

## Hwange and Kruger projects in the field, possible *new* areas on the horizon...

- **Hwange National Park/Wildcru Project:** our two sponsored satellite collars have been deployed and are playing their part in this research. See report on *'Hanganu, conflict lioness'* on page 2.
- **Kruger National Park/Nelson Mandela University Project:** deployment of our sponsored satellite collars on lionesses in ten prides across Kruger is now well underway. **See *photographs on page 3***. Also, this project now has its own title and project logo: Kruger's Pride.
- **New discussions:** consequent to rollouts in the above areas, several new potential projects have expressed interest in working with SACT in the use of sponsored satellite collars. Territories of possible future deployment are mapped below...



## **THANK YOU LION WARRIORS!**

Once again – and very importantly – a big thank you to the people and organisations who through their donations are all sponsors of these collars.

### Individual sponsors:

- Oana and Peter Petrina, *New York*
- Julian Bowen-Reese, *New York*
- John Graham, *USA and London*
- Dr David Rosen, *Austin, Texas*
- Ian Morris, *Cape Town*
- Kobie van der Westhuizen, *Cape Town*
- Tertius Boshoff, *Cape Town*
- Rosana Venturini, *USA*

### Corporate & Trust sponsors:

- Briandez Legacy Trust, *Australia*
- Stellenrust Wine Estate, *Cape Town*
- Africa Geographic, *Hoedspruit*
- African Risk Transfer, *Mauritius*
- Southern African Conservation Trust, *Durban*
- Imvelo Safari Lodges, *Hwange, Zimbabwe*



## **TAKE YOUR PLACE AMONG THESE VALUED LION WARRIORS!**

**Join our Pride in the fight for wild lion survival:** A collar can be sponsored in full, syndicated with family and friends, or sponsored by a company. South Africans or registered South African companies are entitled to a Section 18a certificate for SARS tax deduction purposes. International sponsors are very welcome too, and SACT's association with Global Giving now makes this easy and safe to do. **See full sponsorship information in this brochure...**

RESEARCH  
SPONSORS:



# Hwange National Park

## Tracking collar project update



Severe drought ravaged Zimbabwe during much of last year, and conditions are expected to reach into the year ahead. In Hwange National Park this makes finding lions even more difficult than usual since these cats take refuge from the unrelenting heat using dense undergrowth. Consequently, only two of our five donated collars have thus far been deployed.

Africa Geographic's three recently sponsored collars – donated in the names of their 2024 photographic competition winners – have already been allocated for fitment to three lions identified by the WildCRU/Oxford University team as needing monitoring. The search for these three lions continues but, given the current conditions, collaring is now only likely to happen in the months ahead.

Our two other sponsored collars in Hwange have been deployed on problem lions Hanganu and Chifamba. Jane Hunt of the Wildcat Trust has provided us with a brief report on the conflict lioness Hanganu: AWT 7537. Nervous after her capture and collaring, Hanganu continues to evade physical sightings, but the video segment on this page shows us her movement from June to November 2024. **Click below...**

WildCRU lion movements



# Searching for Hanganu

## Report from Jane Hunt, Wildcat Trust

This collared lioness is moving in and out of the park, seemingly to raid livestock that is being pushed far into the state land around Nengasha, Tshokomela, Inyantue and Mambanje river areas. There seems to be a lot of stray livestock in these areas as reported to me by the people who have this area on council lease for trophy hunting.

Communities are very short of grazing for their animals due to this year's drought. Nobody has seen Hanganu since her release in February 2024 but have reported seeing her spoor. Steve Alexander has a few of his team deployed in this area and I have given them several of her GPS location stats to be checked out and ground-truthed. The aim is to find out whether there are kill sites, snare lines, den sites or other evidence. All points visited by the unit were found to be shady rest spots only, so that is good news – but we are worried that if she persists in moving out to these areas she will be snared. This is a notoriously bad area for these activities. We have lost over twenty lions in this same area over the time that the project has run (the last 25 years) and these are just the ones we are aware of.

We know from seeing just single spoor that she is still moving alone - as we would expect, since these lionesses seldom join with others.

Whenever Hanganu returns to the park she ranges from Inyantue to the Lukosi river system in the Sinamatela area. Luckily, at the beginning of November, she started to come back into the park and has moved through the Inyantue and Tshompani areas and is now back east of Mandavu dam.





# KRUGER'S PRIDE

Revolutionizing Lion Monitoring for Evidence Based Conservation

Collaring six prides and one male coalition in Pilanesberg and Marakele National Parks during 2023 completed phase one of our Game of Thrones Lion Project.

We then shifted our focus to Kruger National Park in 2024 where our team's initial task was to count lions and identify all the prides south of the Olifants River – a massive effort.

