



Dear All

During the week Livingstone saw loads of trees being planted along the street. Well done, Livingstone City Council. These trees are actually exotics from Asia. They are tall and will not interfere with drivers being able to see the road.

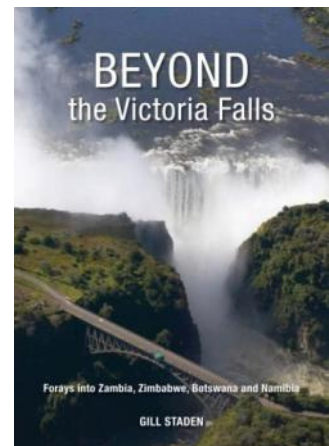
Meanwhile our tree which was cut down along Airport Road remains as a stump. To me, this is more of a traffic hazard than it was when it was alive.



## Beyond the Victoria Falls

I have just got in some more copies of my book. If anyone wants copies for resale in the shops, please get in touch with me.

It is also available on Kindle.



## Rain

We have had some rain. My garden is trying to perk up after another week of little water in the taps. I nearly threw a wobbly when I visited the Water Company to find out what was going on. I was told that I would continue to receive a maximum of 2 hours per day until the water level in the river rose ...

SOUTHERN WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANY LIMITED		
SERVICE LEVEL GUARANTEE		
1	We will ensure that not less than 95% of our water quality test results meet WHO standards / Zambian Standards	
2	Customers will receive not less than the following hours of supply in their areas:	
	Area	Guaranteed service hours
	Livingstone	
	High cost/Medium cost	18
	Low cost / Peri-Urban	12
	Choma, Kalomo, Mazabuka, Monze, Siavonga	
	All areas	15
	Other towns All areas	8
	Office and pay point operating hours per week	40

So much for my guarantee from SWSC or 18 hours per day ...

## Yabbies

If you remember I wrote about the yabbies in Lake Kariba the other week. These crayfish monsters are from Australia and have found that they like Lake Kariba and are busy multiplying. I mentioned then that this was either a Threat or an Opportunity. Ocean Basket has made it an Opportunity and is now selling the crayfish as a tasty treat.

Even if you don't want to eat one, go and have a look at the size of them ...




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## Baboon Menace at the Victoria Falls

Baboons have always been a problem at the Victoria Falls Border Post and around the Victoria Falls Park. Is there a solution? Can you imagine all our visitors for UNWTO having to dodge baboons every time they cross the border?

Well, during the week I was watching a programme on the Beeb about an experimental strategy which is being developed in Cape Town. Cape Town has probably the biggest baboon problem on the planet. They go into cars, houses, restaurants; they steal; they create havoc. Residents are completely fed up with the situation. Baboons are protected in South Africa but from time to time some have had to be shot.

I am not too sure the complete strategy in Cape Town but it involves the use of paintball guns and pepper. The shots fired by a paintball gun are not going to kill the baboons but are giving them a nasty belt in the bottom every time they come into the built up area. Somehow, too, using pepper, the built up area is 'scent marked'. The hope is that the baboons will eventually associate pepper with danger: 'Smell pepper' get a 'belt on the bottom'. 'Rangers' have been equipped with the paintball guns and are on duty throughout the day to keep the baboons at bay.

Will it work? No-one knows, but it is worth a try. Should we think of using the same tactic at the Falls?

If you want to have a look at the clip about the baboons in Cape Town:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-19954424>

I'll try to keep an eye open for progress, but if anyone hears anything, please let me know.

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## Investor found for UNWTO convention centre

According to the news an investor has been found to construct a Conference Facility at Showgrounds for the UNWTO. The mind boggles ... at this late stage ??/

We wait ...

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## Batoka Gorge Dam

The reports in the media continue to mention the construction of Batoka Gorge Dam. In the meantime, experts are saying that big dams are on the way out. Big dams and climate change do not go together. We will experience less and less water in our rivers and dams may become economically unviable. Also, more worryingly, when we get rain we will get it to excess and dams may become unstable. However the plan for the Batoka Gorge is still in the pipeline.

