

**WILDLIFE ACTION GROUP
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL
THUMA TELEGRAPH DECEMBER 2017**

BY LYNN CLIFFORD
DIRECTOR WAG



Dec 2017

Dear Donor, sponsors, volunteers and friends

As the year comes to an end we wanted to show how grateful we are for your support and friendship in the past year.

Together we have made a really powerful and positive impact on Thuma and Dedza Salima Forest reserves and all the wildlife that live here, especially the elephants.

Protected areas and the wildlife are under serious pressure from the human population for land use and the wildlife living here are under even more pressure, elephants in particular have been targeted due to the increasing **demand for ivory**.

WAG works tirelessly to try protect these free living animals, especially our gentle giants, through patrolling, arresting, awareness campaigns, and animal welfare.

You have made this possible through your sponsoring a scout, support and together we are making a difference.

This year has been quite extraordinary, with really great results. WAG is working closely with Government and other Conservation NGOs to enforce the laws and protect the habitat, bring awareness of the new Wildlife Act, and increasing the engagement of local people through awareness, and opportunities to improve their lives.

We are committed as ever to combat the illegal wildlife trade with the aim of ensuring a long term survival of these areas and the wildlife that live here. One important aspect of this is through working closely with our local populations. Those living close to the reserves are most affected in positive and negative ways and it is these same people who will be most likely to commit a crime and be arrested for doing so. And therefore these are the ones who should be helped most.

We conducted our third animal count in Nov and are delighted to be able to announce an increase in all the animal populations, which with your help we hope to continue.

Some of the highlights this year have been seeing a dramatic decrease in charcoal burning over on the western side of Thuma Forest, bringing an awareness of the changes in the Wildlife Act ensuring our local population is aware of the laws of Malawi, darting of a bull who was suffering with a snare wound, arresting a well known and very active poacher, increasing our patrols / man hours (boots on the ground), conducting a Forestry inventory, many successful court cases, conducting our third animal count, educating over 7500 children, planting over 8000 trees with our local communities and setting up many income generating activities including irrigation projects, and beehive projects.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all our generous donors.

We wish you all a really Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year and once again Thank you for helping save Africa's Wildlife and Wild spaces.

Lynn and Scouts



Some Highlights

Elephants around Camp, this are some of my favorites



(below) Mr M, the elephant originally from Liwonde, and was part of the translocation to Nkhotakota, escaped and found himself close to Thuma Forest. He was driven inside Thuma Forest Reserve where he stayed alone for the first few months. This photo captures our first sighting of him in a bachelors herd. Friends now with Moyo and Hastings (two other bulls)



Director of National Parks and Wildlife, Brighton Kumchedwa and Deputy Director Mr Manda and Bertha visit Thuma to overview our work and progress.



(Below) Natural Resource Committee in TA Chitewere get trained on bee keeping. Exciting new income generating project for the West side of Thuma



Reto captures this wonderful photos of some buffaloes in Thuma. Reto has contributed so much this year not only in the way of his photography skills but also in our day to day operations.



Thuma West, a forest destroyed by Charcoal burning. This photo was taken on a recci to identify a site to build a new camp. The forest will regenerate and we can't wait to see the after photo in a few years time, Almost 80km² on prime land reclaimed and new places for elephants to move.





I love this photo, It was taken on our awareness campaign presenting the newly amended wildlife act. This photo is of Salima, First Grade Magistrate explaining the new act. (below photo credit Lynn Clifford)



Scouts get up close and personal to the gentle giants. This poor bull was suffering due to a snare wound. He was darted and the wounds treated. Big thanks to WERU (Wildlife Emergency Response Unit- LWT/ DNPW) and

African Parks for assisting in this task.

We have since seen this bull who has recovered incredible well and the wound is looking much better and he is walking without a limp. (photo credit Lynn Clifford)



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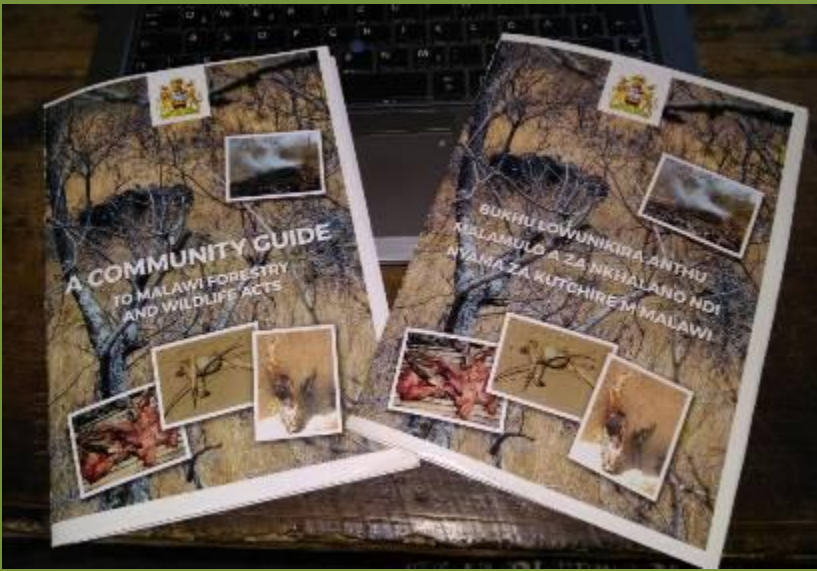
Some donations received from REA



Law Enforcement Workshop 2017 - funded by Save the Elephants and Wildlife Conservation Network through Elephant Crisis fund - bringing together agencies who are fighting wildlife crime.



Above - Two arrested dealing in ivory. One elephant killed, but they were sentenced for 7 years.



Left - so proud to have produced the community guide to the Law of Malawi. Distributed to communities living around protected areas all over Malawi.

We are so thankful to Nadine and Hendrik from MSK MEDIA in Germany., who designed the layout in such a brilliant way. Thank you both again. .



Malawi Defence Force training in Thuma alongside WAG scouts.



Animal Count 2017 saw the law enforcement team together in one place.

We are delighted to say we found all animal numbers have increased.

Some other wildlife found this year (below Chaka our biggest Bull)



SWALLOW TAIL BEE EATER







MANTIS



GROUND HORNBILL



MOI ONE OF OUR MAGNIFICENT BULLS
(photo credit Lynn Clifford)



Ronald Ulrich

Kindy French

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Tracy and Donald
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