

The Livingstone Weekly

7 July 2013

Dear All

My header is Ngonye Falls, known often as Sioma Falls. They are on the Zambezi River about 120 km north of Sesheke.

LIVINGSTONE

LAPS

After a bit of a delay, Livingstone Animal Protection Society (LAPS) held its book sale at Kubu Café on Saturday.

Sue Brink had also brought along some amazing solar lights for sale. The lights were a real attraction for everyone, especially as one type could be used to charge cell phones from the



small solar panel. (Even I bought two - one because I decided it was ideal for camping trips and the other one

for my 'lady-wot-does' so she can have a light in her room). These lights are ideal as gifts for children to read at night – great incentive for them to learn. Sue can get more (she sold out at the sale), so if you or your lodge want to get some for sale or to give as presents contact her on suzyb@livingstonesadventure.com – all proceeds for LAPS.



Lucy worked like a demon organising the event and her factory has made donation boxes so that people can donate to the cause. Find one in Shoprite and put in your change ... it will all add up to help the government vet to help our animals.

Ngonye Falls

At the end of June, a friend, Venice, and I took to the road and headed towards Sesheke and Ngonye Falls. Last week I told you about the road and the new bridge to be constructed near Maziba Bay.

We had booked in at Kabula Lodge. There are only three lodges along this stretch of the river now. Sakazima Island Lodge is on an island in the Zambezi and is used for groups. Mutemwa Lodge is an upmarket lodge catering to the avid fisherman. Kabula is a lodge a bit further north ... and is for people like me ...

We arrived at Kabula latish in the afternoon and



bit squonk, having been made of local materials of wood, reed and thatch. They are, of course, full of character because of this.

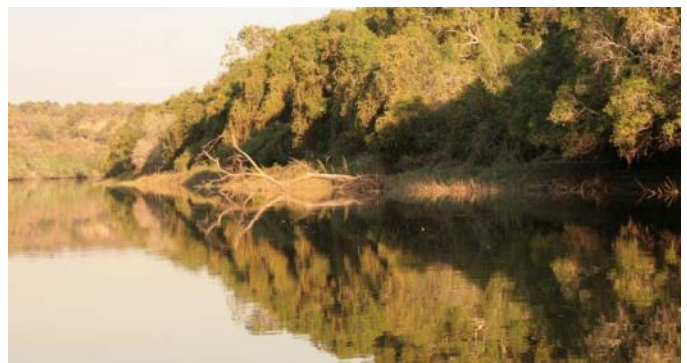
Behind the chalets there is a large kitchen with all the pots, pans, cutlery, glasses you need. There are gas cookers. Outside the kitchen there is a barbeque site and at the rear a scullery. It is all organised!

Venice and I set to making our supper and then sat to enjoy the peace and quiet. The river was like glass just sliding past; the only ripples to be seen were those of fish jumping. Venice had brought her fishing rod and hoped to have a bit of a go at catching a tigerfish which this area is famed for.



were shown to our chalets by Lloyd. Lloyd is the ZIC but only works when there is work to be had. We found this out later when we were told that most of the staff had all been put on piecework since the advent of the new minimum wage.

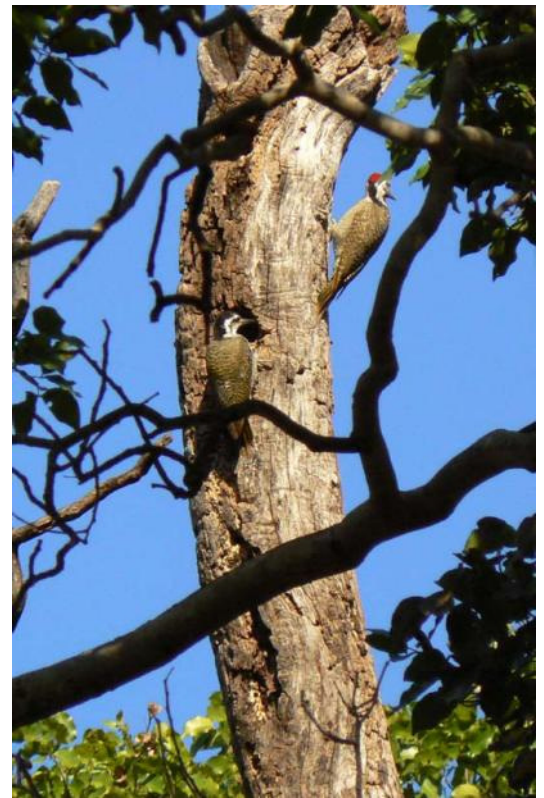
Kabula is a self-catering lodge. The chalets are all self-contained, most facing the river. They are all a



