

The Livingstone biWeekly

5 April 2017

Dear All

There was a big thud on my window. I went out to investigate and this kingfisher had knocked himself out and was lying in the storm drain. I picked him up and took him to the bird table where he sat, looking very sad, for a long time. Eventually he recovered and flew off.

LIVINGSTONE

Yoga Classes

Carolyn has started yoga classes at Munga Lodge. If you want to know more, contact Carolyn on 095 5385283 or Carolyn McPherson [c.mcpherson90@gmail.com]

Electrician

I always find it difficult to find tradesmen who I trust to do odd jobs around the house. I have recently used Lester, an electrician, who has done some great work and is a pleasure to have around. His phone number is 0978744889. If you know of good tradesmen, please let me know and we can create a list.

Batoka Dam Meeting

Livingstone was full of waa-waa on Wednesday as the police escorted politicians to and from the airport and town with sirens blasting for a BIG meeting on Batoka Gorge Dam. Other participants trundled through town in 4x4s ... The meeting was held to entice investors to put their hands up for the construction of the dam.

From ZNBC we hear: *Minister of Finance Felix Mutati says the process will be transparent in order to ensure a competitive process and value for money. Mr. Mutati says the recently held Batoka Investor Conference generated significant interest from both financiers and investors. He says the two Governments managed to stimulate initial indications of interest from financiers and investors who would like to finance the estimated 4 billion dollar project.*

Then later on ZNBC:

Minister of Finance Felix Mutati says government has made progress towards the financing of the five thousand siter (sic) capacity premier conferencing centre in Livingstone. Mr Mutati says the project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Eye of Victoria Falls Company.

G: We had plenty of discussions about a huge conference facility during the run-up to the UNWTO. The problem with a conference facility of this size is that it is not economically viable. I looked up Eye of Victoria Falls Company and could find no reference to it ... On the Batoka Dam, we still await the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment ...



Last week saw the introduction of yet another tax/levy on the tourism industry in the form of a Tourism Levy. Meanwhile, the Vice President, Inonge Wina arrived in Livingstone for the Batoka Gorge meeting and addressed the public at the airport:

From ZNBC:

Vice President Inonge Wina says Government remains committed to promoting Livingstone as a Tourist Capital.

The Vice President says Government is determined to ensure that as many meetings as possible are held in the tourist capital.

Mrs. Wina says government has big plans to boost the economy of Livingstone through promoting its services.

Speaking upon arrival at Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula International Airport for the Batoka Gorge Hydro-Electricity Scheme Investor Conference, Mrs. Wina urged Livingstone residents to be courteous to visitors. ...

G: I feel we need more international visitors and not just more meetings in Livingstone. Most meetings are at tax payers expense, so this really does little to increase income into the economy ...

To ask our residents to be courteous to visitors is not necessary as our Livingstonians are well-used to being friendly to our visitors. What our residents need is jobs. And the only way to promote job creation is to reduce the taxation on our main industry which is tourism.

I am confused by the vice president saying that tourism in Livingstone is to be assisted by government when, at the same time, government introduces yet another cost to the industry.



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ARTS
TOURISM LEVY

The Government of the Republic of Zambia, through the Ministry of Tourism and Arts, working in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, wishes to notify all members of the Tourism and Hospitality Industry, as well as the general public that Tourism Levy has been introduced effective **1st March, 2017**.

The Tourism Levy will be collected by the Zambia Revenue Authority on behalf of Government as enshrined in the **Tourism and Hospitality Act No. 13 of 2015, Tourism Policy 2015, SI 56 of 2016 and SI 69 of 2016**.

The Tourism Levy is pegged at the **rate of 1.5%** of a person's total bill in respect of accommodation and events and is applicable to both local and international users of tourism facilities. To facilitate the registration process, all Tourism Enterprises are required to **urgently submit** to the Ministry of Tourism and Arts the: **Name of the Operator; Business / Trading Name; Location; Email; Contact No.; and Tax Payer Identification Number (TPIN)** through the contact details provided below.

