



Dear All

My header is from the Honde Valley in Eastern Zimbabwe. In front is all that tea! In the background the hazy hills. A bit of a story later ...

World Tourism Week

Activities in Livingstone *(Tentative Activities Proposed by Ministry of Tourism)*

Saturday 22 September Livingstone residents free entry into Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-tunya National Park and Livingstone Museum. 9am – 4pm. It says 'Strictly by Coupons' but does not say how anyone gets a coupon.

Sunday 23 September. Livingstone residents free entry into Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-tunya National Park and Livingstone Museum. 9am – 4pm. Again Strictly by Coupons ...
Football: Tour Operators vs Public Sector. No time or venue, as yet

Monday 24 September. March Past. Mukuni Park to Tourism Centre. Assemble at 8am.
Clean up in town. 8.30am – 12noon.
Livingstone residents free entry into Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-tunya National Park and Livingstone Museum. 9am – 4pm. Again Strictly by Coupons ...
Exhibitions of Alternative Sources of Energy – Tourism Centre.

Tuesday 25 September. Proposed tour by Livingstone residents of the airport. 8am – 5pm
Livingstone residents free entry into Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-tunya National Park and Livingstone Museum. 9am – 4pm. Again Strictly by Coupons ...
School Quiz, Poems, Essays. No venue or time at present.
Complimentary Boat Cruise for children. 3pm
Exhibitions of Alternative Sources of Energy – Tourism Centre.

Wednesday 26 September.

Livingstone residents free entry into Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-tunya National Park and Livingstone Exhibitions of Alternative Sources of Energy – Tourism Centre.
Dambwa Forest Tour. No time, or meeting place, as yet
Lion Encounter Tour. No time, or meeting place, as yet
Public Forum. World Tourism Day Eve Cocktail Party. No venue or time, as yet.

Thursday 27 September

Marching again from Mukuni Park ...
Livingstone residents free entry into Victoria Falls, Mosi-oa-tunya National Park and Livingstone Exhibitions of Alternative Sources of Energy – Tourism Centre.
Mukuni Big 5 Tour. No time or meeting place, as yet
Miss Tourism 2012 Pageant. No time or venue, as yet.

Charles Chisala

Charles always makes me smile with his stories in the Daily Mail. Having crowned himself as Livingstone's tourism ambassador, he always has lots to say ...

MY THOUGHTS ON SUNDAY with CHARLES CHISALA

IF YOU think I am only interested in animals as Livingstone's chief tourist you are mistaken because I am a passionate lover of trees and other forms of nature. I love trees because they represent a significant part of my childhood and youth.

On Tuesday I was one of the residents who participated in the tree planting exercise in Livingstone as part of the preparations for the World Tourism Week which will culminate into the World Tourism Day on Thursday, September 27, 2012.

It was also part of the ongoing exercise to plant 365 trees around Livingstone by the time of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) general assembly next year.

The tree-planting craze that seems to have gripped Livingstone was triggered by Minister of Tourism and Art Sylvia Masebo when she planted her own tree during the launch of the countdown to the global gathering at the tourism centre on August 23, 2012.



So what we did on Tuesday was just a continuation of the initiative to 'green up' the tourist capital. It was a productive morning. We braved the brain-frying sun that partly makes Livingstone 'famous' this time of the year to lose a few pints of water from our pampered bodies. There were enough trees, picks and shovels to enable everyone to plant at least one tree.

As a member of the World Tourism Day organising committee, on which I represent the Zambia Daily Mail Limited, I had been part of the meeting that had approved that exercise a few days earlier at the one-stop shop tourism centre.

The idea was mooted by the environment and health sub-committee at the urging of one old man who loves trees as though they were his own children, Mr Benjamin Mibenge (I don't know if he is related to the former Zambia Army Commander?).

I am warning you not to ask this man to talk about trees and forests because he will speak you into sleep if you don't stop him. He has somehow managed to convert a good number of members of the committee to his calling – wildlife and environmental conservation – who are also treating trees as if they were human beings.

After taking a few shots with my official camera I grabbed a pick and got one seedling myself from Mr Mibenge and started digging a hole in which to plant the tree behind the civic centre. But I was disturbed by one Lackson Nthani who grabbed my little tree from me saying he wanted to use it in his report on Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) television.

So if you watched this man on ZNBC TV during the main 19:00 hours newscast on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 that tree he was posing with was not his. It was mine! I don't know what's wrong with these easterners.

The chap did not even ask for the tree. He just grabbed it from me and only brought it back when I threatened to reveal to everybody around the kind of animal that provides the meat for his favourite menu.

My tree has assumed some degree of fame, it's a celebrity, and I will make sure it grows up. It is just behind the civic centre. Those who would like to view the tree planted by the Chief Tourist can make a booking through Zambia Tourism Board regional co-ordinator Jocelyn Mutinta at the tourism centre or call the Livingstone office of the Zambia Daily Mail.

Since the tree is still very young there will be no fee. The viewing will be free. Those who can tell its local name, where it is commonly found in Zambia and what its uses are stand a chance of winning one of the many prizes I am offering, including a walking safari in the game park.

At first I thought the exercise would just be a small affair, but I was mistaken. I was happy to see Southern and Western region tourism co-ordinator in the Ministry of Tourism and Art Harold Mweene, in an executive suit, furiously digging as he planted his own tree.

Livingstone Town Clerk Vivian Chikoti was not to be outdone: she joined us later and planted one tree herself under the able supervision of good old Benjamin.

Ms Chikoti threw away the trappings of her office and went down on all fours as she planted her tree. "We want to green this city. We want Livingstone to look beautiful as we host the United Nations World Tourism Organisation general assembly in August next year," she declared as she wiped beads of sweat from her face.

I am surprised that some people cannot see the seamless link between trees and tourism. More than half of Zambia's game, which the tourists come to admire or kill at a fee from their foreign countries hundreds of thousands of kilometres away are found in our natural forests.

The trees add to the wild character of the national parks that thrills the tourists. I am not an expert, but I am aware that our country is also a botanical scientist's paradise boasting countless species of indigenous trees, shrubs and bushes.

For me tree-planting is a legacy from my late father, Mr Elie Sashi Chisala, who taught me and my 10 siblings to appreciate the importance of this natural resource. I remember how one day, when I was in Grade Six, he gave each one of us an orange seedling to plant and tend and taught us how to look after them.

