ZIMBABWE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY, 2023 / Vol. 02





www.zpga.org marketing@zpga.org Editor - John Laing Proofreader - Corneli Claassen Sponsors Page
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Editors Notes:

By John Laing

It has been fantastic to see all the training going on across the country, including First Aid training, shooting and Guides training. It will continue well into February with our Z.P.G.A. LPH Course conducted in the Bubye Valley Conservancy.

Andy Hunter & Dave Christensen conducted a talk on skulls and bones; very useful by all accounts and enjoyed by all that attended it.

Gavin Ford attended a 2-day workshop in South Africa concerning lead poisoning and the consequential effects on our wildlife and more worryingly on people. More will be written about this in the next newsletter.

We have also started our Z.P.G.A. Talks with four already under our belt, held in January.

We then have the first of our LPH exams for 2023 happening in early February (Refer to our diary page for dates) where our members assist on all aspects of the testing, including invigilation, marking, questioning and testing. The Z.P.G.A. advocates being present at every important event, ensuring standards are maintained and upheld, producing some of the best qualified guides in Africa.

"AND we are only just going into February!!"

I do appeal to all members to get involved wherever possible, to continuously teach, as well as learn.

Z.P.G.A. Offices

- Harare 64 Churchill Ave, Alex Park
- Bulawayo 30 Duncan Road, Suburbs
- Victoria Falls 566 Nyathi Road, corner of Mopani



The ever present threat of Cyanide By Mike Bromwich

Although only two cyanide poisoning incidents have come to the Association's notice in 2022 - the first being in Hwange (Boss Longone Pan) where poisoned oranges were noticed, reported and removed and the second, a few months back in the Lupane area where an elephant carcase minus tusks was located, there have undoubtably been other attempts or poisoning incidents that we, and very possibly ZPWMA and ZRP are unaware of.

As the heading notes the threat of cyanide poisoning remains very real and no, not only in the Hwange/West Matabeleland areas, but across the country as a whole. As has been seen in recent rhino poaching incidents, poachers are moving to areas where pickings are perceived to be easiest and the threat of discovery/apprehension low; none of our major wildlife and surrounding areas are deemed safe!

The Z.P.G.A. requests all members, particularly hunters, to be aware of this ever-present threat and take note of the following:

- 'Baits' (oranges / watermelons etc) be discovered in areas well traversed by elephant to consider the 'baits' poisoned with the same applying to any piles of salt found.
- An elephant carcass be located in a concession area to consider it poisoned unless wounds or injuries indicate otherwise.

Follow established protocols which in the case of baits is fairly simple – neutralise the scene by sweeping the area and collecting all oranges etc; the gathering up of salt is trickier and therefore left to the ingenuity of the PH or Guide. If facilities available take a GPS reading and photographs for future refence and training purposes. Report the incident to the nearest Parks office and police as soon as practically possible, leaving the 'evidence' with Parks for forensic examination. Advise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and head of the 'legal' team at your earliest convenience.

Dealing with the discovery of suspected poisoned elephant carcass may be a bit more onerous in as much that every effort should be made to cover the carcass with branches to prevent scavengers from feeding. Follow the protocols above – take photographs etc and advise the RDC should this be appropriate. In all such instances follow up is of paramount importance - the carcass, or whatever remains, together with that of dead scavengers need to be destroyed by burning; please ensure this is done and advise accordingly.

LEOPARD INCIDENT ROCKY GLEN WEST NICHOLSON DISTRICT 31.12.22

By Dianne Drummond



Just after midday on 31st December 2022 a general worker, James Haseri, was walking in the mopane veld near our support unit base when a female leopard attacked him. Close combat ensued with James physically fighting with the leopard, until he was able to pick up a rock and beat the animal around the head. One canine was broken in this encounter, and the leopard was knocked out for long enough to enable James to get away. He received lacerations & deep bites to both hands, upper arms, head and legs. He got to the support base & radioed for assistance.

Alistair Sinclair drove across and gave James some first aid assistance. James advised that it was a small leopard, and there was surprise that such an unprovoked attack should take place, let alone at midday. Alistair was asked to investigate further, so he went with James and one other man to the site and saw an average size female, lying under a tree. When it growled at them, they returned the short distance back to the vehicle, with the leopard coming at them.

