

The Livingstone biWeekly



Dear All

The old post office in Livingstone. Now the home of Zambia Broadcasting and Zambia Immigration.

LIVINGSTONE

From a BiWeekly reader

Leonard Pemberton
1885 - 1952

Back to Leonard...

On a trip to South Africa from Ndola in 1930, they stopped in Livingstone and this was where Leonard earned the Albert Medal. Originally an award for saving life at sea but extended to saving life on land. Although the incident happened on 14th November 1930 it was not until the 6th March 1931 that it was gazetted, in the London Gazette, when the King had agreed to award the Medal to Leonard. And because Leonard and Linnie had gone to South Africa for Leonard's convalescence it was not until the ceremonial parade for the King's birthday, 3rd June 1932 that Leonard finally was presented with his award. The story of the incident is that while relaxing at the Livingstone boat club on the banks of the Zambezi, he was watching some children playing in a fenced in area in the water, (this enclosure was old and the fencing no longer crocodile-proof). [A few remnants of this enclosure, near the Old Drift, were till noticeable when we lived in Livingstone c1962]. Leonard saw a child waving his arms and shouting. Thinking he had cramp Leonard dived in, fully clothed, to help. The other children were yelling that a croc had got him. Leonard struggled to pull the boy from the crocodile's grip, but after three or four attempts realised that the crocodile had pulled the child out of the enclosure and down into the River. In the report of the inquest into the event it became known that Leonard was convalescing and still under treatment for some ailment. It is not known what illness Leonard had had; it could have been malaria.

This incident is mentioned in a book titled "A Book of Man Eaters" by R G Burton.

Leonard died in Johannesburg on 29th April 1952 in the Norman Nursing Home, Davies Street, Doornfontein. The Norman Nursing Home had been the Dale Lace House in the days when Doornfontein had been the suburb where the wealthy built their homes.



Bhukhans

JOLLYBOYS



Some more photos from olden days in Livingstone

Another reader sent me some photographs of the old trolley service which used to run between town and the Boat Club. In those days there were no 'proper' roads and Livingstone is very sandy. It must have been a nightmare to walk anywhere. So, tram lines were laid and trolleys constructed to sit on. The trolleys were pushed along the tram lines by servants ... what a job!



A trolley carrying passengers from town to the Boat Club in 1912.

Gwen Maughan

Postcard of Livingstone 1905

G: I am assuming that this is the Old Drift down by the river. It is Mopane Clarke's Hotel. Mopane Clarke was one of the first pioneers to come to this area and he set up a trading business, ran the ferry across the river at Sekute's Drift and ran the hotel (with gambling). I think I can remember an old story where the original hotel had sand floors and were often sifted to find any coins which had accidentally fallen.

This photograph has to be the latest version of Mopane Clarke's Hotel, as in 1905 the new Livingstone was established and all the people who lived at the Old Drift were forced to move. They were not happy to move as the new Livingstone was a long way from the river and it was thought that the businesses would lose out on the tourist trade ... which, of course, they did. But the authorities forced them to move because of the high death toll from malaria.



110 Clarke's Hotel, Livingstone.
Published by E. Peters, Cape Town (Copyright)



TONGABEZI

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



Livingstone Sports Festival
Peter Jones

Gearing up for the Livingstone Sports Festival over two weekends September with a return of the Oxford and Cambridge Alumni Teams to take on the South Africans. The Mukuro race is always a hot favourite as is the raft race at the end when the Universities take on the Boat Club Champions. The following weekend is a 10km and 4km trail run, mountain bike races over several distances, a top flight football match and a rugby encounter to remember when the All Blacks were beaten in Bulawayo in 1949 and when they lost the only series they ever played north of the Limpopo, something they always hate to be reminded of!! Please check the web page: <https://www.facebook.com/thevicfalls/>




THORNTREE HOUSE & TENTED CAMP
Time: 9:00 - 17:00
Left after Maramba bridge

Entrance K20
Table K100
VIP Stall bookings essential

Contact Claire on WhatsApp: (+26) 097 443 6267



Zambian Forests

Last week I wrote that I thought that Dambwa Forest should retain its listing as a forest but that much of it could be fenced in with the National Park in order to protect the remaining trees. Since then I had a reader send me an interesting story about Zambia's forests. Here is some of the article:

Last week I had an old Scottish guy come to stay, along with his son (who was born in Livingstone Hospital). The old guy was 86 years old and was posted to the Forestry Dept from 1957 to 1972, spending quite a lot of his time at Sesheke. When I read your forestry report, I thought he would find it interesting reading. He has just replied and I thought you also might be interested in what he had to say. I've copied and pasted what he said below:

The District Forest Management Book (DFMB) was the end product of an ambitious scheme mounted by the Forest department which was as far as I know unique in the Colonial system. Basically, it was an attempt to survey and record forest/woodland resources in the whole of Zambia (Northern Rhodesia as it was then) and draw up proposals to protect and manage woodland resources in Zambia so that they would provide "the maximum benefit to the greatest number of people in perpetuity" Note the emphasis on "perpetuity". Because of their propensity for regrowth woodlands are one of the few truly renewable resources we have and under careful management should last for ever. The DFMB's recorded everything that was needed to draw up such a management plan.

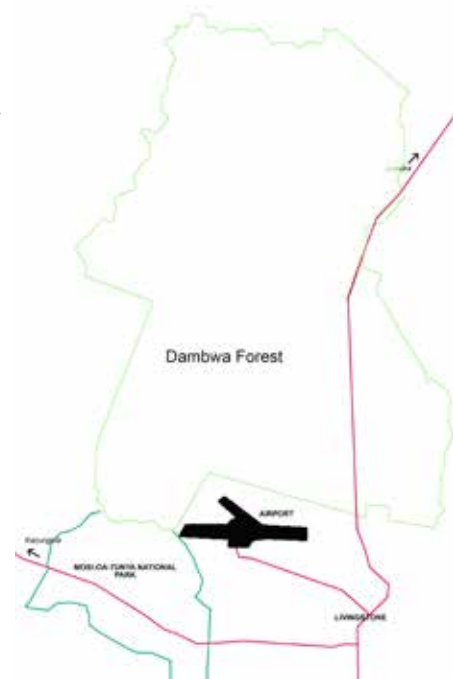
It was all a massive undertaking and I was only one of five Forest Survey Units assigned to undertake it. But that was fifty years ago and the DFMB did not come cheaply even then. It took me nearly three years to complete all the necessary field surveys, collate the data, draw the maps and write it all up. My unit had 2/3 professional foresters, 5/6 trained African Rangers and anything up to 40 of a labour force plus all the necessary vehicles, camping equipment and so on. (the Unit was locally nick-named Big Woody's Circus – fondly I hope).

But...

The Auditor General's report confirms my own suspicions that the whole grand scheme of preservation and conservation has in effect been shelved.

The situation seems to be that in the fifty years since I wrote the DFMB, the forest profile has changed greatly. While driving between Livingstone – Sesheke - Sioma Falls it was obvious that there was much less woodland and much more scrubland than in my day. With improved access (roads/bridges etc) the population will have risen and with it, the demand for basic commodities like farmland, building land and materials, charcoal etc and of course the woodland are the only source of these things. Without the resources, the Forest Department will not have been able to control and monitor these changes. And the DFMB has become redundant.

So all of this begs the question how cost effective is policing the regulation of exploitation in these woodlands? Forestry is always a good investment but it is a long-term investment. It takes time for trees to grow. Slow growing indigenous hardwoods like these might take at least 150 years to produce a saw log. People like myself study/train then spend our working lives in the sure and certain knowledge that we will never see the end product of our endeavours. But it is worth it.

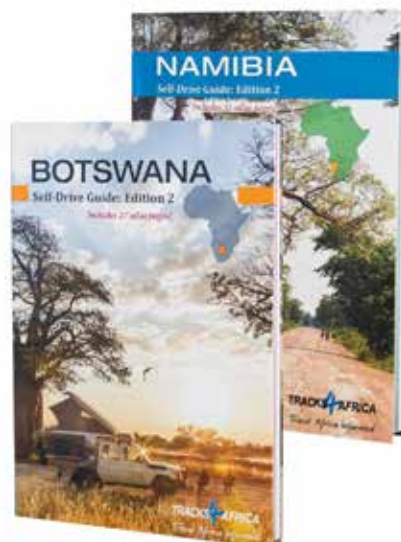


ZAMBIA

Tracks4Africa

Tracks4Africa is an organisation which promotes self-drive travel around Africa. Based in South Africa, the team is continually updating their information through the use of a forum or research. People who have visited areas or plan to visit areas are free to contribute their experiences or questions to Track4Africa. Most of the information is internet based and on GPS maps but they are also producing hard-copy maps and books. So far they have excellent materials for South Africa, Botswana and Namibia.

