

# The Livingstone Newsletter

8 September 2020

Dear All

Notice who visited my garden this week. The Indian myna. Four of them were strutting their stuff in my back garden. According to the bird book these birds are only to be found in South Africa. They were noticed in Zimbabwe a few years ago and are obviously spreading northwards. Originally from Asia, the birds were brought to South Africa in the early 1900s. They are aggressive towards our indigenous birds and are a total pest. But I don't suppose we can do much about them.

## LIVINGSTONE

### How Deep is that River? Peter Jones

Some people have wondered how deep the gorge is below the Victoria Falls. The Falls are 1 mile wide and an average peak is 500,000 cu m per minute. Considering the gorge itself at water level is about 40m wide it means that it is pretty deep. Muzza Trail, as a trainee on 27 November 1992 when the river is at its lowest annually, carried the depth finding equipment around each rapid and rowed it on the flat bits to measure everything and the deepest point was above Rapid #7 - 340 feet or 103 metres deep.

### Anne Nixon to Families from Victoria Falls and Livingstone

#### Livingstone station



*Bhukhans*

JOLLYBOYS

## Zambezi River Authority gears up for community consultations on proposed 2 400 MW Batoka Gorge hydro scheme

Engineering News

The Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) is preparing to conduct disclosure meetings with communities in Zambia and Zimbabwe whose land or livelihoods could be affected by the construction of the proposed 2 400 MW Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES), a transboundary project located 47 km downstream of the Victoria Falls.

Jointly owned by the governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe, the ZRA operates and maintains the Kariba Dam Complex and is responsible for investigating and developing new dam sites on the Zambezi river. The bilateral organisation re-initiated a study of the BGHES project in 2014 and confirmed last year that potential developers had been shortlisted to build the project, which was first conceived in 1972.

Should it be developed, the \$4-billion BGHES scheme would include the following major components: a dam wall and reservoir, including a spillway; surface power houses, one on each side of the river; transmission lines, access roads and project townships in both Zambia and Zimbabwe; and ancillary infrastructure, such as quarries, spoils and batching areas.

In 2014, the ZRA engaged Environmental Resources Management (ERM), of South Africa, to carry out environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) studies for the development in line with Zambian and Zimbabwean legislation, as well as the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and the International Finance Corporation's performance standards regarding the compensation of project-affected persons. A draft ESIA report, which includes 'livelihood restoration plans', for communities that will be affected by the scheme, has been published and hard copies were delivered to traditional leaders of the host communities on March 3. Soft copy reports are also available on the ZRA's website. ERM tells Engineering News that no resettlement action plan has been developed, as only economic displacement will occur as a result of the project activities.

Based on the census and asset surveys conducted in 2019, the land acquisition required for construction of the Batoka South road and staff townships in Zambia and Zimbabwe will result in the "economic displacement" of some 467 households. Access to communal grazing land, ecosystem services and access routes for 210 households on 489 ha of land will be affected by the Zambia staff township, while 35 households on 705 ha of land will be impacted by the development of the Zimbabwe staff township.

Construction of the Batoka South access road would result in the loss of a total of 160 ha of agricultural fields, fencing, bush fences and protective wild trees in the 40 m road servitude and affect 222 households.

"The traditional authorities responsible for those areas will allocate alternative land for those affected by the construction of the Zambian and Zimbabwean staff townships and Batoka South access road," ERM reports.

Resettlement and/or livelihood restoration plans have not yet been developed for upstream water users, specifically tourism operators, as the filling of the BGHES reservoir is proposed for only 2027/28.

"These will only be undertaken at a later stage," ERM explains, adding that similar plans will also be undertaken for downstream water users, as well as communities affected by transmission lines and other BGHES-associated infrastructure. ...

On August 13, ZRA announced that it would be undertaking disclosure meetings with all stakeholders in the coming few months and explained that the initial schedule for conducting the meetings in March and April had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"At this stage, the exact date of ESIA finalisation is still uncertain," ERM says, adding that alternative engagement approaches are being considered.

