

CSL NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2018



Edward Selfe Photography

Generously supported in 2018 by the following major donors:

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



From Rachel McRobb

CEO CSL



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I can't believe that we are almost at the end of yet another extremely busy year. I apologize for the delay in getting this out to you, but the year started off with a flurry of activities and doesn't look to be slowing down for us anytime soon. As I reflect on what we have accomplished so far in 2018, I'm more encouraged, determined and focused than ever. Its been an epic year, full of all sorts of new developments that I am thrilled to share with you.

Since I last wrote, we hit the ground running setting up a new base for the Chipata K9 Unit, supporting and facilitating the DNPW 6-month training of 93 new Wildlife Police Officers, and hosting a number of field experts to help grow our skills in wilderness first aid, ecological surveys, vehicle maintenance and tactical response.

The Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Unit welcomed a new program manager in May and closed an important chapter in the history of this program, with the end of our partnership with Awely France and Germany, who closed their offices in both countries.

Croc Valley helped us host an event for World Ranger Day in July, celebrating all the dedicated CSL and DNPW scouts who work tirelessly to protect the South Luangwa Valley and the animals that call it home.

Tragically, we had to say goodbye to one of our exceptional scouts, Mr. Jimmy Chilepa, who died while out on patrol in an unfortunate encounter with an elephant – he is truly missed but his legacy lives on.

On behalf of all the hardworking CSL team we want to thank you for your unwavering support and kind generosity. We absolutely cannot accomplish all that we do without YOU! I encourage you to read on to get a better idea of what we've been up to this so far in 2018. If you are inspired to make any additional contributions please consider becoming a CSL member, adopting a detection dog or adding us to your Christmas giving list. All this helps our work enormously.

Thank you and best wishes

Rachel McRobb

Sit, Stay, Stop Poachers. Good Dog!!



Red Butterfly
FOUNDATION

In 2018 we welcomed our fifth working dog Tygee. He has lived up to the high expectations we had of him and already has lots of firearms and arrests under his collar. We also expanded operations to a new base in Chipata where the team works in partnership with DNPW in Eastern Province to combat wildlife trafficking.

In 2018 so far, the K9 Unit has searched 7200 vehicles, 37 area / buildings, apprehended 24 suspects, confiscated 16 firearms, 20 snares, 500 kg's of bushmeat.

In August, selected dogs and handlers were trained by CSL's amazing partner Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) in ecological monitoring, adding another set of skills to the dog's endless capacity to work, have fun and please. We conducted our first ever survey with dogs who performed outstandingly. WD4C continue to provide CSL with fantastic support including training and equipment.

If you would like to help sponsor our detection dogs why not buy a Unique Christmas gifts - Adopt a Detection Dog for \$200, through Painted Dog Inc. Go to www.cslzambia.org



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A very special thank you to Brandline and Royal Canin, for their unwavering support of the best quality dog food since our program started. Thank you for keeping them well fed and healthy.

ADOPTION CERTIFICATE

Rudi

Thank you for adopting Rudi.

He is one of the Working Dogs for Conservation at Conservation South Luangwa. The dogs play a crucial role in detecting ivory, bushmeat, game and ammunition, live boxes and skins, leopard skins and pangolins at the national park's boundary and across Zambia's Eastern Province.

CSL
CONSERVATION
SOUTH LUANGWA

Rudi did not come from a rescue shelter but his owners contacted Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) as he had become too much of a handful and difficult for them to keep. They had been given him as a small puppy and loved him dearly but knew they couldn't cope as at 11 months of age he joined WD4C.

Rudi is an amazing working dog and has very quickly directed all his day time energy to focus on his ball. He is also wonderfully sweet and his new handler, Alish, adores him.

Veterinary Voices

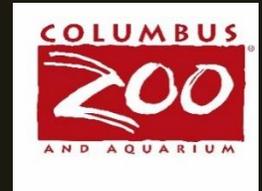
Our CSL/ ZCP Veterinarian Dr. Sichande, has been kept busy during the past few months de-snaring a wide variety of wildlife including giraffe, elephants, lions, wild dogs, hyaenas, buffalo, puku and waterbuck. It is without a doubt that all these animals would have died without veterinary interventions, tracking abilities of ZCP's collared animals and the use of our joint aircraft.

At the CSL Veterinary Clinic Dr. Sichande is also on hand to provide much needed routine and emergency care for the K9 Unit and other domestic animals in Mfuwe. Ruger pictured below in our plane on his way to Lusaka for a bladder operation, with his beloved Kennel Keeper Johnathan.



A Christmas gift with a meaning - Buy a beautiful piece of jewellery from Mulberry Mongoose and help sponsor anti-snare patrols.

www.mulberrymongoose.com



The destructive illegal activity of snaring continues to plague wildlife in the Game Management Areas of South Luangwa. Our de-snaring teams have pulled out hundreds of snares this year and saved the lives of hundreds of animals by conducting 540 anti-snaring patrols so far.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Zambian Carnivore Program and critical funding from Painted Dog Inc, TUSK Trust and Nat Geo's Big Cats Initiative, we can co-fund CSL and DNPW anti-snaring patrols.



