

# The Livingstone Weekly

6 October 2013

## Zambezi Rafting Regatta

I went to watch a bit of the rafting regatta on Saturday. This race was between four ladies teams. It was won by the Western Province team – not a surprise there as many of their ‘roads’ are rivers and they must get lots of practice!



ZAMBIA

## Leopard Lodge

I told you last week about our stay at Mukambi Safari Lodge. Our next official stop was Leopard Lodge. We had tried to get there a few days previously but the Kasempa Road from Mumbwa had defeated us. We had made a beeline for Mukambi for some R&R.

Our new plan was to drive through the park, do a U-bend north of the Kabanga Gate and then come south to Leopard Lodge. It was a tall order for one day but we had camping equipment on the back and I expected that we would stop over for a night on the way.

We entered at Hook Bridge and asked the Wildlife Officer if he knew where we could spend the night camping and how the road was. He couldn't answer either question. I thought then that our Scouts need to be informed better and they should be taken on recces of the park every now and again to see the situation on the ground.

We headed north along the park track and the first thing we found was a tortoise walking





along the road. He was all muddy. A bit further along we found another. In fact we saw 4 tortoises – all muddy. Then I remembered that we had had a freak storm the other day and I could only assume that the tortoises had got a bit confused. They should, of course, still be hiding away.

We stopped off at Lufupa, a Wilderness Camp, to get some help with checking the vehicle and chatted to the staff there. Lufupa has closed their campsite, so we asked about Lunga River Lodge and were told that it was closed too. We thought we could possibly find a place to camp at Kabanga Gate. We continued north.

We weren't seeing much wildlife – a few bits and bobs like hartebeest, warthog, kudu, bushbuck. There were still pools of water away from the river covered in lilies, usually with herons or storks stalking the edges.

#### Events on the Way

26 October: Zambezi Kayak Festival.  
Livingstone

25-28 October: Elephant Charge.  
Starting Lusaka.

26-31 October: World Adventure  
Travel Summit. Windhoek  
9 November: Fireworks at Acacia  
School

24 November: Zambia Art and Design  
Show. Lusaka

7 December: Car Boot Sale. Protea  
Hotel

30-31 December: Vic Falls Festival.  
Victoria Falls Town



As we neared the Moshi Airstrip we found a couple of wooden bridges. I really didn't like the second one and contemplated it for a while before Josh told me just to 'get on with it'. We really didn't have any option.

The Moshi Airstrip didn't look as if it had been used for years and the old Moshi Camp was just a ruin. We continued north. The road from here was excellent and we pottered along nicely. On reaching Kabanga we asked the Wildlife Officer if there was a place we could camp for the night. He just looked bewildered. So, because it wasn't that late and the Gate was more of a village than a conducive place to camp we continued north out of the park and took the Kasempa Road south. This for me was a new road – I had never done this before. Excitement!





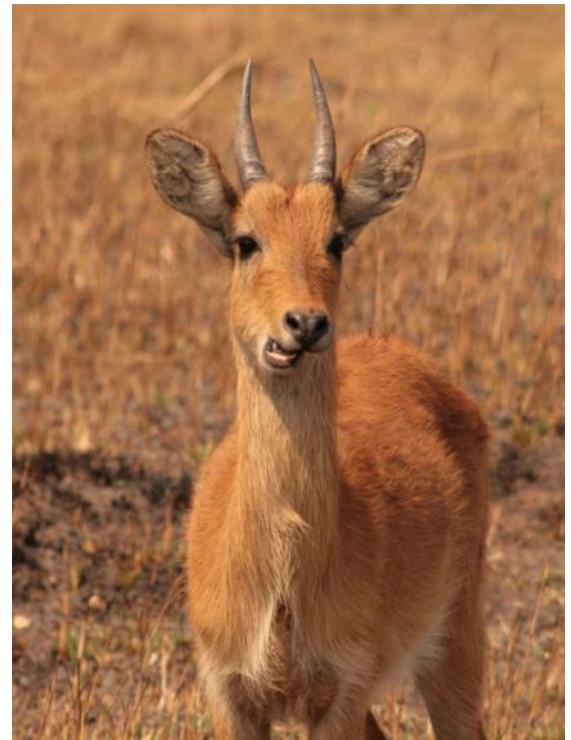
The road was OK – not as bad as the bit near Mumbwa. As it was in a GMA it was lovely forest with trees coming in to leaf and the odd fleeting glimpse of wildlife as it watched us from a safe distance off the road.

To cross the Lunga River we found a pontoon. There was a very steep incline to it as the river is low. Being an idiot I hadn't put the car in 4-wheel drive and nearly disappeared off the other end of the pontoon.



Onward and southward we continued along the road eventually arriving at Leopard Lodge just after dark. Our hostess was Elize who was there to meet us with torch in hand and direct us towards the deck and lounge area. It wasn't long before we had a beer in our hands and could relax. We chatted for a while, ate a delicious meal which the kitchen managed to rustle up for us and then collapsed in a heap in our chalet.