The leopard proceeded to bite the tow-bar, then went under the vehicle, scratching and biting the underside. As Alistair tried to move forward, the animal stayed with, or under the vehicle. Dave Drummond was called by radio, he got there with the intention of destroying the animal, but all he could see was the leopard biting and scratching the underside of the vehicle, making it impossible to discharge a weapon. The only option was to immobilise the animal by "driving over it", and thereafter putting it out of its misery.

On inspection of the animal, it was found to be infested with ticks, one canine was rotten, an abscess in the gums, teeth worn down, a large wooden splinter in her lower leg and she was extremely thin. We could only assume that her behaviour was a result of extreme pain and hunger, and possibly rabies. Workers at a nearby poultry house had seen her earlier in the day, making a futile attempt to hunt impala.

James was then taken the 120km to Gwanda Provincial Hospital, where he was admitted. Although the duty nurses and doctor were both helpful & concerned James has not contracted rabies. The nurses gave Alistair a script for the private pharmacy to supply antibiotics, bandages and iodine which were used to tend to and clean the wounds. James is has recovered well.

This is the first incident of an unprovoked attack by a leopard on a human in our 70-year history at Rocky Glen!



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Kalahari Sands: Their Evolution, Age and Importance

By Paul Hubbard - Hubbard's Historical Tours, Bulawayc

Introduction

To most in the outside world, the name "Kalahari" conjures an arid, almost lifeless expanse, its red, iron oxide sands stretching to the horizon and beyond. Kgala, Tswana people called it, the great thirst. Kgalagadi, it's also named: the waterless place.

Kalahari Sand derives its name from the Kalahari Desert, which has undergone considerable expansions many times during its geological history. The Kalahari Sands, which have been described as the largest sand sea in the world, extends from the northern Cape Province, in South Africa, to well north of the equator.

Unconsolidated Kalahari sand covers an area of 2.5 million km2 in central southern Africa, extending from humid tropical regions of the DRCongo to semi-arid Botswana. This area has been termed the 'Mega Kalahari' in order to distinguish it from the smaller area known today as the Kalahari Desert. The Mega-Kalahari is the largest sandsea in the world, bigger than the Sahara or the Gobi. On the sand grows every kind of vegetation – dense rainforests, desert scrub, grasslands, woodlands, and savannahs. More than 400 species of plant are found in the Kalahari sands.

Angola has more than 55% of its land area covered by the unconsolidated Kalahari sands; 30% of Namibia and 25% of Zambia are covered and Botswana, has a cover of Kalahari sedimentary rocks over some 75% of the country.

Age and Provenance

Uncertainty surrounds the age and origin of the Kalahari sand as various authors have suggested origins in the late Cretaceous (100mya) to a Tertiary age (60mya), to the Pleistocene (2mya) as the time of original deposition. Recent studies have indicated that in a few areas, some of the sand may derived from the underlying bedrock, while elsewhere the sand has been blown in or carried by water.

Despite these doubts about the provenance of the Kalahari sand, it is clear that it has been reworked on a number of occasions in the Quaternary period. Since Kalahari sand has never been consolidated and cemented, it has been liable to constant surface redistribution. The sands are recognised by microscopic examination of the sand grains, which are rounded and pitted as a result of abrasion while being blown about over and over again. Recent research has begun to show that part of the distribution of these sands is fluvial in origin, water eroding and depositing the grains, before drying out and wind picking them up.

The sand grains are chiefly quartz with feldspar as a persistent but very minor accessory. The reddish colour comes from iron oxide formed on the outside of the grain, which is often washed off and thus becomes very pronounced in areas with low rainfall. The sands range in colour from reddish to pink, brown, white and buff. Most of the Kalahari sands contain silica of organic origin. Such material includes the remains of diatoms, grass and occasionally sponge spicules.

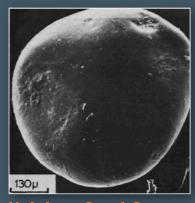
The main differences between the Kalahari Sands and the rest in this broad areas are attributable to the very deep, free-draining soil with virtually no clay or silt. Such soils provide an excellent growing medium for deep-rooting woody plants. Since it is deficient in clay the soil can only hold nutrients where there is organic matter. Exposure of the soil surface to the sun destroys much of the organic matter and such areas tend to remain bare.