MULBERRY
MONGOOSE

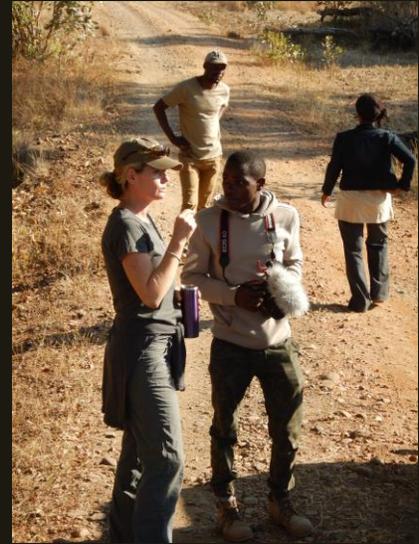


Painted Dog Conservation
Inc.



Vet Training

We believe in sharing skills. Dr. Sichande has been working in close collaboration with DNPW's Dr. Lengwe, training her in wildlife immobilizations.



Rachel works with Samson Moyo, a local filmmaker, on how best to capture video of her team de-snaring an elephant calf. Check out the final video on our website!

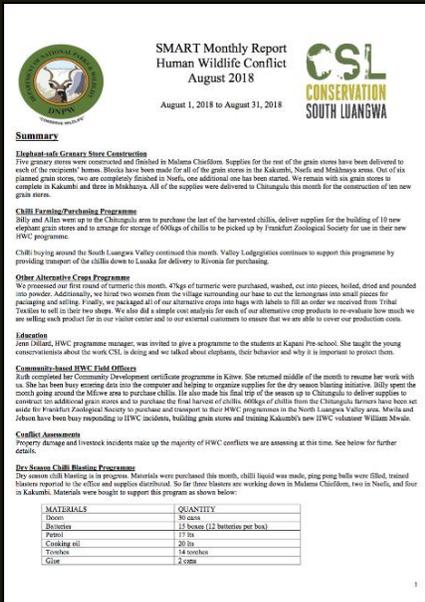


COMMUNITY CORNER



Jennifer Dillard joined our team in May as the new human wildlife conflict (HWC) program manager. She will be helping to support the day to day operations of the HWC team. We have already tapped into her grant writing skills, positive energy and her background in outreach and education. She's bursting with ideas, so stay tuned.....





A work in progress, the HWC SMART data model is slowly but surely being reviewed and revised as we move closer and closer to the best version for our program. We are now producing month end SMART reports that we share with DNPW to capture our year to date and monthly statistics.

Speaking of statistics - this year we have -

- Constructed 30 elephant safe grain stores bringing our total to 132**
- Deployed 20 chilli blasters during the wet and dry seasons to protect fields**
- Harvested over 11,000 kg's of dried chilli of which we sold 9 tons to Rivonia!!**
- This equates to K167,220 (\$15,000) in cash to communities**
- Conducted 12 workshops. Assessed 304 conflicts**
- Trained 180 chilli farmers of which 100 are women!!**



Not only do we engage in regular education and sensitization within the communities we work in, but we also have opportunities from time to time to inspire and mentor the next generation of conservationists. In September we hosted a group of conservation students from the University of Zambia. Each one of them has made a commitment to be a voice and champion for wildlife! In 2019 we will be collaborating with UNZA even further and offering attachments for UNZA environmental students.

Anti-poaching update and WPO Training



Training

In 2018 CSL is assisting DNPW to coordinate and finance a much needed recruit training course for 93 new Wildlife Police Officers for South Luangwa. This is the single biggest recruitment in decades and is a very welcome move. We are grateful to the Zambian Government for recognizing the need for WPO's.

In 2018 our anti-poaching support so far has contributed towards 509 - day patrols, 76 long patrols, 46 short patrols, 80 aerial patrols, 76 suspects apprehended, 72 guns confiscated, and 236 snares removed from the bush and 536 kg's of illegal bushmeat confiscated.

View from the CSL Cockpit – Les Dillard

Hours of "routine" aerial surveillance without seeing any illegal activity in a hot, loud, and bouncy airplane can lull most people into a stupor. But things can change very quickly into a frenzy of activity for the CSL/DNPW Aerial Observation Team. Something out of the corner of the observer's eye seems out of place, another glance, a call of "Turn Right" leads to a quick turn and after establishing the orbit, the observer calls "Contact! Poachers in sight!" and then your heart starts pumping just a little bit faster... This in turn leads to trying to get as much information about the scene as possible, taking coordinates with the GPS, a flurry of radio activity to the nearby ground team and CSL Base, and making decisions about the next actions. It doesn't happen every flight and sometimes we go for weeks between direct poacher sightings, but when it does happen it sure makes our job interesting!



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