

ISSUE 9 · SEPTEMBER 2020

Z.P.H.G.A.

Official Newsletter of the Zimbabwean Professional
Hunters and Guides Association

Hwange Telephone Line Removal

BY JOHN LAING

It was brought to the Z.P.H.G.A.'s attention that there is over 80km of telephone poles and wire in the Hwange Area that wild animals are getting caught up in.

To give you some perspective, poles are spaced at 50m intervals and there are 40 heavy steel cables covered in copper strung between the poles. This equates to 2km of wire strung between two poles.

Traditional hunting methods employed the use of stripped bark or vines, materials that would decay after a while and animals had a fighting chance of breaking free.



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Telephone Line Removal Continued:

Today the common material to use is steel cable or wire. Once all our National Roads had fences preventing livestock wondering across the roads, a hazard to motorists, now the fence standards stand as a ghostly reminder a past history. Mining hoist cables are also commonly used to catch large game such as buffalo, hippo and elephant and quite commonly telegraph stay wires used, the five of so intertwined strands of steel cable



provide enough strength to hold a buffalo in place.

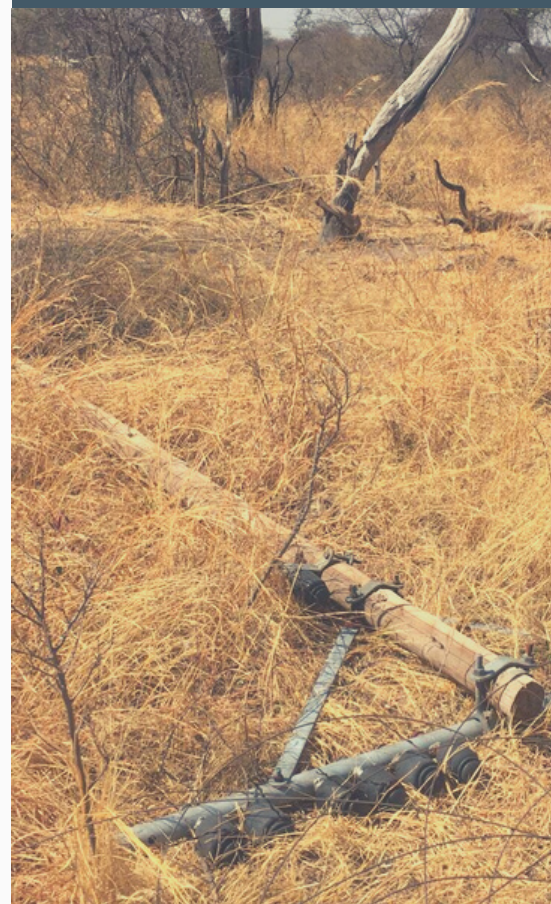
Around the Country telephone poles and their cables have been replaced with fiber optics buried deep underground. With no need of maintaining the infrastructure, stolen stay wires and no need to replace termite eaten poles the whole structure is now crashing down. Telephone wire now strewn along the ground and wildlife once again the center of the issue.

Much of the telephone wire runs through areas where poor communities reside and the temptation to pick up "free" wire and catch food to feed hungry families is just too big a temptation. COVID-19 has certainly not assisted the battle against poaching with the International tourism component at zero percent. HOWEVER there is light, domestic tourism has opened up once again and many of the Zimbabwean Camps are busy catering for Zimbabweans.

It was said sometime ago now that COVID would provide us all with a chance to re-set. In a way, opening up Zimbabwe to Zimbabweans and Zimbabweans all coming together to "clean up" our environment and ready ourselves for International Tourism once again is what is required.

If anyone is able to assist in this particular clean up effort please do contact Jenny Van den Bergh for assistance.

"An Association
brings together
like minded
people, a
collaborative
effort is what is
now required in
Hwange"





Teaching our L.P.H.'s during COVID

BY BLESSED MPOFU

I have no doubt that the Tourism Industry as we know it will be completely different to what we have become accustomed. As a Zimbabwean Guide, some of our attributes are to be creative, adaptive and energetic and lockdown has been difficult for us, I am sure we all feel the same, frustrated and missing the African bush life.



As a bush lover and co-founder of the Zambezi Guides Training group in Victoria Falls we now have over 40 Learners who every Saturday venture out and into the Zambezi National Park, activities have included snare sweeps and anti-poaching while learning as well as sharing their own knowledge and experiencing of the African wilderness with their peers. I am overwhelmed by the turn out and passion from everyone.

It is hoped that by creating a group like this, our Professional Guides have a platform to share our passion, knowledge and skills with our learners. This group is now helping newly licenced L.P.H.'s who need bush experience as well as L.P.H.'s preparing for their proficiency examinations.

I am hoping that in future we can reach out to the children from surrounding Victoria falls rural areas to educate and offer them the privilege to experience sustainable educational development programs.

The future of our wildlife, wild spaces and the tourism industry is going to be heavily dependent on rural communities surrounding our conservation zones.

