

The Livingstone biWeekly

4 March 2015

Dear All

Last week I heard the dogs going crazy in the garden. I went to investigate and found this little thing hiding up a tree. I assume it is a mongoose. Can anyone tell me which one?
By the way, I got the dogs away from the tree and I assume it made its escape.

LIVINGSTONE

One of the lions captured

Livingstone has been the home of 3 sub-adult lions for several months. It is thought that they came from Kafue National Park. Of course, having found their way to our park, life would have been easy for them. Our animals in the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park don't know about predators – generations of the impala, warthog, etc, have been brought up in the park without having to worry about being eaten by lions.

According to an article in the news, one of the lions was captured and returned to Kafue. The hunt is on for the other two.

It is a nice idea to have lions in our park, but it is hardly conducive to our walking safaris and the many casual visitors.



Livingstone Infrastructure Projects

During the run-up to the UNWTO in 2013 Livingstone saw a flurry of activity in infrastructure projects which included the airport, bus terminus and a market. None were completed. The airport is functioning but



there is still work to be done. This week the news told us that Government is looking for funds to complete the work at the airport. We are also told that the market and bus terminus will also be finished ...



Livingstone Cultural Arts Festival

According to an article in the Post Livingstone is hosting a Cultural and Arts Festival this month – dates are 26-28 March.

ZTB has extended invitations to 10 other countries. Nigeria, Seychelles, Botswana and Zimbabwe have confirmed their participation.

The festival will include a pop concert at the Golf Club, Zambian food display, traditional folk music, visual arts exhibitions, fashion show, dance lessons ... and lots more.

I am sure it will be up to our usual standard.

ZAMBIA

Kasanka Trust

A stunning photo of the buffalo in the Bangweulu Wetlands, just 50km North of Kasanka



Livingstone's Adventure



New Faces of Tourism

Following the recent election we have some changes in the Ministry of Tourism. Jean Kapata remains as the Minister but she now has two deputies, Esther Banda and Patrick Ngoma. Esther Banda is the MP for Chililabombwe; Patrick Ngoma is from Feira.



Jean Kapata



Esther Banda



Patrick Ngoma

All photos 'borrowed' from the web

South Luangwa

Congratulations to the Mfuwe Secondary School Conservation Club students! After spending the 2014 dry season collecting data on wildlife crossings as part of their independent research, the students presented their work to the Zambia Wildlife Authority's South Luangwa Area Management Unit.

The study, entitled "Comparison of Species Richness Between a National Park and Game Management Area," was part of a collaborative secondary educational programme by Chipembele and ZCP aimed at providing students skills and training to obtain advanced education and employment post-graduation.



Liuwa National Park

Image of one of our rivers, the Luambimba, in flood. Thanks to Kenny Babilon.



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Vehicle
Workshop



Livingstone Art Gallery to Launch its Second Art Exhibition

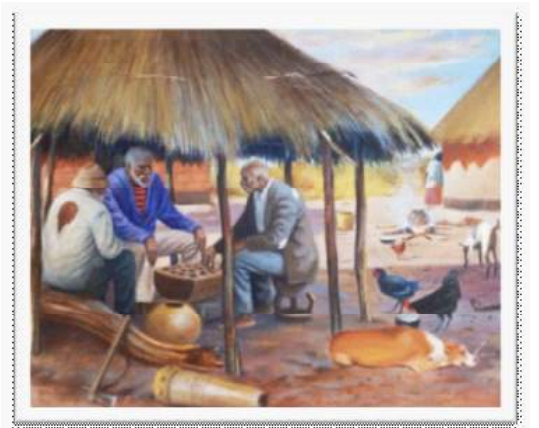
Livingstone, Zambia – The Livingstone Art Gallery is pleased to present its second group exhibition of new works featuring artists from around Zambia. “*Reaching New Horizons*” will run from 28th February 2015 – 31st May 2015.

Over 30 artists countrywide will be featured in the show, including senior Zambian artists: Vincent Maonde, Lawrence Yombwe, Agnes Buya Yombwe, Eva Middleton, Chungu Kalumbwa, Patrick Mwemba, Benjamin Mibenge, Danny Chiyesu, Poto Kabwe, Matthew Mudenda and Chansa Chishimba, to name but a few. Many promising young and upcoming artists are also represented. Many of the works are inspired by Zambia’s rich culture and beautiful natural environment and explore different techniques such as water colour paintings, prints, sculptures, collage and graphite drawings.