They are now researching Zambia. The book and map should be out next year. If your camp would like to be mentioned on the map or in the book, contact Janine on janine@tracks4africa.co.za.



Arc Minerals Ups Zaco Stake To 48% Following West Lunga Discovery
Morning Star, UK

Mining firm Arc Minerals Ltd said Friday it bought a further 5% stake in exploration company Zaco Ltd to take its holding to 48% in an all-share deal.

Arc acquired the additional 5% interest in Zaco following the discovery of a large West Lunga copper target in Zambia. ...

G: Here is a page from a prospectus by Arc Minerals. And, from information about the company, it seems that they are prospecting all over the Kabompo River area. I am sure that the Zambia Environmental Agency is keeping a close eye on the development and we can only hope that they are taking into consideration the impact of climate change as well as local concerns.

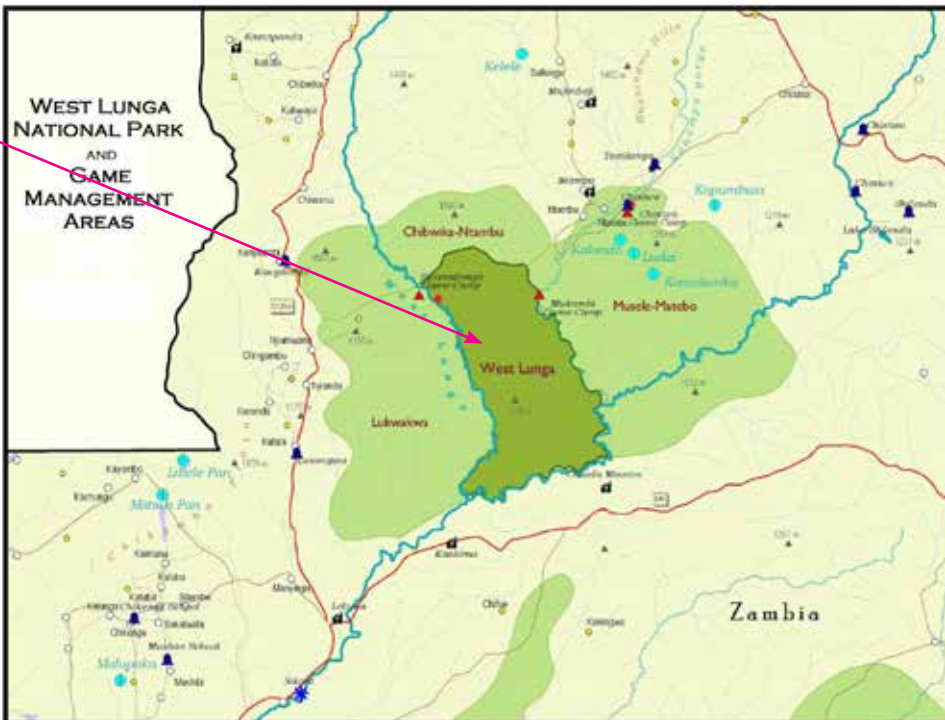
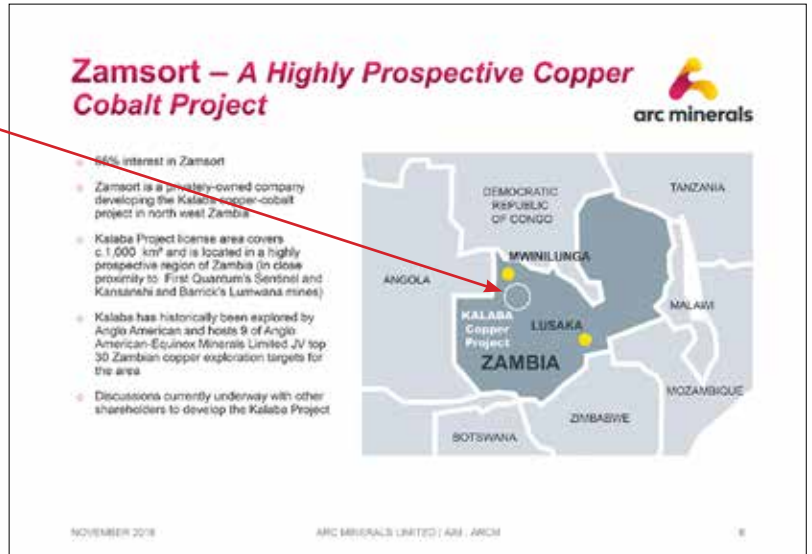
We know that Africa is going to be worst hit by climate change with higher temperatures and more frequent droughts.

