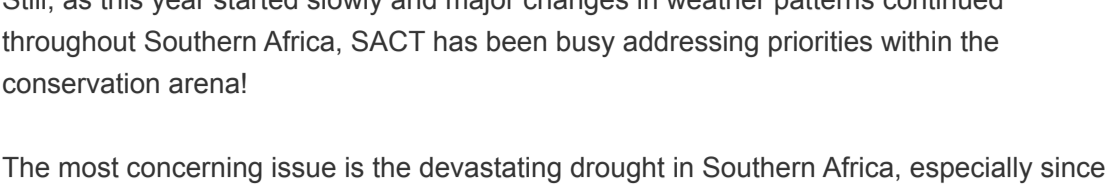




In association with CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT PARTNERS



SPONSORS and PARTNERS of the SACT News Update

First Quarter Jan - Apr 2024

I must apologise for the delay in getting feedback through our news update publications. Still, as this year started slowly and major changes in weather patterns continued throughout Southern Africa, SACT has been busy addressing priorities within the conservation arena!

The most concerning issue is the devastating drought in Southern Africa, especially since our rainfall levels taper off dramatically as winter fast approaches.

On a brighter note, I have spent over a week in Zimbabwe with our Australian partners, looking at various rural community projects and educational opportunities for schools adjacent to or near Hwange National Park. The Briandez Legacy Trust has very kindly donated funding to cover the cost of 5 lion tracking collars for this area, in addition to funding the reprint of our very first educational comic, "Vusa the Lion Guardian," which has been out of stock for a few years now. The new edition (with a revised story) is urgently needed in schools adjacent to protected areas in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, and South Africa - 10,000 comics to be printed! We thank you for your financial support covering the artwork and printing costs. It is greatly appreciated!

Regarding our "Collar A Lion" project, I am pleased to announce we have initially donated two collars to WildCRU/Hwange Lion Project, and African Wildlife Tracking, the manufacturers of the tracking collars, are building 10 new lioness tracking collars for project managers/co-ordinators in South Africa for the Nelson Mandela University and South African National Parks (SANParks). These 10 collars will be deployed in the Kruger National Park between mid July to mid August 2024.

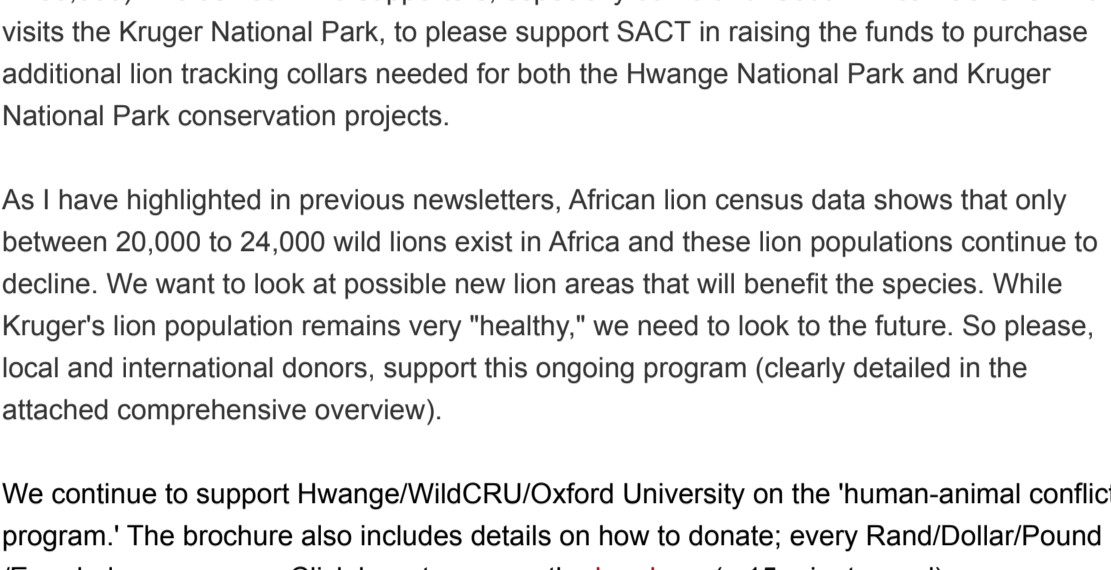
A supporter of SACT and dedicated conservationist Rosana Venturini from Boulder/Colorado in the USA; a talented artist and signature member of Artists for Conservation. Her art is currently on display in the USA. The total proceeds from the sale of her artwork will be donated to SACT! She is currently working on an oil painting of "Humba," the lion who hangs out around the Kennedy 1 area of Hwange NP! Once completed, this large painting will be auctioned off to raise funds for our lion collaring program, together with artwork kindly donated by Linda Rosen, also from the USA. So, watch this space for details!

