



**Dear All**

My header looks as if I am away in the bush having a fine time. Actually I am not because this is an old photo from Busanga Plains with Peter driving through some pretty horrid swamps. Although the rains have just about finished many areas in our parks are still wet and inaccessible. In the coming two months the 'camp builders' will be making their way along some squishy roads to get the camps ready for clients in June or July.

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### **ZESCO Tariff's on the Agenda again ...**

Ruth Henson

ERB hearings on ZESCO's application for an increase are on again. The Livingstone one is on 16th April at 9 hrs at Fairmount Hotel. Come and hear why ZESCO thinks YOU should subsidise the mines and fund ZESCO's expansion of power production.

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## **ZAMBIA**

### **BoZ bill signed into law**

From the Zambia Weekly

The Bank of Zambia (amendment) Bill, which allows the central bank to regulate and monitor import and exports as well as financial in- and outflows in Zambia, has been approved by parliament and signed into law by President Sata. Government reiterated that the new law does not constitute foreign exchange control, but that it will compel investors to keep their money in Zambia. Investors that evade tax and externalise profits illegally face imprisonment of up to 10 years. The bill will be followed up by a statutory instrument outlining guidelines for the application of the new law.

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## TOURISM in ZAMBIA:

Natural resources ↑

... hygiene ↓

From the Zambia Weekly

The 2013 Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) reveals that Zambia is ranked 108th out of 140 countries, up from 111st in 2011. The TTCI is based on three broad categories of variables, including travel and tourism regulatory framework (Zambia is ranked 102nd), travel and tourism business environment and infrastructure (122nd) and travel and tourism human, cultural and natural resources (98th). Each of these are divided into several indicators, where Zambia gets its highest scores for natural resources (28th) followed by policy rules and regulation (32th) – and its worst scores for availability of qualified labour (132nd) and health and hygiene (123rd).

*Rankings for us all in the south of Africa*

*South Africa 64*

*Namibia 91*

*Botswana 94*

*Zambia 108*

*Tanzania 109*

*Zimbabwe 118*

*Malawi 124*

*Mozambique 125*

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### Feira Road

Last week the President officially heralded the start of the road from Luangwa Bridge to the town of Luangwa (Feira). Luangwa is at the confluence of the Luangwa River and the Zambezi River.

The road has potential for trade with Zimbabwe and Mozambique but there is no bridge, ferry or border crossing, although we can be sure that the local people always make a plan and criss-cross the rivers every day.

On the Mozambique and Zimbabwe side there are very minor dirt roads, but, in time maybe those countries will also see the potential for trade and upgrade them.



Also in the report is the government's plan to upgrade more roads in this area, mentioning Lusaka-Chiawa-Chirundu and Chongwe-Feira-Luangwa Bridge. It is a bit confusing. I have added on the map old roads so I will leave it to you to choose. Personally I do not understand the rationale behind the roads

as they pass through wildlife areas and do not seem to help the people much. It would seem a much better idea to improve the road from Chirundu to the entrance to Chiawa Game Management area and put in a bridge over the Kafue.

Here is a bit of history about Feira from the Zambia Weekly

Feira (Luangwa after 1964) is believed to be the first European settlement in Zambia. Except for the former Portuguese coastal settlements and Tete (today Zumbo) a few kilometres downstream in Mozambique, no other place in the whole of Southern Africa has such an early recorded origin as Feira. Records indicate that Portuguese traders founded Tete in 1546, and that Feira was established as an offshoot at about the same time. Feira means “market or fair” in Portuguese. However both trading posts were then abandoned for a long time, until the beginning of the 17th century, when the Portuguese came back. For the next 150 years, the two towns were embroiled in violent struggles between the local people and the Portuguese intruders for control of this strategic site at the confluence of two lucrative trade routes along the Zambezi and Luangwa Rivers. During this period, Tete was destroyed and rebuilt several times, although there were intervals of peaceful trading and prosperity in between. When David Livingstone passed through in 1856, he found Feira deserted and in ruins.