### From Comesa Regional Investment Agency

*The project is available for investment and has no takers at the moment. The detailed feasibility studies, which were completed in 1993, indicated that it is economically and technically feasible to construct 4 x 200 MW units on the Zimbabwe side. However, the feasibility studies will need reviewing.*

At the moment the 'latest news' is all coming from Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe is short of power because its power stations have been neglected and are in a sad state. Zimbabwe, without Zambia's huge rivers, is 'powerless' to do anything about its power situation unless the Batoka Gorge Dam goes ahead.

I continue to hope that Zambia will reject the dam ... time will tell ...

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## UNWTO

So how are preparations going for the UNWTO?

We notice that some anonymous company has stated that they will construct a conference facility in Livingstone. I will quote Given Lubinda who said that Livingstone must be 'beautiful'. If we are to construct a new conference facility which is beautiful, it will need time ... time which we do not have.

Livingstone has planted some trees ...

Livingstone's Airport, renamed by our new government as Harry Mwaanga Nkubula Airport (I had to look that up!) is progressing well and will be 100% ready for the UNWTO – new everything and to world standards. The main work is a new International Terminal Building which has been ongoing for some years now, but Government is making sure that it will be finished on time.

Guy Scott, the Vice President, has said that many roads will be repaired in Livingstone next year. Our main road to the airport has been done and is fantastic. However, the road through town to the Victoria Falls is all lumpy and bumpy. The contractors must have made a bit of a mistake when mixing the bitumen and as soon as the trucks drove over it, these lumps appeared. Some of our side roads are in an appalling state ... although others are fine.

Our biggest problem, I think, is our street vendors. Street vendors have been 'legalised' because the President felt that they had the right to earn a living. The other day when I parked my car I had to pass a stall with dried fish – gosh, it was smelly. I know if I opened a stall with dried fish I would have to get a hundred licences to operate. Next to the fish seller was a man washing the carpets from his taxi and putting them out to dry on the



pavement. I had one suggestion from a Weekly reader that we should make a special place in town for the vendors to operate. She told me that in Asia they had exactly the same problem and the government built them a special market from which to operate. Not only has it cleared the streets but the market has become a popular place with locals and visitors alike. Maybe we should consider that ...

Meanwhile in Victoria Falls Town ...

We have seen that the border is having a huge makeover. The road to the border will be first class.

According to reports the hospital is being renovated to excellent standards. Joice Mujuru: *At the Victoria Falls District Hospital, there is work on the ground and they are saying that by March, everything will be in order.*

*Things are promising and we are ready for the conference. Yes, we have some work to do like sprucing up the image of the town, the construction works at the airport which is close to 10 percent but by August next year, everything will be in place.*

*What we have now is good enough and we can host the event if we are asked to hold it today ...*

The latest news, though, came when a team arrived in Victoria Falls Town last week and was asking stakeholders what they wanted in next year's budget. The main concern was water for Bulawayo – the new pipeline from the Zambezi River has been promised but there seemed to be no action.

On the town itself, Thembinkosi Khumalo, Council Treasurer, said: *The budget should focus on work in progress, as you are aware, we as Victoria Falls are hosting the world next year. We have pleaded to government and we don't want to fail.*

Zimbabwe has so many problems right now. Bulawayo and Harare have virtually no water in the taps; sewage is leaking and contaminating some water supplies. It is likely that there will be renewed outbreaks of cholera and typhoid during the coming rainy season. The electricity company, ZESA, is failing to keep its power stations up and running with the result that most people who can afford it are now living with generators. The rest of the people just suffer.

The Constitution which was started a decade ago is still not in place. Add to that the people's concern over an election next year in March. During the run-up to the last elections in 2008 there were human rights abuses. What will the elections bring us if they take place in 2013, only months before the UNWTO?