Mining disturbs the water table. It requires the use of water for various aspects of the industry but, more importantly, it also needs to drain the mines of excess water which is often pumped a long way from the site, thereby reducing the levels of ground water. Mining also requires a lot of electricity which we produce, in Zambia, mainly from hydropower. Add to that the needs of local communities and our natural heritage for unpolluted rivers. We are expecting a great deal from our available water and we need to make sure that we do not destroy the environment which supports us, given that our water resources are likely to reduce in the years ahead.

The Zambia Environmental Agency is going to have a real juggling act on its hands to sort this one out.

Meanwhile, I do hope that West Lunga National Park and its neighbouring Game Management Areas will not be affected by any mining. And that the government has a clause in any agreement with Arc Minerals that they must take on the protection of the park as one of its key corporate responsibility programmes.

Map from West Lunga Trust



Rajagopalan Padmanabhan to BirdWatch Zambia Forum

Lower Zambezi National Park today with Roy Philip and Baiju Pyngodan. The story is that the ele in the picture died of sickness very near a lodge. Then it was dragged to a more open area to avoid the stench from the decomposing carcass. There were no tusks on the dead animal. It was already half eaten when we found it today at 12 noon. It wasn't there on 29th morning while going to the lodge. A steady traffic of Vultures was still arriving from the other side of the Z.River. I could just count once. 140 White Backed, 8 Hooded, 1 Palmnut, 6 Lappet Vultures and 1 Marabou. ...



Conservation South Luangwa - CSL

On Saturday, a joint CSL- Zambian Carnivore Programme team led by wildlife vet Dr Mwamba Sichande, successfully removed a leg snare from a male giraffe. Snaring is wildlife's silent killer. Great to see Dazzleaf Africa.org sponsored vet student Fitzgerald L Mukumbi getting some practical experience.



Luangwa River Saved

WWF reports that the Zambian government has cancelled a pre-feasibility study for a dam on the Luangwa River, the Ndevu Gorge Power Project, which would have cost \$1.26 billion and generated between 235 and 240 megawatts of power if completed.

More than 200,000 people had signed a petition calling for the legal protection of the river. Critics of the dam project argued that fragmentation of the Luangwa would threaten wildlife and freshwater fish stocks, as well as the agriculture and tourism that local communities rely on. ...

Meanwhile ...

Batoka power project clears ESIA hurdle

RSA Sunday Mail

THE multi-million dollar Batoka power project has been certified not to pose adverse effects on human settlement along the Zambezi River, passing one of the pre-project commencement processes and setting the venture on course towards implementation. The certification was concluded by an international firm contracted to carry out an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

The Zambezi River Authority engaged top South African firm, Environmental Resources Management to undertake the ESIA around the Batoka Gorge, before submitting its findings recently. ...



This week we did our first rescue...

Zambezi Working Donkey Project

We first met 'Black' two months ago when she was brought to a village clinic with an horrendous injury to her hoof, caused by being tied by the foot with wire.

We have tried repeatedly to help the owners and encourage them to let us get her veterinary treatment. But unfortunately they were not willing, and as a result she has now lost most of the foot. The pain she has endured must be excruciating.

It is with immense gratitude that we were supported by Zambia Police Service, who enacted The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act which enabled us to confiscate Black. We also rescued her foal who, at less than a year old, was already being made to work and from his injuries evidently beaten.

We have worked with so many owners who have wanted to improve their understanding of donkeys and make positive changes - taking an animal away is our absolute last resort when all other options have failed. It has been a tough week but we are very glad these little donkeys will no longer suffer and can hopefully live out their days in peace... Thank you again to Zambia Police and our small but growing bunch of supporters!



FREE SOLAR PANELS!!

