



Mana Pools NP Game Ranger Training Course...

In October of this year we announced our support for The Tashinga Initiative (www.thetashingainitiative.org)

A wildlife protection project in the Zambezi Valley of Zimbabwe. TTI, in full collaboration with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), seeks to address the problem of unsustainable resource use, illegal activity and to enhance operational capacity within ZPWMA.

Following a direct plea from Dr. Norman Monks, the Area Manager of Mana Pools National Park, ALERT donated funds, along with other organizations, towards The Tashinga Initiative's Ranger Training Course, which took place during November; the Pass Out Parade taking place on 10th December.

Trainers Dolf Sasseen (TTI) and Wildlife Officer Netsai Chigwenjere (ZPWMA) met up at Mana Pools on the 14th November, together with Lynne Taylor, Director of The Tashinga Initiative, the Mana Pools National Park Area Manager, Dr Norman Monks, and Senior Wildlife Officer Dube to commence the training program.



The Park's Rangers undertook an intensive program in order to better equip them with a practical knowledge on the subject of anti-poaching, how best to deal with armed poachers – a predominant problem in this region, to build team confidence and spirits and training to ensure the safety of each Ranger.

The Rangers themselves commented on the training given... *"The course was ... life inspiring to me as it gave me an incredible experience. The tracking and ambushing tactics are fundamental."*

The Trainers remarked... *" [The Rangers] responded very well to this training and have expressed the desire to learn more...each individual has stated that they benefitted much and that it has equipped them with knowledge they never had..."*

It is hoped that further training of these Rangers to build on the experiences of this first course can be undertaken in the New Year.

