Dear All

My header is of Lake Kariba, from Siatwinda. I had gone to visit my son, Muftau, for the weekend. Those hills in the distance are part of the Zambezi Escarpment on the Zambian side. So beautiful. The lake has risen by about 2 metres since my last visit in December but it is still very low. According to the newspapers we can expect more load-shedding this year.

Orange-breasted Bush Shrike

Seen in my garden last week. He came down carrying a moth, gave it a good shake to knock off the wings and then swallowed it.
Livingstone Roads

Seen in the news last week:
The Road Development Agency (RDA) has urged utility companies to restore upgraded roads to their original designs each time they make modifications to the infrastructure.
Motorists and other residents of Livingstone have lately been complaining of depressions or big potholes in some upgraded roads mainly as result of water pipeline replacement done by the water utility firms.
In an event that some depressions were covered, the standards are sometimes not up to the original designs for the roads.
Most Township roads were upgraded in Livingstone in 2013 in readiness for the hosting of the 20th session of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) General Assembly.
Road Development Agency (RDA) director in charge of communications and corporate affairs Royce Saili said there was need for utility companies to ensure that they maintain upgraded roads to their original designs each time they made modifications to the infrastructure.
Speaking in an interview, Ms Saili said utility companies were supposed to apply to the council or RDA to carry out any disturbances to the roads but some of them were modifying the roads without permission.
“After modifying the roads, the utility companies are supposed to reinstate the roads to the original designs.
“Our RDA regional manager for Southern Province will ensure that our roads are reinstated to the original designs. We have noted that sometimes the utility companies don’t do the work properly and it is either they create a deep or hump which are dangerous motorists,” Ms Saili said.

G: I am so glad that the media is picking this up. Our new roads are in a bad state in some places and they need to be fixed.

New Admin Block in Choma

As I passed through Choma on my way to the Lake I took a photograph of the new administrative block for the Provincial Capital. According to the sign on the road the building had been designed by government. Surely we had the chance to design something citizen-friendly and not just a big block standing in a field.

It was not complete and there was no-one working there. I assume we have run out of money.

Similarly, according to a government statement last year, our market and bus station in Livingstone were to be completed by April 2016 ... they are both not finished and no work is ongoing.

Sioma Bridge

President Edgar Lungu has commissioned the Sioma Bridge in Western Province. ... And Minister of Works and Supply Yamfwa Mukanga said government plans to build more than One hundred bridges across the country.

The other photograph was sent to me by one of the readers of the Sikuka pontoon stuck on the river. You can still see the minibus stranded on it. Notice too how the water is gushing down the river ...
Bridges to Siansowa

On my trip to Lake Kariba the road is being gravelled from the turnoff to Maamba down to Siansowa. The road is nothing fancy but it will make such a huge difference to the people who live along there. Bridges and drifts are being put in too. The cost of repairing this road is minimal compared to a tar road but it works ...

I noticed too that the road to Sinazongwe is also being repaired.

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Rice Growing

Daily Mail

A traditional leader in North-western Province has called on Government to promote rice growing on a commercial basis to enhance national food security in Zambia. Senior Chief Ndungu of Zambezi district says Government should consider North-western Province as a rice growing cluster. The traditional ruler said growing rice on a large-scale will result in increased national food security and also benefit peasant farmers to sell and preserve some for consumption. ...

G: When I lived in Nigeria the people ate a variety of staple foods. Not once did I eat maize. I ate cassava, yam, Irish and sweet potatoes, rice, etc. The Nigerian people are not dependent on one staple food as we are in Zambia. At the moment we are all scared that our maize will not last until the next harvest. Is this a situation we should be in?

I had an email from a correspondent who showed the difference in prices of different staple crops which I printed in a previous newsletter. Why is maize so much cheaper to produce than other crops?

I am told that many Zambian people do not feel that they have eaten during the day unless it includes mealie meal/sadza/nshima. I am sure that this feeling is caused by being brought up, day after day, on mealie meal.

Surely, as a way forward we should look carefully at different staple foods and see if we can diversify. Different crops have different water requirements; they have different times of ripening; they need different soils and, more to the point, why are other staples more expensive to produce than maize? I think we need to know.
President Edgar Lungu has directed the National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) to declare more sites as National Monuments to stimulate rural development especially in chiefdoms. The Head of State has also urged all Zambians to become tourists of their own beautiful country.

