

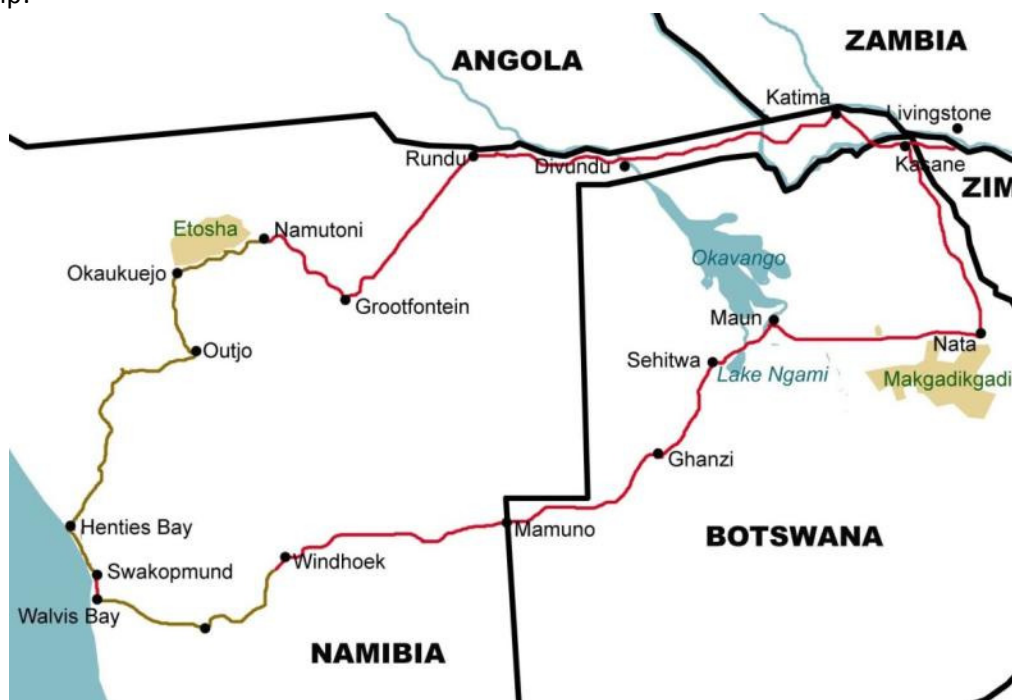


Dear All

There was no Weekly last week because I was away. I had hoped to get some photos on the blog but time and internet was not with me. Sorry for that! My header is the stunning clouds from Ngoma Lodge, Botswana. We had two days there for the start of our trip into Namibia.

Here is a map of the trip:

We went from Livingstone to Ngoma Lodge (Bots); from Ngoma to Nunda Lodge near Divundu; on to Namutoni in Etosha. From Namutoni we drove along Etosha Pan to Okaukuejo and south to Outjo. Near Outjo we found a place to stay, Sophienhof, from where we travelled to the Skeleton Coast. We drove from Henties Bay to Walvis Bay



and then inland across the desert towards Windhoek, stopping off at Valley of a Thousand Hills. The road then took us on the Trans-Kalahari Highway through Mamuno then northeast to Ghanzi, Lake Ngami and Maun. The journey home was via Nata, Elephant Sands Lodge, Kasane and Victoria Falls. We were away for 10 days and travelled over 3,000 km. But we did it on a shoestring, camping most of the time. Thanks to Ngoma Lodge for two nights in their luxury accommodation and some great game viewing; thanks too to Elephant Sands for the accommodation and the usual excellent company.

I don't have time to put together stories and photos for this Weekly, but will do so during the week so that you can read about it all.

In the meantime, I have to sift through all the news that has come down for the past two weeks ...

Livingstone City Council suspended – again From the Zambia Weekly

Government has suspended the Livingstone City Council for overriding the Local Government Service Commission by suspending town clerk Vivian Chikoti, director of public health George Kumoyo and acting assistant director of engineering Renny Shindelele.

