



THE WILD TIMES

MALAWI, AUGUST 2013

JOINING THE GLOBAL FIGHT FOR WILDLIFE & SPECIES SURVIVAL

A great vote of confidence from the international wildlife community came when Lilongwe Wildlife Trust was approved as a member of the Species Survival Network this month.

This means we will work alongside other member NGOs to promote and enforce CITES (the Convention on Int'l Trade

in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora).

Receiving membership is no mean feat - the board must approve each application based on evidence of work to date backed by referrals from current members. Watch this space to find out how we'll be living up to our commitment shortly...



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DOUBLE TROUBLE WITH SERVAL TWINS

Not one but two serval twins brings a whole new meaning to needing eyes in the back of your head!

Orphans Sonny and Kovu were originally rescued by Nkhota-khota Parks Scouts and the dedicated managers at Tongole Lodge who did a great job stabilising and caring from them in the crucial first weeks.

However these servals are no ordinary kittens and require so much care and despite the Tongole team's commitment

the toughest challenge was being so far away from veterinary attention - without the antibodies in their mother's milk a case of diarrhoea can quickly develop into something more serious. So the orphans were brought to LWC in May and, as you can see from the photos below, are doing very well.

They have their own enclosure where they learn to explore under the watchful eye of our volunteers. They are still being bottle fed but are also

moving on to chicks and meat. Supervising a couple of serval kittens may sound pretty straightforward, but they have super sharp claws and an ability to get themselves into all sorts of sticky situations. Servals are the fastest running cat other than a cheetah and the volunteers learnt the hard way after one took a giant leap and got stuck at the top of the fence!

We are working with Tongole on planning the release over the next year.



Top row: early days.
Right: one month on, learning to climb...and climb...and leap!
Bottom right: cat napping ready for the next adventure.
Bottom left: just two months on, growing up so fast.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Committed to conservation for the benefit of people and wildlife of Malawi through:

- Rescue, rehabilitation and release of confiscated, orphaned and injured wild animals
- Promotion of wildlife welfare, conservation and protection of shared habitats through
 - (i) environmental education
 - (ii) 'sustainable livelihoods' community projects.

WILDLIFE RESCUE EMERGENCY HOTLINE: 088 44 88 999
REMEMBER IT IS ILLEGAL TO BUY, SELL OR KEEP ANY WILD ANIMAL WITHOUT A LICENCE. DON'T SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE TRADE. REPORT ANY CAPTIVE WILD ANIMALS TO LWC OR DEP'T OF PARKS & WILDLIFE

ON CALL FOR WILDLIFE

With close to **200 wild animals** in residence and new rescues coming in every couple of days, we're bursting at the seams. Luckily we have a cracking animal care and volunteer team working around the clock integrating orphans with new families and wherever possible getting them back into the wild where they belong. Here's a quick update on just a few of the rescues from the last couple of months...

1. Our hearts all went out to this poor little **orphaned vervet**. Rescued by someone in Salima, he was being dangled on a string by a group of boys trying to get passers-by to buy him. He had been bashed about a bit, we're not sure if this happened before or after he was captured but needless to say he is the most petrified little orphan we have ever had. He's undergone his health check and it looks like he will regain his sight after treatment.

2. This **yellow baboon** had been chained up outside someone's house for security. Check out the huge gash that had been left untreated. Big thanks to LSPCA for stepping in on the rescue and doing the vet work. He is now safe in quarantine at LWC, and we hope he can be introduced to a new family some time soon.

3. This **owl family** chose a rather precarious home, right on the edge of a deep well. Mother owl could get in and out easily enough, but as the babies started to learn to fly we imagine there wasn't much room for error. Our policy is always to leave wildlife in the wild wherever possible so rather than displace a healthy family and cart them back to the Wildlife Centre the volunteers designed a well cover which would stop them from falling in. Genius work, as ever, team...

4. Here's one of our many **duikers** rescued this year, currently undergoing rehab and doing well. They have delicate stomachs and things can go wrong very quickly if they are fed too much or given the wrong food. We have an excellent success rate and prepare all their releases very carefully back into the wild.

5. A good example of this is two **grvsboks** from last year, Trouble and Mischief. Released into Kuti after a long rehabilitation process, we hope they're enjoying their new found freedom.

6. Talking of releases, the **yellow baboons** released at Kasungu in January this year are doing very well. They are still being tracked by our release team who, as well as looking out for their welfare, are collecting data to contribute to a scientific study.

7. Here's a shot of our wildlife vet, **Amanda Salb**, at work with one of our vervets from our current release group...a work in progress! The hierarchies within the group are taking a while to stabilize so there's been a few injuries recently. Whilst they are nothing too serious, it is certainly keeping the vets and volunteers busy. Amanda is also working on tracking and de-snaring rhino in Liwonde this week.

8. Finally, our volunteers have been helping Kuti with their wildlife surveys and this week they found a species that has not been seen in the park for years. This is a photo taken last week of what has been identified by several experts as an **oribi**. Anyone caring to raise an objection you are welcome to get in contact!



10,545 SCHOOL CHILDREN & COUNTING...

