



# SLCS NEWS

*July, August, Sept 2009*



Photo by Gero Heine.

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**Welcome** to this edition of SLCS news. Here we are again somehow well on the way towards the end of another year. We have a lot to update you on and I hope you enjoy this latest issue.

As we have documented in the past, this is typically the busiest time of year for SLCS with regards to snare removal and wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. If you take a closer look at the picture above you will notice that this baboon has a snared front hand which appears ready to drop off. No one actually set out to snare this baboon; he is just one of the many unfortunate animals that are indiscriminately affected. His hand eventually did drop off but luckily he will be able to survive without it. I get to see him most days as he lives near my house.

We have been kept busy with darting snared elephants in the past few months and many of them have been sub adults with tight snares around their necks. These snares are routinely set to trap buffalo in the game management areas and the elephants are picking them up when they move out of the park during their nightly crop raiding sprees.

Apart from the SLCS supported scouts who spend many hours conducting anti-snaring patrols, the wild dog anti-snaring team which was jointly created in conjunction with AWDC in 2008 have made a valuable contribution to snare removal in South Luangwa over the past year.



*African Wild Dog  
Conservation*



Anti-snaring team removing a snare

Apart from wild dog conservation, the team has been instrumental in reducing the number of snares that would have potentially trapped and killed hundreds of other species prone to snaring such as elephant, hyaena, lion, buffalo, warthog, bushbuck and other small antelope. Snaring is indiscriminate and if not constantly addressed, is silently capable of wiping out

significant numbers of animals.

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## Elephant news

This young snared elephant (on the left) was reported to us by Robin Pope Safaris a number of times before we were able to get him and his family in an ideal location for darting. He had a pretty tight snare around his neck and was dragging a long cable. We were able to immobilize his mother and him and chase off the rest of the herd. The anti-snaring wild dog team was part of the group who treated him and is now getting valuable experience in this area of work. He has been seen a few times since then and is doing well.



Immobilized mother and calf during snare removal.



We've been spending a lot of time on elephants recently. From darting snared elephants to rescuing a baby orphan and to euthanizing some. This elephant on the left was practically incapacitated and unable to move when he was found inside the park lying down near the Luangwa River. After careful inspection, the decision was made together with ZAWA to euthanize him. After checking him closely, we found five gunshot wounds on him in numerous places; all of the damage was done by home made muzzle loading guns.

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Gunshot wound in lower leg of elephant.

## Update on Tafika



Tafika arrives at night at Chipembele after being rescued. Chodoba, Chamilandu and Tafika rolling around together on the first morning.

Many of you have most likely heard about a baby elephant called Tafika that SLCS rescued a couple of months ago. He was found trapped in a pit in a village a few hours away from us. The poor creature was only about a year old and had been stuck for nearly eight hours by the time we got to him. His family was nowhere to be seen and he was surrounded by a few hundred people. We had no option but to haul him out and take him under our wing as he would not have survived on his own in the wild. Tafika then spent the first month at Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre bonding and being cared for by Gift, a keeper who came to help us from the David Shepherd Elephant Orphanage in Kafue. You will probably remember that we also took two of our

other orphaned elephants, Chamilandu and Chodoba to Kafue in the past two years so we planned for Tafika to join them. Two weeks ago, with the help of Proflight Air charters and support from the Elephant Orphanage and Chipembele, ZAWA head vet Dr. Matandiko and I flew three hours with Tafika to Kafue National Park. He was mildly tranquilized and crated and appeared to endure the journey with total ease thanks to his keeper Gift being close by.

Arrival at the orphanage and introducing Chodoba and Chamilandu to Tafika for the first time was truly a special moment in my life. We were not quite sure what to expect especially from Chodoba as he has become a feisty elephant. After lots of excitement and placing trunks in mouths, the three became firm friends quickly. They are now a tight unit who refuse to be separated and spend their days enjoying long bush walks. Tafika is years away from being weaned so still needs lots of care and attention.

*SLCS is generously supported by*



## Mini Marathon



One of the participants at the finish line.

In August we had our first mini marathon that turned out to be a huge success. Over three hundred people participated in the 10km run and another three hundred were watching. Many cash prizes were won which were generously sponsored by the Luangwa tour operators. The first prize went to a young school boy aged 16. We look forward to next years race and have been assured by the community that we will have double the number of

participants. Arts and crafts were also on display from various schools and individuals and drama competitions and other athletics events also took place.

