

The Livingstone biWeekly

3 March 2020

Dear All

I went to have lunch with Karien at Kayube Estates. The header is the view of the Zambezi River in front of the self-catering lodge. Many of us think of self-catering as being 'cheap and cheerful', but Karien has taken the lodge up to really high standards – to luxury level.

Since my last visit there is an added addition of a swimming pool; Mama-Out-Of-Africa has been completely renovated and a new Boat House has been constructed. (Mama-Out-Of-Africa is a converted overland truck which was used in Kenya for the film Out of Africa.)

Kayube Estates is found 23 km along the Kazungula Road from Livingstone, and then a well sign-posted track for 3 km down to the Zambezi River. The lodge is within an electric fence and is part of the Zambezi Security network which protects the Zambezi River along this section.

The birdlife is incredible with the recent addition of pelicans which roost in the palm trees on the opposite bank - Zimbabwe's Zambezi National Park. And don't be surprised to hear lions or hyena calling at night from over the river!



United Air Charters (UAC)

UAC has added new infrastructure to their property – a runway. UAC has been in Livingstone for many years and is well-known for its helicopter flights over the Victoria Falls and along the gorges. For that, they have a helipad on Baobab Ridge, a wonderful spot on a hill, overlooking the Zambezi River and the spray from the Victoria Falls. A few years ago, they added a camp with self-catering chalets and camping, named Baobab Cottages.

For some years, they have been offering internal air charters to other Zambian tourist destinations like Lower Zambezi and South Luangwa. Up until now, they had been using Livingstone Airport but they decided that they could give their guests a much more exclusive experience with their own runway. So, with bulldozers and a lot of hard work, they leveled a piece of their land, built culverts over seasonal streams and *hey presto*, a runway. Their airstrip is to be named Baobab Plains.

Guests can now enjoy a leisurely drive to Baobab Plains, have a cup of coffee while watching the view overlooking the woodland to the Zambezi River, and then be transferred to the airstrip without having to pass through all the checks and scrutiny at the Livingstone Airport.



MASS HYSTERIA HITS LIVINGSTONE Mwebantu

A suspected gasser is mobbed in Livingstone's Dambwa Central today. Police say he's just a common suspected criminal.
(Picture by Elias Limwanya)

G: Lots of fake news floating around social media as gassing of homes and suspected witchcraft are rife throughout Zambia. I have no idea what is going on because no-one in authority has come out and told us the truth. The problem is, of course, that everyone panics when police arrive on the scene of a crime. During this kafuffle I was not far away and could hear guns being fired as the police tried to subdue the crowd which gathered.

Fortunately Livingstone is now back to its usual calm self.



BOTH RHINOS CONFIRMED DEAD

Travel Barotse

Last night Lubinda and Romeo (MOTHER and CALF) were killed by a speeding truck in the Livingstone Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. How was this even possible for such a rare and endangered species? Why no speed humps in the Park?

G: It is over 6km between the two gates through the National Park on the Kazungula Road. The Kazungula Road is a major highway – it is part of the Walvis Bay corridor and is used by trucks, taxis, etc to go to Kazungula and Sesheke borders. We are not going to stop these drivers from speeding. Speed humps should not be put in. We had rumble strips before and they did not help – they just made a noise! It is not only these poor rhinos which have been killed by speeding vehicles, many more animals have gone under the wheel or over the bonnet.

The original fence only covered the Game Park Area but then it was decided (about 10 years ago?) to include the northern section into the park. (I think we were given some money by some Aid Organisation). When the extension of the fence was considered a conservationist recommended that the fence be constructed so that only a small opening was allowed through the fence for the animals to cross and that the ZAWA gates be positioned at either end of the opening. This would have meant that a small section of the road could be watched by ZamParks. We often think that animals are stupid; they are not. They will soon learn routes to their favourite feeding grounds and would have learned where they can cross.

Here is a rough sketch of the idea. The red line is the present fence-line. The green dots are the present gates. The black line is an idea of where the fence should be with the black dots as the Gates. We know that ZamParks does not have money to construct new posts but they could add the fences, put some warnings on the roadside at the opening, ... maybe even some solar spotlights.

Added to the protection of the park for the animals, the proposed fence would also add security from poachers and bushfires.



ZAMBIA

Flatdogs Camp, South Luangwa

The weather patterns around the world have been interesting this year! It is our rainy season and we live on a flood plain, so we should not be surprised that we sometimes get high water. But this is a bit higher than normal! For those of you that know us, see reception yesterday. This was about 20cm down from its highest level the day before.

