

Conservation Lower Zambezi  
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ZAMBIA

# Newsletter

March - November 2007



## Greetings from CLZ

So with the rains almost upon us once again, the bush has already started to liven up... glossy green leaves, plump pregnant impalas, and cicada beetles screaming that Christmas is almost here.

It's been a great year in the Lower Zambezi Valley, on safari there has been some spectacular sightings of leopard, especially on the Chongwe River and at CLZ we have been kept extremely busy with operations on the ground.

### Chongwe River Leopard

(Photo: Lindsay Hovell)



## The Story of Zamma

Many of you will know the story of Zamma, the orphan elephant who was in CLZ's care since May...for those of you who don't here's an update:

Zamma had been alone and was rapidly deteriorating when Chongwe River Camp found him. After days of monitoring to see if he would be taken up by another herd and with the full support of ZAWA CLZ took him in to care for him whilst a suitable permanent solution was found.

You may ask why? Why interfere?

What was the alternative? Without a mother to give him the milk he was going to need for the next 18 months of his life, he was going to die.

Feeding on 2 litres of baby infant milk formula every 2 hours day and night, Zamma became an ex-



tremely time consuming project with full time staff dedicated to his care.

### **The latest chapter...**

The decision was made to move Zamma to the Elephant Orphanage and Reintroduction Programme recently established by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF) in Kafue National Park. Zamma was going to join a 6 year old elephant called Phoenix and Chidoba, a younger orphan from South Luangwa. After weeks and even months of planning everything finally came together. The weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup> October was at



last upon us where Zamma would be moved by air, a journey of just one and a half hours compared to the 20+ hours it would take by road.

The day before the move was a busy one at CLZ, Salomie, Damien and Kira set about painting the crate that Zamma would be transported in. A crate, which had taken careful design by pilots Glen and Angus to fit into Proflight's plane. A few tins of old paint and some imagination saw the crate transformed. Up until then I had remained practical about the whole 'Zamma exercise' I had seen our part as one of a need to save his life and keep him healthy until such time there was a suitable place to move him onto.



Well...that façade all came crashing down when I saw what the kids had painted...thought, care and that child-like perception tipped me off balance, the message painted on the inside of the door

“so Zamma can have courage while he’s inside” 11 year old Salomie explained was...

**“when you’re legs are tired your heart will take you to the finish”**

One shouldn’t humanize animals, I know, but after 4 months of caring for Zamma I have come to think of elephants as particularly special animals.

Up bright and early, Adrian, myself and our team set about finalizing the logistics for the journey ahead, including all Zamma’s belongings and feedings items. Once we knew the plane had landed we started the daunting task of getting him into his crate, onto the back of the Land Cruiser and off to the airstrip, 15 minutes away. Zamma didn’t need any sedatives but everyone joked that they’d save them for me instead...to calm my nerves! That wasn’t a joke!



Zamma behaved extremely well whilst his keeper Josiya was in the crate and only became restless when the time came to load him into the back of the plane. Quite a crowd had gathered to watch Prof-light’s passenger take off. It took two attempts; attempt one saw the plane being shaken around as it taxied onto the strip. Zamma had broken his head through the end of the crate to have contact with Josiya! A quick trip to Kasaka and a piece of plyboard saw a successful second attempt.



A radio call from an air-borne Adrian let everybody know Zamma was fine and they were proceeding to Kafue N.P. It was a long evening back at CLZ but I’m happy to be able to say it was a success and Zamma walked out of his crate the other end as if nothing had ever

happened. Zamma will be dependent on milk for another 18 months and will be cared for at the orphanage. He will be encouraged to integrate with Phoenix, Chodoba and other orphan Chamilandu, being moved from South Luangwa any time soon.



The star of the show was of course Zamma, but thanks must be given to all those who have given their time and money to support CLZ in caring for Zamma. Thanks to Prof-flight for allowing Zamma on board as a passenger, and their pilots Glen, Angus, Louis and Jehan. Also to Star of Africa for their donation towards the cost of the air charter, the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation (DSWF), Munda

Wanga and the folks in Lusaka for donations of milk formula. Thanks also to the Lower Zambezi tour operators who encouraged their clients to make contributions towards Zamma's upkeep.

CLZ is still looking for donations to the value of US\$1,200 to cover the balance of the air charter. If anyone can help, please get in touch. Any donations towards his longer-term care should be sent DSF.

### **Anti-Poaching Update**

CLZ welcomes the new ZAWA Area Warden, Mr. Simushi and Ranger of Operations Mr. Soko who have arrived in Chirundu during the last few months. Mr. Soko and CLZ have already been working closely to curb the poaching in the Lower Zambezi.

Unfortunately our data shows that elephant poaching specifically, has dramatically increased to its highest levels since 2002. Between January and November, 25 elephants have been poached, 22 of those in the National Park. This shows a 127% increase from 2006! Despite this the patrols teams have been working hard in the field and have successfully intercepted 16 poaching groups.

