Conservation South Luangwa
Annual Report 2015

Conservation South Luangwa (CSL)
Tel +26 06 246069
CSL, P.O Box 3, Mfuwe, Zambia
www.conservationsouthluangwa.org
rachel@slcszambia.org
# CSL Annual Report 2015

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Background to CSL and 2015 Achievements

CSL (formerly known as SLCS) has been operating under a Memorandum of Understanding with ZAWA since 2003. With the recent transition of SLCS to Conservation South Luangwa and ZAWA to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, CSL will soon enter into a new agreement. To date this agreement has provided the mandate for the organization to support DNPW’s law enforcement and conservation activities by working with, and providing support to SLAMU and the Community Resource Boards (CRBs) in Lupande Game Management Areas. In addition to law enforcement support CSL continues to provide valuable support to Intelligence and Investigations (IIU), Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation and Veterinary Support.

Field activities in 2015 included the following;

- Increasing anti-poaching operations with the use of ongoing aerial surveillance
- Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation of our law enforcement efforts through the implementation of SMART
- Funding and coordinating wet season fly camps for the eighth consecutive year in remote areas of the park for the duration of the rains
- Funding a recruit training course for 63 new village scouts
- Providing equipment for new village scouts and replacement equipment for already existing village scouts supported by CSL
- Providing operational and technical support, patrol rations, patrol deployments, bonuses, incentives and salaries to Kakumbi and Malama VS
- Expansion and support of the South Luangwa Canine Unit to reduce wildlife trafficking
- Expansion and support of Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation work in Lupande GMA
- Maintaining the chilli farming program as an income generating project for farmers
- Providing operational support and equipment to Chipata Investigations and Intelligence Unit
- Providing wildlife rescue and treatment for countless snared animals and veterinary service to domestic animals through the joint employment (with ZCP) of a full time Zambian veterinarian.
Objectives

CSL was established to achieve five specific objectives:

1. To support the law enforcement activities of ZAWA, who manages the wildlife estate for the benefit of the people, and the Government of the Republic of Zambia
2. To assist the Community Resource Boards (CRBs) in South Luangwa who have a co-management responsibility for wildlife in the GMAs
3. To support ZAWA and the CRBs in mitigating human animal conflicts
4. To assist local communities with livelihood improvement through strengthened and diversified income generating activities and
5. To support ZAWA in the rehabilitation of wounded and snared animals

SLCS Rebrand

In 2014 SLCS deregistered as a Society and registered as an NGO as required by the Zambian government. In late 2015 SLCS began the process of rebranding and has now evolved in to Conservation South Luangwa. A new website and brochures are currently being designed.

Activities

Law Enforcement Support

CSL continues to support the DNPW law enforcement efforts in protecting the natural resources of the South Luangwa National Park and the Lupande GMA. CSL maintains its ongoing support of the Kakumbi and Malama CRB village scout anti-poaching operations including wet season anti-poaching fly camps. A MoU signed with Malama CRB in 2013 provides the endorsement for CSL to work in Malama. New negotiations are underway for a revised MoU with Kakumbi CRB. CSL currently supports sixty-five (65) law enforcement personnel (village scouts) under the Kakumbi and Malama Community Resource Boards. CSL covers all of the salaries, patrol rations, scout equipment, refresher training courses, incentives and accommodation for the 65 village scouts.
Patrol Results and Effort 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>1st Q 2015</th>
<th>2nd Q 2015</th>
<th>3rd Q 2015</th>
<th>4th Q 2015</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambush</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Patrols</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisheries Operations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Operations</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence &amp; Investigations</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Patrols</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadblock</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Patrols</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snares Recovered</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspects Apprehended</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firearms Confiscated</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours flown on surveillance</td>
<td>70.1</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>258.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective patrol man days</td>
<td>2779</td>
<td>1623</td>
<td>1686</td>
<td>2275</td>
<td>8363</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014 Patrol Effort
- Long Patrol x 96
- Short Patrol x 16
- Road Block x 16
- Day Patrol x 156

2015 Patrol Effort
- Long Patrol x 120
- Short Patrol x 14
- Road Block x 81
- Day Patrol x 165
Support to Investigations and Intelligence Unit – Chipata

