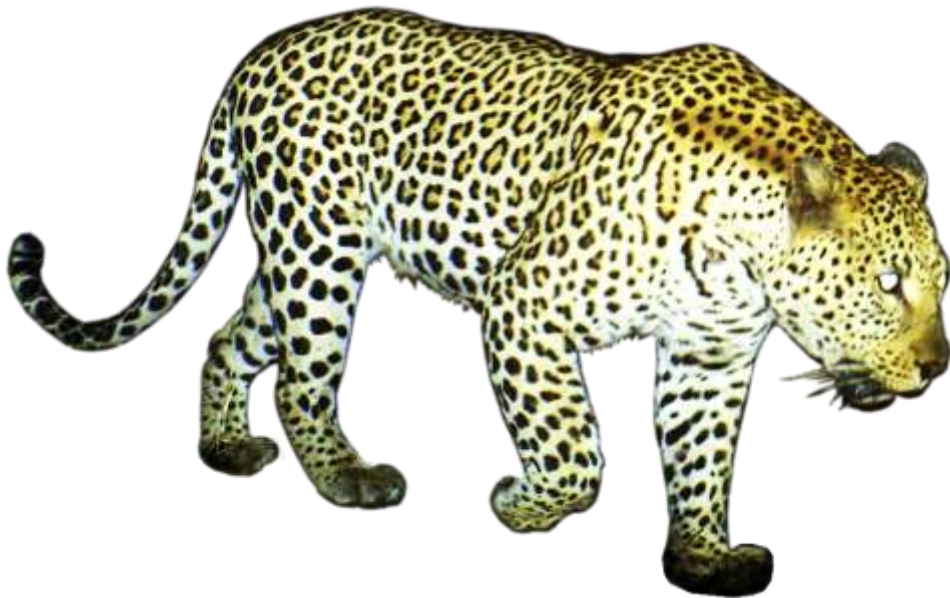


# DAPU First Period Newsletter

2025

Charlton McCallum Safaris

16<sup>th</sup> June 2025



Dear Friends,

Let me start by thanking you all for your continued and unwavering support, which has helped immeasurably in keeping DAPU going.

The 2024/2025 rainy season was one inch above average in total rainfall, however that did not translate to a particularly productive farming season. It was typically erratic, which is so common for the region, therefore crop yields were below average even for Dande. We know that yields or lack thereof manifest themselves throughout the year in poaching.

Most concessions in Zimbabwe are in “protected areas” and require very little in the way of policing. However, Dande is certainly the largest and most complex community wildlife area in Zimbabwe, and it needs constant and proactive monitoring, or else 15 years of gains could be eroded in just 6 months. This would be truly tragic, especially after what we have all achieved.

We have continued to meticulously document all your support, deployments, wins and losses, and here we share a summary with everyone who so graciously and generously supported all our efforts both financially and in kind.

#### 2025 Highlights (YTD)

No. of snares	Dogs shot	Meat Poachers Convicted	Elephant Poachers Convicted	Weapons & Tools Retrieved	Rewards Paid	DAPU Cost YTD
987	19	1	0	14	\$2,715.00	\$44,391.45

#### 12-year Cumulative Total (2014 - 2025)

No. of snares	Dogs shot	Meat Poachers Convicted	Elephant Poachers Convicted	Weapons & Tools Retrieved	Rewards Paid	DAPU Cost (exc school)
18299	237	326	34	406	\$79,925.00	\$1,352,911.82

As we grow from strength to strength, we look forward to your continued support.

All the very best

Myles E. McCallum  
James D. Charlton  
Charles Ndondo.

Harare, Zimbabwe  
16<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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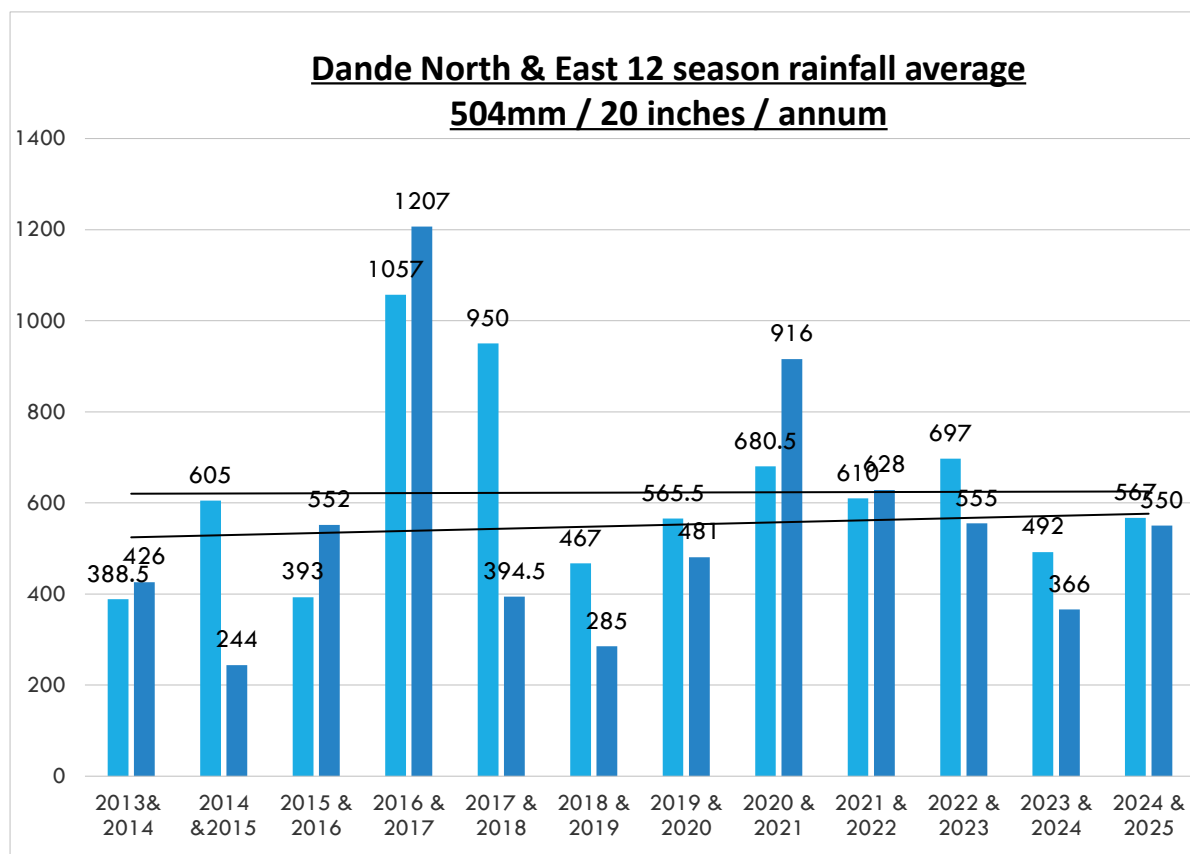
## 1. Unemployment and inflation

