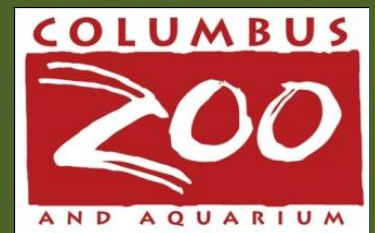




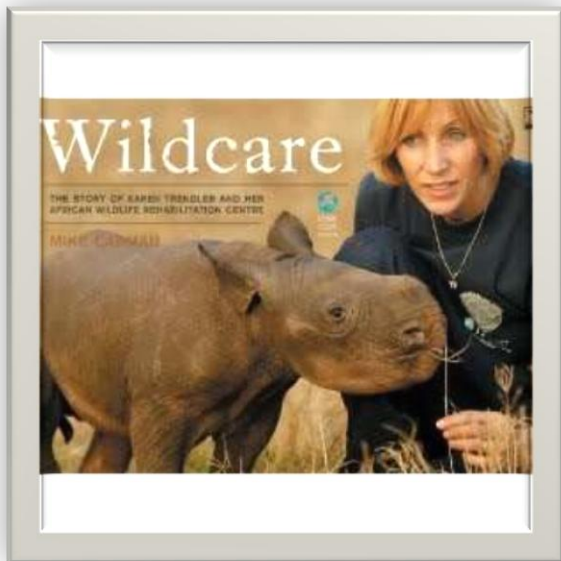
2011

SLCS NEWSLETTER Edition 1 First quarter.



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3/7/2011

From Rachel McRobb, SLCS CEO.....I hope the New Year got off to a good start for you. For us, 2010 ended with a long overdue awards ceremony and staff party for everyone at SLCS on 24th December. It had been years since we had one due to financial constraints but this year we felt we needed to reward scouts and staff members for their excellent hard work and dedication over the past year. The afternoon started with official speeches from management and the presentation of certificates and bonuses for ten different categories including overall scout of the year for outstanding performance to wildlife conservation, scout with the most arrests and confiscations, scout with the most man days achieved and so forth. It then went on to an afternoon and evening of celebrations with food, drinks, music and lots of dancing. Events like these give a huge boost in morale to uniformed personnel and the whole team.



2011 got off to a busy and constructive start with a wildlife rehabilitation training course presented by renowned wildlife rehabilitation expert Karen Trendler. I first met Karen a few years ago when I did a rehab course with her in South Africa and we had always talked of her coming to Zambia to train our team and anyone else interested. The course covered an intense number of modules and included personnel from SLCS, ZAWA and other conservation organizations. We hope to conduct an advanced one later in the year.



Wildlife rescue and immobilizations



Fig.1 Elephant trapped in gully

Last month two compassionate local fishermen reported that they had seen an elephant stuck in a gully the day before whilst on their way fishing. The elephant was still stuck the next day and the herd had left him so they decided to come and tell us. We immediately went to the scene and found he was so tightly wedged in I knew it would be a huge challenge to get him out. The elephant was severely dehydrated and hungry, having not eaten or drunk in three days and exposed to the hot sun under extreme stress.

After getting help and equipment from our neighbor Steve Tolan, we watered him down, gave him electrolytes and water to drink which he amazingly took right away without the fear of us giving it to him.

We then started the process of digging around him trying to free his back legs which were tightly wedged. We spent the next eight hours or so trying to free him unsuccessfully, until the Zambia Wildlife Authority sent their front end loader to help.

Unfortunately by that stage he was so exhausted and stiff from being in one position for so long he could not stand or use his back legs and had by this time exerted signs of kidney and other organ failure and so the decision was made to euthanize him. Very sad, but a good team effort.



Fig.2 Giving him water and trying to dig him out.



Fig.3 Cleaning the snare wound



Fig.4 Working with Dr. Matandiko

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Matandiko again recently. Dr. Matandiko is the head wildlife vet at the Zambia Wildlife Authority and had come up to do some domestic animal work for us when we got a call saying there was a snared elephant at Wildlife Camp. We postponed our next cat spaying session and went to tend to the snared elephant whose leg was in bad shape. We've seen her and her herd a couple of times since and there is some improvement.

The challenges of rescuing wildlife in such conditions remain extremely challenging but the support and care offered by different individuals makes it easier and we thank everyone for it.

Our wildlife rescue work is kindly sponsored by





Law enforcement – Benson Kanyembo, SLCS Operations Manager

Last year our team achieved good overall results in the area of law enforcement (tabled below). This year we hope to exceed these results and will be putting in extra effort to the investigations side of our work.

SLCS would like to thank the scouts of ZAWA, Kakumbi CRB, Malama CRB and M'nkhanya CRB for working together tirelessly in order to protect and secure our natural resources.

