



**D.A.R.T. REPORT**  
(Dete Animal Rescue Trust)  
**REMOVING TELEPHONE WIRE**  
**- UPDATE No.4 -**



**INSIDE HWANGE NATIONAL PARK**



On Monday 3rd August 2020 the D.A.R.T./Ukhozi Wildlife Conservation Cooperative began removing fallen telephone wire from telephone poles along the railway line boundary North of Main Camp.

Recovery of the fallen telephone wire began in this area because this is where the most rotten or termite-damaged poles had already fallen leaving many kilometres of wire strewn across the Park boundary.

But today (14th August 2020) I was told that more fallen wire could be found closer to Main Camp, between the airstrip and Sedina Pan.

An investigation of the area revealed loads of wire. Most of it lay hidden in the knee-high grass but in other places it was clear that wild animals had been caught up in the wire creating large untidy entanglements while attempting to escape.





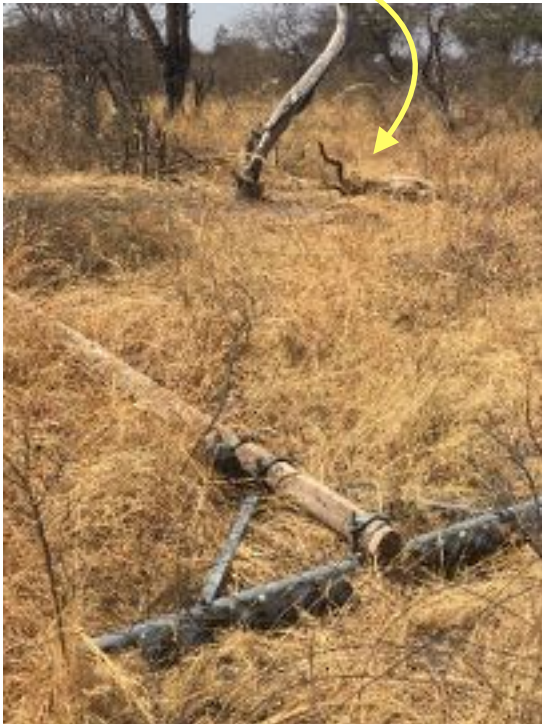
Outside the National Park this fallen telephone wire has been widely used by poachers to make incredibly strong snares from the high-tensile, copper-coated steel wire.

Inside the National Park however, it soon became obvious how potentially dangerous and hazardous this fallen wire could be for unsuspecting wildlife..... and why the work we are doing to remove this fallen wire is so important!



It is not unusual to see a Kudu carcass inside a National Park.....

But it IS a terrible tragedy to see that the Kudu was not killed by lions & it did NOT die a natural death... It died instead because of telephone wire!!



Caught first when its magnificent horns became entangled in the phone wire suspended across the combretum bushes it was feeding on, then in a frantic attempt to free itself the kudu's legs became wrapped around a tree. The intact carcass indicates that the Kudu was not killed by a carnivore but died slowly of hunger, thirst & exposure.

