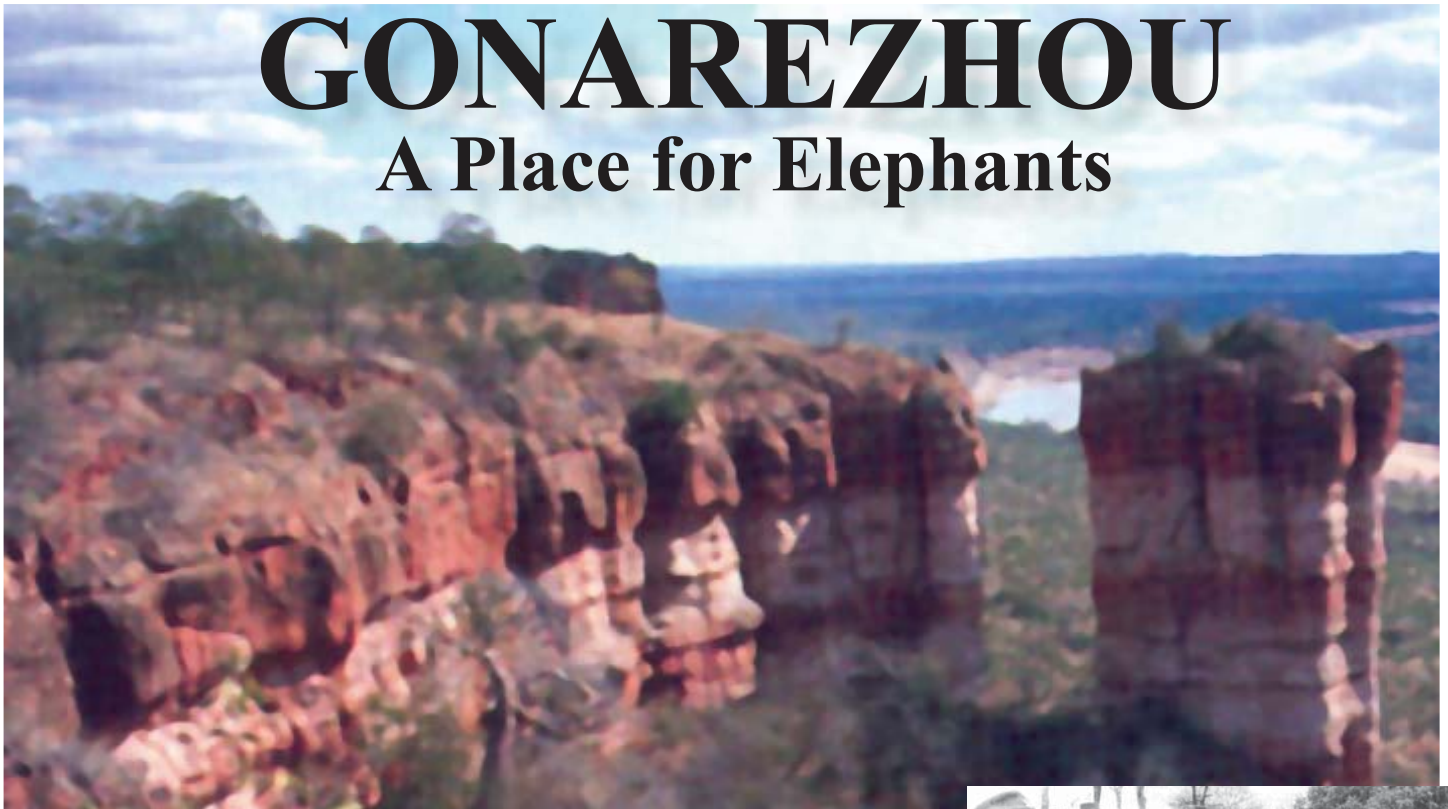


# GONAREZHOU

## A Place for Elephants



*The Pinnacle, Chilojo Cliffs, looking upstream above the Runde.*

This book should occupy a prominent place on the bookshelf of anyone who has an interest in wildlife conservation in Zimbabwe in general and in its south-eastern corner in particular.

It is heartening to note that there seems to be a steadily increasing perception that Gonarezhou is something special, something to be treasured, something to be nurtured and protected. This is certainly the plea, eloquently expressed, of the author, Colin Saunders.

Colin, a doctor of medicine, who has spent virtually his whole life in the region, and who served as Chairman of the National Parks and Wildlife Board as well as other bodies devoted to conservation, is eminently qualified to promote the notion that here indeed is a place which it would be criminal to allow to degenerate into a barren wasteland devoid of its immensely rich store of flora and fauna.

His life-long passion for the area and its wild creatures is evident in every page of this compelling account. The emphasis is, naturally, on elephants - but the other denizens (including the human variety) are not neglected. There is an interesting combination of anecdotal and descriptive passages which makes for easy reading. The history of the area, too, with its association with Arab dhows and the related tantalizing questions concerning the time, in the not-too-distant past, when

the Save-Runde river system was a great waterway to the coast, is not forgotten.

Less attractive subjects are also included. There are graphically portrayed accounts of horrific landmine casualties suffered by wildlife populations. The author does not shirk, either, from recording his dismay at the loss to the former Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management of dedicated and committed staff who were not accorded the recognition and support that their professionalism and expertise deserved. These losses will be sorely felt, especially when the Great Transfrontier Conservation Area becomes a reality.

Colin Saunders sees this proposed huge conservation area as Gonarezhou's salvation. He could be right, but I think many of us would consider that equally important will be the fervour and devotion of people like himself.

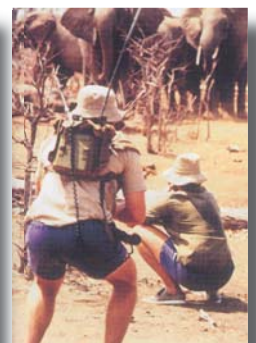
The book holds an impressive portfolio of colour photographs and is well-endowed with excellent pen-and-ink vignettes of lowveld subjects.



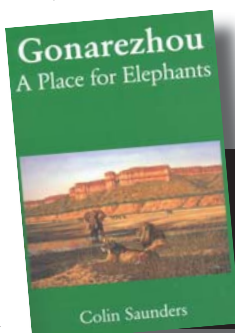
*Parks stalwarts in the Gonarezhou, 1970 - left to right - Paul Reed, Nick Drew, Ron Thomson and John Osborne.*



*Gonarezhou's most notorious poacher, Shadrek.*



*Coetsee selects an elephant to dart, 1992.*



GONAREZHOU - A Place for Elephants - 390 pages, available in soft and hard cover. Published by Lowveld Lodge Enterprises and available in South Africa from Gill Booysen - e-mail: [gill@thegaponline.co.za](mailto:gill@thegaponline.co.za) and in Zimbabwe from Mark Saunders e-mail: [mark@farmarama.co.zw](mailto:mark@farmarama.co.zw)

