



Newsletter

May, June & July 2004

We've had a good couple of months with some good results. Now that the seasonal bushcamps are open we have a few more monthly donations. This is great for us as we have recently redone all the wage contracts and have employed a few more people – and everyone had a long overdue salary increase so the new support helps.

The directors of the recently purchased Lion Camp are very interested in SLCS and helping us. They very kindly donated US\$1000 to help buy the darting drugs so a big thank you to them. They will be here again shortly and are hoping to become more involved in conservation on a broader scale.

We recently had a film crew here who were making an environmental awareness film for BP International which has already been shown in Miami. We have just heard from them that it was very successful and will hopefully bring us some success in the future. They got a lot of footage while they were here and are making a longer version of the BP film for us to use for publicity. They also donated some money, which has also gone towards buying drugs. The drugs have been ordered and after finally getting together all the import and export permits and correct clearance papers they will be here soon. As usual, it took a lot longer than anticipated to get all the right paper work in place.

The SLCS flyers are also taking a bit longer than originally thought (everything does). We weren't happy with the artwork so have delayed a couple of weeks, but it won't be long now.

Building of the new base is about to start - we have contracted local builder Wilbrood Nkhoma. All the initial equipment has been bought so we should be starting any day. Dick Houston who is president of Elefence in the United States, who helped raise the money for the base was here last week. He was impressed with the base and what SLCS is doing so we hope to have more results from them in the near future. We have already put in a second proposal for new equipment to Elefence for new uniforms, radios, scout equipment, vehicle maintenance and a fuel allowance and also darting equipment.



In June Derek and Sarah Solomon organized for wildlife artist Emma Fraser to come out with Chris Breen, MD of Wildlife Worldwide and a journalist from Wanderlust magazine, both from the UK. They had a look at the base and the new site, met all the scouts and came up to Kakuli Bush Camp to do some filming and interviewing of the scouts. Emma will be doing some exhibitions and will donate a portion towards SLCS. It was great publicity for us. Thanks so much Derek and Sarah for all your time and interest, it's great to have you on board.

We managed to do a survey on the wood cutting in this area. On average, one hundred people per week are chopping wood around the Wildlife area. Most is said to be used for personal use but a lot of it was also for selling, brewing and brick making. We will be doing a few more of these surveys in different areas and will then discuss various possibilities.

Tudor Jones, Jeremy Pope and Lion Camp both donated helicopter time when they were in the area. We managed to drop a number of patrols in areas that we would normally find difficult to get to so a big thank you to them.

In terms of poaching, the north western side of the park is suffering and we are getting one report after another that there are groups from Mpika side almost constantly in the park. We have a very reliable informer but as the area is so huge we are struggling to send patrols to the right locations. Although ZAWA have opened a third scout camp in that area they are also struggling to come up with arrests. In an effort to sort this out we will be employing a few people from Mpika in the next two weeks who may be able to help us with this problem.

May Patrols

During May there were 3 ten day patrols, a nine day one and several shorter patrols including a night ambush. Many old drying racks were found and several currently active ones which lead to the arrest of 6 suspects in 2 separate cases - and ivory recovered.

June Patrols

In June there was a ten day patrols, a nine day one and several shorter patrols. 3 suspects were arrested with snares and weapons.

July Patrols

3 ten day patrols and several day patrols and a night ambush were conducted in July. A dead hippo was found plus several old drying racks and poachers camps - including some currently active camps with fresh meat.