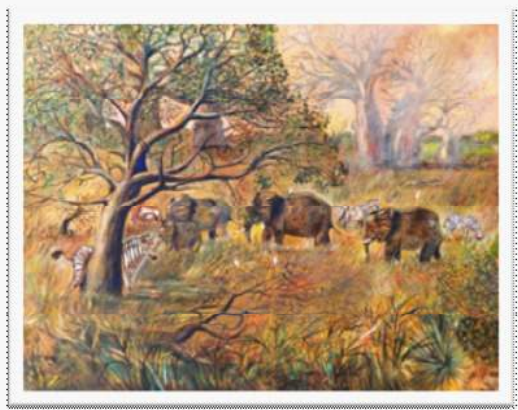
“*Reaching New Horizons*” is the second exhibition hosted at Livingstone Art Gallery. The Gallery was overwhelmed by the positive response received from its first exhibition, launched in honor of the country’s independence Golden Jubilee. Livingstone Art Gallery looks forward to its new exhibition as it continues to build its capacity as a national arts institution and strives to reach new horizons in Zambian art.



“*Bridegroom’s Meal*” By Lawrence Yombwe



“*Nsolo Player*” By Poto Kabwe



“*Elephants*” By Alumedí Maonde



“*Thinking Ahead*” By Eva Middleton

Details:

Event: ‘*Reaching New Horizons*’ Art Exhibition
Venue: Livingstone Art Gallery
Date: 28th February to 31st May, 2015
Open hours: 09:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs - Week Days
10:00 hrs to 17:00hrs - Weekends and Public

Holidays

Contacts: Chansa Chishimba – 0977364419
Catherine Silwebbe – 0972782069
Land line - 0213327301



“*Drum and Dance*” By Danny Chiyesu

To the rescue of Kariba Dam

In an article in *Business Day Live*, Tom Nevin had this to say about Kariba Dam:

ENGINEERS have started on a R3.3bn rescue marathon to prevent the “catastrophic failure” of the Kariba Dam. According to a World Bank special report on the beleaguered structure — one of the biggest man-made dams in the world — a potential wall collapse threatens the lives of about 3-million people living on the Zambezi River floodplain between the hydro scheme on the Zambia-Zimbabwe border and the Mozambique coast.

The document, titled *The Kariba Dam Rehabilitation Project*, estimates that in the event of a “catastrophic Kariba Dam failure”, economic damage to the region will exceed R88bn and will include the washing away of the Cahora Bassa Dam and the loss of 40% of southern Africa’s electricity capacity.

Although the danger was spotted a decade ago, the parlous condition of the wall only filtered out recently. The World Bank, the watchdog Zambezi River Authority and engineers are united in their opinion that, without urgent repairs, the dam will fail.

Kariba’s dam wall is under attack on two fronts. Spillway torrents have excavated a massive cavern in the Zambezi river bed that threatens the stability of the wall foundations, and a slow chemical reaction is causing concrete swelling, affecting the operation of the spillway gates and their effectiveness in handling high water levels. ...

Read more on www.bdlive.co.za

Meanwhile from the *Zambia Weekly*:

Loans approved for Kariba Dam

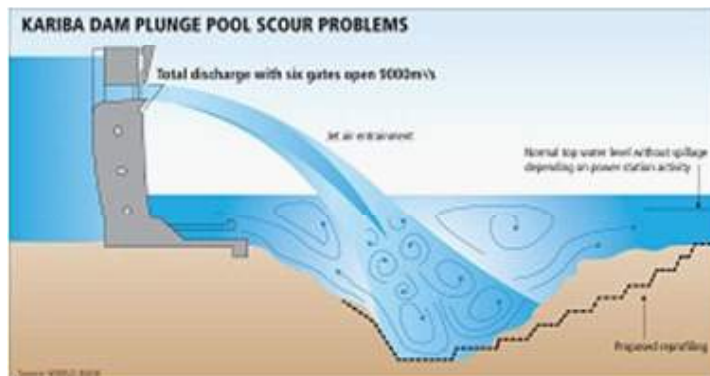
Cabinet has approved two loans from the World Bank (\$75 million) and the African Development Bank (\$39 million – down from pledged \$75 million) for rehabilitation of the Kariba Dam owned by Zambia and Zimbabwe. Earlier, it was announced that the European Union will provide \$100 million towards the \$280 million repair works of the aging dam wall and plunge pool. In addition, Sweden will give a grant of \$25 million. The World Bank loan was given to Zambia, after the financial institution refused to grant a joint loan due to Zimbabwe’s incapacity to pay, “so the Zambian government has taken up the responsibility to get the whole loan on behalf of Zimbabwe, and we will lend that money to the Zambezi River Authority, because the Zambezi Water Authority has the capacity to pay,” Chief Government Spokesman Chishimba Kambwili told the media.

