

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE

ZIMBABWE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

JULY, 2022 / Vol. 07



CONSERVATION ORIENTATED

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EDITORS NOTE

By John Laing

Our first newsletter in the new format was published August 2020, prior to that any publications were erratic. July marks the 24th edition being published, and our readers base has grown exponentially, not only is it read by our Members but much wider afield with newsletters being forwarded all over the world.

It has been and remains a privilege to put these newsletters together. Zimbabwe is an amazing country with many amazing people doing amazing things and I firmly believe it is vital that we showcase more of our conservation achievements as well as the stories that make our Guides unique.

I continue to encourage everyone to share their stories and anecdotes, for there is much more to be published and therefore much to learn.

The Z.P.G.A., like the Newsletter, has grown with new initiatives coming on board monthly. This month we introduce and welcome the “Conservation Partner” Membership, you can read more about this on page 25

The Z.P.G.A. Talks have been an incredible hit with talks taking place in Harare, Bulawayo and Victoria Falls, the next round of talks will be held on Friday 15th July

In everything we set out to achieve conservation is our primary focus. Our motto “Ethics Are Everything” is the way we go about our business and here we have it, an amazing association, supported by amazing people all of whom are doing amazing things.



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CONGRATULATIONS MS WINNIE MUCHANYUKA

The Z.P.G.A. would like to acknowledge the appointment of Ms Winnie Muchanyuka as the CEO of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority.

Ms Muchanyuka is an experienced tourism executive, who has worked in the aviation sector at Air Zimbabwe and South African Airways. She sits on the board of the Tourism Business Council of Zimbabwe, and the Chinhoyi University School of Tourism Board, among other organizations.

We wish you all the best in your new role and look forward to working with you in the near future.

From the members of the Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association.



"SURROUND
YOURSELF
ONLY WITH
PEOPLE WHO
ARE GOING TO
TAKE YOU
HIGHER."

OPRAH
WINFREY



By Dharmesh DAYA

KUVA AIR

By John Laing

On the 25th May 2022, Zimbabwe warmly welcomed the first passengers aboard Kuva Air's new scheduled flight service (operated by Executive Air) linking Harare-Kariba and Harare-Victoria Falls return, three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays).

I was lucky enough to fly Kariba, via Harare to Victoria Falls as part of this inaugural flight. The flight could not have been more pleasant, with the flight and airport staff all very professional and helpful.

The aircraft is a 30-seater Embraer 120. The seating arrangements provide for ample leg room. The on-board snacks and drinks are very good and go a long way to making any trip comfortable.

Another recently-introduced flight also links Hwange and Victoria Falls. Bookings can be made through local travel agents, or via Kuva Air's easy online payment options.

Kuva sure is a welcome air link and we wish it every success.

WHEN
EVERYTHING
SEEMS TO BE
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TAKE OFF
AGAINST THE
WIND, NOT
WITH IT."

—
HENRY FORD



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Critical incidents: Real life vs public perceptions

By Ed Ostrosky

I have read and listened with increasing dismay and incredulity as members of the general public, both in Africa and overseas, pontificate on every management action, policy or incident involving wildlife on this continent.

In 1937, Stevenson-Hamilton, the founder of Kruger National Park, wrote:

‘Few amateurs would venture to try to instruct a lawyer, or an engineer, or an editor, for example, on how to conduct his business, or carry out his work; but the two callings it has been my lot to follow during life are precisely those concerning which the man with some slight superficial knowledge conceives his opinions to be more valuable than those of the professional, who had made the subjects his special study.’ (Lion, G.L. Smuts, 1982)

The situation has only gotten worse with NGOs (many of them profit-making businesses), politicians (who are unable to govern their constituencies) and social media platforms on which anyone can second-guess professionals and demand an accounting for every management action or incident.

I am well acquainted with sudden, violent incidents. I served two tours as an infantryman in Vietnam, 42 years in formal conservation and more than ten years as a reserve sergeant in the South African Police Endangered Species Unit and uniform branch. I served in Tsetse Control and Zimbabwe’s Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management in Hwange (Wankie), Chizarira and the Zambezi Valley. On moving to South Africa in 1982, I founded the Tembe Elephant Park and managed the Tembe-Ndumo Game Reserve Complex and Mkhuze Game Reserve. Starting in 2002, I formed and managed the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service’s Field Training and Firearms Unit. One of my duties from then until my retirement in 2014 was to investigate critical incidents (incidents in which death or serious injury occurred) and officer-involved shootings.