All Tourism Enterprise Operators are required to effect the collection and submit Tourism Levy Returns by the **14th** day of the subsequent month to which the return relates to the Zambia Revenue Authority, without fail.

The Tourism Levy is a Government initiative aimed at increasing financial support to the Tourism Development Fund for:

- tourism product development
- tourism research
- tourism marketing
- tourism training
- tourism infrastructure

NOTE:
 Lusaka-based tourism enterprise operators are invited to a half-day sensitization and awareness workshop to be held on 28th March, 2017 from 08:00hrs at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre.

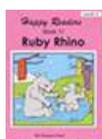
"Tourism Levy: Enhancing Support to Tourism Development"

Support the Tourism Levy and contribute to the growth of our Tourism Industry.

Remember: Tourism Levy is Law.

For further details:
Contact: +260 211 239704
Mobile: +260 954 563129
E-mail: tourismdevelopmentfund@mota.gov.zm

MOTA, PRO



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



NELS MOTORS
Vehicle Workshop

National anthem to be sung at all schools

Government has directed that all public and private schools must sing the national anthem, and not just the first verse and the chorus as is the norm, but all three verses. Chief Government Spokeswoman Kampamba Mulenga explained that the directive was aimed at fostering oneness and instilling a spirit of patriotism. The announcement comes on the back of President Lungu's 'state of the nation' address, in which he lamented that many people can't sing the national anthem.

Rain affects coal production

The heavy rains are indirectly affecting coal production in Zambia, since about 7 metres of the Maamba-Batoka Road washed away over a month ago, cutting off Sinazongwe District. The huge hole was initially filled in by Maamba Collieries – using 87 truck-loads of rock – but the temporary repair must indeed have been temporary, because Maamba has now stopped all mining operations, after it ran out of diesel, and Collum Coal Mine is not far behind, reported the Daily Mail. Of more concern to ordinary people is the fact that Maamba is contributing 200 MW to the national grid from its coal-fired power plant, and that may have to shut down soon as well.

G: The Maamba Road has indeed got a big hole in it. Small vehicles have made a route through the bush to get around, but large vehicles cannot pass. Hence, coal from Maamba mine cannot be trucked out and likewise mine and power station supplies cannot be trucked in. Also, Zambeef has a big farm along this road and they are equally affected. It would seem, if stories are correct, that repairs were being done to a temporary bridge when the river came down all in a woosh and washed away all the foundations for the new bridge. There is no more money to make good the mess. One can only wonder why these repairs were being carried out during the rainy season. The bridge is in the escarpment which is notorious for rivers filling quickly as the rain pours down.

ZamParks

Subject: 8 nabbed in W/Province for raw ivory
March 30, 2017

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) in Western Province has arrested eight male persons for unlawful possession of prescribed trophy.

Frank Sebitwani Sikota, Mubiana Kalaluka, Kaundula Kalaluka and Maboshe Kalaluka were nabbed in Mongu for unlawful possession of prescribed trophies namely 26 pieces of raw ivory weighing 96.4kg and 2.5kg of elephant meat. Mubiana Kalaluka is owner of the vehicle used to transport the above ivory. The vehicle is also part of evidence in the case like in any other case where a vehicle or anything used in commissioning of crime is confiscated as exhibit.

The three suspects with surname Kalaluka are siblings. They are appearing before Mongu Magistrate Court. And four other suspects were arrested in Sesheke District for unlawful possession of 23 pieces of raw ivories weighing 144 kg.

These are Crispin Lichaha aged 42 years, Hila Villagein in Chief Nawasilundu's area of Mongu District, Misheck Muzumi aged 32 years, of Chalala Village in Chief Mutape's area in Sesheke District, Oliver Nyambe aged 38 years of Ngangula Village on Chief Sampoo in Sesheke District and Monde Sishimba the only female from Kandiana Village of Chief Mundia in Kalabo.

The case is before Sesheke Magistrate Court.