Since September 2015 CSL started working closely with the Chipata IIU under DNPW. CSL has assisted the Unit with a vehicle and motorbike for operations, communication equipment including laptop and phones and operational funding. Team members have also attended various intelligence training courses. This support is clearly paying off and has generated excellent results in a short period of time. In the four months of 2015 (September – December 2015) that CSL has been supporting the Chipata IIU the following results have been achieved;

- 65 kg’s of bush meat confiscated
- 1 suspect with live pangolin, later released
- 8 suspects with illegal firearms and a leopard skin
- 6 suspects with ivory on separate occasions
- 1 suspect with a dead pangolin
- 1 escaped elephant poacher apprehended
- **Total: 17 suspects with contraband**

The IIU team in Chipata has also begun working with the CSL detection dog unit and regularly calls upon our existing established anti-poaching teams on the ground for back up.

Aerial Support

Aerial patrols have become invaluable to our anti-poaching operations and year after year the flying strategy becomes more effective and efficient. Critical to this is an experienced pilot with an interest in conservation. The CSL pilot is an experienced bush pilot who has a sharp eye for illegal activities. He also coordinates well with ground patrols and SLAMU WPO’s.

Aerial patrols regularly turn up evidence of poaching including drying racks, carcasses, camp fires and at times poachers themselves. In addition to anti-poaching flying, the plane and pilot routinely check on ground patrol whereabouts and distance covered, regularly sharing information with patrols on any activities seen. It is impossible to estimate the deterrence value of the aircraft but we believe this is high and cannot be overemphasized.

The aircraft is co-owned and cost shared by the Zambian Carnivore Program (ZCP) and is flown for ZCP to track collared animals in the study area. The flying routine for ZCP works extremely well and
they are usually able to locate all their collared dogs, lions and hyaenas in two hours of flying. Tracking of collared animals is extremely important to both our organizations to monitor the levels of snaring in carnivores, and allow us to locate remote animals that would otherwise be impossible to locate. It also allows us to deploy critical anti-snaring patrols in key areas where wild dogs and lions and frequent thereby reducing the rate of snaring of these animals.

*Fig 1 & 2: Aerial surveillance and tracking in SLNP and surrounding GMA’s 2015*

*Fig 3 & 4: Benefits of aerial support include carcass detection and poacher’s camps (photo John Coppinger)*

CSL Aerial support is largely funded by the following major donors
An increase in law enforcement effectiveness is often viewed as being the single most important strategy to improve wildlife management over the short term; however, most law enforcement programs pay little attention to wildlife monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of law enforcement. Scout patrols cover immense areas of remote and road less land throughout the year, recording wildlife sightings, documenting animal carcasses, and detailing poaching activity in addition to conducting law enforcement work. Data from sightings, the location of snares and poached animals, as well as biological samples from carcasses and from animals immobilized for snare removal can all provide invaluable data on a species’ presence, distribution, disease exposure, genetics, diet, movements and migratory patterns to name just a few uses. All of this information can then be incorporated into evaluations of a species’ dynamics, threats to its survival, and areas of high risk and conservation value. In recognition of this CSL has increasingly teamed with the Zambian Carnivore Program to enhance collaboration and coordination in anti-poaching and wildlife research to benefit conservation.

Since late 2015, CSL has begun to fully implement SMART as a law enforcement monitoring tool. Our sincere thanks to our partners in this, Panthera and North Carolina Zoo for ongoing training, technical support and provision of equipment. CSL hopes this will be fully implemented throughout SLAMU in 2016.
In August 2015, we funded and assisted in coordinating a three-month recruit training course for village scouts under Nyamaluma Training College. However, the majority of the field training course took place in a remote section of the national park in order to be field based and secluded. Eighty recruits began the training course and after three months of intense paramilitary training by DNPW instructors, 63 scouts graduated. CSL absorbed 15 of these scouts and the rest were employed by their respective CRB’s in South Luangwa. A full set of scout equipment including uniform, back pack, water bottles, sleeping mat, sleeping bag, head dress and ground sheet was provided to all 63 recruits. Funding for this training was made possible by Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company and Vulcan Philanthropy.
South Luangwa Canine Unit – Delta

The South Luangwa Canine Unit, a program under CSL and the DNPW, is Zambia’s first wildlife detection dog unit under DNPW, and was implemented in October 2014 in partnership with the former ZAWA and Working Dogs for Conservation. The CSL Canine Unit has become a well-established arm of CSL and DNPW operations in Luangwa and Eastern Province of Zambia. The purpose of the Canine Unit is to provide additional detection capabilities to enforcement officers to detect illegal wildlife contraband including ivory, bush meat, pangolin scales, leopard and lion skins, illegal wood such as mukula, illegal firearms and ammunition.

