



SLCS NEWS

April, May, June 2008

Inside this issue

- **Anti-snaring Campaign update**
- **First wilddog anti-snaring team**
- **Scout training**
- **Scout patrol results**
- **Chilli farming**
- **Getting to know the SLCS Team**
- **South Luangwa Eco Awards**
- **Where SLCS is now**

Greetings from Luangwa, it feels like such a long time since our last SLCS newsletter but we hope to be able to tell you a great deal in this latest update.

The dry season has as usual, crept in very quickly and the park has been opened up for a few months now, allowing scouts and patrols much easier access and also allowing for other projects to be carried out in remote locations.

The Anti-Snaring Campaign got off to a great start in Kakumbi Chiefdom. The aim of the campaign is threefold; to raise awareness about snaring amongst the local community, to remove some of the wire used for snaring from the community and finally to provide an interactive and friendly forum for the community, SLCS, ZAWA and the CRB's to collaborate.

The campaign is conducted through drama by the local but internationally recognized drama group called SEKA, and also through the use of sport. This year we included netball matches for the women as well as football for the men.



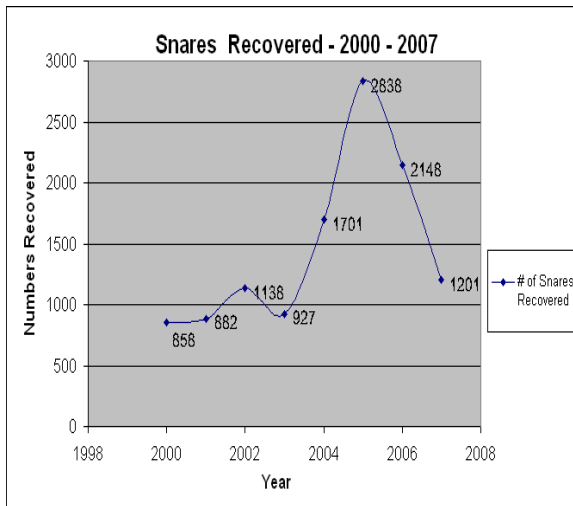
Drama group performing at the finals.



The Honorable Chief Kakumbi presenting prizes.

Table 1 and Figure 1 below show the total number of snares that were recovered from 2000 to 2007.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
# of snares	858	882	1138	927	1701	2838	2148	1201



During the period that the matches are being played within the community, an amnesty period is given where snares are handed in. A careful record is kept and on the day of the sports final, raffle prizes are won for those with the most snares. From 2000 – 2008 ZAWA and SLCS have removed more than 11,693 snares set to trap wild animals from the bush. There were probably thousands more that we did not find. The second phase of the campaign has started and Nsefu, Mkhanya, Msoro and Malama Chiefdoms are being targeted.

SLCS–Anti-Snaring Wild Dog Team



SLCS and the African Wild Dog Conservation project (AWDC) have teamed up to form the first wild dog anti-snaring group. The team consists of four scouts who are currently on a training program and are being sponsored by AWDC. AWDC will also provide SLCS with information regarding dog movements and in turn SLCS will provide AWDC with snaring reports and other data. The team will be deployed in specific areas to conduct anti-snaring patrols.

Scout Training

The first 2008 scout training program opened on 6th May with 59 students.



New training recruits.

Village Scout patrols and results for April, May and June 2008.

Month	Long patrol	Short patrol	Day Patrol	Snares	Suspects	Nets	Firearms	Ammunition	Drying Racks	Dead elephant	Ivory	Fishermen removed
April	4	1	14	16	4	6	1	18	1	nil	nil	12
May	8	2	11	24	nil	6	3	20	9	3	4 pc	6
June	6	1	12	27	3	4	4	25	3	nil	nil	4
Total	18	4	37	67	7	16	8	63	13	3	4	22

Chilli Farming has taken off in leaps and bounds, and this year we have bought almost a ton of dried chilli already, from local farmers involved in the chilli fence and farming project.



Our chilli fence coordinator visits his project sites on a weekly basis to monitor the farming and procurement of chilli. The chilli farming element of the project is intended to provide farmers with an additional source of income. SLCS will only purchase dried chilli from farmers who are using the chilli fence as a means of deterring elephants from crop raiding. SLCS has partnered with Elephant Pepper Development Trust who will take some of the chilli from us.

Getting to know the SLCS team

Richard Zulu is a key member of the SLCS team and is the Unit Leader for SLCS and Kakumbi village scouts. He manages a team of thirty five scouts and coordinates all law enforcement activities including patrol deployments, investigations and so on.

Richard has been with SLCS since its beginning and was also involved in the previously know Rats (Rapid Action Team).

Richard has vast experience and worked for National Parks and Wildlife Services before joining SLCS. He is married with nine children and lives on site at the SLCS Base.

