

Report on Beit Trust Funding Received by Bhejane Trust

Grant Project:	**Solar Battery Installation on Existing Boreholes to Increase Water for Wildlife.**
Grant Number:	**BM 7430 Bhejane Trust, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**
Grant Value:	**GBP 27,500**
Report By:	**Nathan Webb**
Position:	**Bhejane Trust Managing Director.**
Date:	**June 2026.**

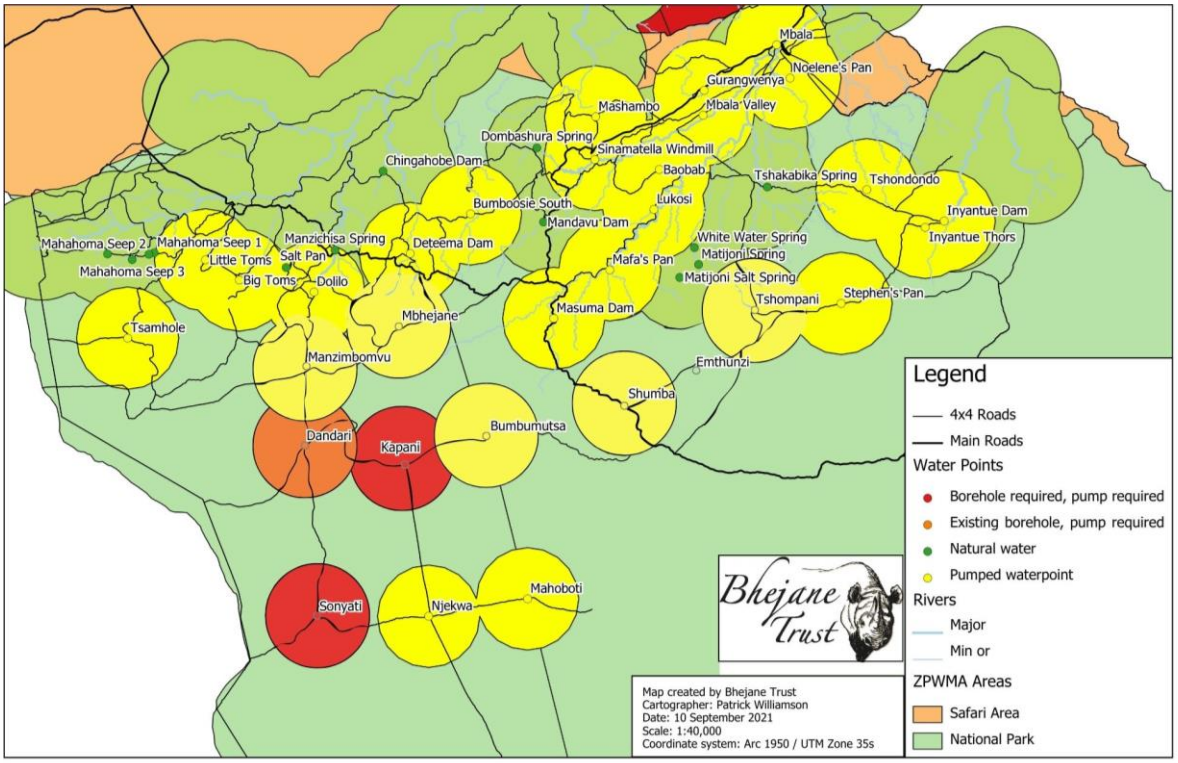
Overview.

Bhejane Trust is a registered not for profit, established in 2009 and based in Victoria Falls. Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority our work seeks to aid in the conservation management of several National Parks in the Matabeleland North Province of the Country.

A major pillar of this work focuses on providing water for wildlife across the semi-arid landscapes that dominate this region. Today Bhejane Trust has rehabilitated and assists with the management of 52 solar powered boreholes, pumping nearly 1.5 million litres of water a day across nearly 4000 square kilometres of wildlife rich land.

More than half of these boreholes are located within Zimbabwe's largest and oldest wildlife area, Hwange National Park. This massive 16,000 square kilometre wilderness has no permanent water and relies completely on this resource being supplied. This is provided by boreholes which are drilled to depths of up to 200m underground where water is then pumped to the surface to subsidise the drinking requirements of tens of thousands of animals.
Artificial water (man provided) has been a part of this vast wildlife landscape for nearly a century, with the first borehole being drilled in Hwange National Park in the early 1930's. With a prolonged 7-8 month dry season and little to no natural water, this has become an essential part of wildlife conservation.

