



Heidi Roberts
President and Founder



US Friends of the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre
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Dear Friends,

Fragile and vulnerable. Those surely are not terms one naturally associates with majestic elephants and rhinos. But the natural order of the wild, where predator conduct is rational, continues to be savagely upset by mankind bent on selfish poaching to indulge the greed of trophy-seeking. The fallout, to which sponsors and their local facilitators are completely indifferent, is lifeless carcasses or injured, traumatized adults and orphaned offspring.

On this year's visit to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, Allen and I saw firsthand how much the reality of poaching has shifted the priorities of wildlife conservation and how tangibly the valued donations of U.S. Friends of HESC enable anti-poaching initiatives and medical intervention and support.



U.S. Friends of Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to the conservation of wildlife. Charitable contributions to U.S. Friends of Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, Inc. are deductible for U.S. Income Tax purposes, to the extent allowed by law.

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While there is some comfort, as well as promise and encouragement, from anti-poaching, medical and caregiving resources enabled by funding,



today's realities represent a big change from what Allen and I saw and experienced during our first upbeat visit in 2005 to observe HESC's cheetah breeding and conservation programs, in what now seems a simpler and more innocent, trusting time.

Programs continue so cheetahs born and raised at the Centre can be reintroduced to their natural habitat in the wild,



just as African wild dogs are released to form new packs necessary for propagation in the bush, and a very rare sable antelope is born (too sheltered by a protective mom to be photographed) to perpetuate a bloodline.



As in so many things, the best hope for stability in conservation rests with young people carrying the message of respect for wildlife to their homes and communities.



We were pleased to see students at Lumukisa Preparatory School showing inquisitiveness about endangered animals and eager to relate to the importance of conservation and anti-poaching programs.

It is gratifying to be a meaningful participant in addressing the natural and manmade challenges to wildlife conservation, and on behalf of those who support U.S. Friends of HESC, Allen and I received an outpouring of appreciation expressed by dedicated individuals whose service delivers the many-faceted successes accomplished by HESC.

With sincere thanks for your interest,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Heidi Roberts