Anti-poaching Efforts by  
ZAWA Wildlife Police Officers



Scouts with Mealie Meal  
Incentive



Poached Elephant Carcass on  
Nkhalange Plain, LZNP

Patrol team successes include,  
ivory, weapons, wire snares and  
dried meat.



CLZ has continued its support to ZAWA in the form of patrol deployments, rations, communications, coordination, and patrol equipment. The table below illustrates some of the major data collected and the support CLZ has given to ZAWA for conservation law enforcement.

2007	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
CLZ supported patrol-man-days	470	414	282	168	240	441	215	376	502	441
Poached elephants	2	0	3	1	0	3	5	6	3	2
Patrol Successes	2	0	4	0	1	2	1	3	3	0
Patrol Team Recoveries	1 ML 2 R 3 S	0	8 T 1 ML 2 SG	4 ML 3 SG 1 R 51 S	2 T 1 R	5 T 1 AK	5 T	2 T 1 R 61 S	2 T 2 ML 1 R 21 S	4 T
CLZ Vehicle Support (km)	405	322	1053	3557	1699	2348	1177	2357	2051	2158
CLZ Ration packs support	2	1	2	1	3.5	3	3.5	3.5	1	1.5

**KEY:**

- T: Elephant Tusks
- ML: Muzzle-loading gun
- SG: Shot Gun
- R: .Heavy caliber Rifle
- AK: AK-47
- S: Wire Snares

**Ndeke News:**  
 CLZ's plane 'Bluebird' conducted 37 hours of Anti-poaching surveys for ZAWA between March and November this year

## Snare Removals

CLZ has facilitated three elephant snare removals this year. With Adrian still waiting for authorization to carry out the darting we have been fortunate enough to be able to call on Rachel from SLCS and Dr. Parsons at short notice.

I realized that the whole process from monitoring the affected animal whilst all the logistics are organised through to giving the reversal drug, takes a huge amount of time and resources when I participated in my first snare removal in August. It was a baby elephant found in the Chiawa GMA with a snare pinning back his ears. In the end the mother also had to be darted, as she would not leave her calf's side. Read the full snare removal stories on the CLZ website.



## The Environmental Education Programme

In the last newsletter back in February we asked for help to raise the money needed for the repair of the CLZ truck. Well, thanks



to the generous donations from the Royal Danish Embassy, the Mugerameno Basic School Charitable Trust, and Jim Orr and Cynthia Tuthill we were able to get the truck back on the road on again in July. Thanks also to Southern Cross Motors for their generous discount on the repairs.

Since then over 95 rural children and 40 teachers have been for training sessions in the Environmental Education Centre from the surrounding areas.

Ernest came back in for the season to help us with the Environmental Education Programme. He has been busy with the mobile unit

working in the rural schools and communities and has accessed more than 2,500 children, teachers and community members with environmental awareness messages. The CLZ designed posters and magazines went to print earlier in the season and have been distributed to all our contact schools.



### **Safari Guide Training Programme**

Our nine sponsored Safari Guide Trainees from the Chiawa GMA area were selected in May. The finalists showed exceptional interest in wildlife and the environment.

They have proven to be beyond expectations with their enthusiasm and hard work really shining through in all tasks. In the 3 months they were at CLZ this has included training in driving, walk-

ing, canoeing and boating, covering the areas of identification of birds, vegetation, mammals, tracks, ecology, habitat, conservation and pre-activity client briefing and safety. Specific focus has been placed on the Zambezi ecosystem, hazards on the river and river etiquette.

Food and beverage and guest etiquette training has also been covered as well as training on the use of guiding reference books and the Internet for email and as a learning tool.



The students were exposed to world news, animal planet, National Geographic and BBC's Planet Earth.

The trainees managed to log the required 150 hours of game driving necessary to take the exams next

year and progressed towards the 200 hours needed for canoeing and 200 hours for walking.

Since September the trainees were placed in lodges in the LZ to give them practical experience and allow them to have guest exposure, which they could not get on their training at CLZ. Greg has been monitoring their progress to ensure they receive sufficient practical training to aid them to pass their exams next year.



Their success will only show in the mock exams later this month and in the Annual Lower Zambezi Safari Guides Exams at the beginning of next year so until then good luck to all the trainees.

### **Lower Zambezi Safari Guides Exams**

The annual Lower Zambezi Safari Guides exams took place in April and were attended in

great numbers with some excellent results. 70% passed the General Written Paper, 62% passed the canoe paper, 69% passed the walking paper and 100% passed the boating/fishing and mechanics paper. After the completion of the practical examinations, the Lower Zambezi gained a further 11 driving guides, 7 canoe guides and 5 walking guides. Well done to Duncan Menzies for the all round highest results, to Greg Poole who qualified in all 3 areas of guiding and to Lackson Tembo for his excellent achievements in the canoeing exams. For those that missed the marks to pass this time we wish you all the best for the next time round.