Every day he would inspect each tree to check if it had been watered and being well-looked after. As we watched our trees grow they became our source of pride. My tree is still standing and bearing oranges at Shimalama village in Samfya district. In fact to date my mother's house is identified by the big number of fruit trees that surround it – orange, lemon, avocado, guava and mango.

So my fascination with trees has not started here in Livingstone. Now look at your own yard or work place and see where you can plant at least one tree. Next week I will share with you some of my hair-raising adventures with trees as I grew up in the village.

Comments: Charles_chisala@yahoo.com

ZAMBIA

Zambia has won!!!

No it's not our football team; it is Zambia Environmental Management Agency against Australian mining money and the desecration of our environment. Zambia has turned down the application for mining in the Lower Zambezi National Park. Kangaluwi Mine is dead ... well, almost.

From Ian Manning:

We have won the first battle in what may be a long campaign. The Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), after considering the EIS over a six month period, have turned down the mining project in Lower Zambezi National Park. Zambezi Resources Limited /Mwembeshi Resources Limited have appealed to the Minister of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection to review ZEMA's decision under the Environmental Management Act of 2011.

The CEO of Zambezi Resources Frank Vanspreybroeck writes that 'Some Senior Ministers and the Minister of Mines are surprised ...at ZEMA's decision'.

So, for the time being, we can be assured that our children and grandchildren will see our natural resources in Lower Zambezi as we do ... but watch out for the appeal ... don't relax yet ...

ZIM-ZAM

Yabbies in Lake Kariba

Recently a bunch of Zimbabweans took a houseboat on Lake Kariba and all the talk was of yabbies. Yabbies are crayfish (*Cherax destructor*, I think). And they are from Australia. How they got into the lake is a mystery. The only known person to import yabbies from Australia, via South Africa, was George Grubb in Livingstone. George was very proud of his crayfish which he kept in tanks, growing them to 'eatable' size and then selling them to lovers of crayfish in Lusaka.

The crayfish have come to Lake Kariba, some blaming George Grubb, but there are no crayfish above the Falls, so I can only assume that someone else released them into the Lake.

Is this a disaster waiting to happen or an opportunity?

The boat load of Zimbos baited the crayfish and had two good meals while they were boating. And they were not the only people who enjoy the crayfish – there are reports from both sides of the lake of great meals on yabbies.

The fishermen who mainly catch kapenta and bream are complaining that the reason for the lack of fish in the lake is because the crayfish are eating the fish eggs and reducing numbers in the lake. Kapenta, as we know, were introduced from Lake Tanganika. The Lake is man-made. Lots of 'man-stuff' going on there; it is not natural. Whatever the case, it is worth research ...



ZIMBABWE

A visit to Honde Valley

Last week Josh and I had to go to Mutare so we took a day off to visit Honde Valley, a place I have never been to.

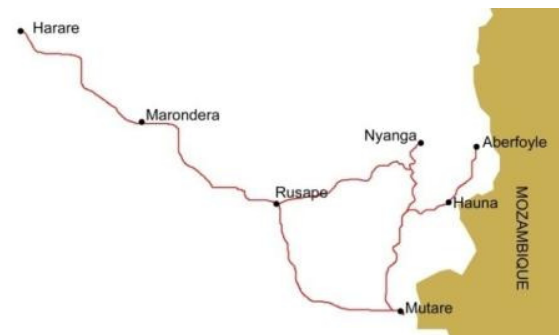
The journey to Mutare was eventless. The bush and farmland had been burned black in many places and the atmosphere was full of haze.

Leaving Mutare around 3pm we headed north through Christmas Pass and then onto the Hauna Road towards Honde Valley and Aberfoyle Lodge, the place we had decided to stay.

The drive from Mutare to Aberfoyle looked a short distance on the map but heading up into the Eastern Highlands the roads became twisty, weaving their way up and down hillsides, so we didn't arrive until after 6pm, just as it was getting dark.

We hadn't been able to book but luckily there was room for us. In fact we were the only ones at the lodge. Aberfoyle, though, is often fully booked as they are part of the Far and Wide Scheme with children from schools coming with their teachers for sort-of outward bound stuff. It is also a popular venue for birders.

That evening we had a great meal – no warning of our arrival, no electricity – but a 3-course meal was put in front of us within an hour. Very impressive.





In the morning I woke up to hazy hillsides. Shame. I am sure the hills would have looked stunning.

I had a look around. Down below there is a 9-hole golf course; all around there were hills of rocks interspersed with forests of pine and indigenous wood; mountain streams trickled down from the hillsides.

There are not many animals in the Honde Valley – samango and vervet monkeys, mainly. We saw in the dusk, samangos as we drove in; I heard them in the early morning but did not see them again. The birdlife is pretty good – 368 species, we were told, including palm-nut vultures. Birds flitted all around the lodge and provided loads of entertainment.



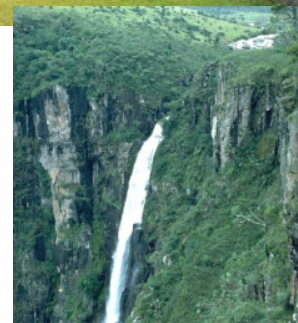
An interesting feature of Aberfoyle is the old bunkers. During the civil war between 1964-79 many of the guerrillas were based just over the border in Mozambique. The guerrillas would come into the mountains with rocket launchers and fire. When this happened, all the people in Aberfoyle Lodge would head for the bunkers. The bunkers now must be historical monuments. Some of them are covered with strawberry beds and the one nearby to the veranda has been covered in grass so that visitors can lie out and watch the stars.



Surrounding the lodge there are hills of tea trees. This is Zimbabwe's tea estates. Rows and rows of the

stuff which is now picked by machine. We didn't see one of the machines in operation as it was weekend – would have been interesting to see.

It was a long drive back again along the windy roads, through miles of tea fields, over mountain streams and onto the highway to Harare. I have marked the road on google earth so that you can see the tortuous route



from Aberfoyle. (It is a tar road, by the way). You can also see all that tea ...

In between Aberfoyle and the main road we should have been able to see Mtarazi Falls, but there was too much haze. I picked this photograph from the internet.

A very pretty place, but go when the rain has washed the sky of all that haze.

