

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

**CSL**  
CONSERVATION  
SOUTH LUANGWA





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	Page 1
CEO Report	Page 2
CSL Team	Page 3
Tusk Wildlife Ranger Awards	Page 4
Scout Training	Page 5
Tracking Patrols	Page 6
Anti-poaching update	Page 7
Anti-poaching Results	Page 8
Aviation Impact Report	Page 9
CSL K9 Unit	Page 10
Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation	Page 12
Veterinary Update	Page 15
CSL Fun Run & ZCP Carnivore Cup	Page 18
Donors & Partners	Page 18

## We haven't come this far, to only come this far – CEO's report.

When describing the CSL Law Enforcement Advisor to me, a good friend and colleague said he was told many years ago *"great causes will benefit from those willing to die gloriously in their service; but more useful still, to all great causes, are those who serve over time, with humility and persistence"*.

CSL's team of dedicated, many of them long serving staff of 15 plus years is testament to a cause they believe in that's worth fighting for. Everyone undertakes their work with diligence, enthusiasm and persistence and as we enter a new decade, there is nothing I am more proud of than the men and women I work with at CSL.

As troubles pass we forget tough times very quickly and all said, 2019 was a very good year for us. Although most of the time it was demanding and trying, it was largely rewarding, fulfilling, and successful.

We dove head first in to scout training, external assessments, law enforcement reviews and strategies, employed new staff and management, improved our community programs and our human wildlife conflict mitigation program, strengthened our partnership with DNPW by firmly joining hands, and now we're set to tackle 2020 in a big way.

I want to extend my personal gratitude to each and every person who supports CSL, whether this is large donor financial support, personal financial support at all levels, advice and technical support, moral support, spreading the good word and generally sticking with us. We couldn't continue our work without this and we are extremely thankful.

I hope you enjoy the following summary of our work in 2019 and I look forward to connecting with you again later in 2020.

Best wishes

Rachel McRobb

CEO, CSL



# TEAM SPIRIT



We couldn't do it alone, it takes a whole team to make this work and we're extremely proud of our team at CSL. Their commitment, optimism and unwavering determination to make a difference is astounding. In addition to 80 full time team members, here are some of the management who keep the wheels turning every single day.



From top left: Benson Kanyembo - Law Enforcement Advisor, George Bell - Head of Operations, Godfrey Mwanza - Head of K9 Unit, Deven Felix – Pilot, Emma Robinson - Program Manager HWC, Dr Mwamba Sichande – Vet, Richard Zulu – Unit Leader, Allan Ndhlovu – Accountant.



## Benson Kanyembo wins TUSK's Wildlife Ranger Award 2019.

In a lavish awards ceremony in London on November 21st 2019, Benson was presented with a medal by HRH the Duke of Cambridge for his outstanding long term contribution as a wildlife ranger. Benson had many supporters who travelled from different continents to support this milestone event and his moving speech earned him a standing ovation. Benson spent a week in London with the Area Warden, Bovax Kachali and CEO, Rachel McRobb and packed in as many sightseeing opportunities as possible.

We are extremely proud of Benson and all that he has achieved, and the significance of this award will motivate all of us not to lose sight of our goal.





## Scout Training

With enormous support from donors (Vulcan, Mfuwe Lodge and Elephant Crisis Fund) and partners Endangered Species Protection Agency (ESPA) and DNPW, CSL invested heavily in much needed refresher and specialized training in 2019. 90 Wildlife Police Officers and Community Based scouts attended a month refresher training. From the refresher training, the top scouts were then selected for a 6 week Quick Reaction Force (QRF) training course which produced an elite team of 18 scouts. The QRF works on a 24/7 rota system ensuring that a fast reactive capability, fully kitted out is available at all times. The refresher training coupled with the 2018 recruit training has largely contributed to the improvement in anti-poaching effort and results in 2019. We intend to continue with this essential training in 2020 in order to achieve even better results.