Table 1 Patrol results for Kakumbi Village scouts Jan 2010 – Dec 2011

Month	LP	SP	DP	Snares	Suspects	Firearms	Ammunition	DR	Elephant mortalities	Ivory
Jan	6	2	12	17	0	0	11	2	6	0
Feb	8	2	7	30	7	8	225	4	1	2
March	3	2	9	37	0	0	0	1	3	2
April	6	1	10	3	0	0	0	1	0	2
May	5	2	9	0	3	0	0	2	1	0
June	6	3	10	113	8	4	23	4	3	1
July	3	5	13	11	4	5	51	2	9	0
August	4	4	16	123	5	2	25	3	1	1
September	6	0	10	310	7	2	0	0	3	2
October	5	3	16	48	8	6	13	0	1	1
November	2	1	18	79	25	2	0	0	3	4
December	4	2	9	5	2	2	0	0	8	0
Total	58	27	139	776	69	31	348	19	38	15

Source: SLCS 2010. Note elephant mortalities include natural death, unknown, controlled and poached.

WET SEASON FLY CAMPS ARE FINANCED BY

THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK ZAMBIA



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Table 2 Patrol results for Kakumbi Village scouts Jan – Feb 2011

Month	LP	SP	DP	A	NO	Snares	Suspects	FA	DR	EM	Ivory	Effective man day
Jan	7	0	10	0	0	69	5	4	4	0	0	812
Feb	4	0	9	5	1	11	4	4	1	4	2	461
Total	11	0	19	5	1	80	9	8	5	4	2	1273

Source: SLCS 2011

LP – Long patrol, SP – short patrol, DP – day patrol, A – ambush, NO – night operation, FA – firearms, DR – drying rack, EM – elephant mortality.

Wet Season Fly Camp Operations

As part of the wet season anti-poaching strategy for 2010/ 2011 SLCS is currently coordinating two fly camp operations in Luamfwa and Kapamba. In Mwamba a normal 6 man patrol team has been operating in the area to ensure a presence at all times. The fly camp operations started in December 2010 and will end in April 2011 and the following results have been achieved so far;

December 2010 - 6 teams patrolled the following areas Mwamba, Zungulila, Luamfwa, Kapamba and Kamundi where 2 MLGs were recovered, 1 poacher was arrested, 31 pellets, 36 wire snares, buffalo, hippo and grysbok meat confiscated.

January 2011 - 9 teams patrolled the following areas Mwamba, Luamfwa, Kapamba / Zungulila, Nsefu and Lubi. Three MLG recovered, 3 poachers were arrested and 32 wire snares confiscated..

February 2011 - 3 patrol patrolled Mwamba, Luamfwa and Kapamba / Zungulila and 1 MLG gun and 15 pellets were recovered.

With financial support from

Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund





Red Caps – Action against conflicts between People and Wildlife



Fig.5. Eva Gross and the Red Caps in Luangwa.

By Eva Gross Program Director Awely, in partnership with SLCS

At the end of 2008, the French organization Awely, Wildlife and People, started its partnership with SLCS. The “Red Caps” project was launched with the objective to prevent or at least reduce conflicts between the people living adjacent to the National Park and the large herbivores and carnivores in their neighbourhood. To reach this goal we first needed to learn more about the numbers, patterns and species causing problems and the reaction of people. As in all Awely Red Caps programmes around the world, a team of Red Caps from local villages was trained. Together, the team cover systematic conflict assessments in the chiefdoms of Kakumbi, Nsefu and Mk’hanya. Within 2009 and 2010 they have assessed about 650 conflicts with more than 1400 victims. These conflicts were mainly caused by elephants raiding maize or fruit trees, but also damaging granary stores and houses. To be able to analyze these large amounts of collected conflict data, Awely developed and provided a data base on which SLCS / Awely staff were trained.

Currently, Awely is running three other Red Caps projects in Tanzania, Nepal and India with the goal to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. Through the exchange of experiences between those projects, we are able to learn about a great diversity of methods to prevent and reduce conflicts, and to develop different approaches

together with community groups. The Red Caps in South Luangwa have for example learned from the Red Caps in India, that community-guarding approaches can be very effective. On the other side, the chilli techniques used and further developed in South Luangwa are regarded with great interest by the other Awely Red Caps project and the first chilli nursery is just being developed in Assam.

The partnership of Awely and SLCS is reaching its third year soon. We have learned a lot during this time; slowly but steadily the influence of the programme grows and the trust of the communities develops. However, we still have a long way to go, and our goals are far from achieved. With the inspiring and great collaboration with SLCS and the motivating work with our Red Caps team of South Luangwa we are looking forward to tackling the extensive problem of wildlife conflict in the area – and work for a better future of People and Wildlife.

That's all from us for now until our next newsletter in June, please keep in touch with our work on our newly launched website at www.slcszambia.org and our face book page which is updated regularly.

Rachel, Benson and Eva.

With financial support from