In the morning I got up early and Venice had a lie in. I went for a walk along the sandy road to the main road. I was surprised to see some spoor of small animals and found out later, chatting to Lloyd, that there *are* animals – elephant, waterbuck, buffalo, duiker. It would seem that the efforts of Peace Parks and their work in the area are beginning to show results.

I found a pair of bearded woodpeckers in a tree. I know someone will write in and tell me that they are not bearded woodpeckers, so I look forward to that!

When Venice had surfaced we quickly had breakfast and headed out to Ngonye Falls about 50 km away.



The area around Ngonye Falls has been fenced off. One section is used as a campsite where some impala have been introduced. I was told that there are plans to bring in more animals when time and

money allows. The other section is the entrance to the falls themselves. We paid our dues of K26,040. As soon as I had been told the price I knew that they had been set by ZAWA who likes to add the K40, just to make change difficult. Why? We also had to pay the same amount for the car.

Our guide was Aaron and he came with us, picking up some paddles on the way. Oh no, I thought, we are going in a makora, so was delighted to see a 'normal' boat parked by the river's edge. Aaron paddled us across a small channel to an 'island'. From there we could see the main section of the falls. There are eight sections to the falls and some can only be seen from the island.



I chatted to Aaron and his pals afterwards about how the area is run. They told me that it is a community project and that all the money goes to the people who work there. ZAWA is involved as research support only. One of the staff made me laugh when he pointed to a room and



said: *They work in there and have computers!*

Just as we were about to leave 5 cars drew up. I knew that Aaron and his co-staff were going to be very happy that day and that they would be paid.

We then returned to Kabula because we had booked a boat ride on the river. Lloyd took us out and we toured the river, still glass-like. There are two islands nearby, one called Kabula and the other Buffalo. Kabula Island gets its name from a tree which has really good fruit which the people like. I looked the name up in the book but couldn't find it. Anyone out there know more? Buffalo Island used to be a favourite spot for buffalo but they were all shot for the pot in the 1990s.



The cruise was very enjoyable. Venice and Lloyd did a spot of fishing but did not catch supper; they didn't even have a bite. We watched kingfishers, fish eagles and bee-eaters and then saw some of the Kabula staff leaving work and heading home across the river in their makora.

The evening was spent cooking on a fire. We came home the following day.



Hydro-Electric Scheme at Ngonye Falls

In the news, not long ago, there was a story about a hydroelectric scheme to be put at Ngonye Falls. I asked the guys what they knew about it.

They told me that some 'white men' had been there recently to talk to the communities. The people had been told that they would get work by digging a channel between the Litunga's Channel and the river. It would divert the water from above the falls to a point downstream. Turbines would be put on the channel to generate power. The people were told that the power would be sold to ZESCO and that it would mean that they could have electricity in their homes. They also mentioned that the electricity would be exported to Angola.



Being the eternal sceptic I feel that it is unlikely that the people will get power in the homes. We know from Livingstone that most people cannot afford electricity. I opt for most of the power being exported to Angola.

In order to achieve the aim of generating power the falls themselves will be degraded by receiving less water. This will not matter when the water is high, but may have a big effect during low water levels. It will be a similar scenario to Victoria Falls on the Zambian side.

Litunga's Channel

Just to give you a bit of a story about the Litunga's Channel which is a National Heritage site, is that it was dug in 1908. In those days trade was conducted by boat and the Litunga had already dug many channels in the Batotse Floodplain in order to ease movement of boats. He wanted to get round Ngonye Falls and decided that he would dig a channel round them. At that time it was necessary to take all the boats out of the river and portage around the Ngonye Falls. Litunga's Channel was never completed and used.

