

The Livingstone biWeekly



Dear All

The header is from Lake Kariba - the fast disappearing lake. All the islands are emerging again, as they did in 2016. I was there last week and it was the time over full moon so all the kapenta rigs were moored in the bay.

LIVINGSTONE

Bryan Orford to Zimbabwe & Rhodesia history 50 years or more back

G: This photograph was posted on Facebook. A swimming pool was constructed in the river at the boat club. It was a wire cage and was meant to keep out crocodiles. Sadly, I am told, a crocodile did get inside and munched someone, so it was dismantled.



A bit more history, but further back than the swimming pool

Emil Holub was travelling from Kazungula north to Ila territory in 1886. He had arrived at Sinde (not far from present-day Livingstone) where he met King Matakala. The King wanted Emil Holub's gun, but Emil Holub refused to give it to him as it was the only gun he had and he needed it to shoot wildlife for food and for protection.

This is an excerpt from Emil Holub's diary:

Matakala pricked up his ears and showed an ugly smile. 'That may be' – he said – 'go ahead and report about me also to the Marutse, our suppressors. In this country I am the king and you shall not get any porters. What do you do then? Then everything is mine, everything you have.' 'Mopani' I shouted at the interpreter, 'tell Matakala that I cannot give him a rifle and that my things are not in his possession. I would rather pile them all up and set them on fire than let him take them by force.' At that Matakala became very furious and his people displayed a rather menacing mood. My people had already reached for their rifles and our few black men seemed to start polishing their spears, but at that point an unexpected figure appeared on the scene. The person who arrived was a young, rather stout black of medium height wearing a top hat. He was Mokuri, the subchief from Victoria Falls and Matakala's nephew. I had given him this hat in October 1885, ...

Mokuri saved the day for Emil Holub by telling King Matakala that Emil Holub was a doctor. Emil Holub managed to help King Matakala with his chest infection and all went well from then on. The Marutse are the Lozi and, I am assuming that Mokuri is Mukuni.



Bhukhans

JOLLYBOYS





ZAMBIA

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry

Pencil making from recycled waste newspaper from a company in Ndola called Eco friendly pencils(Z) limited. The first Zambian company to make pencils since 30 years as showed by the Managing Director, Vantor Chatugwa .



TONGABEZI

my **SPAR** 
Giving me more choice every day!



Forestry Report

Rolf Shenton from Grassroots Trust posted a link to a forestry report. I couldn't find any date on the report but I assume it to be quite recent. Here is a bit of it:

Major findings

The Forestry Department had not implemented Forest Management Plans for the 483 forest reserves in Zambia. The forest management plans were not in place as the preparation of the management plans was totally dependent on the forest inventory both at the national and local level. Without this knowledge, the FD was not able to come up with the management plans as the national inventory had not yet been finalised.

The FD did not monitor and supervise the harvesting operations carried out by the concessionaires regularly during the period under review due to lack of forest guards and inadequate extension officers. Thus, failing to ensure that information about harvest operations and actual cut was accurate in the harvesting compartments and whether other harvesting conditions were adhered to by the concession holders.

The FD was not able to effectively carry out monitoring and control activities in the forests due to inadequate funding, inadequate staffing and lack of transport.

Boundary maintenance was not undertaken in most of the forest reserves. The failure to maintain boundaries continued to be a major contributing factor to the encroachment of forest reserves.

There was inadequate investments in forest plantations due to lack of funding and delayed funding as a result, important activities such as planting and weeding were done at the wrong time or not done at all.

There was lack of co-ordination between the FD and traditional leaders on the matters of forestry hence the increase in the conflict involving traditional ownership of land or customary law

Conclusion

The Ministry has not been effective in managing the forests resulting in unsustainable exploitation of forest resources. The FD's failure to effectively execute its mandate has led to depletion of forest resources posing a threat to forest sustainability.

G: Our forests are of vital importance for the future. They will mitigate against climate change and global warming. We can no longer just allow them to deteriorate by giving free rein to unlicensed charcoal burners and letting bush fires ravage them during the dry season. We are lucky that nature is so forgiving and will bounce back if given a change.

Here is a Google Earth image of a piece of land which I bought about 15 years ago. When I bought it, it was a mealie patch – it had been cleared and burned for several years. I fenced it and left it to grow. I made sure that a firebreak was cut all around the property to stop any fire. This is the result. (The bare patch is a part of it which has recently been cleared by me.)

