

# The Livingstone biWeekly



Dear All

Another photograph from Lake Kariba. I have been sitting doing very little travelling over the past couple of weeks. Loafing ... sort-of ...

This is a day early. Got things to do tomorrow.

## LIVINGSTONE

### Rhino Snared in Mosi-aa-Tunya Lusaka Times

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife has successfully removed a snare from Inonge, the matriarch rhino in the Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park. Principal veterinary officer Dr. David Squarre working with Livingstone based vet officer Dr. Jackson Katampi rescued Inonge who had both hind limbs caught in a wire snare, set by poachers in the park.

The rhino had to hop to search for food and water while officers kept monitoring her whereabouts for two days to ensure her safety before the vet doctors arrived to remove the snare.

The poachers target small game in the park that lies close to the community in Livingstone. The readily available market for illegal game meat, has propelled the vice but the snares end up trapping any animal that passes in the way.

This is the second time that the rhino has been snared, the last was in 2014 when she was pregnant. ...



Gill Comment: *There are many reports of Zambian poachers at home and in our neighbouring countries. We have a serious reputation as destroyers of our natural heritage. Surely government should be doing a sensitisation programme to stop this scourge.*



### 33 Ethiopians jailed

Zambia Weekly

33 Ethiopians have been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for consenting to be trafficked. The Ethiopians were intercepted in Serenje in Central Province in 2014. They were aided by a Zambian and Zimbabwean, who have been fined K36,000 each. Last week, police arrested six Zambians in two different incidents for aiding in the trafficking of a total of 46 Ethiopians in Nakonde and Kafue.

Gill Comment: *I have printed this because I find the sentences given to these people extremely harsh. The world is watching as the Middle East is spewing out refugees at an alarming rate ... what if they were all given 15-year jail sentences???*

### The Chingola-Solwezi road

From Mwebantu



### Elephant Tusks

The Post

SESHEKE police have arrested a 47-year-old man of Namwala after he was found in possession of three pairs of elephant tusks and several new fire-arm blue books. Western Province police commissioner Charles Lungu: *The police officers searched the vehicle and found six elephant tusks weighing 36.5kg; which means they killed three elephants. He was also found with seven new fire-arm blue books. ...*

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## Itezhi-Tezhi

### Hydroworld

Power generation has begun at the US\$156 million 120-MW Itezhi Tezhi hydropower project on the Kafue River on Zambia's Kafue River, according to Itezhi Tezhi District Commissioner, Hendrix Kaimana.

The powerhouse has two 60-MW Kaplan turbines, and the project will provide renewable energy for national consumption and export, according to the European Union Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund.

The organization also said Itezhi Tezhi will help reduce the amount of fossil fuels used for power in the Southern African Power Pool and in Zambia.

"Kaimana said Unit One is generating 30 MW, which is being transmitted about 280 km from Itezhi-Tezhi to Lusaka via the newly-constructed 220 KV/330 KV transmission line.

"Currently we are only generating 30 MW from one unit, which is 50%," said Maliwa Mukelabai, a mechanical engineer involved at the facility. "This is due to low water levels. When we have normal water levels we will be able to generate at full capacity of 60 MW for each unit."

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## Kafue National Park

*At his time of year many of the camps in our parks are closed for the rainy season. Some are still open - those which have all-year round access. In Kafue, by the Hook Bridge, Mukambi and Mayukuyuku are open all year round. Here is some of the newsletter from Mayukuyuku about 2015:*

Another year has passed very quickly at Mayukuyuku and I am typing this in my tent in December with a huge thunder storm booming around me. I think there was must be three storms all clashing as the fork lighting is in 3 different areas. The thunder is so loud it has made me jump out of my skin a few times. The trees are now all bright green with new leaves, the flowers are coming out but the river is still very low. The rains are late in many parts of Zambia although we appear to be okay at present with a storm about every three days. October was one of the hottest on history and went as high as 37 degrees in the Kafue ...

Our local lion pride has 4 cubs and have been heard on a regular basis at the top of the road – their favourite place at this time of the year. However they have been seen throughout the year. Another big pride of 8 was seen crossing the tar road to our side in July so that is also great news – hope they won't be fighting though, but some mixing of prides and genes is a good thing.

