

Dear All

During the week it was a day for South Africa to celebrate Nelson Mandela Day and we had a bit of a celebration for him too outside the One Stop Shop. I arrived an hour and a half late but I was running proper Zambian time as it seemed to have just got started.

After some entertainment and speeches, Ms Masebo planted a baobab tree next to the Chipmunk plane which decorates the outside of the museum. Meanwhile some songsters who were extremely tuneful sang happy birthday ... about 20 times ...

Afterwards Ms Masebo signed a drawing (which seemed so much like the work of Benjamin Mibenge) and was to be signed by other well-wishers and then taken to Nelson Mandela with all our best wishes for a speedy recovery.



### **Pavement outside the Old Post Office Repaired**

I was so pleased this week to see that the Council, I assume, is making repairs to the pavement outside the Old Post Office – one of the first Livingstone plots to be given out in 1904 – and is now home to Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation and the Department of Immigration.

I can't tell you how many times I have tripped up on that piece of pavement ...  
Now it will be good as new ...



## Breakdown ... Woops ...

During the week I found a truck which I assumed had broken down (it was a daft place to park, I thought) halfway through the traffic lights ... Murphy's Law, I assume ... but it did cause a bit of confusion ...



## Bus Terminus

We are having a new state-of-the-art bus terminus built in Livingstone. It will not be ready for the UNWTO and I don't think that it will matter because very few, if any, of the delegates will be travelling by bus when they visit us in August. The development is meant for we-folk who will be able to have a conducive environment when catching a bus and it will take the traffic away from the town centre. Hurray ...



## Digging Trenches

We seem to be having lots of trenches being dug all over the town and surroundings. During the week one of these things was being dug between town and my compound ...

I noticed that my internet went down ... Tuesday ... I thought there was a problem nationally ... it didn't get better ... then I tried my landline and found that it wasn't working either ... I reported ... twice ... I went to complain later ... I got in touch with one of the engineers ... they were busy but *would come first thing in the morning* ... they didn't ... obviously our trench-diggers had done other damage ... finally three days later I had my phone and internet connection back again. How frustrating.

### Events on the Way

25-27 July: Pumping Legs for Water.  
Hwange National Park  
3-5 August: Mulungushi Challenge  
24-29 August: UNWTO  
11-16 August: Cycle Zambia  
24-25 September: Khawa Dune  
Challenge & Cultural Festival. Near  
Ghanzi  
27-29 September: Fun Enduro, Victoria  
Falls Town  
26 October: Zambezi Kayak Festival.  
26-31 October: World Adventure  
Travel Summit. Windhoek



We have tried in the past to establish a section of the police force as specially trained tourism police, but always it seemed to die a death. Now, though, government has got involved during the run up to the UNWTO and has trained a special unit to undertake the duties of tourism police.

According to a report in the press, 120 police officers from Southern and Western Provinces have undergone training. The course lasted a week and was overseen by Zambia Police Service with some advice from Zimbabwe Police which has had a tourism unit for many years.

## ZAMBIA

### Mining in Lower Zambezi National Park

From Ian Manning

The Parliamentary Committee on Lands, Environment and Tourism for the Second Session of the Eleventh National Assembly of Zambia (September 2012 - July 2013), after taking submissions from the Zambian CBNRM Forum (who had incorporated information contained in my two petitions), as well as from various government stakeholders, has just declared the following:

*'Your Committee recommends that the proposed mining project at Kangaluwi in the Lower Zambezi be rejected for the following reasons:*

- (i) the mining licence that Mwembeshi Resources holds was issued without following the requirements of the law and procedure and is invalid and should be revoked;*
- (ii) there should be no mining in the Lower Zambezi National Park which should be reserved and preserved as a conservation area and heritage for purposes of tourism development;*
- (iii) the Government should ensure that the issuance of mining licences follows the legal and laid down procedures; further, the work of the inter-Ministerial Committee should be strengthened.'*

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We must now await confirmation of this from the Executive, notably the Minister of Environment, Wilbur Simuusa, who had allowed the Australian miners to appeal the rejection of their EIS by the Zambia Environmental Management Agency. Victory is in sight.

