SAFARI ON THE RIVER, LUANGWA FUNDRAISER IN SACRAMENTO....Staunch Luangwa supporters and founders of the Africa Hope Fund, Carol Van Bruggen and Steve Kuhn hosted an amazing fundraising event at their mariner in Sacramento to support conservation and education programs in Luangwa. It was a roaring success and they raised nearly $30,000 for various projects here. An enormous thank you to Carol and Steve.
It’s with much excitement that we send out this newsletter. A great deal of conservation work is happening in Luangwa as usual but our most exciting news is the SLCS – ZCP aircraft and all the things that go with it.

Firstly I’d like to warmly welcome Jerome Hugonot, our pilot who arrived in Luangwa mid September. Jerome is now a key member of the SLCS and ZCP teams, and we look forward to many years ahead of great conservation and research work. More about Jerome in his words later in this newsletter.

The old Kakumbi airstrip inside the park which has been closed for over 12 years is being rehabilitated very quickly to allow the plane to live and operate from there. This is very exciting for us as it has been a long time coming.

We’ve also made strides with our Malama scout program and now have six scouts we are supporting in Malama Chiefdom bringing the total law enforcement force to 49. The scouts will be based at Lusangazi camp in the southern section of Lupande. This has all been made possible with additional financial support from Murray Katz in Canada.

Another bit of exciting news is the acceptance of a scientific paper entitled 'Evaluating wire-snares poaching trends and the impacts of by-catch on elephants and large carnivores' by ZCP’s Dr. Mathew Becker and SLCS in Biological Conservation. For many years now we have been discussing the increase in snaring but apart from personal opinions and observations we had little until now to prove this.

The last two weeks in September were spent reviewing our Strategic Plan and extending this until 2018 with Abner Bright International. 2018 seems a long way from now however, it’s an important document to have and hopefully will guide us through the next few years.

Thanks again to Carol Van Bruggen and Steve Kuhn who hosted a fundraising event in California this month for conservation and education programs in Luangwa. The event was a huge success and was made possible with generous donations for an auction including two trips to Mfuwe Lodge and The Bush Camp Company (thanks again to Mfuwe Lodge and Andy Hogg) and jewellery from Mulberry Mongoose (thanks to Kate Wilson) among many other kind donations.

Enjoy our news in the following pages and thank you for all your support.
**Lion anti-snaring team...** Since being awarded funding in 2011 the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) and South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS) have made significant progress toward the overall objective of reducing lion snaring mortality from snaring by-catch in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia. The lion anti-snaring team, comprised of SLCS supported Kakumbi village scouts is responsible for conducting anti-snaring patrols in areas of high risk for lions, as well as for conducting the intensive scientific study on snaring patterns and trends with which to inform anti-snaring efforts, determine trends, and evaluate the success of community anti-poaching and conservation programs. The study began in the hot dry season of September 2011 and continues today as we continue to collect data. Actual darting and removal of snares from lions dropped precipitously from 2011-2012 to only two animals despite no indications that snaring intensity had declined. While detection of snared lions is problematic, hopefully this is a positive indicator of anti-snaring efforts’ success.

**De-Snaring of Lions**

Following a year in which the incidences of snared lions were the highest in recent memory we are happy to report only two snared lions this year to date, both of which were darted and the snares removed. Snared lions continue to comprise a substantial portion of the lion population, making immobilizations of snared lions of critical importance.

**Lion Team Patrol and Transect Study Results**

Table 1: Lion team transect and routine patrols and results September 2011 – June 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of patrol</th>
<th>LP</th>
<th>SP</th>
<th>DP</th>
<th>Snares</th>
<th>Suspects</th>
<th>Firearms</th>
<th>Ammunition</th>
<th>DR</th>
<th>Elephant mortalities</th>
<th>Ivory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transect</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Routine</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other wildlife snaring and veterinary development news

We continue to receive reports from scouts, safari guides and members of the community about sightings of snared animals, however compared to last year, so far there is a significant drop in the reports. Anti-snaring patrols have removed more snares from the bush than last year and this continues to increase as we go further in to the dry season when snaring is at its highest. 817 snares have been removed so far this year.

A considerable portion of wire used to snare animals is electrical cable and winch wire as is the case of this buffalo pictured above darted recently with the help of Dr. Banda, Mambwe District Veterinary Officer who we are working closely with. The winch cable was tied to a log and was being dragged around by the buffalo. He was successfully darted but after a long time for us thrashing around in dreadful buffalo beans and after he charged the car and put a few holes in the fender!!

In our ongoing attempt to share knowledge and widen the circles of wildlife capture and experience we have secured a place for Dr. Harvey Kamboyi, Zambia Wildlife Authority veterinarian, to attend the Zimbabwe drugs course in Feb 2013. In addition to this we are working more closely with our own local DVO and the newly formed Veterinary Council of Zambia.

Snared hyaena which was darted and treated in July 2011 by SLCS and ZCP and re-sighted and identified on 20th August 2012 by ZCP ongoing research team fully recovered. Ongoing SLCS and ZCP collaborative work ensures rescue and close monitoring of snared animals.
With support from WWF Netherlands and the South Luangwa Area Management Unit (SLAMU) of ZAWA, the rehabilitation of Kakumbi airstrip has started and should be completed shortly. Progress was made very quickly with the use of SLAMU roads and infrastructure equipment including a grader, front end loader, tippers, bowser and compacter. The Area Warden Charles Simwawa and Tourism Ranger Moses Mukumbi have gone out of their way to ensure works are completed in the shortest time possible. Our hanger should also be complete in a few weeks and lots of excitement is building as we now have our pilot safely in Zambia and the plane about to arrive.

