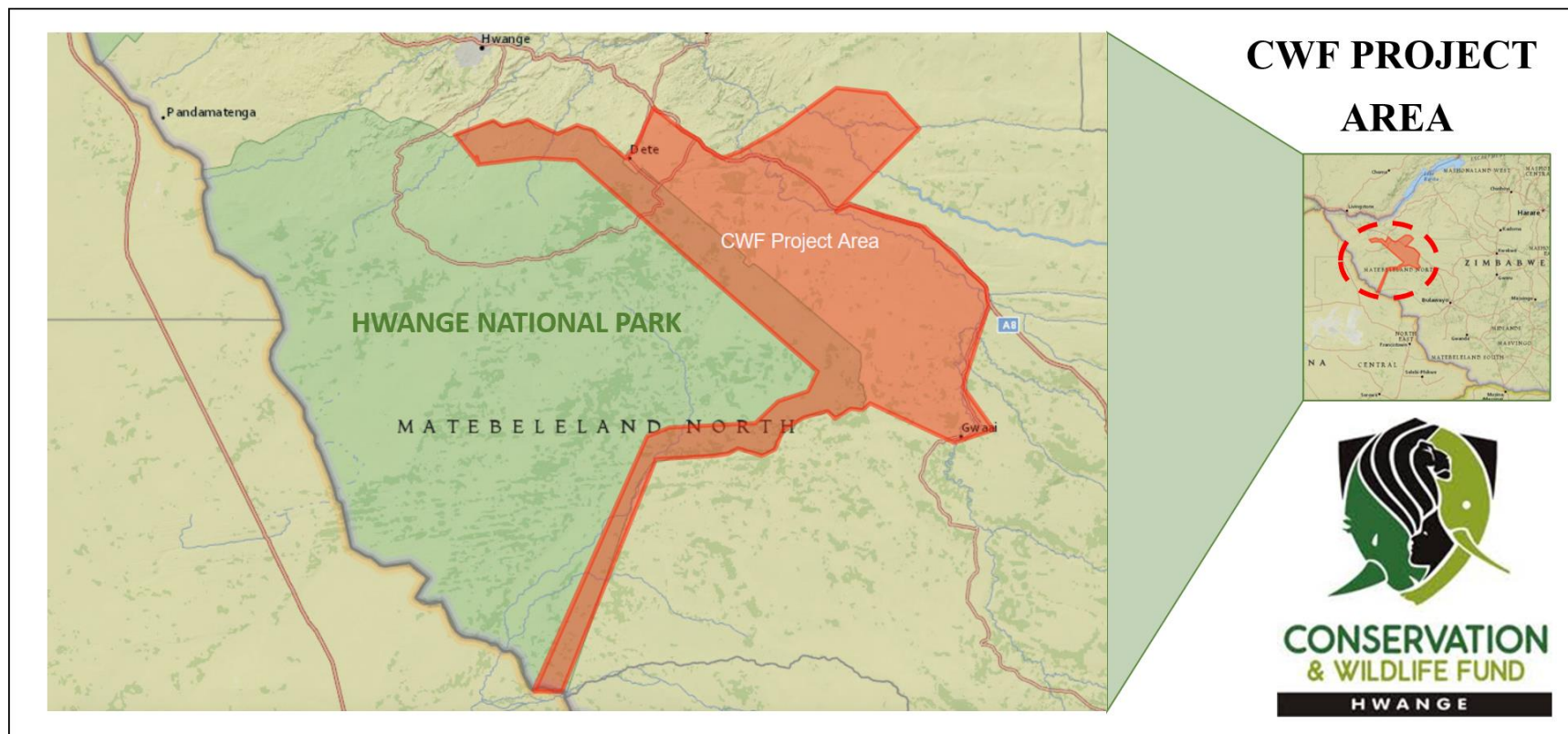




**CONSERVATION
& WILDLIFE FUND**
HWANGE

ANTI-POACHING ACTIVITIES

The CWF Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) base is on the Kennedy Annex concession, which is leased from National Railways of Zimbabwe by one of our members, The Hide Safari Camp. This land borders Hwange National Park (HNP) and is well situated centrally in the CWF project area, with good road access both into HNP and into the forest areas outside the park.



CWF scouts are trained in anti-poaching work: snare detection, poacher apprehension, tracking and anti-tracking, use of GPS and radio, recognising signs of poachers, map reading, spoor and wildlife identification, patrol methods, non-verbal communications and the use of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), a digital data logging system.

Every day of the year at least one CWF APU is out walking the area. – in 2020 the foot patrols covered a total of 6,040 km. The men are deployed in interchangeable sticks, on both routine and specially requested patrols, where most needed. They record data (age and gender) of specific species that they encounter, including vultures. The scouts are called on to attend court as credible witnesses when poachers they arrested appear in court.

CWF scouts carry only batons, handcuffs and pepper spray, so all patrols and investigations include an armed scout from one of the wildlife authorities: ZPWMA or FCZ. This is for the safety of the scouts and to ensure the patrols and any arrests made are legal. CWF helps these organisations with transport, training, and some supplies.

CWF personnel join armed ZPWMA rangers to react to cases of poisoning, reports of poachers in an area and other wildlife crimes as they arise. CWF generally provides the transport and rations for these excursions.

Thanks to the CWF scouts many snares have been collected and injured animals helped. A network of intelligence on wildlife crime has been established and as a result cyanide and other poisonings have been reacted to and poachers have been arrested, charged, and sentenced.