



FROM THE FIELD

LATEST IMPACT UPDATES
FROM OUR GREAT PLAINS INITIATIVES

Q3 IMPACT REPORT | JULY – SEPTEMBER 2021

We are pleased to bring you our 2021 third quarter report on Great Plains' conservation, community and sustainability initiatives. It was an exciting quarter with amazing work being done by everyone from our Project Ranger grantees and the teams at the Great Plains Earth Academy and Rhinos Without Borders. The last few months have also been setting the stage for the end of the year with our Solar Mamas ready to install panels to off-grid households and Conservation Education programs re-starting. We hope you enjoy and thank you for the incredible support.



PROJECT RANGER

"The global pandemic shot through the fabric of all our lives and almost no sector was left unscathed. Wildlife conservation is what I consider a second pandemic as bushmeat, iconic species, lions, rhinos, elephants and pangolins took the brunt of it and we started to understand that this has become a massive, and highly organised transnational crime worth over \$27 billion a year. Project Ranger's emergency relief fund has been supporting salaries, operational costs and supplies for units across Africa for over a year. So far we have supported over 16 projects in 9 countries and counting."

Dereck Joubert

Below is a map of all of our grantees and some highlights from our grantees active this quarter.



PLEASE NOTE: For the security and protection of the organizations we work with we are limited on what information we are able to share in public reports.



Project Ranger Grantee

BUSHLIFE CONSERVANCY

BushLife Conservancy is a nonprofit dedicated to the protection of Mana Pools National Park and the Lower Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe. The region is at high risk for wildlife poaching because of Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Management Authority's (Zimparks) limited resources. The threat to wildlife has been further amplified during the COVID pandemic, leaving both Zimparks and Bushlife's partner safari camp without funding from tourism and local people desperate. Bushlife provides operational and logistical support to ZimParks as well as employing its own rangers to increase coverage of the area. Project Ranger's support this quarter allowed Bushlife to hire new scouts and a driver to increase their patrol presence in eastern Mana Pools. Supplies and equipment were purchased including uniforms, mosquito netting and bedrolls.



"We are grateful for your generous support and look forward to protecting this vulnerable habitat area with your support"

Project Ranger Grantee

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME INVESTIGATION CENTRE (ECIC) for ICCN

The **Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)** is the government entity that manages the National Parks and protected areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Through a partnership with the Maisha Group, Project Ranger provided a grant for the establishment of a centralized communication and information centre for the ICCN. The centre will provide digital tools to investigate and analyse data from the field to allow significant anti-poaching and wildlife crime law enforcement actions on a national scale. Progress in Q3 has included starting of construction of a new building to house the centre as well as the ICCN leadership and enforcement entity, computers, licenses and software has been purchased.



Project Ranger Grantee

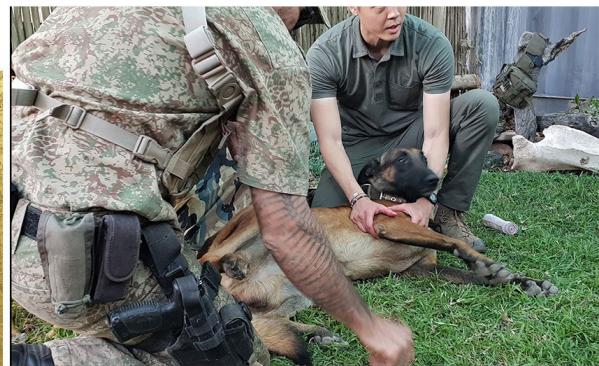
PIT-TRACK

Pit-Track K9 Conservation and Anti-Poaching Unit is a South African non-profit specializing in using K9's and their passionate handlers to protect endangered species in the Kruger National Park area (among others). Pit-Track has faced huge challenges this quarter and Project Ranger's support has allowed them to maintain their operations and avoid furloughs in one of South Africa's key wildlife conservation areas.

"The International Tourism in our area, of which we relied heavily on, is non-existent...Hunting areas that were being pressured to turn to Eco are now re-exploiting that avenue at dramatically reduced rates to accommodate the local market. Hunting quotas have been increased to accommodate the reduced rate...this breaks my heart as we work so hard to protect these animals, we cannot afford a shift of this mentality."

This quarter Pit-Track saw the arrival of two long-awaited dogs from Germany. These two K9s are trained in rhino horn, elephant ivory, pangolin, firearms and ammunition. The 2 dogs are full steam ahead and producing outstanding results. In addition, all of Pit-Track's K9 Tracking Unit team were put through a Wild Response intensive field trauma medical course. Finally, the Pit-Track have a team based at Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary, which has managed to continue its operations with no incidents reported.

