



Dear All

My header is a praying mantis. I found it in my house and carefully took it outside so that it could fly away. He is absolutely gorgeous. According to information on the web, there are over 2,400 species of praying mantis and their closest relatives are termites and cockroaches.

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### Spun Cotton

The other day I met a lady, Erica, in Zimbabwe who makes cotton rugs, blankets, etc, on a loom. They are excellent. I know we grow cotton in Zambia but do we have any factories still working which spin cotton? Please tell me if there are ...

Erica makes her products from either spun cotton or cotton waste. I went to her factory (in her back garden) where I saw the items being made. It was fascinating.



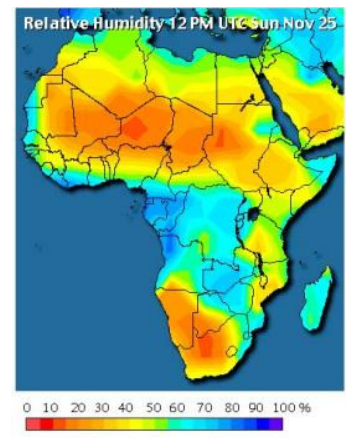
# ZAMBIA

## Is there rain?

For anyone who does not live or who has not lived in this part of Africa, especially Livingstone, you will not realise our addiction to looking at the weather maps at this time of year. Will we get rain soon? Will we have a good rainy season or a bad one? After months of dryness and heat we all crave the rain to come.

We wait for the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone to move south from the equator. It looks like it is coming ... rain should be on the way.

Here is a map of Africa to show the relative humidity. The blue bit is what we want, but we would like some of the dark blue or even purple ..



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## From BirdWatch Zambia

### BANGWEULU SWAMPS UNDER SEVERE THREAT

by Kabuku Likando and Chaona Phiri. (Pictures by Chinga Lufwino)

The first two weeks of October, we (Kabuku, Chaona, Kelvin, Chinga, and three Copperbelt University Students) spent our time at Chikuni research center in the Bangweulu Swamps. The main objective of our trip was to conduct an IBA assessment. We had quite a lovely time out there wading and sinking in the mud as we tried to get to different parts of the IBA. Some of the issues we observed are that the level of threats is higher than we actually thought. Having been to most of Zambia's IBA's conducting field assessments, we were quick to notice that there was something really different about Bangweulu swamps and this could impact the birds' populations negatively.

The following are the highlights;

**Bad fishing methods.** Fishermen creating barriers called fish weirs (locally called Ubwamba in Bemba). These are barriers made at the breeding sites for fish. The main purpose for these is to trap fish as it moves out of the breeding sites. The fishermen create a narrow passage where they insert mosquito nets which trap all the fish that enters the passage. The use of fishing baskets is also another bad fishing practice which completely sweeps the waters of all fish without selection based on size.



*An abandoned mosquito net on the ground*



*Mosquito nets in a canoe*



*Fishing basket inserted on a narrow passage*



**Bird traps.** We encountered several bird traps in the swamp. One of the residents mentioned that the traps are meant for larger birds. The birds enter the traps following seeds or nshima placed inside as bait and as they do, the nest falls around them thereby trapping them in. Another type of trap seen was a string tied to stands of grass along the banks of the stream; small insects are tied to the string as bait and once a bird tries to grab the insect, the owner of the trap pulls a string thereby getting hold of the bird.

*Birds trap found near Muchenja area and Fibili fishing camp*



**Human settlements.** There are a lot of illegal settlements in the swamps around Chikuni. We were told by another resident that there were not as many settlements near Shoebill Island as there are today. Some of these settlements are in the habitats for Lechwe. In addition to that, some of the people in these settlements are illegal hunters of Lechwe and birds. Information on the ground is that both the Bangweulu Wetlands Management Board (BWMB) and ZAWA have reported to the Chief to help with the squatters' situation but there has been no proper response.