Added to this information from Ian was a report in the Post which stated that the Minister of the Environment, Wilbur Simuusa was taking a cautious approach to its acceptance of mining in conservation areas.

Wilbur Simuusa: *I don't want to make a decision alone because that will set a precedence especially that this is not the only project we have which is located in a protected area. Most of the oil and gas deposits are found in game*

*and forest reserves. As a country, where do we place more value between mining and conservation? This should be answered by everyone, should we allow mining or not or can we have measures to ensure that mining runs side by side with conservation? It is not an easy decision and whatever we say will become a legacy so we have prepared a Cabinet memo and this month a collective decision will be made in the interest of the country since we have to weigh the advantages of having an economic project against environmental protection, human and wildlife.*

**MULUNGUSHI  
MTB  
CHALLENGE**

**2013**



3 - 5 August

Contact Allan & Diane Ellis [[ellis@iconnect.zm](mailto:ellis@iconnect.zm)]  
for more details

## Mvuu Lodge

Chiawa GMA, (Lower Zambezi)

*White Fronted Bee Eaters like the one in this picture are a common sight along the Zambezi. They nest on banks of earth in colonies that work together; the non-breeders help the breeding pairs out by making nests and even incubating the eggs. This teamwork makes the birds very successful in reproduction. Their main diet consists of bees as their name implies, but they also eat a variety of other insects.*



## Royal Chundu, nr Livingstone

*The majestic Zambezi! How lucky are we to be located in such beautiful surroundings!*



## Sausage Tree and Potato Bush Camp

*Leave me I am sleeping.*



## ZIMBABWE

### Conference Facility being constructed at Elephant Hills

According to a report in the Financial Gazette, African Sun Limited has financed the construction of a conference facility at Elephant Hills because the government had failed to provide one for the UNWTO. The convention centre will take 1,500 people and is being built by Chattels Infrastructure from Cape Town with materials imported from Germany.

The convention centre is said to be semi-permanent and has a life-span of 30 years. The construction started two weeks ago and will be completed within the coming two weeks.

*Paul Clarke, who founded Chattel 19 years ago, could not reveal how much the structure would cost, but C&M understands that the Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) provided ASL with close to US\$4 million for the construction of the semi-permanent centre at Elephant Hills and upgrading of facilities at the hotel for the UNWTO.*

*Chattel said advantages of semi-permanent structures were that they were cost-effective, manufactured off-site in a controlled environment, more rapidly and simply constructed than conventional buildings, easily reconfigured, easily transportable, technologically advanced, functional and aesthetically pleasing.*

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## Zimbabwe Elections

Elections in Zimbabwe are still set for 31 July. Reports in the newspapers comment on the usual stuff of rallies being banned and people being arrested. In a rather sad report today on the BBC, it seems as if ZANU PF wants to win at all costs – it wasn't a nice report, so I won't repeat it here.

The interesting thing is, though, that a new TV station, called 1st TV, has started broadcasting to many Zimbabweans. It is based outside Zimbabwe and uses technology which apparently cannot be blocked and is available free around the country. Its aim is to give balanced coverage. The state-owned TV station normally covers only the ruling party – one article stated that it showed Robert Mugabe's rally during the week for 3 hours!

Here is an article from Cathy Buckle, one of Zimbabwe's most popular columnists.

**Time has almost run out** <http://www.cathybuckle.com/>

Dear Family and Friends,

We are in a dizzy spin of contrasts as we hurtle towards elections. In my home town it started with an MDC rally. 'We weren't forced, to go! We went because we wanted to,' everyone was saying the day after the election rally. Thousands attended, they wanted to see Prime Minister Tsvangirai and his team in the flesh. 'There were so many people and such a huge noise from the cheering, whistling and singing, that we thought the stands in the stadium were going to collapse,' people said. Everyone was wearing bright red and everyone seemed to be smiling. The next day you could almost feel the town smiling; things felt better, brighter, hopeful. The questions everywhere were the same: 'Did you go? Are you registered to vote?'

A week later the Zanu PF rally came to town and the difference was dramatic. From before eight in the morning the trucks and buses started arriving for the 'star' rally. They were coming from the direction of Harare and were packed full of people, strangers to the town. For the next five hours the trucks kept on coming and coming and they were all crammed full. In most of the open trucks there seemed to be a couple of cheer leaders standing at the top of the trucks nearest to the cab and their job was to stir people up.