"On behalf of Pit-Track Non-Profit K9 Conservation and Anti-Poaching Unit, we would like to thank the Project Ranger team for this incredible life-saving initiative for not only us but all boots on the ground across Africa."





Project Ranger Grantee
BUMI HILLS

The **Bumi Hills Foundation** is a non-profit organisation based on the shores of Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe and dedicated to conservation through anti-poaching and community empowerment. The Project Ranger grant to Bumi Hills is supporting 9 rangers salaries for all of 2021. Most of the rangers are the sole breadwinners in their families, and the money has been received by them all with deep gratitude. The infographic below highlights what the Bumi Hills APU team was able to accomplish this quarter alone.

"Our economy is in tatters, basic goods are expensive and sometimes unobtainable-add to that the Covid pandemic, and we have a perfect storm situation, with many rangers in other, not so fortunate organisations, having gone unpaid for many months. Our rangers are all deeply thankful for the extra they have received every month...None of our operations would be possible without your kind support during the year which is HUGELY appreciated – we really would have been in a serious financial mess without your contributions so THANK YOU"

6,405 km patrolled **105 snares recovered**
10 arrests made





Project Ranger Grantee

CONSERVATION & WILDLIFE FUND HWANGE

Project Ranger's grant to **Conservation and Wildlife Fund (CWF)** has kept their scouts employed and patrolling through wage and ration support for their scouts. As a result CWF managed to continue its patrol operations in the Sikumi and Ngamo Forests, as well as on some privately leased land and within Hwange National Park.

A new partnership with Hwange Horseback Safaris means plans are now in place for a CWF-led horseback anti-poaching unit. With potential increased team numbers, new barracks are being built and ablutions expanded alongside other building plans to accommodate new rangers.

82 Traps & snares collected
1,823 Patrol hours
17,201km Distance patrolled 
8019 arrests made



Project Ranger Grantee

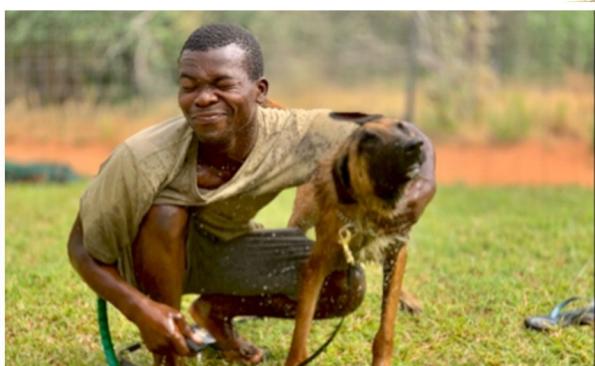
CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI

Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) is a non-profit committed to protecting the Lower Zambezi National Park in Zambia. CLZ's work includes a Community Scout Unit, a K9 anti-poaching unit, a Rapid Response Unit and support to Zambia's DNPW. Due to a lack of funding and resources, the DNPW has faced challenges in fulfilling its mandate. Poaching and other illegal activities such as deforestation and human encroachment remain a constant threat and COVID-19 has led to rising bushmeat poaching and illegal small-scale mining.

Project Ranger's support to CLZ focused on the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) and the K9 unit, allowing their uninterrupted operation. In Quarter 3, CLZ's K9 Unit and RRU continued to address small-scale illegal mining inside Lower Zambezi National Park. Mining threatens the environment through pollution and land degradation and often coincides with other illegal acts such as poaching and illegal fishing. The K9 Unit and teams on the ground, have continued to respond to illegal mining in the region with 51 arrests in Quarter 3.

"Support from Project Ranger for the operation of the critical RRU and K9 Unit has contributed immensely to the protection of wildlife and the environment of the Lower Zambezi."

40 snares collected 51 arrests made





Project Ranger Grantee
GORILLA DOCTORS

Gorilla Doctors is dedicated to conserving mountain and eastern lowland gorillas through veterinary medicine and science. The current COVID-19 pandemic poses a very real threat both because mountain gorillas are susceptible to COVID-19 infection but also because of the pandemic's impact on tourism.

Project Ranger supports the great work Gorilla Doctors do to protect these Great Apes. In July, Gorilla Doctors hired a new Gorilla Doctor who will focus on monitoring Grauer's gorillas in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, DRC. Throughout Q3 Gorilla Doctors conducted 68 routine health checks, 43 veterinary monitoring visits, and performed 10 clinical interventions to treat illness or injury. A large portion of the monitoring visits were in an attempt to treat Ndakasi, one of the orphaned gorillas at Senkwekwe. Despite their tremendous efforts, she passed away on September 26th. As you can imagine, their team are heartbroken.



RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS

Rhinos Without Borders (RWB) is continuing the strategy of increasing wildlife monitoring of existing animals instead of re-locating more animals from South Africa due to the current situation that Covid-19 has created with the devastating loss of tourism and its economic support.