Will all be back to normal by the time we open on March 15th. So don't worry!

G: Maybe Flatdogs hasn't seen the weather forecast ...



Bhukhans

JOLLYBOYS

Wildlife Camp, South Luangwa

Lots of water and damaged roads are posing a big challenge to us operating. We are closed at the moment as no one can get in or out !!!



North Luangwa Conservation Project

How do chilli blasters work and why are they effective against raiding elephants?

The beauty in this solution to mitigate Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) is that it can be produced at low cost and with materials that are commonly found. The active heat compound in chilli is called Capsaicin and is oil soluble. In order to speed up the cold Capsaicin extraction, petrol is used, and with the addition of cooking oil to the extract, it helps the compound 'stick' to the elephant skin, and so deterring the elephant returning to the same field. The readymade chilli-oil extract is injected into ping pong balls with the holes glued shut to prevent leakage. The launching device is made from PVC-U pipes, similar to the design of a potato gun. In the combustion chamber is filled with a propellant (spray insecticide) and ignited with an igniter. The chilli blaster is fired and the chilli ping pong balls are expelled with a loud bang, heard up to a distance of 100m away. The chilli blasters are produced at the FZS base in Marula Puku in North Luangwa National Park.



Ashish Patel to Zambian Honorary Wildlife Police Officers

Just to show members of this group

How drastic it is out in the bush HWPO Lusaka were asked to assist with the disposal of firearms and other paraphernalia used by poachers that has been confiscated by DNPW. Total scrap weight was 41 metric tons. yes people no typo error forty one tons. Personally from me a very hearty well done to all officers involved in the confiscation and disposal



Invictus K9

Meet Amor and Kalo! Another great procurement trip with Dutch k9 Centre. Thanks to Henk, Petra and Don for their help!!! These dogs are going to be formidable in Zambia adding to the antipoaching arsenal of CLZ. Can't wait to see how they develop and contribute!



Kariba over-generating power from little water, says Nkuwa New Diggers

Energy Minister Mathew Nkuwa says the water levels in the Kariba Dam are not rising as expected this rainy season because the facility is over-generating electricity from the little water available. ...

G: I guessed that this had to be the case! I am glad someone has said it.

Government committed to paying ZMK20m for community fees from hunting

Department of National Parks & Wildlife

Minister of Tourism and Arts Minister Ronald Chitotela has said Government is committed to releasing and paying the ZMK19.8 million owed to communities in hunting areas.

Speaking at the Ministry Headquarters during a meeting on community funds from hunting this afternoon with six chiefs led by Senior Chief Luembe, the Minister said true wildlife conservation for tourism development can only be achieved with community involvement. He said Government places communities as anchors of sustainable wildlife conservation even though animals may be state property, but that communities led by the chiefs live and protect the animals from threats like poaching. Hon. Chitotela said the communities take care of the animals and hence their role cannot be over emphasized.

And Senior Chief Luembe said traditional leaders play a greater role including managing encroachments, poaching and fishing rights.



NELS MOTORS
Vehicle
Workshop

He said people don't want to move from fishing camps even during fish ban and tend to resort to poaching and it's the chiefs that have to push to control such situations.

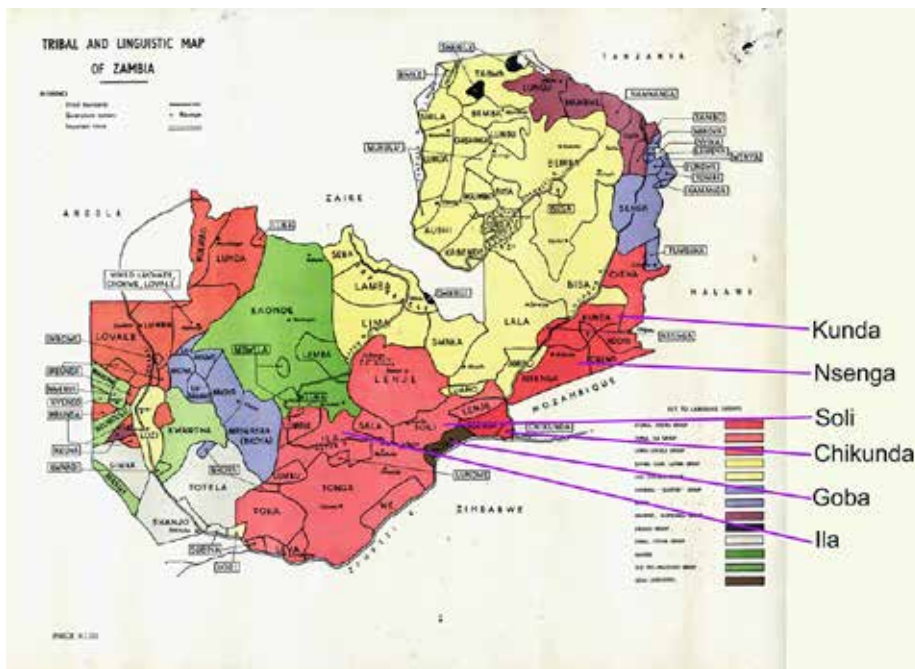
Meanwhile Chieftainess Msoro said community scouts have shown commitment by being patient by waiting for 19 months or more without pay and continuing with the conservation duties.

