

Conservation Lower Zambezi
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Newsletter

March — May 2006



Dear Members

CLZ welcomes everyone back into the valley after a VERY rainy, rainy season! And we wish you a successful safari season.

Adrian and Anna Arrive in the Lower Zambezi Valley

With our 'katundu' packed into the CLZ boat (sad, I know that our life can fit into one boat!) we headed out of Kanyemba and straight into rain, rain and more rain! As I (Anna) hid under the tarpaulin, Adrian navigated his way down river, dodging whole trees that seemed to be travelling as fast as us! We arrived at the CLZ base camp extremely wet but happy.

The heavy rains forced us into the office for the first two weeks, which was not a bad thing as it gave us a chance to get to grips with the running of the base camp and all that CLZ does. The valley soon became busy as lodge staff ar-

rived to open up camps and as Chongwe House neared to its opening date things certainly got interesting! (Congratulation guys)

Since then we haven't paused for breath, with antipoaching, Lower Zambezi Safari Guides training and exams, the planning of the Environmental Education Programme for 2006, children visits to the centre, midnight chases of illegal fisherman...and on top of it all Anna had an emergency trip to Johannesburg for acute appendicitis!

Thanks to everyone in the valley and to the staff of CLZ for the warm welcome we have received since arriving to take up our new positions with CLZ in February. Despite the roof of our house leaking like a sieve! the Lower Zambezi Valley immediately had us tightly in its grip and it already feels like home.

Read within for March – May 06 newsletter. If you can keep up with it all you'll be doing well...enjoy!

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME (EEP)

EEP on track for 2006

With the annual schedule in place, the Environmental Education Programme (EEP) is well on track for its second year of operation. The EEP Mobile Unit is again set to take conservation awareness messages into communities and basic schools surrounding the Lower Zambezi National Park.. This area of 'outreach' will include Chiawa and Rufunsa GMA's and Chongwe and Luangwa Open Areas.

Throughout the year the EEP aims to bring an estimated 378 children and 36 teachers from these areas, into CLZ's Nzou Environmental Centre. Groups of children will stay for 3 nights to learn about conservation and the environment.

Colourful Creations in the CLZ Classroom. *Painting the sunrise...*



At the end of April Mwepu, a dynamic self-employed artist from Lusaka conducted a 5-day art workshop at CLZ base camp with children from Mugurameno and Chiawa Basic Schools. The shrieks of laughter coming from paint-covered children resulted in a fantastic Lower Zambezi mural in the CLZ interpretive centre, which will be used as a teaching tool in the EEP.



*Lower Zambezi Valley Mural
Painted by children from Mugulameno
and Chiawa Basic Schools*

During the rains

Ernest, CLZ's Environmental Educator got busy developing educational materials. These include a collection of magazines and posters for use in schools, which have been approved by the Ministry of Education and will be going to print shortly.

April

With Mobile Unit driver Dick Kalidza, Ernest embarked on the community outreach programme in April, visiting 10 Basic Schools in the Chongwe Area.

May

As well as continued outreach with the Mobile Unit, May saw the first group of school children attend a 3 day field-trip, at the Nzou Centre. Twenty-one children, accompanied by two teachers, enjoyed environmental education in the form of lessons, dance and drama, wildlife DVDs, a game drive into the Park and a boat cruise.

ZAWA & ANTIPOACHING

Congratulations to ZAWA

CCLZ would like to congratulate Dr. Siawana on his recent appointment as Director General of ZAWA. CLZ looks forward to strengthening its relations with ZAWA and further work together to protect the Lower Zambezi Valley.

Resource shortfalls in ZAWA affect work on the ground...

Unfortunately the National Park has received reduced patrol man days compared to previous years, due to a huge man power shortage within the Area management Unit. CLZ is currently working with ZAWA to explore the possibility of recruiting and training 20 new Wildlife Police Officers to be based in the Lower Zambezi Valley at Malilansolo and Chiawa Scout camps.

NORAD's support to ZAWA comes to an end

In addition to man power shortages and since the NORAD funding support to ZAWA's anti poaching activities came to an end in November 2005, there has been greater logistical delays and large shortages in patrol rations. To help ensure adequate and effective anti-poaching operations, CLZ is working on raising funds to further support the patrol teams in the field.

