

Dear All

My header is known as the Bubble Gum Road. The road was resurfaced a couple of years ago but the

mixture was not correct and it melted and went all lumpy and bumpy. I was listening to the local radio station during the week and we were all informed that the Mosi-oa-Tunya (Bubble Gum) Road has been added to the list of roads to be worked on by Inyatsi. I think it is just a patch-up of the bad bits as opposed to a total resurface.

on other roads in town and, as residents, we are exercising

Meanwhile Invatsi are working

patience as the roads often get worse before they get better.

New Airline for Zambia

During the week I was accosted as I left the One Stop Shop to listen to the tail end of a presentation by a new company which is starting up an airline in Zambia. This is exciting news as, at the moment, we only have Proflight offering flights within Zambia and monopolies are never a good thing.

The new company is called Mukuba Airlines and is being set up by a group of Zambian expats and locals. The Zambian expats have been out of Zambia for a while and gained expertise in the airline business and want to come home to put their knowledge to good use to improve their home country.

The planning of the new business has been ongoing for the past two years and now is the time to publicise it. The plan is that the airline will be operational before the UNWTO in August. Two planes will be used initially – Turbo Prop ATR 42-500 and ATR 72-500, both French/Italian-made; they will be maintained by Air Botswana. The ATR 42 has a carrying capacity of 48; the ATR 72 of 78.

The Chairman of the company, Mwansa Chalwe, an accountant by profession, stated that the project has been meticulously planned. He hopes that the company will turn around the domestic flight market by making air travel affordable. He hopes too that the

company will contribute to investment and tourism in Zambia.





Mwansa Chalwe said that the government had been very supportive and he hopes that once the airline is successful it will encourage other Zambian expats to return home to help develop their own country.

Meanwhile, on the news this week the government has continued to research the possibility of resurrecting a national carrier. But airlines in Zambia have had a chequered history. Zambia Airways started its life in 1964 and died in 1995. In 1998 Zambian Airways arrived and survived until 2009 amassing a debt of, it is said, of US\$29million. In 2008 Zambezi Airlines started operations but, by 2009 had formed an alliance with Proflight and then it hiccupped between problems and stopped flying in October last year.

Kalambo Falls

If you drive for around 1,500 km from Livingstone you could find yourself right in the north of Zambia on the Tanzania border. Part of the Zambia-Tanzania border is along the Kalambo River and on the Kalambo River, close to Lake Tanganyika, are the Kalambo Falls

Kalambo Falls is shared between Zambia and Tanzania but is rarely visited as it is difficult to access.

CONGO ANGOLA Lusaka MOZAMBIQUE ZIMBABWE

Most of the accounts I have read of visits to see the falls have been via one of the lodges on Lake Tanganyika – Isango Bay Lodge and Mishembe Lodge – via a boat trip to the meeting of the Kalambo River and the lake. The walk from the lake to the falls takes about 3 hours and it is hot and tiring and definitely not for people like me who like a leisurely stroll.

Photo from www.racafrica.co.uk

It is also possible to drive along some pretty bad roads to reach near the falls. I would think that the road is on the 'list of roads to do' for the Zambia government.

In a recent article in The Citizen, Tanzania, the Regional Commissioner for Rukwa, Ms Stella Manyana, has requested that Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) takes on the area surrounding the falls and make it into a National Park. In response, Tanapa managing director, Mr Allan Kijazi, has said that there is a plan in the pipeline.

Kalambo Falls is not just beautiful; it is a site of history, ancient history. The area was used 1 million years ago by our ancestors. Desmond Clarke of Livingstone Museum fame, delved into the area in the 1950s; recently a team from UK spent time there too.



Kalambo Falls is also on the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage Site status. It is protected by Zambia's National

Heritage Conservation Commission. One wonders why they have not pushed for the UNESO status to help maintain and promote the site.

As Zambia wishes to promote tourism in the north of Zambia this seems and ideal time to work with the Tanzania government to develop and market the area together. Were Kalambo Falls to be made into one conservation area which could be accessed from both countries with no visa requirements or bureaucracy, I feel sure that the falls could attract many visitors with their tourism dollars for the benefit of the people on both sides of the border.

