



Newsletter

October 2004

Donations

What a month for receiving! We are extremely grateful to the Conservation Foundation Zambia and Jeremy Pope for putting up the funds for us to buy 8 new tyres for our vehicles before the rains set in. And also paying for three new hand held radios, a base unit and an HF radio plus solar charging system. A special thanks to them! Now that we have more scouts and a new base on the way the radios will be put to good use and the tyres will ensure that we can get further during the rains!

A big thank you also to Mike Turner and the Lion Camp Directors for buying us FIVE new GPS, a range finder to help with darting and some gun cleaning equipment which is on the way early next week. They will be very useful for us in each fly camp during the rains.

Other donations in October for which we owe special thanks are to

- artist Vic Guhrs for putting aside a portion of sales of paintings for SLCS.
- Jonathan Truss, wildlife artist, donation from sale of paintings whilst here in Luangwa - U\$3900.
- Another pair of binoculars from Catherine Beech at Kakuli. We are now up to eight pairs and our aim is to get to twenty, one pair for each scout.

Thanks also to John Coppinger (Remote Africa Safaris) for donating microlight time and searching for poachers and camps.

Buffalo Hunting

We are very concerned about the number of special licenses that have been issued this season for hunting buffalo. There has been no resident buffalo hunting allowed this year due to the decline in buffalo numbers. Only for ceremonial purposes has buffalo hunting been permitted. However, SLCS scouts have been monitoring the hunters as far as possible and have found a large number of special licenses which have been issued from Lusaka to non residents (non residents being people not from the Valley). One of the worrying things here is that a special license is not paid for thus ZAWA receives nothing and therefore the communities receive nothing so not only are they not allowed to hunt buffaloes themselves but they also receive nothing in return for other people allowed to hunt buffalo.

Employee turns in his gun

Over the years we have employed a number of ex-poachers, some of who are still with us and some of them let go as they never quite reformed. Recently, one of our new employees voluntarily turned in his MLG. This was a very pleasant surprise and a reminder that it is possible for someone to reform (although we are aware that this may take years of monitoring).

National Geographic

Lynn Johnson and Rolf Shenton were back for a few weeks last month to carry on with their photography for the National Geographic article. They spent a bit of time with the SLCS scouts and hopefully they got some good shots.

2004 / 2005 Fly Camps

The 2004 / 2005 fly camps are coming together and we hope to have them in place by the end of November, beginning of December. In the meantime, as all the seasonal bushcamps are closed, we will be sending in regular patrols to those areas until the fly camps are in place.

Ivory Dealer sentenced in Mpika

In a ZAWA / SLCS undercover investigation in Mpika in September an ivory dealer was arrested. The court case was in October and Godfrey Mwanza from SLCS was one of the witnesses. Probably for the first time in living memory, the suspect was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on the very first court session. We have become used to going to court about five times before anything happens which is costly for us as we have to pay for accommodation, food and transport so this was a welcome change.

October Patrols

There were 4 ten day and 4 one day patrols during October during which 26 snares were removed and several meat drying racks found. Ivory was removed from a elephant which died of natural causes.