



Dear All

My header is the market – it has gone. This is the market in the town centre which is often called the Zimbabwe Market because many traders from Zimbabwe came there to sell their wares. When I drove past the other day even these bits of structures had been removed and it is now an open space.

We all look forward to a new market ... I assume that the construction of the new one will be fast-tracked through all the necessary paperwork like planning permission. I just hope that they put in good drainage. The previous one became a river through all the alleyways when the rains came down. I also hope they put in some proper toilets.

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## LIVINGSTONE

### National Heritage Conservation Commission receives funding from Government

Government has given K2.3 billion for the rehabilitation of the Victoria Falls World Heritage Site. The money will be used to revamp the area in time for the UNWTO.

According to the report the work will include upgrading of pathways, toilets and fencing. I do not know any more details except this. I am assuming that the fencing will be a replacement of the current fence which includes razor-wire and chain-link will be replaced – I hope so – we can do better than this.

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### New Fence for the National Park

During the week I took a drive around the airport (on Knight's Drive) and noticed a new fence being erected for the National Park. It seems a little bit premature to put up a fence without first doing something about the road which is badly eroded. In some sections the rains have washed away huge gullies going down the hill. Surely these should have been fixed first? I also wonder about what the elephants are going to make of this fence. I think they will knock it down – it crosses their migratory routes.



Also, as you near the old Chalets Motel which is now used for ZAF personnel, I think, the fence is very close to the road. This fence is an electric fence. If a private operator were to erect a fence so close to the road and a potential danger to the public, there would be a massive outcry.



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## ZAMBIA

### ... and Batoka is about to

From the Zambia Weekly

Zambezi River Authority this week advertised for parties interested in the development of the Batoka Gorge Hydro-Electric Scheme on the Zambezi River on a build, operate and transfer (BOT) basis.

BACK GROUND: The Batoka scheme was first mooted in 1993, but Zambia has refused to start the project, until Zimbabwe settled its debt relating to the Kariba Dam. It is located 54 kilometres downstream of the Victoria Falls. The 1993 feasibility study proposed a 181-metre high dam with a capacity of 1.68 km<sup>3</sup>. The relatively small storage (compared to Lake Kariba – see table) means that the plant will operate as a “run-of-river” scheme, allowing more effective use of Lake Kariba and maximising power delivery. Batoka will have two underground 800 MW power stations divided between four turbines. The cost of the project has ballooned from \$2.5 billion in 1993 to \$4 billion today, however, the technical, legal and environmental feasibility studies will be reviewed in 2013.

Gill Comment: *This is sad news, indeed. The original survey of the Batoka Dam was done in 1993, as the report above states. Many things have changed since that time. Research is suggesting that big dams are no longer viable because of climate change. Big dams alter the environment to the detriment of the people and wildlife which depend on it; they also increase the chances of earth tremors. Now that we have so much alternative technology for producing electricity should we be relying on the old ways of doing things?*

### KUBU CRAFTS CAFE AND FURNITURE SHOP

Kubu Crafts have opened a cafe/coffee shop (Kubu Coffee), combined with a furniture shop at Mosi-Oa-Tunya square, next to Shoprite.

For those clients who would like to see our online Furniture catalogue, a friendly saleslady will assist with quotes and orders. We are offering a 20% discount on all furniture sold off the floor for the month of December

The Coffee Shop serves breakfasts, light snacks, fresh cakes daily, and delicious coffees. (Marika)

The trading hours are currently 9 a.m till 4 pm every day of the week. From Friday 21st Dec till Mon 24th Dec, trading hours will be extended to 18.00hrs

Thanks to everyone who have already supported us and offered valuable feedback

We appreciate your business and would like to wish you a wonderful Holiday Season!

Tel 324093 kubucrafts@zamnet.zm www.kubucrafts.com  
Shop 11, Mosi-Oa-Tunya Square, Livingstone





## Submerged Turbines

The US is developing turbines for use in the Mississippi River which can be used to generate power.

