



## *July, August and September 2007 Newsletter*

A very warm hello from South Luangwa, we are delighted to be able to share our latest SLCS conservation news with you.

### **Village Scout Graduation Ceremony**

On 7th July, this year's first village scout intake graduated at Nyamaluma Training College. Eighteen exceptionally proud and very smart scouts from Malama, Mkhanya and Mwanya Community Resource Board's (CRB's) received their certificates from the District Commissioner.

The graduation ceremony was well attended by the Honourable Chief Malama, the Office of the President, District Commissioner, Zambia Police, ZAWA, Nyamaluma Principal, CRB's, SLCS and Luangwa Wilderness E.V.

By successfully passing this intense eleven week course, these scouts are now extremely well trained and well equipped to work alongside ZAWA, to safe guard the game management areas surrounding the South Luangwa National Park.

### **2nd Village Scout Training Course 2007**

The 2nd Village Scout Training course for this year commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> July and will end on 13th October. Fifty seven students began the course and with five weeks to go, thirty six students are remaining. Only a handful of students have failed the course so far, and the rest have left voluntarily due to the intense nature of the training. As has previously been mentioned, this is in no way a negative factor and is merely part of rooting out weaker recruits in order to remain with only the suitably fit and strongest law enforcement officers.



New recruits on parade at the graduation day

#### **Inside this newsletter:**

- **Scout Graduation**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Village Scout Training Course**
- **Wildlife Investigation Training**
- **Snaring**
- **Chilli Farming**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **BCC Consultants**

## Wildlife Investigation Training

In August, SLCS had the privilege of working with Justin Gosling on intelligence led investigations for three weeks. Justin works for WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) and is currently based in Bangkok, working to bring to an end to the bear bile farming industry. We first met Justin while he was working on the elephant campaign for the Environmental Investigations Agency (UK) and he has since become a regular advisor to us on investigations.

The three week workshop included many specialized surveillance techniques as well as informer handling and operational planning. Dedicated and potential investigative



Investigations training with J. Gosling.

scouts were identified from SLCS and senior Wildlife Police Officers from ZAWA also attended the training. Overall it was a huge success and the scouts not only benefited greatly from the training but seemed to thoroughly enjoy it as well. We had some very informative practical workshops, and travelled to the nearby town of Chipata where we practiced some of the surveillance techniques in the streets and markets.

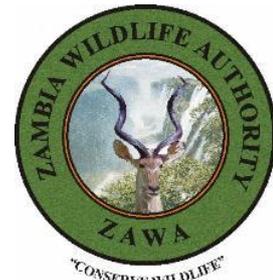
We are now working on implementing direct investigative tactics to combat the bush meat trade which appears to be growing rapidly in our own backyard. We hope the next newsletter will include more details and results from this new improved anti-poaching initiative.

Intelligence-led enforcement is essential to combating wildlife crime in Zambia, and internationally. Wildlife crime is one of the most profitable forms of crime (coming close to drugs and firearms trafficking) facing the world today and is controlled and fuelled by comparatively wealthy individuals. The focus of enforcement agencies must be on these few, in order to protect habitats like the South Luangwa National Park.

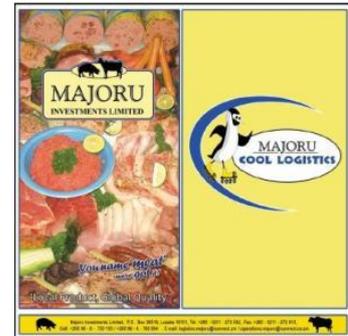
### DNA Sampling Kits

Justine was also able to introduce us to some wildlife DNA sampling kits produced by Wildlife DNA Service UK. The kit has been designed for use by wildlife enforcement officers in cases where a scene of crime officer is unavailable to take samples. It is likely that the kits will prove to be very useful in serious wildlife crime cases.

### Partners in Conservation



SLCS operate under the full support of the Zambia Wildlife Authority.