Ndevu Dam

There is news in many newspapers about a proposed dam along the Luangwa River:

From Economic News:

A South African company plans to build a dam and 235 megawatt (MW) hydroelectric power station costing about \$1.26 billion in Zambia to help plug a power shortage, Zambia's embassy in Pretoria said. ...

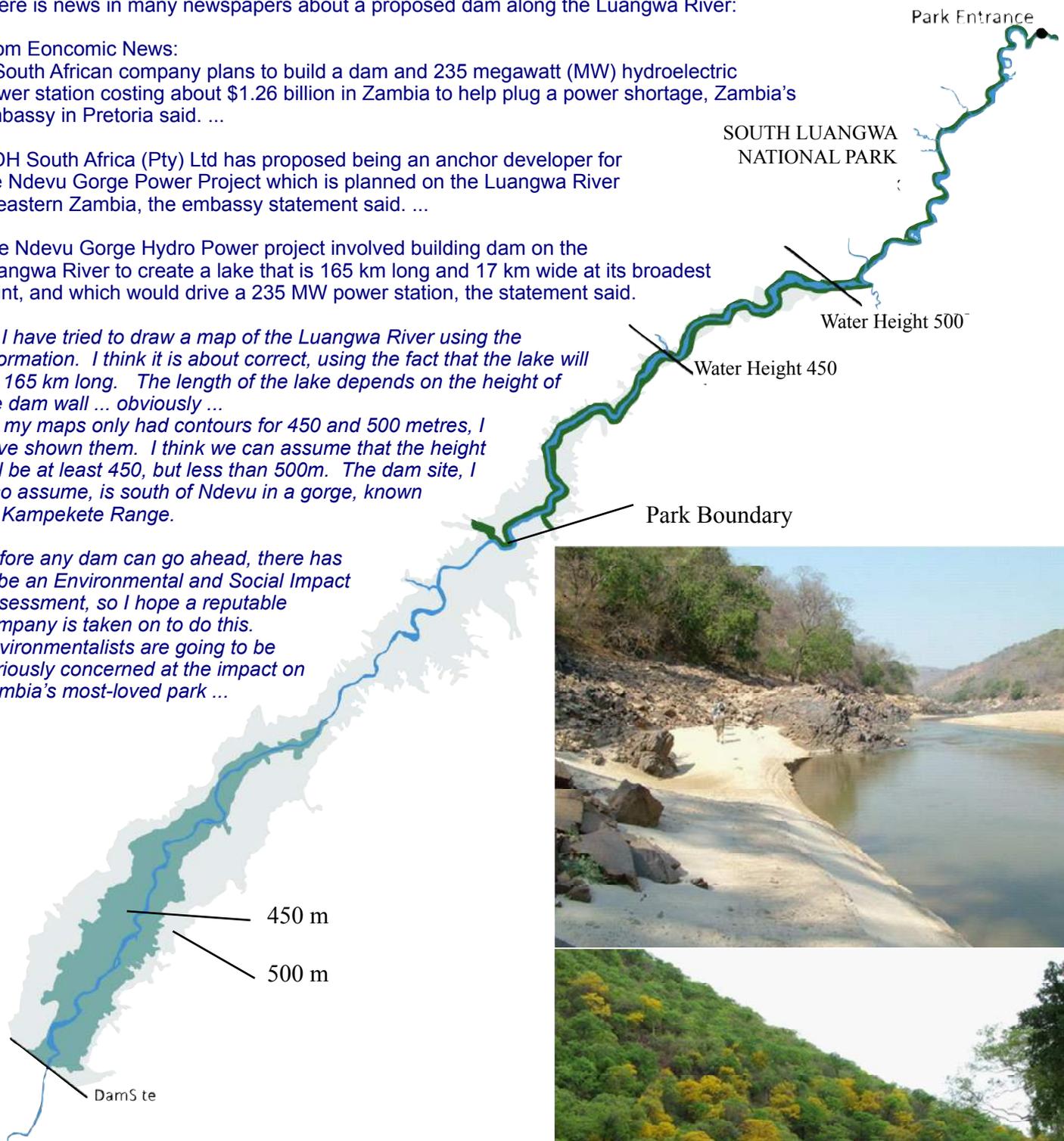
MDH South Africa (Pty) Ltd has proposed being an anchor developer for the Ndevu Gorge Power Project which is planned on the Luangwa River in eastern Zambia, the embassy statement said. ...

