

The Livingstone Weekly

17 March 2013

Dear All

This will be a short one because there is not much news this week. Livingstone was quiet; tourists were thin on the ground and even Livingstonians were keeping to themselves and out of town. The day of our by-election came and went with a whimper, thank goodness, with the ruling party finally getting the seat.

Article Found on UK Mirror Newspaper

Cheeky monkeys at the Royal Livingstone Hotel steal with style. The glamorous, glorious resort is right by the mighty Zambezi river on the Zambian side of the Victoria Falls and – hardly a surprise since it lies inside the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park – has a lot of animals living in its manicured grounds.

So when you are strolling from your room to the main reception area, you may well encounter an impala, zebra or giraffe. And then there are the monkeys.

There are three resident groups in the grounds and they are extraordinarily adept at dispossessing guests of food and drink from rooms if a balcony door is accidentally left open, which you are warned not to do.



It came as little surprise one morning to wake up and find at least a dozen monkeys on my balcony happily chomping away on the contents of the fruit bowl from the neighbouring room. What did come as a surprise, though, was when another light-fingered simian arrived with a glass of red wine and started tasting it with an almost expert manner.

I grabbed my phone to take a quick pic and the pilfering primate looked distinctly guilty – caught red wine-handed, you might say.

These mischievous inhabitants only add to the charm of this elegant, colonial-style hotel. ...

Red Nose Day 2013: Night of comedy raises record £75m

If you remember, last month we had a group of celebrities from UK who came to canoe and raft down the Zambezi River for a week. The whole expedition was filmed for Red Nose Day in UK.

Red Nose Day is a fun day in UK, held on March 15. It was started 25 years ago by a group of celebrities to raise funds for charity. Lenny Henry was one of the founder members and it was him who opened this year's festivities.



Courtesy of Thames Valley Police, here's a helicopter with a red nose. If you see it today, you're probably in trouble.



Three beefeaters enter into the spirit of things

According to a report by the BBC, a record of £75 million was raised.

When the BBC team was in Livingstone, I spoke to one of the organisers who told me that at least one project in Livingstone had been identified to receive funds from Comic Relief.



ZAMBIA

Squatters to be moved

Village people who have moved into Kafue Game Management Area near Mumbwa have been asked to leave the GMA. Minister of Chiefs, Nkando Luo, has told the people that they have until July to find an alternative home and to leave the area.

Chieftainess Chiawa wants animals culled

Chieftainess Chiawa has requested government to cull some of the animals – elephants, crocodiles and hippos - which are 'terrorizing' her people. The Chiawa people live in and around Lower Zambezi National Park and Chiawa Game Management Area. The Chiawa GMA is used for tourism and hunting, but wildlife, especially elephants, do not understand maps and park boundaries and will move out of the GMAs into neighbouring farmland. It seems that they are beginning to cause problems to the people and something should be done. A job for ZAWA.

