



Dear All

My header is from Hwange Safari Lodge. A herd of about 80-100 buffalo came down to the waterhole to entertain us. Not much else exciting. We did hear hyena and jackal, though, after dark ... always spooky to hear them call ...

Hwange Safari Lodge is, as you know, one of my favourite places to stay. It is very convenient from the main road between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls. The road is tar so I can get my small car there.

The lodge is slowly improving. The food is definitely much, much better.

I got up early and wandered downstairs to sit and look at the waterhole. The kitchens were only just getting going and they were cooking on gas as the power was off. I wanted coffee but it wasn't ready.

A while later, two other guests arrived on the lawns and sat watching the view.

Knowing that I wanted coffee, one of the waiters came round with a tray and served us all with that welcoming morning cup. How good is that!



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### Harare to Home

This week we travelled from Harare to Victoria Falls Town. What a journey between Harare and Bulawayo. If we went through one road block we must have gone through 30. At most of the blocks we were waved through, fortunately.

Travelling between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls Town, there were fewer road blocks but we were stopped at most of them. Driving Licence or TIP required. At one I was told that the crack in my windscreen was a fineable offence and I must pay US\$15. I argued with the policemen and was eventually allowed to go without paying the fine. At two other road blocks I was asked for a cool drink. At one my boot was opened to inspect the fire extinguisher and the policeman wanted my books ...

It all got a bit tiring. I had just got through one irritating roadblock so took off at speed in sheer annoyance only to be caught by a speed trap 500m down the road and required to pay a fine of US\$15 – a fine I could hardly argue with.

The journey was a nightmare. I always wonder why we have so many roadblocks. The main one, of course, is for the police to earn an income and the second one has to be intimidation of the people ...

## ZIMBABWE REPUBLIC POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS – ROAD BLOCKS

**If you feel that while you are being questioned or searched at a roadblock, the details involved have harassed you, hinted for bribes, or been generally aggressive, you are advised to contact the ZRP Officers listed below.**

**The intention is for all ZRP details to have their rank, name and numbers on their uniforms but with current constraints this is not always possible. Each Police Officer has a force number which should be given out if requested.**

**It should be noted that there are NO SUCH THING AS SPOT FINES, without an OFFICIAL RECEIPT, that is Form Z69 (j) Admission of Guilt. Many Road Blocks carry Z69 (j) for the convenience of the public. Should it be inconvenient to pay immediately a "ticket" on Form 265 for payment at a Police Station within 7 days should be requested. Failure to report to a Police Station within 7 days once Form 265 is issued will lead to prosecution.**

**NATIONAL COMPLAINTS LINE: - 24 HOUR Service (04) 703 631**

**Superintendent PHIRI: - Public Relations  
Superintendent NCUBE: - 0772 719 730 or 0712 769 768  
Superintendent KANGWARE: - 0712 415 491  
Spokesperson Traffic Inspector Chigome: - 0772 965 030**

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### Water and Ice Cream

When I returned home I found my garden really dry. Water had been short. This happens every year at this time. The temperatures are in the 30-40 range. The water company says that they cannot keep up with demand at this time of year. It made me think about ice cream parlours in town. I am sure that owners of these businesses know that the temperatures are going to mean that people will want to buy more ice cream at this time of year and they make sure they have plenty to sell – makes business sense. So why doesn't our water company make sure that they have plenty of water to sell???

The good news is that the water company is making a plan ... they are constructing a pontoon in the river so that they can pump more water ... it will be ready mid-October. By then, of course, my garden will be dead ... but this happens every year ... maybe next year will be different ...

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### Tujilijili – a lesson learned?

Some months ago government banned Tujilijili. Tujilijili is small sachets of alcohol which people could buy in shops and in the market. Most sachets were drunk immediately by tearing off a corner of the sachet and taking a swig to get that important hit anytime of the day. Quite rightly the government moved in and banned the packaging and sale of Tujilijili. Not only were the sachets banned by an Act of Parliament, it was actually enforced by the police. Although there are rumblings of Tujilijili still being available here and there, the practice is long-gone.

So, why is it that the lighting of bushfires is illegal and yet the practice continues? Bushfires are one of the most devastating acts committed by man on their environment. It is not just Zambia, of course, bushfires are an African problem. As I drove through Zimbabwe last week I was shocked at the state of the environment. A country where once manmade bushfires were unknown is now being destroyed by them.



I mention Zimbabwe because I was there. I know by the state of the haze around Livingstone that our countryside is equally ablaze.

I have a feeling that the government is going to have to stand up and take notice of this perennial problem soon. The journalists are becoming more aware of the need to protect the environment and they are 'making noise'.