"All over
Zimbabwe
Our Wildlife
requires Our
help"





Z.P.H.G.A. Diary

SEPTEMBER 2020

- Sunday 20th Shooting Proficiency #3
- Monday 21st Harare Oral Interviews
- Tuesday 22nd Harare Learners exams
- Wednesday 23rd Harare Learners exams
- Wednesday 30th Final date for Proficiency registration

OCTOBER 2020

- **Thur 1st - New Membership year starts**
- Mon 26th - Wed 28th Upper Zambezi Canoe Proficiency

NOVEMBER 2020

- 1st - 7th Proficiency Exam

DECEMBER 2020

- Sat 5th December A.G.M. & Safari Dinner



Photo credit goes to Sarah van der Merve

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

Participating Companies include:

- The Orange Elephant
- Masters Hardware (INCO)
- Tiger Wheel & Tyre
- Barons
- SAF Bar
- TCI
- Widency Upholstery

If you would like to see your
Company name listed here
please contact
zphga1@gmail.com



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 August 2020 figures were at 252 members, we have had a growth of 5 members taking us to 257 and there are a number of new members that have completed the application process but will only be added to the Group as of the 1st October to coincide with the beginning of the Z.P.H.G.A. financial year.

Z.P.H.G.A. GROUP	Z.P.H.G.A. MEMBERSHIP #
Associate Members	27
Cub Members	2
Full P.G.	37
Full P.H. & Restrictions	134
Learner Professional Hunters	57
<u>Total Members</u>	<u>257</u>

Jenny will soon be sending our 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.H.G.A. year runs from 1st October through to the 30th September, meaning you have till the 1st October to 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 this week. 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.

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

"As an existing fully paid up 2020 Z.P.H.G.A. Member, if you sign up a new Member between now and the 1st October 2020 we will offer you a 25% off your 2021 Membership renewal". Terms and conditions will apply, for further details and the Membership forms please contact John Laing on WhatsApp: +263 7126 133 99 or john@imvelosafarilodges.com



Contact Us:

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

As the Z.P.H.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 zphga1@gmail.com and request to be put in touch with one of the following Committees whom will gladly assist you.

- Z.P.H.G.A. – Chairman Mr Lance NESBITT
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Vice Chairman Mr Rob LURIE
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Ethics Committee
 - Guiding Code of Conduct
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Finance
 - All payment issues
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Advertising & Marketing
 - All branding Membership Cards
 - Membership Discounted Rates Initiative
 - Fundraising
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Next Generation
 - Study & Law Packs
- Z.P.H.G.A. – Training
 - RIFA & SAVE Valley conservancy initiatives
 - Devils Gorge Conservancy training program
- Z.P.H.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.

“We are here to assist you where-ever possible”

“Don't just blend in, if you require our assistance a Z.P.H.G.A. Committee member is just a call away”





Members Chat: James Varden

PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

From November 1997 until now, James has focused just about all of his time on guiding and wildlife issues, and has become more involved in issues that threaten wilderness values and areas.

Both James and his wife, Janine have started Community Projects in the Mavhuradonha Wilderness 600 sq.km boundary, including Honey for Money. Their philosophy is that Africa has to move away from aid to trade.

James believes in ethics and continual learning and training to keep one's skills as a guide updated, which ultimately benefits the guests experience, he has a strong sense of duty and commitment to his guests, fellow work colleagues and company policy and property are also key to his central values as a guide.

James does not believe in trying to create an 'exciting' interaction with dangerous wildlife for the sake of pleasing guests as he knows these can go horribly wrong. His approach is to experience what the bush has to offer but in a safe manner to wildlife and guests alike, but being prepared for sudden close encounters with wildlife, not looking for them.

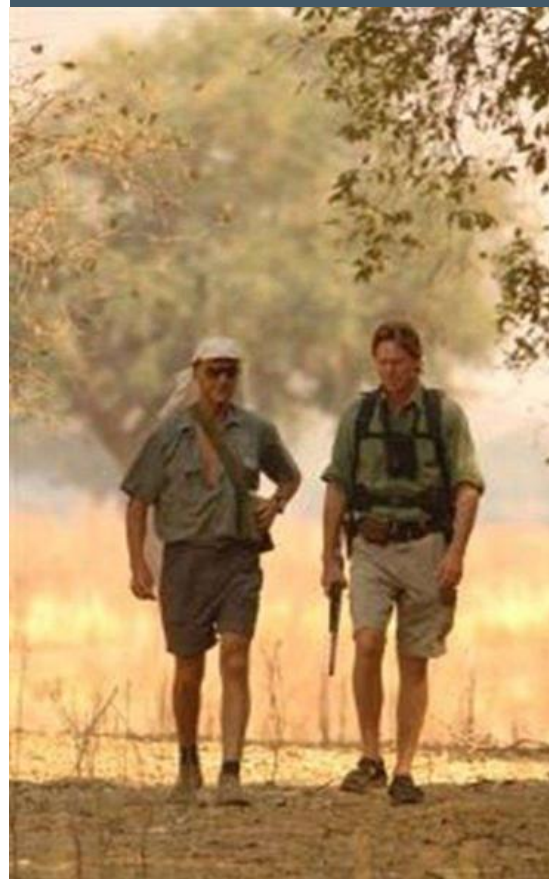
(Bottom left picture is James walking with Sir Ranulph Fiennes)

James says:

“Walking is a great privilege and a deep respect and understanding of the wildlife is vital for an exciting but safe experience for my guests”

Z.P.H.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."