Though recent comments concerning the destruction of a known (named) leopard at Sabi Sands inspired me in this case, I have no inside knowledge and do not speak for them or any other entity. These comments apply to violent incidents of all types regardless of whether the blood is human or animal.

When an incident takes place on a rugby or football playing field, it is scrutinised by a squad of referees who have recourse to a TMO. They can watch the alleged violation or goal from a dozen angles and agonise endlessly over their decision. Conservation officers, police officers and soldiers do not have that luxury. For convenience, I will use the term ‘Ranger’ for any person involved in wildlife management or anti-poaching and will focus primarily on related incidents.

Most violent, life-threatening incidents happen unexpectedly and require immediate action. There are no referees or TMOs, and decisions must be made in a fraction of a second if non-survivable injuries or hospitalisation are to be avoided.

Rangers go where required to perform their duties. They enter thick bush where dangerous animals or armed poachers are known to be present, trusting in their training, experience, and a good measure of luck to get them out the other side. To suggest that an Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) should avoid watercourses or drainage lines where snares will be set and poachers will hide is ludicrous in the extreme. However, if they knew an elephant bull in musth, a snared lion, or other particularly dangerous animal was present in a patch of bush, they would avoid it or, if duty required, face the danger. There are no guarantees, and to paraphrase an old saying, 'There are old rangers and bold rangers, but there are no old bold rangers.'

All wildlife is unpredictable, even well-known individuals that have become beloved TV icons. In fact, habituated animals that have lost their respect for humans can be more dangerous than so-called wild animals.* To talk about 'loving' or 'knowing' a wild animal based on a few hours of TV viewing or of wild animals being 'murdered' is absurd.

No one knows what has happened to a particular animal since they were last seen - or what other crimes and atrocities a poacher may have committed. A ranger on foot patrol, or even a guide in his open vehicle, hopes that Dumbo, Leo or Hosana hasn't had a bad day or learned a bad habit and that the poacher isn't a ruthless rapist/murderer. A wounded or testosterone-charged elephant bull is not a gentle giant, especially if he has been spurned by a cow or has just shoved a tusk into another bull's head. A mating lion or leopard, or anything that thinks its young are threatened, is not to be trifled with, and a buffalo can be dangerous at any time.

As previously mentioned, confrontations with armed and aggressive poachers, or dangerous animals with bad attitudes, require instantaneous decisions and will be over, for better or worse, in a few seconds. Often, a fraction of a second. I taught my rangers that they should always do their duty, but that their first priority was to get home - in one piece - at the end of the day. I told them they will be of no use to man, beast, or their families if they are dead, or maimed.

Many rangers face danger on a daily basis and go into situations that the layperson, critic, and second guesser on social media can not begin to understand. Such people seem to have no more empathy for a ranger than they do for an impoverished African woman gazing at the ruins of her crop or a herdsman mourning over the carcass of his last cow or goat. It made me angry, sick angry, to read moronic posts after a child in Kruger was taken by a leopard.

People write that they have a right to know every detail and hold rangers to account. They are tearful and 'just wanna know what happened.' But what gives them the right to know or to judge? If they were given all the facts, could they determine who was more surprised, differentiate between a 'mock' charge and a real one, or analyse thoughts - turned into action - in a split second? They would still have nothing, no knowledge or experience; nothing that would enable them to make a rational, informed judgement. I have only touched the surface of subjects that could fill volumes. I will save my thoughts on the destruction of our national parks and game reserves by misguided policies and interfering, self-serving NGOs and academics for another time.

2022
START

Z.P.G.A. Diary

www.zpga.org/zpga-events

JULY 2022

- Wed 13th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Victoria Falls)
- Fri 15th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Harare & Bulawayo)

SEPTEMBER 2022

- Wed 14th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Victoria Falls)
- Fri 16th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Harare & Bulawayo)
- Sun 18th - Shooting Proficiency Harare
- Mon 19th - Oral Interviews
- Tue 20th - LPH written exam
- Wed 21st - LPH written exam

OCTOBER 2022

- Fri 7th to Sun 9th - Upper Zambezi Canoeing proficiency

NOVEMBER 2022

- Tue 1st to Mon 7th - Proficiency Exam
- Wed 9th - Z.P.G.A. Talks (Victoria Falls)
- Fri 11th - Z.P.G.A. Talks
- Wed 30th - Z.P.G.A. VIP Event

DECEMBER 2022

- Thurs 1st - Z.P.G.A. VIP Event
- Fri 2nd - Z.P.G.A. AGM (Harare)
- Sat 3rd - Z.P.G.A. Safari Dinner (Harare)
- Thurs 22nd - National Unity Day
- Sun 25th - Christmas Day
- Mon 26th - Boxing Day
- Tue 27th - Christmas Holiday

“What an odd thing a diary is: the things you omit are more important than those you put in.”

