



Dear All

I only got back from my trip on Saturday afternoon, so this is a bit of a rush job. My header is of a saddlebill stork in South Luangwa National Park, because that is where I was for a week.

I had a great time, saw lots and lots, and learned so much. I will tell you some stories next week.

I noticed in the Zambia Weekly that the Minister of Tourism is to be questioned on her banning of hunting. The opinion of the tour operators in South Luangwa is that the ban has improved the attraction of the park. The animals, especially lions, are so much more relaxed and the lions are seen all the time. Also, when shots are heard in the GMAs the tour operators now know that it is a poacher and they can go and investigate.

They also know that there are enough photographic tour operators to take on the GMAs, build lodges in them, and that the lions can be shot many times with a camera instead of once with a gun. This, of course, means many more jobs than the hunting industry can provide.

I really don't have much against hunting if it is done in an ethical way, but in these days it often is not. I feel that GMAs must have a wildlife count prior to any hunting licences being issued. Only if there is surplus should a licence be given out. Fortunately the pledge by Ms Masebo to have an animal count seemed to be ongoing while I was there. A light plane was flying to and fro over the parks and the GMAs for many days. I hope the findings are made public as it would be really interesting to know the results.

Fireworks Night
Saturday 9th Nov
@ Acacia International School

Doors open at 17:30
 Adults-K70,000
 Children 12yrs & under-K30,000 (under 2yrs free)
 Fun games, Fantastic prizes and delicious food for sale.

DJ MARTIN - FALLS FM
 Fabulous Fancy dress competition for kids @18h30

SCARY TUNNEL
 Tickets available from Acacia School, Kubu Cafe,
 Zig Zag and Health & Glo Pharmacy

Finale floating Lantern Lighting @ 7:30
 • Cash bar

Contact Sarah at Acacia: 0213 327950
 All proceeds go towards creative development projects at Acacia School.



LIVINGSTONE

THE LIVINGSTONE CEMETERY

From Peter Jones, River Club

It is with utter shock that I walked through the old cemetery in Livingstone the other day. It now seems that on a daily basis the old graves of Livingstone settlers are being broken up and desecrated almost on a commercial scale. Crosses have been removed, lettering also, so that they might be used on new graves elsewhere. Many head stone have been snapped off for no other reason other than to vandalise the site of our forebears.



David Jones' cross snapped off



Percy Clark – world famous for his early photographs of the Victoria Falls

The metals crosses have been stolen and sold for scrap:



The crosses in the background of the right hand photo have now gone.

There are graves of children whose first names are forgotten because the vandals smashed the marble containing them only to leave the names of the devastated parents.



??? aged 1 year 1 month



Son of J and B McColl 4 years old



Son of R and G Payne aged 8 years



Jean Anderson aged 3 ½



Gertrude Greenhow who “fell asleep”



Mark Watson – sorrowing parents

If one has the time to walk through the cemetery there are the resting places of many fascinating people:



Captain Leslie Spry Levertton who won the Military Cross and bar in the First world war- remembered now only by a smashed cross.



Lieutenant Thomas Murray who won the Military Cross on the last day of World War One and who built the a memorial chapel for his wife, Audrey, in Lusaka who died only 3 months after he brought her to live in Kalomo. His headstone has been pushed over.



Colonel Frederick Hodson of the Northern Rhodesian Police who fought in Tanganyika. The First World War ended in Zambia – a strange fact which not many people know about.

The people of Lusaka recently restored **The Audrey Mary Elizabeth Murray Memorial Chapel** and it may offer those of us in Livingstone encouragement to do the same for our small cemetery before it is totally vandalised and destroyed. If anyone is keen to play a part in looking after the area please could they get hold of Peter Jones on peterjones@theriverclubzambia.com. A letter has already been sent to the Town Clerk to complain about the wanton damage been done and asking her for her support in taking care of the grave yard.

ZAWA scout acquitted of record ivory theft

From the Zambia Weekly

Lusaka magistrate Mwaka Mikalile has acquitted Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) scout Ebby Kahali of Zambia's largest ivory theft. In June 2012, it was revealed that about 3 tonnes of ivory had gone missing from ZAWA's armoury in Chilanga.

Back then, the anti-government media quoted sources who implicated then ZAWA Executive Director Edwin Matokwani and then Foreign Affairs and Tourism Minister Given Lubinda. However, Kahali was arrested together with another scout, William Phiri, whose lawyer claimed that he was tortured by police (journalists were detained when they filmed Phiri struggling to walk from Linda Police Post in Lusaka). This week both scouts were acquitted of breaking into a building and committing a felony by stealing 412 pieces of ivory valued at K3,795,140 (count 1), reported the Post. In addition, they were acquitted of being in possession of property suspected to have been bought using money from proceeds of crime (count 2 and 3) – but Phiri was put on his defence on count 4: The state alleged a piece of ivory was found in his house.

