



# SLCS NEWS

January, February, March 2009



Jon Benbow

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Welcome to our first 2009 newsletter. I've been somewhat pre-occupied with writing proposals for the past few months in search of funding for this year. So far, it's going fairly well and we have managed to secure three quarters of our budget required for 2009. A great deal of this has come from your very generous donations and for this, I sincerely thank you.

I suspect you may be wondering about some of the following. What did your donations do for the people and wildlife of South Luangwa in 2008? Where did your money go? Is it really worthwhile renewing your membership or making another donation?

Firstly, we have a number of different types of donors, once off donors, yearly donors, individual members, family and corporate members, lodge donations and others. You might think it's easier for us to account for one person's \$2000 donation and slightly harder to explain where another person's \$60 individual membership went. Well not really, all those \$60 membership fees and indeed \$20 donations left here and there make a HUGE

difference and are in fact our bread and butter. I am proud to say that it's not all eaten up in administration fees and that most of it goes towards real activities that count. Not to say that the office work doesn't count, it does of course, but there are only a handful of us doing it and 90% of our staff is field based getting the core work done.

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## Where your money goes...

Without all those vital memberships and donations we would not be able to do any of the following activities:

**PAY SCOUTS TO CONDUCT THEIR PATROLS IN THE FIELD**  
**REMOVE THOUSANDS OF WIRE SNARES SET EACH YEAR**  
**CONDUCT ANTI-SNARING AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**  
**TAKE SCHOOL CHILDREN INTO THE PARK ON GAME DRIVES**  
**TREAT AND REHABILITATE INJURED ANIMALS**  
**BUILT CAPACITY WITH THE LOCAL PEOPLE OF MFUWE**  
**ASSIST FARMERS IN SAVING THEIR CROPS FROM BEING DAMAGED BY ELEPHANTS**  
**FACILITATE ALTERNATIVE INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS**  
**DEVELOP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

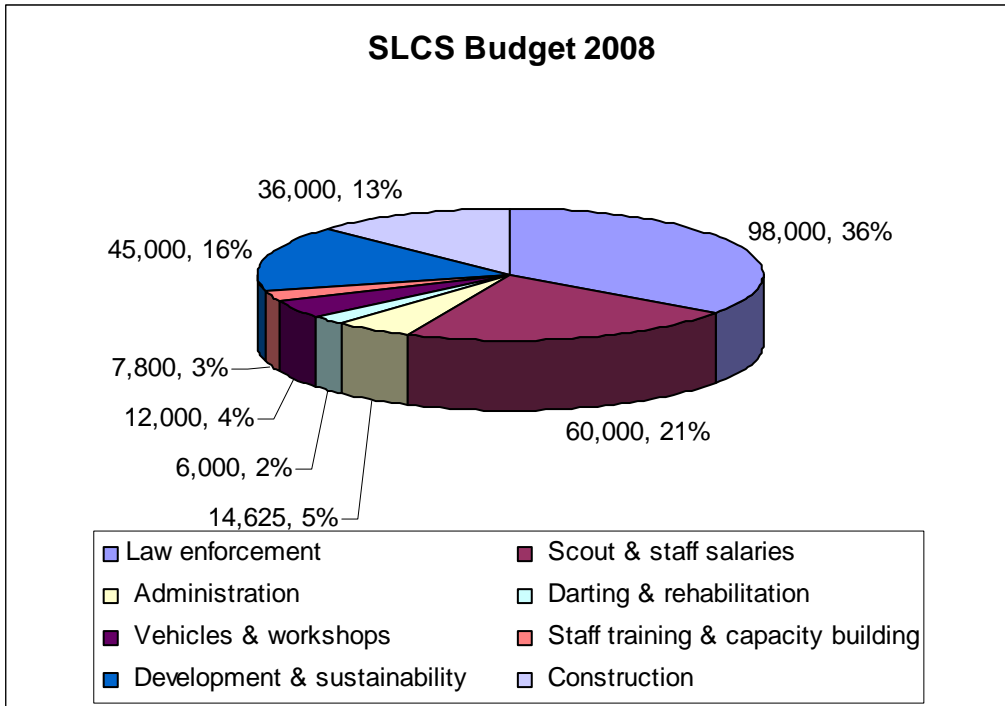
## Successes in 2008

The law enforcement component of the project was very successful last year. The SLCS supported village scouts conducted 111 day patrols, 101 long patrols and spent a total of 5514 man days in the field. During this time they apprehended 58 suspects, confiscated 45 illegal firearms and 691 ammunitions and removed 575 snares from the bush.

