



Dear All

I know the date is wrong so please don't email me to tell me ...

Devil's Cataract - the lowest point of the Victoria Falls on the Zimbabwe side. I went to have a look, having paid my US\$20 for the privilege. It was so wet that I didn't manage to get to the far end - everyone returning from there was completely drenched so I gave up.

Interestingly, I witnessed a bit of an incident at the entrance to the park where a woman was complaining bitterly about the need to carry identification when entering parks. Our countries have a system of different prices for different nationalities ... I assume this is to cream as much as the government can from foreigners - so it is necessary to carry ID in order to prove where you are from ... otherwise you will pay the maximum.

LIVINGSTONE

Another loan Zambia Weekly

Government has sourced a \$5 million loan from an unnamed local bank to complete the stalled upgrade of the Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport in Livingstone, Southern Province Minister Nathaniel Mubukwanu told the Post. The construction started in 2011.

Another Conference Facility Daily Mail

Government intends to construct a conference facility in Livingstone to cater for growing international events being hosted in the tourist capital, says Minister of Foreign Affairs Harry Kalaba.

Mr Kalaba said Government is working hard to put up ultra-modern conference facilities in Livingstone, Lusaka and other provincial centres.

He said the country will be hosting the Africa Union summit in 2022 and one of the issues being looked at is the construction of a conference facility to host 53 heads of state. ...



Bus Terminus and Market

From The Post

Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairperson Cornelius Mweetwa says financial regulations were not being followed over Livingstone projects where the government spent huge amounts of money.

And callboys at the town centre bus station incensed with continued high-level visitations to the stalled market heckled the PAC members as they arrived to inspect the market saying “Mwabwela kudya ndalama Zaboma (you have come to spend government money)”.

Speaking after touring the market, famously known as Zimbabwe Market and the Villa Grounds International Bus Terminus, whose works have stalled, Mweetwa said the PAC was not happy with the transactions over the two projects.

“It is very disappointing for the government to be the one promoting irregularities because even other spending agencies will do the same. It should not be repeated, the buck stops at your office [Southern Province permanent secretary]. We request that you expedite the acquisition of resources to complete the projects. The people of Livingstone and the women who were displaced are hoping that this can be completed before the rainy season,” he said.

“Huge amounts of money were expended [but you’re] not meeting the financial regulations; we shall make a report to the House of our findings,” Mweetwa said.

At the bus station, Mweetwa, who is also Choma Central member of parliament, said the delays in completing the projects were a recipe for wastage of government resources. ...

Ministry of Tourism in Livingstone

Stephen Mwansa, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, was in Livingstone addressing tour operators last week.

His pronouncements were:

Livingstone and Siavonga were to have multi-facility economic zones to improve investment in tourism;
Government wanted to increase the number of airlines landing at Livingstone Airport;
Zambia Tourism Board and National Heritage Conservation Commission will move their headquarters to Livingstone ... but that it would take time.

Gill Comment: *Improving investment, and thus development, in Livingstone (and the rest of Zambia) will come naturally if the cost of doing business in Zambia is reduced. More companies will move into the country and more airlines will fly into the airport. At the end of the newsletter I have copied the World Economic Forum's ranking of countries on policies to promote tourism. Zambia is ranked 107 out of 141.*

From last week's newsletter: Chikwanda explained that 75% of government's domestic revenue of K35.1 billion in 2015 would be consumed by wages, including those of civil servants (which in the meantime had ballooned to 200,000 employees) and other salaries supported by government.

Be on the Lookout for Gill's GPS

The other week my GPS was stolen. I assume the thief thought it was a cellphone ...

If you are offered a GPS like the one pictured, for sale, please help - grab it and don't let go. It has all my coordinates for my travels over the past few years and is an indispensable tool. I am lost without it.



AFRICAN QUEEN
CRUISE COMPANY



Bhukhans

JOLLYBOYS



Ban on Hunting of Lions and Leopards Lifted

The Minister of Tourism, Jean Kapata has lifted the ban on hunting of big cats in Zambia.