—
Simone de Beauvoir,



Ethics Are Everything!



Ron Thomson. CEO -TGA

Large Mammal Management in South Africa Black Rhinos and Elephants - A Lack of Understanding and a Conflict of Interest

It is my belief that due to a lack of understanding (or of interest?) amongst government employed wildlife management officials, about the management needs of black rhinos, South Africa is rapidly, if unconsciously, driving the black rhino towards extinction. I have written to SANParks about it. I have addressed the Ezemvelo KZN Wild administrators about it. I have also written several times to WESSA (The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa) about it. And I have managed to elicit absolutely no response from any of them. So, I am going to, here and now, record those of my observations that I believe to be pertinent, in writing, and to send this report to people and organizations throughout South Africa who, I believe, should be interested in this subject. And then hope someone will get the message across to the powers that be.

I am the CEO of a Non-Profit Company, which is also a Public Benefit Organisation and an NGO (called The True Green Alliance) the vision of which is to create a southern African, (ultimately global) society that is properly informed about the principles and practices of science-based wildlife management, that understands the wisdom of, and necessity for, the practice of sustainable utilization of living resources (plants and animals; both wild and domestic) for the benefit of mankind; that supports animal welfare; and that rejects animals rights - the doctrine of which seeks to abolish all animal uses by man.

I have spent the last 62 years of my life in the service of Africa's wildlife - one way or another - and, with regard to the black rhino, I pioneered the capture and translocation of black rhinos in the Zambezi Valley over a period of seven years, in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe 1964 to 1970). That means for seven years I spent every year's dry season, every day, in tracking-pursuit of black rhinos; capturing them with a dartgun on foot, translocating them to safe havens in our national parks and recording their ecological circumstances. I then wrote a university thesis entitled "Factors Affecting the Distribution and Survival of Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis* L) in Rhodesia".

I have written a history of my black rhino capture adventures, which I am not going to repeat here and now. Instead, I am just going to release to you some of the important and salient points of my research findings - to enable the least-informed of those who might read this dissertation to better understand the needs of this very important species.

The adult male black rhino is considerably smaller than the white rhino. Black rhinos are 160 cm at the shoulder and are 700kg - 1000 kg in weight. By comparison, adult male white rhinos measure 180 cm (+) at the shoulder and they are 2000 to 2300 kgms in weight.

- 1.Black rhinos are solitary whilst white rhinos are gregarious.
- 2.Black rhinos are acutely nocturnal whilst white rhinos are largely diurnal.
- 3.Black rhinos eat green sticks (wood and all) - normally about finger-thick - whereas white rhinos are grazers.
- 4.Both rhino species use their horns to ward off large predators.
- 5.Both rhino species defecate in middens - which are used as social notice-boards within their populations. (New dung added to a midden tells every rhino passing by that "George passed by here at midnight last night!")
- 6.The bulls of both species are faithful to their own home-ranges and territories.
- 7.The cows of both species are faithful to their own home ranges.
- 8.The calves of both species are sometimes predated on by both lions and hyenas.

Now I want to break away from the white rhino - which other people can discuss better than me - and I want to focus on the black rhino.

When a black rhino cow with a large calf at foot, has another calf, it forcibly rejects its previous calf. This rejection process entails much squealing and puffing, vicious poking with the cow's front horn and smacking with the side of its mother's head. The previous calf at this stage is 30 months old and 160 cm at the shoulder. The mother is then 180 cm tall. So the old calf is then relatively big.

The cow, with its tiny new calf (c. 40 kgs) at foot, then breaks away from its normal home-range and the mother-and-new-calf become wanderers. They never go down to the same waterhole together to have a drink in the evenings. Instead, early every evening, the cow hides away her calf in thick bush and she goes down to the water alone. At the waterhole - one or two km from where the calf lies hidden - there may be lions or hyenas lying in wait for an opportune stray animal to come along. The small calf, alone, is hidden far away from view in thick bush so it is safe from such an attack. After the cow has slaked her thirst she goes back to where she has hidden her tiny calf. She there renews their partnership. Then they wander off together again, moving off far into the night, to feed. And they feed all night long - sometimes in very open country.

