



D.A.R.T. REPORT
(Dete Animal Rescue Trust)

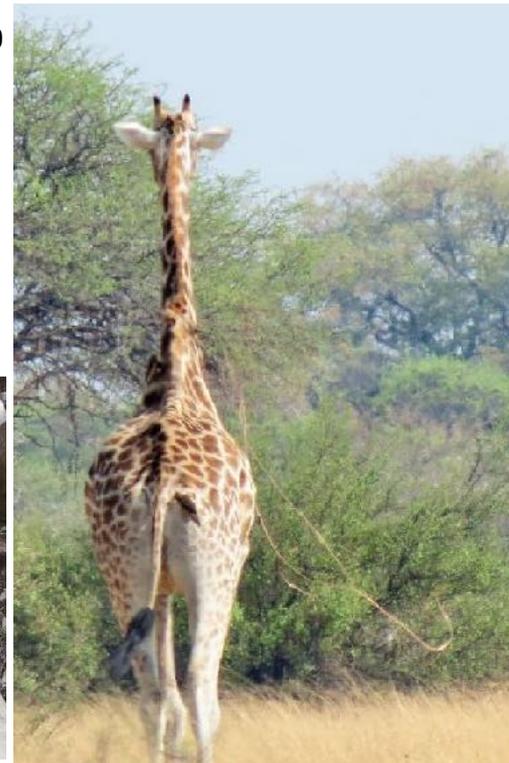
REMOVING TELEPHONE WIRE
UPDATE No.9 - 15th October 2020
HWANGE NATIONAL PARK



D.A.R.T. has been removing snares from injured wild animals for more than 20 years. During this time we've seen these simple but lethal devices made from all kinds of material including plaited tree bark rope, steel fencing wire, nylon rope, electrical cable and steel wire break cables from cars and bicycles.

But it was only when mobile phone technology rendered landline phones obsolete & there were no longer any telephone linesmen patrolling these lines to repair faults that poachers first started to feel confident enough to illegally cut and use lengths of the decommissioned phone lines to make snares.

Since then the lethal use of telephone wire snares has become widespread.



Having darted and removed one-too-many telephone wire snares from wild animals this year, D.A.R.T. made a final appeal to the TelOne authorities for them to remove this decommissioned phone wire. When it became apparent that they lacked the resources to do this job, D.A.R.T. asked for & was given special permission to tackle this task ourselves.

Without a moment's hesitation generous donor support for this important conservation initiative was immediately provided by :

Brian Courtenay - Southern African Conservation Trust (S.A.C.T.)
John Gillon - Hwange Conservation Society (HCS-UK)
Dave Dell - Friends of Hwange Trust (FOH ZIM)