The three were suspended at a full council meeting for incompetence. Recently, Southern Province Minister Josephine Limata took Kumoyo to task for the lack of cleanliness in Livingstone. The Livingstone City Council was suspended by the MMD for most of 2010 because councilors had engaged in squabbles rather than providing services. After being reinstated, it immediately dived back into squabbles, which eventually led to then Livingstone town clerk Dras Neves swapping places with then Kabwe town clerk Vivian Chikoti (after several Livingstone staff members had been suspended and reinstated by various stakeholders, only disturbed by several strikes by council workers).

A lot of (MMD) interest in becoming PF's MP in Livingstone From the Zambia Weekly

... The PF has received applications from 11 hopeful candidates (so far) for the parliamentary by-election in Livingstone, including, Captain John Mwamulima (former MMD Livingstone constituency chairman and proprietor, Queens Hill hotel/shopping complex, Livingstone), Liven Apuleni (former Livingstone district commissioner), Lawrence Evans (proprietor, N'gombe Breweries, Livingstone), Gladys Zaloumis Kristafor (former MMD permanent secretary), Clement Andeleki (see above), Zondwayo Soko (former director at the Anti-Corruption Commission – ran as independent candidate in the parliamentary by-election in Livingstone in July 2012), Wilfred Chiyesu (former director in Ministry of Local Government), Joram Mwindi (former MMD mayor in Livingstone – and independent parliamentary candidate in Livingstone), Colonel Collins Mwanamwale, Elvin Sindowe and Wilfred Mweene.

... The UPND is apparently contemplating fielding lawyer Sakwiba Sikota, who is busy in court defending former MMD officials, including the party's president Nevers Mumba, as well as UPND president Hakainde Hichilema. Sikota has held the Livingstone seat before, from 2001 to 2011, for his own party, the United Liberal Party. His party threw its support behind then President Banda (MMD), and Sikota did not re-contest his seat in the 2011 general elections.

Update on Alli the elephant!! by Alli Shenton

In October a young, 8 year old bull elephant was found near Toka Leya with a deep, four strand wire snare cut to the bone. He was darted by the ZAWA vet, Dr Musso Munyeme, from Lusaka, and the wound was treated. The Chief ecologist for ZAWA, Mr Joreck Chisika asked me to help with feeding him as he was unable to move far in order to get the massive amounts of food an elephant of his size needs. When I first saw him, Alli (named by the scouts) was very thin, his hip bones protruding and his ribs showing. He couldn't put weight on his leg, which was swollen all the way up to his shoulder, and the wound was deeply cut all round, bleeding and weeping.



Together with a dedicated and enthusiastic team of ZAWA scouts, we fed him for a month and half, twice a day. Finding enough food for an eight year old elephant is no easy task, so it is with much appreciation that we thank all those that helped with donations towards bales of lucerne: a big thank you to Sioux, Nik and Simone Gammeter, Peter Jones, Richard Shepperd, and Marianne Shenton. And to all those who helped with sacks of green mangoes, Acacia Albida pods, vegetable ivory palm fruits, wheat straw, molasses, mulberry branches and lettuces! Thanks to Cathy from Natural Mystic, Hermiene, Tony Orr, Sven at the The Waterfront, Fawlt Towers, Zig Zag, Protea Hotels, Chris Aston, Mr Katombola and Craig Evans.



With the feed and the chance to rest, “Alli” gradually improved, gaining condition and started to put weight on his leg and was able to move further away to feed. As he got stronger would come limping along at great speed for his feed! And he always came back morning and evening to the scouts base for his daily feed. He would collect ash from the scouts fire and pack into his wound, possibly as an antiseptic, or to keep the flies away.

Then a herd of elephants started hanging around Toka Leya, and the scouts reported that two of these elephants went either side of Alli, leaned against him and “carried” him away! Perhaps they felt he was getting too used to people! We couldn’t find him for a while, and then he was found in the sewerage ponds near Dambwa. The ponds were wonderful for him, as he was able to take pressure off his painful leg. But some of the people in the area, mostly youths and kids, were harassing him and once we found him surrounded and being pelted with rocks. We then asked a young man from the area to monitor him and to call us if there was an emergency. This happened a couple of weeks later when a crowd of a hundred or so were beating him with sticks and stoning him, which opened his wound till it bled! Amazingly, being the gentle soul that he is, he did not retaliate, and luckily two ZAWA scouts arrived in time to open the railway gates into the park for him.



