



# SLCS NEWS

July, August & September 2008

## Inside this issue

- *Scout training*
- *SLCS/AWDC anti-snaring group*
- *Snare removal*
- *Update from the elephant orphanage*
- *Visit from Awely*
- *Chilli fence programs*
- *Anti-snaring campaign*
- *Facility visit from Zambian journalists*
- *Uyoba Community School*
- *Patrol results*
- *Mkhanya CRB Base construction*
- *Getting to know the SLCS team.....Scout of the month*

Welcome to another edition of SLCS news, we're thrilled to be able to share our latest developments with you.

## New scouts and training

Firstly we would like to welcome four new scouts to SLCS. These scouts recently completed a twelve week para-military training course (along with another 51 students) at Nyamaluma Training College. The scouts are part of the new "SLCS / AWDC anti-snaring group" and are being funded by the African Wild dog Conservation Project in conjunction with SLCS.



Wild dogs are particularly prone to picking up snares as they cover large distances and regularly move in areas that are settled by people. In some areas in Zambia, such as the Lower Zambezi, wild dog populations have been reduced drastically and 30% of the population was found to be carrying snares. These statistics prompted the formation of a specific group to conduct anti-snaring patrols in wild dog home ranges.

For more information on AWDC and the wild dog anti-snaring team please visit [http://www.awdczambia.org/Anti\\_Snaring\\_team.html](http://www.awdczambia.org/Anti_Snaring_team.html)

## Snare removal

Snaring continues to affect a wide range of wildlife in South Luangwa, recently a buffalo, three elephants, two hyaena's, a puku, another giraffe and a lioness have been reported with snares. The lioness and the rest of the pride were spotted in the park feeding on a buffalo kill recently. One of the females had a snare tight around her belly. Darting her was a straight forward procedure and luckily the snare had not dug in too deep, the wound was still nice and clean and a dose of anti-biotics ensured it would not get infected. She happily joined the rest of her pride a couple of hours later and has been seen many times since.



Snare wound under the lioness's belly.



Cleaning the wound and giving anti-biotics.

## Update from the David Shepherd elephant orphanage in Kafue

We recently made a fleeting visit to the elephant orphanage in Kafue, where we transported two of our orphans last year. We were thrilled to see that both Chodoba and Chamilandu are doing extremely well. At the time we transported Chodoba, no one held out too much hope for him as he was a bag of bones, extremely underweight, lethargic and uninterested. Almost eight months later he has put on an enormous amount of weight, is happy and has a new family. Chamilandu as always, is in good health and continues to be her usual cheeky and energetic self. She has also adopted little Zamma from Lower Zambezi as her best friend. All this would not have been possible without the great support of the elephant keepers and camp managers – Belinda Pumfrett and Sport Beattie. Thanks to all for supporting this project. And a special thanks to Edelgard and Gero Heine for chartering the flight to visit the elephants.

## Visit from Awely and chilli fence programs



Awely is an NGO based in France ([www.awely.org](http://www.awely.org)) that supports projects involved in mitigating human animal conflict. To date they are working in Zambia, Tanzania, India and Nepal.

Awely is supporting the SLCS chilli fence project and has introduced the Red Caps program. We received a visit from it's Executive Director Renaud Faulconis, and it's Program Director Eva Gross, to discuss future programs relating to human animal conflict.



Renaud Falconis, Rachel Mc Robb and Billy Banda signing an MoU between both organizations. Billy Banda is the chosen Red Cap for Zambia. As coordinators for human wildlife conflict mitigation, the Red Caps come from the local community, are trained on the job and are paid by Awely. Some of their goals are to monitor, understand and resolve the origins, consequences and conflicts between man and wildlife to train and educate the local population

concerning the use of natural resources.

### Update on chilli program

We have been lucky to secure a market for dried chilli from our chilli farming project in South Luangwa. Rivonia is a Zambian company that produces a wide range of chilli sauces, jams and other condiments. Rivonia has agreed to buy six tonnes of dried chilli from us per year. So far we have seven different chilli farming groups harvesting chilli in Katemo, Chitilila, Kakumbi and Nsefu, and currently Billy is training another two groups in Mkhanya Chiefdom.



Dried chilli ready for transporting to Lusaka.



Weighing the chilli with farmers.

SLCS would like to thank **Conservation Foundation Zambia** for once again sponsoring Village Scout Training in South Luangwa.