Here is a bit of an article by Charles Chisala, from the Daily Mail:

*BUSH fires allegedly lit by some Livingstone residents have swept through thousands of hectares of the Mosi-o-Tunya National Park, forcing hundreds of wild animals, birds and other creatures to shift southwards.*

*And the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) has warned Livingstone residents against indiscriminate lighting of fires in the park because they will be arrested and prosecuted if caught. Government has also condemned the practice and urged ZAWA and the Livingstone City Council to come up with a joint sensitisation campaign to educate residents on the negative effects of bush fires in the park on tourism and the environment.*

*Southern Province permanent secretary Chileshe Mulenga said in an interview in Livingstone yesterday it is important for ZAWA and the city council to sensitise the residents living on the eastern boundary of the park on the dangers of igniting fires in protected areas.*

*"If we destroy our game park, we will be destroying tourism which has been bringing a lot of money into our country. What is lacking is awareness. ZAWA, the council and the media can work together in sensitising the public on this serious issue," Dr Mulenga said. ...*

The article goes on mentioning politicians making all the right noises about how shocking it all is and that it must end. But why don't we do something to enforce the law that it is illegal to light fires indiscriminately? Is it too difficult? We stopped Tujilijili, why can't we stop bushfires?

And, as they say on the *Zambian News* ... meanwhile ...

Livingstone has been planting trees. Last week the Town Clerk, Vivian Chikoti, was seen on her hands and knees planting a tree and this week Livingstone journalists planted more. They planted them at the Livingstone General Hospital.

The planting of the trees was part of the World Tourism Week celebrations. The planting was done in conjunction with Zambezi Nkuku, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCSZ), Forestry Department and Livingstone Tourism Association.

(I wonder what would happen if I came along to the Livingstone General Hospital and set fire to them all???)

Anyhow, here is a bit of the article from the *Zambia Times*:

*Speaking after the exercise at the hospital, Livingstone Press Club vice-president Mercy Ngoma said trees were nature's air conditioners by taking in carbon dioxide and by providing the much needed oxygen for human survival.*

*"Without trees our very existence as humans is under threat. It is, therefore, important that we take measures such as today's tree planting activity to promote a safer environment for ourselves and generations to come," she said. ...*

*WCSZ Livingstone Chapter chairperson Benjamin Mibenge urged the Livingstone Press Club to make the tree planting exercise an annual event. Mr Mibenge, who facilitated the exercise, urged the media in Zambia to educate the public on the dangers of reckless cutting down of trees.*

*He said once all the trees were destroyed, the country would become a desert, hence the public should be sensitised on the importance of replenishing the environment.*

Meanwhile ...

When I was driving along Airport Road two weeks ago I noticed that a group of men were axing down a tree by the roadside opposite Wasawange Lodge. I knew that I should stop and do something, but knew that the life of the tree had already been destroyed. By the time I had got to the Council to complain and found someone to take an interest, the tree would have been down. Anyhow, it would appear that it was the Livingstone City Council that had ordered its death ...

It did come down and has caused a bit of a furor. National Heritage Conservation Commission has taken it up.

Here is a bit of a story from Chomba Musika from the *Daily Mail*:

*THE National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) says it is investigating the cutting down of the big tree that used to stand on Airport road near Wasawange Lodge and Tours in Livingstone to determine if it had historic importance. NHCC southern regional director Oliver Kandyata said any tree that has historic significance should not be cut down.*

*Mr Kandyata said the commission will preserve unique trees that have a historic background.*

*His comment follows Livingstone City Council's decision to cut down the about 200-year-old tree that used to stand tall on the edge of the Airport road near Wasawange Lodge and Tours.*

*The cutting down of the majestic tree sparked condemnation from conservationists (conservationists?) and some residents, but government said it was done in the interest of the public because the tree had been standing on part of a busy road, posing danger to road users.*



*But Mr Kandyata said in an interview in Livingstone yesterday that he will send a team of officers to assess the historic significance of the tree. ...*

*Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia district chairman Benjamin Mibenge condemned the council's action saying it should have left the tree alone because it added beauty to the Airport road and that it had a historic and educational importance.*

*Mr Mibenge said a quick scientific estimate of the tree's age showed that it was almost 200 years old at the time it was cut.*

*And a Livingstone resident Chiinga Siawwapa, who was found at the scene on Wednesday, said he felt as if part of his life had been cut away after recalling how more than 30 years ago he and other pupils from various schools in the city used to seek refuge under the tree's shade as they waited to welcome the President.*

*But district commissioner Paul Sensele defended the removal of the tree saying it had been a safety hazard to motorists and pedestrians using the road. Mr Sensele said he ordered the council to cut down the tree to prevent road traffic accidents. ...*

*Gill Comment: The Airport Road has just been resurfaced. The German consultant in charge of the roadworks was passionate about trees. He told me that he would only cut trees where necessary and was watching the Chinese contractor to make sure that they followed his instructions. Very few trees were cut down.*

*This particular tree was left. So, one can only assume that the consultant did not feel that it needed to be removed. He was employed as the expert. It seems, though, that the District Commissioner knew better.*

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## Crayfish

Here is a follow-up from one of the Weekly readers:

*The crayfish in the Kafue river and lake Kariba are known as the Australian red claw or *cherax quadricarnatus*. The male has the red claw.*

*In Australia they grow to 600 grams. The biggest I have seen and eaten from the Kafue is around 340 grams and they very good tasting - I would say better than lobster. Someone brought them into Zambia in 2000 and they escaped and can now be found from the Kafue gorge right up to Iteshi Teshi dam wall. I have no doubt that they will spread throughout Zambia and beyond. Lake Kariba I think the same thing happened at around the same time.*

*Mr Grubb Imported his legally from the USA and made sure they did not escape.*

And here is a photo of a barbel which has swallowed a crayfish.