With the onset of the rains, and plenty of fresh, juicy, nutritious mopane leaf, we were able to stop feeding him. He is still unable to move with a herd and is still in the park, mostly around the top end of the plain. His wound is still itchy and swollen around the foot where the snare was removed, and he continually has to brush flies away with his trunk. But he is feeding himself, and the swelling up his leg is much, much less. According to the vet, a wound like this in an elephant can take a long time to heal. So it seems, as long as he can stay safe from people, Alli will someday be able to move with the big boys again!!

Itezhi-tezhi spillway open **From the Zambia Weekly**

ZESCO has started gradually opening the spillway gates in the Itezhi-tezhi Dam to accommodate rising water levels in the Kafue River. It warned communities in the Kafue Flats to move to higher grounds – and said it may have to open the Kafue Gorge Upper Dam as well.

A single business levy to councils **From the Zambia Weekly**

Government has introduced a single business levy payable to councils – replacing several trading licences and permits.

“Once the business levy has been paid, over the counter, without prior application, all business inspections such as health and fire are covered, according to Statutory Instrument 20 of 2012.

SA syndicate poacher to set up game farm in Zambia? **From the Zambia Weekly**

A South African game farmer, Marnus Steyl, accused of being involved in an illegal rhino-horn syndicate operating from South Africa has visited Zambia over Christmas, reported the Game Rangers Association of Africa.

Although the Zambian authorities briefly detained him for questioning, he was eventually allowed to enter. He is apparently interested in acquiring a game farm in Zambia. In November, Chumlong Lemtongthai, a Thai national, was sentenced in South Africa to 40 years in prison for rhino-horn trafficking, however that country’s National Prosecuting Authority dropped all charges against his five co-accused, including Steyl, for undisclosed reasons, causing outrage. Critics talked of friends in high places. The syndicate utilised a loophole, whereby Asian nationals in South Africa (including Thai prostitutes) would apply for rhino hunting permits. Once the rhino was shot, not by the holder of the permit, but by the syndicate, the horns would be sent to Asia. Steyl would source rhinos from auctions or breeders for the “pseudo” hunts. He is now facing 30 new counts of fraud, illegal rhino hunting, money-laundering and contravening the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act of South Africa.



Reeve withdraws from Dakar **From the Zambia Weekly**

Zambia’s first ever participant in the Dakar Rally, David Reeve, has had to withdraw with a broken leg in the 11th stage; one of the most notoriously difficult ones in the entire competition.

Out of the 196 bike riding competitors in the Dakar Rally, 52 had withdrawn after 11 stages. The rally has 3 stages remaining.

Reeve was ranked 29th when he withdrew.

Hunting Banned in Zambia during 2013

During a stakeholders meeting held on 10 January at Radisson Blu Hotel, Lusaka, it was decided to ban hunting during this coming year. There will be a permanent ban on the hunting of leopard and lion. Government has decided that it needs to take stock of its wildlife areas by proper counts of species before it can issue licences for hunting. Hunting on private wildlife farms can continue under certain conditions.

During the year a study of animal numbers will be conducted. Also a proper framework for the administration of hunting areas will be formalised. Once the wildlife numbers have been established, it is hoped that depleted areas will be restocked.

Government realises that this ban will mean a loss of income to the Community Resource Boards (CRBs) which rely on the income from hunting in their areas so has decided to ensure that payments are made to CRBs.

From the Statement after the meeting:

A baseline study and census shall be conducted on entire game area estate to establish current stock levels of the wildlife state by the Government;

To review policies and institutional framework of the structures responsible for wildlife management with a view to engendering transparency and accountability in the overall management and direction of this tourism subsector.

Zambia has 36 Game Management Areas (GMAs) of which 19 are still used for hunting (the others have been hunted to such an extent that there is little left). Some have suffered from encroachment and poaching. There are some, of course, with ethical hunters who have ensured the proper management of the wildlife and helped neighbouring communities, but this, it would seem, is the exception rather than the norm. The hope is that, drawing from best practice, all GMAs can become properly managed, of benefit to the communities, be accountable and be economically viable for government.