*Empty shotgun cartridge found near Shoebill Island  
Legs of birds found near Chikuni research camp*

**The Shoebill;** The team only saw three Shoebills. Two at Gibson and the other (Whose name is Kapotwe) alone near Shoebill Island. Kapotwe had some of her flight feathers on the right wing seemingly disturbed at the time of the visit. It's known that the Shoebill has very few natural predators, we felt after seeing Kapotwe that man could be the worst danger to the survival of the shoebill.

*Kapotwe with some altered flight feather  
Construction of settlements within the floodplain*



**Inadequate ZAWA staff.** The ZAWA camp at Chiundaponde has few staff.

At Chikuni, there are only village scouts, some of whom have very little capacity to handle poaching. Bangweulu swamps IBA is a vast area whose management and protection is a huge challenge. A few institutions such as African Parks, in conjunction with ZAWA and Kasanka Trust through Shoebill Island are actively involved in management of the site.

## **!! 40 Years of newsletters digitally available !!**

All newsletters from 1971 till now are digitally available. They are scanned as "Searchable PDF" files, so it will be easy within a file to find just a bird or a special meeting. The disadvantage is that the total filesize is 5 Gigabyte.

If you are interested to download these files, please send me your email address. They will be made available via a Dropbox folder, which you can access via the web browser. It will be done in four parts (1970-1980, 1980-1990, 1990-2000, 2000-2012).

If you want to download the newsletters, send your email address to [annettewillemen@iconnect.zm](mailto:annettewillemen@iconnect.zm) with the subject: Scanned newsletters ZOS- BirdWatch Zambia

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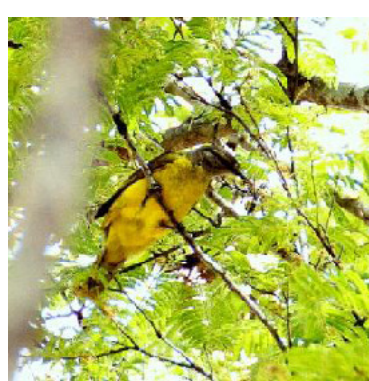
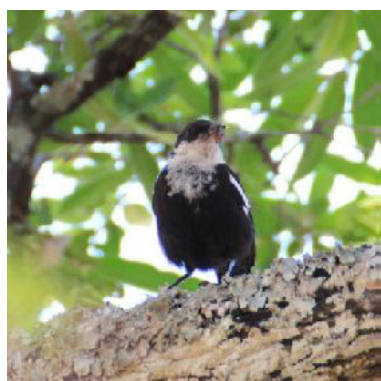
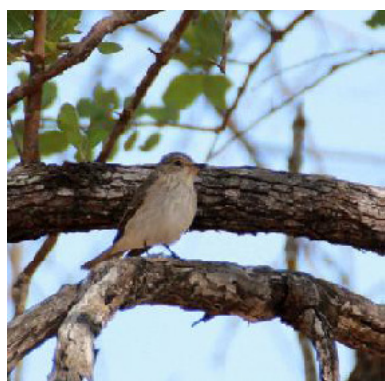
### **THE KAFUE NATIONAL PARK** by Guida Bell-Cross (pictures: Annette Willemen)

It Kafue National Park and its surrounds hold a place in the hearts of many people who live here. It has such a wonderful diversity of flora and fauna that always keeps you interested. This was further boosted by having Mike Bingham in the BirdWatch Zambia group that joined up for a birding weekend at Kafue River Camp. This camp is situated on the bank of the Kafue in the hunting area adjacent to the park. It is a great birding venue as it has wonderful river views as well as riverine thicket, dambos and miombo woodland so a variety of birds were seen.

We met up with Caroline Conradie and her Mum Sue, and walked up the river bank from the camp. We were early enough to still be treated to a cacophony of bird sounds and now that most of the migrants have arrived all the familiar sounds come into play. You always feel so excited when you hear the first red-chested cuckoo but by the end of the season you are willing him to go away! The Emerald, and Klaus's cuckoo were also around but no sign of the Black or Diedrick's. Austin Wienand who runs Kafue River Camp took us to a spot where he regularly sees Pel's Fishing Owl but sadly he was not at home however we did hear his low grunts on both nights that we were there.