Besides the resettlement plans, a separate ESIA has been prepared to assess the environmental impacts of the dam wall and impoundment, as well as the access roads and transmission lines.

These three ESIA's recommend mitigation measures associated with the impacts on the environment, EMR says.

The ZRA says its goal is to ensure that the livelihoods of project-affected households are better than they were before resettlement or the loss of other social facilities.

"The costs of these mitigatory measures, as determined by the consultants, will become part of the project costs with implementation of the measures being mandatory," it adds.



*G: China is one of the contractors bidding for the construction. China has developed dam after dam to control water flow in its country. Over the past few months, town after town, farmland after farmland, have been flooded in China as the natural flow of the water had been clogged up by these dams. This is climate change.*



*America is another contractor and over the past years has been removing dams and putting the rivers back to how they should be.*



*I don't blame the contractors for bidding on the construction because they are just out to make money and 'to hell' with the consequences. We need caring voices all over the world to speak out. We need to leave our rivers alone and find alternative sources of energy.*

*For me, the Batoka Dam is not development, it is a disaster waiting to happen.*

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## **Victoria Falls Bits and Blogs**

**Kazungula crossing on the Zambezi (Botswana/Zambia) - date unknown (any educated guesses based on vehicle?)**

*G: The photograph is taken on the Botswana side. The tree is the tree which gives Kazungula its name - a sausage tree - muzungula, in Lozi. It fell down a long time ago.*



*Ferry across Zambezi at Kazungula. The Muzungula tree marks the spot where Livingstone first sighted the Zambezi. Photo: Fred Duckworth*

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## In the Old Days

*As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, I am reading all about Zambia's past history. Below is how life was around 1900.*

Before the coming of Zambia as we know it today, the people lived either under a dominant chief or lived in small family units. Those who lived under a chief were required to pay 'tribute'. Tribute could be items or labour. Items included copper, cattle, beer, honey. All items brought to the chief as tribute would then be distributed to other regions after the chief had taken all he needed. It was all at the discretion of the chief.

Trade items also included elephant tusks. At first the chief required the hunter to give one elephant tusk to the chief and could keep one for himself. As elephant tusks became more valuable, some chiefs decided that they would take both elephant tusks. There was one story about a chief who found that one of his men in an outlying district had sold an elephant tusk to a trader in order to buy metal hoes. Up until that time, the man had been struggling to dig his fields with wooden hoes. When the chief found out, he threatened to have the man killed because he had broken the law, even though he had received many metal hoes from another district as part of tribute. On reflection, however, he did send metal hoes to the farmer.

Labour was often required for road clearance or digging of canals. Hundreds of men were required to work for free and only given food while on the job and, when the job was finished, were sent home with nothing.

The chief generally came from a royal line. Quite often the powerful men behind the throne wanted power but, because of their belief that only men of the royal line could be chief, they tended to place a man on the throne who could be manipulated. The chief was kept happy with many clothes and adornments of beads, feathers and copper bangles. One chief found it difficult to move around, he was so encumbered by all these signs of importance.

It was also not accepted that the ordinary man could have better crops than his neighbour. If it did happen, witchcraft was suspected and the man could be killed. The only people who could display wealth was the chief and his entourage as it was seen as 'god-given'.

For all those people who lived in the bush and had no contact with a chief, their lives went on as they had always done, living from season to season and hoping for good rains and a good harvest. Sometimes the rain failed and they starved. Occasionally a plague of locusts would come and eat all their crops and they would starve. Sometimes an invading army of the chief would come and steal all their food and again they would starve.

Life was tough 120 years ago.

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## Zesco Limited

Hello,

1. Current power deficit is 810 megawatts.
2. Kafue Gorge Lower 750MW comes on board with two machines this year 2020. Which means that 300 megawatts will be integrated into the National grid this year.
3. Looking forward to another 450 megawatts to be integrated into the National grid next year to make a complete Kafue Gorge Lower 750MW megawatts.
4. Kafue Gorge Lower has five machines carrying 150 megawatts each.
5. 600 megawatts solar project by Power China to be integrated next year in three Districts namely Chirundu, Siavonga and Chibombo.