Amongst our community projects, we conducted anti-snaring campaigns using drama, sports and raffle competitions in six Chiefdoms in Luangwa and received a total of 1100 snares handed in by the community. We trained and provided materials for chilli fences to 100 farmers to help them protect their crops. We also provided chilli seedlings to 60 farmers and 15 treadle pumps to farmers groups, and bought back one and a half tonnes of dried chilli from them.

At Uyoba Community School, we constructed a second teachers' house, installed a borehole and took 345 school children into the national park for game drives. We also successfully darted and treated 21 snared and injured animals and released them back in to the bush.

So, with all those results last year, your contributions are valuable for the successes we hope to achieve this year.



## Chilli farming helps bring in much needed funds at Uyoba Community School

Like all community schools in the country, Uyoba is always struggling for resources to pay for teachers' salaries, books and other equipment. To address this we have formed a chilli farming project right at the school. Parents, teachers and children gathered to clear the field and Billy Banda, the SLCS Chilli Coordinator and Awely's Red Cap conducted a chilli fence workshop and constructed a fence around the field. Two thousand seedlings were donated from some of our farmers and have been transplanted. The field is watered and taken care of by pupils groups. SLCS has pledged to buy back all the chilli harvested from the school for our human animal conflict programs. The chilli fence will also act as a demonstration site.



Teachers and pupils transplanting chilli seedlings.



Pounding dried chilli for the fence.

## Learning at Taonga

**Market** is a method of teaching the Zambian Government has been using in community schools for a number of years now. It is a sound system that guides teachers and children through their lessons and is full of fun, music and entertainment. I visited the school last week and found a new system in place fully equipped with an ipod, speakers, battery and solar panel all sponsored by USAid. I noted a huge difference in children's attendance and attitude towards their lessons.



Uyoba pupils and teachers would also like to thank Ineke Voncken and Christiaan Van Woerden for their very generous donations towards maintenance and the construction of toilets at the school. And a special thanks to Val Keight, Dianne Twigg and the children of Walmley Infact School for their ongoing support and recent donations of nine boxes of books.



**Human Elephant Conflict** is an on going problem that has recently being tackled using muzzle loading guns instead of normal guns that fire chilli bullets to scare away elephants. Muzzle loading guns are traditionally home made weapons used by poachers or local hunters. Old shot gun shells are tightly packed with crushed dried chilli and sand or coarse salt, the gun is loaded with gun powder and the chilli is fired in the direction of the elephants. So far the system is working well and SLCS has teamed with ZAWA, WCS and the CRB's to ensure that all monitoring scouts are equipped with muzzled loading guns and chilli to deter elephants. New and innovative ways of deterring crop raiding elephants are necessary and this method is the initiative of a local farmer. This is a picture of a registered hunter who is loading his MLG with chilli. Our chilli fence project is being entirely funded by Awely, who have



recently expanded the project, enabling us to employ two more Red Cap Assistants to help Billy Banda monitor and gather data in all conflicts in the area.

*SLCS would like to thank the Van Deventer family and Kasaka Lodge who made a very special donation to SLCS in memory of their daughter, sister, and friend Silky Van Deventer. Silky adored South Luangwa and spent some of her happiest times here. We are touched by this gesture.*

## Other news

SLCS would like to welcome two new members to the Board of Trustees. We are thrilled that both Dr. Mulenga, a Zambian veterinarian I have know for a number of years now and Kalongo Chitenge – an authority in marketing and sales have both come on board.

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### Kalongo Chitenge



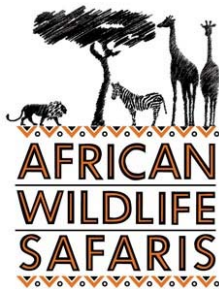
Kalongo possesses a wide range of experience in the field of organisational management and administration. A quantity surveyor by profession and a Fellow in sustainable development, she possesses 19 years experience working in both the private and public sectors. She currently runs a project management firm in Lusaka. She is a member of the wildlife and environmental conservation society and is currently taking a sabbatical from Rotary. Kalongo loves to travel, loves nature and is an avid gardener.