Victoria Falls Marathon 2012 links up with the Victoria Falls Green Fund

Sunday 25th August saw over 800 runners from all corners of the globe including USA, UK, Canada, UK, Australia, France and Germany line up for the annual Victoria Falls Marathon. The race is officially recognized by the International Association of Athletics Federation and is unique in that it is the only race on our continent where athletes cross an international border from Zimbabwe into Zambia. Taking place within the confines of one of the Seven Wonders of the World and being a World Heritage Site, it has to be one of the most scenic and wildest routes to run with breathtaking views over the Victoria Falls bridge to the gorges below, through the Zambezi National Park and the bustling tourist town of Victoria Falls. Seeing elephant, impala, warthog and kudu on the route is an unforgettable experience. Having completed either the 42 km full marathon, 21 km half marathon or 5km fun run, participants enjoyed the post race party on the banks of the magnificent Zambezi River – Africa is beautiful!



Through waste management and recycling strategies Victoria Falls is striving to become Africa's Green Destination and for the community to enjoy a sustainable lifestyle. Environment Africa a local organization focusing on environmental conservation and community development initiated the Victoria Falls Green Fund some years ago to address these issues in Vic Falls.

Twelve local youth volunteers, co-ordinated by the Victoria Falls Green Fund embarked on a pre clean up of the 42 km race route a day before the race, starting on the banks of the Zambezi River to ensure the runners enjoyed a clean and safe environment. Large 'Carry In Carry Out' bags, another initiative introduced by Environment Africa and supported by National Parks were used to collect all the waste.

On the day of the race, the Victoria Falls Green Fund volunteers were stationed at the nine official water points, collecting all the waste generated during the race and ferrying it to the dumpsite.

The Victoria Falls Green Fund is supported by private, public and community sectors and together continues to raise environmental awareness and action among the community of Victoria Falls. Support for projects and programmes within the Victoria Falls area is always needed and we urge you to support.

The youth groups within Victoria Falls are committed and supportive of their home town becoming The Green destination in Africa. One of the youth leaders commented "we all have to be committed to keeping our town clean and smart as we are aiming high to be the best internationally recognized tourist destination in Africa".

Victoria Falls - Africa's Green Destination.

Help this become a reality by supporting the Victoria Falls Green Fund. Get involved, take action and be part of the Victoria Falls Green Fund.

Email: info@environmentafrica.org

www.environmentafrica.org

Swiss Tourist Arrested in Kariba

According to a report in Zim Daily, a Swiss Tourist was arrested at the border for insulting the President. The Swiss man and his wife were travelling from Zambia to Mana Pools.

The matter was reported to the police and the Swiss national was arrested.

*"Our detectives in Kariba have arrested a Swiss national in connection with statements he is alleged to have made that insulted the Republic of Zimbabwe President Mugabe. Fischer Thomas reportedly had a misunderstanding with a ZIMRA official whom he accused of delay. During the exchange of words Thomas allegedly said: Mugabe is ****, him and his people know how to screw people especially foreigners."*

This happened on the Saturday (8th) and he went to court on the Monday and told to report at the court on Wednesday. He was found guilty and ordered to pay US\$200 as a fine. The report does not say whether the man was remanded in custody or not.

What is terrible for Zimbabwe tourism hopes is that the matter was repeated in newspapers all over the world. Here are some: Angolan Press, Ottawa Citizen (Canada), UK Guardian, Yahoo News, The Olympian (US), INamibia, Star Tribune (US), Xfinity (US), Tri-City Herald (US), Seattle Times (US), Ledger Enquirer (US), My Fox Orlando (US), KATV (US), Beatrice Daily Sun (US), ABC News 4 (US), Herald Palladium (US), Tulsa Channel (US), CBS Atlanta (US), The News Tribune (US), The State (US), San Diego Union-Tribune (US), SABC News (South Africa), Eye Witness News (US), News 24 (South Africa), Madison News (US), The Sacramento Bee (US), The Namibian, AZ Family (US), WCF Courier (US), Investing Business Week (US), Safari Talk ... and it goes on ... I counted at least another 30 repeats of the story and all I typed into Google Search was 'Swiss Tourist Zimbabwe'. Unfortunately, too, some of the stories added this:

Insulting Mugabe is an offence under sweeping security laws and prosecutions are common. Earlier this year, a Zimbabwean salesman spent two months in jail after being found with satirical cartoons depicting a naked, skeletal Mugabe on his mobile phone. A Zimbabwean carpenter was arrested in February after he questioned whether Mugabe still had the strength to blow up balloons at his 88th birthday.

Most of these types of stories are a 7-day wonder, but if the Swiss Tourist takes the matter to his own government and, possibly to the European Union, it does not bode well for the UNWTO ...

**MINING IN MANA POOLS/SAPI/CHEWORE:
REPORT ON EIA STAKEHOLDERS MEETING 31 AUGUST 2012
From the Zambezi Society**

On 31st August 2012, The Zambezi Society attended a stakeholders meeting at the invitation of Impact Assessment Consultancy IMPACO (www.impaco.org) on behalf of Hubbard Investments, to discuss the Environment Impact Assessment for heavy minerals exploration in the Chewore and Rukomechi Rivers in Northern Zimbabwe. This was a follow up to the company's press publication in July 2012, inviting stakeholder inputs.



The invitation stated: "Hubbard Investment is required by law, to undertake a series of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). These assessments seek to establish the likely impacts of mineral exploration activities and to recommend how proposed operations should minimize such impacts. Hubbard Investments also organized consultation meetings to provide awareness of the techniques it intends to use; resistivity survey and the sonic drill rig. IMPACO was appointed to undertake this work in an impartial manner and produce a report and recommendations for field operations, which Hubbard Investments will be obliged to follow. To this end IMPACO has employed a team of consultants in various fields of expertise to successfully complete this EIA. I therefore encourage you to voice any concerns on behalf of your organization. There is a time constraint, in that the EIA must be finalized by September."

Attendance

The meeting was professionally conducted and well attended by about 50 stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Hubbard Investments was represented by Mr Paul Chimbodza and Mr Lloyd Hove and by IMPACO, the consultancy employed by them to conduct the EIA.

The Zambezi Society was represented by, Richard Maasdorp (Strategic Director), Peter Musto (Projects Co-ordinator), Des Matete (Legal Advisor), Nyasha Madziva (MIT student and Youth representative), and Wonder Matemaska (Mining engineer advisor).

Background

Hubbard Investments explained that they have acquired Special Grants for Exploration for Heavy Minerals Sands in the Zambezi Valley under Section IX of the Zimbabwe Mines and Minerals Act as follows: -

- SG 5553 Rukomechi (45ha)
- SG 5554 Chewore (65ha)

Why the Zambezi Valley?