Gill Comment: *If this ZAWA scout did not take the ivory, then who did? Surely we should know.*

ZAWA arrests three with ivory in Mongu

From the Zambia Weekly

The Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) has arrested three people in Mongu for being in possession of nine pieces of elephant tusks weighing about 136 kilogrammes. The three were caught at a roadblock mounted by ZAWA upon a tip. The trio included Kashuwa Coach driver Biemba Biemba and two conductors, Kelvin Bihinda and Danny Muyawalelo. The ivory was hidden behind the bus' air cleaner compartment. The bus was heading to Lusaka.



Bush meat: ZAWA has recovered 800 kilogrammes of assorted meat of puku, hippo and waterbuck, and one shotgun, after an exchange of fire with suspected poachers in Mumbwa Game Management Area next to Kafue National Park. The poachers managed to escape, reported the Times of Zambia.

River poisoning: ZAWA has received reports that some people in Western Province are poisoning water to catch fish for onward sale in Northwestern Province. The authority is looking into the reports.

Tribunal to probe Masebo

From the Zambia Weekly

The High Court has ruled that Acting Chief Justice Lombe Chibesakunda must set up a tribunal to investigate Tourism and Arts Minister Silvia Masebo over the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA). In 2012, Masebo turned ZAWA upside-down, changing its board and several managers.

She also cancelled all tenders for hunting concession and all big cat hunting. Former MMD minister William Harrington had challenged Chibesakunda's decision to not set up the tribunal.

From the Times

By NAKUBIANA SHABONGO -

THE Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) has suspended aerial mining surveys in Mweru Wantipa National Park in Luapula Province, which were scheduled to be undertaken by a mining company.

Geotech Airborne Limited has been contracted by Mass Mining Contractors to do aerial mining surveys and explorations in the ZAWA protected area without relevant prior authorisation from the statutory institution, aviation and security agencies. ...



ZIMBABWE

2ND REPORT HWANGE ELEPHANT POISONING

Zimbabwe Wildlife Society

Following on from my first report, we were then approached by Parks to assist in confirming what they thought had taken place in the Park Area, regards the elephant poisoning, the previous flights being concentrated mainly in the Forestry areas adjacent to the park, with these areas being done at Forestry's request.

Once again Pat Cox didn't hesitate to offer his aircraft and expertise to take on the 2nd survey of the area this time concentrating on as much of the Park area as we could.

At our initial briefing with Parks it was very clear that reports emulating from various sources about the number of elephants lost were of great concern to them and we were requested to fly an assess as accurately as possible exactly how many carcasses were evident.

The first flight covered the Central South and South West areas of the Park boarding the Tsholotsho communal land and Botswana border.

This is an extremely remote area of the Park, access by road is not easy, and there is very little development, and as a result of this and with limited resources Parks have been unable to police this area as they would have liked, and they acknowledge this. The result being, that 84 carcasses were located in this area.

The following surveys moved northwards into the central area, flying the Park east to west and then further north covering the Sinamatella, and Robin's area. There were no further carcasses located in these areas. However we still have a fairly large section of Park to check, namely the Main Camp, and Ngamo sector in the east of the Park, and in the west the Dandari, Shakwankie, Shapi, and the remainder of the Dizivanni sector, and on his return to Harare Pat was immediately contacted by the Minister Savoier Kasukuwere who requested we return as soon as possible to check these areas so ensuring that the entire Park has been covered, and this is scheduled to take place shortly.

Although we haven't covered the whole Park as yet, we have covered the areas considered by National Parks to be the priority areas and the most sensitive in aspect of the poaching problem.

This obviously doesn't mean that there may not be any other problems areas but hopefully far less probable. So based on the areas that we have flown and surveyed we are confident that there have not been any more than 120 elephant lost, and this compares favourably with what Parks have reported, and while this is serious we feel the figures quoted by other sources are totally incorrect and exaggerated.

Hopefully I have been able to convey briefly to you what's been going on, I personally feel the situation is now looking a lot better but we must not lose sight of the fact, vigilance in the future is of paramount importance we are dealing with evil sinister people who must be made accountable at all costs, if there is to be any long term

future for our wildlife. We have been very impressed with the very open and refreshing attitude received from Parks and the Minister, it has been a pleasure operating with them and am confident that, we can overcome the current problems. It should be noted that the Minister has also set up an advisory trust of respected and well known conservationist businessmen to help and advise in Hwange, with the results already been seen with five of eight new Landrovers designated for Hwange having arrived last Saturday.