Notes from the field:

February - and still more rain!

Due to the continued heavy rains, it remained difficult to access the valley floor throughout the month of February. CLZ with the use of both boat and vehicle managed to

deploy Tornado 2 and Eland patrol teams resulting in 99 patrolman days. All appeared to be a quiet month in the National Park.

March - Meat and Muzzleloaders

Whilst responding to gunshots reported by Chiawa camp, Eland patrol team had contact with a group of poachers. After tracking them into the foothills, meat carriers were intercepted and two muzzle loading rifles, +- 400kg of dried meat and camping equipment were recovered, the poachers fled the scene.

CLZ supported 159 patrol man days in March, with Eland and Tornado 1 as well as Zebra patrol team from Luangwa Boma.

April - As things dry up

As the terrain in the valley started drying out, two elephants were recorded poached in the NP.

One poached elephant was found on Jeki plain by Lion 1 and CLZ staff member Jealous Nyandowo. The elephant had been shot but only died after making it into the middle of the plain. The ivory had not been removed possibly due to the elephant carcass being exposed

in an area frequented by game viewing vehicles.

A second elephant carcass was found near Chiawa Camp by Roddy Smith of Mwambashi. CLZ investigated with Lion 1 and a large drying rack was discovered near the carcass. The meat and ivory had been removed. The elephant carcass was probably a result of gunshots heard and reported by Chiawa Camp two nights previous. Unfortunately all efforts to follow these poachers turned up no results.

Patrol teams Lion 1, Tornado 1 and two other patrol teams from Luangwa gave the park 245 patrol man days.

May - Midnight Mayhem

In the early morning hours of Friday 19th, CLZ with assistance from Chongwe River Camp and ZAWA officers based at the Chongwe confluence, apprehended two illegal fishermen in the Chongwe River. The fisherman had a net approximately 200m long spanning the width of the Chongwe River. The fishermen were taken to Chirundu for prosecution by ZAWA.

Lion 1 discovered two buffalo carcasses, a discarded knife and an axe

when they came across a poacher's camp on the Chongwe River, upstream of the Chongwe Falls.

Lion 1 and Tornado 2 patrol teams allowed for 130 man-days. A bit of a disappointment compared to the previous month.

Gunshot Reporting

With two elephants lost to poaching between March to May we urge all camps to continue to assist by immediately reporting gunshots to CLZ or ZAWA.

Please note, record and report:

- 1. Time of gunshots**
- 2. Number of gunshots heard**
- 3. Spacing of gunshots**
- 4. Caliber of shots/weapon type**

With your prompt assistance in this manner we have more chance of catching the poachers.

CLZ supports Joint Forces Operation

CLZ supported ZAWA and the Zambian Police in a joint forces operation, which occurred between 31st March and 9th April. The clean up operation took place in the Chongwe and Rufunsa areas

surrounding the National Park and saw 15 arrests, with 11 prosecutions and the recovery of large amounts of game meat, two muzzle loading guns and one shotgun.

ZAWA ecologist Rhoda Kachali visited CLZ and the park on May 19th. We look forward to seeing more of Rhoda as she continues her work in the LZNP.

CLZ AIRCRAFT to the skies....

I am sure many of you are wondering if the CLZ plane 'bluebird' has been laid to rest! It's not the case...whilst Adrian tries to raise the funds to obtain his PPL, Trevor Long, who flew the plane in previous times has recently returned to Zambia and has volunteered his time to do some aerial anti-poaching in conjunction with ZAWA. It is hoped that very soon you will see her once again buzzing over the park, monitoring the wildlife and providing vital support to patrol teams in the field.

NYAMANGWE FISHERMAN Eviction notice served...

The Chiawa Community Resource Board (CRB) issued an eviction notice on 5th May to fisherman who have been illegally fish-

ing for commercial purposes in the Eastern GMA. The eviction date was due on the 1st June. CLZ is currently trying to work with CRB to carry out the operation and along with GMA operators have offered transport assistance. We hope to see the area free of illegal fisherman as soon as possible.

LOWER ZAMBEZI SAFARI GUIDES TRAINING & EXAMS

Could you explain: 'What is meant by a coalition of lions?'