The previous calf, now nearly as big as its mother, wanders around its mother's previous and familiar home-range, searching for her, but to no avail. It doesn't find her. Nevertheless, it stays within their joint old home range for maybe a year. This enforced separation breaks the old bond between the previous calf and its mother, forcing them apart (figuratively) forever.

Something we found out about the black rhino in the Zambezi Valley - from daily contacts plotted on military maps - is that, at the height of the dry season, individual black rhinos never stray any further than 5 km (or 3 miles) from permanent water.

We also discovered that black rhino population density is regulated solely by the thicket size and relative thicket-densities of their habitats.

The area-size of each rhino's habitat is easily measurable by using a pantograph on military aerial photographs. To achieve that necessary third-dimension measurement, however, we had to devise a new way to measure lateral cover in a thicket - which we did using a new photographic technique. We called that measurement a "Relative Cover Factor" (RCF). And we determined that the RCFs on three habitat categories (thicket, woodland and open grassland) in every habitat - all within that critical 5 km occurrence range from

water - gave us the measurement results we were looking for. As a consequence, we were able to conclusively show that black rhino populations regulate their numbers according to the overall degree of three-dimensional thicket cover in their habitats. Habitats with the greatest three-dimensional thicket cover carried the densest rhino populations. And, statistically, we registered a 99 percent correlation-coefficient for this relationship. For those of you who understand science, this correlation-coefficient will tell you that we had selected the correct parameters to measure.

The fact that the mother black rhino forcibly rejects her previous calf when another calf is born - but that she continues to associate with her first calf if-no-other-calf-is-born - tells us another thing about black rhinos. It tells us that under natural circumstances, an adult rhino cow should never NOT have a calf-at-foot. So when you observe an adult rhino cow without a calf-at-foot that tells you that something has happened to her most recent calf. Most such casualties are the result of spotted hyena attack. Lions do attack young rhinos - yes - but not nearly so frequently as do spotted hyenas. So, when rhino cows see or hear spotted hyenas in the night, they become very conscious of their motherly responsibilities.

Black rhino cows have new calves at approximately 30 month intervals. So they are fecund animals. Young females become pregnant for the first time at about five years of age and they have a gestation period of some 15 months. Calves grow relatively quickly. So black rhinos, potentially, have a high rate of reproduction. Maturing black rhinos attain maximum horn length at about 12 years of age.

Predation of young black rhino calves by packs of spotted hyenas, however, keeps the growth of black rhino populations in check. Being solitary and nocturnal animals, rhino cows are at a distinct disadvantage when trying to ward off hyena attacks. And baby black rhinos are so small when they are born they are highly susceptible to hyena predation. Just one hyena is problem enough but when two, three or more hyenas organize systematic and simultaneous attacks - as spotted hyenas often do - baby-black-rhino survival becomes very doubtful. And this is what keeps solitary mother black rhinos with new babies at foot, constantly on the move.

When black rhino managers are faced with the option of applying dehorning as an anti-poaching measure, they should think twice before cutting off a black rhino cow's horns, especially in wildlife sanctuaries over which spotted hyenas roam. 'All on their lonesome with a new baby at foot', if a single mother black rhino has her horns cut off, she will most certainly lose her new calf when next she meets up with a pack of spotted hyenas.

The relationship between black rhinos and thicket cover in their habitats is acutely sensitive. In the early 1960s, the Natal Parks Board (as it was known then - Ezemvelo- KZN-Wild as it is known today) was required to deal with tourist complaints that can be summed up as follows: The Bush was so thick in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve in those days, that visiting tourists were lucky if they saw a single bushbuck crossing the road in front of them after a whole day of touring the reserve (Pers-comm. John Geddes Page). It was decided (by the Board) that something should be done about this complaint. So the Board drew up a botanical map of the reserve and selected a number of thickets that it wished to preserve; a number of open grasslands that it wanted to create; and a number of woodland complexes, too. The map indicated an attractive mosaic of all these habitat types. And visitors were happy to see more impala, kudu, nyala, bushbuck, wildebeest and zebras than they had ever seen before.

