



Dear All

It is getting cold and the aloes are coming out in flower.

Zambia, Land of Rivers

In a previous issue of the newsletter I commented about bridges which have been washed away during the rainy season. Not this rainy season, of course, because we have hardly noticed any rain. However, in previous years small bridges have been washed away when the water floods down seasonal rivers at speed.

There are several such cases in Livingstone – Mulala, Libuyu-Maramba and Sakubita. Either these bridges have gone or are in serious need of repair. Some bridges are for vehicle crossing, but others are just footbridges. I mentioned that some children in villages around Zambia cannot get to school when the rivers flow and all they need is a small footbridge.

Yamfwa Mukanga, Minister of Transport, has said that many bridges in Zambia would be repaired including the ones in Livingstone. In an article in the news, the Acro-bridge project was mentioned.

I found an Acrow Bridge Company in America, so I think this must have something to do with it. They pre-fabricate bridges. Isn't this just the thing for us here? Surely we could manufacture our own.



ZAMBIA

Foleys (Africa) Ltd
Land Rover Specialist



From African Development Bank

With African Development Bank (AfDB) support, Zambia has received approval for a \$38 million infusion of support from the Climate Investment Funds' (CIF) Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) to undertake the Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Kafue Sub-Basin project. The project will have two components: strengthening the capacity of 800,000 rural communities who depend on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources to better respond to the consequences of climate change including floods and droughts; and strengthening the climate resilience of rural roads that link farmers to markets and to the Kafue National Park. ...

Specifically, the project will emphasize:

Community-level infrastructure projects, such as small-scale, community-level flood control and diversion structures, small-scale irrigation schemes, water reservoirs and small dams, de-silting and restocking ponds, improved wells and boreholes, community forest plantations, and wildlife estate and community game ranches;

Farm-level support systems such as training farmers on conservation agriculture, management of soil moisture and fertility, providing inputs such as seeds for drought and flood-resistant crop varieties for crop diversification, seedlings for fruit orchards, livestock and fisheries for diversification of farming systems, erosion control and improved grazing and pastures as well as value-addition investments;

Construction and rehabilitation of climate-resilient roads stretching 27.52 km from Kalomo to Dundumwezi (75.25 km) and Itezhi-Tezhi to Namwala (52 km) to better withstand flooding. ...

Gill Comment: *I just hope this money does not go on lots of meetings and workshops ...*

The Kalomo-Dundumwezi road is in need of work mainly because of the trucks which ply the road collecting farm produce. As far as I can remember, it really just needs grading every year. A bit of TLC ...

Bangweulu

National Geographic

The horses at the Bangweulu Wetlands Project were introduced by the previous Bangweulu Wetlands Park Manager, Craig Reid. He was a keen horseman who was convinced that horses could greatly assist with monitoring wildlife and, eventually, with anti-poaching patrols.

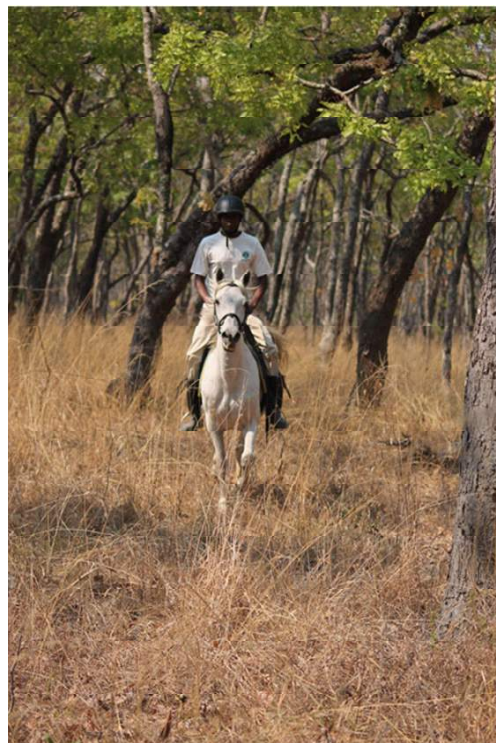
The horses arrived in early 2013 and no-one knew how they would adapt to Bangweulu Wetlands with its thick elephant grass and vast dambos. Local communities, who had never seen a horse, greeted them with suspicion and excitement. The Bisa people are traditionally hunter-gathers and keeping livestock is not common.