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## More Tributes to Bob

### Obituary

#### Baron Robert Stjernstedt: 1941-2012

With the death of Bob Stjernstedt in Lusaka (Zambia) on 26 May 2012, ornithology lost not just another "African character", but one of the most knowledgeable students of African bird vocalisations. He had been ill for several years, and finally suffered a stroke.

Robert J. Stjernstedt was born in Stockholm (Sweden) on 8 April 1941, but at the age of 4 his mother moved with him to Britain. Later he inherited a Swedish baronetcy on the death of his father. Bob was educated at Bryanston School in Dorset, and developed there a great interest in wildlife, through the school Natural History Society. Weekend cycling excursions to Poole Harbour and holiday sailing trips to Brittany for birds, together with local badger watching, nourished his enthusiasm.

In 1959 he entered University College, London, where he obtained his B.Sc. in zoology. Clive Mann, two years his junior at UCL, remembers his first meeting, with an untidy man who was clearing up the mess in the zoology laboratory caused by a yoghurt culture that he had left in his locker. They became friends, and in 1962 were members of the university's expedition to the Dahlak Islands in the Eritrean sector of the Red Sea.



This adventurous exploration involved visiting 18 islands, using a small rowing boat. Their observations on the breeding Sooty Falcons *Falco concolor* and a number of seabirds were published in *Ibis* by Chris Clapham in 1964.

This first experience of Africa convinced Bob that he could live nowhere else, and in 1964 he took up his first post, in Tanzania as a Tsetse Control biologist. First at Arusha, then Mwanza and Nachingwea (Mtwara), Bob tried to control tsetse flies, and successfully mastered KiSwahili. Increasingly interested in bird vocalisations, recording was to be his main interest for nearly half a century, encouraged by his friend Claude Chappuis. It was at this time that I first corresponded with him, but I did not meet Bob until he moved to Zambia in October 1969. He went on to become Deputy Director of Tsetse Control Services in Lusaka, but was never your typical office wallah.



**Wild woodsmen: Bob Stjernstedt standing behind Chris Breen, of Wildlife Worldwide, Aaron Mushindu, of the Livingstone Museum, and Simon Barnes**

When I first encountered Bob he was living at Mbala, where his domestic situation could only be called chaotic, a state that was to be the norm until the end of his life. He had little need for luxuries, apart from a drink and his cigarettes (he rolled his own, and Richard Ranft comments that he would find shreds of tobacco with the tape cassettes Bob donated to the British Library of Wildlife Sounds). He had often to earn a living in ways that provided little compensation, apart from being able to spend time in the bush. After leaving government service in 1981 he started a commercial fisheries operation on Lake Kariba, and ended up ferrying people, goats and fish in his battered old Land Rover.

He had a spell in the Luangwa Valley working as guide for an Italian safari company, and found that conversing with clients was not too difficult if you waved your arms around and talked of "hippopotami" and the like. In recent years he led his own tours, "Birding with Bob".

Robert J. Dowsett

(NB This obituary was first published in the Bulletin of the African Bird Club, Vol 19:2)

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## Smugglers in Hospital

Two suspected smugglers in their dugout canoe on the Zambezi River between Zambia and Botswana were hit by a Botswana Police speedboat. Both of them sustained injuries and were hospitalized in Livingstone.

Most of us from Livingstone know that there is a lot of smuggling going on across the river between Botswana, Namibia and Zambia. In the markets in Livingstone we often see boxes of wine looking a bit soggy after they have got wet coming across the river in dugout canoes.

It would appear, though, that the Botswana government is getting a bit cross and determined to do something about it. According to the report in Mmegi Online:

*Botswana District Commissioner (DC) for Kazungula, Paschalina Musokotwane, condemned smuggling along the common border, saying it had a negative impact on the economies of the two countries. "I urge the smugglers to desist from this illegal business," she said.*

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## From BirdWatch Zambia

### TRADE IN COMMON BIRDS: Shouldn't COMMON birds remain COMMON?

by Moses Nyoni

It is not rare to see young men along the Great North Road selling parrots particularly around Katuba area, mainly the Brown-necked parrot and Meyer's parrot. The methods used in trapping these parrots are gruesome and vary from the use of small bird snares or deliberate contamination of small water holes with the illicit alcoholic beer called "Kachasu", a spirit similar to the banned "tujilijili".

