



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

09:00, Wednesday 18 May 2022

Southern Sun Ridgeway

And via ZOOM

Present:

Chairman: Anita Balletto (AB)
 Vice Chairman: Jill Morse (JM)
 Secretary: Carrol Fleming (CF)
 Chief Executive Officer: Ian Stevenson (IS)
 Grants Manager: Donovan Rule (DR) from 10.12
 Board Members: Jelous "Chops" Nyandowo (JN), Riccardo Garbaccio (RG),
 Board Members on Zoom: Sarah Davies (SD)
 Members: Cesca Cooke (CC), Peter Malao (PM), Suzyo T Mwanza (SM)
 Members on Zoom: Scott Brown (SB), Leanne Edwards (LE), Bob Gladhill (BG), Ralph Pecker (RP)
 Area Warden: Mirriam Nyamushi (MN)

Meeting called to order by Anita Balletto 09:10

	<u>MINUTES</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
1	<p><u>Apologies</u> Seamus Fleming, Alan Watson, Grant Cummings, Keira Langford, Jurie Van Zyl</p>	
	<p>AB Held a minute's silence for all WPO's and DNPW members lost in the field, Alan Harkness and Solomon Chidunuka</p> <p>Alan Harkness was CLZ Treasurer for many years. He worked tirelessly on a pro-bono basis, helping with a wide range of challenges, assisting with getting permits, setting up systems, general governance, as well as overseeing all the CLZ finances.</p> <p>Solomon Chidunuka was a good friend of CLZ, he served DNPW in the Lower Zambezi for over 13 years.</p>	
2	<p><u>Approvals from AGM minutes held on 24th March 2021</u> Adoption of the minutes – Proposed CC Seconded IS</p>	
3	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> The review of the constitution is still outstanding. Anne Viner, a management consultant, has been involved in the process, but the constitution has not yet reached a stage where it can be shared.</p>	

<p>4</p>	<p><u>Chairs Opening Remarks – Anita Balleto</u></p> <p>AB thanked the members present at the meeting and online. AB stressed that the members support is vitally important to CLZ, especially as a point of leverage with the larger donors through the fact that CLZ has a sustainable model.</p> <p>COVID</p> <p>The CLZ admin team made the decision to allow a payment holiday particularly for lodges and camps. The CLZ team were able to raise emergency funds from other sources to keep the organisation going.</p> <p>Income from Membership</p> <p>2020 US\$ 44 000 2021 US\$ 65 000 Pre-Covid US\$ 150 000 per year</p> <p>AB appealed for continued support and encouraged all present to help find new members. Big donors do not always cover admin costs and wages and the money raised from membership fees contributes to these expenses.</p> <p>AB thanked all Lodge Operators who continued to contribute to the Special Operations fund to cover intelligence gathering and incentives. The lodges who contributed are: Chiawa, Old Mondoro, Mwambashi, Royal Zambezi, Sausage Tree and Kanyemba. AB encouraged other lodges and members to contribute toward this vital fund.</p> <p>CLZ and Conservation International will be implementing partners on a big fisheries project, Pro-nature Enterprise for the People of Southern Africa, to support communities, government institutions & tourism operators to adopt sustainable fisheries co-management models. CLZ will receive in the region of \$1.4 million over 4 years with an outreach to 20 000 people in the region. This will be headed up by Sven Vrodoljack.</p> <p>Reintroduction programme – a project in collaboration with S4W Australia, approved and signed off by DNPW and Ministry of Tourism. The goal is to re-introduce key species, starting with eland, and culminating in black rhino. Threats to the project include the proposed mine, encroachment and poaching.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Bob Gledhill joined at 09:40)</p> <p>AB thanked the Board, ExCo and the CLZ Team for their continued hard work during challenging times. AB also thanked Jill Morse for taking on a substantial amount of work after the passing of Alan Harkness.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p><u>Annual Report 2021 – Ian Stevenson</u></p> <p>IS apologised for not having an Impact Report due to the unforeseen workload in the financial department due to the necessary restructuring.</p> <p>It is important to note that CLZ and DNPW work together as a team and all reports refer to both CLZ and DNPW.</p> <p>IS thanked the Board and ExCo for their contribution during a particularly challenging 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>Wildlife Protection Programme</p> <p>Foot patrols, aerial patrols, community scout unit, detection and tracking dog unit, rapid</p>	

deployment team, investigations and intelligence, cross-border illegal wildlife trade, prosecutions and legal assistance, fisheries management and DNB capacity building and training.

