

The Livingstone biWeekly



Dear All

Last week I went to ZigZag to get one of the Livingstone Animal Protection Society (LAPS) puppies. She is in my header on the left with my other dogs. LAPS takes in abandoned dogs, some of them in very bad condition. They are cared for, made healthy, innoculated and sterilised. They have a few more dogs there needing a good home, so if you have space for another family member, please go along to ZigZags.

Internet Woes again

This newsletter is a bit thin ... again ... internet woes once more.

I decided to try out an MTN router which had been recommended to me. The first week was fine, in fact, the download speed was faster so I was happy ... until 11 days after my K860 (US\$80) investment, my 'bundle' finished and I had to go and top up. K860 later I was going again, but after a few days the internet started to hiccup its way through any download. I complained and was told that there was no problem with the connection. The hiccupping continued ... I complained again ... no help was forthcoming. Finally the router stopped altogether and I was asked to take it into the MTN shop in town for them to look at.

At first I was told that this second bundle had finished. My reply: IMPOSSIBLE. I knew this because the router had hardly worked at all. I left it with the technician for a couple of hours and came back to find that he had downloaded some new software. I brought it home and it is working now. But, considering the cost of MTN and their lack of customer care I have decided to go back to Zamtel.

Wayawaya

Wayawaya is a company which is making bags and purses. You can find their workshop opposite Engen Service Station on Mosi-oo-Tunya Road. The bags are beautifully made by the ladies in the workshop. The six ladies have all been trained by the company to produce these high quality products and it has made a huge difference to their lives and the lives of their families.

Most of the bags are exported but if you would like to take a look and buy one, you are welcome to visit.



Thorn Tree Safaris are known for their cycling tours all over Zambia. They take groups of cyclists along the lesser-known tracks for a week or longer tour. Their base is in Livingstone and they have recently completed their own camp along the Maramba River. The lodge has a large luxurious house which can accommodate 10 people. There also chalets in the grounds for more visitors.



I went for a look and these are my photographs. You can find better ones on their website!

The camp is primarily used for their cycling groups but can also be used by visitors to Livingstone. The house is very nicely decorated and comes with or without a cook. Contact Claire or Sean on: thorntreesafaris@yahoo.com

Cycling Club

Peter Chombe and some of his friends have collected a group of keen cyclists to ride together every Sunday. Children are welcome. You will need your own bike and equipment. Contact Peter on pchombe@zesco.co.zm

Customs Clearing

Most of us in Livingstone are really fed up of all the trucks in town. Livingstone is a major border post with trucks travelling between South Africa, Namibia and Congo. There are truck parks all over town meaning that trucks are forever clogging up the roads and negotiating tight corners.

Finally, it seems that ZRA has realised that this higgledy-piggledy way of doing things has to come to an end and that they need to know where all these trucks are parked so that they can monitor their cargos more carefully. ZRA knows it is losing a lot of revenue through smuggling by unscrupulous transporters who can offload bits and bobs when parked overnight.

In an article in the Lusaka Times, the ZRA Commissioner General, Kingsley Chanda, said they are going to set up a dedicated Customs Clearing Facility.

I hope this Facility is to the north of Livingstone and that trucks are driven once through town only. It will be a huge relief for all Livingstone residents. Having said that, the truck drivers will need facilities near to the park for food, accommodation, etc, so I hope ZRA looks into all the private ancillary services and supplies which will need to be set up nearby.



GORGEOUS PUPPIES FOR ADOPTION,

LAPS has lots of gorgeous puppies and dogs ready for adoption. They are sterilised, vaccinated and healthy and will make great family pets. Come and visit our shelter at Zig Zag to meet your newest family member. Call on 0962-865115 to make an appointment or email lapslivingstone@gmail.com.







Lake Tanganyika

From dw.com

Global Nature Fund, an NGO based in southern Germany, has nominated Lake Tanganyika in central Africa as "Threatened Lake of the Year" and together with local partners is calling for sustainable measures to preserve it. Lake Tanganyika is shared between Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia and Burundi.

Pollution - one threat among many

Pollution, overexploitation and sedimentation are a threat to the diverse species that inhabit this vast African lake. Industrial and domestic waste from cities and villages along the shoreline is discharged untreated into the water. Ferries and even the fishermen themselves, who use oil for generators and night fishing lights, also pollute the lake.



Almost a fifth of the world's freshwater

Lake Tanganyika is 1,470 metres (4823 feet) deep, making it the second deepest lake in the world. It is also the second largest freshwater lake by volume containing almost 17 percent of the planet's unfrozen fresh water resources. Millions depend on the lake for their livelihood.

