



GAME RANGERS INTERNATIONAL

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GRI - Newsflash #23

News update from: GRI – Resource Protection and Training Programme (RPT)



1 of the 6 pieces of ivory recovered by ZAWA during Operation Worthy Zambia

Operation Worthy—GRI recently joined forces with **Interpol** and **IFAW** to provide joint support to the ZAWA Intelligence and Investigations Unit (IIU) to undertake a ten day intelligence led, law enforcement operation in and around Lusaka. Operation **WORTHY** was an Interpol initiative, which was conducted simultaneously in fourteen (14) countries across Africa, as part of a focused crackdown on the illegal trade of wildlife products. The sting operation in Zambia was led by fearless ZAWA Officers and yielded some very good results, including the arrest of three notorious ivory dealers! Intelligence gathered during Op Worthy has subsequently led to more than 600kg of ivory being intercepted within the Livingstone area. ZAWA and the IIU Team must be commended for their ongoing dedication toward mitigating the trade of illegal wildlife products within

Interpol Head of Environmental Crime, David Higgins being interviewed by the BBC in Lusaka



Bush meat intercepted by ZAWA Intelligence and Investigations Unit, destined for Norway



Aftermath of Triple Poaching incident in KNP South—Jan 2012



Nkala Game Management Area (GMA) - We are very pleased to report that the Shanangoma Scout Camp, which is located at an abandoned Tsetse Fly control point within Nkala GMA, is nearing completion. This initiative, led by ZAWA and the Community Resources Boards of Musungwa and Shezongo, is jointly funded by GRI and Nsonga Safaris and will provide much needed housing for the anti-poaching Teams undertaking resource protection in Kafue National Park south. A Command Centre is also being developed which will allow ZAWA to manage the day to day operations within Nkala GMA, more efficiently and effectively. Human-elephant conflict and poaching continue to be an ongoing challenge within the area. *NB - Nkala GMA forms the eastern buffer zone to the core release area of the Elephant Orphanage Project.



Shanangoma Nkala anti-poaching unit Command Center near comple-



Baseline Fishing Survey—Lake Itezhi-tezhi

Lake Itezhi Tezhi - the GRI Patrol Boat was recently deployed to support GRI's Community Outreach Team to complete its Base-line Survey of the socio-economic factors affecting fishermen and their families, who are reliant on the Lake for a living. One hundred fishermen have now been interviewed. Data collected will allow GRI and ZAWA to work with the fishermen to identify a more sustainable future for the Lake and all the families it supports. "By working with the fishermen, rather than against them they can help us by being 'the eyes and ears of the Lake', as they are on the water almost every-day of the year and can therefore play an integral part in the fight against poachers, who use the lake as an easy means to gain access to Kafue National Park" – Sport Beattie, CEO – GRI. *NB – Lake Itezhi Tezhi forms the northern buffer zone to the core release area of the Elephant Orphanage Project.

A special thank you to the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation: www.davidsshepherd.org for their ongoing, critical support to our Resource Protection efforts in Zambia. Special thanks also to: the International Elephant Foundation, Toyota Zambia, British Airways, Genesis Group of Companies, Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Royal Air Charters, Zamshu, Nsonga Safaris, Interpol, IFAW and all our supporters.

For further information about how you can help, please contact Talja Parkinson—General Manager on +260-976-913022

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