Events on the Way

13-14 July: Vic Falls Marathon
25-27 July: Pumping Legs for Water.
Hwange National Park
24-29 August: UNWTO
11-16 August: Cycle Zambia.
26 October: Zambezi Kayak Festival.
26-31 October: World Adventure
Travel Summit. Windhoek

Travel + Leisure Awards 2013

Travel + Leisure Awards are done every year: *For T+L's 18th annual poll, we asked our discerning readers once again to cast their votes for the hotels, destinations, and companies that define the very best in travel. The result? One of our most robust lists to date, with new categories including top hotel brands and airports.*

ZAMBIA

Royal Livingstone, LIVINGSTONE

BOTSWANA

Mombo Camp and Little Mombo Camp, MOREMI GAME RESERVE

While we were travelling along the road from Kazungula to Sesheke we noticed a very long fence being erected. I assume that this is it:

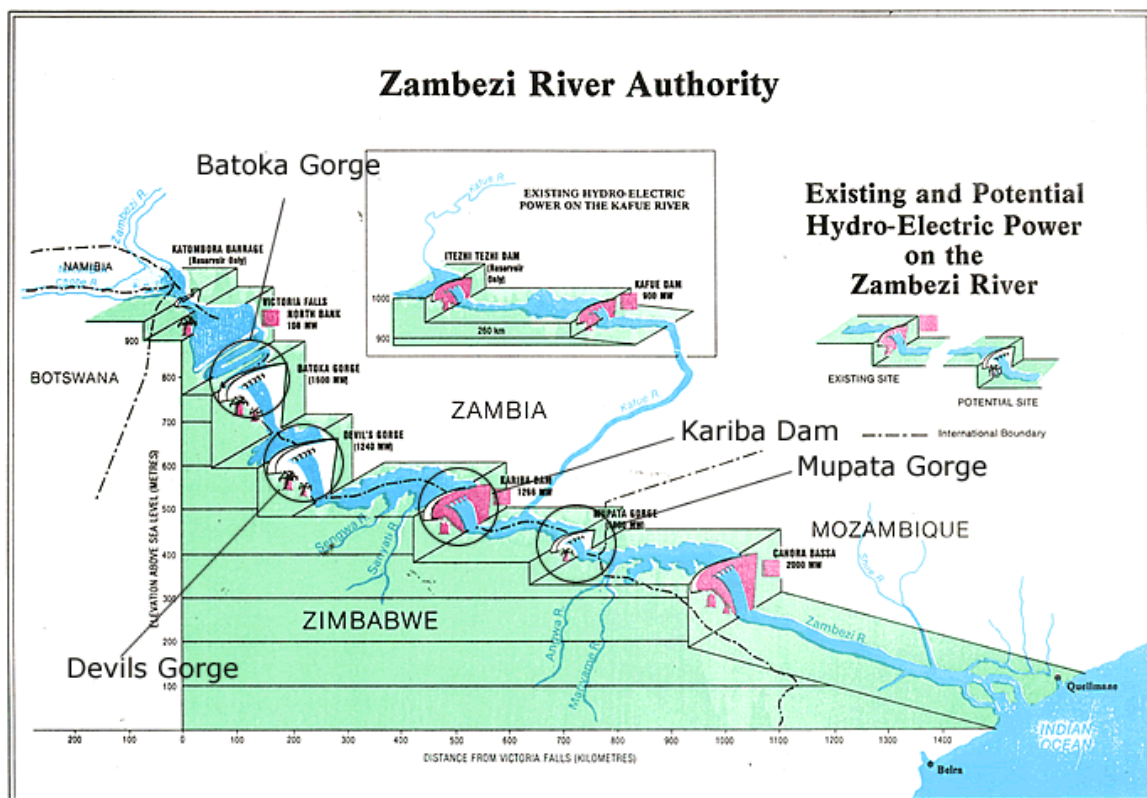
Project Summary:

The proposed phased development comprises a greenfield's sugar cane processing business including some 15,000 ha of sugar cane and an integrated process plant to produce bio-ethanol, 13 MW green power and sugar while creating approximately 7 000 direct jobs and further supporting the community by developing an outgrower scheme for the local people.

