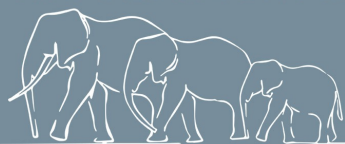


THE PRESIDENTIAL



ELEPHANTS  
RESEARCH TRUST

# NEWS

## Breaking Ground

Trustees, team members and volunteers recently broke ground at the PERT Research site in Hwange. *"I am excited, the project has finally started,"* says Allan Elliot

## Junior Researcher Joins the TEAM

PERT welcomes Nick Ncube, who has joined the team as our Junior researcher. *"We have started the project at ground Zero"* says Nick.



## We need your Help

Yes, the project has now started, however, to get to the next level we are calling for help please. Together we can help the ELEPHANT in Hwange.



## Team PERT

Some of the PERT Team members gather around after putting up the main research tent on the new Mandebele Research Centre, camp site. This is where the Presidential Elephant research will operate from. *Front row left to right: Mandebele, Charlene, Nick and Bruce. Behind left to right: Beki and Brian*

### Alan Elliott - known as Mandebele

In 1974, an enthusiastic conservationist, Allan Elliott, aka **Mandebele**, started working with the Presidential Elephants.

He had succeeded  
**Jonny Uys,**



## From bare ground to the Research Camp



who had been killed by an elephant, as a Game Manager of the Hwange Estate and areas surrounding Hwange Safari Lodge.

The area initially had only 22 nervous elephants that would pass by mainly at night as they were trying to disguise themselves as ghosts, whilst fleeing the relentless persecution of bygone years. The area was a well known hunting area where over hundred years ago Selous and his team hunted, and more recently it was used by other hunters and as a training ground for National Park recruits. Majority of the hunting came to an end when the Hwange Estate was formed in the 1970's. Elephants started to increase in numbers and one could even find them during the day.

In the late 80's, National Parks introduced culling, in a policy that would reduce the numbers of elephant in the area due to so called over population. Mandebele was concerned about the Estate elephants getting caught in the cross fire and the story of Ahmed the Kenyan elephant came to him. In the 1970's Kenyatta placed Ahmed under his protection by Presidential Decree, an unparalleled occurrence in the history of the country and the only Elephant to be declared a living monument. So Mandebele decided to approach the Zimbabwe President requesting his patronage and special protection of the herds that roamed the Estate. The President agreed to his proposal and the elephants became known as the Presidential Elephants of Zimbabwe, in Hwange.

Mandebele is now in his 80's and his wish is for the Presidential Elephants to continue and has founded the Presidential Elephants Research Trust, PERT.

## PERT

### Who we are?

Presidential Elephants Research Trust is a nonprofit organization that was created regarding an elephant population located on the Hwange estate and wildlife conservation. Alan Elliot, the founder of the Presidential elephant herds in Hwange, has always had a deep connection to these magnificent iconic species, spanning many decades. Now in his 80s there are matriarchs who still recognise his call and come to greet him. His dream is for this legacy to continue through the research and work of the Presidential Elephant Research Trust.

*Opposite picture: Veronica Chapman (left), Charlene Hewat (right) discussing the next steps for the project and Mandebele Research Site.*





**Vision:** A meaningful contribution towards elephant conservation in Hwange National Park and its surrounds.

**Mission:** Establishing a world class research facility, accessible to national, regional, and international researchers in collaboration with communities, to achieve elephant and habitat conservation for the long-term survival of the species in the Hwange area.



*Mandebele in discussion with Nick*



*Nick and Charlene working on plans – how to move forward*



*WildCru members Jane and Emma visit the PERT team setting up*

### Key Objectives:

- Establish and sustainably manage a world class wildlife research facility in Hwange.
- To carry out relevant research on the elephant population of all Hwange National Park and assess their impact on habitat and surrounding communities within their home range of Hwange.
- Human wildlife Conflict
- Finding the means to develop, implement and sustain education, awareness, and conservation programmes in and around Hwange.
- Raise the profile of the iconic Presidential elephants and Elephants of Hwange National Park locally, nationally, and internationally.

## Please, We NEED YOU HELP



This picture shows our temporary water supply. *(Hope the Elephants don't take it out!)*

We look forward to your generous support.

## Our Wish List

- Borehole
- Piping
- Water tanks (10 000 litres x 2)
- Water tank stands
- 40 foot container
- Research Vehicle
- Uniforms
- Hardware
  - Rake
  - Hoes
  - Spades
  - Steel trunks and locks
  - Ropes
- First Aid Kit
- Cutlery, pots, pans
- Stationary
- Tents, beds, bedding, towel
- Computer, laptop
- External hard-drives, flash-drives
- Extension cord
- Solar energy
- 44 gallon drums
- Smart phones
- Solar fridge
- Camera
- Binoculars
- Small backpacks
- Cleaning materials

## Our Team

### Board of Trustees

Alan Elliot, Bruce Beckley, Brett Childs, ,  
Laurie Ward, Charlene Hewat

### Advisors

Debbie Grant, Veronica Chapman, Peace Chuma, Richard Hoare, Darren McKissock

### Communications, Relations & Research Coordinator

Charlene Hewat

### Junior Researcher

Nick Ncube

### Field, Camp Assistant

David Ncube

## Contact Us

Farm 41  
Dete, Matabeleland North  
Zimbabwe  
+263 (0) 712408864  
charliehewat@gmail.com  
[info@presidentialelephantsresearchtrust.org](mailto:info@presidentialelephantsresearchtrust.org)  
[www.presidentialelephantsresearchtrust.org](http://www.presidentialelephantsresearchtrust.org)

*Thank you for your support!*

*Thanks to everyone who has helped us on the project to date and a special thanks to Kelly Pettit for her support over the last two years.*