



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Dear all,

you may have follow the worrying reports on the increase of poaching of rhinos and elephants in Africa over the past months. Also in Malawi the biggest threat to elephants is illegal hunting for ivory. In Thuma Forest Reserve eight elephants were poached over the past 12 months and WAG Malawi is working hard towards more effective protection and law-enforcement.

Illegal activities in Thuma and Dedza-Salima Forest Reserves (poaching, but also charcoal burning and illegal harvesting of bamboo and timber) threaten not only its wildlife, but destroy precious biodiversity, habitats and important environmental services it provides for the region, which is why the project work and scout presence is so important.

Also in Vietnam wildlife trade is still flourishing, but we were able to support the Forest Protection Department in Thanh Hoa Province in improving law enforcement in and around protected areas and with confiscating and rescuing a number of wild animals of which some need care and rehabilitation to be able to release them into the wild again.

All our projects still depend on funding. Although most people acknowledge that activities like starting micro-projects in villages, putting up electric fences to keep elephants out of fields of farmers or conservation awareness projects are extremely important in conservation, it is at the same time difficult getting funding for paying staff, who are crucial for actually doing all this work that contributes to the conservation of wildlife and its environment. In Malawi f.e. salaries for the next year of only 7 of the 12 scouts are secured at the moment.

Find more interesting updates on the following pages.

Thank you all so much for your commitment that has made all our work this year possible. We hope you continue supporting our activities in the New Year and would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Best regards,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'GK'.

Georg Kloeble

PROJECT UPDATES

ELEPHANT KILLS A MAN IN SALIMA

It was reported that a 35 year old man was kill tragically by an elephant while looking for his goat in the traditional authority of Kambwiri, close to Thuma Forest Reserve. He was out early in the morning while it was still dark, when he came face to face with a bull elephant that chased him and attacked him.

This incident is showing the importance of the elephant fence we erected in 2009 and which we still support with funds for maintenance, spare parts and salaries. WAG Malawi has just now secured funds for to extend the existing elephant fence another 12 km after the rainy season.



WAG Scouts fixing fence near Linthiphe River in Thuma Forest Reserve

SNARES, SNARES AND MORE SNARES

Text and photos by Lynn Clifford, Field Manager WAG Malawi

“Over the last two months scouts of WAG Malawi have recovered many snares from along the streams in Thuma Forest. In one day we retrieved over 60 snares!

In November a dead kudu was found. It died a slow and painful death in the sun caught by a wire snare, and on 25th a snare right outside a porcupine den was found. We were told that people sometimes use these for black magic! We removed it.



On Sunday the 28th Aug the scouts went out on patrol and found a baboon caught in a snare - still alive! The poor baboon was a big healthy male, still very strong and alert but really traumatized. He was very thirsty and his hands and feet were bleeding where he had been trying to release himself. His teeth were big and could do some serious damage. He was caught by a thick wire around the waist and had wrapped himself around the tree so it was almost

impossible to release him. The scout team tried to calm him down so we could see exactly where and what he was attached to and how we could try to cut the wire. I had brought a sheet so we could use it to secure his head and upper body. We decided we would try. We made another snare which we put around his head (it was the only way we could ensure no one got hurt, seems cruel but it was our only way) and then quickly wrapped his upper body in the sheet, securing his head and hands and held it tight so he could not grab one of us. Then I and one scout cut the snare with a panga knife and untied the snare which was wrapped around the tree several times. Once we had done this we loosened the wire and sheet and he scampered away. He was very weak and didn't go far at first but after some time he seemed to get his bearing and ran away. We were all very pleased with ourselves. This baboon was lucky and will live to see another day.

As we carried on, we found 7 more snares in the same area which we removed.

This form of poaching is very painful and terrifying for any animal. They can be caught around the waist or their legs or even neck! Once caught they suffer in the African sun without food or water sometimes for days! It is so cruel. This is obviously the work of a new poacher or group of poachers as we have not encountered as many snares here. WAG scouts have started over night patrols in this area to try catch this person."

FIRST WAG FULL TRAINED RANGERS



WAG scouts Gerald Medson, Richard Banda and Geoffrey O Mally have successfully finished their Ranger Training in Liwonde National Park. Congratulations!

This is the first step to having a dedicated and trained specialized anti-poaching unit in Thuma and Dezda-Salima Forest Reserves.

The 8 weeks of intensive training (paramilitary style) covered many topics about wildlife management, animal behaviour, practical field work, fitness, and discipline and anti-poaching techniques amongst other things. This course has really made a difference to all three. They all passed the exams with flying colours.

Because they all have been doing the work for some time this course has given them a greater understanding and new insight to how to do things and why they have to do them in a particular way.

A JOB AS A SCOUT IN MALAWI

Text and photos by Lynn Clifford, Field Manager WAG Malawi

“For many of us in developed countries we can only dream of seeing or working with wildlife and living or visiting beautiful protected areas in the world. For most of us we only get the opportunity to visit for a few weeks maybe once in a life time. We spend lots of money to visit these places even if only for a few weeks.

For many African’s they have all this on their door step and take it for granted. They know the cycle of nature and its animals. It is in their back yard. So to be a scout and to be given money to do something that is easy and natural for you is great. For many people they do not value animals or nature like us. There are many reasons for this but the bottom line is it is because they are struggling to survive themselves and have no time or energy to think about how wonderful it is to see a wild elephant walking in the forest or your garden eating your food. In the past it could be said that for some scouts working in the forest has been considered to be a job! Not a passion! Not something they care about.



It gives them an opportunity to have money... a job. This is not too easy to have in Malawi. If you have a job and get a monthly salary you are considered as doing ok! I suppose that’s the same in Europe just now. It feeds their family and every month they have some money to buy whatever they need. Most people in Malawi do not have that luxury! If you can call less 1 or 2 euro a day to live on a luxury! Could you feed a family of five and house them and wash them and educate them on this? Either can they...