Mr Lungu said most heritage sites were found in various chiefdoms and hence there was need to declare them as National Monuments to encourage rural development in various parts of the country.

G: I looked for a list of Heritage Sites in Zambia and found these in the Act with the date they were declared:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Site Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>ROCK ENGRAVINGS, AYRSHIRE FARM, LUSAKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>MARAMBA QUARRY SITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>TWIN RIVERS KOPJE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>HIPPO POOL, CHINGOLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>THE BIG TREE: KABWE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>NIAMKOLO CHURCH: MPULUNGU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>ADMINISTRATOR’S HOUSE: KALOMO</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>KALOMO MOUND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>COLLIER MONUMENT: ROAN ANTELOPE COPPER MINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES - VICTORIA FALLS TRUST AREA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>DAVID LIVINGSTONE MEMORIAL: CHITAMBO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>CHISIMBA FALLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>CHIRUNDU FOSSIL FOREST</td>
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<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>BELL POINT: LUNSEMFA GORGE</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>KALEMBA ROCKSHELTER</td>
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<td>1968</td>
<td>LAKE KASHIBA</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>NTUMBACHUSHI FALLS</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>OLD DRIFT CEMETERY</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>VON LETTOW-VORBECK</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>THE “GOOD NEWS” MONUMENT, MBALA DISTRICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>LUBWA HOUSE OF DR KENNETH DAVID KAUNDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>NTMBWE OF MWASE LUNDAZI</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>THE CHICHELE MOFU TREE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>MPONGWE FORTIFIED CAMP</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>ZAMBEZI SAWMILLS RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>ZAMBEZI SOURCE</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>HOUSE NO. 3144, MATERO TOWNSHIP, LUSAKA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>HOUSE NUMBER 280, LUWEMBU STREET, LUSAKA</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>HOUSE NUMBER E1376, MUSUKU ROAD, KABWE</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>THE OLD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>CASTLE HOTEL</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>FREEDOM HOUSE, FREEDOM WAY, LUSAKA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>LUSAKA THERMAL POWER STATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>LIBALA LIMESTONE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cholera breaks out in Southern Province

Cholera has broken out in Mazabuka and Monze Districts in Southern Province, with over 40 cases confirmed cases and 2 deaths. The outbreak started in five fishing camps on islands in Kafue River, and the disease is suspected to have been brought in by fish traders from Lusaka. Cholera broke out in Lusaka Province in February 2016, so far clocking about 900 cases and 15 deaths. The outbreak in the capital is yet to be brought under control, although the number of new cases recorded every week has reduced dramatically.
Game Rangers International

Ground breaking news. For the very first time since ZPP was set up in 2002, and after confiscating over 500 primates held illegally in Zambia since that time, this week we witnessed the arrest and prosecution of a man keeping a primate illegally. It may well be the first ever successful prosecution in Zambia for illegal primate ownership. Acting on intelligence received from one of our informers, ZPP confiscated a 6-8 month old male vervet monkey on Wednesday in a compound in the Mpumbu area of the Copperbelt, a notorious hotspot area for people illegally trafficking primates. This young monkey was being kept on the end of a short rope tied tightly around its waist to a tree. He was in poor condition and had no access to water. The DNPW officers from Kalalushi Command escorting ZPP on this confiscation made the arrest when the ‘owner’ could not produce official papers of ownership of the primate, and on Friday morning David Kasemgo appeared in the Magistrate’s court in Kalalushi. He was found guilty of illegally possessing a wild animal, and received a 6 month suspended prison sentence. This will send out a strong message to all those illegally trading and keeping primates in Zambia. This rescued primate, whom we have named Jonathon, will now be rehabilitated back to good health and released back to the wild as part of ZPP’s annual release programme in Kafue National Park. ZPP would like to thank the Department of National Parks & Wildlife Kalalushi officers for a job well done. Looks like the tide may well be turning and the government are going to have zero tolerance to wildlife crime in any shape or form. Fingers crossed.
NATURE NIGHTS- A Bush Camping Experience
Chipembele (South Luangwa)

As a reward for our most dedicated club members, we took 8 students camping in the bush for 2 nights where they learned what it means to be a conservation leader. During our adventure students went on their first walking safari along the Luangwa River where they found a crocodile skeleton and an elephant skull! It was even everyone’s first time sleeping in a tent, which was especially noisy at night thanks to our hippo neighbors... We all had a fun time learning how to effectively work as a team, tips for good communication and how to stand up to peer pressure. Two of our community educators, Lackson and John, joined us and finished out their training by leading most of the programming. Now they’re ready to begin teaching on their own in the schools next week!

