

OUR PEOPLE – THE HEART OF OUR BUSINESS

In Hwange, we are blessed with a multitude of special and long-serving people who are dedicated to creating exceptional guest experiences. Making up the majority of our staff in Hwange, the local Ndebele people are known for their warm and cheerful disposition from manager and guide to house keeper and maintenance teams. Hear from just some of them...



Bernard Ndebele – Chef, Davison's Camp

"I come from Lubimbi village in Binga, Zimbabwe. I started working for Wilderness Safaris as a chef and continue to love my profession. I have gained a lot of experience from this company as not only have I worked for different camps which require different meals, but Davison's Camp has recently upgraded its meals. I look forward to the years ahead with Wilderness as I believe I am going to be learning a lot more in the future."



Buhlebethu Ncube – Camp Manager, Little Makalolo Camp

"One of the most rewarding things about working for Wilderness Safaris is being a part of the efforts to reduce environmental degradation and fighting to preserve our pristine wilderness. As a Camp Manager at Little Makalolo, I strive to give guests a memorable stay and I feel that the experience I have had at Wilderness, coupled with my first degree, helps me deliver top class service and is a reason why we, so often, see guests coming back year after year."



Charles Ndhlovu – Professional Guide, Little Makalolo Camp

"Wilderness Safaris got my attention when I read about, and saw, some of the good things that they are doing in Zimbabwe. The idea of working for a company that ploughs back into the areas where it operates inspired me to join it and today I live by those ideals through my work."



Arnold Tshipa – Ecologist, Wilderness Safaris Zimbabwe

"I joined Wilderness Safaris in 2012 due to the vast nature of the wildlife experience that the company offers. Hwange is one of the top ten largest parks in Africa and the Wilderness Safaris concessions in the Park offer some of the best diversity in both flora and fauna – making my research work fascinating and vital."



OUR COMMUNITY – GIVING BACK TO THE PEOPLE

The importance of financial benefits flowing back to the people who live in or near the areas where we operate is a fundamental objective of what we do. We facilitate this goal in Hwange through a number of initiatives, notably employment but also Children in the Wilderness (CITW), a non-profit organisation supported by Wilderness Safaris. It is through this vehicle that we are able to assist sustainable conservation through leadership development and education of rural children in Africa.

Every year, Wilderness Safaris shuts some of its camps to guests and opens them to CITW Zimbabwe, which hosts children from nearby rural communities in three- to five-day camps. In 2013, CITW Zimbabwe hosted approximately 80 children in the Hwange area alone. Eco-Clubs run by CITW at the local schools are there not only to continue to inspire the camp participants but to reach hundreds more children every year.

These programmes have in turn inspired other projects that we support in the local communities, such as:

- Teacher training and support at the schools.
- School rehabilitation such as repair and maintenance as well as supply of desks, chairs, textbooks and stationery.
- A Nutrition Programme providing a healthy, nourishing meal each school day for the children.
- A Broiler Poultry Project providing much-needed protein for the community.
- A Deworming Programme ensuring that the children are receiving the full nutritional value of the food received.
- Sinking boreholes to provide potable water.
- Implementing vegetable gardens to supplement the Nutrition Programme.
- Self-sustainable Knitting and Crocheting Projects, where parents and community members are taught how to knit, crochet and read patterns, another means of developing revenue generation projects.



www.childreninthewilderness.com

OUR CAMPS – WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL

LINKWASHA CAMP (Classic Camp, 6 tents)

- The most exclusive camp in Hwange reopens in late 2014 after being totally rebuilt.
- Best private concession and location in Hwange.
- Huge dry season concentrations of elephant, buffalo, lion, wildebeest, zebra and others.
- Some of southern Africa's best green season game viewing thanks to easy access to Ngamo Plains.
- Great diversity of plains game – sable, eland, roan and waterbuck combined with zebra, wildebeest and giraffe.
- Excellent community projects in Ngamo Village; guests can enjoy a village visit to see these.



LITTLE MAKALOLO (Classic Camp, 6 tents)

- Perhaps Hwange's most charming, intimate and traditional camp.
- Excellent private concession with daily dry season processions of elephant, buffalo, giraffe and zebra to the camp waterhole.
- Very productive log-pile hide for viewing large elephant herds at very close proximity.
- Access to some of the most productive game viewing areas in Hwange in winter and summer.
- Great diversity of plains game – sable, eland, roan and waterbuck combined with zebra, wildebeest and giraffe.
- Excellent community projects in Ngamo Village which guests can visit.