Majoru Investments  
Lusaka long term  
supporters of SLCS.

### Special thanks to

Jeff Delnickas and Covidien  
Animal Health (USA) for  
their kind donation  
towards the darting kit!

**Snaring**



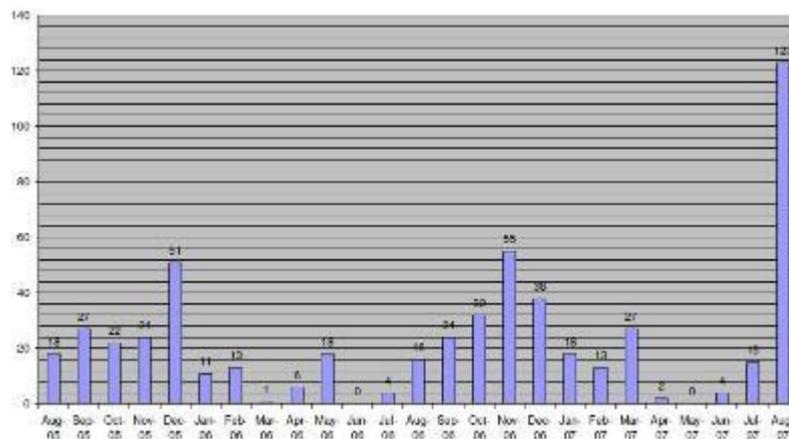
.....continues to affect wildlife numbers inside and outside the South Luangwa National Park. One evening an informant told one of the scouts that there was a young elephant caught in a snare around his neck which was still attached to a tree. The scouts went to the scene and spent the night guarding the elephant until I could come and dart it the following morning. The poor little guy had apparently been there for two days.

Although the snare was tightly round his neck, he did not have any wounds and after watering him down and giving him the antidote, he calmly got

up, gave himself a mud bath and sauntered off. We hope he was able to catch up with his herd who were probably still in the area.

Snaring is on the increase and has recently been alarming. A number of snared elephants and buffalo have been darted and rescued and we continue to pull out countless snares along both sides of the Luangwa River.

Snares removed



**SLCS would like to sincerely thank the following people for their very generous donations towards the running costs of the Society:**

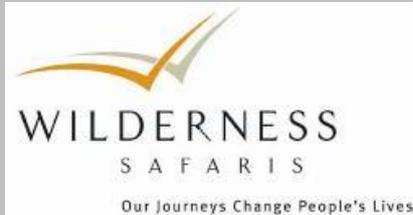
*Nathalie Boulle – for her desperately needed contribution towards salaries. Nathalie has come to our rescue more than once and we are extremely grateful!!*

*Kristina Grace – for her fundraising party in the US and kind-hearted suggestion to donate the proceeds to SLCS.*

*Edelgard and Gero Heine – for their commitment and ongoing donations to SLCS.*

## Chilli farming

### New SLCS Sponsors



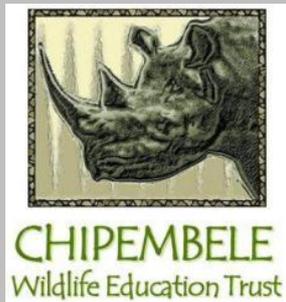
Safari Consultants UK.



Some of our committed  
Partners



Working Hand in Hand



### Chilli Farming Successes

In August, SLCS bought their first consignment of dried chilli from farmers running the Chitilila chilli project. This has been the first time farmers have been able to grow enough chilli for their own use on the chilli fence project and still have some left over to sell.

The production of chilli by these farmers has been made possible by the donation of treadle pumps from Working Hand in Hand in 2006.