Exam time is stressful for everyone, not only the candidates and a lot of work goes into the preparation and marking of exams. Thanks to examiners, Garth, Grant, Leonard, Lawrence, Roddy, and Hugo for all the time and effort put in to make the exam process a success. Thanks also to Lindsay, Tori, Esther, Christelle and Mel for their help with all the administration and to Kasaka River Lodge for providing their printer at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour when CLZ's gave up the ghost!

## Volunteering! By Helen Taylor



“With most of my time over a couple of years stuck in Birmingham, UK studying Zoology and the most interesting animal sighting being the cat next door, it was time to get back to real wildlife!

With plenty of begging to Anna and Adrian over about a year, I was finally on the bumpy road to the Lower Zambezi with no expectations apart from a tent pitch, nsima and beans and of course backbreaking work!

Instead I was shown to a lovely tent overlooking the Zambezi, spaghetti bolognese on the table and of course was introduced to baby elephant Zamma.

Anna and Adrian quickly lay down the ground rules – clean your own tent (fair enough), work starts at 7am (not 5!) and finishes 5.30pm

or when the works done. Fantastic! More of a holiday!

Nope, that wasn't to be. The next morning at 7am sharp Anna sat down with a list of jobs that wouldn't be too hard to cover in 2 months. Except the list got longer as we chatted and eventually covered much of overseeing Zamma's care and publicity and fundraising! I got down to it straight away and immediately came across many drawbacks that had made these difficult jobs for Anna and Adrian. Juggling Zamma and office work was a major struggle! As a big baby who needs everything sterilised, boiled water for milk, milk powder measured out and lots of attention, he came first!

Paperwork piled up until at last a system of sterilising and visiting times was established. With several hours set aside for him, the rest could be used to collect photos, write leaflets, organise notice boards, photocopy, reorganise the interactive classroom, sort out odd paperwork etc.....

Finally it all came together as some of the jobs were ticked off the list (even after destroying my memory stick and having to redo all the work I had done in the first two

weeks!).

Anna and Adrian were continually busy with reports, operations and issues that arose, so no matter how quickly or hard I worked I didn't seem to reduce the stress!

With only 2 weeks left and after a lot of hard work and perseverance most of the jobs got done. I feel a great sense of achievement and have learned so much not only about the direct things I have helped with but also an appreciation for the difficulties and issues faced by people like Adrian and Anna working in small Conservation Organisations like CLZ around the world. Without these the wildlife, environment and people's livelihoods would be even more seriously threatened.

This was one of the most beneficial and exciting experiences of my life so many thanks to Adrian and Anna and the staff at CLZ for making this experience possible for me. I hope that I have been of some help over my stay and that I can be of more help even afterwards."

**Thanks to Helen for all her hard work**

## CLZ AGM

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September CLZ held its AGM at the CLZ base camp. Timothy Mushibwe was re-elected as Chairman and Grant Cumings as Vice Chairman. We welcome Alex Barrett as the new Secretary and Vipool Patidar as Treasurer. Other elected board members were Thomas Gass, Riccardo Garbaccio, Chris Liebenburg, Alan Harkness, George Sikota and Alex Medinger. Thank you to outgoing board member Dave Keys, Dave Cumings and Siphon Phiri for their contributions to CLZ during their time on the board.

**Thanks to all those who have supported CLZ this season.....**

To all previously mentioned for their contributions to the repair of CLZ's truck which has enabled children and teachers to continue with field trips to the Nzou Environmental Education Centre.

To the wildlife vets Dr Ian Parsons and Rachel McRobb who have given their time and expertise to dart and remove snares from elephants this season.

To Gerry Carbin and Buya Bamba for their kind donations of vegetables to feed the children and teachers on trips to the Nzou Environmental Education Centre.

To National Milling for their monthly donation of 500kg mealie meal.

To all of the Lodges in the Lower Zambezi with their support and publicity by word of mouth to their clients, especially with regards to Zamma.

To DANIDA and the Royal Danish Embassy for their final year of support in 2007 and for all their support in previous years.

To Trevor and Taj for volunteering to fly Bluebird on anti-poaching patrols around the valley.

To Munda Wanga Zoo, DSWF and the people in Lusaka for their donations of milk for Zamma.

To Vickie Capps for her significant contribution of US\$10,000 towards CLZ's activities

Lou & Dena McMurray for their annual donation of US\$5,000

To Mark Carnegie for his US\$2,000 donation

To Sidecole for US\$5,000 towards HIV/AIDS education

To Conservation Safaris Ltd for their donation of US\$2,300

To Jim Orr and Cynthia Tuthill for their generous donation towards the CLZ truck, antipoaching field equipment and staff uniforms.