To compare Kalambo Falls with other falls in our region:

Kalambo Falls are 221 metres high with a width which varies from 3-20 metres.

Tugela Falls are in the Drakensberg, South Africa; 948 metres of 5 free-leaping falls.

Mutarazi Falls in Honde Valley, Zimbabwe, is a 762 m in 2 free-leaping falls

Ruacana Falls are on the Kunene River in the north of Namibia. They are 120 meters high and 700 metres wide in full flood.

Finally, of course, we have the Victoria Falls with a drop of 108 metres and a width of 1,700 metres.





Developing the tourism potential of Zambia

While researching about Kalambo Falls I found on the UNESCO website, other tentative World Heritage Sites for Zambia:

Mwela Rock Paintings, Kasama Source of the Zambezi River, Mwinilunga Chirundu Fossil Forest Barotse Cultural Landscape Dag Hammarskjoeld Memorial (Kitwe-Ndola Road)

I could not find any website for National Heritage Conservation Commission, so I am assuming that they do not have one. *NHCC, are you working on one?*

I also had a look at the Zambia Wildlife Authority website to read what they had to offer. It was one page with a spelling mistake.

30/03/2013

Zambla Wildlife Authority



Call Center 260-211-278513

Wildlife Act 1998 Contact ZAWA

Home

Zambia Wildlife Authority

In 1999, the Government of the Republic of Zambia took decision to transform the former Department of National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) into an autonomous body, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), ZAWA is governed by the Zambia Wildlife Act, No. 12 of 1998 and has its own Board of Directors. The Board are responsible for managing the Authority under the policy guidance of the Mnistry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources. The primary objectives of ZAWA are:

To improve the quality of the life among communities in wildlife estates and maintenance of sustainable biodiversity in national parks and game management areas;

To reverse the decline in wildlife resources

To improve wildlife resource management to a level which will secure sustainable flow of benefits from the resources; and To considerably improve the wildlife resource base investment in co-operation with the private sector and local communities.

ZAWA has a significant role to play in the economic development of Zambia and its economic realization will significantly contribute to the GDP of Zambia. These noble objectives outlined above, will be achieved by ensuring ZAWA

Zambja Wildlife Authority

Zambia wildlife Act 1998

The transforming of the National Parks and Wildlife Services Into ZAWA reoriented the new wildlife authority towards a direction that revamped the country.

Vission Statement

To achieve excellence in wildlife estate management by developing innovative approaches and partnerships that encompass best practice, and complete transparency and integrity.

Mission Statement

To contribute to the preservation of



On the good side the Zambia Tourism Board has an excellent website which promotes tourism in Zambia. However, we do need our other partners in tourism – NHCC and ZAWA to come on board and help us to promote tourism in our country.

If you go to the government websites on tourism in other countries you will find extensive information on their tourism products – facilities available, attractions, fees, etc, with lots of photographs.

Prisoners stripped and paraded in Mpulungu

From the Zambia Weekly

Armed with guns, officers at Mpulungu Police Station have stripped suspects, men and women alike, and paraded them in front of the police cells – apparently because the police suspected that some convicts were about to use charms to orchestrate an escape, reported the Daily Mail. Lusaka Province Minister Freedom Sikazwe, who is also PF's Mpulungu MP, called the incident unacceptable, immoral and an abuse of human rights.

ZIM-ZAM

Flood Gates at Kariba Dam

From the Zambezi River Authority

This notice serves to inform the communities downstream and all the stakeholders that the Zambezi River Authority shall be closing the Kariba Dam floodgates, one at a time, after the Easter break from Tuesday next week. The shut-down will be conducted as follows:

DAY DATE TIME

FIRST GATE: TUESDAY 2nd April AT 12.00HOURS SECOND GATE: WEDNESDAY, 3rd April AT 12.00 HOURS

The Authority has taken into consideration the likely effects of a sudden withdrawal, hence the 24 hour spread. We sincerely hope that the disruptions to any operations on and along the Zambezi River will be minimal.

ZIMBABWE

More Coal needed, but at what price?

Hwange Power Station will need more coal in about 3 years time if it is to continue operating. According to Fred Moyo, the company's managing director, the coal then available in the present mines will not be suitable. There is, however, coal to be had within the Hwange National Park.