Earlier in the year the hunting licences were issued by the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) but were met with a swift response from Sylvia Masebo, the Minister of Tourism, who cancelled them and fired various members of ZAWA. There was a backlash in some of the press which stated that she had banned the hunting because her favoured hunters had not been handed licences. Now it would seem that the Minister's intention was not to gain the licences for her friends but to get normality back into the sector.

The decision by Government has been met by people in the tourism industry with huge relief as it has been known for years that there was too large an off-take of wildlife in some of the GMAs and that of accountability there was little.

Tree Planting

A National Tree Planting Programme was launched by the President, Michael Sata, some weeks ago. The President also stated that the programme will create over 200,000 jobs. The statement in the press did not make it clear if these jobs would be paid for out of the public purse or if NGOs and the like were expected to come in and foot the bill.

Government will provide K12million (rebased) and will raise 25 million tree seedlings countrywide during the coming two years. Sadly, it would seem that the trees will be exotic.

Shoebills in Bangweulu

From the Beeb

Aggressive bullying between bizarre-looking shoebill chicks has been filmed for the first time. The encounter was captured at Bangweulu wetlands near Kasanka, in northern Zambia, Africa.

Wildlife filmmakers were surprised to witness an older chick attacking its younger sibling while their mother was foraging away from the nest. The birds are rare subjects for study because their swamp breeding grounds are very difficult to access. The BBC/Discovery team's aim was to shed light on the species by documenting intimate behaviour of shoebill parents and young at the nest. Siblicide, the phenomenon of offspring killing their siblings, is common among many larger birds. ...

The documentary is on the BBC but I expect it will take a million years for it to reach us on DSTV.



ZIMBABWE

ZIMBABWE CONSERVATION TASK FORCE

4 January 2013

UPDATE ON ELEPHANTS EXPORTED TO CHINA

Further to our December report on the 4 elephants exported to China, we have received an email from Animals Asia Foundation who claim to have a number of volunteers monitoring the progress of the elephants. They say that the 4 elephants arrived at the end of November 2012. Two went to Taiyuan Zoo, one of which has subsequently died. The other two reportedly went to Xinjiang Tianshan Safari Park. They sent us the photos below of the surviving elephant at Taiyuan Zoo. We are saddened and disgusted that these elephants have been removed from their mothers and the African bush to live alone in a cold unfriendly jail cell in a foreign country. We believe the temperature at the Xinjiang Tianshan Safari Park is less than 20 degrees Celcius



below zero. It is highly unlikely the elephants will survive in the cold when they have been accustomed to temperatures of between 30 and 40 degrees.

There are apparently still another 14 elephants waiting to be exported and we have to try and stop this from happening. Please help us by spreading the word about this cruel and disgusting practise.

We have been told that a lady by the name of Candy has been involved in the exportation of the elephants. Her phone number is 27 826 768 968.





FOUR RHINOS KILLED BY POACHERS

On New Year's Day, 4 white rhino were killed by poachers on Thetford Estate in the Northern Mazowe District despite the fact that the estate is securely fenced and guarded. The dead rhino were 2 adult males, an adult female and a sub-adult male. Eight horns taken from the carcasses were recovered.

ZIM-ZAM

UNWTO

On both the Zambian and Zimbabwean side of the Victoria Falls the people are counting down the days to the UNWTO. In Livingstone the radio stations tell us daily how many days left; in Victoria Falls Town a brightly-lit digital screen on the entrance to the town counts the seconds. But what are the governments doing in terms of preparations?

In Livingstone Inyatsi is busy on the roads. Several roads are being worked on; I noticed Obote Avenue and Natwange Road.



At the border the lights are being fixed on the Zambian side and the road on the Zim side of the border is almost complete.

So, little things are happening on the ground, but the media in Zimbabwe is noting concerns in several articles.

From NewsDay:

Yesterday, an inter-ministerial team assessing the resort town's state of preparedness held a meeting in Victoria Falls where it discussed with stakeholders preparations for the event. Sources who attended the meeting said they were concerned that little progress had been made so far in upgrading infrastructure.

They said among issues which came under spotlight was the Victoria Falls Hospital that was said to be at a standstill and the little progress on the construction of the Victoria Falls Airport.

It appears that the inspection went well because two days later NewsDay reported:

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) inspectorate team yesterday expressed satisfaction with the preparations made by the country ahead of its general assembly to be held in the premier resort town later this year. (Whew!)