But the equestrian unit has been a valuable addition to the area. The horses can cover four times the distance than rangers on a foot patrol. They have a height advantage, with the ability to see poachers and wildlife ahead of them, which is great advantage in a place like Bangweulu with small hills and high grass. The wildlife are also more relaxed in the presence of the horses which has enabled management to get a better understanding of the species diversity and populations.

However the integration of the horses has taken time as the horses needed to adapt to their new environment which was very different to their lush kikuyu pastures. The staff also needed to build relationships with the horses.

Albert Mupangachabe, one of the scouts at Bangweulu, was the first to express interest and proved to be great horseman. Albert took to riding immediately and was a natural on a horse. When you ask Albert about the highlights of his job he explains how much he enjoys riding and the experience he has had with animals whilst on horseback. Recently he identified a remnant population of sable who are thriving as a result of the extra protection they are receiving from the Bangweulu Wetlands scouts. He returned that day excitedly telling the park members how close the sable came to him and how they just continued to graze. Lastly he added, "I also enjoy it when each morning I arrive at work and Fiddles greets me with a 'whinny'."

The riders have also been taught that it is important to know how to care for the horses which includes all equestrian related tasks such as mucking out stables, grooming and feeding. Bangweulu Wetlands plans to grow the equestrian unit to include four members who will all work on rotation.



AFRICAN QUEEN
CRUISE COMPANY



Bhukhans

JOLLYBOYS



Zambia Carnivore Programme (ZCP)

Just arriving on the job, ZCP's Kafue vet, Dr. Kambwiri Banda, managed to find and de-snare this wild dog from our largest study pack in the park thanks to ZCP's intensive studies of dogs using radio-telemetry. Snaring continues to be a major threat to dogs and other carnivores in the Kafue and throughout Zambia.



South Luangwa Conservation Society

This years conservation fun run is on Sat 13th June at 6.30am, Mfuwe airport grounds. We've introduced the Chris Fenner Conservation Cup for the winner and a womans cup, courtesy of our late friend and fun run organizer Chris Fenner's family.



Kasanka Trust

Kasanka Trust is looking for a someone to run the Educational Tourism Project. Based in Kasanka National Park, you will organise and facilitate group and study tours for students and tourists from abroad, touring Kasanka and Lavushi Manda National Park and other places in Zambia. Key words: bush lover, serious organisation skills, strong hospitality attitude. Work experience in Zambia or Africa is recommended. Start: as soon as possible. Duration: 3-6 months to start with. Email inge@kasanka.com for more information.



TONGABEZI



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



The Zambezi to flow to South Africa?

Emmerson Mnangagwa, Vice President, was in Bulawayo during the week. Bulawayo used to be Zimbabwe's industrial centre but now many of the businesses have closed down and the town is rather a sad, dilapidated place.

Emmerson Mnangagwa however has said that the government wishes to resuscitate business in Bulawayo by bringing water from the Zambezi River to the town. He also said that the pipeline would extend to South Africa and that Zimbabwe would be paid for the water it supplies to that country ... He said that South Africa would pay for the project ...