Bhejane Trusts History of Water for Wildlife in Hwange National Park



Bhejane Trust first established in Hwange National Park in 2009. Our primary focus at that stage was to assist with the monitoring and protection of the Parks last remaining Black Rhino population. (Bhejane means black rhino in the local Ndebele language)

Once on the ground, it became very apparent that water was severely lacking and much of the existing infrastructure had dilapidated and was no longer working. As water is key to all life, in 2011, we began an extensive water rehabilitation and resuscitation exercise.

Initially, this focused on repairing and replacing the diesel engines which had historically been used to pump the vital resource from underground to the surface for animals to drink. This technology is expensive and requires a high level of management and maintenance with constant refuelling and repairs required.

Having had success with the use of solar power in other Parks, our work shifted to converting the existing infrastructure to the renewable energy of solar. Today, we manage 34 solar powered boreholes across the Northern area of the Park (Robins and Sinamatella), that provide life giving water to 27 waterholes strategically placed to maximise the landscape and ensure that animals have equal access to food and drink.

Whilst the solar powered infrastructure is great, it has its limitations. Completely dependent on the intensity of the sun, the pumps only begin working at optimum from about 0830 in the morning, and then stop at 1630 in the afternoon. Effectively 8 hours of pumping time. This drastically reduces the amount of water that can be produced, and more importantly does not provide water during the peak drinking hours of 1700 to 2200.

As such, our work seeks to expand on this infrastructure by adding in battery systems that allow for longer pumping and drastically more water being provided. It is with this in mind that we made an appeal to the Beit Trust.



Beit Trust Funding to Bhejane Trust

In November 2025, Bhejane Trust was successfully awarded a grant by the Beit Trust to equip 4 existing boreholes with battery systems.

Once the rainy season had subsided and the teams were able to access the area, work began on the 14th May 2026 to install these vital assets and have them running in time for the upcoming dry season.

This was achieve, and I am very pleased to say that by the end of May 2026, all four of the chosen water points had been equipped with battery systems. This has been a massive addition to our water for wildlife work and we are deeply grateful to The Beit Trust for this incredible contribution to conservation. At the time of writing, we have experienced a full month of these systems running off the additional battery power supply and the yield has increased fantastically

Tens of Thousands of animals depend on this water infrastructure during the harsh dry months, and the addition of the battery systems has increased our daily water supply by nearly **100,000 litres**. A massive contribution and instrumental in further alleviating the dry season drinking pressures.

These boreholes were strategically chosen within the Black Rhino Intensive Protection Zone. These critically endangered animals are water dependant and regularly compete with other species for access to this vital resource. Coupled with a significant elephant population and thousands of other animals, access to drinking water is of the utmost importance in these harsh landscapes.

The inclusion of these batteries and the significant increase in the daily supply of water is a massive contribution to the long term conservation of all bio diversity of the area