According to Hubbard Investments, the rivers in the Zambezi Valley have been chosen for the following reasons:

- "Favourable geology
- High grade metamorphic belt of the Zambezi escarpment contains source rocks for Heavy Mineral Sands
- All drainage is into the valley offering a natural mineral sorting mechanism

- Geologically known and mapped fluvial fan is of geologic interest
- Reduction in gradient from escarpment into the Valley encourages deposition of heavies
- Potential multi-million dollar revenue earner"

The EIA process & stakeholder consultation

They are statutorily required to seek approval from the Environment Management Agency (EMA) via an Environmental Impact Assessment EIA process for exploration only for heavy mineral sands at this stage. They explained that if their explorations are successful, they will have to seek separate approvals. This EIA process requires the involvement of the following stakeholders:

- Ministry of Mines and Mining Development
- Parks and Wildlife Authority
- National Museums and Monuments
- Chamber of Mines
- Local Authorities, Council and Chiefs
- Local Business
- Special Interest Groups
- Individuals

Exploration Process

They described their exploration process as follows:

- Excavation of 1-metre-deep pits in the sand of the rivers,
- Drilling of augur holes every 1km down the centre of the riverbeds
- Trucking of samples out of the area and driving of vehicle through the access roads of the National Park/Safari Areas.
- An exploration team consisting of a team of 5 people using a mobile camp.

They estimate that the exploration will take two months per river.

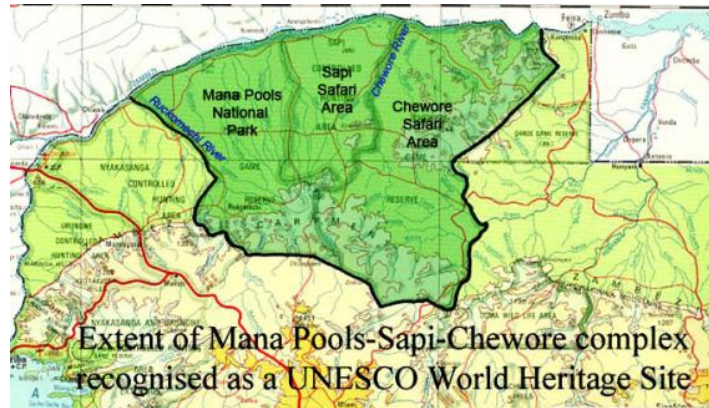
Future Mining

Habbard Investments did not give details of their possible future mining operation, should explorations be successful, saying they need the exploration result first. However, it is clear that their intentions, subject to viability, are to mine. IMPACO said that they would be making a request from their client for the possible mining methods, and these would then be circulated. They insisted that in all their operations they would take all reasonable measures to protect the environment, including, if necessary sanitising certain areas. They made much of the "positive" economic and social benefits of mining in this area, and urged that Zimbabweans need to engage each other in finding "home-brewed solutions towards sustainable exploitation of resources.. without the influence of external forces".

Objections

Strong objections to the proposed minerals exploration (and subsequent mining) were voiced by conservation NGOs and representatives of both the private and public sectors. The major objections raised had to do with the potential long term impacts of such a proposal on the cultural, biodiversity and tourism benefits of the Mana Pools/Sapi/Chewore area as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, National Park, Biosphere Reserve, International Bird Area, wetland and Trans-Frontier Conservation Area. Objections from the public sector came from The Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) (which expressed itself strongly opposed to alluvial mining in river beds, citing existing examples throughout Zimbabwe of the destabilisation of river systems through mining activities), from the Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority, from the Department of Museums and Monuments which objects to mining

activity but not necessarily exploration, and from the Ministry of Tourism which was concerned that the issue should not become an international one. It was pointed out by many that since the area is already internationally recognised as a World Heritage property, this is already a global issue and will unavoidably attract international publicity through the internet and be subject to pressure from the outside world.



Response to Objections

Habbard gave the following “Corrections” in response to some of the objections raised:

- "Impaco (the EIA consultancy) is fully legitimate
- Exploration is not mining
- Habbard is not insensitive to the environment and fragile nature of Mana Pools
- EIA process is Habbard’s initiative
- Process is not politically driven (they have received e-mails and verbal abuse to this effect)
- Mining activities can take place in World Heritage Sites (they gave examples of a \$400 million uranium project in a Tanzanian game park; Mt Nimba Iron Ore Project-Cote d’Ivoire and Kangaluwi Copper project in Zambia by Australian owned Mwembeshi /Zambezi Resources."

World Heritage Sites threatened by Mining

According to the International Union of Conservation (IUCN), African natural World Heritage sites that are increasingly threatened by commercial mining and oil/gas projects include:

- Virunga National Park (DRC)
- Comoe National Park (Cote D'Ivoire)
- Mt Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Cote D'Ivoire and Guinea)
- Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon)
- Kahuzi-Biega National Park (DRC)
- Selous Game Reserve (Tanzania)
- Air and Tenere Nature Reserve (Niger)
- Manovo-Gounda Nature Reserves (Central African Republic)
- Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe).

This represents 24% of the 37 African natural and mixed World Heritage Sites, or one in four sites is threatened. This is an increase from 16% in 2009.

Outcomes

All stakeholders were asked by IMPACO to make formal written submissions and agreed to meet with as many of those present as possible on a one-to-one basis.

IMPACO informed the meeting that the EIA needed to be completed by September, but many present felt this was unrealistically short. No firm date was given.

Formal objection submissions

The Zambezi Society will seek an interview and then review and resubmit its objections.

We encourage other stakeholders to similarly submit responsible and considered objections ONLY via the following contact details:-

Impact Assessment Consulting (IMPACO)
185 Willow Creek, Good Hope, Harare, Zimbabwe
+263 775 884 176
itaigc@impaco.org or
info@impaco.org
www.impaco.org
Habbard Investments
51 Dunkeld Road, Mount Pleasant,
Harare, Zimbabwe
+263 772 325 666



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS:-

Vic Falls club illegally seized by government

<http://www.swradioafrica.com>

By Terera Karimakwenda

Tour operators in Zimbabwe are concerned about their future after a recent government takeover of the Victoria Falls Boating Club. According to Newsday newspaper, government plans to establish their own boating facility at the Club ahead of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) general assembly due in Vic Falls next year. The Boating Club was last month given a six-month notice to vacate their premises by the Ministry of Local Government, Urban and Rural Development, from whom they have leased the land since 1972.