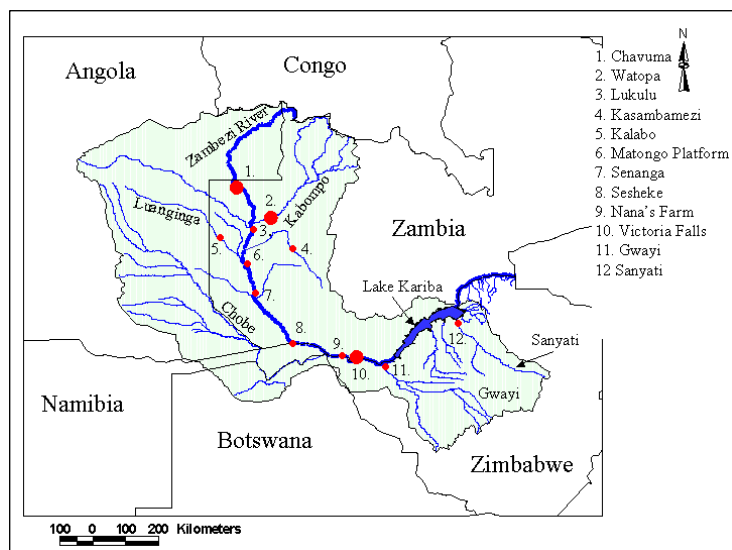
PGBI will construct this complex and will also be a part owner-operator. The Feasibility Study includes the financing of the programme as a public/ private partnership involving the Government of Zambia, a private operating partner, equity funding and grant funding through international finance institutions.

Gill Comment: *Great about the jobs but this does mean lots more water coming out of the Zambezi – sugar cane is very thirsty.*

We now have Zambia taking water for this project; Botswana to take water for Pandamatenga and Francistown; Zimbabwe taking water for Bulawayo. Has anyone researched the effects of all this loss of water in the Zambezi to the Victoria Falls (and its power station), the proposed Batoka Dam and Kariba Dam too. Interesting times ahead ...



This map is from the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) and the proposed and existing dams. I think we need to do some really serious re-working of plans for the Zambezi River.



Here is the ZRA map of the Zambezi River Basin. According to things that I have read, for the health of the environment, we should never take water from one river basin to another. Already, it seems that we have agreed to take water out of the Zambezi River Basin to Pandamatenga/Francistown and to Bulawayo.

I am not clever at this sort of stuff but I do feel that there is something wrong and that we (actually not me, but my children) will regret it in the future.

Fences around National Parks

The Minister of Tourism, Sylvia Masebo, has said that government will erect fences around some sections of National Parks where there is human-wildlife conflict. Luangwa District will be first on the list. Research is being done to make sure that the correct areas will be fenced. Sioma-Ngwezi was also on the list.

Gill Comment: Sandy Simpson who is working on the lights as fences is happy with the results in Livingstone. It is certainly a much cheaper option than erecting a wire fence. Maybe this should be considered.

Minibuses in all colours of the rainbow

From the Zambia Weekly

Government has introduced new colours for minibuses and other public service vehicles according to the provinces, including Lusaka (orange), Central (yellow), Copperbelt (copper), Northwestern (silver), Western (light brown), Southern (purple amethyst), Eastern (emerald green), Muchinga (wispy or lime green), Northern (red) and Luapula (sky blue). The new regulations are backed by Statutory Instrument 39 of 2013. The colours are supposed to be applied as reflective ribbons along the body of the vehicle. The new colours will have to be applied to all vehicles with effect from 15 August – although minibuses already painted blue has a grace period of one year. Luxury coaches are exempted from the new rules.