This changed in 1857 with the arrival of Harrison “Changa Changa” Clark, who built himself an empire in the area and restored some order, suppressing both the slave-trade and inter-tribal warfare, with the help of his own local militia and by marrying the daughter of Mapuka, Chief of the Chikunda. However, he was displaced when Cecil John Rhodes’ British South Africa Company was granted jurisdiction over the country north of the Zambezi. In 1901, the company sent Shekleton to open a station at Feira – after which peace and order was finally established.

Later, Feira came to be regarded as a punishment station for British officials who were out of favour. Feira’s isolation and intense heat (sitting at the lowest point in Zambia) was thought to be a suitable environment for reflection of their errors. During the 1950s, one of the District Commissioners apparently conducted business in his office sitting in a bath of water in order to keep cool. During the Rhodesian war in the late sixties, violence returned to Feira in the form of skirmishes between communist-backed terrorists and Rhodesian security forces based at Kanyemba in Zimbabwe. Nowadays, the district remains quiet, remote and impoverished.

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### **David Lemon**

David was set to come back to Zambia this month to continue his trek along the Zambezi River. Last year he walked between April and October along the river, arriving in Siavonga, near Kariba Dam, exhausted and the rains about to start. Being sensible, David decided to return to UK while the rains were on and to recoup some energy, returning this year.

Sadly David has just lost 5 teeth recently which, according to the dentist were lost because of the malnutrition he underwent during his trek last year. So, again the continued trip will have to wait until he has had the teeth replaced and he is feeling fit. Also he needs to look at better sustenance for his continued journey and ... he is also learning Portuguese for the Mozambican leg.

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## From Birdwatch Zambia

### Musuku Lodge

Bird Weekend 5th to 7th July 2013: This will be at Musuku Lodge in Choma. Booking is required. This is one of the best birding spots in Zambia where we will be able to see our Barbet as well as a good variety of waterbirds and woodland birds. Rory McDougall will lead. The lodge has given BirdWatch members a discounted price of K300,000 Full board per night. There are only 6 chalets and two have been taken so please email me if you would like to book a chalet to make sure you are on the list at [birdwatch.zambia@gmail.com](mailto:birdwatch.zambia@gmail.com) with Masuku Lodge in the Subject line.

### Bird of the Month – Secretary Bird – *Sagittarius serpentarius*

I have chosen this bird because Dr. Sally Hofmeyr from the Animal Demography Unit of University of Cape Town is researching on the status of these birds in southern Africa. They are classified as vulnerable.

Birders have been asked to send any information or sightings they have to her – see [zambiabirds@yahoo.com](mailto:zambiabirds@yahoo.com). In Zambia they are often seen on the Kafue Flats as well as the flood plains of the upper Zambezi River. Surprisingly they are not seen in the Bangweulu Swamps.

Secretary Birds are large raptors with a wingspan of over 2 metres. They are found on open plains and they stride around - often in pairs – looking for food. They have the longest legs of any raptor and have to bend their legs in a crouch to feed from the ground or drink. These legs are heavily scaled which may protect them while walking through the bush or when attacking their prey which is often snakes. Prey is often discovered by stamping on clumps of undergrowth, which then flushes prey for them to capture. They also wait near bush fires, along with many other species, eating anything they can that is trying to escape.



Secretary Birds have a wingspan of over 2 metres and they can fly but often choose to walk. However when courting they display by soaring high with undulating flight patterns and calling with a guttural croaking. Males and females can also perform a ground dance by chasing each other with their wings up and back. ...

### Swaka

One of our members and bird guides - Leslie Reynolds of Lapwing Safaris - is doing a guided trip to North Swaka in April. This is one of the



IBAs that BirdWatch Zambia is working in and the area has some interesting birds and features. It is about 350 kms from Lusaka to the north of Mkushi and has some very good miombo woodland as well as large dambos and pretty waterfalls. The trip is scheduled from the 5th to the 8th of April. The birding will include Northern Miombo, Mushitu and dambo specials.

