CSL CONSERVATION SOUTH LUANGWA

2017

CSL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

Generously supported in 2016 by the following major_donors:

Luangwa Conservation Community Fund –

Members: Flatdogs Camp, Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe Lodge & the Bushcamp Company, Kafunta Safaris, Remote Africa Safaris, Shenton Safaris, Croc Valley Camp, Lion Camp & Norman Carr Safaris.

From Rachel McRobb

CEO CSL

Dear Partners and friends,

With the wet season firmly behind us and half the year already gone, it's time to send out a CSL newsletter.

The start of 2017 at Conservation South Luangwa brought some new changes including restructuring the organization, the addition of new staff and streamlining operations to maximize outputs. As the organization has expanded over the past few years with a diversification of anti-poaching programs and an increase in anti-poaching scouts, it was necessary to have an independent assessment conducted on our organization to see how we are progressing. We are very grateful to Ian McCallum from the UK Metropolitan Police for spending 6 months with CSL. During this time Ian worked with us to identify areas of improvement, how to restructure the organization and improve results and morale. 6 months in to the new year and we have seen big changes with fantastic results aimed at reducing poaching and supporting a great team. Our overall results as compared to previous years are up almost 30%.

Whilst poaching continues to be a major threat to wildlife in Zambia, our relationship with the Department of National Parks and local communities continue to strengthen, and our combined efforts are making a noticeable difference.

Our Detection Dog team welcomed 2 new dogs this year which also meant additional new handlers to be trained. The dog unit is also expanding to the nearby town of Chipata where a second base is currently under construction.

The 2017 CSL Annual Conservation Fun Run was combined with the final match of the ZCP Carnivore Cup, and was without a doubt the best event we have had so far. Zambia's legendary retired football star Kalusha Bwalya attended the event, and we are thrilled to announce that he has accepted an invitation to become an ambassador for CSL. A big welcome and thank you to Kalusha Bwalya.

We have lots of exciting training programs happening in the next couple of months, including a poisons training workshop in partnership with Endangered Wildlife Trust, SMART training programs in selected DNPW camps in South Luangwa and refresher scout training programs.

None of our work could take place without the valuable donations and grants from all of our donors and friends and we thank you for this. As our important work expands we are in need of additional funding and we hope you may consider signing up to become a CSL member. Thank you for your support.

Flatdogs Camp
South Luangwa National Park · Zambia

MULBERRY MONGOOSE

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Zambian CARNIVORE PROGRAMME

zambia • luangwa • 1995
REMOTE AFRICA Safaris

We are greatly indebted to the following donors and partners for the implementation and running of the detection dog program.

Currant and Rudi

And in dog news……

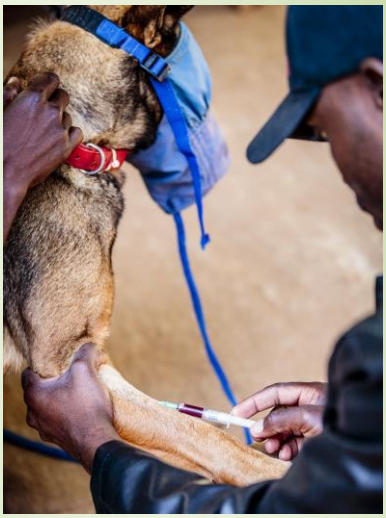
We welcomed Currant and Rudi in early May. Identified and trained in the USA by our fabulous partners Working Dogs for Conservation (WD4C), they made the long journey to Zambia and arrived with big sloppy smiles, and settled in to their new home quickly.

Rudi was given up by his owners who simply could not handle his extremely high energy levels and constant need to play. As a one-and-a-half-year-old, he is still very puppylike but is excelling in his work. Currant was a stray dog found in a shelter in Idaho. She had been hit by a car and needed surgery on her hind leg. Also, still a very young dog, she is still in training but doing well so far.

The team have had great successes and continue to thrive and excel under our WD4C permanent trainer we share with North Luangwa Conservation Project, Benjamin Van Zyl.

It is with great pride that the team was independently assessed by Chris Ayecock from the American Society of Canine Trainers, and all passed this high level international certification. Well done to the team. They have also made progress in tracking and will soon be good to go with a new set of tracking skills.