In support of those on-going efforts the RWB teams racked up more than 284 patrols over 1,418 hours and covered more than 9700km (6000 miles) patrolled by foot, vehicle and air. The team was also thrilled to record no poaching incidents in the third quarter. Despite these tremendous efforts and successes the challenges facing Botswana's rhino are significant.

By far the largest challenge facing RWB and Botswana's rhinos is a tragic increase in poaching since early 2020. Our RWB monitors who see themselves as personally responsible for every rhino, are devastated by any losses, and have doubled-down on their commitment to the safety of every rhino in their care. It is depressing and traumatic for everyone involved. An image of Poster, our head of Rhino Monitor is etched in our minds; this giant of a man, (6 ft 7!) saying, "... they are like our babies and then you come across one..." and he puts his head down and weeps. Our collective compassion is no longer enough. It is a war, and at Great Plains, we must fight it.

**1,419
hours
patrolled**  **284
Patrols**





EARTH ACADEMY

The Great Plains Earth Academy was built to provide personal and community enrichment opportunities for individuals living alongside wildlife in rural Northern Botswana. Due to Covid-19, the Academy has been closed as the community team on the ground redirected their focus to Covid infection prevention education and distribution of sanitizers and supplies for communities including thousands of face masks.

We are excited to share that the Academy's training center in Seronga village safely re-opened at the end of September. Our team, led by Community Liaison Gobo, wasted no time in organizing valuable vocational training. Two exciting training sessions were conducted, hosting 20 trainees (10 of them were women) from the local communities in Northern Botswana. The courses included General Maintenance & Safe Chainsaw training and Hospitality Front of House Service training, specifically aimed at equipping the trainees to have the skills to be able to find sustainable jobs in the returning tourism industry.

"I want to express my gratitude to learn these new skills and look forward to the chance to use them in paid employment soon."



EQUAL MALE & FEMALE TRAINEES

20

Humans

10
10

Men

Women



SOLAR MAMAS

The devastating effects of Covid-19 caused delays in the Solar Mamas' ability to install solar household electrification systems in off-grid communities in Northern Botswana. But this didn't stop the ladies from being leaders; they re-directed their efforts into Covid-19 education and distribution of sanitisers, masks and more. Towards the end of the quarter, the Solar Mamas have restarted their work on setting up their businesses for solar installations and have made great progress. Business development support was provided through consultation with the banks to set up bank accounts and establish a personalized business plan for each of the solar mamas. We have set up the secure storage container in the central community in Seronga to house the solar systems safely and the necessary tools and equipment needed to install the solar systems is on order. Most importantly, there are 100 complete systems in Botswana and ready to be installed by the Solar Mamas in the next quarter.

100 
solar household units are ready to be installed


CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Sustainable conservation is inextricably linked to the communities living among wildlife and protected lands. For this reason, the Great Plains has been investing for a decade in the next generation of conservationists through conservation education and the **Great Plains' Student Conservation Camps**. These programs have largely been on hold in both Botswana and Kenya since early 2020 due to school closures and physical distancing restrictions. We are, however, excited to announce that they are slowly up and running again and we are hoping that physically distanced versions of the conservation kids camps will be held before the end of the year in both Botswana and Kenya.

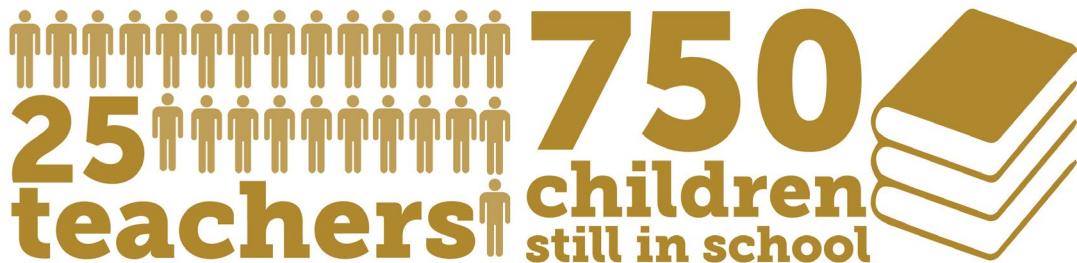
SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

While Great Plains' conservation camps were put on pause, our Botswana community team worked on a priority needs analysis with each school that we work with. There was a combination of funds required to keep the schools operating as well as a shortage of supplies due to lack of donations due to Covid. The five primary schools and a junior school were supported financially throughout Q3. The supply donations across the six schools included items such as paper, pens, toilet paper, white board markers and printer ink. The staff of the Great Plains Conservation head office in Botswana pulled together a pool of BWP4,000 donations that contributed to two schools being supported.