Victoria Falls Town is an 'island' in Zimbabwe, being a 5-hour drive from Bulawayo and a 10-hour drive from Harare. Rarely does any trouble start in the town as people just get on with their lives. But when Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, because president he is sure to be, gets up on the podium to address members of the UNWTO, I hope the participants have images in their mind of the sad state of affairs in the rest of Zimbabwe.

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## ZAMBIA

### Toll Gates for Zambia

Following Zimbabwe's success in erecting toll gates on major roads in Zimbabwe, Zambia is to follow suit. 17 toll gate sites have been identified and will be started soon ... The plan by government is to earn income to maintain our roads. According to Zimbabwe's experience this is likely to be a 'real money-spinner'.

I must say I do not like toll gates. I feel that I pay my taxes to government to look after the infrastructure in Zambia and this includes roads. Having said that, I do know that so many people do not pay tax and therefore the money government earns from tax is smaller than it would be in a western economy. So I suppose we will have to put up with it.



My main concern is that the money is all accounted for in a transparent manner and that when sufficient revenue has been earned by government we can go back to 'the way it was' ...

The toll gates, according to reports, will start between Lusaka and the Copperbelt ...

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## Lochinvar National Park

Before I write about the latest story from Lochinvar, I would like to say that our journalists are coming on in leaps and bounds. No longer do they just plod through the usual government reports extolling government action as they used to do in the past. Now, they are looking further afield and picking up stories around the country in the most unexpected places.

This story came from Annie Sampa from The Times.

*FLYING over the Lochinvar National Park with a charter aircraft can be quite a breathtaking adventure. You cannot get enough of the beautiful scenery.*

*It's that irresistible feeling that presses you to explore the area and experience all the exceptional splendour the park is particularly known for.*

Annie goes on to explain the problem in the area which I will concertina ..

The Kafue River floods out along parts of its length. It floods into both Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon National Parks and into the Game Management Areas. Wildlife used to be spectacular but it is dwindling. There is an invasive weed, *Mimosa pigra*, which has taken over parts of the floodplain, especially Lochinvar. According to the report 3,000 ha of land are now at the mercy of this plant – *mimosa pigra* is a thorny shrub which loves floodplains but it comes from South America. A previous project to eradicate the weed managed to clear 800 ha of land infested, but the plant continues to propagate itself becoming more of a problem. Anyway, this project finished in 2009.

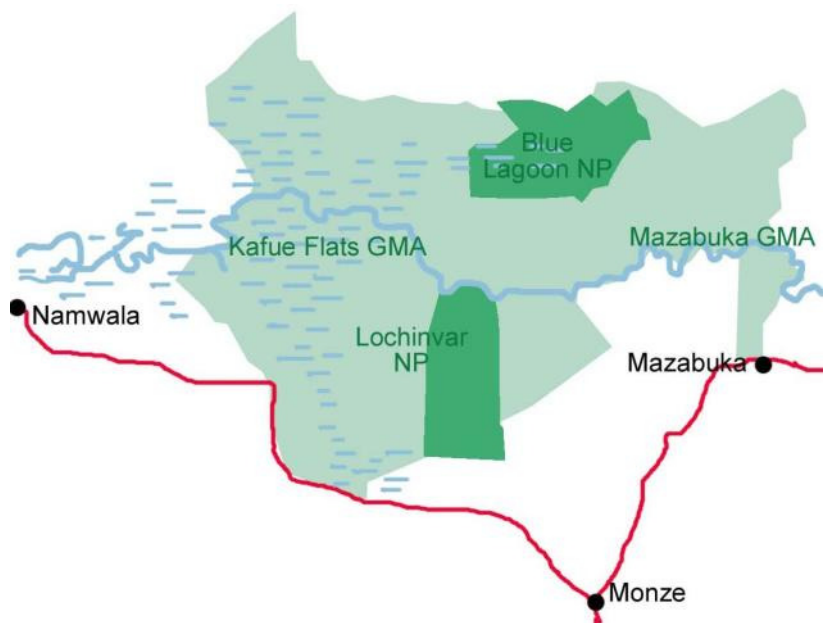
From Annie:

*Zambia Wildlife Authority's Senior Ecologist Chuma Simukonda believes that the best method for the removal of weeds is a combination of cutting and herbicide application.*

*"The combination of mechanical and chemical methods proved to be effective and it had no negative impacts on the environment. This means you cut the vegetation near the ground and apply herbicide by painting it directly on the cut stem," he recommends.*

*Although, he was quick to point out that the method requires a lot of labour now and in the future because there must be routine follow-ups.*

*Recognising the economic benefits of wetlands, Mr Simukonda convincingly says the situation is an emergency that needs rapid response. "We need more resources to combat the weeds. The Government should come up with a recurrent budget not only to conserve Lochinvar but more broadly, the Kafue Flats.*



I visited Lochinvar in 2009. There is a story on my blog about the visit:  
<http://storiesbeyondthevictoriafalls.wordpress.com/zambia/lochinvar-national-park/>

I was concerned then about the state of the park and all the dead lechwe – the only place in the world where the Kafue Lechwe live. Will we save them and the thousands of birds who visit Lochinvar?



For me, the only way forward for the park is for a public-private partnership. ZAWA has signally failed, even with outside help, to maintain the park. They need to enlist the help of private enterprise. The Zimbabwe government is allocating concessions in their parks to private companies who pay a nominal fee for the concession but they help with maintaining the environment. Surely this is a strategy which we should copy ...

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## ZIMBABWE

### PUBLIC NOTICE:

#### TOLLS NOW PAYABLE ON USE OF KARIBA DAM WALL

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) advises the motoring public that, with effect from 1st November 2012, all vehicles using the Kariba Dam Wall will be subject to tolls at prescribed rates in terms of Statutory Instrument 145A of 2012.

The prescribed rates are as follows:

Vehicle Category Fee	
Light motor vehicle	US\$1.00
Bus	US\$5.00
Heavy motor vehicle	US\$30.00
Vehicle carrying abnormal load	US\$50.00

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### Fresh Air

Fresh Air the new joint venture airline, known to us in Livingstone as 1time will stop its flights to Livingstone replacing them with flights to Victoria Falls. The new schedule starts on 2 November. Fresh Air will run 3 weekly flights from Johannesburg airport – Mondays, Fridays and Sundays.

However, there is more to 1time. From Business Day:

*The JSE warned shareholders on Tuesday that the embattled low-cost carrier 1Time Holdings had missed the three-month deadline for submitting its accounts to the stock exchange for its half-year period to end June 30.*

*In August the airline was forced to seek shelter from its creditors by applying for business rescue after it could not reach agreement with creditors, one of the largest being the Airports Company South Africa (Acsa), on a payment plan to get itself out of the hole of debt it has created over the past few years. This is the second time this year the company has failed to submit its accounts to the stock exchange in time. ...*

*The company has accumulated about R320m in short-term debt and has not been able to generate enough income from ticket sales with its older, gas-guzzling fleet in a high fuel price environment. ...*

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## Helicopter Flights over the Falls

A new company, Chikopokopo, has been given a licence to operate flights over the Victoria Falls. According to the spokesman of the company they are targeting 60 passengers per day.

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## NAMIBIA

### Elephant Studies near Etosha

From

<http://phys.org/news/2012-10-scientists-solar-power-elephants-africa.html>

A team of elephant researchers from Stanford University has transformed a remote corner of southern Africa into a high-tech field camp run entirely on sunlight. The seasonal solar-powered research camp gives scientists a rare opportunity to quietly observe, videotape and photograph wild elephants at Mushara waterhole, an isolated oasis in Etosha National Park in Namibia.

"One of the really special aspects of solar energy is that it allows us to be in this incredibly remote area that's closed to tourists and is off the grid," said lead researcher Caitlin O'Connell-Rodwell, an instructor at the Stanford School of Medicine and a collaborating scientist at Stanford's Center for Conservation Biology. She is also co-founder of Utopia Scientific, a non-profit organization that promotes awareness about science, conservation and public health.