Please take a few moments to read the articles that interest you. I realise these days, with email overload, that's not always possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours in Conservation,

Brian Courtenay
 Chairperson, Southern African Conservation Trust
 Email: elephant@satib.co.za
 Mobile: 082 926 0791
 Postal address: P.O. Box 427, Umhlanga Rocks, 4320, KZN, South Africa



Ngamo Plains – Hwange NP Lion "Tip" in late afternoon sunset

ROAR WITH PRIDE

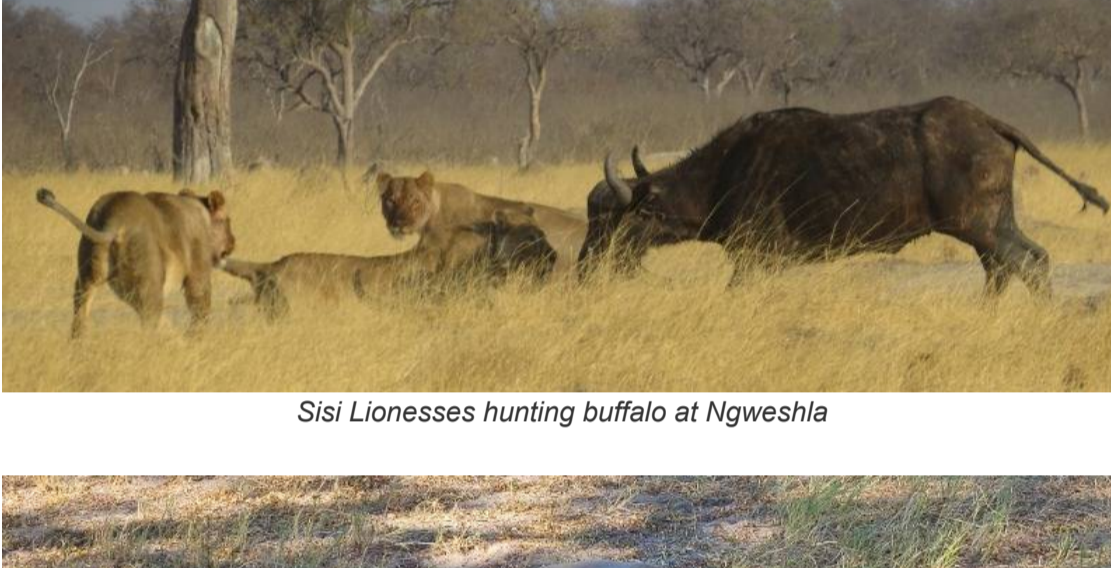


Our successful conservation project, "Collar a Lion," has just launched its next phase in the Kruger National Park in South Africa! There is no need to introduce you to Kruger National Park as it is a world-renowned tourist destination. The collar program extends to this national park, and SACT is sponsoring ten lion tracking collars (sponsorship of R450,000). We ask our kind supporters, especially our faithful South African citizens who visits the Kruger National Park, to please support SACT in raising the funds to purchase additional lion tracking collars needed for both the Hwange National Park and Kruger National Park conservation projects.

