

ISSUE 11 · DECEMBER 2020

Z.P.G.A.

Official Newsletter of the Zimbabwean Professional
Guides Association





Changing the Association Name

BY LANCE NESBITT

We the Executive Committee are both pleased and proud to announce the outcome of our Special General Meeting held yesterday, 5th November 2020.

The outcome of the voting was that our Association will change its name to the Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association and shortened to Z.P.G.A. where applicable.

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to you for your support through out this process.

The new name change is definitely designed to improve our Associations overall image, quality and professionalism, mostly abroad for the good of all our Members and especially our conservation efforts.

As an Association we now enjoy the support of a lawyer and open dialog with many other prominent bodies. The new name will not change the way we conduct our business, if anything the Association is now stronger as a result and will continue to support Hunters and Hunting for the right reasons.

Zimbabwe is already known to have the best Professional Qualifications in Africa due to our continuing high ethical, sustainable and legal standards as well as conduct. It is common knowledge that most disputes that affect our industry negatively are orchestrated by those that are non-members that simply do not want to do what is right for our wild life or country.

Further as an association we are unique with being one organisation with both the consumptive and non-consumptive Members which enhances our overall conservation efforts.

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Pachydactylus punctatus

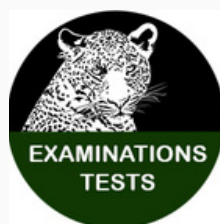
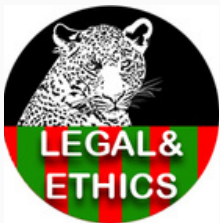
Name Change

Our Z.P.H.G.A. Brand has grown significantly over the last 10 years and we feel the need to continue to push this as an initiative and primary focus. We are not going to stop growing the Brand that has been built on hard work and passion for our industry, so with this in mind, we are behind our brand, a brand that everyone within our industry, locally and abroad should know and be familiar with.

Our brand has not changed, nor our Ethics or our commitment to Conservation, what we want to see now is the new logo being hosted on EVERY members web and social media pages and a bumper sticker on every Members vehicle.

This is the beginning, ahead of us there is an incredible amount of work still to be done. Next on the line of "to do" items is our web site upgrade, currently under construction but we hope to have that up and running in the very near future.

Lance NESBITT
Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association (Z.P.G.A.)
Chairman



"People Who Are Crazy Enough To Think They Can Change The World, Are The Ones Who Do." – Rob Siltanen"

Opisthophthalmus carinatus
Under UV Light





Support for when things go wrong

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

When out in the field are you confident someone has your back should anything go wrong? Here are two Companies and supporters of Z.P.H.G.A. - please get in touch with them ahead of next years season and ENSURE you are covered!!



NEW FOR ZIMBABWE



Remote Rescue Package

WHAT DO WE OFFER?

- 24h air and road ambulance evacuation from any area of Zimbabwe.
- Fixed wing ICU, rescue helicopter, large fleet of ALS road ambulance available.
- 24 hour Doctors, Flight Nurses and Paramedics.
- PACKAGES : Family, Individual, Corporate, Safari Camps, Employees, Tourists, Diplomats, Expatriots, Dangerous sports.
- LOCAL or REGIONAL COVER.
- Starting at \$18 per person per month!!
- NO PRE AUTHORISATION DELAYS


CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

remoterescue@ace-ambulance.com

[+263 782 999 901/2/3/4](tel:+263782999901234)

www.ace-ambulance.com





8 Dundee Drive, Famona, Bulawayo
P O Box FM 509, Famona, Bulawayo
242795, 242796
242797, 247214
242683

SCHEDULE OF COVER

SCHEDULE A - PERSONAL ACCIDENT COVER
ON INSURED
MEMBERS AS PER ATTACHED LIST

COVER

DEATH

PERMANENT DISABLEMENT

*TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABLEMENT

MEDICAL EXPENSES

LIMITS

40,000

40,000

1,000

NOT REQUIRED

REMARKS

COVER EXTENDS TO INCLUDE
PROFESSIONAL HUNTING
INCLUDING THE BIG FIVE

* WEEKLY BENEFIT UP TO 52 WEEKS

FIXED PREMIUM US\$600 PER ANNUM

"Get in touch with your Committee today and find out how you can assist grow our association, we are as strong as our members! "