Hoorah we have 2 young leopard cubs that are just a few months old! One of these has been rather inquisitive and we have good photos to assist with my Leopard recognition hobby. Patrick and the other guides have found other new leopards in our area – there seems to be plenty but some are shy due to being on the new loops. Patrick saw one hunting a while back at the junction of Hippo and Cheetah Loop. These new loops are certainly delivering good sightings even if the mammals are a bit skittish, but time will resolve that for sure.

The big pack of Wild Dog seen a lot last year at the top of the road have been elusive but 6 were seen a couple of weeks ago, so wondering if the pack has split ...

Other special sightings have been a tiny baby Sharp's Grysbok! It must have been small enough to fit into your pocket – how lovely and we are so privileged to see something like this for such a secretive little antelope. There were great hyena sightings in September during the day and baby Hartebeest x 5 with Mum prancing across the tar road ...

On the birding front, we seem to be seeing a lot of raptors – this year – great Long Crested Eagles, Martial, Eagles, Tawny Eagles to name a few, these, to me, are as fantastic as the big cats although the owls will always be my favourite! The highlight for Patrick was when he found a Red Billed Hoopoe nesting along Hippo Loop!

The Elephants have been visiting the camp on a regular basis and there appear to be lots of youngsters at present.

Other great sightings have been Aardvark on the way to camp, Pangolin on Duiker Loop and Eland. Another very promising sighting was 11 Buffalo on Hippo Loop in September. We see the big 1,000 strong herd over the bridge on 21 kms road on a regular basis and we have seen this small herd of Buffalo previously near camp and also near Zam Lodge but mostly during the green season so to see them now in high season was a very promising improvement. Let us hope they are seen more regularly and all year round ...

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## Conservation Lower Zambezi

We have a shiny, newly serviced Dory boat! A huge thanks to Tony Weber Gwabi River Lodge for all the work he has put in to spruce up the third member of our fleet of boats here at CLZ Base Camp. Tony very kindly spent time fixing the holes in the hull, re-spraying the interior and hull, replacing the missing seat and most importantly fixing up and servicing the engine. It is so great to have it up and running once again and will be a huge help to our operations.



## Liuwa Plain

African Parks and Norman Carr Safaris proudly announce the construction of Mambeti, a new luxury safari camp in Liuwa Plain National Park.

The name of the camp pays homage to two remarkable residents of the park – Mambeti and Lady Liuwa. Mambeti who lived, died, and is buried in Liuwa was a member of the Lozi tribe and a highly-revered grandmother to several existing park staff. Lady Liuwa is the world-famous matriarch around whom the park's lion pride has evolved. According to local folklore Mambeti, the grandmother, was reincarnated into Lady Liuwa, the lioness, and is the reason why the lioness spends so much time in the same woodlands area frequented by Mambeti in her twilight years and near to where she was buried.

Photographer: Burrard-Lucas Photography



## From The Hunt on BBC

African wild dogs on the hunt, Liuwa Plain, Zambia (Credit: BBC/Silverback)



## Zambian Carnivore Programme

With much more rain already than last year, hyenas in Liuwa are celebrating the return of the wildebeest herds and good times!  
Photo by Vera Hoffmann



## NEW RESCUE PRIMATE ~ JACKY VERVET

Chipembele Wildlife Trust, South Luangwa

Jacky is a 2 month female vervet monkey who was hit by a car in Kafue National Park 2 weeks ago. She was found alone and with serious injuries. She was rescued by the Zambia Primate Programme (under GRI - Game Rangers International) and taken to the Veterinary Department of the University of Zambia. She was found to have a cracked skull with separation of the growth plates. She also had a severely injured rear right leg and the decision was eventually taken to amputate it. She is recovering well and due to her young age it is believed that the skull will fuse together in time. She was flown to Mfuwe, with all permissions and protocols in place, and brought to Chipembele for recuperation and recovery on Friday 12th February.



## Game Rangers International

Over the last year, GRI - Game Rangers International's Kafue Conservation Project have supported the Department for National Parks and Wildlife/@ZAWA Special Anti-Poaching Unit (SAPU). SAPU have had significant successes in the fight against poaching: During 2015 they apprehended in total 161 poachers and 93 firearms, removed 255 snares, recovered 15 kg of ivory and 6161.5 kg of bushmeat.

