From the CEO – Rachel McRobb

Welcome to this years third edition of SLCS news. As the hottest and driest part of the year is upon us so too is the pressure of snaring and other illegal activities. I have spent a large degree of time over the past seven years darting and treating snared and injured animals. It’s a hugely rewarding and satisfying part of my job as you feel like you are physically and actively contributing to the welfare of an individual animal and a species at large. Some years have been particularly bad and others not too bad. This year I am afraid is the worst I have experienced in South Luangwa and the sheer range and number of wild animals reported snared and immobilized by our team is staggering.

Our anti-snaring efforts are generously supported by

Inside this issue:
Wire necklaces pg 1, 2 & 3 | Law enforcement pg 4 | HWPO’s and Forestry pg 5 | SLCS fun run pg 6 | LCCF pg 7 |
I have spent many hours considering the probable reasons for the increase. Has it always been like this? Is it now because more people are aware and more people are reporting snared animals, is it because of poverty and hunger, is it the wide availability and free for all snaring wire (building wire, bicycle wire, winch wire, solar fence wire, electrical Zesco wire), is it that children are learning to snare early? With all of our conservation programs and anti-snaring patrols intensified why is it seemingly getting worse? We have scouts in the field conducting anti-snaring patrols all the time, we have informers and we have support but we can’t seem to reduce snaring and I fear that a much larger number of animals are being wiped out than we even dare to think. Any ideas from any of our members and supporters or anyone else on how to tackle this problem would be greatly appreciated.

Fig. 2. Clockwise from top, snare removed from a wild dog, wild dog with snared front paw, snared male lion, snared hyaena, snared young elephant.
These pictures all tell a story and are recent examples from the past two months of some of the many animals which have been immobilized for snare removal. These animals have all been darted by our team and in close collaboration with ZAWA and the Zambian Carnivore Program. We would like to express our thanks to ZAWA for their ongoing support with our efforts. Thank you also to our donors and partners who generously provide funding for the very expensive drugs and other equipment used to immobilize and rehabilitate wild animals.

Fig. 3. Clockwise from top, snared immobilized giraffe, snared bushpig, snared young male lion, snared young elephant.

Funding for immobilizing drugs and equipment is supported by

www.slc-zambia.org
**Law enforcement**

Recent improvements have been made within SLCS and the Kakumbi CRB under the supervision of the Operations Manager. In order to address the shortage of manpower we have been facing for anti-poaching patrols, SLCS has engaged the services of an additional ten village scouts from various CRB’s surrounding the national park, bringing the number SLCS is fully supporting to thirty five. The extra scouts give us a total of six patrol teams, in addition to an investigations team and standby scouts. SLCS is able to do this with financial support from the **Luangwa Conservation Community Fund (LCCF)** supported by safari operators in the Luangwa Valley.

SLCS anti-poaching operations have become more effective with the purchase of a new land cruiser with funding from USFW. With three patrol vehicles now operating, we are able to deploy more scouts on a regular basis, react to more reports and increase our coverage of the park and GMA.

The investigations team recently worked on a case and apprehended two suspects who had been keeping a live pangolin for approximately two months whilst waiting for a buyer. Amazingly he was being fed and watered during this time. The scales of a pangolin are used for traditional medicine both in Zambia and overseas and fetch extremely high prices.

![Fig.4. Live pangolin rescued and released](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Long patrol</th>
<th>Short patrol</th>
<th>Day Patrol</th>
<th>Ambush</th>
<th>Night op</th>
<th>Snares</th>
<th>Suspects</th>
<th>Nets</th>
<th>Firearms</th>
<th>Ammo</th>
<th>Drying Racks</th>
<th>Elephant mortalities</th>
<th>Ivory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table.1. Patrols and results for Kakumbi village scouts July – August 2010*

Our anti-poaching efforts are generously supported by
Honorary Wildlife Police Officers (HWPO’s)

The Mfuwe Honorary Wildlife Police Officers Unit which involves a number of concerned individuals from different sectors have been active in their support of ZAWA’s activities. An HWPO has the same authority as a ZAWA wildlife police officer. Recent efforts have concentrated on monitoring resident hunters, park laws and forestry issues. The combined efforts by the HWPO’s and ZAWA go a long way in enforcing the law.

The Forestry Department, SLCS and Honorary Forestry Officer Steve Tolan recently apprehended a number of illegal timber cutters and confiscated large numbers of wood. The scale of deforestation in Mfuwe continues to rise to meet the demand of wood from all sectors of the community. An underfinanced Forestry department struggles to tackle these issues without the help of SLCS, ZAWA and our Honorary Forestry Officer.
SLCS FUN RUN

On a much lighter note, the 2010 SLCS fun run was a great success. As a community initiative, SLCS coordinated the first mini marathon in South Luangwa in 2009. Open to all members of the community, the mini marathon was aimed at bringing together a somewhat divided community. It gave a chance for wildlife anti-poaching scouts, police, farmers, school children, teachers, the Zambia Air Force (ZAF) and other local departments to come together and enjoy a day of sports, wildlife education drama and arts activities. The mini marathon and anti-snaring awareness campaigns were held in July this year and proved to be another success. Over three hundred participants ran and many more were spectators. The focus of the event was based on wildlife conservation, specifically anti-snaring. Our thanks to all tour operators who supported the event.
The LCCF is in full swing. The voluntary conservation levy from visitors coming to the Luangwa Valley, has already allowed us to expand and improve our operations. Ten new village scouts are now being supported by SLCS with funding from LCCF. The additional ten village scouts means increased park and GMA protection. We would like to express a huge thanks to all the lodges participating. When you visit the Luangwa Valley you will probably be unaware of the everyday problems that face local people and wildlife. Many of the safari operators and lodges of the Luangwa Valley have individually supported local community and conservation projects for some years and in order to ensure the long term future of these projects, operators introduced the fund.
Since the project started this in April this year, a total of U$27,940.48 has been raised and donated towards SLCS conservation projects.
SLCS would also like to thank you, the following tour operators and organizations for their ongoing support to conservation in South Luangwa:

Parsons Aviation and pilot Tristan for donated helicopter time.

Carol Van Bruggen and Africa Hope Foundation.

We’ll be back again with more news at the start of the rains and hopefully less snaring.

Very best wishes
Rachel and SLCS