You could see these young men rousing the passengers, leading them into bouts of singing, chanting and sloganeering. When the cheer leaders went quiet so did the people squashed into the open trucks, exposed to the elements. By lunchtime the entire town was deserted. Almost all the shops were closed, the usual vegetable vendors and pavement sellers had disappeared. Offering someone a lift they quickly, unusually said: 'no thanks, it's not safe for blacks to be seen with whites today.' The word on the street was that if





you wanted to stay safe you had two choices: put that Zanu PF cap on and go to the rally or get out sight, lock your door and don't be seen.

A little before 5 pm it was all over and thousands of people poured out on the streets. Some were lucky and managed to get a place in the trucks returning to Harare. Most were not, the trucks they came in had already gone. People stood five and six deep along the highway trying to get lifts back to Harare, a long, cold, dark 80 kilometres away. The next day strangers were still trying to flag down lifts to the capital city. That day the feeling in town was one of relief that it was over and sympathy for thousands of strangers who had sat on the ground for hours and hours, without water, food or even able to go to the toilet.

As town by town the rallies come and go and emotions swing wildly from elation and delight to cold, quiet fear, everyone breathes a sigh of relief when the politicians leave town. For a few more days until the elections we can pretend to be normal, pretend that everything's going to be OK. We've given up pretending that it's going to be a free and fair poll or that the voters roll isn't cooked. No one's got any confidence in the polling process after watching the mayhem and chaos of the early voting for security forces and election personnel which left less than 50% being able to cast a ballot.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai hit the nail on the head when he said: "If ZEC cannot handle 87,000 [special] voters, how will it handle 6 million voters on July 31?" It's a question we all want the answer to, but time has almost run out. Until next time, thanks for reading, love cathy.

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### Correction

Last week I reported in an article about the amount of ivory being stored by Zimbabwe authorities and stated that it was 62,000 tonnes. It should, I am sure, have been 62,000 kg, as was pointed out by one of my readers.

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### Bumi Hills (near Matusadona)

Operation Remove a snare ...

*Words can't describe how we feel right now.....*

*Just finished an operation that started three days ago. Trekking ,finding an Elephant cow with a snare, deeply embedded in her right hind leg. Got the vet and chopper in, darted her, took three darts, and removed the snare. Treated the deep wound and to see her get back to her feet 12 minutes later.....Incredible. What a privilege to have been part of that. I'm humbled. Adrenaline still pumping !!!Some of the photos are a graphic.*

### The Hide, Hwange

*A Barred Owlet that looks like he can't wait for winter to be over! We see quite a few of these little guys (weighing between 83-140 grams and measuring about 20cms) around camp, during the day and at night; when it's particularly cold, one or two may pay us a visit, sitting in the branches above the fire at night. They feed mainly on insects, and you can often watch them hunting from the comfort of the bar in the early evenings. Thanks to Tyson Van Helsdingen for the photo.*



Photo by Ty

## Nasty case of writer's block

By Nick Green

*Gill: As I have lots of budding authors reading the Weekly, I thought this might be food for thought ... pun wasn't intended, but ...*

"I have been writing a novel for the past five years, and for the life of me I can't seem to find the words that will help me finish my book and eventually become a published author."

Ever felt that way? Ever felt as though the words are stuck in your throat like chips of saw dust?

If you have felt this way, it seems you are in need of something that can unclog your metaphorical blocked pipe, something that can help your creative juices start flowing again. As a published author of three books, Boathouse to Botswana, Warriors and Three Journeys to Patagonia I have a few pointers that could help you reach your goal.

One thing you could consider is taking a break : Go for a walk; watch a movie; go for a run or go out for dinner and enjoy pleasant conversation with some close friends. Shifting your mind away from your manuscript and focusing on the people around you may trigger a few fresh ideas that will help you to carry on with your masterpiece when you next pick up a pen or sit at the keyboard.

Another good way to summon up an array of beautiful words all colourfully cloaked in the finest silks is to travel : When you travel, whether it's locally or abroad, and you experience different sights, sounds and smells and immerse yourself in a new culture you will be surprised at how quickly new ideas for the book pop into your head. In no time you will be rushing home to rekindle your relationship with the manuscript which previously drove you insane with frustration. ...