Jean Kapata: *I am lifting the ban on the following conditions: the guidelines are drafted into a statutory instrument so that they become part of the wildlife law. Lion hunting should only resume in the 2016/2017 hunting season and not this year. Leopard hunting can resume this year 2015/2016 season, but with very cautionary quotas.*

In 2013 the temporary ban on hunting of big cats was put in place because the then Minister of Tourism, Sylvia Masebo, stated that Zambia should not allow any hunting until Zambia has done proper surveys of wildlife available in the Game Management Areas. We have never heard if this survey was ever done – it is obviously an expensive exercise. However, the income to government is large from hunting and it should have been enough for Zambia to do a proper count.

In 2013 Zambia was praised by conservationists as it was seen that the country was following in the footsteps of Botswana which had also banned hunting. It is not a surprise that there is now an online petition which will be given to Jean Kapata. You can find it on www.change.org

I had a search on the internet for some analysis of our GMAs. I had a gut feeling that all is not well but had no proof. My visits to the parks and GMAs have indicated that wildlife populations in some areas are decreasing.

I found this report done in 2008 which, I know is old, but I don't think much has changed since then. In fact, I feel sure, it has got worse. Here is the introduction:

Together sustainably managing Zambia's natural resources

BY PHYLLIS SIMASIKU, HOPESON I. SIMWANZA, GELSON TEMBO, SUSHENJIT BANDYOPADHYAY AND JEAN-MICHEL PAVY
JUNE 2008

MESSAGE TO POLICY MAKERS

This report shows that Zambia's Game Management Areas (GMAs) are in a spiral of degradation economically, sociologically and ecologically – in spite of the unquestionable commitment and efforts of the Zambian Government, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), the communities and their partners. 10 years ago the government implemented the 1998 Zambia Wildlife Act as it realized that without viable natural resources, future generations would face increased risks of hunger and poverty, which would compel them to further exploit their diminishing natural resources. The enacted Policy for National Parks and Wildlife in Zambia instituted the concept of Community-Based Natural Resources Management.

Today, it appears that GMA governance through community institutions such as Community Resources Boards and Village Action Groups is failing to achieve the purpose for which GMAs were established; namely to act as buffer zones to National Parks in order to protect wild animals and their habitats to support a viable wildlife-based tourism industry, which contributes significantly to the national economy and to the improvement of welfare in GMAs.

Lessons from Zambia and other countries in the region demonstrate that blame must be placed, not with the unequivocal commitment and capacity of the Zambian Government and its partners, but rather with the wildlife management policy itself. This report encourages the Zambian Government to launch a national review of the management of GMAs with the view to design and adopt a new policy framework for wildlife management in the broader context of protected area and natural resources management. This report advises the government to ensure that this policy is drafted prior to modifying the Zambia Wildlife Act so it can influence its content.

TONGABEZI



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



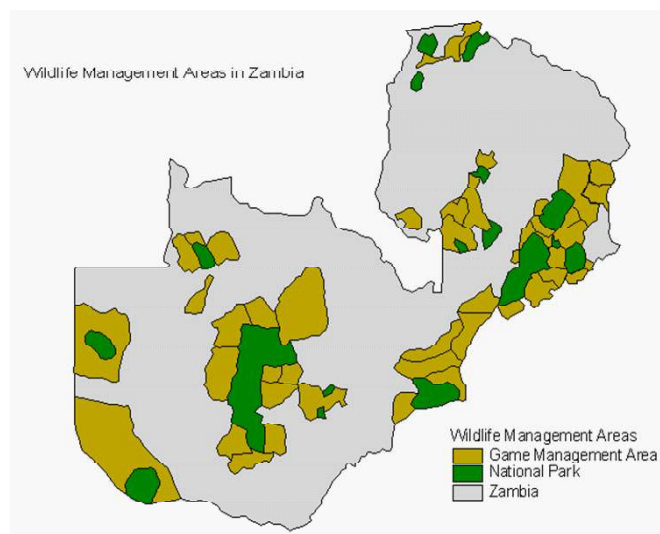
And later ...