## In-service refresher scout training

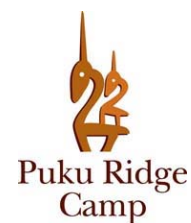
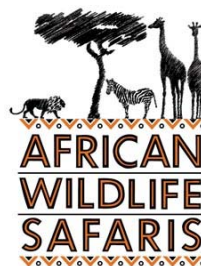
SLCS supported a three week in-service refresher training course for all of the forty Kakumbi village scouts and twenty selected ZAWA scouts. Although all of our scouts have completed an intensive para-military three month training course in the past three years we felt a refresher course was due and essential in order for our work to be effective.



The training took place over a period of six weeks with two separate teams in order for some of the work force to be available for anti-poaching. Among other modules, the course included physical training, musketry, drill, field tactics, field craft, the wildlife police officer and the law and wild life investigations.



LION CAMP



## Law enforcement

**Scout operations** continue to concentrate in the park along the major rivers, towards the escarpment and also in the game management areas. Due to the high extent of snaring at this time of year many patrols have also been focusing on anti-snaring in the GMA's, in particular Kakumbi, Mkhanya and Nsefu Chiefdoms.

### Kakumbi village scout patrols and results for July, August & Sept 2009

Month	Long patrol	Short patrol	Day Patrol	Snares	Suspects	Nets	Firearms	Ammunition	Drying Racks	Elephant mortalities	Ivory	Fishermen removed
July	4	6	12	21	10	nil	4	nil	4	3	5	nil
August	3	5	11	66	6	nil	3	nil	1	1	2	nil
September	1	3	10	39	3	5	1	16	1	2	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>

Elephant mortalities appear to have decreased compared to the first two quarters and recent aerial surveys by ZAWA suggest this to be accurate. Continent wide this is not the case and large consignments of ivory worth millions of dollars continue to be seized in neighbouring countries reportedly bound for the Far East.

## Research collaboration with AWDC



SLCS assisting with hyaena collaring and sampling.

SLCS is expanding its partnership with African Wild Dog Conservation (AWDC) to enhance collaboration and coordination in anti-poaching and wildlife research to benefit conservation. AWDC currently funds SLCS's African Wild Dog Anti-Snaring Team but is also expanding funding for SLCS's anti-poaching work while utilizing ecological data collected from patrols and activities. To further these collaborations AWDC will be funding the creation of an SLCS Wildlife Research

Coordinator responsible for coordinating the data collection between organizations. This position will not only fund the salary of a scout but will also provide them with specialized training in wildlife research techniques, sample collection protocol and database management.

SLCS scouts are also being trained by AWDC in field research and data collection techniques.



## Funding Initiatives

### **Luangwa Conservation & Community Levy (LCCL)**

For many years the safari operators in the Luangwa Valley have been working with the [South Luangwa Conservation Society](#) (SLCS) to ensure continued conservation. They are also running individual educational and conservation programs in the community. To ensure the long term future of these essential projects selected tour operators are introducing a “Conservation & Community Levy” to their rates. This voluntary fee will be added to the invoice and the funds will be split evenly between conservation and community projects. We believe that guests visiting South Luangwa will be satisfied to know they have contributed directly to ensuring the ongoing survival of the wildlife & environment as well as the development of the local community. We are sincerely indebted and grateful to the tour operators in South Luangwa who have been our rock of support.

### **Staff training and capacity building**

In August, SLCS received funding from WSPA (World Society for the protection of animals) for the training of one government vet in wildlife immobilization. Dr. Caroline Mulipukwa who has recently been based in Mfuwe was sent to South Africa for a short course. DR. Mulipukwa will hopefully now be able to assist us with wildlife cases.

SLCS also sent two staff members to South Africa for a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation course. Moffat Phiri and Richard Zulu, both valuable and long standing SLCS members are now certified in this and thoroughly enjoyed their first time out of Zambia.

Before we end, we'd like to express our deepest gratitude to our new members and supporters and all of our ongoing ones.

Jude and Kaye from Australia, Alison Cockerell for her sale of elephant dung cards, Mangomba Safaris and Ahmed Patel for their ongoing donations, Pippa Gauche, Mark and Belinda Wakefield and African Wildlife Safaris – thank you.

Very best wishes from

Rachel and all of us at SLCS.