Our thanks also go to **Larson Fine Imaging**, [www.larsonfineimaging.com](http://www.larsonfineimaging.com), for their ongoing support to conservation in Luangwa.

## Anti-snaring Campaign



Some of the snares collected.

The second phase of the anti-snaring campaign has taken off and residents from Malama, Mkhanya, Msoro and Nsefu Chiefdoms have been busy competing with football and netball matches and collecting snares.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September, the final in Mkhanya Chiefdom was held. Drama, raffles and football matches were held and a total number of 580 snares were handed in from the people of Mkhanya.

## Facility visit from Zambian journalists



Sunday Fikansa being filmed and interviewed by Muvi TV.

As part of SLCS's marketing strategy to raise awareness of the Society in Zambia, we invited seven journalists and TV producers from The Times of Zambia, Daily Mail, The Marketer, Tourism News, Zambia National Broadcasting Service and Muvi TV and to come to South Luangwa for a facility visit. The three day excursion was tightly packed with visits to all of SLCS's projects, spending time with scouts and other

staff, park visits and other awareness activities. Benetria Milambo, SLCS Administration Assistant did an amazing job setting it all up and organizing the whole event.

Our sincere thanks go to Proflight Air Charters for their invaluable complimentary flights for the whole group and also to Mushroom Lodge for hosting them. During the course of the next six months we expect to get considerable feedback from this visit. An SLCS marketing strategy is in the works and the rest of our plans will be conveyed in the next newsletter.

## Uyoba Community School

Christiaan Van Woerden has been helping to raise funds for Uyoba for some years now. He recently graduated and very kindly asked his friends and family to make a donation to the school as a gift to him for his graduation. On behalf of Uyoba, we would like to thank Christiaan for his tireless efforts in raising funds for the school, this time 2500 euros. We will be installing some solar equipment and purchasing educational materials with this donation. Once again we would like to thank Val Keight and all the students at Walmley Infant School for raising another one thousand pounds for school projects. Val has been tireless in her fund raising efforts for the school.

## Village Scout patrols and results for July and August 2008

Month	Long patrol	Short patrol	Day Patrol	Snares	Suspects	Nets	Firearms	Ammunition	Drying Racks	Dead elephant	Ivory	Fishermen removed
July	3	4	10	6	2	3	6	nil	2	2	nil	nil
August	4	7	9	15	7	3	nil	nil	2	2	2	nil
Total	7	11	19	21	9	6	6	nil	4	4	2	nil

## Mkhanya CRB Base Construction

SLCS is expanding its partnership with CRB's in Luangwa and has started constructing scout houses in Mkhanya. The arrangement will be similar to the SLCS Base and scouts will be housed together in one location. We will also be providing them with communications equipment in the form of a base radio and hand held radios. This will enable ZAWA to stream line CRB activities with MKhanya. The construction is being fully sponsored by Nathalie Boule, Lion Camp Director.



## Getting to know the SLCS team.....

### Scout of the Month – August 2008

The “Scout of the Month” initiative has recently been introduced to motivate and support the village scouts for the outstanding and difficult job that they do. Each month a scout is identified for his or her exceptional work and given a bonus during a parade. His picture and a write up is also presented in a display area at the SLCS office.

Peter Mbewe, age twenty three, is a hardworking and disciplined scout whose work ethic is respecting other people. Patrol leaders from Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and Group Leaders from SLCS all confirm that Peter deserves to be the August 2008 scout because of his dedication, determination and discipline.



#### **Brief Background.**

Peter Mbewe was born in Chief Nsefu’s area in Mambwe district in 1984. He went to Nsefu Primary school and later Kawaza day school where he went up to grade eight. He first started working as an Office Assistant at the SLCS Base before he was recruited for training as a village scout in 2007. Peter said that as a young boy, he never understood what scouts do. To him they were just people who move about doing nothing. However, as he grew older he understood that scouts are hardworking individuals who need the support from the community in which they work in.

According to Peter, the most challenging part of being a scout is the time when the community revolt against them.

Peter is motivated by engaging in positive competition with his fellow scouts. He also believes that there is a lot to learn from other scouts. “I always look at other scout’s achievements and believe that if they can do it, I can also do the same. I always want to achieve good results like others before me,” said Peter.

That’s all from us for now.

Best wishes

*Rachel & the SLCS team.*