Training

After undergoing four months of initial intense training starting in October 2014, four handlers are now proficient in stage one of dog handling and have been certified by US standards. These handlers are Christopher Mwamba (DNPW), Jessie Phiri (DNPW), Mike Njobvu (DPNW) and Godfrey Mwanza (CSL). Two new handlers have since been identified and have undergone the first stages of training and will be certified in April 2016. Ongoing training is key to the success of the program and our international partner in this program, Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) has proven to be the most ideal and professional partner in this area and has demonstrated total commitment to the program. Specialist dog handlers and trainers visit the program quarterly and spend up to two weeks reviewing handler and dog capabilities, layering on additional odours and increasing specialized training of handlers.
Trypanosomiasis, Veterinary Care and First Aid Training

One of the leading threats to working dogs in the Luangwa region and potentially others in Zambia is trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness). CSL co-employs (with the Zambian Carnivore Program) a full time veterinarian. Dr. Sichande is employed primarily for wildlife veterinary work including immobilizing and treating snared animals and collaring carnivores for research. His presence however also enables CSL to fully manage any veterinary challenges with the detection dogs. CSL has developed protocols to best manage trypanosomiasis in domestic dogs in areas with a high tsetse load, and these are now widely being followed by other programs.

Sadly, in January 2015, less than four months after the arrival of our dogs in Zambia, we had to euthanize one dog who contracted sleeping sickness. The parasite quickly progressed to his brain and he could not be cured, he suffered a stroke whilst admitted in a veterinary clinic in Lusaka and was subsequently euthanized. Both dogs were not on prophylaxis at this point and since this incident, after much research we have opted to use samorin as a prophylaxis on all dogs, and berenil as a treatment if they contract sleeping sickness. For the past nine months none of the dogs have contracted the disease. Bi-annual blood work on all the dogs (biochemistry and haematology) is also tested at UNZA.
Veterinary Department to check kidney function and liver parameters, and determine if any long term damage is being caused by repetitive prophylaxis. In June and November 2015, the canine unit had two training courses in basic animal first aid with Dr. Michelle Campbell from Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Australia and with Dr. Chris Kenyon from Montana, coordinated and funded by WD4C.

Expanding the Program

After losing one dog so soon in the program Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C) immediately sourced and trained two new dogs for CSL. In May 2015, WD4C delivered the dogs to Mfuwe and conducted a subsequent three-week training course with the handlers and new dogs. Both dogs are Dutch Shepherds and were bred from police and detection dogs, giving them a good chance of having the necessary drive to do the job required. They are now nearly two years old, have extremely high energy, high reward drive and have the perfect personality to perform the job they are doing.

SL Canine Unit (Delta team) Results and Activities January – December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roadblocks</th>
<th>Village sweeps</th>
<th>Ambushes</th>
<th>Vehicles searched</th>
<th>Motorbikes searched</th>
<th>Houses searched</th>
<th>Suspects apprehended</th>
<th>Firearms confiscated</th>
<th>Ivory confiscated</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1732</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10 pieces</td>
<td>2 bikes</td>
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Veterinary Support

Wildlife veterinary update on snared animals

Wire-snaring poaching continues to be the most immediate and gravest threat to a number of iconic species found in the Luangwa Valley including the African Wild Dog, Lion, Thornicroft’s Giraffe and Elephant. South Luangwa’s well known Hot Springs pack, one of Luangwa’s largest and most productive packs, was decimated by snares in 2014, losing an alpha female and a pup. In addition to those two fatal snares, the pack accrued five more snaring incidents for a total of seven snaring incidents in one pack alone. Thankfully the pack had a collared individual and with combined aerial support, dedicated field effort and veterinary intervention, the combined collaboration between ZCP, CSL and ZAWA ensured the additional five individuals were safely de-snared and with further de-snaring activities in 2015, the pack is now the most successful in the area. This verifies the importance of de-snaring animals and its value not only to the individual from a welfare point of view but to the species as a whole. The same can be said for lions and other carnivores but is also equally important in other species such as elephant and giraffe.