Newsday said the eviction notice followed deadlocked negotiations over rent increases that had been imposed by the Ministry, which required the Boating Club to pay increased rentals of \$4,629 per year, but backdated to 2008. This brought the total owed by the Club to over \$16,000.

The pending WTO general assembly due in Vic Falls has seen many ZANU PF chiefs scrambling to position themselves to make a lot of money.

This theft of companies and land has been ongoing and Ben Freeth, spokesman for SADC Tribunal Rights Watch, told SW Radio Africa the chaos all over the country is a symptom of the breakdown in the rule of law and lack of respect for property rights.

“It’s no different than in the past where as we head towards an election people get rewarded and their greed is only satisfied by being able to grab property,” Freeth explained, adding: “It is very disturbing. I see the next generation wanting to leave the country and taking their skills elsewhere.”

According to Newsday the Boating Club is run by a board that is “dominated by white business people”. Asked about this, Freeth said they had hoped things like racism would change when the coalition government was formed but this has not happened.

“We see that in the Constitution the MDC has agreed for land to continue to be taken and people have no right to go to court. The rule of law must be re-established,” Freeth said.

He added that many foreign investors that attended a conference in South Africa earlier this year told him they would not risk their money in Zimbabwe under the current conditions, even though the country has more potential than its neighbors.

Gill Comment: We had a similar issue on the Zambian side of the river. Our boat club is a bit run down now, but some years ago, someone tried to buy it citing irregularities in payment of lease, etc. Livingstonians stood up to be counted and battled with the Council to keep the boat club for the residents of Livingstone. Why? Well, as more and more of the land either side of the Zambezi River is taken up by commercial development, we felt that it was important that Livingstone residents had a place of their own to enjoy the river. Not everyone can afford to go to private hotels to enjoy ‘their river’. I can only believe that all these problems now facing Victoria Falls Town are as a result of the up and coming UNWTO. The greedy top echelon of people in Zimbabwe are looking to maximise their income and property in Victoria Falls Town. The UNWTO has unwittingly unleashed an onslaught on the town which has been known as a forgotten island in Zimbabwe ... no longer ...

Viv Wilson

It is with great sadness that we must say farewell to Viv Wilson the Founder of Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage in Bulawayo.

Chipangali is a wildlife sanctuary for animals which stand little chance of survival in the wild. Animals, which have either been orphaned, abandoned, injured, born in captivity or brought up unsuccessfully as pets. It is often the last refuge for those brought in sick or injured, and increasingly it is a sanctuary for confiscated animals.

Vivian Wilson and his late wife Paddy established the wildlife Orphanage in 1973.

Chipangali is not a zoo; it offers a home to orphaned, abandoned and sick wild animals. When possible, rescued animals and birds are rehabilitated and returned to the wild. If safe release into their natural habitat is not possible, animals are cared for and kept for educational purposes and study. Endangered species may undergo captive breeding programs.

Viv and Paddy were also very involved in establishing breeding groups of endangered African wildlife, research into wildlife and ecology, and education of the public, particularly children, in all fields of conservation. In addition, Viv carried out surveys on the distribution of Cheetah in Zimbabwe and on protection of the Chirinda forest.

Mr. Wilson, a biologist, won the Rolex Enterprise Award in 1987 for his research on the duiker. He was a former chairman of Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Board.

Viv wrote his wonderful book "Orphans of the wild" followed by an



informative compendium on "Duikers of Africa" and in turn a book was written about Viv entitled "A Man For All Species".

Chipangali has been featured in countless documentaries and is now world renowned for its pioneering work and is famed as one of Africa's largest and most successful wildlife rehabilitation/release centres.

The Orphanage runs a Volunteer program, the Wildlife Experience Programme, which encourages young people from anywhere in the world to come and gain hands-on experience with caring for wild animals. The word Chipangali comes from the Chinyanja language in eastern Zambia where Viv Wilson originally began his career with the Zambia Government as a tsetse-fly control operator. It is here that the whole concept of Chipangali was born and derived. The word means 'open friendly country'.

Chipangali founder Viv Wilson and his wife Paddy retired from the active side of running the Orphanage over ten years ago, in order to devote more time to urgent wildlife research projects. Viv has been the leading instigator of several unique projects, such a ten-year survey of the duikers of Africa, which culminated in the 800-page masterpiece named Duikers of Africa, Masters of the African Forest Floor.

Recently Viv expanded his research activities to include a survey of the leopard and cheetah of Zimbabwe, the biodiversity of the Matobo National Park and the formation of the CRI (Carnivore Research Institute)

Her Royal Highness, Diana, Princess of Wales was Chipangali's patron from 1983 until her sad death, when the Princess Diana Trust took over the role. In addition, the conservation activist and ex-actress, Stephanie Powers is a patron and Ambassador for Chipangali in the USA.

Viv was one of Bulawayo's very special people, a true gentleman, always with a giant friendly smile, always one to remember a name and a face. Viv made an impact on almost every man, woman and child in Zimbabwe. His love for animals and his dedication to their welfare made him truly remarkable.

Indeed we can safely call Vivian J. Wilson a legend, his absence will leave an immense gap in the Bulawayo Community.

Two New Lodges for Zimbabwe

Garth Jenman of Jenman Safaris, South Africa, is set to construct two new lodges in Zimbabwe. One is along the gorges in Victoria Falls and the other in Hwange National Park.

Both lodges are expected to be started in October and completed by April 2013.

NAMIBIA

Guide Training in Caprivi

With the help of Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), Sijwa Environmental Centre is used for Guide Training. Here is a bit from the website:

Sijwa Environmental Centre is a small, comfortable but low-cost training, meeting and workshop facility under mature shade trees on the banks of the Kwando River in Mayuni Conservancy, overlooking Bwabwata National Park.

At night hippo, elephant and occasionally lion can be heard, yet the centre is just a convenient hour and a half from Katima Mulilo, and an hour from Mpacha Airport.

Sijwa offers its services – including catering and accommodation – to organizations or individuals engaged in conservation, development and research. The centre is a collaborative venture between the NGO and trust IRDNC (Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation), the conservancy and the Mashi Traditional Authority.

Sijwa Island, south of Kongola, is IRDNC's Caprivi field base, and the thatched and tented centre is a newly developed feature. Sijwa homestead was originally built as a writer's retreat; it then served as a small mission station before being acquired by IRDNC, the main field technical and logistic support structure for Caprivi's 13 communal conservancies.