Hon. Mathew Nkhuwa

WORLD BANK, USAID & GOVERNMENT OFFERING FREE SOLAR PANELS AND A CHANCE TO EARN INCOME TO ALL ZAMBIANS: The USAID and World Bank in partnership with the Ministry of Energy has rolled out USD. 154 Million Solar Power Grant project. This is part of Scaling Utility-Scale Solar Program also known as "Scaling Solar" intended to encourage usage of solar and wind as a way of complementing hydro power which is vulnerable to climate change. Through this program thousands of Zambians will receive grants worth up to K1,000,000 in form of solar panels. Excess power generated by those who receive the solar panels will be integrated into the national grid earning owners a stable income. Those interested from Individuals, small businesses to Large companies can send their applications through the following link>>>><https://tinyurl.com/y234wmbv>

Seven Hwange elephants killed in suspected cyanide poisoning

ZIMBABWE

ZIMPARKS is investigating a suspected case of cyanide poisoning after seven elephant carcasses were reportedly found in an advanced state of decomposition in the Hwange National Park on Saturday.

A report to Zimparks, NewZimbabwe.com was told, stated that rangers on patrol near the border with Botswana in an area administered by Main Camp, discovered the seven carcasses. ...

Another quake rattles Kariba

Herald

A moderate 3,7 magnitude earthquake hit Hurungwe, Kariba and surrounding areas yesterday, with the rattling effect being widely felt, although there were no reports of damage. The Seismology Section of the Meteorological Services Department triangulated the epicentre of the earthquake which occurred at around 3pm on longitude 16.446S and latitude 29.691E in Hurungwe.

Drilling to begin next year in Muzarabani

ONE Gas Resources, the exploration partner of Invictus Energy Ltd in Zimbabwe's Muzarabani district, expects drilling to begin in the second half of next year, targeting an estimated 1.3 billion barrels of oil equivalent and about 9.25 trillion cubic feet of gas.

"The planned well will cost anywhere between \$15 million and \$20 million and we will probably drill to a maximum of 3.5 kilometres," One Gas executive chairman, Mr Paul Chimbodza, said by email. The Muzarabani prospect could be "almost at par" with Total SA's offshore Brulpadda oil discovery in South Africa and Exxon Mobil Corp.'s gas project off Cyprus, he said.

One Gas holds a 20 per cent stake in the Muzarabani venture, with the balance owned by Invictus. While the potential oil and gas deposits in the north of Zimbabwe could be a boost for the Government of President Mnangagwa, they are close to Mana Pools National Park — a World Heritage Site — and the Zambezi River, potentially sparking objections from environmental groups. — Bloomberg



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 borehole pumps, so guaranteeing the continuity of this vital commodity.

WALKING FOR WILD

July 16-17, 2019
MASUNA to VIC FALLS
140 KMS IN 24 HOURS

To Benefit

Join Us!

VICTORIA FALLS WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

Blue Cross 2019

12 & 13 August

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

Closing Hydro Plant Is Zimbabwe's Answer to Getting More Power

Bloomberg

Zimbabwe has proposed reducing the flow of the Zambezi River in exchange for receiving discounted power from neighboring Mozambique, people familiar with the situation said.

The proposal would result in the closing of Zimbabwe's Kariba South hydro plant, which would bolster critically low water levels in the world's biggest man-made reservoir, said Zimbabwean government officials and a senior manager at the state power utility who asked not to be identified because the talks aren't public.

The plan would also limit the flow into the already full Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique, as water wouldn't need to be pushed through the plant's turbines, the people said.

Opening the flood gates at Cahora Bassa could inundate the low-lying Zambezi Delta on Mozambique's coast. In return for limiting the river flow, Zimbabwe would want to be compensated with cheap power from Cahora Bassa, which has the capacity to produce 2,075 megawatts, the people said.

Kariba is 28.9% full, according the Zimbabwe National Water Authority's website.



G: We know that the Luangwa river has been very high this year and that Mozambique has had floods, so this makes sense. If Zim can get power from Cahora Bassa, it will mean that Zambia will benefit. At the moment in Zambia we are having 4-hour power cuts most days with the expectancy that it will get worse before the rains come again. Maybe, if we are lucky and Zim stops using the water from Lake Kariba we can stick to our 4-hour regime for longer. Good news.