However, Malawi is changing and more and more people now appreciate the natural resources and wildlife that Malawi has. And they are activated and investing in trying to protect it. Our scouts are amongst these people.

The more we put into our scouts in the way of education, work with other NGO’s, volunteers and tourists, our scouts little by little begin to understand and appreciate the need to protect their wild places and the animals that live there.

I have seen a huge change in our scouts. I see how proud they are when people ask them where they work, what they do and they love when people visit and they are able to tell them about the animals, trees, tracks and the different things that have happened here. In any work place it is important that we invest in your staff. Show that they are very much a part of the big picture. Build their capacity to be able to do their job better.

This year we have managed to send some to be trained as rangers and we have also done conservation education in-house. They have been shown some basic car mechanics and First aid. They have been taught and are now able to use GPS and upload the daily patrols onto a computer. We have done basic map reading and orientation. Many have travelled to places they have never been to before – one had never been to the lake which is only 25kms past Salima! Some have never been to the airport so they have now all been there and seen the planes take off and land.

We still have a long way to go...

But more important we need to be able to give them a salary and secure their jobs for the future. And we must remember that we are not only taking about their future but also their family’s future and the education of their children.

This is the beginning of our financial year. WAG currently has 7 out of 12 required scouts sponsored. That means we are able to pay salaries for 7 scouts for the next year. We need at least 5 more scouts to be sponsored. Please help us by sponsoring a scout through your work, school or do a fund raiser or donate something small so we can continue our vital work here and protect our animals, secure a job for a scout and his family.

WAG asks for a sum of 750 euro to sponsor a scout for a year. That works out at just under 60 euro per month. That covers his salary and helps him support his family plus any equipment we need for him. This also ensures that we can do daily patrol. Your money is not only supporting a family in Malawi but also helping to protect the forests and animals that live there.”

***Please contact us, if you consider our Sponsor a scout program.
Donations from Germany are tax-deductable.***

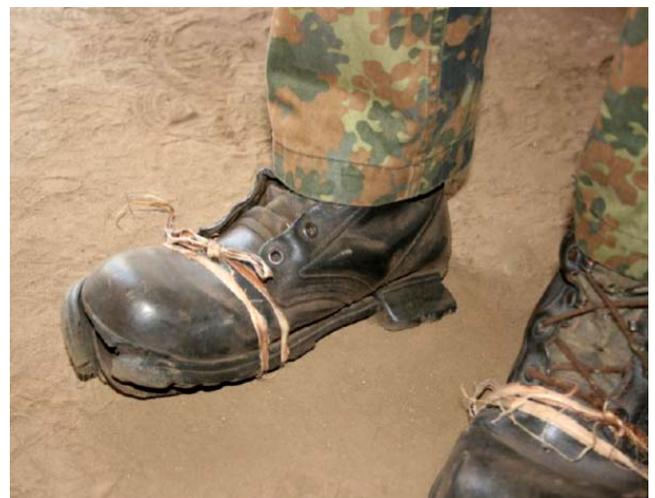
MALAWI WISHLIST 2012

Many people have things that are no longer used or wanted but could help the project activities in Malawi. For this reason we are taking this opportunity to kindly ask any of you to consider if you have anything that may be of use to us and is clogging up your house or space. Or maybe you know someone who has something.

There is always someone coming from Europe who can assist to bring them to Malawi.
We specifically are looking for:

- 3 x three man tents (green / brown – camouflage)
- 12 sleeping bags
- 6 pairs of small but powerful binoculars
- Any rain or waterproof jackets that are green, grey, brown in colour (camouflage)
- Any army clothes – trousers, shirts, hats
- 12 back packs – must be green, brown or camouflage please
- Battery charger
- Rechargeable batteries
- Old, but well functioning mobile phones
- Small computer external hard drive to do back ups of our work
- 2 x GPS
- Head torches

If you can assist with any of these items, please contact us and we will arrange for them to be brought to Malawi.



Scout boots worn until the very end!

ING –DIBA and GLOBAL GIVING WINTER CHALLENGE

Thank you all so much for the fantastic number of votes. Although we were not winning, the contest proves the great support our project work receives.



Now WAGI is part of the Global Giving Winter Challenge. The Challenge presents a great opportunity to raise funds for our organization, which **are tax-deductable in the U.S.**

If we are able to meet the challenge threshold of raising \$4000 till December 31, 2011, at the same time, we will get a permanent spot on Global Giving to continue receiving tax-deductable donations from the general public, private and corporate foundations in the US.

Please go online and visit <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/protect-malawi-elephants/>

Make a holiday gift that lasts the whole year and consider donating for our amazing project in Malawi and support by sharing info on the Global Giving Challenge widely with all your friends and networks.

We need to take action quickly; **deadline is the 31 December 2011.**

FIGHTING WILDLIFE TRADE IN VIETNAM



With the great achievement in improving anti-poaching and law-enforcement activities in and around protected areas in northern Vietnam, a number of animals were confiscated or rescued, including a Slow Loris, water dragon and a young Assamese Macaque.

Our new project is supporting the rehabilitation of the confiscated and rescued wild animals with the aim of releasing them back into the wild where they belong.

Because some of the confiscated animals are insured or mistreated they can not be released immediately and need care and veterinary treatment. A small rescue centre needs to be established and food for the animals provided.

With this project we aim to:

- support the establishment of a wildlife rescue centre with new enclosures to provide sanctuary for rescued and confiscated animals,
- pay for transport and needed veterinary expenses and
- provide food and care for the animals.



Injured macaque, trapped in a snare



Confiscated water dragon



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