# Tracking Patrols



Keeping track of all patrols, man power, vehicles and specialized units in an area the size of South Luangwa and its surrounding GMA's (over 15,000km<sup>2</sup>) is a daunting task, and one that we have not been able to do efficiently up to date for a range of reasons. But in order to reach this goal, in 2019 CSL and DNPW finally joined two command and control centres and now function consistently from one centre. It has been a long and arduous process getting there but the results and change has been stark. The fact that both CSL and DNPW now know how many patrols have been jointly deployed annually, what resources are needed and what management is required is almost a revelation for us. It took the help of some external expertise to assist us with this process and we are now better suited to jointly manage limited resources, staffing levels and streamline operations. Duplication and inefficiency has largely been reduced.

In addition to managing the control room, our SMART databases have been merged, are managed from a central location and portray a more accurate picture of South Luangwa anti-poaching efforts and threats.

Technology, infrastructure and training is still limited in the control room but with a recently secured grant we hope to address all of this in 2020, including further training and installing a digital radio system.





## Creating a safer environment for wildlife in South Luangwa. Anti-poaching outcomes.

In 2019 we increased our already significant support to DNPW's anti-poaching programs. Critical changes were made to a number of operating procedures.

In summary, by combing forces, recruiting new scouts, joining command and control centres and better utilizing resources, DNPW and CSL **patrol effort increased by more than 100%, snare recoveries increased by 16%, arrests increased by 43%**, and there has been an overall reduction in poaching.

In 2019 we jointly conducted

- 481 day patrols
- 297 long field patrols (10 day each)
- 74 short patrols covering more than 31,500km on foot
- 554 snares were recovered
- 66 firearms confiscated
- 117 people were apprehended
- 40 scout houses renovated
- 3 radio rooms renovated / constructed

In 2019 we extended our incentives and bonuses for recoveries and arrests to all DNPW officers in South Luangwa, continue to provide critical logistical support (2 boats, 8 land cruisers for patrol deployments and 1 aircraft for surveillance).

CSL provides all rations and equipment to 7 anti-poaching camps in the Game Management Area (GMA) and supports rations and equipment from HQ in Mfuwe for park patrols.

While this is all great news, poaching still remains a challenge and in 2020 we aim to decrease it even further with DNPW.







# Arrests and Recoveries



554 snares  
confiscated



117 suspects  
apprehended



66 firearms  
confiscated



866kg's of bushmeat  
confiscated



100 tusks  
confiscated



# Aviation Impact Summary 2019

## Aerial Conservation Program:

### Collaborative Anti-Poaching and Large Carnivore Conservation in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia

Since 2012, the joint CSL/ZCP Aviation Program continues to be an essential part of conservation efforts focused on anti-poaching and large carnivore research and conservation in South Luangwa. The aircraft flies on average 5 days per week for various missions including aerial surveillance (CSL), animal tracking (ZCP), ground team assistance, gunshot response, medical and personnel transport and assisting to locate snared animals. Anti-poaching flight teams consist of the pilot, one CSL community scout, and one DNPW wildlife police officer observer. Animal tracking flights usually consist of one DNPW biological technician and one ZCP researcher. Our pilot, Deven Felix who joined in May 2019 comes with a long and proficient flying background in the USA. When not flying, he manages spatial databases to support anti-poaching patrol reporting and planning and has become an important part of the de-snaring and wildlife rescue team.

During the dry season (May to November) aerial anti-poaching patrols typically fly along the Luangwa River where the concentration of animals is high, and consequently incidences of illegal activities are high. During the wet season (December to April), aerial anti-poaching patrols cover a wider area of the national park and game management area (GMA) as wildlife disperses during this period. Aerial tracking however is generally diverse.

#### Impacts to Anti-Poaching Efforts

- In 2019, the aircraft flew over 305 hours in support of anti-poaching efforts and animal tracking (177 hours for anti-poaching, 89 for animal tracking and 38 in support of other programs).
- Detecting and reporting of recent illegal activities for ground team follow-up and patrol planning.
- 18 elephant carcasses were detected by the aircraft that would likely otherwise have gone undetected.
- 44 poaching camps / meat drying racks were found by air.
- 25 incidences of illegal timber, encroachment and fishing were detected.
- More than 30 gunshot reports were responded to by the aircraft.
- Illegal fires seen during the dry season were monitored (these are often set in relation to poaching).
- Emergency medical aid dropped to patrols.
- Vehicle spare parts were delivered for vehicle repairs on route to another activity.
- Detection and continual surveillance of poachers while communicating to responding ground teams, leading to arrests and seizures of arms and illegal items
- Providing patrol and aerial surveillance of remote and largely inaccessible areas especially along borders and the largely road less interior areas
- Mapping poacher routes used to access the park
- Quick response to gunshot reports, providing vital intelligence to ground responders
- Deterring poachers from entering the park for illegal purposes by providing a regular, intimidating aerial presence along park boundaries and around sensitive areas