The traditional leader said with good motivation the scouts are able to do more and contribute to Government revenue through tourism earnings and development.

She said disadvantaging areas like Msoro where she is, would disadvantage the entire South Luangwa National Park. Senior Chief Luembe, Chieftainess Muwezwa, Chieftainess Chiyawa, Chieftainess Mpasha, Chief Mphuka and Chieftainess Msoro attended the meeting.

G: I think we need to remind ourselves that Game Management Areas (GMAs) are owned by the communities, not the government. The government administers GMAs, allocating hunting concessions and accepting the proceeds from hunting. They are, by law, required to give the communities a certain percentage of the proceeds.

Just out of interest: Senior Chief Luembe is chief of the Nsenga people. Chieftainess Muwezwa is chieftainess of the Ila people. Chieftainess Chiyawa, I think should be Chiawa, and is from the Goba people. Chieftainess Mpasha, I think has to be Chieftainess Mpanshya of the Soli people. Chief Mphuka is Chikunda and Chieftainess Msoro is of the Kunda people.



ZAMBIA HISTORY

The Ila People

The Ila were some of the first inhabitants of Zambia. Their ancestors arrived so long ago that oral history has long forgotten, so we have no idea of their origins but it is likely that they came from the Luba Empire in present-day DRC. They arrived as farmers and spread out along the Kafue River where they came into contact with the Twa. The Twa, or Batwa, lived off the land, similar to the San or Bushman, but they were happiest near water which supplied them with fish and plants from the rivers.

Getting back to the Ila. For possibly several hundred years the lives of the Ila continued as happy farmers with plenty of cattle which they grazed on the floodplains, and then trouble started. It is difficult to put a timeline on their list of problems but I guess that the first would have been Zambia's invasion by the Kololo.

In the 1830s the Kololo arrived from Shaka Zulu's region; they had marauded their way through Botswana and Zimbabwe and finally crossed the Zambezi River into our region, settling near Kalomo. The Kololo had a big threat to their existence from the Matabele at Bulawayo. The Matabele had also fled from Shaka Zulu but were fierce warriors. The Kololo stayed for a while around Kalomo, raiding constantly the lands of the Tonga and Ila. Finally, they left for the west and Loziland where they felt safer from the Matabele.

The Matabele too, when they managed to cross the Zambezi River, also raided the Tonga and Ila stealing cattle and people, killing many. About the same time, the slave trade started to impinge on the Ila way of life. The slave traders came from north, east and west, stealing the people.

As a consequence, the Ila, angry with the constant threat of these invaders, had changed their attitude towards strangers, becoming aggressive and warlike.

The Ila are probably best known for the men's amazing hairstyle, a tall spike which could reach a metre in length. It was their pride and joy but did have a useful purpose. During the rainy season the grass on the Kafue Flats grows very tall, and this hairstyle helped them to see each other. The hairstyle was a work of art performed by hairdressers who wove the hair from other people into the top-knot of the warriors. The wives of the warriors had their heads shaved so that their hair



was added to that of the husband's. All sorts of other paraphernalia were woven into the hair and it must have become extremely heavy! When they slept the spike had to be tied with twine to a rafter of the hut so that it didn't become spoilt.

It is not thought that the hairdo had long been in fashion, but during the mid-1800s it was common, hence the name for the Ila as Mashukulumbwe. The Kololo gave them that name which describes how the hair is drawn back from the forehead. Rarely will we find in the old texts the name Ila; it is always Mashukulumbwe as most of our first written texts came from Loziland.