"Membership discounted rates on production of valid Z.P.G.A. Members Card"

Participating Companies include:

Pro 4x4
The Orange Elephant
Masters Hardware (INCO)
Tiger Wheel & Tyre
Barons
SAF Bar
TCI
Widency Upholstery
Courtney Boot Company

If you would like to see your Company name listed here please contact
secretary@zpga.org



Z.P.G.A. Diary

DECEMBER 2020

- Friday 4th, Executive Committee Meeting (Victoria Falls)
- Saturday 5th A.G.M. & Safari Dinner

FEBRUARY 2021

- Tuesday 2nd: Final date for Learners Registration
- 12th -18th L.P.H. Course Mukanga Dande North
- Sunday 21st: Shooting Proficiency (#1 Harare)
- Monday 22nd: Harare Oral Interviews
- Tuesday 23rd: Harare Learners Exams
- Wednesday 24th: Harare Learners Exams
- Thursday 25th: Marking of papers

MAY 2021

- Monday 3th - Wednesday 5th: Lower Zambezi Canoe Proficiency
- Sunday 30th: Shooting Proficiency (#2 Harare)

SEPTEMBER 2021

- Friday 10th: Last date for Learners Registration
- Sunday 19th: Shooting Proficiency (#3 Harare)
- Monday 20th: Bulawayo Oral Interviews
- Tuesday 21st: Bulawayo Learners Exams
- Wednesday 22nd: Bulawayo Learners Exams
- Thursday 23rd Marking of Papers

NOVEMBER 2021

- 1st -7th Proficiency Exam

Ethics Are Everything!

**BOOTS, HAY BALES
& JEANS!**
Victoria Falls Jump Up!

- Theme - Boots & Jeans
- Venue - Lookout Cafe
- Price - US\$30 per cover
(Tables of 10 available)

**DECEMBER
05th
18:00**

**FOR RSVP AND TICKET
PURCHASING PLEASE EMAIL
zphga1@gmail.com**

**Z.P.G.A. AGM
VICTORIA FALLS
SAFARI LODGE**

**DATE: SATURDAY 5TH
DECEMBER 2020
VENUE: VICTORIA FALLS
SAFARI LODGE
TIME: 07:30 SHARP
MORNING TEA AND
LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
AT \$20 PER PERSON
ENDS 16:00
FOLLOWED BY**

**SAFARI SOIREE
LOOKOUT CAFE**

**VENUE: LOOKOUT CAFE
TIME: 18:00
THEME: BOOTS & JEANS**



Membership Status:

It's a collaborative effort

It is true to say that any association is only as good as its Membership. Recently there has been a huge drive and push to on-boarding new members. Our October 2020 figures were at 273 members, we have had a growth of 7 members taking us to 280 and there are a number of new members that have completed the application process but will only be added once the vetting process has been completed.

Membership Grouping	Number
FULL PH	140
FULL PH (RESTRICTION)	4
FULL PG	39
LEARNER PROFESSIONAL HUNTER	60
ASSOCIATE	30
CUBS	7

Jenny has sent out the Membership Invoices to all Members in respect of the 2021 membership. We ask that ALL of you sign up at least one new member for 2021, remembering the Z.P.G.A. year runs from 1st October through to the 30th September, you can still do your bit and convince a friend of the benefits of joining up!"

There are still a number of Members that have not signed the Guides Code of conduct nor sent us in the additional information we require for each member. We will be sending out individual email chasers and reminders so that we can get this concluded, THANK YOU to all those that have sent in information already. Please support this process as it can be quick and easy and indeed it should be.

There is still a long way to go in terms of membership and we would like to encourage every member to step up in this regard, please encourage and grow our Association.

"CAN YOU REALLY AFFORD NOT
TO BE A MEMBER?"