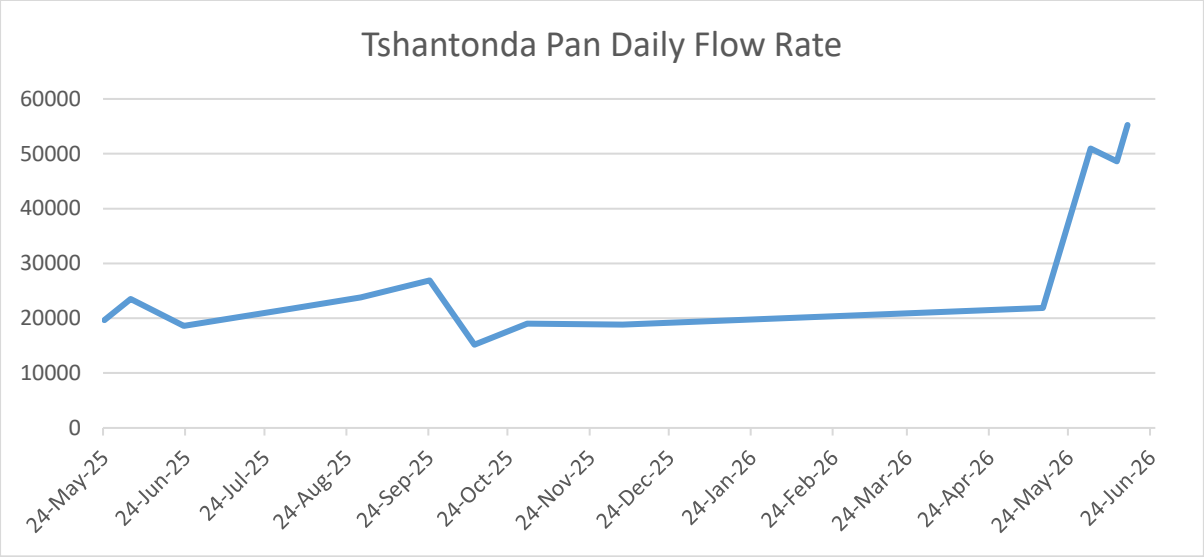
Tshontanda Pan



This a new waterhole established by Bhejane Trust in 2019. Located in the North East corner of Sinamatella this is one of the only sources of water for wildlife in the area. The borehole feeds a natural river that does not hold water year round. Stunningly located at the base of a granite outcrop, this pan services a wide range of wildlife species, including the critically endangered black rhino.

In 2020, a second borehole was drilled due to the first having a fairly poor yield of approximately 8,000 litres of water a day. This second borehole proved to be a vital addition, producing an additional 20,000 litres a day and greatly increasing the carrying capacity of this water source.

At the height of the dry season, this water source dries up to a little stream but always has water thanks to the boreholes we have supplying it.
With the addition of the battery system, we have almost doubled the flow rate and expect to see a more sustained water source in the dry months ahead.



Inyantue Dam

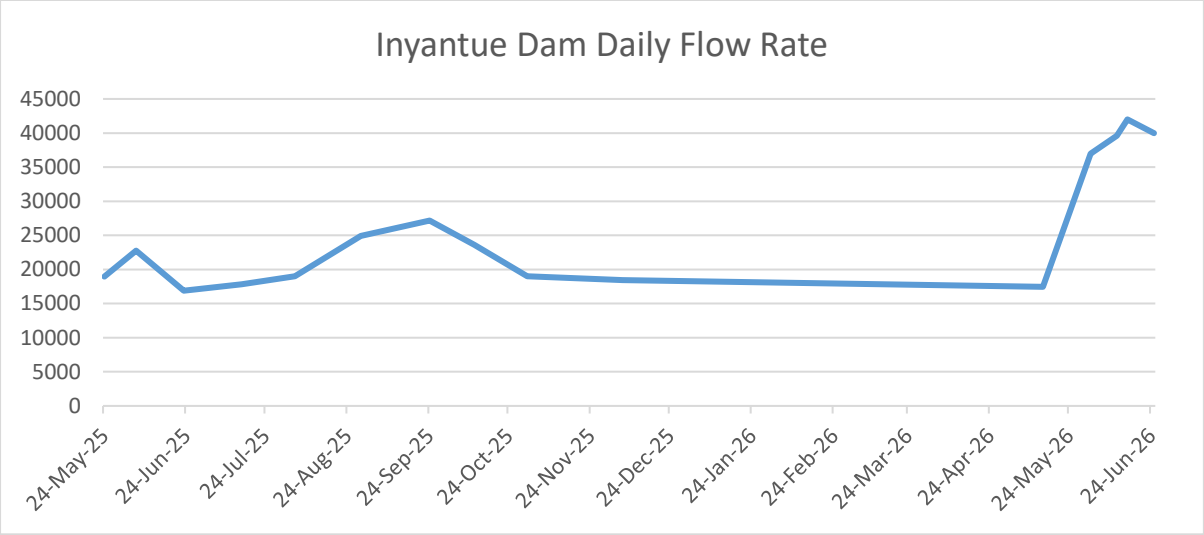


The Inyantue Dam wall was constructed in the 1960's as a means of trying to catch rain water and having it last through the dry months. With a growing elephant population, this was not achieved and the dam would regularly dry up before the onset of the next rains. As such a borehole was drilled in the 1970's to keep a constant stream of water flowing to this vital drinking point.

Originally equipped with a diesel engine, Bhejane Trust installed its first solar system at this dam in 2014. Whilst the yield is not great, it has ensured that there is drinking water year round for the many animals that inhabit the area.