Batoka Dam

As we try to rescue Kariba Dam, the stories about the proposed dam in Batoka Gorge continue to rumble around the internet. In one story in *New Zimbabwe* we are told that the power plant will produce 2,400 MW against the 1,600 MW originally estimated. This ‘news’ was given to us by Muyaadzi Munodawafa, Chief Executive of the Zambezi River Authority. From my correspondence I have been told that the dam will not come close to the 1,600 MW ...

The power plant will be built by a private company which will, we assume, do their own feasibility study. They are unlikely to take the word of Muyaadzi Munodawafa without confirmation. The dam is expected to cost at least US\$2.5 billion – not money to be invested lightly ...

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is still ongoing and we await their results in June. Hopefully, too, Environmental Resources, the company overseeing the ESIA, will be back in Livingstone soon to let us know their findings.



Traffic Fines**From Wild Zambezi**

Below is a list of OFFICIAL fines that guilty motorists must pay as far as Zimbabwe Government's Traffic Regulations are concerned.

Self-drive visitors travelling on Zimbabwe's roads might like to print this charge sheet and keep it in the car, so that they are well informed if stopped at a Police Roadblock.

Note that anyone who is made to pay a fine at a traffic roadblock and is not sure how much he should have paid must immediately take the admission of guilt receipt to the nearest police station and get confirmation if they had been rightfully charged. If over charged they can immediately get their money refunded.

ZIMBABWE VEHICLE REGISTRATION & LICENSING ACT CHAPTER 12:14

Fail to Display current vehicle licence: \$5
 Fail to produce documents within 7 days to Police: \$5
 Fail to produce documents within 7 days to VID: \$10
 Licence vehicle registered vehicle-all classes: \$10
 Fail to Display registration mark and Number Plate OR its illegible: \$10
 Fail to Notify change of ownership – 14 days:\$10
 No Number plate: \$10
 No rear Number plate light: \$5
 No Drivers licence: \$20
 No Insurance: \$10
 No white front reflectors: \$5
 No red rear reflectors: \$5
 No red 'T' on rear trailer: \$10
 Motor vehicle + Trailer longer than 8 Mt: \$5
 No amber side reflectors @ 4mt – each: \$5
 No red triangles: \$15
 No horn, fail to use or abuse horn: \$10
 No Stopping, No parking, no left or right turn: \$5
 Proceed against red robot: \$20
 Proceed against amber robot: \$10
 Encroach over white line at a robot: \$10
 Fail to stop at flash lights – Railway crossing: \$20
 Overtaking over solid white line: \$20
 Double parking: \$5
 Stop or park within 7.5 mt. of intersection: \$15
 Fail to give way to right-uncontrolled intersection: \$15
 Cut corner when turning right: \$10
Fail to:
 Signal – slow down, stop turn left or right: \$10
 Stop – minor accident: \$20
 Stop – serious accident: court
 No headlights, one headlight or no side lights: \$5
 No headlights or side lights: \$10
 Headlights causing dazzle: \$15
 No dip switch: \$10

Zambian Poachers**Zimbabwe Situation**

The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) ambushed 12 suspected poachers from Zambia and recovered almost \$50 000 worth of elephant tusks in a recent operation in Katombora, Zambezi National Parks' Mdhaka area. ZimParks public relations manager Caroline Washaya-Moyo said the success of the operation was achieved through regional collaborations with rangers from neighbouring countries.

"However the suspects, believed to be Zambian nationals, fled leaving behind the 29 tusks which weighed 297,3kg and valued at \$47 468, a giraffe tail, digital scale and some food items," she said in a statement.

Matusadona Anti-Poaching Project

Motorised banana boats which have been recovered from Zambian poachers who cross over into Zimbabwean waters and poach at night, regular nightly patrols are conducted on Lake Kariba to detect any illegal activity taking place.