Picture by Craig GREER
www.craiggreer.com

Falconry in Zimbabwe

BY REG QUERL

The Zimbabwe Falconry Club was formalised in the late 60s. It is an organisation that is the custodian of Falconry in Zimbabwe. It has the blessing and support of National Parks and they do the issuing of licences at the recommendation of the club. The club is a non-profit organisation who really are the watchdogs of this ancient and meaningful sport.

In order to become a falconer there is a process that needs to be followed. Initially it is recommended that one becomes a member of the club, by simply paying a small subscription. You would then be apprenticed to a recognised falconer and you would go about getting a non-protected bird species to fly. Birds that would fall into this category are African Goshawks, Gabar Goshawks and Little Spars. Lizard buzzards and Chanting Goshawks have also been used at this introductory level. That is the first process, and once that bird is flying /hunting well and returning comfortably to the owner, one can apply for a grading.

An A or B grading would allow a falconer to fly a protected bird, mostly Sparrowhawks, African Hawk Eagles or a Lanner Falcon being the most common. With this development one also needs to be in possession of a working dog and have a pigeon loft.

Once a level of competency has been achieved with a B grade bird, one can apply to fly an A grade bird, which really is the Peregrine Falcon and some of the bigger eagles. This process can take as little or as long as the falconer wishes and a group of accomplished falconers would want to see the falconer's B grade bird flying and hunting for itself and satisfy the examiners that the person is competent.

"The group of falconers that exist in our country is very small but it has to be said that every falconer is also the greatest conservationist of birds of prey in our country".

There are many well established professional hunters who started as falconers as schoolboys and thereafter. Names that come to mind are Gomez (Derek)Adams, Robbie Oostindien, Ivan Carter to name a few. Some of the early falconers in Zimbabwe include Alan Savoury, Rudi Geisswein, Ron Hartley and Ron Thompson.

The falconers in our country have also done a large amount of research in all sorts of areas. One of the first projects to be undertaken by the Zimbabwe falconers was in connection with the use of DDT for the control of Tsetse fly in the Zambezi Valley and what it did to the raptor population. The tests were done on African Goshawks and Fish Eagles, where eggshells were collected from nest sites and tested for their DDT content.

Z.P.G.A. Membership

"An affiliation that holds and implements distinguished standards, corroborates our members legitimacy and evidences a Professional qualification over and above the Professional licence held, promotes a Professional culture of responsibility, honesty and integrity."



Peregrine Falcon
By Reg QUERL



Picture by Craig GREER
www.craiggreer.com

Zimbabwe Falconry Continued:

The Peregrine Fund of America also embraced the falconers in Zimbabwe and a good deal of research was done on Peregrines and Taita falcons. The Peregrine Fund has been responsible for the re-establishment of Peregrines in America and in many other parts of the world. The greatest thing about the Peregrine is of course that it exists in one form or another on every continent and so is a fantastic environmental indicator.

Peregrines have been bred in captivity by Zimbabwe falconers since the late 70s, and many of those birds have been returned to the wild. I bred a Taita falcon in captivity which was destined for captive breeding but unfortunately that never happened.

I personally have flown birds since 1970 and they have ranged from a Lizard Buzzard to a Peregrine and everything in between, including some eagles. I have always had a Black Sparrowhawk in my armoury and have had a pair lay eggs in captivity.

I have been a past president of the Zimbabwe Club and represented our country in Amarillo Texas at one their field meets, as well as been to Abu Dhabi to the World Falconry Festival. The current president of the club is Andre Groenewald and Kevin Wicks, who does all the legwork and is the secretary.

Falconry in my humble opinion, also teaches people several life lessons. There is the important lesson of caring for something else in the world that is important. Once you have seen a Peregrine fly you get to understand the real powers of flight. In falconry, one has to make decisions i.e. the decision to turn the bird loose for the first time is crucial.

You have to build a relationship with the bird and there is no negative reinforcement. You are always responsible for the outcomes and there is no one to blame but yourself.

It is also exacting, time consuming and enormously rewarding, but also heart breaking on occasions.