Population growth increases burden

Population growth in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Zambia is adding to the strain on the Lake Tanganyika's resources. One million people living in the Tanganyika basin depend on the fishing industry. They include around 100,000 fishermen. The bigger the population, the more mouths there are to feed.



Famed for biodiversity

Lake Tanganyika contains more than 1,500 plant and animal species, of which 40 percent can't be found anywhere else on the planet. Giant groupers, freshwater jelly fish and spiny eels and the Nile crocodile are just a few examples of the lake's biodiversity.

Overfishing and fewer fish

Lake Tanganyika's natural resources are being overexploited. The lake is being overfished and this has led to a dramatic reduction in the size of catches. Between 1995 and 2011, the number of fishermen increased fourfold, while the total fish stock decreased by a quarter during the same period. The individual fisherman's annual catch went down by 81 percent.

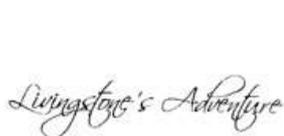


Addressing environmental challenges

Pius Yanda, Professor in Physical Geography, and Director General for Climate Change at the University of Dar Es Salaam says discussion about how to address the challenges likely to threaten the lake's ecological integrity is important. "If people are actively participating in the process of addressing environmental challenges around the lake then that would be for the best".

Climate change and overfishing

In 2016, researchers from the University of Arizona found that fish were becoming more scarce in Lake Tanganyika not just because of overfishing but because of climate change as well. The lake has been warming since the 1800s leading to a decline in algae on which fish feed. But overfishing must still share some of the blame depleted fish stocks, the researchers said.



Luangwa-Feira Road

ZNBC

A section of the Luangwa -Feira road has been damaged by heavy rains. RDA director -communications and corporate affairs Loyce Saili has confirmed to ZNBC news that the agency has dispatched a team of engineers to access the damage .

Mrs. Saili says the damaged has been occasioned at approximately 4 kilometers from the junction of Great East road.

The agency has advised road users travelling to and from Feira not to use the road as their safety cannot be guaranteed because the structural integrity of the road has been compromised.

Mrs. Saili says the agency has instructed the contractor China Geo to mobilise to site to help in remedy the situation.

The agency will be able to give a comprehensive statement on the extent of the damage to the road tomorrow and the possible intervention required to fix the damaged section.

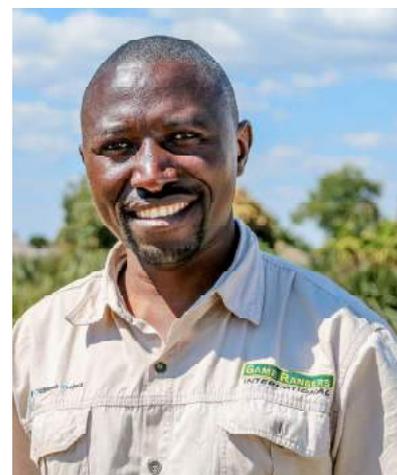


Game Rangers International

BRITIUS - EMERGING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LEADER (EWCL)

We are delighted to announce that GRI's District Community Officer Britius Munkombwe has been selected as an Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leader (EWCL). Britius will join the 2017-2018 EWCL Class, undertaking two short training courses in Florida before graduating in Washington D.C. next year. Britius will receive training in leadership and conservation campaigning skills, have the opportunity to network with other conservation professionals, and will gain further experience in planning, implementing and evaluating a conservation project. WWF's Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program has generously offered Britius a Professional Development Grant to cover the costs of the EWCL training program. Since joining GRI in 2010, Britius has touched thousands of lives, empowered countless communities, and greatly contributed to protecting wildlife in south Kafue National Park. He is 1 of just 4 international candidates selected from over 150 applicants, and is so deserving of this opportunity. We are extremely proud of Britius on his achievement.

Many thanks to Amielle DeWan (Impact by Design) for recognising Britius' enthusiasm, dedication and determination and nominating him for the EWCL program.



Rangers Shot

Lusaka Times

Poachers have shot dead an officer from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) at Luangwa Game Management area in Nyimba district of Eastern Province.

Eastern Province Police Commissioner Alex Chilufya ... said that there were six wildlife officers while the poachers were seven in number. The poachers managed to escape after the shooting incident.

In a similar incident, poachers on Sunday wounded an officer from DNPW in Nalusanga National Park of Kaoma. Tourism and Arts Minister Charles Banda who confirmed the development said the officer was expected to be evacuated for specialised treatment. ...

G: I was a bit confused by Nalusanga National Park which does not exist. Nalusanga is the name of the Kafue National Park gate on the Lusaka-Mongu Road.



Kariba Dam Repairs
Engineering News

Zambian and Zimbabwean governments will on Tuesday sign a works contract for the first component of the Kariba dam rehabilitation project.