If you are interested in visiting this IBA then please contact Leslie directly for further information email [lapwing@zambiasafari.com](mailto:lapwing@zambiasafari.com)

Includes: Transport, meals, drinks, tents, professional and local guides

Bring own: hiking gear, snacks, bedding (lapwing can provide sleeping bags on request)

PRICE: Kr 3500

### **BirdWatch Zambia Membership**

If you want to become a member or renew your membership, I will collect subs and deposit it in their bank account. Put the money in an envelope with your name on it and leave it with Nick at Foleys. I will be paying mine, so I might as well do others at the same time. Gill

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## **ZIM-ZAM**

### **Batoka Gorge Dam**

According to a report in the Herald, Zimbabwe, the Zambezi River Authority has short-listed 6 investors for the construction of the Batoka Gorge Dam.

The dam which was originally surveyed over 20 years ago will flood the Zambezi gorges up to Rapid 4, I am told, below the Victoria Falls, thus changing the face of much of the area's tourism industry.

We are aware Zimbabwe plans to take water from the Zambezi to Bulawayo, via Gwaai-Shangani. I have also read a report stating that Francistown, Botswana, will also be connected to this new water grid ... and Francistown will send it on to South Africa. From the report in BizDay, Zimbabwe: (Water Resources Minister Sipepa) *Nkomo said for example the intention is for Zimbabwe to give water from the Zambezi River to Bulawayo and to Francis Town in Botswana, which will share the water with South Africa.*

Put this against the fact that climate change is having a substantial effect on the weather and water supplies, it seems imperative that another study into the viability of the dam should be done before we start to build. The dam is expected to cost around US\$3billion and can supply 1,600 megawatts in electricity. It would be disastrous were this money to be spent on a dam which will not work to expectations, destroying the environment in the process.

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### **UNWTO**

It would appear that Zimbabwe is running short of money for the hosting of the UNWTO in August this year. It estimates it needs US\$11.2million but does not have it. The government, though, has promised US\$6.5million, but this will only be available if diamonds are sold.

Walter Mzembi, Minister of Tourism wants to showcase Zimbabwe and its tourism revival, but Tendai Biti, the Minister of Finance thinks that the country has other problems which need the cash. In order to secure the necessary funds, other countries and private business are being requested to help out.



Zimbabwe companies, Mbada Diamonds, Econet and Telecel have come up with offers of financial help. A company, Conventions Africa, is being used for consultancy to raise more (On a Google Search is could not find 'Conventions Africa'). Susanna Makombe, the spokesman for Conventions Africa, said they were targeting Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

On the plus side the road between the airport and town is being worked on. There is lots of action going on at the airport. The Chinese gave a loan of US\$150million to extend the runway to make it 4km long. The hospital too has seen some improvements and the town is definitely sprucing itself up.

Meanwhile in Livingstone the Zambia Government says that it has given a lot of money to Livingstone towards upgrading the town prior to the UNWTO. The roads are being repaired; the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park is having a new fence and gates; the Victoria Falls World Heritage Site is having some new loos, as is the border post. Livingstone Airport is being enlarged, a new market is being constructed and a new bus terminus too. One can only doubt that all these things will be done as we only have 4 months to go ... it is a bit of a tall order.

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## ZIMBABWE

### Road Blocks

At a recent discussion forum held by Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis Research Unit, members brought up the issue of road blocks on the country's roads. One commented that he had passed through 20 road blocks on the journey between Harare and Victoria Falls Town.

*The perception is that roadblocks portray the country as a police State. The police are regarded as highly corrupt and unfriendly to foreign tourists. On major roads, police roadblocks average one per every 20km and one wonders why, and for what purpose.*

Tourism in Zimbabwe has increased, according to the report, from US\$61m in 2003 to US\$662m in 2011 and the sector continues to grow. The forum called for more cooperation between ministries to address this problem in order for the country's image to be improved.