I was advised that, to implement this plan of action, aerial spraying with herbicides was first carefully undertaken; the burning of chemically-killed thickets came next; and a large number of grazers were captured and removed to facilitate the rapid growth of an abundant, combustible and palatable grass sward. Thereafter, controlled burns became a habitat management tool.

The tourists were delighted with the result. So the Board had attained its objective - which was to keep the game-viewing public happy. It clearly gave no thought to the black rhinos that would be affected by the changing nature of the habitats!

At the height of the following dry season, however, the remains of 64 black rhinos were found dead inside the disfigured habitats of the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. There was nothing to show what had killed them and both the wildlife management scientists, and the veterinarians, were at a loss to determine just what had caused these deaths to occur. Finally, with no reason for the deaths concluded, the best they could do was to pronounce that the rhinos had died 'from some obscure and unknown disease'.

Knowing what I now know about the very close relationship that exists between black rhino population numbers and thicket extent and thicket densities in their habitats, I have to ponder that these deaths were the direct result of a sudden and greatly changed thicket component of the Hluhluwe habitats.

This brings to mind the deaths that occur in massive lemming populations when they periodically swamp their arctic habitats; and the same kind of reduction that occurs in excessive arctic snow-shoe hare populations, too. But, in reality, nobody really knows why those rhinos died!

This now brings us to the more probable consequences of having an excessive and artificial elephant population living in both Hluhluwe and umFolosi Game Reserves.

Elephants, when maintained in excessive numbers, are well known to be destroyers of their own habitats; and destroyers of the habitats all other animal species, too. Habitat degradation - due to excessive numbers of elephants - is first manifest in close proximity to their water supplies. Over time, however, total habitat destruction expands out from the water to a distance of some 25 kilometers. (You can see this in action in Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe; in the Gonarezhou in Zimbabwe; and at many locations in Botswana.) And the habitat destruction is total, right down to grass-roots level. Many thicket habitats are completely destroyed and the elephants eat all the edible trees, bushes and shrubs of a game reserve into local extinction.

When total habitat destruction occurs within the critical distance from their waterholes (for the black rhino) - that is five kilometers - there is no relationship at all left between rhino population numbers and the particulars of their habitats. In one way, in particular, there is no cover for mother rhinos to hide their babies away from hyenas at night when they go down to the water to drink; and, in another way, both lions and hyenas can easily see, at a great distance, every rhino cow that has a baby calf at foot. No thicket cover - or reduced thicket cover - means no security, or reduced security, for black rhino calves. And the total lack of any thicket cover in a game reserve (caused by too many elephants) reduces the numbers of black rhinos that can live in a game reserve, to zero.

For years, I have been at pains to explain to the South African nature-loving public that different animal species are dependent on particular and specific habitat-types for their occurrence; and for their survival. Without its special habitat being extant in the game reserves where a particular animal species exists, it cannot survive. So, in my book, habitats are more important than the animal species that live in them.

Now, here we have an excellent example of this lesson in progress. In Kwazulu-Natal's Hluhluwe and umFolosi Game reserves, the elephants are in the process of totally destroying the remnants of the essential habitats that black rhinos need to survive - Acacia karoo thicket (in that part of the world). Ipso facto, the elephants in Kwa-Zulu Natal are pushing the black rhino into local extinction. That won't happen overnight. But it is happening in slow motion.

And, to prove my point, may I suggest that visitors to Hluhluwe and umFolosi be encouraged to register every black rhino cow that they observe without a calf at foot. As I said before, black rhino cows should never be without a calf at foot.

The disappearance of the black rhino as a surviving species in the Hluhluwe-umFolosi game reserve will begin with finding rhino cows without calves at foot; and the repeated killing of all new calves. Until, ultimately, there will be no rhino calf survival at all.

This same extinction-syndrome - with respect to black rhino survival - is equally applicable in Kruger National Park.

Finally, may I suggest that it might be prudent to reduce excessive elephant populations wherever they occur - for the sake of maintaining species diversity - and especially in game reserves containing black rhinos. Indeed, because the elephant was artificially introduced to the game reserves of Kwa-Zulu Natal, it may be better to remove the elephant from the local landscapes in that province, altogether. It might also be a good idea to similarly reduce the numbers of spotted hyenas. We have no shortages of elephants or of spotted hyenas in any of our game reserves; and it would probably be “BEST WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRACTICE” to balance the wildlife management ‘books’ in biased-favour of the black rhinoceros.