CONCLUSION

This report paints an alarming picture of Zambia's GMAs in terms of economical, sociological and ecological benefits. Chapter 2 reveals that the commercial flow to and from GMAs probably is decreasing. Chapter 3 illustrates that natural habitats and wildlife are decreasing at an alarming rate in most GMAs. Chapter 4 shows that GMA communities are 30% poorer than the average Zambian rural communities. Chapter 5 demonstrates that 31 out of 36 GMAs fail to meet the requirements for satisfactory management effectiveness.

This report concludes that GMAs have failed to fulfill their purpose; namely to act as buffer zones to National Parks in order to protect wild animals and their habitats to support a viable wildlife-based tourism industry, which contributes significantly to the national economy and to the improvement of welfare in GMAs.

The key message to the Zambian Government and other policy makers is that current wildlife management policies are inadequate whether evaluated from an ecological, economic or sociological perspective. This report therefore urges them to launch, as rapidly as possible, a review of the governance of GMAs with the view to adopt a new policy for wildlife management prior to the revision of the wildlife legislation.



We have 36 GMAs in Zambia, many of which are hunted out – either legally or illegally.

And, finally, from the UK Guardian:

“Nobody in this situation, with this particular black rhino put more value on it than I did,” said hunter Corey Knowlton this week, before killing the rhino with several shots he had paid \$350,000 to fire. “I’m absolutely hell bent on protecting this animal.” ...

His Namibian hunt coincided with an announcement by the government in neighbouring Zambia that it would lift its ban on hunting lions and leopards just two years after it was imposed. Jean Kapata, Zambia’s tourism and arts minister, said the move would benefit wildlife conservation.

Trophy hunting, the practice of selling expensive permits to shoot big game, is a drawcard for a certain type of tourist. Many of them, including Knowlton and Kendall Jones (who last year became a hate figure for animal rights groups after posting photos on showing her posing beside kills), claim their primary motivation is conservation. ...

Some national governments and scientists back the industry’s claim it can support population recoveries in endangered species.

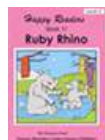
But many experts the Guardian spoke to said that in reality, hunting rarely helped to conserve species. Critics say hunters hide their enjoyment of a bloodsport behind a cloak of goodwill.

“If it is well managed, then yes there might be a case to be made for hunting as a means for conservation because it does bring in a little bit of money,” said Pieter Kat, co-founder of Lion Aid. But for hunting to act as an unlikely bedfellow for conservation it relies on good management and in the majority of cases this did not occur, he said.

“I would say there are some examples, but it largely depends on the honesty of the hunting operators. By far the largest majority of people that are in the hunting profession are not doing it out of any form of conservation. They are in it for the money,” said Kat.

Kat was highly critical of Zambia’s decision to overturn its lion and leopard hunting ban. He said the government had “caved in to powerful hunting interests”. Zambia’s government said the move was based on fresh field assessments, but Kat said no such count has occurred. The government estimates there are 4,000 lions in the country, but informal estimates put the number at more like 400. ...

There have been many, many comments on the internet about this announcement by Jean Kapata. I think that the decision will not be accepted quietly ...



Happy Readers
A Reading Programme
developed in Africa
for children of Africa



NELS MOTORS
Vehicle
Workshop



CABINET DECISIONS

b) Transport Management in the Public Service.

Government has introduced a transport management system that is aimed at reducing the cost of running the huge Government fleet and through this decision, Government shall be saving approximately K10 billion per year in managing transport in institutions in the three arms of Government as well as in the Quasi-government institutions.

(g) The Customs and Excise (Port of Entry Routes) (Amendment) Order, 2014.

Under this item, Cabinet approved the recommendation to amend the Customs and Excise (Ports of Entry Routes) (Amendment) Order in order to extend the operating hours of Kasumbalesa, Chembe and Mukambo border posts from 12 hours to 24 hours.