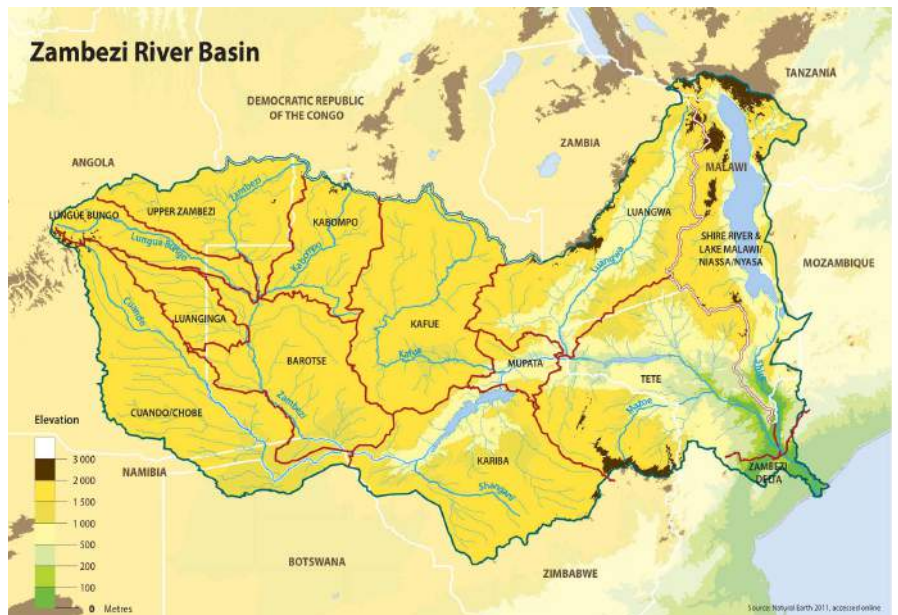
From ZAMCOM

The Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) is a river basin organization set up by countries that share the Zambezi River Basin - Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

According to their website:

ZAMCOM's goal is to assist the Riparian States achieve regional cooperation and integration through sharing treasured benefits from the water resources of the Zambezi river basin. This is in recognition of the contribution that such cooperation could make towards the peace and prosperity of the basin and the Southern African region as a whole.

As you can see from the map, most of the water in the Zambezi River comes from Zambia.



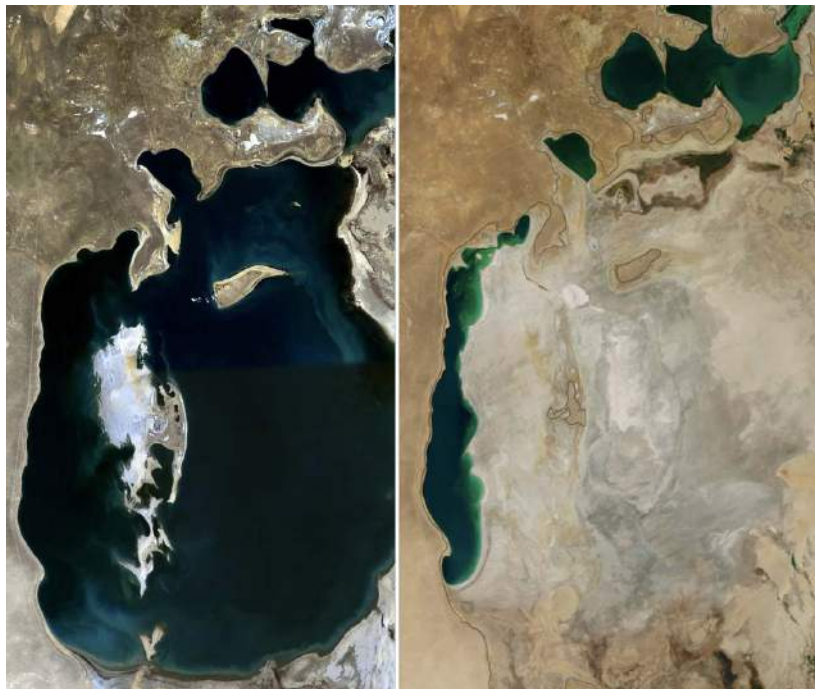
Man is the only mammal on this planet which is capable of changing the environment. Climate change has been caused by our activities of putting too much toxic stuff in the atmosphere.

What will happen when our water is piped to South Africa? Both Botswana and Zimbabwe seem intent on doing so. Although Bulawayo is on the edge of the Zambezi River Basin, Francistown and Gaborone are not within it. According to all that I have read water should not be taken from one river basin to another. We may not see the changes in our lifetimes, but what about generations to come?

From Wikipedia about the Aral Sea

Formerly one of the four largest lakes in the world with an area of 68,000 km², the Aral Sea has been steadily shrinking since the 1960s after the rivers that fed it were diverted by Soviet irrigation projects. By 2007, it had declined to 10% of its original size

These images show the Aral Sea in 1989 and 2014



I think ZAMCOM should have a meeting ...



Painted Dog Foundation

After the turmoil of the past weeks we are taking each day as it comes.

Today was a good day. Back to “normal” and out looking for and locating the Nyamandlovu Pack with Jealous. The alpha female (named Socks) is very pregnant, with what will be her third litter.

