



Dear All

My header is the junction of the Lusaka-Mongu Road and the Itezhi-Tezhi Road. We had arrived there (while 'doing' Kafue National Park) after a horrendous journey on one of Zambia's bad roads. It is a very pretty road running through two Game Management Areas and also leads to the new hydropower project on the lake. One can only wonder why this road is not a priority, at least for grading.

### Elephant Put Down

I assume, by now, our sick young elephant has been put down by ZAWA. This youngster was found about 8 months ago with a snare around its leg. He was treated twice and fed with lucerne, but he failed to get better. It was now time for him to go, just to put him out of his pain.



This story is interesting in that he was found around the Maramba bridge for many days recently and everyone was stopping to look at him. Everyone was sad. When we hear so many stories in the press about elephants 'attacking' villages and needing to be exterminated, this small episode shows us that the people of Livingstone are much different. We know that elephants are part of our lives and we find as many ways as possible to accommodate them. Even farmers have shrugged their shoulders when the elephants came to eat their crops (sometimes).

Not only are our elephants a great tourist attraction, they also have a place in our world and we must learn to live with them. We have tried chilies to protect our homes and farms; we are now trying lights to keep elephants out. We need to continue to research to find ways of living with elephants, because, for us in Livingstone, they are part of our community.

### LAPS

Livingstone Animal Protection Society has donated an operating table to the Government clinic and is now onto their next priority – the repair of the kennels. They are requesting for donations of cement, blocks, steel and wire mesh to help with this. They also need old blankets for post-op care.

If you can help in any way, contact them on [lapslivingstone@gmail.com](mailto:lapslivingstone@gmail.com)



## A Suni Update

From Sun International

If you remember Suni was rescued in Livingstone by staff members of Sun International. The Elephant Orphanage was contacted and came down to Livingstone to collect Suni and take her back to Lilayi, the home of the youngest orphans. Suni had been hacked on the back and nerves cut. She still has problems with her leg ...

*Her physical condition continues to be an ongoing challenge, as she still lacks sensation from the knee down, consequently suffering from wounds on her feet, which are cleaned and re-bandaged daily. A daily foot soak in Epsom salt bath seems to be helping a lot with the swelling and infection. The Elephant Orphanage Project, under Rachael Murton and her team, continue to provide as much supportive and therapeutic treatment for Suni in the hope that given time, the extensive nerve damage she suffered will repair. However, none of that would be possible if it wasn't for her custom made Elephant Boots, created with the incredible support of Suni's Boot Making Team (Nigel, Dan and Mark) who have travelled internationally on three occasions to manufacture these best-fit boots. These boots have been expertly made with stainless steel and aluminum bases with polypipe, foam and leather splints and are strapped on with a variety of ingenious Velcro and leather straps – with the aim of helping Suni to regain a normal life and give her the second chance that she deserves. ...*



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## The Jewish culture of Trade and sustainability

Makweti Sishekanu

Having learnt from history that a larger part of the Livingstone economy has evolved from Jewish settlers in the Colonial era; one wonders how these naturally-intelligent people would treat deforestation today. This comes from the observation that the Zambezian teak (Mukusi) which made their timber logging a hub of their trading economy at the time, is almost completely extinct in Zambia. I am sure, they would resurrect to a shock to find the current state of affairs! That is if they were thinking sustainability which is a major theme today. But, what if this rapid deforestation was in their time ... anyone guess what they would do? Let's explore a bit of the possibilities of what they would have done then...



1. Would they migrate to a different region of thick forests? That doesn't sound like the Jews!
2. Buy off the forest-land with a lot of teak? Okay, that is close to what a Jew is capable of doing!
3. What if the land policy and forest management of the time would not allow them to do that?
4. They would have influenced policy in that direction? I don't know!
5. Could they have started their own plantations for timber? That sounds more like a Jew!



These questions are critical because Livingstone is what it is today because of what the people who were there before did or did not do! That is a fundamental of sustainability...do not live your life as if you are the very last generation on this planet. Future generation will suffer or enjoy the consequences of whatever we are doing today. So, in everything we do, think or plan, can we please have the unborn generations represented in our board meetings!

