



**D.A.R.T. REPORT**  
(Dete Animal Rescue Trust)  
**REMOVING TELEPHONE WIRE**  
**UPDATE No.7 - 30 September 2020**  
**INSIDE HWANGE NATIONAL PARK**



From the 6th -11th September, ZPHGA Representative and Professional Guide John Laing (Batoka Lodges) arrived with a third team of Learner Guides from Victoria Falls.

Under the supervision of a National Parks Ranger, the enthusiastic guides worked with the D.A.R.T./Ukhozi Team to remove a staggering total of **98km of telephone wires** from various sections INSIDE the National Park; in and around Dete Town and along the main road from Dete to Hwange Main Camp.

It is with deep gratitude we'd like to thank John and his Team including Vitalis NCUBE; Zibusiso SIBANDA; Shain CHIOTA; Wisdom MPOFU; Harris KANHUKAMWE; Dan PEEL; Daniel NGWENYA; Abraham MHLANGU; Lucky SILUNGWE; Wilbert DUBE; Wonder SIAMUDODA; Milton NCUBE & Mathew MUNUWA for this amazing achievement that has gone a very long way to help save and protect wildlife by removing the source of many thousands of potential poacher's snares.



On 8th September Lance Nesbitt (Chairman ZPHGA), Rob Lurie (Deputy Chairman ZPHGA) and their team of camera men and assistants arrived to lend a hand and document the work being carried out by the many safari guides who have willingly donated their time to physically assist this important conservation initiative.



On 10th September the Regional Manager of TelOne (our Government Parastatal Phone Company) Mr Derick Sibanda arrived with his local representative Mr. Michael Gama to inspect progress. They were most surprised and impressed to see the 18Tons of wire we had collected. They are now in the process of arranging a TelOne truck to transport the wire to Harare.



After the ZPHGA and Victoria Falls volunteers departed, the Ukhozi Team began work on some of the more difficult sections where the old phone lines could NOT be removed until the rotten and fragile telephone poles had been replaced with new poles to support the new WiFi Fibre cable that had been attached to the old telephone poles.

Delays and challenges occurred because TelOne had NO NEW poles available to replace the old ones. This meant our Team had to search for, find, cut, transport, dig holes, erect and recycle suitable old poles as replacements.

This is something that should normally be done by the appropriate Telephone Department of the Government. Instead the Ukhozi team **replaced 29 old poles** along the Dete Road and Mpofu/White Rd sections inside the Park

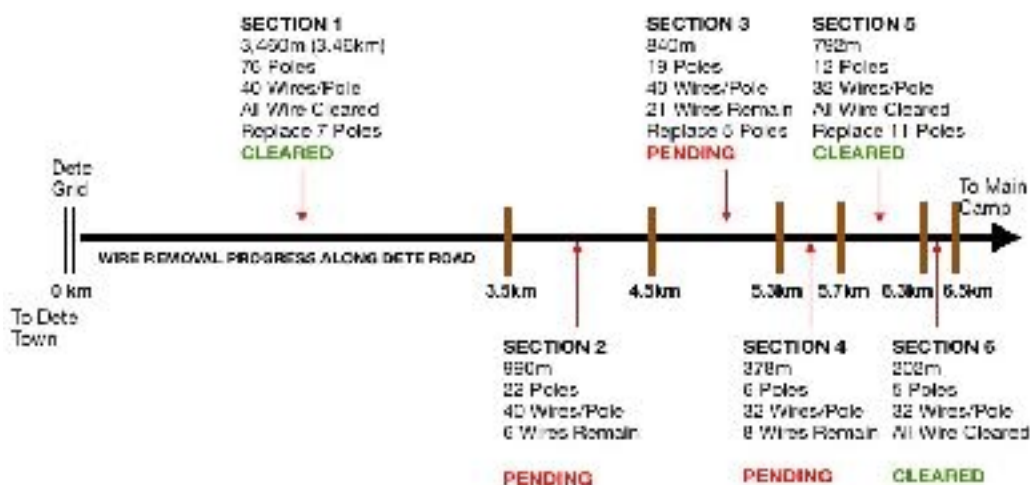


The section along the Dete Road continues to provide most challenges and delays with many fragile poles carrying the WiFi Fibre cable & 32-40 phone lines.

**PROJECT UPDATE** - The removal of 98km wire by the 3rd Vic Falls Guides Group plus removal of 21km by the Ukhozi Team brings total phone wire now removed to:

**TOTAL 545km WIRE REMOVED**  
**TOTAL WEIGHT 18.2 Tons**  
**POTENTIAL SNARES 181,700**

#### TELEPHONE WIRE REMOVAL PROGRESS ALONG DETE ROAD







Since the departure of the Vic Falls volunteer groups, the D.A.R.T./Ukhozi team continued to work alone on the phone wire removal project. During this time it has been most humbling for the Team to receive a generous donation of 20kg Mealie Meal and 60litres diesel from James & Janine Varden and their supporters from Ride Zimbabwe Horseback Safaris. Special thanks must also go to Terry & Sheona Anders & their wonderful chefs & staff at Iganyana Camp who've not only prepared a sumptuous lunch every day for the Ukhozi Team but have also gone out of their way to deliver this lunch to the team **EVERY DAY** wherever they are in the field. This is greatly appreciated.



The Phone Wire Removal Initiative would like to thank everyone who has and continues to physically assist the D.A.R.T./Ukhozi Team by generously giving up their valuable time or kindly donating financial or material support to the ongoing success of this valuable conservation project including:

- HWANGE CONSERVATION SOCIETY-(UK)
- SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONSERVATION TRUST
- FRIENDS OF HWANGE
- SAVE AFRICAN RHINO FOUNDATION
- 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 2 x 10 kg bags of mealie meal
- FOREVER AFRICAN SAFARIS - for providing procurement and logistics
- TERRY & SHEONA ANDERS & Iganyana Tented Camp - for providing accommodation, supplying and logistics of meals and camp staff
- JAMES & JANINE VARDEN of Ride Zimbabwe Horseback Safaris
- JOHN LAING of Batoka Lodges for recruitment, coordination and transportation of Vic Falls Guides
- 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.