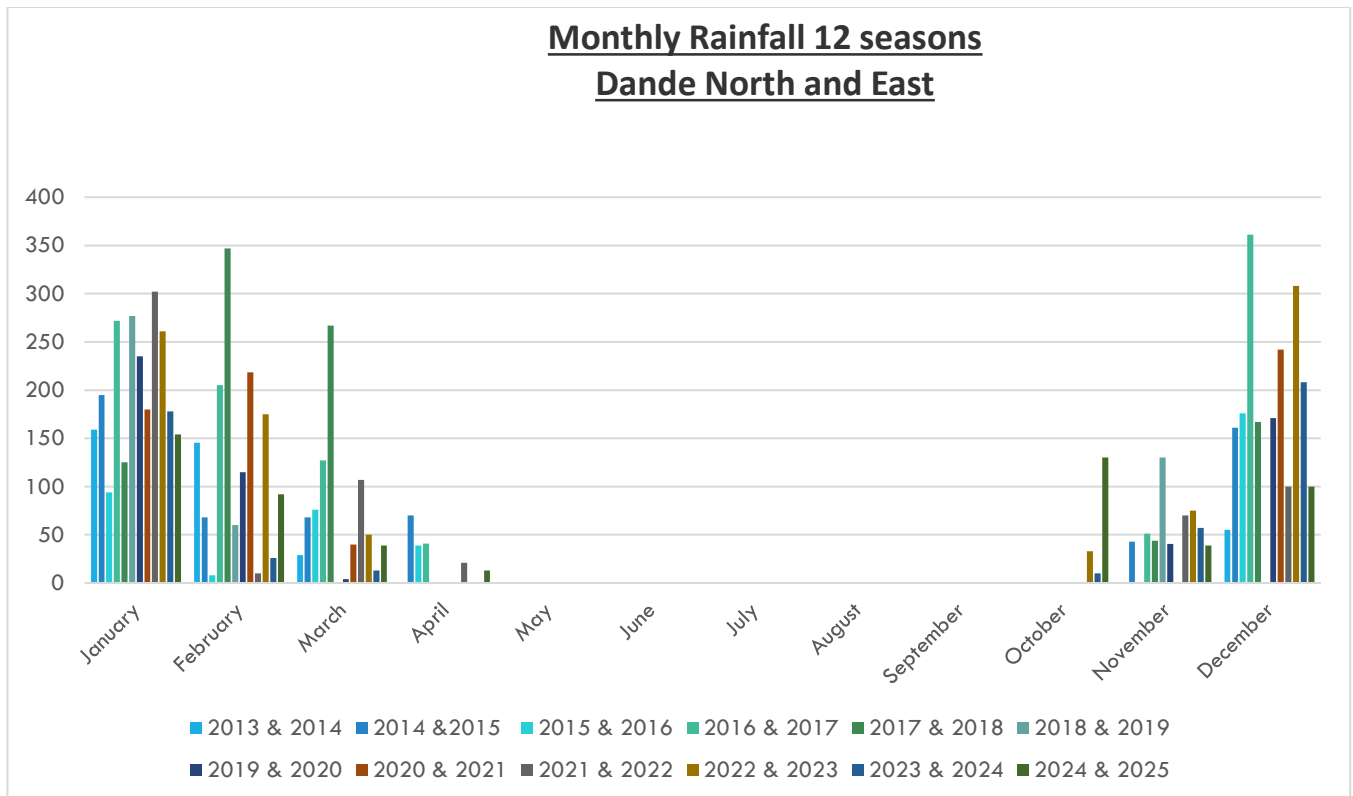
High global Inflation, coupled with even more acute local inflation and then add in formal unemployment of about 90%, these three things will continue to be a driving factor with reference to subsistence poaching, commercial poaching, illegal gold panning and corruption. Prices in local shops are sky high, which of course adds to general poverty too. Zimbabwe's economy and currency is famously volatile, often making it challenging to maintain good morale amongst DAPU staff. In 2024 yet another currency was rolled out – our 6<sup>th</sup> in 16 years!

## 2. The “rainy season”

The rainfall in Dande tends to be low and erratic, coupled with very high temperatures and poor soils, places it squarely “*agro ecological region 4*” - indicating a very marginal agricultural region, best suited to subsistence small-scale agriculture and the raising of livestock. However Dande is world class for wildlife!

As already mentioned, the totals for the 2024/2025 rainy season were marginally above average but typically erratic. The grasses are looking tremendous and the crops germinated but did not grow out particularly well. The villagers in Dande enjoyed a better than 2024 harvest, but not enough to be self-sufficient for the year - which of course we know will translate into loads of business for DAPU!