The CSL K9 Unit is now a well-established arm of CSL and DNPW operations in South Luangwa and Eastern Province of Zambia. The purpose of the K9 Unit is to provide additional detection capabilities to enforcement officers to detect illegal wildlife contraband including ivory, bush meat, pangolin, leopard and lion skins and body parts, illegal forest products, illegal firearms and ammunition.

The two dog units based in Mfuwe and Chipata, continue to achieve good results both in arrests and confiscations and acts as a deterrent to would be traffickers.

In 2019 the team had the following results:

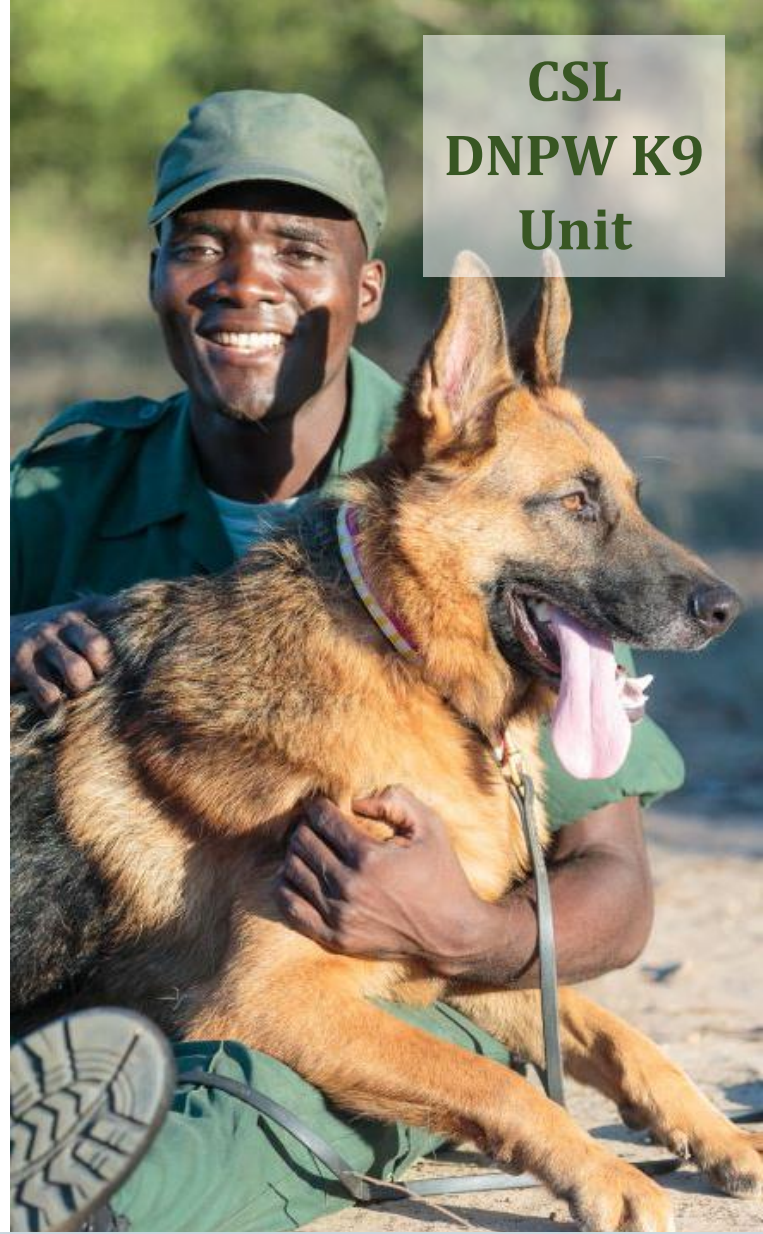
**176 road blocks were conducted searching 18,552 vehicles and motorbikes, 99 buildings and 23 area searches.**

**Apprehended 28 suspects, confiscated 13 firearms, and 8 ivory tusks.**

In 2020, we intend to continue upskilling our handlers and dogs with international certifications, more tacking training, refresher detection training, first aid training, adding new equipment and welcoming a new dog.

