



Newsletter

September 2004

Elephants

September was a good month for SLCS but not a good month for the elephants. We made a number of arrests thanks to some of the new scouts from Mpika, but unfortunately lost four elephants, two in one week alone.



There has been heated response to the proposed Elephant Sport Hunting coming into place next year. Firstly, thanks to everyone who took the time to contribute thoughts and useful facts and information on the above topic. SLCS are in the final stages of putting together a response to ESH which we have based on facts we have collected over the years. Once the final draft is finished, it will be made available.

We have lost 36 elephants that we know of this year to poaching and another 25 to control and natural causes. We all agree that it is not viable to increase this number of offtake.

The sudden and incredibly brazen shooting of elephants very near bushcamps is indeed worrying. The close proximity to a bush camp and the fact that both elephants were very large bulls can only signify that the poachers are after the ivory. There are a number of on going investigations at the moment involving a substantial amount of ivory which also gives rise to the fact that there is a flourishing market once again.

Hopefully by the end of this month we might have some more solid results with regards to the increase in elephant poaching. SLCS combined with ZAWA hope to put in place 5 rainy season fly camps starting end of November. I am still in the process of sourcing funds for this but am quite positive they will come.



Wildlife Artist – Jonathan Truss helps SLCS

Good news for September was from Jonathan Truss, a wildlife artist brought out from UK by Derek Solomon and Andy Hogg, Bushcamp Company (courtesy of British Airways). Jonathan spent a few weeks painting at Bushcamps and has already sold a number of paintings and donated approximately U\$3500 to SLCS. Jonathan will be having an Exhibition in early May next year (2005) at the David Shepherd Gallery which will surely raise a lot more money for us. Jonathan also brought a big bag of goodies for the scouts including some much needed binoculars, water bottles, uniform shirts, a pair of boots, two rain coats and other useful things.

SLCS Flyers

The flyers have raised a few hundred dollars so far from various guests and I have been given four good pairs of binoculars from Kakuli guests. At this rate we may not need to buy any binos. Other bits of medicines left by guests have also been helpful.

Other nice donations last month have included a U\$1000 cheque from Mary Holmes via Jo Pope and a U\$2500 donation from the BP film crew who came out to us a few months ago. We are very grateful to them.

Thanks again to Jeremy Pope / Zambia Conservation Foundation for the fuel money donation again!

New Scouts

The new scouts we employed from Mpika have made a great start. The very first patrol they went on they arrested someone. We also have a new lady on board who is also performing well. In general the scouts did very well this month and probably could have done more if we had another vehicle for dropping off patrols. I have put this in a recent proposal and am keeping fingers crossed. The old Ratmobile is chugging along and has done a brilliant job over the last few years but it really is time to get a new vehicle.

Darting

On the darting front, I darted a snared puku at Chichele the other week and all went well, but we have been unable to locate the reported snared elephant.

Base

We are plodding along with the base, a small delay with some of the money but should be in soon. It is looking good and the scout houses have been started. The new borehole has been sunk and we are just waiting for the manual pump to arrive.

Scout of the Month Bonus

This month's Scout of the Month bonus goes to Jaston Nyama who was on patrol for 27 days in total without any complaints. Jaston is such a hard worker, is always on time and ready to go on patrol at a moments notice. Jaston was also in the teams that made most of the arrests. His dedication to the job is greatly valued.

Other Bonuses

Bonuses have also been given to the scouts who made arrests, confiscated meat and weapons and snares during September.

September patrols

Another busy month with 6 ten day patrols, an 11 day patrol and many shorter ones. 5 arrests were made and 6 weapons confiscated, a poached elephant was found and the ivory recovered, and many snares removed and bush fire put out. Drying racks and poachers camps were destroyed and fresh carcasses of buffalo, impala, hippo and wathog found and recovered.