A farmer from Chitilila having his chilli weighed

### Chilli Fence Training Workshops at Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre

SLCS's Billy Banda has joined forces with Chipembele Wildlife Education centre for twice weekly sessions in chilli fence training for school children. Chipembele picks up children twice a week from different schools in the area and takes them to the education centre for a day of conservation activities. One of its directors, Anna Tolan asked Billy if he would coordinate some lessons with the children. So far it has been successful and we hope to be able to continue with this program. For more information on Chipembele, please visit their website at [www.chipembele.org](http://www.chipembele.org)

## Law Enforcement

### Village Scout Patrols and Results for July - September 2007.

Month	Long patrol	Short patrol	Day Patrol	Snares	Suspects	Nets	Firearms	Ammunition	Drying Racks	Dead elephant	Ivory	Fishermen removed
July	4	2	12	13	6	4	1	300	2	Nil	2	6
August	5	2	13	123	8	12	6	3	2	1	Nil	12
Sept	3	9	7	9	5	6	Nil	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>

It has been noticed that the majority of riverine areas where snares are collected are directly opposite seasonal fishing camps, and always in areas where fishermen are present. We are now working closely with the local government Department of Fisheries and conduct regular joint anti-fishing operations. With the fisheries representatives present, we are able to legally remove any unlawful fishermen who do not have licenses and also clear illegal fishing camps. Our thanks go to Mr Kampamba from the Department of Fisheries in Mambwe for his support. Unfortunately the pictures below are the reality of the bush meat trade, and this snared puku is one of thousands of different animals that get caught each year.



Snared puku



Dried bush meat ready for the market

### MRT anti-poaching groups – by the Operations Adviser, Alec Cole

Our MRT team has had another successful few months, so much so that ZAWA requested we form another replica team, MRT II.

These groups now keep a regular and coordinated anti-poaching drive along the western escarpment and Mpamadzi river system.

This constant pressure has had an interesting effect on the behaviour of the poachers.

Typically poaching gangs' number between six and ten individuals. In the last months we have seen these smaller groups banding together to form larger groups.

The largest to date was thirty six individuals. This sounds quite alarming, but in fact is a good step forward and indicates we are having a major effect this year.

The clue that this is a positive result can be found from the behaviour of wildlife itself.

When herbivores are under constant threat, whether it is from natural predation or manmade pressure, the animals will in times of extreme stress begin form larger herds.

It is ironic that the poachers themselves are adopting the same response to the anti-poaching pressure. Let's hope the next step in the evolution of poaching parallels the wildlife one as well.....extinction.

Elsewhere we continue to battle against high levels of snaring and illegal hunting in the GMA. The bush meat industry is growing daily and the recent road repairs to the Chipata road have seen an increase in traffic to the valley. This can only fuel the market places and demand for bush meat.

### **Aerial Support from Conservation Foundation Zambia**

An enormous thanks once again to Conservation Foundation Zambia, Jeremy Pope and Barney O'Hara for the donated helicopter hours made available to ZAWA and SLCS for anti-poaching surveillance and patrol deployments. As usual this proved invaluable in dropping far off patrols, assisting with training deployments and also allowing for much needed aerial assessment.



**One of many brick burning kilns with hundreds of poles for burning**



**The area surrounding the kilns**

Apart from identifying and marking some year round water holes and spotting a handful of poacher's camps, we were stunned to observe the number of brick burning kilns. In one area (quite well hidden from the general public) we came across at least six different set ups, each with at least four to five burning kilns, some of these appeared to be three stories high. The deforestation surrounding these areas is extremely alarming but at least it can be addressed by the Forestry Department now that they are aware of the situation.

### **BCC Consultants**

A representative from BCC & Associates in the United States travelled to Zambia in August, to become more closely acquainted with the SLCS team and see in detail how the organization works. A SWOT analysis has already been undertaken and valuable insights have arisen. Currently we are in Phase II of the process which includes funding, outreach and messaging. We are very excited about the future possibilities with BCC and are looking forward to working through the upcoming phases.

On that note we shall sign off by saying thank you to all our supporters who continue to make SLCS and all of the successes we have possible.

*With best wishes from  
The SLCS team.*