Multiple exchange visits to partner programs are also planned.

## CSL DNPW K9 Unit



# Training and Welfare

We pride ourselves on the fact that we work with rescue dogs who are given a second chance at life to do something meaningful while having fun. Each of our dogs has been carefully selected for their play drive, energy and attention and each of them has been rescued and trained by Working dogs for Conservation (WD4C).

Annual ongoing training in 2019 was undertaken by WD4C, ESPA and Vapour Wake. Both dogs and handlers are always improving and fine tuning skills, it's an ongoing process.

In order to maintain the lifespan of our working dogs we also invest heavily in veterinary care, physiotherapy and training. Twice a year we bring in Dawn Jones, an animal physiotherapist from Cape Town to assess and work on dogs and train kennel keepers and handlers.



*From top left: K9 and QRF training with ESPA, training with Vapour Wake and a new pool for the Mfuwe K9 Unit.*

# Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Increasing human population growth in Lupande Game Management Area adjacent to South Luangwa national park, with expanding settlements and farms, and the corresponding increasing demand for natural resources has resulted in an increase of human-wildlife conflict. There are significant numbers of rural people living in close proximity to elephant populations in Luangwa. Human-elephant conflict is having adverse effects on the health and well-being of the population and at the same time fosters discontent for wildlife and undermines conservation efforts. The interface of human on animal populations along the GMA is persistent. The boundary, originally meant as a buffer to the park, no longer acts as a buffer, as it supports a high population of wildlife and people.

In partnership with DNPW, CRB's and the Zambian Carnivore Program, CSL has a myriad of programs aimed at addressing this.



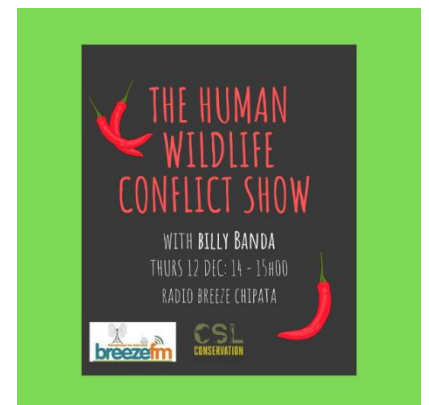
## Chilli Patroller Program

CSL's chilli patroller programme uses a strategic community approach which makes guarding by farmers much more efficient since whole farming areas, rather than single fields are protected. This means that farmers are encouraged to strategically guard their farming blocks as a group with the help of CSL-sponsored "Chilli Patrols". These men are chosen by their communities and are trained, equipped and paid a volunteer allowance by CSL, and they are issued a "chilli bomber" to repel elephants from fields. With this device, ping-pong balls filled with chilli oil are shot against the shoulder or back of an approaching elephant (without harming the animal). When the ball cracks on the elephant's skin, a splash of chilli oil remains. The moment the elephant touches the affected area with its trunk, the strong chilli smell irritates their sensitive mucous membranes and the animal moves away.

In 2019, 20 chilli patrollers volunteered for a total of 2960 man nights (2018 = 1487 man nights) to protect their community's agricultural fields from crop damaging elephants.

## The HWC Radio Show

In 2019, CSL aired its first HWC radio show aimed at engaging communities to help protect their own crops and property, and for CSL to inform communities about the HWC program. The show has had such good success with many callers and supporters that we have now extended it, and have a general conservation program with partners including DNPW and ZCP.

