



2014

SLCS NEWSLETTER Edition 3 (July to December)

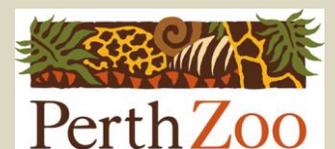


Generously supported by the following major donors:

Luangwa Conservation Community Fund –
Members: Flatdogs Camp, Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe Lodge & the Bush Camp Company, Kafunta Safaris, Remote Africa Safaris, Shenton Safaris, Croc Valley Camp, Lion Camp & Norman Carr Safaris.



Working Dogs
for Conservation



From Rachel McRobb

CEO SLCS



Dear SLCS friends, donors and partners,

Since you last heard from us six months ago (which is a long time I know) much has happened at SLCS and in Luangwa. Now the year is coming to an end and hopefully things will start to quieten down a little if the rains ever come, I am able to sit down and write an end of year newsletter just in time for Christmas.

Aside from the law enforcement support we provide to ZAWA and CRB's, our biggest accomplishment in the latter part of 2014 has been the implementation of the South Luangwa Canine Unit. This initiative in partnership with Working Dogs for Conservation and ZAWA is aimed at addressing the ever increasing trafficking of wildlife contraband. More on this exciting and important project is found in the rest of the newsletter.

Sadly, poaching has increased this year despite combined efforts from ZAWA, SLCS and other stakeholders. A combination of the demand for wildlife products, the absence of law enforcement support in some GMA's due to a lack of revenue previously generated by hunting, the increase in human population bordering the national park and well organized syndicates are just a few of the factors affecting the increase.

Our partnership with ZAWA has been strengthened with the collaboration in the detection dog program, supporting renovations of ZAWA scout camps and providing logistical and other forms of support to their efforts.

The Zambian Carnivore Program and SLCS continue to work in partnership and pool resources in several areas of work. This includes the joint employment of our veterinarian, co-ownership of our Cessna 180, data sharing and information gathering by scouts and an extremely successful snare removal program involving the wild dog anti-snaring team funded by Painted Dog Inc.

We've had major support this year, both financially and in other ways and we are truly indebted to everyone who has funded us whether large or small donations, all of it is extremely important to us as an NGO.

The South Luangwa tour operators deserve a special thank you with their ongoing support and assistance, the financial backing they provide ensures SLCS continues and grows every year.

Best wishes this Christmas and for the coming year.