Today, millions of tourists flock to Livingstone for what the place is...Imagine for a minute if the town was a desert today after all the ecological richness transmitted to us today? Who would honestly want to visit the Sahara Desert for tourism?

Due to their ability to see life at a long distance, Jews have a natural tendency to plan 100 years ahead. This is the secret of their success wherever they go. They would have taken one or two options above to conserve the Zambezian teak from extinction. This must also explain why environmental degradation is closely linked with poverty. The value we place in a commodity determines how much we can pay or how far we can go to conserve or preserve it. Simple; invest in what you desire to conserve.

#### Events on the Way

27-29 September: Enduro Ride.

Victoria Falls Town

28 September: World Rhino Day

2-4 October: Fishing Competition.

Kariba Town

26 October: Zambezi Kayak Festival.

Livingstone

26-31 October: World Adventure

Travel Summit. Windhoek

9 November: Fireworks at Acacia

School

7 December: Car Boot Sale. Protea

Hotel

Gill Comment: *We do need to get organised in our forests. Many of the timber cutters in and around Livingstone have planted trees and have them in bags to be planted in the forests, but there seems to be little that the Forestry Department can do because of lack of resources. This is a serious issue which needs to be a priority. We need to replant our indigenous trees ...*

## ZAMBIA

### From the Zambia Weekly

#### Minimum wage to be sector-based

Government has succumbed to the fact that some labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture and tourism are struggling to pay the minimum wage. According to labour Deputy Minister Rayford Mbulu, Labour Minister Fackson Shamenda will "soon" issue a new statutory instrument outlining new sector-based minimum wages. In July 2012, government increased minimum wages by 67%, with back-dated effect, without prior consultations. Back then Shamenda rejected sector-based minimum wages as being complicated.

#### Pay your visa by VISA?

Government has launched a point-of-sale pilot project for the collection of non-tax revenue at the Immigration Department at the international airports in Lusaka, Ndola and Mfuwe and at the Road Transport and Safety Agency in Lusaka, Ndola and Nakonde. Government has partnered with Barclays Bank to allow for electronic payment of government services on swipe machines in the selected areas, reported the Lusaka Times.

Gill Comment: *What happened to Livingstone?*

#### Minister busts corrupt police officers

Five police officers in Chipata have been caught red-handed by Eastern Province Minister Malozo Sichone at a roadblock on Airport Road with more than K3,000 collected from motorists without receipts. Sichone had been alerted to the (usual) scam by a minibus driver who had complained about being fined but not issued with a receipt. Sichone, disguised with a cap and sunglasses, then went to the roadblock in an overloaded minibus, which immediately got fined. The driver was asked to pay K100 but was not given any receipt. The five officers were found with a total of K4,300, divided between K500 collected with receipts, K3,000 collected without receipts and K800 of their own money.

#### Ex-Waterfront Furniture for Sale

14 Wardrobes K750

12 Dressing tables K500

20 Luggage racks K250

Phone  
Sharmaine Barry  
0968 320 606

## Proflight goes to Tanzania

Proflight will launch a three-times-a-week Lusaka-Dar es Salaam route commencing on 23 October. This is the airline's second international route, after it started servicing Malawi in June. Flights will leave Lusaka Monday, Wednesday and Friday, returning the same day in time to connect with Proflight's afternoon flights to Mfuwe, Livingstone and Ndola.