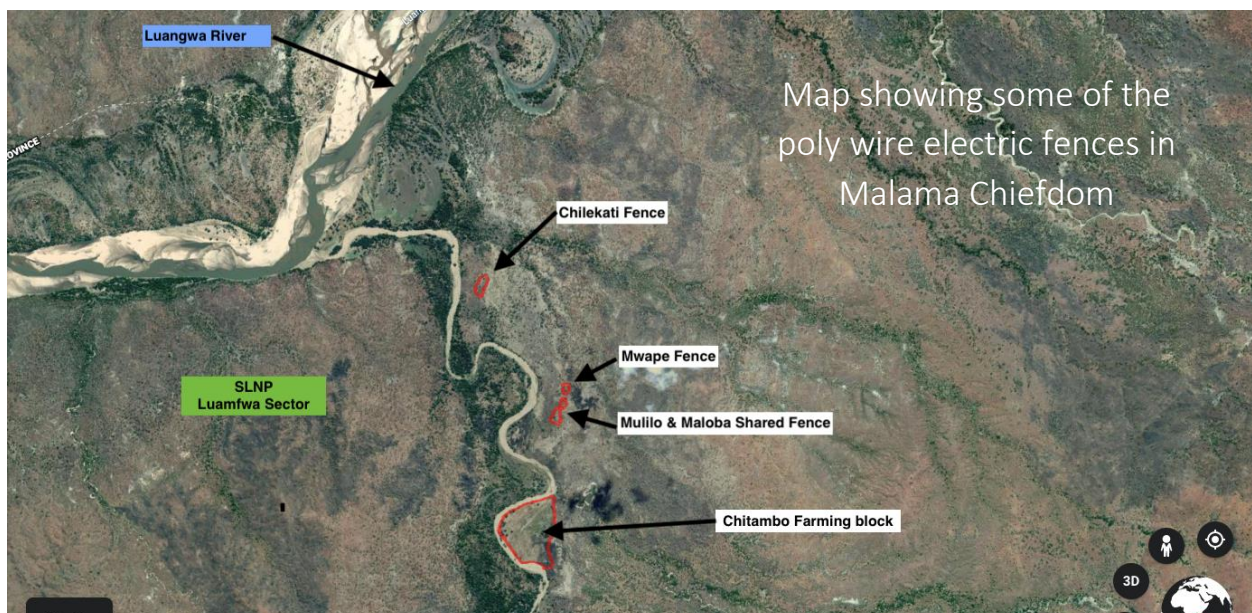




Poly wire electric fences

Preventing damage by wildlife, particularly elephants and mitigating conflicts between farmers and wildlife has been the goal of CSL’s HWC mitigation project for more than ten years. The following activities are implemented on a small scale by a small team with few resources. It should be noted that the HWC team does not have a vehicle and only one motorbike for transportation. However, in 2020 we are hoping to upscale the HWC program and improve response time to incidences.

- Chilli blasting / patrols to deter crop and property raiding elephants
- Chilli farming engaging families experiencing regular wildlife conflict as a means to deter elephants and at the same time improving livelihoods by buying chilli as a crop
- Elephant restraining fences using poly wire **(which cannot be used for snaring animals)**
- Construction of elephant safe grain stores to keep maize and other crops protected
- Production of elephant friendly products (unpalatable to elephants) – chilli, turmeric and lemon grass which are sold to tourists
- Community awareness and training through our annual conservation fun run, workshops, leaflets and education materials



Map showing some of the poly wire electric fences in Malama Chiefdom

## Chilli Farming, its hot – cash in hand!!

2018/2019 Chilli Farmers	2017/2018 Chilli Farmers	2016/2017 Chilli Farmers
495 farmers	168 farmers	57 farmers
271 female farmers (55%) 224 male farmers	92 female farmers (55%) 76 male farmers	26 female farmers 31 male farmers
30,231 kilograms of chilli sold to CSL K453,465 (\$32,000) paid in cash to individual farmers.	11,098 kilograms of chilli sold to CSL K166,470 paid in cash to individual farmers	2,763 kilograms of chilli sold to CSL K24,864 paid in cash to individual farmers

**Chilli farming** - As part of our HWC mitigation program we engage chilli farmers who suffer losses from crop raiding elephants. Part of the chilli is kept by the farmers for mitigation measures and the rest is sold to CSL, who in turn sell to Lusaka based sauce companies. This program addresses conflict and improves livelihoods in conflict zones.

**Elephant safe grain stores** - 143 grain stores have been constructed in the South Luangwa Valley since the start of this HWC mitigation programme. Elephant safe grain stores enable farmers to keep their harvest safely in the village instead of keeping them in traditional stores made from natural resources.