So, what do we do with all these massive tracts of land which are, on paper, forests? If we do not touch them for 15 years, they will look like my piece of land.



We know that Lusaka Game Park was once a piece of degraded forest but that with the fencing of the property and the introduction of wildlife, the land is regenerating.

I see no reason why the Mosi-oa-Tunya Park cannot be extended into, at least, part of Dambwa Forest. Dambwa Forest is in such a dire state from charcoal burners and bush fires. If we fence it, cut fire breaks and stop charcoal burning, it will come back and earn money for the government as part of the National Park.

So, how do we fund this? I have always wondered where all the money goes from the carbon tax which we pay for our vehicles. This money was supposed to be spent on planting trees to offset carbon emissions from our cars and trucks. If this money was identified and put into one pool to be spent on our forests, it will go a long way to paying for any capital expenditure, like fencing, for our forests. We could take on one forest at a time to provide protection. (We really do not need to replant, we just need to keep the trees safe).

The report also showed an organisational chart for the forest department management. It seemed to me that we do not need such a large administrative department if they have nothing to administer. Surely a few of them can go and be replaced with on-the-ground rangers to keep our forests safe. We would also save some money on government vehicles!



Lochinvar and Lechwe

Daily Mail

Wildlife is one of Zambia's highly prized natural resources, with potential to develop the country's tourism sector and contribute to economic growth. If well protected and harnessed, Zambia's unique species of wild life can be a source of the much needed foreign exchange.

For instance, in the world Zambia boasts of being the only home to the lechwe found in the Kafue Flats-Lochinvar National Park in Monze. ...

A recent population count by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife with support from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Crane Foundation (ICF) has shown evidence of continued decline of the endemic Kafue lechwe. The Kafue lechwe population stands at approximately 23,306, the lowest ever recorded for the Kafue Flats, down from historical high population counts that exceeded 100,000 in the 1970s ...

Early this year, Southern Province Minister Edify Hamukale unearthed a scam where a cartel of senior civil servants, civic leaders, traditional leaders and National Parks and Wildlife Authority officers have been poaching 15 to 20 lechwe per day in the Lochinvar National Park leading to a further drastic reduction of the species.

Given the population estimation of 23,306, it will only take about four to five years to completely wipe away the species. It is, therefore, commendable that a joint operation of law enforcement agencies has swung into action to remove people who have been illegally squatting in the park.



Lochinvar

According to Southern Province permanent secretary Mwangala Liomba, the operation aimed at stopping the illegalities in the park started on Friday. Mr Liomba said the people being displaced have been asked numerous times to vacate the park but have not done so. "Even last week they were told to vacate the park because of the problem of poaching which is going on in Lochinvar National Park, thereby, threatening the lechwe," he said.

There are no two ways about it, if poaching is to be contained in the Lochinvar National Park; the first step is to remove the illegal settlers.

The fact that these illegal settlers are living right in the park, it means they have access to the animals making it easy for them to poach. It is actually these same people with easy access who end up being used by cartels as exposed by Southern Province Minister early this year.

While it is appreciated that the illegal squatters are being removed, it is also necessary to get rid of criminals in the wild life authority and civil service who are sabotaging our economy through senseless acts of poaching. Let no stone be left unturned in protecting this highly prized Kafue lechwe and other species.

G: Lochinvar National Park is very small. And, apart from the above concerns, the villagers which live around the park are given licences to fish in the Chunga Lagoon (part of Kafue River). These people often walk from their villages through the park to the lagoon. They even offload their fishing catches within the park.

These traditional fishing rights which are given to local people in most of our parks in Zambia should end. The original idea, during colonial days, was to allow people to come in for a few days to catch some fish, using traditional fishing techniques, for their own use. Nowadays the people come in with nets, dragging the rivers and lakes and sell the fish – it has become commercialized. I have seen this happen in Liuwa and in Kafue. Anyone seen in the park just has to say that they are going fishing and they are free to wander round the park putting snares. And, apart from that, we must preserve the fish in the rivers and lakes for the wildlife. Lochinvar is known for its birdlife but once the fish are gone, we will lose the birds.