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## Wilderness Safaris

*What an incredibly lucky shot by Dana Allen at Xigera last week ... This leopard is a regular user of the footbridge onto the island and although sometimes seen from the dinner table is never photographed ...*



## Botswana Tourism

*'Pedestrians crossing the Street in Kasane' ~ Thank you for sharing Gawie Linde! :)*



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## NAMIBIA

### Toilets a problem at Katima Mulilo Border

According to the press the toilets at the Katima Mulilo are in a terrible state and are shaming the authorities.

From New Era

*When a New Era journalist recently visited the filthy border facility used by thousands of tourists and other travellers its toilets overflowed with a nauseous mixture of urine and human excreta with toilet paper scattered all over the place posing a health hazard to users. Although water is available at the border facility its toilets appear beyond repair and have simply been abandoned and left uncleaned resulting in an unbearable and offending odour, not to mention the grist of flies it attracts.*

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### Saving Water with the Otji-Toilet

From Informante

In Namibia water is a scarce resource, and local sources can't meet the growing demand. The Dry Toilet Solutions offer an ecological and economical alternative - different innovative systems are helping to save water and money.

Otji-Toilet produces toilets using ecological material to maintain ecological equilibrium by using clay to build toilets for dry sanitation, yet offering modern convenience.



It works on the concept of separating solids and liquids. The toilets are designed with a Urine Diversion Toilet Bowl which catches urine as soon as it touches the inner wall of the toilet bowl and guides the liquid into a channel which run into an underground 'French drain', set apart from the toilet structure.

Otji-Toilets have two perforated containers in an underground chamber which collect the solid waste. After six month (with 6-10 users) the first container will be full and will then be exchanged with the second container, although the first will remain in the chamber for the composting process.

Once the second container is full, the compost in the first one will be emptied and the process will be repeated. The compost can be used as high quality fertiliser.

Due the perforated concrete panel, the tank stays clean and hygienic all the time. A sun-based ventilation system at the back of the toilet, always facing to the north, provides fresh air, which keeps it dry and ensures an odourless use.

According to Peter Arndt, the Otji-Toilet factory manager, "In the absence of sludge there are no gasses and no breeding environment for insects, therefore solid waste remains dry and decomposes quickly."

"Environmental researchers agree that the mixing of solid waste and liquid (urine) is to be regarded as the main problem that creates a bad smell in toilets. The Otji-Toilet, however, separates solid from liquid by collecting the solid in the container.

Therefore, it does not fit into the category of traditional latrines and effectively prevents contamination. Nonetheless, the system has been developed for regions which don't serve as freshwater resource areas and it should only be installed after having received official permission to do so," said Arndt.

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## WOLFGANG'S COLUMN

### TENDERS INVITED FOR DESIGN OF NEW STANDARD GAUGE NAIROBI – MOMBASA RAILWAY

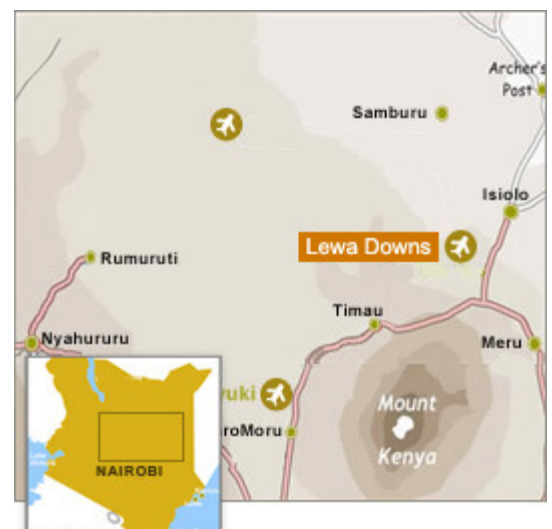
Kenya's seriousness about constructing a second, standard gauge railway line between Mombasa and Nairobi, and eventually on to Kisumu and the Ugandan border, was underscored yesterday when Kenya Railways launched their tender for the design of the new line, including consultancy services and construction supervision.