Jealous actually thought she had denned already so we were a little bit surprised to see the pack so close to Main Camp. Other packs have denned in this area previously so we hope she follows their lead and thus dens in a location that should mean we see the pack often during the next couple of months. It was great positive reinforcement for us and we are sure to name one of the pups “Gibby” in honour of our departed friend.



Santonga

The Sangonga Project has been on the cards for many years. The plan is to construct a visitor centre on 32 hectares of land near Victoria Falls Safari Lodge which will describe the life of the area around the Victoria Falls over the millennia. It will be a bit of a tourist extravaganza, I assume.

However, it seems that the project is now coming under strong scrutiny by authorities as the project awaits approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment. One would think that government would be really pleased to see such an investment into Victoria Falls Town – an investment said to be of US\$18million. But articles in the government-controlled newspapers have not been very complimentary.

I have a feeling that the problem lies in the proposed Disneyland style development that the Zimbabwe government wishes to promote on an area around the Victoria Falls airport, 20 km outside of town. Is there a conflict? Probably.

We have a similar situation in Livingstone. Both our government and our accountants want a huge conference facility in Livingstone so that they can have their big conferences every once in a while. However, a large conference venue is expensive to build and is probably not a viable business proposition as it will lie unused for much of the time.

In the capitalist society in which we live, it is left to the business community to invest their money in order to gain an income from their investment. Governments should, I feel, just facility business and make sure that it is conducive to area and the people who live and work in it.

At the present time I do not see investors lining up to build Disneyworld by Victoria Falls airport or a 2,000-capacity conference facility in Livingstone. They just won't make money.



Hwange's fight to save the young elephant exportation continues ...

Friends of Animals files lawsuit to force the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Interior to take action to prevent the ongoing capture and exportation of baby elephants by Zimbabwe.

(Washington, D.C.) In January 2015, Zimbabwe announced it would be capturing and selling upwards of sixty-two baby African elephants to China and United Arab Emirates (Thailand has since been added to the list). Outraged by this news, Friends of Animals and the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force submitted a petition to Secretary of State John Kerry and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking the United States to take legal action to condemn Zimbabwe's plan to export elephants as it is inconsistent with international elephant conservation goals.

The United States failed to respond to the petition in a reasonable time. Meanwhile, reports indicate that helicopters have been hovering above wild elephant herds in Zimbabwe and firing shots until the herd scatters. The baby elephants that cannot keep up are kidnapped, and held in capture facilities surrounded by guards with AK-47s. The baby elephants are usually between two and five years old; a time when they are heavily reliant on their mothers. It is impossible to determine exactly how many elephants Zimbabwe has exported. Some have estimated that nearly 200 juvenile elephants have been captured and an increasing number are dying as a result of physical and mental abuse.

In light of the exigent circumstances and the United States' failure to act, Friends of Animals and Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force have filed a complaint in the District Court of the District of Columbia asking for an order requiring the United States to promptly respond to their petition to condemn and help prevent these horrific roundups of baby elephants .

Friends of Animals is a non-profit, international animal advocacy organization, incorporated in the state of New York since 1957. Friends of Animals works to cultivate a respectful view of nonhuman animals, free-living and domestic. Our goal is to free animals from cruelty and institutionalized exploitation around the world.

BOTSWANA

Will the Zambezi go via Zimbabwe or Botswana to South Africa?

Linked to the above story where Zimbabwe intends to sell the Zambezi River to South Africa, there was another report in the Botswana news:

7 years – Reduced timeline on building a pipeline in Botswana to carry water from the Zambezi River to the dry south of the country.

The project was originally scheduled for completion in 2030 and was meant to deliver water to commercial agriculture in the northwest, but recent water shortages in the southern capital and surrounding areas have forced the country to rearrange its plans. ...

Air Botswana makes a loss

According to a report in the news, Air Botswana is running at a loss and has done so for some years. *Air Botswana's financial performance for the financial year ended March 31, 2014 has deteriorated year-on-year as it recorded a loss of P99.99 million, compared to P75.84 million in the previous year and P47.12 million the year before.*

Air Botswana runs routes to South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia as well as in-country flights between Gaborone and Maun, Francistown and Kasane. Only the Johannesburg-Gaborone flight runs at a profit.

According to the report, the Botswana government props up the company with a grant to keep the business afloat.

