

The Conservation and Tourism Society (CATS) is a non-governmental organization established in 2017 and based in Livingstone with the aims of promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection and the conservation of wildlife and encouraging ethical and sustainable practices throughout Livingstone's tourism sector.

Their overarching goal is to have an environment where humans and animals can co-exist, thereby ending human/animal conflict. To this end, they work with volunteers, school children, youths and adults to raise conservation awareness throughout communities in the Livingstone area.

### WHAT THEY DO

- **Conservation education in schools-** They visit local schools to give lessons to about 150 children a week on how to co-exist with animals. The method of teaching they use ensures that classes are fun and relevant. The lessons allow the children to connect to the environment and understand the importance of conservation.
- **Sensitisation** in communities near the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park affected by occasional elephant raids. Through door-to-door mentoring, they advise communities on how to live with wild animals and how best to ensure their well-being and that of the natural environment, thereby reducing human/animal conflict.
- **Anti-poaching advocacy-** This is a key element of the sensitization programme since poaching for meat, horns and tusks remains a major threat to animals in the National Park and more widely, including the White Rhino population within the Park.



- **Collection of snares-** Wire snares threaten resident and migratory animals in the National Park, where they are arrayed by illegal bushmeat hunters who mostly target wild herbivores. This under-appreciated threat has a significant impact on wild animal populations worldwide, causing injuries, permanent disabilities, stress and sometimes death. As part of their overall anti-poaching work, in liaison with DNPW they therefore carry out de-snaring in the park every week.



- **CATS Elephant Response Team (CERT).** A 24/7 emergency response team run in liaison with DNPW and specially trained to defuse confrontations between elephants and members of the local community.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

320 Children sensitized on environmental conservation.

80 snares collected from the Mosi-oa-Tunya National park.

20 Beehives setup.

- **Promotion of bee-keeping.** The beehive project is aimed in particular at reducing human/animal conflict with regards to elephants. Hives are being set up in areas where elephants raid farms and gardens, acting as a line of defence as well as producing valuable cash crops.



## SUPPORT NEEDED

- 4WD vehicle to assist anti-snaring patrol and accessing more remote villages in the frontline with elephants.
- Materials for making eco-bins, e.g. cement, wire.
- Funding for a permanent office space, office furniture, laptop computer and printer.
- Funding for branded CATS T-shirts, caps etc for a membership drive
- Funding for conservation and education materials for schools and stipends to teachers.
- Funding for uniforms and for beekeeping protective clothing and equipment for CERT.

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