



2011

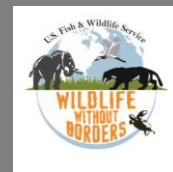
SLCS NEWSLETTER Edition 3 (July, Aug, Sept)



*Snared lion trying to pull off his wire snare, he has just been darted, Fri 23rd Sept, Nsefu. Photo by Egil Droge.*

*Proudly supported by the following major donors:*

Luangwa Conservation Community Fund



**THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY**  
SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK ZAMBIA



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- *Chilli production | Eco Awards | Assessing human wildlife conflicts in South Luangwa*

## Note from Rachel McRobb

*SLCS CEO*

It's that time of year when luckily most of the admin required for funding for 2012 is out of the way and I can dedicate more time to field work which I love. Just as well because recently there has been a huge spike in snaring activities and a lot of time is needed for our team to be in the field locating these animals in order for us to be able to treat them.

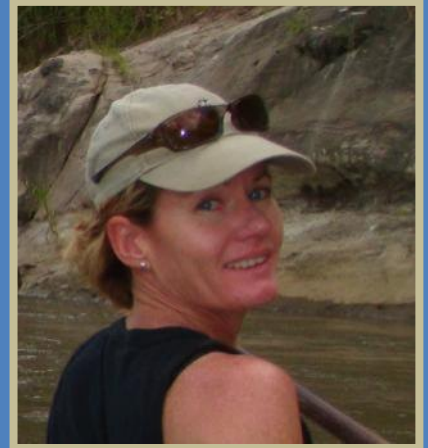
Recently, over the space of four days we had to immobilize seven elephants to be able to dart three snared ones. Unfortunately most snares are being set for buffalo and at the height they are set they are trapping a lot of baby elephants round the neck.

In addition to that, the forty six scouts we support have been putting in a lot of extra time and effort to increase patrols in order to identify and apprehend more perpetrators involved in snaring and other wildlife crimes, it's a never ending job and the scouts deserve recognition for their excellent and hard work, but more on that from our Operations Manager shortly.

We are excited to announce that the South Luangwa Eco Awards has finally been launched and we have a first successful applicant who achieved a silver award, which is quite a feat on its own.

We are also thrilled to have received a grant from Mfuwe Lodge for the purchase of a light aircraft to help with anti-poaching and research work and a recent grant from USFW Endangered species fund for wild dog anti-snaring.

Look out for the **Elephant Charge Zambia** which will take place in October this year. SLCS has been chosen as grant recipient again. This exciting event is fast becoming one of Zambia's top conservation fundraising events and is a major donor to local conservation projects. Keep up to date with the progress of the charge on their website at [www.elephantcharge.org](http://www.elephantcharge.org). Enjoy the rest of the read.

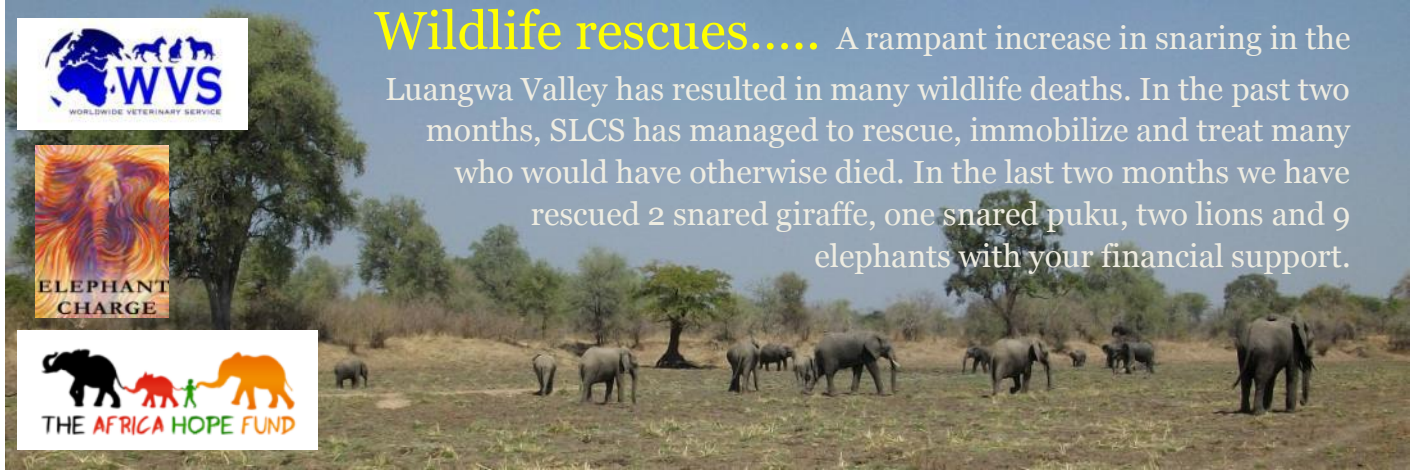
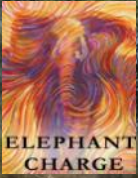


# ELEPHANT CHARGE

*Dust, sweat and gears*

2011

**Wildlife rescues.....** A rampant increase in snaring in the Luangwa Valley has resulted in many wildlife deaths. In the past two months, SLCS has managed to rescue, immobilize and treat many who would have otherwise died. In the last two months we have rescued 2 snared giraffe, one snared puku, two lions and 9 elephants with your financial support.