In the Kalahari Desert, well drillers must bore to great depths in very dry sand to reach water, and observant drillers reported some of the deepest roots thus far recorded in the world at 68 metres. In the Kalahari sands, the average annual precipitation of less than 300 mm can only penetrate a couple of meters at most. Below this wetting front, roots must, therefore, grow in very dry sand for tens of meters before they can reach deep geologic water. This has important implications for evaluating biomass in dry areas as much of the root structure may be very deep and must be taken into account.

The depths of the sands can vary considerably. In central and southern Botswana depths seldom exceed 100 metres while in the Okavango, the sands go past 300 metres. In many places the sands are shallow, often only a metre or so, or 20 metres. In Hwange the depths recorded in different areas vary between 30 to 50 metres.

A generalised sequence for the Kalahari Basin has been proposed, indicated the complexity of the geology beneath the sands:

- A. Pan sediments and diatomaceous deposits
- B. Unconsolidated sand
- C. Sandstones with some coarse to fine gravel layers
- D. Clays with some sandy, grit, or coarse to fine gravel layers
- E. Coarse to fine gravels



Kalahari Sand Grain

The Kalahari was once a much wetter place, with ancient Lake Makgadikgadi covering, up to 120,000km2 in size, covering the area where today's Makgadikgadi Pan lies and much more besides. The lake completely dried out from 10,000 years ago but geologists disagree on the exact dating.

Huge subterranean water reserves lie under the Kalahari, which covers parts of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. In Namibia, Dragon's Breath Cave, contains the world's largest non-subglacial underground lake, with an area of almost two hectares buried 100 metres beneath the sands. Today the Kalahari's wettest areas receive 20 inches of rain each year; its driest, 4 to 8 inches.

The sands and underground water

Sandseas can make dry climatic periods seem even drier, and wet periods seem even wetter. They do this by their unique way of reacting to rainfall. If rain is frequent or heavy, sand fields tend to concentrate water downhill from surface runoff, after first absorbing large quantities of moisture. When the low-lying grounds become progressively wetter from the runoff, they also become saturated from below as the water table rises. Quantities of water that seem far out of proportion to actual rainfall then concentrate in the low area. As a result, inter-dune troughs within the dune fields were swamps or shallow lakes during rainier intervals in prehistory, while the dune-top vegetation may have been surprisingly diverse.

Generally speaking in the areas with Kalahari sands, the recharge of the groundwater is low because of low rainfall and high evapotranspiration, and subsiding water tables. The unconsolidated sands at the top of the Kalahari Group are believed to impede rainfall infiltration, and a couple of studies have shown that recharge of aquifers below thick deposits of sand is unlikely. It is possible that the last period of active recharge of Kalahari aquifers occurred at the end of a wet period about 12,500 years ago, but isotope observations in the Northern Cape Province have found that diffuse rainfall recharge can still occur over a large area in more recent times. Limited recharge of the groundwater may happen during floods and via lateral movement of groundwater. More remains to be discovered to improve our understanding of groundwater.

The sands of the desert are an important and forgotten storehouse of carbon dioxide taken from the world's atmosphere. Sands like those in the Kalahari Desert are full of cyanobacteria. These drought resistant bacteria can fix atmospheric carbon dioxide, and together they add significant quantities of organic matter to the nutrient deficient sands. Even after light rainfall, the gains and losses of carbon dioxide through the sands of the Kalahari Desert were similar in size to those reported for more organic rich grassland soils. Despite being short lived, these raised pulses of activity are a significant and previously unreported contributor to atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The ancient dunes

That the area that is now the Kalahari was once much more arid than is the case today is obvious from the great dune systems we can still see today. These fossil dunes - so called partly because they are no longer moving and changing - are fixed in place by vegetation. There are several separate dune systems, and whether they were all once part of one large desert, or whether they owe their origins to different times and events remains a matter for further study.

Over 85% of the dunes in the Kalahari are of the linear (alab or sief) variety and they occur in extensive dune fields throughout the basin. The dune fields of the Kalahari can be divided into Northern, Southern and Eastern dunefields, with each dunefield thought to have formed at a different time based largely on a distinct orientation.