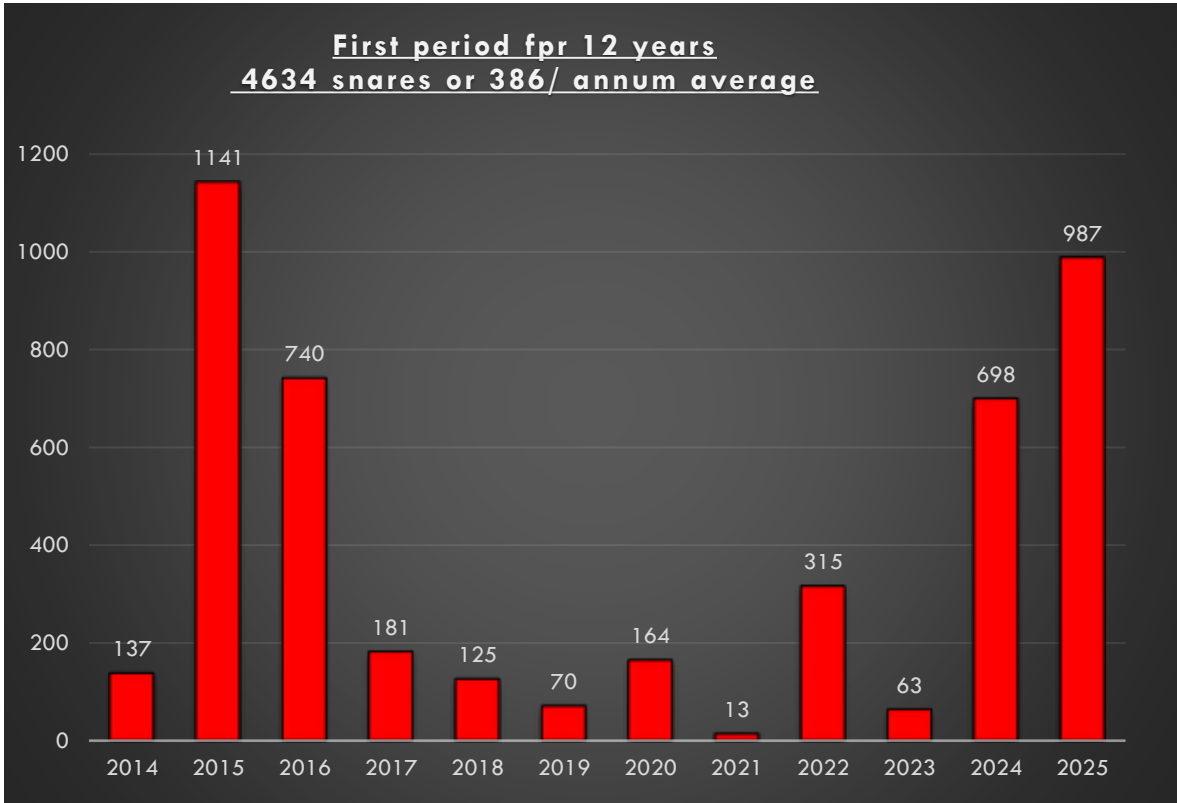
### **3. Snaring and general poaching first period 2025**

The results have been as predicted – concerning and worse than the previous year’s first period haul. However, this is not totally unexpected as the harvest is only taken in April and May, so we were still grappling with the 2024 drought in terms of current food security. Hopefully DAPU has a slower next period as there are hunters about to increase ground coverage, and Dande is food secure for a few months anyhow.