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### Women's Art Exhibition

4-5 May at Victoria Falls Safari Lodge

Artists showcasing their work include:

Kerry Bradford, Nicole Sanderson, Sharon Parry, Sue Cotteral, Luciana Dinara, Martha Tawapei, Alison Baker, Christiane Stolhofer, Bettina Kelly, Tina Claffey, Sue Griesel, Cathy Rann, Christina Alexander, Ali Shenton, Tamy Pohl, Sue Hancock, Clare Mateke

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### EASTER IN HWANGE NATIONAL PARK

John & Jenny Brebner

This time of the year is an almost perfect time to be in the Park. Although the bush is still very thick and the grass is high making game viewing a bit difficult, it is absolutely delightful to see the green and all the water everywhere. The days are beautiful and clear, not too hot, (unless you happen to be sitting on

the sunny side of the vehicle), with glorious cool early mornings and stunning evening sunsets. And sitting around the braai fire in the evening, one can enjoy the towering and magnificent overhead canopy of stars.

We were staying at Main Camp and it was great to see most of the accommodation was taken up as well as the camp site bustling. Occupants of the two chalets next to ours had been disturbed overnight by visiting honey badgers, but as we were leaving to go out for the day at around half past six, a honey badger was still out on the prowl, nosing around various camp sites. It actually wandered right over to where we were and amused us by chasing off several members of a troop of opportunistic baboons that were obviously encroaching on its territory!

While cooking up brunch at Kennedy One we were kept entertained by the plethora of little birds coming down to drink or bathe at the little bird bath near us. Delightful to see such a mixture and to be able to study them at close quarters – violet eared waxbills, melba finches, Jameson firefinches, black cheeked waxbills, blue waxbills, spotted backed weavers and an unidentified LBJ – all taking their turn and at one stage having to wait while a large glossy starling decided on a very splashy bath, taking up the entire bird bath! A trip through the teak forest was, as always, awesome despite being “gameless” and it is one of the places we were guaranteed to see the racket-tailed rollers. At Kennedy Two we were unable to inspect the flow of water from the solar pump as there were two very large pachyderms having a drink, but the water in the pan is excellent. Also as is usual, on arriving at Ngweshla we were amazed at the number of animals and the varied species. There was a very large herd of buffalo not far from camp, resting up in the shade while some lay in a small muddy pan. There were several small brown calves obviously fairly new born with some very large cows and two particularly huge, gnarled and old, irascible looking bulls. On the other side of the vlei was a herd of zebra studded with a herd of eland. There was a magnificent eland bull with about fourteen other eland and its always a bonus to see these animals. A baby zebra kept us entertained for a few minutes, seemingly very curious about us. A couple of elephant were wandering down to drink, at least five hippo were in the main pan, a handsome waterbuck ram with fancy set of horns was lying on an anthill, and there was all manner of waterbirds fossicking around and along the edges of the pan.



The following day saw us doing the trip down the White Hills road and along the Balla Balla loop road, we stopped off at one of the natural pans which was littered with beautiful lilac and pale yellow waterlilies, teeming with waterbirds. It was delightful to see all the chicks – a couple of fluffy black moorhen chicks, three teenage dab chicks still with their stripey heads, a flotilla of at least twelve yellow and brown striped white faced ducklings and seven red billed teal babies being shepherded along by mum and dad. Luck was with us as we came across a very handsome lion catching the early morning rays not far from the Balla Balla loop road. It was fortuitous that we saw him and as he wandered off into the bush, we managed to pick up various other members of his pride. There was a beautiful lioness not far off the road but photography was not easy because of the thick grass. Another large male was seen and judging by the crunching was obviously feeding on something while snapping and snarling at

three half grown cubs that were trying to sneak in closer. After a while, the cats started wandering off and we soon lost sight of them in the bush. Later in the day, we came across the same pride, doing what lions do best - all lying in a sleepy, tawny heap beside a small pan, which, again, was obscured by some rather annoying shrubs so viewing wasn't great. This pride is well known to the lion research team and the pride seem to be frequenting the area. Along the White Hills road, we visited all the pans to get an update on the water, finding good water all along the way. Several pans had been scooped during the dry and it was great to see them holding so much water. What was particularly amazing was seeing all the waterlilies – how do they regenerate in pans that have been dry for months and months on end? Our last stop along that way was at Shapi to have a look at the new solar unit that is being tested out. It is rather an eyesore right now as testing continues. Apparently the solar heats up oil which causes steam which pushes down while pushing the water up out of the well. It is all still in the experimental stage though and the windmill there continues to do a good job. Guvelela, being one of the pans to be scooped, was looking fantastic with more water than we've seen there for many a year.