In the northern and eastern dune fields, south of the Zambezi River, (OSL) dates show periods of dune building in the late Pleistocene occurring between 115–95, 46–41, 26–20, and 16–9 thousand years ago, with the relatively short arid periods favouring dune building separated by longer periods of greater humidity. In western Zambia dune formation occurred from 32-27, 16-13, 10-8 and 5 to 4 thousand years ago, with the middle two periods coinciding with the last reworking of dunes in western Zimbabwe between about 16 and 10 thousand years ago.

Southern Botswana, northern Cape and south-eastern Namibia share a common and extensive field, while western Zimbabwe and eastern Botswana share another. A third is located in north-west Botswana and Namibia with a fourth in Zambia and Angola.

Are the dunes reawakening?

The introduction of pumps to ferry water from deep under the Kalahari to its surface has provided sustenance for livestock and fostered increasing herd sizes. The boreholes allow ranchers to use arid areas once grazed only in wet years. The shift from traditional pastoralism to borehole-dependent ranching has resulted in the degradation of the Kalahari. Cattle grazing has led to the takeover of grasslands by shrubs and other woody vegetation.

Without grasses to anchor the dunes in place, their sand grains are blowing in the wind. Vegetation stabilises the sediments. Once the grasses and other plants are gone, the sands start moving, their grains carried to new destinations by passing breezes. It is unclear whether the Kalahari's dunes hang on the edge of a tipping point between their current state defined as "vegetated fixed linear dunes," or have moved to what researchers call a degraded state, "barren and active dunes." Dunes transform from stable to active after plant cover is reduced beyond a critical level.

It's important to understand whether a landscape is undergoing a transition to degraded conditions because shifting drylands are the main sources of Earth's atmospheric dust. To date, the Northern Hemisphere has accounted for about 90 percent of global atmospheric dust emissions. Such dust emissions from the Southern Hemisphere have been relatively low, but reductions in vegetation cover due to land use or climate change may allow new sources like the Kalahari to emerge. Dust grains from the red dunes may be carried on the wind from Africa as far as the Southern Ocean in Antarctica. Once deposited there, their iron content could be enough to boost the productivity of marine phytoplankton, feeding new blooms of these microscopic algae and altering ocean ecosystems, with unknown consequences.

Further Reading

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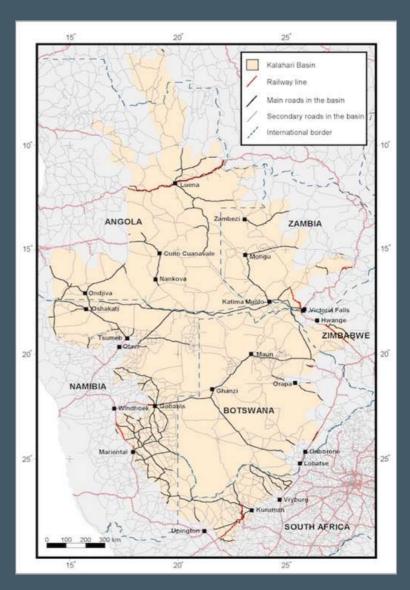
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Kalahari Basin

2023 START

Z.P.G.A. Diary - www.zpga.org/zpga-events

February 2023

- Sun 12th
- Shooting Proficiency (Byo)
- Mon 13th
- Oral Interviews (Byo)
- Tue 14th
- LPH written exams (Byo)
- Wed 15th
- LPH written exams (Byo)

March 2023

- Sun 5th Mon 7th
- Lower Zambezi Canoeing proficiency
- Thur 23rd
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Victoria Falls
- Fri 24th
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Bulawayo & Harare
- Tue 28th
- Shooting Proficiency (Hre)

May 2023

- Thur 11th Mon 14th
- SVC Mountain Bike Challenge
- Thur 18th
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Victoria Falls
- Fri 19th
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Bulawayo & Harare

September 2023

- Sun 17th
- Shooting Proficiency (Hre)
- Mon 18th
- Oral Interviews (Hre)
- Tue 19th
- LPH written exam (Hre)
- Wed 20th
- LPH written exams (Hre)

October 2023

- Thur 5th Sun 8th
- Upper Zam Canoeing proficiency

November 2023

- Wed 1st Tue 7th
- Proficiency Examination

December 2023

- Friday 1st
- AGM (Victoria Falls)

• Sat 2nd

- Z.P.G.A. Competition Shoot (Vic Falls)

• Sat 2nd

- Safari Dinner (Victoria Falls)

"Each new day is a blank page in the diary of your life. The secret of success is in turning that diary into the best story you possibly can."

