

CSL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



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Safaris, Croc Valley Camp, Lion
Camp & Norman Carr Safaris.



From Rachel McRobb

CEO CSL



To all our friends, donors and partners,

Yet again I must start off by apologizing for the late newsletter this year, there was simply too much going on for me to be able to keep up with them. However, we should have some new staff in place next year so news will flow faster.

It's been an extraordinary year with many ups and down, successes, failures and challenges, but most inspiring of all is our team at CSL who continue to put in so much effort, regularly risking their lives to protect Zambia's wildlife. We are entering our 14th year working in South Luangwa and are proud to say that our contributions and your donations have had a significant impact on wildlife and habitat protection, and people's lives.

Earlier this year SLCS rebranded and has become **Conservation South Luangwa**. As the conservation world and public at large become more vested in wildlife and environmental affairs, it was time to set a new face for SLCS, however our core functions and goals remain the same. With our rebranding also came a new website, www.cslzambia.org. We would like to thank our friends at Grey in London and Africa Hope Fund in the USA for all their donated time and expertise on these projects.

Elephant poaching and wildlife trafficking is still on the increase in Zambia and sadly, although not surprisingly, Luangwa's elephants are not being spared. Most worryingly is the new and increasing use of poisoning to poach birds and elephants with fatal losses to carnivores as well. With current wildlife losses, greater than they have been in the past decade, it has been necessary for CSL to increase its support to DPNW and with new initiatives and potential support, we intend to do more next year.

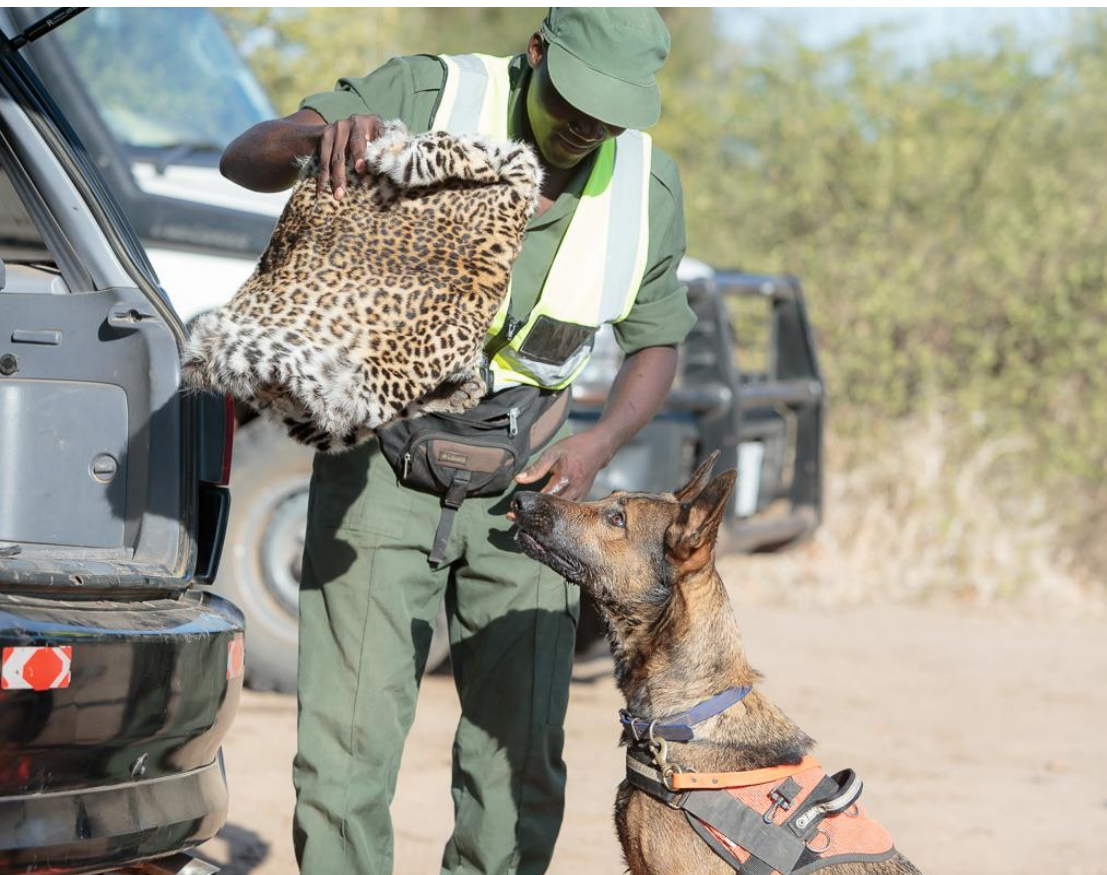
Our detection dog unit known as Delta has been fully operational for two years now, and their level of success and care for their dogs still astounds me and makes me proud. The unit has been responsible for over 23 arrests and 15 firearms, multiple pieces of ivory, bushmeat, illegal wood, pangolins and leopard skins were confiscated this year alone.