There is risk and reward every day, as one borrows a bird from the wild to work with. You are doing exactly what they would do in the wild, for an enjoyable and rewarding outcome.

In my retirement I find myself living at Wildlife Encounter outside Victoria Falls. It is a wonderful setting where I am able to continue my passion in working with birds of prey and educating the public on these magnificent creatures.

I am doing some falconry demonstrations for the public as well as continuing to fly my birds in a hunting scenario. I have my breeding peregrines in aviaries here and hope they will settle well and continue to breed, as they have in past years.

The practice is thousands of years old. In medieval times, seemingly every social rank had a bird. Emperors flew eagles and vultures; kings flew gyrfalcons; and ladies flew merlins, a species favored by Mary, Queen of Scots, in the 16th century.



Peregrine Falcon
By Reg QUERL



Z.P.G.A. Thank you's

OUR SUPPORTERS ARE OUR LIFE LINE

Stepping up a gear for the A.G.M. and Safari Dinner

We have had an amazing gift from Painted Wolf Wines in the form of donated table wines for our end of year safari dinner. This donation has been facilitated through The Stable Winery in Harare. The very exciting thing about Painted Wolf Wines is that for every bottle sold a donation goes back to conservation, take a tour around their web page and check it out for yourself.

<https://www.paintedwolfwines.com/>



AROUND THE WORLD SUPPORT

Flying the flag in support of Guides Against Poaching

Special mention to twins - Eddie and Cerys SMITH from London who donated their pocket money towards the purchase of four Motorola radios which will be used by the G.A.P. initiative. As a result of both Eddie and Cerys efforts new enthusiasm has been given to the Z.P.G.A. Cubs initiative spearheaded by Dean KENDALL, a worthy cause to get behind for all of your children.

For further information please contact Jen Van Den BERGH and get your children signed up!!



LONDON ENGLAND



SEATTLE USA



BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE



MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

'The smell of a wine is often referred to as its "nose."

Words used to describe it are: Aroma -- the perfume of a wine, derived from the grape species out of which it is made.

The aroma should convey a typical varietal nose. Bouquet - the complex smell arising with maturity in good wine'



Z.P.G.A. Thank you's Continued...

OUR SUPPORTERS ARE OUR LIFE LINE

Dete Animal Rescue Trust (D.A.R.T.)

A huge thanks to Paul De Montille, a Member of Z.P.G.A., through D.A.R.T. has been at it again! A baby elephant got caught in a snare that had cut deep and needed assistance, which meant darting and of course a protective mother would have caused problems if she too had not been put to sleep.

Special thanks goes to Terry ANDERS for providing the safety back up during the darting and Joel from Ivory & Khulu Lodges whom raised the call for assistance.

We are sure there are many stories such as these that are happening around Zimbabwe, please send in your stories of how YOU have helped out wildlife along with pictures for our next publication.

Send all messages to John LAING (marketing@zpga.org) or on WhatsApp to +263 71 261 3399

Z.P.G.A.

"The Best Way To Get Started Is To Quit Talking And Begin Doing"



Angelica NCUBE
Shearwater



November Proficiency

Z.P.G.A. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL PARKS

Our November 2020 Proficiency was conducted on Matetsi Unit one where seven candidates prepared to impress our Z.P.G.A. examiners, no easy task considering the examiners in attendance, Dean Kendall, Dave Carson, & Rob Lurie.

It is often miss understood that, but important to note that a L.P.H. hereafter referred to as a Driving Guide, may in fact hold his/her license indefinitely and therefore referring to your Driving Guide as a learner is in fact not necessarily correct, a Driving Guide may have ten years' experience and therefore is not a learner and it may be a matter of the Driving Guide choosing not to progress to the next level much the same as not all doctors want to progress to being a surgeon.

A Driving Guide that intends on becoming a Walking Guide will undertake numerous additional courses & exams in first aid, shooting, some with be of a theoretical nature some of a practical nature and of course what the Zimbabweans Guides are known for..."Practical hands on experience in the African Bush" before the Driving Guides are able to undertake an arduous week long practical examination.