Most of the students started the trip not knowing each other, but by the end, they made new friends all over the Mfuwe area who are also learning to conserve. When the students’ biggest complaint was that we were going home, we knew the program was a success!

We give a special thanks to Norman Carr Safaris for donating the services of their knowledgeable guide, Friday Zulu.

Zambia Carnivore Programme

Congratulations to Dr. Wigganson Matandiko for his successful defense of his Ph.D. at Montana State University!! A student of Dr. Scott Creel’s, Dr. Matandiko’s dissertation, “Factors affecting the size and distribution of large herbivore herds in Kafue National Park” came from his 2012-2014 field work co-managing ZCP’s Greater Kafue project and provides key information on large herbivores and the human and biological factors affecting them.

Liuwa Plain

Over the past week an aerial survey of the wildebeest population was undertaken in Liuwa Plain National Park. The Park Manager, Robert Reid, assisted by staff from African Parks and the Zambian Carnivore Programme, completed the survey in 5 days, flying several hours a day. The team flew along transects which were only separated by 400m, taking high quality photos of every wildebeest herd. The intensive nature of the transects and the extremely high resolution of imagery will ensure a very accurate and detailed data set. The census also allowed for the surveying of both the zebra and wattled crane population of the Park. These photos will now be processed with every wildebeest, zebra and wattled crane counted and will provide a better understanding of these populations within this amazing conservation area.
In the midst of a depleting drought, Zimbabwe is putting its wildlife up for sale.

The Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority, known as Zimparks, said that “in light of the drought... [the Authority] intends to destock its park estates through selling some of the wildlife,” in a statement reported by Reuters on Tuesday.

It asked interested parties “with the capacity to acquire and manage wildlife”—including enough land to house the creatures—to get in contact. ...

Bhejane Trust in Hwange National Park

There are several NGOs which work in Hwange National Park. The Bhejane Trust is one of them. I have reproduced part of their newsletter to show the commitment this NGO has to conserving Zimbabwe’s natural heritage. The map is part of a map produced by the Painted Dog Foundation. It is available for sale at their centre on the road to Main Camp. The cost is US$10 which is a bit expensive but profits from the sale go towards caring for the wildlife in the park, especially the wild dogs. It is a good map too and worth the money if you are driving through the park.

Masuma Dam
The dam is still almost full and we are not yet running the pump.

Mbala Dam
Nick and I cured (we hope) a long-standing fault with a connection at one of the solar panels and Nick took a team down to cover over (yet again) the pipe that elephants had exposed. The dam has held large numbers of water-fowl but the level is dropping fast as it always does. It is currently around 40% full.

Shumba Hide
The whole pump area has been tidied and the pump is running very well. There was a small problem in mid-month when the cable for the low water level probe was damaged and the pump stopped but we quickly located the fault and cured it. The pan is full.

Shumba
Making an early start to their annual attacks on the outlet for this pump, the elephants pulled up and broke a length of steel pipe where the water poured out into the pan. We had been expecting this to happen eventually but we were waiting for the water level to drop so that we could build a new outlet as far down as possible. Under the circumstance we had no choice but to do the job now.
Over-fishing in Lake Kariba
Financial Gazette

LAKE Kariba has become a victim of overfishing with over 1 100 commercial fishing rigs exploiting various types of fish in the world’s second largest man made water body, the Financial Gazette’s Companies & Markets can report.

The lake has a maximum carrying capacity of 500 commercial fishing rigs but somehow the authorities in Zimbabwe and Zambia -- the two countries that share the dam -- have allowed the number of rigs to more than double, resulting in overfishing in Lake Kariba.

There were 725 kapenta rigs on the Zimbabwean side of the lake in 2014, against a carrying capacity of 406. What it means is that the Zambian side now has about 375 fishing rigs.

To sustainably exploit fish in the lake, both countries must trim the rig population to a combined 500. Obviously, this will result in serious job losses.

Of the recommended 500 rigs, Zimbabwe should operate 275 while Zambia must have 225. These ratios are based on the surface area of the lake occupied by each country.