Much more news follows in this newsletter and we hope you enjoying catching up with our work this year. On behalf of CSL thank you all so much for your tireless support to conservation and helping us fight to protect South Luangwa.

Rachel



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



Update from the South Luangwa Canine Unit

It's been over two years since we started Zambia's first wildlife detection dog unit. We currently have three dogs, Ruger, Chai and her brother Earl. Despite many initial setbacks and challenges, we feel we have a firm grip on the dog's welfare, disease prevention and work.

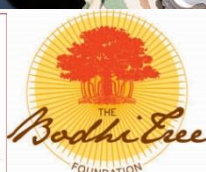
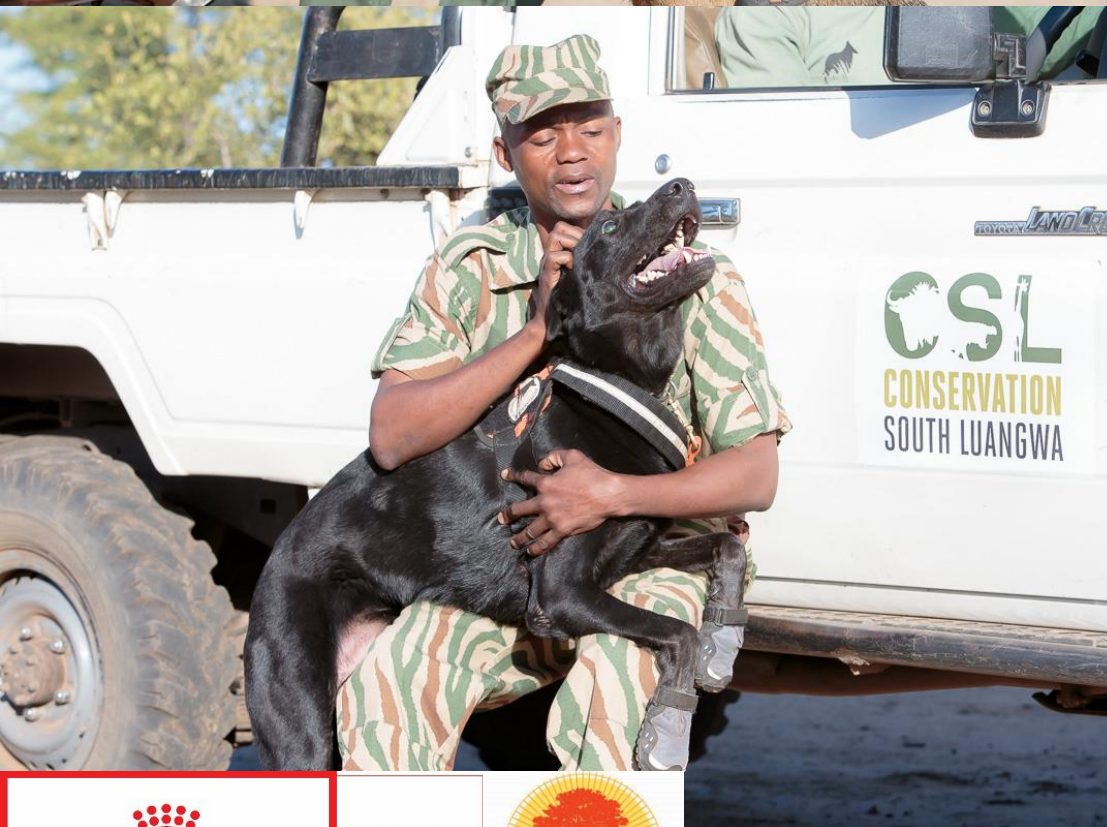
In 2016 alone the team has arrested 23 suspects, confiscated 15 firearms, 8 pairs of ivory, confiscated two vehicles, a truck, bicycles, live pangolins, 32 mukula logs and over 100kg's of bushmeat.

Looking forward, in 2017 we will receive two new fully trained dogs from our partners, WD4C and all five dogs will also be fully trained in tracking skills.

Currently our three dogs are primarily detection dogs trained on the odours of firearms, ammunition, ivory, pangolin, bush meat, leopard skins and certain species of bushmeat. In 2016 they started tracking and will become skilled next year with the expert training of Chris Ayecock, one of the top tracking specialists in the US.

We would also like to welcome Benjamin Van Zyl to the Delta team. Benjamin has a long history in detection and tracking work with dogs all over the world and has been commissioned and funded by WD4C to oversee North and South Luangwa dog programs. We look forward to having his skills and expertise right on our doorstep.

None of our dog work would be possible without the expertise, support and partnership of Working Dogs for Conservation.



Update from CSL Veterinary Unit

CSL and ZCP continue to provide the only full time veterinary presence in the Luangwa Valley for both wildlife and domestic animals. As part of our veterinary work, Dr Sichande is also on hand to ensure the welfare, health and general level of fitness in the detection dogs is monitored.

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 in Mfuwe has quickly become the only veterinary clinic in Mambwe District where domestic animal owners can have their animals attended to. When he is not in the field conducting wildlife work Dr Sichande is readily available to attend to various cases and this year has been involved in patients with snake bites, broken limbs, punctured organs, eye enucleations, micro chipping, poisoning, diseases including Parvo virus, TVT and sleeping sickness and has also performed multiple surgeries.

Under his wing now is Fitzgerald Mukumbi who is a 3rd year vet student at UNZA who conducts all his practical's and spend his time off with CSL and ZCP gaining valuable practical veterinary experience. Dr Sichande below.



Wire-snaring poaching continues to be the most immediate and gravest threat to a number of iconic species found in the Luangwa Valley including the African wild dog, lion, Thornicroft's giraffe and elephant. CSL and Zambia Carnivore Program's (ZCP) joint wildlife rescue veterinary teams continue to provide the only veterinary rescue abilities in South Luangwa. Our joint work with ZCP researchers tracking collared wild dog packs and lion prides helps us to monitor any snared or recovering animals. On multiple occasions, only



because of our collaborative work with the use of our co-owned aircraft, intensive tracking of collared animals by ZCP and expert personnel offered by CSL, many snared dogs and lions have been able to be rescued.

A new and emerging threat to wildlife in the Luangwa is poisoning, with several hundred crowned cranes and vultures already fallen victim, as well as multiple elephants and over a dozen hyena. The combined efforts of CSL, ZCP and DNPW (led by Dr Sichande) in August 2016 saved nearly 30 lions of the iconic Big Pride in South Luangwa National Park who had been feeding on a poisoned elephant carcass. A 20-hour rescue operation ensured no hyaenas or vultures were killed either.

In 2016 CSL in partnership with DPNW and ZCP have immobilized and rescued the following snared animals;

3 giraffes, 2 wild dogs, 3 hyaena, 4 lions, 1 leopard, 3 elephants. In addition seven confiscated pangolins have been checked and released in to the safety of the national park.

Visitors and Fundraisers. We receive many visitors on an annual basis and this year some of our visitors included the following (there were many more however);



Michelle Gadd, **African Elephant Programs Officer USFW** Services visited CSL with Winnie Kiiru, from Stop Ivory visited. USFW have been large donors of CSL for the past 6 years and continue to provide much needed support for law enforcement work.



Staunch supporters of CSL's veterinary and aerial surveillance work, **Dazzle Africa** brought over a specialized tour group in 2016 that largely contributed to our programs and sponsored several aspiring important students, one who is in vet school and one who is undertaking prosecutions training.



Painted Dog Inc's unwavering support over the past eight years has had great impacts on wild dog conservation. In February 2016, the CEO's of ZCP and CSL were flown to Perth for a wild dog fundraiser to support the ongoing critical work of both organizations to protect wild dogs. John and Ange will be hosting a tour group in 2017 to help raise additional funds for our work.



Africa Hope Fund continues to fund and support CSL in so many ways. Safari on the River, held in Sacramento California this year was attended by both the CSL CEO and Operations Manager. It was a huge success raising close to \$100,000 for conservation. Africa Hope Fund also coordinated the design and hosting of our fabulous new website and provide important ongoing quickbooks training.

Rachel McRobb was nominated and shortlisted as one of three finalists for Tusks' Conservation Award in Africa, 2016. A glamorous event held in London at the V&A Museum in November highlighted and paid honour to individuals dedicating their lives to wildlife conservation. Cathy Dreyer deservedly won this award but CSL are extremely proud to have their CEO nominated and shortlisted and her work highlighted in the presence of Sir David Attenborough and HRH The Duke of Cambridge.



Awelys' Red Caps – Solutions to Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Chilli patrols protecting farms and villages

In the villages of Lupande GMA elephants cause a substantial amount of losses due to crop raiding and property damages. In collaboration with CSL the Awely Red Caps with financial support from Awely and WWF help communities to protect their fields and granaries from elephants. One of the multiple techniques used are the chilli-bombers. With these devices ping-pong balls filled with a chilli-oil extract are shot at elephants. Hitting the elephants body, the ball cracks open and the oil disperses on the elephant. When elephants touch it with their trunk, to check what has caused the pain, they will smell the chilli and run off. In the past years' this strategy has been used to systematically chase away elephants from farming areas and villages. With the chilli bombers only ping-pong balls can be shot, which makes them resistant to abuse for poaching.

In the past months, a new step forwards has been achieved by Awely to optimize the chilli bombers. Together with the Technical University (TU) of Darmstadt and the Julius Kühn Institute, Germany the chilli bombers were re-designed to make them work independently from electricity and more reliable than former versions. It can be produced low cost and the Red Caps were trained on how to construct, repair and maintain the chilli bombers on their own. This new device was introduced to the 20 chilli patrols in a full days training and will be used in this rainy season to protect fields from hungry visitors. Within the next weeks' MA student Eva Gryglewicz from TU Darmstadt will follow up on the use of the chilli patrols and evaluate technical as well as socio-economic aspects of the use of the chilli bombers.





CSL Annual Conservation Fun Run 2016

The 8th CSL annual 10km Fun Run, funded by Zambia's Elephant Charge, was held in June in Mfuwe. This was also the 2nd year of holding the Chris Fenner Conservation Cup. Chris's parent, Carol and Mike made the journey all the way from England to come and present the cup to the winner who was Bernard Bwalya (again!!).

The Fun Run would not be possible without the efforts and organizing by Graph Evans and his team and Benson Kanyembo and his team of scouts who smoothly run the day's events including security, all sports events (10km's, relays, volleyball, netball, football, tug of war), prize giving and hosting of dignitaries including Chief's, District Commissioner, Education Boards and others. Thank you as always to all the lodges for their support for prizes for the events and also for running and taking part in events. The Fun Run is not a CSL fundraiser, on the contrary it is our way of giving back to the community and is a great day of fun attracting over 3000 people.



Law Enforcement Update – Benson Kanyembo



2016 has been a tough year for wildlife all over the continent. Anyone reading this with an interest in conservation, will know that we are back to where we were with elephants over a decade ago and that the situation is getting critical, pangolins are no better off and we have never witnessed the number trafficked as we have this past year. The Luangwa Valley continues to be hit and the sight of a dead elephant is not uncommon and being in a strategic location, close to borders, it is easy to move ivory from the protected areas to outside countries. We need to put every effort into improving anti-poaching, supporting DNPW's efforts and protecting our national heritage before it is too late.

I am very proud of my officers at CSL, they continue to fight this battle with passion and real dedication and I urge them to continue doing so next year, as we expect it to be another hard year. However, we are behind them all to support and lead and help where we can.



The two Chiefdoms where we are supporting village scouts, Kakumbi and Malama have managed to conduct 131 x 10 day long patrols this year, 172 day patrols, 18 short patrols with results including 319 snares, apprehend 127 suspects and confiscate 28 illegal firearms. This does not include additional efforts from the Delta Detection Dog Unit.



Focus on Investigations and Intelligence work also continues to harvest excellent results but not surprisingly, we cannot share any more information on this section other than a large amount of investment is being made on training and skills building, partnerships and sharing and procurement of equipment. An extremely important training workshop was conducted this year by Andre



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Botha from Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) on wildlife poisoning. In attendance were wildlife managers, investigators and ecologists. This has been invaluable to our work this year and has helped in the rescue of many animals in addition to apprehending suspects involved.



Time to say good bye

Derick Lombard, the CSL / ZCP conservation pilot has been with us for two years and has been an outstanding pilot. Not only has he taken our flying program to another level by working extremely closely with scouts and patrols, he has also managed our SMART database for the past year and a half, fully implementing the program as part of our monitoring. We will miss Derick as he leaves to further his flying career and hope that one day he will be back to fly during his

retirement. At the same time, we welcome Lester Dillard as our joint new pilot and SMART / GIS specialist and look forward to a new year.

I would like to thank all our donors who without their support, none of our anti-poaching work would be possible. In particular, USFW, Vulcan, Painted Dog Inc, Tusk Trust, Africa Hope Fund, LCCF, Columbus Zoo, Taronga Foundation, Elephant Charge, Dazzle Africa and Mulberry Mongoose.



Lastly, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and many good wishes for 2017.

Don't forget to look at our website www.cslzambia.org if you would like to make an online Christmas donation to help protect the Luangwa Valley next year.

Very best wishes from

Rachel and everyone at CSL.