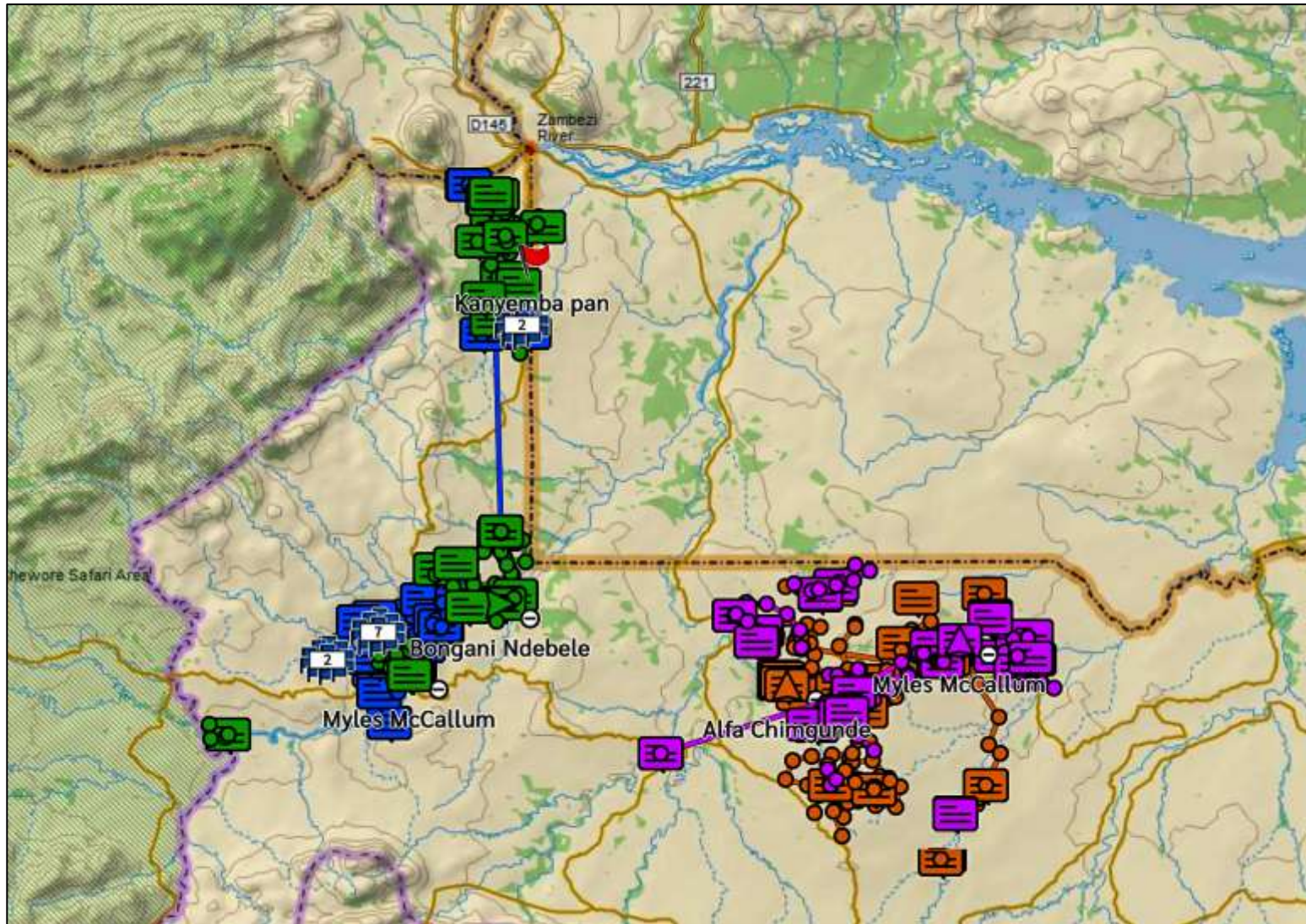


Muno with part of DAPU 987 snare haul first period.



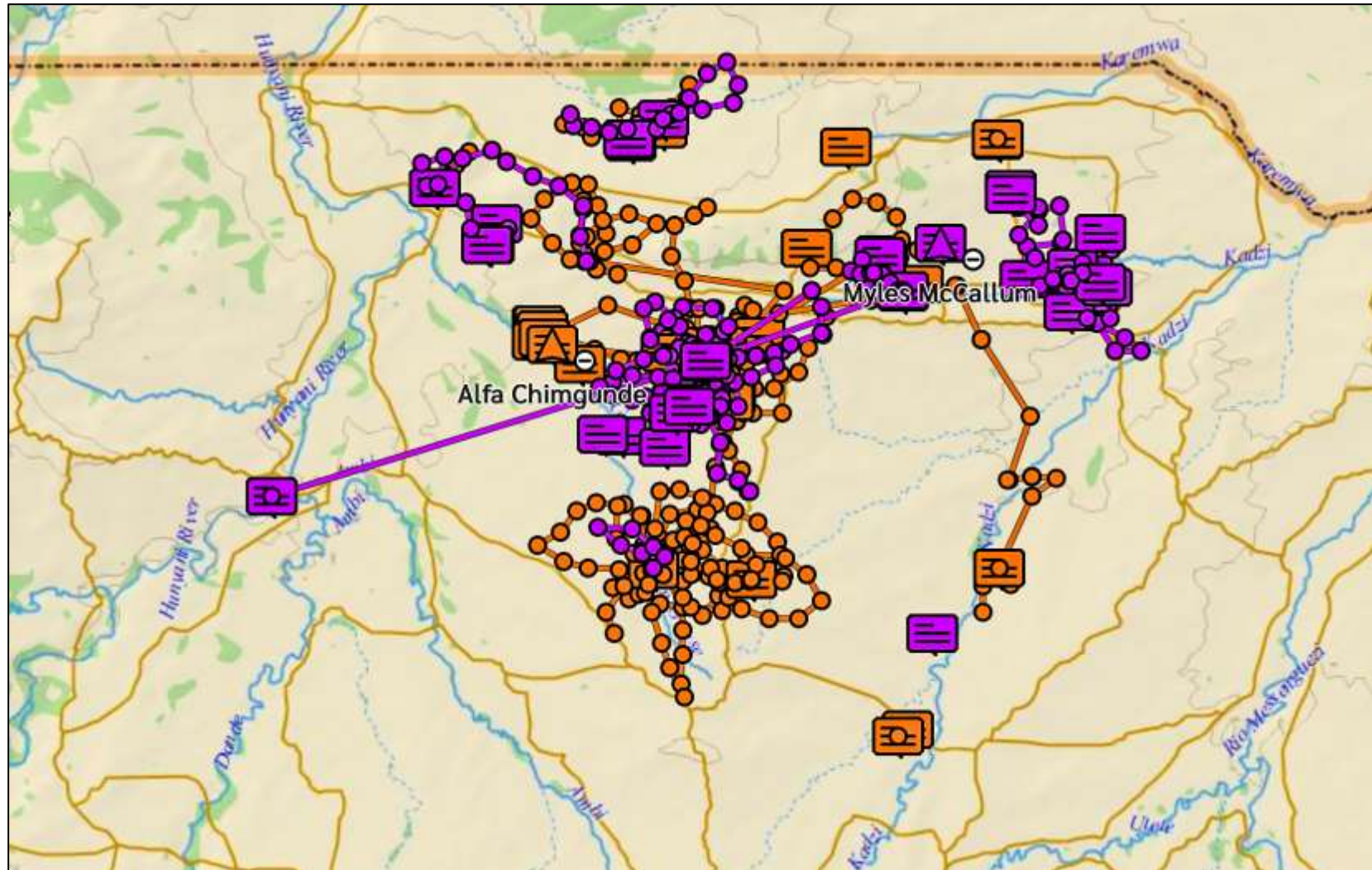


Dande North and East patrol tracks combined - this is what 500,000 acres looks like (core areas only!)