White-backed and White-headed Vultures were seen along with Marabou Storks and a Long Crested Eagle. The Crowned Eagle was not at home but we did see the nest. Spotted Flycatcher Arnot's Chat female Purple-throated Cuckooshrike juvenile



*Spotted  
Flycatcher  
Arnot's Chat  
female  
Purple-throated  
Cuckooshrike  
juvenile*

Our best viewing was in the evening when the flying ants came out on the lawn just next us having our sundowners. There was a rainbow of colours surrounding us with the Violet-backed and Greater Blue-eared Starlings, Spectacled Weavers, Fly-catchers, Bulbuls, and Robin-Chats, all having a feast.

Mike Bingham kept us all interested in the trees and plants and progress was very slow as we had to study everything in our path, but I came back and got my tree book out again to try and remember all I had been taught!



On our last morning our early morning walk was disturbed by an elephant standing very close to the road back to camp so we had to make a big detour to make sure we did not annoy him. Kafue elephants are notoriously grumpy! A great weekend and thanks to everybody who came along.

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### Kafue River Lodge Map

I have drawn one of my 'classics' so that you can see the position of Kafue River Lodge. Looks like a nice spot. According to their website, the lodge is closed now until at least March, weather and rains permitting ...



### The Kafue National Park

Nikki Ashley

Photographs: Ian Murphy

Produced with the kind assistance from the Royal Danish Embassy Lusaka

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Extract:

*Kafue National Park is named for the River that runs through it for approximately 250 kilometres, dominating everything around it.*

*The Kafue River rises in a Zambian swamp close to the northern border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in an area with annual rainfall of 1200 mm. It wanders lazily around in a vaguely south easterly direction for a while, finally getting into its stride about 50 kilometres later as it heads into the Copperbelt, a high-energy place of copper mines and heavy industry that isn't too good for its health. Luckily a bit further south the River swings westwards, entering the Lukanga Swamps, where it has a chance to clean itself up before arriving bright and shiny in the Kafue National Park close to the Hot Springs just south of Lubunga Pontoon.*

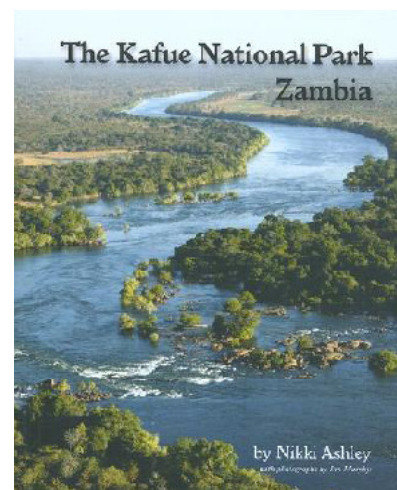
*Thereafter two large tributaries join it, first by the Lunga and a little later by the Lufupa. Bursting with new life, the Kafue turns south for a while, skirting the Busanga Plain, which it floods from time to time and where wild animals roam in their hundreds of thousands, before entering Lake Itzhi-Tezhi, a recent change in this river's long history.*

*A change of direction also, because the Kafue River now makes a sharp left turn and heads due east for a while, before joining up with the mighty Zambezi River just north of the Zimbabwe border, at Chirundu.*

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### Ramsar Sites and Important Bird Areas

Over the years of writing the Weekly I have not done much on the north of Zambia. The reason for this is that I have never visited the area and know little about it. I realise that this is a serious omission and hope to make up for it soon.



As we know from the Zambia Government, they are keen to promote tourism in the north of Zambia. There are two problems with this. Firstly if tourism cannot work around Livingstone, which it doesn't, it does not stand much chance of flourishing in the north. Secondly, the infrastructure, like roads, is not good. Anyway, eventually, if the government does try to help the tourism industry, there is lots to see in the north.

I have drawn a map to show the Ramsar Sites and the Important Bird Areas.



Ramsar Sites



IBAs

There are four Ramsar Sites in the north – Lake Tanganyika, Lake Mweru Wantipa, Luangwa Floodplains and Bangweulu Swamps. Ramsar Sites are Wetlands of International Importance. They are important not only for the people who live around them but they are important environmentally. If the wetlands are used wisely there will be enough for the people and enough for the wildlife that depends upon them. Governments around the world sign the Ramsar Convention agreeing to maintain the sites for the benefit of people and the environment.



