

# The Livingstone biWeekly

6 September 2017

Dear All

My header is a bit dull. It is a photograph of a hamerkop. What is interesting is the fact that I took the photo in my garden – he was perched on a dead tree having flown there from peering into my fishpond. The first morning he appeared, he called several times from a nearby tree and I went to the window to watch. He landed on the edge of the pond. I watched for a while and then he got spooked. The next morning he did the same but only called once. The next time he silently glided down to the pond ... in the hopes of avoiding my attention. He didn't – I saw him. The dogs saw him too and sped into the garden and he flew up into the dead tree. Hamerkops are definitely not town birds and this is the first one I have seen in the garden. A special treat for me although I was a bit worried about my fish ...

My other fun has been watching the birds munching the pawpaws. I grow fruit trees for the birds, not for me to eat. The wood hoopoes, drongos and bulbuls have been gorging themselves on the pawpaws and the insects attracted by the ripe fruit. How nice.



LIVINGSTONE

## Zambezi Festival

Yes! Safpar are looking forward to a fun-filled weekend with friends, music and some rip-roaring action on the Zambezi! Will YOU be the 2017 Zambezi Whitewater Champions?

Register your team of 6 now for the Zambezi Whitewater Festival 2017. Local rates and special accommodated rates at The Waterfront, Livingstone, Zambia and aha David Livingstone Safari Lodge and Spa are available.

Get involved in what promises to be an epic weekend - enter now at [zaminfo@safpar.com](mailto:zaminfo@safpar.com)

REGISTER NOW!

9 - 11 NOVEMBER 2017  
ZAMBEZI WHITewater FESTIVAL

ZAMINFO@SAFPAR.COM  
SAFPARRAFTING.COM



## Train de-railed Daily Mail

ONE person died on the spot while 12 others sustained minor injuries when a Zambia Railways Limited (ZRL) passenger train they were travelling on derailed in Mazabuka yesterday.



The accident happened around 12:00 hours at Magoye-Kaleya Trust when the Livingstone-bound Michael Chilufya Sata train from Lusaka careered off the railway line.

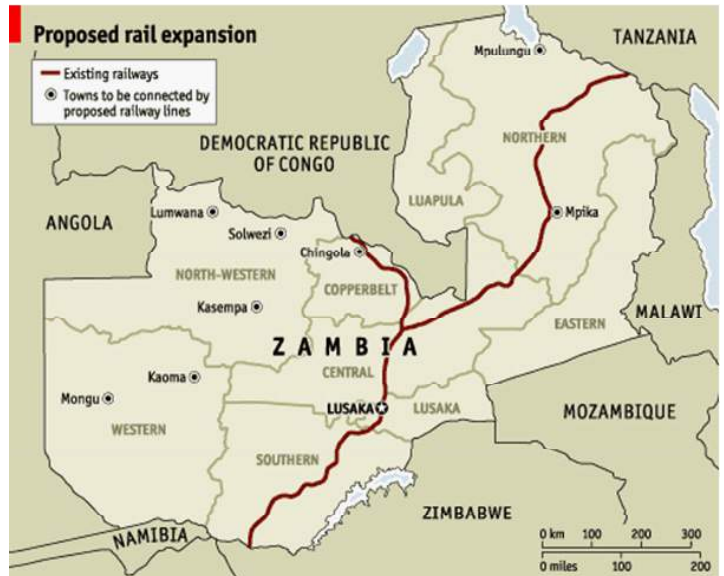
Southern Province commissioner of police Bonny Kapeso said in an interview that the deceased, only identified as Mutinta, is a mother of two and a casual worker at ZRL in Livingstone.

"I can confirm that 12 people have sustained minor injuries and no one has been admitted to hospital yet," he said.

ZRL head of public relations Caristo Chitamfya said a comprehensive statement will be issued in due course.