DAVISON'S CAMP (Adventures Camp, 9 tents)

- Delightful tented camp overlooking the productive Ostrich Pan.
- Excellent private concession with access to both woodlands and plains.
- Daily dry season processions of elephant, zebra and even sable to the camp waterhole.
- Log-pile hide for viewing large elephant herds at very close proximity in front of camp.
- Access to some of the most productive game viewing areas in Hwange in winter and summer, including Mbiza Plains.
- Guests can visit and even participate in the range of community projects in nearby Ngamo and other villages.



SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

Zimbabwe is blessed with other beautiful places all of which are easily accessible from Hwange. From the spectacular Victoria Falls to wildlife-filled Mana Pools and Matusadona National Parks, Lake Kariba and the iconic Matopos, there's an incredible journey through scenic landscapes with remnants of ancient civilisations and incredible wildlife to be had. Here are some suggested itineraries:

HWANGE AND VICTORIA FALLS

Days 1 – 3: Fly from Victoria Falls Airport to Little Makalolo Camp or Davison's Camp, Hwange National Park
Days 4 – 5: Return to Victoria Falls; spend time at the Falls and surrounds

HWANGE, MANA POOLS AND VICTORIA FALLS

Days 1 – 3: Fly from Victoria Falls Airport to Little Makalolo Camp or Davison's Camp, Hwange National Park
Days 4 – 6: Fly to Ruckomechi Camp, Mana Pools National Park
Day 7 – 8: Return to Victoria Falls; spend time at the Falls and surrounds

HWANGE, LAKE KARIBA, MANA POOLS, VICTORIA FALLS

Days 1 – 2: Fly from Victoria Falls Airport to Davison's Camp, Hwange National Park
Days 3 – 4: Fly to Changa Camp, Lake Kariba
Days 5 – 7: Fly to Ruckomechi Camp, Mana Pools National Park
Day 8 – 9: Return to Victoria Falls; spend time at the Falls and surrounds



OUR GUIDES – THE BEST OF THE BEST

Guides in Zimbabwe have always been among the best guides in Africa.

And here's why:

- Trainee guides must pass a written exam devised by Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) in collaboration with Zimbabwe Professional Hunters and Guides Association (ZPHGA). Study for this takes about a year.
- After this, trainee guides spend three years on practical study, gaining hands-on experience in the bush, often with companies like Wilderness Safaris. They are apprenticed to a Professional (walking) Guide who tutors them and signs their logbooks when they successfully complete milestones.
- Once enough experience is gained, the trainee guide is interviewed by a panel of judges from ZimParks and ZPHGA where he/she is questioned on knowledge, experience and safety in the bush, as well as asked to display practical skills.
- He/she is then required to pass a practical firearms exam which determines his/her proficiency in handling a rifle.
- Having passed the interview and firearms exam, the final leg is a seven-day mock safari in which the trainee guide is put to the ultimate test by his/her 'guests' from ZimParks and ZPHGA. Here, the guide is required to set up and run his own tented camp and is judged on criteria such as hosting, safety, guiding and knowledge of wildlife, bushcraft, botany and habitats of Zimbabwe.
- Once the guide passes this, he becomes a Zimbabwe Professional Guide – walking guide.



OUR AREAS – GIVING BACK TO THE PLANET

"Without the wilderness there is no Wilderness." As one of our founding principles, respecting and caring for our environment is paramount to our business. We endeavour to make as little impact on the Earth as we can and therefore manage our camps in the most eco-friendly way possible to ensure that we have the lowest possible carbon footprint.

Our interest in conservation does not end there. Where relevant we will endeavour to understand, manage and protect the wildlife and ecosystems in all the areas where we operate. Through the Wilderness Wildlife Trust, an independent entity within the Wilderness Group, we help to protect the Hwange area through anti-poaching and research projects such as the Cheetah Conservation Project Zimbabwe to find out where cheetah occur, how many there are and what conservation challenges they face. The more that is known about a species the easier it generally becomes to implement an effective conservation strategy.

Another important project we are involved in here is the Hwange Water Supply Project. During the dry season, water resources in Hwange are tested to the limit. Wilderness Safaris maintains some 22 boreholes, including daily refuelling and maintenance, which thus supports wildlife across the Park.



www.wildernesstrust.com



WILDERNESS SAFARIS

Founded in Botswana in 1983, Wilderness Safaris is widely acclaimed as the continent's foremost ecotourism operator. We give our guests life-changing journeys in some of the most remote and pristine areas in Africa and in so doing help conserve Africa's spectacular biodiversity and share ecotourism's benefits with rural people.