Often linked to Ramsar Sites are Important Bird Areas (IBAs). These sites are identified by Birdlife International and are found all over the world. There are 42 IBAs in Zambia with 16 of them in the north. IBAs are linked to Ramsar Sites because birds are dependent on water – some of the birds are dependent because the water is in their home range, but more importantly many birds migrate to and from Europe to Africa every year. The birds have to know where they can stop en route to drink. If a water source dries up or is polluted, the birds will not survive their long journeys.

The report above from BirdWatch Zambia came from Bangweulu Swamps. This is the information from the Ramsar Convention on the area:

Bangweulu Swamps. 28/08/91; Northern Province; 1,100,000 ha; 11°25'S 029°59'E. Includes National Parks, Game Management Areas. In addition to providing a breeding ground for birds, fishes and wildlife (e.g., the African elephant *Loxodonta africana*, the buffalo *Syncerus caffer*, and Sitatunga *Tragelaphus spekei*), the site is known to support large numbers of the endemic, semi-aquatic Black Lechwe (vulnerable *Kobus lechwe*) and is home to the threatened Wattled crane (*Grus carunculatus*), as well as the only home in Zambia for the threatened Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*). The swamp is a natural flood controller and important for groundwater recharge and water quality control. The site contains the historical Nachikufu caves with bushman paintings, maintained by the National Heritage Conservation Commission. Threats to the wetland such as poaching will be addressed by the National Wetlands Steering Committee with a proposed general management plan that will steer development away from sensitive habitats. The Zambian Wildlife Authority in collaboration with WWF-Zambia office are collaborating on improving sustainable livelihoods and ecotourism possibilities. The site was extended from 250,000 to 1,100,000 ha on 2 February 2007. Ramsar site no. 531.

To make a comparison with our neighbouring countries

Zambia	42 IBAs	8 Ramsar Sites
Zimbabwe	20 IBAs	0 Ramsar Sites
Namibia	19 IBAs	0 Ramsar Sites
Botswana	12 IBAs	1 Ramsar Site (Okavango)

What is Zambia doing with this wealth of tourist attractions? Very little, it would appear ...

## World Luxury Hotel Awards

The Stanley Safari Lodge – Luxury Bush Lodge

The David Livingstone Safari Lodge – Luxury Spa Hotel

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## New Breakfast Cereal for Zambia

Community Markets for Conservation (COMACO) has been experimenting with different types of grains to come up with a breakfast cereal which is not only nutritious but also a product which people like. Finally the new It's Wild Breakfast Cereal is ready for the shelves.

Hope it gets to Livingstone soon – I want to try some.



## Round-pin plugs not allowed

From the Zambia Weekly

Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) has advised importers of household electrical appliances that the appliances must be fixed with a three-square-pin plug as opposed to roundpin plugs (according to Zambia Standard 558-1). ZABS has just confiscated freezers and cooling equipment from Polar House Limited in Lusaka due to the same, reported the Post.

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## David Livingstone's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Next year David Livingstone will have a birthday – number 200. He has of course died – he died in 1873 in Chisambo, Northern Zambia. It is, though, a nice idea to celebrate his birthday even though he won't be around to enjoy it.

Scotland's National Museum in Edinburgh has opened an exhibition in his honour. It includes Livingstone stories and memorabilia from his birth near Glasgow, to his work in a mill, his medical training and his work as a missionary in Africa.

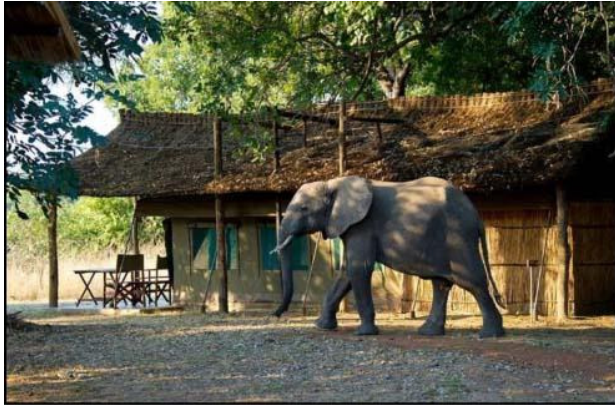
Both Malawi and Zambia will be celebrating David Livingstone's special birthday with functions and exhibitions.