From Fox News:

Germany says it is considering whether to take part in the world's largest United Nations tourism convention in Zimbabwe or stay away to protest seizures of tourism investments owned by Germans. German ambassador Hans Gnodtke said Wednesday Zimbabwe has violated bilateral treaties on foreign investments by allowing seizures of German-owned wildlife conservancies in southeastern Zimbabwe by President Robert Mugabe's loyalists since 2011.

Gnodtke said if the European Union decided to boycott the convention, it would decrease Zimbabwe's chances of holding a successful event.

He told reporters Germany felt let down after Mugabe promised investors their interests would be safe.

Canada withdrew its participation of the UNWTO Congress at the Falls in June this year because of Robert Mugabe's 'recognition' as a tourism leader. John Baird, Canadian Foreign Minister: *They were legitimising him by enlisting Mugabe to promote tourism.*

And then there are the up and coming elections in Zimbabwe. There is no news of a date which was expected to be in March but now appears to be anything from June to next year. According to a report in The Standard:

... Despite Zanu PF's public posturing that elections should be held as soon as possible, sources said most senior officials holding positions in government and MPs, were against the holding of elections this year. But Zanu PF secretary for administration, Didymus Mutasa yesterday dismissed reports that the party was not ready for elections saying those were views of a few individual members.

A politburo member said all was not well, as most party officials were of the view that Zanu PF was not yet prepared for elections and wanted them postponed even to next year. The Zanu PF official said some of the party gurus were afraid that if elections were held soon and in the event that President Robert Mugabe won, they would not be accommodated in the future government.

"Some of the officials against elections are cabinet ministers. They want the current GNU (Government of National Unity) set up to be extended, so that they can continue looting. Some have been implicated in corrupt deals," said the politburo member.

"Others know elections will spell the end of their political careers and they will do anything to have them postponed."

It would seem that politicians have a lot on their minds at the moment – elections, the constitution and all the jostling for position. We can only hope that they put a bit of time into plans for the UNWTO and also that, if elections are held this year, they do not impact on the congress.

NAMIBIA

Namibia looking at its first human and biosphere reserve **ABSALOM SHIGWEDHA from The Namibian**

A STUDY has been launched to determine if the Mudumu North Complex in the eastern part of Caprivi can be declared Namibia's first Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB). The Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) recently received money from the United Nations Scientific, Cultural and Educational Organisation (Unesco) to do the feasibility study.

Chris Thompson, the natural resources economist at NNF, told The Namibian yesterday that the organisation received US\$25 000 from Unesco for the study, to determine the costs and benefits of such a reserve. Other issues that the study will establish are the governance and institutional arrangements of such an initiative.

The area includes Mashi, Mayuni, Sobbe and Kwando conservancies, the Bwabwata and Mudumu national parks and commercial enterprises. Thompson said once the study is completed, NNF will make recommendations to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on the way forward. If this area is made a Man and Biosphere Reserve, it will be the first in Namibia.

Thompson said if more funds are made available, areas such as NamibRand could also be turned it into a Man and Biosphere Reserve. Unesco's Man and Biosphere Reserve programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme aimed to set a scientific basis for the improvement of the relationships between people and their environmental globally.

Launched in the 1970s, it proposes interdisciplinary research agenda and capacity building that target the ecological and economic dimensions of biodiversity loss and the reduction of this loss. The programme's World Network of Biosphere Reserves counts 610 biosphere reserves in 177 countries around the world. A biosphere reserve is defined as an area of land or water that is protected by law in order to support the conservation of ecosystems as well as the sustainability of people's impact on the environment.

SOUTH AFRICA

Wildlife Farming in Perspective

Dr Gert Dry

For the purpose of this article, commercial wildlife ranching is defined as the management of game in a sizable game fenced system, with minimal human intervention in the form of the provision of water, the supplementation of food during periods of drought, the strategic control of parasites, and the strategic provision of health care. The strategic provision of parasite control and health care is aimed at assisting only where necessary, thus avoiding the loss of natural parasite resistance and enzootic stability to diseases.

Humble Beginnings

Towards the middle of the 20th century, wildlife in South Africa had no real economic value. Rather it was regarded as competition for livestock grazing land and as a result was reduced until many of the scarcer species were almost eradicated and only 19 bontebuck, 2,000 blesbuck and 30 white rhinoceros were left in South Africa.