(10:12 Donovan & Cat Rule joined)

- 14 387 patrol person days, slightly up on the previous year.
- 40 pieces of illegal ivory recovered which does not include natural ivory but does include ivory transiting through the park from other sources
- 214 suspects apprehended including illegal miners
- 15 firearms confiscated, this number has dropped – possibly as there are less firearms around or possibly because they are not being located.
- 186 snares removed
- 300.7 Kg bushmeat confiscated
- 7 live pangolins released

Elephant Poaching 2021

2020 was the lowest year ever, 4 in the park and 7 in the GMA, possibly due to less movement during COVID.

2021

- Park 12
- GMA 5

2021 almost 50% were either tuskless or the ivory left so possibly just shot for meat. MN said the market is generally down for ivory. IS – there has been a global decrease in the price of ivory although in the last 6 months the price is starting to rise again. Old, previously stashed ivory is now being moved.

K9 Unit

- 135 suspects arrested.
- 152.9 Kg bushmeat recovered.
- 6 pieces of illegal ivory confiscated.
- 34 snares removed.

There is a high level of integrity in the unit. Incentivising dog finds.

Rapid Deployment Team

- 8 firearms confiscated.
- 95 suspects arrested.
- 5 poacher's camps detected.
- 42 Kg bushmeat confiscated.

The team have only been operating for half of the year as the previous Rapid Response Team were suspended for unethical behaviour. The RDT are working well under strict management.

Aerial Patrols

- 165 hours

Found 75% of the poached elephant in the park, usually this number is closer to 50%. This is probably because the finds are in less accessible areas.

Small Scale Illegal Mining

- 140 illegal miners arrested.

- 134 convicted.

Funding has been found to do an assessment to identify the drivers behind the small-scale mining. Small scale mining is a national problem.

Helicopter Operations

- 40 hours

Very successful with access to more remote areas. Teams are more confident with increased moral with having the support.

Elephant Collaring

The project was started 2 years ago. 10 elephants are now collared. Providing very good information with regards to elephant movement and HWC, as well as movement into Zimbabwe – one spends 40% of its time in Zimbabwe. There has been 40% failure rate with the collars, both satellite and VHF. In discussions with the suppliers.

Provides advanced information if an elephant starts moving towards village areas or if they leave an area quickly.

Fisheries

- 2.5 km of illegal fishing nets confiscated.

Conservation International is the lead partner and CLZ is the implementing partner in Lower Zambezi in the Pro-nature Enterprise for the People of Southern Africa project engaging with 4 other partners in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The sustainable fisheries component of the project will support communities, government institutions and tourism operators in the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools TFCA to adopt sustainable fisheries co-management models. The community identify a need but must agree to provide something in return, eg a corridor for elephants in a certain area. The project also covers a soft approach assisting with registration of canoes, boats and people as well as advising on net size etc.

Cross Border Work, Prosecutions, and Legal Assistance.

- 98% conviction rate

Chilufya Chongo, the CLZ Legal Assistant has the highest conviction rate in Zambia. MN confirmed that this is the second year in a row that the Chilufya has had the highest conviction rate.

The Investigation Intelligence Unit in Chirundu won an award for the best IIU in the country for 2021.

Environmental Education Programme

Outreach Visits

Reach bigger numbers using an audio-visual programme reaching 1,200 students 2021.

Internships

Work with UNZA and Copperbelt University. 3 interns from UNZA are presently repainting and rebranding the education centre buildings.