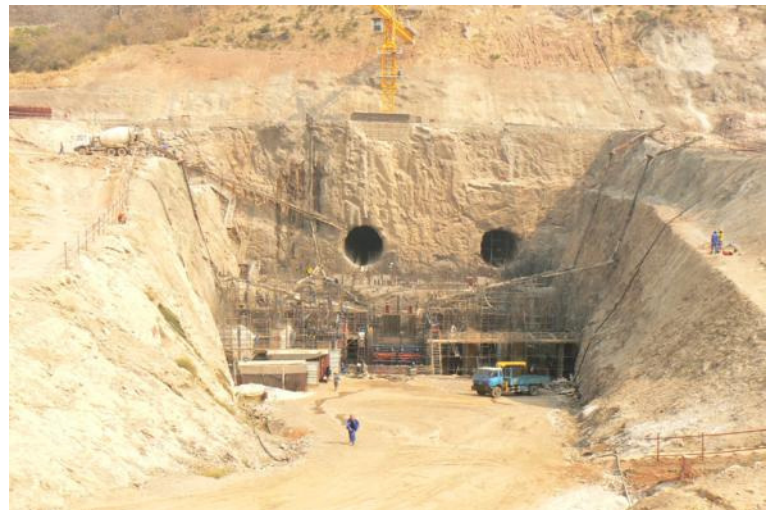
## Our Kafue Trip

I left you last week after our night at Nanzhila and we were on our way to Itezhi-Tezhi. The park roads were fine until we reached the Cordon Road – this was horrid and full of corrugations. No grader?



We saw quite a bit of wildlife along the way – wildebeest, impala, kudu, waterbuck, puku, zebra, reedbuck and warthog. We also saw some elephants towards Ngoma and I kept my foot on the accelerator when going past. During my previous visit in 2011 I had been chased by a big bull and I wasn't looking for another encounter of the same type. Finally we reached Musa Gate near Itezhi-Tezhi where I had an irritating encounter with a wildlife lady officer in a wig.

I gave her my permit and she told me that there was a problem with it. She told me that my exit date had not been completed. *That's OK, I told her. Notice that I came in yesterday and paid for two days, so it is fine. It is a problem, she told me again.* I repeated that I had entered yesterday and paid for two days so it was fairly obvious that I was to leave today and I am leaving. She took the permit to her colleagues and they conferred. She walked to the boom and opened it.



The last time I had come through Musa Gate I had had an equally irritating experience with a lady wildlife officer. For goodness sake, we must get tourist friendly.

We headed to Itezhi-Tezhi and I decided to go and look for fuel. We stopped on the way to look at the hydropower plant going in. And then took the road below the dam wall into town. There were no petrol stations! I asked around and was told that I had to go to the





ZESCO office where I could buy fuel. Up the hill was a row of offices for ZESCO and there I paid for 40 litres and was told to go to their pumps back towards the dam. We filled up. Thank goodness for ZESCO. Why is there not a petrol station in the town?



We went back to our place of rest for the night – Musungwa Lodge. Musungwa Lodge is a throwback to the 1970s – loved it. It had been busy in its heyday but now was languishing through lack of visitors. We were the only guests that night. It was clean and well-run by Luke, the manager and his team. They made us feel very welcome. We relaxed to watch the hazy view of the lake in front; the sun disappeared into the haze long before hitting the horizon. Barnabas, the chef, cooked us bream caught in the lake that morning; he offered us jelly for pudding which we declined.

The morning, after breakfast, saw us on our way to Mumbwa via the R769, a major road, according to maps. But, on the way we passed through Itezhi-Tezhi town. It was very run down, but I loved the Tarvens.



The road was a nightmare. 4½ hours it took us to travel 110 km to reach the Lusaka-Mongu Road. I was completely frazzled. The lack of reasonable access to Itezhi-Tezhi has to be the reason for no guests at Musungwa Lodge and no fuel station. The road we had travelled on is the main access road from Lusaka and although it had once been tarred, the tar had been ripped up to leave gravel and now, with all the trucks, it had deteriorated to such an extent that it is almost impassable by any saloon car.