According to a report in the Mail & Guardian, South Africa: The company says its only viable new deposits of coal suitable for power generation lie in the heart of the Hwange national park, under a river that supplies nearby towns—including the world-famous Victoria Falls—as well as thousands of endangered animals.

I searched my maps and Google Earth to find out what this statement could possibly mean. Victoria Falls Town obviously gets its water from the Zambezi and there is no river which drains into it above the Victoria Falls from anywhere in Hwange National Park. So, I have to think that there is an error in this article.

The only river which runs near the present mining in and around Hwange is the Lukozi River.



Again, from the article:

Accessing the new coal would mean strip mining one of the environmentally delicate region's few water supplies.

"The coal is submerged under water, so we have to find ways of de-watering the adjacent rivers in the area," said Fred Moyo, the company's managing director.

"We only have three years left of power coal although initial indications were that we have power coal that would take us at least another 15 years."

De-watering would shift the flow of rivers to allow access to the coal, but in the process will create huge pools of polluted water.

I feel sure that this scenario will not happen but it is important that we know that it is being thought about. All the rivers which are shown on the map — Lukozi, Matetsi, Deka, Gwaai and Bongora are seasonal rivers which leave pools here and there for people and wildlife to use. This area is very short of potable water and, were it to be contaminated through mining, it would be a disaster.

Meanwhile ...

Gwayi (Gwaai) Conservancy Opposed to Mining in their area

Gwaai Conservancy is next to Hwange National Park and shares the wildlife. According to Gwaai Conservation group, China Africa Sunlight Energy has been given a special presidential grant to mine for coal in the Gwaai valley.

Langton Masunda, from the Gwaai Conservancy noted that the Gwaai and Shangani Rivers go into the Zambezi and if polluted could affect people downstream.

The company which wants to mine the area, China Africa Sunlight Energy, is a black empowerment company with 51% Zimbabwean owned and the remaining 49% owned by Chinese developers.

Although most permissions have been granted for the go-ahead for the mining to commence – water and electricity rights – there has yet to be an Environmental Impact Assessment. A Zimbabwean company, Environmental Guardians Services, based in Bulawayo and headed by consultant, Michael Montana, has been tasked with the job of providing the Environmental Impact Assessment. Michael Montana states that all concerns will be raised at meetings of stakeholders. Members of the Gwaai

Conservancy, however, feel that the mine will start operating whatever the concerns of the stakeholders.

On the other hand, Colonel Charles Mugari, the spokesman for China Sunlight says that the company has already spent lots of money and that the mine will provide many jobs.

From the Mail & Guardian:

It (China Sunlight) would also invest \$2,1 billion to carry out three projects: thermal coal with a planned output of three million tonnes a year, washed coal peas at one million tonnes a year and coking coal at 500 000 tonnes a year. Mugari said most of the mining would happen underground, "hence very little negative environment impacts can be expected".

However from the Chinese website, www.whatsonjinan.com

A Sino Zimbabwe JV agreement has been signed and has secured a coal concession of 100,000 hectares in Matabeleland North with reserves of over 2 billion tonne of coal. Taishan will inject up to USD 2 billion to develop coal mines, coal bed methane extraction and power projects. An open cut mine is expected to be developed with a capacity of 3 million tonne of coal per annum ...

Gwaai Conservancy used to be a thriving wildlife attraction but after Land Reform the area has become bereft of its previous masses of wildlife. It would seem, though, that the new owners of the land wish to revive the area to make it wildlife-friendly again, hence their concerns over the proposed mine.

The area too is earmarked for the Gwaai-Shangani Dam, a dam at the confluence of the Gwaai and Shangani Rivers, which is to receive water from the Zambezi to be pumped down to Bulawayo to relieve their water crisis.

All in all, there will have to be compromises because Zimbabwe needs power. The environment always suffers when mining activities take place but we can only hope that the rivers will not be polluted and that the environment will not suffer too much ... is there a chance???

CRAYFISH RECIPE COMPETITION!