BOTSWANA

Here comes all the fun at Makgadigadi Epic

The Botswana Tourism Organisation (BTO) in association with Parachute Association of Botswana (PAB) supported by BOTASH, Sowa Township Council and Tutume Sub-District Council collaborate every year to host Makgadikgadi Epic. The event slated for July 12th – 15th 2019 will take place in the premier and prominent Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, precisely, in Sowa Town. ...

Makgadikgadi epic promises adventure lovers who want to go skydive a different experiential activity in the Makgadikgadi. The main objective of the event is to give travellers to Botswana lifetime unique experience.



Poachers Are Invading Botswana, Last Refuge of African Elephants

New data leave little doubt that the illegal ivory trade has reached the country, scientists say.
New York Times

In September, conservationists in Botswana discovered 87 dead elephants, their faces hacked off and tusks missing. Poaching, the researchers warned, was on the rise. The news had international repercussions. Botswana had been one of the last great elephant refuges, largely spared the poaching crisis that has swept through much of Africa over the past decade.

The country is home to some 126,000 savanna elephants, about a third of Africa's remaining population — plentiful enough that they are increasingly in conflict with villagers in the northern part of the country.

Following the announcement in September, Botswana's ministry of the environment denied that there was a poaching crisis of any sort, and in May the government lifted a ban on trophy hunting that had been in place for five years, provoking worldwide condemnation.

Even some scientists wondered whether the illegal ivory trade really had found its way to Botswana. Now, the researchers have published data in the journal *Current Biology* that seems to confirm their initial findings. Based on aerial surveys and field visits, the authors report that fresh elephant carcasses in Botswana increased by nearly 600 percent from 2014 to 2018. ...

Reached by phone, Cyril Taolo, director of research at Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks, said that he and his colleagues "are still interrogating this paper and coming up with a response" to the concerns raised by the conservationists.

The survey was led by Michael Chase, founder and director of Elephants Without Borders, a nonprofit conservation organization based in Kasane, Botswana.

Squeezed into a fixed-wing Cessna, Dr. Chase and his colleagues crisscrossed 36,300 square miles of habitat, counting and photographing all living and dead elephants they spotted 300 feet below. They recorded 156 carcasses they believed to be poached, clustered at five hot spots.

One criticism of the earlier report had been that an elephant's cause of death is impossible to determine from the air. Scott Schlossberg, a data analyst at Elephants Without Borders and co-author of paper, disagreed: "When an elephant's face has been chopped off, you can often see that from the plane."

But to assuage such concerns, he and his colleagues used a helicopter to make field visits to 148 carcasses. About half were fresh, the rest at least a year old.

With close inspections, the researchers confirmed that recent carcasses were exclusively poached animals; roughly 80 percent of the older carcasses had been poached, as well. Older bulls accounted for all of the remains that the scientists were able to age, indicating that poachers, for now, are targeting individuals with the largest tusks.

The findings revealed a 593 percent increase in the number of freshly killed carcasses, compared to survey results from 2014. Extrapolating the numbers, the researchers estimated that a minimum of 385 elephants had been poached in Botswana between 2017 and 2018.

"Those scientists and colleagues who cast doubt on our initial findings I hope now find that the science and evidence that we describe in our paper is indeed convincing," Dr. Chase said.

Elephants Without Borders

Flying over parts of the Okavango Delta now, the drought has tremendously impacted the wildlife already. In an area that should have flowing water, be lush and green with vegetation this time of year; hippo, crocodiles, lechwe, elephants, zebra and birdlife respectively share one of the few pans left with water on the western side of the Okavango.



John Grobler on logging

So this is where those loads of rosewood we're seeing on our roads come from: chopped illegally in at least three locations inside the KAZA park area inside Cuando Cubango, on the old UNITA road leading up from Mucusso to Licua. This is NOT legal.

What's more is that the Namibian border police won't let anyone exit from Angola at that border point - but they are letting these trucks and other equipment in and out as they please. This is also the same area where we have had massive elephant poaching for years now, likely by the same lot of b-----ds involved in this illegal logging.

This is not just an Angolan problem - this is a regional problem. For those who do not know where Mucusso is, it is the informal border crossing where the Kavango River veers south into Botswana - and is smack in the middle of what had always been an elephant Eden until the b-----ds with the guns arrived. So I really want to know just how those permits can be in order, if there are no Angolan or Namibian Customs stamps on those documents. Someone got paid off, I'd say.