Thankfully, in 1894 government intervention lead to the establishment of statutory game reserves, although mostly on marginal land not deemed suitable for agriculture and in areas prone to tsetse fly and malaria. Nevertheless, in 1926, various national parks were established.

The economic value of wildlife has since gained momentum and garnered recognition from the state, and as of 2008 South Africa boats more wildlife than in the past 150 years. Although just over 82% of South Africa's total area is allocated to agriculture, only 17% of the country's agri-land has high agri-production potential, with 80% marginal.

Adding Value to Social Upliftment

Generally, three times more staff members are employed on wildlife ranches than on livestock farms, and the commercial wildlife ranching industry currently provides employment for more than 100,000 individuals. As an example, in the 2010 capture season, an estimated 167,440 head of game were translocated by 44 game capture companies employing an estimated 1,320 staff members. In this aspect alone, the industry contributes tremendously to the upliftment of South Africa's population, without harm to the environment.

In fact, wildlife ranching has such a positive impact on the environment that its green footprint could result in the turnaround of approximately 12 million hectares of over-grazed and degraded communal land in order to also offer a sustainable income for rural communities.

Rands and cents

There are currently more than 10,000 wildlife ranches in South Africa, ... The average value of South African agriculture output is lower than the world average, given the marginal agricultural condition of land. In contrast, the commercial wildlife industry has transformed 20 million hectares of marginal agricultural land into thriving land-use operations and a typical commercial game ranch generates approximately R220 per hectare in economic output, compared to an average of R80 per hectare for conventional livestock farming.

The eco-tourism industry now accounts for at least R1 billion in value added to the South African economy and its indirect multiplier effect is of roughly similar size. The total turnover in this market segment is about R2 billion. Therefore, not surprisingly, the game-ranching industry has been expanding at a rate of about 5% per annum in real terms over the past decade – and measured in terms of turnover, it has grown at an average rate of 20.3% per annum over the last 15 years. The number of commercial farmers however, for various reasons, has dropped to an alarmingly low 37,000. ...

The rhino poaching stats:

2010 146

2011 252

2012 425

And, so far, in 2013 there have been 5 rhinos poached, 3 of them on New Year's Day.

Renewable Energy

From Infrastructure News

A flurry of conferences have been springing up on the Africa circuit lately, touting renewable energy as a potential solution to the continent's well known energy deficits. The continent is home to 15 percent of the world's total population but, once traditional biomass is excluded, its per capita energy consumption is just one-sixth of the global average. ...

Themban Bukula, director of South Africa's national energy regulator, says Kenya stands out as one of the few countries in the region to make significant progress in adopting renewable energy. While other nations' plans are "still at the implementation stage, Kenya's wind farms are generating power and injecting it into the grid," he explains.

"Kenya was one of the first – if not the first – African country to start a project using feed-in tariffs." South Africa's efforts have taken longer, explains Mr Bukula, because it aimed not only to produce electricity but also to build new infrastructure around renewable energy to create jobs. To that end, the government's ambition is that over the next 30 years some 40 percent of the additional 40,000MW of electricity to be generated will come from renewables. ...

... the cost of solar photovoltaic modules has dropped by more than a quarter in the last seven years. Pointing to the potential, Blue Energy, the UK-based renewable energy investor, just announced plans to build Africa's biggest solar PV plant in Ghana, under the government's feed-in tariff scheme. Secondly, Africa does not have the same "entrenched incumbency" of oil and gas powers as the more mature energy markets of the US and Europe, and so the barriers are appreciably lower. ...

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY MAKES COMMON TOURIST VISA A PRIORITY – AGAIN

EAC Secretary General Dr. Richard Sezibera has named the introduction of a single tourist Visa to the region, and the revival of an East African Passport across the member states, as among the main priorities for the trade bloc in 2013 alongside the removal of non tariff barriers in the aviation and tourism sectors. These issues have been causing major disappointments among the tourism industry, which has for long been struggling with the expensive image of East Africa when travelling to several countries, where Visa fees for a family of four can run into 1.000 US Dollars if visiting all 5 member states. Such added cost are seen as a hurdle to promoting cross region safari packages and while Kenya permits the re-entry after obtaining an initial Visa when visiting other countries like Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi or Tanzania, none of the other countries is offering the same option to tourists. Stakeholders have for long blamed bureaucrats of dragging their feet over technical issues like revenue sharing, which in view of the highly advanced immigration technology in place at immigration check points today is now seen as a mere excuse by some member states to slow down integration and prolong the existence of other NTB's in place. ...