From Wild Zambezi

COOK UP SOMETHING DELICIOUS WITH KARIBA'S INVASIVE AUSTRALIAN "RED-CLAW" CRAYFISH SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES AND YOU COULD WIN 2 X NIGHTS AT MUSANGO SAFARI CAMP!

Scientists in Zimbabwe say a fresh water crayfish brought from Australia is breeding out of control in the northern Lake Kariba, devouring the food sources of other fish, and putting the nation's entire aquatic

ecosystem at risk. Officials at the Zimbabwe University lakeshore research station say the red claw crayfish (pictured above left),



introduced a decade ago for a fish farming project, has no natural predators in the wild — crocodiles don't like them — and they produce clusters of eggs up to half the size of a tennis ball that hatch

prolifically. The red claw crayfish, scientifically Cherax Quadricarinatus and known colloquially in Australia as the "Yabby", is robust and hardy and cannot be poisoned without killing other natural species.

What to do?

Eat them – in large quantities - and promote their use as a food source in order to get rid of as many as possible.

So.... here's a plan. As a conservation drive, Musango Safari Camp are running a 'CREATE YOUR CRAYFISH RECIPE" competition.

Submit your recipe, with a catchy name and photo to mururutheartofhospitality@gmail.com and stand to win two nights at Musango Safari Camp.

Pictured above right is the first entry - Musango's recipe, entitled "Lake and Steak".

The competition is open until 30th April 2013.

Winning entries will be included in the Musango Safari Camp Cookbook.

NAMIBIA

Sports Event in Katima

Every year Sanlam sponsors an annual football tournament in Katima Mulilo. It has been running now for 5 years and is becoming increasingly popular with all the teams looking forward to the event. This year more than 15 teams are to compete.

According to the report the event engages the youth and keeps them away from the evils of crime and drug abuse.

Population Growth Down

In an article in Informanté, the Namibian Population and Housing Census has confirmed the belief that the population growth rate is reducing. In 2001 it was calculated as 2.6%, but by 2011 it had reduced to 1.4%. Namibia's population in 2011 was stated to be just over 2.1 million.

Dr John Steytler, Statistician General of Namibia Statistics Agency, also stated that poverty too had greatly reduced. In 2003/4 the poverty rate stood at 70%, whereas in 2009/10 it was 29%. Dr John Steytler: *This is a reduction of 49% since 1993 which translates to 360,053 people lifted from poverty.*

Interestingly, the population was made up of 97% Namibians; of the remaining 3%, most were Angolans \approx 18,000 and Zambians \approx 7,000.

Air Botswana

A comment in the Ngami Times

There is mounting anger in Maun among the general public and more particularly the tourism industry over Air Botswana's unbelievable decision to once again cancel its Maun-Cape Town-Maun flights because it did not advertise the route or interest the travelling public in it.

Seven years ago the national carrier did the same and for the same reasons!

When the latest service was started, there was very little publicity given to it as the airline did not

advertise its intentions – in Maun where it would have been received with enthusiasm!

This meant that tourism and safari companies were in the dark about the new service and of course most had already made arrangements for their clients to arrive here via Johannesburg. After all, booking and travel arrangements are decided upon months before the client actually reaches here. Earlier this year a much-vaunted service linking Maun to Victoria Falls was summarily cancelled because once again no publicity was given to the service, with the result that only one or two passengers were aboard the planes flying the route. Then the Maun-Kasane route was also given the thumbs down, once more because Air Botswana did not advise its intentions.

Shuffle thinks that the airline's marketing department needs a complete overhaul or be sent somewhere to learn about public relations and public reaction to arbitrary decisions of this kind.

Caption Competition

In September last year the Ngami Times ran a competition for the best caption for this photograph.





The winner was announced last week as Justin Hammersly. His caption was: How else would you pick your nose without fingers!

And the prize is a mobile safari for 4 people for 3 nights at Khwai with Ulinda Safaris.