Flatdogs Camp
South Luangwa National Park, Zambia



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

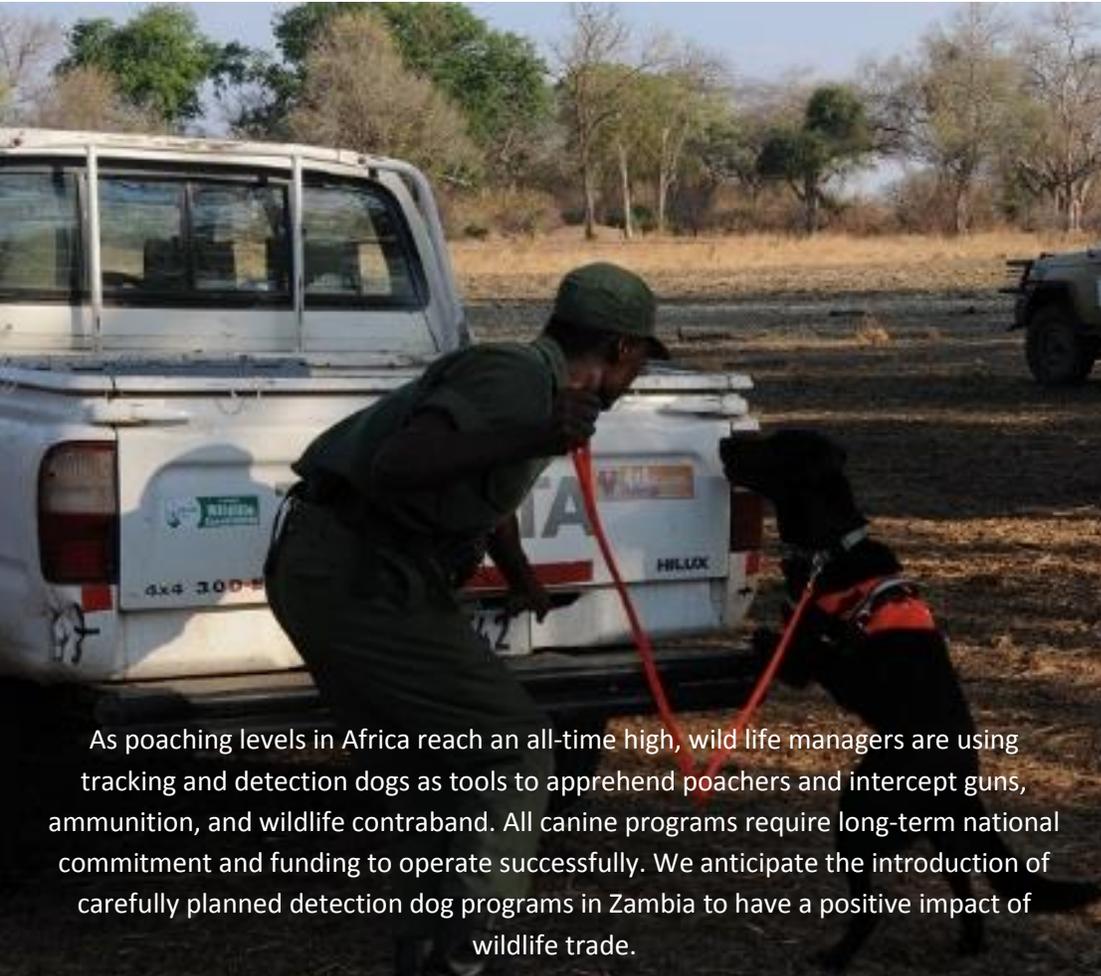


Zambian
CARNIVORE PROGRAMME



zambia • luangwa • 1995
REMOTE AFRICA
Safaris

We are greatly indebted to the following donors and partners for the implementation and running of the detection dog program.



As poaching levels in Africa reach an all-time high, wild life managers are using tracking and detection dogs as tools to apprehend poachers and intercept guns, ammunition, and wildlife contraband. All canine programs require long-term national commitment and funding to operate successfully. We anticipate the introduction of carefully planned detection dog programs in Zambia to have a positive impact of wildlife trade.

Update from the South Luangwa Canine Unit – McKenzie Homan

Only eleven weeks into the four month handler training and the scouts are doing amazing things with our two detection dogs: Steve and Ruger. The dogs came over from Montana at the end of September with trainers from Working Dogs for Conservation and have been in training with scouts from SLCS and ZAWA. At the beginning of the training the scouts selected for the dog team had never even held a leash in their hands, in fact even the word “leash” was new to them. Fast forward two months and the dog/handler teams are conducting several different types of deployments scenarios ranging from road-blocks to monitoring fishing camps to late-night village raids. In addition to working with the dogs, the scouts are responsible for all aspects of their daily care from feeding and grooming to monitoring their health. The handlers and dogs have bonded over these last weeks, and it is difficult to tell who looks forward to seeing each-other more: the dogs or the scouts. So far the dogs are trained to detect elephant meat, ivory, ammunition, and fire-arms. We are continuing to collect samples and hope to layer on several more species of bush-meat in the next couple of months. In between deployments Steve and Ruger enjoy hanging out by Rachel's dipping pool and barking at baboons.



Update from Dr. Sichande

This year has been very exciting for me as I am now fully settled and comfortable to work on my own. For the past one and a half years I have been with ZCP/SLCS and Rachel and Matt have done a tremendous job to pass on the vast knowledge and skills they have in wildlife to me which has enabled us to attend to a lot of animals this year, mainly the snared ones and those with gunshot wounds.



When I am not in the field, I help out neutering and vaccinating domestic dogs and cats in the community. I am very happy that people are now realising the importance of neutering and vaccinating against rabies as they are now voluntarily bringing their pets. This will reduce on the number of stray dogs and will ultimately reduce the incidence of rabies in humans.

Finally, I am very grateful to the SLCS and ZCP teams for the job well done in ensuring that any animal with man inflicted injuries is located and treated. The joy of seeing all these animals survive these injuries which are usually severe is what motivates me to work even harder. Next year I intend to reach out to more people with pets to persuade them to neuter and vaccinate them and also raising awareness on animal welfare issues. Thank you.



International



Snaring still remains the biggest challenge and threat to wild animals. With the help of the radio tracking collars and also a good network of tour operators we have been able to rescue most animals that have been snared. Wild dogs and Elephants were the hardest hit with snares this year. In additions we have also recorded an increase in elephants with gunshot wounds this year. Unfortunately the prognosis of recovery for these elephants with gunshot wounds are usually poor as it mostly depends on whether the bullet is lodged inside the body or not.



Red Caps Update

A key component of the SLCS community work is human wildlife conflict mitigation, an overwhelming problem faced by communities and managers in most game management areas.

