



Issue 2
2007

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER

Greetings from South Luangwa and we hope you enjoy reading the latest news from SLCS.

- Inside this newsletter:
- Scout training program
 - Chilli fence workshop
 - 2007 Developments
 - Elephant darting
 - Uyoba Community School progress
 - Sam's cycling trip
 - New sponsors

SLCS Village Scout Training Program 2007

We had a good start to 2007 and this has continued throughout the year. On 23rd April 2007, SLCS opened this year's first 10 week Para-military training course at Nyamaluma Training College in Lower Lupande GMA, Malama Chiefdom.

One Senior Instructor has been engaged from Mano Camp in Mpika and two instructors from Nyamaluma are being used. All three are of a very high standard and invaluable to the ZAWA Field Training Unit.

Forty one village scout recruits have come from Malama, Mkhanya and Chitungulu Chiefdoms, all of which surround the South Luangwa National Park. At the official opening, the three different CRB's were represented by their Chairmen and Natural Resources Chairmen, ZAWA, SLCS, Luambe and Nyamaluma personnel. We have completed Phase 1, Induction and Selection and Phase II, Basic Anti-poaching part I. So far 23 people have either voluntarily withdrawn or failed part one and two. This is

unfortunate but is expected, as the course is extremely tough and both phases are designed to root out those who are not physically capable of being law enforcement scouts.



Trainee scouts on parade



Musketry lesson

The selection boards include members of the CRB, ZAWA, SLCS and Luangwa Wilderness e.v who made a unanimous decision for those that have failed to be taken off the course. It was indeed very pleasing that the CRB's decided, without our interference that anyone below the pass mark of 60% will not continue the course. This proves that they understand the process and reasoning behind the training and what it means to have fully qualified scouts.



40km route march carrying a full back pack and a heavy stone.



Exhausted but determined to finish.

SLCS is coordinating the course in conjunction with ZAWA and the Nyamaluma Training College. ZAWA's support is much welcomed as is that of Luambe National Park who are sponsoring the training of their scouts from Chitungulu Chiefdom. It is encouraging to see other NGO's getting involved with this training.

Arrangements are already in process for the second training course to start at the end of July 2007.

Chilli Fence Trainer's Workshop 7th – 9th May

SLCS invited Elephant Pepper Development Trust to visit Mfuwe and conduct a chilli fence trainer's course at SLCS Base from 7th to 9th May. Farmers and different Headmen were invited from Mkhanya, Kakumbi and Nsefu Chiefdoms as were CRB's and ZAWA staff members.

For the past two years, SLCS has been working closely with farmers from Nsefu, Chitilila and Katemo. Farmers from these areas have formed chilli groups, who share the use of treadle pumps to help them grow chilli and other vegetables. These farmers are all using the chilli fence method which has proved to be successful for them. They have had flourishing chilli crops despite all the water and some of the farmers are now in a position to sell their chilli to other farmers.



THANKS TO OUR RECENT SPONSORS



Cambridge Capital Group (UK) for supporting on going SLCS operations in 2007 – 2008.



Thanks to Robin Pope Safaris for contributing proceeds from The Johnny Ambrose Touch Rugby Tournament. This is a yearly tournament held in remembrance of Johnny Ambrose, a guide and friend of many who was tragically killed.



We would also like to thank our very dear friends Iben Dupont and Pia Tesdorf. Iben has been working at the Royal Danish Embassy for the past three years, and has come to the end of her contract and will be moving back to Denmark with Pia. Iben and Pia have both

been staunch supporters of SLCS and we would not be where we are today without them. We were lucky to spend a night with them at Kapamba Bush Camp recently to bid farewell and enjoy the park with them. On behalf of SLCS, I would like to wish them all the best for the future and that we will see them again!!

The aim of the workshop was to train farmers to become chilli fence trainers themselves, and work within their own communities promoting the use and management of the chilli fence. This year we have already seen an increase in elephant crop damage and human elephant conflicts, so it is our expectation that the chilli fence concept will continue to grow.

The workshop consisted of two days lessons and one day practical field work. The practical was conducted at Chief Kakumbi's vegetable plot centrally located in Mfuwe town.

Apart from being a demonstration for the workshop we anticipate that the Chief's plot will continue to be a demonstration for the whole community and will set a valuable example.



A very happy farmer receiving his training certificate from James Mwanza (EPDT).



On a recent trip to Chitilila Village in Mkhanya Chiefdom, where farmers have been using the chilli fence and growing chilli, we were pleasantly surprised to see how well they are doing.

They are currently harvesting their first crop of chilli for their own use in protecting their fields and also for selling to other farmers.



Chitilila farmers using treadle pumps to water chilli plants in dry season.



First harvest of chilli being dried in the shade.