WOLFGANG'S COLUMN

THE SILENT ASSAULT ON MABIRA CONTINUES UNDER THE NOSES OF NFA

(Picture by Bernard Werber Officiel – given the title 'The Forest Fights Back' by this correspondent)

This week the world celebrated the International Forest Day and, I guess true to form, I felt the time was right to dedicate some thoughts to the forests in our region. In Kenya politicians pondered for the past 5 years how to restore the Mau Forest, and others, to their crucial functions as water towers. In Tanzania illegal logging is now worse a problem than poaching, and that is out of control as it is, and the seizure of a freight



train last week packed with illegally logged timber shows how deep the collusion has reached, when entire railway trains can be converted into ferrying the loot.

Of course, a shining example in East Africa is Rwanda, where Nyungwe Forest is a national park and jealously guarded and protected and where Gishwati's tourism potential will in a few weeks time be revealed in a breaking news article, paying tribute to those in the land of a thousand hills who have the foresight to protect their forests as sources of water, medicinal plants and to store carbon emissions and use them sustainably for green ecotourism activities.

But today it is once again Mabira which has caught my attention, as reports keep emerging of continued illegal logging deep inside the forest, now a growing problem thought worse than the ill considered move to turn a quarter of the forest into a sugar plantation. The forest, as demonstrated in an earlier article, has started to develop its tourism potential, slowly but surely, and the RainForest Lodge in Mabira has become a focal point of forest tourism, from where cycling and hiking trips can be arranged with ease. Opposite the turn off to the lodge is, a few hundred metres down the track, the forest's eco tourism centre, established by the National Forest Authority, from where some of the hikes start and where mountain bikes are available for hire, for those who come without them and then suddenly get into the mood for a ride through the forest under ancient trees.

Robert, the secretary to the Mabira Forest Integrated Communities Organisation, aka MAFICO, was recently quoted in the local media as having said: 'It is part of the rich cultural heritage of Mabira' before adding that though the history of Mabira is locked up in mysteries, the legendary stories have been told over generations. In the last five years, according to Robert, the Small Grants Programme under the United Nations Development Programme has invested \$70,000 to help harness the tourism potential at Griffin Falls and also promote community development.

'The tourism potential at Mabira is immense' added Robert saying that there are many tourism products waiting to be harnessed.

Only two years ago was a new species of primates discovered and confirmed by experts and the list of birds, butterflies and a range of other mammals, of trees, medicinal plants, shrubs and orchids is

extensive, belying the fact that the forest is so close to the country's capital of Kampala. As a result the nearly 29.000 hectares of the forest serve as the green lung of Kampala, often overlooked, often denied but nevertheless so, maintaining that crucial balance of carbons released by society's modern lifestyle and industrial emissions and carbons captured in the trees.

The added function as a water tower is equally important, as the River Nile and the River Sezibwa both drain from it, benefitting water levels in Lake Victoria.

(Aerial pictures taken recently, showing the extend of encroachment, where little shambas are cleared of tree cover, and in one picture the column of smoke where cut offs from illegally cut timber are burned)

The loss of forest cover in Uganda is massive and has increased in recent years, largely attributed to unscrupulous politicians promising land to their constituents in return for their votes, and this has led in other parts of the country to hundreds of deaths when landslides consumed entire small villages, built by people illegally entering Mt. Elgon Forest National Park and refusing to leave despite such tragedies. Similar reports of illegal forest occupation come from Kibaale District and elsewhere in the country....

UGANDA WILDLIFE AUTHORITY INTRODUCES CASHLESS SMART CARD

Visits to any of Uganda's ten national parks will soon be easier as the Uganda Wildlife Authority is putting final touches to the introduction of a cashless smart card based on chip technology, aimed at maximizing revenue collection and improving cash flow as a result of prepaid 'loading' of funds on it.

As a first step will gorilla and chimpanzee tracking permit details be loaded on the available cards, and then used at Bwindi, Murchisons Falls and Kibale national parks, in



addition to which they will be accepted at Lake Mburo and Queen Elizabeth national parks. The remaining five other parks like Rwenzori, Mt. Elgon, Mgahinga, Kidepo Valley and Semliki will be added in due course once the technology has been installed at the various park entrance gates and offices of those parks.

Unlike in other neighbouring countries, where the point of sale is centralized and often inconveniences potential visitors for having to set aside extra time to get an electronic card, UWA intends to have several points of sale beyond the national park headquarters in Kampala, namely at park entrance gates where re-usable temporary cards can be purchased while from the headquarters in Kampala personalized permanent cards can be obtained for regular visitors to the parks, be it Ugandans or foreign residents. ...

