



# **Zimbabwe Mine Action Program**

National Stakeholder Dialogue on Humanitarian Demining and Assistance to Mine Victims – the Path Forward

Harare, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Where we work





- APOPO's task is located at the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park
- The Sengwe Corridor is one of the seven mined areas along Zimbabwe's borders with Mozambique and Zambia
- The park is home to more than 850 animal species and 2 000 plant species
- It was one of the first formally established peace parks in southern Africa
- This 35 000 km<sup>2</sup> park links the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique, the Kruger National Park in South Africa, and the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe



# Task Overview Sengwe Corridor

- The Sengwe Corridor is a 37 km long border minefield between Sango and the Mwenezi River, which has been divided into 17 sectors
- APOPO tasked with 14 sectors by ZIMAC



26km in length 1,779,233 m2

- More than 5 km2 of the SHA was cancelled after ZIMAC and APOPO conducted NTS on 21 Jan 2021
- AP and AT Threat

R2M2 (Cordon Sanitaire)



TM-57 (Maintenance/ Drag Road)









**Operations** 

Cumulative Outputs 2021 - 2024





AP mines: ~ 7,500

Challenges

**Full Manual Excavation** 







# **Missing Mine Drills**

- When a mine is not found according to the minefield pattern, the teams must perform a full manual excavation on a larger area (as shown on the left side pictures).
- This process is consuming resources (staff time and energy, vehicle, fuel and water) and, depending on the area and period of the year, can demand up to 50% of our deminers' capacity.
- In total our teams had to search for 776 MMD totaling 2,900 m2; the process allowed recovering 13 AP mines buried at depths varying between 10 to 45 cm below ground surface.

#### Challenges



#### **Full Manual Excavation**



Capable of detecting an R2M2 mine at 33 cm

Solution

Use of the GPZ 7000







# Minelab GPZ 7000

- The GPZ 7000 is a gold detector, with enhanced ability to find small pieces of gold located deeper in mineralized ground; compared to its predecessors, it has proven to be a suitable solution to the missing mine drill (MMD).
- APOPO has conducted tests with ZIMAC who approved the updated SOPs for the use of the GPZ 7000.
- Using the GPZ 7000 reduces the number of the excavation drills and increases productivity of approximately 20%.

#### **EORE Activities**



#### Sensitizing communities to the risk



- EORE comes for Explosive Ordnance Risk Education; it aims at sensitizing the local population on the risks of landmines and unexploded ordnance.
- APOPO's EORE Officer is the person in charge of liaising with the communities, accompanied by ZIMAC colleagues based at the demining camp.
- Our approach targets the adult population via EORE sessions in markets and busy areas such as the Sango border post, and the children via school-based sessions.
- In 2024, 21 sessions reached 2,918 persons (81% of children), while globally, cumulative numbers until 2024 count 61 sessions benefiting to 12,124 persons.

#### **Pre/Post Clearance Activities**

**Conservation, Food Security** 





- The linkage between People, Water, Agriculture, and Wild Animals is a key component in our operational area.
- Water infrastructure for people will reduce Human vs. Animal clashes around natural water sources. Drilling for water is crucial.
- APOPO will launch its first Syntropic Farming project close to Sango camp if funding allows in 2025, with participants from the villages of the area.
- Syntropic Farming produces more food per acre, regenerates soil, minimizes irrigation, and maximizes climate resilience for crops.

#### **Remaining task**

**Progress up to day** 







- In 2021-2024, APOPO has completed 72% of the Sango border task – handed over to ZIMAC.
- With the current capacity and support, APOPO estimates that the task can be completed by mid/ late 2027.
- The engagement of donors and financial partners is crucial to enable Zimbabwe to become a mine-free country.

## **Remaining task**



In concrete figures

Year	Budget Required (USD)	Funding Secured (USD)	Funding Anticipated (USD)	Budget Gap (USD)
2025	1,750,000	1,100,000	300,000	350,000
2026	1,750 ,000	0	750,000	1,000,000
2027	1,250,000	0	750,000	500,000
Total	4,750,000	1,100,000	1,800,000	2,000,000

- With 28% of the Sango border task remaining (roughly 450,000 m2), an annual budget of \$ 1,750,000 is required for APOPO to complete the remaining task.
- The interruption in US funding is critical for APOPO, with nearly 80% of the annual budget 2025 currently on hold. A bridge funding was secured by private donors, covering the operations until the end of April.
- In the current set-up, the continuation is contained and the budget gap increases.
- APOPO is actively fundraising for additional mechanical and technical survey assets.

End of Presentation APOPO Zimbabwe



# **APOPO THANKS ITS DONORS AND PARTNERS IN ZIMBABWE**