The 2025/2026 rainy season was a fantastic one, with most areas receiving above 800mm for the season. Whilst this is great, it was not without its challenges. Inyantue Dam burst with the significant water losing much of the hard earned storage. With that said, the addition of a battery system to this borehole has come at the perfect time.

With breached wall, and the loss of the stored water this water point would likely not have coped with the expected drinking pressure. The additional pumped water thanks to the batteries will help alleviate much of this pressure.



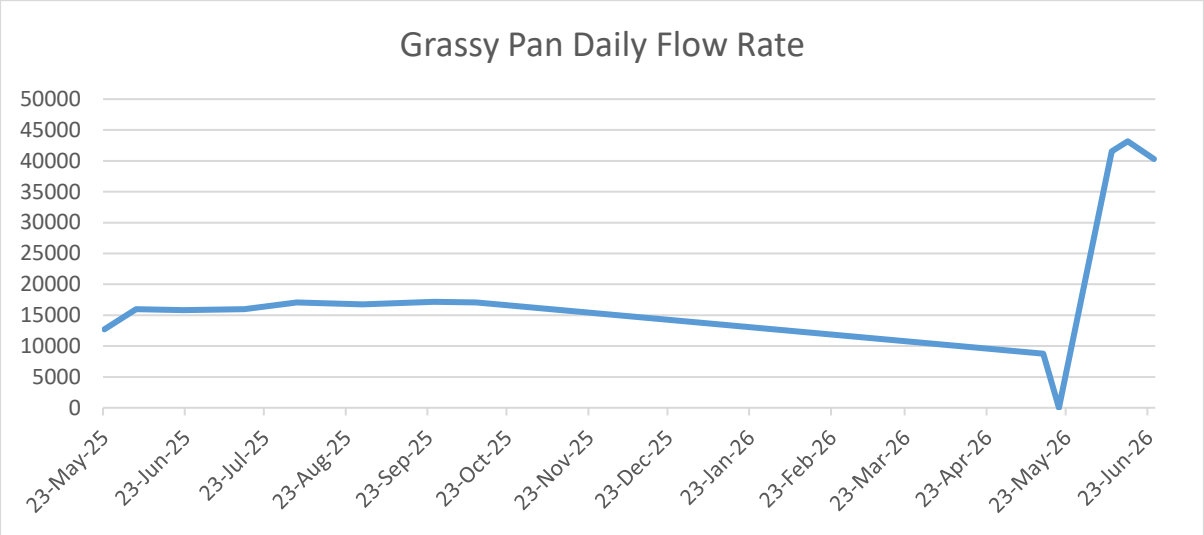
Grassy Pan



Grassy Pan is a new water point established by Bhejane Trust in the back areas of Sinamatella. This pan is strategically located to open up significant grazing area for the animals during the harsh dry months. Whilst water is important, so too is food. When animals congregate around available water, the pressure on the surrounding vegetation is significant.

The first borehole was drilled at Grassy Pan in 2018. As the name suggests, this picturesque waterhole is full of lush green grass creating more of a swamp than a pan. Sadly, the yield from this borehole was not great, supplying an average of 3,000 litres a day. Nowhere near enough to keep up with the drinking demand, and keep large volumes of herbivores in these back areas.
A second borehole was drilled in 2020 with a much better yield. Increasing the daily water supply by over 20,000 litres. Whilst this has been a major help in providing enough water to sustain large herds of animals, more is needed.

The addition of a battery system to this vital water point has seen the daily yield climb to over 40,000 litres a day. Doubling what was originally being provided. With the significant grazing available, this additional water will help sustain many more animals through the dry months.