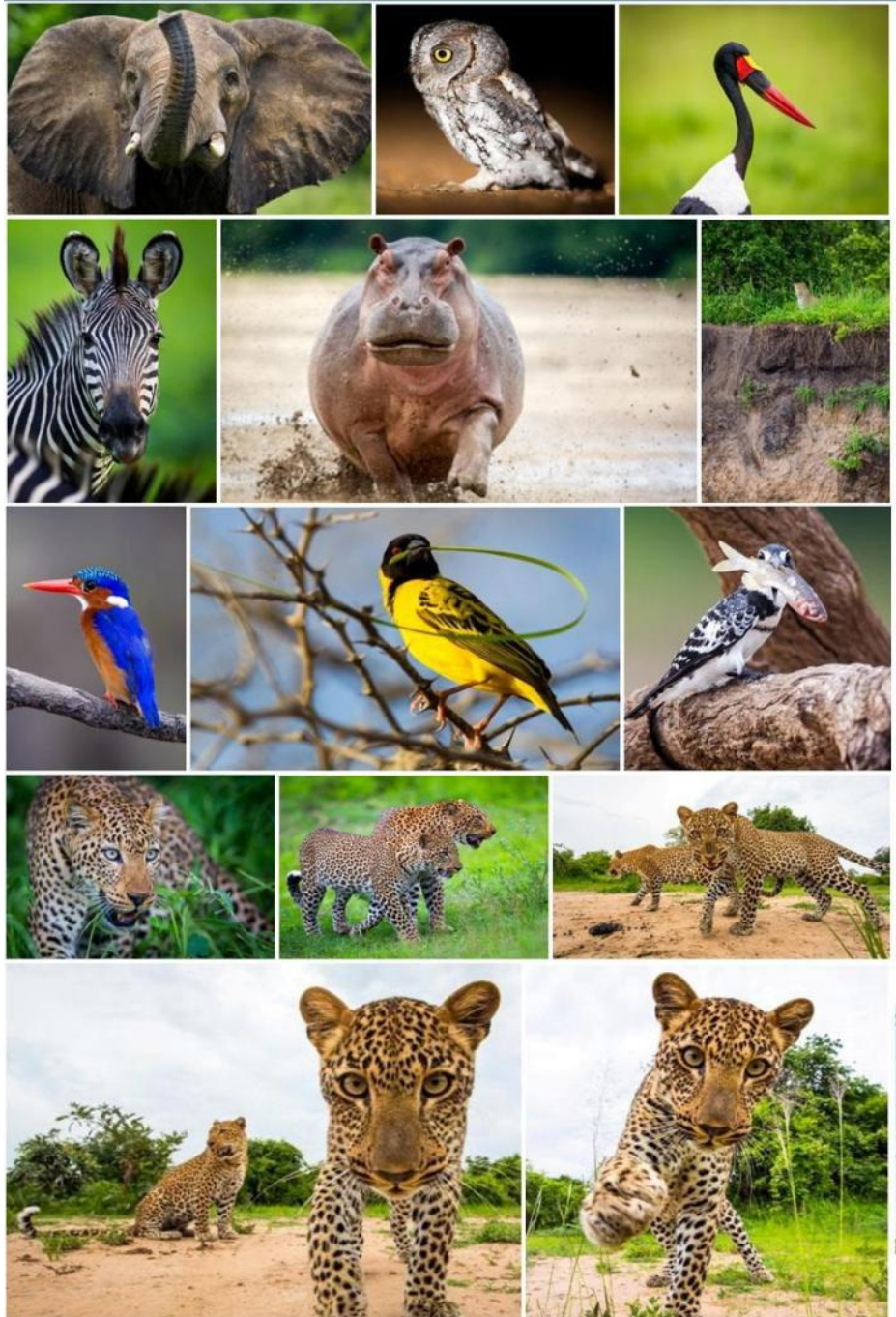
From Norman Carr Safaris NCS - Luangwa secrets revealed March 2013

"There is no game in the
green season....."

This is a phrase we often hear quoted about the Luangwa in the green season. It simply is not true and we spend a lot of time and effort trying to dispel this myth. These images taken by our friend Will Burrard-Lucas over 5 days this February on foot, by vehicle, by boat and from his fiendishly clever "Beetle-cam" describe the glories of the green season far more eloquently than I ever could - so let them speak for themselves. And it's not ALL about birds - although this is perhaps one of the best times of the year for ornithologists..... scroll down for the leopards. Is there such a thing as "too many leopards"?!

Potential guests worry that it rains all the time in the green season but in reality, game viewing activities are rarely interrupted and the small chance of getting wet is more than made up for by

the incredible beauty of the bush at this lush time of year. We are in a tropical region so the usual weather pattern during 'the rains' is a few days with no rain at all, a gradual build up of thunderheads, a spectacular tropical downpour from time to time lasting an hour or so - then back to hot sun and blue skies! Very rarely do we experience long spells of rain and we can almost always make any lost game viewing time.



Proposed Mine at Jimbe

Jimbe Minerals was set up by a former Minister of Health, Chilufya Kazenene. In 2011 the company raised K15billion for development and started exploration in North Western Province. They have identified a potential Nickel Mine near Ikelenge, in Chief Nyakaseya's area. The people there are naturally excited about the possibility of jobs and are keen for the project to go ahead.