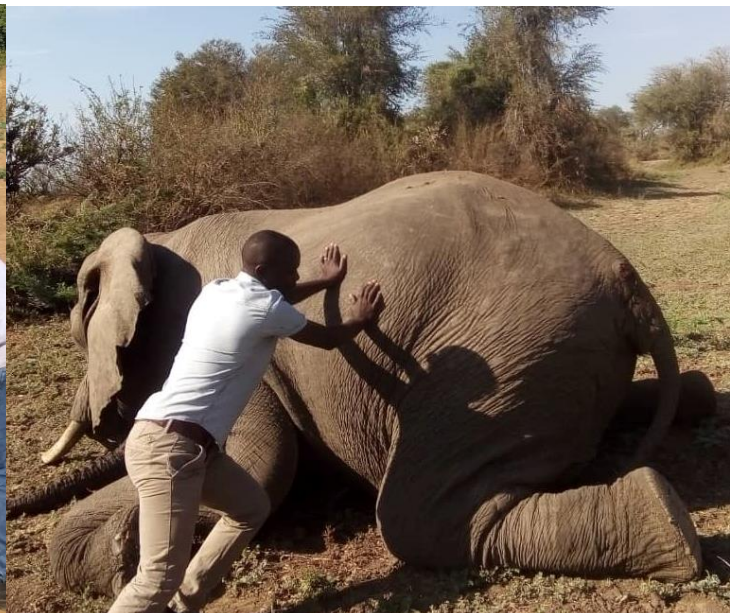
## Veterinary work

Wire-snaring poaching continues to be the most immediate and gravest threat to several iconic species found in the Luangwa Valley. CSL, ZCP and DNPW continue to provide full time veterinary presence in the Luangwa Valley and most snared animals that are reported by safari guides, communities and wildlife police officers are immobilized, de-snared and survive. The joint CSL ZCP vet Dr Sichande efficiently conducts both field based wildlife veterinary activities. He also provides support to the local community for domestic animals which includes surgeries, rabies vaccinations, free spay and neuter operations and other consultations and treatments. A fully kitted out veterinary unit with experienced staff to handle wildlife snaring incidences is critical in order to de-snare wild animals.

Our joint work with ZCP researchers tracking collared wild dog packs and lion prides helps us to monitor any snared or recovering animals. On multiple occasions, only because of our collaborative work with the use of our co-owned aircraft, intensive tracking of collared animals by ZCP and expert personnel offered by CSL, have many snared dogs and lions been rescued.

**In 2019 we de-snared 6 elephants, 2 hyaenas, 1 wild dog, 2 lions, 1 puku, 2 giraffes, 1 buffalo, 1 bushbuck and 1 baboon.**

*Left: Richard Zulu with one of the 180 elephant immobilizations he has been involved in. He is a key and extremely experienced member of the team. Below, Dr Sichande and rescue team immobilize a snared giraffe and snared elephant.*







### Student Mentoring

One of the very admirable things about Dr Sichande is his willingness to train and mentor so many visiting vet students and colleagues, passing on valuable knowledge he has gained while working in South Luangwa. He is currently mentoring five Zambian students who spend holidays and work placements with us in Mfuwe. Fitzgerald Mukumbi, a 5th year Veterinary Student at the University of Zambia going into his final year in 2020. Fitzgerald spends his leave and placements with CSL gaining valuable hands on field and clinic experience. Mercy Njobvu, a 2nd year Vet Student who is going into 3rd year in 2020 at the University of Zambia. Kings Chimungu graduating this December in Animal Science. Johanne Njobvu going into final year in 2020 studying Animal Science. Vincent Banda starting a 3 year Diploma Course in animal science in 2020. All of the above students spend valuable time with both CSL and ZCP gaining field work experience and clinical experience. The wildlife experiences they gain in the field are priceless. Apart from wildlife rescues and conservation work, Dr Sichande performed 34 dog and cat spays and castrations and hundreds of rabies vaccinations and de-wormings.