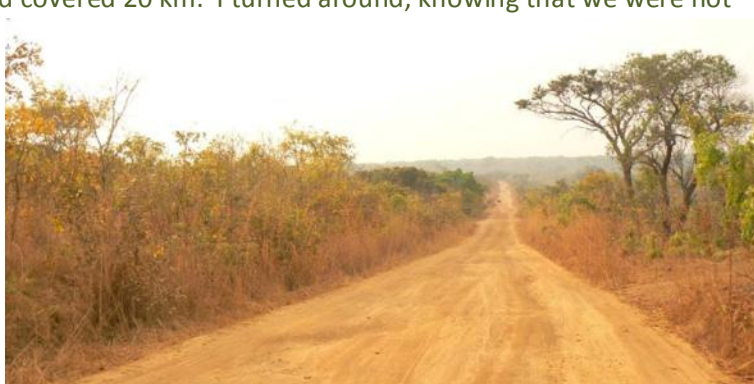


Reaching the Lusaka-Mongu Road we turned east towards Mumbwa. At Nalusenga Gate we had a flat tyre. Oh no. A chappie appeared from the market and said he would change it for us. He looked so scuffy I didn't think he would have a clue, but 10 minutes later he had changed the wheel. We were on our way again. At Mumbwa we stopped to repair the tyre and fill up with fuel. It was getting a bit late, but we started off on the road again. This is the Mumbwa-Kasempa Road. We were heading to Leopard Lodge, 100 km away.



On my goodness me, not again ... After 1 hour we had covered 20 km. I turned around, knowing that we were not going to reach our destination that day ... We went back to Mumbwa and then west to Mukambi Lodge, arriving there at 8pm. I was shattered. But Mukambi, as always, were welcoming, found us a room and poured us a beer ...

Zambia is keen to promote domestic tourism. Domestic travellers will generally be self-drive, like me. We need good roads and they do not need to be tarred all the time, but they do need to be graded every year. My planned journey of that day had only been 300 km ... and I didn't make it. I know that government has big plans for tarring roads, but, in the meantime, can we get the graders out and working!



**Ten million bats. Two months to see for yourself. One place to experience it.**

Up to 10 million straw-coloured fruit bats are on their way to Kasanka National Park in Zambia. Only seven hours from Lusaka and the Copperbelt, you can book yourself a front-row seat to this spectacular wildlife encounter. With improved and enlarged platforms overlooking the bat forest and a number of exclusive viewing hides, this year's bat season promises to be the most breath-taking yet.



Accommodation is provided at the Wasa Lodge, where you can relax in your own lake-side rondavel and sample the cuisine from the Kasanka kitchen. Alternatively, explore our Luwombwa Camp by the river, or pitch your tent at one of our spacious campsites.

Featured in David Attenborough's Africa series in January, the annual bat migration has become world-famous and we're inviting you to see it for yourself.

Contact [wasa@kasanka.com](mailto:wasa@kasanka.com) to book now or get a quote, and start the countdown to your own mini-migration.

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## Interpol Clearance

Here is a note written about vehicles coming in to Zambia:

*Please advise anyone travelling to Zambia that when they get their car clearance papers in Harare check and double check that the numbers on the vehicle/log book and clearance certificate all match !! Two members of my family in two separate incidents when going up to Zambia for a wedding last week arrived at Chirundu to be told that numbers did not match and therefore could not take their respective vehicles across the border. Needless to say there was no room for negotiation so they had to leave the vehicles at Tiger Safaris and climb aboard other vehicles ---- the hassles caused were an absolute handstand !!*

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## Toka Leya, Livingstone

A moment of rhino levity captured by Toka Leya guest Lisa Ray.



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## ZIMBABWE

### Conservation for Africa Award

Clive Stockil a Zimbabwean, recently received a prestigious award from Prince William -the lifetime Prince William Conservation for Africa award, for his work as a conservationist in the Save valley of Zimbabwe. He has fought tirelessly to save the black rhino from the brink of extinction for 40 years.

Mr Stockil "is one of Africa's great conservation pioneers, who long before many others recognised how critical it is to engage local communities in the conservation of their natural heritage," one of the Tusk Conservation Awards judges said.

Despite many setbacks, Clive Stockil has never wavered from his overall commitment to conservation." ...



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### Hwange's Elephant Massacre

There has been so much in the news during the week about the death of at least 69 elephants in Hwange National Park after being poisoned with cyanide. The cyanide had been mixed with salt and placed near a waterhole. The poachers have been arrested and are now in cells awaiting trial. According to one report they were given the cyanide by a South African businessman.