For your interests I have included a few statistics regarding areas covered and distances flown to date:

FORESTRY

Area covered = 2965 square kilometers covered

Distance flown = 2187 Km

HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

Area covered = 7230 square km covered (approximately 49.22% of the Park)

Distance flown = 3027 km

Total hours flown including flying time to and from Harare = 35.2 hours

Total cost of aircraft sponsored at the above hours \$8615.00 (Our thanks once again to Pat Cox and Ericom Communications for their outstanding support. Without this support none of this would have been possible)

JACARANDA CHALLENGE

An amazing family weekend in Matopos, hosted by Matobo Hills Lodge - 23 & 24 November 2013.

RAW Adrenaline will be doing zip lining, abseiling and rock climbing for all ages, a day pass will be \$10 per person and a weekend pass will be \$15 per person for all RAW activities. There will be trail runs and bike rides on the Sunday morning.

A family evening will be hosted by Matobo Hills Lodge on the Saturday with dinner, music and entertainment by Zambesi Express.

NAMIBIA

Police seize more ivory in the Zambezi (Namibia)

Theresia Tjihenuna, The Namibian

POLICE in the Zambezi Region are investigating smuggling of cut ivory that was discovered on a bus on Sunday at Kongola village near the Kwando River. Deputy Commissioner Rudolf Kanyetu, who is the regional crime investigation coordinator, said the trophies were discovered in the luggage of an unknown passenger. Police say the passengers and the driver, remained tight-lipped after a series of interrogations and as a result they could not make any arrests.

"The investigation to determine who the real suspect is continues, but police have confiscated the ivory," Kanyetu said.

Meanwhile, three suspects accused of killing five elephants and smuggling ivory last week at Malengalenga (*near Mamili NP*), appeared before Magistrate Duard Kesslau at the Katima Mulilo Magistrate's Court on Monday. ... The case was postponed to 27 November 2013.

The trio was charged on three accounts, including hunting of specially protected game, possession and dealing in part of elephants and possession of a firearm.

Chief warden Shadrack Siloka of Zambezi Parks, indicated that one of the suspects, Sociaty Sitali, is a former police officer who was stationed in Windhoek. He said this is not Sitali's first case involving poaching.

Director for the North East Region at the Directorate Regional Services and Park Management at Zambezi, Cletius Maketo, said his office is on the outlook for more poaching incidents. "We acknowledge that poaching is a problem in this area. However, the incidents have slightly decreased compared to last year," he said.

Maketo said officers from his department had joined forces with the police special field force and that the NDF, which had provided them with a helicopter for effective monitoring and hunting down of poachers in the area.

More Contracts for Community Concessions in Namibia

THE Minister of Environment and Tourism, Uahekua Herunga, signed concession contracts with seven conservancies on Thursday.

Speaking at the event in the capital, Herunga called on conservancy members to take care of the country's natural resources.

"We must make sure that we do not deplete our natural resources. We must make sure that what we utilise should also be there for future generations to benefit from," he noted. The concession contracts involve the Sheya Shuushona, Mashi, Kwando, King Nehale, Puros and Sesfontein, Wuparo and Mayuni conservancies.

The Puros and Sesfontein conservancies applied to develop a lodge and campsite at Huarusib River mouth while the Sheya Shuushona conservancy applied for exclusive traversing rights in the Etosha National Park. The conservancy requested for exclusive areas of 25 by 30 kilometres aligned with conservancy eastern and western boundaries, an exclusive new gate close to their planned lodge as well as an access road.

The Mashi conservancy applied to build and operate a 16-bed tourism lodge at Kazile Island and have tourism activities in the Kwando Core Area of the Bwabwata National Park. The concession was recommended in the Tourism Development Plan for the Bwabwata, Mudumu and Mamili National Parks that was prepared for the ministry in 2009.

The Kwando conservancy applied for the right to build and operate up to a maximum of a 60-bed lodge or chalets at the Old Ranger Station at Susuwe and a satellite camp with approximately 10 sites at Nzuna Island.

The King Nehale conservancy applied for exclusive traversing tourism concession rights for tracks inside the Etosha National Park.

The rights include access to the Kameeldoring waterhole and Andoni plains for game viewing; rights to develop and operate a hide at Kameeldoring waterhole; access to the park via the existing Mushara management gate or a new private gate to be identified closer to their potential lodge site; and the right to develop and use new game viewing tracks within a 20 kilometre radius of the Mushara management gate.

The Wuparo conservancy applied for traversing rights inside Nkasa Rupala (*Mamili*) National Park and also the following activity rights: day drives on the island; boating on the Linyanti River; and mukoro (canoe) excursions on the back channels of the river.