Henry Kapata  
Spokesperson

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## North Luangwa Conservation Project

Here are a few amazing images from the WalkLuangwa2020 which ended last week. Sadly, the goal was not reached but you can still donate through the following link to help to make a difference: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkluangwa2020](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkluangwa2020)

Photos taken by @EdwardSelfePhotoSafaris , highlighting the raw beauty of the Luangwa Valley and the importance of protecting this natural resource.



## Peace Parks Foundation

We struck water!

Two new boreholes were successfully drilled and fitted out in the northeastern section of Sioma Ngwezi National Park that lies within the Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. They will be used to augment water levels in existing natural pans in an area earmarked for future rewilding and tourism development.



## Bruce Woods to A Different Wild Rehabilitation Sanctuary

Say hello to our latest rescue.

A black sparrowhawk, sometimes known as the black goshawk or great sparrowhawk, is the largest African member of the genus *Accipiter*. Length: 40 – 54 cm. Wingspan: 77 – 100 cm. Scientific name: *Accipiter melanoleucus*. Mass: Female: 750 – 980 g, Male: 450 – 650 g

Collected today and just given her stresspack, found by Munene Kermer in Livingstone after it had been hit by a vehicle, we jumped into action as soon as we heard, informed Ashish Patel and Innocent Billy Ng'Ombwa and got the go ahead from DNPW, then the amazing team at ProFlight saved the day by providing a flight for her, and gave her VIP treatment all the way to Lusaka.



Huge thanks to everyone that assisted with this rescue, we couldn't have done it without you.

Any contributions will make such a difference in supporting her recovery. Please donate if you can.

## Zambia Primate Project

NEW LIFE!!! Great news from our release team in Kafue National Park. Last week Kanuke gave birth - and mother and baby are doing really well. Kanuke is the wild female that joined the release troop back in April. She is the second wild monkey to join our troop after the male Namenda joined and became troop leader on day 1. It is so heartening to see the troop doing so well back in the wild and a new birth is indicative of this. We are supplementing the release troop's diet currently as they move into the dry season as wild foods are more scarce and their release area has suffered from 'early burning'. It is good to see the troop seeking out and finding some really tasty wild fruits though - it looks like they are wearing lipstick!!!



## Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust

We were successful this morning in removing a wire snare from around the neck of this adult male buffalo in Victoria Falls National Park. Fortunately the wire had not cut in and he will make a full recovery. We thank Zambezi Horse Safaris and Wild Horizons for assisting with the snare removal and conservation of the biodiversity around Victoria Falls.



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## Zimbabwe finds 10 more dead elephants, suspects bacteria

Phys.org

Zimbabwe wildlife authorities on Thursday said they suspect ten more elephants succumbed to a bacterial infection that killed 12 young pachyderms last week.

The latest carcasses were discovered on Tuesday and Wednesday near the northwestern Pandamasuwe Forest, where the previous 12 were found.

"We now have a total of 22 elephants that have died," parks and wildlife authority spokesman Tinashe Farawo told AFP on Thursday.

"We have taken samples for testing but we suspect they died from the same cause as the 12 that were found dead last week."

Laboratory results suggest the first dozen—discovered between Hwange National Park and the resort town of Victoria Falls—were killed by a bacteria.

Park authorities believe the elephants, aged between two and six, were too short to eat leaves from treetops and may have ingested the bacteria by grazing on infected plants.

They ruled out poaching because the animals were found with their tusks intact.

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## COAL MINING IN HWANGE

Our Rhino Monitoring team recently found some Chinese in Hwange Park – we managed to ascertain they were drilling core samples for coal. Parks arrested them and turned them over to the Police. However, they soon reappeared with a permit giving them the right to carry on in the Park with exploratory drilling. They did this without any consultation with the Area Manager and seem to feel they have a right to go wherever they like to.