It's a good thing that we've doubled the number of education staff this year - in just 4 months since 1st April over 10,500 learners have passed through Lilongwe Wildlife Centre's gates.

Of course the sanctuary tour and adventure playground are the biggest pulls for the children but there's another agenda to consider for the teachers and our team. Having such a captive audience is a great opportunity to inspire the next generation to look after the environment for the benefit of people and wildlife.

World Environment Week was a good example of this, when over 1200 learners took part in the festivities in just 4 days this June. The children also contributed their own

ideas in our 'sustainable living' workshops which included demonstrations of some of our 'green and clean' projects like fuel briquettes and eco stoves. Best of all were the lunchtime recitals in our amphitheatre. We challenged schools to come up with an environmental based piece which they perform in front of other schools and this year included poems, songs, plays and dances.

Outside of our big events, this year's environmental education programme has been updated to cover topics like biodiversity, deforestation and climate change. Teachers can choose the one that best fits their curriculum and ask our team to deliver it. Please contact Nellie on 0211 951819 or email education@llwc.org if you would like to discuss any programmes for your school.



TACKLING THE BIG ISSUES THROUGH EDUCATION & ACTION

A scary fact: the human race is currently using natural resources 1.4 times faster than the Earth can regenerate. Sustainable living is getting all the more important and we are in a great position to make a difference by changing the behaviours and attitudes of Malawi's next generation.

Our new education programme targets upper primary and secondary school children and covers a whole host of issues like biodiversity, water and waste management. Each module is designed to

encourage interactive learning through activities and games and can be delivered at LWC or in the classroom.

The children are also encouraged to do their own micro projects like afforestation or permaculture so they also learn through action.

We're adapting these modules for the Eco-Schools Malawi accreditation scheme in partnership with WESM. The pilot phase in Lilongwe will reach 50 schools, then it will be rolled out to over 400 schools here before going nationwide.



The new module: wildlife welfare and conservation, climate change, waste management, biodiversity, forests & deforestation, water, soil and sustainable agriculture, and the environment and human health

TREES, BEES & OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES

Our 'sustainable livelihoods' programme is going great guns out in the communities in both Lilongwe and Salima.

In Lilongwe, our Green & Clean project, sponsored by UNDP GEF, is well underway. Our new tree nursery at LWC is near completion and we're also building a greenhouse that will help us with our afforestation and permaculture community projects. We are aiming to plant 25,000 trees this year. We have also just had another 23 graduates confirmed from our 'Learning through Wildlife' adult literacy course.

Down at Kuti Wildlife Reserve in Salima the LWT team are supporting a grant won from the American Ambassador Self Help Fund, working alongside four rural communities. 8000 trees will be planted and fuel briquette and eco-stoves cooperatives introduced, all of which encourages sustainable living practices.

We're also helping to deliver Starfish Malawi's 'Wonderfuels' project in partnership with four local schools and we're rather excited about tasting the next harvest of honey from the revitalised beehives too. These will help to raise money for community projects as well as support local biodiversity.



NEW GARDENS & BAR OPEN...

Our belated 5th birthday celebrations back in May also heralded the opening of our new botanic gardens and bar.

Whilst enticing more visitors to come and spend time at LWC the gardens will also serve an important role in our education programme. Each part of the gardens have been cleverly designed around a particular message, for example, the permaculture and food garden, or the sense garden. Our favourite is the prehistoric garden complete with dinosaur.

Huge thanks must go to Irish Aid for their generous sponsorship, Juliet Saunders for her garden design and the many,

many hours spent with trowel in hand or trawling the town for the best plants and irrigation equipment, Christoph Nordin, Howard and Hardwell from Never Ending Food for their permaculture design and implementation and finally Lesley Sprowson, Four Seasons Garden Centre, Bua River Lodge and Valerie Seekings and the Garden Club for their plant donations.

The gardens are still a work in progress but please do come down soon and have a look around, and feel free to ask for Andrew the gardener who just loves giving personal tours.



...BUT WHAT ABOUT THE RESTAURANT?!

Mzuzu Coffee were primed to take on the new restaurant on 1st August, but unfortunately their plans have been scuppered because they couldn't import some of the crucial equipment.

We are told that the soft launch has been scheduled for 1st October and we will plan a proper party mid October once the staff know the ropes. We are gutted about the delay

having fantasised about decent coffee and cake for months, we hope it is worth the wait and apologies to all of you who keep asking so hopefully!



PLEASE VISIT US!

- Take a guided tour around the *wildlife sanctuary*, catch sight of our residents and learn about the project. Tours leave every hour with special tours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 3.30pm and 4.30pm.
- Take a walk on our *wilderness trails*, home to animals like bushpig, porcupine and antelope and famous for its birdlife. Great for picnics.
- Visit our *bar, gift shop and playground*.

We are open to visitors every day from 8am to 5pm. Find us on Kenyatta Drive between Old Ton and City Centre. Buses from Shoprite/Old Town towards Area 12 and City Centre will stop outside. Look out for the big thatched gate. Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is a not-for-profit organization and every kwacha of your entry fee goes back into the project. Thanks for your support.



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