"We are very thankful that Great Plains is still helping us despite the pandemic issues to daily life and we really appreciated the support. We are looking forward to working with Great Plains once the restrictions are lifted and normal activities can resume."

6 Schools Supported

In Kenya, in the face of extended school closures, we continued our salary support for 24 teachers across 14 schools on the Maasai owned ranches around ol Donyo Lodge.





CONSERVATION ROOTS

The aim of Conservation Roots is to restore indigenous trees to landscapes across Kenya. Also with conversations of carbon offset programs we aim to give the planet's lungs a second chance. Paul, who manages the **Conservation Roots** initiative in Kenya has been working tirelessly throughout the last quarter. Paul is a professional horticulturalist based in our Masai Mara camps who takes great care in understanding the landscape and which trees should be planted where. He has planted no less than 8,500 trees across Kenya so far. The species are split between assorted acacia, warbugia ugandanesis, Olea Africans and assorted figs. The trees that are planted come from a dedicated nursery at the camps that Paul and his team nurture on a daily basis. You can find Paul walking around the Mara camps and he is always excited to speak to guests on the importance of trees and regenerating the landscape. Paul has also been busy working on setting up each camp with their own vegetable gardens to create a 'farm to fork' offering at our safari camps as well as staff food.

**8,500
trees planted**  **4 species
planted**





GREEN HEART OF GREAT PLAINS

Great Plains has been working on innovative practices with our safari camps on reducing our negative impact on the earth while increasing our positive impact. A large challenge in the wild spaces we work in is waste management. Our teams have been busy over the last quarter in our environmental systems, the green heart of our operations.

GLASS CRUSHER

In our local regions, recycling is often not available so our teams brainstormed how we can internally improve our waste management. We set up the Great Plains Glass Crushers (GPCGC) which crush glass into sand that is used to build sustainable building blocks for communities. The GPGCs don't just crush glass bottles from our safari camps but also invites everyone and anyone to bring their glass bottles along to the GPGC Depot. In Botswana, our Depot has gained regional awareness in the last few months!



"This is a great project who would ever think glass could be up-cycled into bricks, I think if we join hands together more employment opportunities can be generated"

In September our team visited the brick moulder Mma Temane. She was previously using sand from the ground to create her bricks and was looking for a sustainable option. Our recycled sand worked perfectly! We now supply her brick moulding business with a continuous sustainable environmentally-friendly option. She said "this project has great potential as my customers opt to go for the glass sand brick which is so exiting and looking forward to joining the journey of recycling"

5,145 TONNES

OF GLASS HAS AVOIDED LANDFILL AND HAVE BEEN RECYCLED INTO BUILDING BRICKS

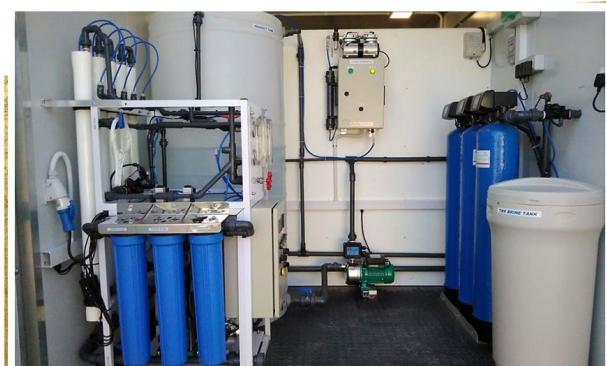


BOTTLING PLANTS - ELIMINATING SINGLE USE PLASTIC

Great Plains has long recognized the tremendous negative effects of single-use plastic on the environment; and because change begins at home we invested in our own system to eliminate single-use plastics in our camps, supply chain and operations wherever possible. Part of that effort was two bottling plants, one in each of our concessions in Botswana that use water from the ground which is filtered to become both still and sparkling drinking water. We use Great Plains glass bottles that are professionally cleaned as part of the bottling plant for guest use.

16,750 L
OF WATER PROCESSED

33,500
SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC BOTTLES
AVOIDED





The entire system is backed by reusable glass bottles and silicone seals. Each of the 1 liter or half-liter bottles of water can be re-used between 30 and 40 times. Because the bottles are glass, when they reach the end of their life they go into our Glass Crushing initiative. This quarter, the team in Botswana led by Tutuetso, have processed 16,750L of water through the Bottling Plants which has, in turn, avoided 33,500 single-use plastic bottles coming into the bush and ending up in a landfill. We can all be proud of the fact that we are no longer contributing to plastic and its pollution of our environs.



WWW.GREATPLAINSFOUNDATION.COM
INFO@GREATPLAINSFOUNDATION.COM