The Mayuni conservancy applied for the right to operate a small light footprint 12-bed tented camp at Nambwa; to upgrade the existing camp and to traverse inside the Bwabwata National Park. "People will starve while we have natural resources to our disposal. But we have to make sure that our resources are protected," Herunga added.

Currently, there are 79 communal conservancies covering 19.5% with one in five rural Namibians living in a conservancy.

Gill Comment: *The Community Conservancies in Namibia are going from strength to strength. Surely it is a model we should be duplicating???*

MOZAMBIQUE

From: <http://news.xinhuanet.com/>

MAPUTO, Oct. 30 (Xinhua) -- Armed members of Mozambique's opposition party Renamo on Wednesday attacked a convoy in the central Sofala province, the fourth of such attacks in more than a week after the party, also a former rebel movement, declared the end of a 1992 peace treaty with the government, state radio reported.

Radio Mozambique said a number of cars and lorries came under fire in Muxungue district Wednesday morning. No details have yet been released on the casualties. Black thick chunks of smoke were seen rising from the cars being set fire on.

The authorities have rushed to the scene for rescue operations. On Tuesday, armed Renamo members ambushed another convoy in the same place, killing one civilian and wounded four others, who were later rushed to the Beira Central Hospital in Sofala.

The attacks followed the overrunning of several Renamo military bases in Maringue in Sofala and in the northern province of Nampula on Tuesday, according to the defense ministry.

The whereabouts of the Renamo leader, Afonso Dhlakama, who fled three days ago from Maringue is still not known.

Political tension grew since last week when government troops raided and occupied the bush camp of Dhlakama in Santugira, Sofala, prompting Renamo to unilaterally announce the end of 1992 Rome peace treaty, which terminated the 16-year civil war between Renamo and Frelimo-party-led government.

Mozambican President Armando Guebuza said Tuesday that the struggle continues against those who endanger peace in the country. He was speaking at a rally in the central province of Manica, urging the public to be very vigilant against those who are stoking tension in Mozambique.

OTHER STUFF

Solar Tuk Tuks

From <http://cleantechnica.com/>

An Australian solar producer is changing the way tuk tuk's are powered. Australian owned, Star 8 Solar, has developed a new tuk tuk, SolarTuk, which runs by using solar power from its rooftop.

Tuk tuks or auto rickshaws are an essential form of urban transport in many emerging and developing countries but also make an appearance in Europe, USA and Australia for tourism purposes. Recently developing countries' governments (such as China) have started to ban or restrict petrol-powered rickshaws due to emissions and air quality issues.



Star 8 says it has had significant interests from countries such as China, India, Vietnam, The Philippines, Bangladesh, South Africa and Nigeria as well as many interested parties from the Australian tourism industry.

The creator of the product, Star 8 Managing Director Jacob Maimon, came up with the concept after a holiday in Vietnam, where he noticed that tuk tuk drivers only put small amounts of petrol in the tank at a time.

"I asked him why he didn't fill it up and he said the cost of fuel was prohibitive and he could barely cover his daily expenses with the amount of work he picked up.

"It was then that I envisaged a solar-driven Tuk Tuk with an electric engine (as back-up), which cost next to nothing to run."

Maimon designed the SolarTuk himself and then consulted engineers to get the product made. ...

Dead man alive

From Informante

ROBERT Nawa Maswabi, 56, is accused of being a ghost, after rumours surfaced around the southern Zambezi Region that he had died four months ago.

“Wherever I go people are saying I am a ghost. Even in my wife’s village, when I arrived they all came together saying I am a ghost, and the young ones were even scared to come near me. My wife chased me away and said I must go back to the grave, and because I am a ghost she can’t be married to me,” Maswabi said.

Maswabi, who was born in Livingstone, Zambia, said he was working at Singobeka south of Katima Mulilo, but was scared off by three men who intimidated him. According to him he went to Zambia for three months, before coming back to Namibia and getting a job in New Cowboy location in Katima Mulilo, where he was arrested by the police and locked up for a night.

“The police told me I am a ghost, because people have been looking for me at Singobeka for quite long,” according to Maswabi.

The next day he was taken to Singobeka where the Chinchimani Khuta again handed him to the police, who deported him to Zambia.

“I used a border pass to come back to Namibia on Saturday to go to my wife’s village at Nkasa. I don’t know whether she will chase me away again, saying that I am a ghost,” Maswabi said.

Eustace Bisesa, Maswabi’s younger brother told Informante that he believes that his brother was dead, and came to life because of chame and juju (magic) they use in their culture. “Even now I am afraid of someone killing by witchcraft,” Bisesa added.

Sorry that this has been such a short one. Maybe only half a cup of coffee ...

I am off again during the week – this time to Hwange – but I will put my best foot forward to give you a bit of a Luangwa story ... so much to write ...

Have a good week

Gill