Tshompani wind pump
We have often had problems with the wind pump pipes being damaged by the pressure surge on each upstroke of the pump when the wind is strong. Trevor came up with the idea of a pressure tank to solve the problem, I thought of using an old fire-extinguisher, Nick did most of the work. It works extremely well (so far) and the pump is running nicely but if the elephants ever get near it I may not be so happy. The dam at Tshompani is high for the time of year at around 50%. If only it will still be this neat in November……

Tshompani Solar Pump.
The pump is still turned off due to low water yield in the borehole. Away from our pumped water, Mandavu Dam is still around 80% full, the pans between Tshompani and Inyantue all hold at least some water and the rivers all still have water under the sand and in pools.

Wildlife
Shortly after Patrick and Sandrine arrived we took a trip down to Mashambo Pan. As soon as we got there I could see that the water level was down so I went over to the water outlet to see if it was flowing. A few meters from the car, as I was concentrating on the hoped-for water flow, Sandrine calmly pointed out that I had just walked past a dead Impala, then Patrick saw the huge Python partly coiled around it. I had seen neither! The Python had part of the Impala’s head in its mouth but it was as surprised as we were and quickly let go. We quietly left to its feeding and returned a few hours later when we found it had half swallowed its enormous meal……

As it was quite late in the day and close to the pan, which is the only water in the area, I didn’t think the snake would finish before dark when it would become very vulnerable to hyenas coming down to drink.

We left it alone and returned next morning. All that was visible were some bones and skin of the Impala, no sign of the Python so I assume it gave up and the scavengers got an easy meal. ...
Minerals found near Kariba
The Herald

Government has moved in to conduct large-scale mining in Kariba following the recent discovery of gold and platinum group mineral reserves in the area. Preliminary geological surveys have shown deposits of gold and platinum in the Gache Gache area in Kariba district.

Mines and Mining Development Minister Cde Walter Chidhakwa confirmed the latest addition to the country’s growing minerals find.
“Gold deposits have been discovered at Gache Gache and during sampling it was later discovered that there are also platinum group metals,” said Cde Chidhakwa.
“While we have done geological work on certain specific areas we have not yet established the size of the deposit. So they are still working on a planned drilling programme which will give us a volumetric understanding of how big the deposit is.”

Cde Chidhakwa said it would solely be the responsibility of the State to conduct mining activities in the area in line with a recent directive that all riverbed mining would be done by Government.

This is being done to protect the environment.

The mines minister revealed that heavy machinery had been ordered from South Africa and is expected in the country in the next few days.
“We have equipment that is likely to arrive next week and other ancillary machinery which will be deployed soon,” said Cde Chidhakwa. ...

The deposits were discovered around the confluence of Gache Gache as it flows into Lake Kariba. Discoveries were made during sand abstraction in Gache Gache. The sand is being used in construction work at the Kariba South power expansion project site. It was then discovered that the sand had gold particles resulting in samples being taken for assessment. ...

G: The area around Gache Gache is a wildlife area. I wonder if government will undertake an independent Environmental Impact Assessment??? Any run-off from the mining operation will go into Lake Kariba. And that will affect the life of the lake for both Zimbabwe and Zambia.
Kariba Conservation Program is pleased to announce the construction of a permanent Forward Operating Base in the vicinity of the Gache River within the Charara Safari area.

This will have a fundamental effect on the conservation of the Gache River that plays a pivotal role in the spawning of Tiger fish and many other species which are the heart and soul of Lake Kariba.

The strategic location of the base will allow Kariba Conservation to assist in deployments of Parks personnel, thus maintaining a regular maritime and land anti poaching presence in the area.

Kariba Conservation has been funding all previous and current operations with Parks and would really appreciate help with some of the raw materials needed for the establishment of the base.

Please take a moment to read through the following list of items required.

If you have any raw materials which are not being utilized, even if it is one bag of cement, it will all be received with tremendous gratitude and put to use immediately.

Wish list

One five thousand-litre water tank and tank stand  
Corrugated sheeting for roofing  
Twenty bags of cement  
Two 6.5 KVA generators  
Three solar panels, deep cycle batteries and inverters  
Gas fridge  
Two petrol water pumps  
Five wheel barrows  
Ten shovels  
Chainsaw

If you would like to help or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Llywelyn Bryan 0777 605 026, email: electricplumb@gmail.com
Nigel Kulhu 0775 611 481, email: nigelkulhm@gmail.com
Historic ivory burn covers the sky in smoke and ash

CNN

Nairobi National Park, Kenya (CNN)
Twelve ivory towers burned in Kenya on Saturday, sending thick plumes of ash and smoke over Nairobi National Park as elephant and rhino tusks smoldered.