We followed up on this and discovered the Government has allocated two coal mining concessions in the middle of Sinamatella and Robins!. The mining concessions are Special Grants which apparently can only be issued by the President, and both been granted to Chinese companies.

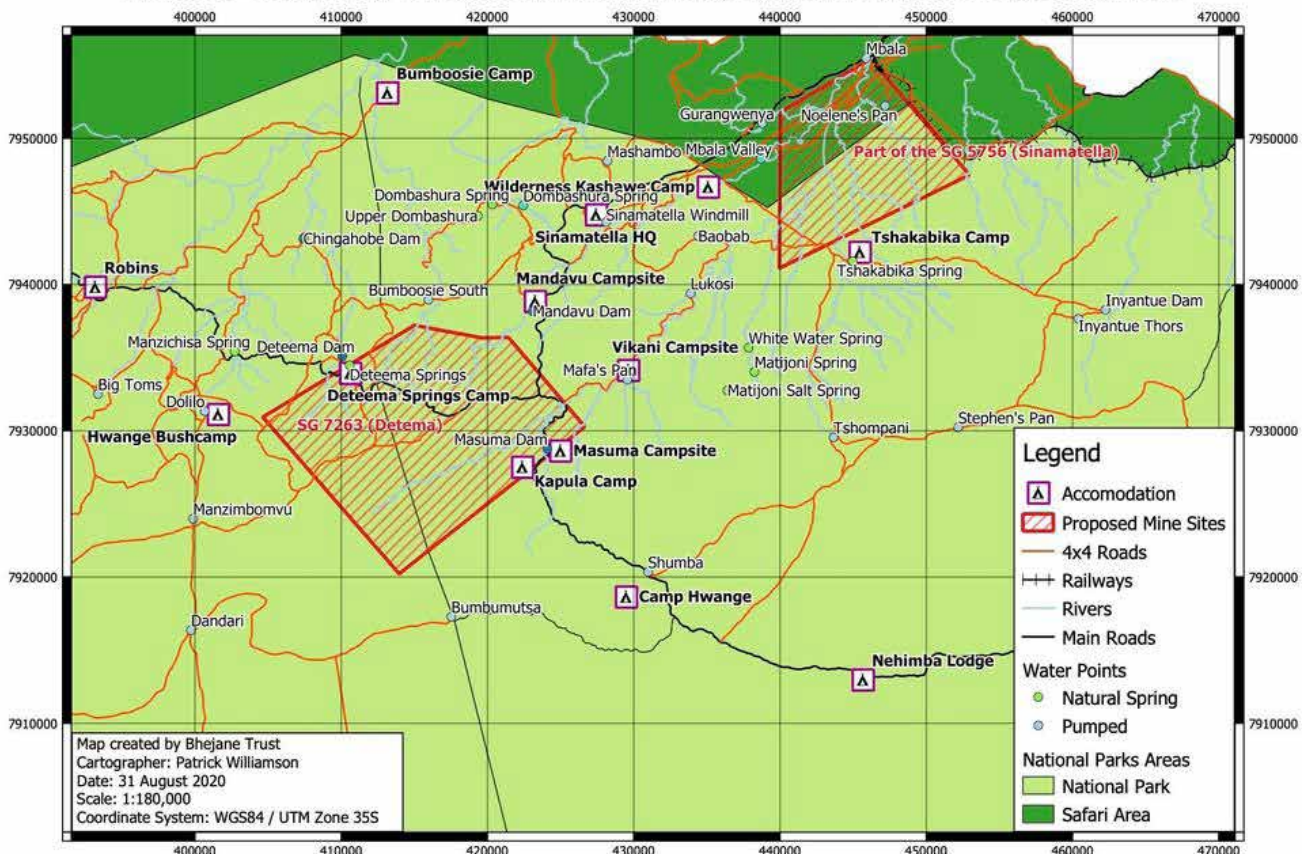
A company called SustiGlobal have subsequently sent us Stakeholders Questionnaire forms One map shows the coal mining concession SG7263 that incorporates Deteema Dam and Masuma Dam, out to a company called Afrochine Energy of the Tsingashan Group of China. We are not certain to whom else the questionnaire have been sent, and the questionnaires are not dated. The questionnaires are for an EIA for the concessions but only to cover the initial exploratory drilling and opening of roads, building camps, etc. It appears the concession was promulgated in late 2019 The other concession granted, SG 5756 to the Zimbabwe Zhongxin Coal Mining Group has also contracted SustiGlobal to do an EIA, again with an undated Stakeholders Questionnaire, and again to cover the initial exploratory drilling and opening of roads, building camps, etc. However, they have started exploratory work in the Park, so it is not sure if an EIA permit has been granted or not.