During the exam, the prospective candidates are expected to set up their own camp and are examined on everything about the outdoors with particular emphasis on bush lore, track identification and tracking, vertebrates, invertebrates, osteology, vegetation, photography, astronomy, conservation and eco-tourism, advanced first aid, shooting, rifle handling and safety.

The Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association is an intrical part of the examination framework that enables Hunting Guides & Walking Guides to work together in helping the department of National Parks in all aspects of the examination process and to help maintain and better the exceptionally high standards expected by and from our Zimbabwean guests.

**"The Pessimist Sees
Difficulty In Every
Opportunity. The Optimist
Sees Opportunity In Every
Difficulty." – Winston
Churchill**



**Chris PAKENHAM
checking results**



EXCELLENT NEWS FOR CONSERVATION

SPEAK OUT FOR ANIMALS (S.O.F.A.)

We are happy to inform you that on the 12th of November 2020, we, as Speak Out for Animals (SOFA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). We are now empowered to perform the following:

- Prosecute any and Every wildlife and environmental case in different courts and regions.
- Provide Prosecutors free legal advice when handling wildlife cases.
- Facilitate the production of resources in the form of wildlife law reports, guides, posters and publications.
- Provide wildlife, environmental and any animal law literature.
- Provide the NPA with information on the status of wildlife crimes.

This is an exciting development for us and will shape the prosecution of animal cases in Zimbabwe. More of our work is on our website www.speakoutforanimals.org

Thank you for your support

Below is the Prosecutor General, Hon. Hodzi and Advocate E.V.Chinoda signing



“If You Are Working On Something That You Really Care About, You Don’t Have To Be Pushed. The Vision Pulls You.” – Steve Jobs