Once we had a good grip on pride whereabouts, we set to work getting a collar onto one adult female individual per pride. In this, we have partnered with the State Veterinary Services, Contemplate Wild, and SANPARKS Wildlife veterinary services to deploy 25 collars over pre-identified focus areas in the southern part of Kruger National Park. The bonus of this partnership is that the data is not only used for research but

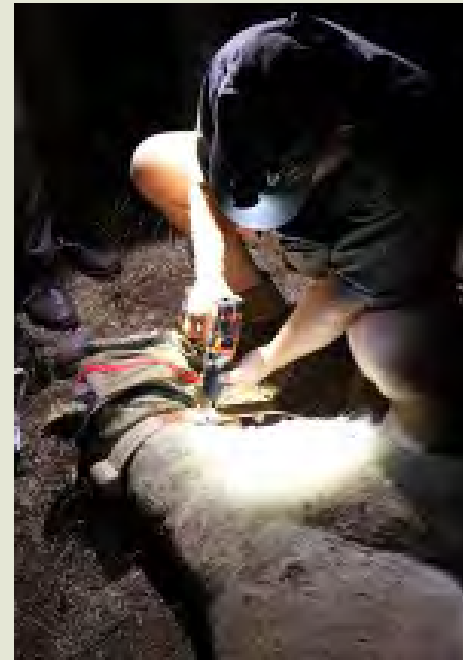
***Collaring efforts are ongoing, with nine of the ten SACT satellite collars already deployed and the tenth due for imminent deployment.***

each collared lion also serves as a sentinel assisting SANPARKS with their anti-poaching efforts.

Two types of collars are used. We deploy SigFox in areas where reception is particularly suited to these collars, and the SACT-sponsored AWT Satellite Collars in areas without SigFox reception.

Genetic samples from all lions collared will be used to assess the population's genetic status and for the experiments regarding the effect of relatedness on pride rivalry.

Special thanks and recognition must go to all our sponsors, whose support drives this vital work on behalf of Africa's remaining wild lion populations.



*Above, Collar 8679 fitted in Kingfisherspruit area and, below, Collar 8680 deployed near Malelane.*



*Our dedicated lion-counters in Kruger National Park. Two teams covered 25000 kms over 114 days, indentifying over 300 lions.*



*Collar 8677 fitted at Tshokwane.*



## Game of Thrones Lion Project – Kruger National Park Progress Report: Wildlife Ecology Lab, Nelson Mandela University





# ART FOR CONSERVATION

## AN SACT FUNDRAISER

### All donations will support our Collar a Lion project

- Rosana Venturini, a signature member of Artists For Conservation, has donated two of her original works – **Humba: the Survivor** and **Trio of Hope** – offering you a unique way to participate in (or extend) your funding of our work.
- Donations to our 'Art for Conservation' fundraiser will be recognised by way of sending you the appropriate print (or the original), with funds going directly to our Collar a Lion project. Art for conservation, and you can own it!

**PLEASE EMAIL BRIAN COURTENAY TO CONFIRM YOUR DONATION**  
[elephant@satib.co.za](mailto:elephant@satib.co.za)

- Please specify your donation amount, tell us which pieces of art you'd like us to send you, and confirm your delivery address.
- Brian will contact you to finalise your choice and confirm your donation details.
- PLEASE NOTE: THE TWO ORIGINAL WORKS WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A 'FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED' BASIS. **Thank you!**

## Humba: the Survivor

*(painted after Humba's partner Netsai was hunted and killed)*

### Prints

- 100% cotton Artist Grade Canvas – infused UV protection, 700mm x 900mm
- **Suggested donation:** USD 400 or ZAR 4000

*NOTE:* Non-SA resident donors, + courier cost.  
SA resident donors, Postnet to Postnet included.

### Original

- Oil on canvas, 600mm x 800mm
- **Suggested donation:** USD 2500 or ZAR 40 000

*NOTE:* Non-US donors, + courier cost.  
US donors, USPS shipping included.



## Trio of Hope

### Prints

- 100% cotton Artist Grade Canvas – infused UV protection, 1020mm x 420mm.
- **Suggested donation:** USD 350 or ZAR 3500

*NOTE:* Non-SA resident donors, + courier cost.  
SA resident donors, Postnet to Postnet included.

### Original

- Pastels on Pastelmat, 3 individual pieces, 300mm x 300mm each
- **Suggested donation:** USD 1500 or ZAR 15000 for all three pieces

*NOTE:* Non-US donors, + courier cost.  
US donors, USPS shipping included.





## 2024 Photographer of the Year winners present sponsored collars in Hwange



*Flanked by scouts of the Longshields Lion Guardians are, standing from left: SACT Chairman Brian Courtenay, runner-up finalist Greg Du Toit, competition winner Dewald Tromp, CEO WildlifeDirect Dr Paula Kahumba standing in for runner up Ivan Glaser. Seated centre front: CEO Africa Geographic, Simon Espley.*



Majestically rugged Hwange National Park late last year was the appropriate backcloth against which to honour the final winners of Africa Geographic's 2024 Photographer of the Year competition.

Hosted in luxury accommodation courtesy of Imvelo Safari Lodges, the winners party was immersed in an unforgettable conservation experience on the frontline, meeting local conservation heroes, and witnessing the delicate balance that enables wildlife in this vast wilderness to coexist with bordering communities. Central to these discussions was gaining a full insight into how lion tracking collars keep local villagers safe from roaming lions that threaten lives and livelihoods.

A key gesture from the winners was the handing over of three Africa Geographic-sponsored collars to the WildCru team of dedicated predator researchers in Hwange. SACT is immensely grateful to all whose support contributes to the success of the Collar a Lion project.

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**A journey across southern Africa  
uncovering the last strongholds of  
these iconic cats**

Lions once ruled Africa but, with fewer than 20 000 left, their future is uncertain. Award-winning filmmaker Bruce Donnelly and lion conservationist Dr. Paul Funston journey across southern Africa to uncover the last strongholds of these iconic cats, the challenges they face, and the people fighting to save them.