Bhejane Trust has replied to the questionnaire and waits to hear back from SustiGlobal. We will be ready to support National parks where required.

*G: As soon as this news hit social media, it was repeated all over the world. There is huge concern. Anyone who has travelled the road to Sinamatella from the VicFalls-Bulawayo Road knows what coal mining looks like. It is a very dirty and environmentally destructive business.*

*The latest news is that a Court Injunction has been filed. The battle begins.*

**Proposed Coal Mining Concessions within Hwange National Park and Deka Safari Area**





## Road Development Agency

### LATEST IMAGE OF THE KAZUNGULA BRIDGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

*G: Although this is from Zambia, I have put it in the Botswana section because it is Botswana kept the project alive ...*



## MPANDAMATENGA c. 1883

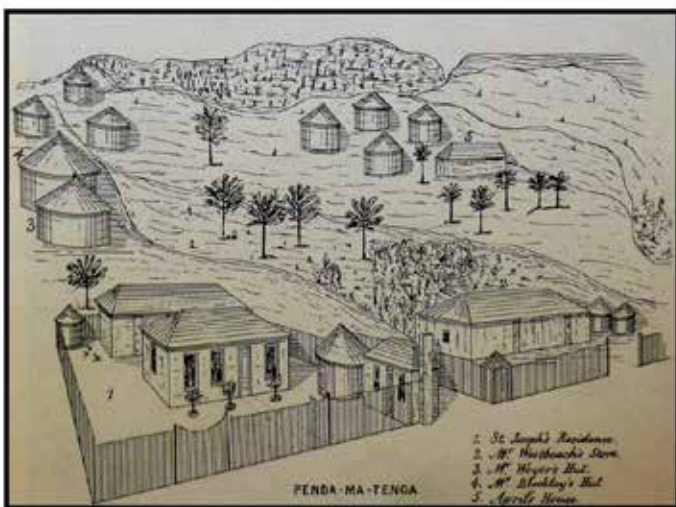
Jeff Ramsay

Saturday's mystery sketch is of the Mpandamatenga trading store and Jesuit Mission station. George Copp Westbeeck (1844-88) established his principal trading post at Mpandamatenga in 1871 which remained his primary base until his death and otherwise remained the principal commercial centre in the region until it was eclipsed by the construction of the rail and rail bridge at Victoria Falls/Mosioathunya. It is believed that Westbeeck chose the site due to the water flow of the Matetsi river, low prevalence of malaria and tsetse fly and the fact that it was at the crossroads of the Malozi (Barotse), Amandebele and Bangwato Kingdoms.

From Mpandamaenga Westbeeck established additional trading posts into Bulozhi at Leshoma, Kazungula, Impalera Island and Sesheke. Westbeeck further pioneered the ferry service across the Zambezi at Kazungula, and the Hunters Road between Kazungula and Tati, whose alignment today defines our border with Zimbabwe. Additional roads were established during the era linking Pandamatenga to Shoshong in the south and Mosioathunya and the Ila-Tonga country in the north.

The Jesuit Mission was active at Mpandamatenga from 1880 to 1885.

The name Mpandamatenga may be derived from an earlier elephant hunter named Mutenga who used the spot in a grove of Mpanda trees (*Lonchocarpus capassa* or rain tree) near the source of the Matetsi river as his temporary hunting base.