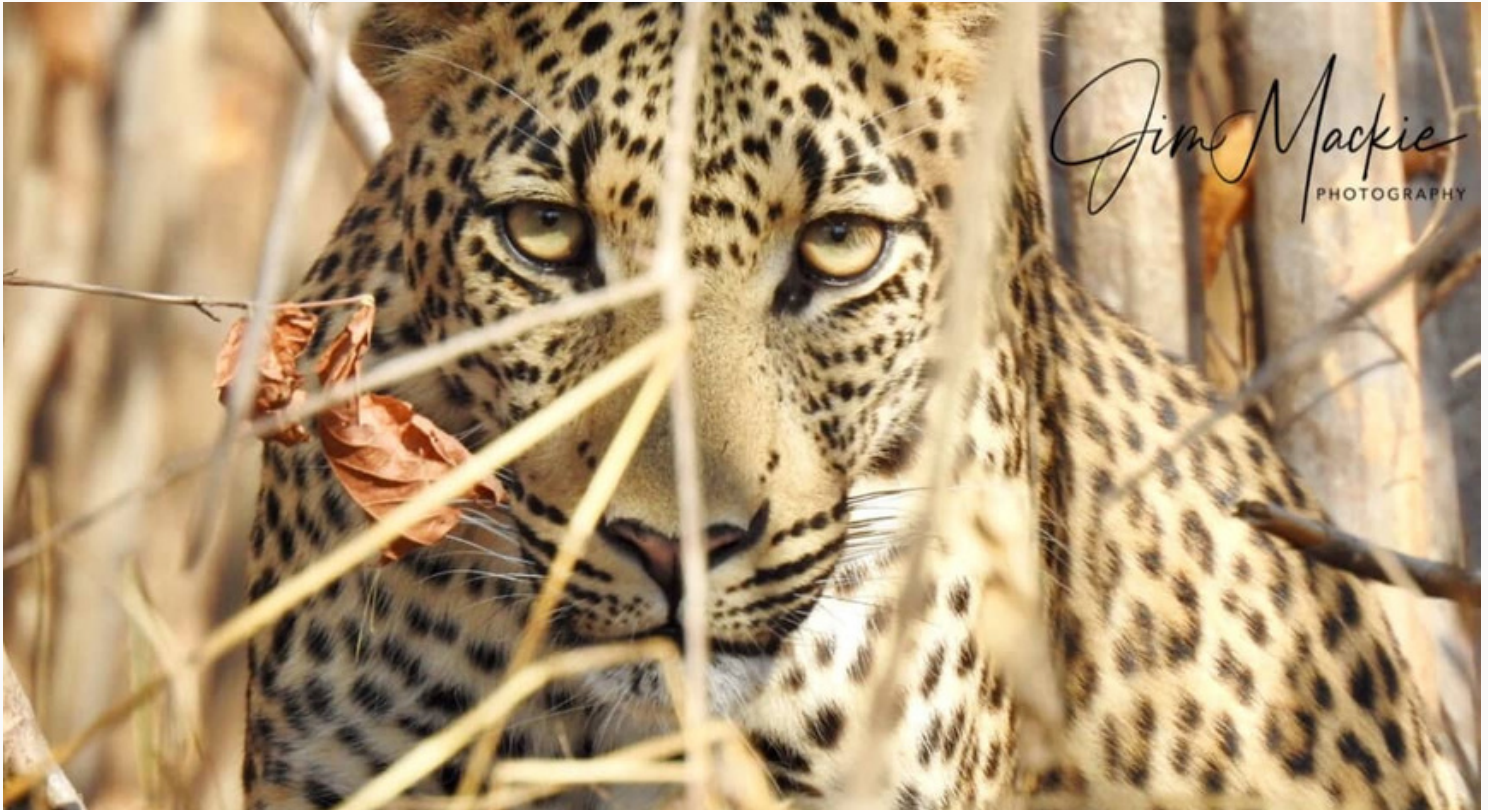


Lucky MAPHOSA

Members Photo Gallery:

A PICTURE CAN TELL A THOUSAND STORIES

All members are asked to send in their picture and articles of interest - Special thanks goes to Jim Mackey for these beautiful images, is the editor allowed to offer an opinion....my favorite image has to be the leopard!!



Members Photo Gallery:

A PICTURE CAN TELL A THOUSAND STORIES

Special thanks goes Jim MACKIE for his "seldom seen birds" pictures. It certainly takes a lot of patience to get up close to birds, let alone to get a half decent picture!





Contact Us:

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

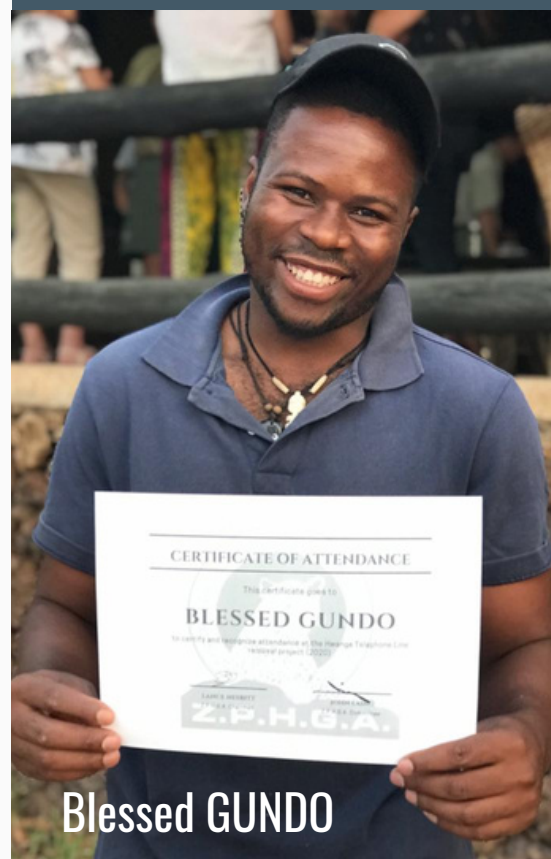
As the Z.P.G.A. your Committee are here to assist you, to enable us to answer your questions in a more timely manner please would you in the first instance contact Jenny VAN DEN BERGH on secretary@zpga.org and request to be put in touch with one of the following Committees whom will gladly assist you.

Below you will find the various Sub-Committees, a short description of what their role and function is and a contact email address should you want to get in touch.