While Katuba area is one area you would find only captive parrots for sale (prices range from K150,000 to K350,000 per pair), trade in other common birds is emerging around the Kafue Bridge in Kafue District. Birds such as the Grey Lourie (Go-away bird), Red-faced Mousebird and Dark-capped Bulbul are trapped in large numbers and sold to people patronizing Munyangana Waterfront and Pleasure Resort. Most patrons purchase these birds for use as pets for their kids or indeed for food. These birds are sold between K30,000 – K45,000 per cage regardless of quantity of birds in each cage.



Food for thought.....What is this? Is this a business opportunity, a conservation concern, cruelty to birds or just one of those things?

*"COMMON birds should remain COMMON"*

### INVASIVE SPECIES IN KEY WETLAND IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

By Chaona Phiri

Over the past two months, a BirdWatch Zambia team has visited two important wetland IBAs, namely the Kafue Flats (Blue Lagoon and Lochinvar) and the Lukanga Swamps.

Amazing results were obtained of waterbird counts in these areas, with each of them yielding somewhat different results both in terms of numbers and species richness.

However, the two IBAs are both heavily infested by Alien/Invasive plant species. I am sure most of you are well aware of this problem in the Kafue flats as it has been well publicized and some responses have been received as a way of trying to eradicate the *Mimosa pigra* which is the major Invasive species in Lochinvar National Park and some

parts of Blue Lagoon National Park.

The Lukanga swamps on the other hand, have not been so lucky, particularly in terms of exploration and publicity. For a start, some reports have been reporting the alien plant in Lukanga as the Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), when the plant is actually the Kariba Weed (*Salvinia molesta*).



*Kariba Weed , Mimosa pigra and Water Hyacinth growing in harmony in Lochinvar*



Salvinia molesta, is locally called Javani, by the people around the Lukanga swamps. It is an aquatic fern, native to south-eastern Brazil and is a free floating plant that does not attach to the soil, but instead remains buoyant on the surface of a body of water. This plant has also found its way into the Kafue river system and is now growing around Lochinvar National Park in association with the Water Hyacinth.

The fisheries management committee (FMC) in Lukanga has, over the years, been removing the plant mechanically in order to clear some canals that are regularly used by fishermen and boat travellers into the swamp but this method only

keeps the canals clear for about a month or so before they are covered by the weed again and impassable. The lagoons at the heart of the swamp are far worse than the canals in terms of coverage by the plant.

Present suggestions are that a biological control approach should be taken rather than mechanical control which so far seems to aid the spread of the plant's reproductive spores.

Any ideas on how best this problem can be handled are most welcome because something needs to be done immediately as we are at risk of losing this habitat if no restorative action is taken.

Please let us know [birdwatchcsef@gmail.com](mailto:birdwatchcsef@gmail.com)

#### **RUFFORD SMALL GRANTS FOUNDATION GRANT FOR MACHILE IBA**

In 2010 BirdWatch staff obtained a grant from Rufford. This project was designed by David Ngwenyama, the Project Co-ordinator at that time. When David left BirdWatch to work on Shoebills the implementation of the project was taken over by Moses Nyoni to whom the grant had been given.

The work done in Machile IBA was supported by BirdWatch. The BirdWatch vehicles and fuels were used and the staff was paid as usual by BirdWatch. The work consisted of motivating the local community to conserve the Black-cheeked Lovebird and the habitat and natural resources of the birds in order to improve the peoples' livelihoods.

Meetings were held with government representatives, local traditional leadership and people in the project area. The ideas were received with ever increasing interest. The group is officially registered as the Magumwi-Machile Conservation Group and their licence number is ORS/102/02/388. Environmental Education Clubs were established at Magumwi and Adonsi Basic Schools and BirdWatch posters were distributed. A birdfriendly field of millet was planted. Land has been found for a camp site and secured under the traditional system of land tenure.

BirdWatch assisted with local bird guide training and certification by Leslie Reynolds. Added to this the area Machile was linked with South West Barotse Tourism Trail promoted and marketed by Open Africa Initiative.



*Isasa lagoon within the Lukanga Swamps, infested by the Kariba Weed*



*A clogged canal in the Lukanga Swamps which is major route*

## Elephant Charge

The Elephant Charge is an annual off-road motorsport challenge held in the Zambian bush to raise money for conservation and wildlife education causes. It is a unique and exciting team event for cars and motorbikes that requires stamina combined with excellent driving and navigation skills.

Held each year in October, the event brings together competitors, their families and supporters for a weekend of fun and competition in the Zambian wilderness.

In 2011, the Elephant Charge raised K425 000 000 for nine education and conservation organisation working all over Zambia to ensure that the new generation understands the importance of conservation for Zambia's future.

In 2010 Elephant Charge raised more than K330 000 000 for The Lusaka National Park, South Luangwa Conservation Society, Conservation Lower Zambezi and The Kafue Trust.

In 2009 The Elephant Charge raised K40 066 000 for Children in The Wilderness.