"We get to watch elephant society unfold before us in a very quiet environment – no generators, no people, no vehicles," she added.

O'Connell-Rodwell has been studying elephant communication at Mushara for 20 years. She was the first scientist to demonstrate that low-frequency calls produced by elephants generate powerful vibrations in the ground – seismic signals that elephants can feel, and even interpret, via their sensitive trunks and feet. ...



Solar energy was also used to operate a powerful speaker system that delivered low-frequency sounds to elephants gathered at the waterhole. The solar panels provided enough electricity to run a makeshift elephant dung laboratory, operate camera and editing equipment for a documentary video crew, and power two 12-volt refrigerators stocked with fresh meat, dairy products and beer. ...

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## Community Workers go to the US

Dan Austin of Austin-Lehman Adventures from America was so impressed with the way conservancies were being run by the communities that he took a group of them on a tour of sights in America including Yellowstone Park.

Just a few snippets from the report in

<http://www.namibian.com.na/news/environment/full-story/archive/2012/october/article/namibian-conservancies-learn-the-american-way/>

For Omatandeka Conservancy chairman Tjiundukamba, everything in the USA was “BIG”. ...

Cebens Munanzi, from Wuparo Conservancy in the Caprivi, the meat was way too red. Cebens flips his hand left and right and says “that’s how it was cooked – red in the middle”. ...

But it was the size of the animals that impressed Alex Ndango, chair of Muduva Nyangana Conservancy in the Kavango. “Bison are rather like buffalo, but with smaller horns and a massive body.” ...

Cebens Munanzi says that he will have a lot to tell his conservancy in Caprivi. First about the toilet. He was impressed by the pristine condition of US parks. The group spent a night camping on an island, where the eco-tourism mantra of “take only photographs, leave only footprints” was taken very seriously. Only a portable toilet was provided, to prevent pollution of the water table: important lessons for Caprivi camp sites. ...

Munanzi admits to being nervous. It was his first presentation to an international audience. But at home he is a lay preacher, and he soon warmed to his theme, explaining where Wuparo Conservancy is, how it manages human/wildlife conflict, how it runs a camp site and has a highly successful joint venture with Nkasa Lupala Tented Lodge, just outside Mamili National Park.

For the group, the tour was a great success. They did leave footprints behind: many more people in the US tourism industry know about Namibia and its communal conservation programme. And the group brought back much more than photos: ideas for improving camp sites, for eco-trails, for litter collection; and for hospitality.

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## New Community Concession for Hai//Om near Etosha

The Minister of Tourism has awarded a concession to the Hai//Om people – an area just south of Okaukuejo. The community will receive NS300 million in development infrastructure from the Millennium Challenge Account Namibia.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

### Our Rhinos

From KwaZulu Natal Rhino Watch

Just hours after the anti-rhino poaching march in Hluhluwe on Saturday, another carcass was discovered. The poached rhino was discovered in the north of the Hluhluwe Park, in the same area where the other seven or so were found during the Heritage Day long weekend. Its horn had been cut off and it looks as if the animal had been killed last Wednesday or Thursday.

KZN Rhino Watch partner The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization says they're devastated by the news.





Yvette Taylor: "We came back from the march and it was very inspirational to see everybody supporting us - and then we got the call from Kyle [pilot] and it just broke my heart. We were really feeling good about the whole project and then of course you find out that we've lost another rhino - and it was really just soul-destroying to get that news. We must learn from it, we must take it as a challenge not to give up; to fight harder - to do more, to do the best we possibly can, and not take it as defeat," she said.

*(Above: Three helicopters from King Shaka Aviation and Fidelity Security hover in formation over the anti-poaching march in Hluhluwe on Saturday. Currently, one helicopter is deployed to the Hluhluwe Park as part of the KZN Rhino Watch initiative. Photos: Hannah Keal)*

...

Two other rhino carcasses were found this weekend in the Western Shores area of iSimangaliso Wetland Park on the North Coast. ...