A big delegation of Ministers from the Zimbabwe government went to take a look at the damage. They all agreed that, if this type of incident is to be stopped, the villagers living around the park have to benefit from it. They also called for stiffer penalties for poachers.

From Wildlife News:

*A South African businessman is believed to be behind the Hwange elephant poisonings. ...*

*Police named him only as Ishmael and that he used a Chivu farmer and ivory buyer Farai Chitsa to distribute stocks of cyanide to local people in Pelandaba and Pumula areas of Tsholotsho. ...*

*Chitsa was arrested when his truck became stuck in sands while collecting tusks from poachers. Two brothers – Siphoshe and Misheck Mafu - have also been arrested and have provided police and wildlife investigators with wide-ranging information.*

*Police revealed that the poachers would mix up a combination of cyanide, salt and water. This would then be poured onto salt licks at watering holes known to be frequented by elephants. At other watering holes the poachers would dig holes and place containers containing the deadly mixture into the holes.*

The technique was so effective at killing elephants that when the poachers took police to the sites that had been contaminated there were bodies of elephants with small tusks still intact because it wasn't worth the effort to take the tusks, The poachers were being paid as little as \$700 for 9 tusks.

*It was not just elephants that were killed by the cyanide but a wide range of other animals carcasses were found including buffalo, lions, vultures and jackals. ...*

*Police Assistant Commissioner Micheek Mabunda is also calling for the establishment of aircraft patrols in the Hwange National Park. He notes that poachers in neighbouring Botswana will quickly disperse when their aircraft patrol flies overhead. However when those poachers enter Zimbabwe there is no threat of being discovered. He suggests that Pandematenga Border Post would be an ideal location to base an air based patrol from.*

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## The Hide, Hwange

*Last week we told you about the two new males in the area that have teamed up. This is one of them, the oldest one, and a very handsome guy! These two males are completely unrelated, but have joined together, something that is practically unheard of among lions. Usually coalitions of males are brothers, so it will be very interesting to follow these two and see how they get on. They don't have any females at present, as both of them have been ousted from their previous ranges by younger males. Hopefully they'll set up a territory here and we'll get more chances to see them. They came to the waterhole in front of camp early yesterday morning, and spent the whole day not far from camp, in the shade, doing what lions do best.... sleeping! Night time, however, is another story and both can be heard calling together for most of the night.*



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## BOTSWANA

### Delta on track as World Heritage Site From the Ngami Times

A team of experts from the International Union for Conservation and Nature (IUCN) are scheduled to visit Botswana next month as part of an assessment exercise towards the proposed nomination of the Okavango Delta for being declared a World Heritage Site. This came to light at a media seminar on the World Heritage Convention and nomination of the Okavango Delta held in Maun. The experts will arrive in Botswana on October 13.

UNESCO culture specialist Damir Dijakovic said that the nomination process normally takes two years and that the Okavango Delta's application is on course.

Dijakovic noted that one of the key considerations for listing includes integrity which addresses issues relating to protection, clear identification of boundaries, management of the site, community involvement and potential threats to the site. He cited an example of the recently-listed World Heritage Namib Sand Sea site in Namibia, which has ensured that the communities already living there with their livestock continue to have access to land rights and resources. Kgosi Oleyo Ledimo, who welcomed the participants, reminded them that the residents of Ngamiland must be given credit for preserving the pristine delta on behalf of Botswana. "We have worked hard to conserve the delta and we have been co-operative with relevant departments to ensure that the listing comes into reality," he said, adding that the delta is vital to the local economy as the communities make a living through fishing and other natural resources.

The seminar heard though that some development activities are incompatible with the listing of a site and this includes uncontrolled and unmonitored tourism ventures leading to overcrowding as well as mining within the



site's core and buffer zones. In regard to tourism development, the Botswana nomination dossier proposes a maximum of 1 300 or 700 beds in the core area, and a maximum 24 beds per lodge. Clearly for mining development, the listing effectively does away with any prospecting or mining activities in the entire listed site.