We offer private access to more than 3 million hectares (nearly 8 million acres) of Africa's finest wildlife and wilderness areas through more than 50 luxury camps and safaris across nine African countries: Botswana, Congo (Brazzaville), Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Our wildlife, marine and cultural safaris in remote, pristine wilderness destinations are specialised, educational, explorative and fun.

BOTSWANA • CONGO • KENYA • MALAWI • NAMIBIA • SEYCHELLES • SOUTH AFRICA • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE

www.wilderness-safaris.com



HWANGE

Our Abundant Concessions





HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Hwange National Park is the largest protected area in Zimbabwe. Situated on the easternmost edge of the Kalahari Desert, its 1.4 million hectares (3.4 million acres) of sandy soils support extensive stands of broad-leaved woodland that during the summer months, despite the low rainfall, are a profusion of green. Along with saltpans, acacia scrub and grasslands the Park supports an enormous abundance of wildlife. Located on the border with Botswana, the Park was proclaimed some 70 years ago and has one of the densest concentrations of wildlife in Africa, in particular its herds of elephant and buffalo. There are a number of shallow pans spread throughout the Park, around which wildlife congregates, making for excellent game viewing.

The private Makalolo and Linkwasha concessions, situated in its south-eastern corner, are ecologically diverse, including vast open palm-fringed plains, grasslands, acacia woodlands and teak forests. This ensures large numbers of animals all year round – elephant, buffalo, sable, roan, giraffe, wildebeest, impala and even gemsbok. These are followed by their predators: lion, leopard, wild dog and cheetah, along with African wildcat, serval, honey badger, civet and spotted hyena. Of avian interest are species like Dickinson's Kestrel, Bradfield's Hornbill and Amot's Chat.

24-HOUR WATERHOLE COUNTS OF LARGE MAMMALS:

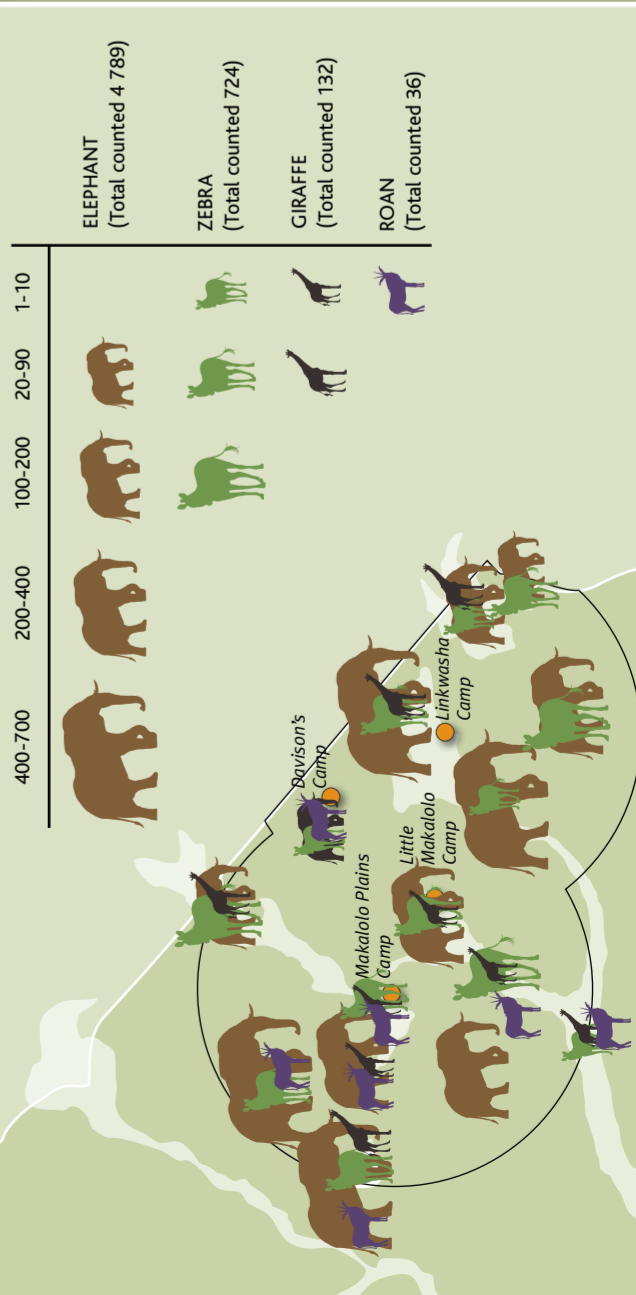
Hwange National Park (1 465 100ha) and the Wilderness Safaris concessions (52 300ha). Wilderness concessions make up 3.6% of the total Hwange National Park.