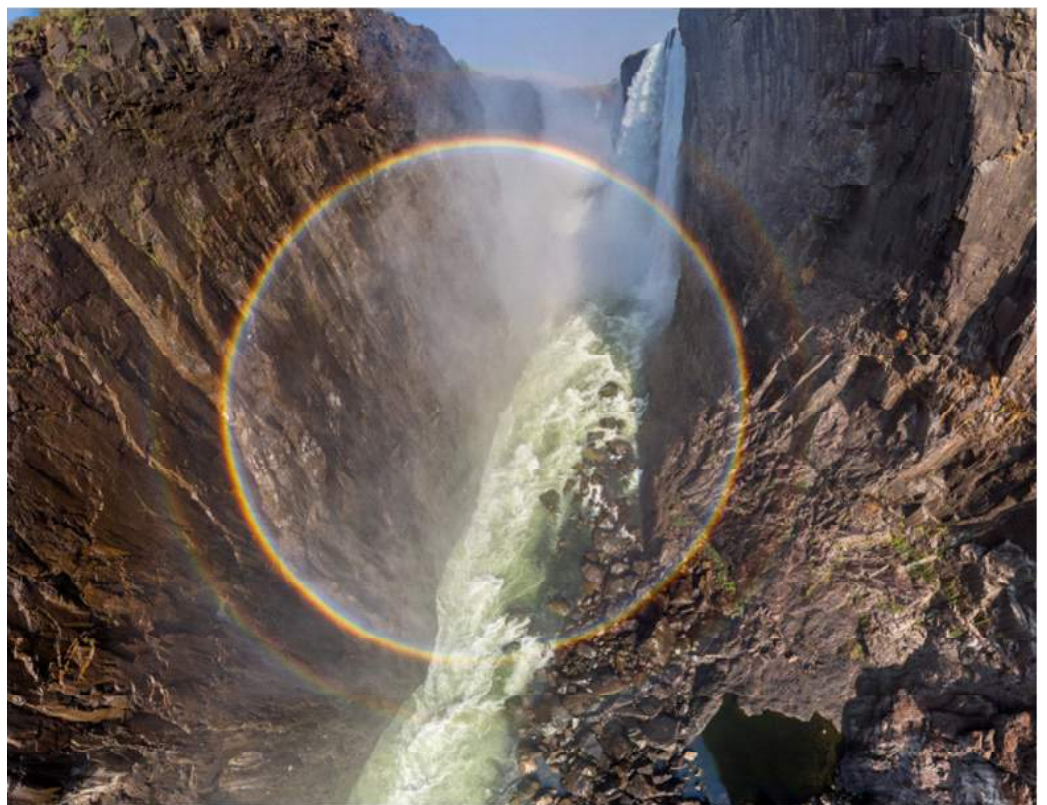


## ZIM-ZAM

### Circular Rainbow

A drone captured a rare circular rainbow that formed inside and over the world's largest waterfall. From UK Metro

Moscow photographers Sergey Shandin, 42, and Stas Sedov, 39, flew a drone from the ground and between two gorges so they take photos with a hanging camera of the rainbow, which can only be seen from above Victoria Falls at a certain time of day.



## Painted Dog Foundation

While the bushcamp program was on a short break this week, the team went around the schools to conduct pre and post camp visits which are aimed at preparing kids for the four day camp and assess the level of retention capacity on concepts learnt at the bush camp from the kids respectively.

Sichongo was one school whose children were eager to show greater knowledge after their four day camp. They had their chance in a post camp questionnaire and they gave brilliant answers despite an obviously tough learning environment as evidenced by dilapidated classrooms and crumbling furniture. PDC has renovated some schools in the greater area but obviously we are still challenged and challenge others to do more.

Chezhou comes to camp next week, exciting times at the bush camp!



AND

“We have been following the new version of the Mabuyamabhema pack for the past couple of days, hoping for an opportunity to replace a VHF collar that I fitted onto one of the male sin 2013. The collar had recently stopped working and while two years of working life for a VHF collar is relatively good, the fact is the collars are supposed to last much longer than that and replacing one is a costly and frustrating exercise.