Mucusso



Khwe tribe wants freedom on ancestral land

The Namibian

Members of the Khwe tribe living at Omega-3 in the Zambezi region say they feel oppressed in their own ancestral land since it was declared a national park. Omega-3 is situated in the Bwabwata National Park.

The park was first proclaimed as the Caprivi Game Reserve in 1966 before being upgraded to the Caprivi Game Park in 1968. It was gazetted as the Bwabwata National Park in 2007, and incorporated the former Mahango Game Reserve. The park has a chequered history, as it was declared a military zone by the South African Defence Force during Namibia's war of liberation. It was not until after independence in 1990 that the park could be properly run as a conservation area.

One of the residents of Omega-3, Bornface Albert, described their living conditions as scary as they cannot move around freely in the park because they could be mistaken for poachers by the anti-poaching unit.

"The anti-poaching unit, which was sent by president Hage Geingob to patrol the Bwabwata National Park, does not know the difference between poachers and members of the local community.

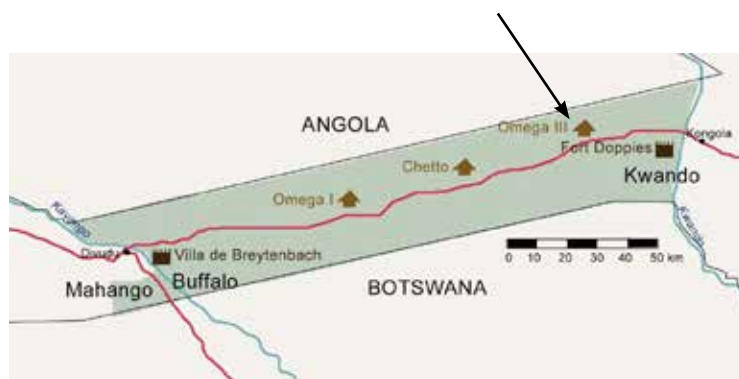
"When we locals move around, they do not even verify who we are, and just shoot at us with their AK-47s. Our country is independent, but we feel we are still living in the colonial era because we cannot do anything on our land, like all the other Namibians do on their land.

"The anti-poaching unit has been sent to kill us on our ancestral land. Our ancestors are buried on this land, yet the state has taken over our land," he told The Namibian last week.

Albert claimed that a villager was shot dead recently, and others brutally injured and are now disabled, and he cannot believe that this was happening to them.

Another resident, Mautu Boster...:

"We request full rights to our ancestral land in which we can have our chief, a constituency councillor, allowed to own cattle and be allowed to move freely to plough and practise our traditions, like any other community in Namibia. The community must be involved or consulted when policies concerning the national park are implemented," he stressed.



The environment ministry's spokesperson, Romeo Muyunda, told The Namibian last week that they always involve community members whenever the need arises regarding issues in the park. The people are represented by their constituency councillors, or the traditional authority.

"As far as the anti-poaching unit is concerned, they do not just shoot at people without asking them who they are. There are places in the park where people are not allowed to move around, and even then, they will be asked in a proper way and advised to leave that area. Shooting is used as a last resort, and will be used as a method of self-defence," he explained.

G: We have a similar issue in Liuwa Plain with villages inside the park. To me, villages and National Parks cannot co-exist with a growing population. The more the population increases so does the need for food, water, schools, clinics. How can it possibly work for the future?

Namibia, Angola Discuss Water Use

The Namibian

The governments of Namibia and Angola will meet this week to discuss the sustainable use and management of rivers shared by the two countries.

"The fifth session is also taking place against the backdrop of severe drought in the region, with both countries having declared national disaster emergencies," Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, executive director of international relations, said. She added that the two countries will strengthen their relationship by establishing a bi-national commission to be co-chaired by their respective presidents.

Ashipala-Musavyi noted that the Cuvelai River Basin Commission (Cuvecom) and Okavango River Basin Water Commission (Okacom) will promote the sustainable development and efficient management of water resources along the common border.

"It is imperative for both countries to cooperate on the sustainable usage and management of our shared water resources, particularly within the framework of the Cuvecom and Okacom," she said.