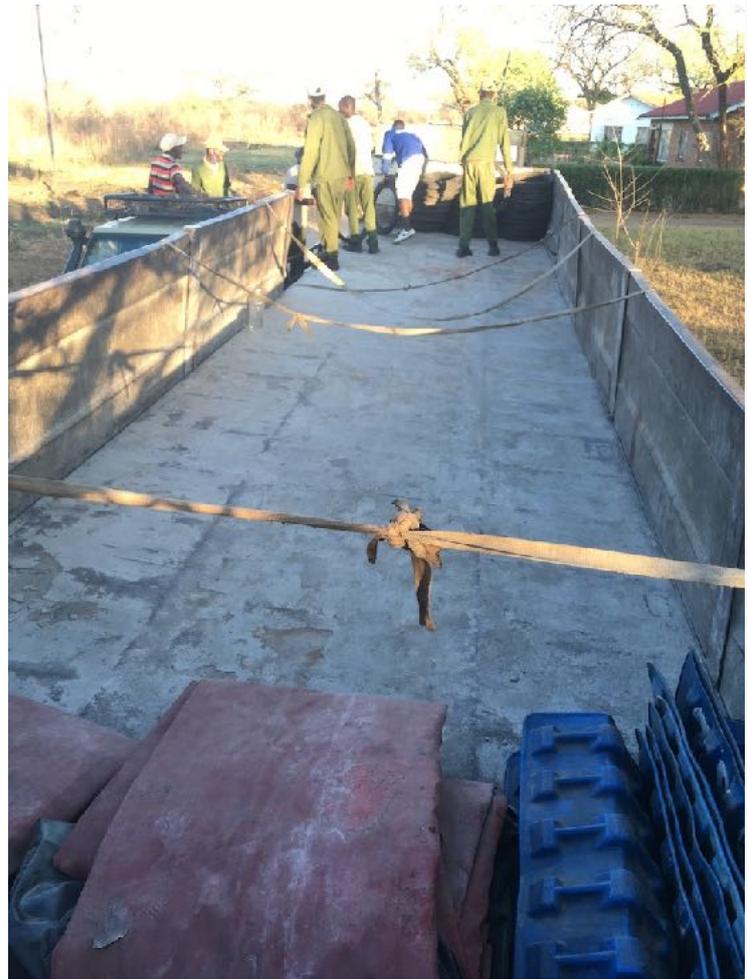
Work began on the Phone Wire Removal Project on 1st July 2020. During the last 3.5 months a vast number of safari guide volunteers and many kind donors have assisted and supported the D.A.R.T./Ukhozi Team by generously giving up their valuable time or kindly donating financial or material resources and farm fresh produce to ensure the ultimate success of this important conservation project. With sincere appreciation & grateful thanks to:

- NICHOLAS DUNCAN - Save African Rhino Foundation (S.A.R.F. - Australia)
- JULIET JOHNSTONE of Cawston Block - for providing meat and fresh vegetables to the volunteers
- MARK & ANTHONY RANDALL - for providing cabbages
- BRENT LEROUX - for providing fresh vegetables
- BONSA SPAR - for providing bags of mealie meal
- FOREVER AFRICAN SAFARIS - for providing procurement and logistics
- TERRY & SHEONA ANDERS & Iganyana Tented Camp - for personal physical work plus coordinating supplies and logistics and providing meals, accommodation and camp staff.
- JAMES & JANINE VARDEN of Ride Zimbabwe Horseback Safaris for physical work plus facilitating supplies.
- JOHN LAING of Batoka Lodges for personal physical work plus coordination & transport of Vic Falls Guides.
- ZPHGA - Chairman Lance Nesbitt, Vice Chairman Rob Lurie and their team of volunteer assistants.
- VOLUNTEER SAFARI GUIDES - The large number of volunteer guides from Victoria Falls and Dete Town
- DERICK SIBANDA & MICHAEL GAMA - TelOne Zim for essential help in obtaining necessary permissions.
- ZIMBABWE NATIONAL PARKS - Especially Area Manager Mr. Brighton Joroma, Senior Wildlife Officer Mr. Augustine Gomba, Senior Ranger Chipangure and the many Rangers who have provided security protection.

A HUGE shout-out & a very special THANK YOU must go to Mike McKillop of WESTERN TRANSPORT in Bulawayo for kindly and generously offering the FREE use of their ENORMOUS 36ton Truck to transport all this telephone wire from Dete to the TelOne Depot in Bulawayo where it will be auctioned as scrap metal.

- PROJECT RESULT -
Grateful thanks to EVERYONE involved in the removal of these telephone wires (potential snares) from Hwange National Park:

TOTAL WIRE REMOVED = 623km
TOTAL WEIGHT = 26.3 Tons



Grateful thanks to Mr Michael Gama (TelOne Manager Dete) for accompanying this wire from Dete to the TelOne Depot in Bulawayo and to Western Transport Driver Mr. Bigboy Ncube for safely driving the load.



A VERY SATISFYING FEELING TO WATCH
623 km or 26 tons
OF POTENTIAL SNARE WIRE BEING REMOVED FROM HWANGE NATIONAL PARK.

