

VUSA Comic Book Distribution Update

We're excited to share a meaningful milestone in our conservation education journey. Over the past month, our Eco-Clubs in Zimbabwe's Tsholotsho and Lupane districts received their first batch of VUSA: The Lion Guardian comics, along with three other titles from the series.

Each of the 9 Eco-Club schools in Tsholotsho and 8 in Lupane received:

- 30 copies of The Elephant Guardian
- 20 copies of The Wild Dog Guardian
- 30 copies of The Lion Guardian
- 30 copies of The Pangolin Guardian

That's a total of 510 comic books already distributed across 17 schools, with more on the way. We're incredibly grateful for this support, which is helping us bring conservation messages to life in creative and engaging ways.



Reaching the Edges of Conservation Frontlines

These books are now reaching schools situated on the borders of some of southern Africa's most iconic national parks, including Hwange National Park, Zambezi National Park, and the Mana Pools ecosystems. These communities live in close connection with wildlife, where conservation awareness and human-wildlife conflict are part of daily life.

That's why CITW focuses its Eco-Club program in these areas. These are the children growing up on the edge of parks, and their understanding, empathy, and leadership are essential to long-term conservation success. The introduction of the VUSA comics has added an exciting new layer to our work. The stories reflect the real-world challenges they see around them and support the themes already being explored in our Eco-Clubs.

So far, 17 schools in Tsholotsho and Lupane have received their sets, with distributions to the following still to come:

- 15 Eco-Club schools in the Hwange region
- 8 Eco-Club schools in Hurungwe
- 7 Eco-Club schools in Zambia

Each delivery is being mapped as part of a growing regional footprint, showing how far these conservation stories are reaching. With every distribution, we're building a stronger, more connected network of young conservation ambassadors.



Spotlight on the Lion Guardian Lesson

To build on the comic book distribution, our CITW Eco-Mentors are delivering themed lessons that link each title to local conservation challenges. So far, The Lion Guardian comic has been introduced in all schools, supported by a dedicated lion conservation lesson that's already made a strong impact. Eco-Mentors led interactive sessions under the trees, where learners explored lion behaviour, their role in ecosystems, and the threats they face today. Through games like "Predator-Prey," group discussions, and creative role plays, learners reflected on issues such as habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. The lesson closed with a peer-to-peer debrief, helping learners consolidate their knowledge and express what they had learned in their own words. These types of lessons are proving to be a powerful way to spark curiosity and inspire action.

