



THE WILD TIMES

MALAWI, OCTOBER 2012

JUMPING IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM

34 of LWC's team members and closest supporters have been jumping out of planes around the world in aid of the wildlife release programme.

Skydives have taken place in England, Scotland, Canada, Wales, Holland, the USA and Malawi. One of the Malawi jumpers was Chico, a brave (or badly informed?!) animal carer who had never been in a plane before and is now something of a hero at the Wildlife Centre.

There was method in their madness, as the "Skydive for Wildlife" raised close to \$6000 which is justly deserved - it is a rather terrifying feat.

These funds will go towards the release of the 31 yellow baboons in Kasungu National Park later this year. The scientific methodology is breaking new ground and has received high acclaim and funding from the likes of IPPL and the Born Free Foundation.

Wherever possible rescued wild animals are introduced back into the wild and the frequent releases of animals like antelope, birds and reptiles will also be supported by the funds from the Skydive..

For more news on our recent rescues please go to page 2 or go to the LWC website for more on the baboon release - www.lilongwewildlife.org.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Skydive for Wildlife	1
Green & Clean	1
Wildlife rescue update	2
National Tourism Week & World Environment Week	3
Visitor news	4

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Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is a wildlife rescue, conservation and education centre. We aim to:

Provide sanctuary for rescued, orphaned and injured wild animals

Promote conservation by working with local communities through environmental education and community outreach

We are open to visitors all year round from 8am to 5pm.

UNDP BACK "GREEN & CLEAN"

LWC's "Green & Clean" programme is on track for 2013, thanks to a \$35,000 grant from UNDP (GEF).

The project aims to encourage sustainable use of the land which will benefit both people and wildlife, and will involve 7 of Lilongwe District's local communities.

LWC will work with the schools who will be responsible for their own permaculture gardens and woodlots with around 80,000 trees planted.

There will also be community cleanup sessions alongside riverbanks (where pollution and erosion have a detrimental effect on natural resources). In

addition, more fuel briquette cooperatives will be set up, providing communities with an alternative fuel source and therefore helping to reduce deforestation whilst also generating a sustainable income.

The project pilot was completed in 2012 with funding from the International Tree Foundation and Taiwanese Forestry Bureau.

In other funding news, the team are thrilled to announce the support of the **Tusk Trust** who have come on board as a major supporter of the environmental education programme for the second year.



READ ON FOR THE WILDLIFE RESCUE UPDATE...



RESCUES ON THE RISE

In the past 6 months, there have been 25 new intakes at LWC. Thanks to those many members of the public who have helped wildlife in need and either brought in injured wildlife or alerted us to captive animals. Here are some of our recent rescues and their stories....

Don't be mistaken by these angelic looking Grysboks, **Trouble & Mischief!** Both were rescued as orphans from roadside sellers in separate cases and have become firm friends. However at the time of writing, Trouble appears to have chewed off the tip of Mischief's ear as a token of his affection! The only upside to this is that it is easier to tell them apart. They will be released at Kuti Wildlife Reserve in the coming months.

The orphaned Vervet Monkey pictured here is **Rob** and is one of the smallest vervet orphans we have ever rescued. October signals the beginning of primate orphan season and we are expecting many more like him.

Yellow baboon **Batista** is about 6 years old and has spent almost the whole of his life tied to a tree by the side of the road. He was rescued in a confiscation operation following several tip offs. His 'owner' had bought him as a baby from poachers who had killed his mother. As he had grown larger the rope had tightened and caused not only external friction burns but also some nasty internal injuries. After such a long period of abuse it is unlikely

that Batista will be released into the wild. However, we hope he can learn to enjoy life here in relative freedom in one of our large enclosures where he can socialize with other baboons.

Merlin the owl had a more pleasant captive experience. He was found with a broken wing by a kind lady 15 years ago in Blantyre (a long time before LWC!) and never learnt to fly because of his broken wing. He was allowed to live around the garden and lived happily for many years. When the lady died he was brought to LWC where he has been 'retired' to the aviary and appears to be very content.

Finally, the photo below shows a **family of servals** we chose not to rescue. A local man recently came to us concerned that there were dangerous leopards at his farm. Rather than kill them as many might have done, he chose to walk miles to LWC see if they could be rescued. Our animal care team decided that actually they were living quite happily in the wild in their chosen home and, rather than risk a relocation, it was felt that education was the way forward. The man and his family now understand that these are serval cats, not leopards, and that they have nothing to fear. In fact the family are now rather proud of their newly discovered neighbours. Subsequent visits revealed man and beast living in respectful harmony.