Two Chinese shot by police after hunting owls

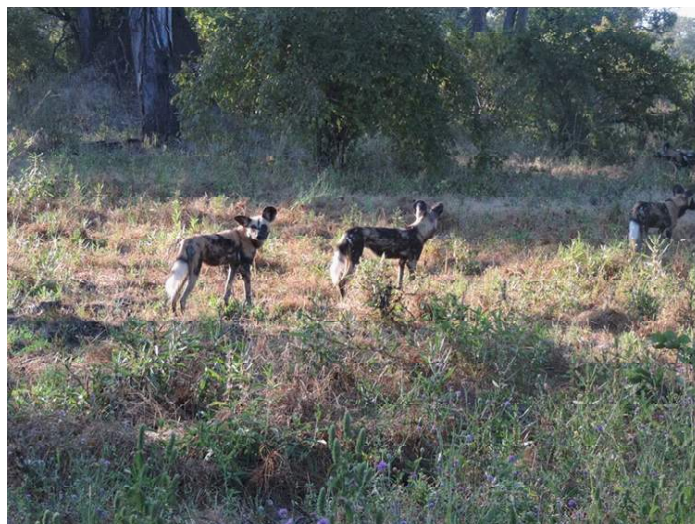
Lusaka Times

Two Chinese, a woman and a man, have been wounded by police when hunting owls on Kasavara Farm in Balmoral, Lusaka. Together with two other Chinese, they were caught late in the evening, after the farm's supervisor heard gun shots from a vehicle. The vehicle had been spotted before, and the supervisor called the farm's owner, Dirk Muijs, who alerted the police. When the Chinese failed to stop at a roadblock mounted in their favour, the police opened fire. The wounded have been admitted to the University Teaching Hospital, while the others pleaded not guilty to criminal trespassing. In the car, the police found a pistol, a shotgun, ammunition, wire cutters, a torch and two dead owls.

Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP)

After many months of hard tracking we managed to finally collar wild dogs in the Manchesa pack of Lupande GMA! These GMA packs are heavily impacted by snares and thus it's critical to be able to track and regularly find these dogs and other carnivores in these high risk areas. Great work by the ZCP Luangwa field team and South Luangwa Conservation Society (SLCS) and ZCP Vet, Dr. Sichande! Scientific studies by ZCP and SLCS demonstrate that snaring is increasing in the Game Management Areas designed to buffer national parks; thus wild dog, lion and hyena that inhabit the GMAs are at increasing risk of snaring by-catch.

Lupande Game Management Area is to the east of South Luangwa National Park.



Livingstone's Adventure





Liuwa National Park
Zambia Carnivore Programme

A great team effort by our park team, ZCP researchers and ZAWA scouts to rescue a snared hyaena. This bemused hyaena had picked up a snare around its paw and was exhausted after dragging a large log attached to its paw by wire snare. As the snare was removed a quick assessment considered that it should make a good recovery. A big thank you to all involved!



Aerial view of the Luangwa River from ZCP

Gill Comment: *We have such a beautiful country. It is a shame that we don't exploit it through more tourism*





CeleFest

ZAMBIA'S WILDEST MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL
LUSAKA GYMKHANA CLUB • 30TH MAY 2015 • 12:00 TILL 00:00

LIVE MUSIC & DJS PINK BLUES • DIAMOND WHITE • ZAMROCK REVIVAL
KAPIRI MPOSHI 4.0 • CACTUS AGONY • AFTERNOON DELIGHT

FOOD & ACTIVITIES: WATERFALLS GOURMET MARKET • YOGA LUSAKA • SHIMMY GLISTEN

PRESALE TICKETS K100 TICKETS ON SALE FROM 1ST MAY AT GAME RANGERS
TICKETS AT THE GATE K120 INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, ABABA HOUSE, TWIKATANE ROAD
FREE ENTRY FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12



ZAMBEZI SOCIETY STATEMENT ON “NO UN-GUIDED WALKING IN MANA POOLS”

16th May 2015

The Zambezi Society would like to clarify the current situation with regard to the recent controversial “banning” of un-escorted walking in Mana Pools National Park.