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## A Bit about Flatdogs – a Camp in South Luangwa

*Flatdogs Camp is within 5 minutes' drive of the main gate to the National Park, allowing you early access to the park in the morning to enjoy the golden hour just after sunrise. In this area, the wildlife has become accustomed to safaris so largely ignores the presence of cameras and vehicles.*



*Accommodation at Flatdogs Camp will be either in cool, spacious Chalets or in classic African-style en-suite Safari tents spaced along the Luangwa with wide river views. In either case, you will find plenty of wildlife in the camp which can either be viewed from your room, or photographed as it goes about its daily business.*

This blurb was taken from a brochure advertising a 6-day photographic safari with Edward Selfe.



Look at that for a photo. Magic.

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## Lament for a lost African wilderness

November 19 2012 at 08:35am

By Tony Weaver - Cape Times

HOWZIT, my China? That's the new catchphrase across much of southern Africa as a new scramble for resources gathers pace. And the scramble – and the rampant destruction of the environment – is nowhere more evident than in Zambia.



It smacks you in the face as you leave the little border town of Sesheke, across the Zambezi from Katima Mulilo. What was a rough bush track two years ago is now a broad highway, not yet fully tarred, but with long stretches of brand new tarmac between the indiscriminate grading that is taking place.

Indiscriminate is the word. The Chinese road builders have taken the straightest line they can, just above the Zambezi's high water flood mark, and have bulldozed great swathes of miombo and mopani woodland. The road has cut villages in half. Hectares of bush have simply been smashed aside and the earth ripped asunder to create huge borrow pits where the road builders have removed rock and gravel to use as foundations and infill for the highway.

It must all be horribly visible via satellite on Google Earth.

Sitting on a deck in an idyllic setting under a huge pod mahogany on the banks of the Zambezi, we are told of how, since the road camps have moved in, the wildlife has disappeared. Our host tells us that "prostitution is rampant here now, and this was an isolated and innocent community just three years ago." A recent report in the Times of Zambia had it that 90 percent of recent poaching incidents took place within a 10km radius of Chinese road camps.

But everyone agrees that Africa will win – the road builders have put huge causeways across what are now dry tributaries of the Zambezi, with just a few small, relatively puny culverts to cope with the annual floods. "This road will wash away with the first rains, and that's what everyone's praying for," our host says.

The road is a massive scar, running all the way from Sesheke, up the west bank of the Zambezi past the Ngonye Falls, and will soon link Senanga and Mongu in Barotseland with the Copperbelt. The plan is to link towns like Ndola, Mufulira and Kitwe with Katima Mulilo and the Caprivi Highway, and then down to Walvis Bay, so that the new Chinese owners of some of the big mines can export the ore through Namibia.

It is the end of one of Africa's great wilderness areas. By this time next year, if the road survives the rains, 40 to 50 ton trucks laden with smelted copper will be thundering through Barotseland, down the Zambezi and through the Caprivi.

But it doesn't end there. For some bizarre reason, the Chinese (with the backing of the Zambian government) are determined to complete a project begun 10 years ago to build a 74km tar road from Mongu, across 35km of the Zambezi Flood Plains, to Kalabo, and then to Sikongo on the Angolan border, eventually linking all the way to the Angolan coast.

Only one problem: the causeway has washed away almost every year since they started. The Zambezi is a mighty river in flood. When we drove through, it was just three or four weeks before the annual rains began in earnest, the first small rains had already started falling. There was frantic construction going on, Chinese trucks thundering back and forth, and a massive section of the Zambezi Flood Plains had simply been bulldozed and ripped apart. It was heartbreaking.