The Ndevu Gorge Hydro Power project involved building dam on the Luangwa River to create a lake that is 165 km long and 17 km wide at its broadest point, and which would drive a 235 MW power station, the statement said.

G: I have tried to draw a map of the Luangwa River using the information. I think it is about correct, using the fact that the lake will be 165 km long. The length of the lake depends on the height of the dam wall ... obviously ...

As my maps only had contours for 450 and 500 metres, I have shown them. I think we can assume that the height will be at least 450, but less than 500m. The dam site, I also assume, is south of Ndevu in a gorge, known as Kampekete Range.

Before any dam can go ahead, there has to be an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, so I hope a reputable company is taken on to do this. Environmentalists are going to be seriously concerned at the impact on Zambia's most-loved park ...



Two photos from Google Earth near the entrance to the gorge



Kitwe Clean Up

I have noted in a previous newsletter how the Mayor of Kitwe has been leading by example by getting his hands dirty cleaning up the town. It seems that his Councillors have also taken up the challenge:

Pictured is Councillor Pamela Katebe of Kafue ward and Councillor Mulenga Kateule of Lubuto Ward plus the Kitwe Gender Champion during the weekly cleaning exercise at Nakadoli Market



Conservation South Luangwa

Ian Macallan is a serving UK Police Officer, working for the Met's Serious Crime and Operations Command in London and has been with us at CSL for the past 6 months on a volunteer consultancy basis and it's almost time to head back. Ian we can't thank you enough for all you have done while you have been here, from the internal review done on all our operations and systems, implementing new databases, hotlines, organizational structural and relationship changes, interoperability training with plane and ground teams, bringing a great vibe to the office, slotting in to be part of the team and last but not least looking after all the dogs. We'll miss you but hopefully have you back again before the end of the year. Thank you from us all at CSL.



International Rafting

A chance to race on the Zambezi!!!

BY IRF ADMIN, ON APRIL 2ND, 2017

Many of you have been waiting for this for years – a chance to go race on the Zambezi!

At last someone is making this happen and it is most likely to be a World Cup series event as well – meaning it will fit in with the minimum requirements that the IRF has for a World Cup event (safety, judging, race direction).

The details are still being finalised but here are the basics:

Dates: 14 – 21 Dec 2017

Location: Zambezi River, Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) / Livingston (Zambia)

Races:

R6 (6-man rafts): Sprint, H2H, Slalom and Downriver

Kayak: Downriver and Slalom

K1 / K2: still in the planning

Other activities are planned as well: half marathon and mountain bike race as well as local markets and entertainment

So set those dates aside, save up leave time, and get your team ready for downtime on the Zambezi!

ZIMBABWE

Traveller 24

Travellers from the United States can now fly from North America to Victoria Falls with only a two-hour stopover, as Ethiopian Airlines has just launched a new route to Zimbabwe’s new Victoria Falls International Airport. ...

Ethiopian Airlines will now fly to Victoria Falls from Addis Ababa four times a week, enabling tourists from major cities in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa to enjoy hassle-free connections via Addis Ababa. ...

Zambezi Society

HIGHEST ELEPHANT LOSSES RELATED TO LACK OF RESOURCES

The 2014 Great Elephant Census showed that Zimbabwe’s population of elephants declined badly in the Zambezi Valley in the 13-year period 2001 - 2014 (see map).