Teacher Training

This year 25 teachers including 6 teachers from the Copperbelt were brought into CLZ Base Camp.

School Visits

66 Schools involved. The schools have Conservation Clubs with games and quizzes with the best children selected to visit CLZ.

District Education Board & PS Visits

Every 2 or 3 years.

Scholarships

20 students on scholarships up to and including university education. 50% female and 50% male.

Community Engagement**HWC Mitigation Campaigns and Workshops**

385 people participated in workshops, including anti-snaring and living with elephants to avoid conflict.

Women's Groups

45 women supported in the community to develop skills, income, and ownership through sustainable businesses.

COVID 19 Support

ZMW41,250 spent in COVID-19 support.

HWC Patrols

With DNPW, CRB and CLZ.

Water Access

52 farmers provided with tanks and water pumps.

Kufadza

First all-female community scout unit in Zambia. Some of the women selected for Kufadza applied to join the specialised units and have been selected on their own merit. The Kufadza group has drawn global attention and very popular with donors.

Marine Unit

Undergoing final training and selection. Going through a series of training programmes. Combination of DNPW and Community Scouts.

Long Term Training Programme

5-year training programme to create a standard for the area offering refresher courses covering leadership, specialised unit training, control room training. Supported by DNPW.

Strategic Plan Review

CLZ's management team and the ExCo met up to review CLZ's five-year strategic plan. This meeting gave the team a chance to discuss challenges and visions, assess progress and align our goals with future activities, programmes, and expansion.

Infrastructure

- Refurbished the EEP, funded by Cidicol
- Fixed up the Chongwe Confluence with support from Trade Kings

- Jeki Airstrip with a basic visitors' centre and scout accommodation, a baboon proof kitchen and clean water
- Roads & Accessibility
- Chilapira, built a shelter and installed two water tanks.
- Basecamp, expanding the workshop, repaired the dining roof and other projects.
- Janeiro, built a gate and housing for DNPW officers.

Fundraising

Events

Tusk Wildlife Ranger Challenge – a team event held all over Africa where the teams run 22km with 22Kg on their back, held in October.

Elephant Epic

Elephant Charge – US\$17 000

Grants

Tusk Trust have increased grants to US\$204 000 over the last two years.

EU – US\$1.4M

USFWS – US\$7 or 800 000

AWF – to build a training and research base in the park as well as support.

IWT Challenge fund with GRI – support Rufunsa area

Finances

Income

2020 – US\$1 238 882

2021 – US\$1 159 556

Expenditure

2020 – US\$1 162 228

2021 – US\$1 159 809

There are no audited accounts to present at the AGM due to the sudden loss of Alan Harkness. CLZ have now engaged Rouvell Rosen in Ndola to take over the finances and the systems going forward should be more streamlined. The present system IS approves expenditure, HH loads the payments on the online portal and JM approves payments.

Future Projects

- Funding has been received to train two village dogs.
- A pangolin program is in the process of being set up to tag and track released pangolins to establish how successful the releases are.
- VW have contacted CLZ to potentially partner with the GRZ and CLZ to establish the Lower Zambezi as a VW Climate Partner where VW develop and finance carbon offset projects. Lower Zambezi has two major threats, fire and encroachment so potentially qualify as a candidate.

DNPW

CLZ and DNPW are in communications to create a Co-management Agreement. DNPW have requested CLZ to present a proposal.

IS thanked the Board, the partners and especially DNPW for their continued support and asked Mirriam Nyamushi, the Area Warden to pass thanks along down the line to the scouts.