NAIROBI SET TO HOST ECOTOURISM CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER

The Seventh Annual Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference (ESTC) will take place in Kenya's capital city of Nairobi between September 24 – 27 this year, bringing together stakeholders from Africa and around the world to discuss sustainable development and how tourism can help developing countries to fight poverty among fast growing populations. Hosted jointly by the Kenya Tourism Board and the Ecotourism Society of Kenya, the event is organized by The International Ecotourism Society in close cooperation with the United Nations World Tourism Organization. Up to 500 participants are expected to attend the event from among the 120 countries where TIES is represented through local

partners and ecotourism societies, discussing progress made since the previous meetings and the topics dominating ongoing dialogues and on-line forums. Proposals are still invited by the conference organizers as are calls for potential presenters, aimed to enrich the agenda of the meeting and give communities and individuals the opportunity to voice problems encountered in their own back yards and share their experience with their colleagues at large. The event will be held at the conference centre of the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, which will also be the official conference hotel, although other hotels are available for delegates to stay in with regular transport to and from the venue.

For more information please contact either Ayako Ezaki via media@ecotourism.org or the conference

OTHER STUFF

Ethiopia: Govt Hopes for an Energy Bonanza From Burning Waste From NEPAD Water

Addis Ababa — Ethiopia's capital will mine its largest landfill to produce energy, as part of a bid to eliminate trash and supplement the country's hydropower supply, which could be vulnerable to droughts and increasingly extreme weather.

secretariat via Edith Bosire, Conference Coordinator Kenya via estc13@ecotourismkenya.org

Away from the gleaming skyscrapers that dot the city's major roads, many of Addis Ababa's neighbourhoods are dirty and strewn with rubbish. One of the reasons is the lack of capacity at the city's dump sites.

But under an agreement signed at the beginning this year between a British company and the Ethiopian government, there are plans to turn waste at the city's largest landfill into energy.

Cambridge Industries Limited will develop the country's first waste-to-energy facility next to the 50-year-old dump known locally as Koshe, which means "dirty" in Amharic.

The \$120 million facility, which will be paid for and owned by Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo), a state utility, will generate up to 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity through a controlled combustion process consuming 350,000 tonnes of waste annually. ...

Pit Emptying Using The Gulper From http://sanitation.captivaafrica.com/

Pit emptying services are some of the major and important elements in the sanitation marketing that every Government needs to promote. Sanitation marketing itself is the use of marketing approaches to stimulate and sustain demand for improved sanitation services among target populations: including stopping open defecation, adopting and maintaining improved sanitation services, safe handling of excreta and adoption of hygiene behaviours.



However, for this to be effectively realized there is need to consider the various approaches to be used in emptying full latrine pits.

There are different types of pit emptying services on the market based on the equipment/mechanism used, including, the use of highly technologically advanced equipment like the vehicle tankers that have a motorized pump, the use of simple machines like the Gulper, and manual emptying that involves direct contact with faecal matter from the pits.

THE SMILE

Another car hits the same house

In June 2012, Amos Mwaba got a bit of a shock when he was woken up in the middle of the night only to find a Mercedes Benz stuck in the wall of his sitting room. The driver, Beiton Kunda, had failed to negotiate the Kwacha-Kalewa Junction in Kansenshi in Kitwe. The car ploughed through a furrow and knocked down a fence and a mango tree before lodging itself in Mwaba's house – which was badly damaged. Kunda did not survive.

This week another Mercedes Benz hit the same house. The car lost control at night at the same junction, flew over the furrow, ploughed through a fence and ended up in a pile of debris left from the last accident. It even destroyed some of the poles mounted to support the house, as repairs have been delayed by the compensation case going to court. Mwaba had written to the council, asking it to erect pillars on Kwacha Road to prevent motorists from ramming into his house — but so far in vain.

Have a good week

Gill

KUBU CAFE Kubu Cafe will now be open every day of the week Including Public Holidays and Sundays 2nd Cup of Coffee half price Look out for our specials ... We are an I-spot Talk time available