Foot brakes not working: \$20
 Hand brakes not working at all – max: \$15
 Unable to keep vehicle static when brake applied: \$15
 No windscreen wiper: \$5
 Windscreen not providing clear undistorted vision: \$10
 No exhaust silencer: \$10
 Inefficient exhaust silencer: \$5
 Causing excessive smoke: \$10
 Leaks of oil and fuel onto road: \$5
 Dangerous tyre – canvas showing – per tyre: \$5

Axles Loading:

1-50: \$10
 51-200: \$15
 201-400: \$20
 + 400: court

No Safety belt: \$5
 Spit in or from vehicle: \$5
 Discard rubbish fro vehicle: \$5
 Abusive behaviour: \$10

Speeding - extra kilometres per hour:

6-15: \$5
 16-25: \$10
 26-35: \$15
 36-50: \$20
 50+: court

Production of documents 7 days:

Fail to produce Documents: \$5
 Fail to produce Drivers licence: \$20
 Fail to produce Insurance: \$5
 Fail to produce Registration book to VID \$10
 Note that Police Officers must give rank, name and number.

Spot fines – Form Z69(j) Admission of Guilt.
 Form 265 to pay fine at police station within 7 days.
 For assistance you may call the following lines (but please do not abuse them):-

Senior Inspector PHIRI: Public Relations. Nat. Complaints Line: +263 4 703631 (24 hr service)
The ZRPolice National Whatsapp hotline number: +263 782 475000.

Senior Inspector NCUBE: +263 772 719730 or +263 712 769768

Senior Inspector KANGWARE: +263 712 415491
 Spokesperson Traffic Inspector CHIGOME: +263 772 965030



Drought

Around Katima Mulilo in Namibia, there is drought. In an article in The Namibian, the subsistence farmers are very worried.

Farmers in the Zambezi region are bracing themselves for a drought probably worse than 1970, as crops wither due to poor weather patterns in the area. ...

According to some small-scale farmers, the sporadic rainfall and high weather temperatures will likely translate into food insecurity just like in 1970 when harvests were recorded as the poorest ever.

One of those affected farmers, 68-year-old Margret Muchana, a pensioner at the Makanga village south of Katima Mulilo, told Nampa on Thursday that her crops are drying up at a worrying pace. ...



"The last time I saw crops withering like this was in 1970 when I was still in my youth. It was the most difficult period, as families resorted to collecting wild foods to survive on. That year, my family only harvested four bags of maize," Muchana said.

Just a great photo ...
From Daily Mail, UK

The 'great white ghosts' of Namibia's savannah:
Elephants look like wild spectres after covering themselves with white mud ..

Etosha, obviously ...



Ministry defends killing of Namutoni lion

The Namibian

STAFF members of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism decided to kill a lioness in the Namutoni camp of the Etosha National Park a week ago, because a veterinarian was not at hand and they were trying to avoid a possible attack on tourists, the ministry claims.

The lioness entered the Namutoni camp through a small hole that warthogs had dug under the fence around the camp, after someone employed in the camp had removed meat from a giraffe that the lioness had killed next to the fence the previous day, the permanent secretary of the ministry, Simeon Negumbo, said in a press statement issued yesterday.

The killing of the lioness in Namibia's flagship wildlife conservation area reportedly left tourists at Namutoni shocked and horrified.

According to Negumbo, a fresh and intact giraffe carcass was found next to the camp fence at Namutoni on Thursday last week. It was discovered later that someone - reportedly a staff member employed at Namutoni - had removed some of the meat from the carcass, and an investigation was launched by the ministry and the police.

Lion tracks were observed in the camp the next day, and a lioness was then found along the camp fence.

"In [the] absence of a veterinarian in the area, our staff members had to act quickly to avoid possible attacks on people, particularly tourists, and shot the lioness," Negumbo stated.

He said the ministry and the police are continuing with an investigation into the incident.

TONGABEZI



my **SPAR** 
Giving me more choice every day!



Malawi Floods

From Africa Geographic

In Livingstone we have experienced a drought ... so far, at least. But it is February and our main time for rain. One friend said that instead of the average of 17 days of rain, they had had 3!

The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITZ) has kept north this year, rarely coming south to us here. Meanwhile the rain has fallen on Malawi causing serious floods. Here is a bit of an article by Africa Geographic:

It would be ignorant to pass off these terrible losses as a result of the heavy downfalls from an extraordinary rainy season. Albeit, the rains have come out in force, but in some cases these floods could have been prevented if more attention was paid to the sustainable use of our natural resources, namely our forests.

Malawi holds the unenviable accolade for the world's 5th highest rate of deforestation. One of the main reasons is the clearing of forest areas for human settlement and agricultural land, fuelled by the rapid increase in population. The demand for charcoal is another culprit: of the charcoal produced, almost 60% comes from protected trees in forest reserves and national parks. This haphazard behaviour is unsustainable and putting enormous pressure on the country's resources, creating a plethora of environmental and economic concerns.