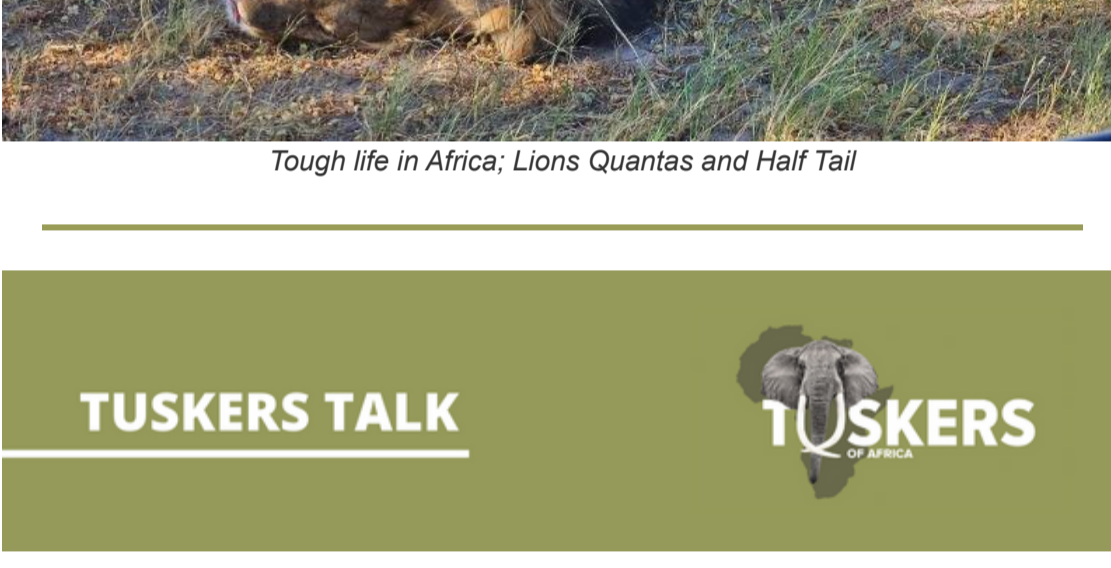
As I have highlighted in previous newsletters, African lion census data shows that only between 20,000 to 24,000 wild lions exist in Africa and these lion populations continue to decline. We want to look at possible new lion areas that will benefit the species. While Kruger's lion population remains very "healthy," we need to look to the future. So please, local and international donors, support this ongoing program (clearly detailed in the attached comprehensive overview).

We continue to support Hwange/WildCRU/Oxford University on the 'human-animal conflict program.' The brochure also includes details on how to donate; every Rand/Dollar/Pound /Euro helps our cause. [Click here](#) to access the [brochure](#) (a 15-minute read).

Thank you in anticipation.



Save it to cherish or leave it to perish.