However, during submissions for the Environmental Impact Assessment, Kelvin Mkandawire representing Bird Watch Zambia, brought the meetings attention to the unique environment of the area and bird life that it supports.

Kelvin Mkandawire: *I know that the coming of the mine is good news, but not for the birds of course because mining and birds actually don't get together.*

I would like to highlight that your mining license area actually captures the entire Important Bird Area (IBA) because Jimbe is an IBA.

The significance of this Important Bird Area is that it's the only one in Zambia that has the Guineo-Congolian Biome and in Zambia there are 17 Guineo-Congolian species and Jimbe (IBA) holds 16 of them.

This has put the cat among the pigeons, or, should I say, the birder among the miners ...

A bit of background on Jimbe

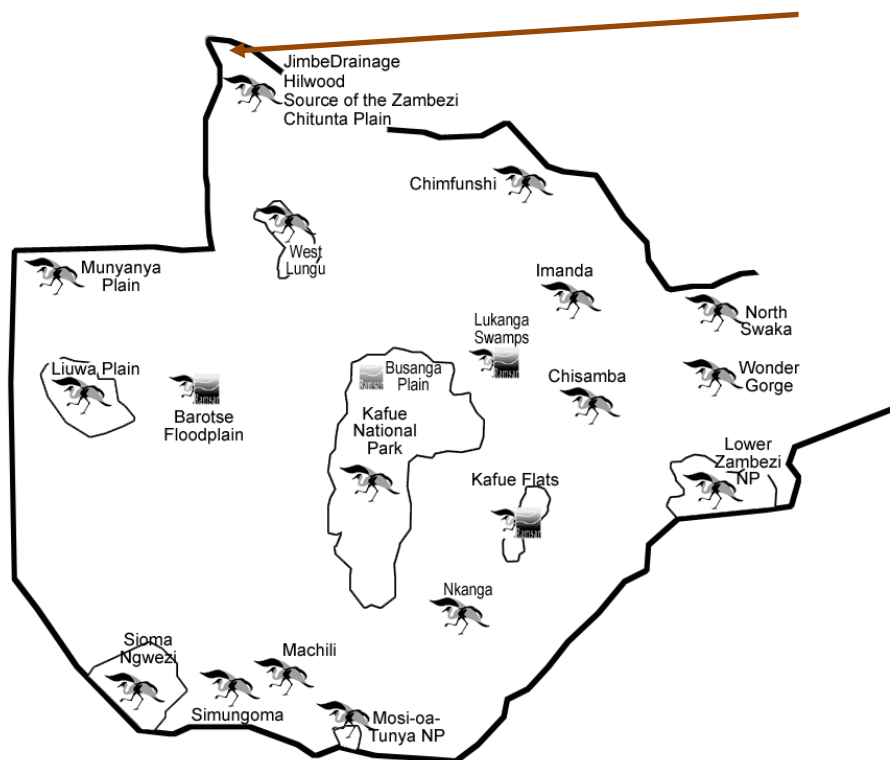
As you can see on the map, this area has four Important Bird Areas. As well as Jimbe, there are Hillwood, Source of the Zambezi and Chitunta Plain. From Birdlife International about Jimbe:

Management considerations: About 90% of the site is unprotected but, due to its proximity to Angola, it is much more sparsely populated than surrounding areas, where many forests have been cleared for small-scale farming. The broad mushitus found at headwaters in this region probably represented the areas of greatest biodiversity, yet these are particularly favoured for cultivation and virtually none remain. Within the site, much of the gallery forest is presently undisturbed, but action is urgently required to protect it.

Recently BirdWatch Zambia has trained guides in Important Bird Areas in Zambia. For Jimbe IBA:

Elias Makonde - Kayuka village, Justine Kanema - Lukano village.

Contact Persons: Kenson Muke, Kayuka village. Christopher Kawangu near Swana Muhongu Village, close to the Jimbe River.



ZEMA Website

While researching more about Jimbe Mines and the other companies involved, I had a look at Zambia Environmental Management Agency's website ... ooo ... the spelling mistakes ... surely we can do better than this ...