Update from CSL Veterinary Unit



Apart from wildlife veterinary work, Dr Sichande also monitors the health of our five detection dogs. This includes regular body checks, screening blood for parasites and administering prophylaxis for sleeping sickness.

Sleeping sickness remains a constant challenge in the Luangwa Valley and is one of our biggest threats to the dogs, and so a prophylaxis is given every three months, regular blood smears and tests for disease is done and treatment provided where necessary.

The small CSL veterinary clinic at the base is also where Dr Sichande performs his surgeries including spays, castrations and other operations and also vaccinations for community dogs.

Additional focus on anti-snaring patrols recently has meant more snares being pulled out of the bush and fewer reports of snared animals. However, with people and animals living in such close proximity, it is inevitable that snaring will always be a challenge. Hundreds of snares have already been pulled out this year translating in to hundreds of animals be spared from snares. Animals that are seen and reported to CSL, ZCP and DNPW, usually by safari guides and are attended to by our joint CSL ZCP veterinarian, Dr. Sichande

Successful recovery of a snared wild dog this year. Above she is immobilized and treated for a terrible snare wound, and below two months later completely healed.

Awelys' Red Caps – Solutions to Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, as the human population in Lupande Game Management Area increases so do the levels of human wildlife conflict. Without a ratified land use plan in place for the buffer zones surrounding the national park, conflicts will continue to be a major problem, devastating farmers crops, destroying traditional maize stores and houses and sometimes even loss of life. Human elephant conflict also incites contempt for wildlife and conservation and triggers retaliatory killings at times.

With support from our partners DNPW, Awely and WWF Zambia, CSL's human wildlife conflict mitigation program includes chilli patrols, watch towers and conflict free zones, polywire electric fences, construction of elephant safe grain stores and chilli farming with farmers involved in the conflict mitigation methods.

All conflicts are assessed and recorded by our Red Caps team, entered into a specially designed database and analyzed to determine if conflicts are increasing, where and what methods are or are not working.

After the chilli is harvested and graded, some is kept for mitigation measures and the rest is sold to a very successful Zambian company called Rivonia. In addition to chilli our program includes other elephant friendly products such as turmeric and lemon grass.

2017 Chilli harvest

Watch Towers in our conflict free zone

Elephant Safe Grain Stores

CSL Annual 10km Conservation Fun Run 2017 and ZCP Carnivore Cup

Runners dash off at beginning of the

Kalusha plays with under 15's

This year the CSL annual Conservation Fun Run was combined with the final match of the ZCP Carnivore Cup. Over 5000 people attended the event this year with more than 350 runners all hoping to claim the winner's trophies in various categories.The event was made particularly special this year with the attendance of Zambia's legendary retired football icon Kalusha Bwalya and our Area Member of Parliament Makebi Zulu who both took part in some events. I don't think there is a Zambian who has not heard of 'Kalu'. Also present were other Zambian footballers Emmanuel Mbola, Evans Kangwa and well known sports scout, Joseph Mwala. Winner of the men's 10km and the Chris Fenner Cup was Norman Banda.

Big thanks to our sponsors of the event, the Elephant Charge Zambia, WWF, Columbus Zoo, Mfuwe Lodge and the Bush Camp Company, Royal Air Charters, ZCP and National Geographic Big Cats Initiative.

Area MP, Makebi Zulu competes in the executive relays

CSL Law Enforcement Support

We have seen several changes in our anti-poaching efforts this year. Despite many challenges with inadequate manpower, firearms and transport, we have a very capable and experienced Senior Conservation Officer and Warden in South Luangwa under the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. In CSL's own law enforcement capacity we'd like to welcome George Bell to our team as head of Operations, Lester Dillard as new pilot and GIS / SMART manager and Edwin Siwale (recently retired from DNPW) as Deputy Head of Operations. These additions to the team has enabled operations to run more smoothly and improve results.

Aerial support continues to contribute significantly to our anti-programs and this year our Cessna 180 was flown to South Africa by Les for a new engine as the previous one was nearing the end of its life span. Big thank you to Tusk Trust for funding our new engine.

In 2017 our anti-poaching support so far has contributed 66 long patrols (10 days each), 51 anti-snaring day patrols, 122 hours on aerial surveillance, 105 suspects apprehended, 29 guns recovered and 203 snares removed. Great job to the teams.