*G: In the last issue of the newsletter, I put in an article about a new railway line to be constructed from Mumbwa to Kafue. In a report from 2011, government was planning new railway*

*routes to Solwezi, to Mongu and to Mpulungu – all subject to viability. The map is from The Economist. (It does not show the line to Mulobezi and the proposed route to Kazungula). With all these new proposed routes on the horizon, surely we should look at our existing lines and make sure that they are safe before we embark on extending the service.*



*When Bushtracks Africa started their steam train excursions in Livingstone I feel sure that they spent as much money on repairing the tracks as they did on buying and renovating the locos and carriages.*



## Traditional Ceremony of the Chokwe, Luchazi, Luvale and Mbunda tribes

Again we have to thank the Daily Mail for their coverage of this traditional ceremony. It is so refreshing to find articles which tell us something about Zambia apart from politics and football! Here is a snippet and a photo:

*The sun was scorching but this did not deter people, both young and old to flock to the Zambezi River enroute to Mize capital in Zambezi West.*

*The river crossing point was a hype of activity on Saturday August 26, as the only pontoon and canoes ferried vehicles and people between the East and West Bank.*

*Zambians from all walks of life, including tourists made their way to Mize, home to the Likumbi Lya Mize traditional ceremony of the Vaka Chinyama people.*

*This cultural activity encompasses the Chokwe, Luchazi and the Mbunda tribes, who together with the Luvale make up the Vaka Chinyama Cha Mukwamayi communities. The Vaka Chinyama is a group of Bantu who came from the north of Lake Tanganyika. This is the triangular area between Kilimanjaro and Kenya mountains. The ceremony has been and will continue to be a meeting point for the Vaka Chinyama and people from divergent places and backgrounds as such, making it one of the most grandiose cultural events of Zambia.*



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## Rhino Horn Seized

32 kilogrammes of rhino horn were seized at Chanida border post in Eastern Province. This is not Zambian rhino horn because we only have a few – Livingstone and North Luangwa. It would seem that Zambia is being used as a transit country for wildlife crime. It would be interesting to know where the rhino horn came from, which port of entry it came through into Zambia and why it is coming via Zambia. I am sure the authorities will be following the trail.

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## Solar Plant for Kafue

In the news last week was the construction of a 54 MW solar power plant in Kafue. Slowly but surely Zambia is embracing solar technology which can provide us with power without destroying our environment. So, well done.

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## De-snaring work continues

Conservation South Luangwa

Thank you to Kafunta Safaris for reporting and staying with this young snared lion down at Three Rivers yesterday until Dr. Sichande could get there to de-snare it. Thanks also to Westgate Safaris for reporting this snared hyaena in Nsefu. Having a presence in these areas is hugely helpful in both reporting illegal activities and deterring them.



## Liuwa Plain National Park

The serval (*Leptailurus serval*) is a slender, medium-sized cat that weighs 9–18 kg. They are active in the day as well as at night, servals tend to be solitary with minimal social interaction.

The serval uses its sense of hearing to locate prey leaping over 2 m above the ground to land on the prey on its forefeet, and killing it. Mating takes place at different times of the year in different parts of their range, but typically once or twice a year in an area. After a gestational period of two to three months, a litter of one to four is born. Weaning occurs at one month, and kittens begin hunting on their own at six months. The juveniles leave their mother at approximately a year old.

This photo was taken on one of the Zambian Carnivore Programme camera traps recently – great to see these animals thriving in Liuwa Plain.



## Conservation Lower Zambezi

Everyday we are thankful for the rangers who put their lives on the line to protect our wildlife.

CLZ is also thankful to Africa Pride Insurance Company for their generous donation of insuring the men and women on the frontline.



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## Bhejane Trust

Bhejane Trust has just drilled another borehole in the Chamabonda Vlei (Zambezi National Park). This is to supplement the pan at No 3 as with sometimes up to 600 elephant a night drinking, the existing pump can not keep up ( it is giving 39,000l per day against a demand of possibly 60,000l per day!). The new hole has tested at over 15,000 liters an hour, so once connected we will have plenty water for all the animals. We now need to source a solar pump unit and we will be in action!!