The following morning we were off on a drive into the park on the opposite side of the river. Leopard Lodge is on the north side of the Kafue River in Lunga Luswishi Game Management Area. They do get plenty of wildlife in the lodge grounds but the viewing is often better within the park. We crossed the river by boat and then got onto their safari vehicle. Peter, the driver, and Honest, the guide, were perfect companions taking us round all the spots which are favoured by wildlife. And, what did we see? Not a lot!



We spent the heat of the day relaxing watching the river and chatting. And then it was time for the afternoon ride around Lunga Luswishi. First we went to have a look at some nearby hot springs. Hot springs always amaze me – where do they come from and why do they bubble up to the surface – my geology is not that good, so maybe someone can enlighten me.



park and along the river. Looking down we could see elephants, seeming like ants. The trees were mirrored in the river. The distance was haze.

Peter and Honest were telling us stories of what they

Then we drove to a high point known as Kaingu View. From here we could see for miles over the





had seen on previous occasions and of all the incidents with wildlife they had witnessed. But what did we see? Not a lot. I thought to myself that seeing 'notalot' was going to be the story of our safari to Kafue National Park this time. I am never disappointed because I am in the parks so often and I know that this happens. It is not every day you get to see leopards or wild dogs. You know they are there, though, and just unlucky enough not to see them.

We returned to camp, seeing one serval in the spotlight. I felt so sorry for Peter and Honest who were so keen to show us all the fantastic wildlife in the area. They really tried. But, I'm afraid, it was 'notalot'.

Well, we were off again the following day ... but I was woken in the morning by the sound of lions nearby. It was that lion noise which is not threatening; just the sound they make to communicate and let the world know that they are lions and that this is their territory.

When I walked to the deck, Peter and Honest were there with binoculars looking over the river. He told me that the lions were within the treeline by the river. And then we saw one of them padding through the dry grass.

Elize appeared. *Would you like to go over and find them?* I said: *Yes, please.* Peter and Honest quickly organised the boat and off we went, crossing the river and climbing onto the vehicle. We drove off. The lions had disappeared. The grass was that yellow long stuff. Where were they? We waited. Honest told Peter to take the vehicle through the long grass to a particular spot. We bumped over the floodplain, stopped and waited. And then, after a while, there they came - two males in the prime of life. We watched. Amazing.

There was some 'icing on the cake' of our trip to Kafue. It doesn't matter how much we kid ourselves that seeing one of Africa's predators 'is not important', it certainly does make a difference. I smiled as I watched them walk through the grass along the Kafue River. Meanwhile, not far away, the puku were also watching ...



It would seem that Livingstone is not the only town to have a dog problem. In the news this week, the District Council Secretary for Kabompo, Francis Nkhoma, has said that they are to levy K20 on each dog. He mentioned the alarming increase in stray dogs in the town.

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## Karoo to acquire Chirundu Uranium Project in Zambia

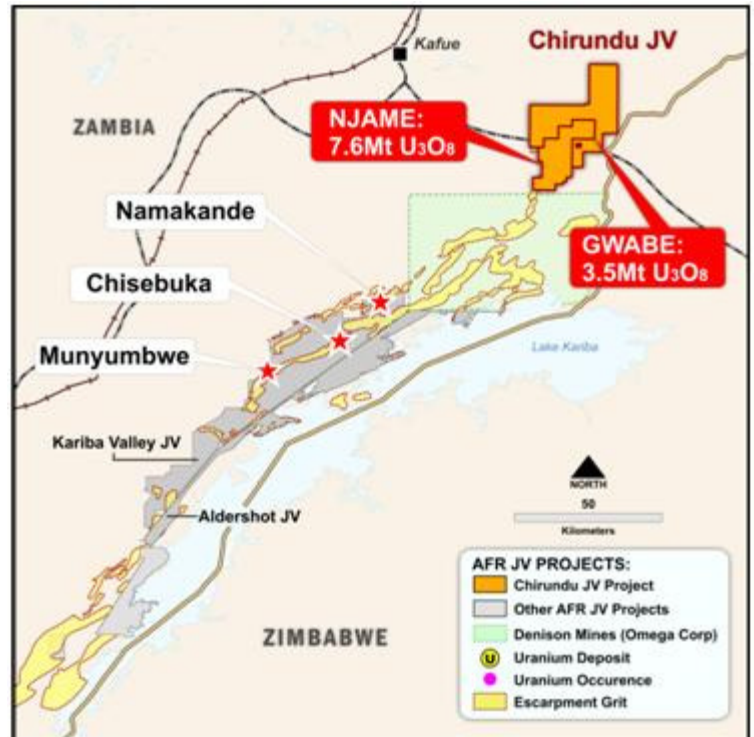
Press Release from Karoo Exploration

VANCOUVER, Sept. 30, 2013 /CNW/ - Karoo Exploration Corp. (the "Company") (TSX-V: KE.V) is pleased to announce that it was entered into a letter of intent pursuant to which it will acquire the Chirundu Project, along with a portfolio of uranium properties, in Zambia, from African Energy Resources Ltd. (ASX: AFR). African Energy is an arm's-length party, listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, and is a mining development company focused on Botswana and Zambia.