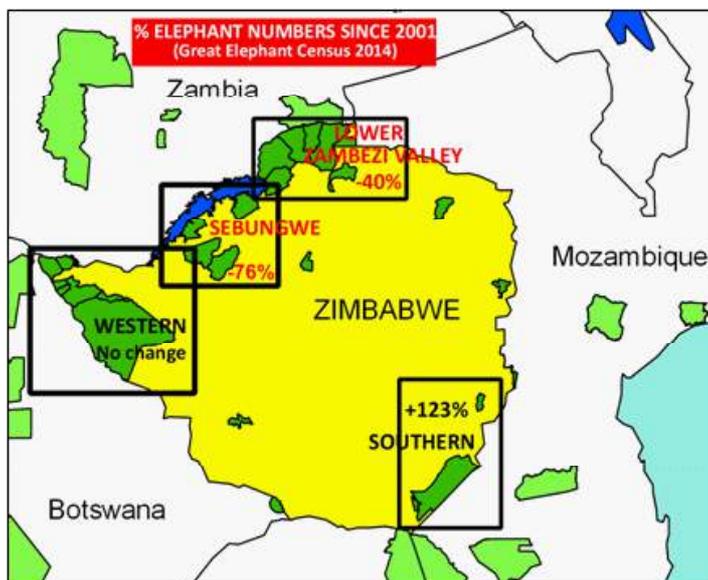
There has been a 76% loss of elephants in the SEBUNGWE area (Chizarira, Chirisa, Sengwa, Matusadona and surrounding community conservation areas); while in the LOWER ZAMBEZI VALLEY (Charara, Hurungwe, Mana Pools, Sapi, Chewore, Dande, Doma), the survey showed a 40% decrease.

Elephant numbers elsewhere in the country show little change in the WESTERN area (Hwange, Matetse etc) and a considerable increase (123%) in the SOUTHERN area (Gonarezhou/Save Valley).

However, It is important to determine the factors that overlay each of these sub-regions:-

WESTERN area - has excellent tourism infrastructure and income (Victoria Falls/Hwange), seasonal impact is low and considerable funding is provided internationally via WWF and for the KAZA (Kavinga-Zambezi) Transfrontier concept.

SOUTHERN area - sound infrastructure (except for air access) has been put in place with a successful partnership between Zimbabwe’s Parks Authority and an international NGO (Frankfurt Zoological Society). Seasonal impact is moderate, the area includes a number of privately-funded conservancies, which have the potential to receive significant donor funding.



However, things are different in the two areas along the Zambezi River.

LOWER ZAMBEZI VALLEY - despite this being the longest contiguous wilderness area along the whole Zambezi River, this area has poor infrastructure, roads and air access; there is high seasonal impact as tourism essentially closes for 5 months during the rains; consumptive tourism (hunting) dominates, with Mana Pools currently the only tourism destination; tourism income is therefore modest; there is no significant conservation funding (except for Zimbabwean volunteer organisations in the past two years)

The **SEBUNGWE** area is a mosaic of non-contiguous National Parks without wildlife corridors linking them; infrastructure is extremely poor; there is high seasonal impact, a tourism market which has shrunk, providing little income to the Parks Authority; there is minimal conservation funding and almost no NGO support except in Matusadona and its surrounds.

TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF THE RAINY SEASON!

The Bushlife Support Unit has been operating in the Lower Zambezi Valley throughout the rainy season based out of Mana Pools. This has not been without challenges, however! One Saturday afternoon, an anti-poaching vehicle on deployment duties became stuck in the dry river bed of the Zumbu River which is located in the Sapi Safari Area. Before the recovery team got there to pull it out, the river came down in flood !! It is quite amazing how quickly these rivers can flood!

Henry Bandure who is in charge of the Bushlife Support Unit anti-poaching team in Mana Pools organised a tractor and with a great deal of effort, the team managed to get the Landrover out of the river - albeit a little worse for wear, missing



doors and bonnet which were swept down the river! It was towed back to camp to be stripped down and put back in running order. Sadly, despite a search, none of the missing pieces have been retrieved for re-use.



4X4 CLUB OF ZIMBABWE TO OPEN ROADS AT EASTER PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY'S TLB GRADER IN MAY

Each year, the 4x4 Club of Zimbabwe undertakes working expeditions to remote areas to assist conservation projects or National Parks within the country. The remote roads and tracks in Mana Pools have benefitted from improvement through their hard work and rough terrain experience in previous years.