## Cheetah Zimbabwe

Roger Parry from the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust came across this beautiful cheetah in the Zambezi National Park, it is male cheetah VF008. Cheetah sightings are rare in this area, mainly because cheetah densities are low and the animals cover huge areas. We last received a sighting of this cheetah in July 2015 so we are very happy to see he is doing well. Thanks for sharing your sighting Roger!





Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit (VFAPU) was formed in 1999 by Charles Brightman, a local safari operator and conservationist together with Victoria Falls Safari Lodge, Africa Albida Tourism's flagship property.

VFAPU is a non-profit organisation, and depends on donations to continue its work of conserving the local wildlife and natural resources in the Victoria Falls region.

If you wish to tee off in support of VFAPU, please book now.

Cost \$240 per team (including green fees, beers/soft drinks, lunch, dinner snacks and giveaways).

Email: [golf@africaalbida.co.zw](mailto:golf@africaalbida.co.zw)  
Tel: (024) 095200

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**VICTORIA FALLS ANTI-POACHING UNIT  
FUNDRAISING GOLF DAY  
BORROWDALE BROOKE GOLF COURSE  
FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2017**



## Helicopter Crashes in Hwange

The two people on board were not injured, fortunately. The report in the Chronicle did not state where or who was piloting the helicopter.



**Wildlife & Environment Zimbabwe NATIONAL**

# photographic competition 2017

- Junior Under 12 • Junior under 16 • Adult
- Birds • Flora • Fish reptiles and amphibians • Macro
- Natural camouflage • Scenic wild • Best action sequence
- Black and white • Mammal • Best overall photograph



**PRIZES INCLUDE**

- VICTORIA FALLS SAFARI LODGE -
- AFRICA ALBIDA 2 Nights for 2 - Lodge facing waterhole. Bed and breakfast and dinner for 2 at the BOMA including drum show.
- IMVELO SAFARI LODGE - 2 nights for 2
- WILD HORIZONS - Zipline for 2, Sundowner cruise for 2 Canopy Tour for 2, Gorge swing for 2 and Flying fox for 2
- THETFORD GAME- Reserve Self Catering and afternoon game drive
- IMVELO SAFARI LODGE- 2 nights for 2
- MAZUNGA SAFARI: - 4 Nights in Malanganji Camp

**ENTRY \$5.00 for each picture**  
 Submissions made by **MON 13 NOV 2017 at 10:00a.m.**

Please be advised that your entered photo will feature on the WEZ website, Face-book page and newsletter.  
 This competition is open to professional and amateur photographers.

WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE ATTENDING THE MANA POOLS AND HWANGE GAME COUNT TO TAKE PART IN THIS CONTEST.

Top finalist will be invited to a formal exhibition of their works at the end of November.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ENTRY FORMS**  
 EMAIL: [projects@zimwild.co.zw](mailto:projects@zimwild.co.zw) or call: (04) 744500

www.greenink.co.zw

## Kariba Animal Welfare Fund Trust

She is done !!!  
**ELEPHANT SNARED ALERT**  
**KARIBA – BADLY SNARED YOUNG ELEPHANT COW**  
 30/8/17  
 JOB DONE 31/8/17  
 A rather long day of a really playing hard to get girl !!!  
 Escape artist of note !  
 Darters and Parks Rangers covered much ground.  
 Snare removed  
 Aware Team finally headed back home at 4pm today, after just over a week away and a number of animals dealt with from Matus, to Nyamoumba, to Mana, to Mongwe and back to Kariba for the hardest and longest run around. . . . .  
 Takes a girl to show who is boss !!



## Rhino Conservation Botswana

RCB's rhino protection dogs have been born! We're excited to announce that two Belgian malinois puppies born recently in Ireland will soon be trained up by our expert partners Animals Saving Animals before eventually joining the Rhino Conservation Botswana team. They will be the first canines to work as wildlife guardians in northern Botswana, helping to deter poachers and keep wildlife safe. The costs of acquiring and training the puppies have been generously met by The Real Africa Trust, but we will soon be launching an appeal for help to build a safe home for the dogs, to purchase state-of-the-art stab-proof and bullet-proof body armour, and to feed them on a high quality diet so they have plenty of energy for the job. Similar dogs trained by Animals Saving Animals are having an incredible impact on poaching in areas of Zimbabwe, so we are incredibly excited about welcoming our new canine recruits to the team. Please keep an eye out for the campaign to help our dogs tackle poaching.