While manoeuvring into position to dart the collared dog I noticed that the young female named Thembi was showing some sign of discomfort. I then saw the snare around her neck. Without hesitation I darted her in stead. I also took the opportunity to dart and collar another female named Rocket so that we would have a chance to better follow the pack and determine where they were encountering snares. Happily the wound on Thembi was not too severe but I decided to place her and Rocket in our rehab facility over night. They slept there quietly for the night and we let them out in the morning to rejoin the pack who were waiting near by.

The pack hunted successfully in the morning, which allowed me to now get close enough again to dart the male, now named Target, and replace his collar.” Peter Blinston



## Bhejane Trust

Our new Landrover with Stephen Long - dedicated entirely to game water management in the Sinamatella and Robins areas. Donated by the Clarkson Jersey Charitable Trust, thanks to Mark Unwin. Note Inyantue Dam (Sinamatella) in the background - some good rain has fallen here!

AND

From January in Hwange

The newly appointed Area Manager to Hwange Main Camp, Midwel Kapesa, is already making his mark on this previously inept station. I have attached the report (as received) of the contact when Main Camp rangers killed a Zambian poacher:

"The poachers first fired two shots the 8th of January, 2016 and hot pursuits were done to account for them. On the 10th of January, 2016 the callsign based at Kaoshe, heard 11 shot coming from South Eastern direction of Kaoshe pan at around 16:30 hours.

Within 30 minutes interval 5 callsigns had been launched to the Guwalala Block hitting direct to the alleged shots emanated. We then redeployed 3 callsigns to cover all possible exit route and 5 callsigns were on stop group making a total of 30 callsigns which were on the ground including the existing ones. By 1715 hours the racking callsigns picked a fresh spoor of 4 men from where the poachers wounded or missed the elephant were they fired 11 AK rounds. The 3 callsigns which were tracking teamed up to increase ground coverage, and put up in the general vicinity waiting for the first light. Early in the morning (11/01/16), the reacting callsign heard an automatic gun fire at less than 400m and advanced towards the gun sound, upon arrival another automatic gun fire was heard in less than 50 m distance were they managed to identify the target and manoeuvred.

The 3 callsigns advanced and at around 0745 hours, they exchanged fire with the targeted gunner, and the gunner was killed on spot. No casualties were recorded on the rangers' park.

Recoveries

- 1 x AK 47
- 7.62mm AK rounds x 15
- 3 x AK magazines
- 1 x Unknown ammunition
- 1 x pocket balanced scale
- 7 x 5ltr water container
- 1 x 2ltr water container
- Clothes
- Cooking utensils
- Two pairs of ivory were still intact."

There are some important points to note on this report :

- 1) the rapid reaction and deployment of support callsigns - professionally handled with the consequent result. This is a real credit to management at Main Camp
- 2) The Zambian was using an AK, and appeared incompetent - 11 shots at one elephant, which must have been wounded. The old Zambian poachers used heavy weapons and were very good shots - normally one shot only. Either this amateur was trying his luck, but it might indicate the old Zambian poachers have been thinned out, and inexperienced recruits are now being sent in!
- 3) The fact the Zambians are going as far as Hwange to poach indicates the Sebungwe elephant have been all but wiped out by now



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## Kariba Animal Welfare Trust

An absolutely amazing course that we Zimbos should be mighty proud of. Andries Scholtz - whom we sent on his initial course 5 years ago in order to have someone on site in Kariba to assist with wounded wildlife, will be going on his refresher course this week ...

## The Malilangwe Course on Chemical and Physical Restraint of African Wildlife

This course is conducted in Zimbabwe annually. It is organized and coordinated by the Zimbabwe Wildlife Veterinary Trust (ZWVT) in conjunction with the Government Veterinary Services (GVS) Wildlife Unit and other partners. The course originated in Zimbabwe over 30 years ago, when the GVS was asked to assist in the training of National Parks personnel in safe wild animal capture. For the past 13 years, this intensive program, over a 10 day period, has been conducted in the Malilangwe Wildlife Estate near to Gona-Re-Zhou National Park in the south-east lowveld of Zimbabwe. This course has educated wildlife health and management professionals from all over the world in the science and art of chemical and physical restraint of wild animals. Participants obtain a wealth of both theoretical and practical experience, and hands on training.