A rainy Saturday afternoon brought together heads of state from several African nations and hundreds of onlookers to watch Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta set fire to over $172 million worth of illicit wildlife goods. A somber mood took over the crowd as the event began. They listened to the gust of wind feeding the flames, and the crackle of burning ivory, rhino horn and other items. Bright red embers bloomed inside the 10-foot high by 20-foot wide pyres, turning the coveted white ivory tusks to nothing more than charred animal remains. ...

Ivory Burn – Botswana Statement

Populations of African elephants are declining alarmingly in many areas because of poaching, habitat loss, and conflict with expanding human populations. Botswana is one of the most important elephant sanctuaries in Africa. The country harbours the world’s largest elephant population, representing about 40% of all remaining African elephants. The future conservation of savanna elephants will largely depend upon how populations fare in the remaining strongholds of the species.

The people of Botswana have an important role in conserving its elephants and recognise they are custodians of an import global heritage. Fellow elephant range states have the right to determine how best to conserve their national elephant herds.

The decision to destroy ivory stockpiles aims to deter consumer demand, the illegal ivory trade and elephant poaching. Its effectiveness is a matter for each country to determine for itself.

Since 1989, some African countries have destroyed about 150 tonnes of ivory. Seventeen countries have carried out 25 ivory destruction events. Despite this the reality is that 20,000 elephants are still being killed annually for their ivory. In Botswana, we do not to destroy ivory because we have told communities living with elephants that there is value in conserving elephants for ecotourism and emphasizing that the value of a live elephant should be upheld at all costs. Burning ivory would demonstrate to the communities that the animal has no value. As Botswana we prefer to not burn ivory or rhino horn or any other wildlife product which can be used to demonstrate to the wider world the value of nature and the importance of conservation.

Botswana has a strong reputation for conservation as home to Africa’s largest elephant population; we are committed to maintaining this status and looking at new ways to preserve our commitment to elephants and our people. We do not believe that we should conceal ivory in warehouses or publically destroy it, in order to save elephants. In this regard in 2014, Botswana unveiled a unique elephant sculpture made up of ivory in the arrivals hall at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport. The statue serves as a reminder to people who pass through this building each day that conservation of this iconic species is our collective responsibility. Complemented with a conservation awareness message, we are saying that one live elephant is worth so much more than all the pieces of art made from ivory.

The statue is a lasting memorial to raise local, national and global awareness about the devastating impacts of illegal trade in elephant ivory and the ongoing determination of Botswana and the global community to put an end to it. No one profited from this contraband and it provides a long term opportunity to raise public awareness.

We intend to deliver this conservation message in a similar manner with other ivory. We intend to use the product from animals that have died naturally or slaughtered by poachers for awareness to keep others alive, at least from poaching. Government believes that it is critical that we develop strong symbolic messages and strengthen efforts to save Africa’s elephants on all levels, starting locally with the communities that coexist with elephants to globally with the countries where demand for ivory is highest. Botswana’s accomplishment stems from political will brought about through transparency coupled with successful programs within communities and zero tolerance towards poaching and sustainable management of the country’s natural resources.
Being custodians of globally endangered species comes with tremendous levels of responsibility. It also requires budgetary empowerment to deploy even more sophisticated and innovative methods and equipment than those used by poachers and its success needs to be supported by donor organisations and states.

Botswana will attend the Giant's Club Summit in Nanyuki, Kenya at the end of the month to represent its commitment to finding lasting solutions to ensuring the longevity and sustainability of Africa's wild elephant population. For us the burning of ivory is like putting the final nail in the coffin of a once magnificent animal by destroying its remaining tusks. We believe we should preserve and protect whatever existing quantities remaining as a consistent reminder of how mankind's greed leads to the extinction of our planet's flora and fauna. We cannot burn the shame associated with this and just hope it will disappear in smoke, therefore we will not attend the event of ivory burn taking place after the Summit.