*Above; supervising Fitzgerald operating on a cat, below; working closely with DNPW vet Dr. Lengwe Bwalya*





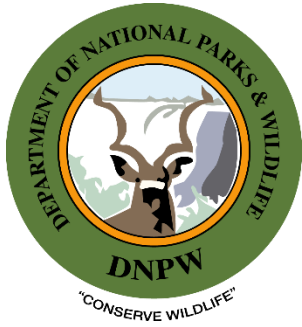
## CSL Annual Conservation Fun Run & Carnivore Cup 2019

The 11<sup>th</sup> CSL annual 10km Fun Run joining forces with the Carnivore Cup (ZCP) resulted in the biggest and best sports day in Mfuwe yet. Over 6000 people attended the event on the day. The 10km annual run was followed by entertaining and highly competitive relays, the eagerly awaited tug of war, volley ball, netball and the final of the ZCP Carnivore Cup competition.

This year we spiced up the event with international reggae musician JaRoops who entertained the crowd.

Join us again in June 2020 for yet another great day.





CSL is grateful to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife for the long-term partnership and trust vested in us to continue working together to protect South Luangwa. We would also like to thank the following major donors for their ongoing financial support in 2019. CSL is solely reliant on donations and works hard to maintain excellent relations with donors and partners. This is evident in some of the long-term partnerships and funding we have received and continue to receive from international and local donors.

**Special mention must be made of the Luangwa’s photographic tourism sector via the Luangwa Conservation Community Fund. CSL is a beneficiary of the conservation donation, whilst the community donation is granted to organizations working with education and community programs. Thank you for visiting South Luangwa and contributing towards this donation.**



### Major Financial Donors include



Supported by IUCN Save Our Species, co-funded by the European Union.

## Other Valued Financial Donors and Partners



Painted Dog Conservation  
Inc.



philanthropic  
ventures  
foundation



MULBERRY  
MONGOOSE



CARING FOR CATS  
ENDING THE TRADE

*In addition, we would like to thank the following individual donors in 2019, their ongoing support to wildlife conservation and community programs in South Luangwa is greatly appreciated by our whole team.*

Fil Hide	Jeff Zuba	Greta Utecht
Alan Black	Alison Cohen	Richard Pitt
Lyn Sales	Keith Grundy	Leuenberger, Jean-Pierre
Paul Maxwell	John & Ange Lemon	Neil Clark
Petra Kurth	Bear Grylls	Catherine Mignard
Katerina Ring	Selfe Family	Gayatri Wilson
Beth Touma	Chris Breen	Jeff Zuba
Virginia Kubic	Dr Bryan	Babette Alfieri
Artie Owen	Kris Kolman	Volker & Gabi Sproede
Johan Elzenga	Simone Anzboek	Tristan Dav
Edward Selfe Photography	Roger Whitaker	Ellen Chestney
Julie & Mark Mills	Jeffrey McDowell	Herman Miles
Leonie Bayley	Leuenberger, Jean-Pierre	Dr. Bryan
Jemma Kaluski	Gary Goelitz	Patrick Bentley
Sybillie Brodmann	Gary Levy	Jenn and Les Dillard
Odell Dillard	Simon Artley	Ceri Keith
Frederick Bell	Martin Winter	James & Hebe Beard
Matthias Gottler	Chris Anderson	Raymond Strov
Susan Stribling	Jim Auburn	Gruner Family
Alison Bell	Frances Foster	Mark & April Johnston
Mari Passananti	Jeffrey Balin	Callie Patterson
Christopher Anderson	Jess & Adrian Coley	Farquhar, Scott
Alec & Kate Lindsay	Ngairi Booth	Katya Geunther
Anne Sibbald	Cousins Family	Bradley, Jessie Reid
Terence O'Rourke	Ian Shenton	McKinney, Jacob
Morshed, Sheda	Walter Prodorutti	Ian Shenton
Lincoln Palmer	Valley Lodgeistics	Linder Butcher
Conan and Linda Butcher	Murray Katz	Jane Bubear Sports
Chris Brown	Evans Graph	Foundation
Keith Grundy	Syd & Sue Chipchase	Steve Kuhn
Ellen Chestney	Kerri Cliff	Elizabeth Antell
Gid Carr	Alison Bell	Pam Curtis - Bush Quip
John & Rachel Clark	Susanna Georgiou	Lucio Londero
Murray Katz	Carol Van Bruggen	

*Special thank you to Edward Selfe, CSL Trustee for his wonderful photography used in this report.*

