



Newsletter

November/December 2004

Danida funding

The biggest news, of which some people already know about, is the Danida funding. At the end of last season SLCS did a proposal to the Royal Danish Embassy in Lusaka for a substantial amount of funding for the Society. The proposal was approved unbelievably quickly and we have been given a two year grant for U\$350,000. I would like to say a special thank you to Pia and Iben from the Danish Embassy for all their efforts in helping us prepare the proposal. For an organization such as ours, who have for years and years operated on a very tight and sometimes non-existent budget this has been a real achievement. So much of our time in the past has been spent on sourcing funds on an almost daily basis to cover expenses, valuable time which could have been spent on other projects. With this funding we hope to be able to establish ourselves as an effective, efficient and fully operational unit year round.

We also aim to establish ourselves as an important part of the South Luangwa Community by adding an education unit in to SLCS that will involve local schools and improving the awareness of wildlife in the area. SLCS also has plans to become involved in a number of other community-based projects, that will aim to improve the livelihoods of local people and alleviate some of the reasons people turn to poaching in the first place.

The total amount of funding has been budgeted for prior to receiving the grant and will be used on the following:

- ~ Outfitting fly camps for the rainy season
- ~ Scout training and first aid training
- ~ Education programs, anti-snaring etc
- ~ Running costs – investigations, fuel, informers, rations, insurance etc
- ~ Equipment – fully equipped base for operations and administration, radios, first aid etc
- ~ New equipment for scouts – uniforms, boots, backpacks and water bottles etc
- ~ Darting equipment and drugs
- ~ Vehicles
- ~ Salaried position for CEO

We have finally managed to secure a salary for the CEO (Rachel McRobb) who will be running the operation on a day to day basis. Further funding is still being sought for the Operations Manager (Ed Sayer) as well.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and funded us so far. Without all the kind and generous donations we would not be in the position we are today and certainly would not have been able to achieve what we have.

We have received some major funding to date including grants from David Shepherd, The Whitley Laing Foundation and Rufford Awards, Trade+Aid, Elefence International, Conservation Foundation Zambia, BP International and EIA and Jonathan Truss Wildlife Artist. Our local lodges and operators have been staunch supporters from the start and also deserve a special thank you – Norman Carr Safaris, Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe Lodge, Chichele Presidential Lodge, Kafunta Safaris, Remote Africa Safaris, Lion Camp, Flatdogs Camp, Shenton Safaris and Tribal Textiles and Majoru Investments from Lusaka.

Thanks also to all the individual sponsors and guests to the Luangwa valley who are too many to mention all but not forgotten.

The Danida funding does not cover salaries for the SLCS scouts. This was not included in the proposal. The reason for this is simply that in order for us to secure outside funding, it needs to be obvious to the donors that there is a need for them to support such a project. If we took out the lodge donations on a monthly basis, there would most likely be questions about the need for a support conservation and anti-poaching group in the area.

Elephant Sport Hunting

Four dead elephants were found poached on one patrol during November bringing the number of poached elephants this year to well over thirty.

While in Lusaka I had a few meetings at Chilanga with ZAWA about the proposed ESH. I met with the Director of Conservation and the Director of Research and we discussed the issue at length.

In short, it seems that there has been a lot of pressure on ZAWA for a number of years to "do something about the elephant problem". By that they mean that the communities need to somehow benefit directly from elephant conservation. I.e. that ESH will provide for some means of benefits to the community. Of course we can read in to this in a number of ways, as ESH will not solve any problems in the immediate future.

ZAWA is adamant that ESH is going to take place, but the first two years will be a "pilot run" I was told?

South Luangwa Conservation Society prepared a document against ESH and also offered ideas on alternative ways of increasing income. The document has been circulated amongst various people within Zambia and abroad, and we are hoping it will have some influence and effect especially in the United States, who are the main target for ESH clients.

Please contact us for any information or queries on the above subject.

Construction of The SLCS Base

All monies for the construction of the new SLCS Base have been received from Elefence International (USA) and construction has started again. If all goes according to plan we should be finished with the base building within 6 months. Plans to run electricity and phones to the base for admin purposes have also been approved. After we have completed the base we will start construction of a two classrooms at Iyoba Community School.

Art Exhibition at David Shepherd Gallery London

On May 8th there will be a wildlife art exhibition at the David Shepherd Art Gallery in London. Works by Jonathan Truss and Emma Fraser will be there. Jonathan kindly donated a large portion of sales from his paintings while he was in South Luangwa in 2005.

Communication

We will be purchasing some new base station radios for the SLCS base very soon, and also one for where I live so we will be much easier to contact on a 24 hour basis in case of emergencies.

Binoculars

Anna and Steve Tolan from Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre very kindly donated some binoculars to the SLCS scouts. Many thanks to them.

Client Donations

Kathi and Art Litman, who were guests at Kakuli this year very kindly donated U\$1000 to the Society. A big thank you to them.

Thank you to Sam Toft from UK for very generously donating GBP500 and thanks to Fil Hide and Tony Green for their U\$250 and also to Alexandra Fuller for her U\$200 donation and to the Palmers for their U\$200 donation towards SLCS.

November & December Patrols

November was a busy month - over the six 10 day patrols 7 pieces of ivory were recovered and 4 fresh elephant carcasses found in separate areas. A suspect was sentenced to 5 years after he was arrested with ivory at an impromptu road block search. During December patrols 2 leopard skins were confiscated

and a suspect arrested. 10 snares were removed and a suspect with a dead impala and no hunting licence was apprehended