This Easter weekend (14-18 April), several of the organisation's members have once again volunteered to help improve road accessibility in Mana Pools. This will greatly assist the movement of National Parks staff, anti-poaching patrols and a future wildlife monitoring exercise with camera-traps ...



Save Valley Conservancy

GREAT NEWS: The team at Savé Valley Conservancy, one of our #MyPlanet Rhino Fund beneficiaries, were able to prevent a rhino poaching incident a couple of days ago, thanks to their anti-poaching unit which is working in partnership with tracker dogs! This was their first major success with the dogs.



Kariba Animal Welfare

ZEB COLT – FEW DAYS OLD - SNARED approx 40km out from Kariba NOV 2016

Waiting patiently to be “un-tethered” from the tree the slaughter snare was set on for any unsuspecting animal



No need for darting as this little one was so small it was easily handled with everyone assisting and fortunately no damage was done, due to the Parks Patrol Unit that was in the area, finding him. The wire was removed with no wounds or cuts and he was pointed in the direction of his family and set off at a gallop.



BOTSWANA

Earthquake

A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 struck Botswana on Monday, US seismologists said, with the tremor felt in several neighbouring countries.

The epicentre of the quake, which hit at 19h40 (17h40 GMT), was 238 kilometres northwest of Botswana’s capital Gaborone, the US Geological Survey said.

It struck at a relatively shallow depth of 11 kilometres, and rumbled throughout the capital for about 30 seconds, an AFP correspondent said.

No reports on damages were immediately available.

The quake was also felt in several cities in South Africa as well as in Swaziland and Zimbabwe, several hundreds of kilometres from the epicentre, witnesses said.

The Namibian

THE police this week arrested two Zambians and two Namibians in the Zambezi region after they were found with elephant tusks and rhino horns. ...

The two Zambian men were arrested in the Mashi conservation area on Tuesday when the elephant tusks were found in their possession. Further police investigations led to the arrest of the third suspect, a 21-year-old Namibian man. ...

In an unrelated matter, police arrested a 37-year-old Namibian man at the Selela village of the Zambezi region when he was found in possession of two rhino horns. ...

The Namibian Villager

A Chinese company, Fu Hai Trading Enterprise CC, has applied for land with the Outjo municipality, on which is plans to construct a donkey meat abattoir for the Chinese market.

The Outjo municipality has also issued a principal agreement approval to the company, The Villager understands. When The Villager spoke to Outjo Municipality Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Joseph /Urib he said that the municipality has advertised their intention to provide the land, however no decision had been made yet as they have called for objections from the public that would determine their judgement.

“We have given the Chinese Company a Principal Agreement Approval which means that they have to consult the Ministry Of Agriculture and Forestry for approval and then come back to us with the prove of approval and then we are able to sell the land for that certain purpose,” he said.

Although the company indicated that their plan is to also import donkeys from Botswana, /Urib said that he is not in a position to say what exactly the operations of the abattoir would entail as they were still waiting for the final business proposal from Fu Hai Trading Enterprise. He also mentioned that, “I can only confirm the municipality’s plan to sell the land to Fu Hai Trading Enterprise CC to build an abattoir but I am not sure of whether the abattoirs products would be for local or export markets and I am also not certain about whether the donkeys would be slaughtered for their meat only or also for their skin.”

Despite /Urib knowing the exact plan for the forthcoming donkey abattoir, The Villager can reveal that there is a Chinese Market interested in China as their products are used to make medicines in China. Research shows that, only the very poorest communities in China still rely on donkeys for their day to day needs, however after two decades of the country’s economic growth, the country’s donkey population has dropped by almost half and this decline has had an unintended consequences for traditional medicine and therefore are manufacturers turning to Africa where donkey populations remain in rude health.