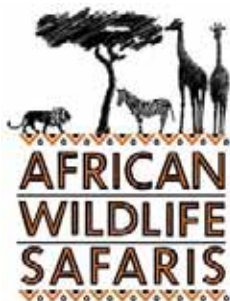




...working towards more responsible and sustainable tourism in South Luangwa

SLCS is pleased to announce that we have established an Eco-Awards scheme for South Luangwa. Well over a year ago the Board of Trustees sat and discussed how the mushrooming of tourism over the past few years had seriously impacted on the environment and the society in which we live and operate. We recognized that tourism has some very positive and beneficial effects on the area and without it flourishing there is no doubt the Park and most of its wildlife would have long gone. However, we were also concerned that the impact of ever more buildings, employees, vehicles and operations has all led to an increasing amount of degradation. We asked what we as a conservation society could do to help the tourism industry in the area become more sustainable, responsible and environmentally friendly before it all becomes too late. In April 2007 we formed a Working Group with a number of different people from the Valley

meeting to help advise on the direction the Eco-Awards should take. Anna Tolan (SLCS Trustee) acted as co-coordinator and chief researcher but later in the year was joined by Bridget Wijnberg, who kindly gave a huge amount of her time to help with the research in the area and later produced a Handbook on the subject. In the long term we are hoping that South Luangwa as a whole earns an international reputation for being a wildlife area to visit in Africa that is actively engaged in sustainable tourism and eco-friendly operations. The word 'eco' has been greatly overused and misused in tourism all over the world in recent years, yet it should only be used where operators can evidence environmentally responsible and sustainable methods. The South Luangwa Eco Awards can help in this. More information on the South Luangwa Eco Awards will be available on the SLCS website shortly.



SLCS is greatly indebted to African Wildlife Safaris (Australia) for their most valuable and substantial contribution to conservation in South Luangwa. AWS donation comprises of 50% from AWS clients and the other 50% is a matching contribution from African wildlife Safaris.



We are also grateful to Safari Consultants UK for their valuable contributions and ongoing valued support to SLCS and Luangwa Valley, and Elefence International USA for their continued commitment to conservation in Zambia.



Where SLCS is today

Since 2004, SLCS has been largely funded by the Royal Danish Embassy in Lusaka. This funding has allowed SLCS to grow in to what it is today. In December 2008, our project with the Royal Danish Embassy comes to an end and with it, so does our funding. We are now tasked with securing enough funding to allow us to operate independently from 2009 onwards. We have a very effectively utilized budget of \$250,000 a year which we need to raise. We are currently working on a five year strategic plan and have engaged the services of a Zambian consultant to help raise the profile and awareness of SLCS.

The valuable work done by SLCS needs to continue but we cannot do this effectively and professionally without funding and without your support. We are greatly appreciative of your previous donations and other means of support to SLCS. In addition to renewing your personal and corporate memberships, ad hoc donations, sponsoring a scout, paying for an elephant to be darted or a trip for school kids into the park or making an endowment or bequest to SLCS would be invaluable in saving the Valley's wildlife.

New SLCS staff

We have been lucky enough to employ Benetria Milambo as administration assistant to the CEO. Benetria joined SLCS two months ago and has taken a huge amount of the administration workload away from the CEO. She has already become a valuable member of SLCS. A volunteer conservation coordinator has also been secured and will be joining us in August to help with the general conservation programs.

New SLCS Brochures

Have arrived and will be available this week in all the lodges in South Luangwa. Our thanks go to Gero Heine for his kind contribution of the lovely lion's eyes photograph on the front cover. We also have a new range of SLCS shirts for sale on the way and these will also be found in lodges, at the airport and the SLCS Base. 100% of the proceeds go back to SLCS conservation projects.

Uyoba Community School and Walmley Infant School

We would like to say a special thank you to Walmley Infant School in the UK, for their support to Uyoba Community School. Walmley children recently raised funds for Uyoba for the students to attend the Mfuwe inter-school sports day. They also raised money for exercise and text books for the school and contributed sports kits and other items of clothing.

Training



In June, SLCS sponsored Trevor Silwamba, ZAWA Research assistant to attend a darting course in South Africa where he learned to immobilize snared and injured animals. Trevor’s training will be put to good use in Luangwa where he will be of great to help to SLCS and the Zambia Wildlife Authority. Last week Trevor and I had the opportunity to dart a leopard in Luambe National Park for a research project.

We would also like to thank our new SLCS members and ongoing donors for their support;



African Sunset Safaris – Germany

Todd and Peggy Watkins – USA

Chichele Presidential Lodge – South Luangwa

An extra special thanks to Federico Olivares in Monaco, for all his hard work raising funds for his school project and donating it all towards the SLCS anti-snaring campaign.



Until next time, we wish you all the best from SLCS.