

Belated Seasons Greetings from US ALL at Wildlife Action Group

Dearest Donors, supporters, ex volunteers and friends

As 2013 comes to an end we reflect over the last year and all the challenges and achievements!

Along the boundaries of both Thuma and Dedza Salima the Human elephant conflict reached crisis level with elephants being chased to town, stoned and in some areas people leaving poison to try kill them. WAG where issued with an ultimatum from the highest level of government and it looked like the elephants would be moved to another area.

At the same time as this charcoal burning, hunting for ivory and deforestation was also at an all time high due to economical pressures and people not having any other source of income.

WAG have been tested to the limits.

But we are delighted to be able to say, the WAG team have met each challenge head on and we can say WE have achieved.

This achievement is mainly due to pure hard work, determination and dedication by us all.

And the reason for this is because of ALL of you out there who support us, encourage us and believe in us and what we are doing here.

We have doubled the number of scouts this year, opened a new camp, extended the solar powered electrical elephant fence a further 20kms to help reduce human elephant conflict, held the first ever animal count in both reserves, started Tseste fly eradication program, held wildlife law enforcement workshop, conducted bamboo survey, to name but a few.

We conducted over 600 patrols this year in Thuma Forest alone.

We have lost 4 elephants to poaching, Arrested 5 gun poachers (one imprisoned for 3 years), arrested over 60 charcoal burners, poaching fines at local courts have increased in amount, confiscated 5 firearms, and retrieved nearly all the ivory from the elephants killed. Instigated and took a leading role in the first ever peaceful march regarding wildlife in Malawi in Oct to increase the public awareness of the plight of Malawi's wild animals esp elephants. And this is to name only some of what we did in 2013.

Late Christmas eve we raided a village and arrest 3 suspects for killing a kudu, one scout was badly injured that night and is still recovering. Christmas morning we arrested another poacher with hunting with dogs.

And so it goes on.

As we end the 1st week of January 2014, We welcome its coming with even more hope and determination than ever.

We wish to say a special thanks to our donors who are more like family, always there to advise and support us in every way. REA - Thomas, Dani and team - your visits, financial support and all the uniforms and boots we could not be without you and will never let you down. Abraham Foundation - Nancy and Eleonor - thank you - we have more scouts than ever before and the fence extension last year along with constant mails of

encouragement and belief in us, we could not be without. Ron for enabling our animals count!

We are very lucky to have your support, you are all wonderful.

Also we welcome back USFWS who have in the past supported us so much and are back helping us to continue the work, Thank you so much we look forward to working with you again and strengthen our relationship.

As 2014 draws closer we push forward with enthusiasm and excitement for what can be achieved by a few dedicated local people who daily lay down their lives to stand up for something that is right for the future.

We are looking forward to your continued commitment to help us protect, preserve and restore these two unique areas in central Malawi along with their wildlife.

As I write this I sit up on Pride Rock and continue to dream about the circle of life that we are fighting to protect. Am sure you will all be with us.

Belated Merry Christmas and Wish you all everything for the coming year.

Your WAG Family

THE END OF
2013! Wishing
you all Healthy
and a very
Happy New
Year !

WAG