Fig 15 & 16: CSL / ZCP veterinarian Dr. Sichande with an immobilized snared wild dog and a snared elephant

CSL Pneu Dart equipment is sponsored by Global Supplies SA
CSL and ZCP continue to provide the only full time veterinary presence in the Luangwa Valley and most snared animals that are reported by safari guides and wildlife police officers are immobilized and de-snared and survive. Dr. Sichande efficiently conducts both field based wildlife veterinary activities, and furthermore assists ZCP with applied research activities including collaring valuable species and collecting blood and tissue samples and other valuable data. He also provides support to the local community for domestic animals including surgeries rabies vaccinations and campaigns, free spay and neuter operations and other consultations and treatment.

The number of reports of snared animals during the initial months of 2015 was minimal, which is typical during the wet green season. As expected snaring reports increased during the height of the dry season but remained lower than previous years. It is too soon yet to conclude that snaring has reduced given that the factors contributing to snaring in Luangwa remain the same and have possibly increased. Snaring protocols delivered to all safari lodges assisted in effective reporting of snared animals, anti-snaring patrols were increased and the use of detection dogs could have possibly acted as a deterrent. Limited surface water in lagoons could also possibly be a factor contributing to fewer snared animals in 2015, which was a considerably dry year. This would have made it harder to set snares closer to the Luangwa river as the majority of anti-snaring patrols are typically concentrated here.

The following animals were immobilized by Dr. Sichande in 2015;

- 12 wild dogs immobilized for research
- 4 wild dogs immobilized for snare removal
- 3 buffalo immobilized for snare removal
- 1 puku immobilized for snare removal
- 4 lions immobilized for snare removal
- 1 hyaena immobilized for snare removal
- 2 elephants immobilized for snare removal
- 4 elephants euthanized for gunshot wounds
- **31 Total**

![Immovilized buffalo being de-snared 2015](image)

CSL and ZCP Veterinary work is generously supported by the following donors
CSL’s Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Program is headed up by Billy Banda (left) who has been with the program since its start in 2009, and his team of six Red Cap’s mitigators. Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) remains a constant challenge in Luangwa with ever increasing human populations attempting to co-exist with elephants, or sometimes not as is often the case. On an annual basis, the number of elephants reported with gunshot wounds close to the Luangwa River is often a result of retribution towards crop raiding elephants.

Sadly, all of these elephants eventually need to be euthanized as they cannot recover.

In order to reduce and monitor conflicts in Luangwa we have a number of programs dedicated to this including the construction of elephant safe grains stores or felumbus, chilli blasting in fields to deter elephants by employing 20 blasters during the peak season, chilli farming programs, production of elephant friendly products including ginger, lemongrass and turmeric, electrical elephant deterrent fences in high conflict zones (using polywire that cannot be used for snaring) and mitigation training and sensitization workshops using the local drama group SEKA.

One of the most innovative approaches of this project is the implementation of a “Pilot Conflict Free Zone” set up in the Lupande Farming Block, close to Daniel village. Ten watchtowers were erected by farmers, who took turns in guarding from the beginning of 2015 onwards. They were supported by two teams of chilli bombers and managed to chase away elephants daily. The farmers of this farming block
guarded by the community explained that their harvest this year was much less affected by elephants. Draught however, caused larger losses. As farmers urge to continue and intensify this guarding system, the Red Caps are currently preparing the construction of further watchtowers.

It is extremely important to collect valuable data regarding HWC and a large part of the Red Caps work involves assessing conflicts, monitoring chilli nurseries, the conflict free zone, electrical fences and so forth. All of this is captured in a specially designed database for HWC and analyzed by our partner Awely.

CSL Human Wildlife Conflict mitigation work is fully supported by Awely and WWF.

2015 Activities

Number of conflicts assessed  x 192
Number of felumbus constructed x 15
Amount of chilli harvested x 3010kg

Number of chilli training workshops x 8
Chilli farmers engaged x 176
Number of chilli blasters engaged x 18
The 7th SLCS annual 10km Fun Run was held in June. This year we introduced the Chris Fenner Conservation Cup for the overall winner, who was Bernard Bwalya in 33 minutes. As usual we also had a fantastic day of other sports events including tug of war, netball, volley ball, football, relays, entertainment from the fabulous SEKA drama group and food and drinks stalls run by local entrepreneurs. The Fun Run is generously sponsored every year by the Elephant Charge, Zambia.
# Financial Summary Income and Expenditure 2015