From a report in Phys.Org

<http://phys.org/news188547165.html#jCp>

The company, Free Flow Power (FFP) from Gloucester in Massachusetts, has high hopes for its proposals because, unlike tidal hydroelectricity generation, the river water is fresh and will therefore be expected to produce fewer corrosion problems. According to US army data, the river water at New Orleans flows at about 6 kph (4 mph), and this flow could turn the blades of submerged turbines sufficiently to generate electricity to power thousands of homes, especially as moving water can generate 800 times more energy than wind. The proposal should work in theory, but it is still unclear whether or not hydrokinetic power is feasible commercially. FFP has already carried out a six-month test of a submerged turbine at Baton Rouge, and spokesman Jon Guidroz said they were happy with the results, although he gave few details. The proposal for the Mississippi is to anchor concrete pilings deep in the river, and attach turbines to them. The only thing visible from the shore would be the cables emerging at the banks. The turbines, each with seven 3 meter (10 foot) blades, would turn very slowly to reduce the hazard to fish and marine mammals, although the noise of the turbines could still affect the behavior of animals using the river. The design also takes the aquatic environment into account, even though some efficiency was sacrificed. The turbines are lubricated only by water, so no hazardous lubricants can leak into the river if a part breaks. The company plans to start generating electricity from the river in 2013, but the project must first be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). ...



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## Lukusuzi National Park

As there was not much to write about this week, I thought I would have a look at one of Zambia's lesser known parks. I chose Lukusuzi.

*Photo from COMACO Website*

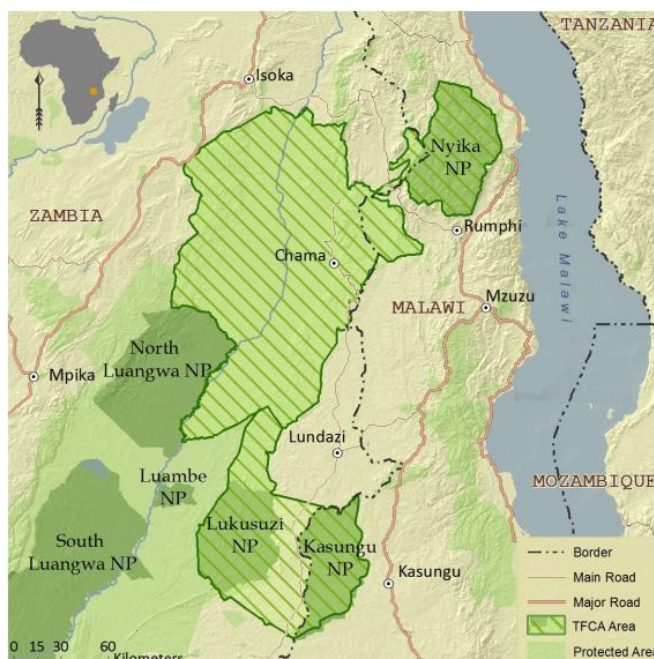
Lukusuzi is near the Malawi border to the east of South Luangwa National Park. There are no facilities for tourists and, according to one website there is just one track which runs through the park. The park is mainly rolling hills with miombo woodland – mixed woodland, generally on poor soil.



In 2004 Peace Parks signed an agreement with both the Zambia and Malawi Governments to form the Malawi/Zambia Transfrontier Conservation Area which included Nyika Plateau (Zambia and Malawi), Lukusuzi (Zambia) and Kasungu (Malawi). On the Peace Parks website it gives us the following 'latest news':

The officer's house in Kasungu National Park was completed while four tents for the officers' camp in Lukusuzi National Park were delivered to the Zambian authorities. An operations room for Lukusuzi National Park was constructed near the entrance gate and VHF radios and related equipment for the installation of a network were procured. A VHF radio network system was also established in Kasungu National Park. Approval was subsequently received to install radios using the same frequency but different channels in the two parks. GPS and VHF radio solar charging equipment for both parks were also procured.

It would appear that most of Peace Parks efforts at the moment are concentrated on the Nyika Plateau area where there has been restocking of wildlife. But, as you can see from their report, at least scouts are now on the ground in Lukusuzi. If anyone knows more, please let me know.



According to the Joint Research Centre of the European Union which undertook a survey/data collection of the area in 2010, this is the mammal list for the park:

#### Mammal List for Lukusuzi

Wild Dog, Cheetah, Lion, Impala, Hartebeest, Wildebeest, Hyena, Giraffe, Roan, Sable, Waterbuck, Puku, Klipspringer, Oribi, Grysbok, Reedbuck, Buffalo, Kudu, Eland, Pangolin, Baboon, Otter, Jackal, Caracal, Blue Monkey, Vervet Monkey, Wild Cat, Bushbaby, Bush hyrax, Cape Porcupine, Serval, Leopard, Duiker, Bushbuck, Zebra, Antbear, Mongoose, Honey Badger, Weasel, Civet, Genet, Warthog, Bushpig, Elephant

There was no bird list, or even number of birds ...

#### COMACO

Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) is working in the area around Lukusuzi to

provide livelihoods for the people through crops grown sustainably. In this way they are reducing the need for people to cut trees and to poach. Their products are on the market under 'It's Wild' and are available in the shops. The other day I bought some of their Chama Rice and I can definitely recommend it. It is excellent – try some ...



## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT MARAMBA RIVER LODGE





**25 December 2012 - Christmas Dinner**  
Hot Buffet - From 18h00 – 21h00  
K150,000 per person

**26 December 2012 – Cold Buffet**  
12h30 – 14h30  
K100,000 per person





**31 December 2012 - Finger Snacks**  
19h00 to 21h30  
Cocktails and drinks available from our cash bar  
K100,000 per person

**1 January 2013 – Buffet**  
13h00 to 15h00  
ZMK150 000 per person



**CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS – HALF PRICE**  
Tickets available at Maramba River Lodge  
until the 22nd of December 2012



Call (260) 213 324 189  
e-mail [reservations@marambariverlodge.com](mailto:reservations@marambariverlodge.com)

From COMACO website:

### **KEEPING FORESTS SAFE WITH THE RIGHT MARKETS**

In areas around the Lundazi National Forest, and in particular Chief Chikomeni's area, people regard charcoal-making as an important income source, especially for those with a meagre income. Over the years, the result has been a steady loss of forests and a gradual degradation of the landscape. Not far away in an area between Lukusuzi National Park in Zambia and Kasungu National Park in Malawi there is a land bridge that covers much of Chieftainess Mwasemphangwe's area. Charcoal-making there was also a serious problem for many years until the Chieftainess realized her area would soon be without trees and launched a campaign to stop the practice. She recognized that COMACO's markets could provide a better alternative to charcoal and began educating her people to learn new skills that would qualify them for these markets. Through her persuasion and close partnership with COMACO, the Chieftainess succeeded and since 2010, no one from her area has sold charcoal. Instead they rely more on the market opportunities COMACO has brought. ...

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## **WOLFGANG'S COLUMN**

### **MALAYSIA SEIZES RECORD HAUL OF BLOOD IVORY**

Information has just come to light that customs and port officials in Port Kelang in Malaysia have confiscated what might be the largest blood ivory haul ever, weighing as much as 20 tons according to sources quoted in Malaysia.

The shipment according to the details availed came from Togo in West Africa and was destined to be shipped on to a final destination thought to be China.

At least 1.500 tusks were found already at the time the information was sent, representing at least 750 elephant butchered for their tusks, which in China and other Far and South East Asian countries fetch record prices as the demand for carvings, seals and even chopsticks made of ivory soars among the nouvelle riche in that part of the world

CITES is heading into their next general meeting in 2013 already faced with applications to sell so called legal ivory but the amount of illegal ivory seized this year in various raids in Malaysia and Hong Kong indicates that a new approach will be needed to stop the slaughter of the African elephant. More and more conservationists now demand the total ban on ivory trade and the criminalization of possessing and processing ivory, leaving CITES in an unenviable position to find a solution among signatory states. Efforts are also underway to strip the most notorious countries for the importation of blood ivory like China of their ivory trading status in the absence of stricter enforcement of existing laws or the introduction of new legislation to prevent trade in blood ivory. Estimates are being made now that 2012 might be the bloodiest year ever for the African elephant with more than 10.000 elephant allegedly poached in Tanzania alone and perhaps as many as 30.000 across the continent.

A Malaysian port cargo handling company is being investigated while TRAFFIC ([www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)) has also launched independent investigations aimed to identify the origin of the ivory via DNA testing and establishing who shipped the cargo from Togo, while at the same time attempting to find the final destination and recipients of the blood ivory to bring all those involved to justice.

### **KENYA'S CONSERVATION FRATERNITY GOES INTO CRISIS MODE AFTER 7 RHINOS KILLED**

Reports about the killing of 7 rhinos and several elephant over the last week has thrown Kenya's conservation fraternity into a crisis mode, with some already claiming that South Africa's rhino killing spree – more than 600 rhinos have been poached this year in South Africa – is now coming to Kenya too.

The relatively isolated killings of rhinos over the past year, in national parks but mainly on private conservancies, have suddenly spiraled out of control, and some sources insisting on anonymity are blaming the trend on the belated action South Africa is finally taking to stem the tide.

