

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

# Rescuing biodiversity before development begins

## Aloe Translocation and Conservation Project

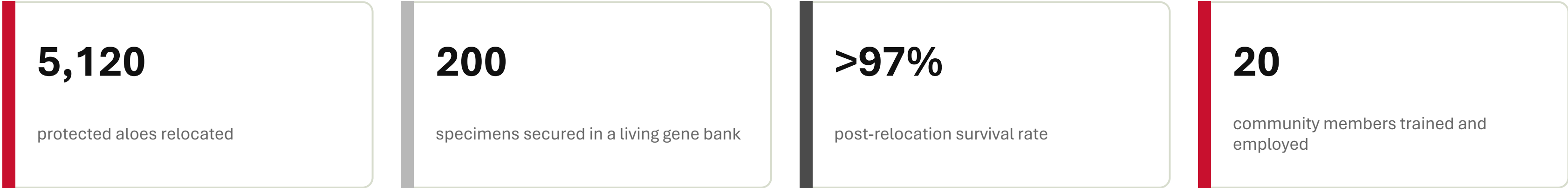
Ahead of Chirundazi Dam construction

KARO PLATINUM

Chrome Dinner Awards 2026

# Conservation impact at a glance

A proactive biodiversity rescue programme delivered before construction impacts occurred.



The project joined scientific translocation, regulatory partnership and community participation to protect indigenous plants while enabling strategic water infrastructure.

# Protected aloes stood within the future dam footprint

Environmental surveys identified protected species across the inundation zone and construction footprint.

**Aloe translocation and conservation ahead of Chirundazi Dam construction**

Prior to the development of the five million m³ Chirundazi Dam, Karo Platinum identified a significant population of protected aloe species (*Aloe chabaudii* var. *chabaudii* and *Aloe cf. greatheadii*) in the designated inundation zone of the proposed dam. Recognising the ecological value of these plants, Karo Platinum proactively initiated a rescue and relocation programme to safeguard the species from permanent loss.

In collaboration with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Authority (ZimParks) and in accordance with an approved translocation method statement, a total of 5 120 aloes were carefully uprooted and relocated to receptor sites that closely mimic their native habitat. A total of 200 specimens were also transferred to the ZimParks Ewanrigg Botanical Garden to establish a living gene bank, supporting long-term conservation and research.

As part of our commitment to community engagement, we recruited and trained 20 local community members in plant mapping, handling and transplanting techniques – creating employment opportunities while promoting environmental stewardship. Under the guidance of ZimParks ecologists and our Karo Platinum Environmental and Social Department, the initiative achieved a survival rate exceeding 97% with many aloes now flourishing and in bloom.

This project exemplifies our dedication to responsible mining and biodiversity stewardship and conservation, demonstrating that infrastructure development can harmoniously coexist with ecological preservation when driven by collaboration, scientific rigour and environmental care.



Species identified

Aloe chabaudii var. chabaudii  
Aloe cf. greatheadii

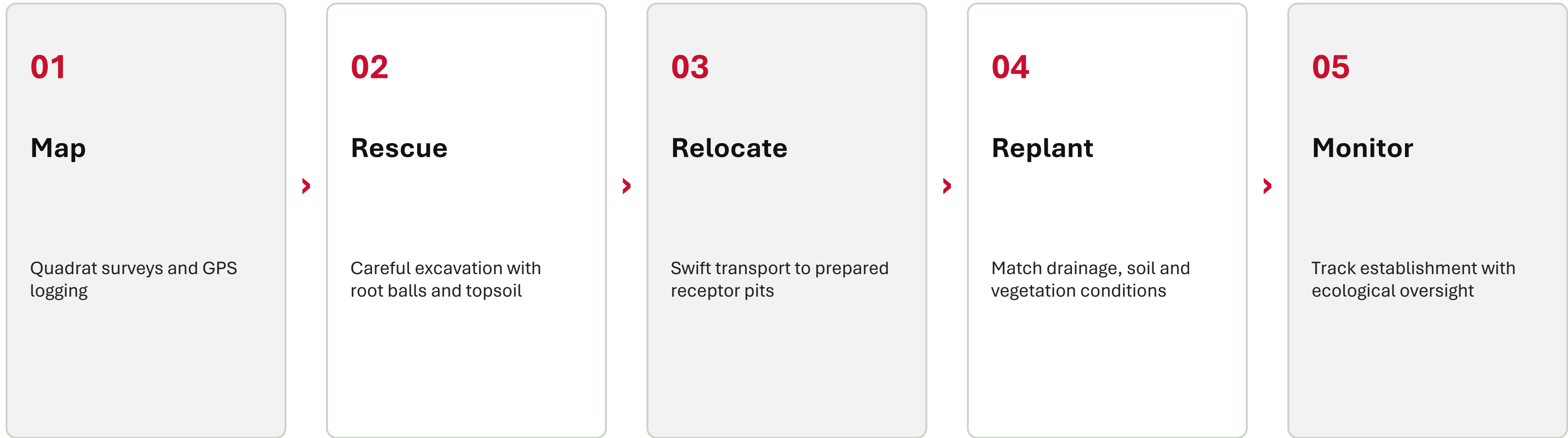
At-risk locations

- Inundation area
- Dam wall
- Borrow pits
- Haul roads

Without intervention, construction would have caused direct plant loss.

# From survey to successful establishment

A controlled, science-led pathway reduced transplant stress and supported long-term survival.



Technical oversight: environmental specialists and ZimParks ecologists

# Conservation in action

A project designed around careful handling, rapid relocation and suitable receptor sites.

- **Preserve root balls**
- **Reduce transplant stress**
- **Replicate habitat conditions**
- **Maintain ecological oversight**

**Scientific rigour turned a development risk into a measurable conservation outcome.**

# Relocation translated into ecological success

Monitoring confirmed resilient populations and flowering at receptor sites.



>97%

survival rate

- More than 5,300 specimens protected through relocation and ex-situ conservation
- Relocated aloes re-established and flowered
- Ongoing monitoring supports evidence-based conservation

# Conservation skills shared beyond the project

Twenty community members from the dam influence zone received practical training and temporary employment.



**Plant identification**  
and mapping

**Biodiversity**  
monitoring

**Safe plant**  
handling

**Transplanting**  
and rehabilitation

**Conservation**  
principles

Temporary employment + practical field capability + stronger local ownership of biodiversity conservation

# A living gene bank strengthens long-term conservation

Two hundred specimens were transferred to Ewanrigg Botanical Garden through ZimParks' ex-situ conservation programme.



# 200

specimens transferred

The living collection supports:

- Long-term preservation
- Education
- Research
- Future conservation knowledge

# One project, five connected outcomes

Responsible infrastructure can create environmental, social and partnership value at the same time.

6



Clean Water and Sanitation

Water security with environmental safeguards

8



Decent Work and Economic Growth

Local training and temporary employment

9



Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Biodiversity integrated into infrastructure planning

15



Life on Land

Protected species rescued and conserved

17



Partnerships for the Goals

Industry, government and community collaboration

WHY THIS PROJECT DESERVES RECOGNITION

# Environmental leadership measured in lives preserved

Karo Platinum acted before loss occurred, combining foresight, scientific rigour, regulatory collaboration and community participation to create a lasting ecological legacy.

5,120 relocated • 200 conserved ex-situ • >97% survival • 20 people trained

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**A replicable model for responsible mining and biodiversity conservation.**