Tshompani Dam



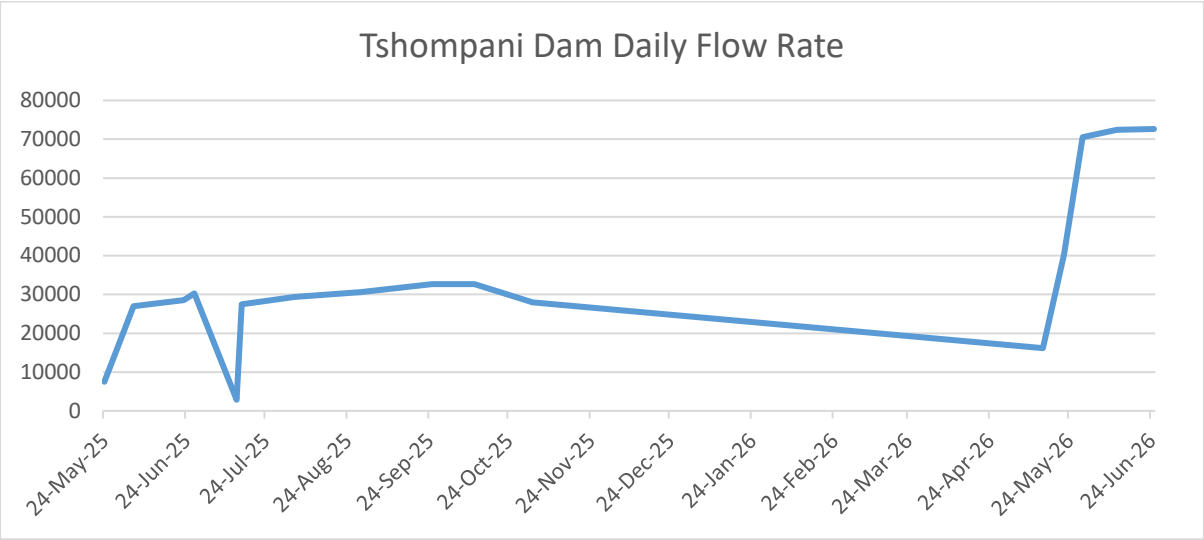
Tshompani Dam is the second of 3 earth dam walls constructed in the 1960's as a means of harvesting rain water. Significantly deeper than Inyantue, this dam plays a crucial role in providing live giving water to a large number of animals.

Despite its size and depth, Tshompani was equipped with a diesel powered borehole. Records are hard to find of when, but we believe it to have also been drilled in the 1970's and as a means of keeping ample water in the dam for a growing number of animals.

With that said, despite the borehole and extensive catchment area, this dam is susceptible to drying out. Especially in years of drought which have become more frequent as climate change impacts global weather patterns.

This water point was chosen to receive a battery system because of its significance in the greater water for wildlife program across the park. Its volume and proximity to good grazing means that a large number of animals can sustain themselves around this water during the

dry months. When this system fails, the knock on pressure at surrounding water points is significant and unmanageable.



Financial Breakdown.

Income

Total Received:	GBP 27,500.00	(Great British Pounds)
Exchange Rate:	1.3461	
USD Received:	USD 37,017.75	(United States Dollars)

Expenditure

Forster Irrigation	USD 35,444.80	Supply and Fit Battery Systems
Quarry stone and Cement	USD 233.00	Required for mounting of frames
Beit Trust Plaques	USD 160.00	4 x Plaques
Fuel and Travel	USD 158.00	Installation of Battery Systems
Rations	USD 108.00	Food and Supplies for Installation
Padlocks	USD 15.00	To secure the battery cabinets
Total Spend	**USD 36,118.80**	
Balance Remaining	**USD 898.95**	

Financial Summary

As this is a once off project, there are no further expected expenses relating to the installation of the battery systems. The ultimate cost came in slightly lower than the expected amount with $898.95 remaining in the grant funding.

We humbly request to use the balance of the funds available to purchase necessary spares such as pipe fittings. These materials are regularly used in the inevitable repair and maintenance work of our water for wildlife infrastructure.

Conclusion

The funding provided by the Beit Trust to install battery systems at four existing water for wildlife borehole sites has been completed successfully. The sites chosen were done so for two key reasons.

Firstly. Each of these water points fall within the Black Rhino Intensive Protection Zone, with each of them providing drinking water to these critically endangered animals. In addition to the rhino. These water points sustain thousands of other animals during the harsh dry months of the year. The additional water supply will aid greatly in reducing the drinking pressure at these water points.

Secondly. Each of these water points are considered in the back areas of the Park. The everyday traveller will rarely venture that deep into the wilderness. More importantly, these water points are located in areas with ample grazing. Grazing that would not be utilisable by animals without access to drinking water. Not only does the addition of these battery systems ensure a healthy supply of liquid, but increases the carrying capacity of the area. Allowing more animals to access the available food and taking significant pressure off other areas.

We are deeply grateful to the Beit Trust for this incredible contribution to our work and to conservation. With the expected Super El Niño due to effect the 2026/2027 season, this amazing upgrade could not have come at a better time. On behalf of Bhejane Trust, The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and the Wildlife of Hwange, we thank you!