



2011



SLCS NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS Edition (Oct, Nov, Dec)

New SLCS / ZCP plane



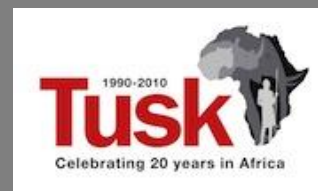
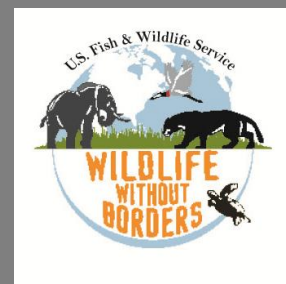
THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK ZAMBIA

Proudly supported by the following major donors:

Luangwa Conservation Community Fund – Flatdogs Camp, Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe Lodge & the Bush Camp Company, Kafunta Safaris, Remote Africa Safaris and Shenton Safaris.



ELEPHANT CHARGE 2011
Dust, sweat and gears



Inside this issue:

Update from Rachel McRobb, CEO | Eco Awards, Kalamu Lagoons | Law enforcement activities update from OM | National Geographic Big Cat Initiative work | Wildlife rescues

Note from Rachel McRobb

CEO SLCS

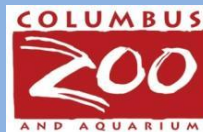


In October this year, I took part in an annual fundraising rally known as the Elephant Charge. This year it was set in the stunning Luano Valley, a few hours drive from Lusaka, a great location and certainly challenging. Not quite sure of how it all worked, but I was aware I would be one of the runners, jumping off and tearing ahead of the vehicle to find a suitable route, I went armed with a pair of trainers and a lot of enthusiasm and energy.

Our car was branded Team 6, SLCS Snare Busters and did a sterling job making it to the finish line a minute before cut off time. This was my first Elephant Charge but definitely not my last!! What a great way to raise funds and beats sitting behind a desk writing endless grants! The great thing is, it is Zambian companies and people raising funds for Zambian organizations. A total of \$85,506 was raised for different conservation work in Zambia.

This month we have finally secured a joint aircraft (Cessna 180) with the Zambian Carnivore Program for our work in Luangwa. This has very generously been funded by Mfuwe Trails and the Bush Camp Company and will take out work to completely different levels. In addition, WWF is kindly funding running costs for the aircraft for a year.

As we approach the end of the year and reflect on all that has happened, the satisfying and the unpleasant, we'd like to thank all of our friends, donors and supporters who have generously given us their time, finances and encouragement. Most of all I'd like to recognize the efforts to protect the wildlife and natural resources in Luangwa by all who work tirelessly on a daily basis; the SLCS supported scouts, ZAWA scouts and management, Awely's Red Caps and all of our administration team at SLCS, the Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust, Project Luangwa and the Zambian Carnivore Program.



SLCS is proud to announce that Kalamu Lagoon (Wilderness Safaris) is the second tourism facility in South Luangwa to apply and to receive a South Luangwa Eco Award. This is the first ever regional-specific eco award in Zambia and is an SLCS initiative. Kalamu Lagoons have made considerable

financial investment to upgrade the facilities and have introduced some innovative management methods to be more environmentally sustainable. They have also have invested time, money and effort in becoming more socially responsible as employers and as community partners. Congratulations to Kalamu.



National Geographic
Big Cat Initiative
research study with
ZCP

National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative supports conservation projects actively working to halt the alarming continent-wide decline of lions due to human activities. Snaring has impacted Luangwa lions significantly, with 20% of the adult males and 12% of the subadult and adult population under study by ZCP/SLCS carrying snares from mid 2009-2010. While the majority of these snared lions were able to be treated by SLCS/ZCP, undoubtedly many snared lions go undetected, snaring continues to be a major problem for large carnivores in the Luangwa, and anti-snaring efforts suffer from a lack of data on snaring trends and patterns to evaluate the success of anti-poaching initiatives. To address this threat in 2011 ZCP was awarded a BCI Grant to fund collaborative work with SLCS in implementing a three-pronged approach aimed at reducing snaring mortality for lions, namely: 1) Forming an SLCS "Lion Anti-snaring Patrol Team" patterned after the successful "Wild Dog Anti-Snaring Team" to target areas of high snaring risk for lions, 2) Conducting an empirical study on snaring patterns and trends to better understand and combat snaring as well as to provide rigorous evaluations of whether snaring is increasing or decreasing, and 3) Continue to support SLCS/ZCP's capture and treatment of snared lions. Collectively these efforts help ensure that one of the lion's major threats in the Luangwa is given the attention it warrants.



The Africa Hope Fund recently sponsored the training of our book keeper in accounts. Tracey Smith Reed, who is usually based in California spent a week with us at SLCS teaching Amon Banda Quickbooks. Thanks so much for AHF for arranging this and Tracey for all her time and patience.

The Africa Hope Fund also continues to support our anti-snaring work by funding patrols and wildlife rescues.





Update on Law Enforcement support

Benson Kanyembo, SLCS Operations Manager

Our annual wet season fly camps have commenced and will be operational in Luamfwa, Kapamba and Mwamba for the next five months. It's tough and enduring work but is necessary for wet season anti-poaching operations here.

We have recently conducted a number of joint undercover investigations operations in the immediate area and also out of the immediate area. This was primarily to investigate the rapidly increasing elephant poaching and bush meat trade.

In addition, a number of wanted persons connected to the same were apprehended. These operations involved ZAWA from different regions, SLCS, Police and the DEC.



Table 1: SLCS supported village scout patrol results Sept, Oct, Nov 2011

(LP-Long patrol, SP-Short patrol, DP-Day patrol, DR- Drying rack)

Month	LP	SP	DP	Snares	Suspects	Firearms	Ammunition	DR	Elephant mortalities	Ivory
September	6	1	15	22	3	Nil	Nil	1	4	Nil
October	3	2	11	73	1	2	6	2	4	2
November	3	5	8	52	7	1	14	Nil	5	4
Total	12	8	34	147	11	3	20	3	13	6

Source: SLCS 2011



Elephant related wildlife rescues have kept us busy again for the past few months. This has included immobilizing ten elephants with some snares and rescuing seven elephants stuck in the mud too.