Trees play a significant part in flood prevention. Trees support rivers by deterring the water away from them in several ways: they hold and use more water than other land uses such as farms and grasslands, tree roots create gaps in the surrounding soils making the soil more absorbent and preventing run off and they also act as a barrier, substantially slowing down the rate at which water reaches rivers, giving the rivers more time to handle the excess of water. When you throw in abundant pavements or the ditching of farmland, the rivers really don't stand a chance.

By eliminating trees you also eliminate the organic matter that they produce that enriches the soil with nutrients. So, not only is deforestation linked to floods and thus the destruction of crops, but also to the long term fertility of the soil. This could lead to devastating long-term effects on the land's ability to successfully grow various agricultural products, Malawi's main industry and biggest source of income.

Another unexpected link with deforestation is the decline of the fish population. Lake Malawi's fish supply has declined by 90% in the last 20 years. That's near to extinction. In addition to the shocking overfishing, the soil erosion causes it to be washed into the lake which kills the fish. When you consider that 1.5 million people depend on the lake for food, this loss of fish population is tragic. And largely avoidable. ...

I think we can learn from this. Zambia is going the same way – cutting trees, growing populations, bad agricultural practices, ...



M V Liemba

eNCA

On Lake Tanganyika, a century-old relic of World War I that became the stuff of Hollywood legend still plies the slate-grey waters -- but it is not clear for how much longer.

Once a feared gunship defending the African lake for Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, the legendary vessel -- which inspired the 1951 classic "The African Queen" -- has been sunk and refloats twice, renamed and repurposed as a ferry. As it marks 100 years of service, the MV Liemba, originally a symbol of colonial power, is now an essential lifeline for the people who live along the lakeshore.

"Liemba is the only safe means of transport along the lake," said Mathew Mathia Mwanjisi, the ship's captain.

"Historically it's very important to Tanzania as a country, but again it's very important for the people along the coast of Lake Tanganyika."

The tale of the warship and the battle for lake Tanganyika inspired British novelist C.S. Forester to write his 1935 novel "The African Queen", later adapted by Hollywood in the movie of the same name starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn.

Piled high with pineapples, maize and rice -- as well as up to 600 passengers -- the MV Liemba navigates the world's longest lake every two weeks, from Kigoma, Tanzania, in the north to Mpulungu, Zambia, in the south.

The journey of some 600 kilometres is meant to take some three days, but is often longer as the ship hops from village to village, transforming into a lively aquatic carnival at each stop.

Children in leaky canoes paddle alongside to sell fresh mangos.

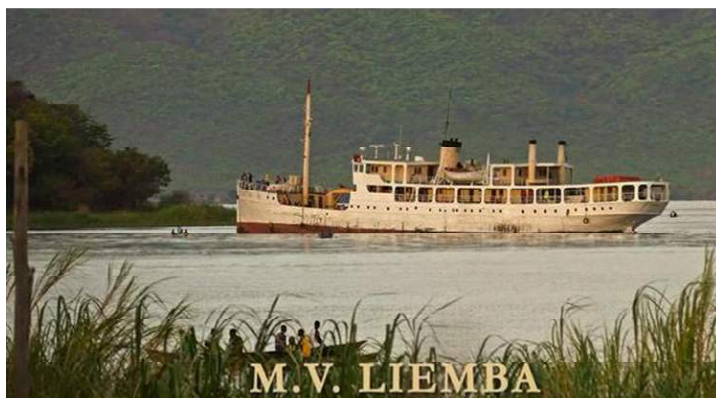
Farmers and fishermen haggle over prices. Launches laden with revellers come to welcome newlyweds home.

Lai Bakari Kiunguti is a ship-bound trader with a makeshift stall below deck to serve the ship's passengers. Like many others, her livelihood depends on the boat, and as the MV Liemba ages she worries for the future.

"When the Liemba stops travelling I will stay at home. That would make me poor because it means I wouldn't work."

The MV Liemba requires constant maintenance, and may not stay afloat much longer without a complete overhaul. Tanzania asked the German government for help repairing or replacing the vessel in 2011 and KfW, a German government-owned development bank, is assessing whether rehabilitation might be possible.

But it may be cheaper to simply replace the MV Liemba with a new ferry, ending a century of fascinating history. "It is carrying the history of the country," said Bertram Mapunda, a professor of history at Tanzania's University of Dar es Salaam.



Mapunda said the ship should be celebrated, and preserved, just as German colonial-era buildings and railway lines are throughout the country.