Harare Market Square Clean Up

Co ordinated by
Environment Africa as part of the
 Harare CBD Clean Up organised by Bin it
 Zimbabwe.
 9th March 2013



Mukundi Mutasa
 Co ordinator

We would like to thank All who Participated in this Event



www.environmentafrica.org
info@environmentafrica.org

Airlink

Airlink of South Africa is scheduled to introduce a flight between Johannesburg and Kasane next week.

Botswana increases security in national parks and game reserves

Botswana has already deployed soldiers in its parks and reserves, but now, it seems, is co-opting other government officers with the necessary training. According to a report in Mmegi, police officers and prison warders are all doing their stint in the bush to help to protect the country's wildlife.

Coal export railway agreement sealed

From The Ngami Times

State railway companies in South Africa and Botswana have sealed an agreement that will establish a trade corridor for the export of coal from the Central, Kgatleng and other districts to the port in Durban.

The deal comes shortly after South Africa state-owned logistics company, Transnet Freight Rail, finalised a similar arrangement with railway companies in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia and Zimbabwe to increase copper exports through Durban. Transnet's deal with the DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe envisions a unified cross-border railway system that will stamp out inefficiencies obstructing cargo flows between the countries.

The system, which will have a joint operating centre based in Bulawayo, is due to develop co-ordinated traffic plans for the five operators. Recently, Transnet Freight Rail's executive manager for international business, Nyameka Madikizela, told the publication "BusinessWeek" that the arrangement with Botswana Railways would be "exactly the same" as the DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe deal, reports the Gaborone newspaper "Mmegi". She revealed that the joint operating centre for the Botswana-Durban corridor would be in Mahalapye.

"We have agreed on the terms and what we need to do now is to look at setting up the processes to be able to take this forward," she said. "At the moment, we have reached agreement on a joint operating centre and while it's a different corridor from the one with the other countries, the idea is exactly the same. "We are doing a lot of business with Botswana Railways and this is a long standing relationship where we have supported each other in various projects."

Madikizela explained that unlike the South Africa, DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe deal, Transnet's arrangement with Botswana would not be restricted to a single route - "It's not so much about the route because Botswana is central in the region and there are various export routes," she said. "There are different corridors that can be used and the exports will be through Durban. Transnet and Botswana Railways officials are expected to sign the official agreement later this year, enabling the commencement of the deal. Botswana's Trade and Industry minister Dorcas Makgato-Malesu says discussions continue with Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique towards the diversification of Botswana's trade routes away from a dependence on Cape Town and Durban. Last week, Makgato-Malesu told journalists that she had already held discussions with ministers from the four countries as part of government's drive to diversify the country's export and import routes.

"The greatest challenge is that we are heavily dependent on the southern corridor, being Cape Town and Durban," she said. "If anything happens to that corridor in terms of goods and services, then we are in trouble." The minister's comments coincided with President Ian Khama's own view in which he said last week industrial actions in South Africa had exposed Botswana's over-dependence on the southern corridor.

· Botswana and Namibia have agreed in principle to a railway line across the Kalahari Desert to assist with the transporting of coal, other goods and passengers.

Etosha National Park to improve facilities

N\$275million is to be spent on Etosha National Park through the Millennium Challenge Account. Two companies, Nexus Group and NMC Construction, are to construct 80 staff houses and to service land for another 70 houses. Staff houses at Okaukuejo will be renovated and Olifantsrus waterhole will be developed with camping and picnic facilities.

The Recycle Namibia Forum (RNF) is inviting schools to apply to participate in the 5th Schools Recycling Competition (SRC) which commences on 1 April 2013.

From Informanté

Schools operating specifically within the municipal areas of Windhoek, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Ondangwa and Oshakati are called on to get application forms from virginia.kangootui@olfitra.com.na , and submit the completed entry form to the RNF by 8 March 2013.

The RNF management committee will analyse all entries and inform the successful schools of their selection by 15 March. The 2013/14 competition will be launched on 19 March when the winners of the 2012/2013 competition will be announced.