Of Kasane residents and baboons
Botswana Daily News

Almost every resident of Kasane has a story to tell about baboons. The majority are in agreement with one thing, that baboons are a nuisance.
In an endeavour to get to the root of their encounter with humans, BOPA interviewed the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) senior wildlife warden Chobe, Mr Jefter Maphorisa.
He said they get an average of five reports per day, which is usually during the dry season when food is scarce. These baboons cause havoc by tearing tarpaulins covering maize and helping themselves to it in the trucks that travel to Botswana-Zambia border.
They also eat vegetables in school gardens, scatter litter from refuse bins in homesteads and schools among other things.

“People have a tendency of giving baboons' leftovers of bananas and other foodstuff which makes them get used to this habit. They usually become a nuisance when they come for more and find nothing hence they raid homesteads,” added Mr Maphorisa.

One of the teachers in Chobe Junior Secondary School where baboons always raid houses, Ms Patricia David said they broke into her house several times and she is now scared of them.

“I remember one day while I was cleaning, I saw the baboons approaching my house eyeing the eggs which were on top of the fridge through a window.
I immediately rushed to close the doors and windows but they broke the window pane and pulled the eggs through the broken space,” she said.

She lamented that these baboons are very rough and violent as they can attack you when you try to scare them away and they use force to get whatever they want inside the house.

“They have even gone to the extent of opening the door, pulling out everything from the fridge and throwing things around as I stood there helpless,” added Ms David. ...

G: Some weeks ago I printed a story from Hwange Town in Zimbabwe again complaining about baboons and their destructive habits. I noticed at the border a tourist trying to touch a mother baboon and her baby and I was horrified. We could do with a warning on the Notice Board there.
Here are some guidelines about dealing with monkeys and baboons:

Guidelines on Vervet Monkey & Primate Management and Feeding schemes
Dawn Magowan of APES (Animal Protection and Environmental Sanctuary)

Contrary to popular belief, Vervet monkeys DO NOT carry rabies . . . but please remember ANY human or animal can contract it if bitten by any rabid mammal.

NEVER tease monkeys/baboons by offering food, etc. by hand and then pulling it away. Any animal (or human) would become aggressive in such a situation.

Very often (particularly during summer) they will find food themselves. PLEASE DO NOT FEED BY HAND

Please remember that if you choose to establish a “FEEDING STATION/ PRIMATE RESTAURANT” that you will need backup in case you are unable to feed them for any reason (i.e. going away on holiday). Any responsible person would do the same for domesticated animals in their care. So please make alternative arrangements for the Primates you are caring for. Thank you. Also remember that when food is plentiful in the wild cut down on the amount of food you put out for them, and contrary to belief supplementing their natural food does not make them stop foraging or make them breed……

Do not make loud noises or run about when the monkeys/baboons are around. Try at all times to keep calm and quiet, even though these primates are overactive and excitable (especially the young ones). Most importantly, do everything in 'slow motion' where these animals are concerned. Any sign of aggression by humans or other animals will cause them to retaliate in defence of their troop.

If you smile at them, try to smile without showing your teeth as this could be interpreted by them as aggression on your part. They could respond with their own show of aggression (i.e. raising their eyebrows at you in a piercing stare, baring their fangs, or bobbing their heads at you in warning).

Please do not copy them thinking it is funny, you could only be aggravating the situation.
Contrary to belief, shooting the dominant male (Alpha male) does not drive the troop away. All this action does is cause the young males within the troop to run amok, without the stern leadership of a single dominant male. These defiant young males could rape any female vervet/baboon in sight and hence cause a steep incline in the number of infants born the following season. Thus, the Alpha male keeps these raging hormones in check. Without the discipline enforced by the Alpha male, we land up with a group of juvenile delinquents. There is also a Beta male & Alpha female who also assist in keeping the troop in order.

The Alpha male relies on his second in command (called the Beta male) to search for food. He does this by scouting. Once food is spotted, he barks his findings to the rest of the troop. The Alpha will then lead his troop in that direction if he has heard confirmation. Unfortunately, the Beta is often mistaken for a lone bull and shot and killed in the process. So please don’t think you are controlling the monkeys/baboons by killing them; in many cases you are only aggravating the situation.

Finally please don’t encourage your dogs to chase the monkeys/baboons. You are putting you dogs at risk because if they corner or injure a monkey/baboon the others in the troop will attack your animals, seriously injuring them or perhaps even killing them. Thank you.