The first Europeans who met the Ila were David Livingstone (1855), Emil Holub (1885) and Frederick Selous (1888). David Livingstone met a band of Ila when in Tongaland, so they were not in their own country and not aggressive. David Livingstone had been advised not to go to Ila territory and it is probably a good thing that he did not. When Frederick Selous and Emil Holub ventured into Ilaland they only just managed to leave with their lives.

When the British came in (from 1899) all the threats to Ilaland were removed and they could finally, after more than 50 years, go back to a more peaceful existence. It took time for them to accept that not everyone was a threat, but finally they joined in Northwestern Rhodesia society, becoming excellent workers – in the Barotse Native Police and on the railway line. Sadly, too, with their loss of aggression also went the loss of their amazing hairstyle.

A promotional poster for the Zambia Bike Festival in Livingstone. The top half features a photograph of several cyclists riding down a rocky path next to the Victoria Falls, with one cyclist in the foreground performing a wheelie. The background shows the sun setting over the falls. The text is arranged in a curved banner at the bottom. The main title 'ZAMBIA BIKE FESTIVAL' is in large, bold, white and red letters. Below it, 'LIVINGSTONE' is in white, and 'Home to the Mighty Victoria Falls' is in yellow. The dates 'APRIL 10th-13th 2020' are in white. The bottom section is red and contains event details, social media information, and the presenter's name.

ZAMBIA BIKE FESTIVAL
LIVINGSTONE
Home to the Mighty Victoria Falls
APRIL 10th-13th 2020

Follow us on Facebook
Zambia Bike Festival

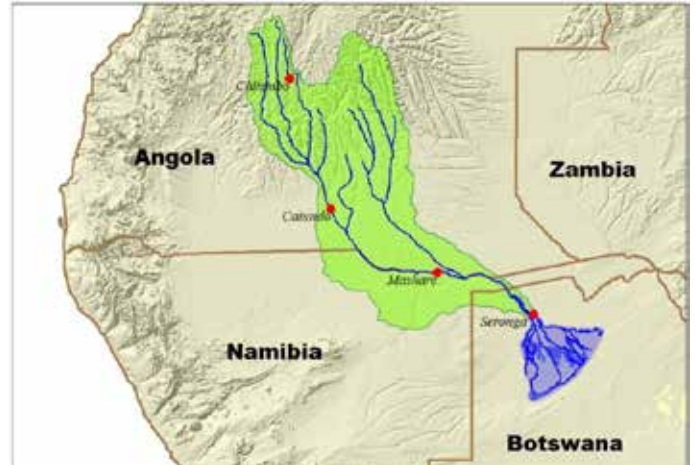
PRESENTED BY
LIVINGSTONE Cycle Club

75/50/25/10km off road MTB
160km THREE country road race
50km road race
One hour 2km cyclocross race

One hour 1km criterium race through city centre
Hours of BMX trickster fun and entertainment
Live bands, food stalls, art and craft
Bike doctors and suppliers

Support to the Cubango-Okavango Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Implementation

The Permanent Okavango River Basin (OKACOM) is currently implementing a regional four-year Project entitled "Support to the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) SAP Implementation" funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Gaborone. The Project is fully aligned to the CORB SAP and associated National Action Plans (NAPs). It provides OKACOM with strategic direction in operationalization of the SAP and development of the Basin Development Management Framework (BDMF). The main objective of the Project is to strengthen the joint management and cooperative decision-making capacity of the CORB states on the optimal utilization of transboundary natural resources, with a view to enhance socio-economic development of the basin communities while sustaining the health of the basin ecosystems.



G: The Okavango Delta is a very sensitive area and totally dependent on the water which flows in from Angola. Were Angola to decide to dam or utilize the water upstream of the delta it could destroy the environment of Moremi Game Reserve.

NAMIBIA

Lüderitz wind farm set to take off

The Namibian

A 40 MEGAWATT (MW) wind farm off the coast of Lüderitz in the Tsau /Khaeb (Spergebiet) National Park took a step closer to realisation with public consultations set for Thursday at the southern coastal town.

Namibia Power Corporation (NamPower) will implement the project as part of its corporate and strategic business plan for 2019-2023.

The project lifetime is being planned for 25 years. ...

