

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.