LWC HOSTS NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK & WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK

World Environment Week is the most important event in the LWC calendar. Hundreds of spectators attended the opening ceremony with VIPs including country ambassadors, company directors and government officials. Rousing speeches were accompanied by environment themed dancing, drama and poetry from our community schools and the event signalled the start of a week of activities at LWC involving over 900 children from 27 schools.

World Environment Day is the single biggest day in the year for positive environmental action as people across the world pledge an environmental activity.

Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is Malawi's leading environmental education centre - with over 12,000 school children visiting every year - and holds an important role in inspiring the younger generation to take care of their environment and conserve their natural heritage for the benefit of future generations.

Throughout the rest of the week the Centre was teeming with school children who took part in our environmental workshops and debates, created posters and generally enjoying being part of the celebrations. Many of the learners had prepared their own displays which were shared with other visiting groups, helping to build relationships between schools as well as ensuring their environmental declarations went public.

Last month, LWC was again chosen for the official launch of

Malawi's National Tourism Week. The theme linking closely with that of World Environment Week, focusing on how to do business more responsibly, specifically greener fuel options. LWC arranged for a number of demonstrations from partner projects

In his opening speech Minister for Tourism, Wildlife & Culture, Hon. Daniel Liwimbe, said 'Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is a shining example of responsible tourism...and has changed the landscape of Lilongwe'.



HOW YOU CAN HELP MALAWI'S WILDLIFE

PLEASE DON'T SUPPORT THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE!

If you ever come across an orphaned or injured wild animal, then please bring it to Lilongwe Wildlife Centre and don't try to keep them in your home. Cute baby monkeys and duikers grow into adults with wild instincts, and the later they are introduced to us the less chance they have of making it into the wild.

It is also illegal to keep wild animals without a license in many countries across the world including Malawi. Please help us to fight the wild animal pet trade and keep wildlife in the wild where it belongs. If you want a pet get a dog or a cat from LSPCA!

BE GREEN!

We can all do our bit to protect the environment, here are just a few actions you can take:

- **Plant trees:** Malawi has the world's 5th highest deforestation rate and wildlife habitats are shrinking. You can help by planting trees at your school or . Contact LWC if you would like to help with their tree planting efforts.
- **Avoid using charcoal:** this is a huge contributor to deforestation in Malawi. Ask LWC about fuel briquette alternatives..
- **Don't drop litter:** this pollutes the environment, like clogging up our rivers and can be dangerous to animals.
- **Re-use your plastic bags,** don't let them end up in landfill.

PLANNING A PARTY?

If you're looking to plan an event, please pop in and find out what we have to offer. We have a beautiful location right in the heart of the city...

- **Children's birthday parties**
MK5000 + 50 per child
Includes space for a half day (fenced off area on the grass), tour and games run by our team (around 3 hours of activities)
- **Private functions**
Option of cash bar/food or self catering, and use of bar and/or amphitheatre. Great for birthdays, business functions, weddings and engagements.
- **Amphitheatre hire (churches and school groups)**
MWK 5000 + MWK50 per person. 3 hour slot. Use of chairs upon request.

AND COMING SOON...

Our new restaurant and bar will be opening in March 2013.



ANIMAL ADOPTION THE PERFECT GIFT!

If you're looking for the perfect Christmas gift for the animal lover then please consider an animal adoption.

In return for your donation, which will go towards the care of that animal, you will receive a VIP tour, personalised certificate, adoption pack and a 6 month update plus a FREE cuddly monkey with your adoption, while stocks last.

\$30/MK9000. Email marketing@llwc.org for more info.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAVID KELLY ART EXHIBITION & THIRSTY THURSDAY: 1st Nov
View the new art collection from this world renowned artist with live music, braai and sundowners

WILD CHRISTMAS: Saturday 8th December
Fun for all the family, not to be missed!

WILD KIDZ HOLIDAY CAMPS : 18-20 December, & 2-4 January
4-7 yrs (0830 - 1230) and 8-12 yrs (0830 - 1400).
8000 per child (6500 friends)

Please get in touch for more information: marketing@llwc.org.

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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People & Wildlife Centre
accredited by the
Born Free Foundation