*'They lost 1.500 or more rhinos in South Africa over the past 36 months. Finally it seems the message is reaching their government and they are throwing greater resources into that fight. But poachers are cunning criminals. They see their days may be numbered in South Africa and now shift to Kenya. We must immediately react to this new threat. Losing 7 rhinos in a week is unacceptable. Kiprono [William Kiprono,*



CEO of Kenya Wildlife Services] *must act. There is a lot of goodwill out there for him and companies have offered vehicles, aircraft, communications gear to KWS to boost their capacity. The conservancies too must prepare for this war on poaching. I know all eyes are on security problems in the North of Kenya, the Tana Delta and of course the elections. But this is exactly what poachers hope for. If KWS takes the eyes off the ball we will lose out big time. I can only hope that Tanzania is protecting rhinos better than we did last week because they are losing 10.000 elephant a year to poaching which is the biggest number I know of anywhere in Africa. And you in Uganda better be ready not to let those gangs come to you too'* commented a source from Nairobi when discussing the bloody week rhino conservation in Kenya has just seen.

Reportedly has Tanzania though stepped up their anti poaching efforts, no doubt spurred by no nonsense Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism Amb. Khamis Kagesheki, who has declared an all out war on poaching two weeks ago. Immediate results there are the seizure of significant quantities of blood ivory since then and the arrest of several prominent business people now alleged to have financed the menace, and only a few days ago has a safari company given a lift to security personnel chasing down poachers and eventually nabbing them.

Deputy minister Lazaro Nyalandu reportedly said during this week in Dar es Salaam when announcing the seizure of yet more blood ivory: *'I want to assure you that I won't sleep, and the Natural Resources and Tourism minister will not sleep until all the elephants and lions in the national parks and game reserves sleep undisturbed. This campaign is aimed at doing away with the problem of poaching once and for all'*. Uganda too has stepped up controls and surveillance and this has resulted also in seizures of ivory and the arrest of poachers but sources in both countries acknowledged that the war on poaching was far from over, in fact only beginning, and had a long way to go. *'We need to address the issue of demand from China and those countries. If their governments do not help us to drive demand down, we cannot win this battle'* said a senior UWA staff yesterday on condition of anonymity for not being the official spokes person of the organization.

This is something all East African countries are basically agreed on but only a common position and new strategy at the next CITES general meeting in Thailand next year will make it possible to reduce demand while disrupting and dismantling the global racket dealing in blood ivory and rhino horn.

Watch this space.

### **SAUTI ZA BUSARA GETS READY FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION**

The 10th edition of Sauti Za Busara, East Africa's most popular performing arts festival held on the spice island of Zanzibar, is gearing up as final preparations are now underway for the February 14 – 17 event. It has not been lost on the festival organizers that February 14th is in fact Valentine's Day and hotels and restaurants, as well as performing artists, will pay special attention to the theme of that day, being Love of course.

Booking early is absolutely essential for those wishing to go to Zanzibar in February, as accommodation and flights are getting tight already and the festival organizers have a dedicated link on their website which is aimed to assist wannabe visitors and answer all the frequently asked questions, aka FAQ's, as well as help in finding available hotel rooms.

An impressive lineup of Africa's top musicians and artists, all performing live on stage, has been secured and the parallel *Movers and Shakers Forum* alongside the film festival and other activities have added great value to what started out 10 years ago as a simple festival of music, celebrating local artists, before ballooning into the globally renowned festival, arguably the most important in Africa now, it has since become. Watch this space for future updates when additional information becomes available or else, for more information write to [busara@busara.or.tz](mailto:busara@busara.or.tz) or visit [www.busaramusic.org](http://www.busaramusic.org)

### **THREATS, INTIMIDATION AND DECEIT SURROUND MWAMBANI PORT DECISION**

*'Wait for a little while and you will see something done'* is the quote captured when Tanzania's Minister for Transport Dr. Harrison Mwakyembe last week talked about the government's unchanged plans to build a new sea port at the heart of the Coelacanth Marine National Park at Mwambani near Tanga, where incidentally a fully fledged port already exists.

Following the discovery in 2003 of the Coelacanth prehistoric fish, the Tanzanian government rushed to create a dedicated Marine National Park to afford this rarest of deep sea species the protection it needed to survive, one of the few places where it is still found on the planet. The new park was launched officially

in 2009 and earlier this year, as reported here, were efforts made to expand the park boundaries onto land, attempting to make guest houses, resorts and hotels subject to licensing fees and have even private visitors to residents in the area pay entrance fees. Understandably did residents object to this land grabbing scheme as the proposed boundaries extended deep into the municipality of Tanga and the surrounding villages, leading to a temporary retreat from the authorities involved in this saga.

Conservationists welcomed the creation of a marine national park in 2009 as ground breaking at the time and hailed the speed with which this was undertaken, but are now equally concerned about plans to build a new harbour in the middle of what is a relatively shallow Mwambeni bay. This plan would necessitate extensive dredging of a port entrance from the open sea as well as to create berths for ships, wrecking the habitat of the rare prehistoric fish species and irrevocably alter the fabric of the marine park, and quite possibly condemn it to ruin. ...