Gill Comment. *I feel sure that if the government took this loss together with the money it makes from tourism and business in tax because of the existence of the airline, it would find that it doesn't look so bad ...*



More Rhinos and dead poachers

From the Ngami Times

A further airlift of at least five more rhinos from a private game reserve in South Africa to Maun and the Okavango Delta is expected soon. The Ngami Times understands that the consignment is part of at least 100 rhinos destined to be brought to this country.

They will be guarded by Botswana Defence Force soldiers at an undisclosed and secure destination deep in the delta. The first nine rhinos arrived in the country two weeks ago aboard a Russian-built transport plane and have already been relocated to their new home.

Last week The Ngami Times revealed that three poachers from Namibia had been shot dead in the Kwando area. Government officials from Namibia were in Maun last week to claim the bodies. A Korean national who was allegedly the driver of a combi pick-up which transported them to Botswana was also arrested.

The shooting is seen as a clear warning to would-be poachers of rhinos and elephants that Botswana is showing no mercy to poachers. ...

NAMIBIA

Etosha poachers arrested

Informante

VARIOUS arrests the past week have set the trap for the dismantling of a rhino and elephant poaching syndicate who for months operated with apparent impunity in Namibia's most protected wildlife areas.

Informanté revealed last week that arrests in the spate of poaching incidents the past few months are imminent with police breakthrough in especially the North West.

It is anticipated by the Minister of Environment and Tourism (MET), Pohamba Shifeta, that the police is hot on the heels of more prominent members in the hierarchy of the syndicate.

The MET has conducted examinations on all elephant and rhino carcasses found this year. The results revealed that 68 rhinos and 23 elephants were confirmed to have been poached this year, compared 78 elephants and 24 rhinos in 2014. In a span of 10 years from 2005 up until now a total of 103 rhinos were poached of which 66% happened in 2015 alone. It is clear that there is a drastic increase in rhino poaching this year.

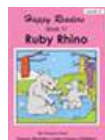
The MET has been working with the Namibian police in the investigation of all confirmed poaching cases of elephants and rhinos. Arrests have been made but details are being kept classified for now in order to catch the masterminds behind the poaching. Forensic ballistic tests will also be carried out on the rifles confiscated from the alleged poachers.

Rifles from game wardens, contractors in the Etosha National Park as well as privately owned rifles in the surrounding areas of Etosha will also be taken in for ballistic testing to ensure no stone is left unturned. Shifeta also made clear that to help curb poaching no privately owned firearms will be permitted in national parks.

The MET has implemented numerous measures to curb poaching in Namibia. Short and long term strategic activities is being implemented, such as the training of more staff to get more feet on the ground to patrol areas and to enforce strict park rules.

"Staff will also be rotated to disrupt any possible inside help given to poachers. The ministry will also collaborate more intensively with law enforcement, neighbouring countries and communal conservancies to work more effectively and proficiently," said Shifeta.

Shifeta stated that poaching should be stopped as fast as possible as animals are not only a natural resource which Namibia can benefit from economically, but an important part of our heritage which we need to preserve for future generations.



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



NELS MOTORS
Vehicle
Workshop



Travellers are Fickle

Windhoek has two airports, one on the edge of town and one 45km to the east. The one in the town is called Eros; the one out of town is called Hosea Kutako. Hosea Kutako is the international airport.

Air Namibia decided in March to transfer the point of departure for its Rundu and Katima Mulilo flights to Hosea Kutako from Eros. It didn't work. Now, two months later, the point of departure will return to Eros.


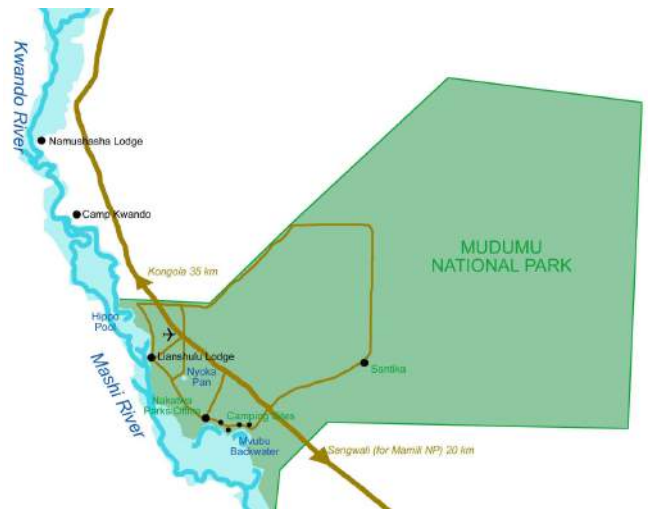
Paulus Nakawa, Air Namibia spokesman:

An airline, like any other business organization, provides products and services for selling to its customers. In our case, the schedule (which comprises flight departure and arrival times, as well as destinations served) is our product offering. When you place a product in the market, there are many considerations you take into account, including market / consumer reactions. You need to study the market and position yourself appropriately in order to enhance potential revenue and customer satisfaction levels.

Many businesses come up with products which are quite good in terms of quality and cost, it happens that the market could react differently, which will compel you to re-consider. Ultimately it is about meeting customer requirements and needs. Unfortunately our customer base and needs are diverse, we cannot satisfy everyone, so compromises have to happen.

Kwando Carnivore Project

After months of field work camera trapping followed by the identification of individual carnivores from their unique spot patterns, I have identified a total of 23 leopards in the Mudumu North Complex. Six males (three in the state forest and three in Mudumu National Park), 15 females (adults and sub-adults) and two cubs live in an area of approximately 2500 square kilometres adjacent to the Kwando River in the east Zambezi Region.



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Ultimate River Cruise
EXPERIENCE

RIVER CRUISING IN STYLE

The Ultimate Zambezi River Combination...

An exhilarating River Safari exploration and a relaxed Sunset Cruise on the mighty Zambezi will leave you breathless!

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Livingstone's Adventure
GROUP

www.livingstonesadventure.com

The advertisement features a collage of images: a boat on a river with people, a sunset over water, a crocodile, and a large multi-decked river cruise ship. The text is styled in a mix of bold, sans-serif and elegant, cursive fonts.

EAST AFRICA NEWS FROM WOLFGANG THOME

TANZANIA SIGNS RAILWAY CONTRACTS WORTH OVER 9 BILLION US DOLLARS

Tanzania's Minister for Transport Samuel Sitta last weekend confirmed that the Tanzanian government had put pen to paper with two Chinese companies for the construction of two new rail lines.

One of them, to be built in Standard Gauge, will eventually connect the port of Dar es Salaam with the hinterland countries of Rwanda, Eastern Congo and Burundi and will cover a distance of over 2.500 kilometres. This new line along the so called Central Corridor, where a narrow gauge line is already running up to the town of Isaka, is estimated to cost about 7.8 billion US Dollars. Funds will come, according to information received, from the Chinese government, internal financial sources mobilized by the Tanzanian government and from the African Development Bank.

A second brand new rail line will also be constructed to link Dar es Salaam with the southern city of Mtwara, where off shore some of the world's largest natural gas deposit fields has been discovered and is in the early stages of production. The cost for this 1.000 kilometre long line is estimated to be in the region of about 1.4 billion US Dollars and will be extended to reach some of Tanzania's major coal and iron ore deposits identified in recent years and earmarked for mining. ...

Uganda News

TOURIST SAFETY RANKS TOP AS UGANDA ADDS A FURTHER 400 TOURISM POLICE OFFICERS

Formally launched on 28th of February 2012 with an initial contingent of 120 officers, has the Uganda Tourism Police since grown in size. The Commandant of the Tourism Police, ACP Wilson Omoding, has now confirmed that a further 400 officers and 4 officer cadets were added to the force after receiving several months of intensive specialized training in a range of topics. The curriculum, as he had explained some time ago, reflects on the special needs to tourism protection and ranges from client relations to field tactics. The overall number now stands at well over 1.000 such dedicated police officers who are based at safari lodges, tented camps, key hotels in Kampala and upcountry and major tourism attractions across Uganda. The new officers will probably see their first field deployment next week at the Namugongo Martyrs' Shrine alongside regular police units when tens of thousands of Ugandans and many foreign visitors will attend the celebrations to commemorate the 51st anniversary of Uganda's Catholic martyrs beatification. ...

WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
16°C	24°C

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K7.12
	P10.00
	Nam\$12.40

Have a good two weeks

Gill