### Elephant Charge 2012 PROGRAMME

Thursday 25th October

08:00hrs-12:00hrs: Meet at registration in Lusaka for sign-in, fitting of DMDs, Scrutineering and directions to the Elephant Charge HQ.

12:00hrs: Campsite opens.

Friday 26th October

10:00 - 15:00hrs: Scrutineering.

16:00hrs: Team Briefing and handout of maps.

Saturday 27th October

5:45hrs: Teams assemble at HQ for convoy to Starting Checkpoints

7:00hrs: Elephant Charge begins

15:00hrs: Elephant Charge ends, all teams report back to HQ

15:30hrs: Rugby World Cup Final

17:00hrs: Official results and prize giving

Sunday 28th October

Return home

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## ZIMBABWE

### Border Repairs

Zimbabwe is working on the border facilities at Victoria Falls. The offices have been painted and the road is having massive road-works done on it – watch out for delays when driving across.



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## Toll Gates

As we know Zimbabwe now has toll gates on all major roads. There was a huge complaint when they were first introduced. It was felt that toll roads should only be allowed if there is an alternative route to drive, but this, of course, is not the case in Zimbabwe.

Anyhow, the Toll Gates have now been in place for about 4 years and seem to be doing a roaring trade. So much so that the Government is considering putting more in place and those that are already there are getting renovations.



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## Namibia Plane delayed at Victoria Falls

Last week an Air Namibia plane was held, along with its passengers, at Victoria Falls Airport for 4 hours. The Zimbabwe Civil Aviation Authority claimed that Air Namibia owed it money – NS3.2 million (US\$400,000).

However, it was found to be a little mistake so the plane was allowed to leave ...

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## Save Conservancy

In the news this week the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Barbara Joziase, condemned the invasions of Save Conservancy:

*We are concerned about the invasion of the Save conservancies. Apart from violating investments protection agreements, the invasions are also affecting ordinary Zimbabweans who are going to lose jobs as a result of the land invasions.*

*Zimbabwe should respect these treaties if the country wants serious investors to invest in the country.*

The news also reported that the President has ordered all army commanders and senior party officials who have moved into conservancies to get out immediately.

From the Zimbabwe Independent:

*Tourism minister Walter Mzembi must have felt a deep sense of vindication after Mugabe reportedly tore into army commanders and senior Zanu PF officials at a recent politburo meeting for grabbing lucrative safari landholdings in the Save Valley Conservancy, the largest private wildlife sanctuary in the world, for self-aggrandisement.*

*Mugabe ordered all army commanders and senior party officials who invaded conservancies to move out immediately, while demanding that all conservancies must now be turned into national parks.*

*Consequently, there would be massive evictions of army commanders, ministers, senior civil servants and top Zanu PF officials from safari areas across the country which they had expropriated and are making a killing through hunting activities and even slaughtering animals to sell meat.*

There are no reports which tell us if the ‘invaders’ have in fact relinquished their claims to the land but there is quite a bit of discussion about whether conservancies should become parks. This is a new idea and one which conservationists feel cannot work. With so many of Zimbabwe’s parks now run down it is felt that for ZimParks to take over conservancies which, up until now, have been successful, is a daft idea.

As a personal opinion, I feel that the edict by the President is merely a ploy to maintain some credibility in the run-up to the UNWTO. It was all getting very messy as more and more countries threatened to withdraw their support for the meeting in August 2013. If the President of Zimbabwe wants to give a very public speech, the UNWTO is the place to do it and he really does not want to miss the opportunity.

What will happen to the conservancies after the UNWTO is anyone’s guess ... maybe the generals will just be patient and wait until then ...

As a little bit extra, I found this written in 2006:

**From WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
IN AN ‘OUTPOST OF TYRANNY’**

**By Brian Gratwicke and Brent Stapelkamp**

**ZIMCONSERVATION OPINION  
SPECIAL REPORT**

*Recently, the government declared through the State-owned newspaper that illegal settlers in the Save Valley, Gwayi, Bubi, Buby Bibiana, Bubiana, Dete and Hwange Conservancies were degrading the vegetation and decimating the wildlife, that they would be removed and that the land would continue to be run as conservancies .... However, along with much of the other rhetoric associated with land reform, no constructive action taken because the government is sorely lacking the resources, expertise and will-power.*

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## ZIM-ZAM

### **From International Development**

The Zambezi River Authority, jointly owned by the Governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe, has applied for financing from the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA), hosted by the World Bank, toward the cost of preparing the Batoka Gorge Hydro-Electric Scheme (HES), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

Meanwhile ...

### **From International Rivers**

Climate change is bringing many uncertainties, especially to the world of water. No continent will be harder hit by climate change than Africa. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that African river basins will be especially affected by climate change, and are expected to face worse droughts and more extreme floods as a result.

Yet across the continent, large dams are being planned with no understanding of how a changing climate will affect them - and little attention to the related problem of how dams will hurt river-based

communities' ability to adapt to climatic changes. Governments and dam-lenders aren't taking the lead on these critically important issues.

