

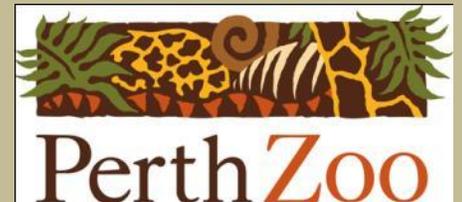


2011

SLCS NEWSLETTER Edition 2 (April, May, June)

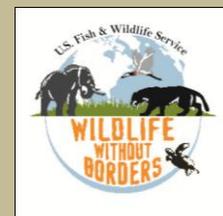


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Inside this issue:

- Update from Rachel McRobb, CEO.
- SLCS annual 10km Fun Run
- Disposal of contraband ivory Kenya July
- Elephant work
- Law enforcement activities update
- Illegal timber harvesting
- Awely boosts its support to SLCS
- ZAWA/WWF Luanawa aerial survey





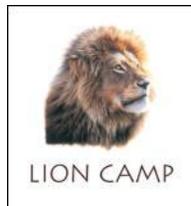
Note from Rachel McRobb

SLCS CEO

With the wet season now over, anti-poaching patrols, human wildlife conflicts, wounded elephants, preparations for the SLCS 10 km Fun Run, illegal wood cutting, funding proposals and reports, aerial surveys, dreaded workshops that one sometimes simply has to attend and much more have kept us all very busy.

The annual **SLCS 10km Fun Run** was a great event again this year. The theme was 'Make Conservation a Habit' and for a number of weeks before the fun run we hired a local professional drama group called SEKA who helped coordinate community sensitization. Close to two hundred people ran the mini marathon and more than one thousand people joined us on the day either cheering on their favorites or taking part in relays, volleyball matches, netball matches, tug of war and bottle races.

The event was kindly supported by the Elephant Charge Zambia, Norman Carr Safaris, International Elephant Foundation, Lion Camp and the Personal Touch.





African Elephant Law enforcement day

The African Elephant Law Enforcement Day is an important occasion set aside to recognize the cardinal role of law enforcement in the conservation of the African elephant. The day is intended to bring together African governments, partners, private sector and the public in celebrating this important role by raising awareness and appreciating the inherent challenges particularly in addressing the plight of this keystone species. This event also focuses on demonstrating solidarity among stakeholders and within the wildlife law enforcement fraternity as we concertedlly strive to curtail illegal wildlife trade in Africa.

Fostering co-operation to combat elephant poaching and ivory trafficking in Africa

Major activities

Laico Regency Hotel - Nairobi

18th July 2011

- 📍 Launch of African Elephant Law Enforcement Special Account (AELESA)
- 📍 Launch of Wildlife Enforcement Monitoring System (WEMS)

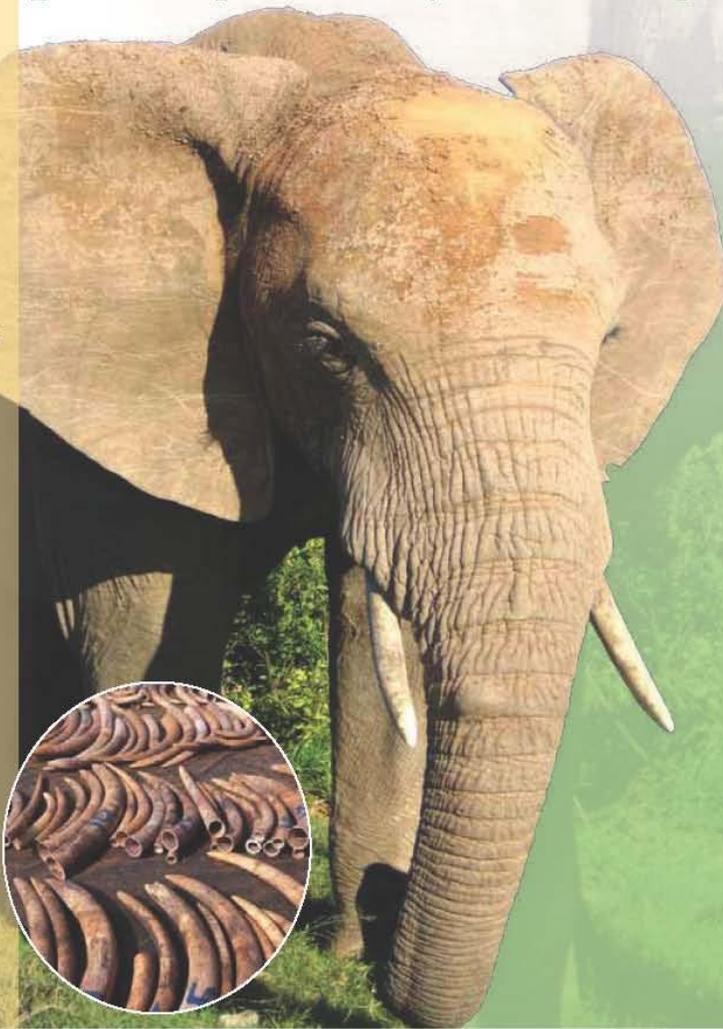
Kenya Wildlife Service Field Training School - Manyani