## BOTSWANA

### Bush Fires

Daily News

Kavimba — Veld fires in Chobe might alter the ecosystem of the area, a wildlife and environment conservation specialist, Mr Mushanana Nchunga has said.

Officiating at this year's World Wetlands Day commemoration in Kavimba on Tuesday February 2, Mr Nchunga said excessive use and destruction of natural resources continued to be a challenge. Mr Nchunga, who is also former director of Department of Wildlife and National Parks, called upon Chobe residents to ensure that they helped in protecting forests by preventing fire outbreaks.

"We can do this by refraining from starting veld fires and by actively taking part in putting out veld fires when called upon to do so," he added. ...

### The world's second biggest diamond has a new name: "Lesedi La Rona."

The 1,111-carat diamond that was discovered at Karowe mine in Boteti in November has been christened 'Lesedi La Rona', which means "Our Light" in Setswana. Lucara, the Canadian company that owns the diamond, called it the biggest diamond found in more than 100 years. The discovery sent the company's shares soaring...

It is so large that it does not fit into conventional scanners used to evaluate a stone's potential worth.



## Elephant Sands (Between Kazungula and Nata)

*They say at Elephant Sands that Elephants Rule ... and they certainly do. With this year's drought, the elephants are still arriving to have a drink and the management of the Lodge have gone to huge lengths to make sure that they are not disappointed! I can't get the pictures down because they are in a funny format. Go to their Facebook page to have a look.*

Getting water into Elephant Sands is a HUGE task that involves boreholes, water trucks, piping, storage tanks, hours and hours of staff time, and more. We want to extend our thanks to Louise Hogarth of Dream Out Loud Films, whose recent donation let us make some much needed improvements to our water delivery systems. Thank you Louise and Where Elephants Rule!

AND

.To all our Ellie friends and our loyal supporters through these years we would appreciate your valued views on our future development of an adventure camp on the Mkgadi salt pans about 40 kms from Kubu island.

Our idea is to put up a 24 bed rustic lodge overlooking the pans with a central facility and swimming pool.

Activities will include tours over the pans in our dune buggies.

For the keen cyclists an adventure over the pans with bicycles we provide



## NAMIBIA

### Camera Trapped!

Photographer Will Burrard-Lucas has a long-held fascination with wildlife and the natural world, particularly the animals of Africa, thanks to years spent living in Tanzania and Zambia.

In the images below, all captured in the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) region of Namibia, Burrard-Lucas snapped some of the continent's most-secretive creatures. In partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, he used his own innovative remote camera trap technology, which pairs research camera techniques with high-quality DSLR cameras, to craft the photographs.





## Desolate Namib flooded

Informante Contributor

TECHNOLOGY is introducing Namibia and the world to rare sights that would have otherwise gone unrecorded. Johan van Rooyen, in the remote North Western Namibia where the Cunene River, with its origins in Angola and flowing into the Atlantic Ocean, dissects the Namib dune desert and the rock desert just across the border in Angola, captured this images of the raging Cunene River. The contrast between the abundance of water in one of the driest places on the planet could not be more pronounced, showing the awesome and unbridled power of nature cutting through layers of rock and depositing vegetation.



## WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
21°C (70)	33°C (91)

## EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K11.30
	P11.26
	Nam\$15.90

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## THE SMILE

POLICE in Livingstone have arrested a Zimbabwean man for stealing K20,000 from a Barclays Bank automated teller machine. Wilson Goodwin of 149 Goresbroke Ex UK, was found with 75 cards at the Barclays ATM machine yesterday around 01:00 hours. Southern Province police commissioner Goodwin Phiri confirmed the arrest. "He is charged with the offence of unlawful access to data in which he was found in possession of 55 Shoprite gift cards, two Santander cash cards, 10 play cards, 1 Eco card, 1 FNB and Blue Class cards. Also found on him is K20,129.00 cash, two laptops, a swipe machine, head phone, receiver, cables, among other things," Phiri explained. He added that Goodwin was also found with a diploma in British Telecom, two diplomas in electronic installation, three diplomas in vehicle electronics, four fibrotic engineering qualifications and five British Gas Electronic qualifications. "He crossed into Zambia on February 10, 2016 through Victoria Falls Border and made two withdrawals at Barclays Bank on 11/02/16," said Phiri.

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Have a good two weeks

Gill