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

OUR SUPPORTERS ARE OUR LIFE LINE

Hardwoods Africa

A very special thanks goes to Kyle ZERF from Hardwoods Africa for donating all the shelving in the Z.P.H.G.A. administration office. This basically has enabled Jenny to tidy around the office and make it more appealing for visitors to our offices! Thank you very much Kyle!!

Hwange Telephone line removal

Special mention and thanks to the following for making the Hwange Telephone wire pick up possible:

- Juliet Johnson of Cawston Block - for providing meat and fresh veges to the volunteers
- Randall's - for providing cabbages
- Brent LeRoux - for providing fresh vegetables
- Bonsa Spar - for providing 2 x 10 kg bags of meal meal
- Forever African Safaris - for providing procurement and logistics
- Iganyana Tented Camp - for providing accommodation, supplying and logistics of meals and camp staff
- Ride Zimbabwe - the horses and the grooms
- Hwange Safari Lodge - For volunteer staff that has assisted with the wire removal (Liberty, Wenburg, Crouther, Fortune and Mr Masotsha)
- Batoka Lodges for providing two vehicles to transport volunteers from Victoria Falls to Inganyana
- Paul de Montile - for sorting out the relevant paperwork and sign off between all land and property owners
- Hwange National Park - Main Camp Area Manager Mr Joroma and his team

Volunteers and line workers name: Severino, Lungile, Bauleni, Effort, Artfield, Harris KANHUKAMWE, Angelica NCUBE, Blessed DAKEZ, King Richard, Cosmos TSHUMA, Givemore CHIKATAWA, Terrance NDLOVU, Ntando, Stanley NDLOVU, Sibusisiwe NYATHI, Mbongeni TSHUMA, Kistos, Clive NYATHI, and Milton NCUBE

We sincerely apologize if we have left anyone out inadvertently.

Z.P.H.G.A.

"Volunteering can be an exciting, growing, enjoyable experience. It is truly gratifying to serve a cause, practice one's ideals, work with people, solve problems see benefits and know one had a hand in them".





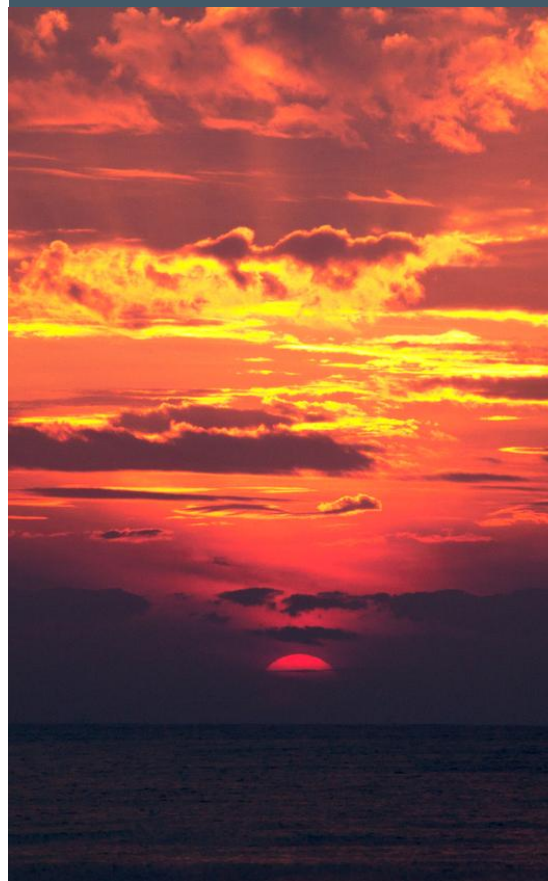
Condolences

Andre ESTERHEIZEN

It is with sadness that we learned of the death of Andre Esterheizen whom was a dear friend to all of us at the Z.P.H.G.A. and he will be missed , he was a well respected Professional Hunter and member of the safari industry for many years. Our Hearts go out to the Family during this difficult and sad time.



"Heroes never die, they
live on forever in the
hearts and minds of
those that follow in their
footsteps"



Members Photo Gallery:

A PICTURE CAN TELL A THOUSAND STORIES

All members are asked to send in their picture and articles of interest - the below photographs were all taken by Z.P.H.G.A. Member Thierry Labatt