There have been public calls for Namibia to draw water from the Okavango River to supply the country's central region. The Namibian reported in 2016 that NamWater engineering manager Kuiru Tjipangandjara said drawing water from the Okavango River for central Namibia is a more feasible option than desalination.

Global population of eight billion and growing: we can't go on like this

The UK Guardian

President Magufuli pulled off an intriguing feat last year when, in a single speech, he managed to affront just about every liberal cause on the planet. The Tanzanian leader told a public rally not to listen to advice from foreigners on contraception because it had “sinister motives”. For good measure, he accused women who use birth control of being “lazy” – it was their duty to have large numbers of children.

By any standards, these were outrageous remarks – and worrying ones, for they indicate there has been a deep and potentially catastrophic failure by the west in promoting a measure on which the future health of our planet depends: limiting numbers of our species. Until this basic task is achieved, virtually every measure we take to tackle global heating will be negated by the energy demands of the extra billions we have added to global populations, say campaigners.

Hence the demonstrations – to be staged by groups such as Britain's Population Matters and others – in capitals around the world on Thursday when the planet marks World Population Day. This will be the 30th anniversary of the annual event set up by the United Nations in 1989 – when there were a mere 5 billion people on Earth – to focus attention on the urgency of our impending population crisis.

Today there are about 7.7 billion men, women and children on Earth, a staggering figure given that a century ago, there were only 1.9 billion. And although populations have stabilised in many regions, in particular Europe and North America, figures released by the UN this month show global numbers are now growing at the alarming rate of about 100 million every 14 months. By 2050, the Earth's population will have hit 9.7 billion and it will continue to rise, reaching a figure of about 10.9 billion by 2100.

These are the kind of population numbers we associate with simple organisms swimming in a pond, not those of a big-brained omnivore that requires 3,000 calories a day to survive. If there are 10 billion of us, every forest, valley and piece of land will have to be turned to agriculture to feed us. “Our planet cannot withstand such numbers,” says the palaeontologist Peter Ward in his book *The End of Evolution*.

Crucially, the vast majority of the extra 3 billion human beings that could be added to Earth's population will be born in Africa. Today there are about 1.2 billion Africans. By 2100, there will be more than 4 billion. Our growing population crisis therefore needs to be tackled there as a priority: by boosting women's rights, by making contraception easily available and by improving education for all. The remarks of President Magufuli suggest that this is going to be a very hard task. Nor have the actions of Donald Trump's White House helped. By slashing funds to international birth control programmes, the US is now undermining hopes of limiting Africa's population growth.

We should note that many countries in Africa are likely to become grimly inhospitable when global heating takes its grip on Earth. Millions may be driven from their homes as heatwaves, famines and droughts sweep their lands.

Yet very little of the burning of fossil fuels that has triggered this climate crisis occurred in Africa. It took place in the west, whose industrial emissions are a key cause of global heating. It is a fact we should remember when millions of climate refugees from scorched and overpopulated nations seek salvation on our shores.

Rovos Rail's Pride of Africa left Cape Town for first-ever epic journey to Lobito

Buzz News

Under its plans to connect Africa through vintage tourist journeys, Rovos Rail train, the Pride of Africa is now on its way, rolling northwards from Cape Town in South Africa to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania before launching its first ever trip to connect the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.

The train, Pride of Africa, is now rolling, cutting through Southern Africa states to Eastern Africa, on the Indian Ocean coast in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Reports from Rovos Rail company in Pretoria said that the train had left Cape Town few days ago to arrive in Dar es Salaam next Saturday after a roughly two week vintage journey.

It left Cape Town for Dar es Salaam on June 29 to arrive next Saturday, July 13, before launching its first-ever maiden voyage from Dar es Salaam to Lobito in Angola. The train can accommodate up to 72 passengers, all tourists.

“It will be the first time in history that a passenger train will travel the east-to-west copper trail. Our new route coincides nicely with our 30th birthday. I'd like to say it was planned but I can't take credit for the serendipitous timing,” said Rohan Vos, owner and CEO of Rovos Rail.

WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
7°C (45)	27°C (81)

We are reaching the coldest time of the year. Hopefully, from now on, it will start to get warmer

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K12.45
	P10.59
	Nam\$14.00
	Zim\$9.95

A SMILE



In Livingstone (Maramba)

Have a good two weeks

Gill



SAFREA
Southern African Freelancers' Association