The Chirundu Project will add to Karoo's existing portfolio of Uranium projects in Africa. The properties are located in the south and northeast of Zambia, and are comprised of the Chirundu, Kariba Valley, and North Luangwa Valley projects. The uranium mineralization at Chirundu and Kariba is hosted by Karoo Supergroup sediments, whereas the North Luangwa Valley mineralization is hosted in feldspathic gneisses of the Karoo basement.

From African Energy:

The Chirundu feasibility study is based on an operation utilising open pit mining and sulphuric acid heap leaching of the uranium ores, with mining initially from the Njame deposit only, followed by Gwabe once Njame has been exhausted. ...



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## Chembe Bird Sanctuary

From the Zambia Weekly

Government will soon remove squatters and 84 saw millers operating in Chembe Bird Sanctuary in Kalulushi – which it intends to revive to promote tourism, reported the Daily Mail.

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## Take the canal ferry to Angola!

From the Zambia Weekly

Angola has started the \$40 million Shang'ombo-Rivungu Canal Development Project in Western Province. The 8-10-kilometre (depending on reports) canal is meant to create a new trade route between Zambia (Shang'ombo) and Angola (Rivungo). Even though the entire canal is within Angola, the contractor, Clay Disposal of South Africa, will be working from Zambia. In this area the border is located at the eastern bank of the floodplain of the Cuando River. This is where Shang'ombo is located, while Rivungo is on the western bank of the river further downstream. The project will consist of a ferry system capable of carrying a truckload of up to 60 tonnes along with passengers. In addition, customs and immigrations offices, police and banking facilities, terminal buildings and staff housing will be built in both countries. The canal project was the brainchild of the previous MMD government. In 2007, the project was reported to cost about \$240,000, but then it also included a 7-kilometre bridge across the Cuando River and a railway link. The two latter components are still on the agenda: Angola is allegedly building a railway to Rivungo, an oil pipeline and a fuel depot at Rivungo, and authorities in Zambia are still talking about the bridge.



I have had a go at drawing a map just to see where this new canal will be located and whether it will help tourism. It could, of course, but only if Angola does something about its borders. I doubt that there is much wildlife left in all the Reserves shown in Angola but it would certainly be nice to see.

The Cuando River, of course, becomes the Kwando when it enters Namibia.



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## OTHER STUFF

### Fog Harvesting

From Engineering News

Fog harvesting could assist in dealing with water shortages in rural areas where there were no major surface- or groundwater resources and where it is not economically viable to install a water reticulation network, the Water Research Commission (WRC) has found.

Speaking at the Water Research and Development Technology Symposium in Pretoria, Science and Technology Minister Derek Hanekom stated that, while the South African government had achieved a great deal in terms of water service delivery, millions of people in rural communities still had to walk long distances to collect water, mostly from polluted streams.

As fog occurred frequently along the west coast of South Africa, as well as in the mountains forming the southern and eastern escarpment, the WRC had funded research projects to determine the feasibility of fog water harvesting and to optimise the structure and design of fog water harvesting systems.



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### From African Indaba

Finally the worsening poaching crisis has reached the political world. The UN, ADB and Interpol are working at action plans; IUCN is preparing an elephant conference in Botswana; President Barack Obama has promised some assistance and the Clinton Global Initiative has invited African leaders to sign a moratorium on ivory trade in Washington. Prince Charles is likewise organizing a high level meeting of invited Heads of States from Africa to a discussion on wildlife crime. His sons, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry, went one step further and created a new global conservation organization, called "United for Wildlife". Footballer David Beckham registered as the first fan and member. It remains to be seen how effective the well-intentioned mix of political heavyweights, glamour and royalty will be at the end of the day in saving elephants and rhino (see <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/prince-william/10304841/Duke-of-Cambridge-and-David-Beckham-join-forces-to-fight-illegal-wildlife-trade.html>).

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## Queues into Parks

If there is one problem we don't have in our parks in the region it is queues. We hear of them in other countries, but not for us. A friend went to Kruger National Park the other week and sent me some photos:



Although we could do with some more visitors to our parks, I hope we don't get like this!

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## THE SMILE

### Chinese Rule Book

HONG KONG - Mainland tourists pouring into Hong Kong on the first day of the annual "golden week" holiday yesterday said they were happy to comply with new rules on how to behave when traveling.

The national tourism administration issued a 64-page rulebook containing regulations forbidding mainland tourists to behave in "uncivilised" ways while overseas on Wednesday. The rules, which went into force yesterday, urged travelers to "behave" and "abide by the norms of civilised tourist behavior".

General guidelines include not spitting on the streets, not shouting in public areas, not forcing locals to help take pictures, not throwing rubbish and not picking their noses ...

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Have a good week

Gill