Many of our exam candidates could...

CCLZ facilitated and hosted the 2006 Lower Zambezi Safari Guides Training and Exams, between 6th and 26th April. A general training day took place in the Hippo City area of the national park and included aspects of flora and fauna, guest etiquette, game drive technique, mechanics and the principles of photography. More specialised training took place for the Walking and Canoeing activities. The Boating and Fishing training incorporated boat mechanics, river and radio etiquette, and the conservation ethics surrounding the use of the river for fishing.

The Safari Guides written exams were held at the CLZ education centre and were taken by a total number of 27 candidates



Concentrating hard...



Examinees identify recorded sounds of birds and animals as part of the General Written Exam.

CLZ is now busy with the senior examiners organising dates for practical exams. Thanks to examiners for their time volunteered so far and hope they will continue to give their time and expertise to the Guides Exams.



Identifying artefacts on the Table of Objects

PLANE CRASH ON KAYILA

Our sincere condolences go to the families of the pilot and clients, whose lives were lost in the plane crash.

On the 24 May a light aircraft flying two clients into the Lower Zambezi was reported missing. Cloud cover was extremely dense and it was assumed that the plane had gone down somewhere between Lusaka and Royal Zambezi Airstrip.

A number of light planes and helicopters searched for three days. The plane was sighted from the air, in dense woodland on top of Kayila Mountain. Early Monday morning CLZ's ops manager Adrian, Riccardo with two staff from Kayemba and five ZAWA WPOs from Malilansolo hiked to the

crash site. In the meantime, John Myers had skilfully managed to land his small helicopter at the site and had begun bush clearing. After further bush clearing by the CLZ and ZAWA team, a ZAF helicopter landed early Tuesday morning.

Thanks to all who assisted in the search and for John who spent hours flying up and down the mountain, as well as to the five ZAWA officers who spent the night on top of Kayila at the crash site.

CLZ MEMBERSHIP

A big thank you to our members for all the support in the past. Your support is vital in enabling CLZ to carry out it's main objective: **'to protect the wildlife of LZNP'** We look forward to receiving your continued support in the form of CLZ membership in the future. Just to let you know... CLZ membership will now be managed by Ops Management directly from the CLZ Base Camp and invoices for membership subs up to June 2006 should now have been received.

If you know of any companies or indeed individuals, which may want to support conservation in the

Lower Zambezi please ask them to contact Anna on CLZ@iwayafrica.com

CLZ CONSERVATION & EDUCATION LEVY, DONATION BOXES AND LEAFLETS

We look forward to the Safari Operators continued support in the collection of the Conservation and Education Levy (USD2 per person per night) throughout the 2006 season. CLZ donation boxes will be distributed along with CLZ publicity materials for display in lodges. Any feedback or ideas from Lodge Managers or Safari Guides would be greatly appreciated. **CLZ needs your help.**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLZ

A big thankyou to Ennio Marcodini a client of Kanyemba, who visited the CLZ base camp in 2005, for his huge donation of stationary items for the EEP. Thanks to Riccardo for organising it's shipment and delivery to the Valley. Pupils from the American International School (AIS) presented a book donation in May. The science textbooks, which incorporate aspects of Nature and The Environment, will be excellent teaching

tools for the EEP and the Safari Guides Training Programme.

Barbs from Chiawa camp kindly donated the stock control programme she has developed over the past two seasons. This will greatly help in the efficient running of the CLZ base camp.

Thanks also to Jerry Carbin for his donations of bananas for EEP

How you can help...

CLZ welcomes any donations for the EEP centre in the form of books, old wildlife magazines, artefacts, binoculars, posters, games or anything else you think may be of use.

IN THE PIPELINE

- ◆ CLZ AGM: date to be finalised
- ◆ AWDC's Kellie-Leigh to visit LZNP to collar the remaining Wild Dog (www.awdczambia.org)
- ◆ Visit from UK school leavers volunteering with Mugurameno Basic School Trust
- ◆ Trevor Long to fly CLZ plane
- ◆ EEP to focus Mobile Unit and visits to the Environmental Centre on Chiawa and Rufunsa GMAs.