Sijwa Centre is used by many local lodges who want to upgrade the skills of their staff. Training can take the form of driving skills needed for the bush, learning to drive a boat. With 400 bird species and many animals to know about, training covers knowledge of the flora and fauna of the region. Here is a bit from a recent article from AllAfrica.com:

That's where Nath comes in. The Namibian Association of Tourism and Hospitality runs the tour guiding courses at Sijwa. The first two levels are for apprentice and basic guides. Graduates from the Sijwa course hope to go on to be level 3 (National) and level 4 (Specialised) Guides. The courses are highly practical, and the aim is for apprentice guides to earn a living as they progress up the guiding skills ladder.

... For three young men in Caprivi the chance is just what they have dreamt of. Kennedy Nkazi, Delicious Limbo and Given Kakambi all come from Caprivian conservancies, and are at different stages of their careers.

Kakambi is on his second Nath training course. He is already employed by Impalila conservancy, which works together with Impalila Island Lodge, as a guide. He specialises in sport fishing and boat tours, and has known the river since he was a boy.

Nkazi also loved fishing as a youth, and was lucky, he says, to find a job as a general employee at a lodge in Sikunga Conservancy, on the Zambian border. He was soon offered promotion to fishing guide, and hopes to improve his skills with Nath training.

For Limbo, it's his big chance. He comes from Balyerwa Conservancy, just south of Lianshulu Lodge, where he was recently offered the chance of a job, if he undertook the guide training. Delicious has already been taken on as a guide by the lodge. ...

Improved employment prospects was the big hope for all 17 trainee guides at Sijwa. Kebby Lilando was all smiles when he collected his certificate. With sponsorship from Kwandu Conservancy he has completed Nath level one and two. As the Conservancy Field Officer, his current job is to supervise game

guards who conduct anti-poaching patrols, sometimes together with colleagues from across the Zambian border.

Caprivi, of course, is sandwiched between Angola and Zambia to the north, and Botswana to the south, with Zimbabwe touching on Impalila. The area where the five countries meet make up Kaza, the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, where there are new opportunities for international conservation co-operation.

The IRDNC plans to set up a tracker school, building on the skills of the San in the area, and is enthusiastic about extending training in tracking and guiding to other Kaza countries.

SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE

Tracks of Giants

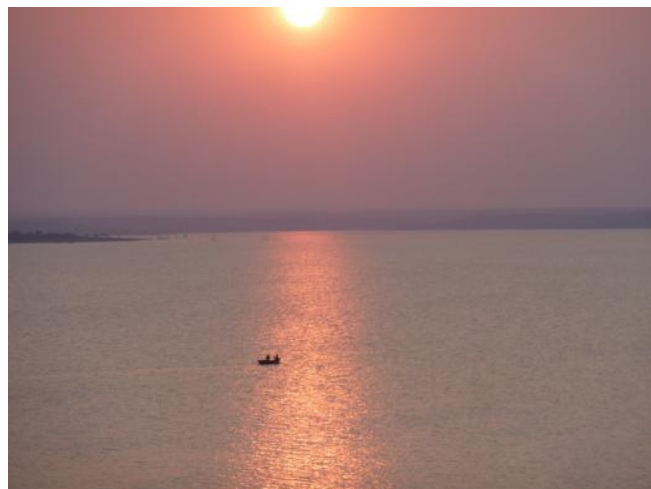
The two Ians have reached South Africa and Mozambique (The continuing story ...) Here is Ian Michler's blog:

As I have said before, it's all downhill from here – both literally and figuratively. Since leaving the Tuli region in eastern Botswana, we have dropped over 1 200 meters in altitude, and as we head for Mozambique's coastline with less than 500kms to go, we now have a strong sense we are heading for home.

The ride across the far northern regions of South Africa through Musina and on towards Pafuri was largely uneventful, although a night we spent at the Tshipisi Holiday Resort was a somewhat fascinating experience for the team. Those that have visited this hot spring will know what I am talking about – during the winter months, the resort has become a hugely popular hangout for South Africa's caravan set, and hundreds of them encamp in a manner that resembles a small rural town last seen in a bygone era.

We reached Pafuri in four days and what a joy to be back in this magical part of the Kruger National Park. We were again so warmly hosted by Wilderness Safaris at Pafuri Camp, and the stay here was made all the more memorable with Tess, Sharon and Liam joining us. It was also unfortunately where Carol and Ida left us to return home. It's great having family members and they certainly brought something special to the group. Many thanks to Patrick Boddam-Whetton, Rob and Landi Burns and their staff at Wilderness Safaris for taking such good care of us.

From Pafuri, it was on to Parque Nacional do Limpopo (PNL) (www.pnlimpopo.gov.mz), Mozambique's newest national park. Adjoining Kruger National Parks eastern boundary, its land-use classification was



changed from a hunting concession to its current status in 2001, and then more notably, it was incorporated into the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Park (GLTP) in 2002.

While the PNL does not as yet enjoy the tourism status or receive the exposure of the numerous other well-known parks we have passed through, there is no doubt about its significant conservation standing. At 11 000 sq kms, it is a sizable protected area forming a vital component to the GLTP, but for the conservation world, the process and pace of development are what are being so eagerly watched. Currently managed under joint supervision between the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) and Mozambique's Ministry of Tourism, establishing a wilderness area of this size offers serious challenges. Of these, the re-settlement issues concerning the local communities that have long been living in the region have become the primary focus. It's one of conservation's age old tussles – protecting national parks versus land use options of traditional communities. The managers of PNL have a novel solution – those living around the inside edge of the park, which is approximately 10 000 to 12 000 people will remain in a strictly controlled buffer zone, while the 8 000 or so living in the core of the park will be resettled to villages on the outer perimeter. If management can achieve this successfully, they may have a template for future parks across the continent.

The other major challenges include protection of the biodiversity and establishing a viable ecotourism network. With so many people still within the Park's boundaries, poaching rates are high and other forms of resource utilization such as fishing and logging pose serious long term threats. If these cannot be successfully resolved, attracting visitors becomes problematic. The good news is that the wildlife is returning – elephant numbers have now reached over 1 200, buffalo, kudu, giraffe and sable have returned in varying numbers and the predators are beginning to settle – this includes various lion prides, as many as 30 cheetah and increasing forays by wild dogs from neighbouring KNP.