Ministry confirms red locust in Zambezi

Namibian

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has confirmed the presence of red locusts in the grazing areas of the flood plain along the Chobe River in the Zambezi region. A statement issued by agriculture executive director Percy Misika on Thursday states that the migratory locust was first reported in the region on 21 February.

"The migratory locusts are reported to have migrated from Botswana. Namibia is the second country in southern Africa to report the prevalence of migratory pests after Botswana," the statement revealed.

According to the ministry, the locust outbreak is reported to be affecting farmers' fields across the entire southern areas of the region. The ministry explained that while the insects are usually solitary, certain circumstances allow them to reproduce abundantly and change their behaviour.

"Under suitable conditions of drought, followed by rapid vegetation growth, they breed abundantly and become nomadic as their populations increase at a fast pace," the ministry said.

Furthermore, the ministry said the migratory locust is one of the most widespread type of locust and occurs throughout Africa.

The ministry says it has intensified awareness campaigns to educate farmers on the presence of the pest and said control measures are being applied to contain the pest.



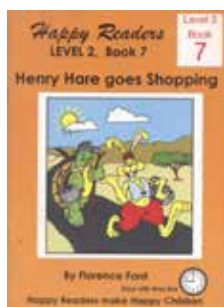
African Parks

Leaving behind a lasting legacy. The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles is raising money for children's books after having worked alongside African Parks in Liwonde National Park, where they assisted with combatting the illegal wildlife trade in Malawi. They have raised 60% of their £5,000 goal to deliver books to schools around Liwonde through the Happy Readers programme.

"We have been humbled by what this great organisation is doing for the world's protected areas and we want to ensure we leave behind a lasting legacy. The books promote conservation through their brightly coloured stories. The children will learn about the wonderful animals



around them, the brave work of Rangers and the negative impacts of poaching. It will ensure that the hard work that African Parks is doing in Liwonde National Park (that we have been privileged to have played a small role in) will be maintained by the next generation of conservationists," says Jez England, Officer Commanding Support Company, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Gurkha Rifles. We are extremely grateful for their support. Literacy is power, and books help pave the road towards a brighter future.



G: Happy Readers are available and being used in Zambia. If you would like to know more, contact Conor on happybooks.conor@gmail.com.

KENYA

Awesome to get results!

Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism

The Kenyan government yesterday announced its decision to close four key donkey slaughterhouses, in an effort to close down the skin trade in the region.

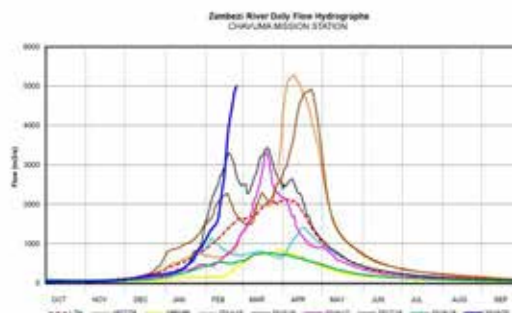
Investigations by Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism in 2018 (funded by The Donkey Sanctuary) established that the majority of donkeys being slaughtered in Kenya's abattoirs were coming from Ethiopia, as there were simply not enough donkeys left in Kenya to meet demand. Since then, investigations have shown that donkeys are now being sourced for slaughter in Kenya from as far afield as South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Tanzania.

OTHER STUFF

Rain and more rain ...

The water flowing into Zambia from Angola now looks like this:

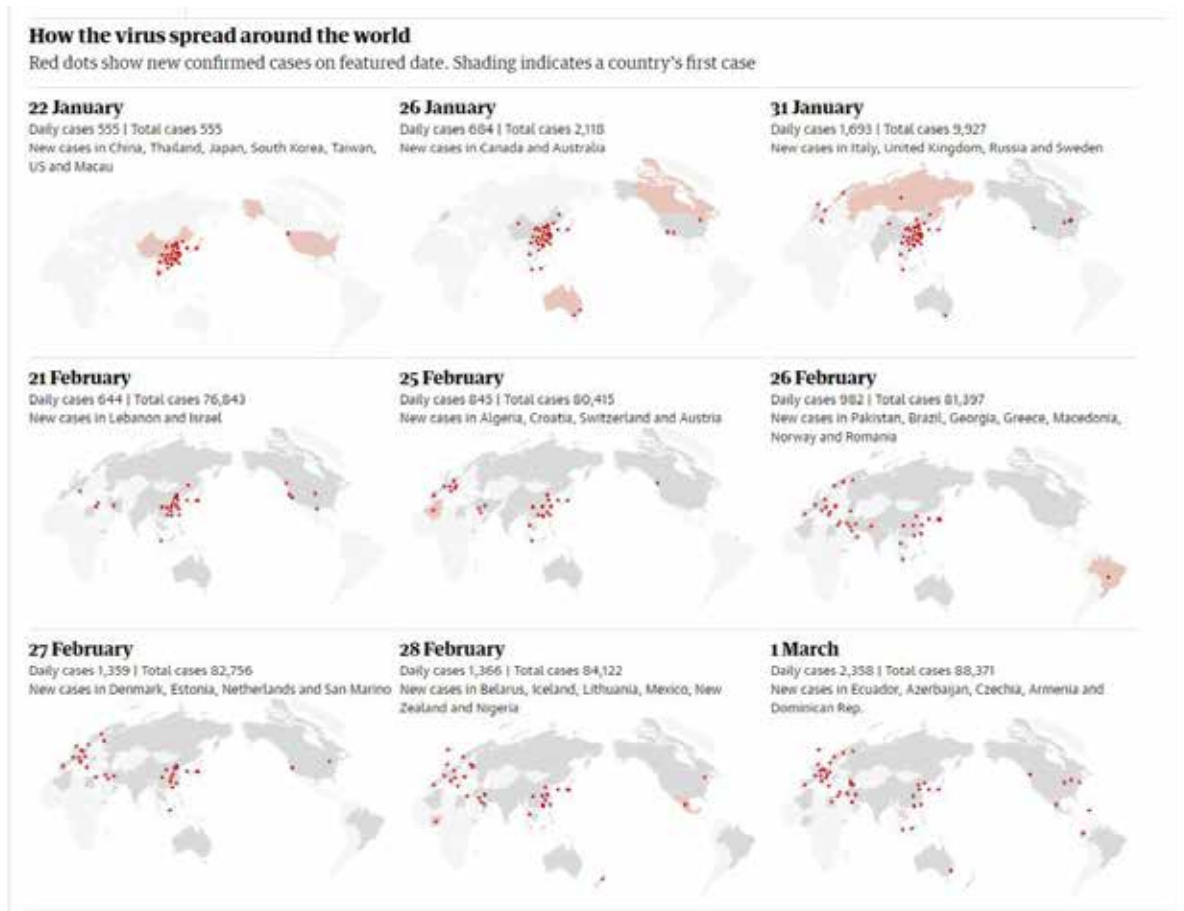
The weather forecast is for more rain all over - Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and Botswana. It is going to be a bumper year for many of us. Can you imagine the flowers which are going to bloom in the deserts? I really hope we get some photos on social media.



Coronavirus - Covid-19

Most of us are watching the spread of the coronavirus. We would be very lucky if we escaped the spread in Zambia, so I thought it might be worthwhile giving some information.

The diagram below shows the latest spread of the disease. The only case confirmed, so far in Africa, is in Nigeria.



The symptoms are flu-like – fever, coughing, breathing difficulties. The incubation period is 2 weeks, so it will be two weeks before you show any symptoms. There is no treatment but the disease should pass in a couple of weeks as long as you are healthy. The people at risk are those with underlying medical conditions and the old. Young people recover quickly.

From the UK Guardian:

Thousands of people affected by the coronavirus globally have already recovered. As Covid-19 is a viral illness, antibiotics are of no use and neither are antiviral drugs that work against flu. Recovery depends on the strength of the immune system and many of those who have died were already in poor health. The World Health Organization recommends people take simple precautions to reduce exposure and transmission.

The advice from most reliable media:

Keep away from large gatherings. (ITB Berlin has already been cancelled because of the virus.)

Wash your hands often and properly – with soap, making sure you wash nails and between the fingers.

Many people now are avoiding any contact with other people, including shaking hands. So, it would seem as if transmission is mainly through touch. Face masks don't help unless you are treating a family member who has already contracted the disease.

If you have symptoms of the coronavirus, it is advised that you self-isolate, keeping at home for two weeks. This helps to reduce the spread. As I stated, there is no medicine which is going to help, so just stay at home and let your immune system do the work.

WEATHER

Min Temp	Max Temp
15°C (59)	26°C (79)

Rain ...

EXCHANGE RATES

US\$1	K15.30
	P11.12
	Nam\$15.55
	Zim\$31.50

A SMILE



Have a good two weeks

Gill