## ZCP-SLCS collaborative work

SLCS continues to work closely with the Zambia Carnivore Program in Luangwa. We collect and provide research data from our scout patrols, support and conduct anti-snaring patrols in wild dog and lion home ranges using valuable GPS coordinates of pack and pride movements remotely downloaded from satellite tracking collars, and we also jointly conduct snare removals from carnivores assisting one another with valuable time, resources, equipment and expertise. It is a pleasure to collaborate and work so constructively with a partner organization in the same area, conducting complimentary work and ultimately striving towards the same goals. Our partnership is an excellent example of research and conservation efforts.



Working with ZCP research team (left to right) Ashed Makukula, Thandiwe Mweetwa, Rachel McRobb, Frans Schepers (WWF), Gernant Magnin (WWF), Thomas Banda (ZAWA) and Egil Droge.

Recently ZCP received valuable financial support from National Geographic's Big Cat Initiative to expand the SLCS patrol efforts and launch a new, emergency-based effort in the form of a "Lion Anti-Snaring Team" to reduce lion mortalities form snaring.





## Elephant safe Grain Stores –

Sponsor an elephant safe grain store for US\$50. This includes cement and fuel for delivery and supervision of construction. Bricks, sand and labour are provided and required by the owner and is essential for ownership. The brick and cement grain stores are a far cry from traditional grain stores and offer much improved food security in areas of high risk crop and storage facility damage by elephants.



Traditional grain store above easily susceptible to elephant destruction and right, a safer, sturdier Brick and cement grain store.



The elephant safe grain stores are currently being sponsored by Awely ([www.awely.org](http://www.awely.org)) and the High Five Club ([www.highfiveclub.co.uk](http://www.highfiveclub.co.uk))

### **Assessing human-wildlife conflicts in South Luangwa**

*by Eva Gross, Awely Programme director (funding SLCS conflict program)*

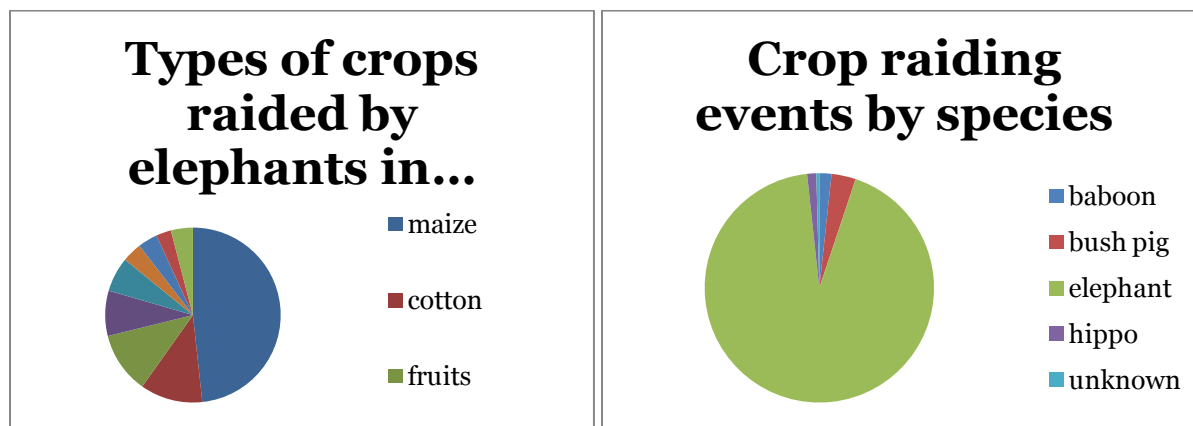
In the Game Management Areas adjacent to South Luangwa National Park people and wildlife are close neighbours. No barrier hinders wildlife to roam through villages, elephants easily cross the Luangwa river to stroll in the Game Management Area and a large number of all species found in the park are also observed in its buffer zone. But this area is also home to thousands of people, living mainly on agriculture or employment that government, tourism, NGOs or the National Park offers. This movement of wildlife is accompanied by complex conflicts among people and animals.

But how often do such conflicts really occur and how do they influence the local economy? Which are efficient strategies to prevent or reduce the pressure of wildlife on villages and farms or the sake of both people and wildlife? These are questions the Awely Red Caps programme in cooperation with South Luangwa Conservation Society is addressing since 2009. Since then Red Cap Billy Banda and his team have visited multiple farmers and villagers who have experienced losses and damages by wildlife, observed the conflict sites, filled detailed human-wildlife conflict assessment forms and piloted different approaches to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

## Preliminary results of 2009 and 2010

The Red Caps are situated in the three chiefdoms of Nsefu, Mkhanya and Kakumbi and are either contacted by their local informants if a conflict occurred, or they find out about conflicts on their regular visits to the villages. In the years 2009 and 2010 the Red Caps have assessed 544 crop raiding events with 1257 victims and 135 property damage events with 171 victims. The total damage for crop raiding within those two years cumulates at around 35,000 USD, for property damage at 7,500 USD. These numbers prove that human-wildlife conflict is not a negligible problem at the boarder of South Luangwa National Park.