This contract will see the reshaping of the dam's plunge pool and is being funded by the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the government of Sweden, together with the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA), which operates, maintains and manages the Kariba dam on behalf of the governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe. The structural integrity of the 55-year-old, 128-m-high dam wall has been compromised over the years by erosion of the plunge pool, with the foundations chipped down to depths of up to 90 m beyond permissible levels through advanced alkali-silica reaction in the concrete.

The erosion has undercut and destabilised the wall, putting the entire wall structure at high risk of collapse. An expert report produced by the ZRA has also warned that a continuous swelling of the concrete wall, owing to slow chemical reactions over the years, is constricting the passage of water through the spillways.

Such a constriction of the spillways could obstruct the reservoir's water-level control systems and lead to an excessive build-up of pressure on the wall and potentially precipitate its collapse.

Should it collapse, flooding from the Zambezi river could affect parts of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique, affecting millions of people.

Other rehabilitation measures include the design, fabrication and installation of an emergency gate and a new gantry to prevent the uncontrolled loss of water in the event of floodgate failure, which will result in water levels dropping to below the minimum operating levels and interrupting power production; the refurbishment of the upstream stop-beam guides; and the replacement of secondary concrete to prevent failure during the operation of stop-beams.

The Kariba dam rehabilitation project will ensure the dam is able to operate at its full capacity to international standards and that the installed power generation capacity of 1 830 MW will be retained.



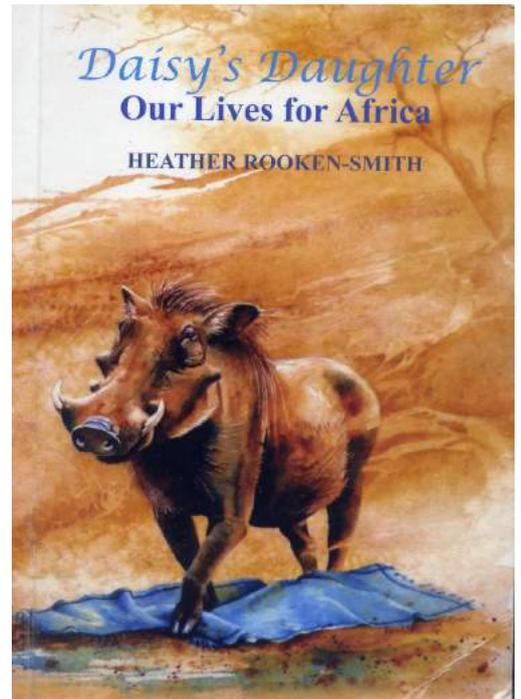

Daisy's Daughter

In the news this past week has been the land invasions in Kenya. From the UK Guardian:

Thousands of heavily-armed herders are invading conservancies, private properties and smallholdings in Laikipia, one of Kenya's most important wildlife areas, as they search for pasture for their cattle. Over the past couple of weeks, about 10,000 nomadic herders, armed with automatic rifles and driving 135,000 cattle, have left a trail of destruction and chaos in the county, just three hours drive from Nairobi. The herders have indiscriminately killed wildlife – from elephants, giraffes, zebras and lions to family dogs. Residents have been injured, some seriously. At least one person has been killed, according to reports. ...

Heather Rookan-Smith knows about violence in Kenya because she was born there in 1934 and during her early married life, her husband joined patrols to protect their farm from the Mau Mau. In those days the Mau Mau were armed with axes and machetes, not AK47s but they were just as frightening. Heather has written her story in a book called Daisy's Daughter. She related their move from their first farm to a safer farm in Kenya which was then compulsory purchased by the government. They moved from Kenya and went to Southern Rhodesia where they heard about farming opportunities in Angola. Loading their goods and family they moved to Angola to start another farm there. This lasted for 2 years, after which the news reached them that Angola was in melt down. Joining a long convoy with armed security they left Angola for Namibia. Heather's husband said he would never own land again and he went to work for a farmer in Namibia where they stayed happily for many years.