**INCOME RECEIVED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Donor Grants and donations</td>
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<td>LCCF Contributions</td>
<td>1,515,564.10</td>
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<td>Local donations from Lodges</td>
<td>135,579.02</td>
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<td>Donations other</td>
<td>359,090.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non CSL funds</td>
<td>4,335.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
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**TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED**  

K6,523,034.47

**EXPENDITURE BUDGET LINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Pension Contribution, Workers Contribution</td>
<td>546,615.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canine expenses (detection dogs program)</td>
<td>293,261.13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft Expenses</td>
<td>661,410.48</td>
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<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>1,873,515.04</td>
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<td>Investigation Unit &amp; Training</td>
<td>49,860.00</td>
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<td>Human Wildlife Conflict Project</td>
<td>208,519.06</td>
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<td>Veterinary Project</td>
<td>256,123.41</td>
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<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>518,806.08</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
<td>191,519.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel &amp; accommodation</td>
<td>54,054.75</td>
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<td>Capacity building</td>
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<td>CRB Support</td>
<td>40,380.00</td>
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<td>Fun Run Activities</td>
<td>48,778.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction of Scout houses and Maintenance</td>
<td>171,268.76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>156,338.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles (CAPEX)</td>
<td>454,140.00</td>
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<td>CSL sub grants to other projects</td>
<td>530,240.00</td>
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**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  

6,377,172.15
Looking Forward 2016

In 2016 Conservation South Luangwa pledges to;

- Continue to support SLAMU’s law enforcement efforts in South Luangwa and surrounding GMA’s to further try and stem the increasing levels of poaching especially that of elephants
- Expand our support for Intelligence and Investigations to Mfuwe and Petauke with a vehicle, motorbike and operational funding
- Add an additional detection dog to our unit bringing the team up to four dogs
- Expanding the detection dog unit to Chipata
- Train and certify two new detection dog handlers
- Increase our human wildlife conflict mitigation support
- Host the annual conservation fun run

## Board of Trustees

The CSL Board of Trustees comprises the following group of professional and skilled people:

1. Board Chairman – Adrian Carr (Mfuwe)
2. Secretary – Edward Selfe (Mfuwe)
3. Treasurer – Carol Van Bruggen (USA)
4. Board Member – Nick Aslin (Lusaka)
5. Board Member – Dave Wilson (Mfuwe)
6. Board Member – Nathalie Boule (Monaco)
7. Board Member – Jake Da Motta (Lusaka)
8. Board Member – Derek Shenton (Lusaka)
9. Board Member – Anna Tolan (Mfuwe)
10. Board Member – Hassan Sachedina (Mfuwe)

### 2015 Donors (in alphabetical order)

CSL is 100% reliant on donor funding and each year is sincerely grateful to the following organizations, companies and individuals;

- Africa Hope Fund
- Awely
- CCG Trust
- Columbus Zoo
- Dazzle Africa
- Elephant Charge, Zambia
- Giraffe Conservation Fund
- Global Supplies SA
- Humane Society International
- Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company
- Mulberry Mongoose
- North Carolina Zoo
Murray Katz  Marula Lodge  National Geographic Big Cats Initiative through the Zambian Carnivore Program  Painted Dog Inc / Perth Zoo  Panthera  RSPCA

Save the Elephants / Wildlife Conservation Network  Royal Canin / Brandline  Taronga Foundation  Tusk Trust  Tribal Textiles  United States Fish and Wildlife Services  Working Dogs for Conservation  Wildlife Without Borders Critically Endangered Species Fund

WWF Zambia  Vulcan Philanthropy  Zambian Carnivore Program

Individual Annual Donors 2015

Aisling Ryan, Christiane Brizard, Beth Touma, Virgina Kubic, Chip Owen, Nancy and Richard Ashmore Johan Elzenga, Pippa Gauche, Mari Passananti, Gero Heine, Alec & Kate Lindsay,

Anne Sibbald, Terence O'Rourke, Christele Teilla, Lincoln Palmer, Jane Lacy Alison, Chris Anderson Guido Castro, Conan and Linda Butcher, Chris Brown, Dr. Bryan, Volker Sprode, Track and Trails River Camp, Yassa Kahn, JJ Van Altena. Herman Miles, Virginia Kubic, Susan Ketterlinus, Simon Artley, Sam Edwards.