Species	2008 Count		2011 Count		2013 Count	
	Hwange NP	Wilderness Safaris concessions (%)	Hwange NP	Wilderness Safaris concessions (%)	Hwange NP	Wilderness Safaris concessions (%)
Savannah Elephant	11 860	4 789 (40%)	23 569	5 691 (24%)	20 373	7 669 (38%)
Cape Buffalo	3 198	880 (28%)	3 433	889 (26%)	2 976	508 (17%)
Plains Zebra	1 388	724 (52%)	1 993	537 (27%)	1 828	581 (32%)
Blue Wildebeest	698	684 (98%)	483	428 (89%)	557	355 (64%)
Sable	254	153 (60%)	194	84 (43%)	290	157 (54%)
Giraffe	249	132 (53%)	153	34 (22%)	202	70 (35%)
Eland	113	113 (100%)	133	115 (87%)	29	23 (79%)
Roan	150	36 (24%)	141	54 (38%)	222	50 (23%)

* Percentage of the total number of particular species in Hwange found within the Wilderness Safaris concessions.

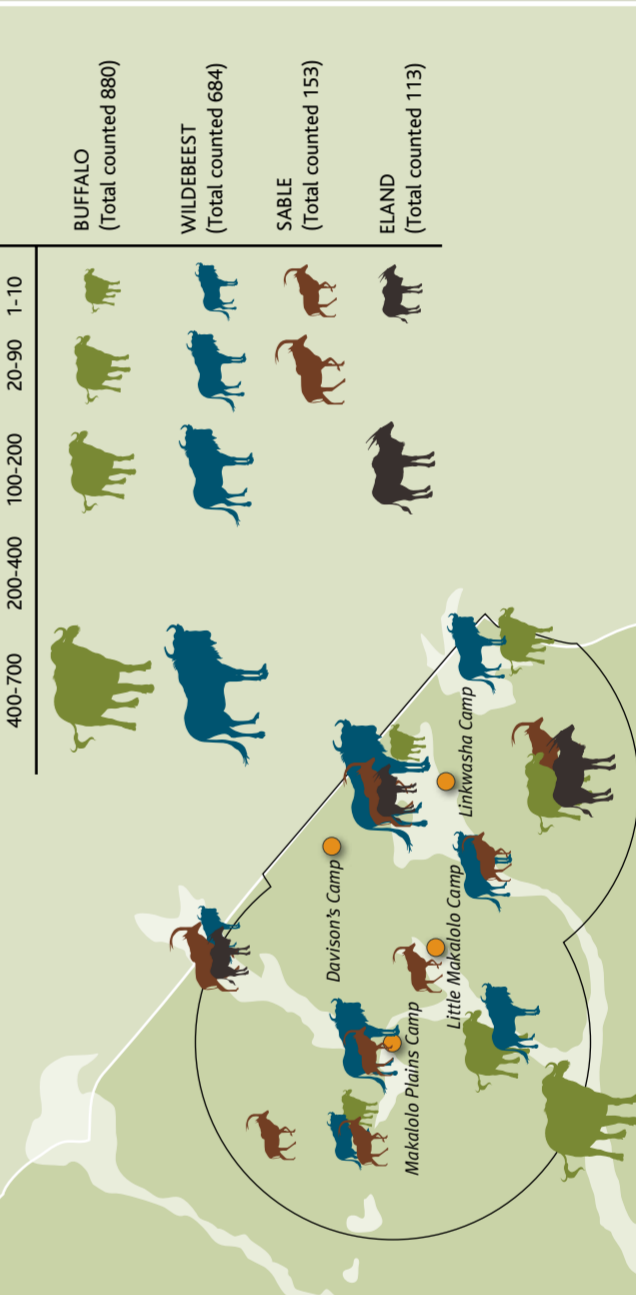
LARGE MAMMAL NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION, DRY SEASON 2008*

*numbers represent all those individuals of a specific species counted at the relevant waterhole over a 24-hour period, September 2008



LARGE MAMMAL NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION, DRY SEASON 2008*

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HWANGE LION PRIDES

HOME RANGES OF THE THREE MAIN PRIDES

- Spice Junior Pride (6 lions + 1 adult male)
- Ngamo Pride (8 lions + 1 adult male)
- Back Pans Pride (10 lions + 2 adult males)