MRT/ Fly camp anti-poaching

The Mobile Reaction Team (MRT) continues to conduct proactive anti-poaching along the escarpment this year. In order to boost the effort a second MRT team has been proposed. This team will concentrate on the Southern section of the escarpment bordering Serenje. The team will map and plot all routes used by poachers (origins Serenje district), conduct park patrols and village follow ups accordingly.

Temporary Fly Camps are being deployed to West Mwamba and Nsefu Sector salt pans. These camps are strategically placed to deny poachers access to the usual poaching hot spots associated with early season. The fly camps will operate until roughly the end of August when the available ground water dries up. They will then move to the permanent water sites targeted later in the year. Both camps will have periodic micro light air support from trustee John Coppinger of Tafika camp.



A poacher's camp found in the park while on patrol.



Smoking racks.

Forest Guards/ Hunting Road block

We are continuing our support of the Kakumbi CRB and have introduced a Natural Resource checkpoint on the Malama road, running along the S/W boundary of the park. The checkpoint enables us to have much closer supervision of not only the collection of the resources but also accountability.

The checkpoint is manned by a Forest Guard and an armed Village Scout at all times. The checkpoint doubles as a wildlife roadblock and enables us to keep clear records of all vehicular movement along the Malama Road. Resident Hunting is a long term problem in the GMA and the road block gives us the opportunity to register and check that all resident hunters entering the area are legal, accompanied by a monitoring scout and have already reported to ZAWA HQ.

Patrols and Results for April, May and June 2007.

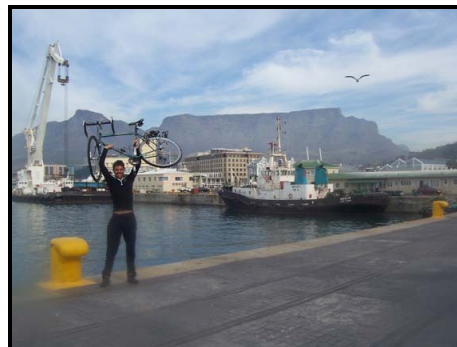
Month	Long patrol	Short patrol	Day Patrol	Snares	Suspects	Nets	Firearms	Ammunition	Drying Racks	Dead elephant	Ivory	Fishermen removed
April	3	4	10	2	0	48	0	0	1	0	0	48
May	3	5	5	10	5	8	4	80	1	1	0	10
June	4	3	9	4	5	6	6	0	6	0	0	6
Total	10	12	24	16	10	62	10	80	8	1	0	64

Sam’s fundraising cycling trip – Livingstone to Cape Town.....

Our friend Sam Grace from Lion Camp, recently completed his cycling trip from Livingstone to Cape Town. He managed an amazing 3300 kilometres in just 23 days and raised approximately \$5000 for SLCS from his trip. By all accounts he had an amazing trip with no disasters or drama’s. Thanks so much to Sam for his amazing effort and to all those who very kindly donated towards his trip. He is now addicted to long distance cycling - so watch this space!!



Long stretch in Namibia



Finish line – Cape Town!!

2007 Developments

Snared animals

I was asked to go and assist with darting a very badly snared elephant in Lower Zambezi during April. The poor bull had obviously had it for some time and was in a lot of pain. We found him in the Zambezi River where he had been spending most of his days soothing and keeping the pressure off his leg.

With the help of ZAWA, Adrian from Conservation Lower Zambezi and his team, we managed to dart and treat the elephant. His wound was particularly horrible and full of maggots (which can be a good thing as long as they are eating dead and not live flesh). Luckily I carried just about every type of drug I had and so was equipped to deal with this. He has been seen a number of times since darting and appears to be slowly but surely recovering. A wound like this would take months and months to heal even just slightly.



Treating the wound.



The Lower Zambezi team getting stuck in.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS



Cha Cha Cha Safaris, Lusaka have recently signed up as new corporate sponsors.

We would also like to thank Chris Fenner of Cha Cha Cha for his kind donation of all the park maps for our new operations room. Thanks to Andy Fenner from Solent Motor Group UK, (www.solentmotorgroup.co.uk) for his very handy donation of four Nokia cell phones for investigations.



African Wild Dog Conservation

Thanks to Kellie Leigh and the African Wild Dog Conservation project for their efforts to support anti-snaring village scouts. SLCS and AWDC are also sharing GIS information.



Many thanks to The Ultimate Travel, UK, for their substantial extra donation to SLCS this year.

My good friend Con Mackey in South Africa for donating his Land Drover Discovery to SLCS.

Christiaan van Woerden and Verenigde Doopsgezinde (Mennonite Church) in Amsterdam for their donation to Uyoba Community School for the construction of a second teacher's house and also for sponsoring one of our volunteer teachers, Geoffrey Chulu, to attend a Teacher's Training course in Chipata, Zambia.

