):**
 - **Shamvura Camp** on the Kavango River, 150km west of Skakakwe near Rundu (25 Phase 1 and Phase 2 trainees)
- **Zimbabwe:**
 - **Victoria Falls or Kariba** (25 Phase 1 trainees - work with Victoria Falls Conservation Trust and Kariba Conservation Trust),

- **KASA Kavango area** - Namibia/Botswana/Zimbabwe/Zambia/Angola (Peace Parks Foundation) (Planning required for 25 Phase 1 trainees), and
- **Gonorezhou** - eastern Zimbabwe, (25 Phase 2 trainees, work with Frankfurt Zoological Society).
- If we obtain enough funding to achieve this, we will achieve the project goal 2 years ahead of schedule; and be able to expand the overall goal.

NEWS ABOUT WPP&CR

In early 2016, Margaret Roestorf and Tim Snow discussed our “baboon logo” and concluded that it was not a positive image and didn’t portray a positive message. Tim set about finding a more appropriate logo and on a decision of the Board of Directors during their June Skype meeting, we went ahead to seek legal trademarking, having done that we engaged Nini van der Walt to do some graphic design and artwork for decals, car decals etc. I am sure all will agree that the new logo is much more dynamic and representative of what we do, and it is now registered as a legal trade mark internationally. As stated before, because of training being done by another NGO, we have considered it necessary to include a Notice of Copyright in our training manuals.



HOW TO SUPPORT WPP&CR

We have been trying to get public support for our activities, primarily through Facebook and through our website <http://www.wildlifepoisoningprevention.co.za>. We have had varied success, but some posts have been viewed thousands of times and a post about lion poisonings passed 73 000 views and 14 000 interactions! Despite both the website and the Facebook page having prominent “Donate” buttons and opportunities, donations from these sources are miniscule, with Tim and Margaret still the major donors during the set-up process. An individual donor from New York donated a total of US \$ 500 during 2017 and has challenged others to beat that. If you are not a “friend” or follower, I encourage you to access the website and follow the links, and should you wish to donate, all information required can be found there. As reminder, WPPCR is a registered Public Benefit Organisation, so donations in South Africa are tax deductible in the hands of the donor, with a Section 18 A receipt, (which we will issue) in terms of the SARS Income Tax legislation.

THANKS TO SPONSORS

We are sincerely grateful to our donors and sponsors for their support. Without them, we could not achieve what we do.

We are grateful to Cindy Powell, an artist who sold a painting and donated the proceeds to us. The buyer, Kumbaya Home Decor at Hoedspruit, Mpumalanga, agreed to do the same, and surprised us with a Christmas announcement that the painting has been sold again, to our benefit. Thank you! We received a total of R 19 340 from this donation! Sincere thanks to Cindy Powell and Kumbaya Home Decor in Hoedspruit!

We are also most grateful to Idea Wild for their donation of cameras and solar charging equipment, which keeps a laptop, phone and fridge/cooler going wherever the sun shines!

Other key funders for the year were:



*We have been requested to do wildlife forensic crime scene management training in Ghana, but need to raise the funds first to be able to achieve this. The request comes from a small local non-profit in Ghana who can't afford it, but need it! **Please contact wildlife@bundunet.com if you are able to support this project.***

Sincere
thanks,
TIM SNOW

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