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## OTHER STUFF

### Protecting Africa's Wildlife

I have been reading during the week about using military tactics/equipment to protect Africa's wildlife. Damien Mander, an Australian, who fought for years in Iraq, has turned his skills to use in protected areas in southern African to save the wildlife from poachers. He is training game scouts and importing military technology like unmanned drones. He has worked in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Watch the video on: <http://www.iapf.org/en/wp/inputs/reports/view/1>

Our battle, of course, against the poachers is because of demand from Asia for ivory and rhino horn. I then decided to have a look at Asian elephant populations. If the Asians want elephant ivory so much, why don't they kill their own?

Here is map showing elephant numbers in Asia. Elephants in Asia often do not have tusks so they do not attract poachers. Also, many elephants there are 'domesticated'. The numbers in the wild are merely 35,000 – half the number of elephants in Chobe National Park said to be 70,000.

The largest population of elephants in Asia is in India at around 24,000 of which 18,000 are classified as 'wild'. The threat to Indian elephants is the increase in human populations. India's human population alone is now a staggering 1.2 billion with a population density of 336 people per square kilometre. (Zambia has a population of 13 million and population density of 13 people per square kilometre). As more and more land is converted from forest to farmland to feed the enormous population, the elephants of India are confined to ever smaller areas.



As you can see from the figures of elephants in other countries of Asia, there may not be enough to form viable populations and with the increase in human populations throughout Asia their continued existence is in jeopardy. It seems likely that elephants in Asia will be in 'safari parks' only in the near future and, if they are to survive, they will have to be managed carefully to keep the gene pool diversified.

In Africa we should be extremely proud of our wild elephant populations – we should guard them carefully.

The use by Damien Mander of unmanned drones to patrol parks is an amazing idea and one which I hope will be promoted in all our parks. Watch the video because the drones are small and must be within budgets of many parks.

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### Regional Integration

<http://foreignaffairsreview.co.uk/2012/12/south-africa/>

While discussing South Africa's position in the world economy, Mike Musgrave has, as his parting shot: South Africa's overall ranking is 52 out of the 144 countries mentioned but regionally it is surrounded by Zimbabwe (132), Moçambique (138) and Zambia (102) near the bottom and Botswana (79) and Namibia (92) near the top. A quick calculation of the average ranking of all SADC countries shows that they would rank at 111 if taken as a country in their own right. To put this in perspective, this is the same ranking as Liberia – hardly a shining example of economic success. The rankings provide a clear outline of the major problems and South Africa would do well to concentrate on promoting regional economic growth within SADC if it is not to rely forever on its moral authority to be a member of BRICS and the performance of its financial regulators to claim economic success. Regional integration within SADC is painfully slow to develop and constitutes a series of stop-start proposals that do little to facilitate the movement of money or people in the region. Driving a car from Nairobi to Cape Town, for example, still requires a pile of documents at least an inch thick. Navigating the individual country rules about reflectors, fire extinguishers, signs and stickers is so complex that one is almost inevitably going to fall foul of the law on the journey. Tourists trying to see Botswana's wildlife and the Victoria Falls (which are 80km apart) require such a complex and expensive series of visas and permits that many choose one or the other when they visit the region. If Africa is to be seen as an important player in the emerging new world order, it needs to grow economically and to do this it needs to be globally competitive. The message from the WEF report is simple: educate your people, get rid of the red tape, integrate regionally into a large economic bloc and get on top of crime and corruption.

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## THE SMILE

### Zimbabwe's Vehicle Laws

Last week I wrote that the High Court in Zimbabwe had stated that the need for vehicles in Zimbabwe to carry triangles and a fire extinguisher was not necessary. It seems, though, that the Zimbabwe government has appealed this decision and the matter has been flung back into the courts. The law, therefore, is still in place.

I found this photo and wondered what the Zimbabwe police would have to say if this turned up at their Road Block.



There was very little in the news this week about tourism and the environment. It could be because many camps are now closed for the rainy season; it could be because everyone is preparing for Christmas; it could be just 'one of those things' ... or it could be because we are all awaiting the end of the world ... again ... 21 December is one of those 'end-of-the-world' days. We have had plenty in the past year. According to one of the reports, a woman is telling everyone to kill their pets so that they don't suffer when the end of the world happens. The report calls her a Free-range Nut Bar ... So, please don't kill your pets ... According to historians and people who know about these things, it will not be the end of the world on Friday ...

Have a good week

Gill