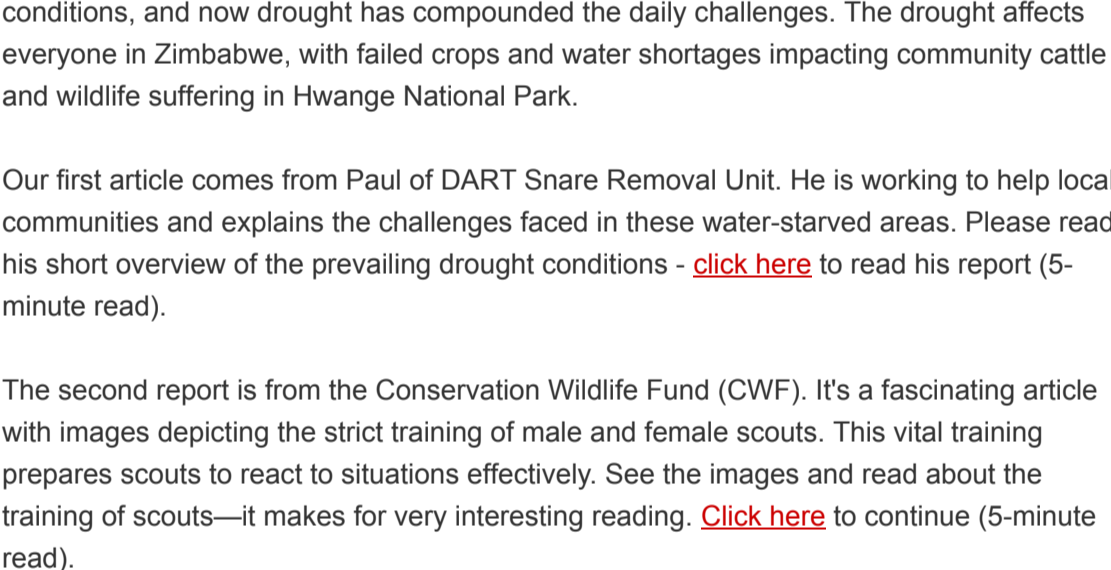


Field Notes from Calvet Nkomo
 Senior Professional Guide
 Based at Somalisa camp
 Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe.

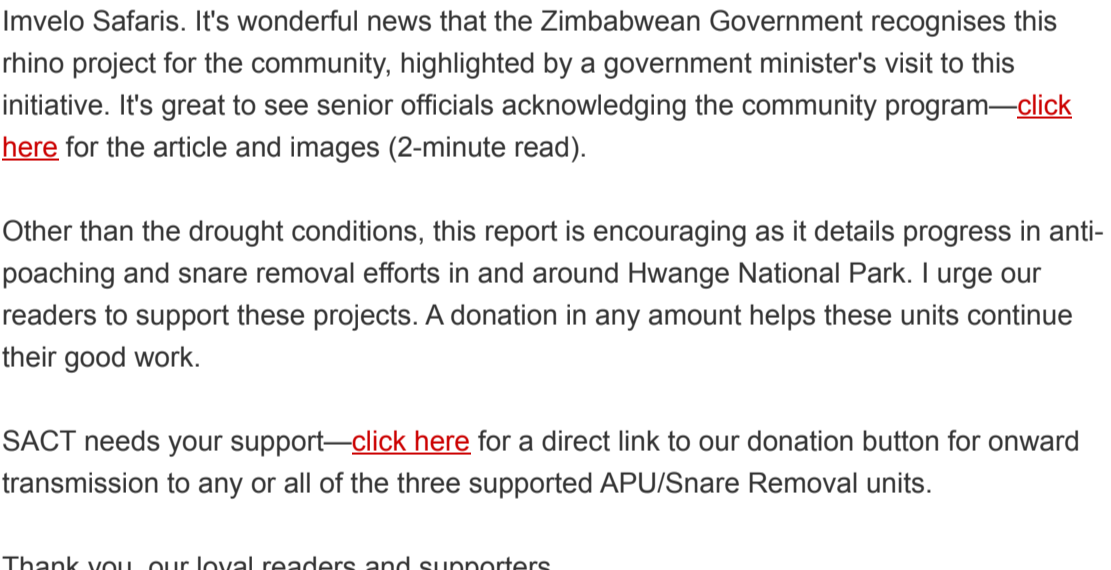
All friends and guests/colleagues of Calvet Nkomo,

I am writing this note on behalf of our friend Calvet Nkomo. The start of the 2024 season has been challenging for us all, but we had a very successful guide training workshop in early February. Balancing his work career and family life has taken much of Calvet's time. Additionally, Calvet has had some time off, but he is now back at work and looking forward to hosting you at Somalisa Camp! While Calvet's article won't be ready for this deadline, I'm excited to share that he'll be featured in our next update!

I trust you understand. He sends his best wishes to you all.