*Figure 1: Crop raiding events by species in 2009 and 2010 Fig 2: Proportions of crop types raided by elephants in 2009 and 2010*



*n=468 total number of fields raided by elephants n=234 detailed CR conflict assessments, elephants hold 93%, bush pig 3,4%*

The information collected by Awely's Red Caps regarding the human-wildlife conflicts in the project area deliver a good basis for programme planning and evaluation. This brief overview of only a few aspects we have and still are assessing and analysing should give an idea on the amounts and diversity of the conflicts in the area. The results printed in this newsletter are preliminary and not yet statistically tested. In case of any questions please contact: [eva@awely.org](mailto:eva@awely.org)



## Update on Kakumbi Village

### Scout support – Benson

Kanyembo, SLCS Operations Manager

Unfortunately it appears that in South Luangwa, like the rest of Zambia, poaching especially that of elephants is on the increase and in recent months we have seen a surge in elephant poaching with poachers specifically taking ivory and very little meat. Talking to our counterparts and fellow conservation organizations, it is worrying as it seems to be organized and not random hunting. That combined with our current snaring problems which cannot be talked about enough is keeping our supported village scouts flat out in the field on long and short patrols. SLCS is currently exploring ways and means of engaging and supporting more village scouts to help combat this problem.

**Funding secured for light aircraft.....**In order to improve our effectiveness in law enforcement by increasing ground coverage and surveillance and to be able to react to illegal activities faster, Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company are funding the purchase of a light two seater aircraft to be jointly owned by SLCS and the Zambian Carnivore Program. This will be used for both conservation and research work. We cannot express enough just how grateful we are for this grant from Mfuwe Lodge and BCC and will certainly take our work to a different level.

**Table 1: SLCS supported village scout patrol results June, July, August 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
June	4	1	17	94	2	2	53	3	2	1
July	7	2	15	86	9	6	93	5	3	1
August	6	0	20	122	9	2	0	5	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: SLCS 2011

## Illegal timber harvesting update

In our last newsletter we brought attention to the illegal and unsustainable harvest of hard wood in Luangwa. This subsequently prompted a meeting amongst all stakeholders in Kakumbi Chiefdom. Chief Kakumbi, Forestry Department, ZAWA and tour operators were present at this meeting. Chief Kakumbi's message was clear, there will be no more harvesting of wood in his Chiefdom in the near future. We continue to monitor any illegal activity and although there are still a few cases, it has been drastically reduced and we commend the Chief for his efforts in preventing any further destruction of natural resources in Kakumbi.



Expires: 05 Aug 2013

Flatdogs Camp - Silver  
SOUTH LUANGWA  
ECO AWARDS

### **The South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS) is pleased to announce the successful launching of the South Luangwa Eco Awards and the first successful applicant**

SLCS is very pleased to announce that Flatdogs Camp ([www.flatdogscamp.com](http://www.flatdogscamp.com)) was the first tourism facility in South Luangwa to apply and to receive a South Luangwa Eco Award award on 5th August 2011. This is the first ever regional-specific eco award in Zambia and is an SLCS initiative. Flatdogs 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. The awards, which are an SLCS initiative, have received Zambia Tourism Board endorsement and have been recognised by the Tourism Sustainability Council of South Africa. Well done Flatdogs!!



With generous support from;



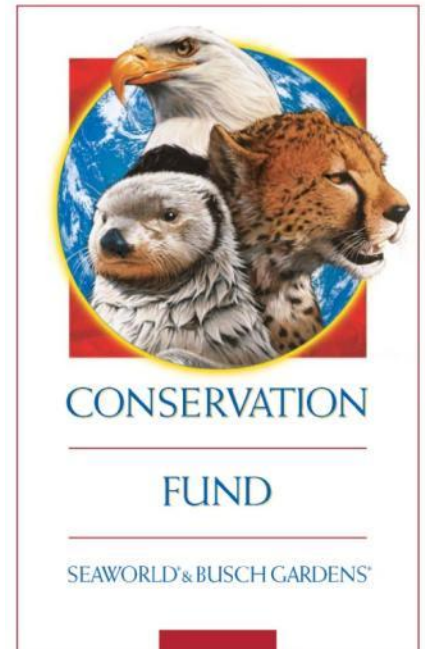


## THE LUANGWA CONSERVATION COMMUNITY FUND –

‘Proudly supporting conservation and education activities in Luangwa’.

The LCCF is kindly supported by the following camps in Luangwa:

Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company, Flatdogs Camp, Remote Africa Safaris, Kafunta Safaris and Croc Valley and Shenton Safaris.



ZANZIBAR BEACHCLUB 

I hope I haven't gone on for too long and that you were able to read some of the news, if not look at the pictures which usually tell a better story anyway. We'll bring you more news soon and in the meantime you can keep up to date on our website [www.slcszambia.org](http://www.slcszambia.org) and our facebook page  
Bye for now

Rachel, Benson and Eva.