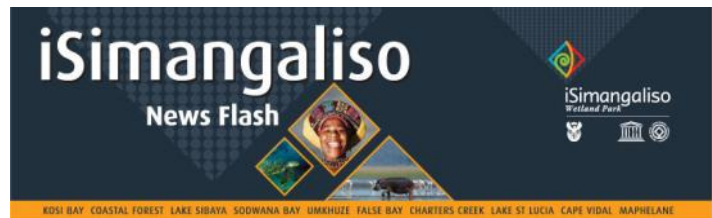


## Black rhino introduction – Playing Cupid

iSimangaliso Wetland Park's Eastern Shores section has received a boost to its existing black rhino (*diceros bicornis*) population with the recent introduction of a young pair. Both were abandoned by their mothers under different circumstances, leading to them being removed by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff with a view to re-homing them. The male, now about 4 years old, has been in a large boma in the company of a long-suffering goat for two years, enabling him to grow sufficiently large to fight his own battles when he seeks out his own territory. He originated from Mun-ya-Wana (Phinda) where his mother, harassed by a cantankerous male over turf wars, turned tail and left him and a sibling to their own devices. The younger sibling died but he continued to make good progress under the watchful eye of dedicated Ezemvelo staff at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi's Game Capture Centre.

*Goats make great companions for young rhinos...until the latter grow up and play becomes a bit rough!*

*Prior to his release into the wilds of iSimangaliso the male was moved to a boma in iSimangaliso to allow him to 'acclimatise' to different surroundings.*



*After a few weeks the male was darted and gently lifted out of the boma to be released into his new environment.*



Fortuitously for him, during his waiting period in the iSimangaliso boma, a young female at Ithala Game Reserve was reported as similarly abandoned by a notoriously “bad mother”, known for her non-maternal tendencies. Although less than three years old, she was mature enough to survive independently and declared an ideal mate for the male, and a plan was made to set them on the course for a potential relationship.

*Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Chief Veterinarian, Dr Dave Cooper and Wildlife Act's Chris Kelly fitting a foot collar to the female black rhino. This will enable her movements to be tracked with data regularly uploaded to the computer monitoring system.*



*The female black rhino being let out of the crate.*



According to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Chief Veterinarian, Dr Dave Cooper, “Black rhino are unfortunately their own worst enemies. They are highly intelligent, fiercely territorial, inquisitive and tend to attack first and ask questions later. Single males are a nightmare for us because they cannot be introduced into an existing population – that would be their death warrant. And of course, a lone male is not a happy chap either. iSimangaliso already has black rhino but has plenty of space and ideal habitat for more, and an area was chosen some distance from the known population in the hope that he would not encounter opposition in the near future. With the attraction of a nubile young rhino-wench, we are holding thumbs that they will find each other to be good company and form their own new territory and perhaps start a family.” The relocation went off without a hitch, and it seemed that Cupid was spot-on as their spoor confirmed that the two had met up. Lucky guests on two different concessionaire night drives unexpectedly encountered the animals the following night; however the female decided to do a bit of extra sightseeing, surprising park staff with her unexpected midnight grid crossing from the main Park into the Game Park section of iSimangaliso later that night, as well as iSimangaliso CEO Andrew Zaloumis on his early morning cycle (which he quipped afterwards “turned out to be a faster ride than usual!”). She was hastily re-caught by the Game Capture team and once again placed in the bosom of the Eastern Shores, with extra measures in place to deter a repeat escape.



*Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Game Capture Officer-in-Charge, Dumisani Zwane, eases the female onto a truck to be taken back into the Eastern Shores after her nocturnal wanderings.*



Due to the current wave of rhino poaching throughout South Africa, security in iSimangaliso is paramount with staff on full alert. Both rhinos have been fitted with foot collars, donated by Wildlife Act who undertake tracking and monitoring activities in iSimangaliso, and they are being closely observed to ensure their safety.