Sisi Lionesses hunting buffalo at Ngweshla



Tough life in Africa; Lions Quantas and Half Tail

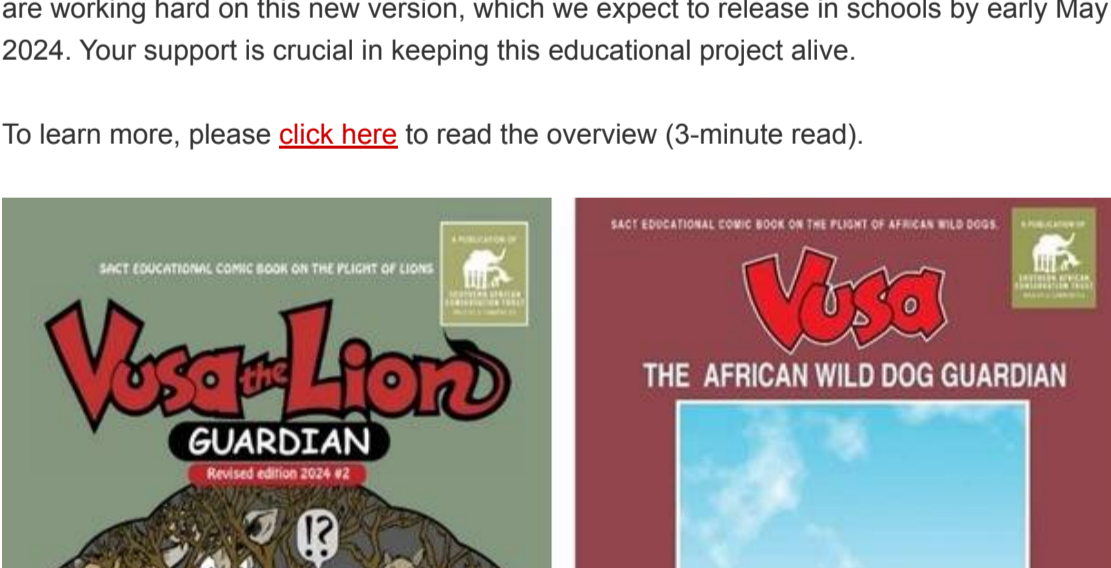
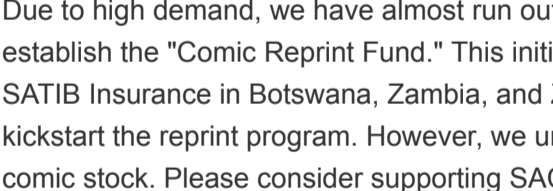
TUSKERS TALK



A severe drought grips Southern Africa, accompanied by changes in rain patterns and abnormally high temperatures for this time of year. The drought is particularly severe in Zimbabwe, Botswana, and certain parts of South Africa, concerningly echoing the events of 2019, when many species, especially elephants, experienced mass die-offs.

The article and images by Stephanie Kong, project manager at Elephants for Africa - Botswana, provide an interesting perspective. The images, taken just one month apart, strikingly illustrate the rapid decline in vegetation growth alarmingly early in the year. Please take 5 minutes to review this insightful article and accompanying visuals, [read here](#).

Thank you,
 Brian Courtenay, Elephants for Africa Trustee



This month, we have interesting articles on the great work undertaken by the three NGOs (Snare Removal and Anti-Poaching Units) we support. They operate under trying conditions, and now drought has compounded the daily challenges. The drought affects everyone in Zimbabwe, with failed crops and water shortages impacting community cattle and wildlife suffering in Hwange National Park.

Our first article comes from Paul of DART Snare Removal Unit. He is working to help local communities and explains the challenges faced in these water-starved areas. Please read his short overview of the prevailing drought conditions - [click here](#) to read his report (5-minute read).

The second report is from the Conservation Wildlife Fund (CWF). It's a fascinating article with images depicting the strict training of male and female scouts. This vital training prepares scouts—to react to situations effectively. See the images and read about the training of scouts—it makes for very interesting reading. [Click here](#) to continue (5-minute read).