While traversing the Park, we were extremely fortunate to have Antony Alexander, the Project Manager for PNL and Billy Swanepoel, the Technical Advisor to the Wildlife & Protection Programme accompany us. Both have been seconded by PPF, and along with the Park Warden, Baldeu Chande from the Ministry, they are the ones driving the entire future of PNL. The current successes and achievements within PNL can be largely credited to this team and their ground staff, and they need to be recognized for this. I have visited and worked in most of the national parks across the region, and none are faced with challenges of the magnitude found in PNL – their focus, dedication and vision is admirable. We also owe Antony and Billy massive thanks for their time and input while travelling with us and to Baldeu for allowing us time to meet with him at the park HQ.

For those travellers in search of the less trodden routes, look no further than the PNL – it has challenging 4 x4 routes with some incredible campsites (all are basic, which adds to the allure) and a number of walking options (email: pnlimpopo@gmail.com). While not plentiful, there is sufficient wildlife, the birding is good and the scenery awesome. But best of all, it's one of the few national parks where you can spend days on end without fear of bumping into hordes of other visitors – during our crossing, on only one occasion did we have another group camping alongside us.



Yesterday, we left Massingir Dam on the very southern edge of the park following a route through various private wildlife concessions along KNP eastern boundary. It will take us four days to Maputo where we meet up with our trusty 'keeper-of-the-film', Nick Chevalier, and Wojtek Orzechowski, a great friend from Plettenberg Bay. Both will be with us through to the end – Nick filming and Wojtek making sure we don't get lost at sea. We then leave Maputo on a dhow to cross the bay to Santa Maria on the northern tip of the Maputo Special Reserve, and then it's a beach walk for a week or so to Rocktail Bay in South Africa.

With the weather warming, it's an exciting thought that in a few days time we will be swimming and surfing in the ocean. And after all the mud and dust over the last few months, having warm, soft beach sand between the toes gets the pedals turning faster.

It's really hard to believe that we are now so close to reaching our goal. The Namib crossing way back in early May seems an age ago, as does the first time I put thoughts to blog. Hitting the road day after day while remaining focused on the conservation issues has become an enjoyable way of life, as has rusks and peanut-butter with early morning coffee, porridge and peanut butter for breakfast, Provita and peanut butter for tea, and bread and peanut-butter for lunch. I have even had peanut-butter in my coffee and on dried mango, and Ian McCallum has tried it with bully beef.

But despite the most incredible journey, thoughts of home and creature comforts have become more than idle chatter. And running out of menu ideas is only one of many signs that it is time to think of the end. There are now daily reports of zips packing up; washing clothes no longer has the desired effect; all our cutlery behaves as if Uri Geller has been at work; the pots, pans and kettle cannot get any blacker; Mandla, Martin and Lihle have all gone and there are no replacements; Sharon has exhausted all channels of communication with officialdom; Johnny has packed and unpacked the Avis vehicle over 200 times; Anton's willingness to patch punctured tyres is now outweighed by his longing to go surfing again; Frank reckons we are spending more money on beer than on fuel, and our wives, partners and kids are now gatvol!



And as we enter the last stretch, we are extremely mindful of everyone that has contributed to TRACKS in some way. A massive and heartfelt thank-you to our sponsors, donors, supporters, family, friends and all those that have followed us or contributed in the print media and on the websites and Facebook – your assistance and encouragement has been one of the most vital ingredients.

WOLFGANG'S COLUMN

NO RESPITE FOR ELEPHANTS AS TANZANIAN OFFICIALS INSIST HUNTING MUST CONTINUE

Reports presented to the Tanzanian parliament a few weeks ago, that up to 30 elephant a day are being killed by poachers due to rising demand in China and other Asian countries for ivory, made stark reading and put the continued survival of the last great herds of elephant in doubt.

Tanzania presently estimates to have about 110.000 elephant in the main national parks, with the largest concentration in the Selous Game Reserve, thought to be in the 45.000 range. The Ruaha

National Park, like the Selous also not receiving too many visitors compared with the Northern circuit parks of Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Manyara, Tarangire and Arusha, is said to hold as many as 35.000 elephant at present.

Yet, in particular the Selous, a sprawling game reserve, often in the bad news of late over government plans for a hydro electric power plant and the hugely controversial plan to mine Uranium, is often cited as an area where poachers roam almost at will and where most of the elephant killings are taking place. The tourism trade, depending on an intact wildlife viewing experience, has as a result of the parliamentary report on poaching demanded that hunting permits for elephant be suspended, but from information received overnight it appears that officials reacted angrily over claims the animals might become endangered and stubbornly insisted that hunting must continue, so as to protect the revenue stream generated by the controversial activity.

Following the recent sackings and suspensions on the top of the Wildlife Department, this was reported here as news broke, an acting wildlife official, a Mr. Paul Sarakikya, was named as the one who refused considering the request from the tourism fraternity, reportedly saying: *'At the moment Tanzania has more than 110.000 elephant'*, clearly implying that this figure will last for a while and permit continuous hunting of the species, in clear disregard of the fact that the parliamentary report puts the figure of elephant poached annually to nearly 10.000 alone. He was also quoted to have argued that if poaching would be controlled, it would leave enough elephant for hunting, again in total ignorance of the fact that Tanzania was for sure not winning the battle against poaching if not outright losing it.

Tourism stakeholders accused the wildlife department of not having learned a lesson from the sackings over illegal wildlife exports last year, first exposed in the media, then denied and only eventually and grudgingly admitted to when parliament tabled whistleblower reports which eventually brought down the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism and top officials in the ministry as a result. *'These officials only care about the fees they get from hunting. Do they even care about the animals? If the report in parliament is right, we are losing about 30 jumbos a day to poachers. Besides lipservice little is seen to happen. The president last year offered the support from the army to stop poaching, what has happened to this offer. Whenever we hear poachers have been arrested, it is a local event as if one part of those gangs hangs out rivals to dry and tips off authorities to get rid of competition. In 2011 the largest ever quantities of blood ivory were confiscated around the world. And international reports claim as much as half of that comes from Tanzania? This menace must be stopped in the markets in the Far East by those governments where their citizens are fueling poaching. Most of those arrested in Africa with ivory on them are Chinese. So what is China doing about that we wonder? And our own government has to step up and take decisive steps in fighting poachers. How many wardens and security personnel are in the Selous, how many in Ruaha? They know where poaching takes place and it seems they are not bothered. If government is not seen to play their part, they fail conservation, but then as you always point out, they fail on a big scale really'* was the reaction to questions posed yesterday from a regular source in Arusha, himself a leading member of the tourism fraternity. Meanwhile have other regular sources pointed at weak laws, besides weak enforcement which was cited as a major problem in the region. *'Not doing much is one thing but then, those who get nabbed, get out on bail almost immediately. Poaching for the tourism sector is a huge crime but by law the fines are little and jail time minimal. Most pay the fine laughing and get back to poaching there and then. The fines must reflect the level of economic sabotage poaching inflicts on us in East Africa, not just Tanzania. You in Uganda have the same problem, Kenya has the same problem. The laws need updating now, not next year or later. Our lawmakers are in part to blame for these delays and the cost it inflicts on us. Our reputation is at stake as conservation and tourism countries and this must be dealt with on both sides, enforcement and legal provision'* said another regular source from Tanzania, also declining to go on record for fear of repercussions. .