The Zambezi River around the Mosi-oa-Tunya Park is part of the park. It should be the same in Lochinvar - at least part of the lagoon should be part of the park.



The countdown is on to our next village clinic!

Zambezi Working Donkey Project

In less than two weeks we will be heading back out to deliver harnesses and equine education to the communities around Livingstone.

We desperately need funds to help purchase materials for the harnesses, and hire equipment, as well as veterinary materials.

- One harness costs us £8 to make.
- Vaccinations, de-worming and wound treatment cost around £3 per donkey.

To transform the lives and ease the pain of another 50 donkeys will cost just £550!

If you can help in any way please click the 'donate' button on our website.

Thank you!!

www.zambeziworkingdonkeyproject.org



CHOMA POLOCROSSE TOURNAMENT

The first of the 2-week Southern Province polocrosse bonanza!

A, B, C Divisions
Camping facilities, catering & bar
Sunday night entertainment

Come and experience a classic bush polocrosse tournament!

SUNDAY 30th JUNE & MONDAY 1st JULY



LEGO - (3rd February 2014 - 22nd June 2019)

Conservation Lower Zambezi - CLZ

It is with a heavy heart that CLZ report the death of Lego - one of our detection and tracking dogs in the CLZ/DNPW Dog Unit, who died on Saturday 22nd June 2019 from poisoning. The case is being taken very seriously and samples are being analysed and investigations carried out to determine whether it was intentional or accidental.

Lego was an exceptional working dog and a big part of the CLZ team since 2016 and has contributed to about 108 operations and to the apprehension of 82 poachers and the confiscation of 12 pieces of ivory, 40 firearms and 960kgs of bushmeat.

CLZ would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Liza Oparaocha and her assistants for their tireless efforts giving Lego the best chance of survival that he could have gotten and to Dr. Ian Parsons for his expert opinions and support.

It is a great loss for CLZ, DNPW and our efforts within the Lower Zambezi and for the handlers who have spent three years with Lego, taking care of him and working alongside him.



DEBELWA LYA BA LEYA

1 OFFICIAL OPENING
JULY

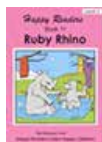
LWIINDI GONDE
2019

CHIEF MOONZE WITH
DEBELWA LYA BA LEYA
MUCIINDI CA NZALA ACIYUMA-YUMA

JULU LYA JULIKA

BA KUJWE A KALYABA, BAANA BELILA NZALA

JOIN CUUNDU CULTURAL FUND IN PROMOTING AND PRESERVING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE! REMEMBER, NO POLITICAL PARTY REGALIA



Happy Readers

A Reading Programme developed in Africa for children of Africa



NELS MOTORS
Vehicle Workshop

ZimEconomy

BREAKING: Govt BANS All Foreign Currency...ZIM DOLLAR Is Back [UPDATED]

The government has banned all foreign currency with effect from today using SI 142 of 2019. All transactions to be settled using the Zimbabwe Dollar.

Part of the Statutory Instrument 142 of 2019 reads:

Zimbabwe dollar to be the sole currency for legal tender purposes

2. (1) Subject to section 1 with effect from the 24th June 2019, the British pound, United States dollar, South African rand, Botswana pula, and any other foreign currency whatsoever shall no longer be legal tender alongside the Zimbabwe dollar in any transactions in Zimbabwe.

(2) Accordingly, the Zimbabwe dollar shall, with effect from the 24th June 2019, but subject to section 3, be the sole legal tender in Zimbabwe in all transactions.

G: In February riots rocked Harare when this new currency was introduced. It was called RTGS. It was pegged at RTGS3 = US\$1. All the money in bank accounts was automatically changed to RTGS, however, a few lucky people have managed to keep some US\$ and have been trading them. The tourist shops in Vic Falls have had their prices in US\$, the local grocery stores, etc, have had their prices in RTGS.

The official exchange rate now is about RTGS6 = US\$1 but the black market is more like RTGS13 = US\$1. The black market will now go more underground and the rate will spiral out of control, I fear.



PUMPING LEGS FOR WATER 2019

To enter visit
www.wezmat.org
 Closing date for entries:
 31st May 2019
 Enter soon as numbers are limited
25th - 27th July

The money raised from Pumping Legs for Water has ensured that Hwange National Park and its wildlife have been provided with much needed tanks, solar panels, tools, fuel, spare parts and torchlight pumps, so guaranteeing the continuity of this vital commodity.



