

## Conservation and Tourism Society (CATS)

### Annual Community Impact and Operations Report 2025

Location: Livingstone, Zambia

Focus: Human wildlife coexistence, community conservation, and tourism linked livelihoods

#### About CATS

The Conservation and Tourism Society (CATS) is a Livingstone based community conservation organisation working in urban and peri urban human elephant conflict areas. Founded in 2018, CATS supports practical coexistence between people and wildlife through community partnerships, mitigation support, youth education, alternative livelihoods, and conservation linked tourism initiatives. Our work focuses on neighbourhoods where residents experience regular wildlife pressure and where coexistence must be supported through practical tools, trusted relationships, and visible benefits.

#### Our Mission

To advance human wildlife coexistence by strengthening community capacity, reducing conflict risk, supporting conservation linked livelihoods, and building practical pathways between conservation and tourism opportunity.

#### Where We Work

CATS operates primarily in Livingstone's high conflict urban and peri urban zones, including South Dambwa, Malone, Linda, and Railway areas. These communities sit along active elephant movement routes and experience recurring impacts on crops, property, and household safety. Combined community reach across active programme areas exceeds 50,000 residents.

#### Core Programme Areas

Human Elephant Conflict Response Support

CATS supports structured coexistence response and daytime follow up visits after incidents. Follow up engagement improves mitigation uptake and reduces repeat conflict risk.



### **Community Business Units (CBUs)**

CBUs are recognised community level structures that coordinate participation and anchor programme delivery. Four CBUs are active and strengthened, improving outreach efficiency and local ownership.

### **Mitigation Demonstration**

Low cost deterrent methods are demonstrated and replicated, including white painted stone barriers and household protection measures that reduce repeat damage.



### **Youth Conservation Education**

After school conservation education clubs engage both in school and out of school youth in coexistence, wildlife value, and sustainable futures linked to conservation and tourism.



### **Alternative Livelihoods**

Livelihood pilots in conflict zones include poultry, rabbits, briquettes, and other low risk models designed to reduce conflict exposure while building household resilience.



### Community Linked Tourism Activities

CATS supports conservation linked tourism exposure and community participation models that connect coexistence with tourism opportunity and skills development.



### Key 2025 Progress Highlights

Four Community Business Units strengthened and operational across conflict zones. Structured daytime follow up after conflict incidents expanded and formalised. White painted stone barrier mitigation demonstrated successful repeat damage prevention at multiple sites. Malone CBU doubled its chicken production capacity using its own internally generated resources, demonstrating local ownership and scaling. Community outreach reach expanded significantly through CBU networks and trusted local leadership, improving participation and mitigation uptake. Partnership development increased across tourism, welfare, and training sectors.

### Case Example: Low Cost Barrier Protection

A household experiencing repeated elephant damage to wall panels installed a white painted stone barrier line outside the boundary after multiple breakages and repair costs. Following installation, no further elephant breach incidents were recorded during the observation period. Neighbouring households have since requested similar barrier support. The cost of barrier installation along exposed wall sections is often comparable to or lower than repeated wall repairs, creating potential for community delivered protection services on a cost recovery basis. This case is suitable for wider sharing.

### Partnerships

CATS works with a growing network of partners including community structures, tourism operators, wildlife authorities, animal welfare organisations, training providers, and local sponsors providing

both financial and in kind support. These partnerships expand outreach capacity, training opportunities, mitigation delivery, and community access to conservation linked opportunity.



### **Operational Learning in 2025**

Daytime follow up after conflict incidents significantly increases mitigation adoption and household cooperation. Trusted community structures improve outreach efficiency and programme reliability. Visible mitigation demonstrations build faster community confidence than awareness messaging alone. Continuous operational coordination enables partnership growth and programme expansion beyond reactive response work.

### **Governance and Accountability**

CATS operates under a formal board and community linked governance structure, with financial controls and donor reporting procedures in place. The organisation is in the final stages of NGO registration and continues to strengthen its governance and accountability systems as programmes expand.

### **Looking Ahead**

Next phase priorities include expanded mitigation demonstration, community training pathways linked to tourism and conservation, mobile coexistence outreach, further CBU strengthening, and scaled low conflict livelihood models.

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