In partnership with Awely and ZAWA, SLCS have several mitigation measures in place to reduce and address this problem. In the last six months we have focused on:

- Construction of elephant safe grain stores in areas of high conflict
- Chilli blasting as a means of scaring elephants out of fields
- Conflict assessments and data gathering
- Chilli farming as an alternative income program
- Trial and set up of a conflict free zone
- Alternative crop growing such as ginger, turmeric and lemon grass which elephants do not particularly like

Billy Banda and his team of Red Caps, Ruth Chitindi, Elias Zulu and Jebson Tembo continue to work hard every day at reducing conflicts in Lupande GMA and their work does not go unrecognized.



Photo by Renaud Fulconis,
Awely Director



Elephant safe grain stores



Dried turmeric and ginger



Lemon grass tea





Law Enforcement support from the Operations Manager Benson Kanyembo.

This year has been challenging especially in the area of anti-poaching. We have recorded the highest number of confirmed poached elephants in many years. The level of poaching is getting out of hand as evidenced from the statistics that we have and I appeal to the authorities to do everything possible to curb this.

Since July 2014 to date we have achieved the following results; 37 suspects apprehended, recoveries 40 ammunitions, 15 firearms, 19 pairs of ivory, 61 fishing nets, 12 bicycles and 502 wire snares.

A number of combined operations with the Zambia Police, Drug Enforcement Commission, ZAWA, Fisheries and Forest Officers were carried out with the support of our South Luangwa Canine Unit and handlers. The dogs are doing great in the operations conducted so far and have assisted the scouts in recovering some illegal contrabands.

SLCS supported patrols July – November 2014

Month	LP	SP	DP	Ambush	NO	FO	FiO	Suspects	Wire Snares	Firearms
July	14	-	27	1	-	1	1	5	160	-
Aug	11	-	12	5	-	2	2	2	15	3
Sept	8	3	15	2	-	-	2	13	137	6
Oct	6	2	12	-	-	-	-	4	57	-
Nov	7	1	4	-	2	2	2	13	133	6
Total	46	6	70	8	2	5	7	37	502	15

LP- long patrol, SP – short patrol, DP – day patrol, NO – night operation, FO – forestry operation, FiO – fisheries operation.



9J-SLC The flying operations have continued to generate valuable information and apart from acting as a deterrent to poachers, we have been able to locate poachers and poaching activity from the plane and make subsequent follow ups and arrests.

October aerial operations for example identified 11 poachers drying racks, 5 poacher's fires, 2 poached elephants, 10 major paths in and out of the park likely for poaching, 4 poachers were seen from the air and 44 valuable water sources were recorded.

Zesco power cable removed from the National Park



For years Zesco electrical cable has been irresponsibly left lying around and inside South Luangwa National Park. Despite efforts by SLCS to seek an audience with Zesco, which was granted once, nothing has been done on their part and no response has been given on any further requests. We were therefore left with no alternative but to make efforts with ZAWA to

try and remove some of the cable ourselves. Despite removing many rolls, there is still scores lying around. Zesco wire is the leading wire used for snaring animals in South Luangwa and the wire is responsible for the death of hundreds of animals each year. It is time Zesco took responsibility for their actions concerning wire and clean it all up.

Renovation of Kanzutu Wildlife Camp

With generous funding provided by Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company we were able to construct four new scout houses at Kanzutu Wildlife camp. This is in addition to last years renovation of Lusangazi camp. Radio and solar equipment has been installed for communications with the camp and GPS's have also been provided. With this additional support we expect better results from the area.



Safari on the River at Juluka Landing, Sacramento



In July this year, SLCS trustee Carol Van Bruggen and her husband Steve Kuhn of the Africa Hope Fund, hosted SLCS's first ever international fundraiser in Sacramento, California. Africa Hope Fund very generously flew me over to speak at the event and through excellent auctioneer skills by David Sobon and overwhelming auction items we managed to raise \$70,000 towards the detection dog program. An incredible amount of effort went in to the event by volunteers in Sacramento and we are truly indebted to them all.

Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company donated two, week long safaris which raised the majority of donations and a huge thank you to them for supporting us once again.

And to Carol and Steve, Heather Estay, the Mandella's, Pat Cole, Leslie Leggio and all the other volunteers at the event thank you so much from us all at SLCS.

On that note we wish you a happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2015. Rachel, Benson, Mwamba and the team.

In the spirit of Christmas, if you would like to make a donation to SLCS to help run our programs in 2015 please go to the following site and thank you for considering. <http://www.generosityinaction.org/SLCS.htm>

With generous support
from

