



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

REMOVING TELEPHONE WIRE UPDATE No.5 - 29th August 2020 INSIDE HWANGE NATIONAL PARK



The release of our "Telephone Wire Removal Reports" provoked an unanticipated but very welcome level of support from the Zimbabwean conservation community.

Their response was immediate and the arrival of so many dedicated and highly motivated "conservation assistants" led to the speedy removal of a staggering quantity of potentially lethal snare-wires from in and around the Main Camp area of Hwange National Park.

On Friday 21st August 2020 the first teams of young, enthusiastic safari guides and their passionate safari lodge owners and operation managers descended on the small town of Dete to selflessly volunteer their time and energy on this project to protect the wildlife of Hwange.



Having travelled all the way from Victoria Falls, John Laing and his group of guides from Batoka Lodges arrived late Friday afternoon.

Wasting no time they immediately joined the D.A.R.T./Ukhozi Team to roll up and recover a record haul of 6.4km of phone wire in only 3hrs.

With grateful thanks to Batoka Lodges and their volunteer guides including Angelica (the only woman guide in the group), Harris, Blessed, Richard, Cosmos, Givemore, Terrance, Ntando and John for their infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy.

The following morning saw the arrival of Terry Anders of Iganyana Tented Camp, James Varden of Ride Zimbabwe, their teams of guides and some members of the Hwange Safari Lodge Staff including: Mr. Sugar, Willy, Elliot, Simba, Craig, Liberty Mkombo, Fortune Ncube, Mr. Masotsha, Victor Dambuzza & Crouther Dube

As lunchtime approached the hungry guides couldn't believe their luck when an Iganyana vehicle arrived bearing a scrumptious lunch of sadza, stew and relish professionally prepared by the Iganyana Camp chefs using fresh food produce generously donated by:

Kalpesh Parshotam (Bonsa Spar)
Juliet Johnson (Rosslyn Safaris)
Brent Le Roux (bigtoolsa@gmail.com)
Zak Howa (Fazaks)
The Randall Family





Well-deserved lunch break in the bush!! Grateful thanks to Iganyana Camp chefs, Iganyana Take-away Deliveries and all the Bulawayo fresh food produce donors for these delicious meals.



After lunch it was back to the hard work of dropping old telephone poles then cutting and rolling many hundreds of kilometres of the decommissioned telephone wire every day.





The D.A.R.T. / UKHOZI Team began this Telephone Wire Removal Project on 7th July 2020. Over the 6-week period ending 21st August they recovered 223km of telephone wire weighing approx. 7.5 Tons. Assuming an average wire snare is 3m long this haul has removed 74,200 potential snares from the Hwange bush.

DATE	DAY	DETAILS	WIRES per POLE	POLE GAP (m)	GROUND DISTANCE COVERED	DAILY WIRE LENGTH (m) RECOVERED	DAILY WIRE LENGTH (km) RECOVERED	ACCUMULATED WIRE LENGTH (km) RECOVERED	Approx. WIRE WEIGHT (kg) RECOVERED	ACCUMULATED WEIGHT (kg) WIRE RECOVERED	POTENTIAL 3m LONG SNARES REMOVED	ACCUMULATED POTENTIAL SNARES
730th July 2020		Dete Town along Dete Road towards Farm 41 farmhouse	40	50	3,800	155,600	156	156	5,252	5,252	51,867	51,867
1021st Aug 2020		Inside Park along railway line between Chokaneta/Marbanje Rivers	8	100	4,000	24,000	24	180	610	6,062	6,066	55,867
	*	Inside Park collect tangled ground wire in Airstrip/Sodia Area	12	50	450	5,400	5	185	182	6,244	1,926	61,667
	*	Inside Park along railway line from Whia Road to Malindi crossing	16	100	150	2,400	2	187	81	6,325	800	62,467
	*	Inside Park along railway line from Whia Road to Malindi crossing	16	100	2,200	35,200	35	223	1,184	7,513	11,733	74,200
TOTAL TELEPHONE WIRE REMOVAL COMPLETED IN 6 WEEKS (7th July-21st August 2020)								223 km		7.5 Tons		74,200 Snares