Heather now lives with her son and daughter-in-law in Katima Mulilo. If you would like a copy of her book, contact Mary on Caprivi River Lodge. hakumata@iway.na



Kwando Carnivore Project

Wildlife crime is not only about elephant ivory and rhino horns. Lions are being targeted for their teeth, claws and bones and forests are being plundered for timber. Our beautiful Zambezi Region has been hard hit by poaching in many forms. This African Rosewood tree with a diameter of over a metre, was illegally chopped down along with a hundred others in our State Forest Reserve. The state forest is a unique piece of land in that it has low productivity so is not home to high densities of wildlife, but it is very very important for the connectivity of wildlife. Large carnivores particularly lions favour thickly wooded areas for dispersal. It is high time that the illegal plunder of trees and fish are placed at the same level of importance as elephants and rhinos

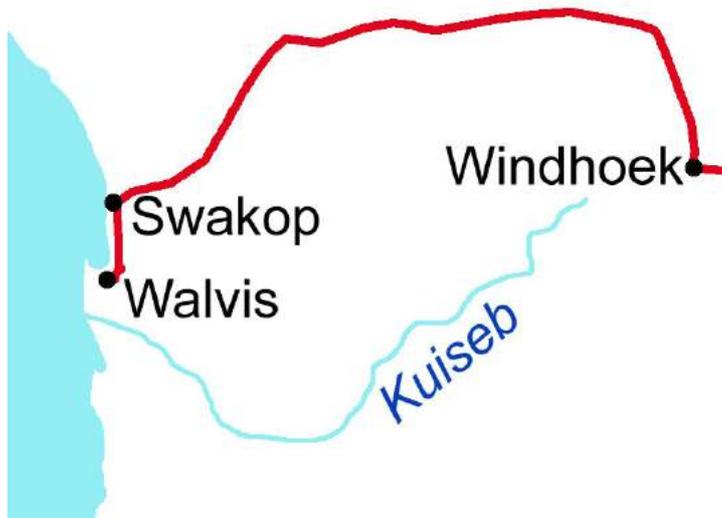


The Kuiseb River is Flowing

At 12:15AM on Monday, February 13th the Kuiseb River reached Gobabeb Research and Training Centre!

The water flowed down the Kuiseb River and reached Gobabeb early this morning! At 9:00AM the height reached 0.75m and it is slowly receding.

G: *The Kuiseb runs through the Namib Desert, south of Walvis Bay and Windhoek. It doesn't run very often, hence the excitement*



Petition to Stop Donkey Slaughterhouse

Avaaz.org

TO: Outjo Municipality and the Namibian Authorities: No donkey slaughterhouse in Outjo
Outjo do NOT want to be part of the donkey skin trade and trafficking to China

Plans are underway to establish a Chinese Donkey Slaughterhouse in Outjo where they will aim to slaughter 100 donkeys per day.

There are various problems with this:

We do not have a big enough donkey population to sustain the slaughter of 100 donkeys per day.

Outjo has been in the news on numerous occasions for being a link in the illegal rhino horn, elephant tusk and pangolin skin trade, is the slaughterhouse a front for other illegal activities?

Horrible reports have been doing the rounds that the donkeys are being skinned alive and that the meat is discarded because they don't need it. ...

Outjo is a hotspot for illegal poaching. Do we really need a slaughterhouse run by the notorious poachers in the world, the Chinese, in Outjo? ...

G: *I have put a link to the Petition on the email. Please click on it to sign.*



Kaziranga's ruthless rangers have reduced rhino poaching by simply gunning down poachers at sight

Quartz Media

In Kaziranga, a national park in north-eastern India, rangers shoot people to protect rhinos. The park's aggressive policing is, of course, controversial, but the results are clear: despite rising demand for illegal rhino horn, and plummeting numbers throughout Africa and southeast Asia, rhinos in Kaziranga are flourishing.

Yet Kaziranga, which features in a new BBC investigation, highlights some of the conflicts that characterise contemporary conservation, as the need to protect endangered species comes into contact with the lives and rights of people who live in and around the increasingly threatened national parks. India must balance modernisation and development with protections for the rights of local people—all the while ensuring its development is ecologically sustainable. ...

G: This BBC programme was widely shown and mentions that World Wildlife Fund (WWF) supplies Kaziranga with equipment to protect the park. It also states that it is individuals who fund WWF and that these individuals will not be happy when they see this report. It intimated that WWF may lose funding.

I was horrified at the programme which came over as being a very emotional report mentioning that a small boy had been shot by mistake and that a mentally-challenged young adult had also been shot when he entered the park to find his cattle.

Yes, it is very sad that these accidents happen but unless mankind starts to care more for its wildlife and the environment which we share with them, our planet is doomed. We do not need to condemn wildlife rangers who put their own lives on the line every time they patrol our parks. Accidents will happen because these rangers know that their chances of being attacked are very high. We know that poaching is at an all-time high and that poachers are armed with AKs not machetes. The BBC should have highlighted the fact that we need to increase funding for the rangers so that they can be more skilled and be equipped with better technology to stop the risk of accidents.

This programme is going to cause a lot of damage to wildlife conservation throughout the world and for us in Africa, it is a big blow.

WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
20°C (68)	28°C (82)

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K9.75
	P10.41
	Nam\$13.10

Have a good two weeks

Gill