Douglas Pagels





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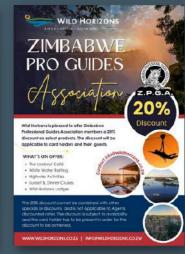
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It pays to be a Member of the Z.P.G.A. for further information visit www.zpga.org/get-involved/zpga-member-benefits









Membership Statistics - 2023

It's a collaborative effort

Z.P.G.A. Members	Breakdown by Qualification
Number of Members	Qualification
76	ASSOCIATE
7	CONSERVATION PARTNER
15	CUBS
62	FULL PG
150	FULL PH
6	HONORARY LIFE MEMBER
5	INDUSTRY SERVICE PROVIDER
85	LPH LICENSE
7	RESTRICTION
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It seems as though we always have something positive to say about membership figures, here is why:

2020 ended with an active membership of 281 2021 ended with an active membership of 350 2022 and we are ending with an active membership of 412 "Z.P.G.A. Membership is a Privilege NOT a right"

The largest membership the Association has had to date!

Impala Stew

BY SABRINA SNYDER

Ingredients

20ml fresh chillies — 573
1kg impala — goulash
1 potato — peeled, cubed
1 onion — medium, chopped
2 parsnips — peeled, cubed
2 turnips — peeled, cubed
100g carrots — peeled and sliced

100g leeks — sliced

40ml garlic — cloves, crushed

bay leafwine — red

1 tinned tomatoes — whole peeled

500ml stock — beef 1ml cumin — ground



Method:

- Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a high heat. Once it is hot, add the meat and sauté until completely sealed.
- Add the vegetables, garlic and the bay leaf, and fry, stirring, until browned.
- Add the wine, reduce the heat and allow to simmer without the lid on until the wine has reduced. Add the tomatoes and then enough beef stock to cover the meat. Cover the saucepan and simmer for about 50 minutes until the meat is tender.
- Add the cumin and season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve hot with creamy mashed potatoes.



"Cooking is all about people. Food is maybe the only universal thing that really has the power to bring everyone together. No matter what culture, everywhere around the world, people eat together"

Guy Fieri







The Z.P.G.A.'s commitment to Marketing & Networking







Z.P.G.A. Talks 2023

During 2022 the Z.P.G.A. launched "Z.P.G.A. Talks", 18 talks across 3 cities. It was ambitious but looking back over the past year it has been a success. The talks were designed to bring our community together under the umbrella of growth through shared knowledge. Presentations throughout were both fun and informative and certainly provided for a springboard of discussion, engagement and shared ideas.

We have eighteen talks coming up in 2023, don't miss out!

Harare

- Armadale Lodge

• Bulawayo

- Hillside Dams Conservancy

Victoria Falls

- Shearwater Village

The 2023 dates are as follows:

An event put on by the Z.P.G.A., open to the community, embraced by all

<u>Date</u> <u>Speaker</u>

• Thursday 16th January (Victoria Falls)

Friday 27th January (Bulawayo)

Friday 27th January (Harare)

Thursday 23rd March (Victoria Falls)

- Friday 24th March (Harare & Bulawayo)
- Thursday 18th May (Victoria Falls)
- Friday 19th May (Harare & Bulawayo)
- Thursday 20th July (Victoria Falls)
- Friday 21st July (Harare & Bulawayo)
- Thursday 14th September (Victoria Falls)
- Friday 15th September (Harare & Bulawayo)
- Thursday 24th November (Victoria Falls)
- Friday 25th November (Harare & Bulawayo)
- Time: 17:00 for 17:30 start
- Cash bar and restaurant
- Free admission

Kerrith O'FEE Tafadzwa TICHAGWA Rob DAVY "WITA's K9 APU Environmental Resilience Problem Animal Control

Topic



2022 Stats 20 Z.P.G.A. Talks 1, 080 participants







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





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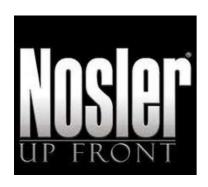