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Membership Statistics - 2022

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55	FULL PG	
135	FULL PH	
5	LIFE MEMBER	
63	LPH LICENSE	
6	RESTRICTION	
4	SERVICE PROVIDER	
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Innovation grows out of membership and a sure sense of responsibility people feel for their work and the organizations that employ and / or support them.

"Z.P.G.A. Membership is a Privilege NOT a right"

Sweetcorn, Chilli & Red Pepper Muffins

Contributed by: Rosy Shearing

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1/4 CUP OIL
1 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
2/3 CUP LACTO OR MILK
1 RED CHILLI, FINELY CHOPPED
2 TABLESPOONS FRESH BASIL/MIXED
HERBS
1 X 420G CAN SWEETCORN

Method

- GREASE MUFFIN PAN AND PRE-HEAT THE OVEN TO 180 DEGREES
- SIFT FLOUR, SALT AND BAKING POWDER AND ADD ROLLER MEAL
- BEAT TOGETHER OIL, LACTO/MILK, EGG
- STIR INTO THE DRY INGREDIENTS., UNTIL MOISTENED BUT DO NOT OVER-MIX
- ADD THE CHILLI, RED PEPPERS AND HERBS - MIX BRIEFLY
- SPOON EQUALLY INTO THE MUFFIN PAN
- BAKE FOR 20 TO 25 MINUTES

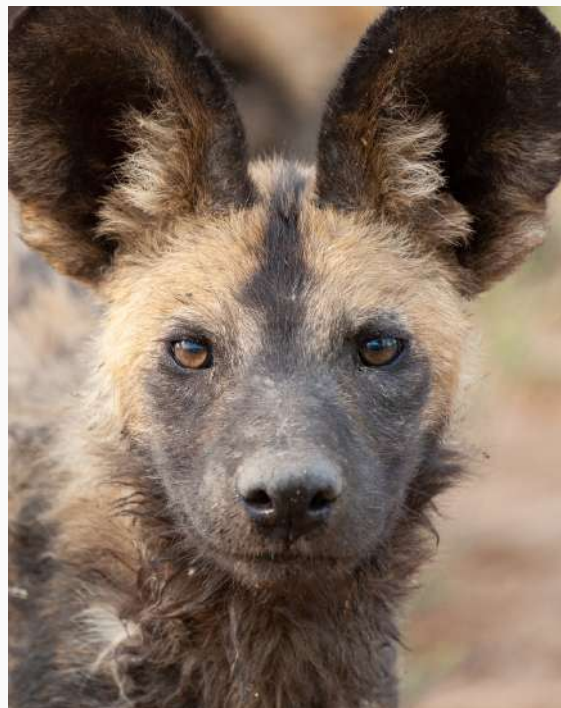
Enjoy!



Members Photo Gallery - Painted Dogs



The Z.P.G.A.'s commitment to sharing information and knowledge.





Z.P.G.A. Talks 2022

The Z.P.G.A. is proud to bring you a series of talks designed to bring our community together under the umbrella of growth through shared knowledge. Presentations will be informative, entertaining and offer a springboard for discussion, engagement and sharing of ideas that can help jumpstart our COVID-decimated industry and further our conservation causes for a more productive future.

We will be facilitating an evenings talk by three guest speakers, to be run simultaneously, every two months in:

- Harare - Armadale Lodge
- Bulawayo - Hillside Dams Conservancy
- Victoria Falls - Shearwater Village

Dates for your diaries are as follows:

- Friday 15th July
- Friday 16th September
- Friday 11th November
- Time: 17:00 for 17:30 start
- Cash bar and restaurant
- Free admission

**An event put on by the Z.P.G.A
open to the Community**

Z.P.G.A. Talks - Bulawayo
"Game Capture - how we move Rhino & Elephant"

THE Z.P.G.A. ARE PROUD TO BRING YOU A SERIES OF TALKS DESIGNED TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF GROWTH THROUGH SHARED KNOWLEDGE. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE INFORMATIVE, ENTERTAINING AND OFFER A SPRINGBOARD FOR DISCUSSION, ENGAGEMENT AND SHARING OF IDEAS THAT CAN HELP JUMPSTART OUR COVID-DECIMATED INDUSTRY AND FURTHER OUR CONSERVATION CAUSES FOR A MORE PRODUCTIVE FUTURE.