The competition has expanded beyond Windhoek where it initially started and now includes participation from schools in Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Oshakati and Ondangwa. RNF chairperson Patricia Hoeksema said, "While we would love to see schools throughout Namibia recycling, the logistics involved in running this competition are tremendous. Therefore, we are pleased and grateful that we can rely on RNF members such as Rent-A-Drum, who are able to regularly service the stands located at participating schools, and so doing extend our impact. The RNF are always looking for reliable partners and therefore, if we have adequate support, we will gladly extend the Schools Recycling Competition to more towns." ...

OTHER STUFF

COP 16

179 countries are party to the Cites Convention on trade in endangered species. The Conference of Parties (COP) happens every three years. This year it was the time for Thailand to host the event.

Although CITES considers many endangered flora and fauna, for us in Africa, it was their consideration of rhino and elephant which was uppermost in our minds.

Thailand is an apt country for a CITES conference as Thailand is viewed as one of the major recipients of elephant tusks. The Prime Minister, Yingluck Shinawatra, opened the conference and promised to amend Thai law "with the goal of putting an end to the ivory trade."

Outside the conference facility, Buddhist monks prayed for poached elephants and called on their congregations to reject the use and trade in ivory. As Thailand is a Buddhist nation with over 90% of its people Buddhists, this may have the best effect of all. Amulets, images of Buddha and other objects of worship are often carved of ivory.

China also said that it would work with the international community and toughen law enforcement to stop the illegal importation of ivory.

The CITES meeting also called on African countries to identify actions and deadlines on protection of illegal ivory trade by 2014. The potential threat if the countries fail is that they may face sanctions. An Ivory Enforcement Task Force will be created to collaborate between countries. Money from the African Elephant Action Plan, a fund of US\$100million is now being disbursed to help enforce the law.

On rhino horn, governments agreed to bring to the attention of CITES any seizure of illegal rhino horn with full details of its origin, destination, etc. They also agreed to use any means possible to investigate wildlife crime and to prosecute organised crime groups effectively giving heavy penalties for those found guilty.

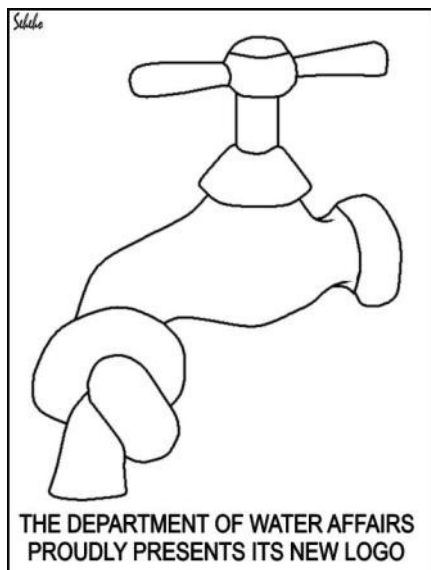
Vietnam, the biggest importer of illegal rhino horn, has agreed to form a strategy to reduce demand. The problem in Vietnam is that one top member of society claimed that he had been cured of cancer by using rhino horn ... Also, it would seem that myth has it that rhino horn relieves a hangover.

Mozambique was told that it must strengthen legislation. Mozambique is a transit route for rhino horn and also the people of Mozambique are used as poachers in neighbouring Kruger National Park, South Africa.

The European Commission is to contribute nearly two million Euros to the international police agency Interpol. The money will be used to combat wildlife crime and protect the world's natural resources from the illegal international trade in wild plants and animals.

Janez Potocnik, European Commissioner for the Environment: *Few people witness environmental crime, but its effects are global, with developing countries often suffering most of all. Increase in wildlife trafficking is of particular concern, with illegal trade in ivory and rhinoceros horns at their highest levels in a decade, and other endangered species like tiger or some tropical timber also impacted. It's a major cause of biodiversity loss, and this funding will help enforcement and international cooperation to address this worrying phenomenon.*

Earth Hour 23rd March 8.30pm



From the Ngami Times

THE SMILE

Have a good week

Gill