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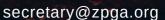
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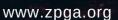
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Z.P.G.A. FULL MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Vote on matters arising at our A.G.M.s
- 2. Access to our members only WhatsApp group
- 3. Z.P.G.A. branded merchandise
- 4. Access to educational and training material
- 5. Exclusive benefits & discounts from suppliers/providers
- 6. Access to cutting edge tourism news & policy developments as it affects hunting & guiding countrywide
- 7. Opportunities to give back to the community
- 8. Networking opportunities
- 9. Monthly newsletters & articles

Z.P.G.A. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Access to our associate member WhatsApp group (admin only posts)
- 2. Z.P.G.A. branded merchandise
- 3. Monthly newsletters & articles
- 4. Access to educational and training material
- 5. Access to cutting edge tourism news & policy developments as it affects the hunting & guiding countrywide
- 6. Opportunities to give back to the community

Z.P.G.A. CONSERVATION PARTNER

- 1.4 x Membership cards which entitles the holder to membership discounts
- 2. Access to the Z.P.G.A. associate member 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

Z.P.G.A. CUBS MEMBERSHIP

Teaching your children how conservation and sustainability efforts will impact their lives is crucially important to the long-term survival of humanity & wildlife.

More and more people are starting to appreciate the value of conservation and causing as little harm as possible to the planet. It's especially important to teach these lessons to the next generation. Children, when given the right information, are usually eager to embrace a conservation approach to living.

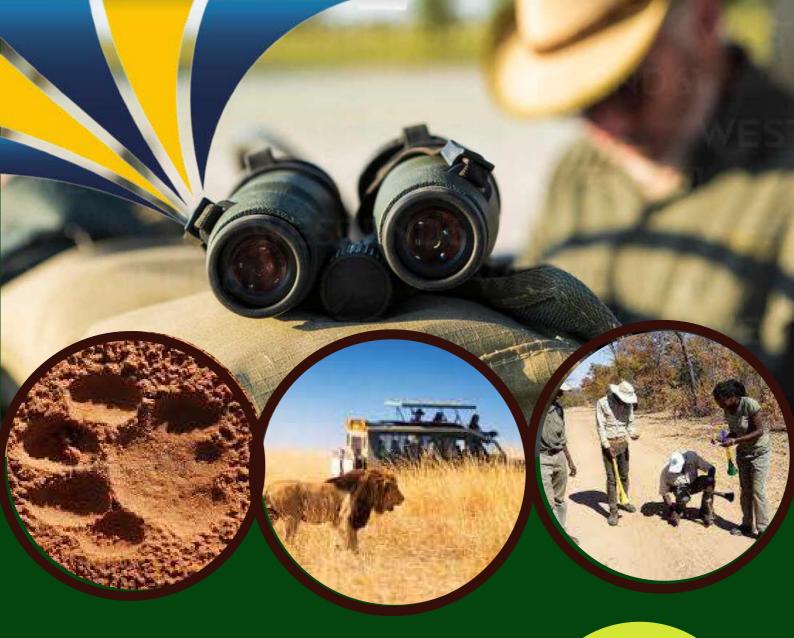
It's up to parents and other adults however, to instil this knowledge in kids at an early age.

Z.P.G.A. SERVICE PROVIDER

- 1. Access to our full members chat group
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SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE

Contact Us

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 subcommittees 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 <u>jlaing@zpga.org</u>
- Z.P.G.A. Secretary Nadine du PLESSIS secrretary@zpga.org
- Z.P.G.A. Legal & Ethics Pete FICK legal@zpga.org
 - Guiding Code of Conduct
- Z.P.G.A. Finance John LAING 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. Research Rob LURIE 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 <u>awards@zpga.org</u>
 - To discuss and agree what awards shall be current or pertinent to the industry
 - To look at and agree end of year award nominees

"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

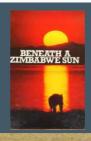


There will be one giveaway hidden somewhere in each of the next 12 newsletters

Here is the deal - the first Zimbabwean reader to email through his or her name to marketing@zpga.org with a description of the gift will be sent that months gift

To qualify make sure you include "Zimbabwe Sun Set" in the subject line

Donated by Shearwater Adventures, Before you ask...Elephant relocation fees not included!



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