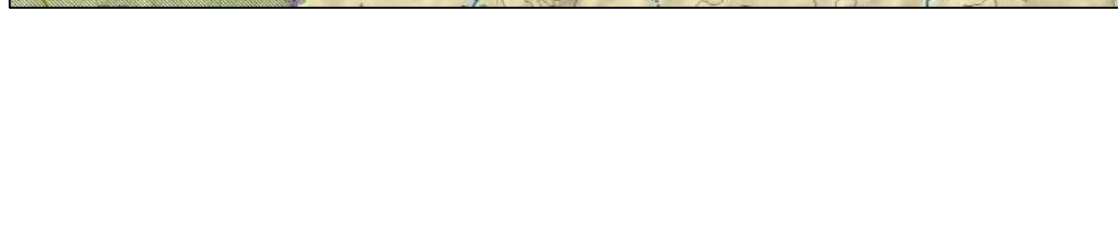




Dande East core area (100,000 acres) patrol tracks









#### 4. Elephant Poaching

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, information was received by DAPU via some villagers / informers that they had heard some shots on or near the Angwa river. DAPU deployed 5km short of the spot and walked in, soon finding an Elephant bull that had been freshly poached. The poachers had begun skinning, then left it presumably to get some villages to help cut and carry some meat. DAPU along with ZIMPARKS quickly got themselves into ambush positions and had not been there long at all and the poachers re appeared. A short exchange of gunfire (9 shots from DAPU) and the poachers dropped everything and took off. DAPU withdrew a short distance and went back first thing on the Tuesday morning and found two separate blood trails indicating two wounded poachers. The trails were followed but rain soon washed out the tracks.



Knives, shotgun ammo, flashlights, pots and pans – these poachers were relaxed and confident it seems.





The weapon used was a Musket loaded with:

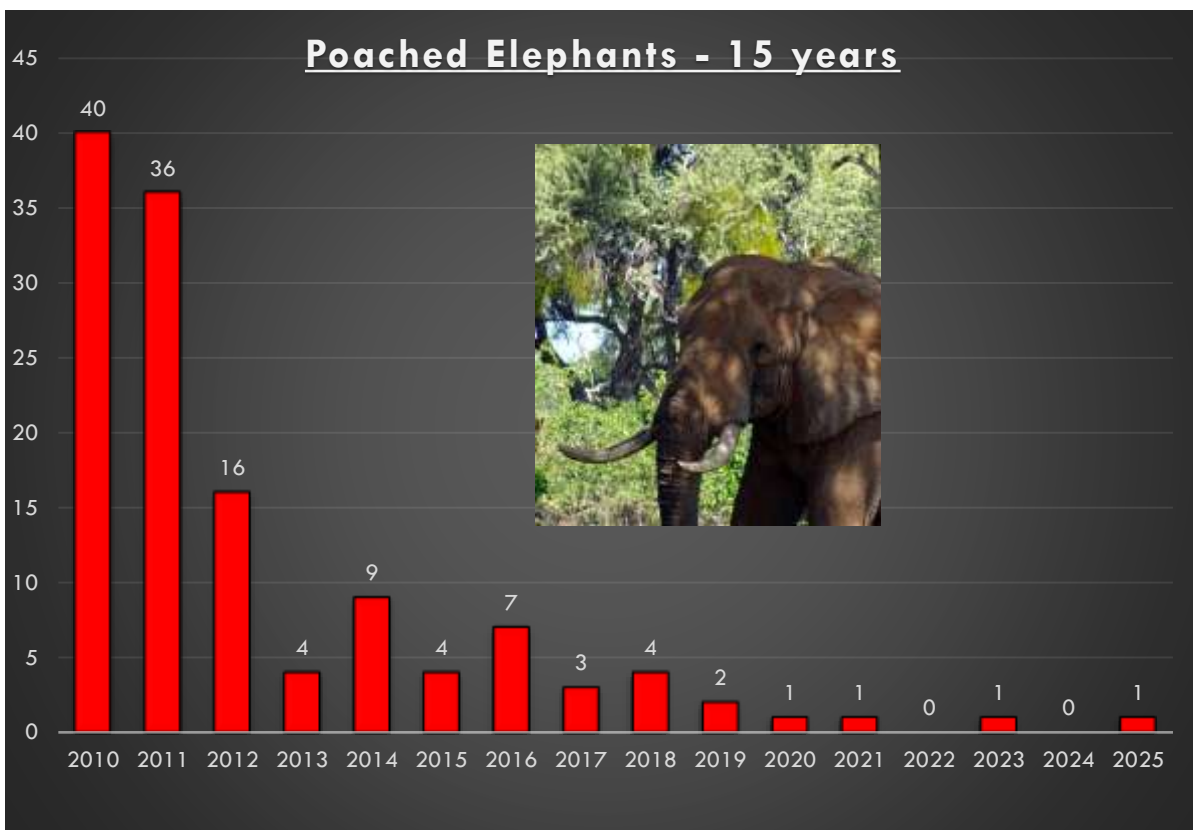
- powder from shotgun shells,
- The lead shot melted down and made into a ball
- a little AK47 ammo powder ...for some extra zing.







Waste not want not – DAPU recovering meat from the poached elephant for onwards distribution to communities – the same community that alerted us to the incident and shots.







## 5. Gold Panning

High global gold prices combined with huge unemployment and rampant inflation has created a perfect storm with respect to illegal gold panning. The panning itself is hugely damaging the environment, and comes along with poaching, general crime and a whole host of other undesirable activities. So far, we count ourselves lucky in that the panning has been only on the rainy season and mostly on the periphery of our areas namely on the Mukanga, Angwa and Mwantamtanda rivers. It seems the gold gets washed out of the Zambezi valley escarpment in fast flood water, then as soon as the rivers flatten and water slows down, it drops out of the water and gets trapped in rapids. Thus, the rivers with rapids closest to the escarpment are richer in gold.

The gold panners are most active in the rainy season and take advantage of water in the rivers (which they need for operations), poor access for DAPU and no hunters in the field. Aerial patrols are also difficult due to stormy weather, although we have managed two in 2025 so far. Aerial patrols are the most efficient way of quickly checking on this illegal activity.