Guest Speaker: Barney O'hara
Date: Friday 15th July 2022
Venue: Hillside Dams Conservancy
Time: 17:00 for start 17:30
Bring: Facemask, notepad & pen
Bar: Cash bar & restaurant
Cover Charge: Free Admission

**OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
ETHICS ARE EVERYTHING!**

Z.P.G.A. Talks - Harare
Talk Topic: Adventure tourism, contributing to Conservation"

THE Z.P.G.A. ARE PROUD TO BRING YOU A SERIES OF TALKS DESIGNED TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF GROWTH THROUGH SHARED KNOWLEDGE. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE INFORMATIVE, ENTERTAINING AND OFFER A SPRINGBOARD FOR DISCUSSION, ENGAGEMENT AND SHARING OF IDEAS THAT CAN HELP JUMPSTART OUR COVID-DECIMATED INDUSTRY AND FURTHER OUR CONSERVATION CAUSES FOR A MORE PRODUCTIVE FUTURE.

Guest Speaker: Graeme Sharp
Date: Friday 15th July 2022
Venue: Armadale Lodge
Time: 17:00 for start 17:30
Bring: Facemask, notepad & pen
Bar: Cash bar & restaurant
Cover Charge: Free Admission

**OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
ETHICS ARE EVERYTHING!**

Z.P.G.A. Talks - Victoria Falls
Talk Topic: "Livingstone, a pre cursor to the Hunters Road"

THE Z.P.G.A. ARE PROUD TO BRING YOU A SERIES OF TALKS DESIGNED TO BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF GROWTH THROUGH SHARED KNOWLEDGE. PRESENTATIONS WILL BE INFORMATIVE, ENTERTAINING AND OFFER A SPRINGBOARD FOR DISCUSSION, ENGAGEMENT AND SHARING OF IDEAS THAT CAN HELP JUMPSTART OUR COVID-DECIMATED INDUSTRY AND FURTHER OUR CONSERVATION CAUSES FOR A MORE PRODUCTIVE FUTURE.

Guest Speaker: Chris Worden
Date: Friday 15th July 2022
Venue: Shearwater Village
Time: 17:00 for start 17:30
Bring: Facemask, notepad & pen
Bar: Cash bar & restaurant
Cover Charge: Free Admission

**OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY
ETHICS ARE EVERYTHING!**

A call for Z.P.G.A. Members & friends to plant 10 indigenous trees each in 2022

Get behind the Z.P.G.A. "Plant 3,000 trees challenge 2022"

Please post your planting on social media, accompanied with #WePlantedDidYou?



Send us your conservation stories to marketing@zpga.org

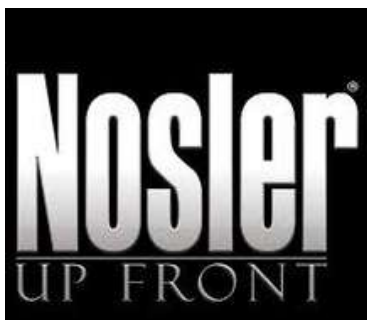
Z.P.G.A. Sponsors and Supporters Page

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



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SAFARI BALL AGM 2022

A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES, FURTHER DETAILS
TO FOLLOW

VIP EVENT:

DATE: WEDNESDAY 30TH NOV &
THURSDAY 1ST DEC 2022

AGM:

DATE: FRIDAY 2ND DEC 2022
WHERE: HARARE

SAFARI BALL:

DATE: SATURDAY 3RD DEC 2022
THEME: "A DAY AT THE RACES"
WHERE: HARARE



Z.P.G.A.

Ethics Are Everything!



ISSUES ABOUT MEDICAL AID & FIRST AID

Health is something that we take for granted and tend not to think about until something goes wrong. That's why you need to be with a good medical aid provider who can help you protect both your health and your wallet.

The reality is that your health, and that of your family, holds immeasurable value to you. It's also the least predictable factor in your life. This unpredictability is precisely what makes medical aid so important, because you can't tell for certain when you'll need it. Sports injuries, road accidents, stress-related illnesses, and terminal illnesses are not examples of things that afflict the elderly. Rather, they're representative of what can go wrong in anyone's health at any time.

Having a good, reputable medical aid is an essential part of alleviating the stress of worrying what's behind every proverbial corner. More importantly, it provides you with the necessary financial cover when you need it.