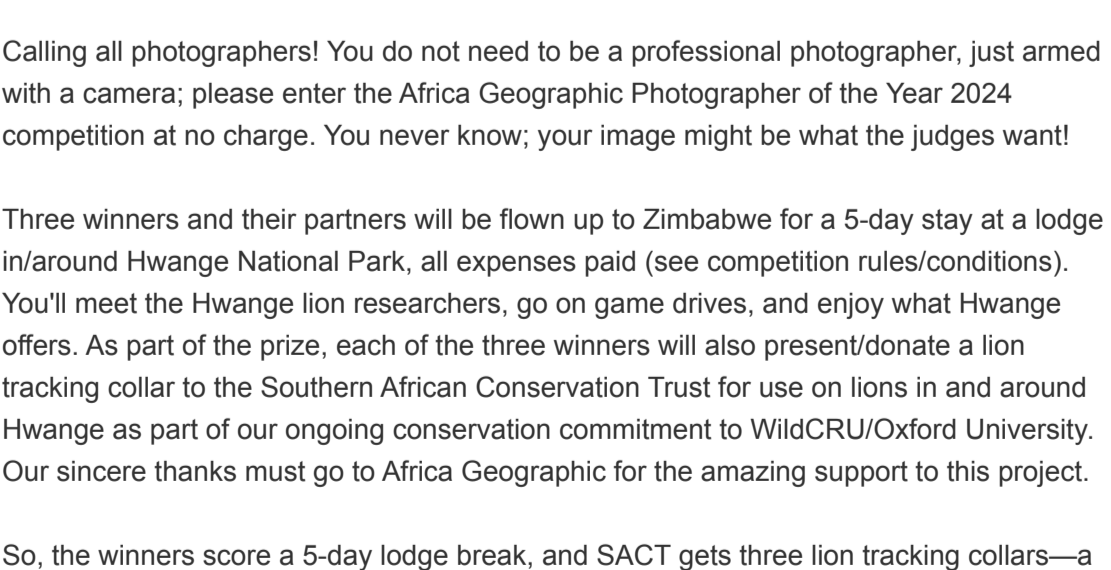
Our final article is from the Community Rhino Conservation Initiative (CRCI), supported by Imvelo Safaris. It's wonderful news that the Zimbabwean Government recognises this rhino project for the community, highlighted by a government minister's visit to this initiative. It's great to see senior officials acknowledging the community program—[click here](#) for the article and images (2-minute read).

Other than the drought conditions, this report is encouraging as it details progress in anti-poaching and snare removal efforts in and around Hwange National Park. I urge our readers to support these projects. A donation in any amount helps these units continue their good work.

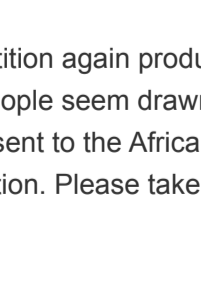
SACT needs your support—[click here](#) for a direct link to our donation button for onward transmission to any or all of the three supported APU/Snare Removal units.

Thank you, our loyal readers and supporters.