Until very recently, one of the unique attributes contributing towards Mana Pools’ reputation as a global brand was the freedom of visitors to experience the wilderness in a primal way. The most recent Mana Pools Management Plan states:- “Mana Pools is probably one of the only National Parks in Africa with dangerous big game that permits unescorted walking. This is one of the unique experiences of this park and is listed as an exceptional resource. There have been several fatalities mainly through elephant and buffalo attacks, but considering the numbers of visitors who take part in this activity, the numbers are remarkably low”.

However, the Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority has decided, as is their right and responsibility, to immediately revisit the “unescorted walking” aspect of a tourist’s experience in Mana Pools National Park. They have announced that with immediate effect, “no un-guided tours” will take place in Mana Pools i.e. the public will no longer be able to walk without an accompanying guide.

This comes at a time when The Zambezi Society, in consultation with its public constituency and in collaboration with other stakeholders, including the tour operators and the Parks Authority itself, was in the process of developing a comprehensive Code of Conduct for visitor behaviour in the Park. This had been initiated, as a result of recent reported incidences of inappropriate behaviour on the part of the un-escorted walking public and certain tour operators, and was to be introduced for the coming safari season.

When the “no unguided tours” decision was announced, The Zambezi Society immediately engaged the Parks Authority management. We attended stakeholder meetings and wrote submissions to the Authority.

However, at the latest meeting (Thursday 14th May) we were advised that the Parks Authority will maintain its position that walkers at Mana Pools will need to be accompanied by a Professional guide or a Parks ranger.

The principal is clear (walks must be escorted), but at the same time the Parks Authority advises that the guidelines around walking in the immediate surrounds of exclusive camps, picnic sites, viewing areas, short distances from a vehicle and fishing on the river will be “functional”.

Visitors will be permitted to bring a Professional Guide to be with them during their stay. (The Zambezi Society is considering opening dialogue with the Professional guides to set up a data base of suitably qualified candidates. However, this will need careful thought as to how it will sit with the existing situation where tour operators are required to pay annual licences for operating in the Park.)

Going forward, The Zambezi Society will endeavour to be included in working on the “nuts and bolts” of this new regulation. We will continue to engage the Parks Authority towards arriving at a special category and criteria for the return of a responsible level of un-escorted walking guided by a comprehensive Code of Conduct. ...

Can you imagine the African skies



devoid of Vultures?

Photography: Flying - Andre Botha, Lappet-faced - Gary De Jong

Catastrophic poisoning events across Africa are driving local populations of vultures toward extinction. Six species of vulture are found in Zimbabwe (White-backed, Cape, Lappet-faced, Hooded, White-headed and Palmnut) and this group of globally threatened birds have an extremely important ecological niche to fill by removing carcasses, curbing the spread of disease and the proliferation of feral animals. The scourge of poaching affecting Africa is closely linked to the poisoning phenomenon with poachers lacing carcasses to target predators (eg. jackals, lions) which pose a danger to livestock and deliberately poisoning elephants and rhinos for their ivory and horns. Vultures are also sought after in the traditional medicine (muthi) trade and this comprises a further major threat to the species, with birds killed using poisons and other means of hunting to satisfy this demand.

**27th June 2015
ALL WELCOME!**

**BirdLife Zimbabwe is holding a
Vulture Awareness Day
9am to 1pm at the
Victoria Falls Safari Lodge Conference Centre,
Victoria Falls**

Speakers:
Prof Peter Mundy, N.U.S.T.
Dr Chris Foggin, VF Wildlife Trust
Dr Roger Parry, VF Wildlife Trust
Josephine Mundava, N.U.S.T.
ZPWMA Ecologist
Martin Taylor, Special Projects (BirdLife South Africa)

**Entry to this exciting initiative is FREE
Join us and be a part of the solution!**

28th June 2015

6.30am

Join the Vulture Awareness Campaign and run the Vic Falls Marathon (or Half Marathon) with BirdLife Zimbabwe Youth or walk the optional 7km

Or if you're not into running/walking

Join BirdLife Zimbabwe members and go birding in and around the Falls! Bring your binos...