Fortunately, there are a wide variety of plans for you to choose from within each medical scheme, making it easy to buy the level of cover that you need and can afford. These range from basic and relatively inexpensive hospital plans to the more all-inclusive, comprehensive plans.

When it comes to choosing your ideal plan, it's best to assess your life and understand what the implications would be if you needed medical treatment. For instance, if you're single and have no dependents, then at the very least a good hospital plan is a practical option as the most expensive comprehensive plan might not be necessary.

Of course, if you're the sole breadwinner with a few dependents then it goes to reason that you will need more cover to protect your family's financial safety while you are treated.

At the end of the day you can't know when or if something will happen, and unless you have considerable financial funds to help you pay for medical costs, you might have a problem if you don't have medical aid.

Mednet Zimbabwe is here to help! Mednet's team of professional healthcare consultants are on hand to provide information and support with international health insurance, local medical aids and travel insurance. Mednet is an agent for the leading healthcare providers.

The Harare Office

Michelle Carvalho

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Email: pa@mednet.co.zw

The Bulawayo Office

Raquel Fouche

Tel: +263 77 679 1741

Email: raquel@mednet.co.zw



OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES

PADDY CURTIS

From the Executive Committee and all members of Z.P.G.A. may we extend our most sincere condolences to the family of Paddy Curtis on his untimely and tragic passing, well known, highly respected, friend, Z.P.G.A. Member and Professional Hunter, a great man in all aspects and a legend in our industry, he will be sorely missed.

Wherever in the world you may be, raise a toast at sunset to a great African man.
R.I.P. Bloodnut



WORDS MAY
NOT SUFFICE
TO EXPRESS
THE HEARTFELT
SORROW THAT
THE
ASSOCIATION
FEELS FOR THE
PASSING OF
PADDY CURTIS.

PLEASE ACCEPT
OUR
CONDOLENCES.



Welcome to The Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association Conservation Partner Membership



If you need help, please
contact Belinda (Bee)
GERAGHTY on WhatsApp
+263 77 683 8966 or Email
secretary@zpga.com

Ten reasons how your Conservation Partner Membership will benefit your Organisation

1. 4 x Membership Cards which entitles the holder to Membership discounts
2. Access to the Z.P.G.A. Associate WhatsApp Group
3. Representation at Government, Industry and Zimbabwe Parks levels
4. Representation of Zimbabwe at all levels for tourism, locally and abroad
5. Engagement with Zimbabwe Parks and Ministry
6. Involvement in Conservation initiatives such as the Leopard, Lion, Elephant and Rhino workshops for strategic planning for these key species
7. Representation at shows and events when we can for members and Zimbabwe
8. Marketing of Zimbabwe for tourism
9. Uplifting local tourist facilities and standards
10. Engagement with foreign NGOs for assistance and betterment of our industry

Ethics are everything!



Contact Us

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

The Z.P.G.A. committee is here to assist you. To enable us to answer your questions in a timely manner, please would you firstly contact Belinda (Bee) Geraghty on secretary@zpga.org and request to be put in touch with one of the following sub-committees and the relevant committee member 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 Rob LURIE - chairman@zpga.org
- Z.P.G.A. – Vice Chairman John LAING
- Z.P.G.A. – Legal & Ethics - Pete FICK - legal@zpga.org
 - Guiding Code of Conduct
- Z.P.G.A. – Finance - Belinda GERAGHTY - finance@zpga.org
 - All payment issues
- Z.P.G.A. – Marketing & Advertising - John LAING - marketing@zpga.org
 - All branding Membership Cards
 - Membership Discounted Rates Initiative
 - Fundraising
- Z.P.G.A. – Education and training - David CARSON - education@zpga.com
 - Study Packs
 - RIFA & SAVE Valley Conservancy initiatives
 - Devil's Gorge Conservancy training program
- Z.P.G.A. – Recruitment - Justine MCGREGOR - cv@vicfallsrecruitment.com
 - A Tourism Industry employment resource for both employers and employees
 - To verify candidates authenticity as far as possible
 - Assess candidate suitability for position placement
 - Make recommendations to potential employers
- Z.P.G.A. – Research - Spike CLAASSEN - 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 - Duncan WATSON - 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 - Michelle LURIE (2022)

“There are moments of frustration in life. You must build good relations to support you in these moments. You must also learn to encourage yourself and decide to stay determined in life.”

—

Lailah Gifty Akita



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