Time will tell how this pans out, but by the look of it, there is not much time left. Watch this space.

UNWTO Tourism Highlights 2012

From <http://mkt.unwto.org/en/publication/unwto-tourism-highlights-2012-edition>

Key trends in 2011

- Demand for international tourism maintained momentum in 2011. International tourist arrivals grew by 4.6% to reach 983 million worldwide, up from 940 million in 2010.
- Europe, which accounts for over half of all international tourist arrivals worldwide, was the fastest-growing region, both in relative terms (+6% tied with Asia and the Pacific) and absolute terms (29 million more visitors).
- The Middle East (-8%) and North Africa (-9%) were the only (sub)regions to record a decline in arrivals, due to the Arab Spring and political transitions in the region.
- International tourism receipts for 2011 are estimated at US\$ 1,030 billion worldwide, up from US\$ 928 billion in 2010 (+3.9% in real terms), setting new records in most destinations despite economic challenges in many source markets.

Long-term trends

- Over the past six decades, tourism has experienced continued expansion and diversification, becoming one of the largest and fastest-growing economic sectors in the world. Many new destinations have emerged, challenging the traditional ones of Europe and North America.
- Despite occasional shocks, international tourist arrivals have shown virtually uninterrupted growth – from 277 million in 1980 to 528 million in 1995, and 983 million in 2011.
- According to Tourism Towards 2030, UNWTO's recently updated, long-term outlook and assessment of future tourism trends, the number of international tourist arrivals worldwide is expected to increase by 3.3% a year on average from 2010 to 2030. This represents some 43 million more international tourist arrivals every year, reaching a total of 1.8 billion arrivals by 2030.
- In the past, emerging economy destinations have grown faster than advanced economy destinations, and this trend is set to continue in the future. Between 2010 and 2030, arrivals to emerging economies are expected to increase at double the pace (+4.4% a year) of those to advanced economies (+2.2% a year).
- As a result, the market share of emerging economies has increased from 30% in 1980 to 47% in 2011, and is expected to reach 57% by 2030, equivalent to over one billion international tourist arrivals.

Top spenders in international tourism

Russia moves up to seventh place The only change in the top 10 ranking by international tourism spenders in 2011 was the Russian Federation's climb to seventh place, exchanging places with Japan, which moved down to ninth place as a result of a decline in outbound tourism following the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. Russians spent US\$ 33 billion on international tourism last year, up US\$ 6 billion over 2010.

Germany continues to lead the global ranking, with US\$ 84 billion in international tourism expenditure in 2011, followed by the United States (US\$ 79 bn) and China (US\$ 73 bn). Of the top 10 spenders, China recorded the highest increase with +32% or an additional US\$ 18 billion spent on international tourism, maintaining third place but reducing the gap with the United States (2nd).

Fourth in the expenditure ranking is the United Kingdom (US\$ 51 bn), fifth is France (US\$ 42 bn) and sixth Canada (US\$ 33 bn).

Italy remains in eighth place and Australia in tenth with expenditures of US\$ 29 billion and US\$ 27 billion respectively.

Besides Japan, the United Kingdom was the only market in the top ten to record a decline in expenditure (-2%) due to the weak economy and pound sterling. Other changes in the ranking include Belgium’s climb to eleven (from thirteen) and Singapore’s move to thirteen (up from fifteen). Like Russia and China, the other two BRIC countries also saw substantial expenditure growth last year. Brazil increased expenditure by 30% (an additional US\$ 5 billion to US\$ 21 bn), following an increase of 51% in 2010, jumping six places to twelfth position. India was the fastest growing source market among the top 50 spenders with a 33% increase (an additional US\$ 3 billion spent to US\$ 14 bn) moving up two places to 22nd in the ranking.

Tourist Arrivals in our Region

COUNTRY	2009	2010
ANGOLA	366,000	425,000
BOTSWANA	2,103,000	2,145,000
DRC	53,000	81,000
MALAWI	755000	746000
MOZAMBIQUE	1,461000	1,718000
NAMIBIA	960,000	984,000
SOUTH AFRICA	7,012,000	8,074,000
TANZANIA	695,000	754,000
ZAMBIA	710,000	815,000
ZIMBABWE	2,017,000*	2,239,000*

*I think there must be some mistake here?
Here are the statistics for tourist arrivals into Zimbabwe in 1995 and 2000 – when Zimbabwe was popular.

1995 1,363,412
2000 1,868,412

There is no comparison between arrivals now and then, hence my questioning the figures as stated in the UNWTO report. What is likely to have happened because Zimbabwe does have a lot of arrivals but they are not tourists. However, coming through the border many people to avoid questioning will say they are on holiday – they may be coming on business.

New mosquito
From the UK Independent

Scientists have discovered what could be a new breed of mosquito in Africa with the potential to cause hundreds of thousands more deaths from malaria. Charities say the previously unknown parasite could pose a serious setback to the global fight against the disease – one of the world's biggest killers.

Researchers said the discovery is worrying because the insect does not behave like normal mosquitoes. ... The new type of mosquito ... does not wait until night-time; it bites while people are outdoors in the early evening. Even more worrying for the scientists is that they are as yet unable to match the DNA of the new species to any existing mosquito variety.

NOT A SMILE ... A POEM

The Trees Prayer

You who would pass by and raise your hand against me,
Listen before you harm me.
I am the heat of your heath on the cold winter nights,
The friendly shade screening you from the summer sun;
And my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you travel on;
I am the beam that holds your house,
The board of your table,
The bed on which you lie,
And the timber that builds your boat.
I am the handle of your hoe and the door of your homestead,
The wood of your cradle and the shell of your coffin.
I am the gift of God and the friend of men.
You who pass by, listen to my prayer.

Harm me not

Anon

Have a good week

Gill