	<p>Miriam Nyamushi, the Area Warden, thanked CLZ for their help and support and stressed that there are still several challenges faced by DNPW especially in the Eastern GMA, Western GMA and Rufunsa areas and she looks forward to continued communication and co-operation.</p> <p>AB thanked the Warden and highlighted the need for good communication and working together towards a common goal.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Bob Gleedhill Left 10:55)</p>	
6	<p><u>Update on Lower Zambezi Mine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest threat the Lower Zambezi has ever faced affecting the park and the people living in the area. To address this issue, the Save Zambezi Safe Zambezi Coalition was established by CLZ, WWF, WCP, and Corporate Image. The campaign received significant support from Fadi Hus and Giraffe Creatives, who contributed a considerable amount of time and effort. • The online petition has garnered the attention of 730,000 individuals, with 50,000 signing it. • There has been substantial financial support from Mwambashi and Corporate Image. • The Facebook campaign has also reached a global audience of over 1 million people. During a function held at Lilayi, the Minister of Mines and various artists were present for the launch of a song titled "Zambezi Niyatu." • The mine will have a massive impact on the area. • The challenge is to dispel the myths surrounding mine. • It is Chinese owned through various shell companies. • The Environmental Impact Study was initially rejected by ZEMA but overturned by the Minister of Mines. • By all accounts the mine will go ahead. • An application has been submitted for a Biosphere Reserve. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LZNP falls under IUCN category 2 classification of complete protection, a mine in the NP does not comply with IUCN requirements and would prohibit approval from UNESCO to create a Biosphere Reserve. ○ There is a suggestion that the mine would be zoned completely outside the core zone, buffer zone and transition zone of the Biosphere Reserve, so the mine is no longer located in the Biosphere Reserve but remains located in the LZ National Park. • Based on legal counsel, there is a chance to contest the case, with the costs being capped at US\$76,000. • CLZ are not in the position to be the litigant but there is a possibility of establishing an NGO that would serve as the litigant, with support from CLZ. • A letter has been submitted to IUCN and UNESCO highlighting the concerns. • The mine has applied for an extension to the mining licences including gold, silver, platinum, and cobalt. • The concern is who will monitor the compliance. • A letter has been submitted to both past and current Presidents, the Ministry of Lands, the Ministry of Mines and select NGO's expressing the concerns. No feedback has been received. • JM proposed the formation of a sub-committee that would conduct research and provide guidance to CLZ, with input and advice from pertinent organizations. To be decided by the incoming Board. 	

7	<p><u>Munaneli Award</u> Alan Harkness was proposed as a recipient of the Munaneli Award to celebrate his dedication to conservation and voluntary work as CLZ’s Board Treasurer for over 12 years. Approved unanimously.</p>	
8	<p><u>Resignation of Board</u> 2021 elected board resigns</p>	
9	<p><u>Voting for Incoming Board Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Proxies received. • Anita Balletto stepped down as Chair but indicated a desire to remain on the Board. • Keira Langford-Johnson and Luke Evans resigned as Board Members. • Cesca Cooke, Peter Malao and Suzyo Thomas Mwanza were nominated as new Board Members. • All nominations were voted in unanimously 	
10	<p><u>Appointment of New Board</u></p> <p>Incoming EXCO Chair: Jill Morse Vice Chair: Cesca Cooke and Riccardo Garbaccio Treasurer: Peter Malao Secretary: Carrol Fleming CEO: Ian Stevenson</p> <p>Incoming Board Members Anita Balletto Grant Cumings Sarah Davies Jelous “Chops” Nyandowo Juri Van Zyl Suzyo Thomas Mwanza</p> <p>Outgoing Board Members Keira Langford- Johnson Luke Evans</p>	
11	<p><u>Any Other Business</u> N/A</p>	

Meeting closed by Jill Morse at 12:31

Acronyms

AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CLZ	Conservation Lower Zambezi
CRB	Community Resource Board
DEBS	District Education Boards
DNBP	
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
EEP	Environmental Education Program
EU	European Union
GMA	Game Management Area
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
HWC	Human Wildlife Conflict
IIU	Intelligence and Investigations Unit
IUCN	The International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PS	Permanent Secretary
RDT	Rapid Deployment Team
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Area
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNZA	University of Zambia
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VHF	Very High Frequency
VW	Volkswagen
WCP	Wildlife Crime Prevention
WPO	Wildlife Protection Officers
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
ZEMA	Zambia Environmental Management Agency