Andrew Zaloumis said, “We have an abundance of big game including buffalo, elephant, hippo, crocodile and rhino – some of the many attractions in this fantastic section of iSimangaliso. We welcome visitors to enjoy the experience and to remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings. If one is fortunate enough to encounter black rhino on a game drive, drivers should retreat and maintain a safe distance (at least 30m) as black rhino are rather fond of using cars as punching bags,” he said. He also gave thanks to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife’s Game Capture team for their efficient and flawless relocation as well as their quick reaction to the brief “escape”.

Visitors are reminded to heed park rules and signage, and be aware that even in areas where it is permitted to exit vehicles, such as the viewing decks, picnic sites and hides, this is always at the visitor’s own risk.

## MALAWI

### Majete Game Reserve

From African Parks Foundation

*On 28 March 2003, the Government of Malawi entered into a 25-year public private partnership with African Parks for the rehabilitation, development and management of Majete. Through this partnership, African Parks (Majete) was born. This was the first project taken on by African Parks. Since then African Parks, with the help of many generous donors and the support of the Malawian Government and the Malawian people, has managed to restock the reserve with wildlife, erect a perimeter fence for the protection of the local communities and kick-start a successful tourism product.*

### Three Lions released in Majete in August

*(Thanks to Robin Pope Safaris for sending me this story)*

The three Majete lions were released successfully on August 25th 2012. Against a backdrop of donors, reporters, photographers, staff and onlookers, Dr. Andre Uys and a small team prepared the tranquilisers to immobilise the lions. The operation went smoothly, the only hitch being that Chimwala (one of the male) managed to remove his dart and proceeded to eat it before it took effect. The team did eventually manage to safely immobile and release all three lions.

All three were soon feeding and fighting over the ‘snack’ that the team had left for them. At some point during the night they started to move away from the release site heading north along the Mkulumadzi River. We suspect they made a kill on the first night as they were observed to be fat and well fed the next day.



The two males have explored most of the northern sector of the reserve. The lions have been observed feeding on zebra, warthog and sable which we assume they have killed. A large male buffalo died from natural causes in the area but was untouched by the lions; an indication that they were finding sufficient food for themselves.

Shire the female has spent much of this time on her own and has explored an area similar to the males. On her second day of release she was found with a fresh reedbuck kill that she had not eaten. This is a further indication that they managed to kill on their first night as she was not showing signs of extreme hunger. As with the males, she has moved west and north and spent a few days walking along the northern fence boundary.

The fence has not been challenged by any of the lions which is an indication that they are respecting the physical barrier for now. Fence attendants walking west along the fence line came across Shire lying next to the fence and when she saw them she got up and ran away. It is encouraging to know that they have a fear of humans on foot as this is a very normal response from wild lions and a further indication that there is no negative feedback from the relocation.

Confirmed lion kill species include: reedbuck, warthog, zebra and sable.

Exciting news from Mkulumadzi Lodgeis that Chimwala and Shire have been spotted mating twice already. This certainly shows that they have settled into their new surroundings. We look forward to a litter of cubs in the not so distant future.

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## OTHER STUFF

### Tracks of Giants collar deployed on Jumbo

An elephant collar which travelled with the Tracks of Giants team throughout the 5,000 kilometre, 20 week journey through six countries earlier this year has been deployed on an elephant along the Kwando River in the heart of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) where elephants are known to move across international borders.



The epic Tracks of Giants expedition culminated in the handover of the GPS-linked elephant collar to Botswana-based non-profit organisation, Elephants Without Borders (EWB) on Monday, September 03 this year. The collar was carried by the Tracks of Giants team throughout the journey in order to help raise awareness of the need for corridor and transfrontier park conservation.

In early October this year, Elephants Without Borders (EWB) conducted a large-scale field operation, deploying collars on 20 elephants and three giraffe in northern Botswana. During the exercise, the Tracks of Giants collar was successfully fitted to a large, healthy bull which is thought to have a wide range



throughout the area. The bull, now known as “Tracks”, was sighted amongst a herd of 17 mature bulls and was darted from a helicopter. “He went down in a perfect location under a large acacia tree, so he was well shaded and kept cool. After the collar was attached, the tranquiliser was reversed and he awoke in a few short minutes, took a moment, slowly turned and strolled off to meet his herd. The entire exercise went very smoothly and quickly,” says Kelly Landen of EWB.