SLCS worked with Kalongo in 2008 on a five year strategic plan.

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**Dr. Francis Mulenga** is the Chief Veterinary Officer working for the Zambian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Dr. Mulenga has been advising me on veterinary issues for a number of years and has been of great assistance. I am very grateful he has taken up a position on the Board of Trustees for SLCS.

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## Wet Season Operations

Our wet season anti-poaching fly camps continue to have an impact on illegal activities. Fly camps in the Luamfwa, Kapamba and Chamboo / Mwamba areas of the park carry on deterring poachers and protecting the area during the rains.

Other standard patrol activities continue daily with scouts conducting their anti-snaring day patrols and regular long field patrols.

Certain operations are hampered at this time of year due to the levels of the rivers in the park but generally access has been good so far and the scouts have managed to obtain the following results.



Fly camp deployments by boat.

## Kakumbi Village Scout patrols and results for Jan, Feb & March 2009

Month	Long patrol	Short patrol	Day Patrol	Snares	Suspects	Nets	Firearms	Ammunition	Drying Racks	Elephant mortalities	Ivory	Fishermen removed
Jan	6	1	11	Nil	10	6	1	6	nil	1 - natural	nil	10
Feb	3	2	16	36	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	9	3	27	36	10	6	1	6	nil	1	nil	10

**The South Luangwa Eco Awards** are now up and running and applications are available on the SLCS website [www.slcs-zambia.org](http://www.slcs-zambia.org)

SLCS trustee Anna Tolan has been invited to give a presentation to FT TSA (Fair Trade in Tourism South Africa) on May 7th in Durban, South Africa in the run-up to Indaba Travel show.



## Mkhanya Village Scouts about to settle in



Ten village scouts from Mkhanya CRB are about to move in to their new homes at the new base in Mkhanya. The houses were constructed close to the Mkhanya CRB office and will help streamline the operations of the village scouts. This program is also part of SLCS and Mkhanya partnership activities. We are very grateful to Nathalie Boule for sponsoring the construction.

**The widespread practice of snaring** continues to cause pain and suffering and brings about death for many animals throughout Zambia. Last week we helped our partners and friends in Lower Zambezi National Park with a snared elephant that needed to be immobilized and treated. The wound was ghastly but I have seen elephants like this recover before. A second treatment is planned in order to give her another dose of long acting antibiotics and some more wound cleaning and I believe she will eventually heal.



It's great to have the support and care from the following organizations and camps in Lower Zambezi; Conservation Lower Zambezi, Baines River Lodge, Kayila Camp and the Zambia Wildlife Authority. Special thanks to Tim Featherby and Zamfari Air Charters for covering all costs.

I'll end on that note and I look forward to bringing you more news after our upcoming fundraising event in April, we hope it will be a roaring success and that you will be there.

*Rachel and the SLCS team.*

*SLCS Fundraising Events 2009*

*April 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Fundraising Gala  
Intercontinental  
Hotel  
Lusaka*

*September 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Media Awards for  
excellence in wildlife  
journalism.*

*November 27<sup>th</sup>*

*Art Exhibition  
and wine tasting  
Night.*

**To all our friends of Luangwa**



In an effort to try and raise the remaining quarter of our required budget for 2009, we are hosting what will be a memorable evening, packed with fun, dancing and entertainment including a delicious three course meal, music by Zambian musician Maureen Lilanda, wildlife art exhibition and auction, exciting raffle prizes including two to three nights stay at the following lodges in South Luangwa; Mushroom Lodge, Lion Camp, Luangwa River Lodge, Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe Lodge, Flatdogs Camp, and Norman Carr Safaris and a few 'short' speeches by SLCS representatives.

Tickets cost \$70 per person or K350,000 or book a whole table for your friends or your company. We look forward to seeing you on the night and hope you will be there to support us.

Please contact either Rachel McRobb on [slcs@iwayafrica.com](mailto:slcs@iwayafrica.com) or Benetria Milambo on [slcsops@iwayafrica.com](mailto:slcsops@iwayafrica.com) for booking forms and pledges.