

Project Update: February 2014

The vehicle is going strong and our Community Liaison Officer, Victor Chibaya, is doing a phenomenal job and making excellent progress with the communities he is visiting. As with any programme like this, it needs to be flexible to adapt to circumstances (including local politics, weather conditions, vehicle malfunctions etc.) but Victor is very resourceful and as good Zimbabweans do, always manages to 'make a plan'. Our local attachment student from the National University of Science and Technology in Bulawayo will be doing his project this year on evaluating the impact of this program, and we are looking forward to seeing the results. Whilst all evidence suggests the programme is a success, we will also hopefully be able to use the results of this evaluation to adapt the project for greater effectiveness.

Anyway, I just wanted to let you know the mobile unit you provided the funds to get going is still very active and achieving good things. I've attached a few photos. I do hope this serves to illustrate our commitment to the work we do, and the long term impacts of your support.

The wild dogs are doing well – pup survival was a little lower than usual after last year's denning season, but mainly the result of lion predation. However, since the surviving pups have reached 6 months of age, they seem to be doing much better and pack sizes are remaining stable. It's been a great rainy season so far, so there is food and water aplenty, and when we can find the dogs (lots of flooding rivers restrict our fieldwork at the moment, and the vegetation is waist high and very thick!), they are all looking fit, fat and healthy!