27th

3-5pm:
BirdLife Zimbabwe Annual General Meeting
BECOME A MEMBER AND ATTEND!







**NB. A private bus has been organized to travel from Harare on 26 June to Vic Falls via Bulawayo for the Vulture Awareness Day and will return on 29 June.
USD50 return trip from Harare, USD25 return trip from Bulawayo.**

For more information on this and the Vulture Awareness Day, please email: jullapierini@birdlifetzimbabwe.org

FIRST RHINOS IN MASSIVE AFRICAN AIRLIFT RELEASED IN BOTSWANA !

National Geographic

[It's the first stage of the world's largest rhino airlift, meant to protect a dwindling population of the animals.]

Ten rhinos have been safely released in northern Botswana, after a long journey that entailed a cargo plane, a crane, dozens of soldiers, and six weeks in quarantine.

The animals were captured from an overpopulated park in South Africa and were moved to an undisclosed location in a sparsely populated reserve in Botswana last week that is better protected from poachers.

The relocation project, called Rhinos Without Borders, aims to move 100 rhinos by next year, the largest attempted airlift of rhinos in history.

The first ten were released on April 28, after touching down in the largest aircraft ever to land at Botswana's Maun International Airport, an Ilyushin 76, according to Dereck Joubert, one of the project's leaders.

"It was a great success and we are all feeling euphoric from the amazing experience," Beverly Joubert, another project leader, said via email.

The Jouberts are National Geographic explorers-in-residence who are collaborating on the airlift with the tourism groups Great Plains Conservation and andBeyond. The husband and wife team work as wildlife filmmakers and conservationists based in Botswana's Okavango Delta. (Read a Q&A with the Jouberts on the project.)

Dereck Joubert says the bold project is necessary because rhinos reached a tipping point last year, with more killed by poachers than were born in the wild. An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 black rhinos and 20,000 white rhinos remain in Africa, with another one killed by poachers every seven and a half hours. Their horns are hacked off and sold in China and Vietnam on the black market for medical treatments that western scientists say don't work.

Getting the rhinos from the airport to deep into the Okavango Delta was no easy task. Already packed in crates, the rhinos were loaded onto trucks and escorted by 60 soldiers, to deter potential poachers. (Learn more about the process.)

Along the way, a wheel came off one of the trucks and the two-ton rhinos had to be moved into another truck via crane. The convoy had to cross several rivers, while a helicopter was sent ahead to scout for poachers. The heat was a relentless 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius), which meant the team had to make sure the animals didn't overheat.

By sundown, the rhinos were released into their new homes, less than 24 hours from the start of their journey from the staging area in an undisclosed part of South Africa. There, the rhinos had been monitored for disease for six weeks and fitted with microchips to monitor their locations. But under the watchful eye of the Botswana military, the rhinos "finally ran free," says Dereck Joubert.

"One bull [male rhino] turned back and as a deep sign of appreciation charged the container he had been cooped up in, putting a massive dent in it," says Joubert. (Learn about the controversy around legal rhino hunting.)

The relocation process is expensive, about \$45,000 per rhino, but Rhinos Without Borders has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from supporters and will soon be moving more rhinos.

The ultimate goal is doubling Botswana's wild rhino population, now estimated at 77 to 100 animals.



I was reading about the brown hyena project and found out about Namibia's wild horses. I thought you might like the story:

Namibia Wild Horses

From <http://www.wild-horses-namibia.com/>

The Wild Horses of the Namib hold a powerful fascination. For centuries their origin was shrouded in mystery. Their habitat, the barren plains around Garub on the eastern fringe of the Namib Desert (part of the Namib-Naukluft Park), is no paradise. Nevertheless, they have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions and the arid land which fulfills all their needs. ...

There have been several theories proposed over the years as to the origin of the wild horses. The two most likely stem from the period between 1915 and 1925. During World War One, Union of South Africa troops were stationed at Garub. Reports from the time make reference to 10 000 soldiers with 6 000 horses who pitched camp on the dusty expanse at the edge of the Namib Desert. They relied on the water from the borehole that was used to replenish locomotives at the nearby railway line and supplement the water for the town of Lüderitz.