## Major Undercover Investigation Reveals Lawless' Donkey Skin Trade in Africa

### Donkey Sanctuary, UK

A shocking undercover investigation in Southern Africa has strengthened calls for an immediate halt to the donkey skin trade with The Donkey Sanctuary describing it as "...lawless, unscrupulous and destroying peoples livelihoods."

The respected organisation, Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism has lifted the lid on the skin trade in Botswana in the first of a series of undercover investigations carried out in collaboration with The Donkey Sanctuary. The Oxpeckers research has placed the increasingly unsustainable trade under a spotlight, where theft and poaching of donkeys is rife and where the escalating value of a donkey's hide is placing a shrinking donkey population at ever-increasing risk.

The Donkey Sanctuary's Under The Skin report, launched in January this year, was the first to reveal the extent of the donkey skin trade, which was driven by an escalating demand for the traditional Chinese remedy known as ejiao, made from the collagen in a donkey's skin.

The charity has been campaigning for the unregulated trade to be halted because of the increasing threat that it poses to donkey welfare and donkey-dependent communities around the world.

This undercover investigation, which can be read in full on - Oxpecker.org - is the first to reveal how the trade works and the huge sums that traders are making from it.

Alex Mayers, Head of Programmes at The Donkey Sanctuary said; "This is a shocking but highly revealing investigation into the trade and one which shows it is entirely out of control and has to stop. The animal welfare issues are almost beyond belief – donkeys that are starving to death, and enduring unimaginably stressful conditions. "Alongside this are economic, criminal, environmental and social concerns which are fast becoming crises in themselves. It is lawless, unscrupulous and destroying people's livelihoods. If unchecked, it will soon destabilise whole communities."

Mike Baker, Chief Executive of The Donkey Sanctuary, added: "This report lifts the lid on the shocking amount of the trade that goes on out of sight – it is further evidence of why such urgent action is needed. We applaud the action taken by Governments in some countries to stop the trade, but where it continues illegally it must be enforced."

The scale of the animal welfare problem associated with the trade in Botswana was made clear in June 2017 when the authorities raided the Chinese-operated Bo Chang donkey abattoir near Francistown in Botswana. This facility was only opened in April 2017, but within two months was slaughtering 588 donkeys a month.

The raid discovered 452 starving and emaciated donkeys, with no food or water and penned up awaiting slaughter. The animals were so hungry they had eaten all the bark from the trees and even the fur from the backs of the other donkeys. Most of the animals were simply too weak or ill to survive and were put to sleep. Huge pits containing the rotting remains of hundreds of donkeys were also discovered, with the effluent from decomposing animals trickling into the main local river.

The Chinese operator of the abattoir was arrested and investigated for cruelty to animals, but was fined a nominal 50 Pula (£3.80). A senior police official working on the case was quoted as saying that it was a "bit complicated" owing to the large number of individuals involved in the trade.

The Oxpeckers investigation also uncovered evidence which suggests that despite Botswana's recent ban on the export of donkey skin, the trade has gone underground – A truckload of 1,200 hides on its way to Zimbabwe was recently seized in Botswana.

## Political Dispute in Caprivi

The Namibian

The Caprivi Concerned Group's secretary general, Edwin Samati, says it is time Swapo and the United Democratic Party's leadership hold a peaceful dialogue to address the political dispute in the region.

The United Democratic Party is a political party in Namibia, representing mainly people from the then Caprivi (now Zambezi region) and advocating the secession of the Caprivi Strip.

Exiled Mishake Muyongo formed the party in 1985 as a successor to the Caprivi African National Union. Before 1985, the UDP was affiliated to the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) group of parties.