But it is a road to nowhere... until you read Duncan Clarke's *Crude Continent: The Struggle for Africa's Oil Prize* and realise that western Barotseland is thought to have vast oil and gas reserves.

I went to the Times of Zambia website and typed the word "Chinese" into their search engine. In just two months of reports, I found the following new Chinese projects: \$300 million Pensulo-Kasama power scheme to be constructed (July 22); the Zambia-China Economic Zone, including the Chambishi Copper Smelter established, valued at \$820m (July 27); Chinese investor, Henan Guoji Investments, to construct 1 000 houses, a luxury hotel and a mall in Ndola at a cost of \$200m (August 2); China CAMC Engineering and Chinese government building the \$150m Mbala-Nakonde Road (August 7); Changfa Resources Mokambo Copper Mine to invest \$500m near Mufilira (August 30); Sino Metals Leaching invest \$67m (September 2); and China Non-Ferrous Metals Mining Corporation announces \$400m investment on top of an existing investment of \$1billion (September 27).

These guys make Cecil John Rhodes look like a rank amateur!

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## ZIM-ZAM

### Opening of the Gates at Kariba Dam

Early last week a press statement came around to say that two gates at the Kariba Dam wall would be opened to test a generator. However, late in the week, came another statement which told us that it had been cancelled.

Maybe the generator doesn't need testing, after all.

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## ZIMBABWE

### Water and Sewage Treatment Plant in Victoria Falls

The government has released over US\$4million for the rehabilitation of the water and sewage systems in Victoria Falls Town.

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## BOTSWANA

### Railway Link to Transport Coal

Botswana has a problem getting its coal from its mines to the coast for shipment overseas. The ports in South Africa are overused and Botswana is considering a train link either to Mozambique or Namibia. In a recent report it was stated that Botswana has already been allocated a piece of land in Walvis Bay in order to construct a Dry Port.

The railway, known as the Trans Kalahari Railway, and the Dry Port will cost the Botswana government an estimated US\$15.6 billion. *I hope they have a lot of coal ...*

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## NAMIBIA

### Born in Etosha – living and learning in the Wild

From the Namibian

A book about the indigenous tribes living in Etosha was recently launched by the Legal Assistance Centre in collaboration with the Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA). The book is produced by the Xoms /Omis Project.

The author of the book, titled "Born in Etosha - living and learning in the wild," Ute Dieckmann, says that the book is written for the Hai//om children who live on farms outside Etosha and in rest camps in Okaukuejo, Halali and Namutoni. "The aim of this publication is to provide these children with some insight into how Hai//om children grew up in Etosha in the past and how their own experiences compare with those of their ancestors," said Ute.

She added that the book also aims to preserve the knowledge and culture of the Hai//om people and will hopefully be used by future generations. She said the book is not only for Hai//om children but also to benefit other children from different backgrounds to provide a process of self-assessment and comparison. The book will be distributed to schools around Etosha and will be sold in bookshops across the country.

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## Namibia to use the Army in the Fight Against Elephant Poachers

The Namibian Defence Force has been deployed in the National Parks to find and arrest any poachers.

Four people have already been apprehended in the Caprivi Region. They were found with several elephant tusks. According to the report, 18 elephant carcasses have been found in the area, 13 of which were in Mamili.

Namibia has a stock-pile of over 30,000 kg of ivory and, it is said, the government wants to sell it and will apply to CITES for permission.

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## Cuba's African Safari Park

Earlier this year the Namibian government collected an assortment of animals and birds and flew them to Cuba as a present. The Minister of Environment and Tourism recently informed the press that all the animals have arrived safely. They include kudu, oryx, red hartebeest, springbok, buffalo, eland, ostrich, cheetah, leopard, lion and hyena.

Another consignment is expected to take place next year.

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## SOUTH AFRICA

### Rhino Poaching

The latest figures coming from the South African government on rhino poaching are staggering:

DEA Rhino poaching statistics: 20/11/12			
SA	2010	2011	2012
<b>KNP (SANParks)</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>MNP (SANParks)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>GP</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LIM</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>MP</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>NW</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>EC</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>KZN</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>WC</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NC</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>333</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>570</b>
Members of the public are urged to report incidents of rhino poaching or any tip-offs that could lead to arrests and prevention of illegal killings to 0800 205 005.			