The German forces had set up a stronghold in the hills at Aus, 25km to the east. The base comprised a series of entrenchments, supply routes, a radio mast and housed two planes, which bombed the Union camp intermittently. The last attack was on the 27 March 1915 to mask the Germans' retreat, scattering the Union horses. ...

It is thought that the Union forces might not have had sufficient time to catch all the dispersed animals before advancing on the retreating Germans, although some soldiers would have remained at the camp after the troops moved off.

Another more probable theory appears to be the missing puzzle piece as to the origin of the horses that formed the core of the wild horse population. Emil Kreplin, who was the mayor of Lüderitz from 1909 to 1914, had a stud farm at Kubub, south of Aus. Here, Kreplin bred workhorses for the mines and racehorses for the flourishing town of Lüderitz that had boomed in the diamond rush sparked in 1908. In photographic evidence of the Kubub stud horses, unearthed by hobby-historian Walter Rusch, there are remarkable similarities in conformation and characteristic markings between the Kubub horses and the present-day wild horses showing traces of Hackney, Trakehner and Shagya Arab breeds.

Kreplin was interred in the Union of South Africa during the hostilities and later lost his fortune in the depression years in Europe. It is assumed that during or after the war the horses, ownerless and not contained by fences, would have begun to scatter, leaving the overgrazed Kubub area in search of better grazing and following the scattered rainfall. They would have eventually made their way to the permanent water source at Garub, becoming wilder over time and linking up with any remaining Union horses and any other abandoned horses in the area.



Substantiated biologically and historically, the theories can thus be brought together. Any horses that were abandoned in the turmoil of war would also have gathered in the area around Aus, finding water at the springs after the rains and at the Garub borehole.

The horses lived in the protected Sperrgebiet diamond area, which provided safety from hunters and horse capturers. From as early 1908 the German colonial administration had established a restricted area, which extended about 100km inland, and was strictly controlled. Garub and surrounds were part of Sperrgebiet II. Nobody was allowed access to the area, with the only exception made periodically from the 1950s until 1983 in times of serious drought to provide emergency grazing for farmers.

Garub's borehole was maintained by the South African Railway (SAR) for their steam locomotives until the 1960s when diesel replaced steam. Afterwards water was pumped for the railway workers who maintained the track and their animals. From 1977 Consolidated Diamond Mines (CDM) maintained the drinking trough and covered the cost to ensure that the horses were kept watered.

In 1986, that section of Sperrgebiet II was incorporated into the Namib Naukluft Park. For 100 years the horses were able to develop in almost complete isolation, generation by generation, through seasons of drought and abundance, becoming a pure breed through decades of natural selection. They are now regarded as a breed in their own right, the 'Namibs'.

The Brown Hyena Project has positioned a camera trap by the trough at Garub:

The spotted hyenas are also back at the trough. We will find out more about their visits to the horse area soon once the other 13 camera traps are set-up in the study area.



And, finally:

The ever-present curiosity of the Zorse who has befriended our southern herd of horses. His semi-wild physiology means he, like his Zebra mother, is always in good condition despite lack of rains.



SOUTH AFRICA

From British Airways

The South African Department of Home Affairs have introduced a new regulation that comes into effect for all travel from 1 June 2015. The regulation applies to all children under the age of 18 who will be required to carry additional documentation when travelling to, from or transferring through the Republic of South Africa.

Customers who arrive at the airport without the correct documentation cannot be accepted for travel and we recommend that you click on the link below to ensure you are prepared before you travel.