To fill this gap, International Rivers commissioned an eminent hydrologist to examine the risks to dams in Africa's fourth largest river basin, which is slated for dozens of new large hydropower dams. His study warns that new and proposed dams on the Zambezi River are ill-prepared to withstand the shocks of a changing climate. The result could be uneconomic dams that under-perform in the face of more extreme drought, and more dangerous dams that have not been designed to handle increasingly damaging floods.

Dr. Richard Beilfuss, a hydrologist with 20 years' experience on the Zambezi River, evaluated the hydrological risks to hydropower dams in the basin. Overall, he says, the river will experience worse droughts and more extreme floods. Dams being proposed and built now will be negatively affected, yet energy planning in the basin is not addressing these huge hydrological uncertainties.

The report's key findings describe a region moving toward the edge of a hydrological precipice:

- The basin is likely to experience significant reductions in rainfall, and higher evaporation rates in the next century. Because large reservoirs evaporate more water than natural rivers, big dams could worsen local water shortages (and reduce water available for hydropower).
- The designs for two of the most advanced dam projects are based on the now-outdated historical hydrological record, and have not been evaluated for hydrological risks. Under future climate scenarios, they are unlikely to deliver the expected services over their lifetimes, resulting in wasted investments.
- The occurrence of more frequent extreme floods threatens the stability and safe operation of large dams. If dams are "under-designed" for larger floods, the result could be serious safety risks to millions of people living in the basin.
- The Zambezi is already heavily dammed, and these projects have caused profound harm to livelihoods and biodiversity. The ecological goods and services provided by the river, which are key to helping societies adapt to climate change, are not being properly valued in planning for large dams in the basin.

"Ensuring energy and water security for the future will require new ways of thinking about river basin development," notes Dr. Beilfuss. "We must avoid investing billions of dollars into projects that could become white elephants."

Dr Beilfuss makes a number of recommendations to help African nations weather the coming storm. First and foremost, he calls for incorporating climate change scenarios into dam design, to avoid the hazards of over- or under-designed infrastructure.

Africa faces numerous risks from climate change, including serious water stress. Successful adaptation will require radical new ways of thinking about water resources. The report notes: "While more water storage will be needed, decentralized solutions that preserve river-based ecosystem services are better suited to the needs of the rural majority, who face the greatest adaptation challenges."

Dr. Beilfuss also recommends big-picture for energy planning. "Planners need to carefully consider dams in the context of how climate change will shape water supply, and how future river flows must meet competing demands for power, conservation, and water for domestic use, agriculture, industry, and other services. A strategy aimed at empowering people to adapt to climate change must be central to these planning efforts."

He also calls for a full accounting of the values of ecosystem services supported by river flows, and changing dam design and operation to allow more natural flows to help restore ecosystem services on dammed

rivers. The report also recommends more diversified investments in energy supply projects to "avoid putting all eggs into one basket" in a time of increasing hydrological uncertainty - an especially critical step for Africa's most hydropower-dependent nations. Many African countries have a huge untapped potential for solar, wind, geothermal, and other renewable energy technologies that are well-suited for both urban and rural energy development.

The situation on the Zambezi is hardly unique. On nearly every continent, in many of the world's major watersheds, large dams are at risk of becoming white elephants due to drought, and weapons of mass destruction during extreme floods. Africa especially cannot afford to take a head-in-the-sand approach to the climate risks of large dams. The time is now to prioritize climate-smart investments that explicitly factor in economic risk and the values of river systems.

## NAMIBIA

### Cultural Festival

The Mafwe Cultural Festival will take place on 2 October about 70 km south of Katima Mulilo. The Mafwe festival is known as the Lusata and brings together members of the Mafwe cultural grouping along with other Namibian cultures. The Chief of the Mafwe, George Mamili VII, will be dressed in traditional attire with an ivory encrusted wooden stick (Lusata) held in both hands. Upon his arrival the traditional flag will be hoisted while the chief takes his seat in the specially constructed Lutaitai (shelter).

There will be lots of entertainment for visitors and local people alike. The ceremony is becoming quite a highlight of the Caprivi calendar, according to the report.