- Z.P.G.A. – Chairman Mr Lance NESBITT - chairman@zpga.org
- Z.P.G.A. – Vice Chairman Mr Rob LURIE
- Z.P.G.A. – Legal & Ethics - legal@zpga.org
 - Guiding Code of Conduct
- Z.P.G.A. – Finance - finance@zpga.org
 - All payment issues
- Z.P.G.A. – Marketing & Advertising - marketing@zpga.org
 - All branding Membership Cards
 - Membership Discounted Rates Initiative
 - Fundraising
- Z.P.G.A. – Education Training - education@zpga.com
 - Study Packs
 - RIFA & SAVE Valley conservancy initiatives
 - Devils Gorge Conservancy training program
- Z.P.G.A. – Research - research@zpga.org
 - Ensure compliance with trophy off take in terms of ethics as well as sustainability
 - Cat ageing & Research
 - Attendance to & at quota setting workshops
 - Assistance with any NDF requirements that may come up from time to time
- Z.P.G.A. – Awards - awards@zpga.org
 - To discuss and agree what awards shall be current or pertinent to the industry
 - To look at and agree end of year award nominees
- Z.P.G.A. – A.G.M. & Dinner

We would also like to advise our Members that from time to time we understand mistakes do happen. If you find yourself in an impossible situation please do call your Committee and ask for advice. There have been several recent stories emerge and regarding members that “had they raised the issue” a completely different result may have been the order of the day.

"Your Association is here to assist you where ever possible, but do not get in touch with us just when you need help, keep us informed of all your projects and initiatives too, we are interested in your Conservation Programs"



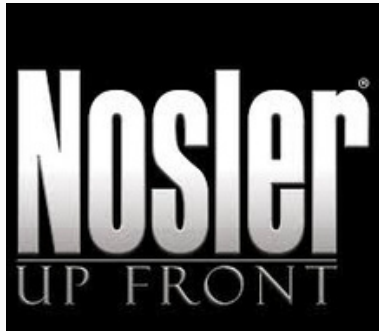
Blessed GUNDO

Z.P.G.A. Supporters Page:

WE THANK EVERYONE THAT SPONSORS AND SUPPORTS Z.P.G.A. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE SEEN ON OUR PAGE PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN ASSIST



AUTOWORLD®
ZIMBABWE



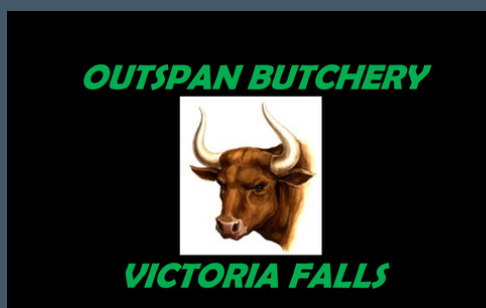

HARDWOODS FOR AFRICA
QUALITY TIMBER PRODUCTS



Z.P.G.A. 2020 AGM & Dinner USS500 Sponsors Page:

WE THANK EVERYONE THAT SPONSORED OUR Z.P.G.A. AGM & DINNER AND THOSE WHO HAVE MADE OUR EVENT A SUCCESS.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS WERE: MIKE BROMWHICH - SEAN NICOLLE - MIKE KARASSELLOS - MR MPISI - JONO BAKER - JAMIE NEWMAN - GAVIN FORD - ROB LURIE - JOHN LAING



Z.P.G.A. 2020 AGM & Dinner US\$500 and above Sponsors Page:

WE THANK EVERYONE THAT SPONSORED OUR Z.P.G.A. AGM & DINNER AND THOSE WHO HAVE MADE OUR EVENT A SUCCESS.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS WERE: LAWRENCE MYEMBA



THIERRY LABAT
S A F A R I S



The Malilangwe Trust



WILD HORIZONS
AFRICA'S GREATEST ADVENTURES



HANDMADE KNIVES



IGANYANA
TENTED CAMP

Matombo
Safari Camp

African
BUSH CAMPS



PATRICK MAVROS
HARARE LONDON MAURITIUS NAIROBI



Frosting on Safari
cake artistry