Blue Cross 2019

12 & 13 August

Everything you need to know is at
www.spea-bluecross.com

ECONET VICTORIA FALLS MARATHON 2019
 VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE



SUNDAY 7 JULY
 ONLINE ENTRIES OPEN



www.vicfallsmarathon.com



Invasive shrub threatens wildlife conservancies Newsday

Masvingo province is losing 409 hectares of pasture each year to lantana camara, and the invasive tropical plant is also threatening conservancies around Chiredzi, a Malilangwe Trust official has revealed.

Urgent measures need to be put in place to eradicate the shrub, which is slowly chocking forests and likely to negatively impact on the tourism industry.

The aromatic shrub, commonly known as cherry pie (English) or mbarapati (Shona), has stems with numerous curved prickles.

The specie often forms impenetrable thickets that suffocate indigenous plants and aggressively invades disturbed and overgrazed areas, and is difficult to eradicate.

Malilangwe Trust chief executive Mark Saunders revealed this during his presentation of challenges facing the Masvingo tourism industry at a tourism indaba held at Triangle Country Club in Chiredzi last week.

“A recent research carried out in 2015 revealed that lantana camara is slowly encroaching into Chiredzi district from Zaka and so far 409 hectares of grazing land are lost every year due to the shrub,” Saunders said. ...

G: Lantana camara is also a major concern for us at the Victoria Falls. On our side, National Heritage has had a project to remove it for some years, but it keeps coming back. On the Zimbabwe side nothing has been done for ages and the shrub covers large areas of the cliffs around the park.

Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

He's at it again! Leon Varley is lacing up his walking shoes for his annual 24-hour, 140-km march from Masuna to Victoria Falls – to raise funds for the Victoria falls Wildlife Trust. The stakes are high this year - we're expecting an increase in poaching because of poor rains and our economic situation. We're also anticipating a higher level of human- wildlife conflict due to increases in crop loss to wildlife. Stay tuned for updates on Leon's preparation and to find out how you can be part of the adventure by supporting Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust!



BWgovernment

PRESS RELEASE - VULTURE POISONING AT CT 1

The public is informed that the Department of Wildlife and National Parks recently identified a poisoning site in a Wildlife Management Area CT 1 in the Central District.

The poisoning was believed to have been caused by lacing of three poached elephant carcasses with a poisonous chemical which lead to significant mortality in vultures and eagles.

A total of 537 vultures and two tawny eagles were found dead at the site. The breakdown included 10 cape vultures, 14 lappet faced vultures, 468 white backed vultures, 17 white headed vultures and 28 hooded vulture.

The law enforcement team attending the scene is working around the clock to decontaminate the area. Sampling of carcasses and the environment was done for further laboratory analysis.

The public in the vicinity of the area CT1 is request to report any wildlife mortalities which may be spotted in their areas.

The Department is concerned with the habit of some individuals who deliberately poison animals as this is dangerous and harmful to the environment.

Furthermore, the public is encouraged to desist from engaging in such illegal acts and report any suspicious activities which may suggest environmental poisoning to the nearest wildlife office or the police.



Map from Africa Geographic



Fish protection areas under threat from poachers

Informante

The protection of fish Namibia's perennial rivers against large scale illegal fishing activities that threatens to wipe out certain species and training fish monitors from the community need all the help it can get to continue with the conservancy project run by the Bhukalo Traditional Authority.

In this regard FNB Namibia, through the FirstRand Namibia Foundation Trust has supported the Sikunga Fish Protection project in Zambezi with a total amount of N\$775,000 to curb illegal fishing over the next three years. ...

G: I have tried to draw a map of the area. There are several conservancies in this unique environment in Namibia – the floodplain between the Zambezi and Chobe Rivers.

The greenish bits are conservancies in the area. The bluish bits are the floodplain.

I know that law enforcement is carried out well in the conservancy around Impalila Island by the lodges there. On our side, in Zambia, guards patrol the area around Mambova and are having a good success rate. Last weekend a bunch of Livingstonians went on a fishing trip to Mambova for a few days and told me that the fishing was great and that they found few nets in their section of the river. What we need now is for a group to be set up in Mwandu ...