As panners are always needing to go back to the same spot and are distracted digging, they are relatively easy to apprehend.



Snaring and panning almost always go together unfortunately as demonstrated here.



## 6. Charcoal production

Charcoal production is somewhat new to Dande and to Zimbabwe in general (although very common in Zambia, Tanzania, and Kenya). Generally, not a rainy season pastime, villagers will burn down thousands of mopane trees in just days, make charcoal, bag it and smuggle it out to Harare for sale. Luckily our local authorities are quite supportive in our efforts to stop it and we take advantage of that. DAPU arrested, warned, cautioned and released 2 folks in the early stages of charcoal production in February – they had felled two giant Mopane trees but not yet begun the charcoal process, so DAPU were just in time.



As of today, The East Dapu team I drop them to do block patrol from Kabveve side herding towards ward 17 west if the block were we informed about villagers who's are cutting mopane tress to make some charcoals, the team has managed to shot 3 dogs and to caution 2guys found in that area who were cutting the remaining logs.

Log state

-16-188043 long.

30.676746 lat.

Name of culprits

1.Benson Gashu I'd. N/A.

2.Charuma Benson I'd.N/A.

17:01

## 7. **Invictus Energy** - <https://www.invictusenergy.com>

Successfully drilled their second well – which unfortunately happens to be in the Southeastern section of the Dande East core area. They say that their results are good – time will tell if they really are. They are currently on a fund-raising drive and not much is happening on the ground. We have been forced to employ a second “stick” of scouts to permanently stay in that general area. They say that they are building a pilot “gas to power plant” but who knows if at all it will happen and when.

## 8. **Canoe building**

Another seemingly harmless pastime – Mozambiquans contract Zimbabweans to fell huge old pod mahogany trees (*Azelia Quanzensis*) or the White Syringa (*Kirkia Acuminata*) then they, hollow them out into dugout canoes for sale to fisherman on Lake Caborra Bassa. They work on these canoes during the dry season and then float them down one of the tributaries to the Zambezi for sale once the rains have started. Whenever possible we put a stop to this. Nothing reported yet in 2025.

## 9. **Human and Wildlife Conflict**

Duties for DAPU scouts include attending to Problem Animal reports (PAC). The peak season for PAC is during cropping season from January to the end of May. The major problem species are elephants, lions, crocodiles and hippo. All are impossible to wean from their bad habits and invariably genuine reports end in human tragedy or the offending animal is shot.

National Parks second rangers to DAPU for all PAC duties. Our constant goals with Problem Animal Control are:

- a. Protect human life.
- b. Protect property.
- c. IF POSSIBLE, deal with the offending animal by chasing it or them away using non-lethal means.
- d. Last resort is to shoot the animal. However, in cases where life or property is threatened, we do not hesitate.

Human wildlife conflict has become a political hot potato globally and the issue garners allot of attention.

### 2024 statistics in Dande North and East (actual)

	Injured	Death
Elephant	0	4
Crocodile	3	1
Snake	3	2
Hippo	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

### 9.1 **Elephant**

Unfortunately, elephants are the prime culprits for almost all call outs and 2025 having been a medium to poor cropping season they have made themselves especially unwelcome. We had three vehicles and teams on permanent standby for 4 months, and its hats off to the DAPU staff, overall, they managed very well. It is always a relief when the harvest is eventually out of the fields which normally happens by 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Of interest, of the **196** combined DAPU patrol days in March and April 2025, **123** of those days or **63%** were allocated to Human Wildlife Conflict! Our three vehicles clocked up nearly 24,000km in that period of which approximately **15,000km of those were on HWC duties alone.**

Despite their best efforts, liberally employing Chilli bombs, shotguns, bright lights, and noise, five elephants had to be shot. All cases were totally genuine, repeat offender and all young elephant bulls.



Keeping elephants out of fields has always been a hybrid of (1) shooting over their heads with shotguns, (2) shooting them with Chilli bombs (from a potato gun), (3) flash bangs, (4) bright lights, (5) loud noise (banging pots and pans), (6) cracking stock whips, (7) rudimentary fencing with noisy contraptions hanging, and in some place's (8) bee hives. A retired scout and elder, Wanda Karoto has advocated for and uses old engine oil mixed with dry goat dung and chilies, burning in pots around his fields! We can report that his field and those neighbors using the same method ... zero Human wildlife incidents!

## 9.2 Lion

Relatively quiet so far in 2025 and fingers crossed that it remains that way. One young lady was chomped on the shoulder in the night by a lion and it tried to drag her off, but she was saved by her family. Upon further investigation it was discovered that she and her family were in fact sleeping outside of their houses.





9.3 Buffalo

No reported serious problems to date in 2025. Herds and dagga boys do tend to wander through cotton and maize fields especially early season. We only had one complaint of a blind old dagga boy that was living in some fields – he was dispatched.



9.4 Crocodile

Two attacks and deaths reported so far in 2025 in the district. As soon as the rains start and rivers begin to run, crocs immediately move up rivers from the Zambezi and take advantage of the dirty water to become a menace.

9.5 Hippo

Multiple problem hippo reports but so far all appear to have resolved themselves without a hippo being shot or anyone injured.

9.6 Snakes

One reported death to date in 2025 district wide.

## 10. Netting on the Zambezi

DAPU continues to contribute 200 liters of petrol per month toward efforts to eliminate illegal fishing in a 50km stretch of the Zambezi River. Illegal netting has been much reduced, and sport anglers and legal netters are reporting better catches. In the big picture the reduction in fish poaching has had a significant effect in reducing game poaching, as the fish poachers were often responsible for the poaching of elephant and other game animals. The diameters of their nets had become noticeably smaller over the years, clearly indicating a seriously depleted fish reserve.