KENYA'S CONSERVATION FRATERNITY REELING FROM LATEST POACHING NEWS

News that 11 elephant were slaughtered for their ivory tusks have prompted wide outrage among Kenya's conservation fraternity, with immediate demands of a strong hand response to hunt down those responsible for this latest elephantcide. An entire elephant family of 11, young ones included, was wiped out by a hail of bullets before their tusks were hacked out of the carcasses, in a location at the Tsavo East National Park, prompting a wide spread manhunt by KWS and security services using dogs, foot and vehicle patrols and aerial surveillance.

The massacre is seen as a direct challenge to the new KWS CEO William Kiprono and his team, which have been on the receiving end of the war on poaching for too long, with only temporary successes followed by yet more reports on dead elephant or rhino emerging.

TANZANIA READY TO TAP INTO WINDPOWER WITH 100 MW PILOT PLANT

Tanzania will be tapping into green, renewable energy sources come 2014, when a proposed 100 MW wind power plant will come on line, now under construction in the Singida region of Central Tanzania. Wind East Africa Limited, the joint venture between Tanzania's Six Telecom and UK based Aldwych International have joined hands with the World Bank's private sector lending arm International Finance Corporation in securing a 123 million US Dollars loan for the project with the balance of the funding being provided by the equity partners to pay for the overall 285 million US Dollar investment. ...

KENYA CUSTOMS SEIZE TWO TONS OF BLOOD IVORY AT MOMBASA PORT

Customs, security and KWS officials have yesterday seized two tons of blood ivory, containing some 600 tusks and pieces of ivory, said to be worth over 1 million US Dollars on the open market.

Information from Mombasa indicates that the container was labeled as containing ornamental stones from Tanzania, destined for Indonesia, which is however thought to be only an intermediate destination en route to the real consumer markets in either Vietnam or China.

No arrests have been announced though persons mentioned on the shipping documents are now high on the wanted list to answer questions, as are the clearing agents of the cargo.

Kenya, like all other safari destinations in Eastern and Southern Africa, has been under assault by organized international crime syndicates targeting elephant and rhino for ivory and horns and CITES sources estimated as many as 30.000 elephant having been killed last year alone. Kenya Wildlife Service CEO William Kiprono, who was appointed in October last year, has made anti poaching operations the centre piece of his organization and has recorded several positive results in recent weeks taking out poachers gangs, but as seen here, also set backs as the menace has taken deep roots which require more than just good will or good fortune. ...

Found on Africa Geographic Website

An African Satellite Dish and an African Apple Mac



Have a good week

Gill

PS. My website is now live. Please have a look on www.beyondthevictoriafalls.com. It has been a mission to do because although I started off with a bit of help I had to do most of it alone. I am not a computer geek and found it hard on my tired brain. However, it is just about done now but needs some tweaking.

The idea behind the website is as an add-on to my book, Beyond the Victoria Falls. The website will give updates as and when they happen. The information on the website is fairly basic as I would like people to buy the book! (The book is now available on Amazon and can be downloaded as an eBook. I also have more copies if anyone needs one locally.)

The website links to my three blogs –

The Livingstone Weekly, which you all know – www.thelivingstoneweekly.wordpress.com

The Contact Directory which lists contact details for most of the tourism companies in our region – www.contactbeyondthevictoriafalls.wordpress.com. If you know of companies which are not listed, please give me a shout and I can add them in.

Stories and Updates which is a place for my travel stories and any updates which have occurred and continue to occur in the region – www.storiesbeyondthevictoriafalls.wordpress.com

I would appreciate comments and criticisms. The aim of the website is to give visitors to our region a holistic view of the region around the Victoria Falls, whether in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana or Namibia. As a region we have so much to offer and, if we work together, we can bring many more people to our countries.