### From Caprivi Biz Geography & Ethnic Groups

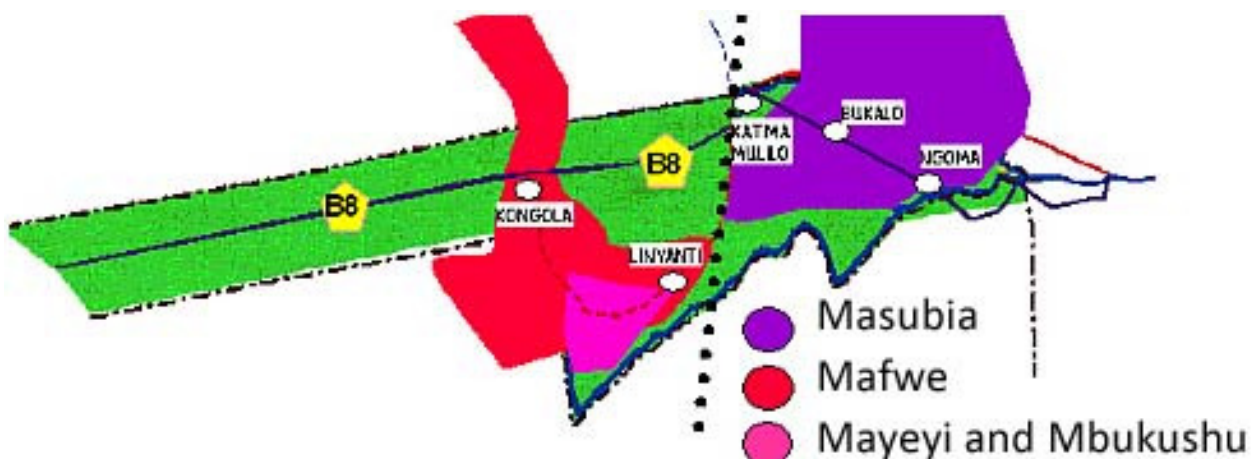
*Long before borders and different countries existed in Africa, the people that lived in what is today Caprivi, South East Angola and the very upper part of Botswana and South Western Zambia is all part of the Ethnic Group of the Lozi. The Lozi people speak Silozi, which is until today the normal indigenous language of these regions. When borders was drawn onto the land, the Lozi people was split up, some even from their direct family that lived across the river.*



Location of all the Lozi speaking people. There is about 556,000 Lozi speaking people throughout.



Location of the San Bushmen. Their distribution in the Caprivi is very scarce and they live in villages in the Western Caprivi, inside Bwabwata National Park, where they speak San.



*Of the about 80,000 people in the Caprivi - according to the last census taken in 2004 - 17,000 are pure Lozi, while the others make up different sub-ethnic groups and have their own dialect of Lozi.*

*Mafwe people lives in South-Eastern Angola, down along the Kwando River to the Mudumu National Park. Mafwe people speak Sifwe. (Ma - meaning of people, Si meaning of nature)*

*Masubia make up the largest part of the Sub-ethnic groups, and is found in the Eastern Caprivi and up into Zambia. Masubia people's dialect is called Sisubia.*

*The Mayeyi (Ma-Yea-Yi) and Mbukushu people live in the very southern tip of the Caprivi, and is very little in numbers. Although they live in the same region, they have separate little villages, where the Mayeyi speaks Siyeyi and the Mbukushu speak Mbuku.*

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### **Another boat for the Zambezi River**

Sikunga Conservancy, 30 km east of Katima Mulilo, has been given a boat to help patrol the river and control fishing along the Zambezi River. The boat is a donation from Edelstahlbau, a Windhoek-based boat manufacturer. Unvunvu Lodge and Nwanyi Angling Club have also given donations to the conservancy to help the community to preserve their resources.

Strijs Coertzen, chairman of Nwanyi Angling Club:

*We saw the potential and thought we should get involved. We are handing over a cheque towards the wages of the fishing guards. We believe this conservancy has the potential to benefit the community. Over-exploitation of our fish resources would only cause damage to this area.*

*If we protect our resources, more people will come to the lodges and we don't have to travel to other areas for fishing. More jobs will be created. We are here to take care of the community and not take their fishing rights. This is just a pilot project, if it works other communities will buy into the idea and we will definitely see the results for everybody.*

Steven Muyangwa, the manager of Sikunga Conservancy: *This boat will be used for patrolling the Sikunga fish reserve and ensure proper monitoring of fish resources. With this boat it is much easier for our guards to perform their duties such as confiscating the nets of those found fishing illegally.*

*We have arrested more than 142 Zambian nationals and confiscated 52 fishing nets, canoes and paddles so far. Some of these foreign nationals have already appeared in court.*

Denis Tweddle, researcher in the Zambezi/Chobe Fisheries Project:

*Fish protection areas are a world recognized method of protecting fisheries now. We are grateful to the angling club and lodges. Both tourists and fishermen will benefit from this project. The non-governmental organizations fully support this initiative. We will further train the fishing guards through a grant offered by the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).*

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## **BOTSWANA**

### **From the Ngami Times**

Daredevil Maun men wrestled a 3.7metre crocodile on the banks of the Thamalakane River this week after setting a trap for the giant reptile believed responsible for killing at least five dogs in recent weeks. The animal was lured into a specially built cage and when the hatch was opened, it gingerly stepped on to hard ground where it was pounced upon by Crocodile Research personnel and other helpers, trussed up and taken by Maun Neighbourhood Watch boat to a remote part of the delta for re-location.



## **Police helicopters fitted with night vision equipment**

Botswana's Police Air Support fleet of Eurocopter AS350B3 'Ecureil' (Squirrel) helicopters have been upgraded for night time missions, giving the force a 24/7 airborne law enforcement and civic response capability.