Why not try and live in harmony with these, and many other animals, instead of trying to destroy them, when you understand so little about them? After all they are part of the ecology, as we all are! Why not enjoy their presence in our beautiful land? Tourists are here to visit Africa, so why not show them Africa right on our very doorsteps? People who take the time to study these animals are seldom disappointed by their antics, and social behaviour. Children are especially amused by them. I wonder how many people are aware that each Primate has its own set of fingerprints, as humans do?

We at APES hope that you have found this information helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please don’t hesitate to contact us. Thank you for taking the trouble to read this information and please feel free to contact us anytime. If you are interested in forming a “Feeding Station” let us know and we will gladly forward the relevant information to you.

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**Human Wildlife Conflict**

*The Namibian*

Victims of human-wildlife conflict in the Zambezi region are pushing for higher monetary compensation for their suffering.

Currently, conservancies pay out about N$1 500 per head of cattle killed or attacked inside a kraal; about N$200 per hectare of crops eaten, trampled or damaged by wild animals; and about N$5 000 for human life lost or injured.

At a public meeting held at Ngoma on Tuesday, community members told the visiting Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources that dangerous wild animals continue causing significant damage to their crops, killing people as well as their livestock, and yet the compensation helps very little.

The committee of seven members of parliament, led by Agnes Kafula, are investigating human-wildlife conflict in the region, after which a report will be compiled for parliament to make recommendations.

Deputy environment and tourism minister Tommy Nambahu, during a conservancy chairperson forum on Monday, conceded that there was no clear policy on resolving human-wildlife conflict (HWC) and pledged that the 2009 National Policy on HWC will be discussed in the National Assembly this year.

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**Chinese demand drives ivory gangs**

*Informante*

In the first months of 2016, at least 66 elephant tusks were recovered from Zambian poachers during 14 separate anti-poaching operations in Zimbabwe’s national parks in the Zambezi Valley. By the end of February, six suspected Zambian poachers had been killed in gun battles with Zimbabwean rangers in the area.

The Zambian government says Chinese ivory trafficking syndicates based in the Southern African country are sponsoring the influx of Zambian poachers blamed for the recent spike in elephant deaths in the region.

Zambia’s Deputy Tourism Minister, Patrick Ngoma said newly enforced, stringent laws and counter-poaching strategies have made it difficult for poachers to operate in Zambia. “In Zambia we have introduced drones to conduct extensive, round-the-clock surveillance over poaching-prone areas in major national parks,” he said. “The poachers are now incapable of entering our parks, so they cross into Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana and Namibia to kill elephants for ivory to feed the Chinese market in Zambia.”

In Botswana, six elephants have been killed in recent incidents linked to Zambian poachers. Two Zambian nationals in a group of at least 30 suspected elephant poachers were shot and killed by the Botswana Defence Force during a gun battle at the Chobe National Park on January 4.
Botswana is the only country in the region which enforces a publicly declared shoot-to-kill policy that has been praised for reducing poaching crimes but criticised by neighbours Zambia and Namibia as too harsh.

Both countries have lost several citizens in shoot-outs with the Botswana Defence Force anti-poaching units. Environment, Wildlife and Tourism Minister Tshekedi Khama says despite protests from its neighbours, Botswana will not outlaw the shoot-to-kill policy.

“Our position is that we defend ourselves when we find poachers with weapons because our security forces will be under threat. My contention is that there are many countries that prefer to sit on stadiums and shout at the game instead of playing it.

“There is a lot of lip-service whereby people criticise the way Botswana is dealing with the poaching crisis, yet they are never there to assist us with alternative anti-poaching initiatives,” Khama said

Kwando Carnivore Programme

For many months, we have missed the roaring of the Horse Shoe males, who were regularly seen patrolling along the floodplain in Bwabwata National Park. Nicole Cambre recently took some incredible photos of these males in Botswana in the Kwando Concession area, where they have taken over the pride that lives down there. I don’t know if they will venture back up to Namibia or stay down south where visitors to Botswana will be able capture great images of them, but they will be sorely missed. The boys are very tourist friendly and we spent many hours watching them playing and bonding. This is the link to see the rest of Nicole’s fabulous photos and video clips of our Namibian boys in Botswana. A happy transboundary event.

Photograph by Nicole Cambré
Within Africa
Have a good two weeks

Gill