Government has re-issued the controversial Statutory

From the Zambia Weekly

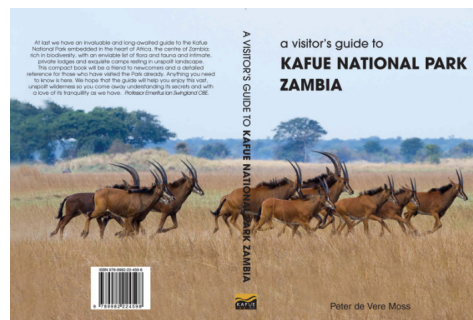
Instrument (SI) 32 of 2013 as a more moderate SI 55. The SI backs the recently passed Bank of Zambia (amendment) Bill, which allows the Bank of Zambia (BoZ) to regulate and monitor imports and exports as well as financial in- and outflows. "Arising from the engagements between the BoZ and stakeholders, it became clear that some provisions of SI 32 would impede the smooth flow of business," BoZ Governor Michael Gondwe stated.

SI 55 has softened some of the requirements of SI 32, including the income repatriation period: In SI 32 an exporter shall, within 60 days of the date of shipment of any goods, remit the proceeds of the exports into the exporter's foreign currency denominated account.

In SI 55 an exporter shall notify the commercial bank, at which the exporter maintains a foreign currency denominated account, of the receipts of export proceeds within 120 days from the date of receipt of the export proceeds.

In addition, SI 32 stated that it applied to an importer or exporter of goods or services exceeding \$10,000 or the equivalent in foreign currency, whereas SI 55 has increased the amount to \$20,000. Finally the new SI 55 does no longer apply to “any transfer or receipt of money in foreign currency into or out of Zambia exceeding \$5,000” as in the old SI 32. This section has been completely removed. Other changes can be compared on www.zambialii.org/zm/legislation/statutory-instrument/2013/32 (Statutory Instrument 32) and www.zambian-economist.com/2013/06/bank-of-zambia-monitoring-of-balance-of.html (Statutory Instrument 55). The new SI 55 came into effect on 1 July.

The Book – Kafue National Park is now available on Amazon.



Kaingu Lodge, Kafue

On Facebook

Driving back last night after picking up our delivery - one civet, one honey badger, two sides-striped jackals and then a pack of 9 wild dogs! To spend time with 9 wild dogs in the pitch dark was quite awe inspiring. I spent 5 mins about 10m from them on my own in the dark. The dogs were closer to me than I was to the vehicle. Repeat to self: "there has never been a recorded attack on a human by wild dogs". One of those spine tingling moments that makes for memories.

Royal Chundu, near Kazungula

on Facebook

Thank you Goldstone family for this great pic you took of a civet taken whilst enjoying a Royal Chundu sunset cruise.



Mvuu Lodge, Lower Zambezi

On Facebook

The Samango Monkey, also known as the Syke's Monkey, can occasionally be seen swinging in the trees around Mvuu Lodge. They are a somewhat rare sight, but sometimes when baboons are not around they can be seen searching the grounds for grub. Samangos are a favorite at Mvuu because they don't bother humans like their naughty cousins the Vervet Monkeys



ZIMBABWE

Permanent Structure For UNWTO Convention Centre Under Construction and Elections ...

According to a report in Bernama, a permanent structure for the UNWTO is being constructed at Elephant Hills Resort. With just over one month to go, I hope they have their skates on.

In the meantime, elections have been set for 31 July and all the politicians are getting down to campaigning. There won't be much thought put on the UNWTO until the elections are over. I expect, too, that many visitors will be put off coming to Zimbabwe for this month. I do hope the elections are peaceful, but with the benefit of hindsight, we know that this is unlikely.

The Hide, Hwange, on Facebook

*Wakey Wakey!!!
Good morning
world....it is time to
get up! Rise and
shine, on a chilly
winters morning!
Thank you to Jean
Blake for sharing this
great picture!*



BOTSWANA

Motswiri Camp, Moremi On Facebook

Grant managed to capture a stunning journey of giraffe a few days ago whilst at fly camp



Sanctuary Retreats, Moremi

On Facebook

Our teams at Stanley's and Baines' helped rescue a giraffe last week in Botswana, alongside the Anti-Poaching unit.

The giraffe's leg had been caught in a snare, but we're now happy to report that the giraffe is on the way to full recovery - well done to all involved!



Desert & Delta, Moremi

on Facebook

The heat of the afternoon sun was starting to cool down when we spotted the Serval cat along the flood plain hunting. We followed it for a couple of minutes and finally caught a snake in front of us.