The arrival of the teams of volunteer guides certainly sped up the quantity of telephone wire recovered and removed. Over a brief 8.5 day period from 21-29th August they recovered 203km of telephone wire weighing approx. 6.8 Tons. Assuming an average wire snare is 3m long this haul has removed 67,500 potential snares from the Hwange bush. **This Project has now removed a TOTAL 426km of phone wire (or 141,700 potential snares) weighing 14.3 Tons**

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21/8/20	FRI	PM Arrival of John Laing & Batoka Team from Vic Falls. 3hrs work only inside Bush along Bulawayo line	16	100	400	4,400	4	6	216	216	2,136	2,133
23/8/20	SAT	Arrival of James Varden - Inside Park along Railway Line - 1/2day remove wire from poles. Plus 1/2day collect tangled wire on ground. Very difficult finding & rolling hidden ground wire	16	100	2,800	48,800	48	51	1,512	1,728	14,903	11,067
23/8/20	SUN	Along Park Boundary. Remove wire from poles Dete Road to Farm 41 boundary	40	50	650	25,000	25	77	816	2,606	8,667	25,733
24/8/20	MON	Inside Park collect tangled ground wire 8 poles on railway line to Malindi crossing	16	100	1,500	26,900	26	102	842	3,448	8,329	34,063
25/8/20	TUE	Inside Park on railway line from Malindi crossing to Umbabati	16	100	975	15,600	16	118	527	3,974	5,200	36,253
26/8/20	WED	Along Park Boundary. Remove wire from poles Dete Road past Farm 41	40	50	650	25,000	26	144	816	4,852	8,667	41,920
21/8/20	THU	Along Park Boundary. Remove wire from poles Dete Road past Farm 41	40	50	450	18,000	18	162	608	5,459	6,000	52,920
	*	THU Dete Road to Farm 41 farmhouse	6	100	800	4,800	5	167	162	5,621	1,600	54,520
	*	THU Mpozu Rail Crossing. Phone wires removed from over railway line	16	100	200	3,200	3	170	108	5,729	1,067	55,587
	*	THU Mpozu Crossroads.	10	100	100	1,000	1	171	34	5,763	331	56,920
26/8/20	FRI	Along Park Boundary. Remove wire from poles Dete Road past Farm 41. Slow progress because of working around and securing many broken poles.	23	50	500	11,500	12	184	388	6,219	3,836	61,420
26/8/20	SAT	Along Park Boundary. Remove wire from poles Dete Road past Farm 41. Slow progress because of working around and securing many broken poles.	26	50	250	4,500	7	203	219	6,843	2,167	61,587
TOTAL ASSISTED TELEPHONE WIRE REMOVAL COMPLETED IN 8.5 DAYS								203 Km		6.8 Tons		67,500 Snares

Priority was given to the recovery of the fallen telephone wires that could have endangered or entangled unsuspecting wild animals inside the National Park.

Much of this hazardous wire had been lying undetected or unnoticed by humans for many years.

It was clear from state of the tangled bundles that many wild animals had already been caught up in this wire over the years and their desperate struggles for freedom could easily be imagined.

Finding, untangling and rolling-up this dangerous wire was a frustratingly slow, time-consuming process but also the most important aspect of the entire wire recovery project.



Very grateful to everyone who generously volunteered their time to help to turn tangled wire hazards like this into neat rolls that could finally be removed from the wildlife area.



Not only a difficult job but dangerous too!! The blood above Terry's eye shows how lucky he was not to lose his eye when the sharp end of some wire unexpectedly came free, recoiled and flicked back into his face....



OUR PHONE WIRE PROJECT HAS
NOW REMOVED

TOTAL 426km of PHONE WIRE
TOTAL WEIGHT 14.3 Tons
POTENTIAL SNARES 141,700

WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL
VOLUNTEER HELPERS &
ALL FRESH FOOD DONORS &
ALL ADMIN & LOGISTIC DONORS