During her presentation, the principal curator in the Department of National Museums and Monuments (DNMM), Gertrude Matswiri, noted that the overall objective is that there will be "no prospecting and/or mining licences issued within the delta and panhandle. No new prospecting and/or mining licences are issued within a buffer of 15kms of the delta and panhandle."

Existing licences that are a concern from a conservation perspective will have to be withdrawn by the government as soon as they are relinquished by the current licence holder, she added. Meanwhile, Botswana's only World Heritage Site, Tsodilo Hills is reportedly making positive developmental strides, registering close to 20 000 visitors annually, particularly after a generous injection of a much-needed P10 million funding from the Debswana-run Diamond Trust. The Tsodilo Community Initiative has come as God send for this community of 200, which does not qualify for government infrastructural development as a village. The initiative is now able to generate income through entrance fees, craft shop and a camping site. Two boreholes have been drilled for the community - complete with water reticulation for the village and many of the residents are working on the project. Matswiri disclosed that there were plans to build two lodges near the site, and to drill an additional borehole for watering residents' livestock. Tsodilo, which one of Africa's premier rock art sites with more than 4 500 images dating back to between 850 AD and 1100 AD was declared a National Monument in 1927 and a World Heritage Site in 2001. Another treasure in western Ngamiland, Gwixhaba Hills, was also declared a National Monument in 2006.

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## NAMIBIA

### Cultural Festival in Bukalo

For the eleventh year, Caprivi (Zambezi) Region played host to traditional groups for their annual festival. For the first time the event was held outside Katima Mulilo, in Bukalo, about 50 km east.

*The event attracted hundreds of spectators from Bukalo and surrounding areas, as well as from Katima Mulilo. About 23 traditional groups participated in this year's festival. Opening the event officially, the Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Juliet Kavetuna, lauded the cultural groups saying culture is the very foundation of unity and identity. "There's no wrongdoing in following your cultural practices. There's nothing more important than your own culture. There are some skeptics that say cultures are bad. Today, I am saying our cultural practices are the best. Culture is a tool for unity. It gives you a sense of belonging," stressed Kavetuna. ...*



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### Namibia: Conservationists Act on Mass Vulture Poisoning

The Namibian

THE poisoning of hundreds of vultures last month in the Zambezi Region has prompted private and government conservationists to push through an urgent protocol in dealing with and avoiding such incidents in future.

Part of this protocol would be calling a convention of conservation authorities from SADC to establish regional co-ordinated legislation to ban over-the-counter and off-the-shelf poisons and pesticides.

"Deliberate and unintentional use of poisons are the single biggest killer of vultures. To have the legislation will be a big step in attempting to recover the numbers of this important bird, which Africa cannot live without," Holger Kolberg, principal conservation scientist in the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), told The Namibian on Wednesday.

The Zambezi Region incident (in the Bwabwata National Park) was more far-reaching than previously reported. While an estimated 500 birds (mostly vultures, but also other carrion species) were discovered in proximity of the carcass of a suspected poached elephant that had been laced with what is believed to be a pesticide, hundreds of other birds are also believed to have died elsewhere, especially since it is the breeding season.

According to Maria Diekmann of the Rare and Endangered Species Trust (REST) attempts to save the chicks from affected mating pairs was futile since the poisoned birds were discovered a few weeks after the incident. The carcasses were also burnt and buried by MET wardens thereby seriously hampering the task of getting samples for toxicology analyses. It is, however, suspected that an organophosphate was used - an active ingredient in many pesticides.

An aerial survey was conducted on the Botswana side near the park where most of the cross-boundary birds nested and according to Diekmann, the entire colony there had been wiped out. "We may have lost over a 1 000 birds during this last incident," Diekmann said.

The Namibian understands that a recent study by the Polytechnic of Namibia showed that about 2 000 vultures are killed every year.

"In 30 years, if things don't change, there won't be any vultures left in our country, if not in the region," said Kolberg. ...