20th July 2011

- 📍 Award of wildlife law enforcement heroes
- 📍 Disposal of contraband ivory

Invited guests

- 📍 Hon. Ministers responsible for wildlife in Lusaka Agreement parties
- 📍 Ambassadors of embassies resident in Kenya
- 📍 Development partners in conservation
- 📍 Inter-governmental organizations
- 📍 Conservation NGOs
- 📍 Environmental agencies
- 📍 Business fraternity



Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora

Parties and signatories



CONGO



KENYA



LESOTHO



LIBERIA



TANZANIA



UGANDA



ZAMBIA



ETHIOPIA



SWAZILAND



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Wildlife rescue and immobilizations

We've had to deal with some unpleasant elephant situations recently but it is all part of the work we do here. A couple of weeks ago, we got a message from someone in the village where one of our staff lives saying there was a large elephant stuck in an old well. My heart sunk immediately as we have had to deal with this a few times before and the story usually ends sadly. The poor cow had been stuck for three days already and her legs were trapped in a mud bath. Unfortunately, without either a crane truck or a front end loader we were unable to help her, and with ZAWA's approval we quickly ended her misery.



Elephant cow trapped in an old well.



Dr. Square, Dr. Banda and Rachel McRobb attend to a snared elephant in Lower Zambezi.



Baby elephant immobilized for snare removal and treatment. Both his mum and aunt had to be immobilized too, June 2011.

ZAWA employs two new vets

ZAWA has recently engaged two new vets to assist Dr. Matandiko who has the onerous task of having to try and deal with wildlife issues all over the country. I had the pleasure of spending time with Dr. Square and Dr. Banda in Lower

Zambezi, where we went to help Conservation Lower Zambezi dart a snared elephant. We look forward to seeing them both in Luangwa in July and August when they come to visit our various projects here.



We would like to thank Worldwide Veterinary Services for their recent donation of veterinary supplies and to our other donors, The Africa Hope Fund, Columbus Zoo, Perth Zoo, Painted Dog Inc, USFWS and the Elephant Charge Zambia for their wildlife rescue support and anti-snaring patrol support.



Luangwa Valley Aerial Survey

An aerial survey of the Luangwa system was conducted by ZAWA with support from WWF in May 2011. Although it verged towards the end of the wet season, it is the first survey done at this time of year since 1973. The last survey in 1973 had fascinating results and we are eager to see the outcome of this survey. The survey focused on elephant distribution but took in to account all species and illegal activities and observations.



Buffalo herd during survey May 2011



Aerial survey team May 2011



Update on law enforcement activities

– Benson Kanyembo,
SLCS Operations Manager

The 2010 wet season (December – April) made certain that SLCS supported scouts were kept busy in the field, sometimes for up to twenty days at a time in bleak conditions. Snaring traditionally decreases in Luangwa during the wet season for a variety of reasons including, dense vegetation growth with the onset of the rains making it difficult to set and check on snares and, because wildlife is generally spread out due to availability of water making it difficult to have positive catches. With water holes becoming more concentrated, snaring is on the rise again and we expect this to be another critical year.

SLCS has enhanced its support to ZAWA with investigations operations and recently conducted two operations combined with ZAWA and the HWPO Unit Mfuwe Command resulting in the apprehension of four poachers and the confiscation of four firearms. We hope to conduct some in-house training this year to improve our skills.