Out on our final morning's drive, we tried, unsuccessfully, to find our pride of lion but as we headed back to Main Camp we came across a spotted hyena hurrying down a game trail quite late in the morning, which was a bonus. The animal had a rather nasty wound on its neck and wasn't particularly fazed by us stopping to stare as it continued on its way. All in all, it was a fabulous break away and, luckily enough, even the Easter bunny knew where to find us.

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## BOTSWANA

### **'Yellow Submarine' falls into river at bridge site**

From Ngami Times

Residents upstream from the under-construction Thamalakane Bridge - where a massive excavator fell into the river on Sunday night - say they fear an environmental disaster as oil and diesel from the 45-ton machine leaks out.

The already-environmentally endangered river will, it is believed, take years to recover as after calcrete which has been poured into the bridge site is removed, it is almost certain to pollute the river more than ever before. The huge excavator – now dubbed “The Yellow Submarine” by the many spectators who flocked to the scene this week - was being used to build a coffer dam to relieve pressure on the bridge site during construction of the P71-million project. A Chinese company, Colic Construction, is doing the work.

The incident took place as darkness fell and the excavator's lights faded. The machine, operating on the edge of the new bridge structure, slowly toppled into the river at one of its deepest points with the driver still on board. Eye-witnesses said he scrambled on to the side of the machine and was hauled to safety by a JCB. The shaken driver collected his coat and left the scene.

*The stricken excavator lies in the Thamalakane River this week.*

*(Pictures: Ferdinand Berkhof)*





Attempts to remove the excavator from the river proved extremely difficult. Three Botswana Defence Force (BDF) divers were called in to place a cable around the vehicle but that attempt failed on Monday afternoon.

On Tuesday, another attempt was made but the team trying to extricate it from the river only succeeded in turning over the excavator, making it even more difficult to recover it. By Wednesday, only a small part of the excavator could be seen after the machine had settled in what is the deepest part of the river.

The spot where the excavator fell in was almost exactly the same where a water bowser “drowned” in 2011.

The social media on the internet was buzzing with views about the incident. There were various suggestions being made as to how to remove the excavator from the river.

One Maun Bulletin Board posting was that “our ancestors” are against the new bridge “as they have spoken.”

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## TANZANIA

### Maasai in trouble

The Maasai people live between the Serengeti National Park and Lake Natron. The area is called Liliondo Controlled Hunting Area and is shared between the wildlife, the Maasai and their herds of cattle, and a hunting company called Ortello Business Corporation (OBC). OBC came into being 20 years ago, the ownership of the company being Arabs from United Arab Republic.

There are often conflicts of interest between the needs of the hunter, the wildlife and the people.

Africa Wildlife Foundation is helping the Maasai to protect their cattle from lions. When lions kill cattle the herders want to take ‘revenge’ and kill the lion. In order to protect the lions, the Foundation is helping the Maasai by providing chain-link fences for their bomas (cattle enclosures) during the night.

OBC attracts many rich clients for its hunting operation. Although they do not own the land on which they hunt they have built a camp and an airstrip. For safety issues, they do not want herders walking around with their cattle in their areas of operation.



It all seems to have come to a head recently when Khamis Kagesheki, the Minister of Tourism and Natural Resources declared that part of the land (1,500 sq km) would be removed from Liliondo Controlled Hunting Area (the grey bit on the map) and used as a wildlife corridor. Khamis Kagesheki claimed that the land needed to be protected from over-utilisation by the Maasai.

The remaining 2,500 ha would be left for the Maasai where, it is reported, the government will dig boreholes for water. *The minister informed the general public that it has decided to reduce the size of the Loliondo Game Controlled Area in order to solve long existing conflict in the area, to rescue the ecology of Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Loliondo Game Controlled Area.*

The Maasai and their supporters feel that there is an ulterior motive behind the 'land grab' – which they suspect will be used by OBC for hunting. They also state that the Minister does not have the legal right to change the boundaries of the parks and controlled hunting areas; that the land on which the Maasai live is gazetted by the Lands Act and the Local Government Act.