## 11. Road work



Wherever possible we grade the roads, which allow better travel and double as firebreaks.

## 12. Goals for 2025

1) Hold miners and farmers to account and try and mitigate the damage that they are causing.	<b><i>Ongoing.</i></b>
2) Open all roads, (nearly 1000km's) Annually we have 80 people, 3 tractors and 2 Landcruiser's employed full time for 3 months doing this!	<b><i>Complete for 2025.</i></b>
3) Keep going with the anti-poaching! The PAC season is over, so we have migrated to traditional anti-poaching.	<b><i>Gear up for another huge year with very complex dynamics.</i></b>
4) Early Burning.	<b><i>We have begun in all areas. This is vital to better protect against hotter fires later in the season.</i></b>
5) To continue to cushion DAPU staff as best we can from inflation	<b><i>This is a moving target of course but we continue to adapt!</i></b>
6) Finally commence, complete and commission the Dande East water project that the UNDP has been sitting on for 5 years even if it means self-funding.	<b><i>Finally, the UNDP has been officially tendered out this project at long last.</i></b>
7) Continuous guarding and maintenance to all water installations.	<b><i>This is ongoing.</i></b>
8) Try and mitigate cattle conflict especially in Dande East.	<b><i>We continue to engage village heads, traditional leadership and Council and probably will offer alternate water sources as part of a solution.</i></b>
9) Replace ACX3232 Landcruiser.	<b><i>ACX3232 has been the mainstay of Dande East for 10 years now and is on 400,000km. It is time to be traded in.</i></b>
10) Purchase own Savannah S to facilitate more arial patrols for quick detection of:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Gold panning</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Charcoal making</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Illegal settlement</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Game counts</i></b></li> </ul>
11) Echo...	<b><i>Deploy Echo to best advantage in Dande East.</i></b>



## 13. Water Projects

These projects will get water into the areas of Dande that need it most. Because of International Borders and human settlement, often big chunks of pristine wilderness are left without any natural water for animals. In short, the game's traditional water points are no longer available to them OR are on the wrong side of an imaginary line (border).

So, the benefits are:

- Year-round game and water in Dande
- Increased benefits to communities
- Less human wildlife conflict at water points close to villages.

Currently, Including Clinics (2) and Parks base station, DAPU/ CMS have installed and maintain 17 water points / solar projects!

	Implemented by	Capacity l/h	Equipping	Goal for 2025
Dande East	UNDP	6,500 l/h	Delayed due to funding.	Complete by August 2025 Possibly with CM Safaris co fund. Budget +/- \$150,000.00

## 14. Education

### 14.1 Complete construction and hand over of a teachers house (6 bedroomed) at Kanyemba

The Jack and Marjorie Schillinger Foundation have already contributed \$50,000 towards this project and we have more pledges for help to add to that. This project once complete will offer quality accommodation for the secondary school teachers in Kanyemba, hopefully helping them attract and retain some talented teachers.



## 14.2 The proposed Charlton McCallum Conservation Trust scholarship

We are in the consultation phase of proposing and setting up an annual scholarship for top achievers in our “producer wards”. What we do not want to do is to embark on a project like this and then run out of money!

All kids in Zimbabwe in grade 7 (last year of junior school normally 12 years old) write four government exams in: English, Shona, Maths and Science. They are graded with a “1” as best and a “5” as lowest. So a best possible point score would be a “4”. The idea would be to offer a scholarship to one kid per annum who achieves a “4”. If more than one qualifies then we will narrow it down to the kid from a family with the most Human Wildlife conflict. The scholarship would be for boarding school tuition only at Mushumbi Schools high school (boarding).

Year	learners	Per term	three terms	Total \$/ annum
2025	1	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00
2026	2	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$2,700.00
2027	3	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$4,050.00
2028	4	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$5,400.00
2029	5	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$6,750.00
2030	6	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$8,100.00
2031	6	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$8,100.00
2032	6	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$8,100.00
2033	6	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$8,100.00
2034	6	\$450.00	\$1,350.00	\$8,100.00

## 15. Take Action Trust

What started out as an “around the campfire” conversation during a July 2023 safari with Keith Sparks of the Take Action Trust has turned into action from Keith! DAPU has long been frustrated by the poor snare or poaching incident to arrest ratio in Dande. It seems that we are at a crossroads and need to change things up drastically. Ultimately for example in Dande East we estimate that there are likely only 40 regular poachers that we need to contend with and none of them are behind bars or have been behind bars for any meaningful length of time in our 15 years’ operating there. Our frustration was shared with Keith and now soon we will have Echo on duty!



Keith Sparks, Muneyi and Fyton with Echo





Dande East has gone from a seasonal (6 weeks) elephant only destination in 2010 to now a legitimate full bag destination boasting roan, sable, buffalo, lion, leopard, elephant, wild dogs, kudu and impala all in increasingly viable numbers.

Now we need to take the police work up to the next level and really let the East bounce up. Muneyi and Fyton will be in Victoria Falls for two months on an intensive course on how to best use Echo. Alpha the DAPU east Manager will join them for one month as well. All of this has been free to DAPU. So, a HUGE shout out to Keith Sparks and his Take Action Trust!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067457954876>

## 16. Bongi – head of DAPU

Bongi is back on full time duty after his 6-month convalescence due to his aircraft accident. It is amazing how much positive energy and impetus he has given everyone in Dande, not just his DAPU staff! To say that we are thrilled to have Bongo back in the field is an understatement!





## 17. We must extend our profound appreciation to:

### 17.1 The Sylvarnus Trust

Quietly and humbly sends DAPU a rather large cheque every year! The trust follows DAPU with keen interest and we are eternally grateful for the faith in which they have placed in us. We really hope that DAPU makes them proud!