From Jerome, new SLCS-ZCP pilot

Hello everyone. I was born in France but have spent the last ten years in Australia and spent my time flying and working as a vet in some remote places of Northern Territory, I am very excited to join the SLCS and ZCP teams and to be helping ZAWA here in Mfuwe. I feel very privileged to be part of such an ambitious and meaningful project. Thanks to one of our donors Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company, a Cessna 180 was recently purchased and I will be proudly flying this aircraft for both SLCS and ZCP.

The development of aerial work will allow us to pursue the conservation/surveillance work that has been accomplished over the years, and we are confident we will take this work to an even more effective dimension. I would like to thank all the members of the South Luangwa Valley community involved in these projects for allowing this development. I assure everyone I will contribute to the best of my skills and share the same passion with everyone involved in our conservation projects.
**DO YOU DARE?**

SLCS has been an Elephant Charge grant recipient for the past two years and has been selected again for 2013. The EC supports our annual Fun Run and vital anti-snaring work.

In order to show our support for this extreme 4x4 fund raising rally which is fun and adventurous, SLCS and the Zambian Carnivore Program have joined up and will be entering a team called “The Carnivores”.

The event will take place on Sat 27th October and the venue will be posted the day before the event. Keep up with EC news or enter a team by visiting their website at [www.elephantcharge.org](http://www.elephantcharge.org)

The EC raises more money for local conservation organizations than any other in Zambia.

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Mulberry Mongoose and Kate Wilson has raised over $3500 recently for SLCS anti-snaring work through sales of the snare wire jewellery range. We are hugely grateful to Kate for this fantastic initiative to help Luangwa wildlife.

Newly renovated SLCS scouts houses, funded by CSEF. Our next plan is to have them all electrified.

Giraffe Conservation Foundation, supporting SLCS anti-snare removals from giraffes.
Update on Law Enforcement

support - Benson Kanyembo, SLCS
Operations Manager

Anti-poaching operations still remain a big challenge in the Luangwa valley but with the support of the current Ranger Operations Bovax Kachali who we work closely with daily for the past three months we (OPS SLCS & ROPS SLAMU) have been planning, coordinating, and working together in all the law enforcement activities within and out of the valley.

As a result of the combined law enforcement meeting held in Mfuwe the radio communication has been established between SLCS and Park Ranger Munyamadzi who can effectively relay the message to North Luangwa National Park and BAMU Head quarters.

On Tuesday the 4th of September 2012 we received the good news that boosted the morale of the enforcement officers that the government of Zambia has declared war against poachers.

"Government is declaring war against poachers, says tourism minister Sylvia Masebo. She said "Government attaches great importance to the natural resources, in particular the wildlife. Government through ZAWA is declaring war against the poachers. And we are happy that the defence forces are coming on board to support us as has been demonstrated by the presence of commanders during our meeting... We need to look after the wildlife to ensure that we solve the problem of the much talked about unemployment and earn the country forex," Masebo said.

Table 1: SLCS supported village scout patrol results July, Aug & Sept 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>LP</th>
<th>SP</th>
<th>DP</th>
<th>Snares</th>
<th>Suspects</th>
<th>Firearms</th>
<th>Ammunition</th>
<th>DR</th>
<th>Elephant mortalities</th>
<th>Ivory</th>
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<td>July</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our chilli harvest season this year has produced great quantities of chilli from Kakumbi and Mkanya Chiefdoms and we sent our first two tons to Lusaka recently for sale to Rivonia. Rivonia buy all of our chilli from our local farmers engaged in the project and who also practice human wildlife conflict mitigation measures. This chilli is used to produce condiments of various sorts including chilli chutney, hot chilli and red pepper sauce and they have the SLCS logo on each bottle.

The Awely / SLCS Red Caps team continue with their extensive work throughout Lupande Game Management area. Although conflicts are less at his time of year as harvesting has been done there is still lots of work to do. Ongoing activities include monitoring and assessment of conflicts by our five man team entirely dedicated to this work, identification of farmers prone to grain store destruction within villages, construction of elephant safe grain stores, monitoring and expansion of chilli farming and more recently, we have engaged a local volunteer in Malama Chiefdom to start mitigation work and chilli farming.

Billy Banda who is our HWC project head, was recently invited to Lower Zambezi by Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) to conduct a three day chilli mitigation workshop. Thanks to CLZ for supporting this which was also beneficial to Billy and our team in Luangwa.

Billy and his ‘Red Cap’ colleague Kenneth Mwale also recently paid an exchange visit to Kasanka national park where Kasanka Trust is also implementing similar
mitigation measures. Exchange visits like these are important for expanding and broadening our knowledge on the subject. Thanks to Kasanka for hosting our team.

Billy addressing farmers in Lower Zambezi and making chilli bricks from elephant dung

PR and Operations Manager for Worldwide Veterinary Service James Florence, visited SLCS in September and kindly donated much needed supplies for our work and the Kakumbi Vet clinic.

Until our next newsletter, you can keep following us on the SLCS face book page.

Best wishes from all of us at SLCS

Rachel, Benson and Jerome.