Tenders for the railway line between the Nairobi Railway Station and Jomo Kenyatta International Airport were also issued at the same time it was learned. The deadline for the tenders is on 29th of August and according to new regulations a tender award must then be made within 30 days, setting the project on course for fast track implementation. Construction period is estimated to take about 3 years, which would set the completion of the new line within the term of office of the current government. ...

### LEWA DOWNS MAKES IT INTO THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

The Mount Kenya World Heritage Site was recently expanded to include two additional conservation areas, namely Lewa Downs and the Ngare Ndare Forest. Lewa Downs, once upon a time a conventional cattle ranch owned and operated by the Craig family, has over the years turned itself into a pioneer of privately owned conservancies, setting the trend many others followed over the years.

*Map from Safarilink*



UNESCO's recognition therefore is as much a natural progression to expand the existing Mount Kenya WHS and incorporate some of the adjoining migration routes of elephant and other game, as it is a very public statement towards the massive conservation efforts undertaken by Lewa Downs over the past decades. When the transformation of Lewa started only about 5.000 acres were set aside to introduce rhinos and give them a conducive breeding environment, but today the entire estate of more than 60.000 acres has been turned into a conservation zone. Lewa today is home to both the Eastern Black and the Southern White rhinos but also provides a habitat for at least another 70 mammals and over 440 bird species, some of them endemic. ...

## **NORWEGIAN MEDIA EXPOSE ROT IN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF TANZANIA**

Norway's Aftenposten on the 06th of July filed a damning article, exposing the rot and corruption which contributed to the disappearance of 6.8 NOK (I assume that this should be 6.8million = US\$1.1million), leaving the society, according to the article, technically bankrupt. With the Tanzanian government at the ropes over growing allegation that the country is not doing nearly enough to stem poaching – earlier in the week government officials told local media in Dar es Salaam that over 1.000 poaching suspects had been arrested, though not saying over which period of time – the Aftenposten article could not come at a worse time. Battling negative publicity over a range of environmentally disastrous decisions taken by the government, such as plans to build a highway across the Serengeti migration routes, to build a soda ash extraction plant at Lake Natron, the ONLY place in East Africa where the flamingos can breed, to permit Uranium mining in an area of the Selous Game Reserve now being excised from the park but still thought to cause serious environmental degradation reaching deep into the Selous, the plans to build a new harbour in the centre of the Coelacanth marine national park near Tanga or plans to build a hydropower plant and am at Stiegler's Gorge, have led to growing opposition abroad against such lunacies.

