**Park Protection**

Anything with an economic value is desired by everyone. We defend the wildlife from the bad elements who seek to cause imbalances in the population of our flora and fauna by harvesting where they did not sow without due regard to the need for the continuity of the wildlife species. It has come to pass that natural resources are sought after by both humans and wildlife. It is important to protect the biotic and abiotic components of the natural environment that forms the refuge for wildlife within which they thrive as we recognise that they cannot exist without one another. Nature provides sought after resources such as fish, wood, sand, game meat and trophies that are traded on the illegal markets. Our park protection efforts seek to disrupt and cease this destructive chain in order to maintain healthy ecosystems that become thriving habitats.

We are a strong force of dedicated men and women that have taken up arms to wage a military war against poaching. We have assumed the role of custodian to send a message on behalf of wildlife that all animals shall be provided the fair opportunity to live free in their natural habitat.

Our Rangers under go intensive military training in the toughest of conditions to prepare them physically and mentally to defend Zimbabwe’s wildlife heritage. Zimbabwe has since independence been fighting a bitter war against poaching using the shoot to kill policy to protect vulnerable species directly contributing to the growth of her elephant population.

Poaching of animals is a cruel practice conducted through use of firearms, snares, traps, fire and chemical poisoning.

We also protect our vegetation from the scrouge of firewood poaching which threatens habitats for birds and food for browsers.

Park protection main activity is deployment of rangers who patrol the parks actively seeking poachers.

**Park Protection provides Scientific Research Support**

Our Rangers are also instrumental in the collection of data while on patrol for scientific research such as

* Siting of invasive species
* data entry on siting of specially protected and endangered species using the SMART
* Fire mapping
* Habitats and Home ranges.
* Dens and Nesting Sites

**Park Protection is an International Affair**

Pictures: Rangers in Training, Rangers Standing with Elephant in Background, Rangers being deployed by Landcruiser, An firewood poacher exhibit, Snares, Rangers capturing Data for Smart System. Picture of Invasive Lantana Camara

Zimbabwe works with her neighbours, the range states for shares species such as the African Elephant to undertake joint antipoaching efforts. These are guided at international cooperation bodies such as the Southern African Development Community with initiatives such as the Law Enforcement and Antipoaching (LEAP) Strategy.