Namibia to sell big game amid water shortages

UK Times

Namibia is to sell as many as a thousand wild animals from its protected parks because of the deadly drought that has crippled the southern African nation.

The government plans to auction 28 elephants and 60 giraffes, according to an information ministry spokesman, in addition to 600 buffaloes and other animals such as wildebeest and impala. ...

Namibia says the decision to sell is designed to prevent animals from dying in the severe drought, which has left watering holes and grazing areas dry in many game reserves, and to funnel much-needed cash...



Angola invests \$60m to clear landmines from Earth's 'last wild place'

<https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/angola-invests-60m-clear-landmines-earth-s-last-wild-place>

A major new conservation initiative was announced today between landmine clearance charity The HALO Trust and the Government of Angola. The event was hosted by Chatham House, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, and saw Paula Coelho, Angola's Minister for the Environment, announce that her government will invest \$60 million through HALO in an initiative to clear landmines surrounding the Angolan Okavango watershed.

'Cuando Cubango Province was one of the most badly affected by the war. It encompasses the National Parks of Mavinga and Luengue-Luiana, the Angolan component of the KAZA transfrontier conservation area. Angola has committed to remove landmines from the parks so that wildlife can be conserved and so that economic development can thrive using the best models of sustainable tourism.'

The Duke of Sussex also attended the event. His Royal Highness visited the Cuando Cubango region in southeast Angola with the HALO Trust in 2013 where he saw first-hand the impact of landmines on communities and the human suffering they cause. The Duke also visited Chatham House in June 2017 to take part in a scenario planning exercise, which showed the importance of landmine clearance within a humanitarian emergency.

'Angola has some of the world's most important remaining wilderness that is critical to biodiversity and an asset that should be protected, celebrated and benefited by its people. I was told just the other day of the positive transformation in Huambo since my mother walked that minefield all those years ago. What is less well-known is the impact landmines can have on conservation and wildlife, and therefore the economy.'



Map from Peace Parks

South-eastern Angola is one of the last wild places on Earth, but large parts of the watershed feeding the Okavango system are inaccessible to conservationists because of landmines – a legacy of Angola's civil war that ended in 2002. Local people live in fear of death and injury and local development is severely restricted. Clearing the mines is the first step towards developing a conservation-based economic model to provide sustainable development for local people.

The Okavango headwaters, fed by rivers in the Angolan highlands, provide water to around one million people and supports the world's largest population of African elephants, significant populations of lions and cheetahs and hundreds of species of birds. The river systems feed the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The HALO Trust has been working in Angola since 1994, during which time it has destroyed more than 95,000 landmines and cleared 840 minefields. The charity rose to global prominence when its staff escorted Diana, Princess of Wales through a cleared minefield in Huambo Province in 1997. An estimated 1,155 minefields remain to be cleared in Angola, equal to a total mined area of 121 km².

Angola's investment of \$60m over five years will fund clearance of 153 minefields in the south-eastern province of Cuando Cubango inside the Mavinga and Luengue-Luiana National Parks. The HALO Trust, which has joined the Okavango-Zambezi Watershed Partnership of conservation groups, estimates that it will take an additional \$60 million to clear all the remaining minefields, outside the parks, but around the river systems that feed the Okavango. HALO is seeking partners to match the Angolan Government funding so it can completely clear the headwaters. ...

SOUTH AFRICA

Kruger National Park to demolish artificial dams to ensure fish livelihood

Citizen

Kruger National Park (KNP) will continue with the demolition of artificial dams in Shingwedzi and Sirheni, starting on June 18 and continuing until June 28, reports Letaba Herald.

'This process has been going on over the years to allow a free flow of fish species in the river,' said Isaac Phaahla, spokesperson for the KNP.

The KNP harbours over 40 fish species, and the artificial redundant dams have become a hindrance to their migration and livelihood. KNP is the first park in Africa to demolish dams for ecological purposes, according to Phaahla.

'This will also improve river connectivity and natural hydrology in the Park, as well as remove barriers within the river system,' Phaahla said. ...



WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
11°C (52)	28°C (82)

It's still jumper weather

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K12.95
	P10.68
	Nam\$14.35
	Zim\$13.50

A SMILE



From Chimfunshi

Have a good two weeks

Gill



SAFREA
Southern African Freelancers' Association