Courtesy of National Archives of Zimbabwe; the layout of the small settlement of Pandamatenga



Courtesy of National Archives of Zimbabwe; Westbeeck's store in 1891

**TONGABEZI**

**SPAR** 



## WAR - Wildlife At Risk International - Africa

Under the shade of parental wings.  
An ostrich family in Etosha National Park, Namibia.

Photo: Jaap van der Velden



## Bernd Otto Grahl to Illegal Fishing Activities in Namibia

During the last 3 months the Sikunga Fish Guards took out 283 illegal nets from the Zambezi River! The nets had a total length of 56.6 km! 5 people were arrested and 7 Makorro were confiscated. Police and fisheries are joining the patrolling rounds from time to time. Three incidents were recorded where the Fish Guards received resistance from the illegal fishing guys.



## Namib Trees

The south of Namibia is experiencing the best flowering season in a decade. After 10 years of almost no rain and no flowers, the hills and plains around Aus are once again covered with masses of purple and yellow blooms. One of our Namib Trees members was lucky enough to witness this beautiful scenery.



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Lesley-Anne Mulder

### JUST IN FROM NAMIBIA:

Tourism minister Pohamba Shifeta has announced that the borders will open from 1 September 2020, clearing the way for international tourists to once again visit NAMIBIA. Among the salient points to highlight are that international tourists arriving in Namibia will be required to represent a 72-hour negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result. President Hage Geingob said tourists would not be subjected to mandatory quarantine. "They will, however, be required to remain at their first destination in the country for a period of seven days," Shifeta says

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## Namibia Economist

Namibia and Botswana are set to sign an agreement to jointly develop a solar project of up to 5,000 megawatts capacity, officials said last week Friday.

The Mines and Energy Minister Tom Alweendo said the two countries have partnered with Power Africa, a U.S. government entity that aims to boost electricity investment in Africa, to help structure the deal.

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## Peace Parks Foundation

Happy Birthday to Ponta do Ouro Partial Marine Reserve that turns 11 today! Ponta is the Mozambique component of Africa's first marine transfrontier conservation area, supported by Peace Parks since 2009 to protect some of the world's most exquisite transfrontier coastal and aquatic treasures. Joining in the celebrations were these two hippos that wandered over from South Africa for a quick swim yesterday.

After giving them some time to enjoy the waters, the team from Ponta do Ouro made sure that the two were nudged back to their own habitat across the border, to ensure the safety of the people at Ponta beach, as well as keep the hippos out of harm's way.



## OTHER STUFF

### COVID-19 Stats as at 8 Sept (WHO)

| Country      | Total confirmed cases | Total deaths |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Zambia       | 12,776                | 295          |
| Zimbabwe     | 6,837                 | 206          |
| Botswana     | 2,002                 | 8            |
| Namibia      | 8,685                 | 89           |
| Mozambique   | 4,444                 | 27           |
| Malawi       | 5,614                 | 175          |
| Angola       | 2,965                 | 117          |
| Tanzania     |                       |              |
| DRC          | 10,209                | 260          |
| South Africa | 638,517               | 14,889       |

### COVID-19 Stats as at 16 August (WHO)

| Country      | Total confirmed cases | Total deaths |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Zambia       | 9,186                 | 260          |
| Zimbabwe     | 5,176                 | 130          |
| Botswana     | 1,214                 | 3            |
| Namibia      | 3,907                 | 35           |
| Mozambique   | 2,791                 | 19           |
| Malawi       | 3,709                 | 103          |
| Angola       | 1,879                 | 86           |
| Tanzania     |                       |              |
| DRC          | 9,637                 | 239          |
| South Africa | 583,653               | 11,677       |

## WEATHER

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Min Temp  | Max Temp  |
| 17°C (63) | 32°C (90) |

## EXCHANGE RATES

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| US\$1 | K19.60      |
|       | P11.53      |
|       | Nam\$16.75  |
|       | Zim\$83-101 |

## SMILES



Have a safe maybe-two-three-four weeks

Gill