This story raises interesting questions about the lives of minorities which do not fit into the 'normal' order of the day. The Maasai mostly live according to the ways of their ancestors, herding cattle. The wealth of a Maasai man is shown by the number of cattle he owns and the number of children he has fathered. That the population has grown from around 400,000 in 1989 to over 800,000 in 2009 shows that the Maasai men have been doing a good job. The problem is, of course, that this is not sustainable. We cannot put up high-rises to house the Maasai and their cattle and the land on which they live cannot support them for ever. There is a similarity with the nomadic San or Bushmen in the Kalahari, Botswana, who have seen their lands shrink and their way of life replaced by life in a village.



Africa is changing fast. There are, it is said, over 1,000,000 Chinese people in Africa. They are here for one reason – to make money. As the Chinese make money, they bring along with them many African people and governments who are becoming rich. And the 'price' we will pay is development. Many African governments now are investing their wealth in roads, hospitals, clinics. Some governments are investing their wealth in palaces. Whichever is the case, Africa is changing. Sadly, the lives of the Maasai will change too as time goes on and we can expect them soon to have to adapt to the new Africa. Romanticists will say that this is not right and want them to continue their existence, but with their rate of population growth we can expect the land they presently live on to have to sustain 1,600,000 people in 20 years time ...

Having said that, the Maasai, although a minority, have rights which must be respected. How this issue of Liliondo will be resolved I cannot guess, but I can see a legal battle in the offing.

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### Zuma's Palace

From the UK Mail

... It is a nation racked by poverty, where 13 million people survive on less than £1 a day, and two million have no access to a toilet. Yet as his people struggle in squalor, South African president Jacob Zuma has sparked outrage by spending £17.5 million to upgrade his rural family home.

Lavish works – which include the construction of 31 new houses, an underground bunker accessed by lifts and a helipad – will cost almost as much as the £19 million British taxpayers send to South Africa in annual aid.

The costly upgrade to Zuma's once-humble home in the village of Nkandla includes Astroturf sports fields and tennis courts, a gymnasium and state-of-the-art security systems, including fingerprint-controlled access pads.



And nearby roads have benefited from a further £40 million of improvements. ...

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## OTHER STUFF

### Seeing the Light

By Ian Michler in Africa Geographic

Towards the end of last year the Botswana government announced that trophy hunting will no longer be allowed on any state or community land from the end of 2013. The ban extends to what is known as 'citizen hunting' for the pot and covers all species, including elephants. And then in early January this year the government of Zambia annulled the tender process for hunting concessions in 19 Game Management Areas (GMAs) and cancelled all hunting licences and quotas for at least one year. It also introduced an immediate and indefinite ban on the hunting of lions and leopards and committed to a thorough review of the hunting industry.

These are extremely sensible stands and both governments should be congratulated for their vision. Although taken independently, the decisions are based on similar factors that clearly indicate a further loss of support for trophy hunting as an effective wildlife management option.

On the economic front, the contribution of hunting has always been overplayed. In most countries the industry has only a six-month season and the benefits delivered to local economies by the small camps, with their limited complements of staff and clients, are insubstantial.

The real money goes into the pockets of the operators and is often collected outside the home states.

In the case of Botswana, the photographic sector has steadily replaced hunting over the past two decades. In the process, the ecotourism industry as a whole has grown significantly and its comparative advantages have become increasingly evident. The government now has records relating to concession fees, employment numbers and opportunities, wages and taxes paid, contributions to conservation and a host of other criteria that enable them to make direct comparisons between the two industries.

*Photograph by Ian Michler*



In Zambia, where approximately US\$3-million is earned annually from trophy hunting, Tourism and Arts Minister Sylvia Masebo said it loud and clear: 'Why should we lose our animals for US\$3-million a year? The benefits we get from [photographic] tourist visits are much higher.' And as reported in a number of stakeholder meetings held after the bans were announced, remuneration to local people from hunting is simply not materialising; communities located within or on the borders of GMAs are as impoverished as ever. The ban on hunting makes just as much sense when it comes to ecological considerations. The primary claim in this regard is the industry's much-touted anti-poaching role, but this is totally misrepresented. Poaching occurs in all protected areas and the intensity of it is driven by factors such as the prevailing socioeconomic conditions and levels of policing.