Information from all of the elephant collars deployed will be collated by EWB for its research into “population status and spatial ecology of large herbivores in northern Botswana”. The research aims at providing new and valuable information on the population status and movements of large herbivores throughout northern Botswana. It will culminate in locating and conserving the key habitats and migration corridors that wildlife need to survive.



“We’re very proud to have been part of the Tracks of Giants expedition and are looking forward to working with the team on the continuing adventure,” says Landen. She and Dr Mike Chase guided the Tracks of Giants team through Chobe and the Linyanti Floodplain in Botswana during the middle leg of the expedition.

According to specialist wilderness guide, photojournalist and naturalist Ian Michler, who was a core member of the Tracks of Giants team, “EWB was my Giant of the trip. The last few days of the kayak sector in Botswana ended in a multitude of magnificent elephant sightings – family herds or groups of bulls around almost every bend!”

“Now that the expedition component of Tracks of Giants is done, the most significant challenge is about to begin,” says Michler.

In the months to come, the two core members of the team, Ian Michler and Ian McCallum will be processing and laying out all the conservation, wildlife management, community and ecotourism issues encountered along the route. This will culminate in a book and documentary film which is anticipated to be ready in time for the next World Wilderness Congress in October, 2013. The data gathered from the deployed collar, and the team’s interviews with EWB will be a fundamental part of the final products. The collar deployment was supported by The Wilderness Foundation (SA) and The WILD Foundation (USA), NGO sponsors of Tracks of Giants expedition.

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## World Toilet Day

19<sup>th</sup> November is World Toilet Day. 1,100,000,000 people in the world go to the toilet in the open and not in a toilet. As Climate Change reduces the water levels many communities are facing the problem that water sources are being contaminated. Waterborne diseases like cholera, dysentery and typhoid are making a strong comeback.

In Lusaka, half of the underground water is at risk of contamination.  
From Zambia Times:

*Lusaka risks losing more than half of its water supply if the pollution of ground water continues, the Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company (LWSC) has said.*

*LWSC managing director George Ndongwe said 54 per cent of water supplied to Lusaka was obtained from underground through boreholes sunk in various parts of the city.*

*Mr Ndongwe, however, said some activities in Lusaka had caused pollution of underground water and his company had been forced to abandon a borehole after a filling station was constructed close to it. ...*

*"We get more water underground than from Kafue River and if we stop using boreholes then we will lose 54 per cent of the water supplied to Lusaka," he said.*

*Mr Ndongwe also said the other problem his company faced was encroachment on its water and sewer lines by people who illegally obtained land.*

*He said population in Lusaka was rapidly expanding while infrastructure for the water company was old as there had not been investment to modernise it.*

Similarly, Harare is much worse off than Lusaka as even the basic infrastructure has collapsed, with 50% of its water leaking from the pipes, and few people can rely on tap water. The failure by Harare City Council to supply water has meant that more and more boreholes have been dug by residents in order to get water.

*Elias Mudzuri, former Mayor of Harare, said the fighting between government and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) council over the past year had led to structures collapsing in the water treatment system.*

*"We have to alert the people that Harare is likely to run dry in October. I have done investigations and visited Lake Chivero and established that things have fallen apart," Mudzuri said. "One day the city could wake up without any drop of water because of the looming collapse of the water treatment system."*

*Lake Chivero supplies water to Harare and satellite towns such as Norton, Chitungwiza and Ruwa.*

*Mudzuri, who is a qualified engineer, said the quality of water currently being pumped into Harare was unfit for human consumption.*

*"The treatment plants (at Morton Jaffray) are terribly bad and Lake Chivero is badly polluted. The water currently being consumed has a bad smell because of the untreated raw sewage flowing into the lake and I have since stopped drinking it."*

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From the Huffington Post



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Have a good week

Gill