NAMIBIA

Ichingo River Lodge on Facebook

Ichingo Chobe River Lodge is very excited to be welcoming Steve Townson to our area in October. Steve is out to film for his new unbelievable fly fishing safaris that he is putting together. For more information please look at <http://www.fishandfly.com/news/3297-africa-beckons-as-a-family-fishing-safari-destination.html> which will certainly entice those avid anglers....

OTHER STUFF

Meetings

We are addicted to meetings and often I have commented that we have meetings just to plan for the next meeting! That is one reason I will not attend meetings anymore. I have spent hours and hours in meetings and generally come away from them feeling very irritated.

The other week I listened to Active Monze, Chairman of LTA, on the radio. He commented on meetings when they are between the public and private sector. He mentioned that government officers often arrived late, very late, while the private sector sat and waited. He then said that when the meeting got underway it went on for a long, long time ... His point was that government officers do not have the same time constraints as the private sector – to the private sector, time is money and that every 5 minutes lost

maybe a business opportunity missed. My point would be that government officers are paid to attend meetings whereas private operators are not!

I found an article on LinkedIn which may be useful for anyone organising a meeting:

How to eliminate useless meetings

Jeff Weiner at Linked In

Ask your team to identify their biggest productivity killer and inevitably two issues will rise to the top of the list: managing their inboxes and their meeting schedules. I'll tackle the former in a future post. For now, I'd like to focus on increasing the value of meetings by sharing a practice our team has implemented to great effect.

At LinkedIn, we have essentially eliminated the presentation. In lieu of that, we ask that materials that would typically have been presented during a meeting be sent out to participants at least 24 hours in advance so people can familiarize themselves with the content.

Bear in mind: Just because the material has been sent doesn't mean it will be read. Taking a page out of Jeff Bezo's book, we begin each meeting by providing attendees roughly 5-10 minutes to read through the deck. If people have already read it, this gives them an opportunity to refresh their memory, identify areas they'd like to go deeper on, or just catch up on email.

If the idea of kicking off a meeting with up to 10 minutes of silence strikes you as odd, you're not alone. The first time I read about this practice it immediately conjured up images of a library or study hall, two of the last forums I would equate with meeting productivity. However, after the first few times you try it, not only won't it be awkward -- it will be welcome. This is particularly true when meetings end early with participants agreeing it was time well spent.

Once folks have completed the reading, it's time to open it up for discussion. There is no presentation. It's important to stay vigilant on this point as most people who prepared the materials will reflexively begin presenting. If you are concerned about appearing insensitive by not allowing individuals who worked hard on the materials to have their moment, constructively remind the group this is a new practice that is being applied to the entire company and will benefit all meeting attendees, including the artist formerly known as The Presenter.

With the presentation eliminated, the meeting can now be exclusively focused on generating a valuable discourse: Providing shared context, diving deeper on particularly cogent data and insights, and perhaps most importantly, having a meaningful debate.

If the material has been well thought out and simply and intuitively articulated, chances are the need for clarifying questions will be kept to a minimum. In these situations, you may be pleasantly surprised to see a meeting that had been scheduled for an hour is actually over after 20-30 minutes.

Of course, even the best prepared material may reach a highly contentious recommendation or conclusion. However, the good news is meeting attendees will now be able to dig into the subject matter and share their real opinions rather than waste time listening to an endless re-hashing of points they're already familiar with, or worse still find irrelevant or redundant.

In addition to eliminating presentations in favor of discussions, the following are a few additional practices I've learned along the way when it comes to running effective meetings:

- 1. Define the objective of the meeting.** Asking one simple question at the onset of the meeting, "What is the objective of this meeting," can prove invaluable in terms of ensuring everyone is on the same page and focused on keeping the meeting on point, rather than allowing it to devolve down endless ratholes

unrelated to the matter at hand. I've seen some companies go as far as including the meeting objective on the cover sheet of the materials.

2. Identify who is driving. Each meeting needs one person behind the wheel. More than one driver and it's going to be prohibitively difficult to keep the car on the road. The primary role of this point person is to ensure the conversation remains relevant, that no one person ends up dominating the discussion, and that adjunct discussions that arise during the course of the meeting are taken offline.