A very serious consequence that will emerge as vulture populations dwindle is the increase in pestilences such as anthrax, rabies and botulinum. A case of note is in India where the vulture population there decreased by 95% over 10 years with a sharp increase in diseases that are fatal to humans.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

### ANTI-RHINO POACHING GETS LOUD POLITICAL BACKING

KZN's MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs Dr BM Radebe launched into a broad attack on the "vicious evil" that is plundering KZN's natural heritage.

Never before has the political willingness to stop rhino poaching been expressed in such strong terms. Never before has such a collection of dignitaries, donors, traditional authorities and state representatives assembled together to hear such a passionate, supportive commitment to stamp out rhino poaching.

To an audience comprising dignitaries from the US, Mozambique as well as traditional authorities, Rhino Ambassadors, the SAPS, media and donors, KZN's MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs Dr BM Radebe launched into a broad attack on the "vicious evil" that is plundering KZN's natural heritage.

"Do you all understand what is happening? We cannot – and will not – allow this wonderful beast to be wiped off the map. Am I being heard?" He addressed sceptics.

"I have heard in some quarters that South Africa hasn't shown the necessary political willingness to fight this war. You are wrong! So if you need reminding then today is the day! Because the political will has been laid down. There is nothing I, my legislature and our government will not do to stop this poaching."

In what proved to be an overwhelming outpouring of anger, sorrow as well as dedication to the cause, some 70 people joined hands at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's Tembe Elephant Park to witness the start of the programme to poison all the horns for both Ndumo and Tembe's rhino populations.

A cavalcade of vehicles followed the helicopter out into the park and once found and tranquilised, everyone crowded round and watched as the two vets from Rhino Rescue Project drilled three holes into the horns, into which the poison, indelible dye and transponders were injected.

*EKZNW Vet Dave Cooper with a darted/fusion rhino (NB a second one in background)*





But it was afterwards at the function where the scene became even more dramatic. It was here that Dr Radebe set the tone for the function.

Paying effusive praise to the financiers of the project, the Peace Parks Foundation as well as the inventors of the rhino infusion programme, Rhino Rescue Project, he quickly turned to his main point.

Apologising for being emotional, Dr Radebe spoke of his government's "complete and utter commitment" to the cause: "If you need money, then ask...if there are unsigned cheques out there, then please come forward. You have our complete backing".

Dr Radebe turned to his portfolio committee and legislative representatives: "Do you want to be remembered as those people on whose watch a critical and valued part of our natural heritage was destroyed. Do you?"

He also addressed people in government and civil servants dealing with conservation issues, to "get out of their chairs and offices" and see for themselves what he had witnessed today: "How can we talk about rhino poaching if so many of you haven't even been into our parks to see what is going on? Do you know the bravery and risk that our people inside Ezemvelo are carrying to save this animal? Do you understand why they are doing this?"

He did not spare the judiciary, either: "I want these sentences for culprits to be stiffened...I don't want to hear of people being granted bail...I want punitive sentences; the message must be loud and clear..."

Joined by Ezemvelo's CEO Dr Bandile Mkhize, Dr Radebe spoke of the need for people to understand that rhino poaching was not the sole responsibility of conservation.

"If we are talking about the face of our natural heritage being disfigured, then we are talking about the landscape of our future generations. It is all of our responsibility. What will they have to see if we fail? If we allow rhino to be destroyed, what will be next? You know that other species are being targeted, such as lions, elephant and the like. It won't stop. So understand we have to face up to the poaching of our wildlife at this rhino frontier. Now!"

He acknowledged that the KZN government has donated some R60-odd million towards combating rhino poaching: "But we will continue to help."

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's CEO Dr Bandile Mkhize who also addressed the audience spoke with similar zeal.

"We are fighting a war in which we are all soldiers; our communities, traditional leaders, conservationists, civil servants and donors and stakeholders. What does that tell us, apart from the seriousness in which we view this criminal behaviour? It tells us how many people need to be involved if we are to win this fight."

Dr Mkhize gave an historical perspective to the poaching onslaught, too.

"Today represents a cruel irony in this fight to save our rhino. We are doing the same thing today that Dr Ian Player and his great men of the 60's did in saving the rhino from extinction. These were brave, passionate men. Well, we need the same qualities in all of us today. Remember, these rhino are the historical breeding stock of South Africa's entire rhino population. They come from KZN. Let us fight knowing that we are endowed with a huge responsibility, for yesterday's generation and tomorrows."