Under the upgrade contract, Eurocopter South Africa modified the pilots' instrument panel and the FLIR camera observer's console to be Night Vision Goggle compliant. The crew are equipped with binocular NVGs specifically designed for helicopter night-time operations.

The NVG system allows the pilot to navigate and fly nap-of-the-earth missions and to take-off, land or perform operations at night, which would otherwise be practically impossible and extremely dangerous.

"This added night-mission capability will be a major benefit to us as we have a responsibility to provide airborne law enforcement over a very large area. It means that poachers and other criminals will no longer be able to hide from us at night, explained Botswana Police Air Support Unit's commanding officer Pilane Sebigi. ...

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## **WOLFGANG'S COLUMN**

### **GVTC RAISES 30.000 US DOLLARS FOR VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK SUPPORT**

The Rwanda based 'Greater Virunga Transboundary Cooperation' which brings together the three 'gorilla countries' of Rwanda, Uganda and Congo DR, has reportedly managed to raise 30.000 US Dollars in financial support for the Virunga National Park in the Eastern Congo, located right in the middle of the latest round of fighting, which has started a few months ago following the dismal failure of the UN peace keeping forces to keep an unbiased peace for all and not a select few only.

Emergency signals were sent from the staff at the Virunga park headquarters and from NGO's working with the park to protect and preserve the gorilla populations and other game in the park, following a dismal deterioration of their supply situation and the notorious neglect often reported here from the regime in Kinshasa vis a vis the release of cash to keep operations going. The funding generously granted by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kampala/Uganda will go directly towards the upkeep of the park staff and a communication received from the GVTC offices in Rwanda also mentioned: 'the provision of primes, rations, and outfit/equipment, medical as well as administration and logistic expenses'.

Sam Mwanda, the Executive Secretary of GVTC, is reported to have said: 'this fund will help PNVi staff to keep up the good work they and partners are undertaking for the conservation of this important landscape in this difficult period when their own ability to generate funds from tourism has been suspended due to the insecurity in area.

The funding was reportedly reallocated from a 1-year funding that the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala had allocated to GVTC for the review of the Transboundary Strategic Plan, development of a regional REDD+ action plan, review of the extent of illegal timber and wildlife trade in the region, support transboundary processes and undertake interventions to alleviate human wildlife conflicts so as to bring immediate relief and retain the existing structure currently in place, rather than risking a scaled withdrawal from site, leaving the gorillas to the mercy of combatants. Few tourists have since the outbreak of fresh hostilities visited the park but it was learned from reliable sources that those willing to venture across the border from either Uganda's Kisoro or via Gisenyi in Rwanda were able to strike deals with local guides, bypassing the fee collection mechanism and being able to negotiate one on one terms of as low as 300 US Dollars, with at least one source claiming that even less than that has been charged to see the gorillas, when for days no other paying visitors had made it to the park. The same source did also say that the 'guides' in



question clearly had arrangements in place with the powers presently 'in charge' over the area, which however were visibly keener to stay away from the gorilla groups in order to provide some peace for them, unlike previous militia incursions where staff were killed and allegedly game poached. Watch this space and meanwhile visit [www.greatervirunga.org](http://www.greatervirunga.org) for more information and background on this conservation organization.

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## OTHER STUFF

### WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS 2012

Botswana's Leading Hotel  
Botswana's Leading Luxury Camp  
Botswana's Leading Safari Lodge

Phakalane Golf Estate Hotel Resort  
Mombo Camp  
&Beyond Sandibe Okavango Safari Lodge

Malawi's Leading Hotel

Pumulani Luxury Beach Lodge

Namibia's Leading Hotel  
Namibia's Leading Luxury Lodge  
Namibia's Leading Spa Resort

Windhoek Country Club Resort & Casino  
Sandfontein Game and Nature Reserve  
Eagle Tented Lodge and Spa

Zambia's Leading Eco-Lodge  
Zambia's Leading Hotel  
Zambia's Leading Safari Lodge

Royal Chundu Luxury Zambezi Lodges  
The Royal Livingstone  
Sussi & Chuma

Zimbabwe's Leading Hotel  
Zimbabwe's Leading Resort  
Zimbabwe's Leading Safari Lodge

The Stanley and Livingstone Hotel  
The Victoria Falls Hotel  
Singita Pamushana Lodge

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## THE SMILE

### The 7.30pm Flush

One of the greetings to meet you on entering Bulawayo from Victoria Falls Town is the smell of sewage. It has been like that for years ... Now, Bulawayo council has a plan:

*BULAWAYO'S two million residents are being asked to flush their toilets all at the same time once every three days as the city grapples with a worsening water crisis.*

*There is not enough water in the reticulation system and waste is not moving for days. The build-up is causing sewer pipes to burst all over the city, say council officials.*

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### Great Video to Watch

<http://www.dump.com/2011/08/30/worlds-biggest-ant-hill-video/>

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Have a good week

Gill