The MV Liemba began its life in a shipyard in Papenburg, Germany, in 1913 where it was named the Graf von Götzen after German East Africa's former governor.

Before setting sail, the steamer was taken apart, packed into 5,000 numbered crates, and shipped to Dar es Salaam. Then it was taken by railway and porter to the shore of Lake Tanganyika where it was reassembled in 1915, armed with cannon, and put to work defending the waters against Belgian and British soldiers.

Measuring 70 meters (230 feet) long and weighing 1,200 tonnes the Graf von Götzen dominated the lake for nearly a year, dwarfing all other ships.

But when the outnumbered German land forces retreated the warship was filled with cement and scuttled.



What's Happening to All Our Giraffes? The Disappearing Species Faces Silent Extinction

From Science Times

In what perhaps may be the most shocking upset in the news this week, ecologist revealed last Friday, Dec. 5, that giraffes may be headed towards extinction - and it's in part due to a lack of awareness of dangers facing the African species. While contemporary studies in Africa's central savannahs have revealed the collected threats that human encroachment, habitat loss and black market poaching has posed to wildlife communities, researchers say that giraffes are amongst some of the hardest hit populations in the long list of black market species. And without significant change in the way giraffes are protected, they may disappear all together within a matter years.

According to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, which made the announcement of new research figures last week, African populations of giraffes have dropped nearly 40% in the wild over the course of only 15 years. The organization's director, Dr. Julian Fennessy says that the figures bring to light "a silent extinction", pointing out that numbers have fallen from 140,000 to only 80,000, and numbers are continuing to dwindle.

Though large, the gentle giants are relatively easy for hunters and poachers to kill for meat and hides that bring in a premium penny on Africa's and Asia's black markets. Their skins are sold throughout the continents for clothing items and as fabric for interior designs, while their meats have become quite a delicacy in certain regions, fetching quite a high demand. In fact, in nations such as Tanzania, locals have come to believe that eating parts of the animal can cure HIV and AIDS, bringing giraffes to the top of the black market lists. ...

Gill Comment. *We don't have many giraffe in Zambia. There are some in our local park but they are 'imports'. Our real giraffe are in South Luangwa and they are Thornicroft's giraffe - a special species for us. This photograph was taken at Wildlife Camp, South Luangwa.*



THE GARDENING BIT

An Offending Pumpkin

Because the rainy season has been shockingly bad, I haven't felt like working in it. Normally I would cut the grass at least 3 times during the rain. This year I have only cut some of it once.

Nothing is growing like it should. As a result of my negligence in the garden, I noticed a pumpkin seed had germinated and started to grow in a flowerbed. I was about to pull it out when my lady-wot-does asked me if she could harvest the leaves first. The next thing I knew the plant had produced a pumpkin ... Now I am not allowed to pull it out until the pumpkin has been harvested ...

The poor lavender is suffocating ... I hope it survives - it hates to be wet ...




WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
19°C	27°C

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K6.89
	P9.65
	Nam\$11.77



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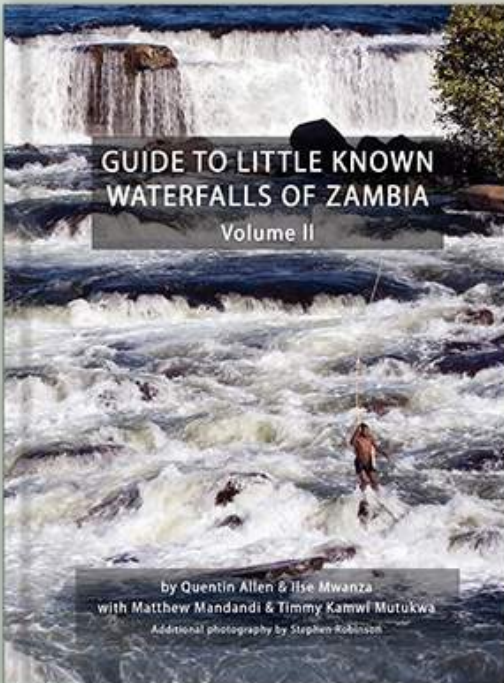
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Gill



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But this is so much more than just a 'guide'. It is a book that the reader can dip into to enjoy the authors' stories of their sometimes arduous, but always lighthearted, travels and encounters.

This 'big' little book is a tour-de-force of modern-day discovery and rediscovery of remote Africa. It shows us something of the passion, determination and perseverance that marked the explorers of times past.

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