In 1998, the UDP openly voiced support for the secession of the Caprivi resulting in Muyongo and other leaders fleeing the country. The party was, however, effectively banned in 2006.

The concerned group is a civil rights movement which advocates the rights of people calling themselves Caprivians, especially their right to become an "independent country".

Samati made these remarks yesterday during a peaceful demonstration at the Katima Mulilo open market. About 100 members of the group marched to the governor's office to hand over their petition with demands for political dialogue between the government of Namibia and the United Democratic Party.

A member of the concerned group, Harris Mpangala, read the petition before handing it over to the special adviser to the Zambezi regional governor, Ignatius Nkunga. Nkunga promised to hand it over to the relevant parties.

The group also called for the unconditional release of all Caprivi political prisoners, and a referendum on whether the region should remain a part of Namibia, or secede.

According to the group, they should be granted an opportunity to have a dialogue between the government and the UDP leadership. The ban on the United Democratic Party in 2002, the group claimed, was unconstitutional.

*G: The problems of the Caprivi Strip (now Zambezi Province) have continued for years. The people think that they are ignored. Katima Mulilo is 1,200 km from the capital, Windhoek.*

*If we compare UK and Namibia we should see that this is something which needs to be addressed. UK, over the years has decentralised with assemblies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales where the people can decide on local issues. UK is only 242,000 sq km, but it has bowed to demands for a certain amount of decentralisation and decision-making done locally.*

*Namibia is 825,000 sq km, with all the decision-making done by central government. No wonder the Caprivians feel neglected.*

## The Mayeyi and David Livingstone

Namibian Economist

Local journalist and videographer from NAMPA, Francois Lottering, screened a video titled "The Mayeyi and Livingstone", based on the book "Sangwali- David Livingstone at Linyanti" by Konny von Schmettau.

These materials showcase the rich history and travels of Dr David Livingstone to Sangwali, which is a settlement in Namibia's Caprivi Strip, 130 km west of Katima Mulilo in the north-eastern corner of the Zambezi Region. This was the place of residence of Livingstone in the 1850's before he proceeded further north.

The settlement features a small museum, which was established by Linus Mukwata to preserve the history and work of David Livingstone at this place. The area has a rich history and culture and has large concentrations of wildlife.

Adolf Waidelich, entrepreneur and traveller who assisted Mukwata to establish the Livingstone Linyanti Museum set up 'Livingstone's Camp', which gives access to Nkasa Rupara (former Mamili) National Park. ...





## Mortar Bombs

New Era

The police in the Zambezi Region detonated 10 unexploded mortar bombs and grenades of South African origin at Daily Compound in Katima Mulilo yesterday. The explosives were among 30 explosives discovered by workers clearing a piece of land belonging to Sibbinda Constituency Councillor Ignatius Chunga close to Daily Compound in the Liselo area.

According to one of the workers at the site, Almeida Siendi, the explosives were discovered last week by workers who were de-bushing the area and they immediately reported the find to the police.

“When we were busy digging we suddenly hit something. At first we thought that maybe they were bottles but it was only after we checked that we noticed they were explosives. We informed our supervisor immediately who then alerted the police,” he said. ...

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## Lüderitz Marine Research

Never a dull moment around the Lüderitz peninsula: today we had a stranded giant squid at Guano Bay. These mysterious giant squids are elusive deep sea dwellers and are so poorly known that we do not even know how many different species exist out there.

This animal had a respectable length of more than 4 metres (arms included, but unfortunately the two long tentacles were missing). The mantle length was 189 cm, and the shape and size fits with *Architeuthis sanctipauli*. This family includes the largest cephalopods, and this species has been recorded with a total length (including tentacles) of around 13 metres! This is not the first record for the area, but still a rare and exciting find.



## Namibia Wild Horses Foundation

The wild horses, like the rest of the country, are experiencing some curious weather - heavy fog! It has rained overnight in many areas, even the coast. Lets hope this might mean rain for Garub....