### 17.2 Flying for Wildlife

After the October 2024 tragedy, Flying for Wildlife is back down to one aircraft which will be piloted by either Rich Tennant or Hannes Scholtz. Over the years we have found that this service has been invaluable in Dande for early detection of:

- Illegal charcoal making
- Illegal mining and gold panning
- Illegal settlements

Obviously all three of these activities are ones that we plan to continue to focus on in a big way in 2025. Charlton McCallum Safaris is in the process of buying their own Savannah S aircraft which we plan to use in Dande. Anymore (rightfully so), we are called upon to provide evidence of the positive impacts that DAPU and Charlton McCallum Safaris makes in Dande. Being able to more easily monitor the wildlife will help us do that, therefore as well as for enforcement, we also intend to use it for.

- Game counts and arial surveys.



### 17.3 Trackit (Richard Tennant and Hannes Scholtz also of Flying for Wildlife)

Provide free, real time satellite monitoring of the two DAPU vehicles. This has saved significantly on fuel and vehicle costs and has also helped us become much smarter with servicing and positioning of vehicles.

#### **17.4 Individual donors**

As previously mentioned, we have been truly humbled by all the kind folk who have donated to DAPU! Your generosity knows no bounds, and we will be eternally indebted to you! In thanks for your support, we shall endeavour to keep DAPU up and running to its fullest capabilities. We shall strive at all costs to keep poaching at bay, with the well-being of wild life foremost in our minds.

We fully understand that times are tough for you too at home making personal donations even more special!

### **18. The all NEW Charlton McCallum Conservation Trust**

We have registered our own trust, and it is a registered non – profit 501(c) (3) public foundation. Currently we are registered in Texas only but are expanding that to cover just about all states. We have belatedly come to realise that to try and fund all our plans for Dande from just hunting is simply not going to work so we are going to need to be more creative to source finance for some of these projects. Having our own trust will allow us (we hope) to be more flexible and to be able to compete with others for traditional donor funding and grants.

How to make a Tax-Deductible donation:

Please contact Charlton McCallum Safaris on [admin1@cmsafaris.com](mailto:admin1@cmsafaris.com) for wiring details.

### **19. Conservation Force**

We will continue to work hand in hand with John and Chrissie Jackson of Conservation Force. John and Chrissie are proud hunters and legends in the fight for our way of life and the wild places that we all love. They work selflessly and endlessly in aid of conservation and to protect the rights of hunters around the world. Thank you, John and Chrissie! Conservation Force is a registered nonprofit 501(c) (3) public foundation.

How to make a Tax-Deductible donation:

Please make a check out to: Conservation Force  
Mail to: C/O JOHN J. JACKSON, III  
3240 S. 1-10 SERVICE ROAD W.  
SUITE 200, METAIRIE,  
LOUISIANA 70001, USA

Check Ref: DAPU

Conservation Force Contact: JOHN J. JACKSON, III  
TEL: (504) 837 - 1233  
FAX: (504) 837 – 1145  
Email: [Jjw-no@att.net](mailto:Jjw-no@att.net)  
Website: [www.conservationforce.org](http://www.conservationforce.org)





# Charlton McCallum Safaris | Dande Anti-Poaching Unit

## DAPU INCOME 2025

# 1. DONATIONS.	
ALBERT ALHADEFF	US\$ 2,000.00
# 2. HUNTING CLIENT LEVIES	US\$ 3,030.00
# 3. CHARLTON MCCALLUM SAFARIS	US\$ 39,361.45
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>US\$ 44,391.45</b>

## DAPU EXPENSES 2025

### # 1 WAGES, REWARDS & RATIONS.

MONTH	Wages x 25	Management	Rations x 29	Rewards	Netting	Total
JANUARY	US\$ (3,120.00)	US\$ (1,605.00)	US\$ (1,015.00)	US\$ (405.00)	US\$ (200.00)	US\$ (6,345.00)
FEBRUARY	US\$ (3,120.00)	US\$ (1,605.00)	US\$ (1,015.00)	US\$ (1,495.00)	US\$ (200.00)	US\$ (7,435.00)
MARCH	US\$ (3,120.00)	US\$ (1,605.00)	US\$ (1,015.00)	US\$ (713.00)	US\$ (200.00)	US\$ (6,653.00)
APRIL	US\$ (3,120.00)	US\$ (1,605.00)	US\$ (1,015.00)	US\$ (102.50)	US\$ (200.00)	US\$ (6,042.50)
MAY	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
JUNE	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
JULY	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
AUGUST	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
SEPTEMBER	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
OCTOBER	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
NOVEMBER	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
DECEMBER	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -	US\$ -
	US\$(12,480.00)	US\$ (6,420.00)	US\$ (4,060.00)	US\$ (2,715.50)	US\$ (800.00)	US\$ (26,475.50)

### # 2 EQUIPMENT EXPENSES

SHOTGUN AMMUNITION					US\$ (300.00)
LIBERG AUTO AND AIRHAWK (MECA 1).					US\$ (3,276.55)
TOTAL EQUIPMENT EXPENSES					US\$ (3,576.55)

	Vehicle	Mileage (Km)	/Km cost	
# 3 DSC - F VEHICLES X 3	MECA 1	12842	US\$ 0.60	US\$ (7,705.20)
(FUEL, MINOR SERVICES & INSURANCE)	ACX 3232	6369	US\$ 0.60	US\$ (3,821.40)
AS PER SAT TRACKING X \$.6/KM)	AFK 6838	4688	US\$ 0.60	US\$ (2,812.80)
	<b>Total Km's</b>	<b>23899</b>		<b>US\$ (14,339.40)</b>

<u>TOTAL DAPU EXPENSES YTD 2025</u>	-	-	-	US\$ (44,391.45)
<u>TOTAL DAPU INCOME YTD 2025</u>				<u>US\$ (44,391.45)</u>
<u>CREDIT/ DEBIT CARRIED FORWARD TO SECOND PERIOD 2025</u>				US\$ -