Meanwhile, In Niger 80,000 donkeys have been exported to China in 2016 compared to 27, 00 exported in 2015. In Burkina Faso, donkey traders also sold 18 000 donkeys to international buyers in the first quarter of 2016 up from just 1 000 for the same period, while in Kenya a donkey abattoir opened in April 2016 in Naivasha to cater for the burgeoning Chinese market. In South Africa, the surge in demand has led to a rise in cruelty towards, and theft of, donkeys.

In a statement of the National Council of Societies for the Protection of Animals (NSPCA) saying that it was horrified to confirm that donkeys are the latest victims of the trade in animal parts for medicinal purposes’ to the far east. Donkeys are being rounded up, stolen, then transported and brutally slaughtered for their skins.

The Namibian also reported last year that Agrinature, a company registered in September 2015 and owned by Namibian and Chinese investors also already had plans for a donkey abattoir as well as meat processing plant in Okahandja and it was not well received by some Namibians and the Okahandja community who strongly objected to the idea of the intended slaughter house.

Luderitz Marine Research

ANOTHER ONE! Now we are definitely witnessing a mass mortality of young humpback whales along the west coast of southern Africa. This very emaciated young animal was just reported today from just south of Paaltjies (Walvis Bay). It is now four animals in Namibia and at least 5 between the Cape and the Orange River...

At least the emaciated state of this one seems to rule out the algal toxin hypothesis (some potentially toxic algal blooms were detected earlier this month off Lüderitz By Kolette)...

Someone from the Namibian Dolphin Project in Walvis went to investigate this evening.

We urgently need to survey our coastline as so far we have had reports only from the “accessible” small portion of it. The only practical way to do so would be an aerial survey with at least one experienced observer/photographer on board to locate, identify and plot all potential stranded whales.



Nyasa Times

Mutharika, speaking on Wednesday in the Eastern Region lakeshore district of Mangochi during this year's World Water Day commemorations, appealed to people in the country to take care of Lake Malawi, which he said is the country's national treasure.

The President said the lake is wholly owned by Malawi and should therefore be protected and preserved by all well-meaning Malawians, saying water is an essential commodity that drives the economy of the country.

He then maintained that oil drilling will continue in the Lake Malawi despite calls from environmentalist to Malawi government to abandon the oil and gas project. ...

OTHER STUFF

Rhinos Will Be Airlifted to Australia to Avoid Poachers

Smithsonian

Conservationists have done just about everything possible to save rhinos—they've fenced them in, sent out squadrons of anti-poaching rangers, and even cut off rhino horns to make them less appealing. The horns are prized for traditional medicines in China and Vietnam, and with the price of a single rhino horn clocking in at as much as 80,000 dollars per kilogram (2.2 pounds), poachers just keep coming. That's why one Australian real estate agent is putting a radical plan into effect—he's transporting rhinos to the land down under.

"There is no safe place in Africa for rhinos today," Ray Dearlove, founder of the Australian Rhino Project, tells the Australian Broadcast Corporation. "They've become extinct pretty much from the top down to South Africa where probably 85 to 90 percent of the white and black southern rhinos that are left in the world."

His plan is to transport 80 rhinos, 20 per year for the next four years, to Australia. In May, the first six white rhinos go into quarantine in Johannesburg, South Africa. Then, in August, they will fly to Oz and spend another two months in quarantine at the Taronga Western Plains Zoo before reaching their final destination, the Monarto Zoo safari park outside Adelaide.

While airlifting the two-ton creatures might seem like an over-reaction, recent poaching numbers show that urgent action is needed. According to the Sydney Morning Herald, the kill rate of rhinos has exceeded the birth rate for the first time. In 2007, 13 rhinos were killed in southern Africa. In 2013 that number rose to 1,004, 1,200 in 2014 and in 2015 high horn prices pushed the number of poached rhinos to around 1,500 animals.



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WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
17°C (63)	30°C (86)

It has been dry now for over a week so I think we can assume that this is the end of our rainy season and rain will not fall again until, at the earliest, October ...

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K9.40
	P10.63
	Nam\$13.40

THE SMILE



Have a good two weeks

Gill