## Rainy season this year

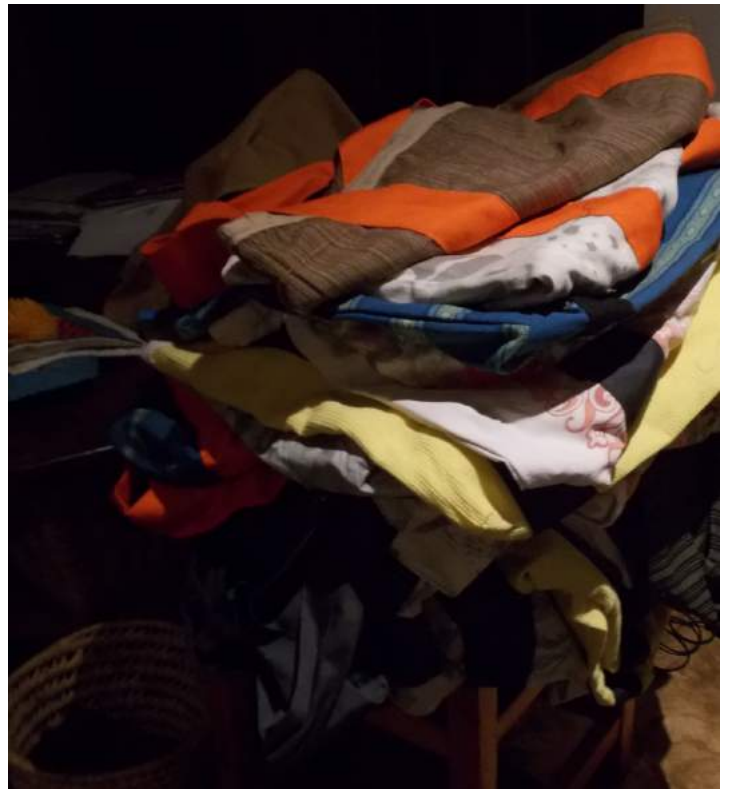
Bulawayo 24

Southern African countries have been urged to prepare for the worst for the 2017/18 rainfall season, after a regional forecast released over the weekend showed there will be a drought in the first half of the season and floods in the second.

According to an outlook released by the Southern African Development Committee (Sadc), Climate Services Centre (CSC) at a climate forum here, there will be normal to below normal rains from October to November and normal to above normal rains from January to March 2018.

Sadc climate experts said at the meeting that the first phase of below normal to normal rains could result in some countries suffering a devastating drought, while the second phase could see some battling a humanitarian disaster caused by floods due to the normal to above normal rains.

This, according to CSC, calls for careful planning to ensure food security and disaster preparedness in the event of flooding. ...



## Stop using Plastic Bags

I have just taken delivery of 50 cotton shopping bags made by Kariba South Primary School. I will be delivering them to companies which have ordered. The bags are made from secondhand curtains and tablecloths from the market. They are strong, washable and colourful. I am selling them at K100 each. All money raised goes to Kariba South Primary School to buy school supplies. This is part of a School Club Zambia enterprise where teachers and parents are helped to set up businesses to earn money for the children of the school.



## WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
19°C (66)	32°C (90)

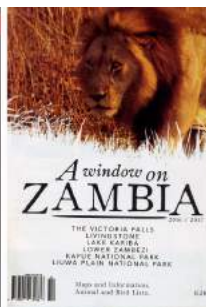
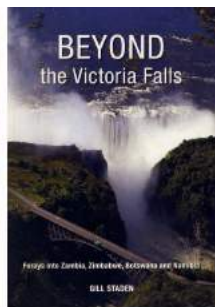
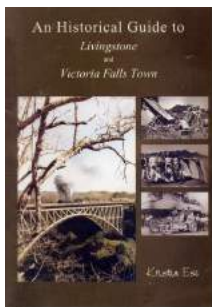
Still cold. Jumper still on most of the day.

## EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K9.10
	P10.07
	Nam\$13.00

Have a good two weeks

Gill



**SAFREA**  
Southern African Freelancers' Association