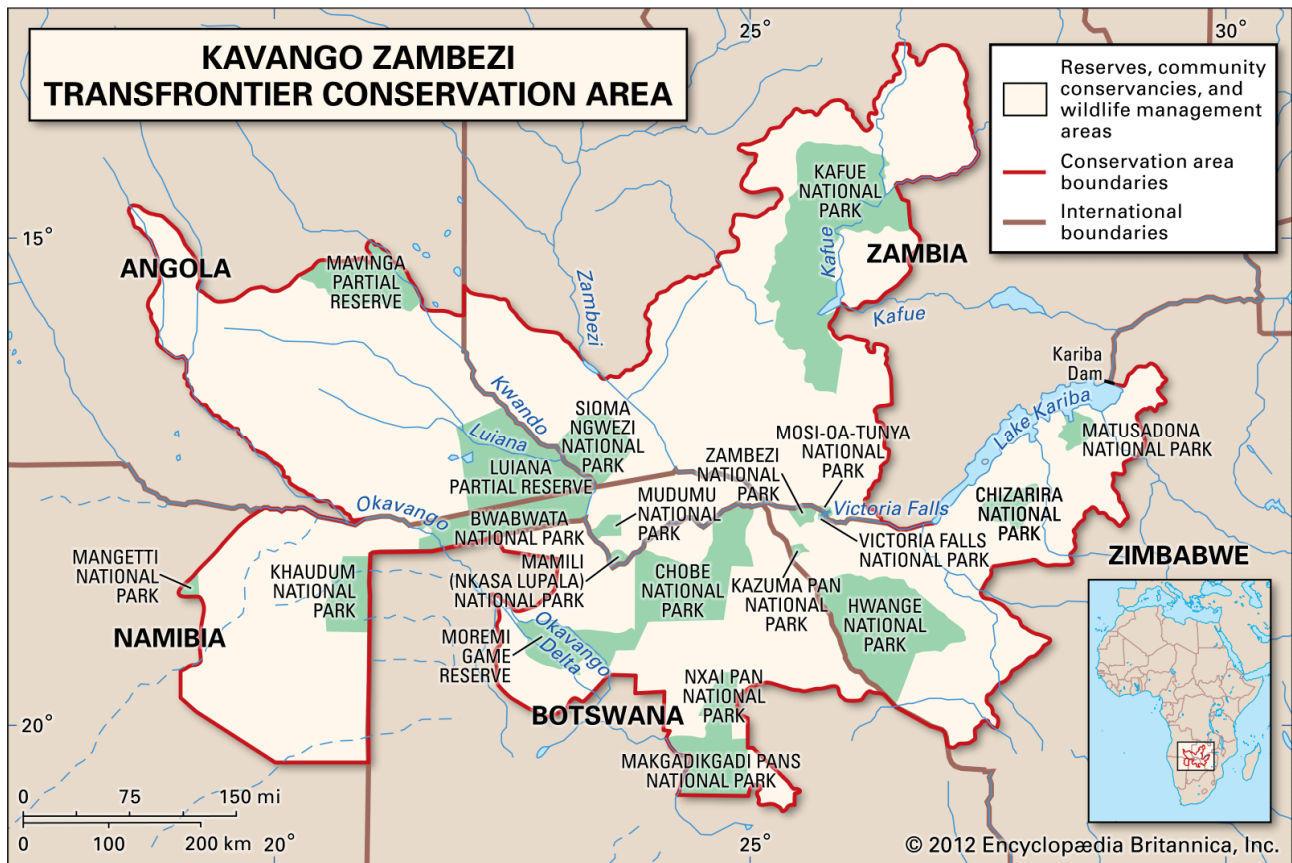
Poaching of elephant is all but out of control with a parliamentary report tabled and accepted speaking of up to 30 elephant a day being killed for their ivory, while opposition figures in Tanzania have alleged in parliament that the true figures could be twice as high.

NGO's like the WCST were subsequently funded to assist in crucial areas of high biodiversity value but the article in the Norwegian newspaper now casts doubts that such expectations can be met and if not political cronyism and patronage has found its way from government into the NGO and private sector too.

The link to the article, in Norwegian is [http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/-Presidentens-menn-overtok\\_-norske-bistandspenger-forsvant-7249364.html](http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/-Presidentens-menn-overtok_-norske-bistandspenger-forsvant-7249364.html) and the following Google Translation has been availed by Tanzanian sources as follows for readers to get acquainted with the various allegations made: *AFTENPOSTEN, Published: 06.jul. 2013 11:26 p.m. Updated: 06.jul. 2013 11:26 p.m. Environmental projects to the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST) has collapsed. The money is gone, the employees have resigned or been dismissed, and WCST is technically bankrupt. The money for the business came from the Norwegian, Finnish, Danish, British and American aid budgets. In September 2012 took Philemon L. Luhanjo over as chairman and chief executive officer of WCST. He is one of President Jakaya Kikwete closest associates over many years. Stopped flow of money Norway was NOK 25 million for a project to protect forest area Pugu-Kazimzumbwi outside Dar es Salaam. Cash flow was halted in 2012, after 6.8 million was paid, because accounting and audit reports were not delivered as agreed. In February 2013 Norway halted all further cooperation with the WCST. The embassy ordered an investigation by the audit firm Baker Tilly & Co DPG. The existence of 24 May and gave clear indications of misuse of money. WCST were given until 13 June to comment on the audit, but has not responded. UD will not disclose the audit report. However, both the Finnish Counsellor Merja Mäkelä and Torbjørn Eriksen in Danish Outdoor Council, both of which recognize the Norwegian report confirms that there are clear indications of financial irregularities in the WCST. The two are involved in other projects WCST, and await their own investigations. ...*

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Found on Encyclopaedia Britannica  
Great Map of KAZA



THE SMILE



Have a good week

Gill

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