We would like to thank Zamshu (Zamleather) for their kind donation of 40 pairs of patrol boots for our scouts for the third year running now.

Table 1: SLCS supported village scout patrol results April & May 2011

(LP-Long patrol, SP-Short patrol, DP-Day patrol, DR- Drying rack)

Month	LP	SP	DP	Snares	Suspects	Firearms	Ammunition	DR	Elephant mortalities	Ivory
April	8	2	17	20	14	6	80	0	2	2
May	5	3	10	17	3	8	51	3	1	2
Total	13	5	27	37	17	14	131	3	3	4

Source: SLCS 2011

Illegal timber harvesting..... is unquestionably wiping out South Luangwa's valuable timber resources at an alarming rate.

This is what happens to the forests in Luangwa when you buy local, unlicensed wood and it is our (Luangwa residents) responsibility to curb this. All these pictures below portray what is happening right now!!



Clockwise from top left; illegal cutting of mpapa tree, pit saw for planks, confiscation of illegal planks, another large tree mpapa being cut, destruction of mopane trees at Kalawani, large scale tree cutting to burn bricks in a kiln.

If you buy this type of timber you are automatically disregarding any efforts to curb the deforestation in Luangwa and are actively contributing to these illegal activities.

A recent operation involving an Honorary Forestry Officer, the Mfuwe Forestry Officer and SLCS supported scouts led to the confiscation of approximately 800 planks all headed for consumption in Mfuwe and ordered by various residents of Mfuwe. This activity more often than not goes unchecked and is now, more than ever before spiraling out of control. With a very eager but unsupported Forestry Officer in Mfuwe, the situation looks grim and each day hundreds of planks are being carried out of the bush for sale. I recently witnessed firsthand the devastation of the environment in places such as Nsefu, Kalawani Pan, Nchindeni Hills, and Chichele Salt Pan. The pictures above are just one of hundreds occurring on a daily basis.



With increasing human elephant conflicts still a major problem in Luangwa our partner in this program Awely, has recently increased their support to SLCS five-fold. With this additional funding, planned programs include elephant safe grain stores for farmers, an increase in the number of local based hunters employed to deter elephants using chilli, increased chilli fence training workshops and materials. A very special thanks to the whole team at Awely for their continued and unwavering support.

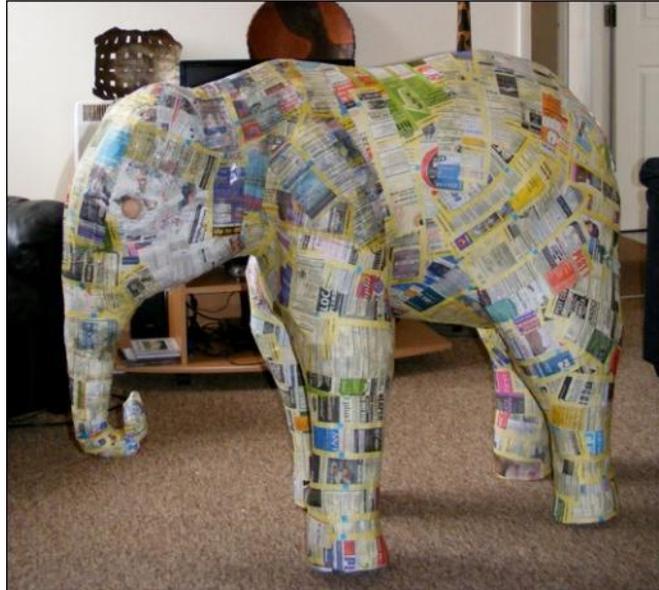
With generous support from:



The Luangwa Conservation Community Fund

‘Proudly supporting conservation and education activities in Luangwa’.

This elephant (still a work in progress) is soon to arrive at Mfuwe Lodge from the UK and will be stationed at their reception to encourage donations for SLCS and School Projects. Many thanks to Mfuwe Lodge and we look forward to seeing the final product.



The LCCF is kindly supported by the following camps in Luangwa:

Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company, Flatdogs Camp, Remote Africa Safaris, Croc Valley, Marula Lodge and Shenton Safaris.

LCCF funds generated in 2011

Month	January	February	March	April	May
	\$1968.5	\$2362.5	\$2977	\$3591.25	\$2652.66

That’s all from us for now and we look forward to bringing you more news again soon.

With
Generous
Support
From:

