

Conservation Lower Zambezi
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Newsletter

June — August 2006



Greetings from CLZ

With the busy season well and truly upon us it's time for a CLZ update on operations for June, July and August..

At the beginning of June I was hobbling around like an old woman trying to get back into the swing of things after the appendix operation. Luckily I had my folks over on a visit from the UK, so I was well looked after by my mum.

As the bush finally dried out after the heavy rains, and the vegetation became sparse, the animals started showing themselves again. Special sightings were of Wild dog which were seen in July in the Jeki area and in August on Nkhalange Plain and the Chongwe River. There have been good lion and leopard sightings in the Park, where Chiawa Camp saw 4 different leopards in one day! The Chongwe River has also been host to a pair of leopards, which the Musikili School group had the fortune of seeing on their annual visit to the Lower Zambezi.



Photo by Jo DuPlessis of Chiawa Camp

ZAWA AND CLZ SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On 6th August, after many drafts and redrafts over the past few years, a Memorandum of Understanding between CLZ and ZAWA was signed. It is good news all round that the working relationship between CLZ and ZAWA has now been formalised. CLZ looks forward to further building bridges with ZAWA and will be putting all efforts into fundraising for conservation law enforcement to better support ZAWA in it's difficult task to protect the National Park and surrounding areas.

SHARING RESOURCES IN THE CONSERVATION ARENA

Kellie from African Wilddog Conservation Society (AWDC) and Anna from Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre in Luangwa, visited us at the base camp. Anna was pleased to see that the CLZ Interpretive centre, which is based on the Chipembele model is being used to its full potential. The exchange of ideas for Environmental Education proved to be very useful and such organisational linkages are vital if we are to consider the bigger picture of conservation in Zambia. CLZ will be disseminating AWDC educational resource packs within our area of operations in a hope to help better protect the Wild dog

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME (EEP)

Ernest and Dick have been busy out and about with the Mobile Unit in all CLZ's areas of operation, including Chiawa and Rufunsa GMA's and Chongwe and Luangwa open areas. Conservation Clubs have now successfully been set up in all 40 of CLZ's contact schools, with membership ranging from 10 to 50 children. During June and July 84 children, 21 teach-

ers and 12 CRB members came on 3 day field trips to the Centre.



Out on Mobile:: Water conservation training for children of Chiawa GMA

June - Nzou Centre Visits

June saw the undertaking of some hard work in the field, trying to facilitate the setting up of a Community Resource Board (CRB) in the Chongwe Area. The Mobile Unit (MU) also embarked on Outreach into schools in the Chiawa GMA.

Groups of children from Chiawa and Chongwe schools came to stay at the CLZ Nzou Education Centre. The children amongst other activities also enjoyed a game drive into the National Park and a boat cruise on the Zambezi River as part of CLZ's effort to raise conservation awareness.

Activity sheets for the colourful mural, which was completed by local school children in the centre in

May, have been developed and are being used when the school children visit. This interactive learning is an excellent tool for children.

July –Training the Trainers

The MU went out into Rufunsa and Luangwa schools, working with conservation clubs members. The Nzou Centre was busy with children from Chiawa GMA. In an effort to sustain the EEP when not out on mobile, teachers from Luangwa/Rufunsa came to the centre for a ‘training the trainers’ materials appreciation course. Training in sustainable resource management was also conducted for Chiawa CRB.



Teachers from, contact schools receive resource training packs

A **World Expeditions** group, who through the Mugurameno Basic School Trust and Kasaka River

Lodge had spent a week building a playground and decorating the Mugurameno School came to CLZ for one night. Their new-found group skills were tested to the max, when Ernest gave them a role-play to do on ‘conflict at the watering hole’.

CLZ TRUCK BREAKS DOWN

Unfortunately at the end of July the 4x4 truck for which CLZ is reliant on to bring children into the centre broke down on rough roads in the Chiawa area. All EEP activities were converted into outreach with the MU land cruiser. CLZ needs to raise USD12,000 to get it back on the road again.

August - Tree Planting

The CLZ MU linked with the Rufunsa Forestry Department to carry out a hands on tree-planting programme with our Rufunsa and Luangwa contact schools. The Chiawa Resource Management Committee came to the centre for sustainability training.

Time was also spent developing an EEP evaluation questionnaire which looks at attitudes and values towards natural resource management in the CLZ operational

areas.

SIDECOLE HIV/AIDS charity continue their support

Sidecole has continued their support into 2006 for HIV/AIDS information dissemination, which as a cross cutting issue CLZ recognises as an integral part to developmental work in Zambia.

ZAWA & ANTIPOACHING

Changes within the LZMU

The Lower Zambezi Management Unit has experienced some personnel changes to recently. We wish the Area Warden, Mr. Nyambe every success with his move to Kafue NP and welcome his replacement Mr. Kashitu, who in August was arranging transport to move himself and his family to Chirundu.

The former Operations Ranger, Jassiel Musoka has been busy in his new position as Wildlife Ecologist for LZNP, since Rhoda left for her study placement in Sweden. We have seen him working through the night with AWDC's Kellie carrying out hyena population surveys.

Manpower shortages effects results in the field...

The shortage of man-power within the unit and the timely change over

of management has sadly lead to reduced patrol man days and poor results in the field. But CLZ and ZAWA have been working hard despite such difficulties...

Notes from the field

June

SWPO Maziya Banda whilst patrolling with village scouts up the Chongwe River above the Falls, found 2 poachers camps and numerous fishing camps. He reported that the camps were at least 2-3 months old and were likely to be from the wet season....an area to be monitored this rains.

After reports from Anatree Lodge of fires and 1 heavy calibre shot in the Musensenshi river area, Ruloph from Old Mondorro assisted Torando team with transport from the Chakwenga confluence into the area. The team got onto the trail of 2 groups of poacher's and Anatree assisted in moving the team further up the river but unfortunately no contacts were made. All in all there were 4 poaching incidents reported throughout the month and CLZ supported 180 patrol-man days with Torando and the team lead by Maziya Banda

July – the 'silent gun'

On 11th July, whilst Sierra 3 was

moving Buffalo 1 into the area where Sausage Tree Camp reported 2 gunshots earlier that morning, their game drive vehicle found the horrific results; a fresh elephant carcass at Twin Baobab. The team followed the tracks for several hours, hot on the poachers heels but eventually lost their trail in the foothills. The poachers got away with ivory and meat.

The 'silent gun', which is the name given to a wire snare set by poachers, claimed the life of an elephant, which was found by Chiawa Camp's staff at Paulwe Junction. Snaring is a big problem in both the NP and the GMA and over 80 snares were collected during a sweep through the Zambezia Wildlife Sanctuary. Several reports were also made about a hyena with a snare on Nkalande Plain. Attempts to find it whilst there was a wildlife vet in the area failed.

Ruloph, our star reporter of poaching activities, found several old poachers camps, whilst on game viewing activities, some which had tin plates hanging in the trees, which are thought to be markers for return use.

August Ambushes

On the night of 3rd Lion 2 were

placed into ambush position up the Chiawa Riverbed after gunshots were reported around sunset. Equiped with CLZ's night vision binoculars and after several hours of tense waiting, the team had a successful contact at 1:00am and recovered one shotgun as well as warthog meat. Well done to Lion 2.

In July, CLZ with the escort scout from STC investigated an elephant with a bullet wound in its head. The advice from wildlife vet Dr. Parsons, was that nothing could be done in this case and sadly it was found dead this month. In addition two poached elephants and one hippo was found in the park this month. The 'silent gun' struck again, this time on a baby elephant, which died on the Chongwe River,



Poached Hippo carcass in LZNP

just three days after it first being seen. Zebra team from Luanagwa apprehended two Zimbabweans

for illegal fishing and entry into Zambia and the LZNP. CLZ assisted with fuel to transport suspects to Chirundu for prosecution.

After receiving reports of five gunshots from game drives in the Sunset area of the NP, Sierra 1 and Sierra 3 deployed Tornado team into an ambush. It is often difficult to

pinpoint the exact location of gunshots and unfortunately this time the ambush position was misplaced and the poachers escaped.

CLZ supported the ZAWA with all 3 teams in the park giving a total of 240 patrol man days in August.

RESEARCH ON LOWER ZAMBEZI ELEPHANT MOVEMENTS COME TO AN END

The two-year elephant movement research project in the Lower Zambezi valley, conducted by the University of Pretoria in conjunction with ZAWA came to an end in August. The team made CLZ their base whilst



they darted and removed the radio and satellite tracking collars from all five elephants. The research is part of a larger assessment of seasonal home-range use by elephants in seven areas across Southern Africa. It is in conjunction with the Peace Parks initiative of Transfrontier Conservation Areas.

To find out more take a look at the Elephant Home Range

Report on the University of Pretoria website <http://www.up.ac.za/academic/zoology/ceru/Home.htm>

Above: Dr. Parsons gives elephant reversal drug after collar is removed

Left: WPO Kenneth Wakumelo with elephant collar



LOWER ZAMBEZI SAFARI GUIDES EXAMS

I had the pleasure of joining examiner Roddy Smith and exam candidates, for my first trip down the Chifungulu Channel. And what a tranquil and exciting experience. The gently drifting waters offer new sights at each turn of the bank with birdlife and game, and hippos hiding in carpets of water hyacinth. The egret just manages to keep dry on the back of the Buffalo with only his head and shoulders out of the water. A guest in their world,



you can almost feel their eyes following you as you float past. Maybe even the leopard, or the lioness and her cubs are watching...

Congratulations to Victor Kanzala, Levy Cheebwe, Sebastian Sande and Weston Josiya who resat their driving practical exam this year and passed. Well done to Steve Carey for obtaining the high-

est marks all round and for Sebastian who now qualifies as a canoe guide. During these busy safari months, it's not been easy for senior examiners to find free time to carry out the practical exams and we are grateful to their efforts.

NYAMANGWE FISHERMAN EVICTION

In June CLZ and operators assisted the CRB, ZAWA and the Police with transport for the eviction of the Nyamangwe fisherman. There were over 50 people with 11 dugouts and 2 banana boats from the area. The majority of fisherman were not from this area and were from as far away as the Copperbelt. It is of concern that this issue will continue to be a problem and CLZ hopes that between the Operators, the Community and ZAWA a longer lasting solution can be worked out.

HOLLERING FOR HYENA

“Squeeling pig, distressed buffalo calf, and hyenas on a kill played at mega decibels... wanna come play in the park?” was the invite we received from Kellie and Martyn from AWDC! How could we refuse such an of-

fer? It's all part of the ongoing research Kellie is doing on the Wild Dog. Gone are the days when you look for the subject, just play the tape, sit back and wait for them to come to you! Skittish but unable to resist this (loud!) cacophony of calls, hyenas come in from up to 5kms away. Carried out at various throughout the park and as far up as Kayila airstrip, we look forward to hearing the feedback of the 'hyena call ins'. Check out::

<http://www.awdczambia.org/ProjectUpdates.htm>

MINISTER OF TOURISM VISITS LZNP

In July the Minister of Tourism visited the LZNP. During the visit CLZ facilitated a meeting at CLZ Base camp, with the Ministerial party, Zambia National Tourism Board, Zambia Tourism Council, Tour operators, officials from ZAWA and members of the Press.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLZ

Firstly thank you to Jerry Carbin of Chakanaka and Mark Burton of Chiawa Estates for lending equipment to tow the CLZ truck when it broke down and for Kanyemba for parking whilst the engine is in Lusaka..

We had some nice donations to the EEP: **Marilyn Chase**, a repeat Chiawa Camp client and avid supporter of CLZ donated a laminator and wildlife DVDs for the EEC. Ernest and Paul have been putting the laminator to use making new labels and signs for the Interpretive Centre. **Linda & Clyde** (Anna's mum and dad!) donated an interactive CR-Rom for the Safari Guides Training Programme and some DVDs for the Mobile Unit.

The **Royal Danish Embassy** sent additional support our way in the form of 3 Pc's for the centre.

Thanks to the **Abrahams Foundation** for a USD5,000 donation in towards Antipoaching operations, which came through **Chongwe River Camp**. Thanks Chris for the sterling efforts and for **Kasaka River Lodge** or collecting USD300 through their donation box.

A call to all Lower Zambezi Tour Operators....

CLZ needs YOUR support to continue it's work to protect the wildlife and habitat in the area in which YOU operate. Please support us with membership subs of only USD1,200 per year. It's in YOUR interest too.