We also had to dart a snared baby elephant and it's mother not too long ago. Unfortunately there was no time to take any pictures as it was late in the evening, close to getting dark and I and the scouts spent most of our time chasing off the rest of the herd. The young calf with a snare was only about one year old so you can imagine how protective the mother and rest of the herd was. All went well in the end and we are confident the little one will be fine.

A snared buffalo was reported at Flat dogs Camp recently. ZAWA Ecologist James Milanzi and I were able to dart him and remove the snare. It was an interesting event as he had a mate with him who promptly attacked him as he was succumbing to the effects of the drugs. His mate flipped him in the air and tried to gore him until we drove him off. The wounds were not bad and he got away pretty lightly. We have seen this behaviour a number of times in different species.

More appreciation to:

- ❖ **Jeremy Pope and Conservation Foundation Zambia for the donated helicopter hours used in May, and for also donating a new laptop and radio equipment to Nyamaluma Training College to help with the scout training program.**
- ❖ **Bob and Jaquie Paul (USA) for their exceptionally generous donation to SLCS for the engagement of consultants BCC.**



Investigations

Justin Gosling is currently working for WSPA (World Society for Protection of Animals) based in their Asia office in Bangkok as Wildlife Programmes Manager. Justin will be coming to Zambia in August to conduct some wildlife investigations training with SLCS and ZAWA. SLCS first met Justin through the Environmental Investigations Agency UK when they conducted two ivory enforcement training workshops in 2006 in Malawi and Zambia. SLCS has had a close working relationship with EIA for the past five years and continue to liaise on current wildlife issues. The training will involve intelligence led enforcement and investigations. The EIA have just produced a campaigns briefing on this called "Upholding The Law" and more about this can be found at <http://www.eia-international.org/cgi/reports/reports.cgi> If anyone would like further information on this type of training please contact Justin at WSPA on justingosling@wspa-asia.org

Securing future funding for SLCS

SLCS appreciates that The Royal Danish Embassy will not be in a position to fund the Society indefinitely. SLCS has taken steps to identify a number of consultants in America who have worked with small projects similar to ours. One in particular, Brodie, Collins and Cherel Associates has been identified and specializes in helping non profit organizations like our own, to build the capacity of our fundraising and communications efforts so that we may continue to achieve our goals and objectives.

The consultants will take SLCS through the process of developing and implementing a fundraising and communications plan that will move it to a new level of effectiveness.

SLCS is indebted to Bob and Jaquie Paul who have very generously provided nearly half of the funds needed to engage the consultants. We cannot thank Bob and Jaquie enough but we can ensure that this will go a long way in sustaining SLCS. We are also extremely grateful to The Royal Danish Embassy for agreeing to allow us to use part of our budget to pay for the rest of the amount needed.

Uyoba Community School continues to grow.....

Uyoba Community School continues to grow and we have completed our first teacher's house. Special thanks must go to Nathalie Boule from Lion Camp for financial support for this project. Our school Headmaster Mr. Malipita has moved in to his new house. The school has also received funding from Val Keight, UK, for a borehole to be purchased and installed at the school. Since last year the school has been drawing water from a nearby well and the new borehole is most welcomed. The school has also been a recipient of a grinding mill donated by ZOCS (Zambia Open Community School's). The grinding mill will enable the school to generate their own money to be used for teacher's salaries and development.



Grade 4 classroom and pupils.



New teachers house at Uyoba.

Volunteers

Progress is being made on the SLCS Volunteers house despite a slow start. Initially, land was restricting the project but a solution has been found not far from the SLCS Base. Property has been identified and renovations are underway to construct a habitable volunteer's house. A minimal fee for monthly rent will be incurred but will be met by the volunteers themselves. SLCS is teaming with organizations in the UK and South Africa who will start sending volunteers to us in the next few months. This will not be a drain on SLCS resources in any way and will in fact be profitable.

Projects identified so far for the volunteers will include chilli fences, Uyoba Community School, local education road shows with presentations and slide shows, GIS and data entry. Volunteers will also have the chance to get involved in ecological surveys and darting activities.

Our first volunteer, Jon Benbow is a friend who will be arriving to help at SLCS in late July. He will be involved in GIS mapping, developing and maintaining data bases for all sections, developing and maintaining our website and teaching SLCS staff member's computer skills.

New partnership with Mkhanya Community Resource Board in Mkhanya Chiefdom

Over the past two years SLCS has supported Mkhanya CRB with the training of their village scouts and has provided scout equipment. We have also provided support to some Mkhanya communities with chilli fence training workshops and materials and treadle pumps.

We are now in the process of extending our support that will include joint village scout programs and incentives for their scouts.

SLCS shirts and caps for sale
We have our first range of SLCS ladies and gent's shirts and caps for sale. They have just come in and are on sale from the SLCS Base and Mfuwe Lodge.
100% of proceeds from these go back to SLCS projects.

That's all for now, more news will be coming soon.
With very best wishes from

All of us at SLCS.