Yours in conservation,
 Brian



COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION



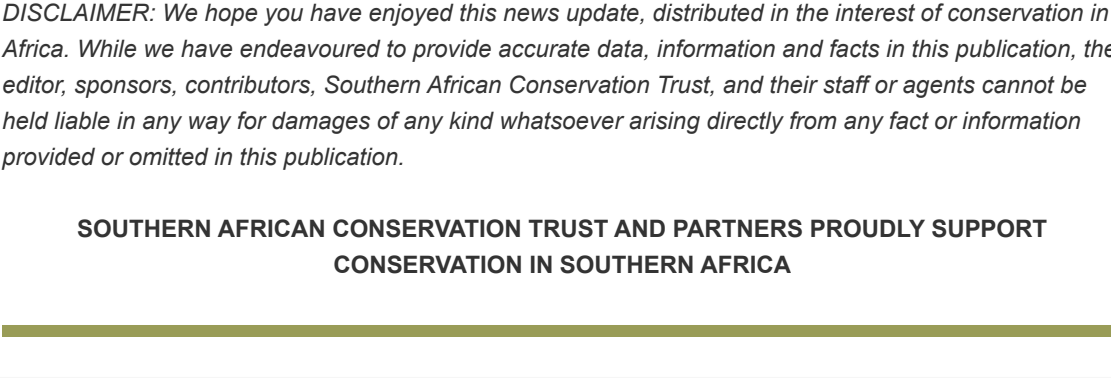
The building of the Skills Hub Centre just outside Hwange National Park by our partners, Soft Foot Alliance, is progressing well! Please see our attached quarterly report for January to March 2024. It makes for interesting reading. [Click here](#) to read this report (a 5-minute read).

Our rural primary school educational comics have been a great hit, and we are continually asked for more copies. These are supplied free of charge to the schools and distributed by various appointed NGOs or safari lodges in the areas of the rural schools.

Due to high demand, we have almost run out of the original comics, prompting us to establish the "Comic Reprint Fund." This initiative has been generously supported by SATIB Insurance in Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, which have provided donations to kickstart the reprint program. However, we urgently need more funding to maintain our comic stock. Please consider supporting SACT with a donation—every bit helps! For donation options, see the attached [brochure](#).

The comics will include the vulture, ground hornbill, and pangolin. Additionally, we are excited to announce a revised edition of "Vusa the Lion Guardian." Our author and artist are working hard on this new version, which we expect to release in schools by early May 2024. Your support is crucial in keeping this educational project alive.

To learn more, please [click here](#) to read the overview (3-minute read).



NATURE OF NATURE MOMENTS

Mommy and cub

Buffalo Soldier hitting back

Bush & Bushbuck fighting with a Link Pride female

A personal note from the coffee king, Brian C

Calling all photographers! You do not need to be a professional photographer, just armed with a camera; please enter the Africa Geographic Photographer of the Year 2024 competition at no charge. You never know; your image might be what the judges want!

Three winners and their partners will be flown up to Zimbabwe for a 5-day stay at a lodge in/around Hwange National Park, all expenses paid (see competition rules/conditions). You'll meet the Hwange lion researchers, go on game drives, and enjoy what Hwange offers. As part of the prize, each of the three winners will also present/donate a lion tracking collar to the Southern African Conservation Trust for use on lions in and around Hwange as part of our ongoing conservation commitment to WildCRU/Oxford University. Our sincere thanks must go to Africa Geographic for the amazing support to this project.

So, the winners score a 5-day lodge break, and SACT gets three lion tracking collars—a win-win situation! Please enter the competition; it is straightforward. For more information on this conservation initiative, [click here](#) (a 10-minute read) to learn how to join.

The Africa Geographic Photographer of the Year 2024 competition again produces magnificent lion images and photographs of other species. People seem drawn to lions as iconic animals, and some truly magnificent images are being sent to the Africa Geographic offices. I am reproducing a few of these images for your attention. Please take a look at a small sample of images [here](#).

Yours in conservation,
 Brian

You are receiving this news update because you either know Brian Courtenay or Calvet Nkomo or you are a current client of SATIB South Africa, SATIB Africa, African Risk Transfer, firstEquity Group, or a past friend of SATIB Conservation Trust.

Our sincere thanks must go to our sponsors: SATIB Insurance, SATIB Africa Insurance, African Risk Transfer (Maunilius), Tourism Risk Underwriting Managers, First Equity Group, Big Ambitions, Embrio, Africa Geographic, Stellenrust Wine Estate, and any other organization or individual person involved in our conservation objectives. We thank you all.

To subscribe to our electronic news update, please follow the link below:

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