## WOLFGANG'S COLUMN

### COMESA BUSINESS FORUM ENDS WITH TALKING TOURISM

Tourism was the penultimate item on the agenda of the just ended COMESA Business Forum, which brought together hundreds of business wo/men at the lakeside convention resort of Munyonyo.

Two days of intensive business to business meetings alongside a range of keynote speeches and presentations discussed progress made across the 19 member states in doing business within, but also highlighted the remaining challenges vis a vis introducing a 'greener' economy, improving agriculture and agro processing to feed the growing populations across the trade block, finding affordable financing for projects, the lowering of non tariff barriers and increased cooperation in major infrastructure projects.



Already mentioned repeatedly during the proceedings, the tourism sector discussions focused on restrictive Visa policies, making travel within even COMESA itself, leave alone across the continent, as difficult as getting a Visa for the European Schengen countries, to the UK or the US, a situation lamented about by a number of delegates.

Amos Wekesa, chairman of the Uganda Tourism Association, gave a comprehensive overview of the constraints. Mentioned first and foremost was the need of a complete change of mindset by the governments of the memberstates vis a vis tourism, to finally move beyond mere words and lipservice and properly facilitate the sector the same way as manufacturing or agriculture were getting priority in the annual budgets.

Wekesa listed a number of areas where tourism, alongside other sectors of the economy, suffered less than optimal facilitation, such as road infrastructure linking tourism attractions and parks to make access to the mostly rural areas easier, lack of affordable and direct air links between COMESA countries, as well as across Africa at large. Visas were listed as a source of preventing travel instead of encouraging it for tourists from abroad, as a multi country visit could set a family back by several hundred added dollars, money better spend in destination where it could reach the grass roots.

Of key importance too was the issue of protection of the resource envelope tourism was based on in most countries, wildlife and forests, where poaching and illegal logging had reached alarming proportions and where environmental protection and best practice was often bulldozed in favour of mining or oil exploration, instead of seeking a harmonious coexistence, allowing for both in the long term in a sustainable manner.

Wekesa ended with two other key areas, manpower development and skills transfer to create an empowered workforce and the cost of insurance, which needed to create products for the tourism sector at affordable premiums.

Said Wekesa to this correspondent: *'It is very positive news to know COMESA is taking tourism seriously by including it in their agenda starting this year and if the above challenges are dealt with, then COMESA has the potential to get its population out of abject poverty and even say good bye to AID because of the available great wealth of attractions in the region'.*

This correspondent then delivered a presentation on what COMESA was expecting from the UNWTO's General Assembly next year, co-hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe, highlighting the great disparities of tourism's money and passenger flows, where the G/T 20 countries in 2011 took two thirds of the global trillion plus US Dollar tourism receipts and two thirds of the global tourism traffic, leaving Africa with only about 3.5 percent of global traffic and just over 5 percent of global spending.

The COMESA Sustainable Tourism Development Forum in August in Nairobi had generated a range of findings and recommendations which the speaker encouraged the COMESA Secretariat to share with UNWTO to include in the agenda of the meeting next year in Livingstone and Victoria Falls, so that Africa takes centre stage and solutions for Africa can be discussed and formulated of how best the global tourism body can help the continent to begin using sustainable tourism as an engine of growth. ...

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## THE SMILE

*Again this is not funny; it is just peculiar.*

"It has come under Johannesburg Water's attention that there are residents who are stealing water meters in the Central Region. Since the beginning of October 2012 there has been a significant increase in the stealing of water meters of various sizes," said Johannesburg Water (JW) Acting Manager: Marketing and Communication, Millicent Kabwe in a recent statement by the water utility.

According to Kabwe, the areas losing between 5 to 10 water meters a day include Berea, Hillbrow, Doornfontein, Yeoville, Observatory and Kensington. ...

*Can anyone enlighten me as to why someone would want to steal a water meter?*

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Have a good week

Gill