

CLZ NEWS FLASH!



June 2011



Well Done Safari Guide Class of 2011:

A huge well done to all of those who participated in the Lower Zambezi Safari Guide exams 2011! The general paper had a 60% pass rate and the walking paper a 30% pass rate. We welcome 7 new driving guide, 5 new walking guides and 5 new canoeing guides to the Lower Zambezi!

A first aid course has also just been successfully completed to ensure all those guides have the requisite skills to bring us back to life! All new guides will then also need to register with ZAWA to obtain their licence before they can get out there.....

Again huge thanks to all of the examiners who volunteer their blood, sweat and tears to this demanding task, especially **Kevin Macaulay, Alan Bonella and Roddy Smith** for putting together the papers (although I'm not sure the candidates would say that!) and **Rory McDougall** again for all of his support throughout May.

Chiawa Kids Go Wild!

20 children from grades 7 to 9 in the Chiawa area visited the CLZ education centre for 3 nights between 6 – 9 June. Incredibly, for those of us who are used to international travel, many children living close to the Park have not experienced wild animals such as hippo or crocodiles. Such children might have only encountered elephants as threats to their own safety or crops, rather than a gentle and crucial species in the eco-system. By enjoying a positive experience at CLZ, we believe that children are more likely to understand environmental issues and want to put solutions into practice.

The children enjoyed interactive lessons, incorporating health issues including HIV/AIDS awareness as well as game drive and boat cruise in the Park. Mary from Kabwadu summed up the trip when she said *"I hope that people can learn to work together like termites to build a better world"*!

Anti-poaching

Unfortunately the last month has seen a sharp increase in poaching in the Park with 7 elephant carcasses found in May alone. CLZ responded as quickly as possible, teams were moved accordingly and Brad returned from Lusaka with a rented Skytrails plane within 3 hours of gunshots being heard in June. CLZ would like to get hold of a metal detector to try to recover the bullets from the carcasses if anyone knows of any within Zambia that we could borrow temporarily please let us know!

Our ZAWA radio channel repeater has been damaged and with the CLZ plane still awaiting a vital part our operations have been compromised. However CLZ, ZAWA and all of the patrol teams are doing their very best to ensure that there are no further casualties. We are now looking for funds to replace the aerial as soon as possible.

Darting of Injured Lion

On 24 May ZAWA vet Dr. David Squarre and ecologist Mr. Howard Maimbo spent a tense night out in the Park looking for the injured lion which was originally reported by Mwambashi in April. The young male has a fractured paw as well as some related muscle wastage. The vet was able to successfully dart the lion and clean the wound. A large dose of anti-biotic was administered and the lion will now be monitored to see whether he recovers.

Control of Wounded Buffalo

On 18 June Brendan was successful in controlling a wounded buffalo in Chiawa village, which was causing severe danger to local village inhabitants. The buffalo had three old snare wounds; three old gunshot wounds and posed a severe threat to human life.

Thank You – this month to:

Toyota Zambia have very kindly contributed \$10,000 for us to be able to continue supporting the vital work carried out by the Chinyunyu and Luangwa patrol teams. These teams work in some of the most difficult terrain, which is a hot spot for poaching. **Sidecole** have confirmed that they will increase their support to this years EEP to \$10,000 – thank you! **Gerry Carbin** - thank you so much for bananas and other goodies. **Fringilla** who constantly show us incredible generosity especially with our meat order. **Royal Zambezi Lodge** – who donated the use of their aliboat for the children while ours is being repaired. The fantastic boat driver Dickson made the children's day. Also for all their hard work grading top top crossing on the Chongwe. **Victor Kanzala**, Chongwe River Camp – who gave a brilliant fantastic careers talk and giving a group of 16 year olds inspiration that the world is theirs for the taking! **Chris Fenner** – for his continuing support with all anti-poaching matters.

And many many more..

Working Today to Protect Tomorrow