The Rhino infusion programme is being viewed as part of the ongoing research and development into this procedure. If it proves successful then Ezemvelo has agreed to carry on with injecting other rhino populations throughout their parks.

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## OTHER STUFF

### Poachers shamed in web campaign (Kenya)

Jerome Starkey, The Times

Campaigners in Kenya opened a new front in the war on poaching yesterday, with a website dedicated to naming and shaming the culprits behind the slaughter of Africa's wild animals.

Kenyan United Against Poaching (Kuapo) launched PoachersExposed.com to publish the names and photographs of convicted poachers, smugglers and buyers who are fuelling an illegal market that US officials fear is the fourth largest in the world.

"Your name is going to be there, in front of everyone, whether you poach an elephant or a dik-dik [small antelope]," said Salisha Chandra, the coordinator of Kuapo. "And it's not just the person who shoots the bullets, but the middlemen and the person who buys it at the other end as well."

More than 40 per cent of Kenyans have access to the internet, mostly through their mobile phones, according to government statistics, making the country one of the most cyber-savvy in Africa.

The PoachersExposed website will also collate details on courts, magistrates and prosecutors to see which ones get the best results and whether any are being suspiciously lenient.

The only case listed last night was that of a Kenyan man caught hunting a warthog, a first-time offender, who was sentenced to four years in prison. It was an unusually severe sentence in a country where ivory smugglers - including a former US colonel - are let off with fines of [pounds sterling]for carrying thousands of pounds worth of tusks. "There are so many arrests, but there is so little follow-up. This is a way of making sure the poaching story doesn't die," Ms Chandra said. ...

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## WOLFGANG'S COLUMN

### KIGALI MEETING DRIVES SINGLE TOURIST VISA AGENDA FORWARD

Experts from Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda met in Kigali yesterday to advance discussions on how to implement the directive of their heads of state to have a single tourist Visa available from 2014 onwards, to enhance the flow of tourist visitors across the three countries without any added fees. The same meeting also discussed the implementation of passport free travel for citizens of the three, simply using existing ID cards in the case of Kenya and Rwanda and of voters cards in the case of Uganda, as there the process to issue national ID cards has just gone underway.

The three countries have of late found themselves spearheading developments which under the auspices of the East African Community were long overdue but failed to take off over constant objections and querulations by one member country in particular. Uganda hosted a first summit of the 'Coalition of the Willing' a few months ago in Entebbe, and inspired by the range of mutual agreements did Kenya host another summit just two weeks ago, during which yet more progress was made and key decisions taken on the issue of connecting the three by rail. Another summit will be held in two months time in Kigali to review what the panel of experts has agreed on before implementing Visa and ID travel arrangements.

The cost of 100 US Dollars for a Visa covering all three countries will be shared equitably with each country being allocated 30 US Dollars while the first entry point country will get a further 10 US Dollars for administration cost. Officials were hard pressed to alleviate suggestions that Tanzania and Burundi were left out of the exercise, but with the writing on the wall it was clear that the three would no longer be held back in implementing what is good for them while leaving the doors open for others to join, as and when, if ever, they were ready to do so. The information was received with great anticipation by the tourism sectors of the three countries where hopes are high that the measures will increase visitor numbers and revenues. It was pointed out though that provisions must be made for duly registered expatriates resident in any of the three countries, holding a work permit or a residency permit, that they too can from January onwards travel freely across the borders without having to pay Visa fees, which currently acted as a major obstacle for expats to spend their local vacations in the region and instead often opted to visit such places like South Africa or the UAE where they are not subject to Visa fees. Watch this space as progress is made towards the common tourist Visa and for the announcement when it will go 'live'.

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SINGLE BLACK FEMALE seeks companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your Ute, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cozy winter nights lying by the fire, going to the pub. Candlelit dinners will have me eating out of your hand. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me....



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Have a good week

Gill