3. Take the time to define semantics (and first principles). It never ceases to amaze me how often meetings go off the rails by virtue of semantic differences. Picture a United Nations General Assembly gathering without the real-time translation headphones and you'll have the right visual. Words have power, and as such, it's worth investing time upfront to ensure everyone is on the same page in terms of what certain keywords, phrases, and concepts mean to the various constituencies around the table.

4. Assign someone to take notes. This should not be the equivalent of a court stenographer documenting every word uttered, but rather someone who is well versed in the meeting's objectives and who has a clear understanding of context that can capture only the most salient points. This not only avoids the classic Rashomon effect -- multiple people recalling one event in multiple ways -- but also creates a plan of record for what was discussed and agreed to. This can also be particularly valuable for invitees who weren't able to make the meeting.

5. Summarize key action items, deliverables, and points of accountability. Don't end the meeting without summarizing key conclusions, action items, and points of accountability for delivering on next steps. This summary is usually the first thing to suffer if the meeting has run long and people start running off to their next scheduled event. However, it's arguably the single most important thing you'll do at the meeting (and is ostensibly the reason for the meeting to begin with). Have the discipline to ensure attendees sit tight and remain focused while next steps are being discussed and agreed to.

6. Ask what you can do better. I like to gather feedback at the end of meetings I'm responsible for (particularly if it's a new standing meeting) by asking whether or not the attendees found it valuable and what we can do to improve it in the future. There is no better way to ensure the meeting is necessary. If it's not, either change the objective and/or format, or take it off the calendar.

Saving the Tigerfish

For all those fishermen and women who are saddened when they release their tigerfish back into the water only to see it die, here are some tips from <http://www.fishtube.tv/conservation/entry/boga-man.html>

... Lip-grippers have been shown to reduce damage associated with excessive handling and using landing nets to boat fish³. On the other hand, this needs to be balanced against the chance of causing the type of injury observed in bonefish and barramundi when lip-grippers are used improperly. The benefits of using innovations in fishing gear need to be taken in context. Responsible anglers should use these tools with caution. If equipment or a technique causes excessive injury, change your equipment or the way that you use it. I have had excellent release success using the new generation rubber landing nets, and a weigh-bag to support fish for weighing with a digital scale. Supporting a fish with one hand on the tail and another underneath the midsection for photographs works well too (always wet your hands first). Fish presented in this way make for much better photographs than a tiger fish dangling forlornly like a piece of meat on a stainless steel prong....



Whatever tackle or equipment you use, it is important to understand the associated risks and consider the welfare of each and every fish that you catch. Be prepared to adapt the way that you use your gear. Even slight changes to the way that you catch and handle fish can make a difference to their successful release, and letting them truly roam free.

Bomb-test fallout could catch illegal ivory traders

From New Scientist

Nuclear bomb tests 50 years ago have given us a conservation weapon. Determining the levels of radioactive isotope in ivory should allow us to find out whether it is being illegally traded.

The amount of carbon-14 in the atmosphere peaked in 1962 just before the introduction of an international ban on surface testing of nuclear weapons. The rapid rise and subsequent decline of this isotope is known as the bomb curve.

Animal cells take up carbon-14 when they are formed, and because the decay rate of carbon-14 is known, the time of death can be deduced from the amount of isotope left. Linking the amount of carbon-14 found in organic material with the bomb curve has been used to date human tooth enamel and even regenerating brain cells.

Kevin Uno at Columbia University in Palisades, New York, and colleagues have now used the technique to test 29 samples including elephant tusks and rhino horn collected in East Africa. They dated them to within about 1.4 years of the known collection date.

The technique could be used to age confiscated animal parts – to determine, say, whether African elephant ivory was harvested before or after the 1989 trade ban. Or it could be used as part of a series of forensic techniques to separate ivory obtained during legal culls – necessary to control some elephant large populations – from illegal poaching, says Elias Sideras-Haddad of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, who proposed a similar dating technique in 2001.

But Sideras-Haddad points out that the window for carbon-14 dating is closing, because atmospheric levels will soon have returned to pre-1950s amounts. "You can see from the bomb curve we are nearly back to normal levels," he says.

THE SMILE



Have a good week

Gill