World Economic Forum Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2015

The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) measures “the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable development of the Travel & Tourism sector, which in turn, contributes to the development and competitiveness of a country”.

| Ranking | | | | | |
|---------|----------------|------|-----|--------------|------|
| 1 | Spain | 5.31 | 115 | Zimbabwe | 3.09 |
| 2 | France | 5.24 | 118 | Ethiopia | 3.03 |
| 3 | Germany | 5.22 | 120 | Ghana | 3.01 |
| 4 | United States | 5.12 | 121 | Madagascar | 2.99 |
| 5 | United Kingdom | 5.12 | 122 | Cameroon | 2.95 |
| 48 | South Africa | 4.08 | 124 | Gabon | 2.92 |
| 54 | Seychelles | 4 | 126 | Malawi | 2.9 |
| 70 | Namibia | 3.69 | 128 | Mali | 2.87 |
| 78 | Kenya | 3.58 | 129 | Lesotho | 2.82 |
| 83 | Egypt | 3.49 | 130 | Mozambique | 2.81 |
| 88 | Botswana | 3.42 | 131 | Nigeria | 2.79 |
| 93 | Tanzania | 3.35 | 132 | Sierra Leone | 2.77 |
| 98 | Rwanda | 3.32 | 135 | Burundi | 2.7 |
| 107 | Zambia | 3.22 | 136 | Burkina Faso | 2.67 |
| 108 | Swaziland | 3.2 | 137 | Mauritania | 2.64 |
| 109 | Gambia, The | 3.2 | 139 | Angola | 2.6 |
| 112 | Senegal | 3.14 | 140 | Guinea | 2.58 |
| 114 | Uganda | 3.11 | 141 | Chad | 2.43 |

EAST AFRICA NEWS FROM WOLFGANG THOME

TANZANIA'S ALREADY DEVASTATING CONSERVATION RECORD GETS ANOTHER BLOW

When the Kikwete presidency ends in late 2015 will this president be remembered by the conservation fraternity for but two things: that he presided over the worst elephant slaughter in history, similar only to the mowing down of the great North American herds of bison, and that he directed that the application for UNESCO World Heritage Status for the Eastern Arc Mountains be withdrawn just as the world body was to enscribe the forested mountains in its global list.

Enough has been said about the elephant slaughter, earning this correspondent hate mail and threats from regime sycophants and deniers of poaching, until the opposition in parliament in Dodoma tabled massive poaching figures which the house, left with little choice, accepted. At that time however had the large herds of elephant in the Selous and the Ruaha ecosystems been systematically decimated with only around 13.000 left now in the Selous where only ten years ago nearly 70.000 elephants roamed.

The second issue, also reported here critically at the time the directive came down on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, earned this correspondent similar name calling, from anti development and anti Tanzanian ‘bloody muzungu’ to worse, for daring to ‘dictate’ to the Tanzanian government how to deal with their own land and their own resources and most notably, the way they run their country.

Now a report by WWF, short for World Wide Fund for Nature, has exposed the bitter truth, namely that some 80 percent of the forests of the Eastern Arc mountains had been cut down for timber exports, local timber use and charcoal making, affirming the suspicions voiced back then that it was indeed the desire to mine and deforest which drove the abortion of the application process for UNESCO WHS recognition. ...

ARBITRARY CONCESSION FEE INCREASES RAISE NEW FIRESTORM AMONG TANZANIAN TOURISM CIRCLES

‘These increases are arbitrary. These increases are not transparent. These increases will be opposed even if TANAPA once more holds vehicles and tourists hostage at the gates. They will see us’ let a regular commentator from Arusha off steam when sending information overnight that TANAPA had indeed slapped some 27 lodges and camps with per night extra charges of between 30 US Dollars and 100 US Dollars. If these charges are sanctioned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, will a safari of say seven nights, using the top layer of those singled out, suddenly cost 700 US Dollars more per client, a sure recipe to wipe out much of the existing demand.

WEATHER

| Min Temp | Max Temp |
|----------|----------|
| 18°C | 25°C |

EXCHANGE RATES

| | |
|-------|------------|
| US\$1 | K7.15 |
| | P9.88 |
| | Nam\$12.05 |

THE SMILE

Made my four-year-old pasta bolognaise for dinner. To save time I rubbed the sauce in his face and smeared the rest on the carpet

Have a good two weeks

Gill