It is certainly true that the presence of tour operators and their clients acts as a deterrent to poaching, and while hunting concessions claim the same advantage, the protection they offer to wildlife is no better. If anything, it could be argued that whereas the hunting season lasts only six months, most photographic operators are in business year round, which translates into a far more significant presence on the ground.

In both Botswana and Zambia, the hunters have occupied concessions around the perimeters of national parks and reserves, and this is where the poaching starts. Further afield, Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve serves as a more obvious example of the connection between hunting and poaching. Almost 95 per cent of its land is parcelled out among more than 40 hunting concessions yet, as reported by conservation agencies and the Tanzanian government, thousands of elephants are being lost to ivory poachers each year.

Another spurious claim put forward by advocates of hunting pertains to the gene pool. Rather than targeting the old and infirm, as they assert, trophy hunting is actually all about pursuing the prime animals within the gene pool of individual species. That is why record books are kept and why every operator aims to get as many entries in them as possible and thus obtain a marketing edge. The loss of established animals year after year hammers the breeding stock and is extremely disruptive to the social systems and behavioural patterns of the different species.

Given the existing pressures on wildlife in most protected areas, this is why trophy hunting is at odds with conservation. How can any activity that seeks to kill what everyone else is so diligently trying to protect be making a contribution?



When viewed comparatively, there is no contest as to which land-use option for nationally protected areas is superior. The money involved and a powerful lobby will no doubt keep hunting grounds open in some countries for years to come, but Botswana and Zambia, by breaking ranks, at the very least have laid down a marker to the conservation world – the role of trophy hunting as a conservation tool needs to be thoroughly reviewed.

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## THE SMILE

### From the Cloaked Hedgehog

So eh...

In Zimbabwe a man wanted for raping a minor just went to quite extreme lengths to avoid justice. He went and turned into a baboon.

Yes, the old baboon trick! They should have seen that coming!

Apparently the man had been running from the law for the past two months and when he allegedly returned to the Skuta area on December 2, the enraged villagers went angry mob on him and he locked himself up in his bedroom, pleading for his life and begging for forgiveness.

At some point some villagers managed to get their hands on the man and started dealing out justice, but members of the Neighborhood Watch Committee/ the police managed to stop the villagers from killing the man.

They brought the man with them, and this is when things get weird...

Somewhere on the way to the Filabusi Police Station the man is said to have turned into a baboon, sending the Neighborhood Watch Committee running for their lives.

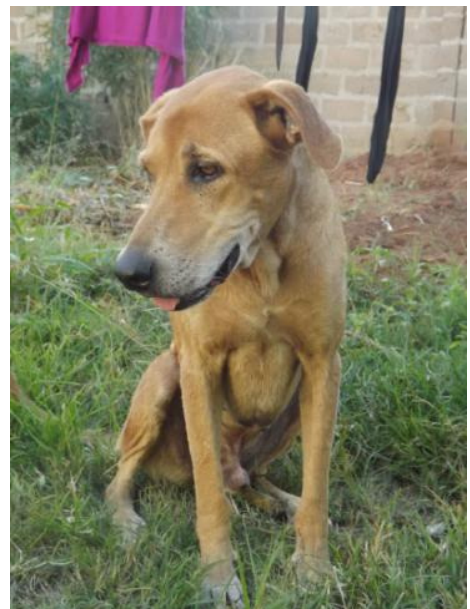
The villagers were surprised to see the running policemen and even more so when they failed to stop them. The villagers followed the policemen to their homes, asked them separately, and all three of them told the same story.

They had been walking the man to the police station and suddenly they realized it was just the three of them there, and a baboon...

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### Willie the dog desperately needs home.

Big dog, Great Dane cross, needing a home. Has been near starved, but has put on weight and condition after 3 weeks of feeding, has had veterinary care and jabs. Gentle, calm dog, good with children. Around 6 years old. Is castrated, Please contact Alli Shenton 0979157459 if you can help.



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Have a good week

Gill